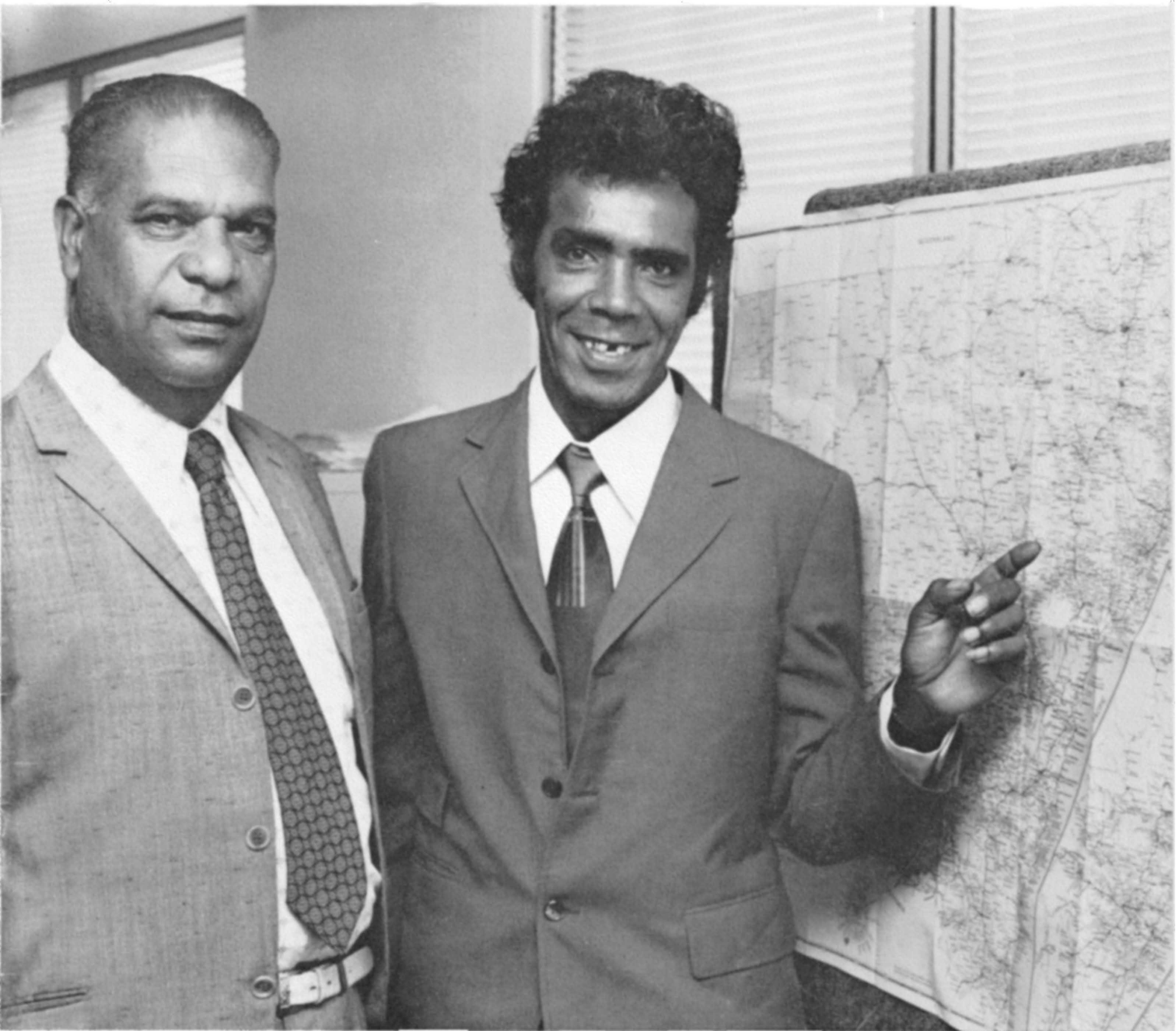


new dawn

march 1974



a magazine for the aboriginal people of new south wales

NEW DAWN A magazine for the Aboriginal community of New South Wales.

March, 1974. Vol. 4 No. 10 ISSN 0028-4513

A monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Department of Youth and Community Services, P.O. Box K718, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000. **Subscription to *New Dawn* is free of charge and may be obtained by writing to this address.**



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FRONT COVER: *Larry Kelly (Bowraville) discusses Reserves to be transferred to the Lands Trust with Tom Williams, prior to the first meeting of the Trust*

BACK COVER: *Students from Wellington Public School. Steven Shaw 11, Pat King 11, Dianne Smith 11, Lesley Kelly 11, Edith Shaw 11, Mitchell Smith 11*

EDITOR: Peter Vaughan, Publicity Officer, Department of Youth and Community Services, Tel.: 2 0982.



First meeting of the Lands Trust and Advisory Council (L. to R.): Les Ridgeway (Moree), Tony Barrett (Grafton), Charles Leon (Sydney), Ossie Cruse (Eden), Larry Kelly (Bowraville), Ian Kingsley (administrator for the Lands Trust), Ed Rayment (secretary of the Advisory Council), Tom Williams (Chairman, Sydney), and Ron Riley (Broken Hill). Harry Hall (Walgett), and Bill Glover (Sydney), who are also members of the Council and Trust but who were not able to attend the first meeting, are not included in this photograph

Aboriginal Lands Trust and New Advisory Council Elected

The newly elected members of the New South Wales Aboriginal Lands Trust and of the Aborigines Advisory Council, are Messrs Ron Riley, Harry Hall, Les Ridgeway, Charles Leon, Ossie Cruse, Lawrence Kelly, Anthony Barrett, Tom Williams and William Glover.

The Lands Trust, which was set up last year, is to assume ownership and management of all New

South Wales reserves. The Advisory Council, established in 1970, advises the State Government on all matters affecting Aborigines. The same nine people will sit on both the Council and the Trust.

Following the completion of the elections in December, the successful candidates held their first meeting last month.

The new Advisory Council includes five members of the 1970-73 Council and four new members—Messrs Leon, Kelly, Barrett and Glover.

In five of the nine electorates, only one candidate was validly nominated, and they were declared elected unopposed: 1—Far Western (Ron Riley); 2—Western (Harry Hall); 3—North Western (Les Ridgeway); 7—North and West Sydney (Charles Leon); 9—Southern and Central Western (Ossie Cruse).

A total of seven other candidates did attempt to nominate for these electorates, but their nominations were not valid, either because they missed the closing date, they themselves were not enrolled, their nominators were not enrolled or their nominators were not enrolled in the same electorate as themselves.

The elections were carried out by the New South Wales Electoral Commission, which also decided which nominations were valid and which were not.

In the remaining four electorates which were contested, a total of fourteen candidates were

validly nominated. (Four further candidates attempted to nominate, but their nominations were not valid, for the same reasons as above.)

A system of preferential voting was used. The results are printed in the adjacent table. A total of 1,130 ballot papers were posted to people enrolled in the four electorates, on the following basis: 460—Northern Tablelands; 348—North Coast; 195—East and South Sydney; and 127—Central Coast. 128 envelopes were returned unclaimed.

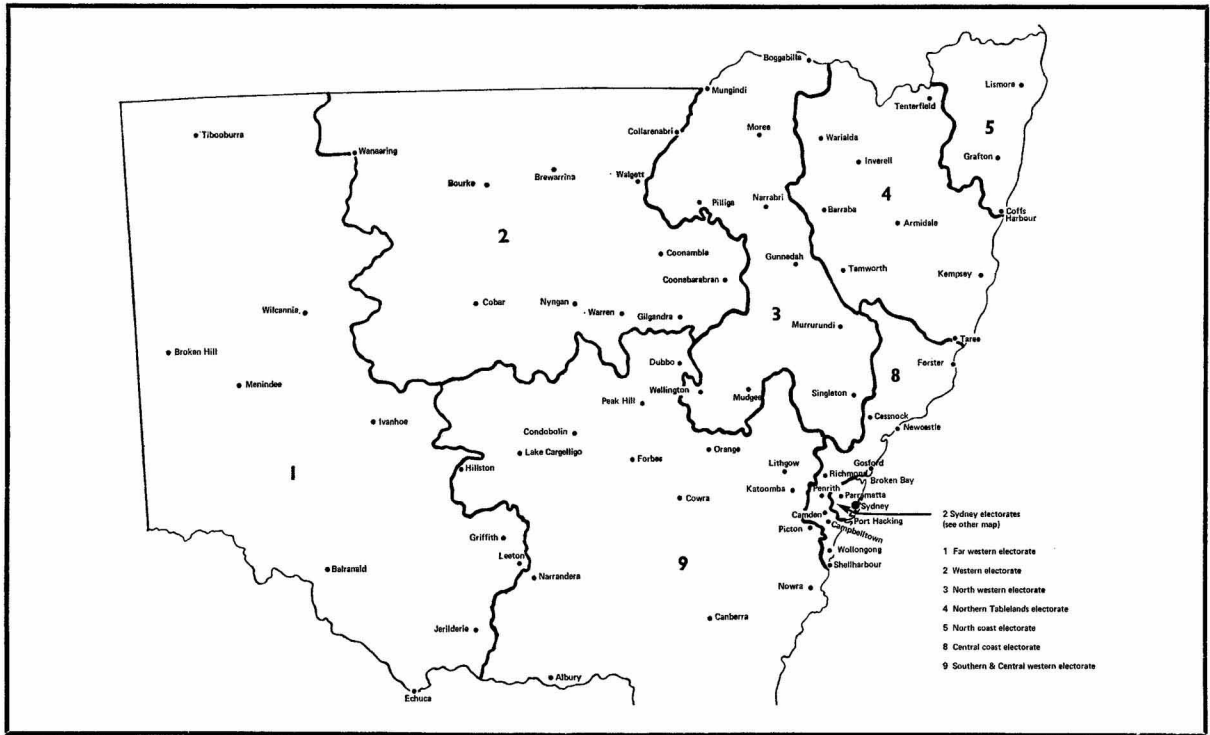
A total of 455 people actually voted in the four electorates. Thus 45 per cent of those people enrolled who received ballot papers, did vote. In the Advisory Council Elections of 1970, all of the then six electorates were contested, with a total response also approximating 45 per cent.

At that time the total number of people enrolled was about 2,000. About 3,000 people throughout the State had enrolled at the time of this last election. The same number of people, 19, nominated in both elections.

The newly elected members of the Lands Trust and Advisory Council will hold office for 3 years.

Election Results in Four Contested Electorates

<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Candidates</i>	<i>1st Preferences</i>	<i>Final Votes (after distribution of preferences)</i>	<i>Electorate</i>	<i>Candidates</i>	<i>1st Preferences</i>	<i>Final Votes (after distribution of preferences)</i>
4.	.. Ken Brindle ..	47		6.	.. Harold Stewart ..	14	
	Lawrence Kelly ..	53	121		.. Tom Williams ..	26	
	Gail Lovelock ..	53	101		Informal	
	John Quinlan ..	31			Total	40	
	Victor Wright ..	38					
	Informal ..	5					
Total	227						
5.	.. Anthony Barrett	44	54	8.	.. William Glover ..	17	29
	Francis Gomes ..	27			Thomas Hill ..	9	
	Julie Kapeen ..	32	94		James Lord ..	9	
	Informal ..	16			Muriel Stewart	19	25
	Total	119			Informal ..	1	
				Total	55		

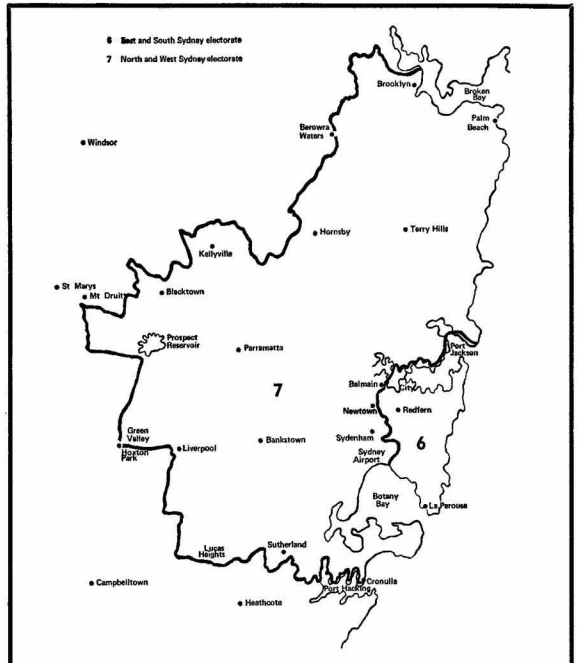


Map showing all New South Wales Electorates of Lands Trust and Advisory Council

Trust and Council Members and Electorates

Electorate	Name
No. 1 District Far Western Electorate	Ron Riley, 92 Crystal Street, Broken Hill 2880.
No. 2 District Western Electorate	Harry Hall, 12 Coral Avenue, Walgett 2385.
No. 3 District North Western Electorate	Les Ridgeway, 2 Galgorm Street, Moree 2400.
No. 4 District Northern Tablelands	Lawrence Kelly, Mackville Road, Bowraville 2449.
No. 5 District North Coast	Anthony Barrett, 102 Villiers Street, Grafton 2460.
No. 6 District East and South Sydney	Tom Williams, 8 Murrong Place, La Perouse 2036.
No. 7 District North and West Sydney	Charles Leon, 50 Devlin Street, Ashcroft 2168.
No. 8 District Central Coast	William Glover, 28 Craig Avenue, St Marys 2760.
No. 9 District Southern and Central Western	Ossie Cruse, 204 Princes Highway, Eden 2551.

Map showing Lands Trust and Advisory Council electorates in the Sydney region



WHAT ARE THE LANDS TRUST AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL?

What is the Lands Trust?

An Act of New South Wales Parliament, passed in April, 1973, allows for the transfer of ownership and management of Aboriginal reserves and most of their mineral resources to New South Wales.

In other words, Aborigines have been granted land rights, or ownership, over this land.

The land is to be held for the people by a body called the Aboriginal Lands Trust. This is a group of nine Aborigines elected by the Aboriginal residents of the State. That was the purpose of the recently conducted elections. These nine people also form the new Aborigines Advisory Council.

What does the Lands Trust do?

The Lands Trust is not controlled by the Government, but by the Aboriginal community. It has similar powers to any other landowner.

It can buy, sell, lease or dispose of the land in any manner it sees fit. It can use the land for housing, business or other purposes.

While technically the State Governor is empowered to restrain or disband the Trust (and arrange for the election of a new one) if it wilfully fails to exercise its responsibilities, this does *not* permit the Government to interfere with individual decisions of the Trust simply because it may disagree with them.

The Government contributes towards the Trust's basic operating costs. The Trust has already engaged a full-time administrator.

What land does the Trust hold?

At the moment arrangements are being made for the transfer of ownership of certain New South Wales reserves to the Trust. 40 reserves have already been offered to the trust.

The following reserves are not being transferred immediately.

- (i) Reserves where there are houses rented from the Government. It is anticipated that some of these reserves (e.g. Roseby Park) may be transferred in the near future and the remainder (e.g. Woodenbong) at a later date.
- (ii) Reserves which are leased. When these leases expire the land will be offered to the Trust.
- (iii) Reserves which the Trust does not wish to accept.

What is the role of the Advisory Council?

Last year, when the Lands Trust was set up, the method of selecting the Aborigines Advisory Council, which has existed since 1970, was changed.

The Council now consists of nine fully elected members. There are no longer any Government appointees on the Advisory Council.

It exists to advise the State Government on all matters affecting Aborigines. Even after responsibility for Aboriginal affairs in New South Wales is transferred to the Federal Government, the Advisory Council will continue to play an important role.

This is because such matters as health, housing, education etc., will still be determined by the New South Wales Government. The Council will continue to advise the Government on these issues.

Who are the members of the Lands Trust and Advisory Council?



RON RILEY, Electorate 1, Broken Hill. Age: 47 years. Born in Wilcannia and lived at Broken Hill for the past 7 years. Has worked as a stockman and miner. Member of the N.S.W. Aborigines Advisory Council for the past 3 years and foundation member of the West Darling Aboriginal Advancement Association.



TONY BARRETT, Electorate 5, Grafton. Age: 26 years. Born in Grafton and employed by local council. Has been around Australia twice and has visited missions in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Representative on local health committee and first president of Clarence Valley Aboriginal Association. Interested in promoting Aboriginal business projects.



TOM WILLIAMS, Electorate 6, La Perouse. Age: 51 years. Born and lived in Sydney all his life. Former manager of Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, Sydney, and now social worker with the Prisoners' Aid Association. Executive member of the Aboriginal Medical and Legal Services. Member of Advisory Council for past 3 years and N.S.W. representative on N.A.C.C.



CHARLES LEON, Electorate 7, Green Valley. Age: 73 years. Born and reared in Forster, has lived in Sydney for past 23 years. Worked as a builder's labourer and painter and docker. Spent 6 years as president of the Aboriginal Australian Fellowship and 3 years as a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board. Now a retired pensioner and a director of the Boomerang Credit Union.



LES RIDGEWAY, Electorate 3, Moree. Age: 45 years. Born in Newcastle and grew up at Karuah and Purfleet. Welfare Officer at Ballina for the Aborigines Welfare Board for 9 years. Senior Welfare Officer for the Department of Youth and Community Services at Moree for past 5 years. Associated with Aboriginal sports clubs and Moree Advancement Association. Member of Advisory Council for past 3 years.



OSSIE CRUSE, Electorate 9, Eden. Age: 40 years. Born in Orbost, Victoria, has worked as an abalone diver in Eden for the past 4 years. Has also done labouring and seasonal work in N.S.W., Queensland and South Australia. Mainly concerned with Christian Youth Work and a federal council member of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. Involved in local advancement associations and a member of the Advisory Council for the past 3 years.



LARRY KELLY, Electorate 4, Bowraville. Age: 35 years. Born in Bellingen and spent most of his life in Bowraville. Employed as a timber-worker. Member of the Bowraville Aboriginal Advancement Committee and a member of the Bowraville pre-school committee.



HARRY HALL, Electorate 2, Walgett. Age: 49 years. Has been manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, Walgett, for the last 3 years. Member of Aboriginal Progressive Association for past 5 years. Worked for Department of Main Roads, 7 years. N.S.W. representative on N.A.C.C.

BILL GLOVER, Electorate 8, St Marys. Mr Glover did not attend the first meeting of the Lands Trust and Advisory Council. No photo or information about him is yet available.

“TO BE UNHAPPY AND ILL-ADJUSTED”

Because a White Man'll Never Do It is the title of Kevin Gilbert's recently published book.

The title reflects the book's overriding theme, which is that of self-determination for Aboriginal people.

Mr Gilbert's book is the first full-length study by an Aboriginal of the problems and needs confronting the community. Previous works of this nature have been written by non-Aborigines. The book is based mainly on New South Wales.



Kevin Gilbert

The title is taken from a quote of Mrs Alice Briggs of Purfleet Reserve, near Taree: "The only answer is to give them (the Aboriginal people) back their land rights and let the Aborigines try and rectify what the white man has done, because a white man'll never do it. While ever he tries to tell an Aborigine what to do, you're going to have the same thing all the way through life".

The opening chapter of the book offers an impressionistic outline of the devastating impact of European settlement on the Aboriginal people and their way of life. This, says Gilbert, is the common heritage which provides Aborigines with their only source of unity: "There is no real belonging, no real identification except to the memory of misery".

He agrees with Dr Coombs' statement in October, 1971, that "After 170-odd years of decline the Aboriginal population is now rising rapidly and a failure to solve the educational and other problems of their place in our society could mean that the fond illusion many of us hold of Australia as homogenous and free of 'race' problems could be dissipated in violence and hatred".

He outlines the basic Aboriginal claim: "Aborigines, of course, do not deny that whites have carved out a stake in Australia. All that blacks are asking is for material recognition of the fact that their 30,000 years of prior occupancy counts for something too. The material recognition must be in terms of land and compensation".

The book rejects the suggestion that the present condition of Aborigines in Australia is comparable to that of non-whites in South Africa. "Prejudice in Australia," he says, "is not so institutionalized . . . because here blacks are not numerous enough and have therefore not been perceived as enough of a threat to warrant it." "Prejudice," he writes, "has been based on convenience rather than fear."

Nevertheless the extreme forms which this prejudice once took have left their mark on the Aboriginal people, with the result that rather than resist, "The majority retreat. A strong factor in this retreat is the Aboriginal's continuing fear of white violence. Even in New South Wales there are plenty of reserve blacks left who can remember the last occasion when armed whites rode into their camp for a shoot-up while local police turned a blind eye. And the fear of more subtle reprisals is an ever present one amongst blacks".

Mr Gilbert says the result of this is that the people are unhappy: "To be unhappy and ill-adjusted is the care thing, the root thing". It is this, he argues, which has undermined official policies in the past.

At the same time it is this attitude that explains the appeal of so-called "Black Power" to Aboriginal people. "It provides," he says, "a vision of hope and new dignity . . . Expressed positively, Black Power means black men and black women speaking out and uniting to force the white man to acknowledge their humanity rights, justice, dignity and right to self-determination. It is the voice of a dispossessed, victimized minority making a fair, human claim. Expressed negatively, it becomes disillusionment and frustration which is expressed not by alcoholic self-destruction as in the past, but by violence against the white persecutors."

Despite the depressing evidence he cites throughout the book, Mr Gilbert is still hopeful: "There has been growth . . . growth for black people. I am willing to stake my last bean that there has been more growth for black people in the last 2 or 3 years than in almost 200 years of previous white rule. The steps forward to date have been halting, stumbling. But they have been made".

statistical report 11

petty sessions 1972

department of the attorney general & of justice nsw bureau of crime statistics & research

crime report highlights social problems

Between February and May last year, the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research carried out a pilot study on the national background of people appearing before Sydney Central Court of Petty Sessions.

The Bureau says the study was undertaken because "the national background of those appearing before the courts of petty sessions is too important to be allowed to remain a complete gap in our knowledge".

The results of that study, which classified "Aborigines" as a national group, highlight the legal symptoms of the deeper malaise afflicting the Aboriginal community. The Bureau warns, however, that the findings are not without their shortcomings, due to the method used in collecting the information.

The procedure adopted was that each person charged at Central Police Station during the study period, was asked, "Where were you born?" In the case of persons born in Australia, the further question was asked: "Are you an Australian Aboriginal?" This method of asking people to describe themselves as Aborigines or not, was similar to that used in the 1971 census.

The average conviction rate for all of Sydney was 0.88 per thousand of population. The conviction rate among Aborigines, which far exceeded that of any other national group, was 14.4 per thousand.

Aborigines represent 0.2 per cent of the Sydney metropolitan population. They accounted for 3.2 per cent of convictions. That is, Aborigines incurred, at face value, sixteen times more convictions than might have been expected on a population basis.

In the seven municipalities which account for the bulk (80 per cent) of convictions, Aborigines represent 0.3 per cent of the population. In these areas they incurred 10.7 times more convictions than might have been expected on a population basis.

The pattern of Aboriginal offences showed, according to the study, "a relatively high percentage of summary offences (especially unseemly words and vagrancy) and very few larceny offences".

For instance, of the fourteen nationality groups (including European Australians) represented in the survey, Aborigines displayed only the ninth highest rate of convictions for soliciting; were eighth on the list for offensive and indecent behaviour and were among the five groups which recorded no convictions for drinking/driving.

For all nationalities the overall figure for legal representation (42 per cent) was higher than that for Aborigines (one in three). The relatively small difference may be explained by the operation of the Aboriginal Legal Service in Sydney. They ranked seventh in the list of fourteen nationality groups in terms of representation.

It is generally accepted that part of the explanation of the apparent Aboriginal "crime" rate, lies in their socioeconomic position, undue surveillance, and consequent frustration, resentment and despair.

One of the fourteen reports published as a result of the 1971 census is devoted to "The Aboriginal Population". That report was released in the latter half of last year.

In addition to the size and geographical distribution of the Aboriginal population, it contains information about the age, schooling, occupation, and dwellings of the people, sometimes on both a State and Federal basis.

Partly for the benefit of the groups interested or involved in Aboriginal affairs, there was no strict definition of "Aboriginal" in the census. People were simply asked to identify themselves.

Total Population and Location

The actual population figures for each State and Territory and for the whole country, are as follow:

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>
Males	11,682	2,855	12,306
Females	11,419	2,801	12,108
Total	23,101	5,656	24,414
	<i>South Aus.</i>	<i>Western Aus.</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>
Males	3,697	11,250	307
Females	2,443	10,653	268
Total	7,140	21,903	575
	<i>N. Territory</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Males	11,686	136	53,919
Females	11,567	112	52,371
Total	23,253	248	106,290

(These figures and those below do not include Torres Strait Islanders, of whom there were 9,663 throughout Australia, including 772 in New South Wales.)

It was found that on a national basis, 43.5 per cent of the people lived in urban areas and 54.4 per cent in rural areas. (An "urban area" is a town or city.) In New South Wales the corresponding figures were 66 per cent urban and 34 per cent rural. Only Victoria had a higher proportion of people living in urban areas.

The census report divides New South Wales into eleven regions and provides figures of the number of Aboriginal people living in each area in 1971. The proportions of population in various areas are as follow:

- 24 per cent—Sydney.
- 1 per cent—Outer Sydney (Blue Mts, Wyong, Wollondilly).
- 4 per cent—Hunter (Scone, Newcastle, etc.).
- 3 per cent—Illawarra (Wollongong, Shoalhaven, etc.).
- 12 per cent—North Coast.

ABORIGINES IN THE CENSUS

- 16 per cent—Northern (Armidale, Tamworth, Moree, etc.).
- 24 per cent—North Western (Dubbo, Walgett, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonabarabran, etc.).
- 3 per cent—Central West (Bathurst, Condobolin, Cowra, etc.).
- 3 per cent—South Eastern (Bega, Queanbeyan, Yass, etc.).
- 3 per cent—Murray (Tumut, Wagga, Leeton, Hay, etc.).
- 3 per cent—Far West (Broken Hill, Central Darling).

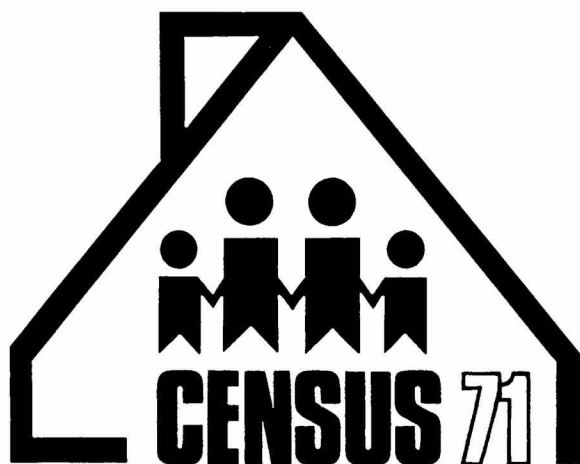
Age

Overall more than half the population (58 per cent) was under 21 years old and one-third under 10. Only 40 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population was under 21. Whereas 3.5 per cent of Aborigines were 65 or older, the corresponding figure for non-Aborigines was 8.3 per cent.

In New South Wales, 61 per cent were under 21 and 35 per cent under 10. Only slightly more than 2 per cent were 65 or older.

Education and Schooling

Of the 11,170 people in New South Wales who had left school in 1971, the following approximate figures show the highest level of schooling attended: never attended school—3 per cent; attended 1st or 2nd class—2 per cent; 3rd class—3 per cent; 4th class—5 per cent; 5th class—6 per cent; 6th class—24 per cent; form 1—11 per cent; form 2—19 per cent; form 3—15 per cent; form 4—4 per cent; form 5 or higher—3 per cent. (A further 7 per cent of people did not state how far they had attended at school.)



Twenty per cent (4,631) of the total New South Wales Aboriginal population at the time of the census, were not yet attending school.

Of the 7,090 people in New South Wales who were attending school in 1971, the following approximate figures show the proportion at each level:

1st and 2nd class—34 per cent; 3rd class—12 per cent; 4th class—10·8 per cent; 5th class—9·8 per cent; 6th class—8·9 per cent; form 1—9·0 per cent; form 2—8·2 per cent; form 3—4·8 per cent; form 4—1·8 per cent; form 5 or higher—0·4 per cent.

Of the total New South Wales Aboriginal population in 1971, about 4 per cent (924 people) had gone beyond 3rd form high school. The corresponding figure for the national Aboriginal population was 2 per cent (2,141 people).

Of the national Aboriginal population 15 years of age and over who had continued studying for qualifications after leaving school: 819 had qualified at the trade level (287 were not qualified but studying); 169 had qualified at technical level (103 studying); 68 had a non-degree tertiary qualification (65 studying); and 33 had obtained a bachelor's degree (34 studying). Of those who had obtained a bachelor's degree, 9 were studying for a higher degree.

Occupation and Employment

Of the approximately 26,000 Aborigines in the national work force at the time of the census, 41 per cent were wage or salary earners, self-employed, or employers. This compared with 57 per cent of the total Australian population (on a propor-

tional basis, non-Aborigines outnumbered Aborigines 15 to 1 as employers and 4 to 1 as self-employed).

The total Aboriginal unemployed was 4·2 per cent, compared to 1·0 per cent among non-Aborigines. Further, only 45 per cent of Aborigines were in the labour force compared to 58 per cent of the total population.

In terms of *occupation*, over three-quarters of the Aboriginal work force were employed in three occupational categories: (a) farmers, fishermen, hunters, timber getters, etc.—25 per cent; (b) tradesmen, production process workers, labourers—35 per cent; and (c) service, sport and recreation workers—15 per cent. These three categories accounted for less than half of the total Australian work force, of whom 32 per cent were also in category (b).

Of the New South Wales Aboriginal work force, 15 per cent were employed in category (a); 44 per cent in (b); and 10 per cent in (c).

Of the remaining New South Wales Aboriginal work force: 5·5 per cent were employed as workers in transport and communication (compared to 4·5 per cent of all Aboriginal workers and 5·5 per cent of non-Aborigines); 5 per cent as clerical workers (compared to 3·1 per cent and 15·8 per cent respectively); 2·5 per cent as sales workers (c.f. 2·1 per cent and 8·1 per cent); 2·0 per cent as professional, technical and related workers (c.f. 2·4 per cent and 10·2 per cent); and 1·0 per cent as executive, administrative and managerial workers (c.f. 0·6 per cent and 6·7 per cent).

In terms of *industries*, more than three out of every five Aboriginal workers were employed in: (a) agriculture, forestry, and fishing—24 per cent (c.f. 7 per cent of total Australian work force); (b) manufacturing—12 per cent (c.f. 23 per cent); and (c) community services—25 per cent (c.f. 10 per cent). In the finance and business services industry, Aborigines were outnumbered 6 to 1 on a proportionate basis by the non-Aboriginal work force.

Housing and Accommodation

Of the 85 per cent of the national Aboriginal population which lives in private dwellings (non-private dwellings are those providing group accommodation, such as hostels, hotels, hospitals, gaols, boarding schools etc.), 60 per cent live in private homes (compared to 85 per cent of the total Australian population); 2·8 per cent in self-contained flats (c.f. 8·0 per cent); and 18 per cent in "improvised dwellings" (c.f. 0·4 per cent).

(Continued on page 16)



Mr John Gallagher with student Peter Williams



Miss Jill Molloy with students Margaret Williams and Bert Exton

SPECIAL TUTORING FOR STUDENTS AT LISMORE

An Aboriginal Education project has been started by the students of the School of Teacher Education of the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education at Albert Park Primary School, Lismore.

The main purpose of this project is to provide special tutoring for the Aboriginal pupils at the school that cannot be provided for in the normal class-room situation.

Every Tuesday morning between 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. a group of enthusiastic student teachers journey out to Albert Park Primary School. Each student teacher has a particular pupil to meet and for the hour or so to tutor individually in some learning area that the pupil is experiencing difficulties.

The student teachers prepare their own individualized learning aids and make frequent use of

tape-recorders, cassette players, learning games and other commercially produced learning aids. The aims of the whole project are twofold:

The student teachers are gaining valuable experience in teaching Aboriginal children and learning at first hand about the educative problems of the Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal pupils are receiving an enriched educational programme and are being helped through some of their learning difficulties.

The student teachers have found the children bright and responsive and much has been gained so far. The project is strongly supported by the Principal of the School, Mr Laurie Edmunds.

Many of the children involved were doing very well in the normal classroom situation but need individual attention in a particular learning area (for example: spelling, numbers or reading).



Mr Dick Roughsey, Chairman of the Aboriginal Arts Board

ABORIGINAL ARTS BOARD GRANTS

Prior to its January meeting in Melbourne, the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts had announced a further series of grants totalling more than \$130,000.

Although the number of applications being submitted to the Board is increasing, its budgeted funds for performing arts have been almost fully committed in both traditional and urban categories. Emphasis is now being placed on the field of visual arts among tribal groups.

The recommendations made by the 400 participants in the National Arts Seminar have been reviewed favourably by the Board and in many instances written into policy.

One of the resolutions already implemented is the formation of an advisory committee on Urban Theatre, Film and Video. This Committee is composed of Brian Syron, Eileen Lester and Lester Bostock of Sydney; Bruce McGuinness and Harry Williams of Melbourne; and Mrs Ruby Hammond of Adelaide.

The Committee held discussions with Mr Charles Perkins and has obtained support from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for the lease of extensive premises in Redfern for the Sydney Black Theatre group. Community arts projects involving dance, drama and writers' workshops, pottery and crafts are being developed.

The Committee has recommended support for Black Theatre groups in all capital cities rather than the concept of limiting development to the Sydney and Melbourne groups.

Of the applications considered by the Aboriginal Arts Board, the following are those which it has recommended to the Prime Minister for approval:

PERFORMING ARTS

(i) <i>Traditional Theatre</i>	\$
<i>Aboriginal Theatre Foundation</i>	
Administration and operation expenses for north Australia traditional music and dance.	56,256
(ii) <i>Urban Theatre</i>	
<i>National Black Theatre, Sydney</i>	
Administrative expenses and funds for workshops to be carried out in theatre building rented by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.	16,185
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Victorian Division)</i>	
Director's salary and administrative expenses for Nindethana Theatre for 6 months.	6,700
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Queensland Division)</i>	
Assistance for theatre productions by Torres Strait Island Dance Company in Brisbane.	2,550
<i>Arts Council of Australia (Queensland Division)</i>	
Assistance with first production by Black Theatre Company on Palm Island.	1,000

<i>Aboriginal Theatre Foundation (Darwin)</i>	\$
Air fares for five dancers from Bamyili to participate in National Aboriginal Consultative Election celebrations in Adelaide.	1,437

<i>Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)</i>	\$
Assistance to post-graduate pottery students working with Aboriginal potters at Bathurst Island and Milingimbi.	1,886

VISUAL AIDS

(i) <i>Traditional Arts and Crafts</i>	
<i>Oenpelli Handcrafts</i>	
Additional expenses for Australia-wide Bark Painting Exhibition.	3,000
<i>Art Gallery of Western Australia</i>	
Submission for grant to record and document the Pukamini Material of Melville and Bathurst Islands as a base for craft development.	4,500
<i>Crafts Inquiry—Research into Aboriginal Crafts</i>	
Salary for part-time Research Asst, to process data.	1,500
(ii) <i>Contemporary Arts and Crafts</i>	
<i>Crafts Council of Australia</i>	
Purchase of Aboriginal works of art of special importance for exhibition to tour Europe.	4,000
<i>Native Union Inc.</i>	
Equipment and materials to set up spinning, weaving and dyeing centre for the Aboriginal people of Brookton, Pingelly and Beverley, W.A.	2,000
<i>Crafts Council of Australia</i>	
Materials, equipment, tutor's fees and travelling expenses for Mrs Erika Semler to carry out spinning and weaving workshops at Bellbrook Aboriginal Settlement.	1,730
<i>Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)</i>	
Salary, travelling expenses and teaching materials for arts and crafts supervisors on Bathurst Island.	5,300
<i>Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)</i>	
Fares and materials for Sister Clair to undertake arts and crafts workshops in Darwin and Port Keats.	524

LITERATURE

(i) <i>Traditional</i>	
<i>Mowanjum Aboriginal Council</i>	
Assistance to Mowanjum writers to prepare manuscripts on local myths, culture and tribal law in both English and their own language.	5,000
(ii) <i>Urban</i>	
<i>Arts Council of Australia</i>	
Living allowance, equipment and expenses for Tony Coorey to write account of recent history of Aboriginals of Sydney.	4,970
<i>Arts Council of Australia</i>	
Assistance to Faith Bandler for production of personal account of history of indentured labourers in Queensland.	3,940

FILMS AND VIDEO

<i>Australian Film Institute</i>	
Completion of National Aboriginal Arts Seminar film by Bruce McGuinness.	3,300
<i>National Aboriginal Sports Foundation</i>	
Completion of colour documentary film on Aboriginal Football Carnival by Bruce McGuinness.	2,900
<i>Australian Film Institute</i>	
Acquisition of prints of the work of Aboriginal film-makers, specialist films on Australian Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal culture of other areas.	2,000
<i>Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust</i>	
Additional costs of editing and completing film and one week's living allowance for David Gulpilil.	600
	\$131,278



The Minister for Youth and Community Services, Mr Healey, addressing the conference of teachers in Aboriginal Schools

Aboriginal Education

(by Mr R. O. Healey, Minister for Youth and Community Services)

(The following article is an extract from an address delivered by the Minister at a conference of teachers in Aboriginal schools. The conference was held at Macquarie University in January.)

Too frequently in the past Aborigines have said—not without some justification—that decisions about their education have been made without reference to them.

We are here this week to discuss Aboriginal education and the role of the teacher in that process, to reassess and rethink our educational attitudes in respect of Aboriginal people and their needs. But let us not fall into the fallacy of believing that education can be isolated from other problems confronting the Aboriginal community. It is only one spoke—albeit a critical one—in the wheel of advancement. All the educational reforms in the world will not move that wheel unless they are

accompanied by appropriate policies for health, housing and employment.

Through their effect on the physical and intellectual development of the student, malnutrition and ill-health can thwart the best efforts of educators. A hungry child cannot be a good student. The prospect of discrimination and limited employment opportunities, can sap ambition and motivation. Without a future, study seems pointless. Inadequate or overcrowded housing can make homework and study all but impossible.

Housing, Employment, Health

That is why this year we will be building 230 modern homes for Aboriginal families; about twice

the number provided last year. But to solve the Aboriginal housing shortage in New South Wales this year would have required at least \$15 million, half the amount to be spent throughout all Australia.

Despite their potential, Aboriginal students frequently fail to succeed at school. This low scholastic achievement is both a cause and a symptom of the high unemployment and the unskilled employment which characterize the Aboriginal work force. In Sydney unemployment is common to 20 per cent of the work force and reaches beyond 30 per cent in the 15-19 year age group. When combined with discrimination, the prospect of such a future can demoralize the most determined student. A poor educational record, in turn, guarantees menial and unreliable employment. Frustration is succeeded by resentment.

Poverty, unemployment, inadequate accommodation and ignorance have taken their toll in the form of a high level of Aboriginal morbidity. This year New South Wales is spending approximately \$1 million just on Aboriginal health. Special nurses and Aboriginal community workers are being put in the field. Community health centres are being constructed, Aboriginal girls trained as nurses and nurses' aides, and free dental treatment provided.

In addition to the standard educational resources, this financial year the New South Wales Government is spending over \$500,000 on special Aboriginal education programmes. Significantly, more than half of this will go towards pre-school education. The pre-school years determine the future achievement of any child. In the case of Aborigines, whose culture and values are not those of the larger community, these years are particularly important. Appropriate pre-school experience can render less traumatic and more rewarding, the transition to an educational system as yet still ignorant of their special needs.

Consultation and Self-determination

The presence of Aboriginal spokesmen at this conference reflects our recognition that Government policy cannot succeed unless it is based on the wishes and needs of the Aboriginal people. That is also why we have an Aborigines Advisory Council, fully elected by the people, to advise the Government on all matters affecting Aborigines.

But consultation without self-determination is not sufficient. Aboriginal people, like everyone else, must have the opportunity to manage their own

affairs. Education is the tool which equips people to do just that. It may even be the tool which leads to the development of a uniquely Aboriginal education.

In his recently published book, *Because a White Man'll Never Do It*, Kevin Gilbert quotes the words of Alice Briggs of Purfleet Reserve, near Taree: "If the children of tomorrow are going to have a chance, it's not going to come from education. Certainly not. It's got to be handed back to our people to educate their kids in their *own way*—and educate themselves. And make a life for themselves, but not to be hounded by a white man and be told to do it, because he *won't* do it".

The test of whether self-determination is achieved is whether Government is regarded as master or servant. In New South Wales, we have an Aboriginal Lands Trust, to which management and ownership of the Reserves is being transferred. In the field of education the increasing involvement and responsibility of local communities in their schools, offer new opportunities for Aboriginal people to help determine the manner of their children's education.

Teachers must also be students

It is very likely that the Australian Government will assume responsibility for the administration of Aboriginal Affairs policy in New South Wales. The reluctance of the Federal Government to accept full responsibility has impeded this transfer. Although negotiations are now nearing completion, it will not mean that the New South Wales Government will cease its involvement.

My Department will continue to assist Aboriginal people in the normal course of its activities—youth counselling, adoptions, foster care and so forth. The Housing and Health Commissions will continue to provide homes and medical services for Aborigines.

The Education Department will continue to provide teachers and schools for Aboriginal youth. Whether it will be the right sort of teaching and the necessary kind of school, will partly depend upon the effort, patience and understanding of people such as yourselves. That is why we are here today.

That you have come shows that you are interested. Whether we are sincere will be shown by our willingness to listen and learn. For the teacher of the Aboriginal child must also be the student of the Aboriginal people.

Smoke Signals

► W.A. INTEGRATES WITH CANBERRA

Agreement has been reached between the Australian and Western Australian Governments on the integration of the W.A. Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority with the Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Legislation has been introduced into the W.A. Parliament to allow for the new arrangement. The proposed arrangement provides for most of the staff of the Planning Authority to be transferred to the Department and for the Commissioner for Aboriginal Affairs Planning to become the Director of the W.A. Office of the Department. He would continue to act as Commissioner and to be responsible to the W.A. Minister in relation to his responsibility under the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act. He will only exercise many of these powers after prior consultation with the federal Government.

► SPORTS AWARD TO MOREE BOY

The accompanying photo is that of Bernie Briggs of Moree who won the North West Area Education Department's sports boy of the year award for 1973. He was presented with the award at a special dinner at Tamworth. Quietly spoken, Bernie is

Bernie Briggs of Moree



NEW DAWN, March, 1974

15, stands 5 ft 10 in and tips the scales at 12 stone. He amassed an enviable record last year, despite that in many instances he had to concede up to a couple of years in age. At school he played second row in the successful Moree High University Shield Rugby League Team; was a member of the Moree High 16 years team that won their division of the all-schools carnival; and won the 15 years javelin event at this year's CHS Athletic Championships in Sydney. In open sport he was a member of the undefeated Moree Rugby League under 18 team and is currently enjoying an extraordinarily successful season in the Moree first grade cricket competition. Bernie has been offered a cricketering scholarship at a private school in Queensland, which he is thinking of taking up next year. Although concentrating a lot on football and cricket, he is not neglecting his schoolwork—he got mostly advanced passes at the final third form exams last year. Bernie is known around Moree as a quiet, modest person, well-liked and respected. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Noel Briggs and is one of six children. His sisters, Barbara and Shirley, have represented both Moree and New England at basketball and another sister, Evonne, has also played basketball for Moree. Barbara works at the Moree office of the State Housing Commission.

► LAND SETTLEMENT FOR ALASKAN NATIVES

Under the recently enacted Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska natives—Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts—have acquired land, money and an interrelated corporate structure of native villages and regions, 40 million acres has been ceded to Alaska natives, a land-oriented people, under the Act. One-twelfth of Alaska will be in their hands starting this year. More than \$962 million will be paid in compensation to the Alaska Native Fund over a period of 11 years. About half of this will come from the U.S. Treasury and the remainder as a result of mineral leases. The money will be distributed quarterly to the Alaska Native Regional Corporations. There are twelve such corporations, covering geographic regions composed of Native people with a common cultural heritage and common interests. There will also be village corporations. Villagers have to incorporate before they become eligible for lands and other benefits under the Act.

►CAPITAL FUND PROGRESS REPORT

Up until the end of last financial year loans made to Aborigines by the Capital Fund for Aboriginal Enterprises totalled 295 for an overall amount of \$4.5 million. Three out of four borrowers in the financial year 1972-73 had shown reasonable to excellent prospects of success. This was a 10 per cent improvement on the figures for the previous year. The Capital Fund has been operating for more than 5 years now. Loans are made from the Fund to help establish or expand Aboriginal business enterprises, whether they be one-manor group operations.

The careful examination given to loan applications is reflected in that 1,256 applications totalling more than \$30 million had been received, but only 295 totalling \$4.5 million approved. Out of the 295, 17 loans had failed, and about \$110,000 had been written off. This failure rate of only 2.46 per cent is considered most satisfactory, especially in view that the Fund operates in a field of finance notoriously uncertain, where practically every borrower needed to be financed to 100 per cent of



ABORIGINES IN THE CENSUS—(continued from page 9)

The census showed 85,033 Aborigines living in 15,435 private dwellings, making an average of 5.5 persons per dwelling. In the case of the private houses, there was an average of 6.1 persons per house; in the case of self-contained flats, 3.3 persons; and in improvised dwellings, 4.8 persons.

Of the Aboriginal private dwellings, 26 per cent were found to have one room (compared to 1.9 per cent of all Australian private dwellings); 9.2 per cent, two rooms (c.f. 3.7 per cent); 13.8 per cent, three rooms (c.f. 6.9 per cent); 20 per cent, four rooms (c.f. 17.3 per cent); 20.6 per cent, five rooms (c.f. 37.8 per cent); 7.3 per cent, six rooms (c.f. 20.2 per cent); 2.0 per cent, seven rooms (c.f. 7.7 per cent); and 1.2 per cent, more than eight rooms (c.f. 4.5 per cent).

In regard to the number of bedrooms in Aboriginal private dwellings: 25 per cent had no bedroom; 11 per cent, one bedroom; 21 per cent, two bedrooms; 31 per cent, three bedrooms; 7 per cent, four bedrooms; and 1.5 per cent with five bedrooms or more.

In regard to gas and electricity facilities: 30 per cent of Aboriginal private dwellings had neither gas nor electricity (compared to 0.4 per cent of the total Australian private dwellings); 50.6 per cent

capital requirements and lacked the expertise needed for the demands of modern enterprises.

►PROPERTY PURCHASE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Desert Farms property at Wiluna, W.A., has been purchased by the local Aboriginal community for the sum of \$250,000. The community, incorporated as the Nangganawili Community, holds shares in an operating company which conducts a melon and citrus orchard venture. Wiluna, some 340 miles north of Kalgoorlie, has similar climatic conditions to the peak melon growing area of California, U.S.A. Purchase of the project as an Aboriginal undertaking was decided upon following a comprehensive study of the operation by agricultural consultants. It is expected that the property will ensure continuing employment for the local community in what would otherwise be a depressed employment area. Up to 60 men and women will be employed on the project for approximately 10 months of the year. The first lot of planting, harvesting and marketing has already taken place. The Government is providing the services of a project manager and agricultural consultants to assist the Aboriginal community to conduct the project.

had electricity only (c.f. 57.4 per cent); 0.6 per cent had gas only (c.f. 0.2 per cent); and 13.6 per cent had both (c.f. 41 per cent). In the case of television, 51 per cent of private Aboriginal dwellings were without television, compared to 9 per cent of all Australian private dwellings.

In the case of kitchen and bathroom facilities; 5 per cent of Aboriginal dwellings had a bathroom only (compared to 0.5 per cent of all Australian dwellings); 7.2 per cent had only a kitchen (c.f. 0.7 per cent); 65 per cent had both a bathroom and kitchen (c.f. 97.5 per cent); and 19 per cent had neither a kitchen nor bathroom (c.f. 0.4 per cent).

In the case of sewerage disposal: 27 per cent of Aboriginal dwellings were connected to a main sewer (compared to 66 per cent of all Australian dwellings); 20 per cent has a separate system (c.f. 23 per cent); and 20 per cent had a sanitary pan system (c.f. 6 per cent). 31 per cent of Aboriginal dwellings either had some other sort of system or did not answer the question (c.f. 4 per cent for the total Australia population).

In terms of type occupancy: 24 per cent of Aboriginal dwellings are owned by their occupants (including 21 per cent of private houses); and 51 per cent are rented.

HOUSING NEWS

The Minister for Youth and Community Services has recently announced the construction of the following homes for Aborigines in New South Wales.

Town	No. of Homes	Address	No. of Bedrooms
Albury	1	Lot 2 Burrows Road	4
Armidale	3	Lot 1 Claud Street	4
		Lot 8 Golgotha Street	3
		Lot 13 Alexander Street	4
Ashford	2	Lot 11 Dudley Street	4
		Lot 12 Dudley Street	3
Ballina	2	Lot 15 Treelands Crescent	3
		Lot 65 Treelands Crescent	4
Bega	1	Lot 6 Koolgarra Drive	4
Casino	3	Lot 54 Hotham Street	3
		Lot 59 Hotham Street	4
		Lot 68 Boronia Crescent	3
Dareton	2	Lot 3 School Road	3
		Lot 11 Matong Street	4
Inverell	2	Lot 19 Elm Place	4
		Lot 28 Eugene Street	4
Lake Cargelligo	2	Lot 1 Lachlan Street	3
		Lot 4 Lachlan Street	4
Macquarie Fields	5	Lot 994 Haken Place	3
		Lot 809 Eucalyptus Drive	4
		Lot 981 Boree Place	3
		Lot 700 Blackwood Crescent	3
		Lot 923 Cnr Grenvillia Crescent and Ebony Place	3
Moree	5	Lot 65 David Street	3
		Lot 7 Drummond Street	4
		Lot 2 Drummond Street	3
		Lot 15 Wattle Street	4
		Lot 9 George Street	4
Mt Druitt	1	Lot 8 Palau Crescent	4
Orange	1	Lot 29 Maramba Road	3
Sawtell	1	Lot 6 Noomba Street	4
Toronto	1	Lot 123 Yanco Crescent	3
Tumut	1	Lot 28 Clarke Street	4
Wagga Wagga	4	Lot 112 Connorton Avenue	3
		Lot 71 Tobruk Street	3
		Lot 23 Zeiglar Avenue	4
		Lot 58 Stillman Avenue	5
Woy Woy	2	Lot 93 Grafton Avenue	4
		Lot 105 Grafton Avenue	4

students from wellington public school

