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No. 44

(SECOND SESSION)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

# REPORT

OF THE

# ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1954

BY COMMAND



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# Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1954.

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 only change in the personnel of the Board during the year, was the resignation of Mr. E. Wetherell, M.L.A., and his replacement by Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A., nominated by the Minister.

The present 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 the 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. S. Wyatt, 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.*

During the year, the Board has pursued its policy, formulated in recent years, of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community.

Education, better housing, regular employment in skilled or semi-skilled occupations by those capable of undertaking such work, and social welfare work by a team of trained Welfare Officers have been the chief means used throughout the year in the implementation of this policy.

Some barriers to the attainment of this objective still remain. They lie in the apathy and lack of initiative on the part of a great number of aborigines, and the prejudice of the white community and its reluctance to fully accept them. It can be said that the efforts of the Board are bearing fruit, and there is evidence on the part of not a few aborigines, of an awakening to their responsibilities and a conscious effort towards self-help, and a determination to establish themselves as acceptable members of the community. Towards these, there is a perceptible lessening of that prejudice which has for so long characterised the attitude of members of the white race towards the aboriginal in Australia.

### *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, and during the year, a total of seventy visits was paid by the Superintendent to Stations and Reserves.

Advantage was taken of the opportunity, on these occasions, to contact local civic authorities, and a number of talks were given to other bodies interested in the problem of aboriginal welfare.

### *Staff.*

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 from five to six, and the Public Service Board approved the appointment of a lady Welfare Officer, with nursing qualifications. It is anticipated that she will take up duty early in the new year. This will materially strengthen the corps of Welfare workers, and provide a much-needed service, particularly to mothers and adolescent girls.

The Public Service Board also approved the appointment of a building Maintenance Officer and a Plant Engineer. These appointments will enable much-needed maintenance and repair work to be regularly undertaken.

### *General Expenditure.*

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government, amounted to £129,456, which approximated the expenditure of the previous year.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £29,008, compared with £36,747. This was a decrease of £7,739.

A full statement of expenditure 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 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.*

The Board was able to complete the rebuilding of the Moree Station, and eight additional homes were erected there.

Towards the end of the year, commitments were entered into with the Housing Commission for the erection on town sites of six houses in Yass. These, when erected early next year, will be allotted to worthy aboriginal families. The Board also purchased a number of allotments in other country towns and will build on these in the coming year. It is hoped that funds will be available for the erection of some fifty houses.

During the year, an amount of £9,500 was granted by the Treasury to enable the Board to make advances to selected aborigines by way of loan, to enable them to purchase a home, or erect a home on land they may already have acquired. Applications for such loans are now being considered.

Improvements and repairs to dwellings on other Stations have been effected and improved water supplies installed at some Stations and Reserves.

Since the War, the Board has completely rebuilt eight Stations providing two and three bedroom houses of modern design. For these, rentals of 15s. and 17s. 6d. per week are charged, in agreement with tenants. This is not regarded as being an economic rental, but as a means of inculcating a sense of responsibility and preparing aborigines to accept their obligations in the community.

While a few have regularly met their commitments, the response generally has been disappointing. The position at the 30th June, 1954, that of the total amount due and payable, £8,152 1s. 6d. has been paid, and £24,709 4s. 5d. is outstanding.

### *Education.*

It is the policy of the Board that, wherever possible, aboriginal children should receive their education in the ordinary Public Schools of the State. With this in view, the aboriginal schools on two Stations, viz., Taree and Burra Bee Dee, were closed and the children enrolled at the local Public School.

Where it has been possible to merge the children into public schools, it has been found 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, giving as it does to the dark children, a degree of confidence in their own ability which could not be gained by continued segregation.

Secondary education is available to any aboriginal child of the requisite standard, and as an encouragement, the Board awards a number of bursaries each year. During the year, four were so awarded. There are now twelve current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

At the close of the year, there was a total of 85 children attending High School.



It is worthy of mention that a number gained the Intermediate Certificate during the year and one boy is now studying for his Leaving Certificate examination.

A young lady who gained her Intermediate Certificate is now undergoing training at Young District Hospital for the nursing profession, and a boy is apprenticed at the Government Motor Garage as a motor mechanic.

At Walgett, the only remaining Station where the duties of Manager and Schoolteacher are combined, a teacher's residence will be erected shortly, and these duties separated. This will enable greater oversight to be given to the functions of management and teaching, with resultant benefit to both children and adults on the Station.

#### *Welfare Activities.*

The Board is firmly convinced that, hand in hand with a vigorous policy of rehousing and education, must go the work of the District Welfare Officer. This takes the form of benevolent guidance, instruction, persuasion and, where warranted, court action, with the object of securing the co-operation of the aborigines themselves to play their part in securing acceptance by the community generally, and their ultimate assimilation.

The Board now has seven 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. Almost daily, her help and advice is sought on many and varied problems. She is largely responsible for the placement and supervision of wards of the Board, and aftercare work with those who have completed a period of training in a Home and have been placed out in employment.

Six male officers are located at Nowra, Leeton, Dubbo, Walgett, Moree and Coffs Harbour. Each is responsible for a large area contiguous to his headquarters and their work lies primarily among aboriginal families not residing on Stations where they have the advantage of the guidance and advice of a resident Manager. These officers maintain a regular itinerary of visitation throughout their Districts and are frequently called upon to work under most adverse conditions. This they cheerfully do.

They co-operate with Managers of Stations in all matters affecting the general welfare of aborigines and endeavour to foster good relationships between the aboriginal communities in the various centres and the townspeople.

They maintain contact with local civic authorities, social agencies and welfare workers, and endeavour to promote a better appreciation and acceptance of the aborigine. They are frequently called upon to address meetings of citizens interested in our problems.

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

The nature of their work is many-sided and the following is a typical diary of a Welfare Officer, covering a trip away from headquarters.

“8 a.m.—Leave home and drive out to ——— Station for petrol. It is my intention to leave ——— early for ——— Station. Whilst filling the car with petrol, a girl comes across and asks whether I have been able to get her a job. When she has gone, a married woman arrives and starts to tell me about her husband who has deserted her. She asks whether she is entitled to maintenance. I take her to the Manager's office and get some information.

Back to the petrol store and another woman arrives; back to the office with her. This continues until 11 a.m. when I eventually get to ———.

1.15 p.m.—Arrive at ——— Station. Go round all the houses on the Station and have a few words with the residents of each. Watch an impromptu corroboree performed by a Station identity whilst on the rounds. Many of the people here have some particular difficulty or problem. At the moment we are attempting to popularise a garden-growing competition. Some of the people have responded; some have not. Eventually complete round of houses on the Station, talk over various matters with the Manager and depart for ———. Arrive ——— 11 p.m.

Mileage for day, 171 miles.

8 a.m.—Go across to ——— Reserve. Here I find that most of the residents have left the Reserve and are in the country. I have a word with Mr. ——— about the rates he has to pay for the block of ground on which he is living and take some notes for reference to the Lands Department. After this I drive out to see the other people. Mrs. ——— informs me that she soon hopes to have £400 in the Bank and when she has saved the money she hopes to buy a home.

1 p.m.—Arrive ———. Visit Mrs. ——— who tells me that her husband has gone away to ——— and has sent home no money for two months. She wants to know if she can summons him. I tell her that I will be in ——— soon and that I will see him first.

Slowly I work from house to house. Mrs. ——— junior has missed her Child Endowment payments. Another family have a T.B. suspect and arrangements have to be made for X-ray in ——— Hospital.

6 p.m.—Arrive back at hotel, write two letters and go to talk to local Police Sergeant who is including aborigines in his sporting organisations.

Mileage for day, 74 miles.

9 a.m.—Depart ——— for ———. Spend an hour in ——— seeing Insurance Companies re the insurance of voluntary labour on the construction of houses at ———.

12.30 p.m.—Arrive ———. In ——— it is necessary to visit the people living on the Reserve there and also a large number of people living off the Reserve in houses in the town. Once again a round has to be made of all the houses on the Reserve. Mrs. ——— has the care of two wards. These children are seen. Their school attendance is good and they are well dressed and clean. I am satisfied that Mrs. ——— is a good foster parent. Another lady has found a small five-year-old boy in ——— and brought him home to ———. The child had no parents with him and spent his time going from person to person. I manage to find out his name and where he comes from. The lady who now has him would like to adopt him. A lad on the Reserve has to complete certain papers relating to his admission to a mental hospital as a voluntary patient. These are completed.

One or two pensioners have missed an old age pension payment. I take particulars and will write to the Department concerned to see what has happened. After completing the Reserve, I drive to the other homes to visit the balance of the people. Among the difficulties here is Mrs. ——— who is anxious to take maintenance proceedings against her husband. I know that she will never go to Court in a case of this nature and that she only wants to use my interest to scare her husband into giving her more housekeeping money.

5 p.m.—Finish in ———.

6.30 p.m.—Arrive in ———. Here I have a very active committee that is attempting to do something about the deplorable conditions under which the coloured people live. So far they have on hand all the material to build their new homes, but lack the industry to commence work.

To-night there is a meeting called to discuss the disappointing result and to ask the coloured people in attendance just what they intend to do about it.

Meeting progresses from 7.30 p.m. until 10.15 p.m. I then return to headquarters.

2 a.m.—Arrive at headquarters.

Mileage for day, 212 miles.

Total mileage for trip, 457 miles.”

As stated previously, the objective of the Board is the ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general community. Welfare Officers endeavour to supplement the work of Station Managers, whose duty it is to educate and encourage aborigines in the attainment of acceptable standards of living and social behaviour. They act as liaison officers between the administration, the aborigines, and the members of the community.

The effectiveness of their work can be seen, firstly in the improved relationships between aborigines and the Board, and secondly in the decreasing degree of prejudice manifest in the white community.

Before the appointment of Welfare Officers, the vast majority of aborigines had little contact with the Board and regarded it merely as an administrative body in the capital city, responsible for their control and direction. The advent of the Welfare Officer has given them a more personal contact and helped them to understand that the Board exists rather for their help and encouragement than merely to control.

It is regrettable that a measure of prejudice still exists in some quarters, against these people. It varies from a blind, unreasoning intolerance based upon extremely superficial judgment, through mere apathy, to active antagonism. However, progress is noticeable in the attitude of the white population towards the dark people, and as feelings of understanding and tolerance replace ignorance and antipathy, the aborigine is found to be responsive, and is encouraged to make his own effort to bridge the gap.

The policy of the Board, strongly supported by the Education Department, of enrolling aboriginal children in the ordinary public schools, is paying dividends, and is regarded as a potent factor in the elimination of prejudice, the results of which will probably not be fully experienced until the present generation of children reach maturity. The benefit of training aboriginal girls in domestic science is even now bearing fruit which will be seen more fully when they become homemakers in the future.

All Welfare Officers have been active in securing the maximum amount of work for aboriginal workers, and report pleasing results in their endeavours to obtain employment in work of a permanent character, in skilled or semi-skilled occupations, rather than in unskilled seasonal work.

It is considered that the improvement of the "job status" of aboriginal workmen will not only improve the economic stability of the home, but will act as an excellent morale builder. Employment has been found with the Railway Department, public works, saw-mills, factories, as well as regular pastoral work. A number are contractors on their own account.

It is not easy to wean the aboriginal from casual seasonal work, catering as it does for the tendency in many to lead a nomadic life and offering opportunity for high wages and free spending for all members of the family.

Close attention has been given to the supervision of families living in sub-standard accommodation off Stations and Reserves. Many of the homes of these people afford only the barest minimum of accommodation and little effort is made to provide even the meanest comforts of home.

The appointment of a trained nurse as lady Welfare Officer to work particularly among such families, will, it is hoped, in time effect no small measure of improvement.

During the year, the Board arranged with the Department of Public Health to inaugurate a medical survey of aboriginal populations in various centres, particularly in relation to the incidence of worm infestation. This was found to be high, and appropriate treatment has been commenced and preventive measures devised.

X-ray examination was conducted in a number of centres, and results were gratifying. Cases of T.B. discovered proved to be surprisingly few. In appropriate cases, admission to hospital was arranged.

The interest on the part of the aboriginal people in community activities, is increasing, and their support of local hospitals, ambulance, and other civic organisations is reflected in their growing acceptance in the community.

It is the constant aim of the Board and its Officers to impress upon aborigines, the vital necessity to make their own contribution towards the goal of assimilation.

Some indication of the nature and scope of the work of Welfare Officers is given in Appendix "E", which sets out the number of visits and interviews conducted during the last six months of the year under review.

#### *"Dawn" Magazine.*

Interest in this monthly publication has been well maintained and circulation has increased. It is pleasing to note that many interested members of the white community have requested that they be placed on the mailing list.

This magazine is a valuable medium through which to bring to the people, both coloured and white, the objectives of the Board and the methods adopted for their implementation. Contributions continue from many of the aboriginal people.

Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to feature articles on health, hygiene and home management.

#### *Summer Seaside Camp.*

The Summer Camp was held in January on the Board's property at La Perouse. Tents were erected to accommodate the children and the Army authorities kindly loaned a large marquee which was used as a dining hall. A total of sixty-four children attended from western districts. The camp was staffed by members of the Board's field and Head Office staff, with the assistance of ex-students from the Teachers' College who were on vacation from their 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 and the Tivoli Theatre. A bus tour of the waterside suburbs and other points of interest was arranged and also a launch trip to Kurnell. Evening entertainments were arranged for them and on those days when they were not enjoying outings, much time was spent on the beach and swimming in the calm waters of Botany Bay adjacent to the camp site.

The camp was blessed with fine weather, except on the first day, and at the conclusion of the camp the children returned to their homes with regret and volubly expressive of their enjoyment of the holiday.

There is no doubt that these annual camps provide not only a source of healthy recreation, but serve a most useful purpose in the social development of those privileged to participate.

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.

Aboriginal children may be received to the wardship of the Board on the application of a parent or guardian, or may be committed by a Children's Court to the care of the Board. Neglected children may be committed to a Children's Home constituted under the Aborigines Protection Act, for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards.

The Act also authorises the boarding out of a ward in a selected foster home and the payment of an allowance to the foster parent, in addition to which the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to receive further benefits such as medical and dental expenses.

Action to remove a child from its own home is not taken until all efforts to rehabilitate the home have proved unsuccessful. This is an important part of the work of Welfare Officers.

The best substitute for a child's 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.

Difficulty is experienced in securing an adequate number of suitable foster homes, and for this reason, the Board maintains 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.*

The Home for male wards is at Kinchela, near Kempsey, on the bank of the Macleay River. It comprises 44 acres of good dairy land on which is maintained a dairy herd and poultry farm. 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, but this was damaged by flood during the year and is at present out of use. The number of inmates on 30th June, 1954, was fifty-one, compared with fifty-seven the previous year. During the year there were three admissions and nine discharges.

The general health of the inmates has been of a high standard, and a complete medical examination was conducted in January. A dentist visited twice during the year and gave attention to inmates. Where necessary, hospital attention is given at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey. Surveys were also made for tuberculosis and worm infestation.

Forty-three inmates attend the Public School situated in the Home grounds. Four inmates attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training. Of the four boys attending Kempsey High School, one is in fifth year and is studying for the Leaving Certificate Examination to be held in November 1954, one is in second year, and two are in "opportunity" first year class.

The Public School boys competed in the Public Schools Amateur Athletic Sports day meeting held at Kempsey, and although not placed in the winning schools, created much pleasurable comment by their demeanour, dress and cleanliness through the day whilst in the full public view.

Insofar as the High School Sports were concerned, one boy emerged as Senior Athletic Champion for Kempsey High School. Two have represented the High School in the First Grade Rugby Football team, First Grade Cricket team and have travelled to many towns throughout the State with such teams. These two lads have been billeted with white people whilst on such visits and all reports have been most favourable concerning their behaviour and sportsmanship. One boy represented Kempsey High School in swimming championships held at Taree.



The school choir won first place for the third successive year in the 1953 Kempsey Eisteddfod—small school choirs section—and the professional judges are quoted as saying “their singing qualities were most professional and of a very high standard.”

No effort is spared to keep all boys actively interested and engaged in some form of recreational pursuit, a balanced programme being maintained as far as is possible. Most boys take part in cricket and softball during the summer season and rugby and soccer football during the winter seasons. Every inmate has been taught to swim and this particular form of recreation is actively followed at all available times during spring, summer and autumn.

Boxing is a favourite form of sport amongst practically every boy, and many boxing competitions are held in the Home recreation hall. Indian club swinging is taught to senior boys. Gymnasium work is of a very high standard and a gymnasium display was held for members of the Kempsey Rotary Club on their annual visit to the Home at Christmas 1953.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and the end of the 1953 season saw their team major and minor premiers of Group 3 New South Wales Country Rugby Football League.

Six lads are members of the South-west Rocks Surf Life Saving Club and take part in all functions of that Club. One holds the bronze medallion for life saving and five have passed their proficiency test. During the Surf Life Saving Carnival season, one boy won every beach sprint (100 yards) throughout the season. The boys would each be qualified to sit for the examination for their bronze medallions except that they are not qualified by age.

Amateur Hour competitions throughout the district have received entries from boys at the Home. During the past six months, one boy has won all four competitions he has entered for.

A 16 mm. Cinevox Film Projector supplied to the Home, provides a weekly film show to all inmates and staff, and this form of entertainment is very popular with boys of all ages. High quality films are obtained from such well known film companies as Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pty. Ltd., Warner Bros., First National Pictures Pty. Ltd., Columbia Pictures Pty. Ltd., R.K.O. Films Pty. Ltd., etc.

In addition, selected senior boys attend at Kempsey “Mayfair” Theatre at intervals throughout the year. The Manager of the Theatre permits these boys to sit with their white companions from the Football and Surf Life Saving Clubs in any priced seats, thus eliminating the humiliation suffered by other aboriginal residents of this particular area who are forced into a segregated enclosure at the front of the cinema.

Firm friendships have been made between white and coloured youths thus breaking down to a degree, the obvious prejudice existing in this area. There is a growing consciousness amongst the white community that prejudices must go and that friendship must be given and extended to the lads, providing opportunities whereby they will be enabled to take their place quite naturally in their midst on discharge from the Home environment.

Inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties including the use of farm machinery, training in milking and butter making, vegetable gardening, fencing duties, horse riding and general farm maintenance. Younger inmates perform domestic duties and general cleaning duties throughout the Home area. With the increase in the number of poultry now kept at Kinchela, additional training is given in the care of poultry. Except for work-boys, all duties are rostered, no inmate spending more than one month at any particular task.

Regular religious instruction is imparted by visiting clergy.

During the Christmas period, the boys at the Home were entertained by the members of the Kempsey Rotary Club. On the afternoon of Monday, 21st December, several carloads of members of Rotary and their wives visited the Home. Prior to sitting down to refreshments, the boys entertained the visitors with a gymnastic display and an exhibition of Surf Life Saving Drills. The choir rendered Christmas carols and part-songs.

After the party, the President of the Kempsey Rotary Club presented to the Home over £100 worth of sporting equipment, including two championsize table tennis tables, badminton sets, baseball bats, quoits sets, etc., and many indoor card games.

At the same function, the Engineer-master of the Public Works Department Dredge “Cooks River” presented to the Home a cheque for £10, being proceeds of a collection made by the crews of the dredges “Cooks River” and “Neptune”.

During the period under review, special attention has been given to the production of vegetables and the training of inmates in this particular sphere. Unfortunately, adverse

climatic conditions experienced during the whole year with attendant plagues of both black beetles and caterpillars, have militated against a successful season. Very bad drought conditions were experienced during the first portion of the year, followed by cyclonic rains and local flooding in February. Taking the above adverse conditions into consideration, the results as shown hereunder, could be classed as most satisfactory, although the total yields were far below expectations. Details of the vegetable yield are set out hereunder:—

Beans, 89 lbs.	Parsnips, 20 lb.
Beetroot, 516 lb.	Potatoes, 40 bags.
Cabbage, 366 head.	Pumpkins, 312 head.
Carrots, 156 lb.	Rhubarb, 457 lb.
Chokos, 60 lb.	Spinach, 631 lb.
Cucumbers, long, 70.	Tomatoes, 323 lb.
Lettuce, 343 head.	

Total retail value of vegetables produced is estimated at about £263.

Surplus livestock was sold and yielded £233.

Production obtained from the dairy herd for the period under review was as follows:—

Total milk produced .....	9,139 gals.
Total milk consumed by inmates and staff .....	5,533 gals.
Milk separated .....	3,603 gals.
Butter produced .....	1,803 lb.

Egg production amounted to 286 dozen eggs for the yearly period.

Farm production in the matter of fodder for stock is listed hereunder:—

Product.	Acreage.	Estimated Production	Estimated Value.
	acres.		£ s. d.
Lucerne Hay .....	1	30 tons	26 0 0 per ton.
Saccalene .....	1	35 tons	10 0 0 per ton.
Maize (Corn) .....	1½	55 bush.	17 0 per bush.

The total value of products from the farm during the year is estimated at about £3,830.

#### Cootamundra Girls' Home.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

The Board has sixteen Stations under full resident supervision. Married couples are in charge as Manager and Matron, the Matron being, in some cases, a trained nurse.

On nine of these, the old type, simple form of dwelling has been replaced with new homes of modern design. The majority of residents have responded remarkably to the provision of these homes. Many are tastefully furnished, spotlessly clean, and tenants have provided for themselves such amenities as floor polishers, radios, washing machines and refrigerators. Vegetable and flower gardens are common in many instances.

These Stations are virtually housing settlements from which the menfolk and other workers proceed to employment in nearby towns or country districts. Where they are remote from neighbouring town, they have their own community organisations which cater for the social and recreational life of residents. In other instances, the people are encouraged to participate in the local town activities.

Church and recreation hall buildings have been provided, and regular services and functions of various kinds are held. At one Station, a Council, on the lines of a Municipal Council, with Mayor and Aldermen has been elected and works in co-operation with the Manager in the government and general care of the Station. Great improvements have been effected on this station and further progress is envisaged. An excellent community spirit prevails.

A treatment room exists on Stations, where attention is given to minor ailments. Where necessary, the attendance of a local doctor is obtained, or treatment arranged at hospital.

On a number of Stations, dairy herds are maintained, and a supply of fresh milk is available for children and indigents.

Appendix "B" indicates the population of the various Stations at 30th June, 1954.

Reports from individual Stations follow.

##### *Boggabilla.*

During the year, a trend has developed amongst the Station residents to secure positions with property owners and to live out on such stations. This trend is slowly but definitely gathering momentum. Some families have already left the Station and are working on properties.

Buildings on the Station are all of weatherboard construction and are very old. However, several residents have made additional rooms, including bathrooms, and have painted rooms at their own cost. A supply of paint has now been received to paint all cottages on the Station. When this is applied the cottages will look more cheerful and have a lot more individuality.

The health of the residents generally, has been very good. No epidemics or other infectious diseases have occurred during the year. There have been some cases of pneumonia and bronchitis which have all been successfully treated in hospital. All minor ailments, cuts, bruises, etc., have been treated successfully on the Station.

The employment position throughout the year was good. Unemployment was at a minimum. In fact, it could be said there was none. The chief agency of employment which sorbed 75 per cent. of able-bodied men, was ring-barking. Shearing, which is much more profitable, was indulged in by the experts from the Station. Others were engaged as station and farm hands. Those engaged in this work were permanently employed.

The Station now has a beautiful boxing ring and all accessories. This ring was built by the handymen with the financial backing of the "Boggabilla Aboriginal Station Social Club". This club has been very busy during the year in organising no less than four boxing tournaments, Christmas functions, children's sports, and dozens of other social functions. The school children also did their share in putting on a very good concert.

There were sixty-two children enrolled at school. The Headmaster and teacher are very pleased with the progress of their pupils. A greater emphasis has been placed by the teachers on personal hygiene, speech training, moral training and, in short, training for good citizenship. As a result, the pupils are cleaner, enunciation has improved, and above all, their manners and obedience is a credit to them. The school children are now able to conduct their own meeting and have formed a Gould League of Bird Lovers and also a "School Management Committee". The children are taking more interest in their school and, through this zeal, the Headmaster hopes to gain more support from the parents. To this end a Parents and Citizens' Association has been formed.

Christmas was enjoyed by young and old with enthusiasm. To augment the Board's donation for the children's party, the management organised a boxing tournament and a dance and the proceeds were used for the party. A huge, tastefully decorated "tree" was obtained. Each child received a present and, in addition, cakes, lollies, fruit, ice cream and tea. Assistance

was given in this respect by citizens of Boggabilla. The children were treated to two Christmas functions while the other residents were entertained with dances and socials. The festivities ended with a grand New Year's Eve dance.

Representatives of the A.I.M. visit the Station regularly and the Anglican Vicar at Boggabilla attends for church service every fourth Sunday, and the school every fourth Thursday.

During the year, quite a deal has been accomplished. The residents have been given a lot more freedom and encouraged to mix with the white community. The several organisations in the towns of Goondiwindi and Boggabilla have been approached with a view to inviting the aborigines to their functions. As a result, children and adults have been going to the sports, free picture shows and have been invited to participate in the various tournaments.

Previously, the Goondiwindi Hospital refused to accept the aborigines in their hospital. The management, by establishing good relations with the staff and doctors, and donating money to the hospital and the Ambulance Brigade at Goondiwindi, has, more or less, done away with Moree as the hospital centre for Boggabilla Aboriginal Station.

A new dairy yard has been completed and a new dairy unit and bails are to be installed.

It has been the policy of the management to encourage good homes and the purchase of furniture. It has been gratifying to note that no less than five families have purchased furniture, crockery, bed linen, etc., others have even gone as far as purchasing good lounge suits and carpets.

Encouragement has been given to the keeping of poultry. Here also, a few families have gone ahead. A number of homes have good gardens, and residents generally have been urged to undertake more in this direction.

##### *Braquarrina.*

The condition of the Station is improving, both from morale and physical viewpoint. The present Manager has been here only six months so that much of the current programme has yet to be effected; however, progress may be regarded as satisfactory.

The population of the Station remains fairly static; two families have left the Station in the last six months and five family groups came to live on the area. Employment of residents is good. However, during slack periods, many aborigines come to live on the Station and the Manager acts as an employment agency as almost all the employers in the district telephone or contact the Manager when vacancies occur.

Maintenance to buildings during the last half year has been considerable. Roofing and wall paint has been supplied and most of the houses have had a coat of paint; lining material is on hand and some six of the houses are 90 per cent. complete. The remainder of the buildings are being renovated at the moment and completion at the present rate of work may be expected in about two months.

The health of the residents, both adult and infant, is excellent. Due to a programme of sanitations, and rigid policing, the usual gastro cases have been completely eliminated, the number of eye complaints is almost nil and the school children and infants are gaining weight over and above normal increase.

The class of work performed by residents ranges through many groups including fencing, post cutting, shearing, wool shed work, crutching, droving, both cattle and sheep, and general handymen round station homesteads. Three of the residents have their own plant, and contract for work in the district.

Interest in local organisations is at the moment confined to football, but Matron is endeavouring to interest the local townspeople in the welfare of the residents. This year the residents formed an Amenities Club with the purpose in mind of building a children's playground. Various functions were held, and with the Board's assistance, a number of pieces of playground equipment were purchased, leaving a very fair balance of money which will be used to purchase a piano. A football club was formed and is now in possession of full equipment purchased by the club. Many of the club members play with the local white team, and the question of colour does not arise in this regard.

The education of the children is much the same as on any other Station. The school has a fine vegetable garden and the pupils are very well turned out.

The Methodist Sisters visit the school once a week to instruct in the Scriptures, and as soon as a hall is erected, will attend each week to teach handcrafts. The local Catholic Priest and some of the Sisters have visited the Station and indicate that if facilities are made available, the Station will be visited regularly. This is being held over until the hall is built. A minister of the Australian Inland Mission holds fairly regular prayer meetings in one of the residences and in the open during summer.



It is pleasing to report that most of the repair work done on the houses has been performed by the occupants at the week-ends and during slack times of their employment. The communal laundry-bathroom has been commenced; the foundations are laid out and pouring of concrete will shortly begin. Three acres of ground has been ploughed and planted to peas, beans, and various root crops, also cabbages and cauliflowers. The Park has been cleared, all the ornamental trees trimmed and flowers planted. Water has been laid on to both the Park and the vegetable garden and a booster pump installed in the vegetable garden so that the ground may be watered by spray instead of ditch irrigation. The steam cleaner in the sanitary depot has been repaired and now operates. The Station launch was slipped, all old paint and caulking removed and repainted and recaulked. Preparatory work is now in hand to erect two high-level water storage tanks, and material is available to improve the water pumping system. The Station vehicle had an engine overhaul, work performed by Station staff.

Matron instituted a sewing circle, many of those attending showing very good aptitude. Attendance, however, has not been good in spite of encouragement by way of afternoon tea, etc. A Baby and pre-school Medical Clinic has been operating for six months; the pre-natal Clinic is held in conjunction with this.

Due to vigilance of the local Police, drunkenness is rare on the Station (three cases in six months). It is gratifying to note that since the residents have been painting their homes, the cleanliness has improved to a very great extent. The road to Brewarrina was reformed and graded and is now in excellent condition. The road is the Station's responsibility and is about 8 miles long. Fire breaks have been made around the Station. The Station is headquarters for No. 7 Bush Fire Fighting Unit, one of the aboriginal residents being the Deputy Captain.

All material and food storage systems have been reorganised, nearly all administrative buildings repainted, and a workshop fitted out.

#### *Burnt Bridge (near Kempsey).*

During the course of the year, a movement of population, both from and to the Station, has been apparent.

Administrative buildings comprising the Manager's and Assistant Manager's residences, treatment room, office, ration store, and hall were connected to the Macleay County Council's electricity supply during the year. Some repairs were effected to aborigines dwellings. Two community laundries, one with a shower room attached, provide facilities for washing of clothes, and for bathing, and a weekly sanitary service, carried out under contract, is provided. The Station is connected to the Kempsey water supply and water is pumped to the Station overhead water storage 10,000 gallon tank and distributed to administrative and aborigines dwellings on the Station.

The general health of residents throughout the year has been reasonably good, but at one period there was an epidemic of measles amongst the children, with treatment being carried out by Matron on the Station. The only other case of major importance was a poliomyelitis, which was treated in the District Hospital and later transferred to the Far West Home at Manly for special attention.

During the course of the year, employment was not of a stable nature, especially in the timber trade, which provides an avenue of employment for a great number of male aborigines. Unemployment during the early part of the year was fairly rife, but this position seemed to ease towards the close. Nevertheless, the instability of many male aborigines when assisted to find employment, is most discouraging, and militates against the assimilation policy of the Department expressed and carried out by Field Staff. The lack of realisation of the value of money, or the proper use of at least a portion of earnings, is another disturbing factor in the lives of many aborigines, the incidence of liquor and gambling testifying to the improper use of this commodity.

Kerbing and guttering of the main roadway into the Station has been carried out during the latter part of the year, and at present is nearing completion with incidental jobs such as ramps into the garage, ration store, etc., forming part of this work, which is a decided improvement from the point of view of drainage and appearance.

Towards the latter part of June, a survey in relation to worm infestation was carried out by the Department of Public Health on the Station to pre-school children and to children attending Burnt Bridge Public School.

Primary education for all children from the kindergarten stage to sixth class, is given at the Burnt Bridge Public School, situated adjacent to the northern boundary of the Station, and staffed by three teachers. At present the average number of children attending this School is in the vicinity of 116, and on the resumption of School after the summer vacation, three children from Burnt Bridge proceeded with their secondary education at Kempsey High School.

From the point of view of amenities, and beautification, the Burnt Bridge School is a decided asset to both staff and pupils.

Clergy from the Catholic and Church of England denominations regularly conduct religious instruction at the Burnt Bridge Public School and frequently a Priest from the Catholic Church visits the Station, usually on Saturday mornings, for the purpose of conducting Mass.

Children from this Station attending Burnt Bridge Public School, participate in District School competitions and trophies on display in the School show evidence of many successes.

The girls' basketball team formed last year, and wearing uniforms provided by the Station Social and Recreational Club, still participates in local matches and is now an accepted unit of this phase of girls' sports.

At present there is being held a district Queen Competition to raise funds for the local Ambulance, Hospital, and support of a Cot-Fund in a Sydney Hospital. This Station is pledged to support the Ambulance, and Hospital Queen, and to this end there has been already two dances held, one in the Station hall, the proceeds of such netting in the vicinity of £40. An Aborigines Ball, in aid of the Ambulance and Hospital Queen, was held in the Agricultural Hall at the Showground, Kempsey, the proceeds of this function being approximately £70. In connection with these functions, the local radio station, 2KM, has now made a recording at the Manager's residence on the Station, for the purpose of broadcasting the interest displayed, and assistance given by aborigines towards the above-mentioned Queen Competition.

Many young males who do their training in the Station Recreation hall, take part in the frequent boxing tournaments held in Kempsey, and some even travel as far as Port Macquarie to take part in boxing matches held in aid of various local charities.

#### *Burra Bee Dec (via Coonabarabran).*

There has been some trend for residents to move away from the Station and not always into better conditions. An example of this is a couple and their five children who left the Station to live in a poorly constructed shanty closer to the town.

The employment position is most satisfactory, with nine men being permanently employed as mill hands, station hands and fettlers. Two others are shearers with a run of sheds giving them seven months full employment at the high award rates normally paid. Four others are usually employed on a casual basis and seldom need the Board's assistance with rations.

One old dwelling was demolished and the residence formerly occupied by the school teacher has become available for an aboriginal family. The school is now being used as a recreation hall. Repairs have been effected to most buildings but some minor repairs still remain to be done. General painting is needed on all buildings.

The health of the residents has been remarkably good with only one case of serious illness, rheumatic fever. The residents are clean and hygienic in their habits and show a very commendable interest in the care of their children.

Despite the distance from Coonabarabran, four of the younger men represent the town at football and are very keen with a strong following from other members of the Station. Coloured people are able to attend all public functions in Coonabarabran without any bar, and from time to time exercise this privilege.

The Station school was closed at the end of the last school year, and all Station children now attend the Public School in Coonabarabran, travelling to and from town by the special school bus. The results of the half-yearly examinations have not yet been analysed, but a discussion with teachers indicates that some special effort will need to be made to bring the Station children to average standards. The closing of the Station school has brought financial strain on some families, but in all cases the parents of the children have made special efforts to see that their children are able to meet and mingle with the white children on equal terms. It is understood that three boys from this Station will shortly represent their school at football when the school team visits Narrabri.

The missionaries, Miss Barnett and Miss Knight, regularly visited the Station until Miss Barnett's death recently. Since then Miss Knight has carried on the bi-weekly visits as before the regrettable death of her co-worker. It speaks well for these two church workers that they are always referred to with respect and affection by the aborigines as "The Ladies". A large group of coloured people joined with other members of the community to pay their last respects to Miss Barnett at her graveside.

A breaking-up party was held for the children of the Station by the combined efforts of the schoolteacher, the parents, and the Manager and Matron, at the end of the school year. A Christmas tree was also arranged for Christmas Day, and a sports meeting on the Station on New Year's Day, when prizes were given liberally for the winners in a wide range of races and sports.

The year has demonstrated that the majority of the residents of this Station need only the opportunity for proper housing off the Station to enable them to take their full place in the general community. They have shown by their independence, cleanliness, regularity of employment, and by their marked interest in the furnishing and care of their homes that they are ready and willing to accept full membership in the general community if the community is willing to accept them.

The old school building, now available as a recreation hall, should provide much wider scope for social activities on the Station, and it is anticipated that this will be exploited to the full during the coming year.

#### *Cabbage Tree Island (Richmond River).*

The Board's policy of assimilation has been followed with some degree of success. Two families have left the Station, and five of the younger set have been encouraged to get work away from their homes. Work in the district is seasonal. To offset this disadvantage, private market gardening has been fostered through the co-operation of the Board. Five residents, apart from normal gardening, have commenced market gardening. This scheme is in its infancy, and it is hoped before long to have a larger following.

The advancement of mechanisation has shown its effects on the residents of this Station. Improved crushing of sugar has shortened the season. The automatic cane planter and rotary hoe has dispensed with labour which was normally drawn from this Station. The award wage enables only the competent workers to gain employment. Efforts to form a work gang to get available work in the area at contract rates, were successful. A small percentage get work in the off season, but this is hardly adequate for normal progress. A few of the more progressive types tried to get permanent employment as labourers in Railway gangs. One obtained employment.

This Station has twelve new buildings in very good condition. Sanction has been given for repairs and painting of six old homes. A new Manager's office will be constructed shortly. The wharf on the mainland has been repaired and the drainage system of the Island has been cleared. Damage caused by a high flood, has been negligible, but it has counteracted efforts to stop soil erosion by killing young planted mangroves.

The health of residents has been generally good. Treatment room assistance and active co-operation by the staff of Ballina Hospital enables the residents to receive adequate medical attention. During the year a campaign against round worm was conducted by the Health Department; there are, however, still cases of infection. All the children on the Station have been immunised against diphtheria.

The introduction of a picture show on the Island during the cane season was greatly appreciated by the residents. Dances were held by the younger set with fine co-operation from Coraki. Football, the main attraction of Cabbage Tree Island, still holds predominance over all other sport. Owing to a shortage of players this season, all available players have joined Ballina Club. This has been an advantage in furthering assimilation, for they have been very well received. Inter-school matches have been a step in the right direction. Parents showed great interest in watching their children playing on their home ground against the visiting Woodburn teams. A junior football field and volleyball court have added to the advancement of sport for the school children.

Competent guidance under the Headmaster of the School on the Island has shown great improvement in the tone and general progress of the children. It has been furnished with modern furniture, and supplied with the latest physical training equipment. Inter-school matches have broadened the outlook of the children and helped to lessen their shyness. The first school concert was given at Christmas to an appreciative audience. More could be achieved in this line with the active co-operation of parents.

Active participation by mothers did much in furthering the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the allowance provided by the Board. This, together with donations by mothers and local tradespeople enabled a function for all the residents of Cabbage Tree Island to be held. Later, the mothers on the reception committee entertained the guests to tea.

Religious services have been conducted by the Church of England Minister, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic Priest, and Aborigines. Due to the situation of the Station, these have not been as frequent as expected.

#### *Cowra.*

The usual migration took place during the past year, during the fruit season families moving to Young and Griffith districts. All families participating in this industry returned when the work finished.

The Government Railways Department employed eight men from this Station and this relieved the unemployment position.

As the Station houses are new, only maintenance and painting has been necessary, with the exception of one cottage which had been badly damaged by former tenants, making it necessary to carry out major repairs and paint both interior and exterior walls.

The health of the residents was affected by an epidemic of influenza during the spring months, and also several cases of whooping cough amongst the children.

A number of dances have been held at intervals during the year, the music for which was supplied by several young men of the Station and consisted of an accordion, guitar and gum leaves. Visitors commented on the time and quality of the music.

The Salvation Army is holding a "Home League Afternoon" for the women every Thursday. This is well attended.

During the cold months of the year the Gymnasium was continued. A trip to Bathurst was a great success, four out of five contestants in the boxing tournament being successful, and again this year the boys were guests at dinner of the President of the Bathurst Police Boys' Club.

The Youth Club was held regularly during the winter months but was suspended when the weather became warm and the attendance fell off.

Twenty-two children attend the Cowra Public School, of whom five attend the High School. Five children attend the Convent School in Cowra. It is still found necessary in some cases to continually remind the parents of the necessity of regular attendance.

The usual party with Christmas tree was held for the children, and a well-known resident of Cowra acted the part of Santa Claus, much to the delight of the young folk who each received a gift, sweets, cakes and cordial drinks; a dance followed for the adults.

The residents are well catered for in religious instruction. The Catholic Church, Salvation Army and an Aboriginal resident missionary hold regular services on Sunday and throughout the week.

Drinking is still a problem and one that does not appear to have an immediate solution. Several women, besides most men, drink freely.

The private gardens have been satisfactory during the past year, some very fine vegetables have been produced as well as attractive flower gardens in a large percentage of the homes. The trees planted the previous year in the children's playground and the Church grounds are making good progress.

The Progress Club bought seats for the Church and still holds a credit balance in the Bank. The tennis court is kept in good repair and has been well patronised during the year.

#### *Moree.*

The population of this Station is in the vicinity of 320, but varies from time to time owing to workers departing to other parts to engage in seasonal occupations.

All of the twenty-four new cottages have been provided with shower recess and laundry facilities. The seven renovated cottages have also been provided with showers and laundries of a similar nature. The sanitary system is of the pan type and is cleared regularly by the contractor, twice a week when necessary. The contractor contracts for the Moree Municipal Council.

Water is pumped from a well by a Pumona three-stage electric pump into two 10,000 gallon tanks and thence reticulated to all houses. The 20,000 gallon static capacity is insufficient for the Station but this is offset by the nature of the pump which is capable of filling the tanks within two hours. The waste water is pumped through a main to which each house is connected by two sillage pumps, and eventually is spread over a waste area of land away from the Station.

The School on the Station has an average enrolment of 130, including children who live off the Station. All the children of school age on the Station attend the Station School and seem both happy and contented there. There is very little absenteeism and three of the older children are attending the Moree High School. The girls particularly enjoy the cooking lesson and considerable benefit should be forthcoming from this activity as the girls grow older and marry.

Employment has been patchy throughout the year. The general occupations followed here are shearing which is a seasonal pursuit, and rural labouring of a semi-skilled nature such as fencing.

Towards the end of last year in about October, November, December, 1953, and early in this year, April, May, June, 1954, there were definite depressions which affected the Station severely. During these periods the issue of rations rose considerably.

During a good season, the population of the Station tends to rise as families following work throughout the district converge on Moree. This Station has a very large floating population consisting primarily of the type of family outlined



above and also of families who have been employed on properties and living in houses provided by employers on such properties. When the job ceases, they return to the Station and may spend weeks here before returning to other similar employment.

A considerable amount of work has been completed on the Station, the playing area has been completely fenced and the playground for children commenced. This work has been performed by voluntary station labour. Broken windows have been mended and an attempt made to inspire residents of the Station to look after their homes and gardens.

Another innovation has been the formation of a Station Council. This Council was elected by the people after the nomination of selected candidates. The duties of the Council will be to accept many of the responsibilities of the management and as far as possible to make the people handle their own affairs.

A Boys' Club has been formed and is enthusiastically attended by the younger boys of the Station. At the Boys' Club they learn weight-lifting, community games and general sport, and it is hoped that through this Club they will grow up with a feeling of solidarity with their friends and that a healthy team spirit will be developed.

Several dances have been held during the year and the money has been accumulated with the intention of purchasing amenities for the Station. All the residents take a keen interest in the social life of the Station and attend most of the gatherings.

The Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist ministers attend the Station and hold services. Special commendation is given to the Baptist preacher who has taken a considerable interest in the Station and has given to the management, much assistance.

The health of the residents has been satisfactory throughout the year, and apart from an outbreak of gastro-enteritis, there have been no major epidemics.

It is intended that the following work on the Station be undertaken in the near future:—

1. The laying of water piping—grassing and complete laying out of sporting fields.
2. The building and erecting of the children's playground which is to consist of sixteen different articles of playground equipment.
3. Installing hot water service to all homes on the Station.
4. Electric light and power to each home.
5. Painting of all homes both inside and out.
6. The eradication of the thorn bushes.

The above work is to be carried out using Station labour with the guidance of the management and the Station Council. The materials used for 1, 2 and 5 to be supplied from Station stock when available. The materials for the hot water service (3) copper piping and tanks, taps, etc., are to be bought from funds raised from functions held during the year.

The cost of all materials and equipment for the electric light (4) to be found by the residents desiring this amenity. This work to be supervised by the Assistant Manager who is a licensed electrician.

#### *Murrin Bridge (near Lake Cargelligo).*

There has been very little fluctuation in the number of aborigines on the Station. Most of the able-bodied men have been in constant employment during the past year. Classes of employment are fencing, trapping, shearing, timber cutting, tree poisoning, burning off and general farm work. Several of the men are permanently employed by the Water Commission, and one or two by local timber mills.

A new 5,000 gallon tank, complete with stand, has been erected, and the children's playground completed and painted in bright colours. Repairs have been carried out to housing, gates and fences, and roads graded. The whole of the boundary fence has been renewed and the old one pulled down. A sullage pit has been made at the school teacher's residence and is now in operation, and the Assistant Manager's cottage completely painted. Lastly, the Station property was cleared of noxious weeds.

The health of the people has been quite good, complaints such as gastro-enteritis have dropped to almost nil, partly due to improved sanitary services. The school children have been given cod-liver oil and vitamin pills daily.

Dances have been held regularly and have been well attended by the Station residents.

The present enrolment of children at the school is seventy-five. The school teacher reports that aptitude is being shown by senior girls in home science, and a number of pupils, especially in the lower classes, are showing great improvement in scholastic attainments. The school won the 1953 aboriginal school garden competition, and preparations for a spring garden display are at present under way.

Dances were held at Christmas time and proceeds went to the children's party. Assistance was given by the Lake Cargelligo branch of C.W.A.. One hundred and thirty-five children were present and all received a gift.

Sunday School has been held once a fortnight and religious instruction given twice a week at the school. During the last quarter, aboriginal missionaries have held meetings, these being very well attended.

Although most of the men are employed, work is not as plentiful as it was earlier in the year. Considering the background of these people, the houses are, on the whole, well cared for. Their social life is very much restricted due to the isolation of the Station. The children make the most of their playground. This is definitely an asset to the Station. The Station property is stockproof now that the whole of the boundary fence has been renewed.

For the most part, the people on this Station cannot be regarded as having progressed to a stage where their absorption into the general community could be considered.

#### *Caroona (near Quirindi).*

The total aboriginal population on the Station is 227, and a number live nearby, while not actually residing on the Station, are a part of the Station community. They are closely related to the Station residents, take a prominent part in Station activities, the children go to the Station School, and they come to the Manager and Matron for assistance in their troubles and illnesses.

All cottages are fitted with laundries and showers, and Station water is laid on. In addition, each new cottage is equipped with a 1,000 gallon rain water tank. Earth closets are provided, and a supply of disinfectant is regularly issued. Garbage is emptied once a week, and drawn to the township garbage dump.

Water is pumped from a well about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the buildings, into overhead tanks, from which it is reticulated through the Station. This water, while very hard, has been passed as fit for use by the Health Department.

The employment position on this Station is good. No rations are issued. One family of nine has just moved onto the Station from poor living conditions in Moree. None have left the Station to merge into the general community. All houses on the Station are occupied.

There is no community garden. In a Station like this where there is practically full employment and men are only home for the week-ends, community gardens would not be successful. Instead, every encouragement is given to home vegetable gardens. The home gardens on the Station are very creditable indeed, and with assistance and encouragement from the staff, should be a feature of the Station in the future.

There is a dairy herd of thirty-four and milk is supplied to the school for the school lunch. Milk is also distributed to the cottages for the benefit of the pre-school children.

There is a primary school on the Station with forty-three pupils at present, but there is a seasonal fluctuation in numbers. The Headmaster is doing most excellent work. He is very interested in the children, both in school and out of school hours. The children are well behaved and reflect the care he has given them.

There are fifteen children from the Station attending the Quirindi High School, travelling by bus. Owing to the distance from Quirindi, the parents of High School children cannot attend the High School Parents and Citizens' meetings, and take no part in the various activities.

Buildings are in very fair condition. The residents take great pride in their houses and most are tastefully furnished and well kept.

The health of the residents is, generally, very good.

Religious instruction is given by clergymen of various denominations who visit the Station from time to time.

Football is a favourite sport and the football club entered two teams for the Tamworth League Competition. Working bees were organised and cleaned and levelled the playing area, fenced it, erected dressing sheds and generally improved the field. The teams did very well and achieved a reputation for sportsmanship through the whole district. The club is functioning with great enthusiasm. At one dance and match held, nearly £60 net profit was shown.

Some of the boys are attending the Quirindi Police Boys' Club. Owing to the long distance and transport difficulties, attendance is rather spasmodic. It is hoped to start a Club of this description on the Station in due course. Some assistance is received from the white residents of the district and good relationships are developing.

Nine pupils who constituted the entire sixth class, commenced their studies at High School at the start of the school year. A school visit to the Binnaway Public School was very successful. The behaviour of the children was exemplary, and the entire lack of colour prejudice was extremely heartening.

A breaking-up party was held at Christmas. Gifts of drinks and ice cream were made by Caroon storekeepers. The Parents and Citizens' Association is functioning satisfactorily. Generally the school had a successful year.

Caroon is a well designed Station in beautiful surroundings. It has a large number of visitors from the outside community who come from a wide area. The residents of the Station are generally of a very good type, although there are some backward families. They have considerable pride in their homes and in the Station generally, but it is disappointing that they will not pay their rent though well able to do so.

#### *Tabulam (via Casino).*

The year ending 30th June, 1954, has been one of success for Tabulam Station. In this period, new buildings have been erected, new cow bails have been erected with concrete floors, also a power house has been built and the installation of a 32 volt lighting plant which supplies the Manager's residence.

The employment position has not improved, as most of the work in the district is casual. Better wages for casual labour have been obtained due to discussion and meetings with the local townspeople.

Health among the older residents has greatly improved, although many of them still need quite an amount of dental attention. There has only been one death on the Station during the year, this being an aborigine of 65 years who had been in ill health for a considerable period.

During an inspection by the Shire Health Inspector, of all the houses and sanitation arrangements, he informed me that he was very satisfied that all the houses and toilets were as clean as they could possibly be. Regular inspections are carried out of all the houses. Most of the residents have attempted to provide themselves with more furniture. Each house has been provided with a large coir mat measuring 12 ft. x 9 ft. These were bought from the profits of dances held on the Station. Each house has a flower garden, also a small vegetable plot. It is hoped during the next year to start a large Station garden worked by voluntary labour.

A cultivation farm has been started and eight acres of land has already been ploughed. The fencing of the farm was all done by voluntary labour, and a great interest is being shown by many of the residents. A Station dairy herd is being maintained.

Weekly religious services are being held on the Station, and the general morale is quite high. Various denominations visit the school regularly to give religious instruction.

Weekly dances are held which are well supported both by young and old.

A team from the school played social matches against all neighbouring schools. They were undefeated in these games and their good form led them to be nominated in the Far North Coast Schools Carnival at Casino. To obtain match practice and experience, matches were arranged every Sunday as a curtain raiser to the Grade Football against stronger combined teams and their football improved. Although eliminated in the first round against a strong Murwillumbah side, they received much praise as they played without boots. However, boots and socks have been purchased, and now they possess a smart outfit and it is hoped that they will meet with more success this year. A large cup was awarded to them for their cleanliness and bearing during the march through Casino.

Pupils from the school participated in the Mummulgum and District Sports and were an unqualified success. For the first time they appeared in their smart white and green uniforms and this contributed to their success in no small way. Four trophies were won on the day. The Newton Cup was won as runner-up to all-comers.

The Athletic Team participated in the Casino District P.S.A.A.A. Carnival and came third out of thirty-nine schools. The team received the Gooley Cup for being the runner-up in the Small Schools Section.

The boys won the relay championship and two boys won their age races. As a result, these boys participated in the All-School Championships at Sydney. Although they were unsuccessful, they performed creditably considering they had at that time only been in competitive athletics for three months. Running shoes have been purchased and their experience gained should be very valuable for the next season. All children can swim and competitive swimming competitions are being arranged for next season.

A wide and varied programme of activities is included in the Physical Education lessons and the skills learnt here have been largely responsible for their success in the various sporting spheres.

Folk dancing was introduced and the children were very successful at this. However, this was discontinued at Christmas time and square dancing has been introduced. Their excellent rhythm, timing, and co-ordination have made this extremely successful. Most pupils have learnt seven square dances which they can perform with grace and confidence.

Various sporting equipment has been purchased by the school and this gives confidence and enthusiasm to the pupils. This, allied with their excellent foot-eye and hand-eye co-ordination, and instruction in the skills associated with each sport, make them very polished performers in practically every sphere of activity. Square dance skirts and blouses are being made and this will make a big improvement due to the added confidence given and the realisation of the colourful spectacle it presents.

Plans have been submitted to the Department of Education for the erection of permanent physical education fixtures and as soon as approval has been granted, these will be erected. Included in these are scrambling nets, horizontal ladder, parallel bars, vaulting horse, rope swinging equipment. This should be very useful to the school and most enjoyable for the children.

#### *Taree.*

An increase in population has been largely due to the inclusion of those aboriginal families who lived on the Travelling Stock Reserve adjoining the Station and which has now become part of the Station. The increase by admission and birth has been temporarily offset by departures resulting from employment becoming available in other districts.

It may not be regarded as entirely satisfactory that only about 52 per cent. of the able-bodied men of the Station are in constant employment. However, considering the lack of variety in regular employment available in the district and the capabilities and suitabilities of the individuals concerned, the position is not really bad. Furthermore, the balance of the men concerned are mostly casually employed on an average of about one day in three.

The position with regard to youths is not so good. Of a total of thirteen, only two are in constant employment, and only seven have engaged in employment of a casual nature to any considerable degree. Special efforts have been made to deal with this problem and the services of the Aborigines Welfare Officer and Commonwealth Employment Officer have been enlisted. Disinclination on the part of the youths concerned to leave the Station to seek employment where it might be available is the biggest stumbling block to any progress.

The School building on the Station is being converted for use as a dwelling and is almost ready for occupation.

The general health of residents is very satisfactory. Roundworm infestation still causes some trouble among the children and there is usually at least one case undergoing treatment each week.

Internal social activities have been carried on in much the same manner as reported last year. There have been the usual gatherings of children and young people for social evenings and games in the recreation hall. Benefit functions have been held to assist the local Hospital and Ambulance Society.

What is regarded as more important, is the extension of social activity by Station residents in the general community. The Church of England Fellowship Youth Group, the staff of the Mauring River District Hospital, and the village of Tinonee have co-operated in a most praiseworthy manner in an effort to bring our people out of their isolation and to make them conscious of their privileges and responsibilities as citizens of the community. Throughout the year there has been a very pleasing two-way social mingling.

All Station children of school age attend the Public Schools of Taree. The teaching staffs of these Schools report that they have experienced no difficulties arising from racial prejudices among the pupils.

The United Aborigines Mission has established a Church for Station residents and maintains a resident missionary. The various Protestant ministers of the town frequently co-operate with the missionary in the conduct of services.

#### *Walgett.*

The population of this Station is 151.

The employment position suffered during the year owing to dry conditions and the lower price of wool. Also there is now more white labour available. The type of work performed by the residents of the Station is shearing, fencing, general Station work, droving and wood cutting. The Manager keeps in touch with all possible employers in the district.

General repair work has been done to most of the houses. Some interiors have been lined and cleaned, then painted. Eight cottages still require to be lined, and it is expected that this work will be completed in the near future by a builder who has tendered for the work.

In the main, health has been good. In the summer, the usual eye treatments were given, although the numbers are decreasing owing to the fact that the Matron has induced the parents to see that their children are given oranges and that their eyes are protected as far as possible from the bush flies.



Church ministers visited the school for the purpose of religious instruction and four different missionaries visited the Station during the year and on three evenings a service was given for the people. On two occasions there were lantern slide lectures given by them.

The children and younger people are very interested in playing ping pong. Some of the youths take part in boxing tournaments and in football matches with the surrounding districts.

In May, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales visited Walgett and the school children were all taken to meet him. At the reception, a full blood boy, aged 13 years, from the Station School, read an address of welcome to His Excellency. The Governor congratulated and shook hands with him.

Many had hoped to go to Dubbo to see Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, but rain prevented this.

The Walgett doctor gives the sick aborigines every attention and the ambulance officer takes confinement cases to Walgett Hospital. The doctor and the ambulance officer are to be commended for the kindly and willing service they give to the residents of the Station. The Far West Sister visits the Station once a month.

The local Police have given every co-operation during the year.

The Buffalo Lodge combined with the Church of England to give the children of the Station a fine Christmas party at the end of the school year.

The behaviour of the residents has, on the whole, shown signs of improvement. The money provided by the Aborigines Welfare Board for Christmas gifts for the children enabled them to have an extra Christmas party when they had a Christmas tree suitably decorated with balloons and boxes of sweets, etc.

#### *Wallaga Lake (near Bermagui).*

The population at the end of the year was 147.

Seasonal work during the year was particularly good and consequently brought an influx of population from Victoria and north of Wallaga Lake. Several families sought permanent residence on the Station but as all the cottages were occupied, it was not possible to give accommodation to all of them.

A new Manager's residence was built during the year and the Manager's temporary residence has been converted into a school teacher's residence and is now occupied by the resident teacher. The new administrative block was also completed and comprises a treatment room, office and spacious workshop. The ration store, recreation hall and double garage have been repainted in keeping with the new buildings. Repairs were carried out on several of the aborigines' cottages. All cottages have shower recesses and now that there is an adequate supply of water, full advantage is being taken of this asset.

Sanitary service is rendered twice weekly and garbage once a week by an aborigine employed by the Department.

The Station is now connected to the Mt. Dromedary Gravitation Main, and there is ample water to meet the needs of the settlement. Added to this are two 1,000 gallon tanks attached to each cottage which are rain fed. A fine spirit of co-operation was shown by the residents in assisting with the laying of the pipe-line which consisted of nearly 4,500 feet of piping.

Employment has been good throughout the year. Due to the rise in the price of beans and peas, several of the farmers around this district have engaged in this type of farming and consequently have provided good seasonal work for aborigines. Other forms of employment include saw milling, fencing, cutting posts and cord wood, corn pulling, pipe-line work, labouring with the Department of Main Roads, sleeper cutting, fishing and general farm work.

The general health of the residents has been good. The dentists from Narooma visited the Station and attended to thirty-two aborigines.

A dairy herd ensures supplies of fresh milk. Sale of surplus stock realised £165.

A School is conducted on the Station and thirty-eight children are in attendance. A light-caste lad is particularly good in art and an endeavour is being made to send him to an Art School next year with a view to having him trained in Commercial Art. The children were commended this year for their good reading by the Inspector of Schools.

The Roman Catholic Priest visits the Station twice a month and celebrates Holy Mass. On Sundays the white community of the district attends Mass on the Station and there has been a good attendance. Religious instruction is given to the children at the School once a month by the Priest.

The Church of England Minister holds service once a month on the second Sunday of each month, and gives religious instruction every fortnight to the school children. Sunday School for the children is held once a month by an evangelistic lay-preacher.

A service bus conveys the Station residents to the pictures at Bermagui twice weekly in the summer and every Saturday in the winter. The residents eagerly look forward to these weekly picture shows. They all dress well for the occasion and are a credit to the Station. Posters of the latest films are placed outside the office, alongside of which is a notice-board which has pasted on it notices and newspaper cuttings of general interest to the residents. This attracts a number of residents and creates an interest for them.

A dance was organised by the Wallaga Lake Recreation Club at Central Tilba in aid of the Bega District Ambulance, and a sum of £35 16s. 3d. was donated to the District Ambulance. Dances are held regularly on the Station and are well attended by aborigines from Wallaga Lake and other parts of the district.

A children's Christmas tree was arranged on the Station and a Santa Claus was brought for the occasion to distribute the presents. All the residents were given a very good afternoon tea and sang Christmas carols. Much assistance was given by the Bega Methodist Church helpers which considerably helped to make the function a great success.

A presentation to the children's Library of new books was made by the Society of Friends. This was an important occasion of the year. The afternoon had a full and interesting programme for the residents which consisted of a number of speeches, a concert and afternoon tea for all. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Several of the lads from Wallaga Lake participated in boxing tournaments in the district and as usual, were a great attraction.

It has been proved that it is far more advantageous to include aborigines from this Station in white football teams rather than form a separate aborigines' team. This year again, several of the boys were included in both the A and B Teams of Bermagui and Cobargo and did exceptionally well.

The school children participated in the Cobargo sports and gained a number of prizes.

A marked social uplift of the aborigines has been noticed during the year under review. They have improved in their dress and general appearance and are beginning to be accepted in various organisations in the district, e.g., four ex-Kinchela lads are members of the Bermagui Surf Club and along with some of the boys from Wallaga Lake, are also members of the Football Club. Invitations have been extended to the aborigine Gum Leaf Band and some of the singers from the Station, to entertain at several functions held in the district during the year. A girl was included to take part in a debutante play at a Catholic Ball in Cobargo which is considered one of the events of the year. There is no segregation noticed at the local picture theatre where both whites and aborigines sit and mingle together. The white community have willingly accepted the idea of attending Church Service at Wallaga Lake. All this is a very encouraging step towards the policy of assimilation.

Fishing has been revived on the Station and it is hoped that the project will be a success and provide a means of income for the winter months.

The residents of the Station have co-operated wholeheartedly with the management and have taken an interest in the functions that are held on the Station.

#### *Woodenbong.*

The population of this Station consists of permanent residents and "drifters". The latter form quite a large percentage of the total number. A number use the Station as a week-end place of abode and are in permanent employment at sawmills, etc., in the district. Every encouragement has been given to such persons to merge into the white community, and employers have been asked to assist.

Many houses on the Station were repaired and the painting of roofs of cottages was completed. Painting of exterior of a few cottages was carried out and this will be continued until all dwellings have been painted. A number of houses have been lined with 3-ply. Some of the more enterprising residents effected improvements to their cottages at their own expense. This has been encouraged by the provision of paint by the Board.

The old school building was renovated by voluntary labour and handymen, and extended for use as a recreation hall. A stage was erected in the building.

Fences were erected around five cottages. In each case, the occupiers paid cost of erection, but fencing material was supplied by the Board. Some improvements were effected to latrines, many of which were in a state of dilapidation and had no impervious base.

The health of residents generally, may be rated as good. An epidemic of gastro-enteritis in February caused the death of three children. Round worm infestation amongst children is high. There is also a deal of hook worm infestation. The Department of Public Health is carrying out treatment.



There is abundant employment in the district and all eligible and willing workers are employed. The remainder who may be classed as vagrant types, find casual work whenever they feel inclined to earn some money.

Aborigines are employed in the three timber mills and as timber fellers in the bush. One man is employed as a timber lorry driver. Other forms of employment are those associated with rural industries—farming and grazing.

Two aborigines are employed as handymen on the Station. Nature of work is dairying, fencing, building, repairs, painting and destruction of noxious weeds, etc.

Residents attend the Woodenbong Cinema shows on Saturday nights. During football season, buses conveyed residents to football matches in the district at places where residents who were members of the Urbenville team were playing. One resident played with the Woodenbong Cricket Club during the season. A few dances and two concerts were held in the Station recreation hall during the year under review.

The teacher in charge of the Aboriginal School has carried out a special drive on hygiene. Special emphasis has been placed on neatness and appearance of school work. The teachers have been greatly assisted with this by the Queensland University helpers who conduct monthly competitions in art and award prizes.

A display of work was given in the form of an exhibition at the end of 1953.

A school break-up party and concert was held in the recreation hall at the end of the school term. A party was given at the school a week later by the teacher in charge and his wife.

The Plymouth Brethren of Bonalbo provided a Christmas party for all children and contributed towards the cost of bus fares to transport the children. These people visited the Station on each Sunday evening of the year and conducted religious services in the Mission Church on the Station.

Except for a minority, the conduct of residents on the Station has been satisfactory. The Parents and Citizens' Association meets once a month.

A dairy herd is maintained for the supply of milk to residents.

The Queensland University group maintained interest in the Station throughout the year. Amongst many things presented to the School and Station by the group, are two phonograms and about 200 or more records.

#### *Wreck Bay (near Jervis Bay).*

During the year, an aboriginal couple were appointed as Manager and Matron of this Station and are doing excellent work.

The population at the 30th June, 1954, was 166. There are twenty modern cottages, six smaller dwellings, a recreation hall, store, dispensary, garage, domestic science room, Manager's dwelling, an office, boatshed and one school building. The condition of these buildings is generally good and a number have flower gardens and other improvements.

The water supply to this Station is conveyed through the pipe system from the Jervis Bay supply and is installed in each dwelling, which gives ample supply for household and garden purposes.

Electricity is connected and there is a power line erected in every street along which are street lights. This service is maintained by the Council of Jervis Bay.

The health of the residents has been good. Apart from the common cold, there has been no serious illness recorded. When necessary, a doctor is called.

During the summer months, the men on the Station formed a cricket team and often travelled to the nearby towns for a social game. When the football season opened, six men from the Station joined the Jervis Bay team and acquitted themselves well. One of them was selected as vice-captain.

The breaking-up party at Christmas time for the school children was enjoyed by children and adults alike, and some fifty visitors from Jervis Bay highly praised the Station organisers for their display of art.

During the summer months, the residents held dances in the hall on alternate Saturday evenings, the alternate Saturday being allotted for a euchre party which was held to raise funds for the Parents and Citizens' Association.

Regular Church Services and Sunday School are conducted. The Matron and a teacher conduct Sunday School and when there is no visiting Minister or Missionary, the Manager conducts Church Service.

The education of the children is a salient feature and some of the children have reached seventh class standard which covers a very large field of study. The children show a great interest in school and attendance is good. It is anticipated that some of the children will attend Nowra High School next year.

The employment position is not good, the nearest industrial area being some 30 miles away. The residents depend mainly on fishing. This is a precarious occupation and during the winter months the fishermen find it hard to meet their commitments. Efforts have been made to get a sawmill erected here to supply a means of employment for the men of this Station, and favourable results are expected from this venture. It is believed that in the near future something definite will be done to relieve unemployment.

The cultivation of the community garden is in progress for spring crops. Some of the residents have small vegetable gardens. A greengrocer visits this Station twice a week with fresh fruit and vegetables.

The attitude of the residents is friendly, there being no trouble of a serious nature. They have co-operated well with the management and have expressed satisfaction in the appointment of one of their own people to the control of the Station.

#### V. ABORIGINE RESERVES GENERALLY.

Apart from the Aboriginal Stations which have already been mentioned in this report, the Board controls a number of Reserves. These differ from Stations in that they are not under full-time management, although some have a resident Supervisor who, in most instances, is the teacher of the school on the Reserve.

They are not extensive in area, and like most Stations, are simply housing settlements from which aborigines proceed to employment nearby. On some, the Board has erected homes, but on others the aborigines have supplied their own dwellings.

Where there is no Supervisor, the local Police exercise supervision and they receive regular visits from the Welfare Officer for the district.

Due to the nomadic habits of the aboriginal people, a number of Reserves have been abandoned and, in such cases, action has been taken to revoke the area and return control thereof to the Lands Department.

The largest Reserve is at La Perouse. Most of the employable residents are absorbed in local industries, but owing to the large number of tourists who visit this historic spot, a number earn a good livelihood by making boomerangs and other aboriginal curios. Two men have modern workshops with electrically driven equipment.

Appendix "C" attached gives details of existing Reserves.

#### VI. ABORIGINE LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

##### *Vital Statistics.*

There is no reliable up-to-date information as to the exact number of aborigines in New South Wales, but the recent census, when figures are complete, will supply this. It is estimated that there are about 12,000 aborigines in the State at present, very few of whom are full bloods.

However, statistics available reveal that, of the total, whatever it may be, 2,968 are resident on Stations, and 1,810 are on Reserves.

The remainder comprises a goodly number who either rent or own their own homes and are virtually assimilated into the community and many who have erected shacks on the outskirts of country towns. Many of these are in receipt of good wages and it is a matter for regret that they display little initiative in improving the conditions under which they live.

It is the constant aim of Welfare Officers to endeavour to persuade and encourage such to use their resources more wisely and to move of their own volition, in the direction of establishing themselves in decent living conditions.

##### *Labour and Employment.*

This matter has been touched upon in that section dealing with the activities of the Welfare Officers.

Speaking broadly, the majority of aboriginal male workers are dependent upon casual seasonal work in rural districts. This, of course, varies from place to place, and with the seasons. The result is that large numbers lead a migratory life and know no permanent home. The adverse effect of this upon the education and training of children can well be imagined.

Although families are encouraged to remain at home, it frequently happens that unless the wife and family accompany the husband, he fails to send any of his earnings for the support of his dependents who are thus left in want. This creates a tendency for the whole family to move about the country.

However, on the other hand, many are in permanent employment even though they may only return home at week-ends. Where the income is regular and a fair proportion given to the wife, it is found that in very many instances, a genuine effort is made to improve the home conditions and provide, at least, the normal accessories to a good home atmosphere.

Aboriginal workers are subject to industrial awards in the same way as white workmen. Income and social service tax is deducted at the source, and generally, they suffer no disadvantage because of their colour.

#### Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

Assistance is provided to indigent aborigines, whether or not residing on Aboriginal Stations or Reserves. It consists of rations, blankets and clothing.

The weekly scale of rations has been approved by the Health Department and consists of:—

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 fifteen 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 one pint per head per day.

On some Stations where a community garden exists, issues of green vegetables are made as available.

All Stations have treatment rooms where minor ailments or accidents receive attention. Cases beyond the capacity of the Matron are referred to local doctors or hospitals. Drugs, dressing, etc., are issued without charge, irrespective of whether the patient is indigent or not.

Aboriginal patients are entitled to exactly the same hospitalisation as ordinary individuals, and are subject to the means test imposed by hospitals regarding ability to pay. If able to pay, aborigines are expected to do so. They are urged to avail themselves of Medical, Ambulance and Hospital Benefit Schemes, and many have joined.

Christmas cheer is provided every year for the aged, infirm and destitute aborigines, a practice which has been in existence over a long period of time. Special grants are also made to the aboriginal schools to assist in providing funds for the organisation of breaking-up functions. These functions are usually a highlight of local social activity; local interested persons and organisations assist in the finance and arrangements for the parties, their co-operation being further demonstrated by their attendance at the functions. So far as the aboriginal children are concerned, not only the school pupils but also the younger children participate in the parties and the visit of Santa Claus. The boys at Kinchela Home and the girls of Cootamundra Home also have a very happy time at Christmas. They are not forgotten and their Christmas parties and dinner are outstanding events. At the Homes too, local friends and organisations assist to give the children a pleasurable time at this time of the year.

#### Clothing.

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

Outfits.	Year ended 30th June—								
	Male.			Female.			Total.		
	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Summer Outfits.	64	147	103	140	190	159	204	337	262
Winter Outfits.	61	110	186	101	136	248	162	246	434
Total ...	125	257	289	241	326	407	366	583	696

#### Commonwealth Social Services.

##### Child Endowment.

Aboriginal mothers in New South Wales are not in any way precluded from the payment of Child Endowment, but in some cases it is found necessary for the Board to administer the Child Endowment on behalf of the mother who might be considered incapable of applying the money for its proper purpose. It is pleasing to note, however, that the number of such cases has decreased over the years; whereas the number of cases administered at 30th June, 1951, was 148, the figure was reduced to 62 at the end of the year under review. This indicates clearly that aboriginal mothers have taken advantage of the opportunity to improve their living conditions and home methods sufficiently to warrant their being regarded as suitable cases for direct payment.

##### Maternity Allowances.

The Board does not now administer Maternity Allowances as a general procedure. Formerly it was the practice to provide a baby outfit to expectant mothers, have the Maternity Allowance paid to the Board, deduct the cost of the baby outfit and pay the balance to the mother. The discontinuance of this system requires that the mother should make her own arrangements for the clothing of her baby, and during the year there was not one single instance reported where the mother had not proved equal to this responsibility.

##### Pensions and Unemployment Benefits.

The Unemployment Benefit is paid to aborigines on the same basis as the ordinary individual, namely to the genuinely unemployed. This payment is made irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence. In this instance it is apparently recognised by the Commonwealth that the worker, when employed, pays a Social Service tax irrespective of his nationality and when he is unemployed, he should have the benefit of his contributions.

The position in regard to pensions, however, is still unsatisfactory. Towards the end of the year, the Commonwealth did liberalise the conditions of payment to the extent that, on certain Reserves which are not under resident supervision, those entitled to a pension may now claim if they are also in possession of an Exemption Certificate. It is the opinion of the Board that there are few cases of aborigines in this State in which there is any justification for questioning their right to Social Services merely by reason of the fact that the applicant is an aboriginal or caste aboriginal. This view has been approved and strongly represented by the Government on more than one occasion, and the suggestion by the Commonwealth that a Certificate of Exemption is regarded as a pre-requisite to the granting of a pension, is disturbing. The Commonwealth has been requested to clarify its attitude to the question whether a Certificate of Exemption is a necessity to eligibility for a pension.

##### Exemption Certificates.

The issue of an Exemption Certificate is intended to indicate that the holder is ready for assimilation. It will be appreciated that the acute housing position existing over a period of years, is a factor which compels an exempted aborigine to remain in his aboriginal environment.

The issue of a Certificate of Exemption is determined after careful inquiry into the applicant's background, mode of living and general character. The issue of a Certificate, therefore, cannot always be made solely for the reason of qualifying an applicant for a pension. There are certain factors which, whilst disqualifying an applicant for an Exemption Certificate, should not necessarily disqualify him for the payment of a pension.

Fifty Certificates were issued during the year under review and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Granted .....	51	60	50
Deferred .....	2	—	2
Declined .....	—	3	6
Cancelled .....	1	1	3

*Expulsion Orders.*

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

**VII. CONCLUSION.**

The Board does not look for immediate and spectacular results. The very nature of the problem must envisage a steady, but persistent attack, and a process of development rather than drastic sudden change.

Hope lies in the education of the rising generation, at the same time rendering help and encouragement to those aborigines who display a desire and effort on their own part to progress beyond the sub-standard living conditions with which so many have been so long content.

The Board feels justified in claiming that its policy of assimilation is gaining steady momentum and that the next few years will be a time of real progress in this direction.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board's resolution dated this twenty-first day of September, 1954.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.

M. H. SAXBY, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

## APPENDIX "A".

## MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Number of wards at beginning of year .....	169	171	183
Number admitted during year .....	2	2	11
Number committed during year .....	17	28	20
	188	201	214
Number discharged during year .....	17	18	20
Number at end of year .....	171	183	194

## PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

	1951-52.		1952-53.		1953-54.	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	...	1	1	5	...	3
Cootamundra Girls' Home .....	...	1	1	6	...	1
Denominational Homes .....	1	5	...	...	3	...
Boarded out with foster parents .....	1	9	...	17	6	14
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions .....	...	1	...	...	...	1
Otherwise placed .....	...	...	...	...	2	1
	2	17	2	28	11	20

## PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	42	57	54
Cootamundra Girls' Home .....	34	51	41
Denominational Homes .....	31	8	11
Boarded out with foster parents .....	46	49	62
In employment under Reg. conditions .....	18	18	23
Otherwise placed .....	...	...	3
	171	183	194



## 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.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Bellbrook	96	135	128	108	9	10	12	4	8	4	1	...	...	2	...	1
Boggabilla	457	254	210	239	49	19	33	10	10	10	2	3	2	2	...	3
Brewarrina	4,638	153	143	147	28	34	33	6	9	7	2	7	2	...	1	2
Burnt Bridge	613	274	294	319	22	31	51	14	15	14	4	3	6	2	...	1
Burra Bee Dee	473	61	59	62	5	...	15	4	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	1
Cabbage Tree Island	125	156	150	135	20	21	29	4	4	3	...	3	2	...	1	1
Cowra	31	145	124	141	18	3	7	5	2	1	...	1	1	2	2	2
Cervia Bay	100	127	161	166	25	11	...	7	6	2	6	2	...	3	1	1
Moonahcullah	232	63	90	64	1	...	3	1	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Moree	200	281	283	281	30	21	51	15	15	3	7	5	...	3	...	...
Murrumbidgee	937	207	214	218	42	40	53	9	11	3	2	2	3	2	3	1
Quirindi	220	147	170	181	...	2	...	8	5	4	2	...	...	4	1	...
Roseby Park	66	106	94	101	9	6	6	6	...	2	1	...	1	2	...	...
Tabulam	53	108	130	129	...	18	25	...	6	6	...	2	1	...	...	1
Taree	51	226	220	244	21	20	22	12	10	14	1	6	4	...	2	1
Walgett	337	139	152	151	24	25	32	9	5	8	1	...	3	2	1	1
Wallaga Lake	341	72	153	147	13	16	22	6	...	5	5	...	5	1	...	1
Woodenbong	126	173	171	135	13	26	32	5	3	5	5	...	6	6	...	2
Total	...	2,903	2,946	2,968	334	303	426	125	117	93	39	36	36	33	15	18

## 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.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Balranald	142	49	49	53	...	...	...
Bourke	34	32	35	25	...	...	...
Bowraville	36	136	137	140	...	4	29
Brungle	357	62	40	34	...	5	7
Collarenebri	50	134	146	121	...	3	...
Condobolin	16	191	70	66	6	7	11
Coraki	10	60	59	62	4	9	2
Cubawee	24	88	85	86	...	...	...
Cumerogunga	2,600	46	55	45	...	...	...
Darlington Point	25	57	20	71	...	...	...
Dubbo	18	52	57	46	...	...	...
Forster	19	62	79	87	...	...	...
Goodooga	80	98	90	110	1	...	1
Goolagong	80	21	27	...	...	...	...
Gulgambone	52	72	58	74	...	...	...
Karuah	50	62	73	56	2	5	2
Kyogle	111	14	15	24	...	2	...
La Perouse	6	160	186	157	...	3	1
Macksville	20	10	4	...	...	...	...
Mungindi	100	110	122	60	2	5	...
Nambucca Heads	70	106	79	76	...	...	...
Pilliga	150	30	27	25	5	...	...
Rye Park	140	8	9	3	...	...	...
Tibooburra	100	2	12	10	2	...	...
Tingha	15	80	65	46	...	...	...
Ugundahi Island	44	40	36	24	3	...	3
Uralla	100	11	13	7	...	...	...
Walcha	107	38	37	36	5	4	5
Wellington	100	180	52	42	31	24	38
Wilcannia	75	239	254	192	3	8	...
Yass	9	59	64	42	2	2	3
Total	...	2,309	2,155	1,820	66	81	102

## APPENDIX "D".

## STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.

*Expenditure incurred by the Board—*

	1952-53.		1953-54.	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—</i>				
Salaries and Wages .....	67,279		65,954	
Maintenance of Buildings .....	2,872		5,551	
Transport Expenses .....	12,193		13,155	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...	43,962		39,252	
Other charges .....	2,162		2,035	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment.....	1,425		3,509	
	<u>129,893</u>		<u>129,456</u>	
<i>Payable from General Loan Account—</i>				
New Buildings, Station improvements and land Purchases .....	36,747		29,008	
		166,640		158,464
<i>Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—</i>				
Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	7,624		8,211	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	964		865	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc. ....	1,914		1,944	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services .....	4,655		6,881	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	3,602		3,743	
		<u>18,759</u>		<u>21,644</u>
<b>Total .....</b>		<u>£185,399</u>		<u>£180,108</u>

## APPENDIX "E".

## VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS.

Period 1st January, 1954 to 30th June, 1954.

<i>Nature of Visit or Interview—</i>	Number.
Supervisory home visits .....	1,107
Wards of the Board .....	152
Neglected or uncontrollable children .....	168
Stations or Reserves .....	308
Police .....	306
Schools .....	173
Enquiries re employment .....	380
Affiliation or Maintenance .....	225
Public Authorities.....	328
Voluntary Agencies .....	99
Attendance at Court.....	46
Miscellaneous .....	2,051
<b>Total .....</b>	<u>5,433</u>