

BOOLAROO JUBILEE

• A week of Celebrations - 8th-14th October, 1950

Phone: BOOLAROO 114

Public School,
Boolaroo

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Miss Jean Brown, headmistress of Boolaroo Infants' School, was bringing home a family heirloom from Scotland. The heirloom, a cup and saucer more than 200 years old, had come halfway round the world when the Himalaya hit a freak storm off Fremantle — and the cup was smashed to pieces.

"BUT I still have the saucer," she said, "and a huge egg-cup, which has a small end for hen eggs and a large end for duck eggs."

Miss Brown and her sister, Miss Margaret Brown, have just returned from a six months' tour of England and Scotland, where they visited relatives around Ayrshire and Glasgow. While there they took several bus tours to London—less than half the train fare, and very popular with tourists—and to places of historic interest in the Highlands. They saw the famous Highland battlegrounds of Culloden, Inverness and Dundee, visited Loch Ness, looked for the monster but did not see it. ("Other tourists swore they saw the monster," Miss Brown said, "but I think they may have imagined it.") And went for a sail by steamer down the Clyde. Miss J. Brown said that her grandfather had been superintendent of the Clyde dockyards, so they took particular interest in that trip.

And she saw only one class with more than 35 children in it. That is something which still has to be introduced in lower school grades in Australia. The percentage of attendance was good, too, because an



Miss Jean Brown

official checked rolls each day and went looking for those without a good excuse.

But Miss Brown is glad to be back. "I didn't seem to relax the whole time," she said. "Now I can have a good rest."

Back To School After 50 Years

Fifty years ago young Annie Conn marched in at the head of the line of pupils and was enrolled as the first student at the new Boolaroo Public School.

Annie Conn, now Mrs Horan of Bathurst, returned to Boolaroo this week for the jubilee celebrations of the town and the school.

Born in Wallsend, she went to Boolaroo to school via



Mrs. Horan

Plattsburg and Argenton, with her two brothers and four sisters.

After three years' study at Boolaroo, Mrs. Horan worked at a leading city store before leaving to be married.

With clear recollections Mrs. Horan spoke of the early days of the school and the people there.

"Mr. Andrew Maloney, B.A. was sent up from Fort St. in Sydney to start the school," she said, "and we thought it a great honor to get a man with a degree. His assistant was Miss P. Lambert, who later became a headmistress at Hamilton

"In the highest class—Upper Fourth—there were six pupils. In fact, in the whole school there cannot have been more than 100."

One listener-in at the interview gave a deep chuckle and said: "I can still remember the day they pulled down the old school to build a new one. I went along with the family tomahawk and I did my little

3000 At Boolaroo Jubilee

About 3000 people packed the playground, and verandah and classroom vantage points last Saturday night for the close of the Boolaroo Public School Jubilee celebrations.

Eight men dressed as a wedding party in a mock wedding were a feature of the night's entertainment. The groom was led on a rope by the bride's father, who prodded him continually with a double-barrelled shotgun.

Misses Ninnis and McInerney, pupils of the school, sang "Our Boolaroo School" in answer to requests. West Wallsend Brass Band gave several items. Second class boys and girls gave a flag drill demonstration, and third class pupils danced the maypole. The kindergarten also gave an item.

Mr. Bromhan, headmaster of the school till last November, and Mrs. Bromhan were welcomed.

A three-tiered 50th birthday cake stood at the head table at a function for old students. The cake, made by Mrs. Bert Horn, was cut by Mrs. Ray Westbrook, the pianist in dancing and flagpole drill training for the past four weeks. She was given the top tier.

First Day Pupils

Mr. J. Blissett, of the Cross Roads, Cardiff, who attended Boolaroo School on its opening day, when he was 13, was present. Mr. Blissett's father built the first cottages in Boolaroo and was watchman at the Sulphide Works for 28 years. Mr. Blissett went to Argenton School for five years before Boolaroo School opened.

Other old pupils, including many of the first day pupils, present were Mr. Russell Foster, Mr. Herbert Mitchell, of Third-street, Boolaroo, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Horan, Mr. J. Conn, Mr. and Mrs. G. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Keswell, Mr. and Mrs. Wardley, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. W. Copas, Mrs. Manning, Mr. A. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. V. Guest, Mr. K. Barnett, Mr. H. Copland, Mr. George Abrahams, Mr. K. Carr, Mrs. W. Sidebottom, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Ebbeck, Mr. and Mrs. W. Burgin, Mrs. W. Wade, Mrs. Parney, Mrs. W. Wilson. The Superintendent of Newcastle Ambulance (Mr. E. L. McKay) also attended as an old pupil.

IE months of organisation by the P. and C. and the teaching staff of Boolaroo Pub-

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MISS BROWN and her sister took another trip to Newcastle-on-Tyne, and saw the famous "spreading chestnut tree." In London they went to Madame Tussard's Wax Works, which they described as "amazing." They visited Parliament House when Sir Stafford Cripps was speaking on the Budget and went to the Pavilion Theatre.

"We often got in the wrong buses," Miss Brown said. "We would ask for such-and-such a place and the conductor would say 'If you get off next stop and take No. X bus in the opposite direction you will get there quicker.'"

Back in Scotland, they went to the Presbyterian Assembly and were invited to the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace.

"But the hours!" exclaimed Miss Brown. "No one seemed to go to bed before one or two or three in the morning! At first I used to go to sleep looking at people, but by the time we left I was just getting into the swing of it."

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AS a headmistress, Miss Jean Brown found the schools

aid, "and it came to me from my great-grandmother and great aunt, who were the first two women on the goldfields in New South Wales. I always hear it at a show"