

SANTA VISITS CABBAGE TREE ISLAND

Saturday 15th December, 1956, became a day of great excitement for the children of Cabbage Tree Island, for it was on this day that that genial and ever welcome visitor and family friend, affectionately known as Santa, was due to make his annual visit.

At approximately 4.0 p.m. Santa drew up in his sleigh, which consisted of a well-decorated sled drawn by one of the local horses, as a substitute for Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Yes! even the animals entered into the spirit of the day and although he drew a few surprised looks from his two other horsey friends in a nearby paddock, he didn't seem to mind.

A well-decorated Christmas Tree had been erected in the open park and here it was that Santa opened his three bags of toys and handed out the presents, amid great excitement and laughter.

Captain Palmer of the Salvation Army, and family provided music for the occasion and helped the children to sing Christmas Carols.

From the park the children moved to the Recreation Hall where a colourful and appetising supper had been prepared for them. The hall looked gay and Christmas like—decorated with paper flowers, streamers and balloons. An extra Christmas tree had also been decorated and erected in the hall in case the rain spoilt the festivities outside. The tables had been decoratively laid out and the supper consisted of sandwiches with goose, ham, corned meat, date and tomato filling, cakes, meat balls, jelly and cream and cordials. After supper the children were supplied with ice cream, oranges and packets of sweets. Trays of sandwiches, ice cream, cordials and oranges were carried round to the parents. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the day was rounded off with an evening dance. Although smiles at the end of the day were a little tired, they were happy and contented, showing everyone was satisfied with the happiness of the occasion.

The success of the day was due to the hard work and thought of a small band of local people, who worked unflinchingly throughout. These people deserve congratulations. Included among them are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bolt and three daughters, Bertha, Hazel and Nancy. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bolt with the assistance of Dick Roberts and Nobby Rhodes were mainly responsible for the Christmas Tree being what it was—a complete success. Thanks also goes to Bob "Pop" Moran who helped out with the slide and horse to bring Santa to the station. Allen Marlowe, Cynthia Moran, Tubby Bolt, Brian Caldwell, Jane Moran and Mrs. Dick Roberts are to be thanked for the assistance they gave. Three people who deserve special mention are, the school teacher Miss E. Robinson, her sister Margaret and the Matron, Mrs. Butcher, who gave up a lot of their time in making the Christmas party occasion the children and parents of the island won't forget.

Tabulam Choir Gives Fine Performance

A quarter hour of fine choral presentations that would have reflected credit on a much larger, more experienced group, was presented over the A.B.C. by the Tabulam aboriginal children's choir one night last month.

The programme was presented over national regionals at 9.45 p.m. and re-broadcast over 2NR at 10.15 p.m.

Unaccompanied, the children presented three brackets of numbers, in three separate choral groups.

The children's choir, ranging in age from 5 to 9½ years, opened the programme with "Bushland Lullaby".

The choral classics, "The Happy Wanderer" and "Now With Creation's Morning Dawn", were sung by the full choir of 28 voices.

A bracket of three numbers, "Maid of Maughan Shore", "Now Melts the Snow" and "Oh Hail the Lovely, Laughing Maid," were presented by the senior group, aged 7 to 14.

The choir, which was started at the school four years ago by teacher Mr. A. Soorley, has competed with outstanding success in school's sections of local cisteddfod and musical festivals.

Although singing unaccompanied the children did not miss a note, their timing was excellent, and diction good.

Particularly in part sections of the "Happy Wanderer" and the rondalay, "Oh Hail the Lovely, Laughing Maid", they were outstanding.

The Manager of Tabulam Aboriginal Station has received a letter from Broken Hill and several telephone calls, thanking the children for their very fine rendering of numbers during their National Broadcast on Wednesday, 9th January. Each person has stated that they would like to hear more from them on the "Air", and that they continue to progress. Thank you boys and girls.

JULIA MURRAY—DOES ANYONE KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS?

Brother, Reg Murray who lives at Walgett Station is anxious to get in touch with his sister, Julia. Julia is about 47 or 48 years old and originally came from Angledool Aboriginal Station. She was a ward of the Board and was apprenticed to an employer at Rowena and was last heard of in Stanthorpe, Queensland.

If anyone knows her whereabouts, please get in touch with Reg Murray, or the Secretary of the Board, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.
