

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Protector of Aboriginals

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1936.



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REPORT.

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Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, 9th October, 1936.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honour to submit for your information my report on the work of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended 30th June, 1936.

The usual routine work in supplying rations, blankets, clothing, and medical assistance to the aboriginals has been maintained throughout the year, and there has been no falling off in the demands made upon the Department.

This year a large number of natives were supplied with rabbit traps. Skins and carcasses were bringing good prices and by this means many of the men were able to provide their families with clothing and the necessary additions to the department's rations.

Eight hundred and seventy-seven blankets were issued. In spite of the fact that the blankets are of good heavy quality, the requirements are about the same each year as the rough treatment they receive at the hands of the aboriginals makes it necessary to renew them annually.

Speaking generally, the aboriginals are a law abiding people and even although the morals of the detribalised native and the half-caste are not all that we would wish they seldom interfere with white women or girls. One such case was reported this year and the offender suitably punished. The chief offences of these people are either breaches of the licensing act or misbehaviour caused by the consumption of or the endeavour to obtain liquor. It is pleasing to note in this connection that quite a number of convictions have been obtained by the police against white men for supplying aboriginals with liquor.

A number of cases of killing goats and unlawful possession of meat were brought against the bush natives in the far north-west of the State, but this is only to be expected in such places where white settlement is gradually penetrating country which has hitherto been the sole preserve of the aboriginal.

Inspector Parsonage of the Police Headquarters at Port Augusta in reporting these cases states that in his opinion the settlers have little to complain about because a lot of their income is derived from the scalps of wild dogs caught by the aboriginals, and for which the aboriginals receive little payment.

In the north-west, that is in the large aboriginal reserve and the country contiguous to it, the aboriginals in South Australia are making their last stand as a body of pure-blooded individuals not yet degraded by contact with a civilisation they cannot assimilate and understand, and it will be to the advantage of the aboriginals and the State to keep them as such for as long as possible.

It appears to be impossible to stop the progress of the white race, even if it does upset the life and habits of the indigenous people. It therefore becomes our duty to buffer the contact in some way so that the clash will not only be gradual, but will in the first instance be with persons who have the welfare and love of the aboriginal at heart, and not with those who wish to use him for their own personal gain, discarding him once he has served their purpose.

Doctor Charles Duguid has been urging this duty upon the people of South Australia and is endeavouring to get support for a scheme, which, gaining by the errors of missionary enterprise in the past, will serve to assist the aboriginal to retain his virility and self respect, and save him from the general degradation which usually follows his association with white settlement.

During the past year there appears to have been a wider and more sympathetic interest taken by the general public in the aboriginal and his problems, although most people are at a loss to know just what they can do to help.

Although I am opposed to bush natives being encouraged to wear clothes it is essential that the aboriginals and half-castes living in the settled parts of the State should be clothed, and many of them find it hard to provide clothing for themselves and their children. The United Aborigines' Mission and the Parkin Mission at Point McLeay are always anxious to receive gifts of clean second-hand clothing, and this is a way in which most people can help these missions, who are labouring not only for the spiritual well-being of the native, but to assist with some of his material requirements.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Mr. W. Lambert of Blinman, who gave eight goats to some old natives camped at Parachilna, when game and other meat was scarce. Station owners generally provide quite a lot of meat for natives camped on their properties, and the department gratefully acknowledges these acts of kindness.

The United Aborigines' Mission is continuing its useful work at Ooldea, Oodnadatta, Nepabunna, and Swan Reach, and their home for half-caste children at Quorn is also maintaining its healthy influence on the half-white children gathered from blacks' camps.

During the Christmas season the children from this home and some from Oodnadatta were brought to Adelaide for a holiday. They were housed at Doctor Duguid's property at Maylands, and were taken for outings and entertained by various religious bodies in the city and suburbs. The return fares of this party were provided by the department.

Christmas cheer was provided for the old and infirm natives and children at Point McLeay, Point Pearce, and the United Aborigines' Missions by donations from the Aborigines' Friends' Association, parcels collected by the United Aborigines' Mission and gifts from the Father Adelaide Christmas fund.

In company with the Chairman and Secretary of the Advisory Council I visited the Mission at Nepabunna.

The pastoral lease of the Balcanoona Station has now been finalized and clauses have been included under which the lessee, Mr. Roy Thomas, agrees to allow the aboriginals the use of approximately 30sq. miles of the leasehold on condition that all stock and vermin are kept under control to prevent them trespassing on Balcanoona and becoming a menace to Mr. Thomas's stock, that the natives' domestic dogs be kept in check and not allowed to breed up indiscriminately and that the mission be controlled in a proper manner so that the natives will not become a nuisance to him or his stock and plant.

The decision as to whether these conditions are being carried out is to be left to the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

I can see no reason why these conditions cannot be complied with, and I trust that the natives will have the use of this area permanently.

For some time past the medical officer at Ceduna has complained that his work with the natives in the Ceduna and Koonibba Districts has been handicapped by the lack of facilities for performing minor surgical operations and nursing patients while undergoing treatment. This difficulty has now been met by the Aboriginals Department undertaking to subsidize the Koonibba Mission to enable them to add a trained nurse to their Mission Staff and it is hoped that this arrangement will not only assist the doctor but will give the natives a much better chance of recovery from illness.

The present school teacher at Koonibba is a qualified woodwork instructor and to enable the boys at this Mission to be instructed in woodwork, my department will supply the Mission with the necessary equipment.

I have also to report a recent change in the Superintendency of this Mission, Pastor Albert Mueller having been transferred to the Port Lincoln congregation. Pastor Mueller was an able Superintendent, and his work at Koonibba was all that could be desired.

The Advisory Council has been meeting monthly throughout the year and has supplied reports and recommendations on many problems.

The chairman and secretary of this council were selected by the Commonwealth Government to form two of a board of three to inquire into cases of ill-treatment of aboriginals in Central Australia.

The training scheme for girls was commenced during this year, and three girls were sent to the Salvation Army Home at Fullarton in February, 1936.

So far they have done very well and given no trouble.

Three more girls will be selected for training this year.

They are expected to remain at the Home for three years, and by that time they should be efficient in all classes of domestic work.

The Police Inspector at Port Augusta reports as follows :—

There is at present an abundance of native food in the far north-west and north-east portions of the State, but in the more settled parts of the north there is a scarcity of food and aboriginals not in employment are forced to obtain rations from the various depots.

He states that quite a number of aborigines are again in regular employment on the sheep and cattle stations.

The most prevalent forms of sickness in his district are influenza, colds, and venereal complaints. All serious cases are removed to the Port Augusta Hospital for treatment, but it is difficult to persuade venereal patients to remain in hospital and they invariably abscond from the institution after a few days treatment. This makes it difficult to know what to do for the best.

The aborigines along the Trans-Australian Railway cause a lot of trouble by boarding trains and trespassing on railway property, and the Police Officer at Tarcoola is frequently called on to remove natives from railway sidings.

One aborigine was found lying beside the line with a crushed hand and he had to be taken to the Kalgoorlie Hospital where the hand was amputated. It is presumed that he fell from a moving train and that a train wheel passed over his hand.

Another native fell from a water tower on railway property and had to be conveyed to Port Augusta for treatment.

One case of a half-caste girl being interfered with by a white man came under the notice of the police in his district, and the girl was confined at the Hawker Hospital. Inquiries were made, but the paternity of her child could not be definitely established.

The Inspector states that it seems impossible to raise the aborigines' mode of living except under the most rigid control, and that unfortunately the white people who come in contact with aborigines have not a very high standard of morality themselves and the native suffers for the white man's sin.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The Government Statist obtains particulars annually of the known aboriginal population through the agency of police officers and also reports from stations and farms. An analysis of these indicates an aboriginal population about 30th June, 1936, of 3,357, excluding an unknown number in the Musgrave and Everard Ranges. The numbers recorded vary considerably from year to year, it being impossible to record those out of touch with stations.

The classification of recorded aborigines as in June, 1936, is as follows :—

	Full-bloods.		Half-castes.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
On Mission Stations—							
In employment	6	5	160	15	166	20	186
Others	33	25	259	370	292	395	687
Others in employment	186	64	139	43	325	107	432
Dependants of employed	68	80	85	173	153	253	406
All other	623	453	296	274	919	727	1,646
Grand total	916	627	939	875	1,855	1,502	3,357
Adults	748	483	558	446	1,306	929	2,235
Children	168	144	381	429	549	573	1,122

full-bloods numbered 543, or 46 per cent. of the total, divided thus—adults, 1,231; children, 312.

Half-caste (and lesser castes) numbered 1,814 (54 per cent. of total)—Adults, 1,004; children, 810.

In regular employment.—The total reported to be in regular employment was 618. In addition to the 186 employed on mission stations, there were 432 others recorded as employed—chiefly on pastoral holdings. These 432 employed aboriginals were reported as having 406 dependants.

All others.—In addition to the 873 aboriginals on mission stations, and the 432 others employed with their 406 dependants, there were 1,646 others (1,076 full-blood and 570 half-caste), who could be accounted for by the various police officers and pastoralists. As stated above, there are still others in the wild state or out of touch with stations for whom it is impossible to give even an estimated number.

The births and deaths at Point McLeay, Point Pearce, and Koonibba for the year 1935-36 were reported as follows :—

Point McLeay Station.—Births, 22 half-castes; deaths, one full-blood and four half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1936, 29 full-bloods and 341 half-castes; total 370.

Point Pearce Station.—Births, 20 half-castes; deaths, one full-blood and eight half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1936, six full-bloods and 337 half-castes; total 343.

Koonibba Mission Station.—Births, two full-bloods and six half-castes; deaths, one full-blood and four half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1936, 36 full-bloods and 91 half-castes; total 127.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Payne reports that the health of the natives has been fairly satisfactory. There was an unfortunate outbreak of gastric diarrhoea among the young babies, and in spite of every care being given and transferring the worst cases to the Marceba Babies Hospital, four deaths resulted.

The sick, old, and infirm are well cared for by Doctor J. R. Cornish of Tailem Bend and Sister M. M. Lenton, and native women are employed to look after the very old people.

The dispensary is open for two hours every day when minor ailments and accidents are treated.

The Sister visits cot cases in the cottages daily, and confinements and serious complaints are taken into the Station Hospital or removed to Government or subsidized hospitals.

Sister Lenton occasionally calls on one of the native women to assist her at confinement cases, and the knowledge they thus gain is valuable in emergencies.

It was considered advisable to immunize the children against diphtheria as an outbreak of this disease at Point McLeay would be

very serious. Doctor Cornish made special visits to the station, and 120 children between the ages of one year and 12 years were treated with anatoxin.

The behaviour of the natives was on the whole satisfactory, but it was necessary to expel several young men who persisted in making themselves troublesome. The example made of these boys has had a quietening effect.

Three new cottages were erected during the year, two of the older cottages were enlarged and three were renovated and put in a more habitable condition.

There are still evidences of overcrowding and building will have to be continued steadily to overcome this and to provide accommodation for the young people who marry and need homes.

The Superintendent's house is in a deplorable condition, it is so old and damp that a new residence will have to be provided.

There are now about 100 children attending the special primary school and the accommodation is overtaxed.

A contract has been let for the erection of an additional room, which should be completed early in 1936-37 and will provide for requirements for some years to come.

The church and missionary work is maintained by the Parkin Mission through its resident Missioner, the Rev. W. H. J. Turner, but his work is very difficult and calls for continuous and patient effort.

The standard of the dairy herd is gradually improving, and the production of cream during the past twelve months has been the best for many years.

Improved production has been largely brought about by the use of ensilage, and during the year approximately 200 tons of ensilage were fed to the dairy herd. The average number of cows milked was 65, and the proceeds of sales of cream amounted to £738 0s. 7d.

There are 15 two-year-old heifers to come in shortly, and this emphasises the need for a second dairy in the Teringie paddock at the western end of the station.

Fewer pigs were bred, but with the greater quantity of barley which it is hoped to grow each year, this branch of the station work should be increased considerably. It was not profitable to produce pigs on feed which had to be purchased.

Eighty-nine pigs were sold realising £173 17s. 6d.

New farrowing and fattening sties have been built, and four small paddocks fenced for the pigs.

Two hundred young merino ewes were purchased and mated to Border Leicester rams, but the percentage of lambs was not good. From these and other older ewes on the station, 250 lambs were raised.

The station requires about 500 sheep per annum for butchering, and as this number cannot be regularly raised on the property, ration sheep have to be purchased each year.

The wool clip totalled 16 bales for which £166 1s. 2d. was received.

Approximately 200 acres of oats on the main station produced 200 tons of ensilage and 100 tons of hay, and this will be just enough to carry through until next harvest.

The crop sown this year consists of 180 acres of oats and 50 acres of barley.

On block K which is being cleared, 85 acres of barley produced only 170 bags of grain. This was a poor return, which the Superintendent considers was largely due to the need for deep ploughing to allow the rubbish, yaccas, and tussocks to be turned in. In future the clearing and ploughing will be done earlier so as to give the ground longer to sweeten and settle down before seeding.

About 120 acres of new land on this block have been sown to barley and 40 acres to oats.

One hundred and fifty acres of mallee have been cut to prepare land for next year's crop.

Altogether 250 acres of scrub land have been cleared since operations started on this block last year.

Wimmera rye grass and evening primrose seed were sown with the crop on block K during the 1936 seeding as a means of improving the ultimate grazing quality of the block.

A large stone room has been erected to accommodate the native workmen engaged in the clearing operations. They live at block K during the working days, but return to their families at the head station for the week ends.

Firewood is still an expensive item in running Point McLeay, but a contract for 500 tons was let during the year on slightly better terms than previously, and the contractor has been keeping up a regular supply.

Mr. R. L. Griffiths, Agricultural Instructor for the district, visited the station on several occasions and conferred with the Superintendent on matters affecting the agricultural, dairying, and pastoral pursuits of the station.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The report of the Superintendent, Mr. A. H. Bray, contains the following information :—

The behaviour of the residents has been good, it being necessary to take only a very few cases before the police courts, minor offences have been dealt with on the station and the culprits suitably punished with a view to reformation.

Immorality is still serious, four illegitimate births having occurred.

All widows and their children, orphans, sick, and aged have been well catered for in the way of food and clothing.

The general health has not been very good. Many cases of pneumonia and influenza colds have occurred, and there have been numerous cases of impetigo and septic sores amongst the children.

Sister E. K. Bray has been kept very busy attending to the sick especially during various epidemics.

Optical and dental requirements have been met by visiting opticians and dentists, and the medical officer, Doctor C. G. Wells of Maitland has paid many visits to the station.

The following table will show the extent to which the natives are cared for :—

Visits to the dispensary	4,141
Visits to patients in cottages	1,704
Visits to station by medical officer	64
Visits to station by dentist	3
X-Ray examinations at Maitland Hospital	7
Persons consulting optician	12

A new two-roomed building for dispensing and consulting has been erected and furnished. This is appreciated both by the Sister and the natives as previously the dispensary was located in a room at the stockman's residence, and the arrangement was not very convenient.

The number of children on the school register is not as large as last year owing to several families having left the station.

The school attendance is very irregular and the Superintendent considers that parents should be prosecuted when they keep their children from school unnecessarily. The natives ask for better education for their children, but do not avail themselves of the opportunities offered, and the school teacher, Mr. B. J. Grewar, has to put up with a lot of insolence from the parents when trying to enforce a more regular and punctual attendance at the school.

A new hall, for which many requests have been made by the churches conducting services at the station and the natives, was commenced in February, 1936.

The mason work is being done by native contractors and workmen, but a white tradesman was engaged for the roofing and carpentry, as this job was a bit beyond the natives. Those natives who have assisted the white carpenter will however benefit considerably by the experience gained under his supervision.

This hall should be completed by the end of September, 1936.

Other building improvements effected during the year are :—

Three new cottages and additions to two older cottages.

Two motor garages.

A 2,200gall. stone tank at the school house.

Six new pig pens.

Alterations to the sheep dip.

Dry building the sides of two wells and erecting a 3ft. masonry wall around the top of each to keep stock, vermin, and sand out.

Concrete floor and drain to the cow byre.

Replastering, ceiling, and a new concrete floor to the dairy, also an enclosed concrete drain from the dairy to a drainage pit.

Plastering cottages on Wardang Island.

Improving island sheep dip and erecting stone walling to form an additional sheep yard.

Replastering and calcimining old dispensary in stockman's house.

Renovating and improving ventilation in store and book-keeper's house.

Fencing has also received attention, repairs being made practically all the year round.

Two hundred and fifty chains of old fences were renewed.

A vegetable garden was netted in at the Hummocks Mill.

A 50 acre plot was fenced and netted in the Hummocks paddock for lucerne, and a trial lucerne plot in the Sheoaks paddock also fenced and netted, requiring a total length of 118 chains of new fencing.

New gates have been erected, adding to the appearance of the station.

There are several more fences which will need renewing during the coming year.

Windmills are all in good order, and the new power pump installed last year has satisfactorily met the increased demand for water for domestic and other purposes around the station village. This demand is however, increasing annually, and the old pipe line from the wells to the village will have to be renewed in the near future. The power pump is finding many weak spots in the pipe line which could with great advantage be larger in diameter.

There was again a serious water shortage on Wardang Island, and consequently it could not be used very much for livestock. With an assured water supply the island would carry about 3,000 sheep all the year round.

Rabbits have been kept well under control and there are few on the station at present.

The station sheep have kept in excellent condition, although some cases of Entero Toxaemia still persist.

Sufficient feed was available throughout the year. Owing to barley crops being badly damaged by wind, the sheep benefited by the barley heads, which were broken off and were available to them when they were later turned on to the stubbles.

By lambing time ewes were in splendid condition, and were able to stand up to the lambing and subsequent dry spells amazingly well.

There were practically no water troubles this year on the mainland, an exceptional flood having filled all dams on the southern portion of the property, and the new well at the other end providing for all requirements there.

As previously mentioned, water was short on Wardang Island, and 500 maiden ewes had to be brought back to the mainland before lambing. About 500 wethers were left on the island, there being sufficient water for this small flock and they did exceptionally well and should produce an excellent clip of wool.

Last shearing approximately 1,000 sheep were shorn with blades on the island and the remainder on the mainland with the machines.

The total number of sheep and lambs shorn was 4,377 and 133 bales, containing 39,157lbs. of wool, were produced.

The top price received was 14½d. per lb. for six bales of AAH and two bales of AAW, and the average price 9·9d. The average cut was 8·9lbs. per head and the average return per head 7s. 4·1d., all inclusive of lambs.

This was a big improvement on the previous year when the average return per head was only 4s. The improvement was not entirely due to the higher prices ruling at the wool sales, but also to a decided improvement in the fleeces, following the continued practice of mating strong woolled Koonoona rams with the ewe flock.

Twelve two-tooth Koonoona rams were purchased in August, 1936, and they were a splendid line. However, a number of rams now too old for effective service still need replacing, and not less than 20 should be purchased for the coming season.

Crutching and dipping were carried out at the appropriate season, and flies did not give so much trouble as in previous years.

Lambing commenced in March, but owing to lack of early rains and absence of green feed, the ewes did not have much milk, and consequently the lambs suffered to a certain extent and losses were rather heavy.

Five hundred maiden ewes were hand fed during the lean period. They responded well and their lambs improved considerably.

The number of lambs tailed up to 30th June, 1936, was 1,332, a percentage of 66·6 per cent., but a number of tailed lambs have since died.

Natural losses have not been so heavy amongst the grown sheep this year, but lambs have suffered more.

Undiscovered losses, which have caused such concern in previous years, have been reduced considerably and the only conclusion which can be arrived at is that thieving has been responsible for the majority of these losses. The only shortages this year were in May and June, when a total of 51 sheep could not be accounted for. The police have investigated these losses, but have been unable to get any definite evidence of theft.

During the summer months the beaches were patrolled from daylight until dark so as to overcome the possibility of sheep being caught by the incoming tides and drowned.

An experiment was made with rugging 200 sheep. The first rugs were made on the station from super bags, but these soon went to pieces and were replaced by stronger rugs. These also failed to stand up to the wear and tear in the bushy, swampy country, and the experiment has not proved successful so far as Point Pearce is concerned.

Natural and undiscovered losses for the year worked out at approximately 8 per cent., and the sheep figures are as follows :—

Sheep on station, 30th June, 1936	4,794
Births for year :—1935 drop 30 ; 1936 drop 1,332 ..	1,362
Deaths for year	394
Losses not accounted for	51
Butchered.....	769
Purchased, rams	12

Sheepskins sold well throughout the year, 919 skins realizing £245 7s. 8d., an average of approximately 5s. 4d. per skin, including pelts from sheep butchered after shearing.

A new team of learners was engaged for the station shearing, and they are now capable of taking a stand in any outside shed. Applications have already been received from other young men wishing to learn during the coming shearing.

One thousand six hundred and sixty-five sheep were shorn by natives at the station shed for outside farmers, and some of the neighbours brought their sheep to Point Pearce for crutching. All were well satisfied with the work done.

The cattle have again maintained good condition.

An average of about 25 cows was milked daily, and in accordance with the usual practice, the milk distributed amongst the natives or separated.

Two thousand one hundred and seven and a half pounds of butter were made and sold to the natives realising £105 7s. 6d.

Four steers were butchered for the station meat shop, and six were sold realizing £47.

A new milking shorthorn bull was purchased, but there is need for another young bull, as the old one that was injured last year has never properly recovered, and can only work to a very limited extent.

The following are the cattle figures :—

Cattle on station, 30th June, 1936	130
Births for year.....	37
Sales	6
Butchered.....	4
Deaths	9
Purchased.....	1

Pigs continue to do well and very little trouble has been experienced during the year.

A decided improvement is noticed in the type of pigs since the introduction of the half-bred and pure-bred Canadian Berkshire boars. Unfortunately one young boar purchased from a noted breeder sickened soon after reaching the station, and eventually died before any service was obtained from him.

About 20 young half-bred Canadian Berkshire sows have been selected for breeding during the coming year, and this department of the station's activities should show considerable improvement in the future.

The native in charge of the pigs continues to carry out his duties exceptionally well.

Six new pens erected during the year will give better accommodation for handling the sows and their litters at farrowing time.

Shelter sheds have been re-covered with straw and a shelter placed over the self-feeder.

The figures for the year are :—

Pigs on station, 30th June, 1936	116
Births for the year	259
Butchered.....	4
Sold	154
Deaths	75

Horses, with the exception of several very old ones, have kept their condition well, and sore shoulders have not given as much trouble as in previous years.

Two foals were born. They are very nice foals and look like developing into good types for farm work. One mare slipped twin foals.

A new stallion was engaged this year and nine mares were served. One has already slipped her foal, but present indications are that four foals should result from the season's mating.

Arrangements have been made for the purchase of a young stallion from Mr. A. W. Kelly of Urania. He will keep this horse until next year, when it will be ready to commence service. With a stallion on the station it should be possible to breed more foals and eventually overcome the necessity of having to purchase horses for the replacement of old stock.

Four light horses and five young unbroken draughts were purchased during the year, and there are now 58 horses on the station.

The farm tractor has done a lot of work during the year's farming operations, but expenses for repairs to this machine have been heavy.

It has now been in constant use for seven years and will need replacing by a new tractor before very long.

All new implements have been well cared for and have given satisfaction, causing little delay through breakages, but the old harvesters will need replacing with an up-to-date header for the coming harvest.

A large area has to be harvested and suitable machinery is a necessity.

Stationary engines are all working satisfactorily and the motor launch, barge, and dinghy, have been regularly painted and kept in good order.

Native sharefarmers sowed 840 acres of wheat and white sharefarmers 950 acres in 1935.

The white sharefarmers worked their land well, seeded in good time and harvested their crops quickly, but although the natives worked their fallows well and got through the seeding in good time, they were rather slow in harvesting and lost a lot of grain through strong north winds shaking the crops badly. The white sharefarmers averaged 15bush. per acre and the natives 11½bush.

Turnip was prevalent in the paddock sown by the natives, but men were put on hoeing and they cleared the bulk of the turnip before harvesting, consequently little trouble was experienced during reaping.

Seventy-five acres were sown to wheat by the station (not under sharefarming), of which four acres were reaped and 60bush. of wheat obtained, and the remaining 71 acres cut for hay.

Six hundred and eighty-eight acres of stubble land were sown to barley by native sharefarmers in 1935.

Two hundred acres were sown early and coming up well was used as early feed for sheep. The sheep were taken off when the remainder of the stubble land was seeded, and a fair crop resulted.

Wimmera Rye grass was sown in one paddock with the barley. The barley crop was poor, but quite a fair stand of rye grass was obtained, and it is hoped that this will seed itself down again and form good pasture. Quite a lot of rye grass seed was collected from this paddock during the harvest, and it was used in the following seeding to sow one of the other paddocks.

Practically all the barley harvested by the natives was "C" grade, and what was not reserved for feed was sent to the barley pool.

One small paddock of 12 acres was cut for hay, and although only a light crop was very good hay.

About 500 acres of the barley crop was badly damaged by wind, and about half the heads were broken off and fell to the ground. This was really a blessing in disguise as the price of barley was so low that it hardly paid to bag it, while it kept the sheep in excellent condition when they were turned on to the stubbles after reaping.

The white sharefarmers had 880 acres of barley. Their crops turned out better than those sown by the natives both in quality and production, and averaged just over 16bush. per acre, while the natives' crops averaged slightly under 10bush. per acre.

Two thousand two hundred and forty-four bushels of the department's share of the barley produced by the white sharefarmers were retained for seed and the remainder 3,242bush. of "B" grade and 1,587bush. of "C" grade was sent to the barley pool.

Forty-five acres of fallow land and 220 acres of stubble were sown to oats, the fallow being sown so that good clean seed could be obtained for next season's seeding.

Forty acres of the fallow crop were reaped, yielding 855 bush., of which 675bush. were retained for seed and 180bush. sold.

Five and a half acres of the stubble crop were reaped, yielding 81bush., which were kept for feed purposes and the balance of the oat crop, five acres on fallow and 214½ acres on stubble, produced 113 tons of hay.

The results of the year's farming operations are as follows :—

Wheat produced on station	21,232 bushels
Station's share	13,197 bushels
Sharefarmers' shares	8,035 bushels
Total area reaped	1,550 acres

Average yield per acre	13.69 bushels
Barley produced on station	20,818 bushels
Station's share	12,749 bushels
Sharefarmers' shares.....	8,069 bushels
Total area reaped	1,568 acres
Average yield per acre	13.27 bushels
Oats produced on station	936 bushels
Total area reaped	45 acres
Average yield per acre	20.8 bushels
Hay produced on station	312 tons
Total area cut	542 acres
Average yield per acre	11.5 cwt.

Nine hundred and ten acres have been fallowed and sown to wheat for 1936 season. Fallowing was commenced about the middle of July, 1935, and continued until the end of August, 1935, when a dry spell stopped progress and the job was not completed until the end of October, 1935. The fallow was worked well in the spring and cultivated again in March, 1936.

Sowing of wheat commenced on 18th May, and was completed by 19th June. Although conditions were rather dry, sufficient rain fell to germinate the wheat, and at present the crops look promising.

Fifteen acres of Early Kherson and 25 acres of Mulga oats have been sown on fallow so that good clean seed may be obtained.

Three white sharefarmers fallowed 1,210 acres right on the Point and have sown wheat. This area badly needs a good soaking rain.

The varieties and acreages of fallow crops sown are as follows :—

By native sharefarmers.—Wheat—380 acres Nabawa, 280 acres Sword, 150 acres Quality, 40 acres Ford, 20 acres Bobin; total 870 acres. Oats—25 acres Mulga, 15 acres Early Kherson; total 40 acres. By white sharefarmers.—Wheat—350 acres Rane, 460 acres Nabawa, 400 acres Sword; total 1,210 acres. Total crops on fallow, 2,120 acres.

The native sharefarmers' stubble in the Hughes paddock, 840 acres, was again difficult to burn, and harrows had to be used over a large portion of it.

This stubble land was cultivated early and 350 acres of oats were sown in April and May.

Owing to dry conditions, the crop did not germinate well, but at present looks quite all right.

The balance of the paddock was cultivated a second time to kill the turnip before sowing with barley.

One hundred and twenty acres of stubble in the school paddock were sown to Early Kherson oats. It germinated badly, but has since made fair progress. Wimmera Rye grass seed was sown with this crop.

White sharefarmers also had difficulty in burning their stubbles in the Jericho paddock, the whole area having to be done with fire harrows.

They cultivated early and completed seeding by the end of June. The crop at present looks well.

The acreage of stubble land under oats and barley for the 1936 season is as follows:—Native sharefarmers—Barley 490 acres, oats 350 acres. White sharefarmers—Barley 950 acres. Station—Oats 120 acres. Total acreage on stubble, 1,910 acres.

The 50 acre plot in the Hummocks paddock which was fenced and netted, was fallowed and sown to lucerne in April with a covering crop of oats.

The seed germinated well, but just as the plants appeared above the surface, an exceptionally strong north wind destroyed a big proportion of them. The extent of the damage will not be known for some time. This wind moved large quantities of sand which was heaped against the netting fence, and had to be shovelled away.

A small trial plot was also put down in the Sheoaks paddock. This was not affected by the wind and looks very promising.

If it can be proved that lucerne will grow well, an additional 50 acres should be fenced off each year and sown to lucerne, as a few hundred acres of this plant will be a wonderful asset to the station property.

All wheat and barley was again carted from the station to Port Victoria by one of the natives, Alf. O'Loughlin, who does the work with his own motor lorry on a contract basis, and does it well.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The following is a copy of the report furnished by the Superintendent of the Koonibba Mission for 1935-36:—

“The twelve months covered by this report have been a period of good progress in all branches of our work among the natives.

“The only change of any importance took place in the school, where Mr. A. Bode resigned from his position of Head Teacher, which he had held for nearly twenty years. His place was taken by Mr. W. Oster. For several months Miss Strelan assisted in the school, but toward the end of June her place was taken by her brother, the Rev. T. Strelan. Over 60 children attend. On the occasion of his last visit, the public school inspector, Mr. Gerlach, reported very favourably on the progress made in the school.

“*Mission Work.*—The regular Sunday services and other doctrinal meetings at the station have been very well attended, but because the natives have scattered about a good deal to obtain work, it was again necessary for us to hold more regular camp services at the various places where a few could come together on Saturday afternoons and on Sundays. We are pleased to state that the natives make it their business to attend these services whenever possible.

“*Employment.*—We had not a single case of unemployment at the station during the year, though it is a pity that the wages are usually so low. We were particularly fortunate in procuring many contracts for natives to carry out, either direct from neighbouring farmers or through the Farmers Assistance Board.

*“ Farm.—*The two sharefarmers, Messrs. Gaden and Linke, harvested nearly 5,000 bags of wheat from 1,600 acres, besides the necessary supply of hay for horsefeed. Besides this a neighbouring farmer put in about 250 acres on shares with us and harvested over 600 bags.

This year Messrs. Gaden and Linke, working two horse teams and a tractor, put in a little over 2,000 acres, and the neighbouring farmer has 560 acres of our country in on shares. At present, though it is an exceptionally late season, the prospects for the coming harvest are first class.

*“ Sheep.—*Last year we shored about 1,100 sheep and the clip amounted to 36 bales.

“ The progress noticeable among the natives during the last year goes to prove once more that most of them, full-bloods as well as half-castes, will gradually rise to a higher level if there is work available for them and they can be persuaded to take it on and to keep at it.

“ Having accepted a call to our Port Lincoln parish, I leave for the new field this month. It will be extremely hard for me to say goodbye to Koonibba and the natives, and to leave the very interesting work to the new Superintendent, the Rev. R. H. Traeger, and our sincere wish is that Koonibba and the natives may continue to prosper.

“ In closing, we wish to thank you, as Chief Protector, and your staff for the kind and ever ready help and advice that I have received from you during my stay at Koonibba. Your assistance proved invaluable to me on many occasions, especially in difficulties.”

ALBERT MUELLER, Superintendent, Koonibba Mission.

A statement of the expenditure and receipts of the department and income and expenditure statements and balance-sheets of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Aboriginal Stations are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.



RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—ABORIGINALS

	RECEIPTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Point Pearce Station—						
From sales of produce, &c.	6,303	16	5			
From interest on Aborigines Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commission).....	14	7	2			
From store sales	3,353	19	2			
				9,672	2	9
Point McLeay Station—						
From sales of produce, &c.	1,814	10	0			
From store sales	3,596	4	6			
				5,410	14	6
From refund of advances for fares, &c.	—			325	2	3
Cost of Aborigines to the South Australian Government for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1936..	—			20,443	9	4
Total				£35,851	8	10

DEPARTMENT, YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1936.

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Head Office--							
Salaries	1,161	9	6				
Provisions—Blankets, clothing, medical, dental and optical expenses, transport, &c.....	6,064	8	5				
Boarding Home for Aboriginal women, &c.	175	11	7				
Advisory Council of Aborigines....	16	1	4				
Training of half-caste girls for domestic service	24	0	0				
Superannuation Fund Pensions	265	7	2				
					7,706	18	0
Point Pearce Station—							
Salaries and wages	6,719	15	4				
Implements, stock, fertilizers, &c. . .	4,189	6	10				
New cottages	361	2	2				
Interest on loan for purchase of plant	87	19	3				
Materials for erection of hall	314	4	11				
Purchase of motor buckboard.....	203	17	0				
Purchases and expenses for store ..	3,276	3	10				
					15,152	9	4
Point McLeay Station—							
Salaries and wages	4,538	10	7				
Implements, stock, fertilizers, &c. . .	4,389	6	1				
Rent of section, Hundred of Baker	41	15	9				
New cottages	180	10	2				
Purchase of motor buckboard.....	163	8	2				
Purchases and expenses for store ..	3,678	10	9				
					12,992	1	6
Total					£35,851	8	10

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

13th August, 1936.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT MCLEAY

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance, excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—		149	1 11
<i>Station Accounts.</i>				
To Horses	—		23	4 1
Farm expenses	—		769	18 10
Salaries	608	11 11		
Wages	2,034	14 3		
	2,643		6	2
Head office, salaries and expenses ...	—		62	16 5
Rent, Hundred of Baker	—		41	15 9
Accident insurance	—		18	16 8
Depreciation—				
Implements, vehicles	80	3 11		
Harness	1	4 5		
	81		8	4
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>				
To Salaries	332	9 5		
Wages	1,518	4 0		
	1,850		13	5
Head office, salaries and expenses ...	—		62	16 5
Accident insurance	—		14	2 5
Medical, dental and optical expenses.	—		370	2 9
Rations	—		2,305	1 7
Firewood	—		521	18 0
Institutional expenses	—		377	2 6
School books and materials	—		22	11 10
Depreciation—				
Furniture	2	8 8		
Hospital furniture	4	9 11		
Hospital equipment	3	17 8		
	10		16	3
	£9,325		13	4

STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1936.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Trading Store Account	—			149	1	11

Station Accounts.

By Pigs	137	13	0			
Cattle	800	17	2			
Sheep	717	5	4			
	<hr/>			1,655	15	6
Balance, excess of expenditure over income, station accounts				1,985	10	9

Institution Accounts.

By Balance, excess of expenditure over income, institution accounts	5,535	5	2			
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£9,325 13 4

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.
13th August, 1936.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT MCLEAY

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	96,668	1	1			
H.M. Government Deposit Account ..	384	4	7			
				97,052	5	8
Capital Account	—			5,612	8	5
Sundry creditors	—			969	15	10

£103,634 9 11

STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1936.

ASSETS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	7,625	6	8			
Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7			
New cottages	577	10	8			
				10,283	7	11
Land purchased.....	—			3,630	0	0
Improvements	—			3,623	14	2
Implements, vehicles, &c.	624	12	0			
Harness.....	40	0	0			
Furniture	90	18	6			
Hospital furniture	47	18	9			
Hospital equipment	56	1	0			
				859	10	3
Cash on hand	—			133	5	3
Sundry debtors	—			259	8	11
Stocks on hand—						
Store	525	5	5			
Sheep	703	7	6			
Cattle	496	1	0			
Pigs	54	5	0			
Horses	367	0	0			
Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, &c.	196	7	4			
Institution stores	55	17	5			
				2,398	3	8
Excess of expenditure over income for the year—						
Station Accounts.....	1,985	10	9			
Institution Accounts	5,535	5	2			
				7,520	15	11
Less excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	149	1	11			
				7,371	14	0
Excess of expenditure over income, brought forward, 1915/35	75,075	5	9			
				82,446	19	9
				£103,634	9	11

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

13th August, 1936.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance, excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—		388	10 10
<i>Station Accounts.</i>				
To Horses	—		91	9 0
Salaries	593	2 4		
Wages	2,371	14 0		
	2,964		16	4
Accident insurance	—		19	16 1
Head office, salaries and expenses ...	—		62	16 5
Interest on loan account	—		87	19 3
Depreciation—				
Implements, vehicles, &c.	323	7 7		
Harness.....	12	5 0		
	335		13	4
Balance, excess of income over expenditure, station accounts	—		1,700	14 6
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>				
To Salaries	526	14 3		
Wages	2,679	11 8		
	3,206		5	11
Rations	—		1,103	18 4
Accident insurance	—		29	14 1
School books and materials	—		38	5 8
Head office, salaries and expenses ...	—		62	16 5
Medical, dental and optical expenses.	—		295	7 0
Institutional expenses	—		380	19 6
Depreciation—				
Hospital equipment	—		2	8 1
	£10,771		10	9

STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1936.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Trading Store Account	—			388	10	10

Station Accounts.

By Pigs	216	19	10			
Cattle	287	16	1			
Sheep	3,463	8	6			
Farm	1,280	13	4			
				5,248	17	9
Interest on Aboriginals Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commission)				14	7	2

Institution Accounts.

By Rent of school building	20	0	0			
Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, institution accounts	5,090	15	0			

£10,771 10 9

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

13th August, 1936.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE

LIABILITIES.						
	£.	s.	d.	£	s	d
H.M. Government Account	79,257	12	5			
H.M. Government Loan Account	2,094	7	4			
				81,351	19	6
Capital Account				11,374	9	5
Sundry Creditors				769	0	4

£93,495 9 6

STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1936.

ASSETS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	11,365	16	11			
New cottages	4,355	5	1			
Erection of hall	693	6	8			
				16,414	8	8
Improvements	8,370	14	5			
Implements, vehicles, &c.	2,093	10	7			
Harness	111	7	0			
Furniture	122	16	5			
Hospital furniture	12	11	0			
Hospital equipment	10	1	11			
				10,721	1	4
Cash on hand	—			25	19	8
H.M. Government Deposit Account	—			41	13	3
Sundry Debtors	—			158	12	1
Aboriginals Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commission)	—			493	0	9
Stocks on hand—						
Store	362	6	1			
Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, &c.	1,652	7	0			
Sheep	4,493	13	8			
Cattle	618	3	0			
Pigs	230	6	6			
Horses	700	0	0			
Institution stores	91	15	4			
				8,148	11	7
Excess of expenditure over income for the year—Institution accounts	5,099	15	0			
Less excess of income over expenditure— Station accounts	1,700	14	6			
				3,399	0	6
Less excess of income over expenditure— Account trading store	388	10	10			
				3,010	9	8
Excess of expenditure over income, brought forward, 1915-35	54,481	12	6			
				57,492	2	2
				£93,495	9	6

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

13th August, 1936.