

29th August, 1988

On the air! Kids tune into 'Alice'

MORE than 3000 excited children from Hurstville municipality screamed, shouted and sang with students from outback Alice Springs in the huge "classroom over the airwaves" this week at the Hurstville Entertainment Centre.

The theme of the Bicentennial Hurstville to Alice Springs School of the Air Link Up, Living Together — City and Country, certainly showed as the kids from totally different lifestyles combined as one.

Students exchanged stories, experiences and ideas of country and urban living as well as each getting a taste of what learning in a classroom, and over the airwaves is all about.

The link-up was officially declared opened on Monday night by the project chairman, Alderman

By DEBBIE CRAMSIE

Les Jarman, and the principal of the Alice Springs School of the Air, Gary Yates.

Ald Jarman has been working on the link-up for more than 12 months and he hoped the project would give the children from very different backgrounds an understanding of how the others live.

More than 700 students, teachers and parents, attended the official opening on Monday night, as did State MP for Hurstville, Guy Yeomans, Hurstville mayor Bill Pickering and the NSW Regional Director of Education, Metropolitan East, Alex Scott. Special guests were the Mayor of Alice Springs, Alderman Lesley Oldfield, MP for Braitling in Alice Springs, Roger Vale, and the Assistant Director of Education,

Northern Territory South, Michael Fong.

Twelve-year-olds, Clinton Smith and Josie Coppock — two exchange students from Alice Springs who are staying in Hurstville for the week — were overwhelmed by the speed and size of Hurstville municipality.

"Everything is so big and so fast," Josie said.

"It's so cramped and everything is so close together.

"I wouldn't have anything to ride my horses."

The two outback kids come from remote cattle stations in Alice Springs with their closest neighbours 80 kilometres away.

Jennifer Hartshorn and Wesley Tom, both of Lurgarno, who are flying back with the two Alice Springs students for a week's stay, were just as unsure about what they would find in the outback.



MAYOR of Hurstville, Alderman Bill Pickering, congratulates Anne Scherer, one of the teachers from the Alice Springs School of the Air.

"I know there will be plenty of room and plenty of animals roaming freely on the properties," Wesley said.

"I think it will be a great experience seeing how they live in Alice Springs."

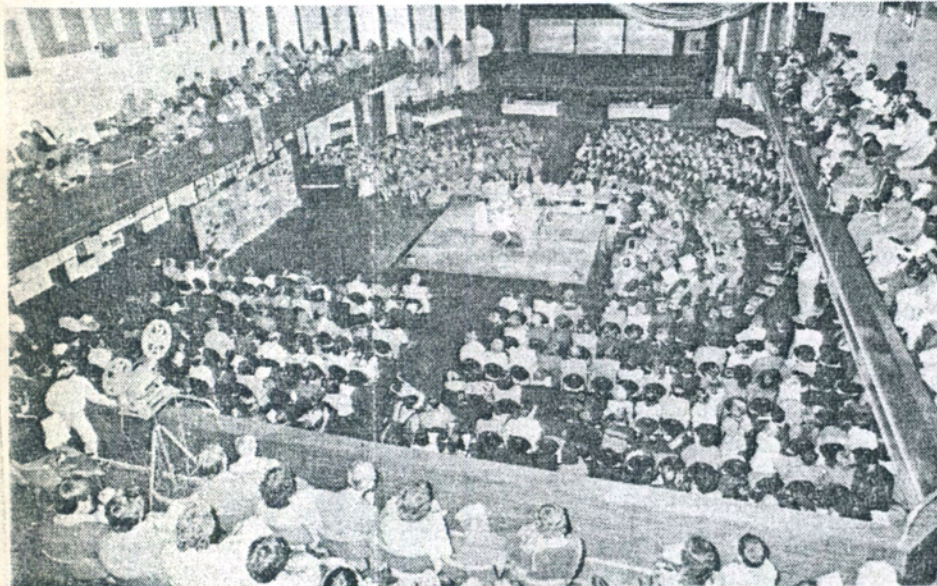
The school of the air has been transmitting all week from the Hurstville Entertainment Centre with a class of students from the municipality joining the outback classroom. ● - Louise Yaxley reports from Alice Springs:

MORE than 20 people sat anxiously in the Alice Springs studio trying to put a picture to the sounds coming from the outback to Australia's largest city.

The excited audience broke into spontaneous applause for each speaker both in the studio and in Hurstville, partly to relieve the tension created each time the sound slightly faded.

Most dressed up for the occasion, which was light-hearted, and some even broke into song with the Oatley West school band.

School of the Air principal, Gary Yates, a one-time Hurstville resident, quietly challenged State MP for Hurstville, Guy Yeomans' description of the Georges River as beautiful, suggesting it was a little brown but with more water than Centralian rivers.



WHAT a classroom! More than 700 students took part in the lesson over the airwaves at the start of transmission on Monday night.



17396



Breakfast on the Terrace



~ Rathane ~







Quiet at dawn-

THE BUSH DANCE



Progressive Barn dance [↑]
‡ "Musical knees" [↓]





Senior band rehearsal

Friendly, informal discussions





Junior Band practice ↑
← and adjusting instruments



Andrew caught a crab
... not big enough for a meal,
so he put it back in the water.





EDUCATION WEEK
HURSTVILLE

1992











OATLEY UNITING CHURCH
1991









