



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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REPORT OF THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1942.

Aborigines Protection Board, Adelaide,
30th September, 1942.

To His Excellency, SIR CHARLES MALCOLM BARCLAY-HARVEY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor in and over the State of South Australia, and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency :

We do ourselves the honour to submit the annual report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the year ended 30th June, 1942.

During the year under review a number of aborigines from the mission stations and reserves enlisted for active service, and others are engaged in important work in connection with the war effort. Approximately 100 men joined the Army Labour Corps, and they are rendering excellent service in connection with the defence of the country. Others are engaged in the production of munitions, in firewood cutting, charcoal burning, flax production, and in maintenance gangs in the Railways Department. These men have established their right to be included in the general scheme for settling soldiers and war workers respectively in civil life at the conclusion of the war. It is not desirable, and it should not be necessary, for them to return to a mission station.

In the settled areas of South Australia no able-bodied aborigine is unemployed. In addition, a considerable number of full-blooded aborigines have secured employment in the pastoral industry. Reports from police officers and pastoralists indicate that their work is of a satisfactory character. On several stations the entire working staff consists of aborigines, and, without these men, the pastoralists concerned would be unable to carry on their industry.

Work on aboriginal stations is being performed mainly by natives medically unfit or too old for service in the Army Labour Corps, and in other war industries. In the garden and in the dairies, and in other suitable occupations, women are in regular employment, and are rendering excellent service in positions previously filled by men.

War activities have provided work for many aborigines, but have also restricted and delayed the development of the reserved lands, the building of houses, fencing, etc., because of the lack of manpower and materials.

Arrangements were well in hand by the Board for the transfer of the aborigines residing on the reserve near the town of Swan Reach to higher ground on the reserve four miles upstream, but building materials and fencing were unobtainable, consequently the transfer of these people has necessarily been deferred. Similar difficulties were experienced at Point Pearce, Point McLeay, and at other camping places where the Board contemplated improvements in housing, and the general development of the lands reserved for aborigines.

In accordance with its policy, and in association with the medical officer in charge of the chest clinic at the Adelaide Hospital, and the medical officer at the respective reserves and camps for aborigines, the Board inaugurated a medical survey of the aborigines. Practically all persons residing at Swan Reach were brought to Adelaide in family groups and maintained for a period of five days to permit of a thorough examination. It is pleasing to report that only one positive case of tuberculosis was revealed, and the patient in question had been treated previously for the complaint. In some doubtful cases re-examination was advised, and this is being done periodically. Aborigines from other reserves were similarly examined, and, where indicated, the necessary treatment was afforded. It is proposed to continue with the survey, so that every person recommended by a medical officer may be examined, and, where necessary, provided with treatment.

The Board has also provided an improved ration issue by supplying vegetables, milk and other foods, where possible, with a view to securing a greater measure of health amongst the aborigines.

The Board is endeavouring to secure a suitable property in the north-western pastoral country with a view to removing the aborigines from the Trans-Australian Railway Line at Ooldea to better conditions, and training the younger men in pastoral pursuits.

The special schools for aborigines have continued in operation throughout the year. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable teachers for some of these schools. Supplies of timber for the woodworking classes, and materials for use in the domestic arts classes, and also stationery, books and other school requisites, were provided by the Board. In addition to children attending special schools for aborigines, a considerable number of children attend public schools throughout the State.

The additional family income derived from child endowment is reflected in many homes in the improved standard of food and clothing provided for the children. At the request of the Commonwealth Government the Board is administering the endowment funds in cases where the endowee is considered to be incapable of spending the money in the best interest of her children.

Aborigines living under conditions comparable to the European way of life are now eligible to participate in old age, invalid and widows' pension benefits, and also in the maternity allowance.

During the year unconditional exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act was granted to 23 persons, and nine other persons were exempted on probation.

Inspector S. R. Parsonage, reporting on the northern and western police districts, states that the general health of the aborigines in those areas is satisfactory.

There is plenty of work available for aborigines in the pastoral country. Unemployed men formerly living at Port Augusta, have secured work on the Morgan-Whyalla Pipeline, and are regarded as good workmen.

Port Augusta (Umecwarra Mission).—The school work at this mission is carried on by the Misses Simmons and Cantle. Fifteen children live in the mission dormitory, and attend the school. Only a few old men, and the wives of men working in the district now reside in the mission cottages.

Ernabella Mission (Presbyterian).—The Superintendent, the Rev. J. R. B. Love, reports that the largest number of aborigines counted at the station on any day during the year was 350. Two patrols by camel team were undertaken into the adjacent reserves, and the country was found to be in good condition, food was plentiful, and the health of the people very good. Dr. Jean Davies accompanied the party, so that any cases of sickness met with could be afforded treatment. Aborigines are employed as shepherds at Ernabella, each flock being in charge of a married couple.

Mr. Trudinger is in charge of the Mission School, and is rendering excellent service to the children under his care. There is roll strength of 140, but the attendance varies from 20 to 70 children. This is due to children going with their parents on hunting and other tribal excursions.

Fruit and vegetables are grown to meet local needs at Ernabella.

Religious instruction is given by the superintendent and members of the staff. The conduct of the natives is stated to be very good.

United Aborigines Mission, Ooldea.—The usual activities of the mission have been maintained throughout the year. Native weapons and curios were in great demand, particularly by visiting soldiers passing through the district, and the aborigines were kept busy in meeting this demand.

United Aborigines Mission, Nepabunna.—The superintendent reports a busy year. The dormitory building for housing the children attending school was almost completed. The Board contributed £123 toward the cost of the building. Work is plentiful on surrounding pastoral stations.

United Aborigines Mission, Finnis Springs.—The superintendent states that a pedal wireless plant was installed to enable contact to be made with the aerial medical service at Broken Hill. A dormitory building is urgently required for the school children during the absence of parents who are working at some distance from the mission. Work at the school for aborigines was maintained as usual throughout the year.

United Aborigines Mission, Colebrook Home, Quorn.—The children from the home attend the primary and high schools at Quorn, and take the same curriculum as white children. They are readily absorbed in domestic, pastoral and industrial activities in various parts of the State, when their training is completed. During the year one girl was sent to a hospital as a nurse trainee, and one boy was apprenticed to an engineer.

United Aborigines Mission, Swan Reach.—Every able-bodied man residing at this mission is engaged on farms and sheep stations, or at wood cutting, fishing, and other important activities in the district. The children residing at the mission attend the special school for aborigines.

Lutheran Mission, Koonibba.—The Superintendent, the Rev. R. H. Traeger, reports a very satisfactory year. There were 48 inmates of the children's home. The new school building, erected last year with the assistance of the Board has greatly facilitated the educational work and the pleasant surroundings are reflected in the conduct of the children. The medical work at the local hospital is under the supervision of Dr. Gibson and Sister Hitchcock, and a busy year was experienced in this department.

More than 30 men from Koonibba are on military duty. There is no unemployment problem in the district.

Point McLeay Station.—There was a loss of population due to many men being engaged on military duty, and in other essential war services, 30 men having enlisted for service in the army and 15 obtaining employment in war industries.

The health of the natives showed considerable improvement, and this is regarded as being due in some measure to the addition of vegetables, etc., to the ration scale. There were 21 births and eight deaths during the year.

During the year a pumping plant, capable of delivering 12,000gall. of water per hour, was erected to provide water for domestic supplies and livestock, and also for irrigation purposes. A 25,000gall. stone storage tank was built on high ground, and water is reticulated by gravity as required. Gardens were established, and the produce made available for issue as rations, and also for sale to natives through the local store. The gardens will be extended in order to provide a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, potatoes and onions, etc.

The harvest returns were satisfactory, and improved pastures have permitted a substantial increase in the number of livestock.

The Point McLeay school for aborigines has continued operations at the usual high level of efficiency, and the religious services have been maintained as usual by the Parkin Mission.

Patriotic efforts resulted in £65 being raised for the Red Cross Society.

Point Pearce Station.—There were 19 births and 14 deaths during the year.

The manager reports an improvement in the health and bearing of the children, which he attributes to the provision of vegetables, the daily issue of milk at school, and the child endowment scheme.

The social needs of the people are catered for by weekly picture shows and dances.

The medical, educational and religious services have been maintained as usual.

The cottages and public buildings were cleaned and painted, and are generally in good order. Close attention was also given to the implements, vehicles, and boats.

The harvest returns were only fair, rust infection in the wheat crop considerably reducing the yield. The returns from the livestock, particularly the sheep, were very satisfactory.

Several men from Point Pearce have enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces, and 30 others are serving in the Army Labour Corps.

A statement of receipts and expenditure of the department, and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Stations are appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH,	} Aborigines Protection Board.
J. B. CLELAND,	
CONSTANCE M. COOKE,	
A. M. JOHNSTON,	
S. T. C. BEST,	
CHARLES DUGUID,	
LEN. J. COOK,	

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT, YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1942.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Point Pearce Station—								Head Office—									
From sales of produce, etc.....		5,467	13	8				Salaries		1,565	2	4					
From store sales		3,312	0	0				Provisions—blankets, clothing, medical, dental and optical expenses, transport, etc.		6,965	1	3					
					8,779	13	8	Aborigines Home, North Adelaide..		81	7	3					
Point McLeay Station—								Training half-caste girls for domestic service		142	0	0					
From sales of produce, etc.....		1,761	13	6				Development of reserves for aborigines		21	6	5					
From store sales		3,330	6	4				Recoup to other departments for services of officers.....		14	13	3					
					5,091	19	10	Pay roll tax for child endowment ..		338	2	10					
Refund of Flour Tax, advances for fares, etc.					300	10	11	Grant towards cost of dormitory at Nepabunna		123	0	0			9,250	13	4
Cost of aborigines to the South Australian Government for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1942 ..					21,156	3	3	Point Pearce Station—									
								Salaries and wages		5,741	3	11					
								Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc...		4,242	15	10					
								Purchase of buckboard		244	10	6					
								New cottages		83	11	0					
								Purchases and expenses of store....		3,437	15	5			13,749	16	8
								Point McLeay Station—									
								Salaries and wages		4,979	13	7					
								Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc...		3,793	5	4					
								Rent of section, hundred of Baker..		41	15	9					
								New cottages		184	8	11					
								Purchases and expenses of store....		3,328	14	1			12,327	17	8
															£35,328	7	8

30th September, 1942.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1942.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure, account trading store		—			333	12	7			By Trading Store Account	—		333	12	7	
Station Accounts.										Station Accounts.						
To Farm expenses.....		—			536	12	5			By Cattle	713	15	7			
Horses		—			29	4	11			Sheep	937	9	0			
Salaries		652	18	4						Pigs	256	13	4			
Wages		2,127	9	11									1,907	17	11	
					2,780	8	3			By Balance—Excess of expenditure over income—Station accounts	—			1,603	9	7
Head office salaries and expenses..		—			86	12	7			Institution Accounts.						
Rent—Hundred of Baker		—			41	15	9			By Balance—Excess of expenditure over income	—			4,344	19	2
Accident insurance		—			24	10	2									
Depreciation—																
Harness		—			12	3	5									
Institution Accounts.																
To Salaries		475	15	9												
Wages		1,489	2	7												
					1,964	18	4									
Head office salaries and expenses..		—			86	12	7									
Accident insurance		—			12	5	1									
Medical, dental, and optical expenses		—			513	4	3									
Rations		—			790	2	4									
Institutional expenses		—			627	9	10									
School books and materials		—			15	11	3									
Firewood		—			323	11	4									
Depreciation—																
Hospital furniture		0	7	6												
Hospital equipment		4	4	4												
Furniture		6	12	4												
					11	4	2									
					£8,189	19	3							£8,189	19	3

30th September, 1942.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1942.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account.....		149,563	2	9				Station buildings		13,581	11	8			
H.M. Government Deposit Account		315	0	2				Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota		2,080	10	7			
					149,878	2	11	New cottages		1,925	17	4			
Capital Account					5,612	8	5						17,587	19	7
Sundry creditors					481	18	2	Land purchased.....		—			3,630	0	0
								Improvements		—			4,731	9	2
								Implements, vehicles, etc.		—			993	1	2
								Harness.....		—			80	10	0
								Furniture		—			90	18	4
								Hospital furniture		—			35	14	5
								Hospital equipment		—			37	6	2
								Cash on hand		—			159	19	7
								Sundry debtors		—			292	11	6
								Stocks on hand—							
								Store		514	6	0			
								Sheep		1,038	5	0			
								Cattle		859	5	0			
								Pigs		122	5	0			
								Horses		439	0	0			
								Farm stores, seed, super, fencing material, etc.		620	17	6			
								Institution stores		343	8	7			
													3,937	7	1
								Excess of expenditure over income for the year—							
								Station Accounts.....		1,603	9	7			
								Institution Accounts		4,344	19	2			
										5,948	8	9			
								Less excess of income over expenditure account Trading Store		333	12	7			
										5,614	16	2			
								Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-41		118,780	16	4			
													124,395	12	6
													£155,972	9	6
													£155,972	9	6

30th September, 1942.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1942.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Account Trading Store		—			54	14	6	By Trading Store Account		—			54	14	6		
Station Accounts.								Station Accounts.									
To Salaries		516	9	1				By Sheep		4,167	10	9					
Wages		2,452	5	11				Cattle		333	15	3					
					2,968	15	0	Pigs		227	12	9					
Accident insurance		—			21	8	9	Farm		96	17	0			4,825	15	9
Head office salaries and expenses..		—			86	12	7	Institution Accounts.									
Horses		—			11	4	9	By Rent of school building		—			38	8	9		
Depreciation—								Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, Institution Accounts		—			3,915	6	6		
Implements, vehicles, etc.		491	0	8													
Harness		14	7	2	505	7	10										
Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Station Accounts .					1,232	6	10										
Institution Accounts.																	
To Salaries		335	6	10													
Wages		2,253	4	5	2,588	11	3										
Rations		—			633	4	0										
Accident insurance		—			18	7	6										
School books and materials		—			40	18	10										
Head office salaries and expenses .		—			86	12	7										
Medical, dental, and optical expenses		—			416	3	0										
Institutional expenses		—			168	8	8										
Depreciation—Hospital furniture..		—			1	9	5										
					£8,834	5	6						£8,834	5	6		

30th September, 1942.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1942.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	114,448	5	5	Station buildings	13,823	11	4			
H.M. Government Deposit Account	495	3	8	New cottages	6,129	14	10			
Capital Account	12,930	1	7					19,953	6	2
Sundry creditors	383	19	10	Improvements	—			9,937	9	3
				Implements, vehicles, etc.	1,889	0	7			
				Harness	108	0	6			
				Hospital furniture	10	17	4			
				Hospital equipment	13	2	10			
								2,021	1	3
				Cash on hand	—			10	0	0
				Sundry debtors	—			120	19	1
				Furniture	—			135	8	11
				Stocks on hand—						
				Store	509	11	8			
				Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, etc.	2,120	13	11			
				Sheep	6,279	10	0			
				Cattle	793	1	0			
				Pigs	320	9	0			
				Horses	454	0	0			
				Institution store	568	3	10			
								11,045	9	5
				Excess of expenditure over income for the year—						
				Institution account	3,915	6	6			
				Less excess of income over expenditure—						
				Trading Store	£54	14	6			
				Station accounts..	1,232	6	10			
								1,287	1	4
								2,628	5	2
				Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915.41	82,405	11	3			
								85,033	16	5
								£128,257	10	6

30th September, 1942.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

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