

Our Float Drew Most Applause at Waratah Spring Festival Pageant

The Aborigines Welfare Board's float in the 1962 Waratah Spring Festival Pageant on October 6 drew praise from television, radio and press commentators alike as the most widely applauded entry in the most successful procession ever staged by the City of Sydney.

The spectacular float stressed the assimilation theme and illustrated how aborigines are taking an increasing part in all phases of our community life.

The float with its towering boomerang motif and colourful ochre painted sides in the style of ancient aboriginal rock paintings carried a group of New South Wales aborigines including uniformed school-children.

The Welfare Board's group was widely representative of callings aborigines follow in real life. The well-dressed group portrayed teachers, nurses, office workers, servicemen, tradesmen, prominent entertainers, stockmen and well-known sportsmen.

The display was so successful that requests poured into the Board after the pageant from country centres

for the use of the float at processions they plan for the future.

The float was the brainchild of enthusiastic women workers of N.A.D.O.C., spearheaded by Mrs. Joyce Rogalsky, who was assisted by Mrs. B. Hopkinson, a fellow member of the Castlecrag branch of the Assimilation Association which is affiliated with the Armidale Association.

The float was created by well-known artist and art teacher Mr. Bim Hilder, of Castlecrag, from a design of his own.

The Chairman of the Welfare Board, Mr. Kingsmill, paid tribute to the work of the N.A.D.O.C. women who organised the float's construction on behalf of the Board.

Hero of the Aborigine Welfare Board's Waratah Festival float was three years-old Neville Quig, of Granville. Neville is seen here trying on Jimmy Little's straw boater. The serious little moppet is Jimmy's daughter Frances, already a talented song and dance star of TV and stage

