

ABORIGINES DAY-OUT AT WOY WOY

Twelve young Australians who were guests of the Woy Woy Lions Club for a day's outing recently will remember that day for a long time to come.

The boys, all aborigines aged between nine and 12 years, were from the central western town of Dubbo.

They have just concluded a 10-day holiday at The Entrance as guests of The Entrance Lions Club.

This is an annual project undertaken by The Entrance Lions. Last year 24 boys (not aborigines) from the west were sponsored by the club for a seaside holiday.

The cost of the boy's holiday was paid for by The Entrance Lions.

On this occasion Woy Woy Lions took over for one day, and provided the lads with a real treat.

Picnic

Included in their day's outing to Woy Woy was a picnic in Memorial Park and a tour of the Brisbane Water by motor launches.



Woy Woy Lions and their wives provided food for the young visitors for their picnic which included sandwiches, meat pies, cakes, cordials, sweets, ice creams and fruit.

They had the time of their young lives disposing of the provisions.

Later in the afternoon, club member Mr. Ross Smithies made his launch available for a trip from Woy Woy to Ettalong.

Mr. Smithies took five of the lads in his launch and the other seven went by car to the Ettalong wharf.

Here the whole party, plus a number of Lions from both Woy Woy and The Entrance clubs, boarded Mr. Phil Timmins' launch "Lenore".

Mr. Timmins took the party out as far as Lion Island and around the Pearl Beach area.

The boys were brought to Woy Woy by Mr. Frank Morley and Mr. Dick Dunne.

Mr. Morley said that during their stay at The Entrance, where they were guests of former club president Mr. Martin Goudkamp at his guest house, the boys crammed a hectic programme into their short visit.

One of the highlights was a visit to the B.H.P. at Newcastle.

They had also been to the pictures, been roller skating, and been speedboat riding.

The boys were not full-blooded aborigines.

They live in small houses on the outskirts of Dubbo.

It was obvious from the boys' appearance that their parents were doing their best to overcome sub-standard conditions.

All the boys were healthy, wiry, full of energy, well mannered, with pearly white teeth and flashing brown eyes.

For some it was the first time they had seen the ocean.

But most of the lads were good swimmers.

The eldest, 12-year-old John Chafield, said they often went fishing in a river at Dubbo where they also learned to swim.

But there were not as many fish there as at Woy Woy, he reckoned.

Were they having a good time on the coast? A unanimous, "I'll say".

Are they coming back next year? "Well, it's the girls' turn next year but we'd like to come too."

Since their return to Dubbo, the 12 dusky lads have had plenty of stories to relate to their families and schoolmates.

And if they have their say, they will be back with the girls again next year.

National Aborigines Day Observance Committee

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to be done each year in the schools, if children are taught to think about the aborigines and their problems and make some conscious effort to help them, assimilation will follow naturally.

Other organisations such as the Lions Club, Rotary and Apex, the Country Women's Association, as well as student bodies in the universities, have shown a real interest and desire to *do something*. It is becoming customary for these organisations to make their special efforts for aborigines somewhere near National Aborigines Day. In country towns, Assimilation Associations are being formed wherever there is an aboriginal "fringe population" and the second Friday in July is the time when they now make their annual appeals.

There is no doubt that through the observance of National Aborigines Day in this State, there have been tremendous advances made on behalf of the aborigines of New South Wales.

JOYCE ROGALSKY,
Hon. Secretary.