

A Baby Show that was Different from Most

For days and days members of the newly-formed Burnt Bridge-Greenhill branch of the C.W.A. laboured long in preparation for a baby show held recently at Burnt Bridge. They cooked and made sandwiches and scrubbed out the small hall before decorating it and then erected a food tent just outside, which was to be the second most important point on the station.

The baby show was the first function wholly organised by this all-aboriginal branch.

It was also the first of its kind ever held in the State—probably in Australia.

It was completely organised by the women themselves.

They begged donations, arranged the trophy list, organised the prizes, the judges, the guest list, sent individual invitations up and down the Mid-North Coast and badgered interest from everyone with a moment to listen.

Mrs. M. Morris, president of the branch, said later she was delighted with the result.

About £70 was netted.

The number of entries in the baby show reached more than 70; a better average than attendance at Apex-sponsored shows.

At night, there was a dance, attended by over 200 people.

The Catering

Mrs. Ellen Davis, almost single-handedly, cooked 500 cakes and tarts.



Some of the visitors at the Burnt Bridge Baby Show.

Other women made up dozens of loaves of bread.

All fillings and ingredients were donated.

Cases of soft drink and dozens of ice creams were sold in the afternoon.

There was also a big run on pies (cold), tea (non-stop service) and hot water.

Home-made sweets were sold almost the moment they hit the stall.

Families from Belbrook, Bowraville, Eungai, Forster, and Purfleet made picnics on the grass outside the hall, family groups squatting around baskets of food and fruit.

It was a wonderful day.

The Mayoress, Mrs. R. G. Melville, there to perform the opening function, described it as an exciting day.

She urged the mothers to continue their cooperation with Sister Hack, sister in charge of Kempsey Baby Health Clinic, "one of the most wonderful nurses I have come in contact with".

Sister Hack pays regular visits to Aboriginal stations, advising on all aspects of baby and child care.

Mrs. Melville congratulated Mrs. Morris and her committee for their initiative in organising the baby show.

Mrs. F. Perrett, the branch's secretary and white woman on the executive (she holds the position temporarily, until the branch stabilises and members gain more confidence in their administrative duties), said she had had an opportunity to observe closely the work done by Mrs. Morris and her team. The organisation had been splendid.

There was a speech also from Sister J. Hodgson, who with Nurse Meissner, judged the babies. Sister Hodgson said the children were a credit to their mothers.

Mrs. Simon, of Purfleet, president of the Purfleet branch of the C.W.A., was also there and in a speech of congratulation to Burnt Bridge-Greenhill branch, she said, "We are very happy to be here at the first function organised by this branch. We, too, are holding a baby show, sometime next year."

Mrs. Morris, branch president, welcomed the guests warmly.