

WALLAGA LAKE CONCERT

A GRAND SUCCESS



A recent aborigines' concert at Central Tilba packed the hall, and many were unable to gain admission. The date of the concert, July 12, was significantly chosen, because July 12 was National Aborigines' Day.

Great Effort for the Ambulance

All proceeds were given to the Bega District Ambulance.

Weeks prior to the concert, all performers practised, and the concert was to have started at 8 p.m. but there was so much movement that it was impossible to start on time.

Good Crowd

The hall was packed tight and still a lot of people were trying to get in. Mr. Hendrickson then made an appeal from the stage asking the crowd already in to try to move up and let more in.

The crowd responded very well and many more did get in, until finally there was not even standing room.

At 8.30 p.m. it was decided to start.

When the cast had assembled on stage, they were given a truly magnificent ovation.

The artists, obviously inspired by the ovation they had received, plus the tremendous crowd, gave an excellent performance.

There were twenty-five items, and each was given the applause it so justly deserved.

The centre man, Mr. Cec Thomas, handled the show like a real old stager, waiting for just the right amount of applause before introducing the next artist.

There was not one minute's lag between the items, which the audience was quick to realise and appreciate.

One could not select any one item as being outstanding in such a wonderful show, except perhaps to say that the hula girls danced as nicely as they looked.

The musicians, Ida, Ian and Steve Hoskins, were outstanding. They did not miss a beat all night.

Three things stood out: not one member of the concert can read a note of music; the girls made their costumes quite unassisted; and the lack of any colour distinction.

Attractive Attire

Dark and white people were crammed up tight and all thoroughly enjoyed the show.

The attractive attire of the hula girls was made entirely by themselves, with some advice from Mrs. Hendrickson—and they were all very pretty girls.

The orchestra consisted of three members of one family. Stephen, who is only 15, plays the banjo, guitar and piano accordion and Ida and Ian play guitars.

Also among the performers were two other members of this family, Iris and their father, old Ned, who has been at the station for 62 years.

Musical Family

Another musical family was the Andy Trio, consisting of Helen, Veronica and their father, who gave a really beautiful rendition of "Mystery of Life."

Special mention also to Maxy Harrison and Veronica for their duet, "If I Ever Needed You," in which they play-acted the words of the song.

Veronica played the part of the sulky girl delightfully, with "Simply Melody" as an encore.

Maxy's wife went along to the concert, too, but he had to take her immediately after the performance to the Bega District Hospital, where she gave birth to a daughter.

Congratulations are Due to Maxy

So Maxy's special mention is really congratulatory, and he won't forget the date of the concert in a hurry.

There were twenty members in the completely aboriginal cast of the concert, all residents of the Station, and not one of these, or Mr. Hendrickson, who is in charge, can read a note of music. So what an ambitious undertaking this concert was.

Apart from training a centre man to assist the others, Mr. Hendrickson claims no credit for the excellent rendering of the programme.

He says that everyone on the Station seems to have the ability to play the guitar and to have a tuneful voice.

Of the entire cast, two members have had professional experience—Cecil Thomas, the tap dancer, during the war, and baritone Ted Mullet, who has appeared in shows in Sydney and Melbourne.

Ted sang feelingly and unaccompanied "Old Man River" and "Danny Boy," and it was really lovely.

After the show, it was discovered that more than 100 people had to be turned away.