

# A Moree - N.A.D.O.C. Triumph

The focus of this year's National Aborigines' Day celebrations in N.S.W. was undoubtedly Moree. While other centres also had functions planned, the biggest celebration was here in the northwest of the State. For months the Moree Association for the Advancement of Aborigines had been working and planning so that the events of 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July would run smoothly.

Why Moree? The Secretary of the Moree Advancement Committee, Lyall Munro, is a member of the Sydney National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee. This group had been discussing the success of the activities of the One People of Australia League in Queensland—particularly the Miss O.P.A.L. quest. Lyall decided that the Moree Committee was strong enough to run a similar quest. On his return to Moree, he asked the Committee President, Roger Draper, Vice-President Mrs Dulcie Duke, Treasurer Mrs J. M. Cutmore, and members Mrs H. Draper, Mrs C. Munro, and Mrs Tom Binge to back his idea. Not only did they agree, but Lyall was to find that just about every Aboriginal in Moree would lend a hand at some time or another.

The celebrations in Moree began on Friday morning, 3rd July, with a church service at the Education Centre. Here Mr T. Williams of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs gave the welcome and Mr B. Draper gave the address.

After the service, a motor-cade carrying the princesses, who had entered in the Miss N.A.D.O.C. quest, left the Centre and drove via Balo Street to Heber Street and the official dais where they were to meet the official guests. These included local member Mr R. Hunt, Miss Margaret Lawry from the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr T. Williams, Ald. W. Lloyd, Mayor of Moree and Mr L. (Roger) Draper of the Moree Aborigines Advancement Committee. The princesses were formally introduced to the official party and to the crowd. Local Aboriginal schoolchildren then treated the crowd to a display of gymnastics and folk-dancing, before the officials and princesses went to an official luncheon at the Imperial Hotel.



*Members of the Moree Committee*



*The quest entrants being introduced to the crowd*

*Local Aboriginal schoolchildren giving a display of folk dancing*

