

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Protector of Aboriginals

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1937.



FRANK TRIGG, Government Printer, North Terrace, Adelaide.

1937.

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, 29th September, 1937.
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, 1937.

There has been the usual demand for rations, blankets, and clothing which have been supplied to all deserving cases.

During the 1936 Session of Parliament a Bill was presented to provide for an executive board under the Honourable the Minister to administer the work of the department instead of the administration being left solely to the Chief Protector. There was much discussion as to the constitution of the proposed board and finally at the close of the Session the Bill was allowed to lapse in the Legislative Council.

It was then decided to appoint the Chief Protector to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council of Aborigines with a view to bringing the Council into closer touch with the actual work of the Department, thereby rendering its service to the Honourable the Minister more effective.

The vacancy on the Advisory Council was caused by the death of the Venerable Archdeacon William John Bussell who had been a member since its inception in 1918 and whose services are gratefully acknowledged.

The Rev. J. H. Sexton is now the only member of the original Advisory Council still holding office. He was appointed Secretary of the first Council in 1918 and held that position right up until this year when he tendered his resignation as Secretary.

The position of Secretary to the Council has been filled by the appointment of Mr. W. R. Penhall, Accountant in the Aborigines Department and a Protector of Aborigines for the Central District. Mr. Penhall although not a member of the Council is permitted to take part in all discussions.

I would like to place on record an appreciation of the long and faithful service rendered to the cause of the aboriginal by the Rev. J. H. Sexton. In addition to acting Secretary of the Advisory Council for 19 years, he has, for a very much longer period been Secretary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association Incorporated. Mr. Sexton has devoted practically all his leisure time towards the welfare of the aborigines and in him the natives have a staunch friend.

During the year I visited Point Pearce and Point McLeay in company with the Chairman of the Advisory Council and we were able to discuss first hand with the Superintendents the immediate difficulties confronting them.

Swan Reach was also visited and the Missionary, Mr. A. Wyld, explained to us his idea of giving each native a small plot of ground surrounding his hut and encouraging them to grow sufficient vegetables for their own requirements.

The question of providing a pumping plant so that water from the river could be reticulated to each plot is under consideration.

At the time of our visit several new two-roomed huts had been erected by Mr. Wyld with the help of the natives and material supplied by the Department and it is intended to provide each family in this camp with a uniform type of hut.

A new school building has been provided for the children at the Swan Reach camp and Mrs. Wyld has given daily instruction to all children of school going age.

In addition to Swan Reach the United Aborigines' Mission have continued their work among the natives at Nepabunna, Oodnadatta, Ooldea, and Quorn.

The children from their home at Quorn again visited the city during the Christmas vacation and this year they occupied premises kindly lent by the Rev. D. D. Munro, M.A., at the Semaphore. These children spent a very happy holiday and were well catered for during their stay by religious and philanthropic bodies in the city and suburbs.

At Oodnadatta the United Aborigines' Mission have been erecting some huts for the old and infirm aborigines who have been in the habit of camping there. They should be much more comfortable in these huts than in the wurlies they had made for themselves from scraps picked off the rubbish tips.

The labour for erecting these huts was given voluntarily by supporters of the mission and the material was partly supplied by the Mission and partly by the Department.

Complaints regarding the association of aboriginal children from the aboriginal camps at Port Augusta with the white children at the primary school have led to the provision of a special school for the natives near to their camps. This school is treated as a subsidised school by the Education Department and a teacher has been appointed. Both parents and children appear to appreciate this attempt to provide them with a means of obtaining education.

The proposal by the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church to open a Mission for the care and medical supervision of the aboriginals in the north-west of the State has proceeded and they have acquired a property of 500 square miles situated about 20 miles from the eastern boundary of the area reserved for aboriginals in that locality.

The Rev. J. R. B. Love of Kunmunya Mission in Western Australia has been allotted the task of visiting the property,

exploring the possibilities and advising the Board of Missions as to the best method of establishing and maintaining the Mission.

An additional area of 4,235 square miles, between the eastern boundary of the original reserve of 21,900 square miles and the furthestmost western fringe of settlement, has now been set aside for proclamation as an aboriginal reserve. This additional area contains several useful waters and ceremonial grounds used by the natives and will add considerably to the value of the reserve as a sanctuary for them.

This large reserve has in the past been subject to a lot of trespassing by men trading in wild dog scalps but with the establishment of the mission in close proximity to the reserve it is hoped that the contact between white doggers and the aboriginals will be considerably reduced and ultimately entirely prevented.

The congregation of aboriginals at places along the Trans-Australian Railway continues to create an unsatisfactory condition for both the aboriginal and the white men employed on the railway line. This condition is responsible for much unfavourable comment and criticism from travellers along the line but as yet no satisfactory solution has been found. Even if a large reserve were proclaimed for these natives they would in all probability leave the reserve and continue to visit the line. The only method of punishing them if they did leave the reserve would be by prosecution in a court of law and sending them to prison, which, with such people would be quite ridiculous and unsatisfactory.

The training scheme for girls from Point Pearce Station has so far proceeded very satisfactorily. There are now six girls under the care of the Salvation Army at Fullarton and all are behaving well and making good progress. The first three girls who commenced in February, 1936, were allowed to return to their parents at Point Pearce for the Christmas school vacation. They created quite a good impression on the native residents of the station and parents generally are anxious that their children will be selected to partake in this scheme.

Natives from Point McLeay and Swan Reach were selected to take part in the Centenary Celebrations of this State both in Adelaide and at Glenelg.

They conducted themselves exceptionally well and gave entire satisfaction to the promoters of the displays.

At the Premiers' Conference held at Adelaide in 1936, it was decided that there should be a Conference of Chief Protectors and Boards controlling aborigines in the Australian States and the Northern Territory.

This Conference was convened by the Commonwealth Government and was held at Parliament House, Canberra from 21st to the 26th April.

All States and the Commonwealth were fully represented and a very useful and instructive time was spent in discussing our common problems.

South Australia was represented at this Conference by Professor J. B. Cleland, Chairman of the Advisory Council of Aborigines and myself.

The proceedings of the Conference which were reported and published by the Commonwealth Government included resolutions on the following subjects:—The Destiny of Race, Uniformity of Legislation, Education and Employment, Supervision of Full Blood Natives, Racial Problems, Definition of Native, Financial assistance from Commonwealth, Corporal Punishment, Police Officers as Protectors, Female Protectors, Chaining of Natives, Courts for Native Affairs, Compellability of Witnesses, Intoxicating Liquor, Opium Dross, Pensions and Maternity Allowances, Return of Natives to Home State, Subsidies to Missions and Government control of Mission Activities.

It is my intention to submit these resolutions to the Advisory Council for Aborigines with a view to their further discussion and to seek their co-operation in recommending any amendments to the Aborigines Act, 1934, which may be thought necessary.

The Inspector of Police at Port Augusta, Inspector S. R. Parsonage, in a report concerning the aborigines in the Far Northern and Western Police Districts states that there were no serious cases of crime by aborigines in his district reported during the year. There were a number of liquor offences dealt with, twenty-one for drinking liquor and seven for being in possession of wine while fines totalling £61 were inflicted on seven white persons for supplying aborigines with liquor.

Other charges against natives were selling blankets, wilful damage, unlawful possession, indecent exposure, fighting, obstructing the police and offensive behaviour.

The Inspector says that there is now a fair amount of work available for natives with previous experience in station work but some of them have refused to accept work so long as they can collect rations. He considers that aborigines should not be permitted to camp near townships unless they are self-supporting and the problem of making them self-supporting whilst they are near the town is very difficult.

Rations are issued to all natives camped near Port Augusta and because of this and the lure of the picture shows and

betting shops, the native population of Port Augusta is steadily increasing. They require a lot of police supervision as sailors and others visit their camps with liquor and are suspected of going there for immoral purposes.

The work of the police in trying to discourage natives from remaining at this town is increased by the interference of well meaning folk who claim to protect the rights and liberties of the natives.

The aborigines on the Nullarbor Plain appear to be undernourished but although rations are issued at Ooldea the Inspector says the natives will not stay there for any length of time but prefer to wander up and down the Trans-Australian railway line begging food from the railway employees and selling souvenirs to the train passengers. The natives are at times collected together and taken to Ooldea but they soon wander away again and how to keep them in one place is a most difficult problem. The line is a great attraction to them but the country along this track provides very little of their native food.

The general health throughout this district has been fair, colds and influenza have affected those along the railway line. Any cases of serious illness or injury have been removed to the Port Augusta Hospital without delay.

No unusual occurrence against the natives came under notice. A newspaper report that an aboriginal had been killed during a fight at Cook was investigated but found to be without foundation.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

As reported each year the number of aborigines recorded shows variations which cannot be accounted for except by the presumption that numbers are out of touch with police officers and station managers when the statistical returns are prepared.

The particulars supplied to the Government Statist at 30th June, 1937, show the total aboriginal population as 3,837.

The classification of those recorded is as follows:—

	Full-bloods.		Half-castes.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
On Mission Stations—							
In employment	5	7	146	11	151	18	169
Others	49	36	269	393	318	429	747
Others in employment	269	89	140	61	409	150	559
Dependants of employed	114	108	103	117	217	225	442
All other	566	491	448	415	1,014	906	1,920
Grand total	1,003	731	1,106	997	2,109	1,728	3,837
Adults	828	567	681	524	1,509	1,091	2,600
Children	175	164	425	473	600	637	1,237

Full-Bloods numbered 1,734 or 45 per cent. of the total—divided thus—Adults, 1,395; Children, 339.

Half-Castes (and lesser castes) numbered 2,103 (55 per cent. of total)—Adults, 1,205; Children, 898.

On Mission Stations.—On the three Mission Stations (Point McLeay, Point Pearce, and Koonibba) there were 916 aboriginals, of whom 169 were reported to be employed. On these stations there were 97 full-blood and 819 half-caste.

In Regular Employment.—The total reported to be in regular employment was 728. In addition to the 169 employed on mission stations, there were 559 others recorded as employed—chiefly on pastoral holdings. These 559 employed aboriginals were reported as having 442 dependants.

All Others.—In addition to the 916 aboriginals on mission stations, and the 559 others employed with their 442 dependants, there were 1,920 others (1,057 full-blood and 863 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 1936-1937 were reported as follows:—

Point McLeay Station.—Births, 19 half-castes; deaths, 6 full-bloods and 9 half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1937, 21 full-bloods and 362 half-castes; total, 383.

Point Pearce Station.—Births, 23 half-castes; deaths, 1 full-blood and 9 half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1937, 4 full-bloods and 334 half-castes; total, 338.

Koonibba Mission.—Births, 1 full-blood, 10 half-castes; deaths, 2 full-bloods, 2 half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1937, 72 full-bloods, 123 half-castes; total, 195.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent, Mr. A. L. Payne, reports that the general health of the natives at Point McLeay has been satisfactory with no outbreaks of epidemic disease. Most cases of serious illness have been traceable to some form of tuberculosis, to which complaint the natives are very susceptible.

Sister M. M. Lenton, who has been in charge of the station hospital for seven years resigned in February, 1937, and Doctor J. R. Cornish who has been attending the natives at Point McLeay for eight years left Tailem Bend and resigned his position as medical officer. Both Doctor Cornish and Sister Lenton gave excellent service to the natives and their work has been much appreciated.

The vacancies caused by these resignations have been filled by the appointments of Doctor F. B. Turner of Tailem Bend

as medical officer and Sister D. E. Goldfinch as sister-in-charge of the hospital and dispensary.

The station hospital and dispensary have adequately met the needs of those requiring local treatment, serious medical and surgical cases being transferred by the station buckboard to the public hospitals in the city.

The population continues to increase steadily both by natural increase and by the influx of odd natives from other localities.

The behaviour of the residents has been very satisfactory especially during the latter half of the year. The improvement was probably due to the fact that firm disciplinary action was taken during the preceding year or two against all those who disregarded the regulations and committed breaches of the civil and moral laws, several offenders being expelled from the Institution for varying periods.

The Rev. W. H. J. Turner continues to lead the spiritual and social activities on the station as the representative of the Parkin Mission and the natives are well catered for by the many religious and social gatherings conducted by Mr. Turner. Being a musical enthusiast he is teaching some of the young girls to play the piano and has a number of young men learning to play stringed instruments.

In his work Mr. Turner is assisted by other officers and their wives.

The ever increasing number of children attending the station school made it necessary to provide additional accommodation.

During the year a large classroom was built with a porch connecting it with the old building. The old building was repaired and alterations made to the lighting and ventilation.

The Head Teacher, Mr. W. T. Lawrie, maintains a high standard in his work with the native children.

Two new two-roomed cottages have been erected during the year, two additional rooms have been added to each of two older cottages and numerous repairs have been made to other cottages.

There are fourteen very old cottages at Point McLeay erected about 50 years ago. These are becoming so damp and dilapidated that they should be demolished and new places erected. The matter of housing accommodation is a very serious one at this station.

Necessary repairs and renovations have been made in the trading store building and storekeeper's office.

Owing to several pigs from the station being condemned after slaughter, arrangements were made with the Chief Inspector of Stock for a Veterinary Officer to make a complete examination of the station dairy herd and pigs.

As a result of the first examination 36 head of dairy cattle and 3 pigs gave positive reaction to the thermal tuberculin tests and were immediately sent to the Abattoirs for sale subject to examination after slaughter. The carcasses of four of the cattle were finally condemned.

Two more examinations will be made at six monthly intervals and any animals showing symptoms of tuberculosis will be disposed of subject to examination after slaughter.

By this means a disease-free herd will be obtained but the strength of the herd will be seriously depleted and will have to be built up again.

The most satisfactory way to do this would be to purchase a number of grade Jersey heifers and so improve the quality of the herd as well as build up the numerical strength.

Good quality Jersey bulls have always been procured during the past six years, but the cows on which they have been working are of mixed breed.

Little has been done with pigs this year owing to the trouble with tuberculosis.

Two hundred and fifty lambs were raised using Border Leicester rams on Merino and cross-bred ewes.

The wool from the ewes was of satisfactory quality and realised for Merino 17½d. per pound and cross-bred from 11d., for the bulk seven bales, up to 16½d. for odd small lots.

The livestock on the Station on the 30th June, 1937, were:—

Cattle, 118—10 butchered during year for meat shop and rations.

Pigs, 40—15 butchered during year for meat shop and rations.

Sheep, 843—443 butchered during year for meat shop and rations.

Horses, 33.

The number of sheep bred on the station is insufficient to meet the needs of the meat shop, and 256 sheep were purchased for butchering.

The crops at Point McLeay last year were 170 acres of oats and 30 acres of barley.

Two hundred tons of ensilage and 100 tons of hay were cut and stored from the oat crop and 180 bags of barley harvested.

Crops sown this year are 160 acres of oats and 50 acres of barley, also about 60 acres have been sown to lucerne with a light covering crop of barley. All crops are making very good progress.

At block K, 130 acres sown to barley last year produced 370 bags of grain and 30 acres of oats cut 20 tons of hay.

This year 150 acres of barley, 50 acres of oats and 15 acres of peas have been sown.

Wimmera Rye grass which has previously been sown with the crops as the land was cleared was again sown over 100 acres of new land.

The Superintendent is endeavouring to clear from 80 to 100 acres of this scrub block each year. The new land is cropped for two years in succession and pasture grasses sown with the crops so that eventually the block should provide a good grazing proposition.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The following information is contained in the report of the Station Superintendent, Mr. A. H. Bray.

The general behaviour of the natives has been good, the most serious case of misbehaviour being an assault on the Nursing Sister by one of the women.

Several cases of carnally knowing were brought before the court but in each case the offenders were released on bonds to be of good behaviour, and ultimately married the girls with whom they had misconducted themselves.

All widows and their children, orphans and sick and aged have been amply provided for.

Sanitation has received careful attention and the removal of domestic rubbish and night soil is systematically carried out.

Difficulty is experienced, however, in controlling the personal habits of some of the residents. They do not appear to realise the danger to health of carelessness in these matters and allow their lavatories to become soiled and insanitary.

A septic tank has been installed at the Superintendent's residence and it is proposed to equip all the officers' residences with this system when a better water supply is available.

The general health of the natives has not been very satisfactory, pneumonia, mumps, impetigo, typhoid, and a few cases of tuberculosis being the chief complaints.

The typhoid cases are being specially inquired into. It has been recommended by the Medical Officer, Doctor C. G. Wells, and the Central Board of Health that all residents of the station should be inoculated against typhoid but the natives have refused to submit themselves to this preventive measure.

The Nursing Sister, Mrs. H. A. Bray, has had a very busy year. She was forced to take six weeks sick leave on account of a nervous breakdown. During Mrs. Bray's leave, Sister L. Castine took over her duties.

All natives for whom the Medical Officer recommended spectacles were supplied by an optician who visits Maitland periodically.

A summary of the medical work for the year is as follows:—

Visits to the Station Dispensary	4,138
Visits by Nurse to patients in their cottages	1,066
Visits by Medical Officer to Station	58
Visits by Dentist to Station	2
X-Rays at Maitland Hospital	1
Patients to whom spectacles have been supplied	14
Births	23
Deaths	10

The Head Teacher of the Special Primary School, Mr. B. J. Grewar, complains of the irregular attendance of some of the children whose parents are very lax in sending them to school regularly. This condition is likely to persist until legal action is taken against some of the offenders. The school is within a few hundred yards of the homes of the children and there is no reason why the compulsory attendance regulations should not be enforced.

The Minister of Education and the Director of Education visited the school on the 3rd of December, 1936.

The religious work amongst the natives has been carried out, as usual by the various denominations in the district, but under better conditions than previously owing to the erection of the new building for church services and the new hall for social functions.

Seven marriages were solemnised during the year.

The trading store has carried the usual class of goods, meeting most of the requirements of the residents.

Alterations are being made to enable the old church building to be used for the trading store and storekeeper's office. This will provide better facilities for this section of the work and make the old store available for housing the maintenance stores.

Native sharefarmers sowed 870 acres of wheat in 1936, the varieties sown being Nabawa, Sword, Quality, Ford, and Bobbin.

White sharefarmers' wheat crops totalled 1,210 acres.

The natives worked their fallow well, seeded in good time, and completed reaping earlier than the previous season.

The white sharefarmers' work was not so satisfactory, one of them did good work but the other two did not work their fallow very well and some of their seeding was a bit late.

The natives' wheat crops averaged $4\frac{1}{12}$ bush. to the acre and white sharefarmers $3\frac{1}{2}$ bush., both results being very poor.

One hundred and forty acres of wheat was cut for hay, yielding only about half a ton to the acre, and 40 acres of oats sown on fallow for seed yielded 285 bushels.

The stubble crops consisted of 490 acres of barley and 350 acres of oats sown by the native sharefarmers and 950 acres of barley by the white sharefarmers.

The seeding of barley by the natives was delayed so that an extra cultivation could be given to the soil to kill the turnip weed before seeding.

The dry weather experienced did not give the barley a chance, it did not germinate well and did not show any promise right through the season.

Only 1,851bush. were reaped from the 490 acres.

A considerable area was too short to reap but was useful later for sheep feed.

The natives' oat crop was also very disappointing, and the Superintendent at one stage very seriously considered feeding it off so as to obtain some benefit from it; however, after consultation with the District Agricultural Instructor it was decided to let it mature. Although an effort was made to cut this crop for hay it was too short and eventually was reaped, yielding only 2,349bush. of grain, an average of only 6½bush. per acre.

The white sharefarmers' barley was sown earlier than the natives' and although being far from a good crop it was better than the natives' and yielded 6,495bush. from 950 acres, an average of 6 4/5bush. per acre.

The only other crop harvested was 120 acres of oats sown by station native labour and this produced only about 5bush. of oats to the acre.

A summary of the farming results is as follows:—

Wheat produced on Station	6,986 bushels	231bs.
Station's share	4,704 bushels	33lbs.
Sharefarmer's share	2,281 bushels	50lbs.
Total area reaped	1,940 acres.	
Average yield per acre	3 bushels	36lbs.
Barley produced on Station	8,346 bushels	24lbs.
Station's share	4,702 bushels	37lbs.
Sharefarmer's share	3,643 bushels	37lbs.
Total area reaped	1,440 acres.	
Average yield per acre	5 bushels	33lbs.
Oats produced on Station	3,219 bushels.	
Total area reaped	510 acres.	
Average yield per acre	6 bushels	12lbs.
Hay produced on Station	70 tons.	
Total area cut	140 acres	
Average yield per acre	½ ton.	

The 50-acre plot of lucerne which was sown last year, although adversely affected by wind and drift just after germination has come through well enough to justify further sowing each year.

Two hundred old ewes were fattened on this plot for butchering and about a dozen calves have been grazing on it almost continuously.

No ensilage was made this year as none of the crops were fit to cut for this purpose.

Reapers were used to take off some of the crops and a considerable quantity of cocky chaff was saved. This was mixed with molasses and used for feeding the milking cows.

The crops sown in 1937 are as follows:—

	Acres.
Native sharefarmers' wheat on fallow	734
White sharefarmers' wheat on fallow	835
Native sharefarmers' oats on fallow	66
	<hr/>
Total crops on fallow	1,635
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	Acres.
Native sharefarmers' barley on stubble . .	550
White sharefarmers' barley on stubble . .	1,360
Native sharefarmers' oats on stubble . .	360
Native sharefarmers' wheat on new ground	25
	<hr/>
Total crops on stubble and new ground	2,295

Fallowing by the natives was commenced on 23rd July, and completed on 19th August.

The fallow was harrowed and cultivated in the spring and cultivated again at the end of January. Seeding of wheat commenced on 17th May and was completed by 29th May. Good seeding rains have been followed by further falls at regular intervals and these crops show great promise. At one stage they were if anything too forward and were fed down.

Sixty-six acres of oats were sown on fallow for producing good, clean seed.

The wheat sown by the white sharefarmers was put in well and under favourable conditions and their wheat crop also is looking exceedingly well.

Of the crops sown on stubble ground by the natives the oats and 60 acres of barley on hay stubble were sown before the rain. The remaining area sown to barley was put in after wheat seeding was completed and the ground given additional cultivation.

All germinated well and show promise of very good crops.

Some new ground was cleared and taken into the Garnett paddock. This was sown to wheat.

All seeding was completed by 22nd June.

The new tractor purchased in December last was a great help in getting the work done quickly.

The white sharefarmers were a little later than the natives in sowing their barley. Their ground was worked well and if favourable conditions continue they should produce very good crops.

The season has opened well with every prospect of a good harvest.

The rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1937, was 11.53in
Sheep.—Although feed has been short the sheep have maintained fair condition. Greenfeed was late and ewes were lambing before greenfeed was available and many left their lambs which either died or were killed by foxes.

The young ewes on Wardang Island would not mother their lambs and the lambing there was very poor.

The total number of lambs tailed up to the end of June was 939, representing only 55 per cent.

Natural losses have not been unduly heavy and undiscovered losses much fewer than in previous years. The Superintendent thinks that 58 well grown lambs reported missing in November, 1936, were definitely stolen.

The patrol of the beach from sunrise to sunset is still carried out during the summer months so as to minimise any possibility of sheep being caught by the incoming tides.

About 500 wethers were blade shorn on the Island and they produced a very good clip of wool, the remainder of the sheep were machine shorn on the mainland.

The total number shorn was 4,524 sheep and lambs and the clip totalled 121 bales containing 38,947lbs. of wool.

Most of the wool was sold at the fifth wool sale in December which was a very good sale. The best price obtained was 16½d. per pound for four bales of AAA and three bales of AAAW.

The average cut per head, sheep, and lambs, was 8.6lbs. and the average price per lb. 11.73d., equal to an average of 8s 4.8d. per head net, which is a shilling per head better than the previous year.

Blowflies have not been quite so troublesome this year. The sheep were all crutched twice during the year and this no doubt helped in controlling the damage done by this pest.

Twenty two-tooth rams were purchased from the Koonoona Proprietors in August, 1936.

Top dressing of pastures on Wardang Island has been continued. Two hundred acres being top dressed with superphosphate each year.

The sheep figures for the year are as follows:—

Sheep on Station, 30th June, 1937	4,569
Births for year	939
Purchased rams	20
Sold, old rams	2
Deaths for year	316
Losses not accounted for	58
Butchered	808

Sheepskins realised very satisfactory prices throughout the year—836 realised £262 9s. 7d., an average of approximately 6s. 3d. per skin. The best price obtained was 16s. for the skin of a wether from Wardang Island.

The shearing plant is working well and the usual practice of employing learners on the station sheep was continued this year.

One thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight sheep were shorn at the station shed for outside farmers and several farmers brought their sheep to the station for crutching.

Cattle have not done so well this year owing to the scarcity of feed.

As no ensilage was available the dairy cattle were fed on hay and cocky chaff mixed with molasses.

Milk was distributed free of charge to the residents as usual and any milk left was separated and churned, 1,351lbs. of butter being sold to the natives.

One new bull was purchased and an old one which had become lame and was unable to work satisfactorily was sold.

The cattle figures are as follows:—

Cattle on Station 30th June, 1937	138
Births for the year	49
Purchases (bull)	1
Sold	14
Butchered	3
Deaths	25

Pigs continue to do well and very little trouble has been experienced with them.

A half-bred Canadian Berkshire boar was sold and replaced by a second pure-bred Canadian Berkshire. The two pure-bred boars are making a very marked improvement on the type of pigs produced.

All pigs sent to the Abattoirs have realised satisfactory prices.

The native swineherd, a man who has proved very satisfactory at his work, has unfortunately had a serious illness but it is hoped that he will soon be able to carry on his work again.

The Hon. the Minister approved of granting this man a bonus on all pigs reared to the age of eight weeks as a reward for his industry and an incentive to consistent faithful service.

One hundred and sixty-four pigs sold realised £268 15s.

Pigs on the Station on 30th June, 1937 . .	124
Birth for the year	298
Purchased (Canadian Berkshire Boar) . . .	1
Sold	164
Deaths	115
Butchered	7
Missing and not accounted for	5

The Station horses have maintained their condition well throughout the year and very little trouble has been experienced with sore shoulders.

Several very old horses have been destroyed and there are a few more that have outlived their usefulness.

Young horses have been purchased as opportunity offered and those that have been broken in during the year are working satisfactorily.

One young horse was found dead from no apparent cause and the Superintendent thinks it must have been bitten by a snake.

Only two foals were born and of the eight mares served by a travelling stallion four appear to be in foal.

A stallion purchased from Mr. A. W. Kelly, of Urania, was delivered to the Station in April 1937, and now there is an entire permanently on the station better breeding results are anticipated.

There were 59 horses on the Station on 30th June, 1937. Two foals were born during the year; six horses were purchased; seven horses died or were destroyed.

One hundred and forty-three chains of new fences have been erected and 250 chains of old fencing renewed. New gates have been purchased and erected and a new ramp constructed on one of the most used tracks.

Windmills are all in good order, also the power pump and engine. As previously reported the pipe line from the wells to the village is badly in need of renewal with pipes of a larger diameter in order that an adequate and regular supply of water may be provided.

In an attempt to overcome the water shortage on Wardang Island, a hand boring plant was first hired and later purchased from the Department of Mines. A small supply of good stock water was struck in the first trial bore put down and a well has been sunk there. All trial holes put down since have only found salt water, but the Superintendent intends persevering, as water means so much to the Island as a sheep proposition.

It is also intended to try boring in some of the mainland paddocks that are not well provided with water.

A useful supply was caught in all dams and at 30th June they were nearly all full.

Most of the implements recently purchased have given satisfaction and have stood up to their work well, but the need for two new headers must be met before the coming harvest.

A new caterpillar tractor was purchased to replace the old Lanz tractor which, after giving excellent service, became too old for economical service. The new tractor is more powerful than the old one and by pulling bigger implements the farming operations are completed much quicker. This is essential when farming large acreages with native labour.

The natives who have been driving the new tractor have taken a pride in looking after it and have done their work most satisfactorily.

Three additional cottages have been erected and the overcrowding in the cottages is gradually being relieved.

Renovations have been carried out in many cottages, old windows and floors have been replaced and walls replastered.

A new 2,200gall. stone tank has been built in the village and a garage at one of the cottages for a native fisherman.

At the piggery a new stone race, new pig yard, and shelter shed have been constructed and new wooden gates provided.

During the year the hall for religious services and social functions was completed.

An area surrounding the hall has been fenced with sawn gum posts and Cyclone fencing, and the whole appearance is very pleasing and a credit to those natives who worked on the building.

The Hall was opened in December last by Mrs. Crofton Giles, the oldest original resident of the Point Pearce Station, and is a great benefit to the Station residents.

Officers' houses have been painted and where necessary rooms have been kalsomined. The bathrooms in the Schoolteacher's and Storekeeper's houses have been altered and renovated and water laid on to the Storekeeper's laundry.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The following is a copy of the Superintendent's report for the year 1936-37:—

“In submitting my first annual report it gives me pleasure to state that my first year at Koonibba has been a delightful experience. True there were difficulties, but none so difficult that they could not be overcome.

Coming from New Zealand where one often hears the comparison made between the Maori and the Australian aboriginal—much to the depreciation of the latter—I must say that I was agreeably surprised at the intelligence and ability of most of our natives.

The half-caste problem is one of great interest to me, as the birth rate of legitimate half-castes is in a very healthy condition at Koonibba at present. Making a comparison with the congregations of our church the percentage of births is better here than among Europeans. Half-castes will continue to increase. What is to become of this additional population in these sparsely settled areas? At present they are absorbed by farmers and others, but the labour market is already full.

In a few years we will be faced with an awkward unemployment problem.

Behaviour and discipline has been good. Only once was a police officer required. The officers of the law both here and

in places where our natives are employed have been most helpful in attending to the welfare of the natives. I would in particular commend the officers at Ceduna and Penong for their strict and conscientious, yet kindly attention to the natives' welfare in respect to the drink evil.

Attendances at divine service and other religious meetings have improved. There have been 21 baptisms.

The number of inmates in the Children's Home is 43. There are 66 children attending school. The Inspector has given our teachers and pupils a laudible report. Woodwork, needlework, and gardening are now taught as important subjects.

Although the season has been meagre on the far West Coast, we had satisfactory results.

One thousand three hundred sheep returned 43 bales of wool, and our sharefarmers harvested 4,292 bags of wheat. This year 2,500 acres are under crop and it could not look more promising. Feed, however, is short and good rains will be needed to carry us through the summer.

The health of the natives has been good.

Pneumonia among children was our greatest trouble. Two died from this complaint, but other serious cases were successfully treated.

R. H. TRAEGER,
Superintendent, Koonibba Mission."

A statement of the expenditure and receipts of the Department and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLean 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

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Point Pearce Station—							
From sales of produce, &c.		5,740	2	5			
From interest on Aboriginals Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commis- sion)			14	15	10		
From store sales		3,486	1	1			
					9,240	19	4
Point McLeay Station—							
From sales of produce, &c.		1,661	10	9			
From store sales		3,085	17	6			
					4,747	8	3
From refund of advances for fares, &c.		—			72	13	8
Cost of Aboriginals to the South Australian Government for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1937 ..		—			22,752	1	5
Total					£36,813	2	8

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT MCLEAY

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—			131	16	11
<i>Station Accounts.</i>						
To Horses	—			7	13	6
Farm expenses	—			148	9	3
Salaries	604	17	11			
Wages	1,895	11	11			
				2,500	9	10
Head office salaries and expenses	—			65	18	11
Rent, hundred of Baker	—			41	15	9
Accident insurance	—			16	16	10
Depreciation—						
Implements, vehicles	70	18	4			
Harness	1	14	10			
				72	13	2
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>						
To Salaries	338	10	5			
Wages	1,536	14	10			
				1,875	5	3
Head office salaries and expenses	—			65	18	11
Accident insurance	—			16	16	10
Medical, dental, and optical expenses	—			430	14	9
Rations	—			2,176	16	1
Firewood	—			542	16	5
Institutional expenses	—			402	5	8
School books and materials	—			22	15	0
Depreciation—						
Furniture	6	9	10			
Hospital furniture	5	12	7			
Hospital equipment	12	7	8			
				24	10	1
				£8,543	13	2

STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1937.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Trading store account	—			131	16	11
<i>Station Accounts.</i>						
By Pigs	112	0	0			
Cattle	659	6	4			
Sheep	532	0	3			
				1,303	6	7
Balance, excess of expenditure over income, Station accounts	—			1,557	10	8
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>						
By Balance, excess of expenditure over income, Institution accounts	—			5,557	19	0

£8,543 13 2

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.
16th August, 1937.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT MCLEAY

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	105,118	11	9			
H.M. Government Deposit Account	471	10	5			
				105,590	2	2
Capital Account	—			5,612	8	5
Sundry creditors	—			973	8	7

£112,175 19 2

STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1937.

<i>Assets.</i>		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Station Buildings	8,628	14	10		
Cottages and Hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7		
New cottages	778	16	9		
				11,488	2 2
Land purchased	—			3,630	0 0
Improvements	—			3,706	8 2
Implements, vehicles, &c.	714	14	1		
Harness	45	0	0		
Furniture	99	3	8		
Hospital furniture	45	2	4		
Hospital equipment	45	0	6		
				949	0 7
Cash on hand	—			160	13 0
Sundry Debtors	—			404	1 8
Stocks on hand—					
Store	512	0	1		
Sheep	663	9	0		
Cattle	412	0	0		
Pigs	71	14	0		
Horses	365	0	0		
Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, &c.	303	4	5		
Institution stores	86	13	7		
				2,414	1 1
Excess of expenditure over income for the year—					
Station Accounts	1,550	10	8		
Institution Accounts	5,557	19	0		
				7,108	9 8
Less excess of income over expenditure, account trading store				131	16 11
				6,976	12 9
Excess of expenditure over income, brought forward, 1915-36	82,446	19	9		
				89,423	12 6
				£112,175	19 2

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

16th August, 1937.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—			365	10	1
<i>Station Accounts.</i>						
To Horses	—			10	8	0
Salaries	620	3	6			
Wages	2,245	17	7			
				2,866	1	1
Accident insurance	—			24	19	5
Head Office, salaries and expenses	—			65	18	11
Interest on Loan Account	—			87	19	3
Farm Account	—			52	7	1
Depreciation—						
Implements, vehicles, &c.	351	16	9			
Harness	20	17	0			
				372	13	9
Balance, excess of income over expenditure, Station accounts	—			167	15	1
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>						
To Salaries	548	19	8			
Wages	3,030	4	1			
				3,579	3	9
Rations	—			1,149	8	10
Accident insurance	—			24	19	4
School books and materials	—			39	11	1
Head Office, salaries and expenses	—			65	18	11
Medical, dental, and optical expenses	—			230	7	4
Institutional expenses	—			452	11	3
				£9,555	13	2

STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1937.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Trading store account	—			365	10	1
<i>Station Accounts.</i>						
By Pigs	224	4	11			
Cattle	168	19	8			
Sheep	3,240	2	2			
				3,633	6	9
Interest on Aborigines Deprecia- tion Investment Account (Public Debt Commission) .	—			14	15	10
<i>Institution Accounts.</i>						
By Rent of school building	—			23	0	0
Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, Institution accounts	—			5,519	0	6
				£9,555	13	2

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

16th August, 1937.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	85,913	11	10			
H.M. Government Loan Account ..	2,094	7	4			
				88,007	19	2
Capital Account		—		11,374	9	5
Sundry Creditors		—		742	11	0

£100,124 19 7

STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1937,

<i>Assets.</i>		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	11,412	4	1				
New cottages	4,733	13	9				
Erection of hall	1,102	14	7				
					17,248	12	5
Improvements	8,504	3	0				
Implements, vehicles, &c.	2,670	10	11				
Harness	98	15	3				
Furniture	129	3	10				
Hospital furniture	12	11	0				
Hospital equipment	10	1	11				
					11,425	5	11
Cash on hand	—					14	17 10
H.M. Government Deposit Account	—					113	11 7
Sundry debtors	—					136	6 10
Aboriginals Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commis- sion)	—					507	16 7
Stocks on hand—							
Store	374	7	10				
Farm stores, seed, super, fenc- ing materials, &c.	866	12	4				
Sheep	5,117	13	0				
Cattle	637	10	0				
Pigs	208	17	0				
Horses	855	10	0				
Institution stores	140	0	9				
						8,200	10 11
Excess of expenditure over income for the year—Institution accounts	5,519	0	6				
Less excess of income over expendi- ture—							
Station accounts, £167 15s. 1d., trading store account, £365 10s. 1d.	533	5	2				
						4,985	15 4
Excess of expenditure over income, brought forward, 1915-36	57,492	2	2				
						62,477	17 6
						£100,124	19 7

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

16th August, 1937.