



## BURRA BEE DEE NEWS

Congratulations are being extended to Elizabeth Ashby and William Peach on their marriage at Coonabarabran on the 17th September. An account of the wedding, with photographs, will be published in *Dawn* at a later date.

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Several children from the Reserve at Gulargambone had appointments for X-rays at the Gilgandra District Hospital recently, when there they were able to look around the hospital.

And what a clean, shining place it was! After talking with two of the men employed there, the station visitors were able to state that the whole of the hospital power was run solely by steam. Everything was steam-cleaned. Nearby, some of the nurses were taking advantage of the sunshine and indulging in a game of tennis. "The pleasure was all ours for this short visit," said the visitors.

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Mrs. Fred Griffiths, Senior, is on a short visit to Quirindi. She is staying with her daughter, Mrs. Annie Sorby.

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In a letter from Julie Robinson of the New Reserve, Coonabarabran, at present a patient in the Tamworth Hospital, she informs us that she is expecting to return to Coonabarabran this month.

Julie has been away for six months, and daughter Janet is eagerly awaiting her return.

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Burra Bee Dee's small baby, Donna Green, who weighed so little at birth that she was placed in a humicrib, has now reached a very satisfactory weight of 8 lb. 9 ozs.

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Mrs. Phillips, of Sydney, has been spending a holiday with Mrs. Rose Griffiths. Mrs. Phillips (nee Miss Wilga Goulding) was a resident at Burra Bee Dee a few years ago. She was accompanied by her brother, Robert Goulding.

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On the occasion of her coming of age Miss Maureen Cain was given a party by her parents at their home in White Street, Coonabarabran. Maureen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herrick Cain.

The guests participated in dancing and afterwards partook of a very nice supper. Maureen was the recipient of many nice presents. The present Maureen received from her parents was a lovely marcasite watch.

### PAST AND PRESENT

Burra Bee Dee is a small station so far as population is concerned, compared with other stations. It comprises some 623 acres and at the present time, the largest portion of this acreage is let out on agistment. The station itself is situated some six miles north of the town of Coonabarabran.

Informative sources say the station was named "Burra Bee Dee" because of the "flying mice" that used to fly over the forked mountain, . . . "flying mice" in reality being flying foxes.

The town of Coonabarabran lies at the foot of the Warrambungle Ranges, noted for their majesty and beauty. The colourings of the sunsets on these ranges would be unsurpassed anywhere in the world. Occasionally in the colder months, a mantle of snow encompasses them.

The majority of travellers and tourists passing by the busy Oxley Highway, are unaware that the seven houses they can see belong to an aboriginal station. These residents are justly proud of this small station with its clean, tidy and neat homes. And well they might be! The history of Burra Bee Dee goes back two generations. Most of the former early residents have been assimilated into the township of Coonabarabran.

Some 70 years ago, Mrs. Robinson (known to one and all as "Queenie") now living on the new reserve, Coonabarabran, "carried her swag" there and claims to be one of the first residents. Her husband was the first handyman, receiving a remuneration of just one pound per week!! Her cottage and many others from these early years have since been demolished. These first cottages nestled at the foot of the Forked Mountain that still proudly rises up into the blue sky.

Back in these pioneer days, water was carted by a young woman who used a tank loaded on a dray. She delivered water then as a milkman delivers milk to-day.