

He has also done a considerable amount of broadcasting on aboriginal topics.

Mr. Ferguson, aged 37 is married with 13 children and has just become a grandfather.

He is an ex-serviceman.

Mr. Ferguson was a cane-cutter and is now the secretary-manager of the Numbahging Co-operative Society at Cabbage Tree Island.

He attended Tranby Co-operative School in Glebe, where he held a short-term scholarship to train at a business college in Sydney.

Mr. Ferguson is in charge of the store on Cabbage Tree Island and is the postmaster on the island. He is believed to be the only aboriginal postmaster in the country.

Mr. Ferguson defeated the sitting part-aboriginal member, Mr. Charles Leon in an election in January.

Mr. Smee takes the place of Mr. E. Wright, M.L.C., who resigned from the Board.

The Board passed resolutions thanking Mr. Wright and Mr. Leon for their work as members of the Board.

The membership of the full Aborigines Welfare Board now is: Chairman, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill; Vice-Chairman, Professor A. P. Elkin; Supt. J. H. Buck (Police); Dr. A. Douglas, Metropolitan Medical Officer of Health; Mr. A. Ferguson; Mr. H. J. Green, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare; Mr. J. Morgan; Mr. J. T. Purcell, Chairman of the N.S.W. Housing Commission; Mr. R. A. Smee, Regional Director, Department of Labour and National Service; Mr. V. J. Truskett, Assistant Director-General of Education; Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

Mr. Leon, who was the part-aboriginal member on the Board for three years until defeated at the January election



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Mr. Smee

Mr. R. A. Smee, 48, is the Regional Director in N.S.W. of the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service.

This is the Department which, among other things, administers the Commonwealth Employment Service.

There are 56 District Officers of the Commonwealth Employment Service throughout N.S.W.

Mr. Smee, who is a graduate of Sydney University, has been with the Department since the inception of the Commonwealth Employment Service in 1946, and has served the Department in this State, in Victoria for 10 years, where he was also Regional Director, and in Britain for two years with the British Ministry of Labour and National Service.

His particular fields of interest have been youth employment, the rehabilitation and employment of physically handicapped people and problems of migrant employment and assimilation.

During his period of office in Victoria, he was concerned with the employment problems of aborigines at Lake Tyers, Mooroopna and along the Murray Valley.

On his return to N.S.W. last year, Mr. Smee noted the interest which Commonwealth Employment Service officers had displayed in aboriginal welfare and he is keen to see the Department's work extend in this regard.

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