

Brisbane Trip continued:

A special feature was the display from Torres Strait Islands which was much admired and favourably commented upon. The main centre of attraction in this display was a exhibit on lean from America showing the pearl-shell industry in a lucite block (a glass-clear material).

It was stated that it cost 25,000 dollars to produce this exhibit, much of this being spent in research. It is a master piece of work and was insured for £1,000. Each night it was safely locked away in the City Hall's vault.

Without praising anyone Settlement too much, the furniture from Cherbourg was outstanding and deserving of mention. The coloured coral from Palm Island made a fitting border along the front of the display, while on the wall grouped into sections were excellent examples of needlecraft, domestic craft, school work and samples of old time handicrafts. Congratulatory comments were received from many of the visitors who also expressed surprise at such a fine display, which no doubt depicted the progress achieved by our coloured Australians (aborigines) since their first contact with civilization.

By last week end the festivities came to an end and almost as suddenly as it had come into being, the large gathering of natives (approximately 150 in all) disbanded. The Woorabinda boys were the first to leave, to be followed by the Cherbourg footballers and Concert party; and then came the big exodus of the Palm Islanders and the Torres Strait Islanders.

Before lunch on Sunday morning our boys gathered outside of their dining room to bid farewell to Mr and Mrs Rees and to thank them for their kindly hospitality and excellent manner they had cared for them. George Ryan, on behalf of our Palm Island boys, in a few well chosen words expressed these sentiments and then presented Mr and Mrs Rees with a set of silver cake forks as a small mark of their appreciation.

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