

ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

TABULAM'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

This year Don Wilson had the honour to become the first student from Tabulam Station to attend High School. Don is attending Casino High School where he is doing a Junior Technical Course. Because the Station is situated 40 miles from the nearest High School, Don has to board at Malanganee and travel 52 miles to and from school each day. However, this did not prevent him from coming fourth in his class of nineteen. Congratulations, Don.

Congratulations are in order for Don's Mother, Alma, his uncle, Randolph Wilson, and Clarrie Hookey who are making great sacrifices to pay for his board and to send him to school so neat and tidy. Don has become a real ambassador for the Station.

FAR NORTH COAST FOOTBALL

All the Aboriginal Stations on the North Coast were represented at the Far North Coast football at Casino last month. In all, ninety teams competed from thirty schools situated from between Coffs Harbour and the border. The carnival was preceded by a march through the town and Tabulam School gained first prize for the "one and two teacher" schools. The children looked spic and span in their green and white uniforms and thoroughly deserved their win. In the first round of the 7 stone 7 lb. division for one or two teacher schools, Tabulam was drawn to play Cabbage Tree Island and Woodenbong was drawn to play Mummulgum. In the match Tabulam versus Cabbage Tree Island, Tabulam was successful by 9 points to nil but the game was even and hard fought throughout.

Cabbage Tree Island, which was competing for the first time, lacked the experience of the Tabulam boys who had competed in this carnival twice previously. However, Cabbage Tree has a fine team and with hard match practice will be a difficult team to beat next year. Scorers for Tabulam were H. Walker 2, and C. Williams 1 try.

Woodenbong played Mummulgum and after a very fast game Woodenbong were successful by 8 points to nil. Thus Woodenbong had to play Tabulam in the final and everyone was pleased that the final would be between two aboriginal teams. The final was full of thrills and was very fast, but Tabulam proved

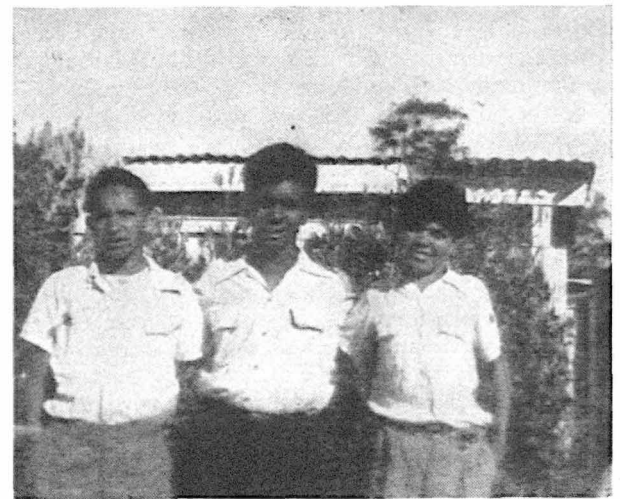
superior, winning by 18 points to 3. The Tabulam team functioned like a machine and the ball was thrown about with such precision that visitors commented it was the best football of the day. Woodenbong defended gallantly but were no match for the speed of the Tabulam lads. The crowd was amazed at the game display of the three tiny lads weighing no more than 4 stone—Bradford Robinson, Willy Donnelly and Morris Carpenter. Scores were Tabulam 18, C. Williams 2, B. Walker 2, E. Phillips 1, H. Walker tries, Woodenbong 3, F. Williams try.

It was a grand tribute to these lads that the biggest crowd of the day watched these games. It shows the respect and admiration of the local people for the Aboriginal children when over three hundred people watched both these games.

Congratulations to Tabulam on their feat of winning the carnival and to Woodenbong and Cabbage Tree on their grand sportsmanship and may they have better luck next time.

Everyone from Cabbage Tree Island was very sorry to hear of the death of Duncan Bullock in Lismore Base Hospital, after a long illness.

Cabbage Tree Island Station was fortunate in having a short visit from the Superintendent, Mr. Saxby. The residents are all looking forward to his next visit, and hope it will be a longer stay.



These three young fellows are Jeffery Bryant, Eric Davis and Neil Walker, all of Bellbrook.