

N.A.W.A.

1958

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT
 OF THE
 ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD
 FOR THE
 Year ended 30th June, 1958



BY COMMAND

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Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1958

Presented to the Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary,
pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-43

I. THE BOARD

Personnel and Meetings

During the year the following changes took place in the personnel of the Board. The Chairman, Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, O.B.E., retired and was succeeded by Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, who became Chairman, in his capacity as Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department. Due to his appointment as Assistant Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, Mr. M. H. Saxby relinquished his position as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare and resigned from membership of the Board.

Mrs. P. Gibbs completed her third-year term as Aboriginal Member and as a result of an election for the position, Mr. H. S. Groves was appointed. It has not yet been possible to obtain a nomination to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full-blood Aboriginal member.

The constitution of the Board at 30th June, 1958, was as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—Mr. A. G. Kingsmill (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Vacant.

Officer of the Department of Public Health—Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction—Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.

Member of Police Force—Superintendent P. R. Clifton.

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

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

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

Two Aborigines—

(a) One full-blood—Vacant.

(b) One having admixture of Aboriginal blood—Mr. H. S. Groves.

Policy

Vigorous measures were continued during the year to implement the policy of the Board towards ultimate assimilation of the Aboriginal people into the community. Allied to action by the Board in providing housing in country towns an added impetus was given this particular object by the activities of various philanthropic organisations throughout the State in awakening the interest of their members in the Aboriginal problem and demonstrating, by concrete help, their willingness to assist the Aborigines materially and engender a better feeling among other members of the community towards them.

Visits by Board Members

Visits were made by the Superintendent to fourteen Aboriginal Stations—eight on two occasions—and on thirty-two occasions to Aborigines Reserves. In addition, country districts were visited on numerous occasions to confer with local authorities regarding Aboriginal welfare and to address various clubs on the same subject.

Several other members of the Board also carried out inspections of Stations and Reserves.

General Expenditure

Expenditure by the Board from Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £194,072, an increase of £3,462 on the sum expended during the previous year.

From General Loan Account £18,484 was paid, compared with £4,772 during the preceding twelve months.

Acknowledgments

Greatly-valued assistance was rendered the Board in its administration by other State Departments such as Education, Works, Agriculture, Health, Police, Lands, Forestry, Crown Solicitor and the Housing Commission.

The interest and co-operation of Church groups, philanthropic organisations and district Aboriginal Welfare Committees were maintained and the benefit derived by Aborigines throughout the State, both materially and socially, was outstanding. Special thanks in this regard are due to Apex, Rotary, Lions and Soroptimist Clubs, the organisers of the Moree Social Club for Aboriginal Women, The Kempsey Aborigines Welfare Committee, Armidale Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines and the Dareton Citizen's Committee.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION

Housing

Because of increased Loan Funds made available, it was possible to pursue the housing programme to a greater extent than during the previous year. Expenditure amounted to £18,484, allowing for the construction of one town house in Wellington, two at Brewarrina, one each in Kempsey and Frederickton, and five in Greenhills.

To assist Aborigines in the acquirement of property, the Board approved advances totalling £1,950. This sum constituted the balance of an amount of £9,500 originally made available some years ago by the Treasury to a Special Deposits Account for the express purpose of aiding Aborigines in the direction mentioned. It was expected that, as the Special Deposits Account was recouped from repayments by those persons assisted, the needs of other applicants could be met.

During the four years the scheme has been in operation eleven Aboriginal families have received advances, and, with the exception of one case, repayments have been satisfactory. In view of the position, an approach was made to the Treasury for supplementation of the original sum made available, and, as a result, a further amount of £10,000 was provided.

Education

It is the policy of both the Aborigines Welfare Board and the State Government that, wherever possible, Aboriginal children should receive their education in the ordinary Public Schools, rather than in those schools established primarily for Aboriginal pupils—those latter have been erected on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves where distances from the nearest towns preclude the attendance of students at the State Schools.

The Aboriginal schools, however, are staffed by fully qualified teachers of the Department of Education and the curriculum laid down is practically the same as that followed in the ordinary schools.

During the period under review the Aboriginal school at Gulargambone was closed and the pupils enrolled at the local State school. This was the last Aboriginal school situated in a town where there was also in existence a separate school for white children.

Secondary education is available to any Aboriginal child possessing the required qualifications and practically every country High School throughout the State has one or two Aboriginal students enrolled. Of children residing on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves only, there are approximately 107 attending High Schools. There would, undoubtedly, be many more additional to these, from families which are wholly assimilated and do not come under notice of the Board.

To assist and encourage students to progress to a higher standard of education, the Board makes annual awards of bursaries to Aboriginal pupils on the recommendation of the Department of Education and as the result of competitive external examinations set by that Department, and held in conjunction with the annual Primary Final and Intermediate Certificate Examinations.

It is customary to award at least four new scholarships each year, in addition to extending some of those held by bursars who, after successfully negotiating the Intermediate Certificate Examination, elect to continue on to the Leaving Certificate. Each bursary carries an annual grant of £50 and, dependent on the progress and behaviour of the bursar concerned, is made available by proportionate payments in respect of the particular school term.

During the year the Board approved the award of eight bursaries to selected pupils, bringing the number of such bursaries in operation to twenty.

In addition to bursaries awarded by the Board, several outside philanthropic bodies have endowed scholarships for Aboriginal pupils on the same basis as those granted by the Board.

Welfare Activities

The Board maintains a staff of six male Welfare Officers and two Female Welfare Officers. One male and one female Welfare Officer are stationed at Head Office, the remainder being located at various country towns throughout the State.

Each male Welfare Officer is required to attend to all matters concerning the interests and general welfare of Aborigines within the district allotted to him and to maintain constant personal contact with them with a view to improving their living conditions, securing employment for them and maintaining a liaison between employer and employee.

The Officer is also expected to do his utmost towards the improvement of social amenities in Aboriginal communities and to bring about a better social relationship with the white community. To this end he is required to identify himself, so far as possible, with the public life of the various communities within his district to stimulate interest in, and sympathy with, the policy for the uplift and assimilation of the Aboriginal people. With this in mind each Officer is expected to address civic and philanthropic organisations on subjects relating to native welfare.

Although Welfare Officers visit all Aboriginal Stations and Reserves within their districts, on at least two occasions each year, their activities lie primarily among those Aborigines not residing in controlled areas and, to maintain constant contact with these, it is necessary for them to cover great distances and spend the majority of their time in the field.

Some of the main functions of male Welfare Officers are to protect Aborigines against exploitation by employers and to help them gain their rights in matters involving legal procedure. In this connection the efforts of a Welfare Officer in the Western District are worthy of mention. Through his instrumentality one Aborigine received a considerable amount of compensation for loss of a leg and five children have accepted an excellent settlement arising from the death of their mother. Other legal action promulgated by the Welfare Officer covers a further two compensation cases, one equity case and one in respect of probate. It is stressed that these matters would probably never have been taken up and brought to a successful conclusion, failing the initiation of action and inquiries by the Welfare Officer. Thanks are also due to the Public Solicitor and Registrar of Workers' Compensation Commission for the great assistance rendered by them.

During the year male Welfare Officers placed 269 persons in employment, attended court on fifty occasions, delivered eighteen public addresses and gave three talks over the radio.

Both the female Welfare Officers are trained nurses. The one stationed at Head Office is primarily concerned with arranging the admission of children from the country to metropolitan hospitals, when necessary, and placing teenage girls in employment throughout the State. In addition, it devolves on her to inspect periodically wards in employment, where possible, and to report on homes and living conditions of applicants for wards. As opportunity permits this Officer visits country Aboriginal Stations and Reserves to educate and advise mothers in child welfare, home management and domestic and personal hygiene.

The other Female Welfare Officer has her headquarters at Kempsey and operates in the North Coast and Tablelands areas, where there are heavy concentrations of Aborigines

and where the incidence of hookworm and roundworm among children is pronounced. In addition to the usual duties associated with the position, the Officer has been working in conjunction with medical staff of the Department of Public Health in an intensive campaign towards the eradication of worm infestation.

"Dawn Magazine"

Publication of this journal still continues to be an unqualified success. In addition to providing monthly entertainment to Aboriginal adults and children throughout the State, its columns have been more and more utilised to educate mothers in the rudiments of baby welfare and domestic hygiene, to explain to the people particular facets of the Board's administration, to locate missing persons and to acquaint others of moneys standing to their credit in trust accounts, long forgotten by them.

The demand by white persons for regular copies of the publication has increased steadily, and the journal is even sent to interested people in the United Kingdom and America.

Summer Seaside Camp

The annual Summer Camp for Aboriginal children from outback districts was again held on the La Perouse Aborigines Reserve, extending from the 5th to the 19th January, 1958. A total of seventy-six children attended.

Examination of the children was carried out by the School Medical Service and the School Dental Service. In addition to testing the children for tuberculosis, injections of BCG vaccine were given as a precaution against this disease.

Since the camps were first held at La Perouse the children have been accommodated under canvas. As living in tents has proved to be not altogether satisfactory, particularly during inclement weather, it was decided to erect two "Nissen" huts, one to house girls and the other for boys. It is hoped that the structures will be completed and in readiness for the next camp.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

Aboriginal children come under legal control of the Board following an application by a parent or guardian in this regard or through committal by a competent court.

In those cases where children are committed as a result of being neglected the initial action is usually taken by a Welfare Officer who, however, will adopt this course only as a last resort and after all efforts to prevail on parents to improve the living conditions of the home have proved abortive. Neglected children may be committed to a Children's Home constituted under the Aborigines Protection Act for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards.

The Act also provides for the boarding-out of a ward in a selected foster home. If no suitable foster parents are available, the only alternative is to place the ward in a home, managed by Officers of the Board. Two such homes operate, one at Cootamundra for girls, the other at Kinchela for boys.

On reaching school leaving age a ward may be placed in employment under prescribed conditions which ensure that such ward receives proper care and remuneration while enjoying a satisfactory standard of living.

Statistics showing the number and placement of wards during the year are shown in Appendix "A". Brief accounts of activities of the two homes conducted by the Board appear at the end of this report.

IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY

Sixteen Aboriginal Stations throughout the State were maintained by the Board during the year.

Supervision on each Station is vested in a married couple, acting as Manager and Matron, the latter in many instances being a trained nurse.

An Aboriginal Station is more or less a community settlement, comprising a two- or three-bedroom house for each family, a church, recreation hall, medical treatment clinic, staff residence and a school, where the distance from the nearest town precludes attendance by children at a Public School.

The primary purpose of a Station is to provide a place of residence for those Aborigines incapable of fending for themselves in the general community because of age, illness or any other reason.

All able-bodied men are expected to work and support their families. In other cases, however, where the residents concerned are unable to follow employment they are provided by the Board with food rations, medicines, blankets and clothing.

In addition to the general management of Stations, Managers and Matrons are expected to devote their energies towards the moral and social welfare of residents by encouraging them to acquire habits of thrift and personal hygiene and a pride in their homes and surroundings, so that eventually they may reach that standard where they could, if so desired, remove themselves from the Board's supervision and occupy, with credit, a niche in the community.

Special attention is given to expectant and nursing mothers to ensure that they receive proper food and care for themselves and the babies.

Appendix "B" gives the population of the various Stations as at 30th June, 1958. Brief accounts of activities appear at the end of this report.

V. ABORIGINAL RESERVES GENERALLY

As in the case of Aboriginal Stations, Aborigines Reserves are areas set aside for the exclusive occupation and use by Aborigines. They differ to this extent, however, that they are without permanent supervision and do not possess the amenities and facilities available on Stations.

Living standards of people on Reserves are of a varying degree. On most of these areas, the homes have been erected by Aborigines themselves, although in some cases new homes have been erected by the Board to provide a better standard of living to help prepare these people for eventual assimilation in the general community.

In some cases, occupied Reserves receive a degree of supervision by a person—generally the teacher-in-charge of the Aboriginal School on the Reserve—appointed in this regard, for which a small allowance is paid. Supervision of the majority of Reserves is exercised by local Police.

Appendix "C" sets out statistics in respect of Reserves.

VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS

So far as can be established from a survey conducted in 1956-57, the Aboriginal population in New South Wales is as follows:—

Full Bloods	235
Half Castes	6,600
Lesser Castes	6,763
	<u>13,598</u>

Of the total number, 5,001 reside on Stations and Reserves under control of the Board.

In this State very few Aborigines, if any, are nomads living under primitive tribal conditions. For the most part they reside on Stations and Reserves or in communities in, or adjacent to, country towns. Apart from these, many rent or own homes, and, being completely assimilated do not choose to have any contact whatever with the Board.

Labour and Employment

Except during one period of drought, employment throughout the year was satisfactory, particularly in South Coast districts. To a greater degree Aborigines have been forsaking work of a casual nature to engage in permanent employment with such instrumentalities as the Railways Department, Main Roads Board and Water and Sewerage Board. The greater number, however, still followed seasonal occupations, such as shearing and pea-picking. In isolated cases individuals are self-employed as shearing and fencing contractors and comparatively speaking, have become men of substance.

Aborigines receive award rates of pay for work performed and generally are treated in the same way as white employees.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board

Aged, infirm and indigent Aborigines continued to receive relief by way of rations, clothing, blankets and medical attention. Those unemployed were also given food relief pending

finalisation of applications for Commonwealth Benefit. In this latter regard, it was noted that claims were dealt with more expeditiously than in previous years and this can be attributed partly to steps taken by field staff to have the persons concerned lodge their claims as soon as possible after becoming unemployed.

The ration scale operating was based on one recommended for adoption by the Department of Public Health. In the case of nursing mothers and invalids supplementary special items are granted on the recommendation of a medical practitioner or Baby Health Centre nurse.

Where applicable, medical attention is rendered at Station Treatment rooms and drugs, dressings and medicines required are supplied free of charge. If it is necessary for indigent Aborigines to be seen by qualified medical practitioners, they are required to obtain treatment at local Public Hospitals. If this is not possible and also in cases of emergency the services of private practitioners are obtained at no cost to the patients.

Free dental treatment for indigents is also made available and dentures are supplied by the Hospitals Commission—through Public Hospitals—to persons in necessitous circumstances, provided a medical certificate is furnished to the effect that such dentures would benefit the health of the person concerned.

The Board meets transport costs of indigent persons proceeding to hospital and wages of attendant escorts.

Issue of clothing to indigents during the year were as shown hereunder:—

Outfits	Year ended 30th June								
	Male			Female			Total		
	1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
Summer Outfits	132	111	121	169	192	168	301	303	289
Winter Outfits	131	115	108	173	175	141	304	290	249
Totals	263	226	229	342	367	309	605	593	538

Exemption Certificates

Provision exists in the Aborigines Protection Act for the granting of exemption from the provisions of such Act in cases considered appropriate by the Board. Exemption Certificates are only issued, however, after careful inquiry is made as to the character and degree of social adjustment of the applicant.

One hundred and seventeen certificates were issued during the year and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Granted	110	137	117
Deferred	—	1	4
Declined	7	25	24
Cancelled	5	6	2

Expulsion Orders

The Board is empowered to order the expulsion of an aborigine from any Reserve. This power is invoked, however, only in flagrant cases of misconduct where such misconduct prejudices the maintenance of good order and discipline on Stations or Reserves or is inimical to the welfare of other residents.

During the period under review the issue of five expulsion orders was approved. One existing order was cancelled.

VII. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES

Aborigines are entitled to certain Commonwealth Social Services benefits, such as endowment and sickness and unemployment benefits, irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence.

The same position does not exist so far as Commonwealth pensions are concerned. These are only paid to exempted Aborigines living off Stations and Reserves or to those on Reserves which are not under the supervision of a Manager. As residence on the supervised Station does not afford any greater benefit the distinction made is, in the view of the Board, illogical and unjustified.

Efforts by the State Government have been made on several occasions to secure full Commonwealth Social Service benefits for Aborigines and it is hoped that, eventually, these will be made available unconditionally.

It may be mentioned that in several districts throughout the State pensions have recently been granted Station residents possessing Exemption Certificates, which would suggest that regional Registrars of Social Services now possess wider discretionary powers in this regard.

In cases where it is established that endowment moneys are being expended unwisely, arrangements are made to have them administered by the Board and this is done by the issue of orders on stores to ensure that the children concerned receive the utmost benefit from such endowment.

At the end of the year there were only forty endowees included in this category.

CONCLUSION

The Aboriginal problem in New South Wales is entirely different from that presented by coloured minorities in some other countries, and, in fact, from that existing in other States of the Commonwealth.

There are only 13,000 people who come within the definition of "aborigine" in this State. Little more than 200 of these are full bloods and the majority are half or lesser caste. None lives in a tribal state and few can even be described as nomadic.

Very many live in their own homes, or in rented houses in the metropolitan area, or in country towns. About 2,000 reside on Government-controlled Aboriginal stations, in modest but comfortable homes provided by the Board. A further 2,000 live on areas which have been reserved for the use of

Aborigines, some in homes of their own construction and others in dwellings erected by the Board. Still more reside on areas adjacent to country towns in sub-standard dwellings erected by themselves, and it is these that pose the major problem in New South Wales.

This last group in particular may be classed as a "depressed" section of the community, and are in many respects comparable to similar under-privileged sections of the white community. Their economic situation is insecure and they are not in a position to better their living standards unaided. It is this class which comes most prominently into the public eye, and evokes criticism from time to time.

In recent years, the Aborigines Welfare Board has spent over £600,000 in providing improved accommodation for these people, and has before it a housing programme involving some further £800,000 spread over a period of years. Its policy is to provide an incentive to those Aborigines, who have the desire to do so, to help themselves. One practical form of assistance is to make loans available for the purchase or erection of their own homes.

Some opposition has been expressed in a few instances to the Board's attempts to implement its policy of assimilation. These have, in almost every case, represented an insignificant body of public opinion. In fact, it is correct to say that the attitude of these minority groups has been strongly resented by their fellow townspeople.

More heartening still is the fact that even where a degree of prejudice previously existed, sympathetic consideration and ready co-operation have been forthcoming. Some very practical demonstrations of informed and enlightened public support have been displayed.

A. G. KINGSMILL, Chairman.

APPENDIX TO III—ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

Kinchela Boys' Home (44)

The Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home comprises an area of about 30 acres and is situated on the Macleay River, some 16 miles from Kempsey. The Home is for boys who have become wards of the Board and their ages range from 5 to 17 years. At 30th June, 1958, there were forty-four boys in residence.

A school for pupils in primary classes is located at the Home; those pursuing secondary courses are enrolled at Kempsey High School. At the end of the period under review, nineteen boys were in attendance at the High School and twenty-four at the Home School.

The health of inmates during the year was satisfactory, although eighteen boys suffered from an epidemic of mumps, one boy was hospitalised with rheumatic fever and another with nephritis.

Medical examinations of all boys were carried out by a Government Medical Officer, and a dental surgeon from Kempsey made an examination of the inmates on two occasions. Appreciation is expressed for the co-operation accorded the Management by the Secretary, Matron and staff of the Macleay District Hospital, the Superintendent and staff of the Kempsey District Ambulance and the medical officers of the Kempsey district.

A balanced programme of recreational pursuits is followed, the boys being encouraged to engage in all types of outdoor sport. Many are members of the Hat Head Surf Life Saving Club, four boys having won their bronze medallions.

Senior inmates are given a sound training in the use of modern milking machines, farming machinery and equipment. They also receive instructions in poultry farming and market gardening.

The value of vegetables grown in the Home gardens approximated £208. In addition to meeting milk requirements, 2,046 lb. of butter was produced for Home requirements and 41 gallons of cream for table use. The Home was self-sufficient, also, so far as the supply of eggs was concerned and the growing of fodder for the dairy herd. Total estimated value of all products for the year under review was £4,888.

Two boys from the Home gained their Intermediate Certificates and were placed as apprentices in Sydney, one in the plumbing trade and one as a fitter and turner. Both are making good progress and are held in high regard by their employers.

Cootamundra Girls' Home (45)

This institution caters for girl wards of the Board and also houses a small number of boys of tender years. At the 30th June, 1958, there were forty-one girls and four boys in residence, with ages ranging from 3 to 17 years.

Children of school age attend both primary and high schools in Cootamundra, fifteen girls being enrolled at the primary school and the same number at high school. One girl passed her Intermediate Certificate at the last-held examination and gained first place in home economics. Another girl completed her studies at the Technical School and is now employed in the office of a local firm.

Adequate entertainment is provided the children both in the Home and the town of Cootamundra. Free passes to a local picture theatre are granted each week and pictures are also exhibited in the Home by interested citizens.

Dairy livestock and poultry are maintained. The average butter production during the year amounted to 10 lb. per week, with an average number of eggs of twenty per day. The value of fodder grown on Home pastures was estimated at £437.

Eleven girls were discharged from the Home to employment.

Interest in the institution by outside bodies was maintained particularly by the Rotary and June Farmers' Clubs.

APPENDIX TO IV—ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY

Boggabilla (224)

The Boggabilla Aboriginal Station covers an area of 557 acres and is located on the McIntyre River, 10 miles from the town of Boggabilla. At the end of the year population of the Station stood at 224, no departures having been made by any residents to merge into the general community.

Health of the Station people was fair, sickness among children being of a minor nature only, with the exception of one child who died from bronchial pneumonia. The members of one family were found to be suffering from a social disease and necessary treatment is at present being arranged.

Until recently employment for Station males was excellent, although it consisted of casual labour only, such as shearing, fencing and ring-barking.

There are fifty-five children attending the Aboriginal School on the Station.

Due to the apathy of residents, there is practically no social activity worthy of note, the people appearing to lack the slightest ability to organise the smallest function.

Brewarrina (120)

Situated just over 9 miles from town, the Brewarrina Aboriginal Station has a population of 120.

During the year the houses of residents were painted and fences erected so that home gardens could be cultivated and protected from damage.

Two teachers are attached to the Station Aboriginal School, which is attended by forty-two children. A school garden has been developed and is tended conscientiously by the pupils.

The employment situation at the end of the year was far from good, particularly as it affected youths, who were either out of work or obtaining casual employment only. With better weather conditions and commencement of the shearing season the position should improve considerably.

Health of residents was fair. There was the usual incidence of chest complaints and skin troubles.

Burnt Bridge, Kempsey (298)

The population of the Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station, at 298, showed a slight increase as compared with the preceding year, no families having left to merge into the general community.

In addition to general maintenance carried out to residences, all homes were painted, a community laundry and ablution block were erected with Station labour and some families fenced their own homes, assisted by the Station Management.

The general standard of health was satisfactory and a campaign against roundworm infestation of children produced a decrease in the incidence of this ailment. In the third year of operation the Station Baby Health Clinic continued to prove its value, as evidenced by the better care and improved physical well-being of the babies attending; there was an average attendance of twenty-five mothers per fortnight. Health films were exhibited during the year as a means of educating residents in better living standards.

Under existing conditions the percentage of residents in permanent employment was satisfactory, though the majority of employable males still engaged in work of a casual nature.

Social activities over the year were extensive and successful. Among notable achievements was the formation of what is believed to be the first team of Aboriginal marching girls in Australia. Funds for the purpose of fitting out two such teams were raised by means of social functions and donations, and amounted to £141 approximately.

The annual Baby Show was again organised and, as in former years, proved to be a highly successful function.

Various social activities were promoted in aid of the local hospital and ambulance service. In addition, the sum of £80 was raised by the Station Progress Association.

School children attending the Kempsey Public School were outstanding in sporting events and several represented the district at the State Athletic Championships held in Sydney.

Ninety-eight children from the Station attended the Kempsey Public School and one was enrolled at the High School. A girl student at the primary school was successful in gaining one of the bursaries awarded by the Board and is now at High School. An active Parents and Citizens' Association raised an amount of £153 during the year.

Burra Bee Dee (53)

The population of the Station again decreased slightly during the year and at present number only fifty-three.

For men the main sources of employment are the Railways, shearing and rural work. Most of the children attend the Coonabarabran Public School, two being enrolled at the High School.

Because of the small number of residents no social activities were organised, the people relying on entertainment facilities in the town of Coonabarabran.

Cabbage Tree Island (143)

Station population remained more or less static during the year; no families left to take up residence in the general community.

Unemployment showed an upward trend during the year and can be attributed to an increase in the mechanisation of farms in the district, with a consequent decrease in the demand for rural workers. Apart from a few employed by the Depart-

ment of Railways, only seasonal work, such as cane cutting, is available and as this type of employment is restricted to six months of the year many residents are forced to subsist on unemployment benefits for long periods.

The general health of the residents was satisfactory. Treatment for worm infestation was carried out every six weeks, a tuberculosis survey was made and polio and diphtheria injections given to children.

Social activities were organised by the Station Progress Association and consisted mainly of dances and the weekly exhibition of movies in the Recreation Hall. A football club was formed by residents and the team enjoyed quite a success in the district competition. A football team from the Aboriginal School also operated, the necessary equipment being generously provided by the Ballina Apex Club.

There was an enrolment of fifty pupils at the Aboriginal School and five at the Ballina High School.

Cowra (151)

There was a slight increase in the Station population during the year, although there were three deaths and a family of three departed to merge into the general community.

As the result of a sustained effort by tenants, most residences on the Station were painted during the year, with paint provided by the Board, and now exhibit a pleasing appearance. Out of a total of twenty-two tenants, eleven possess vegetable and flower gardens.

Except for the usual colds and a slight epidemic of virus influenza health of the residents was satisfactory.

Work available in the district consists of droving, labouring and seasonal work. During the year, the employment position deteriorated to such an extent that, at its conclusion, practically every male was out of work and dependent on unemployment benefit. This position is attributed to several causes. The droving industry—in Cowra district, at all events—is in a moribund state, due to the increasing trend towards movement of livestock by motor. Allied to this, a large labour market came into being in the area and white employees were selected in preference to Aboriginals, mainly because the latter, unfortunately, have acquired a reputation of unreliability. The worst aspect of the situation is the inability of youths just leaving school to obtain any type of employment, although every effort was made by the Station Manager in this regard.

Very little social activity occurred, although a start has been made by the younger set to resume the conduct of weekly dances. Most residents seek their entertainment and relaxation in the town. A sewing circle organised by the Australian Inland Mission operates one day a week with good results, two sewing machines being available, of which residents take full advantage. In the town there is a Police and Citizens' Boys Club and boys from the Station are in regular attendance. One boy was elected a vice-president of the Club.

The local Apex Club continued to take an active interest in the Station and carried out further work on the drainage problem.

Station children attend the Cowra Convent and Public Schools; seven are enrolled at the local High School.

As in previous years, the bottom paddocks of the Station were cleared and sown with lucerne. It is anticipated that the area will yield a crop of 14 tons, with an estimated value of £224.

Most residents cultivate vegetable and flower gardens.

Jervis Bay (153)

At 30th June, 1958, there was a slight population increase shown compared with that at the corresponding date of the previous period.

The Station is situated in the most pleasant surroundings and climatic conditions are equable.

The employment position, in respect of this Station, was excellent. There are ten full-time fishermen and four youths are also engaged in this industry. The majority of the remaining employable males are placed at Camden with the Water Board and are in receipt of high wages.

There was a noticeable improvement in the health of residents over the year. This is due primarily to the continuous campaign against hookworm in children and the fact that full employment has allowed the people to purchase more and better quality food, together with fresh milk, which is now delivered by the supplier to the homes.

For the most part, entertainment was sought outside the Station, due to the fact that the usual weekly social had to be abandoned because of the menfolk working away from the Station. A picture bus goes to Huskisson once a week and, as a number of residents acquired cars during the year, no difficulty is met by anyone in obtaining transport to outside pictures or sporting entertainments over the week-ends.

Thirty-eight pupils were enrolled at the Station Aboriginal School and four students attend the Nowra High School, necessitating a daily journey of 54 miles by bus. The costs of transport and a mid-day lunch for the four pupils concerned are met by the Department of the Interior.

A Station store is conducted by an outside storekeeper and has proved to be a great help to residents, who can now purchase practically the whole of their requirements without having to leave the Station.

A great advance in living standards was made by residents over the twelve months' period. Not only have the menfolk demonstrated their ability to secure and hold good positions, but have spent their earnings wisely and improved their living conditions to a standard comparable with that of white citizens. A large quantity of furniture, no longer required by the Department of the Interior, will assist tenants considerably in furnishing the homes and an extensive painting programme, now in operation, should instil an even greater pride in the houses.

Moree (321)

The population of the Station, at 321, remained practically the same as at the end of the previous year.

Renovations, costing approximately £2,000, were made to residences during the period. Tenants of two cottages had electricity connected and it is anticipated that their example will be followed by others.

Apart from minor ailments, the health of the people has been good. No epidemics occurred among the children.

Except during the last few weeks of the period under review, the employment position had been sound. Quite a number of men have taken permanent employment with the Pastures Protection Board and the Department of Railways, the remainder engaging in shearing and rural work.

Pictures are screened once a fortnight by a visiting clergyman and the Dramatic Society continues to function strongly.

Station pensioners attend a monthly function in the town arranged by the Moree Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association.

At the Aboriginal School there is an enrolment of 157 children which includes many residing off the Station. Five children are students at Moree High School.

The behaviour of Station residents has continued to improve, so much so, as to render unnecessary the prosecution of a single person by the Management during the entire year.

Murrin Bridge (238)

Situated on the Lachlan River about ten miles from the town of Lake Cargelligo, the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station has a population of approximately 238 rising at times to about 260 by the influx of visiting casual workers.

There is an average of thirty-five able-bodied men on the Station of whom fifteen are in constant employment, the remainder engaging in work of a casual nature.

There are ninety-three pupils attending the Station School.

During the year the Headmaster re-established classes in Domestic Science, Sewing and Gardening and intends, also, to commence regular classes in woodwork. A school community garden was laid out and is operating successfully. Senior boys are being taught to operate a rotary hoe which was procured by the Headmaster. Each child has his own garden plot, the produce from which is taken home by the pupil concerned. The community garden comprises about half acre of land.

A marked improvement has been evidenced in the health of residents generally although several cases of tuberculosis were detected, one sufferer being flown to Sydney for treatment. Both polio and diphtheria immunisation injections for children were organized by the Condobolin Shire Council.

An innovation during the year was the commencement of a Station Baby clinic conducted by the Matron and Assistant Matron. The number of mothers attending the clinic averaged twelve per week.

Caroona via Quirindi (197)

The population of Caroona Aboriginal Station dropped slightly during the year due to the departure of two families to take up residence in towns.

Health of residents generally has been good except for isolated cases of pneumonia, epilepsy and tuberculosis.

Due to drought conditions unemployment in the district has increased. Apart from positions with the Shire and Railways Department, the only work offering is droving, shearing and on Stations. Because of prolonged dry weather very few workers in the last three categories were required, with the result that many have been forced to apply for unemployment benefit.

At the Aboriginal School on the Station, there are fifty-one pupils enrolled. Seven students attend the Quirindi High School.

Many of the young men joined district football teams and the School football team succeeded in winning the district Championship Shield.

Roseby Park via Nowra (94)

Roseby Park is one of the smallest Stations, the population at the end of the year totalling ninety-four only.

During the period under review, steady employment was available to residents but because of its casual nature incomes of the persons concerned were moderate. Four men have turned to commercial fishing in order to supplement their incomes. Another four men are working for the Department of Railways. One of these, due to industry and ability, has been appointed a ganger.

Health of residents generally has been good except for one epidemic of mumps which swept through practically every family on the Station.

Twenty-eight children attend the local Public School and three the Nowra High School.

Tabulam (153)

The Station is situated four miles from the town of Tabulam in delightful rural surroundings and occupies an area of 330 acres. At the end of the year, the population totalled 153.

With the advent of a corn harvester to the district, there was a sharp and alarming decline in the amount of work available to Station residents, as the annual harvesting of corn contributes to the main source of employment. There are only six persons permanently employed, the remainder engaging in casual labour only.

During the period under review, the overall health position was not altogether satisfactory. Although treatment of children for roundworm was carried out every six weeks throughout the year, the majority of children are still infected. Excluding worm treatment there was an average of 360 cases a month attended to by the Matron at the treatment room.

Mantoux tests were carried out on all residents and the majority of adults were X-rayed for tuberculosis. During September and October, 1957, there was an epidemic of septic throats and influenza.

Thirty-two children attend school on the Station. There are no pupils at High School.

To augment funds of the Station Social Club approval was given for portion of the Station to be cultivated by a neighbouring farmer for the growing of corn on a share-farming basis. As a result of the joint project, the Social Club benefited to the extent of £289 approximately which increased finance available to a total of nearly £400. It is intended to devote this sum to the purchase of playground equipment, the acquisition of a film projector and a circular saw for use of residents. No steps will be taken to acquire the last two items until electricity is made available by the Northern Rivers County Council, which event, it is anticipated will occur in the near future.

A sewing class is held under the guidance of the Matron for the training of interested women and girls and a hobbies class is conducted by the wife of the local Church of England Minister.

Donations of £10 in each case were made by the Social Club to the Casino Hospital and Casino District Ambulance.

Taree (248)

During the year the population of this Station increased by twenty-eight to reach a total of 248 as at 30th June, 1958.

Following the trend evidenced during the year on most other Stations, employment for residents proved difficult to secure. Sixteen men, however, out of a total number of forty-able-bodied men, still retain permanent positions with the Department of Railways and Local Council as they did at the same period during the preceding year. The Manager was successful in placing three young girls in employment at Sydney and Taree.

Health of residents has been comparatively good. Round-worm infestation of children was definitely checked, following a vigorous and continuous course of treatment pursued by the Management.

A T.B. skin test was carried out and quite a few showed a positive reaction. Although the children affected are being treated at the Manning River District Hospital T.B. Clinic, no active case was reported.

Sixty-seven children attend Taree Public School and five the High School. From reports furnished by the Headmaster of the Public School on individual pupils, it would appear that school attendance and application to study of a great number of students leave much to be desired. Steps are being taken in an endeavour to improve regularity of attendance and diligence.

There was very little social activity on the Station during the year, due mainly to the close proximity of town, where the aborigines enjoy their social life and entertainments with the townspeople. However, the residents organised a concert in a local church hall and raised £50 for the benefit of their Church.

Several local sporting men interested themselves in the school children and succeeded in forming a hockey team from these latter. The gear required for the team was donated by a local businessman.

During the year a further £100 was expended in the provision of street lighting and several of the residents have had electricity connected to their homes. At a cost of £130 a shelter shed was constructed for use by the school children.

The majority of residents have front gardens which are maintained in a fresh and clean state. Favourable comment in the local newspaper was made on several occasions regarding the appearance of the Station.

Walgett (241)

Walgett Aboriginal Station is located on the banks of the Barwon River about five miles from the town of Walgett. At the close of the year, the population reached 241 compared with 202 as at 30th June, 1957.

Employment available to residents comprises droving, station work, shearing and fencing. Demand for labour during the year slackened because of drought conditions and reduced wool prices. As a result, many of the employable males were obliged to register for unemployment benefit.

On occasions during the period under review gastro-enteritis and conjunctivitis reached epidemic proportions. Several cases were treated at the district hospital but, in the main, patients were attended by the Matron of the Station. Constant instruction by the Matron was also given in respect of home hygiene and baby welfare. A baby and pre-natal clinic conducted by the Matron proved highly successful. All children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

Built entirely by Aboriginal labour, a recreation hall is now in existence and is contributing largely to the social life of the Station.

Two teachers are attached to the Station school which had an enrolment of fifty-eight.

Due to climatic conditions very little progress could be made with the community garden which occupies an area of seven acres.

Wallaga Lake (126)

Employment available is usually of a casual nature, consisting of pea-picking and corn pulling. Although the season was rather adverse most residents obtained a fair amount of work. The Public Works Department has commenced a big works project in the district, but as yet only one person from the Station has obtained employment. Approached by the Manager, the District Engineer stated that employment would be given to residents of the Station as it becomes available. At the conclusion of the year there were six adults and nine children in receipt of rations.

Although virus influenza, scabies and impetigo were most prevalent during the early part of the year these practically disappeared in face of an intensive course of treatment. At present, the health of residents generally is better than usual.

Unsatisfactory attendance of children at the Station Aboriginal School has constituted a problem. Both parents of many of the children engaged in seasonal work away from the Station and are in the habit of taking their children with them over extended periods. The District Child Welfare Officer has interviewed parents concerned and spoken in strong terms concerning school attendance of the children. It is anticipated that the position will improve as a result of such talks.

The Station Progress Association was active during the year, the many meetings called being well attended. Co-operation of the Association with the local Apex Club in erection of a shower block constituted the principal achievement of the year. The cost of the undertaking was financed by a donation of £133 from Apex, and £58 10s. each from the Board and the Progress Association.

Presentations by the Station Concert Party in several towns were an unqualified success, bringing before the public, in an entirely new and pleasing light, the artists involved. Leading citizens in the towns concerned paid tribute to the quality of the entertainment and favourable mention was also made by local newspapers in this regard. More than 1,200 people, the majority being white, paid to see the concerts.

Many residents spent a good deal of money in acquiring furniture and floor covering with the result that their homes are now reasonably well furnished and comfortable.

Woodenbong (175)

The population of Woodenbong Station remained fairly constant during the year.

Five cottages of residents were improved markedly as a result of painting, alterations and additions, all carried out by the tenants concerned.

Health of residents generally was good, with serious illness a rarity.

The long dry period during the first half of the year adversely affected employment but the overall position was satisfactory. Most persons in permanent work are employed in the timber industry with casual positions available in the pursuits of fencing, clearing and farm work.

A reorganised Progress Association was formed during the year and sufficient money raised to assist the Station School and kindergarten, to help promote the Christmas Party, with the aid of the Board subsidy, to purchase a film and slide projector and provide curtains for the school.

Of fifty Station school children, forty attend the Aboriginal School, four the Public School and five the High School.

APPENDIX "A"
MOVEMENTS OF WARDS

	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Number of wards at beginning of year	215	232	260
Number admitted during year	17	27	41
Number committed during year	55	82	47
	287	341	348
Number discharged during year	55	81	98
	232	260	250

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR

	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Kinchela Boys' Home	44	47	44
Cootamundra Girls' Home	29	42	45
Denominational Homes	8	3	1
Boarded-out with foster parents	93	93	116
In employment under Reg. conditions	27	35	24
Otherwise placed	31	40	20
	232	260	250

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED

	1955-56		1956-57		1957-58	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	...	7	4	22	7	4
Cootamundra Girls' Home	1	10	9	11	10	7
Denominational Homes	1	1	...	...	...	...
Boarded-out with foster parents	7	20	6	18	17	14
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions	3	9	6	17	6	12
Otherwise placed	5	8	2	14	1	10
	17	55	27	82	41	47

APPENDIX "B"

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS

Station	Area in Acres	Population on Station			Ration Recipients			Statistics								
								Births			Deaths			Marriages		
		1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Boggabilla	457	208	211	224	19	9	26	13	8	7	4	7	1	1	1	...
Brewarrina	638	122	173	120	26	50	26	9	5	5	3	...	4	...	3	...
Burnt Bridge	106	283	278	298	33	31	38	14	8	7	1	1	2	1	1	2
Burra Bee Dee	473	78	62	53	24	20	5	2	4	3	1	3	...	...	...	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	148	128	143	16	8	36	5	7	4	...	3	2	1	1	...
Cowra	31	149	142	151	12	15	10	3	8	6	1	2	3	1	3	1
Jervis Bay	100	150	143	153	16	16	8	9	5	5	2	2	3	2	...	...
Moree	55	306	319	321	6	17	15	14	10	12	3	4	2	3	4	3
Murrin Bridge	937	283	284	283	46	62	51	15	8	5	1	1	1	3	2	1
Quirindi	220	200	204	197	...	11	9	7	8	2	4	2	...	1	2	...
Roseby Park	66	103	81	94	5	13	10	5	4	8	...	2	...	1	...	...
Tabulam	490	129	153	153	29	30	35	4	9	6	2	3	1	4	3	2
Taree	51	228	220	248	20	6	23	14	11	12	4	3	2	2	...	1
Walgett	337	178	202	241	23	28	58	10	8	11	2	...	1	...	...	2
Wallaga Lake	341	122	126	126	8	17	15	7	2	5	7	1	...	2	4	2
Woodenbong	126	173	152	175	35	46	23	8	5	2	2	1	2	2	1	...
Totals .....	...	2,860	2,878	2,935	318	379	388	139	110	100	37	38	24	24	25	12

APPENDIX "C"

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS

Station or Reserve	Area	Population on Station or Reserve			Ration Recipients		
		1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Balranald.....	142	42	52	63	...	...	...
Bellbrook.....	96	90	93	93	12	6	11
Bourke.....	34	15	45	44	...	...	21
Bowraville.....	36	171	79	54	...	...	5
Brungle.....	12	34	30	49	...	...	...
Coff's Harbour.....	6	...	108	60	...	5	...
Condobolin.....	16	69	82	86	9	12	8
Coonabarabran.....	20	...	40	42	...	20	...
Coraki.....	10	84	86	96	5	4	10
Cubawee.....	24	105	94	106	...	...	...
Cumeroogunga.....	200	49	61	60	...	...	...
Dubbo.....	18	31	21	35	...	...	...
Forster.....	19	94	87	76	...	...	...
Goodooga.....	80	128	135	170	2	2	...
Gulgambone.....	52	132	180	215	...	...	91
Karnah.....	50	58	43	54	...	...	...
Kyogle.....	28	16	5	10	2	...	...
La Perouse.....	6	171	178	204	3	...	...
Moonahcullah.....	232	80	95	108	...	...	12
Nambucca Heads.....	70	75	65	87	1	...	...
Peak Hill.....	7	...	23	23	...	...	...
Tibooburra.....	100	12	10	2	...	...	...
Tingha.....	15	34	...	...	...	...	...
Ulgundahi Island.....	44	31	36	36	3	3	3
Uralla.....	100	12	12	27	...	...	...
Walcha.....	107	54	45	53	6	...	...
Wellington.....	100	47	46	63	12	3	6
Wilcannia.....	75	263	105	114	11	5	14
Yass.....	9	31	24	36	...	...	...
Total.....	...	1,928	1,880	2,066	66	64	181

APPENDIX "D"

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

	1956-57.		1957-58.	
	£	£	£	£
Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—				
Salaries and Wages.....	78,385		82,529	
Maintenance of Buildings.....	6,522		11,500	
Transport Expenses.....	16,298		14,114	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...	48,372		52,142	
Other charges.....	2,874		2,987	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment.....	3,117		4,799	
	155,568		168,071	
Payable from General Loan Account—				
New Buildings, Station Improvements and Land Purchases.....	4,772		18,484	
		164,340		186,555
<i>Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—</i>				
Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	7,746		9,238	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	254		508	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.....	3,118		2,814	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services.....	11,305		10,082	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	3,847		3,359	
		26,270		26,001
Total.....		£190,610		£212,556

APPENDIX "E"

VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS

<i>Nature of Visit or Interview—</i>	1st July, 1955 to	1st January, 1956 to	1st July, 1957 to
	30th June, 1956	30th June, 1957	30th June, 1958
	Number.	Number.	Number.
Supervisory home visits	1,544	1,794	1,803
Wards of the Board	434	561	496
Neglected or uncontrollable children.....	242	239	250
Stations or Reserves.....	583	647	601
Police	633	514	526
Schools	322	348	297
Enquires <i>re</i> employment	700	803	988
Affiliation or Maintenance	264	426	310
Public Authorities.....	1,715	1,550	1,473
Voluntary Agencies	193	226	276
Attendance at Court.....	40	59	50
Miscellaneous.....	6,162	7,489	6,840
Total	12,832	14,656	14,002