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1956
(SECOND SESSION)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT
OF THE
ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD
FOR THE
Year ended 30th June, 1956

BY COMMAND



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Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1956.

Presented to the Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary,
pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-43.

I. THE BOARD.

Personnel and Meetings.

No change occurred in the personnel of the Board during the year under review.

The constitution of the Board at 30th June, 1956, was 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 the Department of Public Instruction—Mr. N. W. Drummond, B.A.

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

An expert in Agriculture—Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

An expert in 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—Mrs. P. M. Gibbs.

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

As yet, no nomination has been received to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full-blooded aboriginal member.

Policy.

The Board has continued to implement the policy of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community. It has continued its endeavours to provide education facilities for all children, and to encourage those capable of doing so, to proceed to super-primary courses.

Within the limit of funds available, the Board has proceeded with its programme for the improvement of housing conditions for aborigines.

Assistance has been rendered in many instances in securing suitable employment for both old and young.

The Board's activities cover persons of aboriginal descent, full blood or other. Reference to "Aborigine" in this report, is to be understood in this sense.

Visits by Board Members.

Board Members and the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, paid numerous visits during the year to Stations and Reserves and the Training Homes for boys and girls.

Opportunities were taken on these occasions, to contact local civic authorities and others interested in the welfare of aborigines, and it is evident that a growing awareness exists in the community, of the problems associated with the Board's work.

General Expenditure.

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government, amounted to £151,653, which represented a decrease of £19,041 on the previous year's expenditure.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £13,640. This was a decrease of £30,415 compared with last year.

Acknowledgments.

The helpful interest and advice of other State Departments, such as Education, Works, Agriculture, Health, Police, Lands, Forestry and the Housing Commission, are acknowledged. Church groups and local Committees function actively in many places in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of aborigines.

Their generous assistance is appreciated.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Housing.

The programme of erecting homes on town allotments in selected country centres, was further developed. Five new houses were erected in the town of Coonabarabran, two in Nowra, and two more were commenced at Dubbo.

Four houses on a new Reserve at Coonabarabran were completed, and four commenced at Peak Hill.

Occupants of town houses will be given the opportunity, after two years' satisfactory tenancy, to acquire their homes on easy rent/purchase repayments.

Of the twenty-eight tenants already placed in such homes, the majority are meeting their obligations satisfactorily. A few have fallen into arrears, mainly due to the fact that they committed themselves rather heavily in the purchase of furniture on time payment, for their new homes. Unfortunately, one family had to be evicted.

The position regarding payment of rent for new houses on Aboriginal Stations, is not so satisfactory. Although an improvement has been noted in some instances, the total amount outstanding at the end of the year, was £41,049, while £13,299 had been paid.

A number of aborigines in various places, have been successful in securing Housing Commission homes, by ballot.

A survey of the overall housing needs of aborigines in New South Wales was completed. It is estimated that to effect repairs and additions to such houses as are suitable for this, and to provide for the replacement of unsatisfactory dwellings, over £800,000 would be required.

From funds made available to the Board for loans to aborigines desirous of purchasing or erecting their own homes, approval was given to advances totalling £7,900. All recipients of such loans are meeting their obligations fully, and the Board considers the establishment of this fund fully justified.

Education.

As from the beginning of the 1956 school year, the duties of Manager and Teacher at the Aboriginal Station, Walgett, were separated. Fully qualified teachers of the Education Department were then appointed to this school.

There are now no schools in New South Wales, attended by aboriginal children, which are not fully staffed by teachers of the Education Department.

The Board, and the Education Department, encourage the attendance of aboriginal children at High School, and from the Board's two Children Homes, Stations and Reserves, a total of 125 children are in attendance. Many more, from families living privately, are also in attendance.

During the year, five bursaries, each of the value of £50 per annum, were awarded by the Board. There are now seven-teen current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

The Education Department is generous in its supplies of school equipment, which includes special supplementary issues of materials for needlework, manual work, gardening or other

activities. Aboriginal children receive free milk, conveyance subsidy (where required) and other amenities ordinarily available to white pupils.

Welfare Activities.

The Board has a staff of five male Welfare Officers stationed at Kempsey, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Coffs Harbour.

Two lady Welfare Officers are located at Sydney, one of whom, a trained nurse, spends most of her time in country districts working chiefly among mothers, babies and adolescent girls.

The work of Welfare Officers is designed to supplement that of the Managers and Matrons of the various Stations. It lies primarily amongst those aborigines not residing in controlled situations. They are assiduous in their efforts to develop initiative and responsibility in the aboriginal people and to assist them in taking their place in the community.

They take every opportunity to bring before the white community, the aims and work of the Board, and have successfully enlisted the interest of increasing numbers of persons and organisations in aboriginal problems.

The scope and variety of their work can be seen from the table of visits made during the year, set out in Appendix "E".

A conference of Welfare Officers was held in Sydney in May, 1956.

"Dawn" Magazine.

The issue of this magazine published by the Board, is eagerly awaited each month by the aboriginal people of New South Wales. An increasing number of the white community within and beyond the State, is being added to the mailing list each year.

"Dawn" not only disseminates news, but also contains many articles of practical help in health matters, hygiene and home management.

Summer Seaside Camp.

A Summer Camp was again held in January on the Board's property at La Perouse. A total of seventy-six boys and girls from the far western districts of the State enjoyed a fortnight's holiday by the sea.

One of the Board's Welfare Officers was in charge of the Camp, and was assisted by other members of the staff and a team of helpers from the Department of Social Studies, Sydney University. The usual medical and dental examinations were held.

Outings were arranged to places of interest, and evening entertainments were popular. Many saw the sea for the first time and the majority had not been to Sydney previously.

These camps do much to broaden the outlook of many children who otherwise could not have the advantage of a holiday by the sea, or the experience of visiting a capital city.

Floods.

Floods during this year were even more far-reaching and continuous than in 1955, particularly in the west, north-west and south-west of the State.

The Aboriginal Stations at Murrin Bridge, Wilcannia, Moonahcullah, Dubbo, Boggabilla, Walgett and Brewarrina, were all affected. It was necessary to evacuate residents from Wilcannia and Brewarrina Stations and from many aborigines' homes at Walgett and Boggabilla. Emergency accommodation had to be found and foodstuffs supplied. In some instances, it was necessary to drop food from the air. The residents of Brewarrina Station suffered greatly. They were evacuated from their homes and given emergency accommodation for a period of eleven weeks.

This entailed a great deal of hardship to the people, and much extra work by Managers and Welfare Officers. Roads and fencing had been seriously damaged, and works programmes retarded.

Flood relief for aborigines in affected areas, was provided by the Government and other organisations.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

At the 30th June, 1956, the Board had 232 wards under its control. These were admitted on the application of parents unable to care for their children, or were committed by a Children's Court in cases of neglect by parents.

It is an essential part of a Welfare Officer's duty to supervise sub-standard homes, and their efforts in the direction of rehabilitative oversight are undoubtedly fruitful in keeping to a minimum, the number committed to the care of the Board. Welfare Officers paid 242 such supervisory visits in the year under review.

At the end of the year under review, seventy-three wards were accommodated in the Board's Homes, and 159 were otherwise placed. Of these, ninety-three were placed with foster parents in private homes.

Modern thought on the question of the placement of dependent children, recognises that the best substitute for a child's own home, is a foster home. Institution care, at best, is a poor substitute for a normal home upbringing. With this in mind, and in view of the fact that many of the wards in the Board's care are of light caste, efforts were made late in 1955, to secure foster homes for these amongst white people. Furthermore, this was regarded as being a positive step in implementing the Board's policy of assimilation. Publicity was given in the city Press to this matter, and the response was most gratifying. It was possible to place over thirty children in such homes, and after a trial period of six months, the scheme has proved an unqualified success.

Foster parents are paid a weekly boarding-out allowance, and are further assisted in the payment of medical and dental expenses, and incidental fees for educational purposes.

Wards over school leaving age, are placed in employment, and a proportion of their wages is paid to a trust account available to the ward on attaining the age of 18 years.

Statistics concerning the number and placement of wards during the year, are shown in Appendix "A". Brief accounts of the activities of the two Homes conducted by the Board, appear at the end of this report.

IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

Of the Reserves for Aborigines under the control of the Board, sixteen are classed as Stations under full-time resident supervision. A married couple is in charge as Manager and Matron, the Matron being, in some cases, a trained nurse.

Homes on Stations are provided by the Board, on nine of which old buildings have been entirely replaced by new houses of modern design. On the remainder, maintenance and repair work has been carried out, and improvements effected.

Stations are virtually housing settlements where aborigines reside under the oversight of the Manager and are employed in outside occupations. Residents are regarded as being under training to eventually take their place in the community. Training in acceptance of community responsibilities is a feature of Station life. On many Stations, active Progress Associations are functioning and residents take part in the social, religious and sporting life of the community. The rate of absorption of residents into the general community, however, is governed largely by the availability of homes away from the Station.

Treatment for minor ailments is given by the Matron in well-equipped treatment rooms. More serious cases are referred to local doctors or hospitals.

Appendix "B" indicates the population on the various Stations at 30th June, 1956, and brief accounts of activities appear at the end of this report.

V. ABORIGINAL RESERVES GENERALLY.

Additional to the Aboriginal Stations abovementioned, there are twenty-seven occupied Reserves. These are not under full-time management, but eight have resident Supervisors who, in most instances, are the Teachers of the Schools on the Reserves. In other cases, supervision is exercised by the local Police and Welfare Officers of the Board.

As in the case of Stations, residents go out to work and return nightly, or at week-ends when working away from the immediate locality.

On some Reserves, the Board has erected houses of a simple design, while on others, the aborigines have built their own homes. As funds permit, the Board proposed to effect improvement to the accommodation on Reserves.

Appendix "C" sets out statistics concerning Reserves.



VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Statistics.

A survey of the aboriginal population of New South Wales was made during the year by the Board's Officers. This revealed that the number in this State was:—

Full bloods	231
Half castes	6,388
Lesser castes	5,751
Total	12,370

Of this number, 4,788 reside on Stations or Reserves under the control of the Board. Of the remaining 7,582, a minority reside in sub-standard conditions on the outskirts of country towns. The majority, however, own or rent their own homes and live as ordinary members of the community.

Labour and Employment.

It is the constant endeavour of Welfare Officers and other field staff, to encourage and assist aborigines in securing skilled or semi-skilled employment. Each year, reports of success in this direction are received, and the current year is no exception.

Increasing numbers are taking and remaining in permanent employment and there are cases of aborigines who have been for more than twenty years in the same job.

This year, employment was found for an aboriginal youth as apprentice in a motor garage, and a girl obtained a position in the office of a large country departmental store.

Many more are taking employment with the Railway Department, Main Roads Board, and Municipal and Shire Councils. Nevertheless, many are still engaged in casual employment in pastoral and agricultural industries.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

In cases where indigent aborigines are not eligible for the usual Social Service Benefits, the Board assists by the weekly issue of food rations and winter and summer issues of clothing and blankets.

Treatment rooms are set up on Stations where attention is given for minor ailments. More serious cases are referred for medical attention or hospitalisation, as necessary.

Aborigines are encouraged to join Ambulance, Hospital and Medical Benefits Funds, and many availed themselves of the services through those schemes.

Special Christmas cheer is provided for aged and infirm, and the Board also makes funds available to assist in holding functions for children at this time of the year.

Progress and Parents and Citizens' Associations are encouraged and, on many Stations, these function actively. The Board subsidises funds raised by these bodies, for the provision of amenities on Stations.

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

Outfits.	Year ended 30th June, 1955.								
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956
	Male.			Female.			Total.		
Summer Outfits	103	168	132	159	216	169	262	384	301
Winter Outfits	186	141	131	248	194	173	434	335	304
Totals	289	309	263	407	410	342	696	719	605

VII. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.

Child Endowment.

All aboriginal mothers in New South Wales are entitled to Child Endowment. Welfare Officers and Managers assist in the preparation of claims. In any cases where it is considered to be in the interest of the endowee and her children that payments be administered by the Board, this is done. At the end of June, 1955, fifty-six cases were so administered, while at 30th June, 1956, the number was fifty-seven.

Maternity Allowance.

Aboriginal mothers are entitled to such allowance in exactly the same way as white women.

Pensions and Unemployment Benefit.

Aborigines are entitled to Sickness and Unemployment Benefits, irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence.

The same position does not exist so far as Commonwealth Pensions are concerned. These are only paid to exempted aborigines living off Stations or Reserves, or if living on a Reserve which is not under the supervision of a Manager. This distinction, in the Board's view, is illogical and unjust, but despite repeated representations, the Commonwealth Authorities adhere to this rule. As a result of this discrimination, aborigines are frequently obliged to move off the Board's Stations in order to qualify for a pension, some even taking up residence immediately outside the Station boundary.

Efforts to secure full Commonwealth Social Service Benefits to all aborigines in New South Wales, whether exempted from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act or not, will continue.

Exemption Certificates.

Provision exists in the Aborigines Protection Act for the granting of exemption from the provisions of such Act in cases deemed appropriate by the Board. Exemption Certificates are issued only after careful inquiry as to the applicant's character and degree of social adjustment.

One hundred and ten such Certificates were issued during the year under review, and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1953-1954.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.
Granted	50	99	110
Deferred	2	—	—
Declined	6	3	7
Cancelled	3	3	5

Expulsion Orders.

In extreme cases of misconduct by any person on an Aboriginal Station, and especially where such misconduct is inimical to the good order of the Station or the welfare of other residents, the Board is empowered to issue Expulsion Orders.

This power is exercised with extreme reluctance, and only when all other avenues have been exhausted.

During the year, four such Orders were issued.

CONCLUSION.

The Board believes that the problem of Aborigines' Welfare in New South Wales is now mainly a social problem posed by a depressed section of the community. In the main, it relates to various castes, mostly less than half caste. There are few persons of aboriginal descent in this State who live under tribal or wholly nomadic conditions.

An increasing number of aborigines are establishing themselves in the community by their own efforts and own their own homes.

Unfortunately, many are content to live in substandard conditions on the outskirts of towns. This is the more regrettable in view of the fact that in the post-war years, work has been plentiful and wages good. Many display a complete lack of any sense of responsibility in handling money.

It is because of these living conditions, rather than because of any racial prejudice, that they find themselves unacceptable socially amongst the white community. The disadvantages under which they labour, are largely attributable to their failure to make the best use of the resources available to them. Whilst aborigines may be largely to blame, the fault is not entirely theirs. They suffer from a sense of frustration and rejection engendered by the attitude of the white community.

Although white people may feel some reluctance to accept aborigines because of their living conditions, and display a disinclination to permit their children to mix, the Board considers that white communities throughout the State should give encouragement and a helping hand.

APPENDIX TO "IV"—ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

Boggabilla.

A total of 208 people were resident on the Station at the end of the year. A few moved away during the year to take up employment on station properties in the locality. Employment has been excellent and ample work exists for all able-bodied men.

A School is conducted on the Station, and a Recreation Hall is in course of construction. Social functions have been held from time to time.

Floods during the year, disrupted to some extent the smooth running of this Station.

Brewarrina.

Work on this Station was considerably disrupted during the year by floods, and it became necessary to evacuate all residents for a period of eleven weeks. A good deal of repair work was necessitated and this, as well as current maintenance, was undertaken as opportunity was afforded between floodings. The people acquitted themselves with credit during a difficult period.

A Recreation Hall was erected, and this will fill a much-felt need and be of great assistance in the social life of the community.

Employment in the district was affected by the flood conditions and some men were forced to move further afield to secure work.

Children attend school on the Station.

Burnt Bridge (near Kempsey).

A pleasing report has been received from this Station for the year. A feature of the administration has been the encouragement of social activities and community effort.

The Recreation Hall has been extended and improvements effected. Functions held on the Station and in the town of Kempsey have enabled substantial sums of money to be raised. A radiogram was purchased for use on the Station.

Donations of £120 to the Ambulance and £51 to the Hospital were made, and a sum of £66 was raised by means of a Baby Show.

The Parents and Citizens' Association is an active body and worked energetically for the School.

Representatives of the Station have excelled themselves in district sports, and school teams have been successful.

Prejudice against aborigines, for so long prevalent in this district, is gradually being broken down.

Burra Bee Dee (via Coonabarabran).

There has been considerable change in the population of this Station. Five of the best families removed during the year to new houses in the town of Coonabarabran. These have been well accepted and quickly became an integral part of the town population. Other families who were adversely housed in the district moved on to the Station.

A number of men from the Station were affected by the shearers' strike, and the employment position was not good for a period.

Children from the Station attend the Public School in Coonabarabran.

Cabbage Tree Island (Richmond River).

Quite a number of residents on this Station may be regarded as ready for assimilation, and only the non-availability of homes delays their merging into the community.

Work in the district is mainly of a casual nature on farms and sugar cane plantations. Some men have obtained permanent work with the Railway Department.

Treatment for worm eradication has followed a survey conducted by the Health Department, and already an improvement in the physical condition of the children is evident.

Social and religious activities are a feature of Island life, and many aborigines from nearby centres attend for these functions.

School is conducted on the Island and some children attend Ballina High School.

The position is undoubtedly aggravated by the general housing shortage, and if it is to be remedied within a limited time, large sums, as indicated earlier in this report, will be necessary to shorten the period of transition.

The Board is aware that it cannot furnish the solution by its own unaided efforts. It is a community problem and the interest and practical assistance of every citizen is needed. There is evidence of a growing awareness of this fact, and the Board believes that with the continuance of its welfare work and the co-operation of citizens, the complete assimilation of the aboriginal community will be achieved.

The Board records its appreciation of the constructive efforts rendered, both independently and in collaboration with the Board's staff, by many citizens, Church and Social Organisations and Local Government Bodies. The Board also expresses its gratitude to the staff for their loyal service and their personal interest in the efforts being made to assist our aboriginal people.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.

M. H. SAXBY, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

APPENDIX TO "III"—ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Kinchela Boys' Home.

The number of wards resident in the Home as at the 30th June, 1956, was forty-four, compared with forty-five at the beginning of the year. Their ages range from 5 to 17 years.

Boys of school age attend school at the Home, and those beyond 15 years receive instruction in agricultural pursuits. A number attend Kempsey High School.

During the year, a new clothing store was erected, and necessary repairs have been carried out to buildings.

The health of inmates has been good, and there was an absence of epidemic diseases. Regular medical and dental attention is afforded to all inmates.

The farm attached to the Home has been productive of much of the domestic requirements, and besides affording a valuable avenue of training, contributes considerably to the economic running of the establishment.

Production from the dairy herd for the period under review, was 6,493 gallons of milk and 1,315 lbs. of butter. Egg production from the small poultry section was 846 doz.

Crops were adversely affected by floods, but nevertheless a supply of fodder and vegetables was maintained. The dairy herd was culled and surplus stock sold.

A keen interest is taken in the Home by public bodies in the district, and their practical interest and help is greatly appreciated.

The objective of the Management is to prepare inmates to take their place in the community as responsible citizens.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.

There were twenty-nine inmates in residence at the end of the year, a decrease of eighteen since the beginning. This was due to a number being placed in foster homes as a result of the Board's appeal for foster parents. It enabled four very young boys to be transferred from Kinchela. It is felt that they will benefit from the motherly influence of the female staff at this Home.

Girls of school age attend the Public School in Cootamundra, while nine are enrolled in the High School.

Girls on attaining school leaving age, are instructed in domestic duties and subsequently employment is found for them in the district. Eight are at present so placed; one is nursing at the local district hospital.

The Home maintains a small dairy herd, an orchard, poultry farm and vegetable garden. Produce is available for home consumption, and practically all butter required is produced at the Home.

Girls participate in local Church and social activities, and valuable help is afforded the Home by public-spirited local people.

An excellent tone prevails in the Home, and inmates receive training designed to prepare them for subsequent entry into the community.

There is a good Manager/resident relationship and the people are well accepted in the district.

Cowra.

This Station is situated on the outskirts of the town of Cowra and is virtually part of the town. Residents, for the most part, take an interest in their homes, and flower and vegetable gardens are to be seen at most houses.

Children from this Station attend three schools in Cowra, viz., High School, Public School and the Convent.

While some of the residents are in permanent employment, many seek casual work in the irrigation area each year, and are away from their homes for periods.

Moree.

This Station also is on the outskirts of the town and residents have the advantages that this brings.

The employment position is good and unemployment has been at a minimum throughout the year.

Homes are new and have been well cared for by the occupants. Maintenance work on houses, roads and grounds has been carried out.

The conduct of residents has been good.

Murrin Bridge (near Lake Cargelligo).

This Station, in common with certain others, was affected materially by floods during the year. This brought about some unemployment and was the cause of a slight increase in Station population. Work on the Station was hampered, but maintenance was carried out and roads improved.

School on the Station is attended by 104 children.

There is no Doctor in Lake Cargelligo, and work at the treatment room is heavy. A T.B. survey was conducted during the year, and two positive reactors were sent to Sydney for treatment.

Caroona (near Quirindi).

Residents of this Station are of an advanced type. The employment position is good, the people are independent, and most take a pride in their homes. However, they still decline to meet their rent obligations, though well able to do so.

Private gardens are encouraged and some commendable efforts are apparent.

All administrative buildings and houses were painted. A Baby Health Centre is conducted on the Station, and white mothers and children from nearby attend. Health of residents has been good.

Children attend School on the Station, and sixteen go daily to Quirindi High School.

The people of Caroona are well on the road to assimilation, and only the housing shortage impedes the process.

Roseby Park (near Nowra).

This is not a large Station, the population remaining static at 103. Two families left during the year to take up occupancy of houses built by the Board in Nowra. These were replaced by people who had been adversely housed.

Employment throughout the year has been steady.

A new School was erected during the year, and children now receive their education under much more favourable conditions than formerly.

Houses were renovated and painted, and although of the old type, are now more comfortable and less drab.

Treatment for worm infestation was carried out with beneficial results in the general health.

Tabulam (near Casino).

The population of the Station is now 129, two families having left to take up residence off the Station.

Employment has fluctuated, and to some extent was affected by floods.

An excellent School is conducted on the Station by the Education Department, and pupils have had outstanding successes in sport and singing.

During the year new seating accommodation for the Recreational Hall was constructed. A Brownie Pack has been organised by the Matron.

Religious groups are active on the Station, and the Church building is in regular use.

Taree.

A good deal of work has been carried out on this Station during the year. Electricity from the town supply was connected, and most houses painted. It now presents a colourful and pleasing appearance.

The employment position is reasonably good, and the health of residents satisfactory.

A pleasing feature is the advancement of interest and gradual participation of aborigines in the general activities of the community. They are well accepted and no prejudice or segregation is evidenced against them in the district.

The Station is near the town, and an excellent opportunity exists for their gradual assimilation.

Children attend the town schools and are well accepted and integrated.

Walgett.

Floods affected the routine work on this Station during the year, but despite this a vigorous programme was maintained. Houses were repainted and a bulk store erected.

Employment, despite the floods, has been plentiful.

The duties of Manager/Teacher have been separated, and there is now a full-time Teacher of the Education Department in charge of the School. A Teacher's residence is in course of construction. This change has given the Manager much more time for Station management.

It is hoped to construct a Recreation Hall in the coming year, and extend social activities.

Wallaga Lake.

The population at the end of the year was 123, compared with 162 at the beginning. A number have left the Station to be nearer employment.

Treatment for worm eradication has been given with beneficial results to the health of the children.

Several houses were painted, and fences destroyed by fire were replaced. A new entrance was constructed.

Residents are not community-minded and are not active in social activities. Religious services are conducted by visiting clergy on the Station.

Thirty children attend School on the Station and two attended Narooma High School.

Drink is a problem of this station, and despite the effects of the Manager and Police, it has not been possible to eradicate the supply. It has a retarding effect on the social development of the people.

Woodenbong.

The year has been one of material progress on this Station. Although the houses are of the older type, an extensive repair programme has been carried out. A commencement was made in the addition of a bathroom/laundry unit to each house. A new store and tool room was erected, and the Station entrance and internal roads improved. Many trees were planted.

Treatment for worm infestation was carried out.

Social activities on the Station are not flourishing, but an interest in local sport is taken by a number of residents.

Religious activities are under the guidance of two aboriginal laymen who conduct regular Church and Sunday School gatherings.

It is to be regretted that prejudice against the aborigines exists in this district. This is most discouraging to many residents on the Station.

Wreck Bay (near Jervis Bay).

This Station is situated in Commonwealth Territory and is administered by the Aborigines Welfare Board on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

A number of residents are engaged in the fishing industry and others are employed in the local timber industry. Work is plentiful.

Repairs were effected to dwellings and fourteen cottages were painted.

Fifty children attend school on the Station and four travel to Nowra High School daily.

A Social Club exists and regular functions are held. Church and Sunday School services are conducted weekly.



APPENDIX "A".
MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Number of wards at beginning of year	183	194	215
Number admitted during year	11	15	17
Number committed during year	20	26	55
	214	235	287
Number discharged during year	20	20	55
	194	215	232

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Kinchela Boys' Home	54	45	44
Cootamundra Girls' Home	41	47	29
Denominational Homes	11	15	8
Boarded out with foster parents	62	69	93
In employment under Reg. conditions	23	29	27
Otherwise placed	3	16	31
	194	215	232

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

	1953-54.		1954-55.		1955-56.	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	...	3	2	3	...	7
Cootamundra Girls' Home.....	...	1	7	6	1	10
Denominational Homes	3	...	1	5	1	1
Boarded out with foster parents	6	14	5	8	7	20
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions	...	1	...	1	3	9
Otherwise placed	2	1	...	3	5	8
	11	20	15	26	17	55

APPENDIX "B".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS--VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station.	Area.	Population on Station.			Ration Recipients.			Statistics.								
								Births.			Deaths.			Marriages.		
		1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Boggabilla	457	239	202	208	33	21	19	10	12	13	2	1	4	3	3	1
Brewarrina	638	147	124	122	33	7	26	7	4	9	2	...	3	2	2	...
Burnt Bridge	106	319	312	283	51	33	33	14	9	14	6	1	1	1	1	1
Burra Bee Dee.....	473	62	60	78	15	2	24	2	6	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	135	143	148	29	16	16	3	10	5	2	2	...	1	...	1
Cowra	31	141	138	149	7	9	12	1	9	3	1	1	1	2	...	1
Jervis Bay	100	166	163	150	...	9	16	2	11	9	...	2	2	1	...	2
Moree	55	281	305	306	51	6	6	3	12	14	...	4	3	...	3	3
Murrin Bridge	937	218	267	283	53	62	46	3	9	15	3	...	1	1	...	3
Quirindi	220	181	202	200	...	...	...	4	9	7	...	2	4	...	1	1
Roseby Park	66	101	103	103	6	11	5	2	3	5	1	...	...	...	...	1
Tabulam	490	129	142	129	25	38	29	6	8	4	1	4	2	1	6	4
Taree	51	244	249	228	22	14	20	14	14	14	4	2	4	1	2	2
Walgett.....	337	151	163	178	32	30	23	8	8	10	3	2	2	1	2	...
Wallaga Lake	341	147	162	122	22	25	8	5	6	7	5	4	7	1	4	2
Woodenbong	126	135	184	173	32	34	35	5	9	8	6	6	2	2	...	2
Total .....	...	2,796	2,919	2,860	411	317	318	89	139	139	36	31	37	17	24	24

APPENDIX "C".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station or Reserve.	Area.	Population on Station or Reserve.			Ration Recipients.		
		1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Balranald.....	142	53	52	42	...	...	...
Bellbrook	96	108	106	90	12	17	12
Bourke	34	25	55	15	...	...	...
Bowraville	36	140	163	171	29	10	...
Brungle	12	34	34	34	7	...	...
Coff's Harbour New Reserve .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Condobolin	16	66	72	69	11	11	9
Coraki	10	62	54	84	2	4	5
Cubawee	24	86	120	105	...	...	...
Cumeroogunga	200	45	49	49	...	...	...
Dubbo	18	43	63	31	...	...	...
Forster	19	87	97	94	1	...	...
Goodooga.....	80	110	128	128	...	2	2
Gulargambone	52	74	58	132	2	...	...
Karuah	50	56	53	58	...	...	...
Kyogle	28	24	11	16	1	...	...
La Perouse	6	157	159	171	...	...	3
Moonahcullah	232	64	80	80	3	...	...
Nambucca Heads	70	76	60	75	...	...	1
Tibooburra	100	10	12	12	...	...	...
Tingha	15	46	35	34	...	...	...
Ulgundahi Island	44	24	31	31	3	3	3
Uralla	100	7	9	12	...	...	...
Walcha	107	36	40	54	5	4	6
Wellington	100	42	67	47	38	54	12
Wilcannia	75	192	180	263	...	11	11
Yass	9	42	45	31	3	...	...
Total .....	...	1,918	1,961	1,928	117	116	66

APPENDIX "D".

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

	1954-55.		1955-56.	
	£	£	£	£
Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—				
Salaries and Wages	74,817		82,741	
Maintenance of Buildings	9,651		8,172	
Transport Expenses	14,199		12,360	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...	41,542		42,320	
Other charges	2,599		2,987	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment.....	5,559		3,073	
	<u>148,367</u>		<u>151,653</u>	
Payable from General Loan Account—				
New Buildings, Station Improvements and Land Purchases	44,055		13,639	
		<u>192,422</u>		<u>165,292</u>

Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—

Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	9,833		8,945	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	391		401	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.	2,155		2,373	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services	5,913		7,055	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	4,035		4,212	
		<u>22,327</u>		<u>22,987</u>
Total		<u>£214,749</u>		<u>£188,279</u>

APPENDIX "E".

VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS.

<i>Nature of Visit or Interview—</i>	1st January, 1954 to 30th June, 1954.	1st July, 1954 to 30th June, 1955.	1st July, 1955 to 30th June, 1956.
	Number.	Number.	Number.
Supervisory home visits	1,107	1,905	1,544
Wards of the Board	152	321	434
Neglected or uncontrollable children	168	329	243
Stations or Reserves	398	490	583
Police	306	597	633
Schools	173	336	322
Enquiries re employment	380	1,028	700
Affiliation or Maintenance	225	316	264
Public Authorities.....	328	1,526	1,715
Voluntary Agencies	99	216	193
Attendance at Court.....	46	96	40
Miscellaneous	2,051	6,185	6,162
Total	5,433	13,345	12,832