

NATIONAL ABORIGINES' DAY

Moree Celebrates the Day

Celebrations of National Aborigines' Day in Moree (held a week earlier than elsewhere) could lead to more employment opportunity for Aborigines in the town. The new attitudes of co-operation between Aborigines and Europeans are part of a gradual change which was given special significance during the N.A.D. observances.

Mr John Curran, president of the local Association for the Advancement of Aborigines, Mr Stuart Skillman, who organized many of the Moree celebrations, and other workers are developing what the *North West Champion* newspaper says may be reasonably termed a non-official employment agency.

The Champion, which gave extensive coverage of N.A.D. observances, said that the Society's aim was to bring together prospective employers and Aboriginal employees. It tried to do this in conjunction with Miss C. Robison, welfare officer of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Miss McKinney, welfare officer of the Board, is arranging a lecture for interested Aborigines seeking employment; several speakers from the business, industrial and pastoral sections of the district have agreed to address such a meeting.

Talent Quest

A capacity crowd attended a talent quest in Moree's War Memorial Educational Centre held as a curtain-raiser to the town's other National Aborigines' Day celebrations.

Radio station 2VM later broadcast extracts from the talent quest.

The impressive programme had sections for juniors and adults. Winners of the junior section were Wendy Craigie, Debra Swan and Ruth Roberts—three Salvation Army-trained exponents of the tambourine. The girls had the nerve-racking task of opening the programme, but overcame this and strong competition from other entertainers. Mr Fred Pegus won the adult section from Mesdames Richens and Cutmore's duet, and Mrs E. Craigie's solo.

Assembly

Moree's National Aborigines' Day observances began with a church service in the War Memorial Educational Centre—the first time it has been so used for an Aboriginal congregation. A street procession followed, and Aboriginal children gave displays of gymnastics and folk dancing.

Mr Herbert Simms, welfare officer of the Aborigines Welfare Board, addressed an assembly in Moree's Heber Street. Leaders of Aboriginal advancement in Moree also spoke at the assembly.

Sports

A crowd of 700 attended sporting events at the Moree Showground on the Saturday's N.A.D. celebrations, which included several football and basketball matches.

Best and fairest football honours went to Raymond Binge, of Moree, and Norman Cready, of Boggabilla; basketball honours went to Marlene Jenkins, of Moree, and Helen Mackie, of Boggabilla.

Gordon Swan (left) captain of the victorious Shamrocks rugby league team accepts a well-earned trophy from Mr John Curran at the Grand Ball which climaxed the N.A.D. sports carnival and observances. Mr C. Binge is in the background

