

Cabbage Tree Island Station

TWELVE NEW BUILDINGS NOW

The Board's policy of assimilation has been followed with some degree of success. Two families have left the Station, and five of the younger set have been encouraged to get work away from their homes. Work in the district is seasonal. To offset this disadvantage, private market gardening has been fostered through the co-operation of the Board. Five residents, apart from normal gardening, have commenced market gardening. This scheme is in its infancy, and it is hoped before long to have a larger following.

The advancement of mechanisation has shown its effects on the residents of this Station. Improved crushing of sugar has shortened the season. The automatic cane planter and rotary hoe has dispensed with labour which was normally drawn from this Station. The award wage enables only the competent workers to gain employment. Efforts to form a work gang to get available work in the area at contract rates, was not successful. A small percentage get work in the off season, but this is hardly adequate for normal progress. A few of the more progressive types tried to get permanent employment as labourers in railway gangs. One obtained employment.

This Station has twelve new buildings in very good condition. Sanction has been given for repairs and painting of six old homes. A new Manager's office will be constructed shortly. The wharf on the mainland has been repaired and the drainage system of the Island has been cleared. Damage caused by a high flood has been negligible, but it has counteracted efforts to stop soil erosion by killing young planted mangroves.

The health of residents has been generally good. Treatment room assistance and active co-operation by the staff of Ballina Hospital enables the residents to receive adequate medical attention. During the year a campaign against round worm was conducted by the Health Department; there are, however, still cases of infection. All the children on the Station have been immunised against diphtheria.

The introduction of a picture show on the Island during the cane season was greatly appreciated by the residents. Dances were held by the younger set with fine co-operation from Coraki. Football, the main attraction of Cabbage Tree Island, still holds predominance over all other sport. Owing to a shortage of players this season, all available players have joined Ballina Club. This has been an advantage in furthering assimilation, for they

have been very well received. Inter-school matches have been a step in the right direction. Parents showed great interest in watching their children playing on their home ground against the visiting Woodburn teams. A junior football field and volleyball court have been added to the advancement of sport for the children.



Competent guidance under the Headmaster of the School on the Island has shown great improvement in the tone and general progress of the children. It has been furnished with modern furniture, and supplied with the latest physical training equipment. Inter-school matches have broadened the outlook of the children and helped to lessen their shyness. The first school concert was given at Christmas to an appreciative audience. More could be achieved in this line with the active co-operation of parents.

Active participation by mothers did much in furthering the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas Tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the allowance provided by the Board. This, together with donations by mothers and local tradespeople, enabled a function for all the residents of Cabbage Tree Island to be held. Later, the mothers on the reception committee entertained the guests to tea.

Religious services have been conducted by the Church of England Minister, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic Priest, and Aborigines. Due to the situation of the Station, these have not been as frequent as expected.

It's not difficult to see that these two people are brother and sister. They are Beryl Lonsdale, of Murrurundi, and her brother, Noel.



CHRISTMAS TREE AT WALLAGA LAKE

Santa Claus arrived at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station to sounds of a tumultuous welcome from all the children. The Xmas Tree function was held at the Station Recreation Hall which had been beautifully decorated by the old girls of the Settlement and looked a picture of gaiety.

Prior to Santa's arrival, novelty races were held, enjoyed by not only the young participants but also by the interested spectators. This was followed by a sumptuous tea provided by the Methodist Church.

Jim Chapman and Jim Stewart entertained the gathering with their accordions, and everybody sang Christmas Carols to their delightful music.

Both young and old thoroughly enjoyed themselves.