

Xmas Party at Wreck Bay

Although quite a number of parents and children were away from Wreck Bay Station engaged in pea picking at Bega, those who remained had a wonderful time at the annual Xmas Tree party and presentation of prizes.

Prize books were presented to the lucky winners by Mr. Maffesoni of Jervis Bay.

At the official table were Mr. Maffesoni, the Station Manager Mr. J. Heaney and Mrs. Heaney, the Headmaster Mr. J. Gersback and Mrs. Gersback and the Assistant Teacher Mr. J. Wright.

When Santa Claus eventually arrived every child received a lovely present and then Santa led the way in community Carol singing. In no time at all everyone was having a marvellous time.

At lunch time all the children took part in a very substantial party with good things galore supplied by the School Parents and Citizens Association and Jervis Bay tradespeople.

Prize winners for the year were :

Sixth Class—

1st Place : Eddie Bloxsome.

Most Improved : Beverley Pittman.

5th Class—

1st Place : Colleen Moore.

Most Improved : Phyllis McLeod.

4th Class—

1st Place : Eileen Pittman.

3rd Class—

1st Place : Chris Bloxsome.

Most Improved : Maureen McLeod.

2nd Class—

1st Place : Patsy Brown.

Most Improved : Harry Pittman.

Kindergarten—

Best Boy : Robert Chapman.

Best Girl : Paula Ardler.

Sewing—

Pauline Thomas.

Neatest Books—

Upper Division : Lurline Moore.

Lower Division : Patsy Brown.

Good Conduct, Lower Division—

Eric Ardler and Joy Thomas.

Consistent Good Work in 3rd Class—

Ken Brown and Elaine Ardler.

* * * *

MICHAEL SAWTELL

Michael Sawtell, well-known author and traveller, and Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, certainly gets about.

In the last few weeks he has spoken to many Rotary clubs and schools, appeared on television twice and now gone off to Central Australia on his annual "Walkabout", as he says "to gather more information for my talks and keep myself up-to-date".

An Appreciation

The December issue of *Dawn* was really par excellence.

The article by Eva Somner on the "Helping Hand" relative to assisting full-blooded aborigines to obtain citizen rights which are granted to "whites" is worth reprinting in all Australian and overseas newspapers and magazines.

As one who, in 1908, was chaplain to the aborigines at Coomergunja Station on the Murray River in New South Wales, I know, that if given the opportunity, full-blooded and half-caste aborigines do make good citizens.

They are not so unclean and objectionable as some callous critics would make out.

I hope that *Dawn*, which is read with interest by scholars will succeed in bringing about a better state of affairs for our Native people.

A. W. Jinks (Dpl.),
North Stockton.

• * • •

Christmas at Condobolin

There was an air of excitement about Condobolin Aboriginal Reserve just before Xmas when the annual Xmas Tree party was held.

Santa Claus had a gift for everyone, young and old, from the tree and every one of the 200 adults and children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Santa paid a special visit to little Mona Knight who managed to get the measles the day before the party, and although she couldn't eat much of the lovely food she did enjoy the lovely doll she received.

Residents of the Reserve extend their thanks to the Methodist Ladies Guild and the Condobolin Apex Club for their donations of £5 each and to the various stores and business houses who also made donations.

• * * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Nicholls, of Condobolin, on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. What a nice Xmas present!

• • • •

The Christian Endeavour folk from Parkes visited the Condobolin Reserve early in December and gave the children a very lovely Xmas Party. There must have been plenty of good things to eat for someone heard little Eugene Goolagong say he had to walk away and leave the cake.

* * * *

The Lachlan River is very popular again now that it has returned to normal and particularly these hot days. Some of the Condobolin boys and girls are very good swimmers and would do well in competition.