



Extensive Tour

by

Superintendent

Many Parts of State Visited

My Dear Friends,

I have recently completed an extensive and interesting tour of the far western parts of the State, accompanied by the Welfare Officer from Leeton, Mr. Lambeth.

After visiting Murrin Bridge Station, at Lake Cargelligo, we journeyed to Hillston and met the few aboriginal people living there.

We then called at Ivanhoe and saw a number of families, who are living in close proximity to the town.

We were pleased to see the cleanliness of their homes and surroundings, and to learn of the interest of Constable Baker, of Ivanhoe, in their welfare.

From Ivanhoe, we went to Wilcannia and visited the homes on the Reserve and also those on the river bank.

While a number of residents on the Reserve have maintained their homes in excellent conditions, others have not displayed the same interest and care.

It is very disappointing to see nice new homes with an air of neglect about them, and I hope, on my next trip, to see a decided improvement. Work is plentiful in this district at present, and the people should be in a position to maintain and improve the homes which have been provided for them.

The run down the Darling River to Menindee was completed in good time and a visit paid to the old Reserve. All the buildings have been demolished, and there is little now, to indicate that there was once a populous village on the site. There are now only two aboriginal families living near Menindee and both are to be congratulated on the neatness and cleanliness of their homes.

Whilst conversing with old residents, of this once flourishing town on the Darling, I was interested to learn of the very useful part played by aborigines in the pioneer days of our State, both in work on Station properties and on the river barges, known then as "mud turtles".

The next place visited was Broken Hill, where I lived for two years, 1934 and 1935. Here I saw Claude Morris, whose home is in Tibooburra. He is attending the Broken Hill High School, and expects to sit for his Intermediate examination at the end of this year. He, hopes to gain entry to the Royal Australian Air Force and is interested in radio. Let's hope he has every success in his examinations.

There are a number of aboriginal families living at Silverton, a few miles out of Broken Hill. They have come from South Australia, and like many others in these outback places, know little of Sydney, or the work of the Aborigines Welfare Board. I was able to assure them that any time they need assistance or advice, it would be forthcoming.

We left Broken Hill early after breakfast, one morning, to travel to Tibooburra. It is over 20 years since I was last there and I was pleased to find the road much improved since those days when it was only a sandy track through the scrub. We were able to complete the 216 mile journey in about 5 hours.

Some recent rains had made the country look good, and emus and kangaroos were numerous, although we didn't see any rabbits at all.

There is quite a settlement of aboriginal people in Tibooburra, although not as many as there were some years ago.

The children were all having a great time, enjoying their school holidays, but, I felt their parents would be glad when they were back at school again.

Here, once again, I found a very sympathetic policeman in the person of Constable Jorgensen, who does all he can to help. He is anxious that some children from Tibooburra, attend the next Summer Camp in Sydney and we will certainly keep this in mind. King William, an elderly full-blood, is the patriarch of the district, and we were honoured to meet this gentlemanly old fellow. I think the goat population of Tibooburra must outnumber the humans by at least two to one.

We spent an interesting evening in the office of the Police Station, which is linked by radio with the Flying Doctor base at Broken Hill.

[continued on page 2]