

1950-51.

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for the year ended 30th June, 1950

**Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the
provisions of Section 19B of the Aborigines
Protection Act, 1909-1943**

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Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1950.

Presented to The Honourable Clive R. Evatt, K.C., M.L.A., Chief Secretary, pursuant to
Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943.

I. THE BOARD.

Personnel and Attendance at Meetings.

1. The personnel of the Board and the number of meetings attended by members were:

Mr. C. J. Buttsworth (Chairman)	10
Professor A. P. Elkin (Vice-Chairman)	9
Superintendent R. H. Blackley	8
Dr. J. Grahame Drew	11
Mr. J. P. Glasheen	10
Mr. H. S. Groves (appointed 2nd June, 1950) ..	1
Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb	11
Mr. Michael Sawtell	10
Mr. E. Wetherall, M.L.A. (appointed 21st April, 1950)	1
The Honourable E. G. Wright, M.L.C.	7
Mr. William Ferguson (deceased)	5
Mr. S. R. Heferen (resigned)	1

2. Mr. S. L. Anderson, who as Under-Secretary and Permanent Head of the Chief Secretary's Department was Chairman of the Board from 26th June, 1940, retired on 15th July, 1949, and was succeeded by Mr. C. J. Buttsworth. Mr. Buttsworth attended his first meeting as member and Chairman of the Board on 26th July, 1949. During the year, Mr. S. R. Heferen resigned, and Mr. E. Wetherall, M.L.A., was appointed in his stead. The Board desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Messrs. Anderson and Heferen whilst members of the Board; also of the late Mr. William Ferguson, who was the first aboriginal member of the Board.

3. During January of this year, Mr. J. P. Glasheen, who has represented the Department of Education on the Board for the past eight years, was appointed as a Member of the Public Service Board. Mr. Glasheen is continuing on the Aborigines Welfare Board as the representative of the Department of Education.

4. Of the eleven members of the Aborigines Welfare Board, one must be a full-blood aborigine and one either a full-blood or a person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood. These representatives, who are elected by the aboriginal people, serve on the Board for three years and are eligible for re-election. The terms of office of the two aboriginal members, Messrs. Walter Page and William Ferguson, expired on 5th July, 1948. No nomination was received for the vacant office of full-blood aboriginal member and the seat is still vacant. Mr. Ferguson, who is a quarter-caste and was re-elected unopposed, died during December last, and Mr. H. S. Groves, a half-caste aborigine, was appointed in his stead for the remainder of the term.

Policy.

5. The Board has continually stressed that its aim is the ultimate assimilation of aborigines with the general community. The Board hopes to achieve this object by the provision of improved housing and living conditions, by attention to health and hygiene, the provision of equal education facilities for aboriginal children as for white children, the development of social, sporting and cultural pursuits, and by individual welfare activity.

6. The Board's achievements in respect of each of these objectives are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Visits to Stations and Homes.

7. As Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb is Executive Member of the Board. The Aborigines

Protection Act requires that inspections shall be made of each Station and Training Home at regular intervals by the Superintendent and by one or more of such other members. In accordance with this provision, nineteen visits were made to twenty-five Aboriginal Stations and Reserves. These visits were made by the Superintendent and five other members of the Board.

8. It is recorded with pleasure that during his term as Chief Secretary, the Honourable C. H. Matthews also visited aboriginal communities.

Staff.

9. All officers of the Board, both in Head Office and the field, rendered loyal and efficient service throughout the year. The Board records its appreciation of the work performed by the Staff during the period.

10. Although there have been difficulties in maintaining an adequate domestic staff at the Cootamundra Girls' Home, the staffing position on the Stations has been satisfactory.

11. The Board has approved a proposal that conferences of field officers be arranged from time to time.

12. For several years the administration has aimed at the division of the functions of teacher and manager on Aboriginal Stations. This objective came closer to realisation during the year when the Department of Education appointed full-time trained teachers to the Roseby Park and Jervis Bay aboriginal schools. Managers are still performing teaching duties at Pilliga, Cowra, Moonacullah and Walgett aboriginal schools.

General Expenditure.

13. The sum of £152,790 was expended on behalf of aborigines in the period under review. Details are furnished in Appendix "C." £77,660 of this amount is in the nature of recurring expenditure, representing £69,581 direct expenditure by the Board and £8,279 expended by other Departments on the Board's behalf. The total expenditure of a recurring nature for the year represents a decrease of £2,818 over the amount for the preceding twelve months.

14. The expenditure on erection of new buildings, and major alterations and additions for the past financial year amounted to £75,130. The amount committed in respect of new buildings was £184,125, but owing to difficulty experienced by the contractors in bringing their contracts to completion the amount of money available for building works could not be fully utilised. By direction of the Treasury, the Board was not permitted to commit expenditure in excess of the allocation.

Acknowledgements.

15. The Aborigines Welfare Board expresses thanks to those other Government Departments which contributed to the work of aboriginal welfare in this State and places on record its indebtedness for their co-operation and assistance.

16. In addition, thanks are expressed to those persons and organisations who have demonstrated a practical and sympathetic interest in the welfare of aborigines generally.

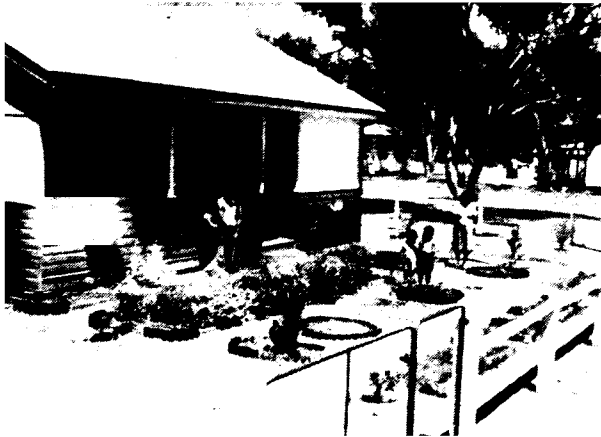
II. SPECIAL FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Implementation of Assimilation Policy.

(a) Housing on the Stations.

17. An improvement in the living conditions of aborigines residing on aboriginal stations is progressively noticeable, and this can be regarded as a first step in the process of developing the aboriginal people to a stage where they will become acceptable by the white community.

18. New cottages provided on Murrin Bridge, Taree, Cowra and Caroonna Aboriginal Stations and at La Perouse Aborigines Reserve have been occupied, while on other Stations new cottages are under construction or are about to be built. The new homes compare very favourably with those built for white people.



Pride of Possession. An Aborigines home at Murrin Bridge Station.

19. In the previous report it was estimated that some 600 to 700 homes were required for the present needs of the aboriginal people. It was stated that it had not been possible to provide more than approximately 10 per cent. of these but that the building programme was being steadily pursued.

20. The position has improved, and approximately 120 cottages, representing 17 per cent. of the cottages needed, have actually been completed, whilst a further forty cottages are in varying stages of completion. These new homes are of modern design and consist of two or three-bedroom units, kitchen with a fuel stove, living room, bathroom and laundry. Some of the homes are equipped with electric light.



A street of aboriginal homes in a Rural Setting at Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station.

21. Inspection visits to some of the newly occupied homes have been made regularly by the Board's Officers for the purpose of advising mothers and developing a greater sense of home responsibility. Already there is evidence of a better outlook on the part of the people towards home life. Some of the homes are well furnished; most of them are at least tidy and clean.

22. At Taree Aboriginal Station where a number of new homes has been provided, the Management promoted a garden competition with a view to improving the external appearance of the Station and inculcating a sense of pride in the surroundings. The winner maintained a high standard in her garden throughout the year and was an exhibitor at the local flower show.

23. Managers of Aboriginal Stations are assisting the aboriginal people to make purchases of furniture and household furnishings. Residents are encouraged at every opportunity to purchase furniture and other necessities for their homes. Conformity with white people's standards is emphasised as prerequisite to acceptance by and assimilation with the community.

(b) Payment of Rent.

24. The improvement in the standard of homes provided has been designed primarily to prepare the aboriginal people for assimilation, and, with that end in view, a nominal rent is being charged for the new cottages where the tenants are fully employed. The rental charge is purely nominal and is not related to the value of the homes occupied.

25. Rentals were fixed at 15s. and 17s. 6d. for two-bedroom and three-bedroom units, respectively. An appropriate charge is also being made for older residences of a reasonable standard.

26. The tenants have been required to complete a tenancy application and tenancy agreement and their obligations have been fully explained to them.

27. The general picture of rental payments by the tenants is far from satisfactory. Serious consideration is being given by the Board to appropriate action to deal with the position. The principle of rent payment as a social obligation is a lesson that still has to be learned by many.

(c) Housing in the Towns.

28. Whilst the new housing activity on Stations is proceeding the Board is preparing for the next stage in the process of assimilation. This involves acquisition of sites in towns on which will be built homes for those aborigines who are regarded as ready for assimilation. It is proposed to provide individual cottages wherever possible rather than build in groups. This is intended to avoid the creation of aboriginal communities within towns.

29. The Board is well aware that much remains to be done regarding the provision of housing for aborigines living in and around certain country towns independently of the Board. Many of these families are at present living under sub-standard conditions which can only be described as deplorable.

30. Many families who live in make-shift dwellings are earning reasonably good wages but the difficulties associated with building in the past few years coupled with a lack of incentive to raise themselves to a higher standard of living, have resulted in little or no attempt by most of these people to change from their present unsatisfactory mode of living. The Board intends as soon as possible to demolish these humpies and replace them with suitable temporary structures.

31. Towns which have been noted tentatively for improved housing of aboriginal families include, Cowra, Yass, Coonabarabran, Nambucca Heads, Wellington, Dubbo, Wilcannia, Bourke, Tingha, Armidale, Moama, Mathoura, Nowra, Berry, Milton, Coff's Harbour and Forster. Residence in the towns will in turn provide better educational, medical, social and employment facilities and hasten achievement of the assimilation policy of the Board. Approval has been given for the acquisition of allotments in Cowra and a survey of suitable allotments is being made at other centres.

32. The provision of homes to meet the entire State-wide need will take many years to accomplish and, as a temporary expedient, the possibility is being examined of providing temporary housing in the form of two or three-roomed units which although not up to proper housing standards would provide at least hygienic conditions until proper homes can be constructed.

(d) The Example of Roseby Park.

33. The Board's policy of assimilation is illustrated by its decision to close Roseby Park Aboriginal Station and to establish the aboriginal families in individual homes at Nowra and other South Coast towns.

34. Roseby Park Aboriginal Station was established nearly fifty years ago and is typical of other aboriginal settlements which were formed early in the century. The policy at that time was to isolate the aborigines from the white communities as far as practicable. The policy was possibly prompted by the desire to preserve the racial characteristics of the aborigines without causing too great a drain on the State finances. At that time and in the following years the standard provided for the aborigines so far as housing was concerned was of a low order.

35. The necessity for replacement of such housing has now arisen and the question of retaining established settlements and providing new housing for all classes and standards of aborigines and maximum costs must also be considered.

36. Roseby Park Aboriginal Station is acknowledged to be unsuitable for retention as a modern station settlement. The station is isolated, being approximately eighteen miles from Nowra and cut off by the Crookhaven River from the nearest village, Greenwell Point; sources of employment are remote; social and recreational facilities are lacking and there are not any facilities for prompt attention to the sick. The nearest hospital is at Berry, over thirty miles distant.

37. In the opinion of the Board, the residents of Roseby Park Station could, with encouragement, take their places in the life of the general community and the proposals which have been made will give them the necessary opportunity.

Special Investigations.

(a) Housing Conditions at Coonamble.

38. It is a fact that many aboriginal people are living under conditions that leave much to be desired but unwarranted attacks are made from time to time both by the press and by members of the public and an exaggerated picture of the position is often presented. Allegations regarding conditions at such places as Coff's Harbour, Tuncester, and Coonamble are cases in point.

39. Following press publicity of allegedly bad conditions under which aborigines were residing at Coonamble, a survey of the conditions was made. It had been alleged that the aborigines lived partly on food scraps salvaged from the rubbish tip, that their huts were primitive and filthy; littered with refuse and clouded with flies; that many of the children wore rags infected with vermin and showed signs of malnutrition; and that serious illnesses were common.

40. The only six aboriginal families living in the locality at that time were interviewed and each deprecated the allegations which had been made. The report of the interviewing officer revealed the following facts:—

The occupancy of sub-standard dwellings in Coonamble was not restricted to the aboriginal population.

The health of the aborigines generally was quite good and no case of infectious disease had been reported to the local authority from the area.

Most of the children attended the local schools regularly.

All able-bodied aborigines at Coonamble were in constant employment and earned good wages which they spent largely on their families.

41. It is not suggested that conditions at Coonamble are wholly satisfactory; on the contrary, the need for better conditions is recognised and an endeavour will be made to effect improvements.

(b) The Kempsey Baths Case.

42. The attention of the Board was invited to the alleged refusal on the part of the Kempsey Municipal Council to admit to the Municipal Baths aborigines other than aboriginal children attending high school and in charge of a teacher. The Board was approached by many organisations protesting against the Council's attitude and the matter was the subject of correspondence between the Board, the Council and the Department of Local Government.

43. In pressing for a review of the Council's attitude, emphasis was placed on the Board's aim to assimilate the aborigines with the white population and the injustice of what appeared to be discrimination against the aborigine children.

44. Kempsey Municipal Council, however, could not see its way to depart from its decision.

45. The Board has sought the assistance of the Department of Public Health in making a medical survey of the aborigines in the area and arrangements for this check are in progress.

Welfare and Educational.

(a) Colour Prejudice.

46. Further progress has been made in overcoming the antipathy and colour prejudice which exists amongst a section of the white community in relation to the aboriginal people. It must be realised, however, that success in the ultimate assimilation of aborigines into the white community can only be achieved when the aborigine proves his independence, moral responsibility and reliability which, of course, also calls for a measure of toleration on the part of the white community.

47. Admission of aboriginal children to white schools, delivery of public addresses, periodical contacts by Welfare Officers and above all efforts to improve the standard of hygiene have contributed in some degree towards breaking down the antagonism which exists.

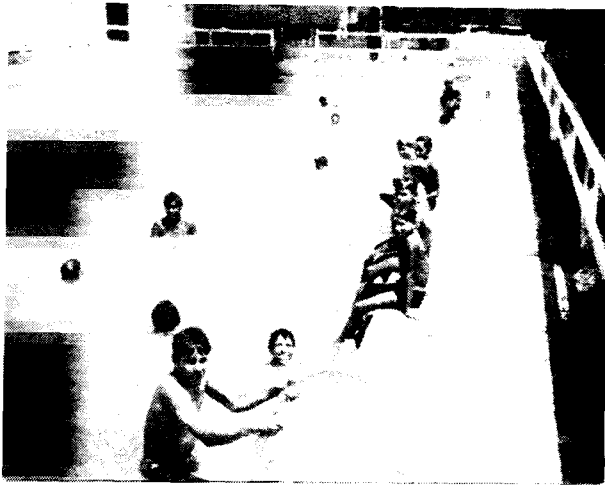
48. Indicative of the interest on the part of a white community in the welfare of aborigines is the generous donation by local organisations in Moree of a film projector for use in the aboriginal school at that centre.

49. The Board seeks to foster in the aborigine a realisation that there is no barrier to his participation in the civic, cultural and social life of the community. This participation will, it is considered, materially assist in breaking down the barriers which prejudice has built up.

(b) Welfare and Educational Officers.

50. Side by side with its policy of providing better homes for the aboriginal people to assist in their progress towards assimilation the Board is building up a team of Welfare Officers and has others in training.

51. The activities of Welfare Officers in the field will eventually form the crux of the social welfare work amongst the aborigines. They will concentrate on local problems and maintain close personal contact with all aborigines. Much difficulty has been experienced during the year in recruiting suitable men to take up this work and a lengthy period of study and training is necessary before they are equipped for their important duties.



Champions in the making? The Swimming Pool at Kinchela Home.

52. At the present time only two areas are being served by Welfare Officers. In addition the Board's female Welfare Inspector concentrates on the problems associated with the women and children and particularly adolescent girls. She also pays periodical visits to aboriginal stations, reserves and settlements. A third area Welfare Officer has been appointed but has not yet taken up duty.

53. It is proposed ultimately to divide the State into eight areas each of which will be in charge of an Area Welfare Officer. Each will have his headquarters at a suitable centre of aboriginal population.



A scene in the garden at Kinchela Boys' Home on the Macleay River.

54. Welfare Officers will devote their energies primarily towards assisting and guiding aborigines in their districts. In addition they make routine visits to stations and reserves at regular intervals. These duties will involve not only the exercise of general oversight of aboriginal stations and reserves but also the general welfare of people of aboriginal descent wherever they may be found.

55. Amongst their many other duties, Welfare Officers will endeavour to establish local committees to assist in aboriginal welfare matters and although these committees have not yet been established, the ground-work is being prepared.

56. Two additional trainee welfare officers were appointed during the year and were enrolled in the necessary courses of study. The total number of welfare officers in training this year was five.

57. A young man of aboriginal extraction is in training at the Sydney Teachers' College and satisfactory reports have been received concerning his first year of training. When his studies have been completed and he has been trained at the Board's office in aspects of the work upon which he will be

engaged, his task will be to develop a more satisfactory relationship between the normal education of aboriginal children and social life of the community on Stations. It was hoped to recruit additional young people for this special class of work and applications were invited for additional appointments, but without success.



Entrance to the Girls' Training Home at Cootamundra.

(c) *Summer Camp for Aboriginal Children.*

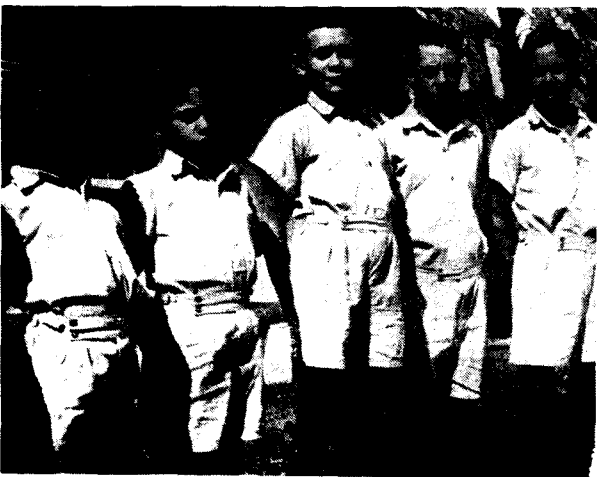
58. In January, 1950, the Board arranged at La Perouse Aborigines Reserve, a camp for aboriginal children from out-back areas. Conducted on the lines of the Far West Children's Health Scheme, the camp enabled the children to receive a medical and dental check up, whilst various outings to places of interest in Sydney were arranged for them.

59. The camp was under the charge of two trainee welfare officers. Fifty-three children attended the Camp in two batches of twenty-four and twenty-nine respectively, and each group spent two weeks at the Camp. It is proposed to continue the Summer Camp throughout subsequent years, if possible in a more suitable location.

60. A Summer Camp for the inmates of the Kinchela Boys' Home was held at Smoky Cape and was an outstanding success.

(d) *Provision of Amenities.*

61. With a view to the provision of practical assistance in the development of social welfare amongst aborigines, the Board approved of a subsidy on a pound for pound basis, with a limit of £25 in any one year, for the provision of amenities for any aboriginal station, including the school attached to such station. A very satisfactory response was made by the stations to this offer.



A Group of "Kinchela" lads.

62. Officers of the Public Library who reported to the Public Service Board on Institutional library facilities recommended the purchase of forty boxes of books for circulation to aboriginal schools. The Public Service Board has approved of the scheme and the Treasury will shortly be requested to supply funds.

Provision of Banking Facilities.

63. With the continuation of abundant employment and the high wages received by aborigines throughout the State, opportunities are afforded them to improve their living conditions and to establish a bank credit for use against future contingencies.

64. It is difficult, however, to convince many of the aboriginal people of the advantage of saving money. Education, however, coupled with the development of a more stable social attitude, will probably in time bring about a better outlook on the part of the people.

65. Realising that any surplus capital held by aborigines is, in a number of cases, not being used wisely, the Board recently considered the question of inducing aborigines to save money and to open Savings Bank accounts. This aspect is regarded as of great importance in the process of assimilation of the aborigines into the white community.

66. Arrangements are in hand for Agencies of the Commonwealth Savings Bank to be established on a few stations as a trial and an extension of the scheme will be considered in the light of the results achieved.

New Aboriginal Stations.

67. *Caroona.*—In December, 1949, the Chief Secretary officially opened the reconstructed Caroona Aboriginal Station. The function was attended by representatives of the Aborigines Welfare Board and Public Service Board and Public Works Department in addition to a satisfactory attendance of the local citizens.

The building project, which cost over £60,000, includes thirty new homes, a staff residence, recreation hall, church, ration store and office, farm buildings and improved water supply. A feature of the official opening ceremony was a successful sports programme for the residents with a display provided by the school children.

68. *Moree.*—In April, 1950, a resident Manager took up duty at the Aboriginal Station now being constructed at Moree. This project brings the number of stations operated by the Board to nineteen. The building work on this Station is proceeding very slowly and at the close of the period none of the aboriginal dwellings had been occupied. The contract, which provides for twenty-four new homes, re-erection and remodelling of nine existing cottages, two staff residences, ration store, recreation hall, church, school and farm buildings is now approximately half completed.

69. *Tabulam.*—The construction of a new Aboriginal Station at Tabulam was started during October, 1949, and the contractor has made very satisfactory progress. The contract includes eighteen homes, staff residences, medical unit, recreation hall, church, school, ration store and water supply, etc., and the project is about one-third completed.

III. THE INSTITUTIONS.

Children's Homes.

70. The Act provides for the constitution and establishment of homes for the reception, maintenance, education and training of aboriginal wards. The Board controls two such homes—Kinchela Boys' Home and Cootamundra Girls' Homes.

71. Each home has facilities for the care of up to 50 children from 6 to 15 years of age. The training given the children at the homes is designed to fit them to take their places in the community at the appropriate time and to acquit themselves as good and useful citizens.

72. When children are admitted to the Board's control, family groups are involved and the chief objection to the separate homes for girls and boys, is the inevitable breaking up of the family groups. The Board does not possess an institution for children of pre-school age and it has become necessary to have these children boarded out with private families and in church institution Homes.

73. Relatives of aboriginal children at the two Homes have, from time to time, sought information relating to the Homes and, with a view to satisfying these natural inquiries, the Board has arranged for a series of photographs to be taken of the two Homes and aspects of the daily life of the children. These are in the process of being mounted in albums which will be circularised to the various Stations and Reserves so that the aboriginal people may have the opportunity of perusing a pictorial record of the conditions under which children live whilst under the Board's care.

74. Both Homes suffered in efficiency and smooth running throughout the year because of the oft-recurring changes in staff. Institutions seem to suffer even more than private homes in the matter of retaining domestic staff and at the end of the year the lag had still not been overcome.

Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Home.

75. Located 16 miles from Kempsey, this home stands in 32 acres of good agricultural river flats. It is nicely laid out with lawns, gardens, swimming pool and playground area. The farm section is given over to the training of the older boys in practical farming before their transfer to employment as apprenticed wards.

76. At 30th June, 1950, there were 44 inmates at the Kinchela Home. This represents an increase of four on the figure as at 30th June, 1949. The average number of boys accommodated at the Home throughout the year was 42 as against 40 in the previous period. During the year there were 6 admissions and 2 discharges.

77. In August, 1949, the Kinchela Home was inundated by flood, the water rising to a height of over 3 ft. 6 in., in all buildings. All inmates of the Home were evacuated and accommodated temporarily at the Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station. Much damage and considerable loss was sustained and it took many months to restore the Home to normal.

78. Again in June, 1950, the Macleay River rose and the flood reached a higher level than in August, 1949. The inmates were evacuated to South West Rocks. All the poultry and a quantity of perishable goods were lost. The 1950 flood completely ruined the lawns, vegetable gardens and pastures and the scene at Kinchela after the flood was one of desolation. Many months will need to be spent in restoration work. The Board places on record its appreciation of the good work and excellent co-operation of the staff and the senior boys during these critical periods.

79. The Home and buildings were in good condition prior to the two floods and the general appearance had been greatly improved following upon extensive painting and renovations. Much of the work will now have to be repeated.

80. The Government Medical Officer visited the Home during the year and reported satisfaction with the health of the boys. The Home was visited by a dental surgeon on three occasions and all inmates are now dentally fit.

81. One of the Kinchela lads was apprenticed to the Board's Maintenance Officer in the painting trade, whilst the case of another boy is being investigated with a view to his apprenticeship in the building industry.

82. The senior boys assist on the farm and in the vegetable garden and generally display an interest in this work. The farm comprises 30 acres and there is a dairy herd of 33 head of stock, and 4 horses. The farm provides the Home with milk, butter and cream all the year around in normal times, whilst 90 per cent. of the vegetable requirements of the institution are produced by the Home itself. Farm and dairy production fell during the year because of the effect of floods and it was necessary to purchase butter, vegetables and fodder to supplement the Home production. Milk produced totalled 7,374 gallons. Butter production was 1,585 lb., equal to an average of 30 lb. weekly.

83. All the boys attend school until they reach the age of 15. Five boys are attending High School at Kempsey and are making satisfactory progress. Hobbies and occupational activities are catered for in the curriculum. Some of the boys have shown marked ability at basket making.

84. Weekly church services are held at the Home by the Home Chaplain and Sunday School is taken by one of the Board's officers. On certain Sundays parties of boys are taken to church when services are held in adjacent townships. The Home was visited during the year by two Anglican Bishops, both of whom paid a tribute to the manner in which the institution was conducted.

85. The recreational side of the Home's activities is important from the point of view of character building. The boys participate in football, cricket, athletics and swimming, and, in addition, are taken on conducted walks and picnics. During the summer months parties of boys are taken to the beach. Fishing as a pastime is regularly indulged in and the boys derive much pleasure from this activity.

86. Full use is made of the film projector and regular weekly screenings are provided for the boys.

87. The boys are encouraged to listen to the news and sporting sessions on the radio and the Manager periodically lectures the boys on current topics. The Board has gymnasium equipment on order for installation at the Home.

Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Home.

88. This Home, which is situated within 2 miles from the township of Cootamundra, caters for girls of school age.

89. At 30th June, 1950, there were thirty-three inmates in the Home. The average throughout the year was thirty-two. During the period there were eight admissions to the Home and ten discharges to employment. Those placed in employment are engaged in domestic duties, but one is gaining experience in a hospital pending admission as a trainee nurse, and it is hoped that another will shortly be accepted as a trainee telephonist with the Postmaster-General's Department.

90. The general health of the girls has been satisfactory. The Home has been fortunate in the excellent co-operation of the local Hospital and local medical officer. Special cases have received regular treatment in addition to the regular half-yearly medical and dental surveys.

91. Eleven of the girls are enrolled at the local High School; seventeen attend the primary school and are making satisfactory progress. Some are receiving specialised training in domestic science.

92. The girls have acquitted themselves well in all school sports. The transport of the children to and from school daily by the local bus has proved to be a very satisfactory arrangement.



Seniors and Juniors—A Group at the Cootamundra Home.

93. The Principal attends the local Parents and Citizens' Association meetings and the local Mothers' Club. In both places she has been warmly welcomed by the members, who are keenly interested in the progress of the Home.

94. Religious instruction has been given regularly. The girls attend the local churches of their particular denomination each Sunday. Sunday School is conducted at the Home by two of the district school teachers who take a particular interest in the children.



Cootamundra Girls setting out for School in the Town.

95. The children are suitably catered for in regard to recreational activities. They attend the local picture theatre at regular intervals provided suitable pictures are being screened, free seating being provided by the management. Their activities also include hikes, picnics, tennis and concerts. Evening classes in reading, knitting, and fancywork are conducted at regular intervals.

96. During the summer months the children are taken regularly to the town's swimming baths. The attitude of the local townspeople generally in regard to the acceptance of the children in all social activities is most gratifying.

97. Negotiations are under way for the establishment of a summer camp for the girls during the coming summer school vacation.

98. All girls of suitable age are being trained in laundry work, cooking, mending, sewing, and handicrafts, and progress is being made.

99. The Home grows an appreciable proportion of its own vegetable requirements and is supplied with milk and eggs from its own livestock.

Aboriginal Wards.

100. The Courts committed eighteen children to the care of the Board during the year because of neglect or destitution or the parents' inability to control them. The children were placed as follows:—

Kinchela Boys' Training Home	4
Cootamundra Girls' Training Home	2
Bomaderry Children's Home	2
Boarded out with approved aboriginal families ..	10

101. Two children were discharged from the care of the Child Welfare Department and transferred to the control of the Board. They were both placed in employment as apprentices.

102. The Board assumed control of four children under section 11D (1) (a) of the Aborigines Protection Act. They were placed as follows:—

Admitted to Cootamundra Home	1
Admitted to Bomaderry Home	1
Boarded out with approved aboriginal families ..	2

103. Children who have been committed to the care of the Board as wards are maintained at the Board's institutions until they reach approximately 16 years of age. The wards are then placed in employment with approved employers and under the usual apprenticeship conditions governed by regulations. They continue in employment, supervised by the Board, until they reach the age of 18 years, when they are free to make their own way in life. Frequent after care visits are made to wards in employment, both by the Board's Officers and by Officers of the Child Welfare Department.

104. Whilst domestic work for girls and rural pursuits for boys are the usual avenues of employment the aptitudes of the individual wards are considered and endeavours are made to arrange employment on a higher plane. For example, in three recent cases, arrangements were made to employ wards as switchboard operator, nurse, and textile machinist.

105. At the close of the period under review there were in employment sixteen girls and three boys who are wards of the Board.

Aboriginal Stations Generally.

106. Nineteen Aboriginal Stations were maintained during the year. On each Station supervision is vested in a resident Manager assisted by a Matron—with additional staff on the larger Stations. An Aboriginal Station may briefly be described as a community settlement comprising a cottage home for each family, school, church, recreation hall and staff residences, medical treatment clinic and water supply system. Where appropriate, the settlement maintains its own dairy herd and a vegetable garden which supply the needs of those in need.

107. The primary purpose of an aboriginal station is to provide a refuge for those aborigines who would not be able effectively to fend for themselves away from the Board's care and protection and to guide these people in the principles of citizenship in order to facilitate their ultimate assimilation into the general community.

108. It is not the policy of the Board to accelerate the movement of aboriginal families away from the Stations unless such families are suitable and ready for assimilation into the way of life of the white people. It will be appreciated that a number of disadvantages would follow any such premature attempt at absorption of these people.

109. Training for assimilation has been started on Stations with the introduction of better housing and guidance in the proper furnishing and care of homes, and in adoption of hygienic standards. The Board does not seek to move families from its care and protection unless it is satisfied that they are ready to stand on their own feet.

110. Conversely, however, as pointed out elsewhere in this report, no stone is left unturned in encouraging those aborigines who are sufficiently advanced to move from the Stations, and to facilitate such movement the Board is now about to start a programme of building cottage homes in the towns.

111. The point is stressed that the interests of persons of aboriginal descent, wherever they might be, are still watched over by Welfare Officers on their periodical visits. It would be quite wrong to convey any impression that aboriginal

families who choose to remain on Stations and those who have to remain there because of the housing position, are completely dependent on the Board.

112. All able-bodied men who are in a position to do so are required to remain in employment and support their families from their wages. There are, of course, aged, sick, infirm and at times unemployed aborigines, and these people are provided with food rations including special invalid preparations where necessary, medicines, blankets, clothing, tobacco and other comforts.

113. Arrangements are being made for the establishment of sales stores on those Stations where the need exists and for the invitation of tenders for leasing of the necessary facilities. The successful tenderer will have sole rights to trade on the Station, subject to such conditions as the Board may impose.

114. The following summary indicates at a glance the number of Stations administered by the Board under each population category. (Details of size of the individual Stations, together with population in each case, are given in Appendix "A.") :—

Over 200 residents	3 Stations.
Between 100 and 200 residents	11 Stations.
Under 100 residents	5 Stations.

115. Appendix "A" of this report shows that the total population of all Stations as at 30th June, 1950, was 2,703. This represents an increase of 315 for the twelve months, and compares with an increase of 119 in the previous year.

116. The table hereunder shows the figures in respect of births, deaths and marriages on the Board's Stations for the year. For the purposes of comparison, the figures in respect of the previous year are shown in parenthesis:—

Births	128 (104)
Deaths	43 (37)
Marriages	17 (14)

Building Work on Aboriginal Stations.

117. Mention has been made of the opening of the reconstructed Caroon Aboriginal Station and of the new Moree Aboriginal Station, and the commencement of a new Station at Tabulam. Building work carried out on other Stations was:

118. *Taree*.—The completion of the re-building of Taree Aboriginal Station was effected during the period under review and the new Station comprises twenty-four homes, a medical unit, recreation hall, etc. It is proposed that the Station will be provided with electric lighting during the coming year.

119. *Cowra*.—The construction of twenty-four cottages, recreation hall, church office, treatment room, farm buildings, etc., at Cowra is proceeding satisfactorily and is now fifty per cent. complete. It is now proposed to divert a few cottages to sites in the town.

120. *Cabbage Tree Island*.—At Cabbage Tree Island work is being carried out on the construction of twelve new homes for aborigines, recreation hall, medical treatment unit, store, etc. The contractor has been hampered by material shortages but it is anticipated that the work will be completed during the next financial year.

121. *Wallaga Lake*.—Reconstruction started during May, 1950, on the construction of fifteen aboriginal dwellings, store, recreation hall, school, road formation, etc., at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station. It is anticipated that substantial progress will be made on this project during the coming financial year.

122. *Jervis Bay*.—This project was started in May, 1950. A manager's residence, office, medical treatment room, store, recreation hall, school, and sixteen dwellings are to be constructed.

123. Other building works in connection with which planning is in hand but commencement of which is dependent upon availability of funds are:—

124. *Burnt Bridge*.—This Station is proposed to be rebuilt together with a number of cottages in Kempsey and the Bellbrook district for the settlement of better class aboriginal families.

125. *Brewarrina*.—Plans and specifications are now being prepared for re-building the Station on up-to-date lines together with a number of homes in the town.

Agricultural Activity on Aboriginal Station.

126. Previously, where conditions have been favourable, the development of agricultural activity on aboriginal stations has been encouraged with the objective of making the community self-supporting so far as commodities such as milk and vegetables are concerned. It was stressed, however, that the aboriginal people should not regard the provision of such commodities free of cost as their right, as obviously such an outlook would react against the Board's policy of preparing the people to take their place eventually in the community as independent citizens.

127. It was therefore laid down that families in receipt of an adequate income were to be excluded from the gratuitous distribution of vegetables, but would be permitted to purchase supplies at a purely nominal cost after the needs of dependent people had been met. Though the aboriginal people showed an unwillingness to co-operate in the new order, it was noted that greengrocers who visited the Station were well patronised. The Board, therefore, decided to restrict the growth of vegetables on Stations to meet the need of dependent persons only.

128. The question of retention of dairy herds on Stations, generally, was reviewed and it was decided this year either to dispense with the herd or restrict its number. It was found in a number of cases that maintenance of a dairy herd was not an economical proposition and that the requirements of the Stations could be met adequately by the use of full-cream powdered milk.

129. During the year, local dairy officers and veterinary officers of the Department of Agriculture advised on problems associated with livestock generally on the various stations.

130. The supply of citrus fruit to the children and under-nourished residents of Stations is regarded as essential and action is proceeding toward establishing citrus orchards wherever practicable.

Aborigines Reserves Generally.

131. As in the case of Aboriginal Stations, Aboriginal Reserves are areas set aside for occupation and usage by aborigines but the latter are without resident management. Reserves, too, have not the amenities and improvements found on Aboriginal Stations.



Neatness and orderliness. A cottage at La Perouse Reserve.

132. Generally speaking, it is understood that aborigines who take up their abode on such Reserves are of the type who choose to make their way more or less independently of the Board's control. It must not be inferred from this, however, that as a general rule these aborigines compare more favourably, so far as their potential qualities for assimilation into the white community is concerned, than aborigines residing on stations. On the contrary, the general standard of living on the Reserves is not so good as that on the Stations, probably because of the better facilities available on Aboriginal Stations.

133. In the cases of some of the Reserves which are inhabited—and there are quite a number of Reserves which are not occupied—the teacher-in-charge of the aboriginal school on the Reserve, with one or two exceptions occupies the position of Supervisor.

134. By arrangement, the local police authorities exercise a degree of supervision over conditions at Reserves and submit reports to the Board at quarterly intervals.

135. Appendix "B" contains a list of inhabited Reserves showing opposite each the population and number of ration recipients and, for comparison purposes, the figures in respect of the previous period. The aggregate population of the Reserves was 2,102 at 30th June, 1950. This compares with 2,585 at the same date in the previous period.

136. *La Perouse*.—Building improvements at La Perouse Aborigines Reserve were completed during the year and the new buildings comprise twelve homes, girls' quarters, sewerage and roadwork.

137. *Wilcannia*.—An area of land was recently acquired at Wilcannia to provide urgently needed housing accommodation for aborigines in the district. It is intended to build fourteen homes and a recreation hall on the new Reserve as soon as practicable.

138. When the general census was taken on 30th June, 1947, information was obtained as to the number of aborigines residing in the various States of the Commonwealth. The following figures were supplied for New South Wales.

IV. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Vital Statistics.

Caste.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Full-blood	546	407	953
Mixed blood	5,498	5,109	10,607
Total	6,044	5,516	11,560

139. Very few, if any, nomadic aborigines, still living under primitive tribal conditions, are to be found in New South Wales. For the most part the aborigines are fully detribalised and live either on Stations, Reserves or in communities in or adjacent to country towns.

140. As at 30th June, 1950, a total of 2,703 aborigines resided on the nineteen Stations under the Board's control representing an increase of 315 persons compared with the previous year. On Reserves, excluding Stations, the total was 2,102 representing a decrease of 483 persons.

141. The steep increase in the number of aborigines residing on Stations and the corresponding decrease in the number living on Reserves is due mainly to the fact that the aboriginal settlement at Moree which was formerly classified as a Reserve has now been given Station status and placed under the control of a resident Manager.

Labour and Employment.

142. Able-bodied aborigines of appropriate age and status are expected to seek and remain in employment. The misunderstanding still exists in some quarters that an aboriginal station is a self-contained community organisation which provides work for its aboriginal population independently of outside assistance, but, of course, such is not the case. Apart from the employment of one or two aborigines as handymen and others for special duties all able-bodied persons are expected to seek suitable employment outside of the Stations; the prevailing labour position offers ample opportunity in this regard.

143. Managers are required to assist aborigines to find employment in the district and this important aspect is closely examined by Welfare Officers on the occasion of their visits to aboriginal stations, to ensure that every able-bodied man, youth and young woman is gainfully employed and is contributing in a proper manner to the maintenance of their respective families.

144. Welfare Officers examine also the nature of the employment available to determine whether each person concerned is in a suitable class of employment with proper remuneration. They are required to see that appropriate action is taken in any cases of exploitation.

145. The percentage of employed aborigines during the year under review is approximately the same as that which obtained in the two previous years, namely in the region of 95 per cent.:

Period.	Able-bodied men on Stations.		
	Number in Residence.	Number in Employment.	Percentage in Employment.
April-June, 1948	497	469	94.3
April-June, 1949	504	484	96
April-June, 1950	533	510	96

146. Most of the able-bodied men are absorbed into the local industries such as timber-getting, fencing, saw-milling, farming, road construction, fishing, railway permanent-way maintenance, etc. The men receive award rates of pay for the work they perform and generally they are treated in exactly the same way as white employees.

Commonwealth Social Services.

147. *Child Endowment*.—Child Endowment is payable by the Commonwealth Authorities to any aborigine who has the care, control and custody of one or more children under the age of sixteen years. Each case is referred by the Commonwealth Authorities to the Board for a recommendation as to whether endowment should be paid direct or administered by the Board on the endorsee's behalf.

148. Before a recommendation is made, reports are obtained from local officers as to the character and reliability of the person concerned to expend endowment moneys wholly for the benefit of the children. In the cases administered by the Board orders are issued on storekeepers entitling the endowee to obtain goods to the amount indicated. The orders make it clear that the goods supplied are to be for the benefit of the children only.

149. The following table indicates the number of cases administered by the Board during the period covered by this report and, for comparison purposes, the figures for the two previous periods. It will be noted that there was an appreciable falling off in the number of cases reverting to the Board's control and that a steep increase occurred in the number of cases converted to direct pay. These figures indicate that the thrift and reliability of aboriginal parents, so far as care of their children is concerned, is improving.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Received from Commonwealth for Administration.	Number of cases administered at beginning of Year.	Subtract.		Add.		Cases administered at end of Year.
			Cases expired, etc.	Cases changed to direct pay.	Cases reverted to Board's Control.	New Cases.	
1948.....	£ 11,938	200	20	19	15	23	199
1949.....	13,152	199	26	24	15	12	176
1950.....	12,868	176	15	44	9	12	138

150. Three War Pensions were administered by the Board. There were not any Age, Invalid or Widows' Pensions administered at the end of the period.

151. During the period under review, Maternity Allowances were paid to the Board for administration in seventy-four cases, as against 126 last year. This marked decline is attributable to the fact that hospitalization is now free for patients in public wards, whilst no longer does the Board assume responsibility for payment of medical fees, etc.

152. There has been no change in the position regarding the eligibility of aborigines for Age, Invalid or Widows' Pensions, Maternity Allowances and Unemployment and/or Sickness benefits. The following is the position:—

153. *Age, Invalid and Widows' Pensions.*—Persons who have a preponderance of aboriginal blood and/or are living on an Aboriginal Station or Reserve are ineligible to receive these benefits.

154. *Maternity Allowance.*—The Maternity Allowance is paid to aboriginal mothers, whether they are living on an Aborigines Reserve or not, with the exception that those possessing a preponderance of aboriginal blood are ineligible by reason of this fact alone.

155. *Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.*—This Social Service benefit is not paid to an unemployed aboriginal worker if he resides on an Aboriginal Station or Reserve.

156. In all Commonwealth and Social Services benefits, an aboriginal in whom the aboriginal blood predominates, becomes eligible upon application and issue to him of a Certificate of Exemption.

157. The Board repeats its contention that so far as New South Wales, at least, is concerned, these benefits should be paid as a right to all aborigines, irrespective of the degree of aboriginal caste or place of residence. The aborigine worker is liable for the payment of the Social Services contribution and as a taxpayer he should receive without question the benefits to which Social Services Tax payments are applied. This injustice rankles deeply amongst the aboriginal community generally and is another instance of that distinction between the aborigine and the white man that has for so long caused ill-will and bitterness.

158. *Hospitalization.*—In this State all aboriginal persons are eligible to receive the hospital benefits provided by the Commonwealth Authorities.

Relief and Benefits Provided by Board.

159. Whilst it is expected that every able-bodied aborigine will normally provide for his family, there are, of course, aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines who must be cared for. Relief is provided to these people by the Board, details of which are set out hereunder:—

160. *Housing.*—The aim is to provide all aboriginal families living on Stations and Reserves, and those living generally under sub-standard conditions, with reasonable living conditions. Elsewhere in this report the importance of good housing in the process of conditioning the aborigine for assimilation is discussed, whilst details of building activities are to be found in the appropriate section.

161. *Rations.*—The existing scale of food rations has been in operation for some years and was adopted on the advice of the Department of Public Health. Full scale rations are provided to all aged, infirm, and indigent aborigines. These rations are supplemented, where possible, by fresh vegetables grown on the Stations and by milk on those Stations which maintain a dairy herd.

162. *Medical Attention.*—A component part of each aboriginal Station community is its medical treatment unit, including dispensary. Drugs, dressings and medicines required for the treatment of aborigines presenting themselves at the unit are made available free of charge to residents. Treatment is given by a member of the Station's staff who is either a trained nurse or has had experience in medical care. Cases requiring hospitalization are admitted to the nearest public hospital.

163. *Baby Outfits.*—Baby outfits are supplied by the Board upon application free of cost to full-blooded or three-quarter caste mothers. These aborigines are precluded from receiving maternity allowance by the Commonwealth law because of the preponderance of aboriginal blood. Aboriginal mothers who receive maternity allowance are expected to meet the cost of baby outfits from the allowance. The cost, at present, is £5 6s., per outfit and represents only a fraction of the cost, if purchased privately.

164. *Clothing.*—Outfits of clothing are supplied free of charge to all indigent and other dependent aborigines on the basis of two outfits per year—one in summer and the other in winter. The table hereunder indicates the number of recipients of clothing during 1949-50 compared with the issues made in the two previous years.

Outfits.	Male.			Female.			Total.		
	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
Summer Outfits	120	103	106	201	200	167	321	303	273
Winter Outfits	105	34	98	179	71	130	284	105	228
Total	225	137	204	380	271	297	605	408	501

165. *Blankets*.—The established practice of supplying blankets to aborigines who are in need has been continued. The comparative figures are as follows:—

Place.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
Stations	313	330	389
Reserves	65	117	167
Total	378	447	556

166. *Christmas Cheer*.—All aged, infirm and indigent families were supplied with puddings at Christmas time as a gesture towards brightening the festive season. In addition a cash grant was made to each Station to enable a Christmas function to be arranged for the benefit of all resident children. The grant was in the nature of a subsidy on local efforts to raise funds to meet the cost of the functions.

167. Typical of the manner in which local organisations assisted in Christmas celebrations was the experience at La Perouse Aborigines Reserve where members of a returned soldiers' organisation and its ladies' auxiliary provided a Christmas party for the eighty children residing on the Reserve. A local businessman met the cost of an omnibus for the purpose of conveying the children to the city in connection with the party.

168. A parcel of toys for children at the Pilliga Aboriginal Station was forwarded by members of a tennis club at Granville for use in connection with the Christmas festivities at the Station.

169. All children attending school on Stations are provided with a mid-morning lunch. This lunch, which is taken at recess time, consists of bread and butter with a suitable nutritious filling such as marmite or peanut butter and a cup of milk or cocoa. At the same time any undernourished child receives an appropriate dose of codliver oil and malt.

170. Appendix "A" shows the number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and at the end of the year. 11.2 per cent. of the total populations on Stations received rations during the year as compared with 11.3 per cent. in the previous period and 15.2 per cent. in the year 1947-48. It will be seen that there has been a small decrease in the past two years.

171. Appendix "B" furnishes similar information in respect of aborigines residing on Reserves. This return indicates a very considerable reduction on the number at the corresponding time last year, namely, 204. This very pleasing result has been brought about, no doubt, largely because of the fact that work is very plentiful.

Health and Hygiene.

172. The Board is again pleased to report that the general health of aboriginal people throughout the State has been maintained at a satisfactory standard. This, of course, is particularly noticeable in the controlled settlements where the necessary facilities and advice are available for the treatment on the spot of any aborigines who develop ailments or injuries.

173. Experience has shown that generally speaking the standards of nutrition and personal hygiene of the aboriginal people are not so good generally on the Reserves and Camps. In these cases the aborigines are away from supervision. The appointment of Area Welfare Officers whose duty it is to visit those people from time to time is beginning to have an effect on the health standards of the unsupervised aborigines.

174. As is to be expected, there were minor outbreaks of pediculosis scabies, jaundice, and gastro-enteritis. At one Station all the children were immunised against whooping cough, whilst both adults and the children were X-rayed for tuberculosis. It is pleasing to note that at one Station where the incidence of ophthalmic troubles was previously high, only one case was treated during the year.

175. Wherever practicable, a dairy herd has been maintained at Stations and homes, whilst vegetable gardens have been retained for the use of indigents. The children are provided with a mid-morning meal which includes milk. Managers use every opportunity to bring home to the aborigines the importance of correct diet in maintaining good health.

176. Aborigines requiring hospitalization are entitled to free treatment in public wards as provided for under the Commonwealth scheme. Those aborigines attending out-patients departments who are unable to pay for the services rendered receive similar treatment as do other indigent members of the community. Where maternity facilities are not available at a public hospital, the onus is placed on the hospital authorities to arrange for aboriginal patients requiring public ward facilities

to be attended to at a local private hospital. This is in line with what would be required of the hospital authorities in the case of facilities for the general community.

177. The Board is indebted to the Department of Public Health, the Baby Health Centre nurses and to the Bush Nursing Association for the valuable help and advice given to the Board during the period under review. It appreciates the willingness with which these authorities co-operated with the Board's Officers in the many cases where assistance was sought.

178. So far as dental attention is concerned, aborigines whose circumstances so permit are expected to meet the cost of their own treatment, but the Board has met the cost in the case of those aboriginal people who by reason of age, infirmity or indigency have been unable to afford the cost of attention.

179. In some cases dental practitioners have visited Stations, etc., by arrangement with the Board and have attended to necessary dental work on the spot. In the case of one Station, for example, where the dental condition of the people was far from satisfactory, a dentist visited the Station and treated an abnormally high number of cases. By this method of treatment the Board ensured that the dental condition of the people was brought up to a satisfactory standard.

180. Regular visits were paid by the Lady Welfare Inspector and by trainee Welfare Officers to aboriginal patients in hospitals and at the Waterfall Sanitarium.

Social, Sporting and Recreational.

181. The establishment of Social and Recreational Clubs is considered to be of the utmost importance in the development of the aboriginal people towards the ultimate goal of assimilation. The Board feels that the organisation of clubs in their varying forms provides a medium whereby the aborigines may be brought into closer contact with the general community. It is realised that the spontaneous desire on the part of the aborigines to engage in activities of a social and sporting nature is not sufficient in itself and that there should be a permanent organisation on each Station which will plan and conduct such activities.

182. During the year greater activity and interest was displayed in organized social and sporting functions, and the Board notes with pleasure encouraging results achieved. Much, of course, remains to be done in this sphere, but a great fillip to the recreational side was given by the Board's action to assist in the purchase of amenities. It is anticipated that in future even greater advantage will be taken of this scheme to provide facilities for the development of social and sporting activities.



Aborigines take their place in community life. A scene at the Cowra Centenary Celebrations.

183. It is not practicable in the space of this report to cover the various social and sporting activities which have taken place on the Stations during the year, but the following examples are typical of the success which has attended the Board's efforts:—

Cowra.—An athletic club has been formed and a considerable body of young men attend four nights a week when they are trained in boxing and physical culture. Equipment such as a vaulting horse and parallel bars are being obtained. A women's club has also been established and it arranged weekly singing, dancing and dramatization activities which are carried out under the guidance of the Matron. The residents entered a float in the Cowra Centenary Celebrations. Tennis is being developed on the Station and an order has been placed for racquets and other equipment.

Taree.—The newly formed sports and recreation club has a credit balance of £60. Social evenings are held in the recreation hall fortnightly. The club has purchased under the subsidy scheme two complete table tennis outfits. The Station is fielding what is regarded as the most attractively attired rugby league football team in the Manning Rugby League. The reserve grade team is undefeated and appears to have a firm hold on the premiership.

Roseby Park.—A Brownie pack has been formed at this Station. The Roseby Park Football Club won the South Coast Rugby Football League Premiership for the 1949 season by defeating Kiama in the grand final. The team was undefeated in both rounds and it is interesting to record that the team was very favourably received by the white community, largely because of its clean and fair standard of play.

Burnt Bridge.—The Parents and Citizens' Association, organized several successful dances, one of which raised £16 for the local ambulance. Special buses bring the aboriginal people from as far afield as Taylor's Arm, Bellbrook and Nambucca Heads.

Burra Bee Dee.—Sports days are held three times a year. These are followed by dances at night. The management is organising an annual picnic for the residents.

Moonaheullah.—Many of the residents are in the Deniliquin football team. One aborigine was elected captain of the team, which includes whites, and under his leadership the team won the district premiership.

Exemption Certificates.

184. In an amendment to the Act enacted in 1943, an aborigine, or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, may be issued with a certificate exempting him or her from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and the regulations thereunder. This amendment gives the more advanced aborigines the opportunity to remove themselves from the restrictive sections of the Act and to take their places in the community with the same status as ordinary citizens.

185. In ordinary circumstances, age, widows and invalid pensions and maternity allowances are not granted by the Commonwealth Authorities to aborigines possessing a preponderance of aboriginal blood. If, however, an aborigine is granted a certificate of exemption such aborigine becomes eligible to receive social benefits from the Commonwealth Government.

186. During the year ended 30th June, 1950, eighty-four applications for exemption certificates were dealt with by the Board, as under:—

Exemption certificates granted	68
Exemption certificates declined	12
Exemption certificates deferred	4
During the year one certificate was cancelled.	

Expulsion Orders.

187. The Board has power under the Act to expel an aborigine or other person from a Reserve for persistent offences which make him an undesirable person to remain in association with the other aborigines on the Reserve. This power is used only in extreme cases and when other measures, such as invoking the regulations, have failed. When an expulsion order is issued, its operation is reviewed from time to time and a decision reached as to the continuance, suspension or revocation of the order.

188. During the period covered by this report six expulsion orders were issued against aborigines whilst in two cases the operation of expulsion orders was suspended.

The Aboriginal School Child.

189. The Department of Education now admits aboriginal children to ordinary public schools except in the case of children living on a Reserve or where separate facilities have been provided. Any cases for admission to an ordinary public school which the headmaster considers should be refused or deferred are referred by the headmaster to his Department for decision.

190. In cases of children of aboriginal parents who are in possession of certificates of exemption, enrolment at ordinary public schools is effected without question. Such children are accepted on equal terms with white children.

191. The decision of the Department of Education to admit aborigine children to ordinary public schools marks a further advance in the direction of breaking down colour prejudice against the aboriginal people and the objection, which was previously so much in evidence, of dark children being taught side by side with white children.

192. During the year, five lads from the Kinchela Home attended Kempsey High School. Seventeen girls from the Cootamundra Home attended primary school in the town, whilst eleven girls were at High School.

193. The Board awarded this year a scholarship in the sum of £50 to enable a half-caste aboriginal girl who is a pupil of the Grafton High School to complete her 5th year at High School.

194. Annual awards were also offered of four bursaries, each of £50 per annum for three years, to selected aboriginal children entering a secondary school course. One of these was availed of and is held by a girl resident of Burra Bee Dee Station and is tenable at Coonabarabran Intermediate High School.

195. The Board decided to meet the cost of school broadcast booklets supplied by the Australian Broadcasting Commission to aboriginal schools.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board's resolution dated this day of
 , one thousand nine hundred and fifty.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.

A. W. G. LIPSCOMB, Executive Member.

APPENDIX "A".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station.	Area.	As at 30th June, 1949.		As at 30th June, 1950.		Statistics for year ended 30th June, 1950.		
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Bellbrook	Acres. 96	199	12	116	19	5	2	Nil.
Boggabilla	457	221	36	209	29	9	5	2
Brewarrina	4,638	159	28	158	26	5	2	2
Burnt Bridge	613	248	21	301	25	19	3	2
Burra Bee Dee	623	67	1	70	Nil.	4	1	1
Cabbage Tree Island	125	120	11	129	15	8	1	Nil.
Caroona	220	168	1	177	1	11	2	Nil.
Cowra	31	127	9	129	19	6	2	Nil.
Cumeroogunga	2,600	105	4	80	2	5	1	Nil.
Jervis Bay	100	82	9	101	23	5	2	1
Moonahcullah	232	72	Nil.	61	Nil.	4	1	Nil.
Moree	200	Nil.*	Nil.*	254	6	2	5	Nil.
Murrin Bridge	937	175	51	182	48	9	6	2
Pilliga	150	55	10	39	6	2	2	Nil.
Roseby Park	66	102	13	98	16	5	4	1
Taree	51	158	19	189	18	11	3	4
Walgett	337	139	28	139	23	7	Nil.	Nil.
Wallaga Lake	341	105	8	111	10	3	Nil.	Nil.
Woodenbong	126	166	10	160	16	8	1	2
Total .....	...	2,388	271	2,703	302	128	43	17

* New Station, opened April, 1950.

APPENDIX "B".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

Reserve.	Area.	As at 30th June, 1949.		As at 30th June, 1950.	
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.
Balranald	Acres. 140	44	...	48	...
Baryulgil (Settlement only)	40	107	...	66	4
Bourke	34	62	...	86	...
Bowraville	90	137	4	148	6
†Brungle	320	64	2	42	...
Collarenebri (Camp only)	50	157	...	153	7
†Condobolin	16	74	...	74	13
Coraki	10	53	7	55	7
†Cubawee (Late Tuncester)	24	75	1	90	...
Darlington Point	25	36	15	39	22
Dubbo (Talbragar)	18	37	...	36	...
†Forster	19	70	...	71	...
Goodooga (Dennawan)	80	84	2	90	1
Goolagong	80	15	...	17	...
†Gulargambone	70	104	...	52	...
†Karuah	50	55	...	58	1
Kyogle	115	14	...	154	...
La Perouse	6	108	...	154	...
Macksville (Eungai)	20	8	...	8	...
†Moree (Camp only)	200	450	9	126*	3
Mungindi	100	115	...	76	...
†Nambucca Heads	70	139	...	97	...
Quambone	43	...	...	...	...
Rye Park	140	12	...	10	...
†Tabulam	100	69	16	75	22
Tibooburra	100	5	2	2	2
†Tingha (Long Gully)	15	69	...	43	...
†Ulgundahi Island (Maclean)	40	51	3	36	1
Uralla	100	14	...	8	...
†Walcha (Summer Vale)	107	33	5	33	6
†Wellington (Nanima)	100	70	16	44	17
Wilcannia	100	174	6	180	3
†Yass	9	80	4	66	...
Total .....	...	2,585	92	2,102	105

Note: † Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

* Moree Aboriginal Station established since previous period.