



## Tribute to Aboriginal Children

The floods in the Condobolin area created widespread havoc and forced many aboriginal families to be evacuated from the Reserve. The only safe place that could be found for them was on Hospital Hill, where they were housed in tents.

The Condobolin Rotary Club generously provided a quantity of floor boards and these were a tremendous help in combating the dampness.

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Condobolin residents were recently shocked by the death of Tommy Thomas. Tommy was drowned in the floodwaters near Borambil Station.

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The Condobolin aboriginal children have been holding school in a spare room at the Condobolin Intermediate High School and enjoying every minute of it.

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Condobolin residents seem to have been encountering a regular chapter of accidents and three have been admitted to hospital. They were John Moolabong (burns), Greg Ingram (appendicitis), and Fay Sloane (appendicitis).

Fortunately they are now all well on the way to complete recovery.

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The Burra Bee Dee boys and the Manager are getting together each Saturday afternoon and it is hoped soon to form the group into a Boys' Club. The boys are anxious to make their own sports area and some of their own equipment. Go to it boys!

The achievement of the children of Burnt Bridge Aboriginal School in the recent Eisteddfod and Football competitions is worthy of the highest commendation.

It is only two weeks since the 5st. 7lb. team of Burnt Bridge Aboriginal School emerged champion team in their grade from the school-boy knockout football competitions held in Coff's Harbour and Kempsey. They have not been defeated this season.

Now, to prove their abilities are not limited to one field, their choir won first prize in the Primary School Choir Section of the Kempsey Eisteddfod on Thursday night.

We must look on our aborigines without any degree of prejudice, and judge all people "as we find them."

In the case of these children, their record rates extremely high. These achievements have been made despite disadvantages and in competition with larger schools. Before competing the choir had only four practices with a piano, which is a recently acquired item at the school purchased by their P. and C. Association.

Burnt Bridge boasts an attractive school, with neatly kept gardens tended by the boys themselves, while on the reserve many of the houses have recently acquired new coats of paint.

The community hall, in its new colour scheme, would rate as the brightest painted hall in the district.

Their achievements are a great credit to the Aboriginal community, and it is a pleasure to say to these descendants of original Australians :

**"Congratulations : keep up the good work."**