

Moree Aboriginal Station— An Observation

The following is portion of an article which appeared in the Tamworth "Leader", and certainly bears repeating as indicating an observer's impressions of an Aboriginal Station at a centre which has been prominently in the public eye for some considerable time, namely Moree. The article says:—

"The Aboriginal Station just out of the town is a far better set-up than one would find in many white settlements of comparable size.

The aborigines there have just about everything they need to make for comfortable and full lives.

Something like a quarter of a million pounds has been spent on it. Its tidy streets and footpaths and its well-kept buildings are indeed pleasing.

The aborigines have their own church, school and recreation hall. They have a public telephone system and a really fine sports oval, complete with children's playground.

They have a well-established store and a sick bay is now in course of completion. However, there always has been a treatment room in charge of two qualified nurses.

The sports oval soon will be further improved by the addition of a watering system and the planting of ornamental trees.

Water to the Station is provided by a deep bore and is stored in two 5,000-gallon tanks.

The streets and homes are electrically lighted.

The children at the school are given the same treatment as those in schools for whites in Moree, and the teachers are Education Department trained officials.

When "Northern Daily Leader" representatives called there this week they were given a little treat by the children who were very courteous. The visit ended with the pupils singing a song.

The Station is in charge of Mr. D. Reynolds, who has Mr. F. Levin as Assistant.

Mr. Reynolds says they are a contented people who do not know what it means to be in need.

There are some topline tradesmen among the 450 residents, including shearers and station hands who earn good money. Those unfortunate enough to be out of work temporarily are given jobs round the settlement, for which they receive rations.

Soon the Station buildings, neat as they look now will be further improved.



Mr. Levin said that paint is just arriving. The homes will be done in approved colour schemes by the inhabitants themselves.

A regular bus service runs to and from the settlement which is in charge of the Aborigines Welfare Board."

A Fine Sporting Spirit

BELLATA PRAISES BOGGABILLA.

Recently a number of children from Bellata Public School wrote to their counterparts at Boggabilla Aboriginal School congratulating them on their sports victories at Moree.

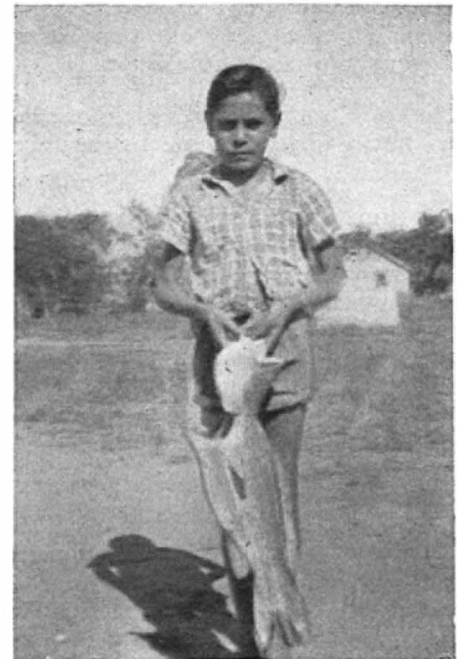
The following letter from Elizabeth Riley is typical of the letters received and shows a fine sporting spirit.

Elizabeth said:—

Dear Pupils,

"I am very pleased that you won the Heferen Shield at Moree. My name is Elizabeth Riley and I live at Bellata. I was one of the players in the ball-games. Our school colours are Red and Gold. I come from a very small school which has two rooms, a lower and higher division. There are about eighty children altogether. Bellata is thirty-four miles from Moree. It is on the edge of the slopes.

'Congratulations!'



Buddy Duncan, of Boggabilla, proudly displays a huge cod which he caught in the McIntyre River. The Editor caught some of these at the same spot a year or so ago, but not nearly as big.