



WELFARE BOARD POLL CLOSELY FOUGHT

Election of the part-Aboriginal member of the Aborigines Welfare Board resulted in a closely fought poll, won by Mr Leslie Darcy, of Goodooga.

Mr Morgan, the previous full-blood Aboriginal representative on the Board, was elected unopposed, but 14 nominated for the position of full-blood or person apparently having an admixture of Aboriginal blood, and final voting was close.

Poll result was made public on 21 January, and Mr A. G. Kingsmill, chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, wrote to the Aboriginal members. Mr Kingsmill congratulated Messrs Morgan and Darcy, and, with his colleagues on the Board, looked forward with keen anticipation to their assistance and co-operation in promoting the welfare of Aboriginal people.

First meeting of the Board after the election, was held in Sydney on 21 February, where Mr Morgan and Mr Darcy got down to work after they were welcomed by the Chief Secretary, Mr E. A. Willis, and members of the Board.

Policy

Nominees for election were invited to convey to readers of *Dawn* (November/December issue) personal details and views of policies that they would propose if elected. This was Mr Darcy's statement:

DARCY, Leslie, bakery proprietor; age 31; Adams Street, Goodooga.

My full name is Leslie Kenneth Darcy; I am single; born on 22 May, 1935, at Brewarrina. The early years of my life were spent in a small house near the Darling River at Brewarrina. After the death of my father and on leaving school I was apprenticed to the local bakery. Eventually I got my certificate. Later, I decided to venture into business on my own at the Goodooga Bakery.

The Board got down to business after it had warmly welcomed the new Aboriginal member

Finding business a wonderful way of making friends, I decided then to also obtain a taxi business, which gave me a wider scope to meet and contact people mostly of Aboriginal descent, in all walks of life—on Reserves, on the Missions, in their employment, in their pleasures, and most of all in their needs.

I have represented Group 15 at football on numerous occasions and find sport a great help to me. At present I am the Senior Vice-President of Group 15 Country Rugby League, and Foundation Vice-President of the Goodooga Boys' Club, which, when fully operating, will consist of a majority of members of boys of Aboriginal extraction.

I was accorded a great honour in January, 1965, when I was appointed a Justice of the Peace, after being nominated by the then Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. J. B. Renshaw. I believe that I am one of the first Aborigines to be given this honour.

My policies if elected to the Board will be assimilation by education. Education on all levels is of the greatest importance, starting with our children. Of equal importance is home life and environment. To get the true feeling of Aboriginal people, I feel that the Aborigines Welfare Board should have a greater representation of Aborigines on the Board.

Voting Details

In the election 1,474 persons applied for enrolment; 12 of these applications were defective and returned for adjustment to those concerned, but were not re-submitted. Net enrolment figure was 1,462, to vote for the 14 nominees.