

NEW LOOK GIVEN TO MOREE SCHOOL

The Moree Aborigines' School has a new look this year—all buildings have been painted inside and out, a new front fence erected and a concrete assembly area laid, together with footpaths linking all buildings.

The improvements were foreshadowed the principal (Mr. W. J. Deards) said in his report at the speech night at the school.

The erosion of the playing area was also to be attended to, he said.

The enrolment in 1963 was 152 and he expected that it would be about the same in 1964, said the report in the *North-West Champion*.

Fifteen children were leaving to go to the High School, and Mr. Deards wished them luck.

Mr. Deards said:

"The P. & C. Association has found 1963 a year of varying fortunes.

"After purchasing £50 worth of reference books for the library, funds were alarmingly low, and it was only through sheer hard work and determination that the financial position changed for the better.

"I remember the mid-year period when P. & C. commitments were greater than funds available. However, the position has been reversed and the outlook is at present very bright.

"The usual success of school tuckshops was not to be this year. This was due, I feel, to the lack of parents willing to make them a regular feature.

"The carnival to celebrate National Aborigines' Day had to be cancelled because of lack of funds but a school fancy-dress ball in the station hall proved to be very popular and this was the turning of the tide.

"Film nights have been held and the current queen competition is very successful."

He was apologetic that the P. & C. had had to do some of the treasurer's work this year, but he trusted that a new treasurer would now be found.

A school council had been formed this year and with the help of the staff had made good progress towards developing a school environment.

The council had drawn up a list of school rules and determined punishments for breaking them.

"From the first day of school next year every child is requested to wear the school uniform to school each day," Mr. Deards said.

"I ask parents to specially consider this request, and if you are uncertain of any aspect of the uniform, ask your child to take home an outline of the uniform which has been prepared."

He said he was grateful to the school staff for its co-operation, and he thanked everybody who had helped the school during the year, naming the P. & C., the manager of the station (Mr. John Redmond), the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the R.S.L., the East Moree P. & C. Association and the Quota Club.

Mr. Deards' report was preceded by a splendid concert, compered by the school captain, Darryl French.

The school choir sang "Dandelions", "The Happy Wanderer" and "Shortenin' Bread", and was followed by the kindergarten class performing a mime, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

Fourth and fifth classes then performed a play, "Camping Holiday" and first and second classes presented "The Frog Prince", another mime.

Two more plays were "Merry Christmas Land", by third class, and "The Witch Who Tried to Be Good", by sixth.

Miss Alice Sharp, who came out of retirement to teach for the six weeks as a favour and stayed seven years until the end of 1961, presented the school with a painting of fishing boats.

The school vice-captain, Marcella Kinchella, accepted it and said: "We all have pleasant memories of the years Miss Sharp spent teaching us and we are pleased to know that she has pleasant memories of us.

"We know she must have, because otherwise she would not have given this lovely picture to the school."

The children, staff and principal presented a Christmas card to the district inspector of schools (Mr. A. G. Harvey) and his wife, who transferred to Newcastle North.

The following children were awarded prizes at the Moree Aborigines' School concert and speech-night.

Rotary prizes for citizenship: Darryl French and Marcella Kinchella; Lions Club prizes for character and application: Bill Craigie and Florrie Waters.

P. & C. prizes for class work were won by:

Kindergarten: Donella Smith and Deborah Swan equal 1, June Smith 3; Stephanie Duke (most improved), Leon Hammond (best attendance), Edward Stacey (neatest books), and Willie Green (most consistent uniform).

First Class: Michael Duke 1, Barbara Hammond 2, Gail Sampson 3; Don Haines (most improved), Jaqueline