
Two Aboriginal girls enter Miss Australia Quest



Dawn Slater and Marjorie Baldwin, both 21 year-old, are the first Aboriginal girls to enter the Miss Australia Quest. Dawn is the only entrant from her local Forster-Tuncurry district and Marjorie is from Sydney where she works for the Aboriginal Medical Service.

Dawn made her decision after being presented to the State Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, and Lady Cutler at a local ball on 3rd March. She was approached by a Miss Australia Quest scout who suggested she nominate. After 5 hours of talking Dawn decided to give it a go.

She is the daughter of Mrs Slater and the late Mr W. Slater. She works in the local Forster newsagency. Last year Dawn won the title "Belle of the Ball" at the Oyster Festival Ball and was placed third in the Festival Queen contest.

An outdoor girl she plays hockey regularly and is a keen supporter of the local football club.

Entrants in the Miss Australia Quest must raise a certain amount of money for charity before their nomination is accepted.

Dawn's entry in the quest was quickly followed by that of another Aboriginal girl, Marjorie Baldwin. The announcement was made on the ABC television programme, "This Day Tonight". A double-certificate nurse, Marjorie originally came from Cairns in North Queensland. She then went to work in a hospital in Wellington, New Zealand.

Since the beginning of this year Marjorie has worked full-time for the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern. She will be applying for a Churchill scholarship later this year in order to study programmes for underprivileged groups in other parts of the world.

Dawn Slater is being sponsored in the quest by the Forster-Tuncurry Apex Club. On 11th August a ball will be held as part of the fund-raising drive. Already donations have begun to flow in. The local RSL Club has offered its hall free of charge and the RSL Ladies Auxiliary will be providing the catering.

New Dawn wishes Dawn and Marjorie every success in the quest. Anyone wishing to assist the girls can do so by writing to Dawn Slater care of 6 Little Street, Forster, or to Marjorie care of 171 Regent Street, Redfern.

Dawn Slater, the Forster-Tuncurry entrant in the Miss Australia Quest