

1953

No. 42

(SECOND SESSION)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT
OF THE
ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1953



BY COMMAND

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Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1953.

Presented to The Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary,
pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943.

I. THE BOARD.

Personnel and Meetings.

The Aborigines Welfare Board of New South Wales is constituted under the Aborigines Protection Act of 1909-1943. It consists of eleven members, the chairman of the Board being the person for the time being holding the office of Under Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department. Other members are appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the Act.

At the present time the constitution of the Board is as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—Mr. C. J. Buttsworth (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.

Officer of Department of Public Health—Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of Department of Public Instruction—Mr. J. P. Glasheen.

Member of the Police Force—Superintendent J. D. McAuley.

An expert in Agriculture—Mr. E. Wetherell, M.L.A.

An expert on Sociology and/or Anthropology—Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice Chairman).

Two persons nominated by the Minister—Mr. M. Sawtell, Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two aborigines—

(a) one full blood—Vacant.

(b) one having admixture of aboriginal blood—Mr. H. S. Groves.

Regular monthly meetings were held during the year, when statutory business was transacted and matters of general policy discussed.

No nominations were received to fill the vacancy for a full blooded aboriginal.

Policy.

The present Act in New South Wales is formulated to meet the needs of an ever-growing proportion of people of mixed blood, together with a number of full bloods, very few of whom now remain in this State.

The provisions of the Act are designed to assist in the process of assimilation and to cover a transitional period between the primitive way of living of the aboriginal and his ultimate assimilation into the social and economic life of the community.

By assimilation is meant not the elimination of the colour factor, but the preparation for, and complete acceptance of the aboriginal people as an integral part of the community.

It is the overall policy of the Board to achieve this goal and every endeavour is made by all means at its disposal to secure the ultimate realisation of this objective. The process is, of course, a gradual and continuing one, but it is gratifying to report that some progress has been made along this road. The various directions in which this has been accomplished will be dealt with in greater detail later in this report.

The greatest barriers to the attainment of this objective lie in the apathy and lack of initiative on the part of the great majority of aborigines, and the prejudice of the white community and its reluctance to fully accept them. The two reasons are so closely related that it is difficult to say which flows from the other. For this reason, the Board through its officers, particularly those working in the field, is endeavouring to approach the two together with the object of encouraging the aborigines to so live and act as to become acceptable to their white compatriots, and to secure from the white community that degree of tolerance and forbearance which will convince the coloured people that they are accepted on the basis of what they are in themselves.

Colour prejudice, or racial discrimination, does not appear to play a very prominent part in this matter. If the aborigine would, by the adoption of an acceptable standard of behaviour and living conditions, show that he can take his place as the peer of his fellows there is little doubt of his acceptance as such.

Visits by Board Members.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare and members of the Board are required to visit at regular intervals each station and training school. This has been done. A special visit was made by the Chairman who accompanied the Minister to Wilcannia for the official opening of a group of fourteen new cottages on the Reserve there.

Opportunity to contact local civic authorities and other bodies interested in the problem of aboriginal welfare has been availed of on these occasions.

A number of visits were also made to centres where aborigines are living off reserves, numerous contacts being made with people in their own homes, thus fostering a good relationship between the Board and its charges.

Staff.

During the year, Mr. A. W. Lipscomb, who had been Superintendent since 1939, resigned. Mr. M. H. Saxby, an Officer of the Child Welfare Department, took up duty in his place on 9th March, 1953.

A number of changes took place in the personnel of Station staff which was, however, maintained at full strength.

The staff of Welfare Officers was increased to five, which now gives the State a fairly complete coverage.

Head Office staff was maintained at its usual strength. This includes two trainee Welfare Officers, and during the year these Officers were afforded opportunity to observe the work of station managers and Welfare Officers.

Without the wholehearted support of an enthusiastic staff, it would be impossible for the Board to adequately function and the loyalty and enthusiasm of members are appreciated.

General Expenditure.

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government amounted to £129,893, which represented an increase of just over £16,000. This was absorbed mainly through increased salaries and wages and the increased cost of items supplied for the care and maintenance of indigent aborigines.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £36,747, compared with £104,890. This was a decrease of £68,143. This money is dependent upon the extent of funds allocated by the Commonwealth Government and is used in the erection of new buildings and improvements to existing buildings on Stations and the purchase of land for building purposes. The smaller amount expended this year resulted from a reduction in the total loan allocation. This will necessarily retard the Board's programme for improvement in the housing conditions of aborigines, which is a vital part of the assimilation policy.

A full statement of expenditure by and on behalf of the Board for the year ended 30th June, 1953, is set out in Appendix "D".

Acknowledgments.

The Board relies for expert advice in various matters upon other State Departments. Such Departments as Education, Agriculture, Health, Police and Lands have rendered valuable assistance in various ways. Church groups and Local Committees function actively in many places and are of valuable assistance in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of local aborigines. More specific reference will be made to such bodies later in this Report.

Their interest and help is appreciated.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Housing.

It is a matter for regret that so many aborigines still reside in what can, at the best, be described as sub-standard dwellings. Very many, particularly those off the Board's Stations and Reserves, can only be described as hovels. Water and sanitation facilities are lacking, and conditions generally are extremely poor.

The Board recognises that the erection of even modest dwellings of modern design, with provision for adequate segregation of the sexes, bathing and laundry facilities, a proper sanitary service, and some degree of comfort in furnishing, is of the greatest importance.

In recent years, the housing programme resulted in the erection on stations and reserves of a substantial number of good type cottages. During the year under review, this programme was necessarily curtailed owing to the provision of only a limited amount from the Commonwealth General Loan Account. This amounted to a sum of £50,000. It was possible to complete and occupy:—

24 cottages at Moree Station,

14 cottages at Wilcannia Reserve

and to complete other work commenced last financial year.

All tenants of new residences are required to pay a nominal amount as rent. This is designed to impress upon them their obligations as members of the community and to instil in them some degree of domestic pride and a sense of personal possession, which many of them lack, and which qualities are so necessary if they are to become assimilated. The response has been disappointing and the Board is concerned that so many appear to have no sense of responsibility in this direction.

While the Board has pursued its rebuilding programme within the limit of funds at its disposal, there are many aborigines who could take some steps in this direction themselves. Employment is fairly readily available and many men are earning high wages in semi-skilled and even unskilled occupations. The tendency is to live for the present and, with very few exceptions, little thought is given to provision for the future or even the acquirement of a home and the barest comforts of home life.

Welfare Activities.

It is the considered opinion of the Board, that hand in hand with a vigorous rehousing policy, must go the work of the District Welfare Officer. This takes the form of instruction, guidance and, where necessary, persuasion, with the object of inducing the aborigines themselves to play their part in the necessary preparation for acceptance by the community generally, and their ultimate assimilation.

The Board has six officers engaged entirely in these activities. A lady officer, of many years experience and with a sympathetic understanding of the needs of women and children, is attached to Head Office. She enjoys the confidence of these, and her advice and help is sought daily on many problems. A special feature of her work is the placing and supervision of wards of the Board, and after-care work with those who have completed a period of training in a Home and have been placed out in employment.

In the country, there is a team of five specially selected male officers. Three are young men who have completed a special course of training in social welfare work, with special bias towards the peculiar needs of the aboriginal people. Two are older officers who have had years of experience as Managers of Stations and have acquired a sound knowledge and understanding of aborigines. All are enthusiastic and keen, and with youth, energy and theoretical training, combined with maturity and experience, form a team with which it is confidently expected much will be accomplished in the next few years.

These Officers are located at Coff's Harbour, Moree, Dubbo, Leeton and Nowra, and each is responsible for a large area contiguous to his headquarters. Further appointments are visualised as this work expands, as indeed it must. Two Officers are in training for this work. They are attached to Head Office and attend lectures at the Sydney Teachers' College and University.

There are many facets to their work. While a certain amount of time is devoted to office interviews and clerical work, the bulk of their time is spent in personal contact in the field. This necessitates a vast amount of travelling, which is undertaken willingly.

These Officers are required to co-operate with Managers of Stations in all matters affecting the general welfare of aborigines and to do all in their power to foster good relationships between the aboriginal communities in the various centres and the townspeople.

They are expected to establish and maintain contact with local civic authorities, social agencies and welfare workers, and to endeavour to promote a better appreciation and acceptance of the aborigine.

A great deal of misunderstanding exists in many quarters regarding what are glibly referred to as aborigines "citizens' rights".

So far as the State is concerned, adult aborigines are entitled to vote in exactly the same manner as other citizens. There is no Clause or Section of the Parliamentary Electorates and

Elections Act which makes reference in any way of the entitlement, or otherwise, of an aboriginal person to vote and an investigation made indicates that this has been the position for, at least, as far back as 1902. In 1929, when compulsory enrolment and voting became law, the aborigines, as ordinary citizens, became liable in the event of their non-compliance with the provisions of the amended Act.

In the Federal sphere, the Electoral Act was amended in 1949 to give aborigines who previously may have been disfranchised under Commonwealth law similar electoral rights as they enjoyed under State legislation. As a result of this legislation aborigines in New South Wales who were full bloods or had a preponderance of aboriginal blood and who previously did not enjoy the Federal franchise were brought into line with other aborigines.

The position, therefore, is that all New South Wales aborigines, irrespective of caste or place of residence, are entitled both to enrol and vote and, legally, are compulsorily required to do so.

Generally speaking, the Aborigines Protection Act provides for special welfare services to aborigines and, far from restricting their "citizen rights", makes provision for assistance in forms not extended to white citizens, such as the issue of blankets, rations, passes, etc. Further, neither the Aborigines Protection Act, nor any other Act, precludes aborigines from exercising rights also possessed by the ordinary citizen; for example, they may buy and sell land, sue or be sued in Civil Courts, enter into contracts and become members of trade unions appropriate to their calling. It also enables the Board to secure the setting aside of areas where, through its officers, it can render services in many cases where the residents are not yet ready for full assimilation into the community and where they welcome the guidance and assistance of the Board. Such services include medical attention and housing, either free or at a greatly reduced rental.

So far as the usual governmental social services are concerned, the only disability suffered by aborigines arises from the disinclination of the Commonwealth Pension Authorities to grant Age and Invalid Pensions and Widows Pensions to residents of aboriginal stations or reserves. This attitude appears to be based on the position that exists in those parts of Australia where the needs of primitive aborigines are fully provided for on the reserve.

The New South Wales State Government has made very strong representations to the Federal Government urging that pensions be paid in these cases, and in support of these representations it has been pointed out that in New South Wales, aborigines, whether residing on reserves or not, are eligible to receive Unemployment and Sickness Benefits, Child Endowment, Maternity Allowances, and State Social Service Benefits.

The work of Welfare Officers is designed to encourage aborigines to accept and honour fully these privileges of citizenship, together with the resultant responsibilities.

A typical day in the life of a Welfare Officer is taken from a diary submitted and is as follows. It illustrates the complexity of the problems encountered.

"8.45-9.30—Tidy up the office. Collect and sort the mail.

File some correspondence and type a letter to an aboriginal inquiring about the purchase of a house.

9.30—Mrs. A ——— Mrs. ——— has matrimonial troubles. Her husband drinks and beats her. She is living with her parents, has four children and life is getting too much for her. I have been trying for months to get Mr. ——— to take his wife to ——— and get a house. (There was one vacant at that time.) Mr. ——— refuses to go and generally the position is impossible. Mrs. A ——— comes once a week to cry on my desk and relay all the gossip. It is important for a Welfare Officer to know what everyone is saying. Probably her visits to the office are highlights in her life and help to keep her rational.

10.0—B—C—, an ex-ward. Can't make up her mind about taking the father of her child to court. Also wants a job. Still refuses to be talked into affiliation action, but I find her a job.

11.0—D—E—. Seventeen years of age and ripe for some type of trouble. Her visit is to ensure that she is keeping employed and a pep talk on the evils of men and drink.

11.30—F—G—. A ward who refuses employment. Object of his visit was to receive a lecture on his behaviour and to be packed off to another job.

12.0—Mrs. H—-. Another marital upset. Mr. ——— has threatened to kill her and her newly-acquired de facto. My job was to attempt to patch up the marriage or failing that to see that the children are disturbed as little as possible by the situation.

- 12.20—J—K—. Quite straightforward. A girl looking for employment.
- 12.45—Mrs. I.—. This lady has an incredible facility for acquiring or being acquired by husbands. I am attempting affiliation but the position is getting hopeless. Object of this visit a discussion of her case.
- 1.0—Mrs. M.—. Husband has deserted her. Should be an affiliation case. In fact the husband returned on receiving the summons and has not returned to the bush since. Working well in the town.
- 1.45—Put the various notes gathered during the morning in order and go to lunch.
- 2.10—Drive to camp on outskirts of town. Visit all the homes there and start to sell hospital benefits. I deliver application forms to each house. On the way I make appointments for the following day and fix up some matters on the spot.
- 3.30—Police are looking for me. They have an aboriginal girl under the age of eighteen in the cells. I go to lock-up and see the girl. Hear her story and promise to be in the court the next day.
- 4.0—Go off to the hospital to see the patients there and discuss the hospital benefits with the Secretary. Find various matters requiring my attention at the hospital.
- 4.45—To camping area to visit mother of boy on probation. Talk with the mother and with the boy.
- 5.15—Rush to the Court House to see the following day's list. Find there are some cases I had better attend.
- 5.25—To Mr. N—'s as I require his signature on a cheque for the Hospital Auxiliary. Discuss various matters concerned with the committee.
- 6.0—Woman on office verandah as I go past. Newcomer to the town; has nowhere to stay. I direct her to a home on the Station where she can get a bed.
- Go to dinner.
- 8.0—Go to the office and try to get some of the day's correspondence out of the way.

Mileage for the day fourteen.

This is an average type of day. Some are not so busy but others are hectic, starting with calls at home about 7 a.m. and keeping up with undiminished vigour until midnight and later. A meeting of a committee on some evenings may be held and as the Welfare Officer only comes into the discussion when it drifts too far from the subject they tend to last almost indefinitely."

Work in the field consists of regular visit to aboriginal families, who are unassimilated in order to get to know them and gain their confidence. When this is done and suspicion is broken down, help and advice is more readily accepted.

Various means are used to accomplish this. Help is given in the completion of application forms for various social service benefits such as Child Endowment, Old Age, Invalid and Widows' Pensions, Sickness and Unemployment Benefits, etc. Advice is tendered on such matters as court proceedings to secure maintenance from deserting husbands and fathers of illegitimate children, and Welfare Officers frequently appear to assist in the actual court procedure. A number of orders have been obtained during the year against defaulting fathers. This not only ensures that these meet their financial obligations to their wives and children, but eases the burden on the State which would otherwise have to provide relief. It is felt that too many regard their legal responsibilities in this direction very lightly and it is one of the ordinary requirements of family responsibility which they must learn to face. The Board has too long been regarded in the light of a benevolent institution which will assume the care of indigent persons cast aside by those whose moral and legal responsibility they are.

Another important aspect of the work of Welfare Officers is finding work for unemployed. This they do by maintaining contact with known employers of aboriginal labour, seeking to interest new employers, and keeping in touch with employment agencies.

Their efforts in this direction have met with a good measure of success. The Officer at Nowra was successful in filling 100 positions during the year. An attempt has been made to improve the "job status" of workers. Those capable of skilled or semi-skilled employment have been directed to such occupations. This results in longer periods of employment and engenders a greater degree of confidence and pride of achievement than does casual employment in unskilled occupations.

The effect of these two last-mentioned activities has been a material reduction in the amount expended in providing rations and, in the case of the Officer at Moree, the saving amounted to £150 in one month. The amount voted by Parliament for this particular type of expenditure was £30,700 for the year, but only £36,183 was expended.

Welfare Officers have also paid close attention to the matter of persuading aborigines to assume some civic responsibility and identify themselves with community activities, particularly in sport and charity work.

A shining example of this is seen at Ashford where young men are members of the local football team. Working bees assemble regularly to assist the townspeople in the preparation of a sports oval and the erection of tennis courts, shower rooms and other amenities, while aboriginal womenfolk co-operate with the white ladies in providing refreshments for the workers.

In many other places, aborigines are freely admitted as members of sporting teams. School children compete on an equal footing with white children and much is being done in this way to break down local prejudices.

In a number of cases, aboriginal parents have been encouraged to join Parents and Citizens' Associations and Progress Committees. In Moree, an Auxiliary has been formed to the local Hospital Committee and money has been raised for improvement of the hospital amenities. Another Branch is in progress of formation at Boggabilla.

In many centres, the aboriginal population contributed largely to the Coronation celebrations and took part with local townsfolk in processions, sports and other entertainments.

Efforts have been made to interest aborigines in the cultural life of the community. There appears to be an ingrained feeling of inferiority among these people and only by intermingling of the races can this be broken down, and aborigines made to feel that they are not left out of the community and thus lose their isolation complex.

To assist in gaining acceptance for the aborigine, local Committees have been formed in many places to work for the general welfare of these people. Interested people, including many clergymen and church workers, have responded to this scheme and interchange of visits is arranged and functions of a social nature conducted. Particularly is the scheme valuable in bringing members of the younger generation together. It is upon these young people that our hopes for the future must be built.

In an endeavour to demonstrate to aborigines that there is no differentiation against them, it has been pointed out that they are eligible to join Hospital and Ambulance Contribution Schemes and other registered organisations in order to participate in hospital and medical benefits. Many have done so, and Welfare Officers are continually bringing the advantages of these schemes before the people. Many of the womenfolk now attend Baby Health Centres for pre- and post-natal advice.

One great problem which confronts us is the improvidence of the aborigine generally. Many men are in receipt of regular and substantial incomes, but the money is unwisely spent, much of it in gambling and drink. It is felt that this is to a large degree a measure for escape from the feeling of inferiority and rejection which exists. Even amongst the women, these evils are prevalent.

To combat this, the women are being encouraged to take an interest in their houses. To furnish them simply but brightly, to provide good and regular meals, and other home comforts and amenities which will make the home attractive to their children and menfolk and build up the family ego. The men are encouraged to improve the home by the creation of vegetable and flower gardens. Many are responding well and a continuation of efforts in this direction should do much to wean adults, both men and women, from unprofitable and undesirable abuse of their leisure time.

The Welfare Officer at Moree has embarked upon an ambitious scheme of adult education. A lot of the problems encountered exist simply because people are not able to work out the answers for themselves. Home making, cooking, diet, sewing, hobbies, simple carpentry, painting, etc., are all things which can be taught to people who have left school. The problem is to present the lessons in such a form that they appear to be entertainment. It seems that visual education, followed by discussion groups is the form best suited to the needs of these people. The purchase of a projector, from funds to be raised by the people themselves, is envisaged. The scheme has been well accepted, and it is hoped by this means to improve the living conditions of the coloured minority, particularly the more illiterate among them.

It will be readily appreciated from the foregoing that these activities necessarily involve interviews with a large number of people throughout the year, both in the office and the field. It is estimated that some 3,000 interviews were conducted by each Welfare Officer during the year.

It can be confidently claimed that by the nature of their work and the personality of the officers specially selected for it, much has been accomplished during the year in improving the relationship between the aboriginal and white communities. The former are appreciative of the assistance rendered by the Welfare Officers.

Education.

Education for aboriginal children is provided in special schools on stations and reserves which are situated at a distance from towns, and in the ordinary public schools in other cases.

It is the policy of the Board that, wherever possible, these children should receive their education in modern schools, under trained teachers of the Education Department. That Department is in full accord with this policy. Apart from the advantages of the skilled teaching thus available, this gives the aboriginal children the opportunity of mixing with white children of comparable age groups and sharing with them the varied communal activities of school life.

It has been found that where it has been possible to merge the children into public schools that they are not only well accepted by white children, but that they invariably hold their own and in some instances outstrip the white pupils in educational attainment and sporting ability.

This is a valuable contribution in the process of assimilation.

At the close of the year there were sixty-eight children from Aboriginal Stations in attendance at High Schools. The advantage of a higher education is continually being impressed upon the children and their parents and, as an encouragement, the Board awards a number of bursaries each year, tenable at High Schools. During this year four were so awarded. Each bursary is worth £50 per annum.

Of those pupils enrolled at High Schools during the year one case warrants special mention. This relates to a boy who lived in the small far west town of Tibbooburra and attended the local public school. He was successful at the High School Entrance Examination and is now a student at the Broken Hill High School. The opportunity for this lad to proceed to a secondary course of education was made possible to a great extent, by the generosity of the Tibbooburra Progress Association, which is meeting the cost of his board and lodging.

In addition, many aboriginal children from families living privately are in attendance at High Schools. A number have gained their Intermediate Certificate and one passed the Leaving Certificate Examination.

The young lady mentioned in last year's report as being in her second year at the Sydney Teachers' College, was successful in her final examinations and is now teaching at the school on Cabbage Tree Island. She is the second young person to have so qualified, the other being a young man now teaching at Burnt Bridge School, near Kempsey.

Two young ladies during the year were successful in gaining entrance to the Public Service. One is employed as a shorthand-typist in the Office of the Chief Secretary and the other at the Conservatorium of Music.

"Dawn" Magazine.

The monthly publication of this magazine continued throughout the year. Its high standard has been maintained. Interest has increased, and it is widely circulated. Each issue is eagerly awaited and an air of general excitement accompanies its reception at all stations and in many homes each month.

It is pleasing to record that many contributions have been received from the aboriginal people, as well as others interested in them and their problems. It has proved a valuable medium for bringing before readers the aims and policy of the Board and the aspirations of the people themselves.

It should do much to encourage improved relationships between the aborigines and the Board and the white community generally.

Typical extracts from letters of appreciation received by the Editor are as follows. The first two are from white people and the third from an aborigine.

"Just recently I had the pleasure of receiving a few copies of *Dawn* from an aboriginal friend of mine. I have read these magazines and found them quite interesting, and you and the members of the Board are to be complimented very highly for the very fine work you are doing among these people. I am very interested in reading of the activities of the aboriginal people and would like to receive *Dawn* regularly."

"I am writing to thank you for the copies of *Dawn* recently received, and wish to add my congratulations to the many others you have received. *Dawn* is extremely interesting, well got up, and of great value in advancing the cause of aborigines. I draw upon it, with acknowledgments, for some of our missionary broadcasts."

"I was very pleased to receive my copy of *Dawn* to-day and to see my old grandfather's photograph in it. He is living with us, and I take care of him as he brought us up when my mother and father died.

The photograph in *Dawn* was taken when he was 44 years of age, but he is now 93.

He came from Coonamble and managed an outback station for twenty-five years. He also managed the sheep station at Wylgamere for fourteen years. The rest of his life he spent breaking in wild horses and droving."

Summer Seaside Camp.

As in previous years, the Board conducted a camp at the Salvation Army Camp site at Collaroy at which ninety-two boys and girls from the outback parts of the State were given a fortnight's holiday. The camp was staffed by members of the Board's field and Head Office Staff, with the assistance of casual attendants who were on vacation from their University studies. During the period of the camp the children were medically examined and curative steps taken, where necessary.

The children were entertained at Taronga Park Zoo by courtesy of Sir Edward Hallstrom and were the guests of the management at Luna Park. The Federation of Police Boys' Clubs provided a bus and the children were conducted on a tour of the waterside suburbs and other points of interest. Evening entertainments were arranged for them and on those days when they were not on their outings, they spent their time surfing and on the Collaroy beach.

The camp was blessed with fine weather and there were, fortunately, no mishaps. At the conclusion of the camp the children returned to their homes and their enjoyment was reflected in their expressions of desire to come again to the camp next year.

The Board records its appreciation of those whose assistance and generosity contributed to the success of the camp.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

A child may be admitted to wardship on the application of a parent or guardian, or may be committed as such by a Children's Court.

The Aborigines Protection Act provides for the establishment of homes for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards of the Board.

It also authorises the boarding out of a ward in a selected foster home and the payment of an allowance to the foster parent. The present allowance is £1 per week, but the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to receive additional benefits such as medical and dental expenses.

These Sections of the Act are designed to provide for the destitute child, or one who is neglected to such an extent as to make removal from its own home necessary. Such action is not taken unless and until all efforts to rehabilitate the home have proved unsuccessful. This is an important part of the work of Welfare Officers.

The Board recognises the generally accepted principle that a child's natural heritage is to be brought up in its own home, under the care of its natural parents. There is no wholly satisfactory substitute for this. Unfortunately, some parents, despite all efforts on their behalf, prove themselves incapable or unsuitable to be entrusted with this important duty, and the Board is forced to take the necessary action for the removal of the child.

The best substitute for its own home is a foster home, with competent and sympathetic foster parents. Failing this, the only alternative is a Home under management of the Board's own officers.

The Board finds difficulty in securing an adequate number of suitable foster homes and for this reason is forced to maintain two homes for wards, one at Kinchela for boys and one at Cootamundra for girls.

When a ward reaches school leaving age, he or she may be placed in employment, under prescribed conditions, which secure for the ward a proper standard of living and care and adequate remuneration.

All wards in foster homes and employment are visited regularly by Welfare Officers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and Regulations are observed by foster parents and employers.

Statistics concerning the number and placement of wards during the year are shown in Appendix "A".

Kinchela Boys' Home.

This is a Home for male wards ranging from 6 to 16 years of age. It is situated on the banks of the Macleay River, 16 miles from Kempsey, and comprises 33 acres of good dairy land and an additional 11 acres some 5 miles from the main site. The buildings are of a simple design and comprise dormitories, dining room, recreation room, kitchen, laundry, ablution block and the usual outbuildings and school. A swimming pool is on the property.

The buildings are surrounded by lawns and gardens, both flower and vegetable, which are tended by the inmates under the supervision of an experienced gardener. The number of inmates on 30th June, 1953, was fifty-seven, as compared with forty-two the previous year. During the year there were twenty-three admissions and eight discharges.

The health of the inmates has been generally good during the year, a complete medical examination having been conducted during March. The Medical Officer from Kempsey visits the Home regularly and, where necessary, hospital attention is received at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey.

The Hospital authorities have been very co-operative in regard to the treatment of boys from Kinchela, twenty-three of whom received hospitalisation during the period. The Kempsey Ambulance Brigade has also been of great assistance. All boys were immunised where this had not been done before.

In addition to the school within the Home, six boys attend the Kempsey High School, one of whom was a successful candidate in the Intermediate Certificate Examination in 1952. The primary school boys competed with success in the Public Schools Athletic Sports Day, Kempsey. The boys were successful in winning the Cavrilos Cup for marching. Every possible effort is made to encourage boys to take part in gymnasium activities, cricket, football, boxing and swimming. Six boys are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and others are active members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club. The latter have taken part in boxing competitions at the Kempsey Boxing Stadium. The Surf Life Saving team also patrols as a full team and has the confidence of the public. They have taken part in Surf Carnivals held at South West Rocks and adjacent beaches. Other boys are members of the Junior Farmers' Club of New South Wales.

The boys enjoy a weekly film show, high quality films being supplied from all of the well-known film companies. These entertainments are greatly enjoyed by the boys of all ages.

Endeavour is made at all times to bring the inmates into close touch with the general white community in order to overcome the feeling of segregation brought about by the institutional life which they lead. One lad spends regular week-end visits at the homes of his friends and those of the High School pupils who are members of the football and cricket teams travel with the teams to other country towns and on those occasions have always been billeted at the homes of opposing players. On every occasion the demeanour and general behaviour of the boys has been favourably commented upon.

The older boys receive training in general farm duties under the supervision of a farm overseer. The younger inmates are trained in domestic duties and a limited education in poultry keeping. Training duties are rostered to give each lad a good all-round knowledge.

The boys' spiritual training is attended to by the Home Chaplain who visits the Home weekly. Once each month the Sunday School is conducted by the local Methodist Minister, and boys of other faiths attend their Churches locally, when opportunity offers. All boys, however, receive religious training in conjunction with their school.

The Home maintains a dairy herd which at 30th June, 1953, comprised a stud bull and forty-eight heifers, cows and thirty-three head of poultry. During the year 8,911 gallons of milk were produced of which 5,291 were consumed and the balance converted to 1,810 lb. of butter. The poultry farm yielded 279 dozen eggs. Fodder produced was:—

Lucerne Hay, 20 tons.
Saccharine, 10 tons.
Corn, 70-80 bushels.

All types of vegetables were grown, as follows:—

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Beetroot, 212 lbs. | Parasnips, 126 lb. |
| Cabbage, 421 head. | Green Peas, 212 lb. |
| Carrots, 139 lb. | Potatoes, 36 bags. |
| Beans, 90 lb. | Pumpkins, 776. |
| Sweet Corn, 286 cobs. | Rhubarb, 388 lb. |
| Cucumber, 445. | Spinach, 352 lb. |
| Lettuce, 128. | Tomatoes, 572 lb. |
| Onions, 112 lb. | Kohl Rabi, 10 lb. |

The value of the vegetables produced is estimated at £3.40 and the total of all Home products £2,6£0. This is regarded as a particularly fine effort.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.

This home is a compact block of buildings, which was originally the old Cootamundra Hospital. The area of land adjoining is not sufficient for any large-scale development, but 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 increased during the year from thirty-four at the beginning to fifty-one at the close. Ages range from 5 to 16 years.

All girls of school age attend the Public Schools in Cootamundra, twenty-eight being enrolled at the Primary School and thirteen at High School. One girl obtained her Intermediate Certificate at the end of 1952, and others gained creditable

places in school and on the sports field. Transport by free bus is provided. The girls are well received by other pupils at the school.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare was present at the High School Speech Day, and the District Inspector of Schools and Headmaster spoke highly of the conduct and general deportment of girls from the Home.

The general health of the girls throughout the year was good. There was a mild outbreak of chickenpox and six children were affected. One was operated upon for appendicitis and there were a few minor ailments.

The girls take part in various forms of recreation and travel with their teams to adjacent towns for hockey, vigoro, basket ball, etc. Games and reading are organised within the Home. A free pass at any time is granted by the Manager of the local cinema.

Special entertainment was provided at Christmas time and gifts were donated by the Firemen's Association. The Country Women's Association Younger Set kindly assisted at this function and provided games and supper.

A special feature is made of each girl's birthday, which is suitably celebrated on each occasion.

Prayers and Bible reading are held daily and the children attend Church and Sunday School in the town each Sunday. A business man kindly provides an offering for each girl attending Church.

Some improvements and repairs to buildings were effected during the year. New showers and basins were installed, a kitchen cupboard provided and the front verandah louvred. Guttering was replaced and the shower room, kitchen and one dormitory painted.

The staff at the Home suffered some fluctuations during the year, but despite difficulties, has displayed keenness and a kindly interest in the girls. The tone of the Home is excellent and the atmosphere very homely.

The Matron maintains a personal interest and contact with many girls in the district placed in employment from the Home. These girls are always welcome as visitors and avail themselves frequently of this privilege, especially at Christmas time.

IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

On the twenty Stations maintained by the Board at the end of last year, two, at Cumeroogunga and Pilliga, have been closed and are now classified as Reserves. This action was taken owing to the fact that the number of residents had decreased to such an extent as to render resident management no longer necessary.

Aboriginal stations are located on areas of land reserved for the exclusive use of aborigines, where the population warrants resident management. Married couples are in charge as Manager and Matron, and on two of the larger stations, Burnt Bridge and Murrin Bridge, there is also an Assistant Manager and Matron. Some matrons are trained nurses.

Stations provide amenities and services which are not available on other reserves, nor for that matter in many places within the general community. These include treatment room, recreation hall and Church. Attention is given for ailments and minor accidents and advice and assistance given in maternal and baby welfare.

Social life is encouraged and entertainments are organised from time to time, for which the residents are invited to accept a measure of responsibility and initiative.

Church halls are available for services by visiting clergy of the various denominations and by missionaries, of whom there are a large number interested in the spiritual welfare of the people.

Where it is not possible to arrange for attendance of the children at a public school—usually because of distance—a school is located on the station, with teachers of the Education Department in charge.

On many stations, the Board has been able to make good progress with its rebuilding programme during the past five years. Modern cottages have been erected and general improvement in the layout of stations effected. Beautification schemes are encouraged.

Appendix "B" of this report indicates the population of the various stations at 30th June, 1953, and the total of the whole, which was 2,946. This represents an increase of 670 when compared with the figures for 1951-1952.

Births, deaths, and marriages on stations during the year were as set out in the following table:—

| | 1951-1952 | 1952-1953 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Births | 125 | 127 |
| Deaths | 40 | 38 |
| Marriages | 23 | 18 |

The following is a summary of the population figures in respect of stations:—

| | 1951-1952 | 1952-1953 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Over 200 residents | 5 | 5 |
| 100 to 200 residents | 10 | 10 |
| Under 100 residents | 5 | 3 |

On a number of stations, dairy herds are maintained and some cultivation for winter feed undertaken. This provides valuable supply of fresh milk, especially for the children.

The Board appreciates the advice which has been readily forthcoming from officers of the Department of Agriculture in problems connected with these activities.

The undertaking of large-scale farming operations is not regarded as a function of the Board. However, community vegetable gardens are in existence on some stations and it is hoped to encourage this on others. Many residents maintain their own backyard vegetable plots.

The provision of a mid-morning meal to all children under school leaving age on stations, has been continued with beneficial results. This is not intended to be a substitute for, but rather an augmentation of their usual diet by the provision of scientifically selected and prepared foods.

Reports on individual stations follow.

Bellbrook.

This is an old station comprising 96 acres on the upper Macleay River, about 35 miles from Kempsey. There are thirteen cottages for aborigines.

The present population is 128, and there has been a noticeable movement of population since March, back to the Station. The increase is perhaps due to seasonal changes as it is usual for aborigines to spend the cooler months on the station and also they are keen on the football matches. There is also plenty of rural work here now, and some who are finding employment more difficult in the city come here in the hope of finding work.

The health of the residents has been fairly satisfactory. The usual diseases of scabies, ringworm, blight of the eyes have occurred, while running sores are common. The children are fairly healthy and benefit by a mid-morning lunch each day.

Very few able-bodied people are unemployed, and only one permanently at present. There is plenty of rural work available and the district is indebted to the men on the station for fencing, brushing, grubbing and suckering, corn pulling, ring barking, splitting posts, droving, mustering, etc. It has often been said that the graziers could not carry on without their help. Most of the work is done on a contract basis. A few are in permanent positions on the Shire and bridge work.

Social activities are limited. There is no recreation hall. Any functions such as dances in aid of sports funds, birthdays, school, etc., have to be held in the rooms of the school which are too small. A Parents and Citizens' Association is functioning and spent over £20 last year and this year have purchased a beautiful set of Namatjira's paintings. A tennis court is being constructed and the station boasts two football teams which participate in local and inter-district matches. Three of the residents play cricket with the local Bellbrook side and are highly regarded owing to their ability and general conduct.

Christmas festivities included the usual Christmas picnic and sports. Funds provided by the Board are supplemented by local endeavour and some donations from the white community. The Christmas tree was the central point of these functions, the function being organised through the school.

Education is in the hands of a Headmaster with a University degree and is progressing favourably. The enrolment at present does not justify two teachers. Three ex-pupils are attending Kempsey High School. The school is noted for its singing, art, manual work and gardens and is a good influence on the local residents.

Efforts to grow vegetables have been reasonably successful and carrots, peas, pumpkins, squash, lettuce, cabbage, etc., have been distributed free of charge to residents.

Boggabilla.

The area of this Station is 457 acres, on the Macintyre River. There are twenty-seven aborigines cottages and the population numbers 210.

During the year there appeared to be contentment on the station. However, there is a tendency for the men to forget they have wives and families. This fact has been very marked, considering the number of deserted wives on the station. Such desertion is due chiefly to the fact that the men have to go to work very far out in the bush and the coming home and going back to work is a very costly item. Apart from the cost of travel, the men prefer the freedom of the bush.

Buildings are all of the old type and are being maintained as best they can. Interest is being taken by many families in regard to improving their cottages. Many also have taken wider interest, and have purchased good furniture. Much has been done to the cottages by way of alterations and additions.

Residents have, generally, enjoyed good health. There have been a few cases of bronchitis and pneumonia, two of which proved fatal. Amongst the children there were several cases of sore eyes. All were successfully treated.

With regard to employment, the people of this station are extremely fortunate to have a wide variety of work from which to choose. Employment has been readily available throughout the year. Sheep-shearing and ringbarking have been the chief occupations. Other work on the Railways and Works Department has also kept some of the able-bodied men from this station occupied.

The girls have also been very fortunate in finding good employers who have engaged them as companions and maids.

On the station there are two handymen employed who have a hard task before them, i.e., milking of cows, distribution of milk to station residents, care and maintenance of pumping and lighting plants, care and maintenance of lawns, maintenance of motor vehicle, etc.

The residents have had some very entertaining times. Social evenings and dances have been arranged quite frequently. Dance music has been provided by local talent.

During the year there has been an average of fifty-five children attending school on the station. There are two teachers who have very efficiently managed the school. Domestic science is taught, but cookery classes have been more popular than sewing. Art is well favoured.

Christmas celebrations were enjoyed by all. A party was held, and also dances during the Christmas vacation.

The Goondiwindi Sports and Football Association has been very interested in the welfare of the aborigines of this station. Invitations to all their functions have been extended to the Boggabilla Station residents, especially during the Coronation Festivities.

Great interest has been taken by the Church of England clergyman at Boggabilla, whose visits have always been looked forward to by the girls and boys of the station. The men, somehow, have not shown much interest, though the women have been interested and have helped to swell the congregation.

Interest by the Australian Inland Mission worker has again been very good. He holds his Sunday School regularly and the children flock to him.

The year under reference has been a very contented one for the aborigines of this station. As a whole, all have been happy. Work for the able-bodied has been very plentiful and unemployment has been practically nil. Boggabilla has been very unfortunate again to have had a flood during February. No damage was, however, caused. During the flood the working men of this station had to stay away from work. This was the only time when unemployment figures rose.

The station has earned a good name for itself where work and sport are concerned, even as regards musicians. There is a demand for our musicians at dances in Boggabilla and Goondiwindi.

Work on the station has been very steady. Personal effort by the residents has been the chief factor in improvements effected to some of the cottages.

This station has no proper recreation hall and, because of this, an old building has been renovated and adapted to serve as one. Efforts are being made by private enterprise and subscription to extend this building to accommodate more people and a band.

Brewarrina.

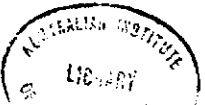
There has been a station here for many years. It is 9 miles from the town and houses 143 residents in thirty-two cottages. Quite a number are full bloods and some are aged. The area is 4,638 acres, 4,000 of which are leased to a white grazier.

There is a public school on the station conducted by the Department of Education. It has an attendance of about fifty-two. The teacher and his wife display a keen interest in their work.

A daily children's clinic is conducted at which Pentavite and prophylactic eye treatment are administered, as well as a general supervision. A pre-school clinic has been commenced with the assistance of a trained sister from Brewarrina. This deals with the young children and gives pre-natal advice, as well as advice to the mothers.

Lunch for the small children, as well as for the school children, is provided.

Many of the cottages have been repaired. This was done by the residents with a certain amount of assistance. Some homes have been painted internally.



The employment position is excellent. The men work at all varieties of station jobs and are in demand. The greater part of the pastoral work in the district is done by aborigines.

Some of the young men are members of the local football team. It is hoped to have a dark team in the near future.

A decorated float for the Coronation Day procession was provided, which tied for first place and had two special prizes given by onlookers.

A Christmas party was held, and donations received from local white residents.

A Methodist Deaconess has a weekly Scripture lesson at the school. Services are held on the station by a resident and the Australian Inland Missioner from Bourke visits.

This station lends itself admirably to the establishment of a good community vegetable garden and orchard, and a small dairy herd. These matters are at present receiving attention.

Burnt Bridge.

A large station close to the town of Kempsey. It comprises 613 acres and there are thirty-four dwellings, accommodating 294 people.

The general health of residents has been good.

There was some unemployment during the year due to the closing of timber mills in the district.

During the course of the year just ended a new public school was completed and occupied. This building is staffed by three teachers, one of whom is a young aboriginal man trained at Sydney Teachers' College. It is close to the northern boundary of the station and is a decided asset from the point of view of beautification, apart from the great advantages derived by staff and pupils from the big, airy classrooms arranged so as to provide maximum light, as well as the many amenities incorporated in modern buildings such as this.

Both the Catholic Church and the Church of England carry out religious instruction at the Burnt Bridge Public School and, frequently, a Catholic Priest visits the station, mostly on Saturday mornings, for the purpose of holding Mass.

The provision of a more modern hall on this station is a much felt need.

For some considerable time children from Burnt Bridge School have participated in District School Competitions and, in many cases, with distinction, but in June of 1952, a Social and Recreational Club was started on this station with the idea of stimulating interest by teenagers in local sport or organisations, and to raise funds through dances, etc., and to provide games in the hall for these young people.

As a result of all this, a piano has been bought, a set of boxing gloves and punch-ball purchased, a girls' basket ball team formed, which participated in local tournaments and was equipped with tunics provided from the club funds. It is hoped to continue with these activities and perhaps add to and encourage such aims in the future.

Apart from the above, a number of young males from this station play football with the Kempsey Clubs.

Burra Bee Dee.

This is one of the smaller stations, and is about 6 miles from the town of Coonabarabran. There are seven houses and fifty-nine residents, and the acreage is 473. However, there is a large number of aborigines camped on the outskirts of the town and it is hoped in the coming year to erect additional cottages on this station to which some of these people will remove.

Work to improve the dwellings is just commencing. Timber, cement and paint is already on hand and work has begun constructing cement laundry floors, and boarding up sleep-outs against the weather. This work will occupy several weeks before satisfactory results are obtained.

Health of residents has been generally good. Some gastric trouble has occurred among infants during drought owing to the inadequacy of the drinking water supply. Chills were frequent during the winter months due to the type of residence. Temperatures here drop to eight degrees of frost. When these houses have been lined they should be much warmer.

There has been no unemployment on the station recently, and the position is indicative that an improvement is taking place in the attitude of the employer. There are good prospects of some permanencies in the Purlawaugh area for two families, when the graziers can put up cottages. Unfortunately, most of the large scale farmers are 20 miles or more outside the Burra Bee Dee district.

About 90 per cent. are employed on the land as general farm labourers, engaged in fencing, burr-cutting, clearing land, stock-keeping, ploughing, etc., and 10 per cent. in other occupations, i.e., railway line workers, garage handymen, rabbits and domestics.

There are only two forms of organised social activities for adult residents at the moment, the school Parents and Citizens' Association and the Far West Clinic lectures. The distance of the station from the town, which is more than 6 miles, is a serious disadvantage.

There are seventeen children attending the station school which has a resident mistress. The standard of education is satisfactory. Two children above the age of fifteen years attend the Public School in Coonabarabran. The station is served by a school bus.

Apart from the Roman Catholic Church, there has been a complete change around of clergy recently. Most of the new men are strange to working among dark people. Two missionaries have worked in the area for nearly thirty years. Without doubt they do good work.

Work accomplished during the year consisted of installation of half a mile of water lines from pump-shed to cattle troughs, community vegetable and manager's gardens, institution of half an acre of community vegetable garden and cultivation of same; cultivation of approximately nine acres of land with oats, lucerne and rye-grass by horse plough, for cattle feed; burning off of five acres in the vicinity of the residential area which was a snake hazard; construction of stand and erection of one 5,000 gallon water tank in community vegetable garden; lime-washing of cow yard and outhouses; erection of milk issue shed adjacent to manager's residence, and replacement of quarter mile of fencing destroyed in bushfires.

Work in hand comprises treatment of all fencing and exposed wooden surfaces with wood-preserving oil; laying down of concrete floors in all laundry outhouses; lining cottages with timber where necessary, and boxing in verandahs to make extra rooms; painting cottages inside and out.

Work proposed for the coming year is spring sowing, vegetable garden, explore for more convenient water supply; continue cultivation, and improve soil; construct children's playground, and continue fencing repairs.

This station has been at a disadvantage in the past with regard to social activities owing to the lack of a hall for social gatherings. The outcome of a recent visit by an officer of the Education Department may be that the station school will, in all probability, cease to operate next October, the children being accommodated at the Public School, Coonabarabran. In this event we shall have the advantage of a recreation hall and an additional residence, which is badly needed.

Out of a lot of old piping on the station it is intended to construct a children's playground in the near future, with swings, climbing racks, slippery slide and sandpit.

Interest in gardening is fairly high and good progress is being made. Turnips from the community vegetable garden have been distributed among the residents. Personal gardens are also doing well. Several acres of green feed have been sown.

Cabbage Tree Island.

As its name signifies, this station is an island in the Richmond River and contains 125 acres. Rebuilding of cottages has been completed and there are now twenty dwellings of a good standard on the station. The aboriginal inhabitants number 150. A new wharf was built during the year.

The health of residents during the year was good and there were no epidemics. Hookworm and roundworm is being combated with the aid of the Health Department. Cultures were sent for tests. Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out.

With the exception of five permanent working men, the station is dependent on the cane harvest. The basic wage has limited casual work. Farmers feel they are not getting value for their money. Residents worked on the station clearing paths, cleaning grounds, and assisted in repairing foreshore erosion.

Seasonal work is the mainstay of the residents. Two families have started share cropping. It is hoped that others will follow their lead.

Dances have been held in the hall and at Broadwater, proceeds being utilised for football and the Parents and Citizens' Association. The Girl Guides have made progress and the Annual Camp at Mullumbimby was attended by Cabbage Tree Island Guides. The Guides acted as Guard of Honour for the flag raising on Coronation Day.

The football team is doing well. A collection for the purchase of a football for the younger boys is under way. The visiting football team from Woodburn School was beaten. The girls lost their first game of soft ball. Arrangements have been made for more games in the future. The matches were well attended and appreciation was accorded for the reception given to the visiting teams.

Due to the increase of school children, Cabbage Tree Island has been fortunate to have a young lady aboriginal school teacher appointed as Assistant Teacher. Thrift is encouraged and over £120 has been saved by the pupils.

Parents donated to swell funds provided by the Board for Christmas festivities.

Periodical visits by a number of visiting clergymen ensure religious instruction. These meetings are well attended.

The hall, which was completed early this year, has proved a great asset. It serves as an additional school room during the day, also as a place of entertainment or worship when required. The Parents and Citizens' Association has made a good start. A wireless set and library books have been purchased from its funds. It is hoped that their achievements will act as an incentive to other progressive movements.

The spirit of self-help on this station is a pleasing feature.

Cowra.

The station is close to the town of Cowra. It is the smallest station, so far as area is concerned, having only 31 acres. There are twenty-two dwellings, all new and in good order, and the population is 124. It is really a small housing settlement and has its own modern recreation hall and Church.

The health of the residents has been very good, apart from minor complaints such as colds.

The employment position gradually deteriorated throughout the year to such an extent that a large percentage of the male residents were unemployed at the close. The aborigines employed as drovers are earning good money and, in most cases have constant work. Two are still employed at the local power station. Seasonal work such as fruit, tomato, pea and bean picking may ease the unemployment position in due course. The nature of work performed by aborigines on this station during the past year has been mainly fencing and cutting bathurst burrs and thistles.

As is customary, a number of family units went to Griffith and surrounding districts for the fruit picking season. Some of the young men remained away due to the unemployment position, work being increasingly difficult to find for the unskilled.

The station had a full and successful year in the field of social activity. The Erambie Progress Club sponsored the following functions in the recreation hall.

In August an outstanding "Juvenile Ball" was held, thirty-four children participating in fancy dress.

In September, during the Cowra Show Week, a "Show Ball" was held for residents and visitors.

A ball was held on New Year's Eve and was a great success, being enjoyed by all, including a party of visitors who came from Melbourne, Sydney and Cowra.

During May a party of young people connected with a local organisation gave a social evening and supper for the young people. This was greatly appreciated.

The outstanding function of the year was the "Coronation Ball" held on 1st June. The hall was suitably decorated with red, white and blue streamers and a royal crown and a basket of flowers highlighted a coloured picture of Her Majesty the Queen in the centre of the stage.

The usual monthly dances were also held in the recreation hall.

Each Wednesday night a weekly Youth Club was held where boys and girls took part in games, singing and dancing practice. A committee of four teenage girls assists with this effort.

Early in March a party of boys was taken to Bathurst by the Manager to compete in a boxing tournament against the Bathurst Police Boys' Club. The boys from this station conducted themselves satisfactorily, and brought home two very nice trophies. The outstanding feature of this trip as far as the boys were concerned, was the fact that they were entertained at dinner by the President of the Bathurst Club at the Royal Hotel.

Four youths from the station played football for West Cowra.

The station school has been closed, the children attending the Cowra Public Schools.

The usual Christmas party was held on the day Erambie School broke up for the last time. As the weather was inclement, the party was held in the recreation hall. Every child received a bag of sweets and cakes and as much cordial drink as they could manage.

The Roman Catholic Church now holds regular services and Sunday School in the new Church.

Trouble through drink has not been so apparent as last year, possibly due to some extent to lack of money, but increased social activity and home interest must be given some credit.

The number of private gardens increased and this, added to the fact that the roads were graded, resulted in a greatly improved appearance of the station. The Progress Club financed the surfacing of the roads with cinders to the extent of £21 10s.

Trees planted around Church, single men's quarters, and children's playground are flourishing. Thanks to the Progress Club, a slippery-dip and a double swing have been installed in the playground, to the delight of the youngsters.

Jervis Bay.

This station is really located on Wreck Bay, within the Commonwealth Territory of Jervis Bay. It is administered by the Board on behalf of the Federal Authorities, and costs are refunded.

Its area is 100 acres and there are twenty dwellings, most of which are new, but some are old homes rebuilt and renovated. The population is 161. There is a new recreation hall.

Health of the residents has been generally good.

A number of the menfolk hold fishing licences and engage permanently in fishing as an organised industry. Some own their own launches, gear and motor lorries. Others are engaged in the timber industry and casual seasonal occupations. Employment fluctuates and unskilled workers have periods of unemployment.

Children attend school on the station, where two teachers of the Education Department are employed. This is perhaps the best school conducted on the Board's stations. The teachers are young and enthusiastic. Manual training, singing, music, physical education and folk dancing are featured, and there is an excellent flute band.

A Parents and Citizens' Association of thirty-nine members, all caste people, functions successfully and renders material assistance.

The general cleanliness and bearing of the children has received favourable commendation and the influence of the school on the community generally is reflected for good.

Moonaheullah.

Another of the old aboriginal stations, which is situated about 26 miles from Deniliquin and comprises 232 acres. The population of the station is ninety, who are accommodated in thirteen dwellings. Unfortunately, the dwellings are in poor structural condition.

The proposal that Moonaheullah be closed as an aboriginal station and the population moved elsewhere has precluded the expenditure of any large sums on housing. No action towards removal has been possible owing to the fact that funds have not been made available. Nevertheless, repainting has been conducted in one or two cases and improvements effected to many of the fences and gardens.

The general health of the residents has been good, although colds are prevalent in the winter due to the condition of the buildings.

Moonaheullah is known as a very good district for employment. The men are rarely unemployed for periods longer than a few days and, happily, this has been the case for some years. Work on the sheep stations in the district, and fencing, gardening and general labouring has kept men in employment during the off-season.

In past years it has been the practice for some of the women to leave the station to go grape picking. This has meant that some of the children have lost their schooling, and it is pleasing to note that this was not the case this year as the mothers regarded the daily attendance of their children at school of more importance than the extra income.

Although Moonaheullah does not field a cricket team, the men take a great interest in this particular sport. During the winter many of them play Australian Rules football with local clubs and have acquitted themselves in a creditable manner. The school children participated in the Inter-District School Sports during October.

A film strip projector has recently been acquired by the Teacher/Supervisor and it is hoped that film evenings will soon be a regular feature on the station.

The Supervisor of Moonaheullah is also the teacher at the aboriginal school and the salient feature of the work must necessarily be education of the children. Seven pupils who, at the beginning of 1952, were almost illiterates are expected to qualify for Fifth Grade this year.

The people of Deniliquin speak very highly of the conduct of the children when visiting the town, and their success in choral and verse speaking contests with children in the Deniliquin district has been an important contribution towards better relationships between the local community and residents of the station.

Moree.

Like Cowra, this station is very close to the town. It is a new station and has yet to be completed. It is hoped that rebuilding and the necessary road making will be finished during 1953-54. The area is 200 acres, there are thirty-nine dwellings and 283 inhabitants.

The population remained at a steady level during the year and no residents left to merge into the general community. At the commencement of the year and at Christmas time there were temporary influxes of aborigines in search of employment but they soon left when they found that the position was more difficult here than from whence they came.

Twenty-five new dwellings were handed over for occupation by aborigines during the month of December with a resultant marked improvement in health and cleanliness. A recreation hall, Church, store, farm building and office were also handed over at this time by the contractors.

Health of residents during the year has been good. There have been few cases of malnutrition and most illnesses recorded have been of a minor nature. Immunisation against diphtheria for all children, both on and off the station, was completed during the earlier months of last year. Daily treatment was provided for ailments of a minor nature, the more serious cases being referred to the District Hospital which is only about 2 miles away.

At the commencement of the year and in the middle of the year there was a marked deterioration in the employment position. At the end of the current year, the position had returned to normal.

The type of employment available in the district includes labouring for the Public Works Department on the sewerage construction works at Moree, farm and station work, clearing and ring-barking, droving, gardening and odd-jobbing.

The social life of the residents was well catered for on this station. Nineteen dances were held during the year by the Progress Association, four of which were balls—the Fancy Dress Ball on October 31, Show Ball on May 8, Coronation Ball on June 2, and Blue Bird Ball on June 19. Three other dances were held on behalf of the Shamrock Football Club to supplement funds.

The Football Club gave a good account of itself at the latter end of last season in spite of the fact that it lost the N.A.N.A. Cup. Some of the best players were selected by the League to represent Group Five. This is as it should be, of course, as it fits in well with the policy of assimilation in the creation of desirable relations between the general community and those of aboriginal blood.

On March 16, a Boys' Club was formed which met on two evenings every week.

The Brownie Pack increased to nineteen members during the year and the Aboriginal Girl Guide Company of three Lone Guides increased in number to twelve which necessitated its formation into a regular Guide Company which, with the approval of the local Division Commissioner, has been affiliated as the Moree 2nd Company.

During the year over thirteen meetings took place in which the Station Brownies and Guides were either guests of, hostesses to, or fellow travellers with Moree Guides and Scouts. Two meetings weekly were held on the station.

The station Parents and Citizens' Association, operating under the supervision of the headmaster of the school, held successful balls and functions of other types during the year.

The headmaster of the aborigines school is a competent and conscientious officer and was ably assisted by his wife and two assistants. His policy is to make the subjects more attractive and more varied with the object of retaining the children's interest.

His wife took the girls for cooking and sewing and achieved outstanding success in both these subjects.

The headmaster also took a keen interest in outdoor sports and recreation for his pupils who showed themselves to be worthy competitors in combined school sports, etc.

The Moree Endeavourers in co-operation with the management provided a Christmas tree and treat for the children on the station. In all, toys were given to 160 children. After toys were distributed, the children were treated to suitable sound films followed by community singing of Christmas Carols. After this came sandwiches, cakes, ice cream and cordial.

The headmaster of the school conducted a school "Breaking-up Party" on the afternoon of December 10. Funds for this function were provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association.

On 1st December the Guides and Brownies entertained Moree Scouts and Guides at a Christmas tree on the station at which all visitors received a gift and plenty of ice cream, cakes and sandwiches.

On December 11, the Moree Guides returned the hospitality with the Scouts and the aboriginal station Guides and Brownies as their guests, and on December 17 the Scouts and Cubs entertained the girls in a similar manner and showed themselves good hosts.

Ministers from the Church of England, Salvation Army and the Methodist Church visited the school once weekly. Representatives of the Catholic Church shared the responsibility of religious instruction each week. An Aborigines Inland Missioner supervises a service every Sunday morning.

The year was a successful one, improvement in the behaviour of the aborigines was marked and progress was made in building up desirable relationships with the general community. One of the most successful vehicles of development being the Girl Guides and Brownies.

Improvement was also noted in the attitude of the press towards aborigines. Articles favourable to the aborigines were readily accepted and the word "aborigine" is no longer appended to the names of those convicted of various offences at the regular Moree Courts.

Murrin Bridge.

This is another entirely new station of 937 acres, 10 miles from Lake Cargelligo. There are thirty-seven dwellings there, and the population numbers 214.

There was a vast improvement in the health of the residents, particularly among the children. Constant supervision by the Matron reduced the number of eye and ear complaints, gastro enteritis, etc., to an almost negligible amount. Daily issues of cod liver oil, malt and vitamin drops, checking of weights of school children and advice to mothers, pre-natal instructions, etc., all tended to improve the health of the residents.

The employment situation improved considerably and at the close of the year all able-bodied men were employed. Classes of employment are: fencible, trapping, shearing, timber cutting, general farm work, Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and timber mills. Four men were employed permanently with the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, four with local timber mills and the remainder employed at the abovementioned occupations. The majority of employment is found by contacting sheep and wheat farmers by telephone.

Dances were held weekly in aid of the school and the children's playground and were organised by a committee consisting entirely of aborigine residents. These dances were well supported by not only Murrin Bridge residents but aborigines from Euabalong, Condobolin and Griffith. To date, the money collected has purchased a slippery-dip (installed), four swings and a see-saw. It is hoped that the children's playground will be completed shortly. A piano was received from Cumerungunga and permitted the commencement of community singing, the pianist being an aborigine from Euabalong. However, the piano requires tuning and repairs and it will be necessary to raise a further £20 before this work can be attended to. Pictures were held twice a week in Lake Cargelligo and were well attended. Some of the men played football with the local white teams.

The school teachers at Murrin Bridge report that the progress of the children was most satisfactory. There are seventy-six pupils and it is expected that a third teacher will be required in the near future.

Dances were held on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Supper was served and prizes were given for various dances. The children had a Christmas tree which was brightly decorated and there was a present for every child up to 15 years. Santa Claus visited the children at the party and there was much excitement. Local tradespeople donated food and presents and some white families were present, their children also receiving a gift from Santa Claus.

Church services and Sunday School were held regularly by nearly all denominations and religious instruction was given at school at least twice a week.

In most instances cottages were well cared for and the majority have lawns and gardens. The people have not yet reached a stage of fully accepting their responsibilities, particularly with regard to care of homes. However, they have definitely shown improvement.

The people on this station have shown some advancement and their efforts at self-help are encouraging.

Quirindi.

The station is 20 miles from the town and comprises 220 acres. All thirty-one houses are new and there are 170 residents. This is a slight increase on the number in residence last year.

Owing to its isolation, regular employment is not readily available, partly because of the closing down of the railway construction work. There is, however, a reasonable amount of casual labour available. The position will be greatly relieved when shearing commences.

Light and power is now available in all administrative buildings, Managers and Schoolmaster's residences, and street lighting. Part of the old Manager's residence was demolished and a milk room erected. Cow bails and fences were painted.

General health was good, the usual colds, influenza and the like prevailing. The treatment room was reorganised to cope with the inevitable accidents, and curtains provided from proceeds of a dance. An attack of gastro enteritis was caught early enough to prevent an epidemic. Arrangements have been made for the Resident Doctor from the local Hospital to visit the station fortnightly, and he will immunise the children when the serum is made available. Practically all residents subscribe to the local ambulance scheme, and it is hoped to enrol all residents in the health scheme.

The station school building is in reasonable order. However, more adequate facilities are needed for the number of pupils attending. It is understood that the Education Department has the matter in hand. All children are supplied with cocoa or milk, and a sandwich of jam, marmite or honey, each morning.

Forty-eight children attend the station school and a further seventeen children attend Quirindi High School.

Several dances were organised by the headmaster for the Parents and Citizens' Fund and a projector for the showing of educational films will be purchased when the necessary funds are available.

Dances were held in the recreation hall fortnightly in aid of the amenities fund, Youth Club, Football Club and Parents and Citizens' Association. A Youth Club was formed and a boxing class organised by the Presbyterian Minister. A general Home Nursing class was taken by the Matron each Wednesday.

The Quirindi Police Boys' Club offered its services to provide funds for the Youth Club and it is hoped that in the near future the necessary equipment will be provided.

Church services were held twice monthly by the various Ministers.

The above functions were well supported by the residents. Needless to say, the same few are left with the task of organisation, etc. However, it is hoped that as progress is made more initiative will be shown on the part of others.

All dwellings have water laid on with shower recess. Cold showers are much in demand in the summer time. Each cottage has an earth closet and liquid disinfectant is issued. A garbage can is supplied to each resident, the same being emptied each Monday. In addition, a 1,000-gallon rain water tank is provided to each cottage.

None of the land is under cultivation, at present, but it is intended to use some of the area for the growing of wheat or lucerne and so offset the need for fodder purchase during the drier months of the year.

The condition of the livestock on the station is reasonably good. The milk yield is distributed free to residents and school children.

The station, as a whole, is running smoothly and discipline for a community of this size is good.

Roseby Park.

This is an old station about 10 miles from Nowra. The area is 66 acres, the population ninety-four, housed in sixteen dwellings of a simple design. Some repairs and renovations are necessary and this work will be put in hand when funds are available. In the meantime, the Manager is encouraging the residents to effect minor improvements themselves.

During the year the employment situation was fair to good. The position deteriorated towards the end of the year when men who were working on various construction jobs were put off because of lack of finance, the Air Station at Nowra being the main work suspended. Six of the more steady types were discharged.

Quite a few of the younger men were engaged in the fishing industry, mainly on a share basis. During the past year they did very well, on occasions some had cheques of over £100. It is unfortunate that they cannot be induced to save some of this money and further their own interests.

The health of the residents generally was good, only eight having been admitted to hospital during the year.

The social interest of residents in local organisations was disappointing. This is unfortunate as the opportunity was there, but they did not avail themselves of it. The people here attend movies and sporting fixtures in full force, which apparently satisfies their need for recreation.

The Brownie Pack is still in operation, but even in this, if a football match is being played within a reasonable distance the attendance is very poor.

Education is primary school standard, there being one teacher who is doing a very good job putting a lot of his own time into it. None of the pupils is very bright, and it is very doubtful if any will achieve high school standard.

The Christmas festivities were very successful, there being two parties at night and a picnic. All local bodies and storekeepers who were approached for a donation contributed handsomely. The various stores provided extra food, drinks, lollies and fruit, in addition to those purchased with the grant made by the Board. The United Aborigines Missionaries gave one of the parties and distributed toys. They also assisted at the party and picnic arranged by the Manager.

A lot of progress has been made in the general cleanliness of the residents on the station, in having them take more interest in their homes and keep them cleaner. There are more gardens now than previously and the people are looking after them better. Most have been prevailed upon to keep fences in repair, and some have made very nice picket fences from bush timber.

During the year it was not necessary to charge any of the station residents with breaking the regulations, nor did the Police charge any of them. As far as is known, there was not a single case of drinking on the station or of aborigines coming on to the station drunk.

Tabulam.

This station is new in every respect, even to the site which comprises 490 acres between Casino and Tenterfield. All the eighteen dwellings are new and the residents number 130.

The interest of the people in their new homes and the care taken of them is very pleasing. All are kept clean and tidy, and attempts are being made to furnish simply and provide home comforts. Attempts at beautification by gardening and tree planting are commendable.

The employment position is usually quite good due to the willingness of the white population of the district to employ aborigines for corn pulling, etc., but as this type of employment is only seasonal, employment at some times of the year is not so good.

The health of the residents has been good, although attention is needed to the children's teeth. The Matron of this station made a careful examination of all the children and found their health to be satisfactory.

The standard of education is average and an increasing interest in sport is evident. On Coronation Day, the children easily outclassed the Tabulam School at football. On 6th June, a number of children were entered in the Talent Quest held in the Tabulam Hall and, due to the excellent coaching by the resident school teacher, the choir won a very lovely silver cup as second prize.

Many of the youths and men play football in Tabulam and a great interest is shown in their sporting activities by the white population of the district.

A social club exists on the station and regular monthly dances will be held to provide funds for the purchasing of sporting gear and items of furniture for the houses.

Arrangements have been made with the Church of England Padre and weekly religious services will be held in the station Church.

A Parents and Citizens' Association was formed. Football jerseys and shorts for the school football team will be bought out of the proceeds of dances held in aid of the Parents and Citizens.

Taree.

The area of this station is 51 acres and it is close to the town of Taree. The thirty-three dwellings were erected in 1949, and accommodate 220 residents. The houses are in a good state of repair and residents have improved them by establishing home vegetable and flower gardens. Their response to the payment of rent has been disappointing.

The general trend over the past five years has shown that a gradual increase may be anticipated during the next five years. New families are being created by marriages and it can be expected that there will continue to be a natural increase by births exceeding decreases by deaths.

Only about 50 per cent. of the able-bodied men are now in constant employment. Twelve per cent. of them are in receipt of Commonwealth Unemployment Benefits. The remainder eke out an existence by very casual day labour, with the assistance of their more fortunate and more industrious relatives and friends.

The Railways Department is still the main employer of labour. Although quite a number of men were put off employment by the Railways Department during the year, eight are still permanently employed. The remainder of employed men are fairly evenly distributed among the timber, building and fishing industries. There is little demand for aboriginal labour in the dairying industry, which is the main industry of the district. Most of the holdings are small and are operated by family units. They employ only casual seasonal labour.

The general health of residents was quite good. The co-operation between the station staff and the various medical services of the district could not be better than they are.

One case of tuberculosis was discovered during the year. The patient is now undergoing treatment at the Rankin Park Chest Hospital at Newcastle.

The ravages of ascariis among children is a matter for concern in efforts to maintain good health of residents. This matter is being taken up with the Department of Health.

A Progress Association was formed on the station and all social and sporting activities are combined under the direction of the Progress Association. The Association controls four separate funds.

The *Management Fund* is used for the purchase of amenities, gifts to local charities and general expenses.

The *School Fund* is used to assist school children of the station in every way possible. This fund augmented the Board's allowance for a children's break-up party given to 118 children at the end of last December to the extent of £18 15s. 11d. £2 14s. was used to purchase school books.

The *Scout Fund* is to be used in the interests of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide activities among station boys and girls.

The *Sports Fund*. Up to date this fund has been used solely for the purpose of maintaining the football team. The old football club could not maintain a satisfactory business organisation and, by mutual agreement, it was merged into the Progress Association.

During the year the Association gave £10 10s. to the United Nations Children's Appeal. On a *pro capita* basis, this equalled the effort of the town of Taree.

A cheque for £5 5s. is now awaiting the Treasurer's signature before it is presented to the Manning River District Ambulance Society.

During the hot summer months it was found to be impossible to interest residents in indoor social functions. Only three were held during the summer until the end of March. Since then social functions such as dances, concerts and concert-dances were held fortnightly.

Efforts have been made to merge the young people into the social life of the general community rather than to form isolated social groups on the station.

During the year the manager gave lectures at various young people's gatherings in the town. The response and co-operation given by these groups has been very encouraging. The Boy Scout movement and four youth organisations of various Churches are doing their best to hold the interest of groups of our young people in their activities.

At the beginning of the current school year, nineteen former pupils of the station school were transferred to the Taree Public School and six others commenced their secondary education at the Taree High School.

It is notable, in view of the trouble experienced at other centres in similar circumstances, that not a single voice was raised in the district opposing the transfer. Furthermore, the children were happily received by their new teachers and classmates. Most of the pupils transferred are reported to be making reasonable progress with their studies. All of the children attending high school are in opportunity classes where they should learn much which will have a practical application in their future careers. One of the girls came top of her class in practical cooking examinations held in June.

It has now been arranged that the Infants' School which has been maintained on the station shall be closed and all station school children will be attending public schools in Taree as from 13th July, 1953.

The Baptist and Church of Christ Ministers pay regular monthly visits to the station and conduct services. At irregular intervals young people of these Churches also visit the station to join with the station people in worship.

All the Protestant Ministers of the town have been taking turns at religious instruction in the school each month.

A Christian Endeavour Rally was held on the station last January. This is a church youth organisation incorporating all Protestant Churches, with the exception of the Church of England.

The Salvation Army and the Methodist Church also conduct services in the station. The people are also made welcome at various services and functions held in Taree by all of the abovementioned Churches.

Walgett.

The station is located 6 miles from Walgett on 337 acres of land. There are twenty dwellings and the population at the end of the year was 152.

Health was, in the main, good. Colds and influenza affected some. During the warmer weather the usual eye treatments were given. The local ambulance takes confinement cases to the Hospital and the Doctor gives the sick aborigines every attention.

Shearing, station work, fencing, wood cutting and droving are the usual types of employment, but the demand for workers from this station is beginning to slacken due to the availability of white labour in the district. The Manager keeps in touch with all possible employers in the district.

School is conducted on the station by the Manager and his wife. Prior to the end of the 1952 school year, the Vicar at Walgett and some of his Walgett parishioners, in conjunction with the Matron and Manager, gave the children of the station a very enjoyable Christmas party.

The Church Ministers visited the school infrequently, but three different missionaries visited the station during the year. An evening service was held on two occasions.

There is no recreation hall on this station and social activities are limited. It is hoped to provide a hall next year. The children are allowed the use of the school room for indoor games and a ping pong set was purchased. Children took part in the sports in Walgett on Coronation Day.

During the month of March both roads leading to the station were covered with water owing to a severe flood in the Barwon River.

The station was isolated for three months. Fortunately, as the flood was expected, sufficient food to meet all needs was stored on the station.

Wallaga Lake.

The setting of this station on the shores of Wallaga Lake in the South Coast district is ideal. The area is 341 acres. Most of the dwellings are new. They number nineteen and house 153 residents. The work of replacing the Manager's residence, treatment room, office and other administrative buildings which were destroyed by bush fire last year, is in progress.

The employment position on the whole has been quite good this year, particularly due to the fact that a new pipeline is being laid in the district and several aborigines from the station have been employed. Eight residents are permanently employed, two with the Department of Main Roads and six sleeper cutters. A good percentage of the men are employed on seasonal and casual work all the year round.

Several of the residents are taking a keen interest in fishing on a commercial basis since a boat and net were received from Wreck Bay Aboriginal Station.

The general health of the residents has been good.

The station carries a dairy herd, sufficient to provide fresh milk for residents.

School is held on the station and a teacher of the Education Department is in charge of the thirty-eight children attending. They did remarkably well during the year, particularly in weaving and carpentry.

The Roman Catholic Priest visits the station and celebrates Holy Mass on the last Thursday of each month. The Church of England Minister holds service on the second Sunday of each month and gives religious instruction to the school children once a month. An Evangelist lay preacher holds Sunday School monthly on the station for the children of Wallaga Lake.

A Mission was held on the station during the year which was very well attended by aborigines of all denominations.

Several social functions were held during the year and it is interesting to note that there has been a marked social uplift amongst the people of this station.

Dances have been regularly held and were well attended by aborigines from other parts of the district as well as those permanently residing on the station.

Two boxing tournaments were held during the year and both were a great success. They were well patronised by the white community and the aborigines of the district. One of the tournaments was held in aid of the Bega District Ambulance and a sum of £19 was collected for the ambulance service.

The aborigines from Wallaga Lake played an active part in the Coronation Celebration in the district. A Wallaga Lake float joined the main procession of floats at Cobargo. A team of aborigines entered for the tug-of-war, and some of them played the gum leaves.

A truck is arranged every week to convey the aborigines to the local cinema show at Bermagui, to which they all eagerly look forward.

A children's Christmas tree was held in the recreation hall and a Santa Claus was brought for the occasion from Tilba Tilba. The Methodist Minister from Bega very kindly assisted with a few helpers in making the evening a success.

Lads from Wallaga Lake were included in the Bermagui and Cobargo football teams, and several have shown a keen interest in the game.

The Wallaga Lake school children took part in the Quama sports. The children have also taken part in the Bermagui and Cobargo sports held during the year.

The people of Wallaga Lake have co-operated wholeheartedly with the management in the organising of social functions, and have taken a great interest in the various functions that have, from time to time, been organised by the white community of the district.

Woodenbong.

This station is on an area of 126 acres in the Macpherson Ranges and lies in the shadow of Mt. Lindsay. There are twenty-four dwellings and the population is 171.

Some repairs and improvements to the houses were effected during the year and a number of residents undertook this work on their own initiative.

The health of residents, after excluding those suffering from chronic illnesses, may be rated as reasonably good. Heavy round worm infestation of the children has lowered their resistance to diseases. Several cases were treated in hospital and many more dealt with on the station.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was admitted to Kyogle Hospital and, after receiving some treatment there, was discharged and returned to the station awaiting admission to a T.B. Hospital.

A doctor from Urbenville attended sick residents, when required. He has shown an interest in the station and has done very much indeed to assist in the round worm campaign.

The Matron and staff of Urbenville Hospital have been untiring in their efforts to treat all patients admitted to that hospital from the station.

The Bush Nurse has done good work in attending to the ailments of residents whenever they attended her clinic in Woodenbong.

The Medical Officers, Matron and staff of the Kyogle Memorial Hospital have co-operated fully in all matters where patients from the station were sent to that hospital.

The class of employment available in the district is that of a semi-skilled or unskilled nature, such as sawmill work, timber felling and general farm work. The better type aborigines have permanent jobs in the sawmills where they earn a regular income. The less energetic ones work for graziers and agriculturists on casual jobs.

All unemployed aborigines were eligible to draw Social Service benefits and claims were submitted for them.

Most residents attend the local cinema at least once a week. A public omnibus calls at the station to transport them to Woodenbong for that purpose.

A number of boxing enthusiasts go to Brisbane fairly often by taxi to attend boxing matches there. Four young men take part in boxing at the Brisbane stadium.

Dances are held at intervals in the station recreation hall. Large dances are sometimes organised and conducted in the Woodenbong Hall, the proceeds from such events being given to certain public institutions such as the Bush Nursing Association.

A new school is now being used to which two teachers have been appointed. Good progress has been made with pupils.

A Parents and Citizens' Association meets once a month. This organisation is in the act of raising funds for provision of more books for the children. Two large encyclopaedias have been donated by two residents.

A well organised breaking-up party was held at Christmas. Certain station residents assisted materially in conducting the party.

A separate party about a week later was given by the Plymouth Brethren of Bonalbo. This was held at Tooloom Falls and all were invited to attend. The show was a good one put on entirely by and at the expense of the Plymouth Brethren.

Religious services are held by Christians twice or sometimes more often each week in the station Church. An aboriginal resident appears to be quite an able conductor of the services.

Resident missionaries conduct religious services as well. The Plymouth Brethren of Bonalbo attend at least once a week to conduct services. A clergyman from Woodenbong makes regular calls to the station.

A small dairy herd is maintained for the supply of milk to residents. A vegetable garden supplies fresh vegetables.

Research workers from the Queensland University visited the station during the year. These people have already interested others in the work to be done and certain gifts of paint, plywood for school children, library books, money and clothing for the needy have been made. They intend to assist to the limit of their capacity in ways likely to promote the social development of the aborigines. A projector and films for the school have been promised, as well as some assistance in the purchase of instruments for a school band. To this body of social workers much praise is due.

V. ABORIGINE RESERVES GENERALLY.

In addition to the stations which have been mentioned previously, there are a large number of reserves for aborigines throughout the State. These differ from stations in that they are not under full time resident managership. However, in a number of cases non-resident supervisors have been appointed. This is the case at Brungle, Condobolin, Coraki, Karuah, Nambucca Heads, Ulgundahi Island, Wellington and Wilcannia. At Condobolin, Karuah, Nambucca Heads and Wellington the teacher-in-charge of the school carries out the duties of supervisor.

At La Perouse, where there is a population of 176, together with another 334 living in the vicinity, there is a resident, full time supervisor. On this reserve there are thirty cottages, in which, for the most part, the tenants take a pride. Of these, twenty-two have been connected to the electricity supply and some have washing machines and refrigerators.

La Perouse is a popular tourist spot with historic associations. A number of aborigines supplement their earnings by making and selling curios to visitors. One man has a well-equipped workshop with electrically-driven lathe and conducts a profitable business in the manufacture of boomerangs and other articles.

Where no supervisor has been appointed, oversight of reserves is exercised by local Police, by arrangement with the Commissioner. Furthermore, it is an integral part of a Welfare Officer's duty to visit reserves as often as possible and give attention to the needs of residents.

The population of some reserves has dwindled considerably in recent years and, in some cases, all residents have removed to other parts. In such cases, action is taken to return the control of the area to the Lands Department.

Appendix "C", attached, gives particulars concerning the location, area and population of existing reserves.

VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Vital Statistics.

No general census has been conducted by the Commonwealth authorities since 1947. The figures then concerning the aboriginal population of New South Wales were as follows:—

| Caste. | Males. | Females | Total. |
|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Full-blood | 546 | 407 | 953 |
| Mixed-blood | 5,498 | 5,109 | 10,607 |
| | 6,044 | 5,516 | 11,560 |

It is safe to say that since this date the number of full-bloods has decreased and the number of mixed-bloods has increased.

Of the total number in New South Wales at present, 2,946 are resident on aboriginal stations under full time managership, and 2,155 on reserves, either unsupervised or partly supervised. Of the remainder, many are living in unsatisfactory conditions in unofficial camps in different parts of the State. These congregations have caused the Board considerable anxiety and Welfare Officers have concentrated their efforts among them. It does not seem that any substantial alleviation of conditions can be anticipated until adequate funds are available.

Many more are living quite independently of the Board, and the measure of assimilation attained by these is pleasing to note.

Labour and Employment.

While quite a number of aborigines are regularly employed in skilled and semi-skilled occupations, the majority are dependent upon seasonal work of a casual and unskilled nature.

The unemployment position, therefore, fluctuates. Unemployed aborigines are entitled to apply for the usual Unemployment Benefits and are encouraged to do so. To those not eligible and others who are indigent, the usual issue of rations, clothing and blankets are made.

Generally speaking, the employment position throughout the year was not as good as last year. This resulted in an increase in the amount of clothing and blankets issued, but the amount expended on rations showed a decrease due, no doubt, to the payment of Commonwealth Benefits in lieu of ration issues.

Aboriginal workers enjoy the same labour conditions as other men, having the benefit of all appropriate awards and, generally speaking, they suffer no disadvantage in their employment by reason of their colour.

Where income is regular, aborigines have been encouraged to improve their living conditions, especially where new dwellings have been erected by the Board. There is, however, much to be done in the education of the aboriginal worker in the proper and intelligent application of his income.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

The Board has continued to provide relief to the aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. This relief, of course, has not been confined to those residing on aboriginal stations or reserves and, at the same time, has not been extended without due consideration of the capability of the aborigine to provide for himself and, where necessary, his family.

When an aboriginal is in employment he is expected to make provision for his family and is encouraged to avoid having to turn to the Government for assistance in times of unemployment by saving when he has an income against the day when he might be less fortunate. It is regrettable, however, that this does not meet with a very great measure of success.

Housing.

It is the Board's aim to provide, as far as possible and as funds allow, good housing for all aboriginal people. This aspect of the Board's activity is dealt with more fully in an earlier part of this report, being regarded as an important step in the Board's work towards the implementation of the Government's assimilation policy.

Rations.

The weekly scale of rations issued to aborigines has not been altered and is as follows:—

| Item. | Quantity. |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Flour | 10 lb. |
| Sugar | 2 lb. |
| Tea | 4 oz. |
| Jam | 12 oz. |
| Dripping | 1 lb. |
| Potatoes | 2 lb. |
| Onions or Dried Peas | 8 oz. |
| Baking Powder | 4 oz. |
| Rice | 1 lb. |
| Oatmeal | 8 oz. |
| Powdered Whole Milk | 12 oz. |
| Soap | 4 oz. |
| Meat | 4 lb. |

Children under 15 years of age receive half the above ration with the exception of milk in which case the same is issued to adults and children. In the case of meat, children over the age of nine years also receive 4 lb. weekly. Where raw milk is available, the issue is at least 1 pint per head per day.

On some of the aboriginal stations community gardens are maintained and, in these instances, the rations are supplemented by home grown vegetables. It is the Board's aim to have community gardens established wherever practicable as well as private gardens connected with the aborigines' homes.

Medical Attention.

Most of the Matrons have had some nursing experience and many of them are certificated nurses, and all are able to take full advantage of the treatment room units which have been established on all stations.

At the treatment room the minor ailments and slight accidents are treated, but on any occasion when the Matron feels that the position is one beyond her capabilities, she refers to the local Medical Officer. In some instances the Medical Officer advises appropriate treatments by telephone but this is never intended to be a substitute for actual medical attention and hospitalisation, which is always available.

Drugs, dressings, etc., are issued from the treatment room free of charge, irrespective of whether the recipient is on the ration list or not. So far as hospitalisation is concerned, the aboriginal patient is on exactly the same terms as an ordinary individual. He must be prepared to subject himself to a means test if the hospital so desires and, if, as the result of such test it is indicated that he is in a position to pay for his hospital treatment, he is expected so to do.

Baby Outfits.

Full-blood mothers are not eligible under Commonwealth legislation for the maternity allowance and in such cases a baby outfit is supplied free to an expectant mother. In other cases a mother who, by reason of her financial position, is unable to make provision for her baby's clothing, makes application to the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Labour and Industry and her application is considered similarly to those received from other indigent or near indigent members of the community.

The system previously was for the outfit to be purchased by the Board and made a charge against the maternity allowance; the change in procedure came into operation during the year.

Clothing.

Issues of clothing to indigent and other dependent aborigines were as shown in the table hereunder:—

| Outfits. | Year ended 30th June— | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. |
| | Male. | | | Female. | | | Total. | | |
| Summer Outfits | 106 | 64 | 147 | 146 | 140 | 190 | 252 | 204 | 337 |
| Winter Outfits | 69 | 61 | 110 | 137 | 101 | 136 | 206 | 162 | 246 |
| Total | 175 | 125 | 257 | 283 | 241 | 326 | 458 | 366 | 583 |

Other Relief and Benefits.

By a recent decision of the Hospitals Commission, aborigines in need of dentures have been brought into line with other indigent persons and pensioners.

Surgical aids such as artificial limbs and wheel chairs are supplied—the latter on loan—through the services of the Department of Labour and Industry.

One aboriginal widow is entitled to, and receives, from the Department of Labour and Industry an allowance for her children. A Child Welfare Allowance under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act is paid to eligible applicants. In connection with the last-mentioned, the Board has directed its officers to give special attention to the many eligible cases for assistance under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act who previously have not been receiving this assistance.

Christmas Cheer.

One of the oldest established amenities is the provision of Christmas cheer for the aged, infirm and destitute aborigines. Plum puddings and tobacco are issued to all ration recipients at Christmas time and, in addition, grants are made to all aboriginal schools to assist in the financing of "breaking-up" functions. In practically every instance, local interested persons and organisations assist in the arrangements and the parties are not only confined to the school pupils, but include also the younger children. Indeed, on many of the aboriginal stations the adults also join in.

The children at La Perouse were again this year the guests of the City of Sydney Sub-branch of the R.S.L.

Commonwealth Social Services.

Child Endowment.

As is the case in the general community aboriginal mothers are paid Child Endowment for all children under the age of 16 years in their care and control. So far as New South Wales is concerned the legislation as it affects aborigines does not in any way preclude payment. Persons with whom aboriginal children are boarded out by the Board under regulations may have the boarding-out payment paid by the Board, supplemented by endowment.

It is found necessary in some cases for the Board to administer the Child Endowment on behalf of certain mothers where circumstances and conditions are such that the children would not enjoy the benefits of the endowment. In these cases the endowment is paid by the Department of Social Services to the Board and credited to a Trust Account from which payments are made from time to time for expenditure under supervision. This supervision is carried out by local officers managing or supervising the district in which the endowee resides and is effected by the issue of orders on local tradespeople. This ensures that the children receive full benefit of the endowment as orders may be only issued for such goods and services as may be for the use and benefit of the children.

Every aboriginal mother whose endowment is administered is, however, encouraged to qualify for direct payment by indicating that she is prepared to improve her system of management and expenditure of endowment moneys. The Board is always prepared to give sympathetic consideration for a trial period of direct payment and cases which are administered are regularly reviewed with a view to direct control being obtained by the endowee as soon as possible.

The following table indicates the variation in the number of cases administered by the Board during the period covered by this report, together with figures for the two previous periods. The decrease in the number of endowments administered continues as the number of aboriginal mothers entitled to endowment increases from year to year. This is very pleasing to note, indicating as it does the general improvement in the thrift and reliability of aboriginal mothers.

| Year ended 30th June, 1953. | Amount received from Commonwealth Administration. | Number of cases administered at beginning of Year. | Subtract. | | Add. | | Cases administered at end of Year. |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------|---|
| | | | Number of Cases expired. | Cases changed to direct payment. | Cases reverted to Board's Control. | New Cases. | |
| 1951 | £ 12,645 | 138 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 148 |
| 1952 | 10,534 | 148 | 8 | 29 | 5 | 13 | 129 |
| 1953 | 9,192 | 129 | 3 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 118 |

Maternity Allowances.

Maternity allowances payable to aboriginal mothers were administered by the Board in forty-five cases during the year. In all of these cases administration was due to the supply of baby outfits.

Payment of Commonwealth Social Benefits to Aborigines.

Payment of certain Commonwealth Social Service benefits still continues to be restricted in the case of full blood aborigines and aborigines otherwise eligible to receive the benefit but are disqualified by virtue of residence on aboriginal stations or reserves; a Certificate of Exemption, therefore, does not necessarily make the aboriginal applicant eligible to receive the social service benefit which has been applied for.

At the last Native Affairs Conference held in Canberra, representations were made on this subject, but the position remains very much the same. However, the Board will continue endeavours to improve the status of aborigines in regard to Social Service Benefits which they are at present disqualified from receiving.

The income of aboriginal employees is taxable to the same extent as that of a white person. Since the tax includes Social Services Contribution tax, it is an injustice for an aborigine to be refused a Social Service Benefit for which he has already contributed a portion of his income. If an aged aborigine chooses to spend his remaining days among his own people, he automatically makes himself ineligible to receive an old age pension.

In the case of full blood aborigines possession of a Certificate of Exemption removes a disbaring clause from those receiving a Commonwealth Social Service pension. However, when a Certificate is issued under these conditions certain principles for which the Certificate of Exemption was created are lost.

During the year an investigation was carried out into the number of aborigines who were receiving the Unemployment and Sickness Benefit. This investigation was prompted by the fact that some aborigines were declined as suitable applicants for the benefit, due to the fact that they were not holders of a Certificate of Exemption.

Representation was then made by the Board to the Commonwealth authorities on the question of Unemployment Benefit payments to aborigines generally. The Commonwealth Department of Social Services informed the Board that the position in regard to short-term benefits for unemployment and sickness did not specifically require an aboriginal to hold a Certificate of Exemption in order to qualify, and that as a general rule aborigines residing on a station or reserve were not granted an unemployment or sickness benefit, although each case would be dealt with on its merits.

As a result of these representations, there is now no restriction on the granting of Unemployment and Sickness Benefit to aborigines generally, who are able to establish eligibility, irrespective of their place of residence.

Exemption Certificates.

The Aborigines Protection Act provides that an aborigine or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood may be issued with a certificate exempting the person concerned from the provisions of the Act and Regulations.

The issue of an Exemption Certificate is intended to convey that the aboriginal has been assimilated into or is an acceptable member of the general community. Exempted persons are expected to provide homes for themselves away from stations and reserves, but where this is not possible because of the present housing situation, consideration is given in certain cases to those who fulfil every other requirement in standards of conduct and living conditions.

Comparative figures of Exemption Certificates for the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 are:—

| | 1951-52 | 1952-53 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Granted | 51 | 60 |
| Deferred | 2 | — |
| Declined | — | 3 |
| Cancelled | 1 | 1 |

Expulsion Orders.

For persistent transgressions against good order and discipline on Reserves, the Board has power to expel an aborigine or other person from such reserve. This power is invoked only as a last resort when all other measures have failed and the presence of the person on the reserve is inimical to the aboriginal community. Expulsion Orders are reviewed from time to time with a view to cancellation if the conduct of the person has shown marked improvement.

During the year covered by this report only one Expulsion Order was issued and three were cancelled.

VII. CONCLUSION.

Reviewing the year's activities as a whole, the Board feels that the steps taken towards the implementation of its policy of ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal population into the general community have met with some measure of success. The process must necessarily be gradual and will extend over many years yet. The perceptible diminution of prejudices among the white population and the efforts of many aborigines towards securing for themselves acceptance in the community, are gratifying. Only by the wholehearted and concerted efforts of all who are interested in the welfare of these people will the goal be reached.

The Board records its appreciation of the help rendered by all who have assisted throughout the year and cordially invites their continued co-operation with its own officers in their efforts for the social uplift of the aboriginal people of New South Wales.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board's resolution dated this fifteenth day of September, 1953.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.

H. M. SAXBY, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare

APPENDIX "A."
MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

| | 1951-52 | 1952-53. |
|--|---------|----------|
| Number of wards at beginning of year | 169 | 171 |
| Number admitted during year | 2 | 2 |
| Number committed during year | 17 | 28 |
| Number discharged during year | 188 | 201 |
| | 17 | 18 |
| Number at end of year | 171 | 183 |

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

| | 1951-52. | | 1952-53. | |
|--|----------|------|----------|------|
| | Adm. | Ctd. | Adm. | Ctd. |
| Kinchela Boys' Home | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Cootamundra Girls' Home | ... | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Denominational Homes | 1 | 5 | ... | ... |
| Boarded out with foster parents | 1 | 9 | ... | 17 |
| Placed in employment under Reg. Conditions | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| | 2 | 17 | 2 | 28 |

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

| | 1951-52. | 1952-53. |
|---|----------|----------|
| Kinchela Boys' Home | 42 | 57 |
| Cootamundra Girls' Home..... | 34 | 51 |
| Denominational Homes | 31 | 8 |
| Boarded out with foster parents | 46 | 49 |
| Placed in employment under Reg. Conditions..... | 18 | 18 |
| | 171 | 183 |

APPENDIX "B."

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

| Station. | Area. | Population on Station. | | Ration Recipients. | | Statistics. | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| | | | | | | Births. | | Deaths. | | Marriages. | |
| | | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. |
| Bellbrook | 96 | 135 | 128 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Boggabilla | 457 | 254 | 210 | 49 | 19 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Brewarrina | 4,638 | 153 | 143 | 28 | 34 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | ... | 1 |
| Burnt Bridge..... | 613 | 274 | 294 | 22 | 31 | 14 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 2 | ... |
| Burra Bee Dee | 473 | 61 | 59 | 5 | ... | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Cabbage Tree Island | 125 | 156 | 150 | 20 | 21 | 4 | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 |
| Cowra | 31 | 145 | 124 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| *Cumeroogunga | 2,600 | 46 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Jervis Bay | 100 | 127 | 161 | 25 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Moonacullah | 232 | 63 | 90 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Moree | 200 | 281 | 283 | 30 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Murrin Bridge | 937 | 207 | 214 | 42 | 40 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| *Pilliga | 150 | 30 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Quirindi | 220 | 147 | 170 | ... | 2 | 8 | 5 | 2 | ... | 4 | 1 |
| Roseby Park | 66 | 106 | 94 | 9 | 6 | 6 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Tabulam | 53 | 108 | 130 | ... | 18 | ... | 6 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Taree | 51 | 226 | 220 | 21 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 6 | ... | 2 |
| Walgett | 337 | 139 | 152 | 24 | 25 | 9 | 5 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Wallaga Lake | 341 | 72 | 153 | 13 | 16 | 6 | ... | 5 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Woodenbong | 126 | 173 | 171 | 13 | 26 | 5 | 3 | 5 | ... | 6 | ... |
| Total..... | ... | 2,903 | 2,946 | 334 | 303 | 125 | 117 | 39 | 36 | 33 | 15 |

* Closed during year as Aboriginal Station.

APPENDIX "C."

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

| Station or Reserve. | Area. | Population on Station or Reserve. | | Ration Recipients. | |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| | | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. |
| Balranald..... | 142 | 49 | 49 | ... | ... |
| Bourke | 34 | 32 | 35 | ... | ... |
| Bowraville | 36 | 136 | 137 | ... | 4 |
| Brungle | 357 | 62 | 40 | ... | 5 |
| Collarenebri | 50 | 134 | 146 | ... | 3 |
| Condobolin | 16 | 191 | 70 | 6 | 7 |
| Coraki | 10 | 60 | 59 | 4 | 9 |
| Cubawee | 24 | 88 | 85 | ... | ... |
| Cumeroogunga | 2,600 | 46 | 55 | ... | ... |
| Darlington Point | 25 | 57 | 20 | ... | ... |
| Dubbo | 18 | 52 | 57 | ... | ... |
| Forster | 19 | 62 | 79 | ... | ... |
| Goodooga | 80 | 98 | 90 | 1 | ... |
| Goolagong | 80 | 21 | 27 | ... | ... |
| Gulargambone | 52 | 72 | 58 | ... | ... |
| Karuah | 50 | 62 | 73 | 2 | 5 |
| Kyogle | 111 | 14 | 15 | ... | 2 |
| La Perouse | 6 | 160 | 186 | ... | 3 |
| Macksville | 20 | 10 | 4 | ... | ... |
| Mungindi | 100 | 110 | 122 | 2 | 5 |
| Nambucca Heads | 70 | 106 | 79 | ... | ... |
| Rye Park | 140 | 8 | 9 | ... | ... |
| Tibooburra | 100 | 2 | 12 | 2 | ... |
| Tingha | 15 | 80 | 65 | ... | ... |
| Ulgundahi Island | 44 | 40 | 36 | 3 | ... |
| Uralla | 100 | 11 | 13 | ... | ... |
| Walcha..... | 107 | 38 | 37 | 5 | 4 |
| Wellington | 100 | 180 | 52 | 31 | 24 |
| Wilcannia | 75 | 239 | 254 | 3 | 8 |
| Yass | 9 | 59 | 64 | 2 | 2 |
| Pilliga | 150 | 30 | 27 | 5 | ... |
| Total | ... | 2,309 | 2,155 | 66 | 81 |

APPENDIX "D."

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1953.

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—

| | £ | £ |
|---|----------------|---|
| Salaries and Wages | 67,279 | |
| Maintenance of Buildings | 2,872 | |
| Transport Expenses | 12,193 | |
| Maintenance of, and assistance to, aborigines | 43,962 | |
| Other charges | 2,162 | |
| Purchase of Plant and Equipment..... | 1,425 | |
| | <u>129,893</u> | |

Payable from General Loan Account—

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| New Buildings, Station improvements and Land Purchases | 36,747 | |
| | <u>36,747</u> | |

166,640

Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies..... | 7,624 | |
| Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc. | 964 | |
| Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc. | 1,914 | |
| New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services | 4,655 | |
| Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding | 3,602 | |
| | <u>18,759</u> | |
| Total | | <u>185,399</u> |