



A New Deal for Exemption Certificate Applicants.

We know that there are many aborigines, who live on an Aboriginal Station, who would be justly proud of themselves if they were given an Exemption Certificate. The application for a Certificate, however, implies that it is necessary for the applicant to have made, or to proceed to make a home for himself and his family away from the Station. This condition has, in the past, deterred many from applying, although they have already shown that they are anxious to better themselves.

The Board is proud of them, and in order to help them, will not now insist that the holder of an Exemption Certificate should leave the Station and make his home elsewhere. Of course, an applicant will still be required to measure up to the qualifications, which the Board requires he should have before a Certificate is issued. He must be reliable, his home on the Station must be well reported upon, in fact he must be one who is regarded as one of the leaders in the Station community in maintaining a good standard of living. Above all, he must be of a sober disposition. A man who spends his money in drink or who, if exempted, could be persuaded by unscrupulous friends to purchase liquor for them, can forget any intention he had of applying. The Board is very strict on the liquor aspect. No member of the Board would deny any man having a drink, but when it comes to determining, whether a man should be given a Certificate of Exemption, he must have the reputation that he can take a drink and not make a nuisance of himself.

Attendance at School of Aboriginal Children.

At one of the Board's Stations, which is located quite close to the town, and close enough for the children to attend the Public School, the Board, recently, had very serious reports regarding the attendance of children at school. The Station is less than two miles from town, and consequently it is not within the distance for which the Education Department provides free transport. The children attending the Public School are required to walk, but then, white children living under similar conditions have to walk too. The unfortunate result, however, has been that many of the children are playing truant. This is regarded very seriously, and the School Attendance officer of the Child Welfare Department has been especially asked to give the matter his close attention.

Jervis Bay.

The Aboriginal Station at Jervis Bay, commonly known as Wreck Bay, is controlled by the Aborigines Welfare Board of New South Wales at the request of the Commonwealth Government, the Station being in Federal territory. This is where Mr. Bob Brown, well known to all South Coast aborigines, is the Manager.

The Department of the Interior, in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Education, have now co-operated to provide a special school bus to enable aboriginal children from the Jervis Bay School to attend Nowra High School. The Board was very pleased to hear this at a recent meeting.

Cumeroongunga.

In a recent issue, readers learned of the transfer of some of the houses from Cumeroongunga to Moama. Only a few houses still remain on the old station, and in a few months time it is proposed to ask the Lands Department to revoke the area as an Aborigines Reserve, with the exception of that portion where the houses are. This will close the history of Cumeroongunga after many, many years.

Expulsion Order Cancelled.

On the 6th January, 1948, a young man then aged 22, gave considerable trouble at Moree Station. So unruly was he, and so upsetting was his misbehaviour, that there was no option but for the Board to expel him. Now, 7 years later, he has shown that he can behave himself, and the Board has been pleased to cancel the Expulsion Order.

New Tenancies.

The Tenancy Agreement has been signed and sealed by the Board in respect of the house in North Street, Casino, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Evans and their family.