

# Purfleet boy is HOCKEY CHAMP

## *strong community support*

Writing to Mr. Thomas, manager of Purfleet Station, Mrs. G. R. Jones, Secretary of the Manning River Junior Hockey Association, said:—

“The enclosed cutting from the international hockey magazine ‘Hockey Circle’ will be of great interest to you as it refers to David Russell, one of the boys from your Station and a member of the Purfleet hockey team which incidentally has won the Under 16 section of the competition and will be receiving a very lovely cup donated by Woolworths at the annual presentation of trophies. The Under 14 team has reached the finals and there is every possibility that it can win this as the bulk of the Under 16 team consisted of 11 and 12 year olds from the Under 14 team. Some of these boys play three matches in the one morning and are very keen. One pleasing aspect of the finals has been the great interest of the Purfleet people themselves and there has been the great roll up of parents at each match.”

The cutting from the international hockey magazine read:—

### **Aboriginal Lad Wins Junior Honours**

Members of the Manning River Junior Hockey Association were pleased to see David Russell, one of the lads from the Purfleet Aboriginal Station near Taree, selected in the N.S.W. Junior team to play in Melbourne later this year.

David has only been playing hockey for three seasons and such an achievement is a tribute not only to his ability but also to the coaching of Ernie Orth. Olympian Errol Bills, when in Taree at the beginning of the season, spent some time with the boys teaching them finer points of the game.

In recognition of his success at Lithgow as well as a tribute to his prowess in other sports, David was awarded the ‘Manning River Times—Heinz’ Sportsman of the Week Trophy during June.

Mrs. Jones went on to say:—

“Our efforts to raise funds in conjunction with the Purfleet people have been very successful and from three picture nights and a jumble sale have raised close to £39 to help David to get to Melbourne to represent N.S.W. in the Championships. The Junior Hockey Association in Canberra set a figure of £35 for each boy to cover his necessary clothing (blazer, track suit, shorts, tie), travelling and hotel expenses. Our own association has contributed £8 5s. to pay for the blazer and the Apex Club is contributing another £8 so that he will not be short of pocket money—in all there has been £55

raised for David, mainly from his own people and I have started a banking account for him so that after his trip is over he will have an incentive to add to it.

The Purfleet people have enjoyed our functions so much that some of the womenfolk have approached me to try and keep them going and I have suggested starting a Purfleet Hockey Club and raise money with picture nights and concerts to equip the three teams that play in our association. Unfortunately Mr. Wilson, who provided the projector and most of the films, has left the district but he has offered to show pictures whenever he returns to Taree and also the Rural Bank has offered its films if we can get a projector. I know that you will co-operate. as you have always done with the use of the hall.

The boys are very enthusiastic and the parents also keen and I hope that we will be able to keep functions going so that next year they will have all the equipment they need. With our help they raised the money for uniforms and look very smart on the field. They are a great bunch of boys and we are very proud of them.”

### **PRESENTATION NIGHT**

One Friday night recently a combined victory and Farewell party was held at Purfleet to celebrate the Under 16 hockey boys’ win in the Grand Final for which they will receive a very lovely trophy donated by Woolworths Ltd., and also to farewell David Russell, a member of the victorious team, who was leaving for Sydney the following night on the first leg of his journey to Melbourne to represent N.S.W. in the Australian Junior Hockey Championships.

The hall was very tastefully decorated in the teams colours (blue, white, and gold) and a short concert preceded the party compered by Charlie Edwards, the most popular item being a rock and roll exhibition by four very young members of the community.

During the course of the evening a presentation was made to Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. Jones in appreciation of their assistance in helping to raise the necessary funds for David’s trip and also to Norm Worth for his coaching of the teams. It was regretted that neither John Woodhouse nor Allan Taylor could be present as both the boys and the parents wanted to express their gratitude for what had been done. In his reply Norm Worth told the gathering that what had been done as regards