

CONVENTION GREAT SUCCESS

Many Country Visitors

Hundreds of aboriginal visitors from all parts of New South Wales crowded into La Perouse recently to attend the Religious Convention organised by Miss Bungary, Mr. Simms and Mr. Harold Stewart.

They came from Purfleet, Cowra, Forster, Grafton, Leeton, Armidale, Cubbawee, Wreck Bay, Brisbane, Gulargambone, Tabulam, Corio, Dubbo and many Sydney suburbs and included men and women, young and old, and a great many children.



A group of Convention officials—Mr. T. Brody, Mr. F. Roberts, Jnr., Mr. L. Grant and Pastor Roberts.

The very successful convention, which lasted for several days, was held in a large marquee on the La Perouse Reserve and all meetings were well attended.

The organiser said later it proved, beyond all doubt, that their people preferred this type of religious gathering to the "stuffy" church services.

The team work necessary to make all the many arrangements, to get the people together and to keep the programme running smoothly, was really amazing. The organisers—and indeed everyone of the many people who helped in some way or other—must be congratulated for the energy, initiative and enthusiasm they displayed.

Mr. Harold Stewart said, "Mr. F. Grant, Mr. D. Brady, Mr. C. Edwards and Mrs. D. Forster did their parts excellently and we are grateful to them for their important messages, music, singing and capable leadership. Nor must we forget the great part played by the Purfleet Choir and other singers."

The children's sessions were particularly successful with Mr. Don Brady as their outstanding missionary and holding their interest from beginning to end.

Although the cost of the convention was over £117, the organisers finished up with £1 5s. in hand.

Captain Cook—(continued from page 14).

sharp skirmish on the beach, and Cook turning to give a command, was struck from behind on the head. As he tried to rise from the water, spears were thrust into his back.

Next day a priest came out to the "Discovery" with the captain's remains wrapped in a mat.

At sunset on February 15, amid the firing of minute guns, the mortal shell of the greatest seafarer who ever lived, went home to the sea.

How big was this land? To answer that, Cook sailed along Australia's east coast. Again and again the "Endeavour" was close to disaster in these waters, now known to be among the most dangerous in the world. Once indeed she struck, but brilliant seamanship saved her. And, in five months, this little coal barque charted the whole of the treacherous east coast.

On August 19, 1770, Cook took formal possession of his discovery in the name of the king. Then he sailed for home, exploring en route a great stretch of the southern coast of New Guinea. He reached England 11 months later.

Cook had added two precious jewels to the British crown, Australia and New Zealand; had charted some of the most dangerous and distant seas in the world; had found the way, by his measures against scurvy, to save more English seamen's lives than were laid down for her in the Napoleonic wars; and had written in his journals one of the world's classics of seafaring.

Stirred by his discoveries, the Admiralty sent Cook out again in 1772 to search the South Pacific for a vast continent supposed to lie there. This time Cook had two ships, the "Resolution" and the "Adventure." These two stout vessels scoured the south polar seas for 20,000 of the loneliest leagues on the globe. Nosing his wooden prow into the monstrous ice packs, daring drifting bergs, Cook circumnavigated for the first time in history the south polar icecap, exploding forever the myth of a habitable southern continent in the south seas.

North-east of Australia he made the absolutely new find of such islands as New Caledonia and Norfolk. In the South Atlantic he secured for Great Britain what we now call South Georgia Island. The trip lasted almost three years.



Whether among cannibals or semi-civilized people, Cook always bore himself like a nobleman, winning, by his character, genuine love. He was careful, too, to teach respect for the Union Jack, to impress his guests with fire-works. Wherever he went he tried to stock the islands with cows, sheep, goats, horses, rabbits, ducks, geese and chickens. But these soon died of the climate or were promptly eaten by a population that saw no sense in letting a good meal run into the bush where it would be hard to catch.

He planted European vegetables and cereals wherever the ground seemed promising. But often the natives were indifferent. He failed to bring the people to a realization of better things. They traded in the European clothes and implements for land and women. Cannibals still refused to prefer roast beef and Yorkshire pudding to a fat enemy.