

to be more understanding of the other's position both by whites and by aborigines as the process develops.

"One of our problems is the apparent unwillingness of many aboriginal people to accept the responsibilities that membership of the modern community imposes. However with further education and guidance, I have no doubt, a more responsible outlook will develop.

"This greater sense of responsibility shows itself more and more each year. It is an encouraging sign and, I believe, shows the success our efforts are having.

"Signs of progress may be seen in the desire and appreciation among aborigines for better housing and for higher education.

"In the field of education there is a bright picture.

"The general standard of education among aboriginal pupils in primary and secondary schools is increasing at a pleasing rate.

"The number of enrolments of aboriginal pupils in High Schools is also increasing. In 1959 there were 160 and today there are about 200.

"The Aborigines' Welfare Board is providing more transport for children on stations and reserves to attend High School. This is an important factor in the increasing enrolments. So too is the increasing interest and support from community bodies, and I mention the donation this week by the American Women's Association to endow High School bursaries for aborigines.

"At the end of this year I expect four children who are holders of bursaries endowed by the Aborigines' Welfare Board to sit for their Leaving Certificate examination. This is the biggest number to sit for the Leaving in any one year. At present there are 28 bursaries current in colleges and High Schools.

"This is most encouraging. It means that more aboriginal children are reaching a sufficiently high standard of education to win the bursaries and that parents are becoming more conscious of the need for their children to have open to them the opportunities in life provided by good academic qualifications.

"It is significant also that more parents on stations and reserves are becoming anxious that their children should receive higher education.

"A matter of the utmost importance in any community is better housing. Here our policy of guiding aborigines towards better living standards is paying dividends.



Mrs. Margaret Morris, President of the Burnt Bridge-Greenhill Country Women's Association, addresses the National Aborigines' Day ceremony in Martin Place, Sydney. On her left is the Governor, Sir Eric Woodward. (Picture by courtesy of Sydney Daily Mirror)

"To assist in assimilation we are placing the emphasis more on building homes for aboriginal families on individual lots in town areas. This will be more positive in the achievement of our ultimate goal than concentration on the construction of homes on stations and reserves.

"In the field of housing too, there are many trends which give us ground for satisfaction and which encourage us in our efforts.

"Aborigines who have been assisted by loans to buy new homes have met their obligations satisfactorily, and the tendency is for more families to want to own their own homes.