

a field officer for Wilcannia, providing the local people decided whom they wanted for the job.

When the people said they needed more homes Les Ridgeway advised them "When you go to the Housing Commission to apply for a home and fill out the form, make sure you specify you want a H.F.A. (homes for aborigines) house. You should flood the government with these requests. Once you have been living in a H.F.A. home for 12 months, you might soon be able to use the rent you have paid, as a deposit and buy the house".

Wilcannia already has a building for use as a community centre but the people complained that it didn't have many facilities. Harry Hall, manager of the Foundation at Walgett, said "It took me 10 years of continual effort to get something at Walgett. You should keep applying to the N.S.W. Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare and to the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs".

When a white person at the meeting asked the Advisory Council what was it that Aborigines were really after, Tom Williams replied "We want to improve the living standards of our people and give them the same rights as whites".

WHY AN ADVISORY COUNCIL?

The Aborigines Advisory Council was established so that the Government would have a reliable method of finding out the opinions of the Aboriginal community. It was also set-up so that the people would have a channel through which they could communicate their needs and problems to the Government.

For these reasons it is important that the Council be as representative of the Aboriginal community as possible. The only way this can be done is for the people to enrol as voters for the Council elections and to vote for the candidates they want to represent them.

So far only 2,000-odd people have enrolled and only about half of them voted in the last Advisory Council election.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

You may enrol or stand for election to the Council, if:

- (a) you are a descendant of an Aboriginal; and
- (b) you are over 18 years of age; and
- (c) you have lived in N.S.W. for at least 3 months and at your present address for 1 month.

Application forms for enrolment will be available from:

- The State Electoral Office, G.P.O. Box 3124, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001.
- The Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare, P.O. Box K718, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000.
- Any office or field officer of the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare.
- Most Aboriginal advancement organizations.

Once you have enrolled you will be sent a ballot paper when the election is held.

NOTICE TO EX-BIMBADEEN GIRLS

Several girls who at various stages attended Bimbadeen Home near Cootamundra are at the moment being sought by the Commonwealth Bank at Cootamundra.

The bank has contacted Mrs Hiscock, the former matron, asking for her assistance in establishing their present whereabouts. It appears that the girls left money in school banking accounts when they left the home. In some cases quite sizeable amounts of money remain in the accounts.

These are names of the girls the bank is trying to contact:

BYERS Freda	LOWE Robyne May
SANDY Barbara	FARRANT Christine
SANDY Ida	BUTTON Edna Jean
COOMBES Penny	ROBERTS Leila
QUINN Olive	YOUNG Vena
JOHNSON Lorraine	JOHNSON Rachel
MURRAY Mildred	GORDON Veronica
MORAN Wilma	Joyce.

Any of these girls who wish to enquire about their bank accounts, can do so by contacting the Manager, Commonwealth Savings Bank, P.O. Box 124, Cootamundra, N.S.W. 2590.

Mrs Hiscock can be contacted at 79 Temora Street, Cootamundra.