

ABORIGINAL WOMEN AT SYDNEY TOWN HALL

One of the highlights of the Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations in Sydney was the Pageant of Endeavour at the Town Hall between 22nd-29th April. The pageant showed the role women had played in New South Wales history from the time of Captain Cook's landing until today. Different displays showed what women had achieved in the home, in business, in politics, in society, and in education.

One display which very definitely showed an achievement of women in education was the Aboriginal Family Education Centre exhibit. Here children, while playing as they normally do at the A.F.E.C.s, showed visitors to the pageant exactly what A.F.E.C. is doing and how Aboriginal mothers are striving to help their children.

Over the eight day period, the women and children from the A.F.E.C.s of Redfern, Chippendale, Bellbrook, Mungindi, Cabbage Tree Island, Box Ridge, Tabulam, Boggabilla, Tingha, and Bowraville took turns to staff the display.

On the last day, 29th April, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Anne visited the pageant. When they came to the A.F.E.C. display, several ladies who are prominent in A.F.E.C. affairs were presented to the Queen. They were Mrs Eileen Lester and Mrs Eva Mumbler. As well as this, Her Majesty spoke to a number of Aboriginal people some distance from the A.F.E.C. exhibit. Two very shy little ladies, Grace Mumbler and Ginna Troutman, presented Queen Elizabeth with fresh Australian wild-flowers to mark the occasion.

