

Pictures tell story . . .

THE WELFARE BOARD GOES TO THE BUSH TO SEE PROBLEMS AT CLOSE RANGE

by The Editor

Not long ago I travelled with members of the Aborigines Welfare Board on a tour, which, by my rough count took us 1,200 miles from Sydney, through the mid-West, the Riverina to the Victorian border, and to settlements close to the Hume Highway.

Along the way the Board dropped in on aboriginal families in the towns of Condobolin, Griffith, Deniliquin and Yass; and called at remote and quiet places like Murrin Bridge, Cumeroogunga and Brungle.

It was a memorable trip and one that appealed to the people who warmly welcomed the Board everywhere.

But it was no "sentimental journey". The Board was making one of its regular "duty calls" in search of cold, hard facts in furtherance of its dedicated mission to help the lot of the aboriginal people.

The Chairman, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, met the occasion with what the occasion seemed to demand when he was asked by one surprised housewife:

"Why are you making this trip so far from Sydney in the cold and rain?"

Mr. Kingsmill said: "I think it's very appropriate that the Board should come here. We deal with your problems and the best way to understand them is to visit you in your towns and homes so that we may be helped in our decisions."

The members and officers of the Board who made the trip with Mr. Kingsmill were Supt. J. H. Buck, Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A., Mr. C. Leon and the Superintendent, Mr. H. J. Green and Secretary, Mr. J. D. Giblett.

During their trip the members of the Board went out of their way to visit families living off reserves. Here Mrs. Catherine Sloane, who raised a family of five sons and two daughters on the banks of the Lachlan, near Condobolin, is pictured in her neat, colourful garden with Supt. J. H. Buck, Mr. Kingsmill, Mr. C. Leon and Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

