

# Christmas Greetings

## from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is here again with all its religious significance and joy.

Christmas is a time for showing love and kindness to our families, our friends and neighbours, and above all, our enemies. This is the true meaning of Christmas, not just the giving of presents and having parties, although these all go towards a greater enjoyment of the Christmas season.

We must all try to be people of Goodwill, for it was to such people that the Holy Angels who appeared to the shepherds on that first Christmas Day promised "Peace on Earth", not to the rich man or the poor man or to the powerful man but to those of goodwill.

To each and every one of you I wish a Holy, Joyful Christmas and a New Year of Success and Happiness.

Yours sincerely,

H. J. GREEN,

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

## MANY CAME BACK

The Cummeragunga Mission Station, once a thriving and busy community and now a virtual ghost town, came to life one week-end recently when Back to Cummeragunga celebrations were held.

The settlement's present permanent population of approximately 75, living in scattered houses in an area which once boasted rows of streets, swelled to over 200 during the week-end, as former residents came back.

Visitors included bus loads from Melbourne and Shepparton and private car loads from many centres including Echuca and Deniliquin.

Visitors and local residents combined in an informal get-together on the Friday afternoon, and this was followed that night by a dance.

Highlight of the Saturday's events was a sports programme which included two basketball matches for the local girls.

Their keenness to play basketball was demonstrated by the fact that they worked and saved to buy their own ball for practice.

Their efforts were supplemented by the Echuca Apex Club which provided the ball used in Saturday's matches, and the Cummeragunga team were delighted when they scored a dual success, defeating both Rumbalara and a team from Melbourne.

There was keen interest in the basketball and in the remainder of the sports programme, in which the Cummeragunga Gift was the feature. It was won by Eddie Briggs with Don Briggs second and Fred Knowles third.

Other results included: Married women's race, Mrs. E. Briggs 1, Mrs. G. Briggs 2, Mrs. M. Hiland 3; girls,

10-14 years: Betty Jackson 1, Heather Briggs 2, Elaine Knowles 3; girls: Maureen Morgan 1, Joyce Hood 2, Margaret Hood 3; boys: R. Atkinson 1, Geoff Atkinson 2, Barry Knowles 3; youngsters: Keith Nelson 1, Rod Briggs 2, Heather Briggs 3.

Both local and visiting artists contributed to a concert programme held on Saturday night.

On Sunday, the programme took on a more serious note, with a pilgrimage to the cemetery in the morning and a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon programme during the afternoon.

The P.S.A. was chaired by Cr. J. Eddy, president of the Murray Shire and was attended by many visitors, including a party from the Echuca Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia, who took with them gifts of books and crayons for the school children.

Other visitors came from Matheura, Diggora and Lockington.

Principal speakers on the programme, which included a number of musical items, were Pastor Doug. Nichols, M.B.E., and Mr. R. Wanganine, president of the aboriginal co-operative at Port Pearce in South Australia.

A vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Mr. A. Holloway, and brief addresses were also made by the Reverend D. G. McKenzie and Mr. R. Nichol of the Echuca Presbyterian Church.

Most of the "come backs" left straight after the P.S.A.

—(From the Riverine Herald.)