

M.A.W.K.

1955

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT

OF THE

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1955

BY COMMAND



Ordered to be printed, 13 October, 1955

Wholly set up and printed in Australia by
 A. H. PETTIFER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES,

1956

[1s.]

Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1955.



Presented to The Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary,
pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943.

I. THE BOARD.

Personnel and Meetings.

During the year, the death occurred of Mr. J. P. Glasheen, Board Member representing the Education Department. His place was taken by Mr. N. W. Drummond, Deputy Director of Education.

The triennial election of a member having an admixture of aboriginal blood was held, resulting in the election of Mrs. P. M. Gibbs, the first lady to take her place upon the Board.

The constitution of the Board at 30th June, 1955, was as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—Mr. C. J. Buttsworth (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.
Officer of the Department of Public Health—Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction—Mr. N. W. Drummond, B.A.

Member of the Police Force—Superintendent J. D. McAuley.

An expert in Agriculture—Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

An expert in Sociology and/or Anthropology—Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice Chairman).

Two persons nominated by the Minister—Mr. M. Sawtell, Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two aborigines—

(a) one full blood—Vacant.

(b) one having admixture of aboriginal blood—Mrs. P. M. Gibbs.

Monthly meetings were held during the year, when statutory business was transacted and matters of general policy discussed.

As yet, no nomination has been received to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full blooded aboriginal member.

Policy.

The Board's policy of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community, was further implemented, and details of the means used to this end appear in subsequent sections of this report. Chiefly they lie in the direction of improved education facilities and housing, and in encouraging aborigines themselves to adopt a higher standard of living and social conduct.

Mention was made in our report last year, of the apathy and lack of initiative on the part of many aborigines, and the prejudice of the white community and its reluctance to fully accept them. It is encouraging to find, however, that wherever aborigines have demonstrated their ability to assume the responsibilities and accepted social standards of the community there is little evidence of prejudice against them.

The Board's activities cover persons of aboriginal blood, whether full blood or lesser caste. Reference to "aborigine" in this Report, is to be understood in this sense.

Visits by Board Members.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare and various members of the Board have paid numerous visits during the year to Stations and Reserves and the Training Homes for boys and girls.

Contacts were made on these occasions with local civic authorities and others interested in the welfare of aborigines, and a number of talks were given at various places.

Staff.

The staff of the Board was maintained at normal strength, and an additional Welfare Officer was appointed. This Officer is a trained nurse and her duties involve, principally, work with mothers, babies and adolescent girls.

A building Maintenance Officer and a Plant Engineer were also appointed. This will enable regular repair and maintenance work to be carried out.

General Expenditure.

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government, amounted to £170,694 which represented an increase of £19,594.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £44,055 compared with £29,008. This was an increase of £15,047.

Acknowledgments.

The Board acknowledges the expert advice in various matters of other State Departments. Such Departments as Education, Works, Agriculture, Health, Police, Lands, Forestry and the Housing Commission, have rendered valuable assistance in various ways. Church groups and local committees function actively in many places in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of aborigines. More specific reference will be made to such bodies later in this Report.

Their helpful interest is appreciated.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Housing.

An important development during the year was the adoption of a programme of erecting homes on town allotments in selected country centres. Construction was arranged through the Housing Commission, and the completed dwellings were allocated to selected aboriginal families which, after two years satisfactory tenancy, will be given the opportunity to purchase the house on a long-term rent/payment basis.

Such places have been completed in the following towns:—

Casino	4
Grafton	1
Dubbo	3
Yass	6

A contract was let to erect five houses in the town of Coonabarabran.

In addition, three houses from Cumerogunga Reserve have been moved to the town of Moama and modernised, and eight homes were erected on a newly acquired Reserve at Coff's Harbour in close proximity to the town.

Funds available to the Board have not permitted any extension of the building programme on Stations. Of the sixteen fully managed Stations, conducted by the Board, nine have been completely rebuilt. On these, tenants of the new homes have been charged a nominal rental. This policy was adopted with the object of inculcating some sense of responsibility and preparing to meet obligations which would normally be required of them in the community.

Their response has been disappointing, and at the 30th June, 1955, the sum of £32,476 was outstanding in rents, while £10,146 had been paid.

The position regarding those who occupy town houses as rent/purchasers is far more satisfactory, as all are so far up to date in their payments.

Although in the last ten years, the Board has expended about £600,000 on its re-housing programme, much more remains to be done.

Apart from the seven Stations where only the older types of homes exist, there are many Reserves under the control of the Board where it has not been possible to effect any improvement in accommodation. Additional to these, there are scores of aboriginal families living in small communities under most adverse conditions, mainly on river banks and the outskirts of country towns. It has not been possible to provide for these people in any way, except that a few have been given accommodation on Stations as residents have moved off.

A survey is at present being made of the overall housing needs of aborigines in New South Wales. When this is completed, it will be possible to estimate the cost of the work yet remaining to be done. It is anticipated, however, that to effect repairs and additions to such houses as are suitable for this, and to provide for the replacement of unsatisfactory dwellings, at least £500,000 would be required.

A good deal of repair work was completed to houses already existing on Stations, and land was purchased in a number of towns where it is proposed to continue the building programme next year.

From funds made available to the Board for advances to aborigines desirous of purchasing or erecting their own homes, approval was given to an advance to a woman from Kempsey to purchase a home in Sydney, and to a man at Bateman's Bay to complete a home there.

Education.

In continuation of the Board's policy that, wherever possible, aboriginal children should receive their education in the ordinary Public Schools of the State, the school at Karuah Reserve was closed at the end of 1954 and the children absorbed into the local Public School. The change was effected without incident.

The New South Wales Department of Education co-operates with the Board by taking steps, progressively, to absorb into normal departmental schools, those aboriginal children for whom other special provisions are not made. The Department's policy regarding the enrolment of aboriginal children at Public Schools is officially stated in the following terms:—

"It is the policy of this Department to encourage the assimilation of aboriginal children as members of the Australian community by permitting their attendance at Public Schools."

There are now twenty-one Aboriginal Schools in New South Wales, this being a reduction of five since 1950, mainly because of the amalgamation of aboriginal and public schools. Of the twenty-one schools, twelve are one-teacher schools (all in charge of male teachers), seven have two teachers, and two (Moree and Murrin Bridge) have three teachers. In only two of the nine staffed schools is the staff all male, the general position being that the youngest class group is taught by a woman. All schools are associated with Aboriginal Stations or Reserves, most of which are within two to five miles of the nearest town, though some are a considerable distance from the nearest secondary school. Enrolments in these schools as at 31st May, 1955, ranged from twenty to 134, with a total of 1,003. Moree (134) and Murrin Bridge (89) are the largest schools.

A course of instruction for Aboriginal Schools was prepared in 1916 and was revised in 1938-40. There has been a movement by teachers away from the use of a special syllabus for aboriginal children. Consideration has been given to the possibility of making special adaptations either of the New South Wales Curriculum for Primary Schools (1952) or of the "Provisional Syllabus for use in Aboriginal Schools in the Northern Territory" but it is the opinion of teachers, Inspectors of Schools and research officers of the Education Department that it is better, both educationally and socially, for all aboriginal children in this State to follow the courses laid down in the Curriculum for Primary Schools, varied as required to meet local conditions or the needs of particular groups.

Secondary education is provided for aborigines in two ways. Those children who are of an age and standard which indicate that secondary courses may be undertaken, are expected to transfer to the local secondary school and follow one of the approved secondary courses. For these children the normal transport arrangements apply. For these children who, for personal or environmental reasons continue at the Aboriginal School until school leaving age is reached, courses of a Home Science, technical or rural nature are provided if facilities and staffing permit. Three schools are providing instruction in Home Economics (Cookery), while needlework is taught in most schools.

From the Board's two Children's Homes, Stations and Reserves, a total of 163 children (compared with 85 in 1954) are in attendance at High Schools. It is known that many more, from families living privately, are also in attendance.

During the year, one girl obtained a bursary awarded by the Education Department, and an additional seven bursaries were awarded by the Board during the year. There are now sixteen current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

Since 1940, when the education of aboriginal children devolved onto the Education Department, the appointment of teacher-managers has been discontinued, wherever possible,

Walgett being the only school where both functions are now carried out by the one man. Aboriginal Schools are staffed by the Department with qualified teachers in the normal way; only two of the untrained teachers, approved for appointment to aboriginal schools only, are still on duty in these schools.

In 1953 the Minister for Education approved of persons of aboriginal parentage being admitted to Teachers' Colleges and to the teaching service. Two young education officers, Miss E. Robinson and Mr. J. Stirling, were then accepted as full teachers and the way is now open for aboriginal students to enter on a teaching career and to be employed by the Department in the general teaching service. Miss Robinson and Mr. Stirling are rendering efficient service at Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal School and Burnt Bridge Public School, respectively.

Aboriginal Schools receive supplies of school equipment and materials by the same method and in quotas at least as liberal as other primary schools. They also receive, from time to time, special supplementary issues of materials for needlework, manual work, gardening or other activities. Aboriginal children receive free milk, conveyance subsidy (where required) and other amenities, whether they attend public or Aboriginal Schools.

In the education of aboriginal children in New South Wales, there is much evidence to suggest that under the right conditions, steady progress toward complete assimilation may be made and a gradual lifting of the standard of achievement of the aboriginal children is possible.

Welfare Activities.

Male Welfare Officers with special training for the work, are located at Nowra, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Coff's Harbour. During the year, one Welfare Officer resigned and it was necessary to close the office at Walgett. It is hoped that a replacement will be forthcoming in the near future.

Two lady Welfare Officers are located at Sydney. One of these, a trained nurse, was appointed during the year and has undertaken a considerable amount of country work, chiefly among mothers and babies and adolescent girls. The other is responsible for the placement of supervision of girl wards of the Board.

Difficulty is experienced in securing suitable foster homes with private families, with the result that the two homes conducted by the Board are nearly always full to capacity.

The work of Welfare Officers supplements that of the Managers and Matrons of the various Stations, and is designed primarily to assist aborigines not resident in controlled situations. Their help and advice is freely sought and they are a potent factor in improving the relationship between the Board and aborigines, and between aborigines and the general community.

The varied nature of the work undertaken by these Officers will be seen from the table of visits made during the year set out in Appendix "E".

"Dawn" Magazine.

This monthly magazine published by the Board for the aboriginal people of New South Wales, has a wide circulation. Besides being posted to aborigines, an increasing number of interested members of the white community is continually being placed on the mailing list, many in places outside the State.

It is a valuable medium not only for the dissemination of news, but of informing readers of the development of the Board's policy, and publicising the Board's work for the aboriginal population of the State.

Summer Seaside Camp.

The Annual Summer Camp was held in January on the Board's property at La Perouse. During the preceding year, a fine dining hall and recreation room had been erected, and the area levelled and generally improved. This greatly facilitated the smooth running of the Camp and was a particular boon in the closing days when heavy rain was experienced.

Officers of the Board were in charge of arrangements, and they were ably and willingly assisted by a team of helpers from the Department of Social Studies, Sydney University. The usual medical and dental examinations were held.

Many outings were arranged, the most popular being to the Zoo, Luna Park and the Tivoli Theatre. Evening entertainments were popular, and on days when the children were not on their outings, much time was spent on the beach and

swimming in the calm waters of Botany Bay, adjacent to the camp site. Many saw the sea for the first time and non-swimmers were taught to swim.

A large number of visitors came to the Camp, and many expressed their interest by donations of sweets, drinks, food delicacies and entertainment.

Behaviour of the children was excellent; they assisted willingly with camp chores, and their parents are to be congratulated on the well turned-out appearance of all who attended.

The Board records its appreciation of those whose assistance and generosity contributed to the success of the Camp.

Floods.

During the early months of 1955, disastrous floods were experienced in many parts of the State.

The Boys' Home at Kinchela was affected and it was necessary on one occasion to evacuate all inmates. On a second occasion, preparations were made, but evacuation was not necessary.

The Aboriginal Stations at Boggabilla, Moree, Caroona, Walgett and Brewarrina, were all affected. It was necessary to evacuate residents from Brewarrina Station, and many aborigines' homes at Walgett were inundated and the residents temporarily moved to higher ground. Emergency accommodation had to be found and foodstuffs supplied.

This entailed a great deal of hardship to the people, and much extra work by Managers and Welfare Officers. At Walgett, the Welfare Officer was in camp for several days with evacuated aborigines. Much damage was done to fencing, houses and gardens.

The Reserve at Talbragar near Dubbo, sustained the greatest damage. Of the nine houses on the Reserve, three were damaged beyond repair, one being washed completely off its foundations and carried a distance of about 60 yards. All others were damaged to a lesser extent and much silt was deposited in the homes. Furniture was destroyed and fencing and water tanks washed away.

Repairs were undertaken by residents, and the Boards' Maintenance Officer spent some weeks on the Reserve affecting repairs necessary to render the houses habitable.

Aborigines in affected areas participated in the Flood Relief provided by the Government and other organisations.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

At the close of the year, the Board had 215 wards under its control. These are admitted on the application of parents who are unable to care for their children, and in some cases are committed by a Children's Court when neglected by their parents.

It is an essential part of a Welfare Officer's duty to supervise substandard homes, and their efforts in the direction of rehabilitative oversight are undoubtedly fruitful in keeping to a minimum the number so committed.

At the end of the year under review, ninety-two wards were accommodated in the Board's Homes, and 123 were otherwise placed.

Children over school leaving age who are ready for employment are placed with employers with whom they are accommodated. The employer is required to pay pocket money and wages according to a prescribed scale. Wages are banked to the credit of the ward and are available for essential purposes after the ward attains the age of eighteen years.

The existing scale is as follows:—

Boys.				
Age.	Wages per week.	Pocket Money	p.w.	Total p.w.
15-16	£1 15s. 0d.	10s. 0d.		£2 5s. 0d.
16-17	£2 3s. 0d.	15s. 0d.		£2 18s. 0d.
17-18	£2 0s. 0d.	£1 10s. 0d.		£3 10s. 0d.
Girls.				
15-16	£1 10s. 0d.	10s. 0d.		£2 0s. 0d.
16-17	£1 15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.		£2 10s. 0d.
17-18	£1 10s. 0d.	£1 10s. 0d.		£3 0s. 0d.

Statistics concerning the number and placement of wards during the year, are shown in Appendix "A". Brief accounts of the activities of the two Homes conducted by the Board appear at the end of this Report.

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IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

Sixteen Stations under full-time resident supervision, are maintained by the Board. A married couple is in charge as Manager and Matron, the Matron being, in some cases, a trained nurse.

The design of dwelling varies. On nine, old buildings have been entirely replaced by new homes of modern design. On the remainder, maintenance and repair work has been done.

For the newer type of dwelling, a nominal rental is charged, but response to payment has been disappointing. However, tenants have, generally speaking, responded to the improved living conditions which are regarded as a step in the assimilation process. Many have been tastefully furnished, modern housekeeping aids installed, and flower and vegetable gardens laid out.

The employment position on Stations varies from place to place. Quite a number of men are in regular employment while others are dependent upon casual and seasonal work. Some are able to obtain work locally, but many of the casual workers are under the necessity of remaining away from home for periods.

Permanent employment is found on the Railways, Main Roads Board and Shire Councils. Casual employment covers many forms of rural work such as shearing, fencing, droving, cane cutting, banana chipping and pulling, bean and pea picking, and many other forms of farm work.

Regular social functions are a feature of Station life and residents are encouraged to take a hand in the management of their own affairs, and on many Stations active Progress Associations are functioning. In many instances, residents take part in the social, religious and sporting life of the community.

Treatment for minor ailments is given by the Matron in well equipped treatment rooms. More serious cases are referred to local doctors or hospitals.

Appendix "B" indicates the population on the various Stations at 30th June, 1955, and brief accounts of activities appear at the end of this Report.

V. ABORIGINES RESERVES GENERALLY.

In addition to the Aboriginal Stations mentioned in the foregoing pages, there are a number of Reserves. These are not under full time management, but some have resident supervisors who, in most instances, is the Teacher of the School on the Reserve. In other cases supervision is exercised by the local Police and Welfare Officers of the Board.

As in the case of Stations, residents go out to work and return nightly, or at weekends when working away from the immediate locality.

The Reserve at La Perouse, near Sydney, is the largest. Being close to Captain Cook's landing place, it is an attraction to tourists, and several aboriginal men earn a livelihood by making and selling boomerangs and other curios.

Others are employed in local industries and at the new Oil Refinery at Kurnell.

The newly erected Recreation Hall affords opportunity for indoor recreation and social activities not previously possible.

A Hostel maintained on the Reserve affords accommodation for aborigines from the country who are in Sydney for specialised medical treatment.

Appendix "C" sets out statistics concerning Reserves.

VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Statistics.

Figures available from the Census taken last year, do not enable the number of aborigines, other than full blood, to be stated. Arrangements are being made for the Board's Officers to survey their districts with the object of arriving at an estimate of the number of full bloods, half castes and lesser castes in New South Wales.

Available statistics do, however, reveal that of the total, 4,880 are resident on Stations and Reserves.

Many of the remainder own or rent homes, and are living as accepted and respected members of the community. However, many more are still content to reside in substandard

conditions and shacks on the outskirts of towns. Unfortunately, a large proportion of these have the means to provide better homes but lack the initiative to do so, or are simply apathetic.

Labour and Employment.

The number of aborigines settling into permanent employment is increasing. Many are securing work with the Railway Department, Shire and Municipal Councils, and the Department of Main Roads. The majority engage in rural employment, much of which is seasonal. This does not mean that the worker is unemployed for lengthy periods, but is engaged in various occupations from time to time as seasons change and the nature of the work varies. This applies particularly in the western districts where pastoral and agricultural work prevails.

In coastal districts, work, as well as being seasonal, is of a more casual nature and some periods of unemployment are experienced.

It is the constant aim of Field Officers of the Board to encourage aboriginal workmen to secure and remain in the more permanent types of occupation.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

In addition to the usual Social Service Benefits which are available, the Board undertakes the care of indigent aborigines who are not eligible for such benefits. This assistance takes the form of weekly ration issues and the issue of winter and summer clothing and blankets, where necessary.

Community gardens and dairy herds are maintained on some Stations, and fresh vegetables and milk are distributed.

Treatment rooms have been set up where attention is given for minor ailments. More serious cases are referred for medical attention or hospitalisation, as the case may be.

Aborigines are encouraged to join Ambulance, Hospital and Medical Benefits Funds, and many have availed themselves of the services provided through these schemes.

Each year the Board provides special funds for the provision of Christmas cheer for children, aged and infirm.

The Board also subsidises funds raised by local organisations for the provision of amenities on Stations. Progress and Parents and Citizens' Associations are encouraged and, on many Stations, these function actively.

Issues of clothing to indigent and other dependent aborigines were as shown in the table hereunder:—

Outfits.	Year ended 30th June, 1955.								
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
	Male.			Female.			Total.		
Summer Outfits	147	103	168	190	159	216	337	262	384
Winter Outfits	110	186	141	136	248	194	246	434	335
Totals	257	289	309	326	407	410	583	696	719

Commonwealth Social Services.

Child Endowment.

Aboriginal mothers in New South Wales are entitled to claim Child Endowment, and do so. Welfare Officers and Managers assist in the preparation of claims. In some cases, it is considered to be in the interest of the endowee and her children, that payments be administered by the Board. At the end of June, 1954, sixty-two cases were so administered, while at 30th June, 1955, the number was fifty-six.

Maternity Allowance.

This is paid to aboriginal mothers in exactly the same way as to white women.

Pensions and Unemployment Benefits.

Unemployment Benefits are paid to aborigines on the same basis as to ordinary individuals. This payment is made irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence.

Pensions are paid to exempted aborigines living off Stations or Reserve, or if living on a Reserve which is not under supervision of a Manager. This distinction, in the Board's view, is illogical and unjust. Residence on a supervised Station does not entitle an aborigine to any greater benefit than otherwise. As a result of this discrimination, aborigines are frequently obliged to move off the Board's Stations in order to qualify for a pension.

Efforts to secure full Commonwealth Social Service Benefits to all aborigines in New South Wales, whether exempted from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act or not, will continue.

Exemption Certificates.

Where an aborigine has attained a degree of social adjustment as to indicate that he or she is able to take his place as a responsible member of the community, a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act may be granted. These are issued only after careful enquiry as to the applicant's character and mode of living.

Ninety-nine Certificates were issued during the year under review, and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-1955.
Granted	60	50	99
Deferred	—	2	—
Declined	3	6	3
Cancelled	1	3	3

Expulsion Orders.

It is possible, under the provisions of the Act, for the Board to order the expulsion of an aborigine from a Reserve. This power is only exercised in very extreme cases where the conduct of the person concerned is inimical to the good of the Station and the welfare of other residents.

During the year, four such orders were issued and two were withdrawn.

CONCLUSION.

The Board feels that a definite forward move was made during the year in the steps taken to provide town houses for selected aboriginal families in country towns. This may be regarded as a milestone in the progress of the policy of assimilation, and perhaps the most positive step thus far taken.

It looks forward to further advancement in this direction in the coming year.

While ever ready to assist the aboriginal people in improving their standing in the community, it recognises that much can be done by the people themselves in this direction. It feels that there are many worthy aboriginal families who are in a position to make some effort on their own behalf, and gives every encouragement to such to do so.

The Board earnestly solicits the interest and practical help of all who have the well-being and progress of aborigines at heart.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board's resolution dated this sixteenth day of August, 1955.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.

M. H. SAXBY, Superintendent of
Aborigines Welfare.

APPENDIX TO "III"—ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Kinchela Boys' Home.

The number of wards resident in the Home as at the 30th June, 1955, was forty-five, compared with fifty-four at the beginning of the year.

The buildings are in fairly good condition; maintenance work has been carried out and further work is planned, and improvement of the sanitary facilities is contemplated. Tenders have been called by the Department of Public Works relative to the construction of a new seepage well.

A complete medical examination is conducted in January of each year, and a dentist visits the Home every six months and appropriate dental treatment is given. Hospital attention, where necessary, is given by the Macleay District Hospital.

Thirty-seven inmates attend the Public School in the Home grounds. Five boys attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training.

Extensive repairs have been carried out to the school buildings and new furniture supplied.

Boys attending the Kempsey High School are well respected by teachers and classmates. Lads visiting other towns with their school teams are boarded out with white people, and reports have always been favourable regarding their conduct and sportsmanship on these visits.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football League Club and are regular playing members of that Club's "under eighteen" league team. Several boys are also members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club, and one lad was Junior Beach Sprint Champion of the Central North Coast and also won his Bronze Medallion for life saving.

Inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties, including the usages of farm machinery, milking and butter-making, vegetable production, poultry and general farming.

Production of various types of vegetables totalled 3,962 lb.

Production obtained from the dairy herd for the period under review was 7,931 gallons of milk and 1,718 lb. of butter. Egg production from the small poultry section was 1,196 doz.

Crops produced 10 tons lucerne hay, 20 tons saccalene, 6C bushels corn and 116 bales grass hay, besides providing ample grazing.

The dairy herd was culled and surplus stock sold.

Estimated value of total products was £2,990.

It is the aim of the Management to prepare these boys for the responsibility of ultimately taking their place in the community.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.

There were forty-seven girls in residence at the end of the year, an increase of six since the beginning.

Considerable repair work was carried out during the year by the Public Works Department and the Board's Maintenance Officer. The buildings were painted externally, and roof and guttering repairs effected. A new poultry run and shed was erected and fencing generally repaired.

The health of the children has been good. A complete medical and dental examination was conducted twice during the year.

A small dairy herd provides fresh milk, cream and butter. A good supply of vegetables and fruit was maintained from the garden and orchard.

Thirty girls attend the Public School in Cootamundra and fourteen the High School.

One girl is studying for the Nurses' Entrance Examination and hopes to commence nursing at the Cootamundra Hospital in the coming year.

All attend local churches as ordinary members of the congregation.

The atmosphere of the Home is far from "institutional" and their training should be a potent factor in preparing the girls for the time when they will leave and take their places in the community.

APPENDIX TO "IV"—ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

Boggabilla.

The trend referred to in last year's Report, for residents to move off the Station and secure employment and residence on properties in the district, still exists. In fact, several other families have moved out on to properties to work as station hands.

Building improvements were effected and all cottages were painted, each house being done in a different colour. The Station now presents a very cheerful atmosphere.

The year has proved successful in many directions, and it can be safely said that the Station has progressed. A special effort has been made by the management to foster good relations between aboriginals and the white community. In this connection, pleasing results have been noted. The aboriginals from this Station have been invited to social gatherings organised in Goondiwindi.

Brewarrina.

This is one of the older Stations controlled by the Board, and homes are not of the modern type. During the year it was affected by floods and it became necessary to evacuate all residents for a period. A good deal of repair work was necessitated and this, as well as current maintenance, was put in hand.

A commencement was made with the erection of a Recreation Hall and this, when finished, will fill a much felt need and be of great assistance in the social life of the community.

The people, generally speaking, might be regarded as backward in their social development, though not primitive. They need a good deal of guidance and are fairly dependent upon the Manager and Matron for direction and assistance.

The children reflect the social backwardness of their parents, being shy in class. Special effort is made to inculcate habits of cleanliness, and the development of music, art, and handicrafts, is emphasised. The aim is to secure a standard of literacy which will equip the pupils to adequately meet the situations likely to be faced by them as they grow up.

Burnt Bridge (near Kempsey).

The population has remained static due to an influx which replaces those that leave.

Burnt Bridge does not possess any new modern homes of the type on some other Stations. An extensive repair programme has been carried out during the year with adequate timber provided for this purpose. The majority of homes have been repaired, the work consisting mainly in replacing piers, runners, flooring, iron and chimneys.

Fortnightly visits by the Sister, Baby Health Centre, provide expert guidance and supervision for post-natal care of the babies.

Funds have been raised by the Progress Association and sporting equipment has been purchased for the children.

Many residents have joined the Hospital Contribution Fund.

Burra Bee Dee (via Coonabarabran).

During the year, thirteen people have left the Station to live permanently in the general community. Every possible encouragement was given by the Station staff in this regard, as those who moved have all the characteristics of good citizens and are unlikely to need further assistance from the Board in the future.

Improvements have been effected to the aborigines' dwellings by way of improved water reticulation and fencing.

A Progress Association was formed on the Station during the year and it held a number of socials and dances.

One Station lad is boarded by a white family in Coonabarabran during the week so that he avoids the six-mile bicycle ride in the bitter cold of early morning during the winter. This indicates the feeling of friendliness apparent among the better elements in this town.

There has been an improvement in the scholastic attainments of the Station children since they have been attending the Coonabarabran Schools. In one case, a Station lad secured the prize as the most improved boy in his class. They are admitted to the recently opened swimming baths where no colour bar is raised.

Again this year, the residents have the proud record that no Police or Court action has been necessary because of any misdemeanour by a resident while on this Station.

Cabbage Tree Island (Richmond River).

There has been little change in the Island's population which now numbers 143.

Able-bodied men are dependent, for the most part, on seasonal occupations in the district.

The Island was included in the worm survey during the year, and treatment as directed by Public Health Authorities has been carried out.

A new office was constructed and painting of dwellings commenced. This work will be carried out by residents, material being supplied by the Board.

In November, a new motor launch was delivered to the Island to replace the one carried away by floods last year.

School is held on the Island and forty-four children are in attendance, while eleven pupils attend the Ballina High School.

Residents have co-operated well with the Management, and a healthy community spirit exists.

Cowra.

One family left the Station during the year, and several of the male residents now work in Sydney and return home monthly.

The exteriors of all cottages have been painted, most of the families doing the painting themselves. Other repairs to residences have been effected where necessary.

Children from this Station attend three schools in Cowra, viz., High School, Public School and the Convent.

The number of private gardens has increased, but due to the heavy frost experienced during winter, have experienced a setback.

Moree.

The population of this Station has remained static during the past year. One family left to live in accommodation provided by the New South Wales Railway Department.

Most of the residents have painted the interiors of their houses and the Recreation Hall is in the process of being painted. Fences have been maintained and repaired.

Interest in outside social activities is non-existent owing to the attitude of townspeople towards the aborigines. Funds have been raised by the residents for the Ambulance and also painting McMaster Ward at the District Hospital. Dances have been held in the Recreation Hall in aid of the Football Club, Parents and Citizens' Association. The Ambulance received £24 and the Hospital £27. Recently a wedding reception was held in the Recreation Hall.

Fourteen homes have agreed to pay for the connecting of electricity to the houses when available, in the near future.

Murrin Bridge (near Lake Cargelligo).

The position regarding employment remains the same throughout the year. Most of the work is of a casual nature, such as fencing, shearing, station work and general labouring, many of the men travelling up to 150 miles to take up work.

A considerable amount of repair work has been carried out on Station buildings and roads have been regraded.

The people at Murrin Bridge are somewhat backward in their social development. It is not many years since they were living under primitive conditions on the banks of the Darling River. They depend upon the Manager and Matron a good deal. Efforts to organise their social activities have not been particularly successful, and an attempt is now being made to do this through the children.

Several residents have effected improvements to their homes, and some have started vegetable gardens. Every encouragement is being given to these people to carry on the good work.

Caroona (near Quirindi).

The population on the Station at the end of the year was 202, and a number of aborigines at Caroona, while not actually residing on the Station, are part of the Station community.

A school is conducted on the Station by the Education Department, at which fifty-two children are in attendance. A further sixteen children are attending Quirindi High School. A school bus transports them from the Station to school.

Throughout the year, the residents have been encouraged to effect repairs and improvements with very satisfactory results. There has been a most noticeable improvement in the general appearance of the Station, and considerable pride is taken in the houses.

The employment position is very good. This Station is supplying the district with a pool of skilled agricultural labour and many of the men are taking jobs on the Railway, chiefly fettling and permanent way work.

Although well able to do so, few residents have honoured their obligations in meeting the very low rental charged for the modern homes on this Station.

Residents are regarded as being generally more advanced in their social standards than on most other Stations. Many own their own cars and refrigerators.

The Station is well kept and neat in appearance.

Roseby Park (near Nowra).

This is one of the oldest Stations, and the population is only 103. The year under review has been one of steady employment. Several families have made application to be included in Housing Commission ballots and, if selected, may leave the Station during the coming year.

Paint has been supplied by the Board, and residents are painting their homes. Other repairs have been effected.

A worm survey was conducted and treatment prescribed.

The Education Department has completed the moving and renovation of the school building, and much improved conditions now exist.

Towards the end of the year, a start was made by the Progress Association to build a Public Hall, and, on completion, it will be available to residents for social activities.

The Board hopes that as funds are available for the erection of houses in Nowra, a number of families will become absorbed into the general community and that in the not distant future it will be possible to close this Station.

Tabulum (near Casino)

The population of the Station is 142. In the early part of the year, little employment was to be found except of a casual nature, and wages paid were low. The employment position improved only at the latter part of the year. After a visit to the area by an Inspector of the Department of Labour and Industry, and a meeting with employees from the surrounding district, wages paid are now in accordance with awards. Already some improvements in the people's mode of living is noticed.

About six acres of corn was cultivated on the share farm basis of which the Progress Association will receive one-third of all corn harvested.

It is expected within this new year, to make an early start with cultivation for the Junior Farmers on the Station. The local Government Agriculturist will assist the project.

The majority of cottages have their own vegetable gardens. A small community garden is also conducted by the school.

A school on the Station is conducted and is staffed by the Education Department. Attendance of the thirty-four school children has been regular. With each year, the education standard is improving.

A weekly sewing class is attended by the women residents, and afternoon tea partaken of. The class is working toward holding a fancywork stall at the end of the year. Many of the mothers are now making their children's school clothing.

The commencement and laying of a tennis court has been undertaken by the Progress Association. Interest is high in this project, as several of the people already play tennis.

A football ground is also under way and it is hoped that this will be completed for the season next year.

A cricket pitch is under construction and arrangements are already made for the coming season.

The Brownie Pack is larger than ever and is still as popular, with always a full attendance of the Station Brownies. This Pack is conducted with the white children of the township.

Taree.

There has been no appreciable change in the population since last year, the population at 30th June, 1955, being 249.

The scope for permanent employment in a variety of industries in the district is limited and many of the people prefer casual work, which does not tie them down to a fixed routine.

The demand for leaves of the corkwood tree, which is used in the manufacture of drugs, provides a living for most of the menfolk who have not been listed as permanently employed. Three of the leaders of gangs collecting these leaves from far and near have acquired motor trucks with the assistance of the factory which buys and cures the leaves.

The railway still provides most of the permanent employment available. There are two employed by the Manning Shire Council. A few others are employed in the building industry.

A painting project has been commenced and it is hoped that by the end of next year, every building on the Station will have been repainted.

The Recreation Hall on the Station has been the scene of numerous gatherings when Station residents have joined with small groups from the surrounding district in various and enjoyable forms of entertainment.

All children of school age now attend the Public Schools at Taree.

The resident missionary has been absent from the Station for about half of the year. However, Station residents have maintained the full programme of services on the Station and have attended and participated in weekly services held by other churches in Taree where they are received as individuals rather than as representative delegates of a separate community.

Walgett.

The population of this Station increased slightly during the year, and at its close stood at 163.

Two severe floods experienced; one in November, 1954, and one in March, 1955. The Station was isolated on both occasions, and even after the floodwaters subsided, communication with the town was affected.

Maintenance and repair work was carried out on the houses and the water main was strengthened following the floods.

This is the only remaining Station where the duties of Manager and Teacher are combined. A contract has been let for the erection of a teacher's residence. When this is completed, a teacher of the Education Department will be appointed and the Manager will be enabled to devote his whole time to the supervision and development of Station activities.

Wallaga Lake.

The population at the end of the year was 162, which was a slight increase on the number at the 30th June, 1954.

Employment in various forms of casual work was good throughout the year. A number of men are employed by the Department of Main Roads.

Electricity was connected to the Station by the Bega Valley County Council. This has proved a great asset.

A new road of access to the Station from the main Bermagui Highway was recently built which has greatly improved the approach to the Station.

The Station is reticulated from the Mt. Dromedary Gravitation Water Main, and all the cottages are now connected to the main supply.

The Station maintains a small dairy herd and fresh milk is available for the residents. A community garden yields fresh vegetables and, in many instances, residents have their own vegetable and flower gardens.

A School is on the Station, at which thirty-nine children are in attendance. Two children are attending High School at Narooma.

A very fine spirit of co-operation and understanding towards the aborigines is displayed by the white community of this district, noticeably so at Cobargo, Bermagui and Tilba. In recent years particularly, there appears to be no distinction, provided the aborigine shows that he wishes to uplift himself and makes an effort to do so.

Several respected white people of the district have called at the Station to take aborigines out spear-fishing, fishing, prawning, and to play football. Aborigines employed in the Main Roads Department, attend picnic parties with their white friends and their families and spend week-ends at the nearby beaches.

One of the largest funerals in the district was recently seen when a young lad was buried at Cobargo. The Schools were given a half holiday and children from the Public School and Convent attended. The Church of England Minister conducted the service and the Catholic Priest attended the funeral. Nearly all the white people from Cobargo and its environs were present to offer their condolences to the parents.

Woodenbong.

There has been no undue change in the population of this Station. Employment remains much the same as usual, except that considerable time was lost through inclement weather.

A new storeroom and ration issuing room, together with a new double garage was built by Station handymen. A new pumphouse had been built, two communal laundries each with two units, have been completed. Three verandahs have been covered in and the linings in six houses completed.

Twenty of the residents are contributors to the Hospital Contribution Fund.

About £140 has been raised by the various social groups on the Station. This has been used to purchase sporting equipment and other amenities.

Electric light was installed in the Recreation Hall. It was also painted and the lining completed. A small food preparation room was also built into the Hall.

Some outdoor closets were moved closer to the houses, and new roads marked out ready for the grader. Nearly every window was replaced due to hail storm, and many roofs rained.

A site has been prepared for an orchard of fifty trees. Twenty-five pine trees have been felled to be used on the Station after milling.

A water bore was sunk and a pumphouse built over it.

Residents are co-operating well in effecting general improvements and a good community spirit exists.

Wreck Bay (near Jervis Bay).

The population at the 30th June, 1955, was 166, practically the same as last year. During the year, three families moved off the Station and two moved on.

The general condition of the dwellings is good. Most of the residents take a pride in their homes, many having nice flower gardens round them.

A high standard of education is still maintained in the Station School, and the children show a keen interest. Early in February this year, twelve children were transferred to Nowra High School, and reports from that School are very encouraging.

A young lady from the Station has qualified as a first class telephonist and is employed at the Jervis Bay Post Office.

Employment is still a major problem. There being no industry in this district, the men have to travel to other districts.

The attitude of the people is friendly, conduct is good, and no serious trouble has occurred during the last twelve months.

APPENDIX "A".
MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
Number of wards at beginning of year	171	183	194
Number admitted during year	2	11	15
Number committed during year	28	20	26
	201	214	235
Number discharged during year	18	20	20
Number at end of year	183	194	215

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

	1952-53.		1953-54.		1954-55.	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home	1	5	...	3	2	3
Cootamundra Girls' Home.....	1	6	...	1	7	6
Denominational Homes .....	...	...	3	...	1	5
Boarded out with foster parents .....	...	17	6	14	5	8
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions .....	...	...	...	1	...	1
Otherwise placed .....	...	...	2	1	...	3
	2	28	11	20	15	26

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
Kinchela Boys' Home	57	54	45
Cootamundra Girls' Home	51	41	47
Denominational Homes	8	11	15
Boarded out with foster parents	49	62	69
In employment under Reg. conditions	18	23	29
Otherwise placed .....	...	3	16
	183	194	215

APPENDIX "B".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station.	Area.	Population on Station.			Ration Recipients.			Statistics.								
								Births.			Deaths.			Marriages.		
		1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
Boggabilla	457	210	239	202	19	33	21	10	10	12	3	2	1	1	3	3
Brewarrina	638	143	147	124	34	33	7	9	7	4	7	2	...	1	2	2
Burnt Bridge	106	294	319	312	31	51	33	15	14	9	3	6	1	...	1	1
Burra Bee Dee.....	473	59	62	60	..	15	2	4	2	6	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	150	135	143	21	29	16	4	3	10	3	2	2	1	1	...
Cowra	31	124	141	138	3	7	9	2	1	9	1	1	1	1	2	...
Jervis Bay	100	161	166	163	11	...	9	6	2	11	2	2	2	2	1	...
Moree	55	283	281	305	21	51	6	15	3	12	5	...	4	1	...	3
Murrin Bridge	937	214	218	267	40	53	62	11	3	9	2	3	...	3	1	...
Quirindi	220	170	181	202	2	...	...	5	4	9	...	...	2	1	...	1
Roseby Park	66	94	101	103	6	6	11	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
Tabulam	490	130	129	142	18	25	38	6	6	8	2	1	4	...	1	6
Taree	51	220	244	249	20	22	14	10	14	14	6	4	2	2	1	2
Walgett.....	337	152	151	163	25	32	30	5	8	8	...	3	2	1	1	4
Wallaga Lake	341	153	147	162	16	22	25	...	5	6	...	5	4	...	1	2
Woodenbong	126	171	135	184	26	32	34	3	5	9	...	6	6	...	2	...
Total .....	...	2,728	2,796	2,919	293	411	317	105	89	139	34	36	31	15	17	24

APPENDIX "C".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station or Reserve.	Area.	Population on Station or Reserve.			Ration Recipients.		
		1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
Balranald.....	142	49	53	52	...	...	...
Bellbrook	96	128	108	106	10	12	17
Bourke	34	35	25	55	...	...	...
Bowraville	36	137	140	163	4	29	10
Brungle	12	40	34	34	5	7	...
Collarenebri	50	146	121	128	3	...	...
Condobolin	16	70	66	72	7	11	11
Coraki	10	59	62	54	9	2	4
Cubawee	24	85	86	120	...	...	...
Cumerooogunga	200	55	45	49	...	...	...
Dubbo	18	57	46	63	...	...	...
Forster	19	79	87	97	...	1	...
Goodooga.....	80	90	110	128	...	...	2
Gulgambone	52	58	74	58	...	2	...
Karuah	50	73	56	53	5	...	...
Kyogle	28	15	24	11	2	1	...
La Perouse	6	186	157	159	3	...	...
Macksville	2	4	...	...	...	...	...
Moonahcullah	232	90	64	80	...	3	...
Mungindi	100	122	60	...	5	...	...
Nambucca Heads	70	79	76	60	...	...	...
Pilliga	150	27	25	...	...	...	...
Tibooburra	100	12	10	12	...	...	...
Tingha	15	65	46	35	...	...	...
Ugundahi Island	44	36	24	31	...	3	3
Uralla	100	13	7	9	...	...	...
Walcha	107	37	36	40	4	5	4
Wellington	100	52	42	67	24	38	54
Wilcannia	75	254	192	180	8	...	11
Yass	9	64	42	45	2	3	...
Total .....	...	2,317	1,918	1,961	91	117	116

APPENDIX "D".

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

	1953-54.		1954-55.	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—</i>				
Salaries and Wages	65,954		74,817	
Maintenance of Buildings	5,551		9,651	
Transport Expenses	13,155		14,199	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...	39,252		41,542	
Other charges	2,035		2,599	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment.....	3,509		5,559	
	<u>129,456</u>		<u>148,367</u>	
<i>Payable from General Loan Account—</i>				
New Buildings, Station Improvements and Land Purchases	29,008		44,055	
		<u>158,464</u>		<u>192,422</u>

Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—

Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	8,211		9,833	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	865		391	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.	1,944		2,155	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services	6,881		5,913	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	3,743		4,035	
		<u>21,644</u>		<u>22,327</u>
Total		£180,108		£214,749

APPENDIX "E".

VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS.

<i>Nature of Visit or Interview—</i>	1st January, 1954 to	1st July, 1954 to
	30th June, 1954.	30th June, 1955
	Number.	Number.
Supervisory home visits	1,107	1,905
Wards of the Board	152	321
Neglected or uncontrollable children	168	329
Stations or Reserves	398	490
Police	306	597
Schools	173	336
Enquiries <i>re</i> employment	380	1,028
Affiliation or Maintenance	225	316
Public Authorities.....	328	1,526
Voluntary Agencies	99	216
Attendance at Court.....	46	96
Miscellaneous	2,051	6,185
Total	<u>5,433</u>	<u>13,345</u>