

# First Anniversary Function

## Burra Bee Dee

### U.A.M. Church

To mark the first anniversary of the church, special services were conducted at Burra Bee Dee and in the church itself situated on the new reserve, Coonabarabran.

After being disappointed some weeks previously, it was a real singing treat to have Mr. Wakerley convey his choir and two instrumental artists with him to Burra Bee Dee. The choir consisted of ten young lasses from the reserve, Gulargambone, their ages ranging from about 9 years to 13 years. The two guitars made a suitable background for the girls' voices. The instrumental artists were William Ward and Victor D'Arcy also from Gulargambone. Mr. Wakerley assisted also with the accordion.

The service was presided over by Mr. Jim Grey opening with the chorus "The Wise Man Built His House on the Rock".

A prayer followed and then the sweet voices of the girls were heard in "The Pathway is Narrow", "In Jesus I'm Safe Evermore" and "I Come to the Garden Alone".

Further choruses followed and after these the exhortation was delivered by Mr. Wakerley, and he took that portion from the Bible that reads:—

"Greater love hath no man that he lay down his life for his friends." He depicted the story of the young girl that was willing some years ago to lay down her life for her father in the town of Nancy in France.

The service concluded with prayer and the singing of "Why do you wait, dear brother?"

The station manager has asked *Dawn* to pass on the residents thanks to Mr. Wakerley and his band of willing helpers for their visit to the station with the sincere hope that God may richly reward his untiring efforts in future days.

They, too, were the days when the acreage abounded in "milk and honey", luscious pastures, and many and varied were the fruit trees that yielded delicious sweet fruits. These were also the days of the dairy herds and stock. At one time, the records show that there were twenty-two head of cattle (some very well bred too!), one Ayrshire bull, and four horses, the only horse remaining being "Tess" nearly eighteen years "young". "Tess" was born and bred on the station and is a much loved horse and very spoilt by the children. She is practically retired now, but occasionally she can be seen harnessed to a dray bringing in wood for the residents.

In a secluded portion is a well-kept native cemetery. As can be read on some of the headstones, the graves are very old. The War Graves Commission look after the graves of returned men, erecting headstones, etc., and effecting "annual care".

The children of school age attend the Coonabarabran Public and High School, and travel the six miles into the township by bus.

The small old station school that once echoed to the sounds of happy feet is now used as a hall, and also as Sunday School, conducted by the United Aborigines Missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Wakerley. The U.A.M. Church is on the new reserve, Coonabarabran, and celebrated its first anniversary on the 13th August. The only remaining portion of a very old bush church on the station is an old bell tower, just a reminder of what used to be, and a link with the past history of Burra Bee Dee.



The baby minder is George Grey, of Condobolin, and the baby Craig Johnson