

VIOLENCE

EXPLODES IN RACIST TOWN

Moree battles students

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From GERRY STONE

MOREE, Saturday. — White women jeered and spat at girl freedom riders today as racial violence broke out for the first time at Moree.

The students were pushed and carried from the front door of the Moree baths while an angry crowd of 500 booed and catcalled.

A fist fight broke out between a local white woman and an Aboriginal woman but was quickly stopped by police.

A former alderman, Mr. Bob Brown, who is known for his support of the Aboriginal cause, was picked up on the street by hoodlums and dumped in the gutter as he tried to approach the demonstrating students.

The trouble erupted when 27 young men and women from Sydney University tried to escort six Aboriginal children into the baths.

The children were barred by the mayor, Ald. William Lloyd, and the baths manager, Mr. Don Ford.

Mr. Ford placed himself in front of the doors to the baths and would not let other people pass.

It was a hot day—with temperatures near 100 degrees—and a crowd quickly gathered, demanding admission.

Police trying to clear the crowd pushed Mr. Chris Page, 20, a medical student from Castlecrag, to the ground.



A shack at Top Camp whose residents are barred from the town pool.

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Police trying to clear the crowd pushed Mr. Chris Page, 20, a medical student from Castlecrag, to the ground.

Then two council employees carried him bodily from the baths when he refused to move.

Ald. Lloyd then grabbed several students by their shirts and pushed them from the doorway while the crowd cheered.

Those thrown out by the mayor included Beth Hansen, 20, an arts student of Strathfield, and Mr. John Powles, 21, of Deniliquin, a medical student.

A white woman in the crowd spat at a girl student as she was led away by the council attendant.

Arrest threat

The girl, Miss Wendy Golding, 17, of Vaucluse, is a Jewish Arts student who joined the crusade to fight against prejudice of any nature.

The woman who spat at Miss Golding was reprimanded by her husband, who said: "Don't spit at those girls."

As soon as the students were led away they returned to their picket line in front of the baths.

The mayor warned that if they kept on returning they would be arrested for obstruction.

As more townspeople hurried to the scene the mayor ordered the crowd removed from the baths.

Officials claimed that the pump at the baths would have to be temporarily stopped for repairs.

But the students refused to move and claimed they could hear the pumps still operating.

Today was the first time since the students began their anti-discrimination tour of NSW that they have been forced to use their so-called passive resistance technique.

They had been told to fall to the ground as soon as police attempted to arrest them, and several did this with the council employees today.

Plain clothes police circulated in the crowd to prevent major violence.

Word quickly spread throughout the town of the students' demonstration and tempers flared in the heat when hundreds of people found they could not swim because of the demonstration.

Angry threats against the students were made by drinkers in the hotel and one resident said: "The students will be in real trouble if they are still here when the pubs close tonight."

A shack at Top Camp whose residents are barred from the town pool.

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