

THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES FOR 77 OUTBACK CHILDREN ON BIG CITY HOLIDAY

The wonder of the ocean which they saw for the first time was perhaps the greatest thrill for the 77 outback children who attended this year's Summer Camp at La Perouse on Botany Bay.

The children—41 girls and 36 boys—came from all parts of the State west of the Great Dividing Range. There were representatives from Enngonia, Coonamble, Bourke, Dubbo, Gulargambone, Moree, Griffith, Collarenebri, Tingha, Armidale, Walgett, Murrin Bridge, Brewarrina, Weilmoringle, Balranald, Wellington, Warren, Pilliga, Coonabarabran, Boggabilla and Mungindi.

The youngsters, who ranged in age from 9 to 12, had the time of their lives during their holiday which lasted from January 6 to 20.

All the children were competent swimmers and quickly adapted themselves to the surf. There was some wry comment after their first mouthful however.

Mr. Funny Face, one of the Luna Park clowns, had a happy fascination for these laughing Summer Camp girls



"Water's too salty, sair," one of the freshwater babies told Welfare Officer, Mr. Des Reynolds, who conducted the camp for the Aborigines Welfare Board. Next moment the youngster was sporting like a fish in the waves.

Among the most joyous occasions were the side-trips from La Perouse which included:—

- A visit to the Pantomine, "Cinderella", at Her Majesty's Theatre.
- A conducted Lions Club tour of the General Motors Holden works at Pagewood.
- A day at Luna Park, the fun fair on the north shore beneath the Harbour Bridge.
- A film evening presented by the Commonwealth Bank.
- A Lions Club picnic to Church Point.
- A Harbour ferry trip and picnic at Manly.
- A visit to Taronga Park Zoo.
- A matinee performance of the film, "The Music Man" at the Regent Theatre.
- A bus trip to the city at night to see the lights and sights of Sydney.
- Ice skating at the Hurlstone Park Ice Palais.

Accident Free

The camp activities happily were free from accident and illness.

Members of the Aborigines Welfare Board visited the camp on January 15 and on the following day the Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, and his party toured the camp and met the children.

Other visitors included former Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, Mr. M. H. Saxby, who retired from the Public Service last year as Assistant Under Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department, a former Board secretary, Mr. J. W. Mullins and Mrs. Irene English, a former member of the Board's welfare staff.

Camp Superintendent, Mr. Reynolds, paid tribute to the sterling work performed by the Matron, Miss C. J. Robinson (Welfare Officer) and Mr. David Tribe for his untiring efforts on behalf of the children.

The 77 children in camp were drawn from the following centres:—