

WELFARE OFFICERS BUSY

Many Visits and Interviews

With the responsibility of looking after almost 12,000 aborigines, spread all over our large State, the Board's Welfare Officers, too few in number, have a very busy time.

Figures from the Annual Report of the Aborigines' Welfare Board, showing the number of visits and interviews give some indication of this.

For the six months ending June 30, 1954, they were:

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| Supervisory home visits | 1,107 |
| Wards of the Board | 152 |
| Neglected or uncontrollable children | 168 |
| Stations or Reserves | 398 |
| Police | 306 |
| Schools | 173 |
| Enquiries re employment | 380 |
| Affiliation or maintenance | 225 |
| Public authorities | 328 |
| Voluntary Agencies | 99 |
| Attendance at Court | 46 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,051 |
| Total | 5,433 |



Irene Wise, of
Swan Hill

Expulsion Orders.

Although the Board has wide powers in regard to the residence of aborigines on its Reserves, it very reluctantly approaches the matter of expelling or refusing admission to any particular aborigine. The attitude adopted over the last few years of avoiding expulsions as far as possible, has proved to have had a very good effect. The issue of a stern warning and follow-up by a Welfare Officer has, in most instances, proved effective in the improvement of the conduct of the person concerned. During the year only three Expulsion Orders were issued, but five were cancelled.

COOTAMUNDRA GIRLS' HOME

A Veritable Haven for Many

This Home is a compact block of buildings within the Cootamundra town boundaries. A small dairy herd, vegetable garden and orchard are maintained, together with some poultry, which supply the Home with fresh milk, vegetables, fruit and eggs, to some extent.

The number of inmates at the beginning of the year was 49. There were four admissions and eleven discharges during the period.



Girls of school age attend the Public Schools in Cootamundra, a number being enrolled at the High School. One girl who obtained her Intermediate Certificate has commenced her nursing training at the Young District Hospital.

The health of the girls throughout the year was good. Medical and dental attention to all girls was given twice during the year.

The girls attend the local churches of their particular denomination, and the Church of England Minister attends each Thursday evening for prayers and singing.

They participate in the general sporting activities of the local school, going to other towns to play sports. The tennis court at the home is popular, as also are vigaro and basketball. Week-end hikes and picnics are arranged. Pictures were shown twice during the year, and musical and games evenings were given the children by different societies from the town. The local picture show manager admits the girls free and the children attend when suitable pictures are showing. In season the girls attend the local swimming baths.

Improvements and repairs to buildings were effected during the year, outdoor showers and basins were installed and the dining room louvred. A servery unit and new sink were installed.

A pleasing feature of this establishment is the homely atmosphere and excellent esprit de corps. The Home is held in high regard in the district and no difficulties are experienced in securing satisfactory placement for girls who have completed their training. Old girls frequently visit the Home and the Christmas period is always a time for reunion. The Home has proved a veritable haven to many unfortunate girls.



*A Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous
New Year to all "Dawn"
Readers!*

