

MORANBAH PRE-SCHOOL OPENED

1977

- Racing to start in May

Work on the construction of the Moranbah race track is progressing well and race club officials are confident that the first meeting at the track will be held on the scheduled date, May 21.

The 1600 metre circuit was built by volunteer labour using equipment loaned by Utah Development Company.

Although few of the other facilities have yet been constructed, club members are confident all will be ready for the first meeting.

Irrigation is required to speed the growth of grass on the track and amenities for the comfort of patrons are yet to be built.

At the time of going to press, Newline had been assured that Mr. J.T. Lynch of Rockhampton was taking up duties as Acting Clerk of the Court at the new Blackwater Court House.

Vince Lester, Member for Belyando said that he had been told of the appointment by Queensland Justice Minister, Bill Lickiss.

Moranbah's first taxi has now been given an official taxi rank in the town.

The Belyando Shire Council has granted Mrs. L. Byrnes a rank for her cab.

It is at the town shopping centre, opposite the public telephone outside the ANZ bank. Blackwater already has a taxi service, but Dysart has yet to be provided with this service.

A stir was caused in Dysart at the beginning of February when the TAB was closed down. General Manager of the TAB, Mr. David Cox said that the rent charged for former premises was more than the TAB was prepared to pay.

He said that the Dysart TAB would reopen if suitable premises could be found.

The Queensland Minister for Health, Dr Llew Edwards officially opened the Moranbah Pre-School Centre in March this year.

In his opening speech Dr. Edwards said that he had always been impressed by the community spirit that has been associated with Moranbah and that the town had very quickly become a major education centre.

Excerpts from Dr. Edward's opening speech are reprinted below.

"It is my great pleasure to be here this afternoon to officiate at the opening of this fine new facility for the Moranbah School. It is a pleasure to return to Moranbah and participate in yet another important opening ceremony. On my last visit I had the honour to officially open your new hospital.

Moranbah is very much a town of the 70's. It is a fine example of a modern pioneering development. I have always been impressed by the great community spirit that has been associated with this town and a spirit which has ensured that the town develops on good and strong lines.

Moranbah has very quickly become a major education centre, and I am certain that work has never stopped in the town on developing further education facilities.

As Minister for Health I quite happily play second fiddle in capital expenditure to education, because I believe that the Government has as its

prime responsibility the provision of the best possible education facilities for our children.

This is the best investment that any Government can make, for by providing first class education facilities we are guaranteeing that future leaders of Queensland will be well equipped to handle their responsibilities. Education is indeed a wise investment and here today we have full evidence of the results of good education planning. I must say that we need modern hospitals and health facilities, but with good and proper education, we may need them less and less as the preventive health education message is understood by the future generations.

The development of pre-school services in this state is indeed one of the most dramatic stories of development and progress. Queensland is the most advanced State in the development of its free pre-schools scheme...

Again education is to consume the major slice of the budget cake, and rightly so. Educated children are our best investment in the future as citizens, as ambassadors and, through the work-force, as contributors to Queensland's economic advancement and to its inevitable leadership over all other States.

The Queensland Government is determined that this will always remain a prime policy objective and it is putting this commitment to work from the

earliest possible age. For example, grants in the budget to the Creche and Kindergarten Association for its 188 kindergartens total almost \$2.9 million...

In fact, Queensland has taken the initiative and it is the most advanced of all States in the provision of pre-school facilities. The Government feels that providing pre-school children with the advantages - social as well as educational - that these centres offer is a necessary education development I am certain that many mothers, perhaps for slightly different reasons, are happy when their four-year-olds are taken off their hands while they are at the centres and they have a morning or afternoon breather. I note that here in Moranbah there was full attendance at this centre on the first day that it opened, clearly indicating instant acceptance.

A total of 259 pre-schools, comprising 390 units, are now completed under a scheme that was initiated by the government only a little more than three years ago. A single unit caters for up to 50 children while here at Moranbah we have a double unit. Some centres consist of a single unit while others have up to three. A further 37 centres with 71 units are under construction or have gone to tender. They will be completed by December 1977. It is little wonder that the budget for pre-school centres exceeds \$6,000,000."



his gem collection.

ATIONS CROWD



Television Petition

Belyando Shire Council is organising a petition to protest over the Federal Government's decision not to extend A.B.C. television to Moranbah.

Shire chairman, Jim Turner, said it was unbelievable that a Government could penalise some people in a community by providing some with television and, on the other hand, denying 5000 people in another the service.

The Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (Mr. Robinson) told the council that if ABC television was to be extended into Moranbah the cost would have to be provided by Utah Development Company.

Cr. Turner said Utah had already offered to contribute.



Dr. Llew Edwards and Mr. Vince Lester, Member for Belyando are pictured at the official opening of the Moranbah Pre-School.

HIGH SCHOOL NOW ONE YEAR OLD AND LOOKING FORWARD

On January 24, Moranbah High School celebrated its first birthday. What kind of a year was it? How will 1977 be a year of growth? Newline photographer Peter Taaffe visited the school on a sport afternoon and teacher John Milne compiled this story.

HISTORY

A Secondary Department or "High Top" was attached to the local Primary School when it opened in 1971. Since those early days, when students worked on correspondence courses, progress has been rapid and sustained. This year about 300 students from Grades 8 to 12 attend the school, on its two sites over 1 km apart.

Grades 8 and 9 occupy the recently completed Grade 8 Centre in Mills Avenue, while Grades 10 to 12 continue to share the Primary site at Belyando Avenue. The Grade 8 Centre is

