

Wilcannia Sporting Features

By Jack Quayle

The annual sporting fixtures for Wilcannia and district schools were held on the 2nd May, in the Burke Park sports grounds, and the following schools were represented: St. John's Convent, Wilcannia Public School, St. Theresa's Mission School and Ivanhoe Public School.

It was pleasing to note the number of Aboriginal children competing in the many events throughout the day for St. Theresa's School.

The following children were chosen to represent their school. Girls: Doreen Johnson, Barbara Johnson, Gloria Quayle, Lorraine Harris, Carroline Bates, Evelyn Black, Irene Kirby, Joan Kirby, Joan Kirwin, Gwen Hunt, Phyllis Wyman (Capt.), Elaine Wyman, Margaret Wyman. The following boys: Allan Payne, Rex Johnson, Arthur Kirby, Jim Bates, William Bates, Johnnie Quayle, Dennis Hunt, Geoffrey Hunt, Norman O'Donnell, Ray Harris, Doug Harris, Bruce Harris, Len Kirwin, Brian Hunt (Capt.).

Doreen Johnson scored a second in the Senior Girls' Championship and Gloria Quayle second in Junior Girls' foot race. Allan Payne proved too speedy for the Senior Boys as he just coasted along to win the Championship in that particular division. He also got a second in the Senior Boys' broad jump. Raymond Harris took second place in the high jump and performed well in several other events. This boy is expected to do better at his next try.

This is the first time that St. Theresa's Mission has been represented in sports such as this, and they did well to carry off one of the many cups. I have no doubt that in future they will prove tough opposition as I do feel sure that many of the boys and girls suffered from stage fright.

However, we will be expecting big things from this School next year, as there are lots of promising youngsters left that were not quite ready this year. I would like to mention here that the children enjoyed themselves thoroughly and though many never carried off any trophies I am sure that they came home as happy as any who did win something.

Empire Day Celebrations at Burra Bee Dee Station—Coonabarabran

The usual yearly Empire Day concert was held again this year at Burra Bee Dee on Saturday, 23rd May. Visitors came from the Gunnedah Hill Reserve and White Street, Coonabarabran.

The two organisers, Mrs. Tom Ashby and Miss Barbara Sorby are to be complimented on putting on a "jolly good show". The items were many and varied and the dresses very colourful. Girls taking part were: Annette Dowd, Caroline Griffiths, Dawn Goulding, Audrey Ashby, Queenie Ashby, Betty Ashby, and Rhonda Sampson. Boys: Garry Goulding, Robert Goulding and Cecil Griffiths.

The opening number was "There's No Business Like Show Business" sung and danced by the girls. The main singing role of the evening was taken by Betty Ashby who sang amongst other songs "Blackboard of Your Heart," "I'll Go Out and Buy You a Rainbow" and "Just Married". Audrey Ashby ably carried out an impersonation of Elvis Presley, and an excellent rendition of "Don't Sell Daddy Any More Whisky" was acted by four girls, Barbara Sorby being the inebriated "daddy".

The house was "brought" down by the Hula girls—all suitably and colourfully dressed—singing "Christmas Island". Audrey Ashby took an encore on her own and did full credit to one of these island lasses.

Half way through the performance Officer Williams, the Station handyman, was presented with a large birthday cake decorated with many candles, as he was 21 "again" on Empire Day.

One of the ladies from the Reserve, Mrs. Queenie Robinson, formerly of "Burra Bee Dee" rendered a solo which was much enjoyed by all present, and reminisced back some 70 years when she first came to Burra Bee Dee, and of the many Empire Day concerts that had taken place over the years especially those that had raised large amounts to help with the purchase of a "Victor" concert piano and a radiogram.

The concert concluded with the finale and singing of "Now is the Hour" and the announcement that coffee, cakes and sandwiches were available for all present.

During the month of May, Burra Bee Dee Station was saddened at the passing of young Marcia Watton, aged six. Marcia was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Watton of White Street, Coonabarabran, former residents of Burra Bee Dee. She was the second victim of the 'flu that hit Coonabarabran.

The simple ceremony in the small Station Church was conducted by the Rev. D. Shearman, and the singing of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" was also the prayer of all present.

Mr. Wakerley, Burra Bee Dee's genial Missionary from the United Aboriginal Mission is back again after his hospitalisation in Sydney. Welcome back, Mr. Wakerley.

After living for some years with her daughter, Mrs. Dick Sampson, on Burra Bee Dee, Mrs. Tom Fuller has now left and gone to live with another daughter, Mrs. Banks, of Wolibar, via Baradine.