



RECREATION CENTRE AT MURRIN BRIDGE

(From *The Lake News*)

September 7 marked a memorable occasion at the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station with the opening of a new Recreation Centre.

The centre will cater for the leisure hours of station children.

Over the past 12 months efforts have been made to accumulate sufficient equipment in the way of Board games, toys, comics, magazines and other reading materials, boxes of paints, table tennis and badminton from various sources with which to start this amenity.

Materials were donated from as far afield as Sydney, Canberra, and Victoria.

The materials for the table tennis table were donated by the Lake Cargelligo Apex Club, the Badminton facilities by the management, and the Sydney Public Library donated approximately 900 children's books with which to start a lending library.

The proceedings commenced at 7 p.m., when Mr. John Hollstein and Mr. Mike Walkling, of the Apex Club, Lake Cargelligo, formally handed over the Table Tennis table to Mr. Len Briar, president of the newly formed Murrin Bridge Progress Association.

Mr. Snook, manager of the station presented to the Progress Association the materials which had been collected and the evening was off to a good start, with 54 school-age children and a large number of parents attending.

Within a matter of minutes all the children were busily occupied in some form of leisure occupation, and the enthusiasm for the table tennis and badminton promised well for producing good teams for the future to challenge outside organisations.

The immediate tendency for two games to be played at the same time on the one table suggested that a further table will be needed in the immediate future.

Women of the Progress Association working committee, Mesdames T. Briar, C. Johnson and D. Johnson served tea and biscuits to the visitors and parents.

Re-Decorated

In readiness for the occasion, the station hall had been completely re-decorated, and the newly installed fluorescent lighting gave good illumination.

Recreation centre facilities will be made available to school-age children on Monday and Friday of each week and with the interest now being shown, should prove popular.

The Progress Association has many ideas for the future social activities on the station, which include weekly colour slide shows, a number of which have already been given by Mr. Snook (manager), Mr. Cockburn (assistant manager) and Mr. Don Maxwell, of Lake Cargelligo.

Mr. Berwick, of Lake Cargelligo, has promised the next show and it is hoped that other local persons will offer to come in and provide programmes.

A small charge is being levied for admittance on these occasions, the proceeds from which are being set aside towards buying a 16 mm cine sound projector.

This will open the way for a regular series of educational and travel films to be shown in the station hall.

£10,000 Donation By State Government

The Premier, Mr. Renshaw, has announced a donation by the State Government, to a fund to aid Aborigines.

The donation will go to the £150,000 public appeal being conducted by the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs (see story, page 1).

Mr. Renshaw said that the funds would be used for the general welfare of Aborigines, particularly for their housing, employment, education, legal advice, health assistance, financial difficulties and problems of adjustment.

The Acting Chairman of the Foundation, Mr. R. Hausfeld, said the foundation was "overjoyed" by the Government's donation.