

THE Purfleet Aboriginal Station is an attractive Settlement of cottages brightly painted in many different colours. These are situated on both sides of the main Pacific Highway, two miles south of Taree, which is beautifully situated on the Manning River.

A visit to Purfleet makes it quite evident that the majority of the people who reside there are justly proud of their homes which are neat, tidy and clean, with a display of pretty curtains at the windows.

# PURFLEET

In a prominent position beside the Highway stands the large, splendidly constructed recreation hall, while standing well back beside the Old Bar Road is the large, commodious Manager's residence, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Les Thomas and their small family. Besides meeting the many demands made upon the Manager and Matron of such a Station, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas spend much time seeking the welfare and betterment of their people. They are also extending their activities to the affairs of the town and of their local church. Here also on the Old Bar Road stands the Church and beside it the recently reconstructed and nicely painted Mission House.

The Taree Rotary Club volunteered to supply both money and manpower to move the cottage to the present site and to expedite the necessary work, now completed. They have justly received the praise of the Purfleet people.

Both the hall and the church are important places of activity and attraction for the splendid people who reside here. Concerts are held in the hall. Talented members of the community provide the programmes.

A large Christian Endeavour Society is functioning splendidly at Purfleet. Services are held on Sunday afternoon—the leaders being Miss Glenda Packer and Nancy Hopper.

Sunday School is held in the morning and is well attended—Miss Norma Fisher and Mr. Fred Mayo of Taree, are the Sunday School Leaders.

Purfleet has its own native Pastor in the person of Mr. Marr, who has rendered sterling service for many years. Mrs. Marr is a devoted help-meet to her husband and she plays the organ beautifully.

Last Easter a Christian Convention held at Purfleet brought a representative gathering of native christians from many places.

Come to Purfleet on any Sunday evening and stop just outside the brightly lit hall and the joyous singing to the accompaniment of the String Instrument Band, will attract you immediately. You soon will find yourself sitting inside with an enthusiastic crowd of adults, young people and children, all enjoying the service immensely.

Ron Reed of the local Salvation Army Corps is on the platform conducting the service and leading the

band and at the same time giving a fine display of talent on the cornet. Major Packer, Officer in Charge of the Taree Corps will often be there radiating happiness and goodwill. This, in fact, is their bright idea.

With the keen co-operation of the Christian coloured folk their devoted labours of love are yielding fruits to the glory of God.

Ron Reed speaks a word of welcome to visitors and outlines the activities of the coming week. A service at Foster Settlement on Wednesday nights is followed by a barbecue around a camp fire.

Then Charlie Edwards renders a solo in his rich deep voice with the instruments and a gum leaf or two playing softly in the background. A new convert speaks and the ladies quartet, consisting of Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Maher, Mrs. Joe and Mrs. Stan Simmons follow with a beautifully rendered number.

Another testimony and the band strikes up with bright rhythm and the congregation join in, singing, "It is No Secret What God can Do". A short message or word of exhortation by one of the men and Joe Simmons plays his steel guitar and sings while the listeners lean forward, pleasure and appreciation showing clearly upon their faces. The people listen attentively to the main message of the evening. The band plays softly a beautiful refrain with the cornet

and gum leaf leading as Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edwards step forward to render a duet. Prayer follows and the congregation rise for the closing hymn.

A pleasurable and spiritually profitable time has been enjoyed.

So closes another Sabbath evening at Purfleet.

The sincere Christian enthusiasm of our Purfleet friends will be appreciated when it is told that they travelled to Kendall, a return journey of some (65) sixty-five miles, on a number of occasions to take part in the recording of "The Christian Fellowship of the Air" for Sunday broadcast over the local radio station and over 2KM.



This happy group of people come from Mooroopna