

KINCHELA BOYS DO WELL

Win Lifesaving Awards

Four aboriginal boys in New South Wales hold the bronze medallion of the Surf Life Saving Club of Australia.

Of these four boys, three of them received their initial training at Kinchela.

The Home now has seven boys going through to be tested for their proficiency certificate. They could not aim for the bronze medallion until they were 16 years of age, but, in passing for the proficiency certificate, they had to pass in all except the 250 yards swim with belt.

The boys are trained in life-saving twice a week.

Life-saving activities helped the boys be assimilated into the life of the Australian community, and, as Australians, gain life-saving knowledge of use to the community.

Harry Penrith, one of the Kinchela squad, had won the junior beach sprint at Black Head surf carnival a few weeks ago.

At Football, Too.

Writing to the Manager of the Home (Mr. White), Mr. H. A. Miles, Secretary of Smithtown Football Club, said:—

“I am writing to congratulate the boys from the Home on their conduct, sportsmanship, and football achievements whilst playing with our Club last season.

“Their conduct on and off the field was a credit to themselves, and also to their teacher and yourself. I feel that they would be a credit to any club, or organisation, no matter what the standing.

“I wish you to convey to them my congratulations, and I am looking forward to seeing them with the Club next season.”

During the year 1953 Rugby football season, five youths from Kinchela Boys' Home joined the Smithtown Rugby Football Club. Four of the boys, viz., Harry Penrith, Norman Perry, Lionel Harradine and Harold Dickson, played in the “Under 18” League and one, Fred Ward, in the Reserve Grade League.

The “Under 18's” won the premiership and the minor premiership of the Group Competition against teams from Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Kendall, losing only three games throughout the season.

At the commencement of the season, Harry Penrith was unanimously elected captain of the team by all of his white companions. In the final game both Penrith and Perry were chaired from the field by other team members and by spectators.

Harry, Norman and Lionel have been awarded club blazers valued at nearly £10 each and all boys have been measured for such blazers by a Kempsey tailor. These blazers will be presented to the club members sometime in February at a Ball to be held in Smithtown.

INSPECTOR VISITS COUNTRY

Mrs. English at Taree

Mrs. Inspector English recently visited Taree Aboriginal Station where she was the Guest at the Women's Sewing Circle Annual Break-up Party.

Mrs. English was able to combine duty with a very pleasant sojourn amongst her old friends in this district. She attended a function organised by the Ladies' Committee, where there were also present Dr. Dawson (guest speaker), Mrs. Dawson, and other well-known local people. Dr. Dawson gave an address on children's illnesses, their cause and treatment, which should prove very helpful to the mothers.

Mrs. English, who addressed the gathering, complimented the women on their excellent organisation, and made suggestions for their future guidance.

Mrs. Ella Simon, who chaired the function, and other able helpers in Mrs. Marjorie Marr and Mrs. Stella Russell are to be congratulated on their splendid efforts.

Musical items and other entertainment was contributed by Mesdames L. Dawson, T. Mulligan, Kate Davis and Flo Carter, and special mention must be made of the wonderful harmonising of Mrs. Kate Davis and Mrs. Flo Carter, which compared more than favourably with the best of such items heard on the radio. Mrs. Davis (“Aunt Kate”) was also a most able and obliging accompanist.

As a token of their esteem and appreciation, the residents presented Dr. and Mrs. Dawson with a silver casserole dish, and Mrs. English with a beautiful posy of flowers, and a china souvenir dish of Taree. Dr. Dawson and his wife, and Mrs. English, were obviously quite touched at such thoughtfulness, and expressed their appreciation.

The floral decorations on this occasion, and the posies presented to the visitors and the Matron, were in excellent taste and a credit to those concerned.

On the second day a breaking-up picnic for 130 children was held at the local beach. The special bus for the occasion was packed with happy, cheerful youngsters and their relatives, and Sergeant James Fallon, kindly made his car available for the Manager, Mr. Briggs and his guests.

A tribute must be paid to the Manager and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. L. Briggs, for the harmonious relations existing between them and the local residents. Mrs. Briggs is to be commended for her tireless efforts.

Congratulations, Purfleet! Keep up the good work.