

ABORIGINES' BALL IMPRESSIVE

DEBS LOOKED BEAUTIFUL

The recent Aborigines' Ball at Armidale, at which there were six debutantes, was one of the most successful and impressive yet held. This was largely attributable to the presence of the Apostolic Delegate, His Excellency the Most Rev. Maximilian de Furstenberg, D.D., to whom the debs were presented.

The presentation took place at 9 p.m. In the official party were the Bishop of Armidale, the Most Rev. E. J. Doody, D.D., Monsignor J. Healy, Monsignor F. Ryan, Father J. Walker, Father A. Russell, of the Marist College, Father B. Melville, Mr. and Mrs. J. Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCartney. Mrs. Archibald was matron of honour.

The debs, with their partners, walked slowly through a guard of honour, formed by women at the ball, to the official party, where each knelt before His Excellency.

They were Joan Dickson from Kempsey and Alfred Morris, Cynthia Snow from Kootingal and Mervyn Snow, Valerie Hoskins from Kempsey and Graham Smith, Grace Quinlan from Bellbrook and Lincoln Wright, Laurel Cohen from Bellbrook and Jack Cohen and Lois Laurence from Tamworth and Max Munro. The debs were preceded by eight-year-old flower girl Esma Kelly, of Armidale.

The official party and guests were welcomed by Dean C. A. Fisher. Dean Fisher said the Ball was the first Aborigine Ball His Excellency had attended. He observed that some aborigines had travelled distances of 200, 300 and 400 miles to be present.

Mr. Alf Cutmore, on behalf of his people, thanked His Excellency for attending. "Bishop Doody's presence at the Aborigine Ball shows us what the Catholic Church thinks of us," he commented. "Bishop Doody has attended every ball he possibly could which has been held for us," he added.

Bishop Doody said that His Excellency was from Belgium. Before coming to Australia he had been Apostolic Delegate to Japan, representing His Holiness, Pope John XXIII.

Bishop Doody then outlined the part Catholicism played in the aborigines' lives. Concluding, he noted that His Excellency had flown to Sydney from New Zealand and had left almost immediately for Armidale.

His Excellency expressed his gratitude to the Bishop for inviting him to Armidale. He said he was very pleased to see the debutantes.

He said it was very nice to see young women coming out into society. He reminded them that members of society had to make some effort in life properly to fulfil their places.

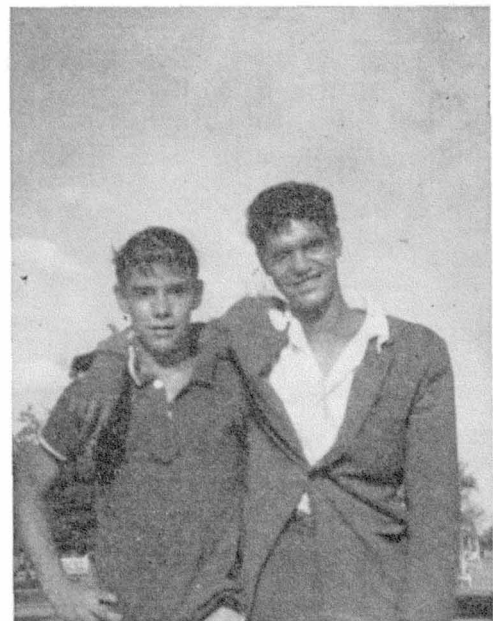
He said he would report the night's happenings to the Holy Father.

The debs, their partners and the official party then went to supper while the dance continued.

Highlights of the ball were filmed by an A.B.C. TV unit.



David Williams and Bob Daley



Darcy Baker and Clyde Cutmore, of Moree