

FOURTH APEX BABY SHOW

PROGRAMME OF VARIETY

Kempsey Apex Club's Fourth Annual Aboriginal Baby Show and Carnival one Saturday afternoon recently drew many entrants and hundreds of spectators from Taree to Nambucca Heads. Over 200 entries in the Art Competition added a splash of colour to the showground hall. A packed and varied programme made the day a great success.

There were many entries in five baby sections, though entries were down a little on last year. The babies were beautifully turned out by careful mothers. The new section for best dressed boy or girl proved very popular. Results were:

Babies, up to 6 months: Vera Cooke (Greenhill) 1, Runners-up, Eileen Hopkins, Michael Jarrett.

Babies, 7 to 12 months: Richard Davis (Burnt Bridge) 1, Runners-up, Richard Smith, Brian Bradshaw.

Babies, 12 to 18 months: Merline Moffat (Tuncurry) 1, Runners-up, Cheryl Flanders, Jennifer Russel.

18 months to 3 years; Trevor Maher (Nambucca Heads) 1, Runners-up, Richard Thaidy, Lisa Smith.

A special prize for the best dressed boy was awarded to Brian Bradshaw. Best dressed girl winner was Josephine Quinlan.

The award for the area entering the greatest number of babies was won by Greenhill. The headmaster of Greenhill School, Mr. Alley, collected the prize, a painting by aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira.

Mr. Jack Cridland, President of Kempsey Apex Club, said that in 1956 aborigines' welfare was chosen as an Apex national project. In Kempsey the main project was the organisation of the Aboriginal Baby Show.

"So instantaneous was the response that in each succeeding year we have been requested to run it again. We feel we have achieved something in helping the welfare of aborigines."

In opening the Baby Show, Mr. J. H. Brown, M.L.A., said the Aboriginal Baby Show gives the mothers an opportunity and an incentive.

"There should not be segregation, and it is pleasing to know that Government policy is for integration and not segregation.

"This Baby Show is evidence of what can be and should be done to help these aboriginal people along.

"I am in a position to know something of the wonderful work being done by Sister Hack for the aborigines in this area."

Mr. Brown commended Apex for the opportunity given the mothers and children and said: "It is not quite right that we should expect Apex to keep pushing this project." Mr. Brown commended aborigines' welfare to the community as a very worthwhile project.

Aboriginal Art

In the art competition over 200 entries were received from aboriginal children all over N.S.W. and in Victoria. The artists depicted a wide range of subjects, and most showed the flair for colour for which the aborigine has become famous.

Prizes were shared between children from Burnt Bridge and Boggabilla. Results were:

Children under 8 years: Eric Bale (Burnt Bridge) 1, Connie Sherry (Burnt Bridge) 2.

Children 9 to 12 years: Reginald Haines (Boggabilla) 1, Valda Moylan (Burnt Bridge) 2.

Children 13 years and over: Clarence Haines (Boggabilla) 1 and 2.

Mrs. J. Cridland presented bouquets to the judges, Matron Eastwood, of Macksville, and Sister Beaton, of Taree.

Plenty of Variety

A wide variety of other attractions were staged in conjunction with the Baby Show.

The Drum Corps of Kempsey Silver Band provided a number of items, and a free film show was presented by Mr. Garnet Smith.

Marching girls gave a display, and the children of Greenhill and Burnt Bridge Schools, dressed in colourful costumes, presented folk dancing.

Football Match

Youngsters from Burnt Bridge and West Kempsey Schools played a very entertaining game of football. Burnt Bridge winning 6-3. Mr. Lloyd Fairhurst, of Smithdown, refereed the match.

Tries for Burnt Bridge were scored by Malcolm Quinlan and Phillip Moseley. Peter Judd scored for West Kempsey.

Following the tea interval, the Apex Club staged a bonfire and fireworks display, which amused and warmed the large crowd present.

A dance, with Mr. Lloyd Fairhurst as M.C., at night, was as popular with the aborigines as dancing always is with them.