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1954

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## *Commissioner of Native Affairs*

FOR THE

*Year ended 30th June, 1954*

28 AUG 1963



PERTH :

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# Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs

## The Hon. Minister for Native Welfare

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1954, as provided by Section 73 (6) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947 (as reprinted), together with a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 1954.

The year under report was marked by the maintenance of steady progress in the field of native welfare, public relations and development of the accepted Government policy of assimilation. Perhaps the most interesting single event of the year was the introduction, debate and subsequent rejection by the Legislative Council of the Bill to amend the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947. As is customary with most legislation affecting the interests of natives in Western Australia, the Bill was given a stormy passage through both Houses, debates as reported in "Hansard" manifesting the truth, however unpalatable it may be, of the observations made under the heading "Legislation and its effect" published in last year's Annual Report. There are very few natives living in the South-West Land Division, i.e., roughly South of and including the Lower Murchison, who do not now read the newspapers and/or listen to news broadcasts and talks. They have read and heard of the promised new deal they were to receive through legislative direction and the news that the Bill had not been passed had a profound effect on them. It may not have been the ne plus ultra of legislative architecture but it contained many urgently needed amendments, the loss of which was a bitter blow to the natives and to our administration of their affairs.

Of all current developments by far the most pleasing and encouraging is the accelerated habilitation of our missions through increased subsidisation, grants-in-aid to cover capital expenditure and technical advice and assistance rendered by other departments. In this connection this department, on behalf of the natives concerned, acknowledges with appreciation the splendid co-operation and support it receives from the Education, Health and Public Works Departments particularly; each has contributed in considerable measure towards the improvement of facilities for the education, health and accommodation of native children respectively.

The policy of the Government to extend to natives equal treatment with the whites of this State was given practical expression by the decision of Cabinet, on 11th June, to increase the per capita subsidy payable on behalf of native children accommodated in missions to full parity with Child Welfare Department payments for white children, viz., 30s. 9d. per inmate per week. The stages through which this objective was reached are interesting: At the time the writer took charge of the department—August, 1948—the subsidy was 3s. per child per week; on 1st January, 1949, it was increased to 4s.; on 1st July, 1951, to 9s. to 12s. 6d. according to the grading of the mission; on 1st July, 1953, to 22s. 6d. and from 1st July, 1954, to 30s. 9d. per week. Up to the stage when the subsidy was increased to 22s. 6d. the department also provided clothing and blankets. At all times the department pays all medical, dental, optical and other similar costs, supplies school books and other material and recoups the Education and Health Departments for some salaries and all expenditure incurred by them on behalf of natives.

In addition to increased subsidy payments, which involved an increase in Departmental expenditure by £28,545, the Government, through the department, provided missions with grants-in-aid totalling £17,119 made up as follows:—

	£
Carnarvon Mission	2,815
Cundeelee Mission	528
Fitzroy Crossing Mission	461
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	241
Kurrawang Mission	1,092
Mogumber Mission	3,000
Mount Margaret Mission	1,436
Norseman Mission	3,318
Roelands Mission	28
Wandering Mission	400
Wotjulum Mission, Yampi	3,800
	<hr/>
	£17,119

**STAFF.**

Many changes in Field Staff and institutional dispositions have taken place during the year. At the end of the year the situation was as follows :—

*Northern District—Headquarters Derby.*

District Officer—Mr. J. S. Beharell ;  
Clerical Assistant—Miss Y. Coleman.\*

*Sub-districts—*

Broome : Assistant District Officer—Mr. H. R. Tilbrook ;  
Clerical Assistant—Mr. C. Martin.\*  
Wyndham : Patrol Officer—Mr. J. C. Hendrikse (T).

*Departmental Institutions—*

Moola Bulla Native Station : Manager-Superintendent—Mr. C. L. McBeath ;  
La Grange Native Depot : Mr. J. De Grys (T).

*North-West District—Headquarters Carnarvon.*

District Officer—Mr. F. E. Gare ;  
Clerical Assistant—Mr. R. E. Winder.\*

*Sub-district—*

Port Hedland : Assistant District Officer—Mr. A. O. Day.  
Marble Bar : Welfare Assistant—Mrs. I. Thompson.

*Central District—Headquarters Perth.*

District Officer—Mr. B. A. McLarty ;  
Patrol Officers—Mr. J. J. Harman and Mr. G. E. S. Munro ;  
Senior Welfare Officer—Mrs. D. R. Bulford ;  
Welfare Assistant (T)—Mrs. E. Relton ;  
Assistant to District Officer—Mr. G. Howard (T)\* ;  
Clerical Assistant—Miss A. Robinson (T)\* ;  
Typist—Miss M. Stone.

*Sub-districts—*

Kalgoorlie : Assistant District Officer—Mr. A. G. McCrae ;  
Clerical Assistant—Miss J. Dick (T)\*.  
Geraldton : A/Assistant District Officer—Mr. J. Paquin ;  
Patrol Officer—Mr. A. G. Down ;  
Clerical Assistant—Mrs. D. Blackwood (T)\*.

*Southern District—Headquarters Narrogin.*

District Officer—Mr. R. C. Wright Webster ;  
Assistant to District Officer—Mr. W. S. Beall ;  
Typiste-Assistant—Miss M. Jarrett.

(T)—Temporary.                      \* Part aborigine.

**NATIVE STAFF.**

It will be noted that seven people of part aboriginal descent are employed on clerical and welfare duties in the Field. An additional four are engaged on clerical work at Head Office.

In general principles their wages and working conditions are in line with those of other public servants. Their work is most satisfactory in every way and the practice of employing people of aboriginal heritage to replace white staff in the Department is being extended at every opportunity.

**STATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS—TRANSFERS.**

It has long been felt desirable that this Department should be relieved of responsibility for the administration and management of pastoral and agricultural properties, mainly because it was found that such responsibilities have seriously hampered and curtailed the functions and duties of the department's welfare officers stationed on these properties.

During the past five years the following establishments, wherein dual responsibilities and functions were practised, have been disposed of in the manner indicated :

1. *Cundeelee Feeding Depot* (Trans Line) : Closed as such on 20th December, 1948, and subsequently re-established by the Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission as Cundeelee Mission.
2. *Munja Native Station* (Walcott Inlet, N.D.) : Closed as such and buildings, equipment, livestock, etc., handed over to the Presbyterian Board of Missions, Kunmunya. Mission subsequently transferred to new site at Wotjulum, opposite Cockatoo Island, where Munja natives now located. Transfer effected as from 1st April, 1949.
3. *Udialla Native Station* (near Derby, N.D.) : Closed on 1st June, 1949, and natives, with agricultural plant and other portable material, transferred to La Grange Native Depot.
4. *Moore River Native Settlement and Farm* : Handed over to Methodist Overseas Mission on 13th August, 1951, and reorganised with Government financial assistance as Mogumber Methodist Mission.
5. *Marribank* (formerly Carrolup) *Native Settlement and Farm* : Closed on 30th June, 1952, as boys' farm training establishment and transferred to Baptist Union ; now reorganised and functioning as Marribank Baptist Mission.
6. *Cosmo Newbery Native Station* : Closed as delinquent boys' detention centre and handed over to United Aborigines Mission as from 15th December, 1953.

*Moola Bulla Native Station and Settlement* : This 1,100,000 acre cattle station has been an administrative bug-bear for some considerable time. At the best of times the management of such a huge property on which has been pastured upwards of 30,000 head of cattle and horses, goats and other livestock, has imposed on the welfare and clerical staff of the department a crushing and disproportionate burden of work and responsibility. The long drought conditions which prevailed in the North over the past two or three years, posing as they have the additional burden of water location and conservation, moving of starving stock, etc., made the situation quite unbearable and a strong recommendation was made to the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare urging that the department be relieved of the responsibility of the cattle station and that the institutional section of the settlement be transferred to a new site adjacent to the new Hall's Creek township.

The matter was referred to Cabinet, which agreed to set up a Committee to report on the department's proposal, the Committee to consist of the Commissioner of Native Affairs, the Surveyor General, the Director of Agriculture, the Under Secretary for Mines and the Senior Assistant Under Treasurer.

The meeting of the committee was held in the office of the Commissioner on 21st April and after lengthy discussion the following points were agreed upon :

1. That Moola Bulla as a native cattle station and welfare institution should be closed.
2. That the Native Reserve be cancelled and the land handed back to the Lands Department, less such portion of it as may be required by the Native Affairs Department.
3. That the Lands Department appraise the property and stock and have the land subdivided into areas suitable for re-selection under pastoral lease, subject to payment for improvements and excision of an area not exceeding 10,000 acres for Native Affairs purposes.
4. During the transitional period the Lands Department to manage property and dispose of stock in collaboration with the Native Affairs Department.
5. If the foregoing recommendations are adopted, the work of the Mines Department in regard to oil and mineral research will be considerably simplified.

Cabinet agreed to the recommendations and it has been directed that effect be given to the decision.

Sites have been selected and consideration is being given to the preparation of proposals for the establishment of an institution near Hall's Creek for children and a rationing depot for aged and indigent adults some distance away.

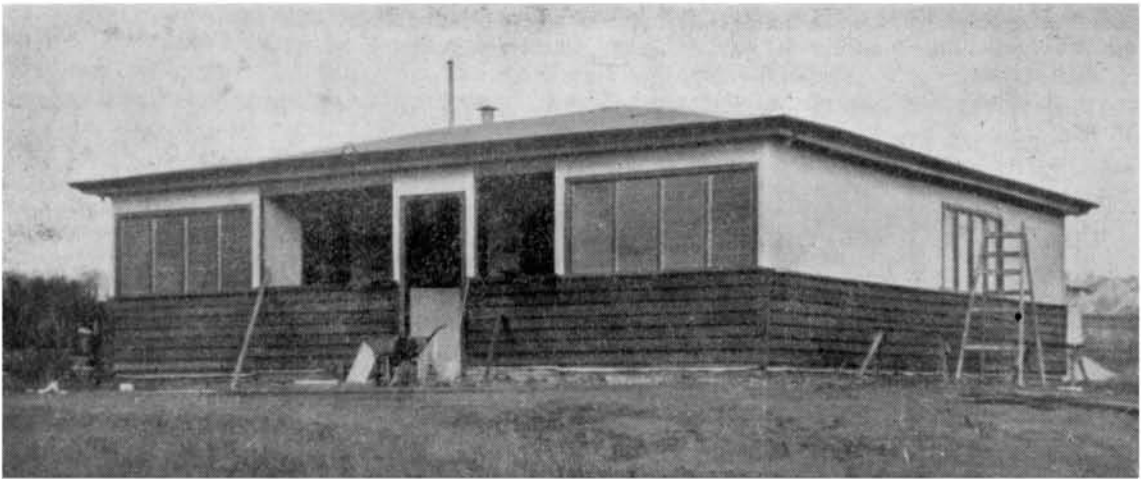
## EMPLOYMENT.

In most of Western Australia the native population shared in national prosperity only in the limited way permitted by part-time employment at current rates of wages for the mixed bloods of the South and permanent employment on stations for full-bloods on wages that are, in most cases, little better than "pocket-money and keep." This state of affairs is, of course, traditional and time-honoured and there is little that a welfare authority can do to bring about an immediate change ; but, nevertheless, there is evidence that Australians of the aboriginal race are making social and economic progress throughout this State.

From no wages at all up till 1949 many aboriginal stockmen are now receiving from ten shillings to a few pounds a week and "keep" for themselves and their dependants on Northern stations, whilst in the South the number of mixed-bloods receiving the basic wage, and sometimes better under certain circum-



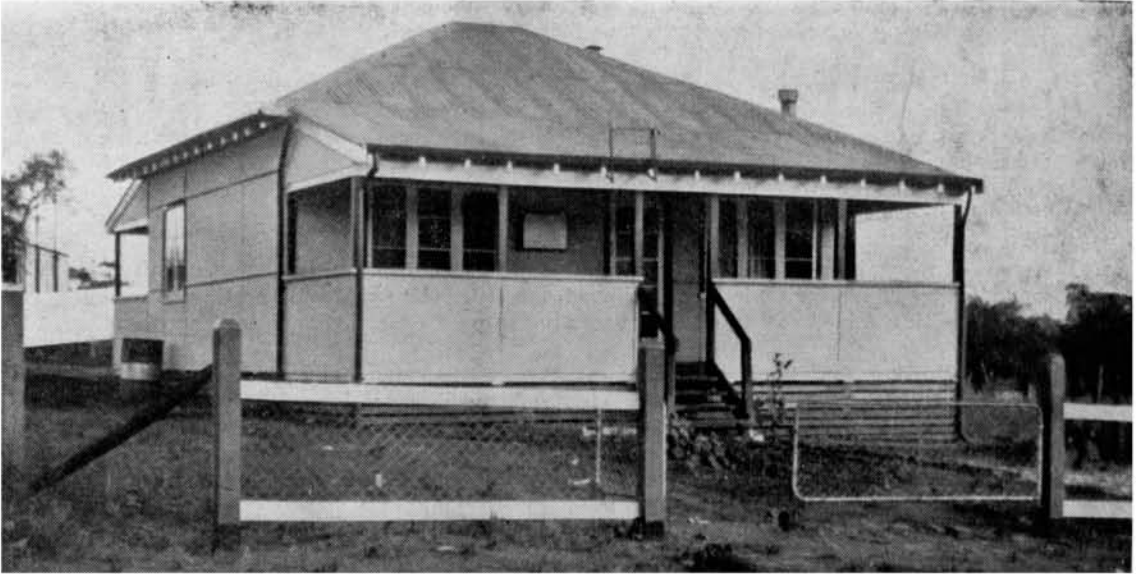
*Hut occupied by Pickett family, York, W.A., 26th June, 1954.*



*New home for Pickett family being built by State Housing Commission, 26th June, 1954.*



*A striking contrast! The Pickett homes, old and new.*



*S.H.C. rental-purchase home owned and occupied by Lawrence family, York, W.A.*

stances, appears to be increasing. By and large, however, natives are still a sub-economic section of our community, living in sub-standard conditions, dressed in the raiments of civilisation, but mere caricatures of the white man, devoid of Christianity in numerous instances, bearing a cross of apathy and neglect that is obvious in their bearing, attitude and appearance.

### EDUCATION.

Apart from employment—which, unfortunately, is the yardstick of their economic and social progress—natives in this State are enjoying better opportunities than were afforded them up till recently. The gateway to primary and, where required, secondary and even tertiary education, is now wide open to them per media Government and Mission schools, hostels for the accommodation of children attending high and technical schools, and our free University. There was a marked increase in the number of children of both sexes who qualified during the year for admission to secondary schools, and several who succeeded in obtaining their Junior University Certificate last year are now studying for Leaving Standard with every indication of achieving their goal.

In the interests of native children the compulsory provisions of the Education Act were applied without favour or discrimination and some parents who wilfully and persistently kept their children away from school were suitably dealt with. Such action is rarely necessary, however; most native parents are most eager to give their children a good primary education and many are also keen on secondary education, particularly since the cost is, in most cases, borne by the department. Others prefer to see their children go to employment on the completion of their primary education, which is, of course, an optional privilege exercised also by many white parents.

### HEALTH.

The medical treatment of natives is most satisfactory, due largely to the determined policy of the Public Health Department that colour prejudice must not be practised in our hospitals. Non-government hospitals and medical personnel are in a different category, of course, but with a few isolated exceptions they generally conform with the Health Department's policy and requirements.

### HOUSING.

It is the opinion of many natives, though not all, that integration of white and non-white people in private housing will largely solve the problem of racial tensions and discrimination in Western Australia.

Natives who favour mixed housing express themselves in such a way as to indicate the belief that it is the only way racial prejudices will be removed. "We have got to know each other better" is what, in effect, they say. "When we do, the whole situation will improve. But if we stand apart, never see each other, never see our homes and the way we live, the problem will remain."

Natives who want better housing are under no illusions. They foresee a long up-hill pull before, even with the great forward step it will give them, they are accepted and integrated into our normal way of life.

With but a few individual exceptions, natives want better housing. As most of them see it, better housing means better opportunities for them and for their children.

The housing of natives within our town and city boundaries is not something new, they have been housed in our cities and towns for many years. Most of them are families who have, of their own effort, risen above the average native environment and obtained for themselves houses and cottages either by straightout purchase or on a rental basis. Where this has occurred, perhaps because of the postulated, if unconscious acknowledgment of ability and status, the natives have taken their place on terms of reasonable equality with whites without question or noteworthy incident.

Government recognition of the claim that natives who, as co-workers in our community, dependent on our economic way of life for their own livelihood, are entitled to share in the Government's housing schemes has met with a mixed reception, but generally the public reaction was most encouraging.

The Hon. Minister for Housing, in a recent Press statement, commented: "I am determined, irrespective of prejudice, not only to allocate houses to people of aboriginal descent whose applications qualify them in the ordinary way, but in addition I have promised the Minister for Native Welfare, Mr. Hegney, that fifty homes will be built specially for these people in various country districts as well as in the metropolitan area . . . . Instead of people being hostile they should be proud of the fact that a native, despite natural obstacles, could raise himself to such a high standard."

Three workers' dwellings were built at York during the year. Two of the houses are of conventional type—no different in any way to those occupied by white families. They have been occupied for several months by two native families who have demonstrated clearly their ability to maintain them in satisfactory condition and keep up the regular payments required of them by the State Housing Commission.

A new house of different design is nearing completion in the same locality. It is what the Commission refers to as the "intermediate type," which costs approximately £1,600 and is the prototype of the 50 ordered by the Minister for Housing for the housing of natives in country districts.

The whole house is under one roof and consists of a central living room with two large sleepouts at each side, verandah in front of the living room, and adult sleepout, porch and bathroom-laundry, taking up what would normally be the back verandah. There is a detached lavatory. The other two houses have septic tank systems installed.

## GENERAL.

### *The "Westralian Aborigine."*

One of the most significant features of the self-emancipatory trend of native activities in the State during the year was the successful inauguration of the four-page newspaper, the "Westralian Aborigine."

Published by the Coolbaroo League and priced at 6d. a copy, this little monthly news journal has already become very popular among both coloured and white readers. Correspondents from all over the State, from far away as Wyndham in the North to Albany in the South, and as far East as the remote Warburton Ranges Mission, send in little word pictures of people and events of particular interest to native people and articles of great benefit and interest have been contributed by several well-known authors, officials, and knowledgeable people.

### *"The Helping Hand."*

Towards the end of the year the Department commenced to issue official information of general interest through the medium of a roneod pamphlet entitled "The Helping Hand." It is distributed to field welfare officers throughout the State, Superintendents of Missions, and through the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare to such public organisations and publicity media as he may select.

### *Welfare Bodies.*

In his annual report last year the District Officer, Southern District, reported the formation of the Katanning Native Welfare Committee, along with several other welfare bodies in his district.

The Committee's first annual report covering its activities during the year has been received and it is with pleasure that I acknowledge it as a record of an outstanding contribution to native welfare in the Katanning district. Experience with these committees which have been formed during the past three years convinces me that the formation of similar organisations earlier in the State's development would have obviated many of the difficulties and social evils that confront us today. The Secretary's report is as follows :—

"The Committee came into being on the 5th June, 1953, at a meeting held in the Hall of the Presbyterian Church when Mr. H. Moorhouse, as Protector of Natives for the Katanning District, presided over a representative gathering of Christian people who were desirous to (a) "Give and apply Christ's Teaching to the Native people; (b) To assist in their Spiritual and Social uplift; and and (c) To build and provide better homes and other amenities."

### *Election of Officers.*

The first President elected was Mr. H. Moorhouse and the other officers were elected as follows :— Vice Presidents—Mr. C. D. Nalder, M.L.A., Rev. J. Hutchinson ; Secretary—Mr. A. E. Coate ; Treasurer—Mr. R. B. Hill ; Assistant Treasurer—Miss J. Kleeman ; Committee—Messrs. A. Bengel, N. H. Beeck, E. A. Daniels, K. Wells and Mrs. A. Bengel. During the year the Rev. Hutchinson found it necessary to resign his office and which resignation was received with very sincere regret.

The project has not been altogether without problems, nevertheless, quite an appreciable amount of work has been done in this initial year with the limited resources available. An appeal for funds was made to the public last July, but the response was not a hearty one. The Committee expresses thanks to those who did respond, and to those donors whose donations in cash and materials assisted in the building of one four unit cottage on the Native Reserve which was officially opened last November by C. D. Nalder, M.L.A.

Efforts to complete a second cottage nearby have been so far unsuccessful. Materials to do the work are in hand with the exception of a few items and efforts are being continued to get the cottage up.

As a means of obtaining materials for this second cottage the Committee tendered for the purchase of the old West Minding School some months ago and were successful in the quote. Willing workers with trucks and gear made several trips to demolish and transport the building to Katanning, and herewith our appreciation and thanks to all who thus assisted.

*Street Collection.*—An application to the Katanning Roads Board for a Street Collection Day was made and granted. Some £40 being added to the general Fund.

*Christmas Treat.*—A Christmas Treat was arranged for the native children in December, and as the weather was of a wintry nature, this was held at the rear of the Christian Book Shop in East Clive Street. Some 100 natives and their children assembled and enjoyed the evening's entertainment and supper. Here again, we thank the townspeople who gave to the children's treat.

*Second Hand Clothes.*—A good use can be made of clean secondhand clothing by the Committee. Lady members of the organisation, after minor repairs are made to the garments, sell them to the natives on the principle that "something bought is appreciated and cared for better than something simply given away as a means of disposal of the article." Good used garments for all ages, boots, shoes, etc., are welcome trade material by the Committee. The money so gained by trading is then credited to the general fund which in turn helps to build cottages. So don't throw away that usable garment. Hand it or send it to the Katanning Native Welfare Committee.

The interest of the District Medical Officer in pressing for the provision of ablution block on the Reserve by the Government was rewarded during the year by it being completed. Recently it has been brought to the attention of the Committee that users need to be educated in their habits and efforts will be made to have malpractices corrected.

*Comforts.*—As a means of helping an aged couple to enjoy a little extra comfort in their tent, a bed was procured and given to them from the Committee.

*Constitution.*—The Constitution of the Committee was drawn up and completed and was formally adopted as the official charter. We are now going into the matter of making the Committee an Incorporated Body, thus making possible gifts of £1 and upwards as deductions from Taxation.

*Bank.*—An account has been opened in the Committee's favour at the Commonwealth Savings Bank in the name of the Katanning Native Welfare Committee.

*Religious Services.*—Religious services have been carried out among the natives from time to time. Attendances vary with the seasons and with the attractions in the town. Sometimes only a handful are interested to attend, at other times there are good gatherings.

*Tenant.*—The tenant of Cottage No. 1 is a woman with four children to care for and the Committee charges her a nominal rental of 15s. per week.

*Meetings.*—Ten meetings have been held during the past year and the Committee offers sincere thanks to the Presbyterian Board of Management for the use of their Hall for meetings.

*Finances.*—The Treasurer's statement will be of interest in that it reveals the amount of donations received, rent collected and the general handling of the financial matters. Over-all received for the year £242 16s. 4d. ; Expenditure £161 13s. 3d.

*The Native.*—The native is one of Australia's problem children. However, he is not the only one in the family. We have problem white men, and it is these people who are causing the native to be a problem in the community by supplying him with strong drink. Efforts are being made to arrest this menace, but it is becoming evident that stiffer penalties are necessary if this moral and social "murdering" of the natives is to continue. Responsible men and women are asked to co-operate in helping to stamp out the beer menace and report breaches of the law to the nearest Police Station. The native



can never be re-claimed to a decent state of life whilst beer and whisky is his No. 1 enemy. By it he is physically and morally weakened and spiritually defeated. A recent case of vigilance by a citizen in this respect is commended by this Committee as an example for other observers to follow.

“The native needs human understanding and sympathy just as much as the white man, his reaction to the preaching of the Gospel is the same as the white man, for it cuts right across his old way of life and habits, and just as “Rome was not built in a day,” neither will the Australian Aborigine be re-claimed to a better life in a generation or so. His rehabilitation may take many decades of heart breaking work and efforts before any appreciable change is manifest in his descendants. So we plead for this wandering neglected people and criticising him or “sticking the boots in” won’t solve the problem, only the Grace of God and the Love of Christ in his heart and life can do that.

In closing this report the Committee makes an appeal to all interested in the natives’ re-habilitation and welfare, to offer their services either as workers together in the Committee or as donors to the Committee’s funds. Some of our present members are doing good work, but with just a little help from townspeople may be enabled to do more, and we seek to do the most work with the greatest possible benefit in the shortest time in the interests of the natives’ welfare.

We record our appreciation and thanks to all who have so helped the cause along during this first year and to all who have contributed as donors and workers, and to the Press.

(Sgd.) ALBERT E. COATE,  
Hon. Secretary.”

## CONCLUSION.

Thus it will be seen that progress may be reported. The trace elements of commonsense, justice and the tacit acknowledgment of the dignity and worth of natives as members of the human race are being more liberally sprinkled on the hitherto barren soil of apathy, neglect and colour prejudice with healthy results. This State fortunately cannot now implement any policy other than that of assimilation, which it has endorsed at the national and international level. Dispersed throughout the State in family groups living on stations and the outskirts of our cities and towns as members in, but seldom of, our white communities, natives cannot now be segregated on any grand scale and the sensible way to remove the social weeds they unfortunately represent in so many cases at the moment is the obvious one that is being followed. The solution to what has always been regarded as “The Native Problem” in this State is, consequently, only a matter of time—and, of course, money.

# SECTION "A"



## District Reports



### CENTRAL DISTRICT.

#### *Introduction.*

No alteration has been made to the boundaries of this District, which covers an area of almost half of the State. Creation of a new district by deletion of the Murchison Sub-District from this district and portion of the Gascoyne Sub-district from the North-West District was decided on by Head Office, but has not yet been brought into effect.

The District Officers' Conference at Perth in October, 1953, was a valuable innovation enabling District Officers to exchange views and make a comparison of native conditions in each district. It is hoped that this conference will be held annually.

The staff position has been much more stable this year than previously and continuity of native welfare activities has been maintained in each Sub-district. For the first time it has been possible to secure annual reports from all sub-districts, and a more detailed record of achievements and more accurate observations of local conditions can be presented. It is impossible to present in detail a picture of all the welfare activities engaged in by field officers; for the greater part they are related to the type of social amelioration required by a body of people, for the most part ill-educated and unprepared, striving to cope with the complexities of civilisation and at the same time facing the additional frustrating barrier of legal discrimination, mostly embodied in the Act under which this Department attempts to operate. There has been no change in the legal status of natives and our activities for the year can best be described as "holding the fort" against any decline in native welfare and doing our best to assist the many individual cases which come to our notice.

An obligation to the Christian Missions must be acknowledged and in this respect it is pleasing to record that three new institutions commenced operations during the year. Without exception, these bodies bring to their native welfare work a sense of dedication and a quality of unselfish service which are essential to its success. I have no wish to single out any Mission or missionary for special mention, but I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation of the work of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Schenk, founders of the United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret, who retired recently from management of the Mission after having devoted a lifetime to its development. The Mission itself stands as a tangible memorial to their work; but the real acknowledgement is to be found in the hundreds of natives who have benefited from their association with these two great-hearted people.



### PART I.—ADMINISTRATION.

#### 1. Staff.

Despite a few minor changes in personnel, mostly in the District Office staff, the staff position has been much more stable this year than last. For the first time, each sub-district has had at least one field staff member serving in it for the full 12 months and continuity of work has been maintained. Necessary relief to the burden of clerical administration on outstations was provided by the engagement of native clerical assistants, and a total of seven natives have been employed during the year. In this respect, the position at 30th June, was: three at District headquarters, one at Geraldton and one at Kalgoorlie.

#### 2. Missions and Institutions.

The number of native missions has increased from nine to twelve, though two of them, the United Aborigines Missions at Badjaling and Kellerberrin, are not engaged in institutional welfare and serve only as centres for evangelisation work. A new mission was established by the West Australian Conference of Seventh Day Adventists at Crystal Brook, near Meekatharra; Cosmo Newbery Native Station, Laverton, formerly a Department institution was handed over to the United Aborigines Mission Council and now operates as a native mission; and the superintended native reserve at Kurrawang became the Kurrawang Native Mission, operated by the Gospel Brethren.

Departmental institutions within the District are Alvan House, McDonald House and Bennett House. These are hostels set up for special purposes ; the first two provide accommodation for native girls and boys brought to Perth for higher education, and the last is a transit hostel for medical and welfare cases among native women and children.

Reports on these institutions follow. As separate reports are being provided by the officers in charge of Alvan House and McDonald House, they are omitted here.

### Central Sub-District.

*Bennett House.*—This hostel, situated in Bennett Street, East Perth, is managed and staffed by the Department. It was formerly known as the Native Girls' Home, East Perth, and was used as a domestic training centre and as a boarding house for native girls on holiday from domestic employment or awaiting engagements. Native welfare needs of a more urgent nature, however, led to its use as a welfare hostel for native women and children visiting Perth.

About the middle of June, 1953, the home was taken over by Mrs. K. Harrison to run as a private boarding house, on the understanding that accommodation must be guaranteed for any native welfare cases directed there by the Department. Board and lodging expenses in such cases were subsidised by the Department.

On the 28th September, 1953, Bennett House reverted to the management of the Department and a native, Miss J. Davis, was engaged as Officer in charge. Since then it has been functioning entirely as a Departmental hostel and a total of 245 women and children have had the benefit of its facilities. Where natives can afford to pay, board and lodging charges are made, on the basis of a four-unit day, at the following rates :—

	Over 15 years.	12 years to 15 years.	1 year to 12 years.	Under 1 year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per week	2 13 5	1 4 0	12 0	No charge
Per day or for week of 8 units or less	16 0	12 0	12 0	No charge

Some index to the value of this hostel is given by the following representative selection of cases, all of whom were at the house at the one time :—

A post-operative cancer case from St. Joseph's Orphanage for Native Girls, New Norcia, receiving daily dressings from a Silver Chain nursing sister.

An adult woman, an acute diabetic, undergoing out-patient treatment for stabilisation of insulin dose and practice in self-administering a hyperdermic.

A full blood native woman from Derby, attending Royal Perth Hospital for ray therapy treatment after a major operation.

A woman awaiting admission to Royal Perth Hospital for treatment of extreme distortion of vision.

A woman from Carnarvon receiving out-patient treatment after a series of eye operations.

Financial Statement is as follows :—

<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Board and Lodging charges	212 13 2	Stores, Provisions	335 6 11
		Amenities	2 0 0
		Medical	4 3
		Lighting, sanitation, etc.	142 15 8
		Maintenance, etc., of building	119 18 0
		Furniture and fittings	10 8 11
		Hardware and tools	2 12 6
		Communications	16 11 3
		Board and lodging subsidisation of Mrs. Harrison	156 4 0
		Salaries	265 18 8
		Miscellaneous	1 0 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£212 13 2		£1,053 0 2

*Methodist Mission, Mogumber.*

Superintendent—Mr. E. A. Clarke. Religion—Methodist.

This institution was formerly the Moore River Native Settlement which was taken over by the Methodist Overseas Mission Council in 1951.

It caters principally for children, but has also been of great assistance to this Department in arranging for the care and maintenance of several old and semi-invalid natives. Of the 70 child inmates, 45 are of school age, and attend the Mission school which now has two Education Department teachers. The school teaches to VI. standard.

The medical facilities at the Mission are good. There are two trained nursing sisters at the hospital, which, because of shortage of accommodation at the Moora District Hospital, operates as a maternity hospital for native women. Facilities also include a baby creche and kindergarten. Four natives are employed on the hospital staff.

The Mission is situated on a 12,000 acre native reserve, of which 1,000 acres has been brought under cultivation. Shortly before the close of the financial year, the Mission was granted a 99 year lease of the reserve to enable the authorities to commence their long range plan of developing Mission-native co-operative farms.

Building of new staff and inmate accommodation facilities has been curtailed by the necessity to undertake extensive maintenance of existing buildings.

*New Norcia Mission.*

This comprises St. Joseph's Orphanage for native girls and St. Mary's Orphanage for native boys, both of which are under the general superintendence of the Lord Abbot of the Benedictine Community of W.A.

The girls' orphanage has a total enrolment of 65 children of whom 62 attend primary school at the Mission, and the boys' orphanage has a total of 35 inmates of whom 31 attend school. Four of the boys are part-time employed on odd jobs around the Mission. One girl from the Mission is receiving secondary education at St. Gertrude's College, New Norcia.

Improvements to buildings carried out during the year include : renovations to the hall, installation of new dining room furniture and general repair of the dormitory block at the boys' orphanage.

*Murchison Sub-District.**Pallottine Mission School, Tardun.*

Superintendent—Father F. Girke. Religion—Catholic.

Buildings and facilities at this Mission are of a high standard. Under construction is a new building which will serve as staff quarters for the Mission personnel. The bricks for this building are being made at the Mission and some of the older boys are being taught the rudiments of building construction.

The permanent teaching staff is still four, and the teaching syllabus followed is still that as followed by State Schools. This syllabus had been adopted by Father F. Kelly, who rejected the syllabus suggested for native schools as being too low in standard for the potential he believed his native pupils had shown.

At present, the Mission has a total of 62 inmates which Father Girke considers close to the maximum number the Mission can effectively accommodate and educate. These children come from all sections of the sub-district.

As yet, the plans which the Mission have to establish a vocational training school for boys of apprentice age have not eventuated.

At present there is no resident matron or trained sister at the Mission, but there is an adequate dispensary, and all cases warranting medical attention are taken to the District Hospital at Mullewa. In the past year the general health of the inmates has been good and there were no serious emergencies. The common ailments were the usual colds and some influenza.

A notable feature at this Mission is the annual Christmas play in which the inmates play all the parts and take part in preparing the costumes and scenery. All parents are invited and provision is made for accommodation for those requiring it. The annual play can be said to be as high in standard as any seen in State Schools. A number of white visitors have commented very favourably on the efforts of these children.

*Karalundi Mission, Crystal Brook.*

Superintendent—Mr. A. D. Vaughan. Religion—Seventh Day Adventist.

This mission was established in the latter half of the financial year by the West Australian Conference of Seventh Day Adventists at Crystal Brook, about 35 miles north of Meekatharra. It is the Seventh Day Adventists' first native mission venture in this State. The name Karalundi is taken from the aboriginal word for "clear waters," the nearest translation to "Crystal Brook." The Conference secured a Miner's Homestead Lease and succeeded in an application for extension of the lease to the maximum area of 500 acres.

The Superintendent had spent most of the past 2½ years in evangelical work in the Upper Murchison area and in surveying the possibilities for establishment of a Mission. He advised the conference that he was confident of an immediate intake of 50 children as soon as facilities exist to accommodate them. The children will be drawn mainly from native families on pastoral properties in the Meekatharra district. The Mission intends to concentrate on work among children exclusively for the first few years but may later be able to extend its facilities to adult indigent natives.

Five buildings are being constructed and it was hoped that they would be completed and ready for admission of inmates by the end of June. These buildings are a Superintendent's Residence and a dining room-kitchen-store, a bathroom-laundry, a school (financially assisted by the Education Department) and a dormitory 60 ft. x 20 ft. with a 10 ft. verandah. The Conference has applied for additional Government assistance towards the construction of these buildings. The dormitory has a supervisor's room at one end and the remainder is equally divided for each sex. A hot water system has already been connected to the bathroom, which will be equipped with three hot and cold showers and a plunge bath.

All construction was at first done by volunteer labour, but a resident carpenter took up duties about the middle of June. One child, Albert Curly (14), has already been admitted.

The area is well watered, and is to be brought under cultivation. Vegetable gardens, lucerne crop; and sheep will be established. These will enable child inmates to be trained in agriculture, animal husbandry and general station work, and will form the basis of a self supporting economy for the Mission.

It is anticipated that the Mission will be opened in September, 1954, in time for the last term of the school year. A teacher, Mr. S. O. Jean-Louis, has been appointed and from 30 to 35 children are expected to be in the Mission by that time.

*Broughton Lodge, Geraldton.*

Superintendent—Sister Isabella. Religion—Church of England.

Broughton Lodge is a hostel for native girls of school age. The first inmates arrived at the beginning of the school year in 1954. The girls attend various schools in the Geraldton area, and live in at Broughton Lodge.

The object of this hostel is to enable native girls to go on with their schooling when it would be difficult or impossible to do so while living with parents. It also provides the opportunity to go on to secondary education when this is not available in the towns where the girls normally live.

Broughton Lodge provides extra-curriculum training along practical and domestic lines such as housekeeping, cooking and sewing.

At present there are four subsidised (Departmental Mission subsidy) inmates at Broughton Lodge.

The Lodge is situated on a hill overlooking Geraldton in a well built suburban area. Its location is ideal, being reasonably close to the township and also being in an attractive setting.

There are two buildings, a chapel and the residential building. Amenities of the Lodge are excellent and the diet is a healthy and well balanced one. Altogether, Broughton Lodge offers good possibilities for further development as a project of this nature.

*Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.**United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges.*

Superintendent—Mr. F. Gurrier Jones. Religion—Inter-denominational.

There has been little in the way of unusual occurrences during the year. One of the most important activities has been the provision of medical aid for the nomads in this remote part of the State. At present there are two qualified nursing sisters resident on the station, which is connected by radio to the Kalgoorlie branch of the Flying Doctor Service. During the year two flights were made to bring seriously ill native patients to the Kalgoorlie hospital, the expenses being paid by this Department. It is believed that a number of recent deaths have been caused by tetanus infection, and the nursing sisters are now preparing to immunise with tetanus toxoid those natives in contact with the Mission.

This Department paid the travelling expenses from Laverton for five of the older girls who journeyed to Esperance with Miss Jones for a summer holiday. While in Kalgoorlie accommodation was obtained at the Child Welfare cottage with the kind consent of Mrs. L. Pages-Oliver (Matron).

The Mission has been subsidised by the Department by the issue of rations, blankets and clothing for a quota of 20 adults and 66 children.

*United Aborigines Mission, Cosmo Newbery.*

Superintendent—Mr. H. C. Lupton. Religion—Interdenominational.

The United Aborigines Mission Council assumed responsibility for the former Native Settlement on the 15th December, 1953, and no great change could be expected in so short a period. At the time of the handover, stock consisted of poultry and a small herd of cattle and the station was well equipped with buildings, wells, windmills, tools and other mechanical equipment. It is believed that the activities at this Mission will include food production, the training of natives in the skills associated with the pastoral industry and market gardening, the provision of dormitory and educational facilities and general welfare. The production of meat and vegetables will benefit the Mount Margaret Mission, and should also provide an income by sales in Laverton.

A function of this institution previously had been to accommodate native delinquent State wards, of whom one still remained on the Settlement at the time of handover. There was also another native who had been serving a term of life imprisonment at Fremantle Gaol but who was transferred to Cosmo Newbery on 11th May, 1950. These two inmates remained at the institution.

Cosmo Newbery Mission still continued to serve as a depot for the issue of rations and clothing to indigent natives, and for this purpose it is subsidised for a total quota of 25. The method and scope of subsidy are to be reviewed.

At the end of the year, there were 12 child inmates accommodated in the Mission.

*United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret.*

Superintendent—Mr. K. R. Morgan. Religion—Interdenominational.

The progress of this Mission in the field of native welfare was marked by the return this year of Miss May Miller, a former pupil at the Mission as a fully qualified infant class teacher, employed at the Mission by the Education Department.

During the year Mr. R. S. Schenk who has been superintendent since he established the Mission 32 years ago, retired in favour of Mr. K. R. Morgan. It is doubtful whether any man in this State has contributed as much to the assimilation of natives into the white community as Mr. Schenk has done and it must be to his great satisfaction that so many of his proteges are now respected members of our community and engaged in dignified employment.

With the financial assistance of this Department a new dormitory block has been constructed and this should ease the cramped conditions formerly obtaining. A diminishing water supply from the three wells with an increasing demand, is causing the superintendent some concern and he has arranged for a private boring contractor to seek new supplies at Mission expense. No result is yet to hand. He also plans to renew the main distribution pipes to reduce leakages, and to construct a large underground concrete tank to be fitted with wind pumps.

There are 85 children on the approved subsidy list of whom 78 attend the primary school which conforms to the requirements of the Education Department.

Four girls were transferred from this Mission to the Churches of Christ Mission at Roelands so that they could attend the Bunbury High School.

*Kurrawang Native Mission, via Kalgoorlie.*

Superintendent—Mr. W. Sharpe. Religion—Gospel Brotherhood.

Reference to this Mission in last year's annual report was under the section devoted to reserves as it was, up to the end of that financial year, functioning not as a normal mission, but as a supervised Departmental reserve. Local dissension among the Gospel Brethren, who were sponsoring the work of establishing a superintendent's residence and of evangelisation of the natives on the reserve, almost led to a withdrawal of departmental support and the project was suspended pending notification of a new controlling trust to act on behalf of the Gospel Brethren. This suspension caused a delay in arrangements to equip the reserve with sanitation-ablution facilities and a ration store.

These differences were subsequently resolved and in September, 1953, it was decided to permit the Gospel Brethren to proceed with institutional Mission activities on the native reserve. The full confidence in Mr. Sharpe as superintendent, which was expressed by the Mission Trust, has been fully vindicated by the manner in which he has undertaken the task of establishing the Mission and engaging in native welfare work.

Despite the obstacles, this year has been one of continuous progress at Kurrawang. The Mission site faces the main railway line linking Perth with Kalgoorlie and the Eastern States, and for this and other reasons Mr. Sharpe has wisely planned for an attractive appearance in buildings and grounds. The Superintendent's residence is almost complete and should be ready for occupation within a few weeks. A large temporary building of corrugated iron was built earlier in the year, and this houses Government rations, donated stores and clothing, resale goods, household requirements and also provides cooking, eating and sleeping facilities for the mission inmates and some of the staff (some have caravans).

Between the superintendent's residence and the railway line, a two acre plot of land has been cultivated and fenced with sleepers, fruit trees have been established and vegetables planted between the rows. Behind the buildings, fowls and ducks are being raised to supplement the income.

On the 24th June, 1954, an unofficial Post Office was opened at the Mission providing telephonic communication. Under an agreement with the Postmaster General's Department, Mission workers cleared a line direct to the main road and dug all holes ready for the poles. They have also cleared an area to be used as a sporting field and for the laying out of tennis courts. A twice weekly mail bag delivery was inaugurated during the year with the co-operation of the W.A.G.R. which also recognises the Mission as a siding for the delivery of goods.

Parents living in the Kalgoorlie district were not slow to detect the sincerity of Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe. In addition to the eighteen indigent adults approved for rations by the Department, there are now thirteen children resident at the Mission and other parents are showing interest. Three of the children are under two years of age, two having been accepted at birth for special reasons, and with two exceptions, the remainder are all in the infant category.

Recent additions have raised the staff to ten persons, of whom four are tradesmen at building. A further builder is available and will arrive when sufficient building materials are on hand. It has been suggested to Mr. Sharpe that the appointment of a qualified nursing sister is very desirable and it is understood this is being proceeded with.

School age children at the Mission are conveyed to Kalgoorlie by the school bus from Coolgardie. There are four children attending the Kalgoorlie Infants School, another a special class in Boulder and another attends Boulder High School.

Children on the approved subsidy list are subsidised at the ruling rate by the Department, a special allowance of 4s. 6d. per head per day is given for special temporary cases, and rations, blankets and clothing are supplied for certified permanent adult indigents. Treasury approval was secured to supply materials for the ration store and ablution-sanitation facilities, but supply of the materials was still being arranged at the end of the year.

*Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cundeelee.*

Superintendent—Mr. R. S. Stewart. Religion—Interdenominational.

Progressive changes at this Mission, which is situated 26 miles north-west of Zanthus on the Trans line, include appointment of qualified educational and medical staff, completion of a new building and extension of the "home" activities among native children. Lack of an adequate water supply is still the chief disability under which the Mission suffers.

The immediate aim of establishing this Mission was to provide a suitable depot for maintenance of natives who formerly frequented the Trans-line. Attainment of this object had been achieved before 1953, and since then the Mission authorities have been proceeding with the more vital task of rehabilitating the natives socially and economically by means of education, industry and the development of self pride.

Until about August, 1953, a small school was conducted at the Mission by Mrs. Bennett, but it was closed during an epidemic of whooping cough, measles, pneumonia and influenza, introduced by an influx of about 57 natives from South Australia. Mrs. Bennett resigned and the children were transported daily to the State School at Zanthus, the transport arrangements being financially subsidised by the Education Department. This arrangement continued until April, 1954, when a fully qualified teacher, Mr. R. McKeich, took up duties and State Native School was established at the Mission with an enrolment of 22 children from Infants to Standard I.

The appointment of Mrs. A. Anderson, a qualified nursing sister, in January, 1954, enabled qualified attention to be given to cases of minor illnesses and ensured that more effective use could be made of the link with the Flying Doctor Service.

A Government Medical Survey party under the leadership of Dr. Ida Mann visited the Mission in 1954. The superintendent reports that only four cases of trachoma were discovered among the native children and these were treated at the Mission.

Efforts to locate a suitable supply of underground water with a boring plant lent by the Public Works Department proved unavailing. The plant was provided free of charge for the first month, but thereafter a monthly rental of £5 (later raised to £7 10s.) was paid by the Department of Native Affairs. Breakage of the drill, lack of sufficient supervisory staff, preoccupation with the infectious diseases epidemic and the necessity to transport children to the State School at Zanthus were also contributory factors to the failure. In May, 1954, the Department secured approval to expend up to £200 in a search for water and by arrangement with the Under Secretary for Works a team was sent to the Mission by the latter Department. No underground supply had been located up to the 30th June. Meanwhile, the Mission has proceeded with the establishment of surface catchment storage facilities. Two 10,000 gallon tanks have been erected at dam site, and there are in addition two 5,000 gallon, one 2,000 gallon and two 1,000 gallon tanks. Good rains this year have made it unnecessary to cart water from Zanthus.

In July, 1953, about 57 natives from South Australia arrived at Cundelee to carry out reburial rites in respect of victims of an influenza epidemic suffered during a former migration. They arrived in pitiful physical condition due to lack of food on the journey and imposed a heavy strain on the food supplies held at the Mission. After their recovery from the epidemic, arrangements were made to transport them back to South Australia by train. Travel expenses were met by the Department but were offset to some extent by recoupment of earnings from sandalwood. Special arrangements were made with the Australasian Sandalwood Company and the Forestry Department to grant an order of 10 tons additional to the amount normally ordered from the permanent Mission natives. Sandalwood production declined considerably this year, mainly owing to sickness, but was resumed towards the end of the financial year.

#### *Churches of Christ Aborigines Mission, Norseman.*

Superintendent—Mr. A. J. Griffiths. Religion—Churches of Christ.

This Mission caters exclusively for children and the total number of inmates at the end of the year was 45, of whom 25 attend the State Native School at the Mission and 13 attend the State Junior High School at Norseman. Of this last number, two are at post-primary standard. The 25 at the Mission school represent classes from Infants to Standard II. It was a departure from previous Mission policy to send children to the State School in Norseman, but it represents a wise move towards the assimilation of the children who might otherwise be too closely segregated from community life.

The superintendent hopes, if possible, to arrange for the education of the younger children at the State School likewise.

Following the appointment of a new superintendent, in the person of Mr. A. J. Griffiths, about the end of 1953, there have been several staff changes on the Mission. Mr. Griffiths appears to be well suited for work of this nature and an air of happiness pervades the Mission and is evident in the children.

The Mission is subsidised by the Department on a per capita basis and financial assistance was also provided towards the construction of a new dormitory block for girls. By the end of June, this had been constructed to the stage of timber frame and iron roof.

### 3. Protectors of Natives.

A total of 69 persons held the appointment of Protector of Natives during the year. Details are :—

	Central.	Murchison.	Eastern Goldfields.	Total.
Honorary .....	2	.....	.....	2
Departmental Officers .....	6	2	1	9
Mission Superintendents .....	2	2	5	9
Church Dignitaries and others .....	7	7	2	16
Police Officers .....	13	14	6	33
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>69</b>

### 4. Patrols.

Details of patrols indicate a considerable increase in this activity in comparison with last year's figures, despite an insufficiency of suitable transport. Many of the patrols had to be conducted by means of public transport or by hitch-hiking with commercial travellers, which means that, apart from the inconvenience and additional difficulty experienced by the patrolling officer, there were definite limits to the amount of welfare work which could be accomplished. Dependence on such haphazard means of transport necessitates short special trips and prevents the deliberate movement of an officer throughout his patrol district. It also restricts him to work in the towns and gives him little opportunity to contact natives outside the town limits.



After the transfer of Mr. A. G. Down from the Central Sub-district no patrol vehicle was available for use in this area ; five patrols were made by public transport. No suitable vehicle existed in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district until September, 1953, and the Murchison Sub-district was without a vehicle from January to May, 1954.

Twelve special patrols were made in the latter sub-district by use of public transport and lifts from commercial travellers. The officers concerned are to be commended for achieving so much, despite their lack of mobility.

Details follow :—

*District Officer's Inspections.*

No.	Area.	Miles.
1	Moora, Mogumber	394
2	Goomalling area	198
3	Moora area	334
4	Eastern Wheatbelt	418
5	Murchison Sub-district	735
6	York area	150
7	New Norcia Mission (special)	170
8	Pinjarra area	196
9	Moora area	260
10	Goomalling, Mukinbudin areas	595
11	Mandurah	92
12	Eastern Wheatbelt	315
13	Eastern Goldfields Sub-district	1,340
	Total	5,197

*Central Sub-district.*

No.	Area.	Miles.
1	Eastern Wheatbelt	664
2	Pinjarra area	162
3	Mogumber and New Norcia Missions	205
4	Moora—Eastern Wheatbelt	775
5	Merredin (by public transport)	338
6	Pinjarra (by public transport)	132
7	Moora (by public transport)	236
8	Pinjarra (by public transport)	108
9	Moora (by public transport)	236
	Total	2,856

*Murchison Sub-district.*

No.	Area.	Miles.
1	Northern sector (including 400 by air)	3,593
2	East-central sector	1,311
3	Towns to Mt. Magnet	458
4	Towns to Cue	542
5	Mullewa area (6 special visits)	722
6	Northampton area (5 special visits)	310
7	Mingenew area	150
	Total	7,086

(Note.—Official transport used only for Nos. 1 to 4.)

*Eastern Goldfields Sub-district.*

No.	Area.	Miles.
1	Laverton-Leonora Area	1,053
2	Cosmo Newbery (special purposes)	592
3	Cundeelee Mission (by rail)	334
4	Cundeelee Mission (by rail)	334
5	Norseman and Esperance area	568
	Total	2,881
	Total	34 Patrols
		23,020 miles.

## 5. Reserves.

Reports from sub-districts follow :—

### *Central Sub-district.*

There are twelve reserves in this sub-district. Three have been cancelled and a new one created. One has been reduced in area. In conjunction with the Public Works Department, an ablution and laundry block and two latrines were erected at the Moora Reserve, and an ablution block and four latrines were erected at the Merredin reserve. At both reserves, six household rubbish bins have been provided and arrangements have been made for these to be serviced by the local authorities.

Similar arrangements have been made for the service of the latrines.

### *Murchison Sub-District.*

The number of reserves in the sub-district remains at ten. It is not known whether any have been cancelled but the following are at present, and have been for the past year at least, completely unused by natives—Wilgie Mia, Wubin, Yalgoo and Cue. The following have seldom, if ever, been used in the past year—Mullewa, Wiluna, Mount Magnet and Northampton.

No new reserves have been gazetted. Negotiations are still proceeding for the gazetting of a suitable reserve at Mullewa.

Of the remaining reserves which are in use, the following remarks may be of interest :—

*Geraldton.*—Normally has a stable population of 16 adults and ten children. At present the numbers are down to eight adults and five children due to migration of some families seeking employment. This reserve accommodates an average of five transient natives per week.

No improvements have been made during the year but a tender has been accepted from the Municipal Council for the building of two panstead lavatories during the coming year.

*Meekatharra.*—Has a fairly large stable population and an average of six to ten transients weekly. Tenders have been accepted for the building of a community type ablutions block. At present the occupants of the reserve meet the costs of a weekly sanitary service themselves. This has been found to be a satisfactory arrangement as it has not been a great burden on the native families concerned who have proven themselves conscientious and co-operative in meeting this obligation. Also, it has been a successful step away from the practice of pauperisation and coddling, and one instilling self-reliance and appreciation of the common duties of a citizen of the general community.

*Mingenew.*—Normally has four permanent native families as residents. No improvements have been made during the year, but tenders have been accepted for the construction of a community type ablutions block.

Generally, the reserves in the sub-district accommodate a comparatively small number of permanent residents and a continuous flow of transients. The refusal by natives to live on reserves is increasing. The two officers here receive many requests from natives for aid in housing or at least aid in finding a camp away from reserves. The reasons for this are not fully known, but among others, the complaints have been :

- (1) There is no privacy. The police, health authorities, local authorities, etc., are always "on our backs." This officer feels he must comment here that in most instances the visits made by the abovenamed authorities have been justified. However, too often there was a complete lack of consideration for the natives as human beings and an unwarranted display of brusqueness and even stand-over attitudes.
- (2) Living on the reserves automatically bars a native from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. In Geraldton there were several cases of natives of good repute being barred from unemployment benefits because they were living on reserves.
- (3) Natives are aware of the requirements for certificates of Citizenship Rights and Exemption which bar reserve residents from applying.

### *Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.*

There has been no change during the year, except that the former supervised reserve at Kurrawang is now the site for an operating Mission.

## 6. Buildings.

A two-roomed office in Geraldton is still rented as the headquarters for the Murchison Sub-district.

At Kalgoorlie a portion of the old police stables, near the Departmental office, was converted by the Public Works Department as a lock-up garage for this Department. Another room in the same building was equipped with a shower for use by transient natives.

## 7. Vehicles.

International Utility WAG 877 was transferred to Kalgoorlie on 4th September, 1953, for use in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district.

The vehicle on charge to the Murchison Sub-district was Dodge Utility WAG 2052. On the 22nd January, 1954, WAG 2052 was taken to Plant Engineers for a complete overhaul. Plant Engineers subsequently advised that at least months would be required before a complete overhaul could be made. They advised also that as the vehicle had completed close to 60,000 miles in hard Murchison country, considerable economy would be effected, as well as time saved, if a new vehicle were purchased. This action was approved and delivery of a new patrol vehicle, WAG 3072, Land Rover, was taken on the 12th May, 1954.

Unfortunately, patrolling was still not possible due to the necessity of the running period of the new vehicle and the warranty checks at 750 and 1,500 miles.

The new vehicle was taken to Perth for the 1,500 mile warranty check to coincide with fitting of the vehicle with auxiliary petrol and water tanks and also to acquire a recommended list of spare parts.

## 8. Public Relations.

A task which is closely associated with the advancement of native welfare is the education of the general public to a proper appreciation of the condition of natives generally. Whilst this is attempted continuously by field officers in their personal relationships with employers, local authorities and welfare agencies, there has still been the necessity to address various interested bodies on the subject of native welfare. Fittingly, the main burden of explaining to non-natives the view point of natives has fallen to a part-aboriginal, Mr. George Howard, a member of the District Office staff. Mr. Howard, when stationed at Kalgoorlie, addressed the Rotary Club there. In Perth he has addressed Perth Rotary Club (the address was recorded and broadcast over Stations 6KG and 6PM); the Anglican Youth Fellowship, Nedlands; the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Nedlands; and the Teachers' Training College, Claremont.

In this section last year a report from the Murchison Sub-district was published. The following remarks are made by the Assistant District Officer, Eastern Goldfields Sub-district :—

“The general attitude of the goldfields' townspeople towards natives is genuine sympathy for bush natives and the less advanced station workers, and friendly equality for the assimilated caste natives. Discriminatory legislation has the effect of quelling this friendly attitude and has often been the cause of embarrassment to both white and coloured. A typical example occurred when a country cricket team, including five native players, visited another town with their supporters. After the cricket, a social gathering was held in the evening for players and supporters of both teams, but the natives were debarred from attending because intoxicating liquor was available at the hall.

Another more recent case is that of an exempted caste native, an accomplished violinist, who was forbidden by a police officer to play for dances at the hotel. He has played with the A.B.C. in Adelaide for some years, is married to a white woman and has six children living. He has settled in the town but because legislation prohibits an aboriginal native entering licensed premises, a talented native musician is denied the means of supplementing his income and at the same time providing entertainment for others. I have seen this man playing at a social function, and have heard many people praise his musical ability. Surely this is a practical way of reducing colour prejudice when a native gives a dignified display of high ability at a European art not mastered by his audience.

It is not surprising that many natives “drop their bundles” when it is well known that one so highly assimilated is till victimised by legislation that discriminates.

A few individual instances of public sympathy in Kalgoorlie are as follows :—

1. An appeal to the public by the Rotary Club of Kalgoorlie for clothing for aged natives at the Kurrawang Mission received an excellent response and the Superintendent was able to forward a surplus to other Missions.
2. Many offers of accommodation were made for a part-aboriginal girl at high school and also for one from another district employed in an office. In most cases a desire to assist the individual was the motive, the matter of board being of little importance and finally set at a low figure.
3. One full blood infant was taken into a private home under delegation of guardianship.
4. An approach was made by a high income family with three young children to legally adopt a native child. At present there is no orphan available.
5. There has been the utmost co-operation from many individuals, companies and government departments in meeting small requests of a welfare nature.
6. The generosity of Kalgoorlie and Boulder residents is the greatest factor to overcome in reducing the incidence of back-lane cadging by the pauperised semi-bush natives.

The Labour Day Sports Committee of the A.L.P. once again treated four natives from this district to a tour of Perth and suburbs. While in Perth the men gave an exhibition of boomerang and spear throwing. Such visits are of educational value to both the natives and the whites.

An instance of public appreciation of the courage and ability of a native tracker comes from Norseman. A party led by the Police tracker, Pompom, in April, 1954, followed a lost man through the bush for 11 days before finding him in an unconscious condition. A public subscription raised over £60 for Pompom and his young assistant Jack Schultz.

(It was a surprise to me to learn that not long after this feat, the Police Department apparently decided that the retention of a tracker at this Station was unnecessary, as Pompom's services were dispensed with.—B. A. McL.)”

## 9. General Administrative Functions.

The position relating to Field Officers' pre-occupation with administrative matters engendered by the Act and Regulations was clearly stated in the last annual report. There has been no change.



## PART II.—NATIVES.

### I. Vital Statistics.

Collection of census statistics has proceeded throughout the district, but the information gained is not complete. With caste natives living in reasonably stabilised town or station communities, it is a relatively simple matter to obtain the information required; but where other natives are concerned, two principal difficulties present themselves. Many live in such isolated areas that contact with them is irregular and infrequent; and unless they have European names it is impossible to secure permanent, identifiable records. Aboriginal names may not be constant, being subject to variation according to tribal custom, and in any case, are almost impossible to reproduce accurately with an English alphabet. There are tonal and consonantal qualities which are not uniformly detected by “untuned” ears.

The statistics appearing under Appendix 4 are therefore estimates only, but being compiled from a variety of sources of information, they are fairly reliable.

### 2. Health.

The following reports are from the officers in charge of the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields Sub-districts, respectively :—

1. “During this past year, with the aid of medical and other authorities, an attempt was made to survey the general health situation in the Murchison Sub-district. Valuable co-operation was received from the following persons of the medical profession :—

Dr. R. G. Royce of Geraldton ;

Dr. Arvid Eksteins of Meekatharra ;

Sister Morrow of the Silver Chain Bush Nursing Centre at Yalgoo.

It became readily apparent early in the financial year that influenza was almost at the epidemic level amongst large sections of the native population of this sub-district. (Ref. Assistant District Officer Day's patrol report No. 1 of 1953-54.)

Shortly after the abovementioned patrol I had to alter my patrol programme and proceed to Wiluna where a large number of natives had come in from the bush east of Wiluna. These “bush” natives were all seriously afflicted with influenza and the local (Police) Protector had appealed for immediate aid from a Departmental officer. I remained with these native people at Wiluna for nearly a fortnight and wish to acknowledge the valuable aid given me by every person approached in that township. In spite of these combined and unstinting efforts by the white community of Wiluna, three deaths occurred.

Regarding the influenza epidemic at Wiluna, the following facts are relevant :—The bush natives had obviously made a very long trek into Wiluna to attend a special “meetin” (corroboree) which was held to teach certain natives a new “song” (Kurangara), and to initiate a number of boys to the new song. Their long trek had obviously left them in a condition of low resistance to infection. This normally, would have been insignificant, but the presence of several station natives (who joined the group enroute) who were at least 80 per cent. assimilated into the white community, its way of life and its diseases, undoubtedly accounted for the serious epidemic.

Another disease became very prominent during the past year. There was an unusually high incidence of infant and child fatalities from gastro-enteritis. The incidence was already high early in the new financial year of 1953-54 and attention was drawn to it from the centres of Mullewa, Yalgoo, Geraldton and isolated station cases.

It was learned from Dr. R. G. Royce at Geraldton that this communicable disease could best be controlled by implementing strict sanitary precautions, exercising care in cooking and food handling, and, of course, a healthful and balanced diet. Dr. Royce also explained that the migratory habits of some natives was a possible contributory factor in the etiology of this disease.

Recommendations for coping with this disease have really already been made. Sanitary facilities have been recommended for all reserves where the conditions warrant it. The other half of the job has been under way since field officers have been in the sub-district, that is, endeavouring to impress upon the native people the necessity for strict sanitary precautions and the general rules for preserving good health.

The incidence of scabies, particularly in children, is still high throughout the sub-district, but parents are beginning to report the cases more than in former years.

No numerical check of the numbers of medical accounts passing through this office was kept, but it can be said that the number was perhaps larger than in previous years due to a greater number of permits to employ natives having been issued during the year.

In general, and excluding the above diseases, health in the sub-district was at least as good as the previous years."

2. "The Public Health Department medical and health survey party toured this sub-district in May, 1954, and the report of these specialists will be more accurate and comprehensive than a layman could hope to provide.

Several outstanding matters have been brought to my notice, the foremost of which is the high incidence of perforated ear drums among young children. It seems to be the rule rather the exception to see full blood children, whose parents live in crude camps on stations and elsewhere, with discharging ears. Children have been found after hospital treatment to have perforated drums and this irreparable damage is done before the child enters a Mission. As a result, some have deficient hearing, but is believed that in the worst cases, the child will have discharging ears (or ear) for life. This applies to an inmate of the Kurrawang Mission who was recently treated at Princess Margaret Hospital and on his return the honorary M.D. (Dr. Green) advised that the only relief was daily ear toilets by a trained nursing sister.

Of the 80 children at one Mission, the superintendent advises that at least 30 suffer partial deafness and this, combined with the observation of myself and missionaries of discharging ears, calls for some attention. It is easy to direct parents to a doctor, but difficult to ensure that they act on the advice.

Some that I have approached have placed their children in Missions; other have left the locality or gone to the bush. More time should be made available by field officers to pursue cases of this nature, and perhaps the co-operation of the Missions could be sought for the resident sister to examine every child visiting the mission with his parents. There is no wilful neglect on the part of the parents; it is a consequence of ignorance.

A large number of what appears to be infected eyes has also been seen in pre-mission children, but here again I am unwilling to list my observations beside those of the world's foremost ophthalmologist.

Among full bloods employed casually on stations and living on the fringes of towns, health appears to be satisfactory during the summer months which is surprising when one considers their poor diet and living conditions. Last winter adults and children suffered attacks of influenza and many failed to seek early treatment, believing they had nothing more than a common cold.

As far as is known the health of mission children has been good, with the exception at Cundelee of bouts of whooping cough and measles last August, and influenza in July. This camp at the time that the mission did not have a qualified nursing sister and may have resulted from an influx of natives from South Australia. The advice given by Dr. Mann on her recent visit to these Missions will be of great benefit to them.

Normal medical services are available to natives throughout this sub-district and although the majority could not possibly hope to meet their own expenses, they are covered by the Natives Medical Fund. It must be said that the Resident Medical Officer in Kalgoorlie (Dr. Oxer) has co-operated fully in the treatment of natives, making special arrangements for their convenience where required, and always willing to make time to discuss any matter with me.

I also wish to acknowledge the valuable service provided by the Flying Doctor Service, and the willing co-operation of the base operator, Mr. L. Cordell."

### 3. Education.

Since the last report, considerable progress has been made in obtaining statistical information indicating the number of native children who are being educated but as figures for the whole district are not yet complete I can not give a clear indication of the proportion of native children receiving a formal education. Of 506 children under 16 years of age in Missions, 392 are being educated in Mission Schools and 20 attend State Schools outside the Mission.

Following is a table of information received to date. Statistics for the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district are almost complete ; if they are accurate they indicate that only 54·4 per cent. of native children in that area are being educated.

*Central Sub-district.*

Mission Schools.	State Schools.
141	No figures available.

*Murchison Sub-district.*

Mission Schools.	State Schools.	
	Primary.	Secondary.
52	Infants .... 8 Std. I. .... 6 Std. II. .... 3 Std. III. .... 2 Std. IV. .... 3	Note : Figures incomplete.
Total 52	22	

*Eastern Goldfields Sub-district.*

Mission Schools.	State Schools.	
	Primary.	Secondary.
199	Infants .... 25 Std. I. .... 6 Std. II. .... 5 Std. III. .... 12 Std. IV. .... 9 Std. VI. .... 2	Std. VII. .... 4 Std. VIII. .... 2
Total 199	67	6

It is hoped that complete statistics will be available in the next report.

#### 4. Native Labour and Employment.

Activities in relation to this subject are reported as follows by officers in charge of the Sub-districts.

*Central Sub-district.*

Throughout the sub-district the usual avenues of employment, *viz.*, general farm labour, crutching, shearing, contract fencing and clearing were open to country natives. Some natives who are anxious to improve their lot have realised the importance of permanent employment and in most country centres there are at least one or two men permanently employed with the local Road Board or railway gang. Again, some natives are permanently employed on farms. Two natives in this category have been given quite attractive living conditions.

It is still evident, however, that quite a number of natives, especially those living on reserves, work for a period during which time they provide food and money for one or two other natives and their families. They then have a " holiday " while natives they were providing for go out to work.

It was noted at Moora, Merredin and Pinjarra that about five or six lads at each town who had received very little education were unable to find permanent work. As a result, several lads have migrated to the Perth areas to seek permanent jobs. However, the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation and the subsequent high cost have forced the majority to return to the country. At present there are eight native lads, four of whom are apprentices, employed in industrial firms in the metropolitan area.

Following a survey of native employment in the metropolitan area, a practical system of arranging employment has been put into use. Prospective inmates for McDonald and Alvan Houses will be tested by vocational guidance officers attached to the Education Department, and on their findings and recommendations will depend the type of education, whether technical or commercial, the inmates will receive. When it is time for the inmate to leave school, welfare officers will liaise with the Commonwealth Employment Service to find suitable employment as recommended by the guidance officers.

A suitably tabulated index of avenues of employment for natives in the metropolitan area has been prepared and when this office is not able to arrange employment the native is referred to the Commonwealth Employment Service.

It has been noted that metropolitan employers of native youths are not so particular regarding colour as standard of education.

### ***Murchison Sub-district.***

Shortly after the Murchison Office was transferred from Mullewa to Geraldton two years ago, an effective liaison with the Commonwealth Employment Service was established. The Geraldton office of the Department has been most co-operative and eager to be of aid in placing natives in suitable employment.

Unfortunately, during the past year the labour market throughout the sub-district has been poor. There is still close to full employment in the native population but conditions have become increasingly tighter. It is no longer possible for natives to migrate from job to job with the same ease which existed two years ago.

As in past years, the main avenues of employment are the stations, farms and other situations concerned with the land.

Migratory tendencies to or from towns and from towns to stations are difficult to assess in this district. If one spoke of preferences of natives, it could be said that many natives would migrate to towns if employment were available. This is not the case, and if there is any migration it would be from towns to stations and farms. A survey would probably indicate that migration has remained at the same rate for the last two years and that this would be due to the controlling factor of employment opportunities.

Conditions on stations are virtually unchanged since the previous annual report, but there was an increase during the year in correspondence with station managers and some welcome signs of potential increased co-operation with these men. At present, most stations are fully staffed and have a large proportion of native employees. As indicated above, employment on stations is quite static at present and only a small number of jobs were found for natives in station work in the latter part of the year.

### ***Eastern Goldfields Sub-district.***

The following is an extract from a report of a patrol of the north-eastern section of the sub-district :—  
“ The following positions are filled by natives :—

#### ***Station.***

1. Contractor (fencing, straggler shearing, crutching). Returns are good and natives compete with European contractors.
2. Station hands. Wage ranges from £5 to £8 per week plus keep for employee and family
3. Musterer. Wage ranges from £2 to £4 per week plus keep for employee and family.
4. Domestic. Wage ranges from £2 to £2 10s. per week plus keep. Living conditions usually very good, but wage poor.

#### ***Town.***

1. Semi-skilled workers (or responsible positions) as : engine driver (State Battery), driver mechanic, sanitary worker (Road Board), slaughterman, truck driver, licensed carrier.
2. Unskilled workers as : Sands worker (contract) at State Battery, general labourers.

All excepting the labourers receive the award rate of pay or better and provide very keen competition for white labour.”

Labourers employed as woodcutters, usually the less advanced type. Some unscrupulous employers usually promise them good wages, and keep, then give them poor food (one or two in the party must supplement that provided) and no pay. The native doesn't realise until it is too late then accepts it as his lot. The natives speak poor English and give vague details and if the employer is tracked down he usually has a good story or no money to pay wages anyway. This exploitation could be overcome if more time were available to visit woodcutters' camps. The Forestry Department officers have promised full co-operation. Where it has been possible, I stipulate that good and sufficient rations and tobacco be supplied (it is left to the employee to watch his interests here) plus £3 (or more) per week to be paid at the Native Affairs Office. Some employers prefer to pay £5 per week and then get it all back by selling £2 worth of groceries to the native in the bush. I contend that if a native is not worth £3 per week and keep then he is not worth employing.

Labourers employed as fettlers by the W.A.G.R. receive award wages and railway tents. There is a shortage of labour in this field on the Coolgardie-Esperance, Coolgardie-Merredin lines and more natives could be employed there. The work is either too monotonous or physically exhausting and natives usually transfer to farm employment for a change.

Labourers employed on farms in the Salmon Gums district where the wage varies but is generally satisfactory. With the rapid development of the Esperance farming areas, the employment potential for educated natives who lack the ability or application for a profession or trade appears to be good.

When considering the state of the employment field each category must be dealt with separately. Singly, natives are drifting into semi-skilled positions on their own initiative and this is advantageous as it provides some relief for the saturated state of pastoral employment. Wages paid to the casual pastoral worker are generally poor by white standards and although the adult of this generation suffers little hardship as a result, considerable improvement should be expected for his children if they are to remain in the industry.

With the danger of less advanced natives drifting in from the Warburton Ranges, I feel that to achieve some progress in improving employment conditions generally, we must discourage today's children from becoming pastoral workers by giving them the maximum educational qualifications and assisting them to migrate to centres of greater opportunity where they can maintain a decent standard of living. Those that fail to qualify for higher employment and remain should then be much sought after and may receive better conditions than exist today.

The part-aboriginal people in Kalgoorlie are able to secure good positions as labourers, mine workers, etc., for the men, while the women find employment as cooks and domestics. Last year a half-caste native received an income of £1,568 spread uniformly over the year. He is employed as a truck driver bringing heavy loads of ore to the State Battery. His misfortune is that through lack of early training in the principles of living his earnings are not disbursed along the best channels. It is not to his discredit that he has provided assistance to unemployed relatives and friends but this action probably reduces the incentive for the assisted to seek employment. It is to be hoped that with Mission training and enlightened policy, future generations will devote high earnings to a more useful purpose and thus raise their social status in the community.

As the natives are better educated, so will their working conditions improve, even if they remain on pastoral properties.

## 5. Crime.

Court returns, probably incomplete, indicate that 476 convictions were recorded against natives during the year. Of the minor offences, drunkenness heads the list with 239 convictions, followed by receiving liquor 119, stealing 14, and assault 13. There was one conviction for unlawful killing and one for attempted rape.

There were no Courts of Native Affairs.

## 6. Projects.

### *Housing.*

At the beginning of the financial year six applications under the leasehold provisions of the State Housing Act on behalf of natives had been lodged with the State Housing Commission and an additional two applications were made during the year. Two homes, at an approximate cost of £2,400 each, were under construction at York at the beginning of the year and these were completed and occupied by the native tenants in October, 1953. Purchase instalments have been regularly made and the homes have been well kept. The West Australian Native Welfare Council assisted the tenants by organising a drive for second-hand furniture which has been provided on a cheap re-payment basis.



In July, 1953, consideration was given by the State Housing Commission to a scheme to provide special cheap rental homes for 25 selected native families within the South-West Land Division. Of the 25 families selected after a special field survey, 15 were from the Central District. This scheme was to be financed on a Commonwealth-State basis, but unfortunately funds were apparently not available.

In March, 1954, a new scheme was innovated by the Commission to build specially designed "intermediate" type houses under the leasehold provisions of the State Housing Act. Natives who had applied for rental homes are being advised to transfer their applications to those for "intermediate" type houses. Some of these had originally applied for leasehold-purchase homes. The "intermediate" type costs approximately £1,600 and purchase conditions are more realistically adjusted to the natives' economic position. The first prototype is nearing completion at York.

In the previous report it was stated that the State Housing Commission had provided a four-roomed rental home at Carlisle for an invalid native. Being dependent on an invalid pension, this man's financial position was not sound enough to meet his commitments and it was arranged with the Commission to reduce his rent. The cleanliness of this house was favourably reported by a welfare and inspection officer of State Housing Commission.

Special mention should be made of the five attractive five-roomed houses erected by the Benedictine Community of W.A. at New Norcia for native employees. Built of monocrete and having tiled roofs, they have become the pride of each native inhabitant. With one exception they are kept neat and tidy. Reasonable rent is deducted from wages and payment for furniture is made by instalments in the same way. Each family has been advised that relatives are not permitted to remain in the houses, and this rule is regularly policed.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Murchison Sub-district reports an acute need for houses for natives, and that natives are keenly interested in the possibility that they, too, may benefit from the State Housing Commission scheme.

With respect to the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district, the officer in charge reports that there is little need at present for the Commission to devote its attention to that area, except, perhaps, for Southern Cross and Esperance.

The majority of workers are on pastoral properties. About 14 native families have houses of European style at Mount Margaret Mission. These, they have built themselves with assistance from the Mission.

Caste natives in towns are able to rent houses cheaply (around £1 per week); some have purchased their own (£200 to £400); and some are provided houses by their employers.

## 7. Rationing.

Sustenance has been provided at Departmental expense for 196 adults and 107 children. In addition, 393 children are maintained at missions by payment of Departmental subsidy.

Ration issues are as follows :—

### *Depots and Missions.*

	Adults.	Children.
United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges	20	66
Kurrawang Native Mission	15	...
United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret	26	...
Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cunderlee	60	20
United Aborigines Mission, Cosmo Newbery	30	...
Ration Depot, Mulga Queen	23	...
Individual cases	22	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>107</b>

## 8. Tribal Activities.

In the last report mention was made of a corroboree, the KURANGARA, in the north-eastern sector of the Murchison Sub-district. An officer reports that he has since attended a Kurangara corroboree and nothing untoward took place. His observations are that tribal meetings are drawing fresh members from station and town natives.

It is fitting here to record appreciation of the generous donation by Sergeant A. F. Anderson, of Norseman, of his personal collection of native weapons and artifacts to the Departmental Museum. These items were gathered during many years of police work in the "back country" and some of them are unobtainable today.

## 10. Metropolitan Social Welfare.

My previous report referred to the urgent need for a native recreation and welfare centre in Perth. This matter was introduced for discussion at the District Officer's Conference in Perth in October, 1953. On the recommendation of the Conference, I placed the matter before the West Australian Native Welfare Council, and, later, the Original Australians' Progress Association. Executive members of the New Coolbaroo League (an association of natives) have, to my knowledge, been the only body to act in the matter. They have been engaged in an unremitting search for suitable premises, but so far have been unsuccessful.

(Sgd.) B. A. McLARTY,

District Officer—Central District.

## NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

### *Introduction.*

During the year under review the official geographical boundaries of the District have remained unchanged. Its southern boundary is the 26th parallel of latitude, and its northern, the 20th parallel, or "leprosy" line. One change has occurred, however, in that an inter-District arrangement, whereby an area between Meekatharra and Jigalong was administered by Central District, has been cancelled. The arrangement had been made in anticipation of the establishment of a patrol post at Meekatharra, as part of a new North-Central District. As this new District has not yet eventuated it has been deemed expedient to revert to the original boundaries, with very minor exceptions. As a result, the actual areas to be patrolled from Carnarvon and Port Hedland have increased considerably.

### *Staff.*

Mr. H. R. Tilbrook, formerly Assistant District Officer at Port Hedland, was transferred to B come towards the end of last year. He was succeeded briefly by Mr. A. G. Down, Acting Patrol Officer, and then by Mr. A. O. Day, the present Assistant District Officer.

Mrs. I. B. Thompson has recently been appointed to Marble Bar as Welfare Assistant.

Apart from temporary changes due to the taking of recreation leave, the staff at Carnarvon remains unaltered, with Mr. Winder as Office Assistant and myself as District Officer.

### *Missions.*

#### *Carnarvon.*

During the year a further building drive, on a somewhat smaller scale than last year's, commenced the erection of a new boys' dormitory, and did more work on the new girls' dormitory. The latter building is not quite completed, but has been in use for some time. With these two buildings the planned limit of construction work has been reached and the Mission authorities now propose to consolidate their position. Completion of the two new dormitories is envisaged, followed by certain other improvements. A proper system of drainage is required, and the hygiene of the institution cannot be really satisfactory until a septic system is installed. The prevalence of trachoma detected during the year was possibly attributable to the difficulty now encountered in controlling the fly pest.

The progress which this Mission has made since its establishment some seven years ago is remarkable, and demonstrates what can be accomplished by an association of Christian principles and sound organisation. Not the least of its achievements has been the changed attitude of the average citizen of the district to the education of native children.

Perhaps the only real defect in the present organisation is the lack of adequate facilities for training boys, who are not proceeding on to higher education, for future employment. At present they receive a suitable formal education from the Education Department, and their material and spiritual welfare is catered for by the Mission. These are fundamental aspects, and are essentials. In addition, however, some technical training is required if the finished product is to benefit economically, and immediately, from his sojourn at the Mission. Inevitably, most of the youths leaving this institution find their way back to stations. Although most station employers now accept the fact that native children are to be educated, they view with some scepticism the finished male product. To them these lads, as working units, are no more valuable, in fact probably less so, than if they had remained all their lives on the station. This attitude is reflected in the wages they pay.

On the other hand, the boys, having learned something of a better way of life and a higher standard of living, appear to be disappointed when they return to stations and find that they are economically no better off than if they had not gone to the Mission at all. It is too early to generalise yet, but they seem to develop a tendency to change jobs frequently and to become generally unsettled.

The solution would appear to be the teaching of some technical subjects, between the ages of four and sixteen, such as apparently is now envisaged at Derby. At the Carnarvon Mission the problem is complicated by the fact that the number of boys of appropriate age may be only from six to twelve each year.

No similar problem exists in the case of females. Between the ages of fourteen and sixteen those girls not continuing on to higher education work on the Mission itself and gain a sound grounding in most phases of domestic work, including the care of young children.

As a result, their services are eagerly sought after by stations, and it has been found, in practice, that employers are willing to provide them with very good conditions, including, usually, special accommodation.

#### *Jigalong.*

*Note.*—It appears that there may be some confusion regarding the exact location of this Mission with relation to the Tropic of Capricorn. Most departmentally marked maps show the Mission as being south of the Tropic. In actual fact "Old" Jigalong, where the Superintendent has recently erected a new residence, is some two miles north of the Tropic, and the main mission buildings are three miles further north, at "New" Jigalong.

This institution was founded as a "contact" mission. An essential feature of its original planning was therefore a policy of contacting, and maintaining contact with, desert natives. It was necessary to avoid even the slightest action which would antagonise these people and cause them to lose confidence in the Mission staff. Now, some eight years later, this same policy must apparently be continued if a drift away from the mission of parents with children is to be avoided. This appears to me to be something of a weakness and its fundamental cause is, I believe, due to the complete absence of dormitories to house the children. The difficulty of trying to educate and uplift children who return each night to the most primitive camp conditions is obvious, but there is another factor to be considered too. Parents who are capable of earning wages on stations and wish to do so, and who also have children whom they wish to see educated at the Mission State school, are torn between two desires. In practice they appear to compromise by spending part of their time at the Mission, and part on stations—their children accompanying them. If suitable buildings and staff were available, the children could remain on the Mission, while the parents worked on surrounding stations. This would benefit the children, and the economy of the country as a whole.

In the past, planning on this Mission has been hindered by the fact that no adequate water supply exists. This makes the site unsuitable, and until comparatively recently alternative sites were being considered. It has now been decided that the cost of moving the existing buildings would not be justified, and, instead, an application has been made for funds to install a scheme which should provide ample water for domestic purposes. With this assured, every justification will exist for an expanded building programme. As I understand it, it is proposed to concentrate the children at New Jigalong, use Old Jigalong as a place to grow vegetables with irrigation, and have the aged and destitute natives' camp on a good water supply between the two places.

The Mission staff insist that the adult inmates of their institution are a gentle people, but do agree that certain injurious tribal practices are carried out. So far they have not intervened, apparently for fear of antagonising the natives. There is no doubt that aborigines for hundreds of miles around regard Jigalong as a centre of very strong tribal influence—not all of it good.

As reported last year, the difficulties encountered in operating this Mission are great, and the fortitude of the small staff is worthy of the greatest admiration. There is justification, in my opinion, for the expenditure of public funds, if properly applied, in furthering the aims of this institution.

#### *Cossack.*

It is hoped that in the coming year some real progress will be made towards the establishment of an institution, either Department or as a Mission, in the Roebourne district. The suitability of the old lightening port of Cossack is now being thoroughly investigated, and it may well be that the beautifully constructed stone buildings there will again serve a useful purpose in the community. In the whole of the North-West District no locality requires the benefits of a well run institution more than this.

#### **Reserves.**

The policy of endeavouring to equip each used reserve with reasonable facilities has been continued. Treasury approval for conveniences for the use of out-patients attending the Port Hedland native hospital has been granted, though on a reduced scale. Similarly, funds have been available for some time for the erection of minimum requirements on the Onslow reserve. The Department of Public Works will carry out these jobs. That Department is currently carrying out some minor improvements on the Carnarvon reserve.

At Roebourne a big improvement has taken place over the past year. A windmill now fills an overhead 2,000 gallon tank, which in turn is connected to an ablution block, with laundry space, and a septic system lavatory. Under this stimulus the reserve residents have improved their dwellings to the best of their abilities, and eagerly used up the considerable quantity of whitewash supplied by this Department. An enclosing fence has also been erected. The whole effect is now much more pleasing than it used to be and a Health Inspector from the Department of Public Health recently described it as "good." This is somewhat refreshing. It is hoped to further improve this reserve by growing a windbreak, and by encouraging continued improvements to the dwellings.

Very recently the prohibition against natives using the "12 Mile" Forestry Reserve near Port Hedland has been cancelled and it is hoped that it will very shortly be gazetted as a native reserve. This spot has always been used by travelling natives and this official action will merely recognise an established fact. Action can now be taken to provide some facilities here, too.

### *Protectors.*

The very small number of towns in this District, make it unnecessary to enlist the aid of numerous Protectors. During the year the number of police acting in that capacity has been reduced by a further two. At Shark Bay assimilation has reached such a stage that there are now virtually no adult natives-in-law in the township. There is thus no need for a Protector there. The police constable, as the agent of the Child Welfare Department, watches the welfare of the children who remain technically natives. By arrangement he discusses with this office any problems involving natives. Similarly, a Protector is no longer required at Gascoyne Junction. In fact the Police Station there has recently been closed.

The two remaining police Protectors, Constable Connolly at Onslow and Constable Weiland at Roebourne, carry out their duties with efficiency and sincerity and their services are greatly appreciated.

### *Field Work and Public Relations.*

There is no doubt that the basic solution to the "native problem" is not so much dependent on the natives themselves as on a changed community outlook. That being so the public relations aspect of our welfare work is particularly important. At District level active field work is the most effective contribution which can be made towards this objective. It is, therefore, not unnatural if field officers tend to regret that the time spent in the office on purely clerical work cannot be put to better use on more positive field welfare work.

The four wheel drive vehicle supplied to Carnarvon during the year has greatly facilitated patrolling. Since its arrival it has travelled some 7,000 miles. Prior to that the conventional drive utility stationed at Carnarvon traversed more than 4,000 miles and has completed a further 9,000 miles since being transferred to Port Hedland. A four wheel drive vehicle is required at the latter station and it is hoped that this will be supplied during the coming year.

### *Vital Statistics.*

For the first time, reasonably accurate census figures are available for the Gascoyne Sub-district. These show a considerable increase over previous estimates, but this is due more probably to a correction of error, rather than natural increase.

The census has not yet been completed in the Pilbara Sub-district and the figures shown at Appendix No. 4 may not be as accurate as could be desired. They are probably on the conservative side.

The Assistant District Officer, Pilbara, has commented on a puzzling feature of the native population of Roebourne. Although no detailed study has been made of the subject, it does seem that the number of aboriginal children there is relatively high. Conditions of employment in Roebourne are not good and until very recently the reserve there has been extremely primitive. The privations suffered by these people in the recent past may approximate the hardships endured by the aborigine in his native state. This is a somewhat disturbing thought as it could mean that efforts to improve conditions of employment and the general standard of living may automatically reduce the birth rate. It is repeated, however, that this is little more than mere conjecture.

The small number of full blood aboriginal children on stations is as noticeable as ever, while the caste population continues to multiply rapidly.

### *Health.*

An epidemic of virus influenza in the Gascoyne probably advanced the deaths of several very old natives, but otherwise there have been no outbreaks of a serious nature.

A number of what, to the layman, appeared to be avoidable deaths occurred. In most cases these were due to a delayed recognition of serious disease, resulting in seeking of medical assistance at too late a stage. These deaths occurred mainly in "independent" natives, and it should be recorded that most employers

have carried out their obligations faithfully in this regard. In recent years, Coronial, or, if appropriate, Departmental inquiries so surely follow any case of neglected sickness or injury that every employer must now be fully aware of his responsibilities.

Dr. Ida Mann, the noted eye specialist, incurred a good deal of displeasure about a year ago when she conducted a survey of the north and north-west and detected a widespread incidence of trachoma, particularly in children of aboriginal origin. As a result two "camp schools" being planned by the Education Department were cancelled, causing much disappointment. At the time there was a feeling current that much ado was being made of very little. Since then most of us have become aware of the extreme seriousness of this disease, and have come to admire the zeal and energy with which Dr. Mann and the Department of Public Health have tackled the problem.

### **Education.**

The only real progress made during the year has been the decision to provide education for the children living on the Roebourne Reserve. The original intention of the Education Department was to admit these children to the existing State School, but this proposal raised such a howl of protest that it was abandoned. As an alternative it is now intended to establish a separate school in the old Court House. Even this policy of appeasement has met with strenuous opposition and it is probable that the last has not yet been heard of this subject.

The Education Department is currently concentrating much thought and planning on the subject of native education. One suggestion envisages the establishment of schools on selected stations, where children from surrounding properties could be concentrated for education. In this District there are a number of objections to this scheme, and after careful consideration I can think of only one station where it might be practicable. That is at Boolaloo Station in the Ashburton, but even there a number of difficulties would have to be overcome.

Because of the scattered nature of the native population of the North-West, institutions on the lines of the mission at Carnarvon appear to be the most effective way of providing education. The basic idea of such an institution is that the mission cares for the material and spiritual welfare of the children and the Education Department provides the school teachers. The mission at Carnarvon can cater for the Gascoyne, and part of the Ashburton. If a similar institution can be established at Cossack this would cater for the rest of the Ashburton and the Roebourne Tableland areas. Jigalong Mission and the newly established Karalundi Mission should be adequate for the country between Roy Hill and Meekatharra. This leaves the Pilbara as the only serious gap in the chain. For some time a considerable number of children have been concentrated on Yandeyarra Station, owned by the Northern Development and Mining Company Limited. The future of this company is somewhat uncertain, and so far the Education Department has hesitated to furnish teachers to the station.

Summing up, education facilities are still not satisfactory in this District. Some progress has been made during the year but improvements are so far still in the planning stage.

### **Employment.**

Throughout the Gascoyne Sub-district there is ample employment offering, at most times of the year, to absorb all the natives available. This, coupled with the fact that these people have complete freedom of movement, enables them to work where conditions best suit them. Conditions are generally satisfactory, though there is room for improvement on some of the outlying stations.

In the Pilbara Sub-district the Assistant District Officer reports: "The need for labour of a full time nature and the availability of workers requiring employment appears now to be about at balance point. A good number of stations, even at times such as shearing, are able to obtain sufficient natives for their employment needs. It is noticeable, however, that these are the stations where good wages and conditions apply. Other pastoral properties, where, during most of the year, they may have sufficient labour, still find it difficult or impossible to obtain as many men as they want."

He also reports that conditions of employment in the Roebourne Tableland area are still unsatisfactory, with some notable exceptions. Unfortunately for themselves, the aborigines of this locality do not move about freely and have a distinct reluctance to leave the area.

Some mention has already been made of the proposal to open a school for aboriginal children in Roebourne. This plan has been strenuously opposed by the majority of Roebourne residents, a number of whom are employers of native labour themselves. Wages paid in the township are generally poor, and accommodation is not provided. It is probable that, when the Court House school opens, native parents on stations will move into the township in an effort to have their children admitted to the school. There is already ample native labour available in Roebourne, and any increase will result in increased competition for work, with wage cuts almost certainly following. Even now it is difficult to credit how some families subsist on the wages paid. The establishment of a suitable institution at Cossack to cater for station children would solve this problem, leaving the parents to seek employment wherever they wish.

Reverting to the Pilbara, the Northern Development and Mining Company appears to be in financial difficulties and its future is uncertain. During the year under review the number of natives associated with the Company has dwindled from 600 to somewhere in the vicinity of 360. The primary reason appears to be that the Company can no longer purchase sufficient food, tobacco and other necessities. It seems that the natives working in the mining camps have suffered most in this regard, as the Public Health Department's sister currently conducting an anti-trachoma campaign recently stated that the children and old people at Yandeyarra were in better condition than any she had seen elsewhere. It seems obvious, therefore, that the producers will tend to leave before the non-producers. If this occurs the fortune of the Company must further decline. So far, the drift away has been gradual, and the natives concerned have found employment on stations or in the townships or have continued mining, but on their own account. A number of these independent miners are grouped at Moolyella with another, larger, group at Nullagine. It seems probable that these groups will grow in the near future, and the situation at both places is being watched closely.

### **Rationing.**

In the Gascoyne Sub-district there are, at the moment, no natives on permanent rations. It has been possible to obtain suitable light station work for even the oldest people, and while they can potter about, water the lawn, collect the eggs, etc., and in return receive some payment, they scorn to receive Government rations on a reserve.

Rations issued have usually been to people receiving hospital treatment as out-patients, including old people who have become so frail that they need to be kept under constant observation.

In the Pilbara Sub-district there are six adults being rationed at Port Hedland, six adults and six children at Roebourne, fifty adults at Jigalong and a further eleven at Mundiwindi.

In addition to these figures the Carnarvon Mission receives subsidy for ninety-eight children, and fifty children are rationed at Jigalong Mission.

### **Civic Status.**

This year has seen no change in the legal status of the "native." Whether any further attempt will soon be made to remedy the situation remains to be seen.

The Assistant District Officer, Pilbara, comparatively new to this District, has been impressed by the vast difference in the outlook of the white community in the two principal towns in his Sub-district, Roebourne and Port Hedland. He has commented scathingly on the narrow and prejudiced attitude of the average white resident of Roebourne and has contrasted it with Port Hedland, where natives are treated as comparative equals and where there is little or no exploitation.

In other townships in the District there is no anti-native bias to the extent that it exists at Roebourne.

A gradually increasing proportion of the coloured people of this District is gaining Certificates of Citizenship Rights or Exemption. In some cases the general standard of living of these people compares favourably with that of neighbouring white families, but too often it does not. The artificial line which existing legislation draws between these people and those not so certified is to be deplored.

### **Crime.**

Only one Court of Native Affairs was held during the year. At Onslow, in December, 1953, Mickendah, a full-blood aboriginal, was charged with murder. He was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The Court comprised Mr. V. P. Leach, R.M., President, and Mr. F. E. Gare, Commissioner's representative. The defence was conducted by Mr. E. M. Franklyn of Geraldton.

With this one exception there has been virtually no crime in the whole of the District. A number of minor offences, usually involving liquor, brought correspondingly minor sentences.

### **Conclusion.**

Although some small gains have been made in this District over the past few years, a great deal remains to be done in the cause of native welfare.

Reserves have been fitted with certain facilities, or are in the process of being so fitted, but these represent only a bare minimum of what is required. During the coming year an effort will be made to advance a little on the basic "water, ablutions and sanitation" standard and provide something in the way of shelter. Limited finance puts anything elaborate out of the question, however.

Health, notably the treatment of eye diseases, has received a good deal of attention, while much planning has occurred in regard to education. Both these matters are the responsibility of other Departments, but all possible co-operation has been extended.

The year ahead now throws out its challenge, and with a considerably increased area to patrol field officers in this District can look forward to a very full programme.

F. E. GARE,  
District Officer, North-West District.

## NORTHERN DISTRICT.

### *Introduction.*

I have pleasure in submitting my Third Annual Report in respect to this District. It has been a difficult year due mainly to changes in staff, and at all times there has been an insufficient number to cover all aspects of the work properly.

The purple patch of the year was the District Officer's Conference in Perth during October, 1953, for although it took place outside the boundaries of this District, the beneficial effect derived from it should have reflected itself immediately in the work within it. I speak only for myself when I say that I returned to my duties after the Conference realizing that others were experiencing similar problems, exasperations, frustrations, and satisfaction, that previously I felt I experienced alone. A decision to hold such a Conference annually, in future, will greatly assist in co-ordinating the work of the District staffs into a more uniform pattern.

## ADMINISTRATION.

### *Staff.*

For the whole of this year there has been no Senior Administration Officer as this position was abolished after Mr. J. J. Rhatigan was successful in becoming a representative for this District as a member of Parliament.

A good deal of work previously shared has now become the District staff's responsibility to carry out. An ideal situation, which makes for efficiency and expediency in handling many matters of an entirely local and domestic nature. However, it is natural that difficulty will be experienced until such time as sufficient and experienced staff are available within Districts to perform these additional duties.

The work of the District has suffered a good deal during the year because of staff changes, and long periods have elapsed before replacements could be made available. It is to be hoped that before long the staff problem will become more satisfactory and stabilised.

### *Missions.*

Due directly to the assistance in the form of cash subsidy, and/or bulk rations, now being contributed to Missions generally, it is felt that a new era of welfare administration can be expected to develop within these Institutions.

Reviewing the progress made by Missions during the year, one notes an awakening to new responsibilities, more accurate recording, and a desire in most cases to carry out the policy of the Department. There is nothing spectacular in these improvements, but the change is evident.

#### *Beagle Bay Mission (Catholic, Pallotine Order) :*

Construction work has commenced on a new boys' dormitory and a new dining hall. Both buildings are at present held up pending the arrival of more material.

In the adult camp area a new kitchen is in course of erection. When this facility is operating it will mean the natives drawing upon it for their food will have a much shorter distance to travel than previously. A more progressive move, however, might have been to allow each family unit to prepare their own meals at home. In my opinion, it could be counted as part of every married woman's training to cater for the needs of her family in this way.

A school consisting of approximately thirty children is conducted under the supervision of a Sister. Visits to this school were made during the year by the Director of Education, Dr. Robertson, and the Superintendent of Native Education, Mr. Thornbury.

Medical surveys carried out during the year were made by Drs. I. Mann, Sadka, Stang and Aberdeen.

*Forrest River Mission (Anglican).*

This Mission is situated on the Forrest River.

One of the most pleasing features of this Mission's activities during the year has been the progress made by the school under the capable control of Miss E. Thomas of the Education Department and her assistants Mr. B. Southall and Miss C. McDonald. A total of 47 children are at present attending this school. Children receive prepared lunches with milk to drink and the meal and manners are supervised by the school staff.

A new hospital block has now been completed, and is a creditable building for such a purpose. Septic system and showers have been installed in a building nearby.

Electric light is generated to all buildings on the Mission including the natives homes.

The most urgent need of this Institution is a new boat to replace the very old and unreliable one now in use.

*Holy Child Orphanage (Catholic).*

This institution is situated at Broome and is conducted by Sisters of the St. John of God Order.

Forty children are inmates of this Orphanage, and those of school age attend at the St. John of God Convent, Broome.

With the assistance of this Department, a new windmill, tank, septic system have been installed, and will be of great assistance in improving conditions at this Institution.

*Kalumburu Mission. (Catholic, Benedictine Order).*

Situated on the North-West tip of this State, it is perhaps the most isolated of all Missions, for only a monthly air service, and biannual visits by the State Ships keep it in touch with the rest of the world.

Favourable reports are being received that the present Superintendent, Father Basil Noseda, is making every attempt to place this Mission on a self-supporting basis.

A recent grant of £2,000 by the Lotteries Commission to this Mission will be used towards the cost of irrigation equipment and a freezing chamber.

The normal monthly flying service would only allow a matter of a couple of hours at most to carry out a routine inspection. A plane may be deviated or chartered at no little cost. It has been very difficult to find a reasonable way to visit this Mission and there may be no alternative this year than to take advantage or either a charter or deviation of an aircraft to do so. It may be possible to share this cost with another Department and such an opportunity will not be overlooked.

*Lombalina Mission. (Catholic, Pallottine Order).*

Situated 45 miles north of Beagle Bay Mission, it is conducted by the same religious order as that Mission.

A good deal of maintenance work has been carried on at this Institution during the year. A new power plant has been installed which now provides electricity to the Mission buildings. Sanitary facilities have been provided in the camp area on top of the sand dunes, where none existed previously.

With aid from the Lotteries Commission new mattresses and pillows have been supplied to both the girls' and boys' dormitories.

*United Aborigines Mission, Fitzroy Crossing. (Protestant, Interdenominational).*

This Institution is situated at Fitzroy Crossing and has been established as a Mission for only two years.

The most pleasing feature for the year's work was the commencement of a school by Mrs. B. Smoker, who is employed by the Education Department as a teacher. There were nineteen children in attendance at the latter part of the year, and it is expected that further children will be available as soon as hostel accommodation is arranged.

The school building, accommodation for the Assistant Superintendent, and the girls' dormitory (almost completed), have been constructed during the year.

This Mission has lacked adequate staff since its establishment. It is hoped that this difficulty may be overcome during the coming year.



*United Aborigines Mission, Sunday Island (Protestant Interdenominational).*

This Mission is situated on a barren island at the Mouth of King Sound. It has a population of approximately 140 natives, 58 being children.

A Mission school conducted by Miss Langley has an attendance of 38 children.

There is not much future for the employment of natives at this Mission. At present a private dealer in trochus shell, Mr. D. Brown, employs quite a number for six to nine months of each year. However, he is speaking of retiring from this activity. It is unlikely the Mission could organise any large scale commercial venture to replace it.

The improvements noticeable for the year were mainly confined to the staff quarters, although a new church-cum-school has been erected.

A new boat is badly needed.

It is most difficult to see any future for this Mission in its present position.

*Watjulum Mission (Presbyterian).*

Situated on the mainland on the northern point of King Sound. It has been established at this site for about three years, having previously been located at Kunmunya on the North-West coast.

A temporary site for the native and European inmates was first chosen, and the Mission is now endeavouring to build the permanent Mission about one mile distant from it.

Natives at this Institution are made to feel part of it, by means of committee meetings open to all to attend. In this way, the people do feel a responsibility to conduct, as far as practicable, the running of the Mission. Excerpt from my Patrol Report of 17th January, 1953.:

“Whenever necessary, camp committee meetings are convened, which are attended by all. At these meetings the subject is thoroughly discussed and generally the natives themselves make their own decisions, guided by the Superintendent. I attended one of these meetings and was agreeably surprised to see the attitude adopted by the natives present. There is a wholesome facing up to facts, and many showed sound reasoning in their discussions. The people feel they are taking a part in the shaping of their own destiny.”

By arrangement with the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Broome, this Mission has permission to act as an agency.

It has been described by the natives themselves, that although they want sewing machines, saucepans, etc., they are not yet ready through financial and transport difficulties to obtain these items, but by means of saving the money in their pass books, the articles are theoretically in their pockets until such time as they are prepared to purchase them. It is a very popular and definite step in the right direction.

I am very impressed with the Mission's system of paying wages, subsidies and endowment monies. All monies of this nature are given to the native concerned.

All appeared satisfied at the opportunity of handling their own money, and after receiving same each week make their purchases at the store, where supervision is maintained that the right amount of essential items are bought. Essential commodities are sold at cost or slightly below, and unessential items are disposed of at a slight profit. Any profit that the store may make is returned in full to the inmates by way of clothing issues.

*Conclusion.*

I would like to add in conclusion that all the Missions in this District are aware of the responsibility and trust bestowed upon them by this Department in respect to the care and welfare of their inmates. It is pleasing to note what progress has been made, and it should continue to do so.

My thanks are extended to these Missions for the kindness and co-operation shown to my Officers and me on the occasions of our visits during the year.

*Institutions.**Moola Bulla Native Station—*

As at the 30th June, 1954, the population at this Institution was as follows :—

Adults : Full-blood (Male) ....	73
Full-blood (Female) ....	64
	<hr/>
Children : Full-blood....	56
	<hr/>
Total, Full-blood ....	193

Adults : Other than Full-blood (Male) ....	11
Other than Full-blood (Female) ....	11
	22
Children ; Other than Full-blood ....	53
	75
Total, Other than Full-blood ....	75
	268
Total at Institution ....	268

Excellent work is being carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Gill, Education Department Teachers, who conduct the school at this Institution.

At the 30th June, 1954, an estimated number of 14,085 cattle was reported to be on this station.

State Cabinet having decided to close down Moola Bulla as a Departmentally controlled Institution, during June, 1954, I carried out instructions for the choosing of a site for a new childrens' hostel, and also one for the indigent and adult natives respectively in and near the new Hall's Creek townsite.

It is anticipated that all the employable natives ex-Moola Bulla will be employed on stations locally and only the indigent adults and children will then remain the responsibility of this Department for institutional purposes.

*La Grange Native Settlement.*—

This Institution was established to act as a Rationing Centre in the area. It has a population of approximately 80 inmates, including about 20 children.

A school functioned at times during the year under the guidance of the Superintendent's wife, Mrs De Grys, who combined the duties of nurse as well.

The Superintendent has carried out a good deal of work in the erection of new tank stands, tanks, fencing, etc. A fine garden is also maintained at this Institution.

**Protectors of Natives.**

Departmental Officers, 7 ; Mission ex-officio appointments, 15 ; non-official persons, 6—Total 28. My appreciation and thanks are extended to all those who assisted my officers and myself in this capacity during the year.

**Patrols.**

It was intended to make this year an active one in respect of patrolling, for the value of personal contact is fully realized. However, directly due to staff shortage, brought about by resignations, etc., and the delay in replacements being available, this aspect of our administrative work has suffered.

This year the "wet season" lasted an extra month and this further delayed the opportunity to patrol at a time when my staff position was improving.

The longer I remain in this District the more convinced I am that those areas through which our officers are able to travel more frequently are more improved than those with less contact.

Now that decentralisation has been effected the District Officer is pre-occupied with administrative duties. It is not convenient for him to be absent for very long from his headquarters, and his patrolling consists in the main of visits to the offices of his staff, and attending to more important matters upon which he is required to report from time to time.

**Reserves.**

There are many Reserves in this District, and although it will be necessary for Departmental reasons to retain some, it may be possible to relinquish others to the Crown. Consideration will be given to this matter during the coming year, for it is felt that such Reserves may be taken up by selectors and further opportunities of employment could thus be available for the native.

**General.**

During the year under review a visit to this District was made by anthropologists Dr. and Mrs. J. Birdsell of the Californian University, America, and Mr. N. Tindale of the Adelaide Museum.

## ABORIGINES.

### Statistics.

Please refer Appendix No. 4.

### Education.

It is with keen appreciation that we observe the development of the enlightened policy of the Education Department towards Native education in the north.

Already one can sense the new approach to this very important subject in the establishment of new schools, proposals for the extension and institution of others, and the capable manner in which teachers are tackling their new responsibility.

Plans are already being prepared for the education of these children beyond the primary stage to fit them for their absorption into the social and economic life of today.

The erection of children's hostels is contemplated by this Department to give them added opportunities to attend school. In this way, and by the strategic placing of schools and hostels throughout the District, the day should not be far away when every child may reasonably be expected to receive primary education.

The direct result of such training will make itself felt within a few years. With the knowledge thus gained they will be able to take every advantage of improved employment conditions, and new spheres will be open to them.

### Employment.

There are several avenues of employment. The main one being the cattle and sheep industry, where males are employed as stockmen and for general duties, and females as domestics. There are approximately seventy stations of this nature in the District.

In Broome the Pearl Shell Industry employs quite a number, and would employ more were they available.

Conditions of employment in the Kimberleys, although definitely improving, still leaves much to be desired in some cases. The economic position is literally compelling the employer to become less apathetic towards his native employees, for most realize that the numbers of employable natives available are insufficient for the needs of all, and it is with some concern we learn that the rate of decline amongst the aborigines in contact with our civilization, estimated by the well known Anthropologist, Mr. Tindale, to be a reduction in numbers by 50 per cent. every ten years.

In fact, it is known that for many years whole native tribes have completely ceased to exist, but where this has happened in the past other tribes have gradually come to take their places. The fact must now be faced that no more replacements are available.

### Medical and Health.

The following services are provided for natives in this District by the Medical and Health Departments—

Native Hospitals at Derby, Broome and Wyndham.

A Leprosarium is conducted at Derby.

Flying Doctor, who visits quite a number of Stations once a month, and who is available for urgent calls at any time.

The Australian Inland Mission conduct nursing centres at Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek.

A nurse is employed by this Department at Moola Bulla Native Station.

Medical Surveys have been carried out by Drs. Ida Mann, Sadka, Stang and Aberdeen. It is pleasing to note the interest being taken towards the native in this way, and it is to be hoped that an adequate and effective treatment programme will follow on as a direct result of these surveys.

The treatment of natives by the staffs of the hospitals has been kindly and sympathetic, and the services rendered by the administrative and nursing staff at the Leprosarium are deserving of the highest praise.

Stations continue to send their employees to hospital promptly where necessary.

The numbers suffering with Hansens disease (leprosy) are decreasing, although when a survey being carried out at present by Dr. Aberdeen is completed more new cases may be admitted. It is evident that cures are being effected, and this fact alone is obtaining the co-operation of those who are discovered to be suffering in this way.

Sanitary and hygiene facilities on some Stations leave much to be desired, and a regular visit by a Health Inspector—who administers the Health Act—to investigate and control this aspect at Stations, would greatly assist in improving such conditions at these places.

### Crime.

Only one Court of Native Affairs was convened during the year to decide the following case :

Regina V. Mick alias Wabderi. Indicted for the manslaughter of Paddy alias Jumbira.

The Court was held at Derby and consisted of Mr. K. A. Philp, R.M., Chairman, and Mr. J. Coleman, Member. Mr. J. Beharell, J.P., assisted the accused at both the inquiry and Court of Native Affairs.

Convicted and sentenced to one year's hard labour at Broome Gaol.

The number of minor offences committed by natives of this District during the year under review was not very great, and their behaviour has been most satisfactory.

### Wages.

Two methods are still being used in the payment of native wages. The one being in cash and the other the "book credit system."

The cash payment system is considered by the native to be the most satisfactory. It also gives him a sense of having earned wages for services rendered. He does not understand the "book credit" method.

Wages are still comparatively low in this district to others, although due to labour shortages, which are already being felt on many Stations, there is an inclination to pay more and offer better conditions as enticements to employment.

### Accommodation.

It is very pleasing to note the improvement to native accommodation made on many Stations in this District. Admittedly there are others who remain apathetic in this matter, but it is doubtful whether they may be able to do so for long, as the employee himself is beginning to seek better conditions, and as he becomes less tribalised, and more accustomed to enter and remain in tribal areas outside his own, it is foreseen that there will be a gradual movement away from Stations which offer little encouragement for them to stay.

### Diet.

Very little improvement has been noted in respect to the variety of foodstuffs being offered to natives on Institutions and Missions.

There is still a lack of such items as fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk and fats.

One often hears the worn out excuse that natives will not eat some of our foods. It is essential, however, that they be educated in this way, for the foods they obtained in their natural state are no longer available to them, and a balanced diet is essential if they are to survive.

### Civic Status.

Number of Citizenship Rights granted (includes children) during year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	64
Number of Certificates of Exemption granted during year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Number of Certificates of Exemption cancelled in lieu of Citizenship Rights being granted	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Citizenship Rights suspended	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Number of Certificates of Exemption suspended or cancelled	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Number of Citizenship Rights cancelled due to death of holder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Number of Certificates of Exemption cancelled due to death of holder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	nil

### Conclusion.

Irrespective of the difficulties which beset us during the year, I do feel that the lot of the native in this District is improving, and my sincere appreciation is extended to all who have assisted in the achievement of that result.

My thanks are again extended to all at Headquarters for their able assistance and co-operation at all times, without which our task in the Field would be considerably more difficult.

(Signed) J. BEHARELL,  
District Officer, Northern District.

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

### *Introduction.*

The year under report commenced with a feeling of hope. A draft Native Welfare Bill was ready for presentation to Parliament. By means of this Bill it was intended to remove the anomalies and anachronisms to be found in the Native Administration Act and to remove the disabilities imposed by existing legislation on those the Act was designed to assist—our aboriginal people. Also, the Bill, if passed, would have had the effect of considerably streamlining administration in this and other districts. Hence the Native people and the officers of the Department in this District looked forward hopefully to the passing of the Native Welfare Bill and the introduction of a new era for the State's native population and within the Department itself.

What transpired is past history. The entire Bill was rejected by Parliament. The hybrid people of this District who followed the passage of the Bill through both Houses, on their radios and in the newspapers, were bitterly disappointed. It hardly seemed true that the New Deal which they had eagerly awaited was refused them. Their disappointment scarcely exceeded that of the Department's officers in this District who are compelled to administer an Act which, in its provisions as it is unjust in its application.

However, were we to be discouraged by this reverse, significant though it may be, we would be failing in our duty to a people who have come to look to us for their "deliverance," as one scripturally minded part-aboriginal put it to me. Therefore, the native people of the south and the officers of this District look to the future in the belief that ultimately justice must be done to a people to whom it is long overdue.

## PART I—ADMINISTRATION.

### 1. Staff.

There were no appointments, transfers or resignations in the Southern District during the year under report. The staff position was the same as the previous year. The District Staff comprises the District Officer, who is the only Field Officer in the District; the District Office Assistant; and the Assistant, who is also the shorthand-typist.

By comparison with other Districts of this Department this is a small staff—but this is also the smallest District. However, the team work which exists between the District Staff makes easier the onerous duties of the District Officer and it is fitting at this stage of my report to record my appreciation of the assistance received from my staff, both in and out of normal office hours; this I most gratefully acknowledge.

### 2. Patrols.

The Southern District boundaries have not altered since my previous Annual Report and still comprise the Great Southern and the South-West Districts of the State.

The two Sub-districts within the Southern District, namely Great Southern and South-West Sub-district, are both under the District Officer since the South-West sub-district office was closed down in June, 1952.

During the year under review seven normal patrols and three special patrols were carried out by me, involving 84 days on patrol covering a total mileage of 10,428 miles.

The valuable contacts made with the aboriginal and part aboriginal people of the district was maintained and continued. This necessitated visits to bush camps, camps and cottages on employers' farming properties, reserves and camps adjacent to towns and settled areas of community life, even to homes in towns and also to missions. There is no longer any Departmental Institution in my District.

It is no idle boast that in the course of the ten patrols during this year I must have met every native within my jurisdiction. Native population statistics were attended to on these patrols so as to eventually ensure accurate figures.

Not only was contact maintained with the native people by medium of patrols, but also with white people, particularly those groups who are interested in and working for native welfare and to whom my visits often proved of assistance in keeping them up to date and informed on matters and policy relating to the hybrid population of their prospective spheres of influence.

### 3. Protectors of Natives.

Details of the number of protectors in the District are—Departmental Officers, 2; Mission Superintendents, 4; Church Ministers, 4; other lay persons, 3, and Police Officers, 16, making a total of 29 for the District.

The protectorship system is of great assistance to a District officer because it enables contact to be maintained with the natives of the District whilst not actually on patrol. I am of the opinion—though opposed to the protection policy envisaged in existing legislation—that the protectorship system or its equivalent is an indispensable aid to administration. Natives, unable to write or otherwise convey their problems to the field officer at his headquarters, have recourse to the nearest protector, who, if he cannot assist, passes on the problem to the field officer. In this way valued assistance has been given to the native people of the District in matters of medical attention, hospitalisation and specialist treatment, social services, legal assistance, unfair treatment by employers, employment problems and a host of other subjects, which otherwise the native would have to pend till the field officer called on patrol.

Apart from this protectors attend to routine duties such as issue of employment permits, issue of rations to sick and infirm natives (after due approval), Court appearances on behalf of accused natives, attention to miscellaneous inquiries, etc.

Police officers, generally, are reluctant to act as protectors; understandably so. For this reason, in my district, I avoid calling upon police protectors to perform any welfare work on behalf of natives; police officers in this district are retained as protectors merely for the purpose of permit issuing, usually, where there is no other protector. If the permit system were abolished—as it is hoped to be—there would be no necessity to retain police officers as protectors.

I have received considerable assistance from the protectors of my district—with rare exceptions. Most protectors have proved sincere friends of the native people of their respective jurisdictions and are admired and respected by the natives for their efforts, often in very difficult circumstances.

#### 4. Reserves.

Four new reserves at Wagin, Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Mount Barker were gazetted during the year. Two reserves, one at Mount Barker and the other at Bunbury, were cancelled during the year. There are now 17 native reserves in this District, apart from the missions. Of these 17 reserves three are unused. Eight reserves are provided with lavatories and a water supply; two of these eight reserves have laundry and shower facilities as well. These are the Narrogin and Katanning reserves. Other native reserves for which the Treasury has sanctioned expenditure for provision of facilities are Kojonup and Gnowangerup—to be provided with complete facilities comprising water supply, lavatories and water tanks, and a further set of lavatories, showers and laundry on the Narrogin Reserve. Plans are being prepared for provision of complete facilities on the Wagin and Mount Baker reserves.

The provision of water supply and facilities to reserves represents a considerable advance on the position existing before the present administrative set-up was instituted. The availability of these facilities has made a great difference in living conditions on native reserves and has most definitely stepped up the standard of hygiene and of turn-out amongst natives at those places where such facilities are provided. This is particularly reflected in the improved standard of dress and hygiene in native children attending state schools in the districts concerned.

In time, it is hoped, that all major townships in which, or in the vicinity of which, there are native reserves will have complete facilities provided. There is no question whatever that the existing facilities on reserves are greatly appreciated by the occupants of the reserves—even more in the summer than in the winter months—and by the provision of such facilities this Department is filling a longfelt need and actively assisting towards the provision of better conditions for at least a portion of those whose welfare it is responsible.

#### 5. Missions.

The four Missions in the District continue to give valuable service to the native cause. The extent of the Missions contribution can be gauged by the fact that 14 per cent. of the native children in the District are inmates of the Missions and 30 per cent. of the children attending school in the District receive their schooling at these four missions.

None of these four Missions cater for adults; they are all devoted exclusively to the education, care and training of children only. It is, however, the declared policy of one of these Missions, the latest in the field, namely Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission, to open a section for aged and infirm natives at a later date when the Mission has become better established.

Below are accounts of the activities of the Missions of the District.

*Roelands Native Mission Farm, Inc.*—During the year the number of children at this Mission at one stage was 88, but at the end of the year under report dropped to 79 due to discharges. Of the discharged, four girls were placed in employment, 1 boy proceeded to McDonald House, Perth, to further his education and 1 girl proceeded to Bethesda Hospital, Melbourne, to commence nurses' training.

The school on the Mission is an Education Department school and is staffed by the Education Department. The special Inspector of schools for Native education has visited the Mission from time to time both in an inspectorial and advisory capacity.

Fifty-five children attend school at the Mission itself and another 14 inmates including 1 boy attend the Bunbury High School daily from the Mission. The transport of these children from the Mission posed quite a problem until quite recently the Education Department were good enough to arrange a school bus to convey these children to and from school. It is anticipated that a further four girls and three boys will attend Bunbury High School next year. Once fortnightly 13 girls attend Domestic Science classes and 15 boys woodwork classes at Harvey High School. They are transported by bus for the purpose. From reports received the children, both at the Mission School and at the Bunbury High School maintain a good average standard in their work, while bearing and behaviour of the 14 children attending Bunbury High has earned very favourable comment in the Bunbury District.

Apart from providing education this Mission trains boys and girls for positions which are found for them on leaving the Mission. Ex-students and ex-trainees of Roelands Mission have earned for themselves and their Alma Mater a good name wherever they go which speaks volumes for the sound basic training they receive at the Mission.

The health of the Mission children is good. Only 9 cases were referred to the Bunbury Doctors during the year and one case to the Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth—for eye attention. This indicates a very satisfactory state of affairs from the health angle.

Sport and recreation appear to be well catered for at Roelands Mission. During the year under report a Boy Scout Troup was formed on the Mission, the investiture of the 20 Scouts taking place at a ceremony on the 13th February, 1954, when visitors from Collie, Bunbury, Busselton and Perth attended. The Brownies movement was extended and in March, 1954, a group of older girls was invested as Girl Guides at a ceremony at Brunswick Junction at which the Guide Commissioner for W.A., Lady McLarty, made the investitures and Sir Ross McDonald presented the Colours. At the Annual District School Sports at Harvey the Mission children again won the shield for Section B schools as well as individual trophies. Hockey, cricket, football and tennis are also played and some of the bigger girls I observed playing tennis at the Mission on my last visit would compare very favourably with Club standards.

A very pleasing feature is the forethought of the Mission authorities in providing a beach home at Dunsborough, a holiday resort, where each Christmas vacation the children from the Mission enjoy a really happy holiday at the beach. This is a feature other missions may well emulate in the interests of their inmates.

Building work is constantly in progress at the Mission. During the year quarters for the single teacher were erected. Further facilities in the shape of a new wash house and bathroom for the Intermediate girls and extension of washing facilities for senior girls were provided. To meet the demand for increased accommodation for bigger boys created by boys staying on at the Mission to go to High School, a new building for boys has been planned and building will commence during the ensuing year on the usual free voluntary labour system by which the Mission's well-wishers have constructed other buildings on the Mission including the existing boys' block. This new building will include reading and common room, gym, and recreation room. Instead of dormitory accommodation boys will be accommodated in small rooms which will ensure for the High School students privacy and facilities for undisturbed study.

The Mission farm is a great asset, besides providing training for boys its products assist to provide a healthy diet for the children while the grapefruit orchard, which is at present busy filling export orders, helps to provide much needed revenue.

This Mission has progressed by leaps and bounds during the five years I have been in charge of the District. The very satisfactory state of affairs existing here is, in my opinion, due to the vision, planning hard work of the Mission Superintendent, Mr. Cross.

*United Aborigines' Mission, Gnowangerup.*—This mission has 28 inmates—15 girls and 13 boys—which represents an increase of two over last year's figure. Though not in the same fortunate position in regard to buildings as the three other Missions in my District, nevertheless sincere efforts are being made to make up the leeway in this regard. A staff member who is a builder and carpenter is kept busy making additions to the existing buildings and during the year under report has put in some good work; having set up a first-class workshop containing a combination saw bench. This gentleman has made an extension to the children's dining room, and erected a new and larger kitchen. A nursery has been planned and much of the material for construction of this building is in hand. It is intended to push forward with this project as speedily as possible. In view of the numbers of very small children being left at the Mission by parents, some immediately after birth, the provision of a nursery will fill an essential need at the Mission.

Meanwhile, the Mission is attempting to build up in other directions; a small power plant to provide electricity to one of the dormitories, a residence and the workshop has been installed; two motor-drive washing machines to cope with the children's laundry have been purchased; more water tanks have been acquired to cope with the acute water problem. These are some of the improvements.

On this Mission, as at Roelands, the School is under the aegis of the Education Department which supplies the Teacher, as well as assisting in other ways. There are 24 children on the roll at the Mission School; not all are inmates of the Mission as the children of families living in the huts on the Mission property also attend the school. Under a teacher who gives the impression of being dedicated to his native charges, there has been considerable progress in the educational aspect of this mission.

The Mission is not large enough nor are its charges old enough for any large scale participation in sport, but for the first time in its history mission children participated in the District Inter-School Sports and two of the Mission children won cups for their prowess.

Last Christmas vacation the Mission authorities gave the children a three weeks' holiday at Bremer Bay, 103 miles away on the coast, approximately half-way between Albany and Hopetoun. The children who otherwise have no opportunity to see the sea had a most enjoyable holiday under camping conditions. Using its new truck, the Mission authorities conveyed the children from Borden and Ongerup into Gnowangerup for a Christmas tree and Party last Christmas.

The mission maintains a small two-bed maternity ward on the Mission property. The ward comprises a main room and a smaller room alongside used as a kitchen. When last visited by me the kitchen had no stove, an open fire being used for preparing patients' meals. There was no nurse; Matron Payne, late of Carrolup Native Settlement, assisted at confinements and thereafter the patient's relatives took over. This is not a satisfactory arrangement, but in view of the Gnowangerup Hospital's refusal to accept native midwifery cases on the ground of shortage of staff, the Mission's midwifery ward fills an urgent need. A qualified sister is expected to join the staff next year, a hope which was not fulfilled last year.

When the Sister joins, it is hoped provision for maternity cases will be put on a better footing. It must be noted, however, that it is not incumbent upon the Mission to provide this amenity. Those who occupy the ward come from outlying parts of the District and are not mission residents. Doubtless, because the Mission provided a maternity ward for the use of native mothers in the past—this ward is now the Education Department Teacher's residence on the Mission—it felt obliged to carry on this service and built another smaller ward, described above, to continue providing this facility. During the year under review, 12 native babies were born in the Mission's maternity ward.

Other health needs of the inmates are attended to by the Doctor at Gnowangerup, two miles from the Mission, and periodically the Government dentist visits the Mission. The District Child Welfare Nurse visits the Mission regularly and advises the Mission authorities on the care of the infants at the Mission. The Mission's new truck is used amongst other things on the important role of conveying native patients from outlying parts of the district into Gnowangerup for hospitalisation and medical attention.

*St. Francis Xavier's Mission, Wandering.*—Functioning only since December, 1949, Wandering Mission caters exclusively for girls at present. Boys will eventually be accepted, the present stage of development being considered not opportune for the purpose.

There were 30 girls at the mission at the end of the period under report—the same number of inmates as last year. There were five admissions during the year and five discharges. Of the five discharged, three failed to return after the Christmas vacation and two were in employment. This Mission is 10 under strength as it can accommodate up to 40 girls.

At the commencement of the year under report, four members of a new order of Nuns, Sisters of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, took over the Convent and the care and education of the girls at the Mission. What I have seen of their methods and enterprise lead me to the belief that given time they will effect a transformation in the position, specially in regard to education, as it existed at the end of last year when Italian refugee nuns from China made over to the new Order. The special Inspector for Native Education has visited and inspected the Mission school. I am not aware of the results of his inspection but have been advised by the Mission Superintendent that the Inspector proved most helpful to the Sister Teacher, and has assisted with the provision of a Curriculum and a large quantity of books and stationery for use in the School.

Twenty-one girls attend school on the Mission, four are toddlers, and five girls receive domestic training which includes cooking, sewing and other household tasks. They also assist in caring for the smaller girls.

The health record of the children at this mission is very satisfactory. The attentions of a Doctor have been required on only rare occasions.

The development of the farm which is indispensable to the support of the mission still absorbs a great deal of attention. In the last two years 500 acres have already been cropped and the flock of sheep considerably augmented. Orchards have been planted, a vegetable garden maintained and these, with the dairy and poultry sections, help to provide much of the diet for the Mission children. The Mission has now overcome its water problems, new sources of water being tapped and new dams completed. This plentitude of water has proved a great boon to the very modern and up-to-date ablutions block and sanitary type conveniences. Because of the sufficiency of water, girls at this Mission have a bath every day.

*Marribank Baptist Mission.*—The newest of the Missions working for the native people in the District, Marribank has made rapid progress since its inception in November, 1952, when it took over the Departmental Settlement known first as Carrolup Native Settlement and then as Marribank Farm School.

Although this Mission received a flying start, having been handed over all buildings including residences fully furnished, still much hard work has gone into renovations and repairs and in further clearing operations and other aspects of the farm work.



At the end of the year under report, there were 25 children at the Mission, 12 girls and 13 boys ; 11 are toddlers and 14 children attend school, but whereas last year they attended school at Katanning, 20 miles away, they now attend school at the mission itself, where Mrs. Brett is a trained teacher. Next year, Rev. Ewing, now at the State Teachers' Training College, will take charge of education at the Mission. This is an admirable start in a very important part of the Mission's work, and they are to be commended for tackling it so realistically at the outset. It is too soon to judge the progress of the children attending the school, but doubtless the Special Inspector for Native Education will look in at Marribank and make his good offices available there as at the other missions in the District.

The Mission is in three separate sections, the Boys, Girls, and Toddlers' Homes.

The Boys' Home is in two cottages at one end of the grounds under the charge of Rev. Brett who occupies a third cottage. One cottage is used as a dormitory for the boys and another as a common room and recreation centre. Only lads of school age use these two cottages.

Girls of school age live in the former staff quarters, a large building and supervised by a member of the staff, Miss H. Jones, who also lives in the same building.

Toddlers occupy one of two former dormitories which has been completely renovated. They are in the charge of Miss N. Rowe. A staff member also sleeps in a room in this building at night.

There is no plan at present for use of the former girls' dormitory, but no doubt when admissions increase it will be used to accommodate newcomers.

The health of the children at the Mission has been good ; cases needing hospitalisation are taken to Katanning, otherwise Matron Miller of the Mission staff handles the minor ailments of the children.

This Mission, too, aims at becoming self-supporting as soon as possible, hence close attention is given to the farming operations by a qualified and very hardworking member of the staff. One hundred acres have been cleared, 400 acres cropped with wheat and oats, last wool cheque was £2,100 and 1,100 sheep will be shorn at the next shearing. The poultry section received a gift of 250 chickens from a well-wisher, and there are now 11 milch cows in the dairy. The farm, therefore, supplies the mission's needs in respect of meat, milk and eggs. Proceeds from sale of wool and crops are put back into the farm in the cost of machinery, superphosphate and labour.

The above paints a rosy picture for the future and it can definitely be said that quite considerable progress has been made since the end of last year.

## 6. District Officers' Conference.

Since the reorganisation of the Department under the present Commissioner, and the introduction of the decentralised system of administration by him, the need for a getting together of the officers in charge of the four Native Affairs Districts in the State for discussion of their problems and for an assessment of the problems and needs of the native people of their respective Districts began to be felt. This need became reality with the convening of a conference of District Officers, the first of its kind, in the last week of October, 1953, at which the six Senior Officers of the Department, namely, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and the four District Officers, were present.

Speaking for myself, this conference brought my knowledge of the ramifications of the work of departmental officers in other districts up to date, gave me a clear picture and concise direction on matters of procedure and policy in our work of native welfare, brought up to date my knowledge of what was being attempted in this State in this very important field, and, in brief, had the effect on me of a refresher course. One result of the conference not to be overlooked is the feeling of *cameraderie* engendered amongst the senior officers of a Department who are trying in the face of extreme difficulties, prejudices, open hostility and even threats of personal violence to perform their duty not only to the Department in which they are employed, but to the unfortunate people in whose interests they are working.

## PART II.—NATIVES.

### I. Population.

The figures for this year have been compiled by adding to last year's figures the number of births during the year and subtracting the number of deaths. I have been compelled to use the figures supplied by Police Officers for their respective districts as the basis of my computation, because though the census of the native population of my district has been completed by me, their collation from my note books, which represents a huge task, has not been completed. I am of the opinion that the actual figures from the Census made by me will show the population of the district to be larger than in the figures supplied in this report. The correct figures should be available for next year's Annual Report.

Statistics of native population of the District are shown in Appendix No. 4.

## 2. Health.

Viewed against the background of the poor living conditions which are the lot of the average native family the health record of the natives of the District is surprisingly good. There has been very little serious illness come to notice; two infants were victims of polio, two other small children were treated as part paralysis cases from unsuspected polio earlier in their lives and one woman was admitted to Wooroloo Sanatorium as a T.B. case.

Natives make full use of the medical facilities available to them throughout the District. I have even noticed a tendency amongst natives in parts of the Great Southern to pick and choose among doctors, some natives even visiting doctors in a town other than their own. Cases of native women having their infants in their camps instead of at a hospital are uncommon. The commonest ailments are confined to the children and are seasonal, namely scabies in the winter and sore eyes in summer, though I have particularly noticed a considerable decrease in the current year in the number of children affected in these ways.

Doctors and hospital staffs generally have been kindly and sympathetic to native patients. I have on occasions been most touched to note, on picking up child patients for discharge or for conveyance to the Railway Station en route to Perth for further treatment, that several of the nursing staff have come out to see their patients off with genuine regret at seeing the last of them.

Payment of their medical accounts by natives still presents a problem. Because of the falling off in the practice of covering natives by employment permits, fewer natives become entitled to have their medical expenses paid from the Natives Medical Fund. This has resulted in the majority of medical accounts for treatment of natives received from doctors and hospitals being returned to them indicating that the accounts are payable by the natives. It is no secret that a large proportion of these accounts go unpaid. Doctors specially are finding this a very different proposition to the former practice whereby this Department met their accounts in full and then undertook to recoup from the native. At least two doctors of this District have been provoked to strong opinions as a result of this change. One has indicated his refusal to treat natives except on a cash basis, and the other in quite definite terms desired to have nothing to do with the Department, deciding to ignore the existing procedure and instead to treat natives and submit them their account direct for payment, whether the native treated was entitled to payment of his account from the Natives Medical Fund or not.

With the exception of a few natives, employed from time to time, at an industrial concern in my District, who have deductions made from their salary for a health benefit scheme, I know of no other natives in the District who belong to any such scheme. It is perhaps probable that certain Health Benefit Schemes are not prepared to accept natives. The fact is that for most natives joining a Hospital Benefit Scheme their membership would lapse because during that part of the year when employment is unobtainable they would not be able to continue their subscriptions. I am therefore still of the view propounded by me last year that natives generally should be considered a sub-economic group in this respect and some form of State Assistance provided so that the doctors and hospitals can be guaranteed payment for treatment of native patients.

## 3. Education.

During the year under report complete statistics of native children attending schools in this District have been collected, showing the names of all children attending school and the numbers of boys and girls separately in each class. Of the 445 native children attending 35 State, Mission and Convent Schools in this District, 149 are boys and 296 are girls. Of the 445 going to school, 133 are being educated on the four Missions in the District, 298 at State Schools and 14 at the Collie Convent. It is encouraging to note that the numbers of native children in the higher classes are increasing. There are now 21 children in Class VI, 13 in Class VII and 9 in Class VIII. From this number there should be sufficient to provide this District's quota for Alvan House for girls and McDonald House for boys, both at Perth, where promising girls and boys who wish to complete their studies are given the opportunity to do so with a view to obtaining career jobs. During the year under report four girls and one boy from this District proceeded to Alvan and McDonald Houses respectively.

It is most heartening to see the interest, specially in some schools, that teachers are taking in their native pupils. Some head teachers go out of their way to be of assistance to me on my periodic visits by providing very detailed information re their native charges. All are helpful and understanding in dealing with coloured children and every attempt is made to suppress any indication of prejudice from white children towards their darker-skinned classmates. Native children take their full share in their school's games and sport, being valued members of their school's games and athletic teams in many instances.

Unfortunately, quite a few native parents are still not alive to their responsibility in the matter of their children's education. The flimsiest excuses are given for not sending children to school. Field staff have been warning parents from time to time on patrols and the Education Department also proceeds against parents under Section 16 of the Education Act. Perhaps more use of Section 16 in the more glaring cases would materially assist to bring the more irresponsible parents to their senses.

Some head teachers continue to bemoan the fact that the frequent movement of native families plays havoc with the state of their school rolls and spoils the attendance average. This is unavoidable due to the seasonal nature of most natives' occupations which leads them to follow their work around. This has been

explained to head teachers who explain that matters would be improved if natives collected transfer notes before moving. I endeavour on patrols to hammer this point home to native families with the result that the practice of obtaining transfer notes is on the increase.

#### 4. *Employment.*

There has been a further slight deterioration in the employment position in the District. This is due to more New Australians entering the labour field in the South and also to farmers turning to white labour where available. New Australians are working in teams of two and sometimes three men on clearing, fencing, burning off and other jobs which formerly were practically the monopoly of natives. They have even broken into the shearing field. All these forms of employment pay well and being on a contract basis the employee is able to assess almost exactly the amount of money coming to him. It is in his approach to his work that the New Australian scores over the native and is thus gaining a foothold in the natives' field of employment. Whereas the New Australian who in most cases is working with a definite objective in view, he is usually saving to buy a business or a house or a motor car or to bring out his family or a bride from his native land, hence he is anxious to get the job done, collect his money and move on to the next job; the native with a contract in hand is usually in no hurry. He starts with a "Sub" or advance with which he obtains stores, so starting off in debt; then often he works really hard for a period, gets payment for work done, then knocks off for a very long weekend—often Friday to Monday—comes back on the job, gets more payment, when he may take a week off to spend the money in hand, coming back to perhaps complete the work. I have actually seen this process in a number of cases. Naturally, an employer will want the man who can finish his job quickly and within the stipulated time limit.

Though the outline above is the practice of many natives it is not the general practice amongst natives. Many employers have told me after trying both types of labour that they prefer native labour. These reliable ones are assured of regular well-paid employment for most of the year. It is the shiftless ones who are suffering now that other labour is available.

But as long as employment for natives in the South is confined to seasonal types of work even the reliable man will find himself out of work for part of the year. Although some natives are in permanent all-the-year-round employment they would comprise a very negligible minority of employable natives, not more than 20 such cases in the whole district.

Farmers as a class are by far the largest employers of natives. In their cycle of seasonal operations which include crutching (twice in the year), shearing, seeding, harvesting, fence repair and construction, clearing of new land including chopping down, stacking, burning off, root picking, etc., vermin extermination, there are breaks. It is during these breaks that natives depending on these types of occupation find themselves out of work. The longest break (when the farmer usually takes his holiday) is from after harvesting about early December till the burning off season in mid-February. This year during this two month period unemployment amongst natives in this District was particularly bad.

There are also the good seasons such as I struck on my last South-West patrol when I did not contact a single unemployed male adult native. Potato digging, seeding, mill employment and work on Government projects provided jobs for all.

In my opinion, housing also has a bearing on employment prospects for natives. I shall discuss this question under "Housing" later in this report.

Wages in the South are satisfactory. The general practice amongst employers is to pay the basic wage and award rates to natives; in some cases even over the award rates. The rare cases of underpayment that come to notice are promptly handled by me.

#### 5. *Housing and Living Conditions.*

As far as this District is concerned there has been no improvement in the position in respect of the housing and living conditions of the aboriginal population.

Living conditions are at the same deplorable level as last year with the exception that the Department has made provision for water supply, sanitary conveniences and ablutional facilities on some of the native reserves, the centres of communal living for natives among the settled communities of the South.

Housing for 10 native families of this District which was promised by the State Housing Commission last year has not materialised. During the year under review nine natives of this District have been promised homes, three families at Narrogin and two families each at Katanning, Wagin and Gnowangerup. None of these nine houses has been commenced as yet. There are indications, however, that the year 1954-55 will see some definite move to implement within this District the State Housing Commission's promise of homes for natives. Natives in this District are looking forward with hope and interest to this ray of sunshine in their lives—the prospect of real homes for some of them.

As mentioned under "Employment" the problems of housing and employment are co-related. I am of the belief that the provision of homes in the major centres of the Great Southern and South-West will considerably improve employment prospects, particularly for the younger natives. With the expansion

in the building and garage businesses so noticeable in the South of the State, the building trade is sorely in need of carpenters, plumbers, masons, while garage attendants and mechanics are in very short supply in the garage trade. There is a dearth also of domestics for daily work in homes in various townships. The Railways also have vacancies for cleaners and shed-hands. There are also other avenues of employment open to young people. But builders, carpenters, plumbers, garage owners and other employers are not prepared to apprentice in their trades or professions young coloured lads who have no home or fixed place of abode other than a bush camp or tent or a reserve, here today and gone tomorrow, just as housewives are reluctant to employ unknown girls from the camps.

I feel sure that if some at least of the native families could be accommodated in homes in the various country towns of this district, the sons and daughters from those homes, whose academic qualifications would not qualify them for other positions, would have no difficulty in finding jobs in the avocations listed above. The settled existence in the one place and the physiological uplift provided by a homelife as members of a community would provide the incentive to remain and work in the town in which their homes are.

Meanwhile, the sense of injustice still grows and rankles among the part-white, part-aboriginal hybrid of the South at this lack of provision for a section of the community whose need for housing and improved living conditions is so obvious but whom, until recently, successive Governments seem to have overlooked. The attention of this small, helpless group in this District, is focussed on experiments at York in the sincere hope that soon the Government will implement its promise to provide housing for natives further afield and so help to tackle a problem which if resolutely and generously tackled in the space of a few short years can provide long overdue homes for a needy and deserving section of the community.

Not only will housing stabilise employment but, because of a more settled existence, continuity of education for the children must also result with consequent improvement in school results and academic progress. The present irresponsibility of the native, must, with improved living conditions, give way to a sense of responsibility and acceptance of obligations imposed by life as a householder in the community.

## 6. Rationing.

In the absence of any facilities for aged and infirm natives in the district this Department, to meet its obligations to this unfortunate section of the aboriginal people, provides them with rations according to a fixed schedule and in needy cases, with clothing and also shelter in the town of tents.

In the days when Marribank Mission was a Departmental Settlement old and infirm natives of both sexes found shelter there. At present the absence of a home for these aged and infirm natives is keenly felt. Even were there such a place all such cases, I am sure, would not avail themselves of it. There are amongst these old and infirm natives—full bloods in many cases—many who have spent all their lives in the wide open spaces and enjoying their freedom. As some of them have put it to me, they will not be happy in the evening of their lives to end their days within a Mission or institution. To these few old souls the Department wisely provides sustenance and the means to end their days with reasonable shelter and free from want by the issue of rations.

In some cases rations are also issued to the families of natives experiencing hardship as the result of imprisonment of the breadwinner.

The following table shows the number of natives and the places at which they are rationed :—

Place of Issue.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Collie	4	4	8
Roelands	4	...	4
Gnowangerup	4	...	4
Mount Barker	4	...	4
Narrogin	3	...	3
Katanning	2	...	2
Wagin	1	...	1
Boyup Brook	1	...	1
Dardanup	1	...	1
Total	24	4	28

## 7. Welfare Bodies.

In addition to the four Native Welfare Associations formed during the previous year at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning and Kojonup, two further Native Welfare Associations began functioning during the current year at Gnowangerup and Mount Barker. The Collie Native Welfare group, though not formed into an Association, are yet functioning in a most enterprising manner. The earliest welfare group formed in the District since I joined, the Pingelly-Brookton Native Welfare Association, has become defunct.

With the formation of the two latest welfare groups all the major centres of native population in this district, with two exceptions Pingelly and Williams, have active welfare bodies functioning in them. The objects of these welfare groups were outlined in my last Annual Report. The two new groups have much the same objectives as the earlier formed groups.

Achievements since my last report are the completion of the first cottage in its programme by the Katanning Native Welfare Committee. This cottage comprising three rooms and a bathroom built on the Native Reserve was occupied last November and a second cottage, built from materials comprising a disused school building in the Wagin District, is nearing completion.

At Collie the second house being built for a native family is almost complete ; the first home, a six-roomed cottage, being already in occupation.

Certain factors have prevented the other Welfare groups from following in the footsteps of the Katanning and Collie groups. The Wagin Committee have been hampered first by delay in gazettal of the Wagin Reserve (now gazetted), and secondly in the provision of a water supply and lavatory, laundry and shower facilities on the Wagin Native Reserve. The provision of these facilities is now under consideration and once they are constructed the Welfare Committee has a starting point for its work which is the construction of small cottages on the reserve.

Similarly, the Kojonup Welfare Committee, a most earnest band of workers and well-wishers of the native people of their district, have been held up. Due to a misunderstanding the native reserve for Kojonup has not yet been gazetted, though this is expected to be done shortly. Treasury sanction has already been received for extension of the town water supply to the reserve and the erection thereon of laundry, lavatory and shower facilities and attempts are being made to have electricity made available to this reserve. The Welfare Committee at present are negotiating for the disused bachelor quarters of the Hester School near Bridgetown, so that the building can be erected on the Kojonup Reserve as a residence for a native family. In a variety of ways this group is watching the interests of the natives of the District. Sales of goods are regularly held to raise funds for welfare work, social evenings have been arranged for the local coloured population and the Committee is campaigning solidly for homes for natives at Kojonup.

Gnowangerup Native Welfare Committee had planned a rest centre for natives at Gnowangerup to provide accommodation for those coming from Borden, Ongerup and other outlying parts of the District for hospitalisation, shopping and to catch trains. This Rest Centre was to be on the Commonage but it was decided to obtain a new reserve and build the Centre thereon. The New Native Reserve has recently been gazetted and financial sanction received for water supply, laundry, lavatories and showers to be provided thereon. As soon as these are completed the Committee hopes to pursue its original plan of a rest centre. This Committee has also been active in providing amenities at the local hospital for native patients.

Mount Barker Native Welfare Committee has also been held up because as yet no facilities have been provided on the Reserve, its chief problem being lack of a water supply and of an ingress road to the Reserve. These problems have been temporarily overcome by members of the Committee themselves providing water to residents on the reserve and bulldozing a track on the Reserve. The Committee has been most helpful in suggesting possible sites for boring which I have recommended be followed up by the Public Works Department. This Committee also by means of sales of goods and an impending Art Exhibition, which has received press publicity, is endeavouring to raise funds for use in welfare work in the District.

Apart from its efforts for the housing of natives, Dr. Walsh's Collie group is making strenuous efforts to obtain permanent employment for natives in the coal mines and in other avenues of employment, and also to secure State Housing Commission homes for natives so employed.

The value of all these efforts by the different groups working within various districts for native welfare is that by their example they are educating others and helping to dispel the ignorance and prejudice so prevalent in regard to the native problem. To the native the presence of these groups is an indication that there are amongst us many not insensible to the disabilities and injustices of their position. These groups also represent a section of the electors of this district who in no uncertain terms are pressing the claims of the native people of the State for a fairer deal and particularly for removal of those more glaring inconsistencies and disparities in regard to housing, Social Services and legislation of a restrictive nature which tend to emphasise the difference between the hybrid people of the State and their white countrymen.

These welfare bodies are doing a grand job and to them is due the thanks of the Department and the native people whom, on a purely voluntary basis, they are giving their time and their purse to help.

In this section of my report I must not forget to mention the Coolbaroo League, that group of courageous and enterprising persons, all of aboriginal descent, who are working to restore among their own people a pride of race and a sense of self-respect in the midst of the difficulties that beset them. Regular monthly visits are made to Narrogin by the League which holds a most successful monthly dance, either in the lesser Hall or the Town Hall. These dances provide some social life and recreation for the resident of many outlying districts who flock to them, starved as they are for recreation other than that of a more dubious nature. I look forward to the extension of the activities of the League to other centres in my District.

### Conclusion.

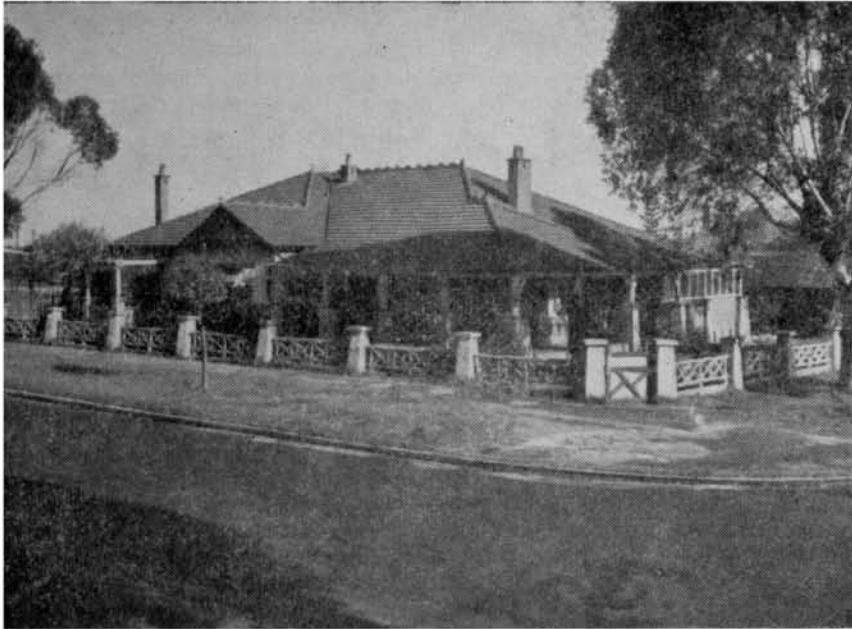
During the year under report 32 native-part white-part aboriginal persons of my District secured Citizenship Rights; 32 pathetic figures who stood in witness boxes in Courts through the District and who by their sworn testimony had to satisfy the Citizenship Rights Board in their respective districts that they were fit and worthy persons to be citizens of the land of their forefathers, the land of their origin, the land of their birth—Australia Fair—*fair*. The word seems a mockery. In the minds of a growing coloured minority there is little of fairness in the position they find themselves in today. Denuded of civic status by unfair State laws (which peculiarly enough, are able to override the Commonwealth Nationality and Citizenship Act which does not debar natives from Citizenship), which discriminate against persons of aboriginal descent in this State, it is no wonder that natives are beginning to be confirmed in the view that Australia is a land only for the fair, the white skinned. As long as their birthright in their own land, namely a civic status, Citizenship, is withheld from them there can be little real progress for the aboriginal people of the State.

The Department of Native Affairs, within its sphere and within its limited scope—limited by absurd restrictive laws applying to natives, laws which in many matters make it an offence for a native to do something which it is not an offence for a white man to do—has done what it can and has gone as far as it can in the welfare of those persons it is committed to help. But the Department does not make laws, it only applies them. Speaking for myself, it is irksome and humiliating to apply many of the outmoded provisions of an Act passed in 1905 and now so outmoded in parts as to be farcical if viewed in proper perspective.

The remedy to this state of affairs does not lie in the hands of the Department or its officers. Citizenship, housing, improved living conditions, etc., are not things the Department can produce like the conjurer a rabbit out of the hat. But these things can be made possible by bold planning by the Government and by the education of the people to their responsibility to a much maligned and long overlooked section of the community, so that the people through their elected representatives may press for the overhaul of the creaking and rusted machinery of our outmoded laws by which our native people are held in bondage and subjected to an inferior position in the community.

It is my humble opinion that unless the native people can be lifted to a level where their self-respect is restored and where equality with others living in this land offered to them, there will be little incentive or inducement amongst them to better themselves—in fact, no real progress. The only way this can be achieved, in my opinion, is by granting them as human beings equal status with the white man so that they may enjoy the elementary freedoms, now denied them, which is the birthright of all persons of whatever colour or creed.

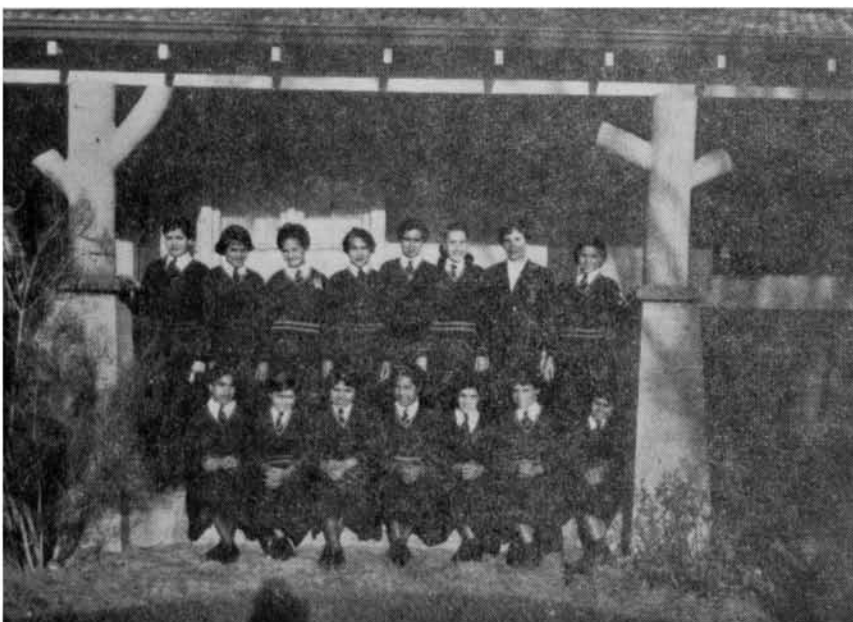
(Sgd.) C. R. WRIGHT WEBSTER,  
District Officer—Southern District.



*Alvan House for Native Girl  
Students, Mt. Lawley*



*Alvan House girls chatting  
with famous aboriginal  
singer, Harold Blair,  
August, 1951*



*Alvan House Girls, 1954*

## SECTION "B"



### Departmental Hostels



Both Homes continued to function very satisfactorily during the year 1953-54. Extracts from Reports of the respective Officers in Charge appear hereunder.

#### ALVAN HOUSE.

In pursuance of the original policy for the establishment of Alvan House, the girls in residence as at the 30th June, 1954, are all attending school—the age range being 13 to 18 years, with a preponderance of young girls, only three of the girls being 16 years of age or over. Consequently, the training and supervision has had to be done in a more personal and patient manner with each girl, but I feel that the results with the younger girls who will have the opportunity of being here for a few years, should be more satisfactory in every way, as they are amenable to discipline and eager to learn; once they overcome their initial shyness and homesickness.

During the six months ended December, 1953, there were six discharged, leaving a balance of nine girls to continue their schooling in 1954; these girls returned and with nine new admissions the first term of 1954 saw 18 girls in residence, with all available accommodation in use. After the May holidays, three girls who were not happy here returned to their families; our number of inmates now being 15.

#### Education.

At the conclusion of the school year 1953, Rosemary Birch succeeded in passing her Junior Examination in six subjects, including Shorthand-Typing and Business Methods. Anita Clinch gained her Junior Technical Certificate in eight subjects. This was quite a creditable performance for both girls. The nine girls who were to continue their school in 1954 all gained promotion to the higher grade with fairly good reports.

The numbers at the various schools at present are as follows :—

Leederville Technical School—1 girl, leaving Standard.

Perth Girls' High School—

1 girl 9th Standard, General Division to sit for Junior at end of year.

3 girls Junior Technical Division, 8th Standard.

3 girls, 7th Standard, 1 General Division, 2 Junior Technical.

Girdlestone High School—

2 girls, 9th Standard—Junior at end of year.

2 girls, 8th Standard.

3 girls, 7th Standard.

The majority of the new girls this year found the city schools very strange and they took some time to become accustomed to the wider range of subjects and greater competition in class due to larger numbers of pupils—but they are all working conscientiously and next term results should show improvement.

Vivian Corbett is a senior school and transport prefect at Perth Girls' High School and carries out her duties well, she is also in charge of Green faction Basketball for the school. Joan Lewis and Rosemary Corbett have each been prefect for a term this year. They are junior girls. Pat Thompson is a school prefect at Girdlestone High School and Ellen Clinch a class prefect at the same school. This is very gratifying.

#### Sport.

The seven girls at Girdlestone High School play hockey with some of the school teams on Saturday afternoons, two of the girls being captains of their teams.

Arrangements are trying to be made so that all girls can join some sporting team for Saturday afternoons, but it is proving somewhat difficult to fit them in as most teams have their quota owing to the season being half finished.



### Vocational.

Phyllis Bennell gained 83 per cent. in her first examination in music in December, 1953.

Miss Judy Schonell has kindly offered to teach all the girls ballet to help them in poise and deportment. She gives them a lesson a week at Ferguson Hall, Mount Lawley. The girls enjoy this recreation and are very keen.

Twelve younger girls attend guides on Friday evenings; three older girls attend Young People's Endeavour.

### Social Activities.

The social activities for the year have been quite varied. They included:—

1. The Royal Garden Party at Government House, which was attended by two senior girls in the Ranger Group.
2. All inmates marched as a group in school uniform in the Youth Parade for Her Majesty the Queen.
3. An enjoyable morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. St. Quentin Downer, Malcolm Street, on the day of the Royal Tour, in a party atmosphere with refreshments, flags and bunting, and a special stand to view the parade being provided.
4. The Ice Follies—tickets for same being graciously supplied by Sir Ross McDonald, Q.C.
5. The U.N.O. young people's ball at Government House Ballroom.
6. The Coolbaroo Ball.
7. The Royal Show.
8. Pleasant party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Ewers.
9. Picnics at Roleystone, Leighton, Canning Dam; Annual Alvan House break-up picnic at Scarborough, Spirit of Youth Bus having supplied transport—McDonald House boys and a few friends as guests.
10. Several other outings at private homes for individual girls.
11. Five girls were confirmed in the Church of England.

### Welfare.

For some considerable time the girls took turns to visit a little native girl, Lesley Bolton, who is a post polio patient in the Golden Age centre on a Sunday afternoon. They enjoyed their visits to the child, taking her some little gift each Sunday, and gave the child quite a lot of pleasure. We also took her on our annual picnic to Scarborough.

### Visitors.

Sir Ross McDonald, Q.C.

Dr. and Mrs. C. Duguid, South Australia, who were very impressed and interested in routine procedure here as a similar house is to be or has been established in South Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Gare of the Native Welfare Council.

### Medical.

For the six months July to December, 1953, colds and 'flu, with one case of bronchitis, were the only ailments. But the first six months of 1954 have been rather trying for all in the house, as there have been several parasitic complaints which have proved rather difficult to cure completely, owing to reinfection during the vacation.

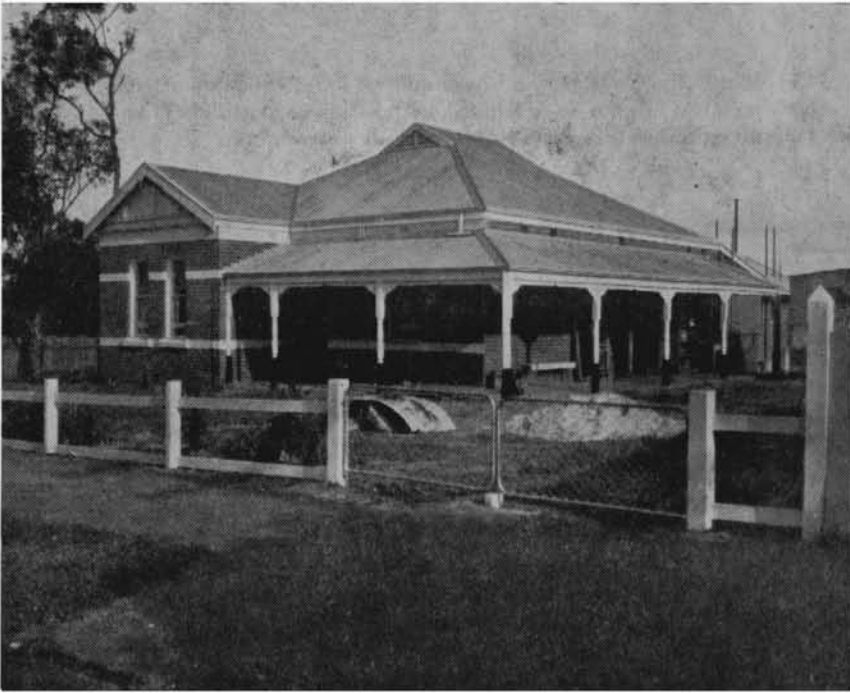
Several of the girls have had numerous boils, abrasions, one a badly poisoned foot, sore eyes, earache and dental caries. The majority of girls attended the dental clinic. At the present time, with the exception of minor complaints, they all seem to be quite well.

### Maintenance.

The side and part of the front verandah has been partitioned off, bricked half way and finished with glass louvres. This replaces the canvas blinds and with the new picket fence greatly improves the appearance of the house, besides making more sleeping accommodation available if necessary. At present the verandah is being used as a recreation room and is very popular with a gramophone, cane chairs and light furniture.

Various small maintenance items have been attended to throughout the year.

(Sgd.) L. F. PULLEN,  
Officer-in-Charge.



*McDonald House for Native Boy Students, West Perth*



*McDonald House Boys, 1954*

## McDONALD HOUSE.

### Staff.

Miss Bertha Thomas from the Mount Margaret Mission was employed for eighteen months as assistant. She was very reliable in the home. She left a few weeks ago to take a position at Bethesda Hospital. Miss Marjorie Conway, an ex-Roelands Mission girl, has now been employed in her stead.

### Buildings.

Extensive alterations and additions have been carried out by the Public Works Department and are nearing completion. This work included the complete replacement of the roof, two chimneys removed, and walls repaired and painted throughout. A new stainless steel sink has been installed in the kitchen together with built in cupboards and a new gas stove. The old bathroom has been converted into a staff bathroom and toilet combined. Additions include bathroom shower recess and toilet for the inmates with a gas hot water system included.

These improvements have been urgently required since this building was taken over by the Native Affairs Department and with the facilities now available further progress in the Home should be assured. This extra accommodation will allow a larger intake of new boys each year.

Three boys were discharged in December, 1953, after having obtained excellent school reports for that year. They have been admitted to trades, one with W.A. Cooperage Pty. Ltd., and the other two with the Perth Modelling Works.

Recent reports indicate that these boys are doing very well in their respective positions.

### Education.

The new year 1954, commenced with six boys including four new arrivals, one of whom left school to take up a trade at the completion of the first term of school.

The remaining five inmates are all attending Perth Boys High School and are doing very well indeed. One boy, who hopes to become a school teacher, was elected as a school prefect and will be sitting for the Junior Examination at the end of 1954. His chances of success in this examination are more than hopeful as he came top of his class at the end of the first term.

All boys are most happy at school and are popular with their fellow students. The efforts of the Headmaster and staff of the school in their attention to these boys, both at their studies and at sport, is deeply appreciated.

### Sport.

All boys play football at school. Two of the eldest are included in the senior team whilst one of the youngest is Captain of the Junior Football team, school gymnastic team and school basketball team. Each boy plays football for various Metropolitan teams also and two of them have had the distinction of being presented with trophies for fairest and best player and most improved player during 1953.

Athletics, tennis and swimming are other sports in which the boys are interested and every effort is being made to ensure that they have ample opportunity to participate whenever possible.

### Social Activities.

Many social evenings have been held in the home. Visitors to these social evenings have included other boys from school, folk from various religious organisations and girls from Alvan House. Socials and picnics have been enjoyed at various times throughout the year when teachers from Perth Boy's High School have some times attended.

Three boys have joined a Boy Scouts Troup at Mount Hawthorn and two of the older boys have become members of a Young People's Fellowship at the North Perth Baptist Church.

During the Queen's visit three of the boys were invited to attend the Garden Party held at Government House, and with the girls from Alvan House were included in the Youth Parade for Her Majesty the Queen later in the day.

All attend Church regularly on Sundays.

**Health.**

Apart from one boy suffering from a mild attack of pneumonia early in the year, the health at McDonald House has been excellent.

The behaviour of all boys has been very good and they have responded to discipline and have done their duties very well.

In conclusion appreciation is recorded for the manner in which people from various churches, schools and sporting organisations have taken an interest in the boys and have done so much to help them.

(Signed) H. Styles,  
Officer in Charge.

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## SECTION "C"

### ● Head Office Administration ●

#### *Finance.*

Departmental expenditure for the year amounted to £256,321. (See Appendix No. 2). The Department exceeded its financial vote by an amount of £32,178. This was caused by a decision given by the Under Treasurer in the concluding stages of the financial year to the effect that this Department had to reimburse the Education Department for its expenditure on native education (£17,106) and the Medical Department for its expenditure on medical and health costs in connection with aborigines (£18,458). No provision had been made in our estimates of expenditure nor in the appropriation by Parliament to this Department for this expenditure.

Expenditure on Missions increased, occasioned by the raising of the Cash Subsidy rate to 22s. 6d. per week from the 1st July, 1953. The Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement was handed over to the United Aborigines Mission to conduct as a Native Mission, on the 13th December, 1953. The Kellerberrin Mission was closed about the 20th October, 1953.

The ration depot at Wallal was closed and the indigent natives absorbed by surrounding stations. Bulk ration provisions sent from Perth to Roebourne for the rationing of indigent natives was no longer continued as the number of indigents had decreased, and rationing was arranged by the issue of orders on local Storekeepers.

Expenditure on native reserves throughout the State increased. The Department continues to make strenuous efforts to have better facilities provided for natives living on reserves, and conditions were advanced on many reserves during the fiscal year.

Expenditure at the Moola Bulla Native Station was heavier, mainly due to a fire which occurred on the Station on the 8th March, 1954, and which destroyed food and clothing stocks to the value of almost £5,000.

Expenditure at McDonald House was higher than the previous year. Alterations and additions are being made to this House to accommodate a larger number of boys and the cost of the additions when completed will be over £4,000.

Loan Funds Expenditure occurred during the year at Moola Bulla Native Station where contract borers conducted extensive boring operations to improve water supplies for stock purposes. A Nissen Hut was erected at Wyndham and it is used by the Field Officer of Native Affairs as an office at the centre (See Appendix No. 1).

#### *The Natives' Medical Fund.*

A statement showing receipts and payments is attached. (See Appendix No. 3).

*Contributions.*—During the year under review 1,990 permits were issued to cover the employment of 4,785 natives. This represents a decrease of 281 permits issued when compared with the previous year's figures. (See table below).

In addition to the above 77 natives availed themselves of the benefits provided by the Fund by making voluntary contributions. The previous year 84 took advantage of this privilege.

Contributions to the Fund decreased on the previous year. The permit to employ system is not popular with employers of natives nor with the individuals themselves, and the Department has recommended the abolition of the permit system and the Natives Medical Fund. Such an abolition is dependent upon the passage of amending legislation to the Native Administration Act. Amending legislation introduced by the Government in 1953 failed to pass the Legislative Council, and it is understood that the Government will reintroduce amending legislation in the 1954 session of State Parliament.

The following table shows details from the inception of the Fund :—

Year.	No. of Permits Issued.	No. of Natives Employed.	No. of voluntary contributions.	Net receipts from Contributions.	Payments.	Government grants to Fund to maintain solvency.
				£	£	
1937-38	1,071	3,665	....	2,210	970	....
1938-39	1,442	3,949	....	2,532	2,731	....
1939-40	1,538	4,075	....	3,075	3,417	....
1940-41	1,724	4,138	....	3,445	3,595	....
1941-42	1,914	4,366	....	3,826	4,086	....
1942-43	2,198	4,628	....	3,905	3,003	....
1943-44	2,453	5,625	16	4,360	3,727	....
1944-45	2,364	5,351	6	4,571	6,262	....
1945-46	2,427	5,463	9	4,301	4,182	....
1946-47	2,521	5,636	13	4,304	4,361	....
1947-48	2,755	5,648	3	4,357	3,499	....
1948-49	2,805	6,095	5	4,564	3,781	....
1949-50	2,844	6,264	10	4,652	3,542	....
1950-51	2,625	5,677	11	4,358	6,769	....
1951-52	2,417	5,430	204	4,522	6,368	2,500
1952-53	2,271	4,677	84	11,545	12,796	1,330
1953-54	1,990	4,785	77	11,420	20,836	9,149

*Claims Paid.*—Payments to the undermentioned occurred during the year, with the previous year's figures in parentheses :—

Doctors	....	....	....	....	£3,509 (£3,902)
Hospitals	....	....	....	....	£16,683 (£8,269)
Sundries	....	....	....	....	£645 (£626)

Payments to hospitals increased mainly due to a rise in the daily hospital in-patient rates from 21s. to 24s. per day for Medical Fund cases, as fixed by the Medical Department for Government controlled hospitals and Government subsidised hospitals.

Government funds to the extent of £9,139 were used to buttress the Natives' Medical Fund for the year, to enable current commitments to be met.

### Trust Accounts and Investments.

At the 30th June, 1954, a total of 71 savings bank trust accounts were being administered by this Department on behalf of natives. The number of accounts decreased by one over the financial year, seven new accounts having been opened and eight having been closed at the request of the individuals concerned. The sum total held in trust accounts rose by £1,752 0s. 5d. to £4,038 14s. 1d. at the 30th June, 1954. The main reason for this increase was the payment of £1,500 into the account of a widowed half-caste native from the estate of her deceased white husband.

The amount invested in Commonwealth Bonds rose by £1,760 to £7,921 at the 30th June, 1954. Through the year Bonds were purchased on behalf of four natives and another four natives had their Bonds sold at their own request.

### Estates.

During the year the estates of 10 deceased natives of a total value of £182 16s. 2d. were administered by the Department. At the 30th June, 1954, there were six estates awaiting finalization.

### Maintenance.

At the 30th June, 1954 this Department was handling a total of 57 maintenance cases, the same number as at the 30th June, 1953.

Five new cases were started during the year, Court Orders having been obtained against the fathers. Five cases were finalised, the Court Orders having expired and maintenance being fully paid.

### *Christmas Cheer.*

As in the past at Christmas, £600 was again donated by the Lotteries Commission for distribution of Christmas Cheer for Christmas, 1953. In addition £5 was received from the Young Contingent of the Victoria League in Western Australia.

These generous donations made it possible to brighten the lives of some 2,000 native children and destitute adult natives in Missions, Institutions and on Reserves on Christmas Day by the distribution of gifts and provisions to give added enjoyment on the festival occasion.

### *Lotteries Commission Grant.*

Amounts of £7,149 16s. 7d. and £3,461 7s. 4d. were donated generously by the Lotteries Commission to Native Missions and Governmental Institutions respectively conducted for the benefit of natives. It is wished to record sincere appreciation to the Lotteries Commission for their continued assistance.

### *Population Statistics.*

See Appendix No. 4.

### *Offences by Natives.*

Five hundred and thirty natives were convicted on 615 charges during the year.

Offences connected with liquor accounted for 412 charges. They were :—

Drunk	....	....	....	....	268
Receiving Liquor	....	....	....	....	135
Soliciting Liquor	....	....	....	....	5
Being on licensed premises	....	....	....	....	4

Other charges were for :—

Disorderly offences	....	....	....	....	68
Offences against the person	....	....	....	....	26
Offences against the property	....	....	....	....	38, including 25 of stealing.

Of the 530 convicted :—

- (a) 74 were full blood aborigines,
- (b) 456 were males,
- (c) 10 were under 18 years of age.

### *Offences against Native Administration Act by Persons other than Natives in Law.*

Seventy-one persons were convicted on 75 charges.

Three were persons holding Certificates of Citizenship and three holders of Certificates of Exemption.

Charges were :—

(a) Supplying liquor to natives	....	....	....	....	67
(b) For being unlawfully on Native Reserves or Camps	....	....	....	....	7
(c) Cohabiting with a native woman	....	....	....	....	1

### *Children's Court Orders and Orders Issued under sections 13 and 39 of the Natives Administration Act authorising removal and detention of Natives.*

At the 30th June, 1954, 86 orders were in force. These consisted of :—

- 85 Orders issued through the Children's Courts.
- 1 Order issued under Section 39 of the N.A.A.

Of these 86 persons under Committal orders :—

- 34 are in supervised employment.
- 52 are detained in Native Institutions.

**Citizenship.**

During the year ended 30th June, 1954, notification was received of 130 applications for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications notified since inception, 956.

Of this number :—

730 applications were granted  
 137 applications were dismissed.  
 31 applications were withdrawn.  
 33 applications were adjourned.  
 25 applications are still awaiting hearing.

**Exemption.**

Eighty-six applications were received during the year bringing the total applications to 851.

Of this number :—

826 have been granted.  
 23 have been refused.  
 2 await the Hon. Minister's decision.

At the 30th June, 1954, 468 Certificates were in existence, the remainder having been cancelled through death, misbehaviour or the holder having been granted Citizenship Rights.

3rd August, 1954.

S. G. MIDDLETON,  
 Commissioner of Native Affairs.



## Appendix No. 1.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

*Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1953-54.*

## GENERAL LOAN FUNDS.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Payments.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st July, 1953 .....	22,206	15 1	Moola Bulla Native Station—Water Supply .....	1,029	8 0
Public Works—refund overcharge on Mc- Donald House—furniture .....	11	15 7	Wyndham—Nissen Hut for office pur- poses .....	791	11 11
	22,218	10 8			
Unexpended balance at 30th June, 1954....	20,397	10 9			
	£1,820	19 11		£1,820	19 11

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the Books and Documents produced.

(Signed) W. NICHOLAS,  
Auditor General.

Appendix No. 2.  
DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.  
*Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1953-54.*

**NATIVE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TRUST FUND.**

Receipts.				Payments.				
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grant under Section 5 of Native Administration Act, 1905-47	....		10,000	0 0				
Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund :								
Amount voted	210,337	0 0						
Rebates	3,675	9 2						
Excess	32,178	6 2						
			246,190	15 4				
Unexpended balance at 1st July, 1953			131	2 1				
			256,321	17 5				
<i>Note :</i>								
Revenue collections (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund)								
Departmental :								
Alvan House	484	10 10						
Bennett House	238	18 0						
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement	283	13 8						
La Grange Native Depot	232	0 10						
Moola Bulla Native Station	26,112	13 5						
McDonald House	216	5 3						
District Offices	619	3 2						
Maintenance (recoup subsidy to Missions)	833	10 2						
Boarding out cases	22	17 6						
Relief to natives	1,516	1 1						
General Administration—(Permit Fees, etc)	1,501	17 10						
Native Reserves	68	0 0						
			32,129	11 9				
Child Endowment—(Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund—Rebates)—								
Alvan House	291	12 11						
Bennett House	4	2 10						
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement	48	17 2						
La Grange Native Depot	666	0 0						
Moola Bulla Native Station	2,575	6 4						
McDonald House	89	9 11						
			3,675	9 2				
Institutions—								
Alvan House—								
Salaries and Wages	721	8 11						
Contingencies	2,798	2 4	3,519	11 3				
Bennett House—								
Salaries and Wages	265	18 8						
Contingencies	787	1 6	1,053	0 2				
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement—								
(to 15th December, 1953)								
Salaries and Wages	925	2 8						
Contingencies	1,540	1 11	2,465	4 7				
La Grange Native Depot—								
Salaries and Wages	1,448	3 0						
Contingencies	4,587	11 5	6,035	14 5				
Moola Bulla Native Station—								
Salaries and Wages	8,418	3 7						
Contingencies	23,306	3 11	31,724	7 6				
McDonald House—								
Salaries and Wages	700	15 1						
Contingencies	3,975	4 3	4,675	19 4				
Office Administration :—								
Head Office—								
Salaries and Wages :								
Commissioner	1,565	3 11						
Deputy Commissioner	1,244	10 9						
Head Office—Clerks	12,564	0 6						
Contingencies	3,082	19 5	18,456	14 7				
Sub-District Office—Broome.								
Salaries	1,174	18 8						
Contingencies	590	18 9	1,765	17 5				
Sub-District Office—Carnarvon								
Salaries and Wages	1,621	15 10						
Contingencies	1,747	2 8	3,368	18 6				
District Office—Central (Perth)								
Salaries and Wages	5,868	9 2						
Contingencies	341	3 0	6,209	12 2				
District Office—Derby.								
Salaries and Wages	1,606	4 1						
Contingencies	850	13 6	2,505	17 7				
Sub-District Office—Geraldton.								
Salaries and Wages and Protector's allowances	1,674	10 2						
Contingencies	1,921	14 6	3,596	4 8				
Sub-District Office—Kalgoorlie								
Salaries and Wages and Protector's allowances	1,454	18 3						
Contingencies	620	1 10	2,075	0 1				
District Office—Narrogin.								
Salaries and Wages and Protector's allowances	2,658	3 8						
Contingencies	761	7 5	3,419	11 1				
Sub-District Office—Port Hedland.								
Salaries and Wages	1,585	2 8						
Contingencies	994	17 3	2,579	19 11				
Sub-District Office—Wyndham								
Salaries and Wages	1,335	4 4						
Contingencies	646	10 5	1,981	14 9				
Assistance to Missions—								
Cash Subsidy on Rations	66,224	5 9						
Grants-in-Aid	17,119	5 4						
Blankets and Clothing	4,995	3 6						
Medical and Transport	4,348	0 4						
Educational	304	9 11	92,991	4 10				
Boarding Out Cases				515 7 4				
Relief to Natives					14,455 15 3			
Bulk Ration Depots					4,290 17 10			
Native Reserves					3,913 6 9			
Special Grant to Natives' Medical Fund					9,149 0 11			
Reimbursement to Medical Department—								
Medical and Health Services					18,457 16 0			
Reimbursement to Education Department—								
Expenditure on Native Education					17,106 0 6			
			£256,321	17 5			£256,321	17 5



Appendix No. 5.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SUBSIDISATION OF MISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS FOR YEAR 1953-54.

Mission.	Average Number of Natives Assisted.			(1) Expenditure : Subsidy.			(2) Expenditure : Blankets and Clothing.		(3) Expenditure : Medical, Transport, etc.			Overall Subsistence Expenditure. Equals (1), (2), (3).		Expenditure Grants-in-aid.		Total Expenditure for Year on Missions.	
	Children under 21 Years.	Adults.	Total.	Bulk Ration.	Cash.	Per Head Per Annum.	Blankets and Clothing.	Per Head Per Annum.	Medical, Transport, etc.	Per Head Per Annum.	Subsistence Expenditure.	Per Head Per Annum.	Grants in Aid.	Per Head Per Annum.	Expenditure.	Per Head Per Annum.	
Pallotine, Balgo Hills, via Hall's Creek	46	19	65	£	2,533	£ s. d.	166	£ s. d.	95	£ s. d.	2,794	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	2,794	£ s. d.	
Beagle Bay, via Broome	88	21	109	....	4,548	41 14 6	373	3 8 5	500	4 11 9	5,421	....	....	....	5,421	....	
Churches of Christ, Carnarvon	96	1	97	....	4,790	49 7 7	....	....	495	5 2 0	5,285	2,815	....	....	8,100	....	
U.A.M. Cosmo Newbery, via Laverton	....	25	25	523	....	20 18 5	18	0 14 5	29	1 3 2	570	....	....	....	570	....	
A.A.E.M. Cundeleele, via Zanthus	20	60	80	2,106	....	26 6 6	366	4 11 6	296	3 14 0	2,768	528	....	....	3,296	....	
U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing	17	25	42	751	....	17 17 7	291	6 18 6	77	1 16 8	1,119	461	....	....	1,580	....	
Forrest River, via Wyndham	67	28	95	....	3,344	35 4 0	200	2 2 1	131	1 7 7	3,675	....	....	....	3,675	....	
U.A.M. Gnowangerup	40	....	30	....	1,307	43 11 4	19	0 11 8	271	9 0 8	1,597	....	....	....	1,597	....	
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	30	....	40	....	2,040	51 0 0	31	0 15 6	27	0 13 6	2,098	241	....	....	2,339	....	
Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong	50	50	100	3,378	....	33 15 7	382	3 12 5	304	3 0 9	4,044	....	....	....	4,044	....	
Kalumburu, Drysdale River	29	64	93	....	2,732	29 7 6	582	6 5 2	106	1 2 0	3,420	....	....	....	3,420	....	
Kurrawang, via Kalgoorlie	10	30	40	1,101	....	27 10 6	152	3 16 0	101	2 10 6	1,354	1,092	....	....	2,446	....	
F.A.M. Kellerberrin (closed 20-10-53)	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	....	....	....	4	45 2 8	....	....	4	55 8 1	
Lombadina, via Broome	29	21	50	....	1,804	36 1 7	70	1 8 0	112	2 4 2	1,986	....	....	....	1,986	....	
Marribank, via Kalamang	25	....	25	....	821	32 16 10	93	3 14 5	71	2 16 10	985	....	....	....	985	....	
Mogumber Methodist	70	4	74	....	3,541	47 17 0	61	0 16 6	492	6 13 0	4,094	3,000	....	....	4,094	....	
Mt. Margaret, via Morgans	60	25	85	....	5,782	68 0 6	1,198	14 11 0	251	2 19 0	7,231	1,436	....	....	8,667	....	
New Norcia	108	....	108	....	5,625	52 1 8	177	1 12 9	301	2 15 9	6,103	....	....	....	6,103	....	
Churches of Christ, Norseman	49	....	49	....	1,353	27 12 3	14	0 5 8	129	2 12 9	1,496	3,318	....	....	4,814	....	
Native Mission Farms, Roelands	80	....	80	....	4,282	53 10 6	116	1 9 0	189	2 7 3	4,587	28	....	....	4,615	....	
Sunday Island, via Derby	57	25	82	....	2,729	33 5 7	133	1 12 5	127	1 10 11	2,989	....	....	....	2,989	....	
Pallotine Mission School, Tardun	62	....	62	....	1,307	45 1 4	42	0 13 6	130	2 1 11	2,800	....	....	....	2,800	....	
St. Francis Xavier's, Wandering	29	....	29	....	....	....	....	....	107	3 14 0	1,414	400	....	....	1,814	....	
U.A.M. Warburton Ranges	66	20	86	2,609	....	30 6 8	98	1 2 9	101	1 3 6	2,808	....	....	....	2,808	....	
Presbyterian, Wotjulum, via Derby	37	84	121	....	3,902	32 5 0	430	3 11 1	207	1 14 2	4,539	3,800	....	....	8,339	....	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>10,468</b>	<b>55,128</b>	<b>39 6 11</b>	<b>4,996</b>	<b>2 19 11</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>2 15 9</b>	<b>75,241</b>	<b>45 2 8</b>	<b>17,119</b>	<b>1 5 5</b>	<b>92,360</b>	<b>55 8 1</b>	