
NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Information contained in Report
of Director of Native Affairs
for the Twelve Months ended
30th June, 1956.



Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1956.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report under “*The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946,*” and “*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946,*” for the year ended 30th June, 1956.

are capable of securing steady work and adequately supporting themselves and their families.

Established under “*The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939,*” the majority of the Islands of Torres Strait have been gazetted reserves for the use of islanders and hereon the greater percentage of Torres Strait Island people reside. As reported last year some 800 Torres Strait Islanders elected to leave their home reserves and obtain employment at various callings on the mainland. The majority of these people together with their respective families are still so employed and in arriving at the population of Torres Strait Islanders the mainland workers have been taken into consideration.

These figures are an estimate only and are compiled from information supplied, based on local records and knowledge.

The residence of aborigines and half-bloods at Government settlements and church missions still maintains at 46 per cent., indicating that no great influx to these institutions takes place and the majority of natives residing in towns and districts outside settlements and missions

There are four Government settlements and twelve church missions and the areas and approximate population of these reserves are:—

POPULATION.

Aborigines	9,804
Half-bloods	7,123
Torres Strait Islanders	5,663

	Area. (Acres)	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Torres Strait Islanders.	Total.
Cape York Government Settlement	97,620	171	..	343	514
Cherbourg Government Settlement	26,765	139	871	..	1,010
Palm Island Government Settlement	15,510	565	814	..	1,379
Woorabinda Government Settlement	54,800	452	281	..	733
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	554,880	271	2	..	273
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	588,400	307	3	..	310
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	616,320	707	23	..	730
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England)	39,710	157	643	..	800
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian)	1,216,000	825	..	..	625
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian)	2,140,800	123	176	..	299
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian)	245,120	350	43	..	393
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian)	1,600,000	157	..	..	157
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren)	260,480	308	49	..	357
Hammond Island Mission (Roman Catholic)	3,660	..	..	98	98
Hope Vale Mission (Lutheran)	257,200	192	150	..	342
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	4,318	193	112	..	305
Country Reserves .. .. .	..	5,087	3,956	..	9,043
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	..	..	..	5,222	5,222
	7,721,583	9,804	7,123	5,663	22,500

Population figures published herein and in reports of previous years reveal a continuous but slight annual increase in population and on taking all aspects into consideration these figures can be regarded as reasonably true and accurate and show the number of coloured people of Queensland coming within the provisions of "*The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946,*" and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946.*"

POLICY.

The future of the aboriginal race in Queensland is naturally one which continuously exercises the mind of the administration responsible for the care and protection of these people. It is never really difficult to determine a policy for the future of a race sufficiently intelligent to accept it and provided that sufficient funds are available from some source or other to implement that policy.

It is a different matter, however, when one is compelled to deal with a people who through no fault of their own are backward comparable with those with whom they live. Thus situated is the Queensland aboriginal.

The age of our civilisation is immaterial to this subject. Whether we base it from B.C. or A.D. has little comparable relationship to the civilisation of the aboriginal. Suffice it to say that ours is a particularly ancient one, theirs as the aboriginal knows it now is a new civilisation covering not more than a century. Certainly the aboriginal did have a civilisation of a type which anthropologists have over the years studied and examined and continue to study but that civilisation is of little use to him when he finds himself brushing shoulders with a totally different one possessed by a much larger population than his own.

There is no argument against the fact that the Queensland aboriginal must adapt himself to those things which constitute the civilisation of the white if he is to survive and become a useful member of the community in which he finds himself. That is the path which must be trodden by him and that is the path to which he must reasonably be kept by us consistent, of course, with his psychology, mentality, industry; and capability of assimilation. How we are to lead him or direct him on that path is a problem that must be measured up to and in measuring up to it the difficulties attending to it cannot be disregarded. Briefly, here is the picture—

The white civilisation of thousands of years is nominally willing to accept people differing in colour and with a civilisation of one hundred years. The new recruit to the older civilisation is generally incapable of accepting it. Willing as he may be, a responsibility therefore devolves on the old to provide the new with something which will attract him and that something must, of necessity, be to his advantage. It must be instrumental in enabling him to meet his changed environment and to progress towards complete assimilation. That something in the main is embodied in the one word, education.

Before contact with the white civilisation was established, the aboriginal was a hunter. He lived off the land that gave him ample game and vegetable, a happy circumstance which allowed him to ignore any necessity for horticultural or agricultural pursuits. Consequently, his tuition to fit in with the new way of life has been and must continue to be based not only on the scholastic but on the industrial requirements of a backward people. Therefore, his outstanding requirement is education in all its phases incorporating as it does housing, health, and remunerative employment. These four salient features are the foundation of any individual or peoples.

The Government, therefore, mindful of the difficulties involved in the ultimate assimilation of the race into the white community has based its policy accordingly with highly successful results. It can be accepted that there are now more people in Queensland possessing aboriginal blood assimilated into the general community than are controlled and protected under the Acts. The problem of those people has virtually been solved. The Government is determined to press on with its successful policy until solution of the problem for the remainder is achieved.

EXEMPTIONS.

"*The Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946,*" provide that Exemption Certificates may be issued to people whose education and general standard of living fit them to take their place in the community. In effect these people have so benefited by the protective provisions of the Acts that they are now able to control their own affairs. The number of such Exemption Certificates issued this year totals 286.

Decision to issue Certificates of Exemption to aboriginals and cross-breeds is not lightly made. For such issue there must be an appreciation of the responsibility which devolves on the recipient. In most cases that responsibility is accepted. Where, however, circumstances militate against the ability of an Exemption Certificate holder to make good of his own volition without assistance from the Department he is readily accepted back into the ranks of protected people.

These exempted people are not taken into consideration when the population as appears on page one of this report is assessed. By reason of Certificates issued over the years there would be in Queensland at least 20,000 such people possessing some degree of aboriginal blood who are not subject to the provisions of the Acts in that they are capable of caring for themselves and have become more or less assimilated into the community in which they live.

EDUCATION.

Practically every aboriginal and Torres Strait Island child of school age attends a primary school and seventeen children are in attendance

at secondary schools. This mere statement of fact exemplifies the Government's policy for the advancement of these coloured people under its care. Particulars of the children attending the established primary schools are shown hereunder:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st March, 1956.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	150	155	305
Settlement	Palm Island	138	114	252
Settlement	Woorabinda	99	104	203
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	57	53	110
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	43	44	87
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	37	34	71
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	30	37	67
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	35	48	83
Aboriginal Mission	Monarmons	33	24	57
Aboriginal Mission	Hope Vale	38	34	72
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	58	50	108
Aboriginal Mission	Edward River	24	22	46
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	22	17	39
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	82	80	162
Island Mission	St. Paul's (Moa Island)	30	28	58
Island Mission	St. Michael's Convent (Palm Island)	55	42	97
Island Mission	Hammond Island	15	15	30
Reserve	Cowal Creek	19	22	41
Reserve	Bamaga	31	24	55
Reserve	Red Island Point	5	11	16
Torres Strait	Island Schools	349	344	693
	Total	1,350	1,302	2,652

There is an inclination by many doubtlessly well disposed advocates of aboriginal welfare to press for an education more advanced than is applicable now. The enthusiasm of such well meaning people is sometimes inclined to cloud their better judgment or fails to allow them to appreciate the human material with which they are dealing. When one considers that the aboriginal's own traditions and way of life provided a background totally dissimilar to ours and that even now some of the parents of the children attending the primary schools cannot speak English, it should not be difficult to visualise the immensity of the task which besets the educationalists in their attempts to provide an education for the aboriginal with the ultimate aim of his assimilation in, what could be to him, a foreign community.

These educational efforts have demonstrated that the aboriginal is not impossible material on which to work, more so as he has shown that he is capable of accepting a primary education. Such acceptance, however, cannot be construed to imply that he at this juncture can parallel a white child's retentive abilities particularly with subjects with which he and his ancestors were never vitally concerned. Therefore, the educationalist, if he is to obtain the best results from the material at his disposal, must appreciate these fundamental deficiencies in a people that he is endeavouring to uplift.

It is not to be imagined that such deficiencies will always obtain but no argument can dispose of their existence now. Certain specific cases of outstanding ability can be quoted but the main purpose in dealing with the race is the education of all and the advanced education of those capable of accepting it. Nothing in these remarks can be taken as maintaining that the aboriginal race ultimately will not provide scholars capable of holding their position in any

community but that situation is not yet. The point is that a concrete basis to enable future generations to be better endowed than is the present one, is essential. The basis has been provided in that Queensland's present educational policy is sound primary education for all aboriginals with encouragement to the ones capable of going beyond the primary stage. Beyond that policy the material cannot cope.

Handicrafts which these people are inclined to favour are provided in their primary education curriculum. Their tuition as trained artisans, assistants in nursing, domestics and agriculturalists is a prominent feature of their primary education and has considerable bearing on their employment in these callings.

HOUSING.

As indicated earlier housing holds a very high priority in the State Government's determination for the uplift and progress of the people. That policy of better housing is not a new one. It has existed over the years but war and post-war conditions militated considerably against its implementation.

Skilled native labour has naturally always been in short supply but that difficulty is slowly but surely being overcome through the educational facilities provided on the settlements and missions, so much so that now with labour and materials available in reasonable quantities the housing scheme so long visualised is much nearer accomplishment than hitherto. Better housing of the people has been stepped up over the last two years as indicated by the underquoted particulars of activities under this heading. Those statistics reveal that the housing

shortage is being gradually overcome and provided that the progress which marked the last two years is maintained it will not be many more years before the housing problem has been virtually solved.

Cherbourg Settlement.—Eighteen two- and three-bedroom houses of modern design have been completed and occupied, the value of the buildings being £1,500 each, a total of £27,000. These buildings are constructed of timber produced at the settlement sawmill. Joinery is the product of the settlement workshop.

Palm Island Settlement.—Sixty-five two- and three-bedroom houses have been completed valued at £650 each, total £42,250. These dwellings are constructed of materials available on the settlement. They are partly concrete and partly timber.

Woorabinda Settlement.—Eighteen houses of two and three bedrooms have been completed and occupied, value £1,750 each, £31,500 in all. These houses are constructed entirely of timber produced on the settlement.

Torres Strait Area, including Bamaga.—Thirty-nine two- and three-bedroom houses have been erected from timber supplied from Bamaga sawmill.

Church Missions.—One hundred and thirty-three houses of various types suitable to the requirements of the people have been built.

In addition to the above, accommodation is being provided at four country centres where large numbers of aboriginals are either permanently in residence, visit or pass through going to and from employment. These centres are Normanton, Croydon, Cloncurry and Townsville, where the necessary buildings have been purchased and building operations commenced, the total cost being approximately £31,640.

The buildings to be provided will be sufficient for all requirements for aboriginals in these centres and Departmental policy is to continue with similar constructional work in other centres throughout the State, the townships now under consideration being Birdsville, Dajarra, and Camooweal.

The building programme operative throughout Queensland caters not only for better housing for the people but also for the provision of general amenities wherever people may be gathered be it on Government settlements, church missions, or in country centres.

Consequently details of the building programme would not be complete were reference not made to building extensions and repairs to hospitals, coloured administrative quarters, schools, water supplies, medical aid posts, &c. Particulars of all these buildings are contained in the various individual reports printed herein.

HEALTH.

Continuous vigilance by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, his staff, Government medical officers throughout the State

and superintendents and staff of the various hospitals, guarantees an effective check on the health of Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals to such extent that immediately an epidemic is reported, prompt action is taken to counteract it.

An outbreak of gastro-enteritis in the Thursday Island Torres Strait area could have assumed serious proportions but very effective measures were taken by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services and his staff, including the medical officers and nursing sisters at the Thursday Island Hospital, to prevent such. A similar outbreak of a minor nature occurred at Cherbourg Settlement and was again speedily brought under control.

Tuberculosis treatment has again been prominent in the Department's health activities. In the Torres Strait area where previously the situation appeared to give cause for some alarm a much improved situation can be recorded. This improvement, however, has not caused any relaxation in the planned surveys of the communities which to date have brought excellent results.

An outbreak of malaria which some years ago threatened the whole of the Torres Strait group has not recurred. It is safe to say that this happy position is brought about by continuous preventative measures which remove all semblance of opportunity from all islands and particularly from those most susceptible to an outbreak.

At Woorabinda Settlement hookworm is still prevalent. A laboratory has been set up to deal with this infection and it is expected that in the near future positive results will be obtained.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

On all of the Government settlements and church missions special attention is paid to the health of the mother and child. Child Welfare centres conducted on the lines applicable to the Maternal and Child Welfare organisation in Brisbane have resulted in the education of the parents and a guarantee of strong healthy children. Where previously the death rate on some of these settlements and missions was comparatively high amongst the infants such does not now prevail.

In the overall the health of the community has been good. It is quite evident that the better housing of the people contributes considerably to this happy situation.

The following schedules provide:—

- (1) Statistics of births and deaths at the Thursday Island General Hospital of Torres Strait Islanders.
- (2) Statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area which cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island Hospital.

PERIOD 1st JUNE, 1955 TO 31st MAY, 1956.

	Births.			Still Births.	Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Thursday Island Hospital	76	88	164	9	8	15	23
Waiben Hospital, Thursday Island	1	..	1	..	..	1	1
Thursday Island	2	..	2	..	..	1	1
Badu Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Boigu Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coconut Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Cowal Creek .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bamaga .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
Red Island Point .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darnley Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Dauan Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Dowar Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Kubin Island .. .. .	..	1	1	..	..	1	1
Naghir Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mabuig Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Murray Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
Rennell Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stephen Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saibai Island	3	5	8	..	1	1	2
Yam Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yorke Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Horn Island .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
At Sea .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
	82	94	176	9	25	28	51

Excess of births over deaths is 125.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1956.

BAMAGA.

	In-Patients.	Out-Patients Treatments.	
June	In-patients total 73
July .. .. .	..	..
August	10	542	
September	21	430	Number of treatments 10,783
October	4	684	
November	4	899	
December	4	1,004	
January	1	1,550	
February	3	1,005	
March	9	876	
April	10	904	
May	7	2,889	

DARNLEY.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	103	630	In-patients. Daily Average .55
July .. .. .	..	..	..	102	587
August .. .. .	.5	..	.5	105	496
September5	..	.5	105	510	Out-patients. Number treated 1,144
October .. .. .	.5	..	.5	88	652
November .. .. .	.33	..	.33	88	441
December .. .. .	..	..	..	92	451
January .. .. .	..	.25	.25	77	243
February .. .. .	..	.5	.5	97	422
March .. .. .	..	1	1	96	450
April	1	1	93	350	Number of treatments 5,524
May .. .. .	..	1	1	98	312

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1956—continued.

BADU.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	1.7	1.1	2.8	277	533	In-patients. Daily Average 6.39
July	3.9	4.9	8.8	360	540	
August	3.4	3	6.4	285	598	Out-patients. Number treated 3,730
September	2.5	5.9	8.4	297	510	
October	2.7	3.3	6	357	445	Number of treatments 6,233
November	2.2	5	7.2	382	510	
December	2	3.8	5.8	205	300	
January	2	2	4	188	359	
February	0.5	3.5	4	283	571	
March	2.2	5.3	7.5	319	628	
April	2.7	4	6.7	297	533	
May	2.9	6.2	9.1	480	706	

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

Practically every able-bodied aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander is in remunerative employment consistent with his physical ability to engage in such. In the Thursday Island-Torres Strait area the majority of the men are engaged in the pearling and trochus industry as divers, tenders, engine men, and crews.

The wages and working conditions for these employees are governed by agreement entered into between the Director of Native Affairs and the Pearl Shellers Association annually. That Agreement appears elsewhere in this report.

Year by year the Islander is improving as a diver and greater depths will be reached when the school for training him as a deep diver, tender, engine man, &c., has been established. It is unfortunate that unavoidable delay has occurred in the establishment of this school.

Island Industries Board and the Director of Native Affairs have made every effort to obtain suitable tutor divers to help these men but without success. There is more in the tutorship of a diver than blackboard lectures and verbal directions. The capable and competent tutor diver must be prepared to go to sea with the trainees on the pearling luggers and remain there for a specified working period known as "clear water". As a member of the team at sea he must be prepared to dive and demonstrate to the men receiving tuition every phase and factor of diving in deep water, that is, in waters up to 35 fathoms. In effect, this tutor diver must be capable of instilling a confidence into his pupils by demonstrating to them just how the job should be done.

The Queensland Government was prepared and is still willing to assist in the cost of running the school. The Commonwealth Government refused any financial assistance to it.

Since the training school was first mooted, experiments into the most efficient diving dress have continued in Australia to such extent that new and modern light equipment is now available which will prove much cheaper and equally

as efficient as the old type of dress. Already Island Industries Board which controls and directs the largest pearling fleet in Queensland is negotiating for the purchase of such equipment and the engagement of a representative of the manufacturer to proceed to Thursday Island to tutor the Islanders in the art of diving with this new type of dress.

There are approximately 1,100 Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals employed in the industry at various ports from Thursday Island to Mackay. This number is considerably below that required for the efficient manning of boats licensed in the industry. The shortage is mainly crew men or deck hands. Representations by the State Government to the Commonwealth Government for competent Papuan labour to make up the shortage in the crews of the pearling and trochus vessels have not been successful.

It can be fairly estimated that in the pastoral industry, 4,500 aboriginals are employed. A further 1,300 aboriginals and Islanders are engaged on their home settlements, church missions and Torres Strait Islands. There are also in the vicinity of 900 engaged in private enterprise as carpenters, plumbers, general artisans, labourers, nurses and domestics, &c. The services which these people give to the community are generally recognised as essential to the success of the various callings in which they are employed. This applies particularly to the pastoral industry where aboriginal stockmen and their women folk are recognised as essential to the successful running of many pastoral properties.

Every Islander and aboriginal employed in a calling covered by a State Arbitration Court Award is paid in accordance with that Award. This does not apply to the Award covering the pastoral industry from which provisions, aboriginals are specifically exempted. Departmental Regulations, however, provide a wage and living conditions in this industry consistent with the aboriginal's ability. Where it is evident that an aboriginal in this industry can compare favourably with white employees they are paid at the same rate as the latter.

In all cases aboriginal workers are covered by the State Workers' Compensation Acts. In effect the organisation aimed at the preservation

and protection of the aboriginal race in Queensland gives to him work and wages of a standard practically similar to white workers.

The following table indicates the extent aboriginals and Islanders contribute to their own maintenance:—

Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding peninsular aboriginals over the year	£540,713
Gross earnings by Torres Strait Islanders and peninsular aboriginals over the year	£467,000
Savings Bank deposits by aboriginals excluding peninsular aboriginals over the year	£405,535
Savings Bank deposits by Torres Strait Islanders and peninsular aboriginals over the year	£398,628
Savings Bank withdrawals by aboriginals excluding peninsular aboriginals over the year	£374,377
Savings Bank withdrawals by Torres Strait Islanders and peninsular aboriginals over the year	£409,378

Value of marine produce won by Torres Strait Islanders off their own boats	£158,550
Value of produce produced on various Government settlements	£55,118
Number of men employed in industries excluding the marine industry ..	4,500
Number of men in the marine industry	1,100

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

As a further step towards training our native people to self-maintenance, undertakings are carried out on Government Settlements under the following headings:—

Cattle Raising.—Mainland natives have a natural aptitude towards work in this field and to provide additional scope on Government settlements particularly, cattle raising operations are carried out. The value of livestock depastured on the various settlements as a Departmental asset is £157,606. Numbers of cattle quoted are as at the 31st March, 1956:—

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.							Dairy Cattle.				Horses.				
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Bullocks.	Weaners.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddles.	Total.
Cherbourg	16	377	98	..	204	55	289	1,039	..	..	..	..	..	23	41	64
Aboriginal Training Farm .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	71	19	14	107	3	1	4
Woorabinda	57	1,603	460	..	..	381	894	3,395	..	83	..	..	83	47	132	179
Foleyvale .. .. .	..	7	..	4	1	1,463	..	1,475	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Island .. .. .	..	..	..	84	..	54	..	138	2	82	79	96	259	18	9	27
Total	73	1,987	558	88	205	1,953	1,183	6,047	5	236	98	110	449	91	183	274

From this undertaking 519 cattle were slaughtered to provide meat for settlement requirements valued at £14,472 and throughout the year 537 bullocks were disposed of to the value of £20,203. These bullocks were fattened on Foleyvale and represent male cattle transferred from Woorabinda and Cherbourg Settlements. All bullocks which are sold, in keeping with Departmental policy, are disposed of by public auction at sales conducted at Brisbane and Rockhampton.

Timber Production.—In a progressive building programme as has been planned on all Government settlements and in the Torres Strait area sawn timber requirements are considerable. Sawmills on the three settlements and at Bamaga in the Thursday Island area have been improved so that the overall output has been increased to meet this demand. Also to facilitate in logging operations heavy crawler tractors fitted with blade and winch have recently been purchased for Bamaga and Palm Island Settlement. All operations of cutting, logging, hauling and milling are carried out by natives under the supervision of a white overseer. The total output of sawn timber from these sawmills is approximately 500,000 super. feet of sawn timber annually.

Manual Training and Trade Training.—On the three settlements workshops have been established for the further tuition of those primary school boys who have shown a natural aptitude for woodworking and carpentering. On Cherbourg Settlement a complete workshop has been

equipped and under the supervision of an experienced joiner machinist all Departmental requirements in joinery are manufactured. In addition some items of furniture are made, particularly school and office furniture.

On Woorabinda and Palm Island Settlements, to speed up the general building programme, native cottages are being pre-cut so that they are readily assembled on the site.

Agriculture and Farming Generally.—Market gardening is carried out on each of the Government settlements producing vegetables in season for the resident population. Similarly dairy production to provide milk particularly for the younger children is undertaken. Of necessity fodder production and conservation plays a most important part in this industry in maintaining supplies of milk throughout the year. An adjunct to Cherbourg Settlement is the Aboriginal Training Farm maintained as a mixed farm embodying dairying, pig raising with fodder production being carried out under irrigation.

On Foleyvale grain growing operations are followed, part of this produce being distributed to other settlements.

With the aim of affording tuition to natives in modern farming practice, all such industries are conducted with up-to-date machinery under the supervision of experienced overseers.

As an indication under-quoted is an average of actual annual receipts over the past three years of various industrial undertakings carried out on Government settlements:—

Aboriginal Training Farm.	Cattle.	Foleyvale Grain and Crops.	Trade Training Centre, Cherbourg.	Bamaga.
£ 3,798	£ 33,594	£ 2,427	£ 3,092	£ 1,517

Development of Settlements.—Over the past four years a major works programme has been carried out on the three main settlements and to give a complete picture of this development such is itemised:—

PALM ISLAND SETTLEMENT.

Electrification of settlement including light and power to all native cottages. Provision of 1,000,000-gallon reservoir and reticulation throughout settlement.

WOORABINDA SETTLEMENT.

Electrification of settlement including light and power to all native cottages. Provision of 30,000-gallon tank on 40-ft. water tower complete with treatment and filtration plant and reticulation throughout the settlement.

CHERBOURG SETTLEMENT.

Erection of 100,000-gallon reservoir with filtration and treatment plant and reticulation throughout the settlement.

At present major works are being carried out at Cherbourg Settlement providing a complete waste water and sewerage disposal system.

Electrification was completed prior to period under review.

All these undertakings have been effected in the main with native labour under white supervision.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The various church missions which cater for aboriginals throughout the State have again recorded a fair measure of progress in the policy of uplift and betterment of the living conditions of the people.

Most of these missions are situated in the more inaccessible portions of Queensland, viz., the Cape York Peninsula area. There climatic conditions are hard and the lack of adequate transport militates against the progress which is hoped for. To these missionary workers, men and women, employed in mission fields in these areas the Government is deeply appreciative. They have virtually given their lives to a cause to which they are espoused and many unrecorded hardships are suffered in the performance of their duties.

Opportunity, therefore, is now taken to thank these mission workers for the unselfish efforts which were theirs during the current year.

All possible assistance in cash and kind is made available to these church missions by the Government to enable their planned work to proceed. It is common knowledge that contributions to the mission fields are not as great now as previously and, therefore, the responsibility devolves upon the Government to make good the shortages and to provide extras to meet added cost of maintenance and development of the missions.

ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table of deposits, withdrawals and balances the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £835,330 6s. 11d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw, within reason, against their savings bank accounts:—

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1956

	Total.		Savings Bank Balances as at 30th June, 1956.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.	
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.				
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cherbourg	38,691	5 4	35,613	19 7	7,280	17 10
Palm Island	60,651	16 6	51,792	12 3	17,180	8 11
Woorabinda	41,904	14 3	38,329	1 5	21,000	0 0
Various Protectorates ..	264,287	11 11	248,641	9 6	4,000	0 0
Torres Strait Islands ..	398,628	14 0	409,377	19 4	497,950	0 0
	100,293	15 4	115,000	0 0	558,450	1 0
Totals	804,164	2 0	783,755	2 1	196,380	6 11
					638,950	0 0
					835,330	6 11

The balance, £835,330 6s. 11d., represents the savings by aboriginals from their earnings. A separate account for each individual is kept by the Director of Native Affairs, and the current Commonwealth Savings Bank rate of interest is credited annually to each account.

Duplicates of these accounts are kept by the Protector of Aboriginals in the district in which the aboriginal resides, thus allowing the latter to operate on the account in his home town.

These savings bank deposits are entirely the property of the individual aboriginal, the Director of Native Affairs being the trustee of

the accounts. Only the aboriginal owner or persons authorised by such owner in writing can withdraw money from his account.

In the case of a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin. The number of estates so administered was 47 and the amounts made available to next of kin were £6,454 6s.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate needs. This is plainly evident from a perusal

of the total deposits and withdrawals shown in the foregoing table. Innumerable cases can be quoted of—

- (a) **Aboriginals receiving their exemptions from the provisions of the Act and receiving their savings in a lump sum to set them up in business suited to their calling;**
- (b) **Homes being built for aboriginals from their savings;**
- (c) **Plant and equipment being provided from savings to allow the aboriginal to improve his industrial status;**
- (d) **Funds made available for aboriginals to enjoy a holiday at the seaside.**

CHILD ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS.

The Commonwealth Government child endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of the endowment has proved of much benefit to aboriginal children in that it allows the mothers to purchase a wider variety of food, better clothing, &c., for the children.

A close check is made on every individual account to which child endowment is credited to ensure that the expenditure by parents is in keeping with the purpose for which the payment is made.

The number of aboriginal parent endowees in the State is :—

	Endowees.
Country Protectorates	383
Cherbourg Settlement	147
Woorabinda Settlement	90
Palm Island Settlement	129
Torres Strait Islanders	887
	1,636

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £86,893 12s. 3d.

When aboriginal children are wholly maintained in mission and Government settlement institutions, the endowment is paid to Institutional funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing extras in diet, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books, and reading material.

The following table reveals the number of children in institutions for whom child endowment is collected :—

Woorabinda Settlement	41
Cherbourg Settlement	88
Palm Island Settlement	369
Hope Vale Mission	3
Daintree Mission	12
Doomadgee Mission	100
Mitchell River Mission	98
Aurukun Mission	183
Mapoon Mission	119
Mornington Island Mission	172
Weipa Mission	57
Yarrabah Mission	391
Presbyterian Home, Thursday Island	9
	1,642

APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance forthcoming from all officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs is gratefully recognised.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the Manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various Police officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country Police protectors.

The superintendents and staffs of the church missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Reports of the settlements and the missions and in respect of Torres Strait Islanders are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1 ..	Palm Island Settlement
Appendix 2 ..	Woorabinda Settlement
Appendix 3 ..	Cherbourg Settlement
Appendix 4 ..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 5 ..	Mona Mona Mission
Appendix 6 ..	Hope Vale Mission
Appendix 7 ..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Torres Strait Islands and Peninsula
Appendix 9 ..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 10 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 11 ..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 12 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 13 ..	St. Paul's Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 16 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 17 ..	Weipa Mission
Appendix 18 ..	Hammond Island Mission
Appendix 19 ..	Palm Island Convent School

APPENDIX 1.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL
SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. H. Bartlam.)

HEALTH.

STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In-patients	306	365	671
Out-patients, treated ..			2,498
Out-patients, visits ..			23,360
Births	34	34	68
Deaths	8	12	20
Stillbirths			1
Marriages—22			
Exemptions—23			

The Palm Island Hospital has functioned well during the year. The wet season has passed without an outbreak of gastro-enteritis. Some influenza was reported during March but was not of a serious nature.

Children's diseases generally were mild both in duration and effect.

A welcome addition to the hospital is the new native infants' nursery. This was built by native labour and has proved a great asset to the hospital.

During the year the hospital was painted internally and externally.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

This section has continued to carry out routine services throughout the year. A campaign of reconditioning of lavatory buildings and pan-steads has been undertaken.

Septic systems were installed in the women's dormitory.

BABY WELFARE.

This important section is functioning well.

The regular attendance required of all children under five with their mothers is of considerable benefit to the various families.

The condition and health of these children are the prime concern of the clinic. Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and paratyphoid has been carried out.

It is pleasing to report that each year the birth rate is increasing and the infantile mortality rate falling.

NATIVE HOUSING.

The housing drive has continued throughout the year. However, a check was experienced during the quarter ending 31st March because of the holiday period but mainly due to the heavy wet season, highlighted by the cyclone "Agnes" which centred over the settlement on 6th March, 1956.

Apart from the obstruction caused by the wet, it was necessary to divert labour and materials to the repair of native homes and administrative buildings damaged by the cyclone.

The following work was completed during the twelve months:—Native houses—38, each with laundry, bathroom and lavatory; Gymnasium; Manual training building; Home training centre; Library; Alterations to aboriginal school; 42-foot barge hull completed.

In addition to the above a home for ex-Hansen's disease patients to accommodate 30 people is half completed. A new butcher shop has walls and roofs completed and only requires concrete floor and benches to be ready for use.

EDUCATION.

The aboriginal school has functioned well over the year.

A staff of head teacher and four assistant teachers was maintained and assisted by seven native monitors and monitresses.

Four girls have been able to attain the educational standard required by the Townsville Hospitals Board to enable them to apply for training as nurses. Arrangements have been made for the supervision of these girls by the Y.W.C.A. while doing their first year studies in Townsville.

Emphasis is placed on visual education as a sound method of teaching in aboriginal schools and the results obtained have been good. The school sporting activities have been maintained. Palm Island children attending secondary schools number as follows:—

All Souls College—5 boys.
Mt. Carmel College—3 boys.
St. Mary's Convent—3 girls.

FEMALE WELFARE.

The Home Training Centre under the control of the female welfare officer, Mrs. Ellnor, has come into operation. This section, an important one, takes care of the domestic training of the girls in the upper grades at the settlement school. It also caters for young girls who need training prior to proceeding to employment.

Mothers and other women requiring domestic training in plain cooking, sewing and house duties are eligible to enrol.

The female welfare officer has maintained constant touch with the women and children in the settlement and has been able to do much to improve the standard of living and hygiene. She also acts as a liaison officer between the camp people and the medical section with good results.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The Home Training Centre, a building 40 feet by 30 feet, was erected. This is lined, ceiled, and partitioned with kitchen, sewing room and three rooms, all fully furnished for training purposes.

A Manual Training Centre also 40 feet by 30 feet was built. This is a concrete and hardwood structure. The walls are concrete to sill height and weatherboard to top plate. The trusses are of 1½-in. pipe welded on the settlement.



Old People's Home: Palm Island.



Erection Social and Welfare Building, Palm Island.

This is to serve as a training centre for lads of school-leaving age as well as to afford elementary training for the upper classes at the school.

A gymnasium 40 feet by 30 feet was built during the year for recreational purposes. The walls are of concrete to sill height and weather-board to top wall plate. Like the Manual Training building the roof trusses of this building are of 1½-in. piping and the welding was done on the settlement.

A very attractive library was completed, the building being well lighted by casements and glass louvres. It is "T" shaped to afford the maximum amount of light and air.

AGRICULTURE.

Rainfall—10,993 points.

PRODUCTION.

Beef	9,402	lbs.
Fish	5,881	lbs.
Milk	4,956½	gallons
Peanuts	10	bags
Papaws	2,576	
Pineapples	7,503	
Bananas	1,214	bunches
Lettuce	3,100	heads
Beetroot	40	bunches
Cabbages	2,626	heads
Carrots	3	sacks
Turnips	36	sacks
Sweet potatoes	5	sacks
Cucumbers	24	dozen
Marrows	96	
Onions	2	bags
Beans	9	bags
Water melons	260	
Tomatoes	195	bushels
Radishes	31	sacks
Pumpkins	36	tons

A new area was opened up at Butler Bay and despite cyclonic weather, 6 tons of pumpkins were harvested from this virgin piece of land. As a follow on 10,000 pineapples were planted. There are now 30,000 pines planted on the settlement.

Crops such as corn and saccaline were badly damaged, but three acres of Mauritius bean and sorghum mixture made a good silage crop. One and a-half acres of fodder cane also were ensiled. In all, 60 tons were made into ensilage, which forms a total of 150 tons now carried as a fodder reserve against dry times.

A start has been made on feeding stalls which are being erected near the silos. A further acreage of pineapples and bananas was planted during the year.

CATTLE.

The increase in cattle numbers has been maintained despite seasonal extremes.

Eventually it is hoped that Zebu blood can be introduced to enable greater tolerance to environment and resistance to disease, a well known characteristic of this breed. Cattle on the island at present number 397.

SAWMILL AND LOGGING.

Although logs are becoming more difficult to obtain due to the scattered resources, at no time was the mill held up awaiting logs during the period.

Some loss of time was caused by the cyclone which unroofed the mill building and again during reorganisation of the machinery.

During the period logs were cut to produce the following timber:—

Hardwood	44,444	super. feet.
Softwood	46,571	super. feet.

WATER TRANSPORT.

The m.v. "Wondi" was placed on slip in August, 1955, and the service to the island maintained by Hayles launches on a charter basis.

Lay-up of the "Wondi" has necessitated the extra work being performed by the "Irex" and under the circumstances this vessel has given excellent service. The "Sylvia" and "Turtle" launches have been maintained in service.

Two 14-foot flatties were manufactured and all cargo and other vessels were kept in order.

GENERAL.

The Palm Island Band visited Townsville on Anzac Day and Labour Day. Football and boxing teams also visited the mainland with successful results.

Tourist visits to the settlement have been maintained by Hayles launches throughout the year.

CONCLUSION.

My thanks are due to the Director of Native Affairs and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their assistance throughout the year and to the staff of this settlement who have so loyally contributed to the work performed.

BABY WELFARE CENTRE.

(Sister-in-Charge, Mrs. G. Baudistel.)

Number of children on register ..	266
Clinical examinations	12,998
Number sent to medical officer ..	500
Test on artificial feeds	196
First aid treatment	3,524
Camp inspections	109
Children in residence	86
Mothers in residence	51
Deaths	3

During 1955 there was an outbreak of amoebic dysentery which has not recurred this year. During the period of the outbreak twenty Baby Welfare Clinic children were treated in hospital with good results. A milder form of diarrhoea was controlled in November. Full woollen outfit was issued to all children during the winter and regular clothing issues are made every twelve weeks. All clothing is now made up on the premises.

The new Baby Welfare Clinic building was officially opened during the period of the Palm Island Annual Show in July last by Mr. T. Keleher, Stipendiary Magistrate of Townsville.

There was a good attendance of staff, natives and visitors. Among the visitors was Doctor Gabriel of the Department of Health and Home Affairs.

A Baby Show was held to mark the opening of the clinic and at the closing of the ceremony, by the Chairman and the Superintendent the visitors were entertained at morning tea by the Sister-in-charge.

In September, the centre was honoured by a visit from Doctor Murphy, Director of the Maternal and Child Welfare Service. Doctor Murphy gave most helpful advice and made congratulatory comment on the work being performed.

Miss Brown took over duties as Assistant at the Centre in October.

During November, all children under five years were immunised against typhoid, paratyphoid, and tetanus. During April, immunisation was commenced for all children not already done.

During the period under review the number of children has risen from 238 to 266 and the death rate is the lowest on record.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. L. Croker.)

Nightsoil Disposal.—Trench disposal of nightsoil is still being carried out in the Francis Creek area.

Continuous spraying and dusting, before and after closing each trench, as well as the addition of a small quantity of disinfectant to each pan, before they are issued for re-use, has completely stopped any instance of fly breeding in the disposal area.

Sanitary Conveniences.—To each new native dwelling completed, a new lavatory with concrete base, also a detached combination bathroom and washhouse with concrete floor is erected. Rubble pits for disposal of all waste water are installed for these washhouses and bathrooms.

A complete survey of all lavatories on the settlement has been carried out recently, and all damaged cabinets have been replaced, and the damaged ones brought in to the hygiene carpenter for reconditioning.

Septic systems have been installed in the dormitory and in three staff houses where independent water supplies are available.

General Hygiene.—Inspections of houses and yards, also sanitary conveniences are carried out in conjunction with the female welfare officer. Advice given, is usually readily taken. Necessary action is taken in isolated cases where negligence is endangering the health of others. A steady improvement is noticeable in all housing areas.

Rubbish Disposal.—Terracing of eroded areas and subsequent filling up of gullies has continued throughout the year. Such areas are covered with beach sand as filled, and top dressed with black soil to encourage the growth of grass.

Grease traps and sub-surface irrigation trenches have been installed as required.

Outlying Areas and Fantome Island.—Pencil Bay, Butler Bay, Casement, Sawmill area. Farm area and Fantome Island have all been inspected, and necessary repairs have been carried out to lavatories. New cabinets have been installed where necessary and ones that have been broken brought in for reconditioning.

The housing drive has proved a great incentive to better hygiene standards and much of the improvement is attributable to this source.

PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

Heavy wet weather adversely affected the daily average attendances during the early part of the year, while outbreaks of 'flu also contributed to a reduced average. However, despite these handicaps the average attendance at this school for the past year was 212 out of an enrolment of 224 children. This is 94.5 per cent. of the total enrolment.

The average attendance during the first quarter this year, which is our wettest, was 224.

The enrolment for the current quarter is as follows:—

Class.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Preparatory Grade	18	19	37
Grade I.	24	14	38
Grade II.	15	15	30
Grade III.	20	21	41
Grade IV.	20	14	34
Grade V.	27	12	39
Grade VI.	11	11	22
Grade VII.	4	7	11
Grade VIII.	1	2	3
Totals	140	115	255

MANUAL TRAINING AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

Forty-four girls in the senior classes receive regular instruction on needlecraft and as soon as the Home Training Centre is ready to receive them, eighteen of these girls will attend one full day per week to receive tuition in domestic crafts.

Forty-three senior boys attend the school workshop to receive elementary training in woodwork.

Native handicrafts are also included in this school's curriculum and two classes are receiving instruction in pandanus weaving, on two afternoons per week, when forty-seven boys attend. A class of eleven boys receives tuition in split cane weaving. Two adult natives give part-time instruction in these arts.

VISUAL EDUCATION.

These children lack the general knowledge and experience that the child on the mainland acquires naturally at an early age, and in an endeavour to overcome this lack of mental vision and general knowledge, visual education was introduced and plays a very big part in this school's curriculum. Both movie and still



Baby Welfare Clinic, Palm Island.



Native Cottage and Garden, Palm Island.

pictures are extensively used to build up a background for these children. Then, too, to help the really backward children a special opportunity class has been formed.

In addition to the usual films supplied through the courtesy of the Education Department, the Queensland Health Education Council forwards its films regularly and these are shown to the adult population as well as to the school children, thus presenting in an easy to understand method some of the health problems that confront them.

Much use is made of the School Radio Broadcasts and these are listened to by the appropriate classes at regular periods.

HEALTH.

The health of the children is closely watched through the regular visits to the school by the female welfare officer. Various inoculations and immunisations were carried out during the year and shortly it is expected to have the school children vaccinated against polio.

Fresh fruit, milk and sandwiches continue to be distributed to the children daily and shortly it is expected that special lunches will be made available at the Home Training Centre. The general health of the children is such that they are in a fit, physical condition and, therefore, able to settle down to their school work.

SPORT AND RECREATION.

School sport is encouraged and periods are set aside for organised sport. Both inter- and intra-school sports are conducted and help to maintain a healthy and friendly atmosphere.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Through the co-operation of the superintendent and his staff a number of improvements has been effected at the school during the past twelve months and these have added to the comfort of the children. A painting scheme initiated by the district school inspector has also considerably helped to brighten the classrooms.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I would express thanks to the Director, his Deputy, the Superintendent and the School Inspector as well as any other people who have directly or indirectly assisted in any capacity to help the children of this school.

SCOUTING.

(Group Scout Master, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

Herewith is my report of the scouting activities of the First Palm Island Group.

Each year interest in scouting seems to fluctuate. It has its burst of enthusiasm when the boys really do some good scouting work, and then comes the lull when the summer vacation takes place, as some of our boys are lost by departure from the settlement and others, not previously wholeheartedly interested, fall away.

The long and uncertain period of wet weather during the first three months of the year hampers troop activities somewhat, and it usually is well towards the middle of the year before the troop gets back to normal working.

The cub pack, formed last year, has continued to grow, and 18 boys now attend cub meetings, 12 of whom are invested cubs. We lost a very able sixer who went to live on the mainland and that now leaves only 11 invested boys and 7 who are preparing for their tenderpad. One of my senior patrol leaders who has reached the age of 18 years is now training to become an assistant cub master.

A camp-fire investiture of the 12 boys mentioned took place at Esk Island scout camp towards the end of last year and soon we hope to have another batch of 7 boys ready for a similar ceremony.

Whilst the number of invested scouts has diminished a little for the reasons stated, approximately 18 new lads are preparing for their tenderfoot test. A few of these are ready for investing almost immediately.

Periodical visits are made to our Esk Island camp site where the scouts gain practical experience in various phases of scouting.

Towards the end of last year the troop celebrated fourteen years of scouting, and a combined rally was held in which the cubs and guides united with the scouts, in presenting to the general public a display of some of the scouting activities they had learnt. The rally concluded with a monster combined camp-fire concert followed by fireworks.

The guides also joined with the scouts and cubs in honouring Anzac Day, when each attended its own church services, and then re-assembled at the school where they observed the two minutes' silence and took part in the flag raising ceremony, after which an address was given on the significance of Anzac Day.

The Bob-a-Job effort of last year was quite a success and all boys, including the cubs, entered heartily into the spirit of the scheme. One boy alone raised over £3 through the many jobs he performed around the settlement.

The troop has also helped the local welfare association in its drive to collect all empty soft drink bottles, and is always ready to assist wherever needed.

We appreciate the help given to us by the Department and the superintendent, and we look forward hopefully to increased activity in scouting on Palm Island.

GIRL GUIDES.

(District Commissioner, Mrs. G. E. Krause.)

In presenting my report on the activities of the First Palm Island Guide Company, I wish to say that it has made rapid progress during the year and now has two native lieutenants, 29 invested guides, and 2 tenderfoots, while 2 former guides are unable to attend meetings regularly because of employment.

Since the departure of the Guide Captain, Miss Graves, from the school staff at the close of last year the company has for a short while again been without a captain. During that period I have kept the company functioning and valuable assistance has also been given the girls by the group scout master, who helps the girls with some of their pioneering and camping exercises.

However, a new teacher has been appointed to the school and she has expressed a willingness to help with the guides, and we hope to shortly have her ready to be installed and invested as the new guide captain.

The girls took part in the local show and its activities last year, and combined with the local boy scouts in November at a rally to commemorate fourteen years of scouting on Palm Island. They also took part in a combined scout, cub, and guide function on Anzac Day.

These girls are all very keen on guiding and entered unhesitatingly in their "Willing Shilling Drive," doing all sorts of tasks around the settlement, both for the staff and their own people.

We are hopeful of much good resulting from guiding for these young aboriginal girls.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. D. Garrett.)

It is with much pleasure that I present to you the eleventh annual report of the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association.

The twelve months under review have shown considerable improvement over any similar period in the past, and with the continued full co-operation of a vigorous executive, it is hoped to continue to improve our position during the ensuing year.

FINANCE.

Our credit balance at 24th May, 1956 stood at £2,851 17s. 6d., an improvement of £420 17s. 6d. for the year. In addition to this, larger stocks of coral and shells are held in anticipation of a successful show season.

BUILDINGS.

The library and office building has now been completed and installed with fluorescent lighting. The gymnasium, as originally planned, is completed, but further improvements, such as a shower room, septic system, &c., are now being installed.

ARTS AND CRAFTS.

Displays were held at our Annual Show, entries generally being of better quality and slightly greater in number than the previous year. In addition keen interest was shown in a competition for cottage and garden. This was divided into two categories, newly constructed homes and old established homes, and was judged on a point system based on individual effort. Prizes totalling £75 were distributed in the form of household needs to the value of the particular prize. The show dinner was held on the first night of the show and a boxing tournament was conducted on the succeeding night.

THE BAND.

The band still gives great pleasure to the local population during practice nights and at public functions. By invitation the band made two trips to Townsville during this year, one on Anzac Day and the other on Labour Day. I am pleased to state than on these occasions it was highly commended on both playing ability and standard of individual conduct by the residents of Townsville.

Unfortunately, owing to distance and transport difficulties, many other invitations have had to be declined.

SPORTS.

Boxing.—Boxing is still the highlight in the sporting field and the fortnightly bouts are a popular and entertaining feature of Island life. The boys have had many trips to Townsville where they are always well received. Out of seven nominations from here for the Olympic Quest, three boys were successful in winning zone finals and are now in Brisbane competing in the interzone finals.

Football.—Football is still a source of entertainment here and several invitations to visit the mainland have been received. A match under floodlights was played in Townsville recently and resulted in an easy win for our local team.

Women's Sports.—Mainly basketball, softball and tennis have been maintained throughout the year.

Dancing.—Recently there has been a great revival of both tribal and Island dancing which has given great pleasure to all people here. It was feared at one stage that these dances were declining. However, it is now good to see the old dances being revived and a greater number of young folk taking part. At the present time a competition between four teams is under way and heats are held on alternate Saturdays.

Pictures.—These are held weekly and attract a large audience. Since the 3rd September, 1955, adult admission charge of 2s. has operated with the result that a small but steady profit is now being earned. The present system is proving very satisfactory.

Fishing.—Several competitions have been held during the year which have attracted great interest generally and it has given much pleasure to those taking part.

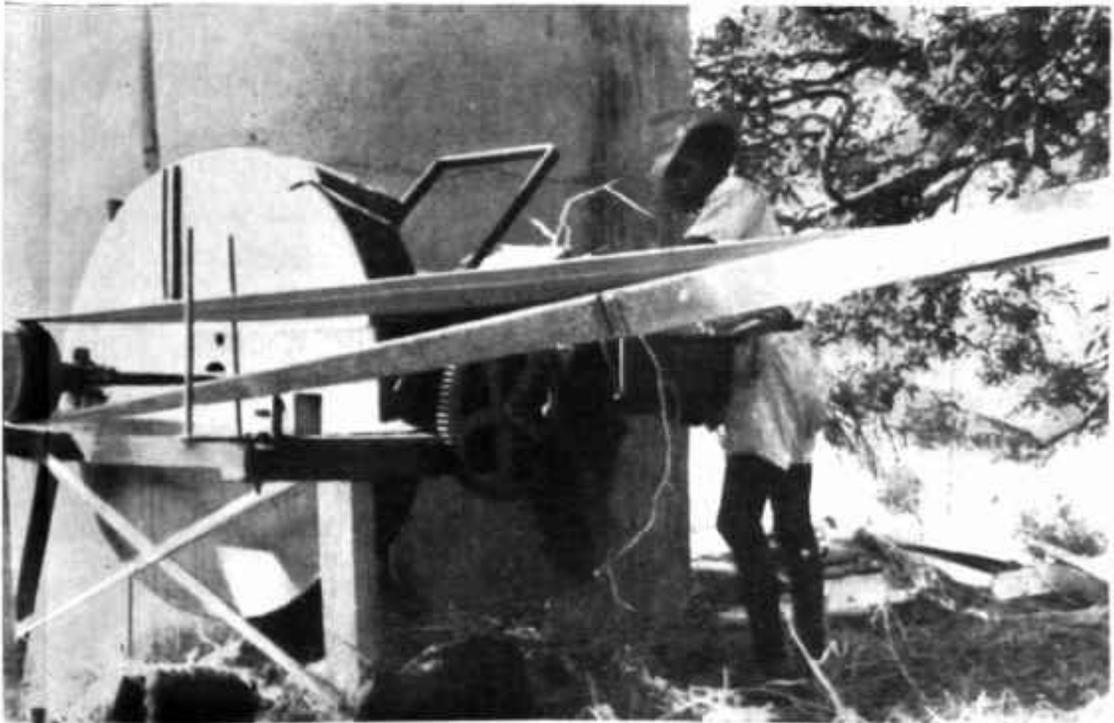
Kiosk.—This has again been the Association's financial mainstay, the approximate profit for the year being in the vicinity of £1,500.

FUTURE.

We look towards the future with confidence. More ambitious plans for the sale of our local products during the forthcoming show season have been made and should these be justified, it is hoped that the results will enable us to make a start on our most eagerly awaited project—the construction of a combined Recreation and Picture Hall, which will enable us to further maintain our activities so necessary for the people of our community, particularly those of the teenage group.



Instruction on Operation of Bulldozer. Palm Island.



Filling Silos, Palm Island.

FANTOME ISLAND.

STATISTICS.

Patients at 30th May, 1955 ..	36
Admissions during year ..	5
	— 41
Discharges during year ..	15
	—
Patients as at 30th May, 1956 ..	26
	—

Apart from the use of modern drugs a well balanced diet is a factor in the patients' treatment. The success obtained in the treatment of Hansen's disease patients at Fantome Island is clearly indicated by the following table:—

Number of inmates 31/5/1953 ..	60
Number of inmates 31/5/1954 ..	64
Number of inmates 31/5/1955 ..	36
Number of inmates 31/5/1956 ..	26

It can be seen that this one time apparently incurable disease has been overcome.

Another contributing factor in the patients' progress is the capable and humane nursing given by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary under whose management the Fantome Island Hospital functions.

DEVELOPMENT.

Maintenance work on the patients' cottages has been carried out during the year and hygiene services fully maintained.

SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT.

Talkie picture shows are conducted weekly as the leprosarium has its own projector plant. When available, concert parties, particularly from Palm Island, visit Fantome Island and entertain the patients.

During the year Mr. H. Stewart, overseer of Fantome Island for a considerable number of years, resigned, and Mr. R. E. Tessmer now occupies the position.

APPENDIX 2.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

HEALTH.

Hookworm is still the main deterrent to the general good health of the population. A laboratory has been set up to deal with this infection and it is expected that in the near future positive results may be obtained.

Matron Tomlinson has resigned and Matron Lemon is now in charge of our hospital.

Hygiene has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the period.

STATISTICS.

Births—Sixteen males, 21 females—total	37.
Stillbirths—One.	
Deaths—Sixteen, 6 infants, 2 children and 8 adults.	
(Adults aged 15 years to 92 years.)	
Marriages—Five couples.	

FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
Cash collections over the period amounted to	42,271	11	9
Banked to natives savings bank accounts	12,056	17	2
Settlement maintenance	1,379	12	0
Retail store cash sales	23,681	16	3
Sales to officers	3,381	17	5
Sales of pigs on account Foleyvale ..	426	3	8
Sale of cotton on account Foleyvale ..	92	6	2
Sale of peanuts on account Woorabinda	193	17	3
Prize Foleyvale cattle, Rockhampton Show	3	3	0

BUILDINGS.

Native housing—Nine completed.
Other building—One.

Repairs were carried out on 23 native cottages, and two heavy road grids.

GARAGE AND TRANSPORT.

Two new vehicles were purchased during the period, one Fargo suburban sedan to replace the Pontiac car QG-1957, one 5-ton International truck, additional to Foleyvale.

Milage covered by all vehicles, including Foleyvale trucks 51,030, utility 11,876, jeep 2,680.

The biggest haulage job being 776 mill logs containing 272,825 superficial feet. Log hauling was greatly handicapped through excessive wet weather.

Passengers carried, other than 2,592 passenger trips for Foleyvale workers, totalled 990, of which number 187 paid £66 7s. 6d. Three hundred and ninety-four were holiday travellers and 165 hospital patients.

Three obsolete trucks were disposed of through State Stores for £120.

SAWMILL.

Seven hundred and seventy-six logs for a total superficial measurement of 272,825 feet were milled for a recovery of 148,780 superficial feet.

The installation of the Allan steam engine has permitted continuous work and a better output. The main difficulty is the haulage of logs through the wet weather.

RAINFALL.

Woorabinda is in the 28-inch yearly rainfall belt. The difficulties experienced by excessive wet weather during the period under review can readily be understood when it is considered that during that period 43.63 inches of rain fell.

FARMING.

Activities in this calling have been greatly handicapped during the period through excessive wet weather, the Mimosa Creek being uncrossable for vehicles and machinery for two to three months at a time. A small iron boat was the only means of crossing to enable weed growth to be controlled. Only 26 bags of peanuts from 10 acres were harvested. The wet weather rotted the remainder in the stooks.

Salvage, of what promised to be a good crop of broom millet, was disposed of to the Blind Institute for £110.

Salvage from five acres of maize yielded only seven bags.

Five tons of lucerne and mixed hay were harvested from one acre in the vegetable farm.

The citrus orchard produced 266 cases of fruit. These were distributed to the population.

Watermelons and rockmelons were in good supply for the Christmas season. 2,664 watermelons, approximately 12 tons, and 620 rockmelons, 1 ton 10 cwt., were distributed.

Vegetables produced and distributed were as follows:—

Cabbage	3,468 heads
Cauliflower	2,432 heads
Turnips	8 ton 2 cwt.
Kohl Rabi	6 tons
Beetroot	3½ cwt.
Cucumbers	25 bushels
Squash	27 sacks
Carrots	1½ cwt.

A new Ferguson tractor, complete with plough scarifier and power take off has been supplied.

Ten acres of peanuts and eight acres of broom millet give every indication of turning out reasonable crops.

DAIRY.

The dairy herd totals 82 cows, of which 40 are in milk. Milk production for the period—12,526 gallons. Officers paid £39 4s. for milk, the remainder being issued to the hospital and natives free.

LIVESTOCK.

Livestock Register shows:—

1,602 Herd cows,
57 Herd bulls,
380 Bullocks,
460 Speyed cows,
445 Steers,
449 Heifers, and
83 Dairy cows—a total of 3,076 cattle.
47 Horses, draught.
131 Horses, saddle.

Cattle movements throughout the period were:—Transferred from Foleyvale for killing, 62 head; Transferred from Woorabinda to Foleyvale, 560 bullocks. (This number includes 111 transferred from Cherbourg); 20 bulls were purchased from Kileoy; 894 calves were branded.

Three hundred and thirty-two cattle and 73 pigs were killed for rations. Total meat weight 173,086 lb. of which 147,931 lb. were issued to natives and 25,155 lb. were purchased by officials for £478 5s. 6d.

Four hundred and three hides sold during the period realised £405 1s. 7d.

Refund of commission charged on sale of hides £5 16s. 11d.

POWER HOUSE.

Throughout the year the power house has given efficient service and no major break downs were experienced. A new switch board has been installed to permit the feeding of the different generating sets to the various circuits.

Current is supplied free to the hospital and native quarters.

Officers' quarters are metered and the amount collected for electricity supplied was £112 4s.

GUEST HOUSE.

Under the control of Mrs. J. Costar the guest house has functioned well and the amount collected as room rent was £23 10s.

CONDUCT.

Conduct of the natives can be considered very good.

WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. Bailey, president, and Mr. J. Clark, secretary, have submitted separate report.

EDUCATION.

This matter is ably reported on by the Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

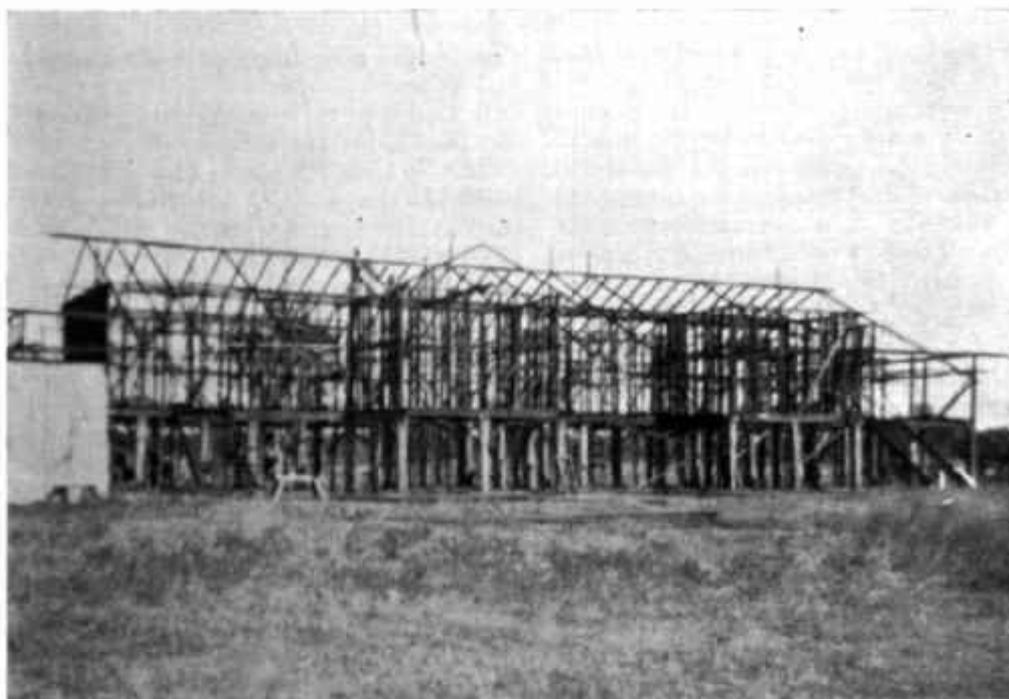
(Hygiene Officer, Mr. J. Sheppard,
Cert.R.San.I.)

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

The collection and disposal of nightsoil is by trenching in accordance with the Nightsoil Disposal Regulations. Because of the use of a 2 per cent. DDT solution in the pans, prior to their being put into service and the supply of a similar strength of DDT (1½ pints per week or as required within reason) to a container in each closet fly larvae are never seen in the pans on arrival back at the depot. Humification is fast and a thin black line is the only indication of the ground having been used for the burial of nightsoil, in test holes made six months after burial. Very few live flies are seen at the depot and obnoxious odours are non-existent. Each pan, on being emptied, is immediately rinsed with a hot solution of phenyle and the rinsings placed in a special trench. The pans are then further scrubbed in a warm solution of phenyle and, having drained, the solution of DDT is placed in them ready for service.

GARBAGE AND REFUSE.

The disposal area is of deep sandy loam and eminently suited for disposal by burial. Deep holes are dug and the refuse tipped to one foot



Erection New School, Woorabinda.



Native Residence, Woorabinda.

of the top and then filled with dirt. Each day's tip is fired on top and is often still burning next morning. No flies are seen at the tip. The completed hole, filled with refuse and dirt, is sprayed on top and one yard around with a 5 per cent. solution of DDT as an additional precaution. The service is once weekly, except to public institutions, the larger families, and where necessary.

DAIRY.

Constant unseasonal wet conditions have made the dairy environs very muddy and required constant attention. However, at no time has there been any instance of fly infestation emanating from the dairy. The milk is pure and wholesome and produced under as hygienic conditions as possible.

SLAUGHTER YARD.

Four beasts are killed for distribution of meat twice per week. The killing and dressing of the carcasses is under scrutiny at every stage to ensure that no meat which is unfit for consumption is delivered to the butcher's shop. The slaughter yard is conducted in compliance with the Slaughtering Regulations of 1953.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is reticulated to nearly every home on the settlement. There is more than adequate supply of treated water for the demands.

SANITATION.

Drains.—The effluent from the settlement drains is treated in chemical sedimentation chambers and disposed of by dilution into the lagoon. The efficacy of this may be judged by the fact that fish swim freely in the water about the empty of the drain effluent. Each drain is cleared weekly.

Insect Pests.—Flies have been negligible in number throughout the year. The annual influx of fleas during August and September was anticipated and the infestation halted at the outset. Sporadic night attacks of mosquitoes occurred after wet spells, each hole in the area providing breeding facilities. These, as far as practicable, were treated with "Larvabane." A buffalo gnat, *Austrasimulium Pestilens* (commonly but erroneously, known as the Dawson River Sandfly) harassed the settlement during the monsoon season. They came in great numbers and caused many infected sores from the scratching of the intense itch. Control of this insect is difficult as they breed in running streams and the most effective measure was the use of a repellent. While it is known that the simuliid is a vector of disease in other countries it is uncertain whether it transmits disease to human beings here. However, the possibility is kept in sight. Cockroaches occur in some houses but are kept under control by hygiene measures and insecticides. Bed bugs are unknown on the settlement. A sudden increase in the mouse population was wiped out with poison. Rats are unknown on the settlement. Manure from the dairy, the horse stables and refuse from the slaughter yard is deposited in prepared holes in the ground six feet cubed in size, sprayed

with DDT solution and allowed to humify before being released to the farm. This largely contributes to the happy position as regards lack of fly infestation. Potential fly-breeding substances are not allowed to accumulate but are treated and disposed. All houses are treated with an insecticide when necessary or upon request. A distribution of disinfectant is made weekly to householders for cleaning purposes. Three septic systems were installed, the effluent being disposed of in vertical drains.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An outbreak of chicken-pox occurred in November but isolation measures confined the disease. The Hygiene Officer was sent to Cairns for two weeks to do a refresher course in hookworm diagnosis and treatment at the Hookworm Control Laboratory. Consequent on this a laboratory for the control of hookworm and other pathological helminths was established at Woorabinda under the charge of myself, a trained Laboratory Technician. Since its inception on 6th April until 10th May, 452 persons were tested for hookworm and other helminths with the following result:—

Hookworm	185
Ascaris Lumbricoides	7
Hymenolepis Nana	34
Enterobius Vermicularis	6
Trichuris Trichuria	69

and those specimens with no ova at all seen numbered 202. It should be noted that some specimens carried more than one type of helminth. The treatment, as carried out in the Cairns Hookworm Control Laboratory, has been initiated. In addition to physical treatment other measures of control have been inaugurated or intensified. All incoming natives are tested on arrival.

One case of Hansen's disease and one case of tuberculosis which occurred, were removed for specialist treatment. One case of Gonorrhoea occurred and the contacts found. All were isolated until certified clear by the doctor. Each home on the settlement is inspected at least once per week and a reasonable state of hygiene is maintained. Many homes are scrupulously clean and tidy.

WELFARE.

All houses and huts are maintained in constant repair by a team of native carpenters, under supervision. Firewood is taken to those people unable, for physical reasons, to cart their own. The jail is visited each day and the inmates interviewed.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SCHOOL.

(Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.)

Enrolment.—The enrolment on 31st March, 1956, was 203, of whom 99 were boys and 104 were girls.

Days Open.—The school was open for instruction on 208 days, during which time the total attendances were boys 18,574, and girls 19,593.

Daily Average Attendance.—The daily average attendance for the year under review was 183.5. That for boys was 89.3, and for girls 94.2.

Closure of School.—The school was closed on only one day, and that was on the date of the Woorabinda Show.

Classification of Pupils.—At the end of the year ending 31st March, 1956, the classification of pupils was as follows:—

Grades.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
VIII	0	2	2
VII.	5	6	11
VI.	8	6	14
V.	11	13	24
IV.	16	23	39
III.	18	16	34
II.	11	8	19
I.	13	12	25
Prep.	17	18	35
Totals	99	104	203

Participation in Brisbane Exhibition.—This school sent articles for exhibition in two displays, the inter-settlement display and the general display.

The articles sent to the former display were two copy books and two exercise books, one black and white drawing and one pastel drawing, two trade drawings, one of a wooden box with a hinged lid, and one of a pannican. There were two maps, and also two kindergarten baskets. In the boys' vocational work were the two trade drawings mentioned above, and the two articles represented by these drawings. The girls' vocational work consisted of one dress and some fancywork.

In the general display the following appeared:—

- Four pastel drawings and one black and white drawing,
- Seventeen leather work articles,
- Nine articles of tin work,
- Twelve articles of woodwork,
- Seven copy books,
- Six exercise books.

The girls' work consisted of three dresses, six pieces of fancywork and a boy's suit.

The School Library.—During the year the Native Affairs Department co-operated by supplying over 300 books for the school library, thus giving both pleasure and educational profit to the children. Aboriginal children are very fond of reading, and observations indicate rather conclusively that they do not skip a word. This is a very good trait.

White Children Enrolled.—For many years the children of the settlement's officials have been allowed to attend the aboriginal school, thus saving the mothers much strain that they would otherwise have suffered by supervising correspondence lessons. During the last month of the period reviewed these white children finished their association with the aboriginal school, as a school under the control of the Department of Public Instruction has been provided for them.

Needlework Garments Supplied.—During the year the following garments, made by the girls themselves, in school, were distributed among them:—

- Three blouses
- Nineteen frocks
- Nine slips
- One suit
- Twenty-six panties
- Six pillow slips
- Two shirts.

Scholarship Students.—Two girls have progressed so well throughout their school career that it is considered that they have a fair chance of success in the scholarship examination to be held next December.

Vocational Work.—During the last summer vacation the head teacher and another member of the school staff attended the teachers' college to learn basket making. This subject is now being taught, and the boys are much interested, and are making good progress.

Additional Conveniences.—This school has the following aids to the education of the children:—

- Projector
- Gramophone
- Piano
- School library
- Percussion band instruments.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. J. E. Bailey.)

As President of the Woorabinda Welfare Association, it is with pleasure that I submit, this, the eleventh annual report, of the activities of the Association for the period under review.

Since the annual meeting at the commencement of the year it is pleasing to see that some interest is now being shown by members, with the result that the activities of the Association continue to grow. Co-operation has always been given by officials and natives at any function held in the interest of welfare.

Football.—As in past years this is the most popular sport played at this settlement. The eager attendance of the spectators prove that they and the players alike derive much enjoyment from the game. Both representative teams achieved some outstanding success during the season and are to be congratulated on their efforts to procure such outstanding entertainment both at the settlement and inter-town games.

Cricket.—This is a popular sport with a great number of the residents, the representative team having achieved some notable victories during the season. The forthcoming season is looked forward to by those interested in the game.

Boxing.—Boxing during this period has been confined to the settlement, as this sport has been at a very low ebb in outside centres. At the present time there does not appear to be any hope for a brighter 1956 season.

New Year's Day Sports.—It is pleasing to see that the popularity of this event continues to grow. As usual all horse and cattle events

were subject to large nominations and very keenly contested, a special buckjump riding event being the main feature of the day. For this event the prize money was donated by Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs, and others, and was greatly appreciated by all. All other sporting events (athletic) showed much improvement in nominations and also proved to provide outstanding entertainment.

During the period under review a successful rodeo (financial and otherwise) was conducted in conjunction with the Baralaba Ambulance.

Both these events provided excellent entertainment for residents of this settlement and outside visitors. Catering stalls proved as great an attraction as ever.

Annual Show.—Owing to the extensive wet season the annual show was again cancelled and rodeo and sports events conducted.

Talkie Screening.—This ever popular entertainment is as good as ever and looked forward to by all. It is hoped in the near future to provide a building for the picture theatre thereby overcoming difficulties as a result of wet weather.

General Activities.—Regular dances are held on Wednesday and Friday nights, the former being children's night and the latter for adults. This form of entertainment will also benefit by the new picture theatre which is also to be used as a hall.

In conclusion, I would like to convey our thanks and appreciation to the Honourable the Minister, Mr. Moore, the Under Secretary, Mr. McCormack, the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Naggs, Superintendent of the Woorabinda Settlement.

To the Committee members and those who have assisted in any way I say "thank you."

FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

During the period excessive wet weather has greatly hampered agricultural work on this Reserve. Examples of this unfortunate position are—

From twelve acres of Lucerne, 287 bales were harvested.

Cotton was badly affected by flood. The first payment on all that could be harvested amounted to £92 16s. 2d. for 2,010 pounds weight.

Of 754 bags grain sorghum harvested, 150 bags were sent to Palm Island and 125 bags to Cherbourg Settlement. The balance was utilised as fodder at Foleyvale and Woorabinda Settlement.

A further 354 acres of sorghum were planted and from this area only 51 bags were harvested. The major portion of the crop which originally appeared to be a good one was destroyed by flood.

An area of 68 acres of wheat was planted and proved a failure. Similar results occurred with 58 acres of barley planted.

Ten tons of pumpkins were harvested and a further ten acres planted from which a very light crop only can be expected.

Ten acres of broom millet were a complete loss through flooding.

LIVESTOCK.

Thirty-six bullocks were sent to the Rockhampton Carnival, 18 head to compete in the K. waggon competition and 16 head in the various other fat cattle classes.

Prizes amounting to £3 3s. for two second prizes were gained. In all, including show bullocks, 537 head of bullocks were sold for £21,317 15s. 7d.

Sixty-one bullocks and one cow were transferred to Woorabinda for killing.

Two bullocks were killed for rations during the flood.

Young bullocks transferred from Woorabinda, were 449 head, and from Cherbourg, 111.

PIGS.

Seventy-three pigs were transferred to Woorabinda and killed for rations.

Sixty-four pigs were sold for a return of £426 3s. 8d.

Rebate on commissions charged on previous year's stock selling, £104 7s. 5d.

APPENDIX 3.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

Statistics.—

Births—

		Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
Male	..	12	23	35
Female	..	5	22	27
Totals	..	17	45	62

Deaths—

		Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
Male	..	17	5	22
Female	..	7	5	12
Totals	..	24	10	34

Note. "Half Blood" includes quadroons, octoroons, &c.

Marriages—8.

Exemptions—33. Exemptions were granted to 12 adult males and 14 adult females. Thirty-eight children accompanied their parents. A total of 64 men, women and children left the Settlement under exemption.

CHILD ENDOWMENT.

	£	s.	d.
Total child endowment paid	10,676	11	5
Average monthly payment	821	5	6
Total store sales to endowees	4,702	1	7
Average number of endowees	—160.		

HEALTH.

Hospital.—The Cherbourg Hospital is under the control of the South Burnett Hospitals Board, and details of hospital activities will be found in the Board's Annual Report.

An outbreak of disease having symptoms and other features similar to gastroenteritis was experienced during the year. The Director-General of Health and Medical Services arranged for Dr. E. Singer of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and later Dr. I. M. Mackerras of the same Institute, and Mr. W. Johnston, Health Inspector of the Department of Health and Home Affairs to visit this settlement and conduct a very extensive survey. The results of this survey will be of great benefit to the people of this settlement.

Dentist.—

Number of visits	26
Number of fillings	224
Number of extractions	978

Optometrist.—

Number of visits	2
Number of patients seen	52

Notifiable Diseases.—

Hansen's disease	Nil
Tuberculosis	8
Venereal disease	7

BABY WELFARE CENTRE.

The new building was occupied during December, 1955. This building is an excellent job and most satisfactory for its purpose. Furnishings and appointments are also excellent.

Incorporated in the building is a very well equipped dental surgery.

The natives of the settlement co-operate with the Baby Welfare Officer and the work of the Clinic is reflected in the continued improvement of the children.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

The abnormal wet season presented many difficulties and during October and November, 1955, control of flies became a major problem. Mr. W. Johnston, Health Inspector of the Department of Health and Home Affairs, was made available to visit the settlement for investigation and advice. Control measures quickly introduced brought the fly under complete control.

Very careful attention is given to the cleaning of earth closets. The service is daily, Monday to Saturday, to all public lavatories, staff quarters, dormitories, administrative buildings and homes of large families.

All other closets are cleaned not less than thrice weekly.

All new earth closets are constructed on a concrete base with a cast concrete pan cabinet. The cabinet is ventilated and fitted with a fly-proof door and lid.

Gambusia fish, placed in streams and large water holes during 1955, have multiplied and have materially assisted in the control of mosquitoes.

Garbage is removed daily Monday to Friday.

Full comment is made in the Hygiene Officer's report.

EDUCATION.

In keeping with the Government's policy of increasing the standard of education of native residents, a Grade VIII. class was created at the commencement of the 1956 school year and while only eight pupils reached this standard, they are keen to absorb the knowledge imparted to them. Present indications are that two, and probably three, of this class will sit for the 1956 Scholarship Examination.

Materials for the new school are being accumulated and construction will commence immediately the erection of settlement housing for native residents is completed and sufficient material is on hand to allow uninterrupted progress.

Children from this settlement entered exhibits in the 1956 Murgon Show and secured two first prizes and two second prizes for needlework and one first prize and two second prizes in the manual training section.

RAINFALL.

Total for the year was 48 inches, 13 points over 82 wet days.

Rainfall was again abnormal and Barambah Creek flooded on numerous occasions and the bridge was submerged on occasions of up to five days causing great inconvenience and preventing staff living in Murgon from attending their work.

The rainfall over the past three years has been such that the land is so saturated that falls of two inches cause the creek to flood.

SAWMILL.

Logs milled during the year:—

—	Logs.	Contents.	Recovery.
Hardwood	558	Super. ft. 238,429	Super. ft. 136,506
Pine	52	31,751	21,511
Totals	610	270,180	158,017

Production shows an increase over 1954-55 of 80,921 super. feet log measurement and 35,054 super. feet recovery.

Logs milled show an increase of 188 over 1954-55.

The abnormally wet season reduced the delivery of pine logs by 41 as compared with 1954-55.

There were 45 hardwood logs on hand at the end of the year and approximately 200 logs were on the ground in the Forestry Reserve ready to haul to the mill.

BUILDINGS.

The construction of dwellings for native residents has been given first priority. Nine dwellings were completed and eleven are in various stages of construction from the blocks erected stage to being ready for roofing iron. The cottages are of modern design and substantial construction. They are painted externally and internally in attractive colours, are fitted with electric light and power points and with water laid on. The dwellings are intended for large families and contain three to four bedrooms, kitchen-dining room, and lounge room.

With the completion of the sewerage scheme a detached bathroom-laundry-W.C. block will be erected for each house.

The hall used as an infants' school was divided into four class rooms by erecting sound-proof partitions. As this hall is used as the display pavilion during the Settlement Annual Show the construction of the partitions is such that they are easily removable and replaced in position.

Maintenance and minor repairs were carried out to the Retail Store (white ants), Boys' Dormitory, Girls' Dormitory, Mothers' Dormitory, Infants' School, Old People's Home and fifteen native cottages.

Two carpenters attached to the building gang were granted exemption during the year. Their departure naturally depleted the strength of the gang and had a retarding effect on output. However, the job of the settlement is to train native residents so that they may accept full citizenship and be absorbed into the community as useful citizens. Nevertheless the instance quoted indicates the difficulties under which settlement work is performed, as it takes several years to train men as tradesmen. The problem is, of course, to maintain continuity of training, and gangs at a strength capable of meeting settlement requirements, while at the same time to encourage trained men to leave the settlement and accept full citizenship.

Three of the carpentering gang were engaged in Brisbane for six weeks assisting with the erection of the Department's exhibit at the 1955 Royal National Exhibition.

PAINTING.

Nine new native cottages were painted externally and internally. Old People's Home externally and Butcher Shop internally were completed. Three older native cottages were painted externally and internally.

The valve room at the water treatment works was completed internally.

Three natives were supplied with paint and they painted their cottages externally and internally.

Three of the painting gang travelled to Brisbane to assist in the erection of this Department's exhibit at the 1955 Royal National Exhibition.

WATER SUPPLY.

The new plant is now in full commission and its performance is very satisfactory. The settlement is now fully supplied with filtered and chlorinated water.

Bacteriological tests are made at regular intervals.

The Department of Local Government was the designing and construction authority and is to be commended on all features of the job. The simplicity of operation has enabled a native to be trained to operate the plant successfully with the minimum of assistance from staff. When required the whole plant can be set for automatic operation.

SEWERAGE.

Good progress in pipe laying is being made on this job.

The sewerage scheme provides for the connection of all native cottages as well as dormitories, administrative buildings, hospital, staff quarters, and permanent public lavatories.

TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

The high standard of work already established has been maintained.

The very fine display of cabinet and joinery work prepared by this workshop for inclusion in this Department's exhibit at the 1955 Royal National Exhibition is deserving of high praise. The point to note is that the various items included in this display were not specially prepared but were portion of orders placed with the workshop and they were later used either on the settlement or elsewhere in the Department.

A list showing the items which were produced during the year at the workshop is shown in the report of the workshop overseer.

It is worthy of note that a trainee in this workshop obtained a first and a second prize for woodwork items in open competition at the 1956 Murgon Show.

STOCK.

Seasonal conditions were abnormally wet.

The policy of transferring steers to Foleyvale for growth and fattening was continued and 111 steers were transferred.

Settlement cattle compare in condition with the best cattle in the district.

Wet weather prevented a bang-tail muster being completed. However, book records reveal the following stock as being on hand:—

Bulls	16
Herd cows	377
Maiden heifers	204
Spey cows/heifers	92
Steers/bullocks	54
Weaners	289
Miscellaneous cows	6
Bleeder	1

Stock killed for rations numbered 160 and this figure includes 20 jersey cows culled from the Training Farm herd. The average weight of stock killed was 453 lb., and at current market rates would be valued at £3,800.

Stock purchased for rations numbered 173, of an average weight of 464 lbs. each and the average price paid was £24 10s. per head.

Sale of hides realised £286 9s. 10d.

Abnormal seasonal conditions caused serious damage to fences and great difficulty was experienced in keeping the property securely fenced.

The continuous flooding of all creeks passing through the property caused seeds of noxious weeds to settle with a consequent increased growth of these pests. However, continuous efforts in eradication have kept the property very clean and no trouble is being experienced in this direction.

However, it will be necessary to maintain control measures to ensure that the weeds are kept in check.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

	£	s.	d.
Commercial butter, 9,762 lb., returned	1,775	18	11
Pigs sold, 77, returned	1,100	0	0
Bulls sold (nett), 3, returned	50	14	7
Total	£2,926	13	6

In addition 1,360 gallons of fresh milk, valued at £210 10s., were supplied to the Cherbourg Hospital and 1,440 gallons, valued at £222 17s. 6d. to the Training Farm employees.

Stock on hand:—

Bulls	3
Dairy cows	71
Heifers	19
Weaners	14
Total	107

Pigs on hand:—

Boars	3
Sows	13
Fatteners	7
Stores	40
Suckers	69
Total	132

Crops:—

- 15 acres of maize returned 180 bags;
- 27 acres of Poona pea, millet and Sudan for grazing;
- 21 acres of lucerne and barley cut and stored and some grazed;
- 13 acres wheat returned 8 tons cut and stored and 42 bags harvested.

Settlement was supplied with reduced quantities of vegetables such as beet, turnip, carrot, beans, squash, cucumber, lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower.

The abnormal wet seasons prevented developmental work proceeding as planned and retarded the growth of crops planted.

A severe hail storm during September 1955, destroyed all vegetable crops and practically the whole of the citrus crop and badly damaged other crops.

Notwithstanding the difficulties experienced the trading returns show an improvement over 1954-55.

To ensure the effective protection of farm stock and to prevent stock from neighbouring farms gaining access to the Training Farm, one and one-half miles of dividing fences which were, through age, not secure, were replaced with new posts and wire.

Farm tractors and machinery were overhauled and maintained in a satisfactory state of repair.

The full development of the farm requires the erection of silos, hay and other fodder storage sheds and feeding stalls.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

Replacement vehicles were received for the condemned Ford Jeep, International 3 ton truck and Austin Utility. Transport problems were, therefore, relieved.

ROADS.

The very wet seasons experienced over the past three years have caused serious deterioration to all roads. The main road from the settlement has been graded regularly by the Murgon Shire Council at no cost to this Department but the continued wet weather has, on many occasions, turned a freshly graded road into a quagmire.

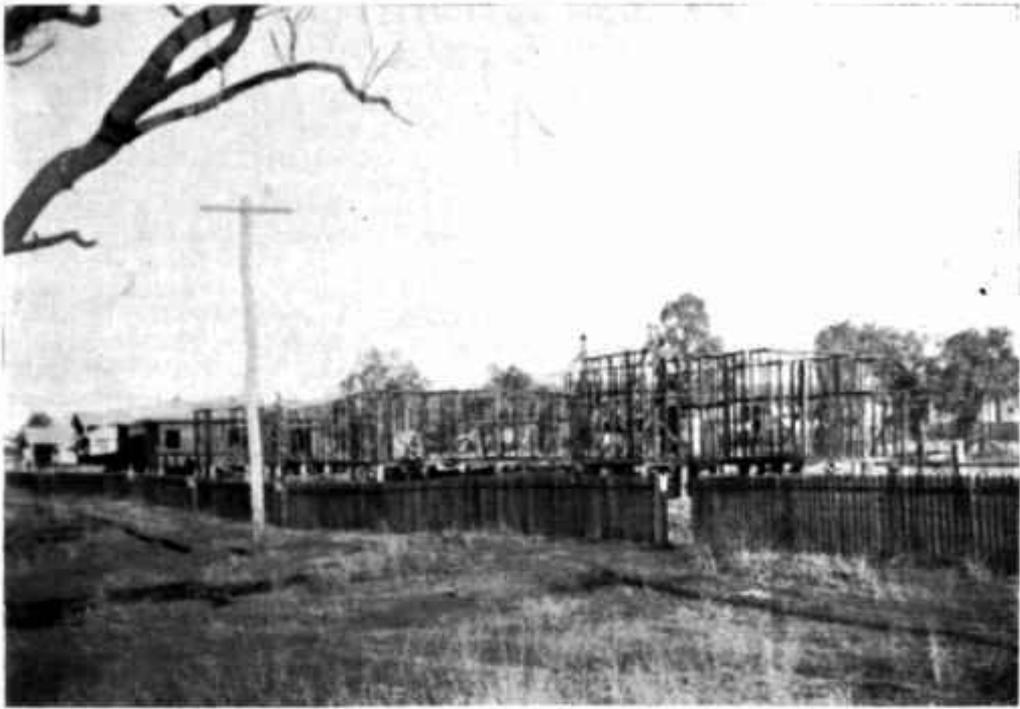
SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The Association is in a sound financial position. Assets are valued at £14,998 ls., Bank credit all accounts is £2,042 18s. 1d., Liabilities, except for current monthly accounts, are nil.

Outstanding events of the year were:—

1. Christmas Tree and Christmas presentations.
2. Annual Show and Dinner.
3. Annual Debutante Ball.
4. Participation in Departmental exhibit at the Royal National Exhibition of 1955.

The 1955 Annual Show was opened by P. J. Richards, Esq., Deputy Director of Native Affairs.



Erection Native Cottages, Cherbourg.



Rear View, Completed Native Cottages, Cherbourg.

C

A vote of thanks to Mr. Richards was moved by Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A. and seconded by the Chairman of the Murgon Shire Council, Mr. J. Krebs.

The Show was an outstanding success and attracted very favourable comment from the visitors and the press.

The Show Ball was also an outstanding success. Five young women from Cherbourg made their debut and were presented to Mrs. Baldock, the International Officer of the Queensland Country Women's Association. Mrs. Baldock was accompanied by Mrs. W. Jenkin, President of the Murgon Branch of the Country Women's Association.

The Annual Show Dinner was attended by a representative gathering of settlement residents and residents of the South Burnett district.

ANZAC DAY.

A Commemoration Service was conducted on the settlement by the Reverend J. Kruger. Tokens of remembrance were laid on the honour board by the Murgon Sub-Branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. and settlement residents.

The following resolutions were moved by Mr. J. Krebs, Chairman of the Murgon Shire Council:—

1. On the forty-first anniversary of the immortal landing at Gallipoli, this meeting of citizens of Queensland expresses its loyalty and devotion to the Throne and person of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II., and to the British Commonwealth of Nations.
2. This meeting re-affirms its admiration of the magnificent heroism, self-sacrifice, and endurance of the sailors, soldiers, airmen and nursing sisters of Australia and New Zealand who, on the first Anzac Day and throughout the Great War of 1914-1918, conferred a glory on Australia and New Zealand that will never fade.
3. This meeting avers that the lofty ideals of service of the Anzacs pervaded the dauntless spirit of Australia's gallant sons and daughters, who, during a period of six years of fierce and intensive warfare on land on sea and in the air, from 1939 to 1945, gave such heroic and self-sacrificing service in the cause of liberty; the same lofty ideals of service are exemplified in the Korean campaign.

This meeting voices its heartfelt sympathy with the relatives of those who paid, during the War, the supreme sacrifice, and with those who have suffered on behalf of the Empire, including the Korean campaign.

4. This meeting gives its assurance that those who have fallen shall be held in sacred memory and that those who have survived the perils of war will be ever

honoured and remembered with gratitude by the people whose hearts and homes they went forth to save so that our freedom and free institutions under the British Commonwealth of Nations might survive.

SPORTING.

Football.—The settlement Club is affiliated with the Wide Bay Rugby League and enters the League's Competition.

It is pleasing to note that Len Malone, of the football team, was selected to play with the Wide Bay representative team against the Frenchmen.

Cricket.—The settlement team is affiliated with the Murgon and District Association, and takes part in the Association's fixtures. Jack Malone and Roy Fisher were selected to play with the Murgon and District Cricket Association representative team in the Country Trials in Brisbane.

Boxing.—Amateur boxing is now well established on the settlement and several tournaments were held. Teams of boxers have travelled to many centres and have received very favourable commendation on their ability in the ring, and their behaviour in and out of the ring.

Jeffrey Dynevor and Roy Barrett were selected to take part in the Courier-Mail Olympic Quest competition and John Willmott won the School Boy Championship of Queensland in his weight division.

LIBRARY.

New books were added during the year and continued interest was shown by settlement residents. A reading room is needed so that full use might be made of the library.

The Social and Welfare Association and all who have worked so hard in the interests of the association and settlement generally are to be commended and congratulated on their untiring efforts. It is most encouraging to know that people are so interested in their own affairs and to see the results of their efforts building up and expanding the whole attitude of settlement life.

GENERAL.

As indicated earlier in this report encouragement has been given to settlement residents to enter exhibits in the Murgon Show and it is worthy of note that, apart from the prizes won by school children, Mrs. Isobel Rabbit, who has been seriously ill for several years and has only returned to the settlement from the Brisbane Hospital, won a second prize in the Art Section for a water colour landscape and Ethel Saunders won second prize in the cooking section.

This settlement was again given the responsibility of designing and erecting the Departmental Exhibit at the 1955 Royal National Exhibition. The job was a credit to the officer in charge of the work, Mr. H. R. Pascoe, and the workers under his control.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion appreciation is expressed to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary for the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, head office staff, settlement staff, the protectors of the various protectorates and the Police Officers who so fully co-operate with this Department in the interests of its native wards and all those who have co-operated to ensure that the native people are cared for and assisted, so that they may eventually become full and useful citizens.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SCHOOL.

(Head Teacher, Mr. R. T. Crawford.)

Enrolment.—The enrolment varied somewhat, being, 301 for the June quarter, 292 for the September quarter, 280 for the December quarter and 305 for the March quarter, 1956.

Attendances.—The total attendances for the year were 27,722 boys and 27,189 girls, a total of 54,911.

The average daily attendance for the year was 131.3 boys and 128.8 girls, a total of 260.1.

Attendances were affected by—

Mumps during June and July—a particularly severe epidemic, attendance being reduced to between 52 per cent. and 54 per cent. for a period.

Measles during November,

Very wet weather, including floods during February and March.

All matters considered, the attendance was quite good throughout the year.

Closure—the school was closed on—

3rd June, 1956—Teachers' Seminar held at Murgon.

16th September, 1955—Cherbourg Show.

23rd September, 1955—District Schools' Sports.

Conduct.—Generally the conduct of children at school was quite satisfactory. Manners were reasonably observed and obedience was quite good. Many factors noticeable last year have shown improvement, but in some cases parental control might be improved and thus assist and not militate against the work of the teachers.

Progress.—Generally, progress may be stated as satisfactory. It has been very good in the lower school with the exception of Grade III. The middle school showed very fair results but the higher grades give only fair results. During the school year 1955, the standard was raised by the creation of Grade VII. Pupils in this grade found the standard required difficult of accomplishment. Only eight pupils of this grade had reached a standard to enable them to proceed to Grade VIII. This grade was created as from the beginning of the 1956 school year. Much difficulty is being encountered in much of the work, although the children show very good interest and enthusiasm. It is apparent now that the environment is a predominant factor militating against excellent progress being made in this new grade.

Children living on the settlement do not have the experiences or the conversations on general topics applying to outside white children, hence do not gain a general knowledge on everyday matters, nor do they have the exercise of their faculties in the operation of everyday incidents applicable to the world outside the settlement. They also do not have the general home conversations on all local and topical matters as is applicable to the youngest of white children. Hence, a big hurdle has to be overcome if children are to cover well the State school syllabus.

It is evident that many of the children have a sufficiently high I.Q. to reach the standard demanded by the State school syllabus, but it places a great burden on the teachers in the attempts to make up for the deficiencies existing.

Domestic Science.—This section has operated reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year. The number undergoing instruction varied from 45 at the commencement of the year to 36 at its close.

Manual Training.—This section has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Boys generally have displayed enthusiasm and progress has been satisfactory. The enrolment varied from 42 at the beginning of the year to 26 at its close. Much work was prepared here for the Brisbane Exhibition display and entries were prepared for the settlement show. The manual training teacher erected the stands, &c., required for the Departmental display in Brisbane.

Staffing.—Staff, generally, both white and native, gave good service throughout the year. The younger members appear to realise the difficulties encountered in this type of school compared with ordinary State schools, and have earnestly attempted to attain the spirit envisaged in the syllabus. Their diligence, in most cases, is to be commended. Staffing has been stable throughout the year, which was a decided advantage.

Accommodation.—During the 1955-56 vacation the old settlement hall was divided into four rooms, with sound-proof partitions. This has meant that four grades can now be accommodated very satisfactorily in that building and the noise level is such that no undue strain is placed on either teacher or pupil.

General.—This school competed in the annual schools' sports of the South Burnett State Primary Schools' Athletic Association and again obtained second place in the "A" schools' competition.

Children from all grades exhibited work in the settlement show and also prepared exhibits for display at the Brisbane Exhibition.

The Bell and Howell film projector is proving satisfactory and the film strip machine is very satisfactory.

Our thanks are extended to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the settlement superintendent and his staff, the Welfare Association and all others concerned for their ready assistance and kind co-operation in school matters throughout the year.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

(Sister, Miss M. Carew.)

Statistics.—Number of children attending clinic:—

Babies	44
Toddlers	173
Total	<u>217</u>

Number reached school age, 50.

Supplies issued during year:—

Vi-Laetogen ..	576 tins
Sunshine Milk ..	606 small tins
	1060 large
Sugar of Milk ..	8 packets
Haliborange ..	191 bottles
Hypol	322 bottles
Pentavite	78 bottles
Mist. A. and D.	148 oz.
Minadex	39 bottles
Orange Juice ..	15 bottles
Farex	69 packets
Aktavite	15 tins
Milk of Magnesia	28 bottles
Olive Oil	18 bottles
Feeding Bottles	111
Teats	189
Bottle Brushes	66
Pipettes	39
Prolax	28 jars
Albol	2 bottles
Vicks	306 jars
Cots	6
Petrolager	2 bottles
Agarol	1 bottle
Collieron	4 bottles

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. J. H. M. Pascoe.)

WATER SUPPLY.

This new system has proved most beneficial to all residents of Cherbourg, as proved by pathological test taken since the plant has been in operation. The average water consumption is 25,000 gallons per day and tests for free chlorine averages between .03 and .04. The 44-gallon drums which were used to catch rain water have now been removed, thus eliminating another danger to health.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

Native homes are inspected regularly and where necessary residents are advised on matters of hygiene. With the extensive building programme in progress it has enabled us to demolish fourteen poorer type homes and in the near future this type of residence should be non-existent.

GARBAGE.

This service was satisfactory throughout the year despite several long periods of wet weather. All garbage was removed daily (Monday to Friday) to the dump where it was covered with sawdust and incinerated. In addition to this all bins, &c., receive a liberal quantity of disinfectant or oil.

SANITARY.

The daily service is satisfactory. Pans are tarred regularly and a quantity of oil and disinfectant placed in each one before service. The fences and the gates at the depot were repaired during the year and during the wet weather the sanitary gang found it necessary to repair the road. The drains were extended and two new rubble pits were installed.

FLY CONTROL.

During October and November the fly population presented a real problem. Mr. Johnston of the Health Department and the hygiene gang carried out an extensive campaign at the aboriginal training farm, dump, dormitories and hospital using borax and sump oil which brought them under control.

FLEAS AND COCKROACHES.

Several native homes were sprayed with Gammexane and this method proved successful.

V.D.

A monthly examination of all males keeps this disease at a minimum.

MOSQUITOES AND SANDFLIES.

The excessive number of wet days experienced during the year brought many of the above insects to the settlement. However, Gambusia fish which have been introduced into all creeks and large waterholes were most helpful in keeping these insects under control. All small waterholes were sprayed regularly and tanks and gutters, which do not lend themselves to spraying, were treated with kerosene with a view to controlling the mosquito menace.

TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

(Overseer, Mr. G. B. Cooper.)

The following joinery and furniture has been manufactured during the year under review:—

3	Kitchen cabinets
50	Pairs French casements
7	Half-glass sheeted doors
77	Flush panel doors
72	Hopper sashes
31	Coffins
1	Dropside cot
1	Set pigeon holes
3	Table trays
24	Dual desks
113	Chairs
12	Single desks
3	Clinic feedroom screens
10	Fanlight grills
12	Tables
2	Panel doors
3	Frame and sheeted doors
533	Pairs casements
58	Herringbone sheeted doors
	Linen press jambs and door for clinic
	Cover for chaffcutter for Aboriginal Training Farm
4	Silky oak hall seats for clinic
1	Filing cabinet
1	Pedestal office table
2	Typiste filing cabinets
2	Silky oak glass showcases
6	Office chairs
1	Silky oak occasional table for Show
1	Silky oak palm stand for Show
1	Pine box for offal meat
2	Switch boxes
3,000	lineal feet 2½-in. x ½-in. door stops
2,000	lineal feet 2-in. x ½-in. door stops
1,000	lineal feet 3-in. x ½-in. door stops
8,000	lineal feet 1½-in. x ½-in. cover strips
1	Pair crutches
4	Small doors for dormitory
4	Bee hives
4	Bee hive super
4	Bee hive frames
943	super. feet dressed pine for school
4	Locks for hospital
1	Door press for trade training workshop
4	Ledge doors
6	Cupboards
80	Hardwood wedges
3	Dressing tables
100	super. feet dressed pine for sewerage

- 1 Half-glass cabinet for clinic
- 1 Traymobile for clinic
- 1 Kitchen wall cupboard for clinic
- 1 Feeding room cupboard for clinic
- 1 Sink cupboard for clinic
- Fixing Laminex to clinic counter and kitchen cupboard tops

The average number employed in the workshop is three men and four boys. One man, H. Kirk, has left and is working in Brisbane at the trade. The volume of work has increased this year even with the small staff due to the installation of a modern bandsaw.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. E. Goodchild.)

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report of the activities of your Association for the year ended 20th January, 1956.

Before presenting my report I would like to make reference to the passing of vice-president and committee man, Bob McGowan. The late member was one who always took keen interest in the affairs of the Association and was always ready to assist in any project ventured by the Association and to his family and relatives we offer our sincere sympathy.

MEETINGS.

Meetings were held monthly and attendance was fair.

FINANCE.

The Association commenced the year with a credit balance of £1,777 14s. 3d. and concluded the year with a credit balance of £1,945 17s. 11d.

The assets of the Association after allowing for depreciation of £1,439 9s. are valued at £14,998 1s.

PICTURES.

The picture show is the Association's main source of revenue. Screenings have been regular and patrons have enjoyed very good programmes. During the year your Committee at a cost of £165 increased the size of the screen to enable bigger and better pictures to be screened.

STALL.

The stall was again well patronised.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

Football.—During the year the Cherbourg football team visited Toowoomba, Gympie, Nambour, Pomona, Quinalow, Dalby and Helidon. In the Core Cup Competition, Cherbourg succeeded in reaching the semi-final which was played against Maryborough at Wondai and although beaten, your team tried all the way and played good clean sporting football. Cherbourg played the Curtain-Raiser at Gympie for the visiting French team. Len Malone was chosen for the Wide Bay and Burnett Team that played against the Frenchmen. On various occasions the School Boys' Team have played games away and at home. It is through these games played by the boys, that future Cherbourg teams are built, therefore, it behoves every person on the settlement to encourage them in every way.

Cricket.—Your cricket club again affiliated with the Murgon and District Association and has experienced a good season. Several players from this club were selected in the various games and two players were included with the Association team that played in the Country Carnival at Brisbane. As in football every encouragement was given to the younger players and several matches were arranged at home and away for them. With the advent of the turf wicket the Murgon Association has provided the residents of this settlement with games against Yandaran and Toowong Clubs, both games being greatly appreciated.

Tennis.—This sport on the settlement seems to have had a setback. Tennis enthusiasts will have to put forth a more concerted effort and bring their court up to standard if they desire to have teams from outside centres visit them.

Boxing.—This sport has shown a revival on the settlement and two very good boys' tournaments were held. Teams of boxers visited Pittsworth, Kingaroy, Quinalow, Yarraman, Nanango and Blackbutt. Willie Purcell was presented with a trophy for the best fight of the night and Jeffrey Dynevor was selected for the final of the Courier-Mail Olympic Quest.

SHOW.

Your annual show was held in September and again the women's sections were outstanding and they are to be congratulated on their particular display. The men's sections left much to be desired. Woodchops were introduced for open competition and 17 of the State's best men competed, providing an added attraction for the public. The Cherbourg men entered into the spirit of the carnival. The Association is grateful to the Queensland Axemen's Association for coming along and conducting the woodchop events.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual Association dinner was held on the night preceding the show. It was attended by visitors from the South Burnett District and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

SHOW BALL.

The annual show ball was an outstanding success. Five girls from Cherbourg made their debut, being presented to Mrs. Baldock, international officer of the Queensland Country Women's Association, who was accompanied by Mrs. Jenkin, president of Murgon Branch of the Country Women's Association. The frocking of the girls blended nicely with the beautifully decorated hall.

LIBRARY.

Further books have been added to the library and this great educational asset is still well patronised by the residents.

ANZAC DAY.

During the afternoon Anzac Day was solemnised with a service in the hall, the Preacher being the Reverend J. Kruger, and tokens of remembrance were laid on the Roll of Honour by the Murgon Sub-Branch

R.S.S.A.I.L.A. and the residents of this settlement. Cherbourg ex-servicemen also took part in the morning parade held in Murgon, where also a token of remembrance was laid by your Association on the shrine.

INTER-SETTLEMENT EXHIBIT.

Your Association assisted in preparing and staging the settlement exhibit at the Royal National Show and were successful in winning first prize.

SPORTS DAYS.

Sports Days were held on New Year's Day and the Queen's Birthday. The programme catered for young and old and many valuable trophies were given as prizes. New Year's Eve was celebrated with a dance which continued until the break of the New Year.

TALENT QUEST.

Station 4KQ again visited the settlement and conducted a Talent Quest. Nellie McIvor, the winner, visited Brisbane for the finals.

CHRISTMAS TREE.

Father Christmas again visited the settlement and every child of fourteen years of age and under was presented with toys and gifts.

SUNDRY ITEMS.

Many free dances were held during the year and the Association's thanks are due to Jeffrey Doolah and his boys for providing the music.

Pocket money was provided for the institution children for the Murgon and Cherbourg Shows.

Your Association made donations to the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Flood Appeal and the Murgon Ambulance. Our thanks go to the Murgon Ambulance for their attention to the needs of the settlement.

APPRECIATION.

The Association desires to express their thanks to the following:—

The Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs and staff.

The Superintendent and staff of the settlement and again to the Superintendent for his talks on health and hygiene.

Mr. Rees for the preparation of the hall for both the Show Dinner and Ball and again for conducting the football matches.

Mrs. Rees for her work in preparing the debutantes and the work she performed in the stall over the year and a special thanks for her untiring efforts in the interest and welfare of this Association.

Jack Malone for the many hours he has spent in preparing wickets for cricket matches.

CONCLUSION.

I desire to express my thanks to the committee for their attention to the business of the Association, to the secretary for his work, and to all those people who assisted to conduct the year's functions.

Looking back over the past year the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association feels that it has done the job for which it was established and it is confident that in rendering an account of its stewardship, you will extend your measure of thanks and appreciation.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

(Manager, Mr. A. V. Wessling.)

Increased dairy production is shown for the past twelve months in comparison with the previous year. During the year the total amount received for cream sent to the South Burnett Butter Factory amounted to £1,775 18s. 11d., an increase of £414 6s. compared with the previous year. Four gallons of milk were also supplied daily to the settlement hospital totalling approximately 1,440 gallons for the year and on taking this supply into consideration the value of the dairy produce would approximate £1,900.

Weather conditions for the greater portion of the year were very wet. Thus the full benefit of crops planted for green fodder was not obtained necessitating the use of a considerable amount of hay from the storage shed to maintain production and to keep the herd in condition. Twenty-two cows were culled from the herd and transferred to the settlement. These cows were no longer useful due to age while others were very low in production. Further culling will be done periodically so as to establish a reasonably good production.

During the year two bulls were sold and one purchased. The two sold were no longer useful as sires and were disposed of at Brisbane. During the latter part of December and early January, three-day sickness was very prevalent and production dropped to a low level and resulted in the death of one weaner. The feeding of cows in the bail during winter milking proved very effective and production was improved. It is hoped that during the next twelve months the erection of hay-shed silos and feed-stalls can be carried into effect.

The piggery has progressed reasonably well and 77 pigs sold to the Darling Downs Bacon Factory realised £995 4s. 6d. and this amount with the yearly bonus will bring the income from the sale of pigs to £1,100.

The number of pigs at 1st April, 1955, was 70 and this number has now increased to 132 as at 31st March, 1956, an actual increase of eleven per month. There were no great losses due to sickness or disease but three store pigs died during February and March. However, by injection of Sulphamez Athine and Cilicaine Suspension Penicillin further losses were prevented.

All pigs have progressed really well, an indication being that the pigs placed on the market were graded as prime and commanded top prices. The feed used was a mixture of crushed milo, maize, wheat, lucerne, chaff and skim milk. There has been a marked improvement in litters farrowed during the twelve months, mainly due to the fact that breeders did not carry excessive fat and the disposal of old breeders.

The crops grown during the year were reasonably good but the extreme wet weather conditions curtailed planting and harvesting to a great extent. Oats, barley and wheat were planted for green fodder for the winter months. However, it was found that the wheat was not required and approximately 8 tons were cut and stored in the shed, the remainder being harvested for grain with a yield of 42 bags. There were 15 acres of maize grown which yielded approximately 180 bags which was used as pig feed. Approximately 27 acres of poona peas, millet and sudan were planted for summer fodder, but unfortunately on account of the wet conditions these crops could not be grazed to the fullest extent, with the result that the crops will now be ploughed into the ground.

The growing of vegetables was greatly curtailed but small quantities consisting of beetroot, turnips, carrots, beans, squash, cucumber, lettuce, cabbage and cauliflower were issued to the settlement for distribution.

The citrus orchard suffered slight damage from a severe hail storm and only a small amount of fruit was left on the trees. The majority of the trees are now showing fair growth and should produce a fair crop in the coming year.

The Ferguson tractor was overhauled and the rings, pistons and valves, &c., were replaced with new parts.

A major improvement carried out was the erection of new dividing fences between the training farm and adjoining properties. Approximately 1½ miles of fence have been erected consisting of four lines of barbed wire, thus eliminating the trouble of training farm stock straying or neighbours' stock being on training farm property.

In addition to erecting these fences all timber, one chain on either side of the fence line, was poisoned. Only a small amount of clearing has been achieved owing to other urgent work taking precedence. However, every endeavour will be made to do more clearing and so establish better grazing land for the stock.

APPENDIX 4.

YARRABAH MISSION.

(Superintendent Captain H. E. Cole, C.A.)

STAFF.

Boat Liaison Officer—Captain Alan Polgen, C.A.
 Chaplain, Headmaster—Reverend F. W. Hipkin
 School—Mrs. F. W. Hipkin
 School—Miss N. Howell, B.A. Dip. Ed.
 Hospital—Sister M. C. Stanley, C.A.
 Curios and Office—Miss P. Style
 Office, Welfare Officer—Sister J. Cryer, C.A.
 Store—Mr. G. G. Gretten
 Store—Mr. D. R. Bird
 Drapery Store—Mrs. D. R. Bird
 Dormitory Matron—Miss I. Sanders
 Reserve Overseer—Captain E. J. Pearce, C.A.
 Engineer—Mr. D. M. Robertson, M.I.A.M.E.
 Electrician-Engineer—Mr. D. L. Cotterell
 Boat Skipper—Mr. E. McAuley
 Child Welfare—Mrs. E. J. Pearce (Triple certified Nursing Sister)

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Bird from Ayr on 10th September, 1955, to assist in the store accounts department, Mr. D. L. Cotterell from England as an electrician-engineer on 16th November, and Mr. E. McAuley from Mackay on 28th February, 1956, to take charge of the mission launch, and also the marriage of Captain E. J. Pearce whose wife is a triple certified nursing sister has made it possible for a greater overall supervision and also greater development of the Mission Reserve. There is still need for a qualified teacher for the junior division of St. Alban's School and an experienced carpenter for leadership in building construction.

STATISTICS.

Births—42 to 31-3-56, a record for Yarrabah Mission.

Deaths—6 during the same period.

This indicates very definitely the preservation of our aboriginal family.

Exemption Certificates were issued to three families representing nine people.

EMPLOYMENT.

58 men on agreements and permits.

28 women on agreements and permits.

27 as cane cutters (between June and December).

	£	s.	d.
Gross wages for year ending 31-3-56 (representing the earnings of aboriginal men and women from outside employment)	17,293	14	1
A.P.F. deductions amounted to	1,243	1	2
Bank Deposits as nett wages .. (Deposited in the Savings Bank Account on behalf of individual aboriginals). This included also any Workers' Compensation payments.	9,092	11	6

Full employment is given on a 32-hour or 40-hour working week to all retained men of the mission.

HEALTH.

The good health of the population is indicative of balanced food requirements and healthy living conditions throughout the Reserve. The supply of plenty of fish benefits considerably the diet of the people.

Tropical Fevers still distress a few mainly after spending week-ends in the scrub areas.

Hansens Disease.—One man is still isolated at Fantome Island.

Tuberculosis.—Three tuberculosis patients are in Cairns Base Hospital.

Optical.—An annual visit is made to the mission by a Government appointed optometrist.

There is a weekly visit to Yarrabah Mission of a doctor from the staff of the Cairns Base Hospital. Other health specialists visited the mission during the year.

Special thanks are due to the members of the Cairns Ambulance who assist so often in wireless communication with the Cairns Base Hospital.

CRAFT.

Curios.—This department gives considerable security to the women industrious enough to obtain the pandanus leaf, loya cane and other essentials for the creation of works of art in basket work and woven mats, &c. The improved standard of quality has brought this craft work favourably before many satisfied customers in Australia.

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT.

Hunting is regularly indulged in during weekends and holidays. A considerable number of seasonal birds provide extra variety to diet.

Rugby Football is still the favoured ball sport.

Native Dancing.—Typical aboriginal dances by the "old folk" and Island type of dancing by the younger folk prevails as the main entertainment for the community of an evening on special occasions, such as Christmas, New Year and Easter, or during the visits of Torres Strait trochus boats.

Theatre.—Within the next three months full cinema programmes will be shown each week.

An annual visit of sixty boys and girls to the m.v. "Kanimbla" whilst in Cairns thrilled the children concerned. It was made possible by the ship entertainment committee.

The pieces of playground equipment, plus a Christmas party, were given to Yarrabah children by the Rotarians of Cairns on 18th December, 1955. This equipment is used daily—a very generous and useful gift to the children.

Annual camps for girls wishing to participate, supervised by staff members, is held each August during school vacation.

The Cairns Show is visited by the majority of inhabitants and is an education to young and old.

St. Alban's Patronal Festival is held the nearest Friday and Saturday to the 17th June each year. Excellent programme of mixed events provide a highlight in the life of the community.

TIMBER.

Three hundred and eighty-seven logs containing 78,517 gross super. feet of unsawn timber were put through the mill during the year. This is double the output of last year.

House Construction.—Four new sawn timber frame houses were built during the year. Considerable amounts of sawn timber have been used in planking a new jetty, numerous culverts and essential repairs to steps and buildings and the construction of many W.C.'s.

STOCK.

Horses.— 42 privately owned horses are kept on the Reserve plus 75 as owned by the Mission. Many of these are gifts of the Mulgrave Shire Pound and this generous help is much appreciated.

Bulls.— 2.

Bullocks.—31 working on logging from bush to roadside.
27 under two years of age.

—
58 Total.

Cows.— 15 milking.
16 dry.
13 heifers over two years.
5 culls for fattening and killing.

—
49 Total.

FARMING.

The production of vegetables was very difficult this year. A very wet "rain season" and no rain during the usual vegetable growing season, meant seeds sown and seedlings planted out never reached maturity. Irrigation equipment is essential if no rain falls after approximately ten rainless days. Although soft vegetables failed, hard vegetables such as pumpkin, cassava, sweet potatoes survived and produced good crops.

A new Ferguson short motor installed in the tractor safeguarded against a waste of man-power hours in essential cultivation. Very good watermelon crop was produced. Peanuts planted as an experiment are doing well. Two and a-half acres of bananas have been planted out in a new area at Oombunghi.

Maize (hybrid types) failed because of inbreeding of seed. This is to be corrected by obtaining new Government tested seed for the coming year.

Pineapples reached a record crop, providing inhabitants with all they could eat as well as 897 cases being sent to the cannery. Pineapple planting material was provided to Palm Island and another area planted at Oombunghi.

The recorded weight of fruit and vegetables from all farms during the year and distributed to inhabitants of the Mission Reserve as required is as follows:—

Bananas	2,564 lb.
Pineapples	119 cases and 2,250 lb.
Papaws	970 lb.
Sweet potatoes	26,556 lb.
Chinese cabbage	409 lb.
English cabbage	1,347 lb.
French beans	103 lb.
Pumpkins	2,945 lb.
Cassava	1,514 lb.
Cucumbers	830 lb.
Watermelons	16,364 lb.
Turnips	1,441 lb.
Tomatoes	648 lb.
Lettuce	93 lb.

To Cairns wholesale market:—

Pumpkins	14 bags and 2 cases
Watermelons	22,135 lb.

To Cairns cannery:—

Pineapples	897 cases
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CHURCH.

The Church life of Yarrabah shows stability. There has been a steady increase each year in the number of acts of communion. Seasonal services are very good. At Easter well over 300 adults attended "Three hours" devotions. Two hundred children attended a separate service. Easter Day was a real time of happy rejoicing.

The Sunday School is very well attended. Members of the staff conduct the various youth groups and sports activities.

The Mothers' Union Branch meets regularly and the women arrange their own hospitality for their meeting.

SCHOOL.

There are 161 children on the roll. Good progress has been made during the year. Two or three years ago few children attained a standard beyond third grade though nominally grouped up to Grade V. and VI. Work is now being done up to standard as far as sixth grade and more children are reaching Grades V. and VI. before attaining the age of 14. Next year it will be possible to form a small seventh grade.

One girl is a pupil teacher and studying for scholarship with view to training as a teacher.

One boy attends All Souls School, Charters Towers, and three girls St. Gabriel's, Charters Towers.

Four girls are living in homes of white people kind enough to give them the opportunity to gain a better educational and social background.

Attendance, health, personal hygiene are all very good at the school. Average attendance for the year would be near 90 per cent.

Appreciation is expressed to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, The Australian Board of Missions, the Church Army and the Diocese of North Queensland in particular for their assistance in providing material support, finances and staff in the developmental work within the Yarrabah Mission Reserve. Also to the many friends throughout Australia who have forwarded gifts of clothes and other gifts for Christmas distribution.

APPENDIX 5.

MONA MONA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Pastor W. H. Turner.)

STAFF.

Mr. Allan J. Smith, Accountant and Secretary
 Mr. D. E. Hay, B.A. Th.L., Head Teacher
 Miss G. Gillam, Infant Teacher
 Mr. F. Cherry, Engineer
 Mr. W. G. Petersen, Sawmill Manager
 Mr. L. B. Rees, Wood Machinist
 Mrs. W. H. Turner, Matron (Honorary)
 Mrs. F. Cherry, Sewing Room and Clothing (Honorary)

Staff changes during the year have brought about the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Blyde and family and we welcome to our midst

Mr. Allan J. Smith as accountant. We wish the Blyde family undisturbed rest at night in their new occupation. Mrs. Blyde was our Medical Matron for three years with scarcely a full night's sleep without interruption. She will long be remembered for her kindness to natives in need at all hours.

During the year an unfortunate accident occurred involving the superintendent, necessitating a long absence from work.

HEALTH.

Statistics.—

Births—					
Females	..	..	..	..	5
Males	..	..	..	..	13
Deaths—					
Females	..	..	..	..	1
Males	..	..	..	..	5
Marriages—Nil.					

The health of the people has been particularly good. We are fortunate to be able to report only one epidemic in the form of mumps which caused very little discomfort. The daily treatment of ex-Hansen's disease patients presents no problem as it is a routine job and two native nurse girls care for most of that. Regular smears are taken by the Mission Matron from all ex-Hansen's disease inmates both suspects and those discharged from Fantome Island. All are also regularly transported to Cairns for a blood count. All mothers and expectant mothers avail themselves of the weekly ante-natal and baby clinic.

EDUCATION.

The two grades, sixth and seventh, added to our school last year are continuing to function this year while two half-caste girls from last year's seventh grade are studying at the Australasian Missionary College in New South Wales. The present school enrolment is 66. In December, denominational State examinations were given. Results revealed a group of children on a par with white children in Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney. We look forward to having candidates attempt the Grade VIII. Scholarship Examination in a short time. A reading room has been added to the school for the adult population and pupils alike. A wide range of subjects has been included and a good number of natives take advantage of this avenue of entertainment and learning.

SPORT AND RECREATION.

While organised sport has the habit of becoming disorganised, the natives do not lack recreation. The youths have a social and games fortnightly while a movie show is supplied occasionally. Bullock riding is entered into frequently and most seem to reserve the week-end for shooting or fishing or even berry hunting. The brass band has made progress and is now preparing for a tour of five towns within a 100 mile radius of the mission. Unfortunately the band was not able to visit Townsville this year as it usually does. That this has had to be so has brought many expressions of regret from white people who look forward to our annual visit.

RELIGION.

In comparison with white communities the voluntary religious exercises are more than favourably attended. Worship is also conducted with the men at the beginning of each day's work and a native is usually called upon to offer a prayer.

VISITORS.

Our visitors appear to be increasing in number. Except for the midsummer months of the year the Pioneer Tours (North Qld.) Pty. Ltd. run a regular week-end tour to the mission. On occasions two buses have been necessary to accommodate the crowd. We are also inundated with taxis and private cars both during the week and at week-ends. It is a pleasure though to be able to report that without exception tourists have been exemplary in their behaviour towards the natives. Our boomerang throwers always entertain with a demonstration of the old art.

DISCIPLINE.

It is still pleasing to be able to say that alcoholic liquor is unknown on this mission. I believe the absence of liquor and the near absence of tobacco to be a rare and commendable feature of our native behaviour, especially at a time when the natives here are handling more money than ever before. A few cases of gambling were detected and dealt with.

AGRICULTURE.

Having granted exemption to our native garden foreman our crops have suffered during the current year. The pineapple patch at Kyber farm though has borne well. If the price had been half as good as the crop a handsome profit would have resulted. We are at present enjoying a good crop of citrus, mostly mandarins.

TIMBER AND SAWMILLING.

Our sawmilling industry has grown since last year and we found it necessary to dispose of the steam plant and install diesels, a Gardner 80 h.p. with the Southern Cross 40 h.p. which we already had. The diesels are proving a great success and the mill is producing some of Queensland's best timbers which are being marketed in Cairns to local and Brisbane buyers.

STOCK.

It is still impossible to obtain a complete count of cattle due to the rough and scrubby nature of the country, but we did actually count 353 head at the last muster.

ADMINISTRATION.

Whereas last year we had developed a system of payment in lieu of rations for a number of selected natives, this year we have abolished the ration system for all working men and pay cash for work done. We find it quite possible to pay better than the value of rations and to pay above recognised contract rates for timber cutting, post splitting, ringbarking, &c. The general sense of responsibility of individual natives has risen sharply as a result of this system. Natives who were merely a name on the roll to be marked present at work, now accept the challenge of a job and get to it. There is a tendency to forsake

the old-age outlook and disown those who impose on others rather than work. All are learning to buy wisely at the mission store at wholesale prices and some show remarkable discernment. It must be admitted, however, that the above system could have its pitfalls, but to date the only evil which it undoubtedly fosters is gambling which is very limited and so far kept in control. Child endowment is not now taken into the institution but handled through individual native accounts. With very rare exceptions the natives, both husbands and wives, are satisfied with the new system.

THANKS.

Again we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to those, especially voluntary workers, who have assisted the noble cause of missions. We wish especially to mention the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs and the thousands of people who have responded so generously to the annual appeal for missions conducted by the Seventh Day Adventist Board of Mission.

APPENDIX 6.**HOPE VALE LUTHERAN MISSION.**

(Superintendent, Rev. V. F. H. Wenke.)

STAFF.

Rev. B. F. Hartwig, Head School Teacher
Mrs. B. F. Hartwig, Assistant School Teacher
Mr. Gordon Rose, Store Manager
Mr. F. G. Radke, Farm Overseer
Mr. Robert Hensel, Stockman
Mrs. R. Hensel, Nursing Sister

In June, 1955, Mr. Don Ruthenberg, sawmiller and mechanic, Mr. Neville Knopke, carpenter, and Sister Violet Tanzer, nursing sister, left the mission. Fortunately Sister Hensel accepted the position of nurse and in September, Mr. F. G. Radke was engaged as farm overseer and mechanic. Since no sawmiller and carpenter were available Mr. Radke has had to spend much of his time supervising the milling of timber and advising native carpenters on the erection of new buildings. For a period of seven months, Mr. Herman Radke, senior, has offered his services. Apart from building a new ration store he attended to numerous repair jobs on the station.

STATISTICS.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	18
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	4
Marrriages	..	..	..	..	..	1

HEALTH.

The health of residents on the mission has been good. Hookworm still remains a problem particularly among a few large families with young children where re-infestation has occurred on a number of occasions. During the latter part of 1955 the Department of Native Affairs provided 100 pans. Since the arrival of these a disposal sanitary system is gradually being introduced. When the system is fully introduced it will be possible to conduct regular supervision.

During the cooler months of the year a good supply of vegetables was issued to all residents and throughout the whole of the year home grown tropical fruits were available in abundance.

Doctor Healy, of Cooktown, has visited the mission on a number of occasions and given medical treatment and advice which is much appreciated. We thankfully place on record the services of the travelling dentist, Mr. Jones, and his assistant who performed dental treatment where necessary and the Aerial Ambulance who conveyed four seriously ill patients to the Cairns Base Hospital on four different occasions.

The following is a record of the number of patients who received medical attention:—

Month.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Hook-worm.	Dental.
1955—				
April ..	400	4	..	120
May ..	340	9	20	..
June ..	380	16	27	..
July ..	422	7	28	..
August ..	356	8	42	107
September ..	415	3	69	..
October ..	410	5	55	1
November ..	386	7	124	18
December ..	210	1	44	48
1956—				
January ..	110	..	..	24
February ..	112	4	..	..
March ..	127	7	..	..
Totals ..	3,668	71	409	318

BUILDINGS.

During the year the sum of £3,000 was allocated from loan funds towards the erection of ten native cottages and general development of the mission. This grant has enabled the mission to purchase a steel bake oven capable of baking 140 2-lb. loaves of bread in a batch. In the near future a bake house will be erected and bread will be baked for the whole community. Since materials purchased from loan funds have only arrived recently it was not possible to complete any of the native cottages under construction. The position is as follows:—

- Five native cottages—In course of completion.
- Two native cottages—Half erected.
- Three native cottages—Erection started.
- One ration store, 18 feet by 30 feet—Completed.
- Five native cottages rebuilt—Completed.
- One garage.

A 40-horse power engine for the sawmill and a four-wheel-drive truck and timber jinker presented to the mission by the Donges family, of Glenarbon, and the Hensel family, of Dalby, have greatly speeded up the hauling of timber and milling of same for our building project. Despite temporary delays caused through wet weather and breakdowns at the mill over 50,000 super. feet of timber was cut during the past seven months. Some 200 logs felled during the wet season are now being hauled to the mill.

AGRICULTURE.

The 1955 peanut crop yielded a total of 875 bags. Cotton produced in the same year amounted to ten bales. Due to freight charges exceeding the first payment on first grade pineapples delivered to the Cairns C.O.D. Cannery it

was considered uneconomic and unprofitable to market the many cases of pineapples which were produced at the end of 1955.

Plantings of peanuts during the early part of 1956 were very disappointing on the mission as well as in the district. Crown rot in the seed immediately after planting reduced the strike from 50 to 25 per cent. with the result that yields this season will be extremely light. It is evident that a policy of reduced acreage of peanuts planted with specially selected home grown disease-free seed and a larger acreage of cotton will need to be introduced if farming is to return some measure of profit.

The following acreages were planted and are in bearing:—

- 53 acres peanuts.
- 10 acres maize.
- 32 acres cotton.
- 5 acres pineapples, bananas and papaws.
- 4 acres milo.
- 3 acres sweet potatoes.
- 2 acres vegetables.
- 1 acre sugar cane.

STOCK.

During the year under review a sixteen-mile road was constructed by Mr. G. R. Kleinig, of Leeton, through our reserve from Hope Vale to the coast at Cape Bedford. Four miles from the coast near to the road substantial stock yards and spraying facilities were constructed. During the year 38 calves were branded. The appearance of the Red Poll calves with 3/16th Zebu strain is most pleasing and promises well for the future. The mission has a total of 33 dairy cattle and 221 beef cattle. During the wet season an area of 20 acres of low-lying swamp country was planted with para grass.

EDUCATION.

The teaching staff consists of two white teachers who are assisted by four native mistresses.

The school has an enrolment of 79 pupils. The average attendance has been 68 per cent. In all subjects taught steady progress has been maintained. Lessons on hygiene have been introduced, with pleasing results.

The following is a record of pupils and classes:—

Grade.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Kindergarten	4	4	8
Prep. I.	5	1	6
Prep. II.	10	7	17
Prep. III.	8	5	13
Prep. IV.	4	3	7
Grade I.	2	7	9
Grade II.	3	7	10
Grade III.	5	4	9
Totals	41	38	79

CONDUCT.

The behaviour of residents has been satisfactory. One aboriginal boy had to be transferred for disciplinary reasons. The seven brides from Palm Island have adapted themselves to their new surroundings and have settled down well.

RECREATION.

Hunting, swimming, fishing and sports of various kinds are freely indulged in and enjoyed by both young and old. On the 15th July, 1955, the mission held their first show combined with sports events. A number of concerts and picture evenings have been successfully staged.

SPIRITUAL.

Divine service, Bible study and choir singing have been well attended by residents. At the special Christmas Services all aboriginals on the station received a parcel of gifts which are annually forwarded by mission friends in New South Wales and Queensland. These gifts are greatly appreciated by the aboriginals and assures them of the white man's goodwill towards them.

VISITORS.

Mr. G. R. Kleinig, Mr. Victor Donges, wife and family, as well as Aubrey Bergann and Herman Radke, senior, were not only visitors at the station but also gave of their time and means towards the development of the mission which is thankfully acknowledged. The president of our Church, Rev. F. H. Schmidt and Mr. Ossie Wallent, a member of the Hope Vale Mission Board, were also welcome visitors to the mission and rendered helpful advice and gained a deeper understanding of our many needs.

APPRECIATION.

The members of the Board of Hope Vale Mission, staff members at Hope Vale, aboriginal residents and the superintendent sincerely appreciate the assistance our Queensland Government, the Department of Health and Home Affairs, and the Department of Native Affairs have given to our mission during the past year. We express a special word of thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. P. J. Richards, and their staff for their assistance, helpful advice and interest in the welfare of our aboriginals at Hope Vale.

APPENDIX 7.

DOOMADGEE ABORIGINAL MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. Talbot.)

STAFF.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan J. Hockey.
Miss Isa Black.
Miss Grace Crouch.
Miss Pearl Roberts.

STATISTICS.

Births—10.
Deaths—9 (Adults 5, Infants 4).
Transfers—
 To Mission—25.
 From Mission—18.
Marriages celebrated—1.

HEALTH.

There were no epidemics experienced during the year although the people suffered the usual surges of colds, each time with some different main symptom.

A boy of ten years suffering from osteomyelitis in one leg was sent to Townsville for treatment and has since returned to the Mission but cannot walk properly yet. Incidence of hookworm, it was discovered, is prevalent in 80 per cent. of the native population but it is not acute. Measures to combat the disease are in progress. An elderly woman of the Northern Territory who had somehow reached Burketown Hospital was transferred to the care of the Mission. Besides being quite helpless we discovered she was insane. A sufferer also of cancer, this disease has since taken her. A number of natives from the Northern Territory and from other places have been treated by our medical staff during the year.

The Flying Doctor based at Cloncurry paid fifteen visits to the Mission, eleven of which were routine clinics and the remaining three for specially urgent cases. Messrs. C. Robinson and S. Andrews, dentists of the Flying Doctor Service, conducted a dental clinic here from 1st to 19th December. Extractions and fillings were carried out and several natives were fitted with dentures.

We would set on record our appreciation of the excellent invaluable service rendered to our native people and to the Mission staff by the Royal Flying Doctor Service during the year under review.

Sanitation.—This is a problem in flat country with soil which quickly reaches saturation point in wet weather. Various systems have been used by us. In view of the hookworm incidence the possible practicability of sinking separate bores for the sanitation requirements of each household was considered. The success of such bores would depend on whether they could be put down into porous substance for effectual drainage or absorption. Test boring was carried out and it was found that the soil substance from 5 to 30 feet down packed harder and tighter as the bore deepened. It will be quite useless therefore, for us to proceed with the idea. A pan system is in operation at present.

Education.—School has been conducted throughout the year, with an average daily attendance of 80.

Conduct.—Except for some quite isolated instances the conduct throughout has been very good.

RELIGION.

The usual daily and weekly gatherings have been very well attended. During the month of January we experienced the pleasure almost daily of having native men and women coming to missionaries for spiritual help or to give testimony of conversion from unbelief to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

AGRICULTURE AND FARM.

Vegetables.—There were fair supplies of vegetables almost all the year through. Sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and carrots were the main varieties.

Bananas.—Bananas were giving promise of a good yield until the plantation was badly knocked about by a heavy storm in January.

Citrus.—Citrus crops have been poor.

Apiary.—Apiary continues strong though honey yield was less than the year before. It appeared to be an off year for honey producing flora.

Poultry.—Egg production continues very good.

PASTORAL.

There were extensive bush fires through the country in September, which destroyed much of our bullock paddock fence. Temporary repairs were immediately effected. Steel fence posts and new wire have now arrived for the erecting of more substantial and fire-resisting fences.

Another new cattle yard has been built at a watering place 15 miles beyond the yard built last year. This is on Ladysmith Creek, almost on the north boundary of the Reserve.

Since early 1956 six of our best native stockmen have been employed regularly on the cattle work.

Livestock.—*Cattle*—

Cattle on hand 1st April, 1955	1,653	
Less natural shrinkage	165	
		1,488
Add brandings for year		468
		1,956
Less slaughtered for own consumption		76
		1,880

Horses—

Horses on hand 1st April, 1955 (Mission owned)	76	
Deduct losses	10	
		66
Add brandings		10
		76
Native-owned on hand 1st April, 1955	34	
Deduct losses	6	
		28
Add brumbies caught and gifts and colts		12
		40
		116

BUILDINGS.

Existing buildings have been maintained as far as possible. At the native village six more two-roomed cottages with back veranda-kitchen, have been erected with steel frames and C.G.I. covering. Concrete floors have been put down in three of these houses and doors and casement windows fitted in two of them. Completion of the six cottages is not so urgent now that most of the adult people are away in Station employment. However, they will be completed before the next wet season and we plan at the same time to erect six further

cottages in the village. Institution bathrooms have had to be replaced, one each for girls and boys. The two rooms have been built with all new steel framing and c.g. iron with raised concrete floors and five swivelled tip-over baths are in each room and clothes racks have been provided. Another bathroom is planned to be built at a nearly date for use of the senior girls which room will have more conveniences. Ten tons of cement is just coming to hand for the building with concrete bricks, of a new dormitory for the Institution boys. This will be divided into several rooms, in one of which one of the male staff will be accommodated. Besides having the present help of Mr. A. Polderman we are expecting two or three other builders here shortly to assist for a time in this work. It is hoped that the big Armeo steel building being used, in its incomplete state, for school and meeting place, may be completed at an early date.

Erection of a produce store 20 feet by 8 feet in steel and iron, adjoining our general store has proved of great value. Forty feet of veranda of one of the staff cottages has been fully enclosed with Naco louvre windows to provide more staff accommodation. Work is in progress to enclose a section of the veranda of the Mission Hospital with Naco louveres to provide a Doctor's and Dentist's surgery.

AERODROME.

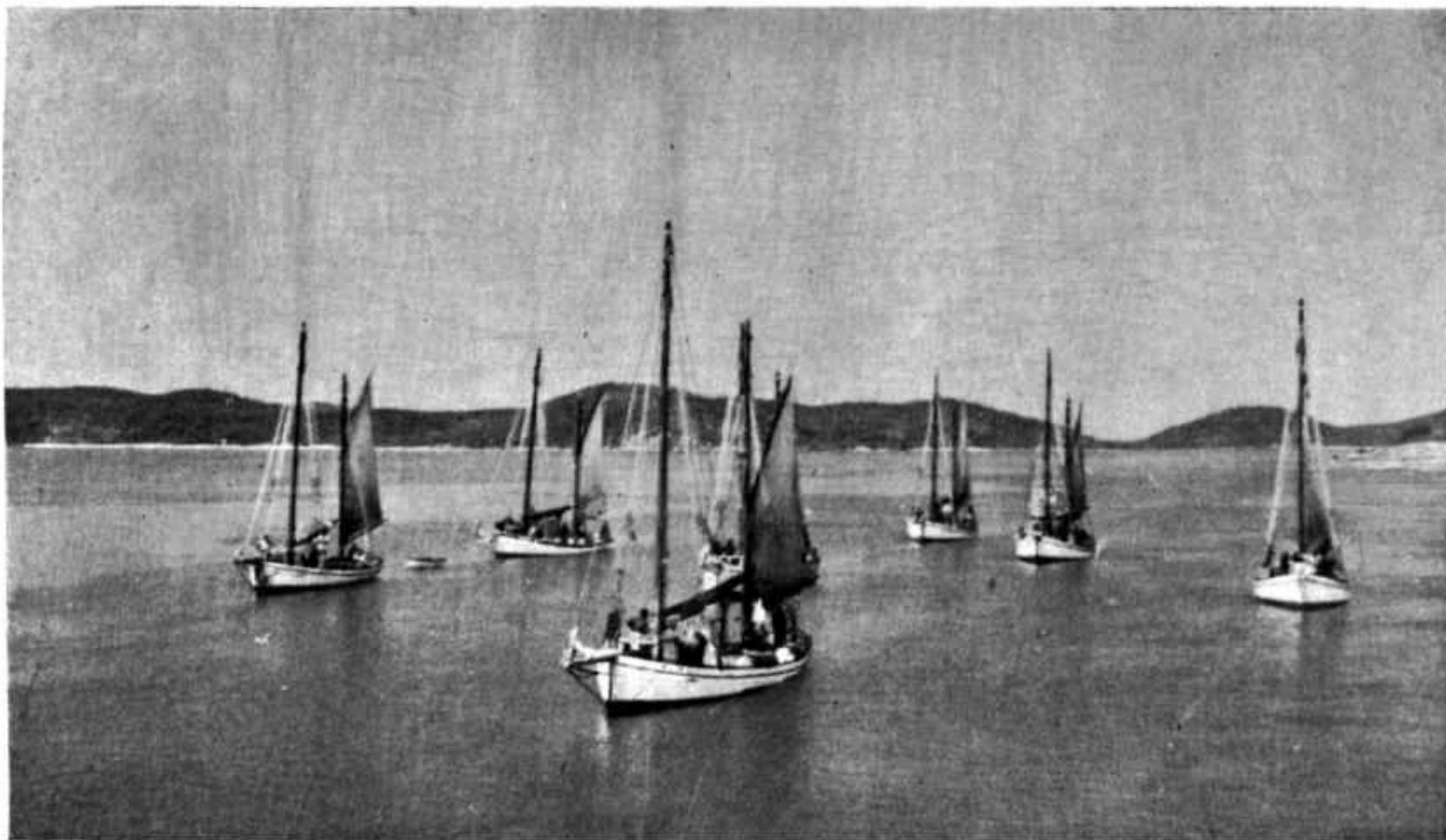
The main landing strip has been lengthened from 4,600 to 5,600 feet and is fully serviceable. Lengthening of the cross strip from 3,200 to 4,200 feet is not yet complete. The extension has been cleared of scrub and fences have been altered to accommodate the larger landing ground.

PLANT.

Plant of the Mission was augmented with the purchase of a new Ferguson Tractor with ploughs, ridger, and earth-moving blade. The Farmall A Tractor is to be completely overhauled and this machine will still be extremely useful, particularly for mowing the grass of the aerodrome. The Lister diesel engine powering our water supply is still doing an excellent job after nine years' service. The Fordson tractor is operating well as a power unit for firewood sawing, wheat grinding, &c., and is very valuable as a mobile electric welding outfit. Our steel framed buildings are all being welded together by this means. A Chevrolet three-ton truck purchased second-hand nine years ago is operating well. A reconditioned engine was fitted recently and a new timber body is being built. The Landrover is operating fairly well but requires some attention. Expert engineers expected here in July will check over all this mechanical plant.

OUTSIDE NATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

As usual, most of our people came home at Christmas time, some for a few weeks and others for longer. The demand for labour since Christmas has far exceeded the available supply. Bush Pilot Airways under charter conveyed direct to Stations, 33 men, 7 women with 10 little children. Regular T.A.A. service



Pearling Luggers Preparing for Sea, Thursday Island.

4. The Owners shall pay to the Diver for the supply of live Mother-of-Pearl shell fished, clean, chipped, dry and ready for packing as per the Schedule set out below:—

	Up to 8 tons.	Over 8 tons and up to 20 tons.	Over 20 tons and up to 25 tons.	Over 25 tons.
	£	£	£	£
Sound	285	340	360	380
D.	225	245	255	265
E.	150	155	165	175
EE.	90	95	100	110
Marketable Dead Shell	20	20	20	20

In addition to the above lay, the Owners hereby agree to pay an amount of £200 in the event of a vessel fishing 16 tons or over of Mother-of-Pearl.

No deduction shall be made for loss of weight of shell subsequent to weighing.

For Mother-of-Pearl shell not provided for in this Agreement lay at seventy-five (75) per cent. above rates. In the event of any dispute on the grading of Mother-of-Pearl the Appeal Board Secretary shall have the right to call in an Adjudicator on the gradings and his decision shall be binding on both Diver and Owners.

5. The Owners shall be entitled to deduct from the Diver's lay, all advances made by the Owners to or on account of the Diver for rations, wages and bonuses or other payments to 2nd Diver, 3rd Diver, 4th Diver, Tenders, Engineer and Crew, and other payments or advances made against the Diver's account.

No liability for payment of Workers' Compensation and Pay Roll Tax shall accrue against the Diver.

6. The Diver shall pay the cost of all fuel used over and above the amount of Two hundred and thirty pounds (£230) in the case of luggers and Three hundred and thirty pounds (£330) in the case of Power boats.

In the case of engines using power kerosene, the Owners shall allow an amount of One hundred pounds (£100) above the rates set out in fuel allowances above.

7. The Diver agrees with the Owners that he will pay wages to the crew as follows:—

Second Diver	£20 per month
Third Diver	£20 per month
Fourth Diver	£20 per month
First Tender	£20 per month
Second Tender	£18 per month
Third Tender	£18 per month
Fourth Tender	£18 per month
Engineer	£20 per month
Crew	£17 per month

Diver's liability for efficient white engineers—£6 per week. If during the current season a white man is displaced by an Islander, the Islander shall receive £6 per week as above.

No employee shall be required to work on Sunday except in the performance of essential work. If clear water is available on a Sunday, then crew must work but they will be given a day off in lieu thereof during next dirty water period.

8. The Diver agrees to conduct and manage the vessel in the following manner:—

(a) Crews at all times must be aboard their respective vessels unless given permit to leave by the Stern Tender and all breaches of this clause should be reported in writing to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master.

(b) Any crew member who deserts his boat during the season or whose services are terminated through his own fault or because of misconduct, neglect of duty, breach of this Agreement, or at his own request, shall not participate in bonus payments.

(c) The Diver agrees to pay the following bonuses to men employed aboard his vessel:—

Vessels fishing up to 20 tons—

- Two Diver Boat 40% net earnings
- Three Diver Boat 40% net earnings
- Four Diver Boat 55% net earnings

Vessels fishing over 20 tons—

Bonus as above shall apply up to the 20 tons. Bonus shall be 50% of the Diver's lay on all shell won over 20 tons.

Try Divers with one year's experience or more shall be paid extra bonus at the rate of £2 per ton from the Diver's share such to commence after 15 tons is reached and shall then be retrospective.

Try Divers must be nominated and signed on as such.

Provided that such bonuses do not reduce the Diver's income below £200.

Such bonus to be apportioned as follows:—

Two (2) Diver Boat—

- Second Diver .. One quarter of the above
- First Tender .. One quarter of the above
- Second Tender .. One eighth of the above
- Engineer One eighth of the above
- Four Crew To be equally divided among them.

Three (3) Diver Boat—

- Second Diver 3 shares
- Third Diver 3 shares
- First Tender 3 shares
- Second Tender 2 shares
- Third Tender 2 shares
- Engineer 3 shares
- Four Crew 1 share each.

9. When vessels are being fitted out for work as diving boats, the Owners will provide her with masts spars, rigging, engines and compressors, sails, blocks, ropes, anchors, chains, cooking utensils, helmets and corselets, piping lifeline, dinghy, approved medical kit, three sets Diver's clothing for a two-diver boat and four sets of Diver's clothing for a three-diver boat, and any other gear necessary to carry out working, any replacement due to any of the above wearing out (except Diver's clothing) to be supplied, but any replacements due to carelessness on the part of the Diver or his crew to be paid for by the Diver, provided that nothing in this section shall refer to the Diver's responsibility for replacements or repairs or any work whatsoever required to the engines. In this case Engineer's liability for damage shall be assessed by two approved Engineers.

10. Any pearls won are the property of the Owners and shall be handed to him, but in the case of Islanders stern divers, may be handed to the Director of Native Affairs. Pearls must be sold and the proceeds shared as under:—

1s. per cent. to Owners.

Balance to be shared among all men on vessel on the same basis as profits from the Mother-of-Pearl venture.

Pearls won by Islanders shall not be sold without the prior approval of the Director of Native Affairs.

11. Nothing contained in this Agreement is to be construed as conferring any title of ownership on the Divers in the vessel or any gear or plant thereon.

12. The Diver agrees to work the vessel without any undue loss of time.

13. This Agreement may be terminated at any time at the Owners' option without giving any reason thereof.

14. The Owners may take advance on wages due up to 50 per cent. subject to accounts being in credit and with the prior approval where required of the Director of Native Affairs. The initial amount to be paid to crews on, "sign on" not to exceed £5 per man. Bonus will not be paid until termination of this Agreement.

15. At the termination of the Agreement or sooner if the Diver leaves the vessel, the vessel may be slipped, cost of necessary repairs caused by ordinary wear and tear to be paid for by the Owners. Repairs caused by carelessness to be paid for by the Diver.

If on slipping it is shown that no repairs caused by the Diver's negligence are needed, the slipping costs shall be the Owners' responsibility; provided that by arrangement with the Director of Native Affairs and Owners, an amount of £100 (one hundred pounds) shall be held in a special trust account by the Director of Native Affairs to meet slipping fees where applicable, and repairs through carelessness of the Diver. At the termination of the slipping all unused funds in the Trust Account shall be returned to the Diver. No claim will be recognised after the vessel leaves Thursday Island.

Where the Diver is other than a Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal, the Owner shall retain the slipping reserve. In the event of no charge being made by the Owners against the reserve within a period of six months from the termination of a previous season, all moneys held shall be returned to the Diver.

In witness thereof the said Owners and Diver have hereto subscribed their names:

Signed by the said Owners }

In the presence of:

Signed by the said Diver

In the presence of:

Dated this day of , 1956,
at Thursday Island.

N.B.—

Regulation 74 (1).—Every employer shall pay all expenses of the employee's conveyance from the place of residence to the place of employment and on completion of the period of Agreement, the cost of his return to his place of residence together with an allowance for sustenance at the rate of Nine Shillings per day while en route. The allowance for sustenance en route shall not apply to any employee travelling by steamer when board is provided for by the passage money.

Regulation 79.—When an employee has been recruited from elsewhere than his home, he shall be returned on discharge to his home, unless otherwise approved by the Protector for the district in which the said employee resides.

TRUCHUS WORKERS.

(a) The minimum wages payable to Islanders and Aborigines employed on vessels licensed and working in the Trochus Shell Industry shall be:—

Captain—Islander or Aboriginal—Payment on shell won by vessel—£30 per ton;

Island and Aboriginal member of crew—£17 per month and food:

Provided that, prior to engagement only crews shown to the satisfaction of the Director of Native Affairs to be other than able-bodied or experienced to have their wages determined by a reduction of up to 20 per cent. of the above rates:

Provided further that in addition to these prescribed minimum wages rates a bonus payment shall be made to the crew of every vessel. Such bonus rate of payment shall be based on the season's production as follows, for every vessel engaged in the industry:—

Chief Officer—£10 for each ton in excess of 15 cwt. per dinghy per month;

Dinghy Skippers—£8 for each ton in excess of 15 cwt. per dinghy per month;

Each Crew Member—£5 each for each ton in excess of 15 cwt. per dinghy per month:

Provided that the Chief Officer is excluded from drawing a bonus as "dinghy skipper" in addition to a bonus as "Chief officer," and crew members drawing bonus as "dinghy skipper" are excluded from drawing bonus as a crew member also:

Provided further that bonus will not be paid in the event of any vessel not producing the prescribed minimum tonnage per month over the period of working, but in the event of that average being reached over the period of working then, full bonus payments shall be made as above.

Period of working shall be calculated as commencing from time of departure of the vessel for work on its first trip and shall not include any periods lost through engine failure, damage to the vessel other than that shown to have been caused by default of the captain or crew, or other causes which prevent the vessel and men from working. The period shall end not more than seven days after the arrival of the vessel in its port on its last trip.

(b) The trochus fishing season for the purpose of these Regulations shall be regarded as commencing on the first day of February in any one year or on the date the boat commences work, whichever is the earlier, and expiring on the thirty-first day of January of the succeeding year.

(c) All crews shall be signed on before the Shipping Master at Thursday Island, and irrespective of the location of recruitment of crews they shall be discharged at Thursday Island unless otherwise agreed to by the Director of Native Affairs.

(d) The Director of Native Affairs will issue permits to recruit aborigines on the east coast of the Peninsula north of Cooktown and on the west coast of the Peninsula, and where such aborigines are secured the Director of Native Affairs may permit them to work for a period of 90 days before signing Articles at Thursday Island conditional that the wages set out in paragraph (a) of this Regulation shall operate from the day that the aboriginal joins the vessel.

(e) Aborigines recruited at Cooktown shall be discharged at Cooktown and wages paid to the Protector of Aborigines, Cooktown. Aborigines discharged at Cairns shall be paid wages in the presence of the Protector of Aborigines, Cairns, or his accredited representative. Aborigines discharged at ports south of Cairns shall be paid off in the presence of the Protector of Aborigines in that town or his accredited representative.

(f) Employers of crews engaged in the Thursday Island area shall report to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master there when any member of the crew leaves the vessel in circumstances other than on discharge from Articles, before the Shipping Master, and in the case of a member of the crew engaged at a port other than Thursday Island shall similarly advise the Protector of Aborigines at such port.

(g) Each member of a crew shall be returned on discharge to the port at which he was recruited provided that if he was recruited at a place other than where he normally resides he shall be returned on discharge to the place where he normally resides unless otherwise approved by the Protector for such lastmentioned place.

(h) An employer shall pay the necessary expense incurred in the conveyance of the members of his crew from their respective places of residence to the place of employment and on completion of the period of employment all necessary expenses incurred in returning them to their said places of residence.

(i) When an employer fails to return any members of his crew in accordance with paragraph (g) he shall be liable for the cost of transporting such members to their respective places of residence and where sustenance is not provided the employer shall be liable for sustenance at the rate of nine shillings per day from the date of discharge or cessation of employment to the date of return of such crew member to his place of residence. Any such sums shall be recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction and such proceedings may be taken by any Protector.

Of the various fleets engaged in this industry the Torres Strait Islanders have the largest numerically and produce more pearl shell and trochus shell than any other individual fleet. This Islander-owned fleet is controlled and managed by the Director of Native Affairs. The

produce obtained from its operations last year was pearl shell 188 tons 1 cwt. 18 lb. valued at £99,762 Os. 1d. and trochus shell 165 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 5 lb. valued at £58,788 2s. 9d.

WELFARE.

On every Island in Torres Strait welfare clubs are established to provide entertainment for the people and to create a club spirit amongst the younger element, including the children. Regular concerts, dances and general entertainments are provided on the Islands and the result of such is a greater degree of happiness and contentment. Periodical visits are made to Thursday Island, and an annual bazaar is held on Thursday Island to raise funds.

The following are the credit balances in these welfare funds controlled by the Director of Native Affairs, and operated on by the Native Welfare Committees:—

	£	s.	d.
Aplin Hostel Welfare Fund	13	13	0
Badu School Fund	557	18	3
Bamaga Show Account	613	3	11
Bamaga Welfare	560	10	0
Boigu Welfare Club	144	8	1
Coconut Welfare Club	51	11	3
Cowal Creek Welfare Fund	124	13	6
Darnley Island School Library	7	0	3
Darnley Island Welfare Fund	22	16	6
Southern Cross Club, Dowar	83	8	1
Dowar School Welfare Fund	14	19	2
Kubin School Welfare Fund	22	0	0
Mabuiag School Welfare Fund	340	16	10
Mabuiag Welfare Club	16	16	11
Murray Island School Fund	270	3	6
Murray Island Welfare Club	97	4	9
Saibai School Welfare Fund	1	13	8
Saibai Herald Clubs	38	0	8
Saibai Welfare Club	10	0	6
Stephen Island School Welfare Fund	2	3	1
Yam Welfare Fund	9	16	8
Seagull Club, Yorke Island	45	17	1
Western Island Comforts Fund	62	0	3
Eastern Island Comforts Fund	142	18	5
Torres Straits Circulating Library	1,051	9	6
Torres Straits Ex-Servicemen's League	288	17	3
Thursday Island Bazaar Fund	1,303	6	9

EDUCATION.

Under this heading, remarks applicable to Torres Strait area are already recorded in this report.

Hereunder are reports by various Government teachers which indicate the existent position in the Island Schools under their direct control. These reports contain also various information relative to the general living conditions of the Island people whose children attend the schools.

BADU ISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. P. R. Frith.)

Education.—The number of children on roll is 106, comprising 55 boys and 51 girls. During the year 25 new pupils were enrolled. This was brought about by the return of many Badu families who were in residence in Thursday Island.

The staff consists of five native assistants and one trainee teacher, all of whom receive weekly lessons in school methods. During the year there has been a continual change in staff which has resulted in retarding the continuity of work.

The average throughout the school is fair.

During January a report was compiled by the Government teachers of Boigu and Badu on the merits or otherwise of suitable books for the teaching of Reading and English. It was suggested the Oxford English Course of Readers be adopted.

During the past two years "The Happy Venture" series have been in use in all grades from preparatory to fourth and are now being used as supplementary readers.

The School Committee purchased an Aldis Epidiascope 110 volt for the Badu School. It will be installed in the new school, which is expected to be erected during the current year. The school building, at present in use, was erected during the latter end of the Nineteenth Century by the London Missionary Society for the Papuan Industries and has served in turn as Headquarters of the Island Industries Board and the Badu School. The building has given over sixty years of service. The new school is to be built on the present site.

Marine Production.—Once again it is very gratifying to report on the excellent work performed by the men of Badu in the Marine Industry. There are on Badu six D.N.A. luggers and another lugger is to be added to the fleet stationed at Badu within a few weeks. At present the new lugger is on the slips in Thursday Island.

Many men of Badu signed on Master boats to work pearl shell and trochus. Of the male population a total of 207 men are directly employed in the Marine Industry from this Island.

One Badu lugger of the D.N.A. fleet fished the record total of over 32 tons. The lugger was captained by Tanu Nona, the Chairman of the Island. This record has never been surpassed by a lugger of the Torres Strait fleet since the inception of the Pearling Industry, when Somerset, on Cape York Peninsula was opened in 1863.

Housebuilding.—As can be expected after the record building programme of 1955 there has been somewhat of a lull in the building operations for the year. At the sign off of boat crews in December many men deposited large sums, some up to £100 as deposits for the purchase of homes in the near future. The only buildings erected during the current year were four native houses and the completion of one commenced prior to June, 1955.

Agriculture and Food Growing Developments.—The year closed with quite a large area under cultivation. During the lay-up season all available men were employed on making gardens. An innovation was the opening up of gardens on the Islands adjacent to Badu. On one Island, within one mile of Badu, over 600 banana plants have been planted. On other Islands sweet potatoes, taro, yams, and pumpkins have been planted. On the main Island itself larger areas than usual have been ploughed and prepared for planting. There are three motor ploughs on the Island.

The Council has been responsible for the increase in the land now under cultivation so that the people will have a more balanced diet.

Turtle and fish are the chief sources of protein. It was noticeable during the year that fewer dugong were caught.

Health.—Mass treatment for hookworm was given to all children by the matron of the Badu Hospital after an investigation by Doctor R. Manning who during the course of his enquiries found that there was heavy infestation of all children between the ages of two and fifteen years.

The monthly reports will show that the hospital has been consistently busy throughout the year. A wide range and variety of cases have been attended to. A number of abdominal cases, including appendicitis and also four fractures were sent to Thursday Island Hospital. Fourteen persons received A.T.S. injections and four persons had wounds requiring sutures.

In August there was an outbreak of gastroenteritis. Fourteen children were admitted to hospital for treatment but there were no deaths.

All children have been immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough, and given a Mantoux test by Doctor G. Hales during the year.

Ex Waiben patients report weekly for weighing and a record is kept and sent to Thursday Island at the end of their parole period. If considered necessary they are admitted to Badu Hospital to enable them to rest.

Mothers are encouraged to bring their babies for regular weighing and advice regarding feeding. Any child not found making satisfactory progress is admitted to hospital. The mothers are taught to prepare the child's mixture, cleansing of bottles, &c. Breast-fed babies rarely fail to gain weight—unfortunately too many are given bottles.

A careful watch is kept on the school children and their general health is good.

On behalf of the people of Badu, I should like to thank the Director, the G.M.O., the radio operators for their ready help and co-operation. Particularly do I appreciate the unlimited supply of drugs and hospital requirements.

DARNLEY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. O. G. Smart.)

School Enrolment—

Boys	..	..	..	..	52
Girls	..	..	..	..	44
Total	..	..	..	..	96

Average attendance—approximately 88.

Grades—Preparatory to Eighth Grade.

Progress.—Slow but satisfactory progress has been made throughout the year.

Standard.—The standard of English is still low but noticeable improvement has been made and one boy is doing eighth grade work. Standards of mechanical arithmetic and of spelling are most satisfactory and credit is due to the female teachers in the lower grades for their good ground work in the teaching of tables and spelling. The teaching methods have also shown improvement and most members of the staff have shown some initiative in trying out new methods and ideas.

Physical Education.—Physical education and sport play an important part in the curriculum and daily sessions of physical training are given. Cricket is played with much keenness by the boys and during the school vacation a village team was soundly beaten by the school team. A school sports day was also held and resulted in the Western District gaining a narrow victory over Central with Eastern a long way behind. It is hoped to make this an annual event. Another branch of physical education has been the teaching of dancing. Both Island dancing and European folk dancing have been tackled with enthusiasm.

Activities.—The highlight of the school year was the concert presented during the August vacation. Two performances were given and on each occasion the school hall was full to capacity. The junior children presented "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" a choral review embracing all the well-known nursery rhyme characters. The programme was completed by several short sketches by the senior pupils, choral items, and Island and folk dancing displays. Scenery made by the children was very colourful. Costumes of crepe paper also added to the gaiety of the occasion.

A school bazaar was held in connection with the break-up at which articles made by the girls' sewing class were sold. Proceeds from both functions were paid to the credit of the school welfare fund.

Welfare.—A small debit balance has been converted to a credit balance of over one hundred pounds during the year. An Aldis strip projector has been purchased but has not yet been used as it is at present in Thursday Island for adjustment and the fitting of a suitable lamp for it to be run from batteries. All the executive members of the school committee are at the present off the Island and a new committee is being formed. When this is accomplished no doubt further purchases will be made to increase facilities to extend the education of the Island's hundred or so school children.

Village Activities and Occupations.—Most of the male population of the Island are engaged on trochus luggers or work their own dinghies for trochus fishing.

Extensive gardens are cultivated, mainly by the womenfolk and abundant fruit and vegetables are grown.

Pig raising for home consumption is carried on by most families and nearly all have poultry for table use and for egg production.

Health.—The health of the population generally has been very good and malaria preventive measures are obviously effective as not a single case has been reported throughout the year. Darnley was one of the Islands least affected by the epidemic of gastroenteritis of August and September of last year only one case being reported. One death only occurred during the year.

Building.—During the year the shower baths at Mogor village have been repaired and the steps leading to the M.A.P. have been entirely reconditioned. Several Island-type cottages have been built by the residents but Darnley has not yet benefited by the housing scheme now in operation within the Department.

Thanks.—Thanks are due from all the people to the Director of Native Affairs, Doctors and Nurses at Thursday Island Hospitals, the Island Industries Board, master of the supply boats, and the radio staff who so cheerfully carry out their many duties.

MABUIAG ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. B. J. McGuire.)

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report of the Mabuia Island School and matters of general interest.

EDUCATION.

Enrolment.—The enrolment for the twelve months varied from 41 to 62. The mean quarterly enrolment was 50.6.

Attendance.—The average daily attendance for the year was 46.45. This is an increase of 5.25 on the previous year and is a direct result of the Department's laudable policy of removing all Torres Strait Islanders from Thursday Island to their home Islands unless they are gainfully employed at Thursday Island and have standard accommodation there for their families.

Conduct.—Conduct generally has been very satisfactory throughout the year and the children are obedient and diligent. It was noticed that the conduct of some of the children returning after a long absence in Thursday Island tended to restlessness and this was attributed to the change in environment. After a period these children settled in satisfactorily as they acquired interests to replace the diversions of motion pictures and taxi cabs.

Staff.—The senior male assistant resigned in February to enable him to enter the Theological College at St. Paul's Mission to commence studies for the Priesthood. His services are greatly missed as he was an excellent teacher. My best wishes go to him for success in his studies. One of last year's senior girls was appointed to fill the vacancy and the staff now comprises two males and four females.

Progress.—It is felt that some advancement is being made in acquiring a higher standard. New approaches are being made to reading in a hope to attain a more advanced speaking vocabulary. It is hoped that the results of the survey into more suitable readers for this area will soon be known and different type readers

available. It must be borne in mind that the Queensland Syllabus which is employed in this area was compiled to meet the requirements of European children. To enlarge, I would point out that one of the Junior Teachers who will be 19 this year has never been away from Mabuia Island. Consequently she has not seen such things as motor vehicles or motion pictures. In brief, the pupils of the Islands are restricted in their experiences by their environment and as a direct corollary sense impressions and imagery are not highly developed. This is abundantly clear in their compositions where they have the additional difficulty of the language barrier. English is and will be the sub-standard subject for a considerable time. The pupils have splendid retentive memories but sooner or later progress is arrested, for there is a limit to the amount of verbal knowledge a child will memorize. It is a continual search for means of varying presentation of the subjects to the children in an effort to help them acquire fresh experiences and thus increase their knowledge.

Activities.—A very comprehensive array of formal school work, arts, crafts and handwork was prepared last year and forwarded for inclusion in the Departmental display at the Brisbane Exhibition. The crochet and fancywork of the girl pupils was particularly impressive and the boys, not to be outdone, prepared two fine plaques depicting the fruits of the Torres Strait, and the Dugong.

At the request of the Director a School Committee was formed towards the end of last year. The operations of the Committee have been very successful and the School Welfare Club now has a credit of £383 15s. 11d. In addition, the Committee has another £50 in hand. A school fete held in December last netted £195. The children contributed largely to this success, as their needlework and carpentry articles raised approximately £100. My thanks go to the children, parents, and Committee for such a splendid effort. In fact all members of the population aided the Committee in some way.

Preparations are in hand for the installation of two 1,000-gallon tanks at the school. These will fulfil a longfelt need.

ISLAND GENERAL.

Marine Industry Development.—This season there are three luggers manned and skippered by Mabuia men. Two are engaged on mother-of-pearl and one on trochus. All boats are the property of Master Boat Companies. Mabuia Island has no lugger of its own. The "Uropi" formerly owned by the Mabuia Islanders has been transferred to the Badu fleet. In addition to the three boats mentioned there are many Mabuia men on other boats. All able-bodied men are engaged in the pearling industry or otherwise employed. Eight men, one of whom is the Boatswain, are crew on the Q.G.P.V. "Melbidir." Another Mabuia man is at present Boatswain on the Island Industries Board's cargo vessel m.v. "Kebisu."

It is hoped that the three boats skippered and manned by Mabuia men will show good results this season. There is an understandable reluctance on the part of Master Pearl-ers to



New School, Yam Island, Torres Strait.

engage Mabuiag men as skippers, although they are in great demand for other crew positions. Formerly Mabuiag skippers had shown no great success as Captains of boats. Although success this year will not necessarily assure Mabuiag men of positions of skippers, it will I feel, contribute to a more favourable attitude to them by the Master Pearlers.

Some of the home dinghies have been gathering Trochus from the home reefs. The present price of 2s. 10d. per pound here has meant some very favourable returns to the owners.

Agricultural and Food Growing Developments.—The presence of pigs running wild has reduced the amount of land under cultivation. These pigs were formerly domestic animals which escaped from their pens and are now running wild. Occasionally one of these animals is captured but it has no effect on the numbers. They are now regarded as a great nuisance as in addition to cultivated crops they are also destroying the wild yam gardens.

Sweet potato and Cassava gardens are cultivated close to the village, as are pumpkins, watermelons, papaw and sugar cane.

Housebuilding, &c.—During the year the Departmental carpenters have been busy here erecting five new cottages. In addition a formerly incomplete home was finished and occupied. The five new homes are of solid construction and feature fibrolite walls with galvanised iron roofs set on cement blocks. They comprise two bedrooms, front verandahs, a full-length kitchen-dining room with stove recesses. As these homes are built in the main by the native carpenters with no direct white supervision it must be conceded that the Islander's ability in this regard leaves little to be desired. They do a clean, neat and workmanlike job and are a credit to their white foreman.

In addition to the Departmental programme the Council has been active with its own labour and has pulled down two homes and re-erected them as more durable structures.

The Islanders have also completely rebuilt their Mission house as a temporary measure to house their native priest. As funds become available a new Mission house will be erected.

The Council is continuing bridge construction with available materials. Much is still to be done in this regard but lack of materials is restricting progress.

Health.—The high standard of health is maintained and apart from an outbreak of gastroenteritis in August-September last year the health position must be regarded as sound. Inevitable maladies such as chicken pox, conjunctivitis and measles were treated.

Twenty-five children were affected by gastroenteritis but fortunately there were no deaths. The Nurse-in-charge and the native assistant are to be complimented on their splendid devotion to duty during this outbreak. Both worked tirelessly. An emergency Hospital was set up eventually and white Sisters from Thursday Island arrived to relieve the position. Before

the establishment of a Hospital all patients were treated in the village and this meant a distance of over ten miles was covered daily by the Nurse and her assistant. I wish to draw attention to the organisation which worked behind the scenes in this epidemic. Firstly, the executive officers of the Department who were continually organising and effecting emergency boat dashes to relieve the position at various centres. For Mabuiag alone two of these emergency trips were necessary. It is without exaggeration to say that without the close-knit services of the Department the epidemic in the Torres Strait area would have been of tragic proportions. Once again the inestimable value of the Departmental radio network was shown. The two-way radio link is something that at times could be regarded as just another service. To the people in the Islands it is something far more than that. It provides a tremendous measure of re-assurance. It is alive, pulsing and warm and forever waiting patiently in the background to render assistance as required. People without experience of living in these Islands would not appreciate the full dependence we have on this radio link. It is indeed comforting to know that we have this very dependable service at hand. During the gastro. epidemic, as always we were extremely grateful to the service and its officers, who are always so co-operative and their "Standby please, I'll enquire," is a phrase which always brings assurance and is one that I, for one, will long remember.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the many officers of the Department, Island Industries Board, Hospitals Board and local administration whose cheerful assistance is so much appreciated.

MURRAY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. E. J. Freemantle.)

Enrolment.—For the quarter ending March, 1956, there were 122 pupils. The children are enrolled in seven grades, Preparatory to Grade VI., and if the present rate of progress is maintained a Grade VII. will be started in 1957.

Attendance.—There has been a steady improvement in attendance throughout the year, reaching the high level for the March quarter 1956, of 95 per cent. The institution of an attendance Shield, held by the class with the highest weekly percentage, has done much to encourage these good results.

Progress.—The syllabus prescribed by the Department of Public Instruction is adhered to as closely as possible. Progress is most marked in Arithmetic. The amount of work covered daily has increased vastly and most classes now are almost up to standard. English has always presented a difficulty as practice in this subject is only to be acquired at school. The native language with its limited vocabulary remains the medium in all outside affairs. Until the value of good English is fully appreciated by the people this difficulty will always be present. However, steady though not rapid progress is being made. Composition is improving particularly following the introduction

of letter writing and diary keeping. The children show great interest in the people of the outside world. A knowledge which can only be made available to them through the school and particularly through the Government Teacher as no literature or experience of the outside world, apart from coastal Queensland is afforded them in their homes. Gardening and Art are the principal recreative subjects and it is expected needlework and dressmaking will be included for the older girl before the end of the year. Two sewing machines have been obtained for this purpose and all the female teachers are attending a needlework and dressmaking class held by Mrs. Freemantle. The new school has now been open for a year and much of the out of doors activity has been spent in improving the outside appearance of the school and increasing the facilities. A shade house has been erected by the teachers and older children, to be used for outside classes and as a shelter during inclement weather for children awaiting school opening. Flower beds have been arranged in front of the school and the playing space at the rear laid out for Hand Ball, Volley Ball and Deck Tennis. Some part of the food garden has also been cleared.

Conduct.—The children are organised into three groups or teams, Gelam, Melbidir and Kebisu, and the team spirit has been evoked to good effect to improve standards of conduct at work, play and socially.

Other Activities.—A concert was held before the Christmas holidays. Its blending of Island singing and dancing with the usual more academic contributions plus a Nativity Play proved very successful. The children's performance in the play was commendable.

Health.—The gastroenteritis epidemic which resulted in the death of one infant was quickly checked by the prompt action of the Department in sending out a medical party. This action led to the saving of the lives of at least two infants who were difficult cases. Apart from this epidemic the general health of the Islanders for the year has been good.

General.—The arrival of a small documentary film unit aroused great interest among young and old and much unsuspected acting talent was forthcoming.

BOIGU ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. R. V. Miles.)

School—50 children. Adults and pre-school children—103.

Classes are as follows:—

Preparatory	20
Grade I	8
Grades II and III	10
Grades IV and V	7
Grades VI and VII	5

With the return of several families to Boigu from Thursday Island over the school holidays the number at the school rose from 35 to 50. The curriculum being followed is now a slightly

modified form of the standard Queensland one. The Arithmetic and English (written) are of the same standard, while spoken English is of necessity of a much lower standard as English is not normally spoken on the Island among the people. It is noticeable that the general standard of learning in the school is slowly rising as now it seems to be quite possible each year to keep a seventh grade operating even though the average age in the class is fourteen. The preparatory grades are benefiting considerably by the use of the Papuan Oxford Readers which require beginners who know English to learn to use a basic English vocabulary before learning to spell or write or read. The latter books too are very readily acceptable to the children as their content deals entirely with the world from the Islanders angle.

Art in the school has reached a high standard due to the use of modern methods of instruction which more or less leave choice of subject and composition to the pupil. Media used are pastels, chalk, water paint with clay for finger painting.

It is hoped that if the new school is built during the latter part of 1956 that a more expansive programme of handwork will be indulged in and generally there should be much more freedom of movement for both teachers and pupils.

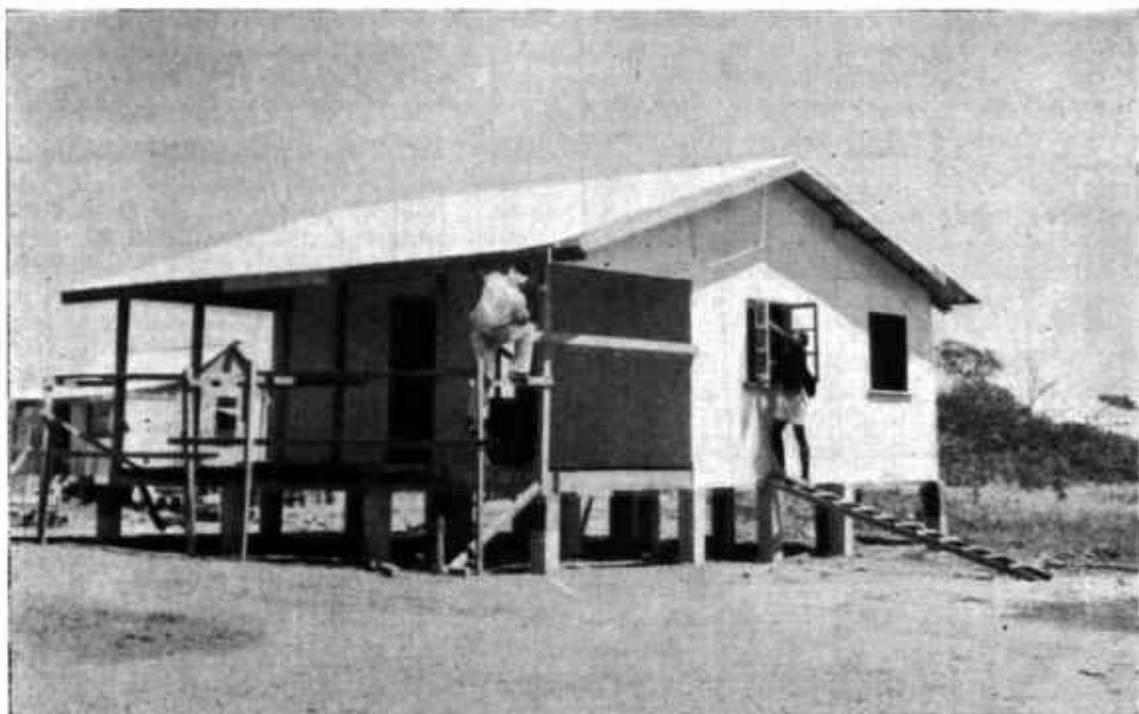
ISLAND AFFAIRS—GENERAL.

During the latter part of 1955 much activity on the weekly village day was devoted to the construction of two new roads in the village. These now completed have enhanced the general appearance of the village and greatly facilitated the carrying of water from the well.

Great new interest had been aroused last year in the village in tree planting along the paths and around the houses. The consequence is that many new coconut trees and lots of varieties of local flora have been planted, making the village of more attractive appearance. It is hoped later on in the year to replant many of the Island's citrus trees which normally thrive very well, producing prolifically but many of which were destroyed in an abnormally high King tide several years ago.

Bananas are another crop which grow well at Boigu and these too are to be replenished with suckers from other islands as soon as arrangements can be made.

Health.—Boigu is within the malarious coastal area south of the Fly River delta country of Papua and in consequence it is impossible to eradicate malaria completely from the Island. It is necessary, therefore, to conduct an intensive campaign each year during the "wet" against the scourge by putting the entire population on a course of atebirin to be repeated at regular intervals until the cooler weather has returned. Apart from malaria Boigu mostly avoids other sicknesses which from time to time strike at the Islands in more constant contact with Thursday Island. In the first few months of 1956 there were several cases of malaria reported but after



Erection Islander's Cottage, Mabuag Island.



Completed Islander's Cottage, Yorke Island.

questioning it was discovered that these cases were people who had not been taking their atebirin regularly.

Industries.—Boigu until this last twelve months has always been one of the best sources of dugong oil in the Straits but due to some inexplicable phenomena all of the creatures harpooned over the last twelve months have been poor and although the meat has been quite palatable there has been no blubber from which to extract the oil.

Local fishing activities in the area have been considerable and the variety of fish available for eating has been normal.

In conclusion, it is important to mention that with the instalment on the Island last year of a 4A radio transceiver to replace the small low-powered Pye set, communications on the Island with Thursday Island have greatly improved. This too has greatly facilitated the control of the Island from Thursday Island while the Chairman has been away on other duties.

ACCOUNTS.

Particulars of accounts controlled by the Director of Native Affairs in Thursday Island Office as apart from the accounts administered by the Brisbane Office are:—

ACCOUNT TO 31st MARCH, 1956.

	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Balance 1-4-55.	Balance 31-3-56.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions	5,862	395,057 1 7	367,068 6 5	219,269 1 3	132,257 17 5
		Investments Commonwealth and Security	Loan	..	115,000 0 0
					£247,257 17 5

Section.	Number of Accounts 31-3-55.	Number of Accounts 31-3-56.	Balance 31-3-55.	Balance 31-3-56.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Islands	3,919	4,094	130,333 7 3	149,336 6 5
Missions	609	622	51,016 15 6	51,417 13 6
Island Funds	79	87	22,846 11 10	30,787 19 0
Child Endowment	1,016	1,059	15,072 6 8	15,715 18 6
	5,623	5,862	£219,269 1 3	£247,257 17 5

NORTHERN PENINSULA RESERVE.

BAMAGA AND COWAL CREEK.

(Superintendent, Mr. H. M. Sidgwick.)

Season.—Rainfall for the period, twelve months ending 31st March, 1956—6,065 points, 4,739 points falling in January to March this year. This is 1,709 points under the registration for the same period last year. The usual prolific growth of native grasses and herbage came away, but the country did not get as wet as the last year and very little trouble was experienced with vehicular traffic.

Farming.—The following crops were grown for sale by the Island Industries Board, Thursday Island:—

Pineapples	Capsicums
Papaws	Squash
Citrus fruits	Pumpkins
Bananas	Tomatoes
Watermelons	Rosellas
Rockmelons	Egg fruit
Cabbage	

Total value sold, £2,879 14s. 3d.

Produce grown and fed to the pigs:—

Cassava	Sugar cane
Sweet potatoes	Pumpkins
Peanuts	Maize
Arrowroot	

During the year approximately 12 acres were added to the farm area by clearing on the eastern and western sides of the area. The total farm area is now 40 acres all serviced by irrigation. Some 10 acres of maize were planted as a field crop to mature during the wet season and good results were obtained. Some of this area was fed off as green feed, the final harvest (not yet complete) will provide grain for the pigs for at least three to four months. Extensive trials were conducted in small areas with sorghums and grass legume mixtures; details in the Farm Overseer's report. Further areas of maize will be grown under irrigation when the yield can be compared. With the increased area being planted with field crops it is found that a power implement for inter-row cultivation is necessary this has been requested and it is hoped will come forward by the end of the year.

Pig Breeding.—Stock on hand at 31st March, 1956:—

Boars	2
Sows	12
Weaners and stores	94
Total	108

One hundred and eighteen fats were sold during the year, the total value being £1,544 8s. A check has been kept during the year on the litters now being dropped, and the percentage of throwback to the wild type noted. This appears to be about 50/50. There is a marked

difference in the time taken for the type reverting to the wild strain as against the type reverting to the domestic Berkshire boar, in maturing and getting fat. Rate of growth is nearly equal but the pig showing most of the characteristics of the domestic strain mature much faster and will provide much better pork. The conformation and type of sow is improving and can be improved further, but it will take many generations to breed out to the type that will always throwback a certain percentage of her progeny. It takes at least six to seven months to grow a porker of 60 to 70 lb., whereas the fully domestic pig will mature to this weight in five to six months. A new boar will be required this year, and it has been recommended that suitable sows be purchased.

Cattle.—Stock on hand at 31st March, 1956:—

Bulls	..	..	..	..	2
Cows	..	..	..	..	19
Heifers	..	..	..	..	16
Steers	..	..	..	..	15
Weaners	..	..	..	..	23
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	3
Total	..	..	..	..	78

Five bullocks were sold during the year, total value being £209 19s. 6d. Dingoes this year have been killing young calves, the total branded increase being nine, but there are some eight to ten to be branded. A paddock of approximately 1,000 acres was enclosed during the year; further fencing will be undertaken as labour is available.

Sawmilling.—

Production:—

Logs milled	..	..	952
Logs gross	..	..	292,513 super. feet
Net recovery	..	..	144,700 super. feet

Details of the mill workings are shown in the Mill Overseer's report. During the year inspections and reports were made on the timber areas of Bamaga and the area to the north by:—

Messrs. W. Suttie, District Forest Officer,
Atherton,

G. Ballard, Logging and Road Engineer,
Atherton,

K. White, Botanist, Atherton,

of the Forestry Department's Office, Atherton District. Their co-operation and assistance will prove of great assistance to us, as we now have positive information on the timber in this area. It is now known that most of our timbers are subject to lyctus borer. Plans have been drawn up for the installation of an immunising plant to correct this. As far as possible logging is confined to hardwood stands and to non-susceptible scrub woods. With the delivery of the Crawler tractor much of the hard work of snigging has been taken off our trucks, and with an improvement in logging roads, timber truck damage has greatly reduced. All snigging and road making is done by this tractor.

Motor Vehicles.—All units have been kept on the road and done good service. Two trucks have been completely rebuilt during the year; transmission parts for both Ford and Chevrolet 4 by 4 are in short supply. The delivery of a new logging truck is expected during 1956.

Equipment Received.—Caterpillar D4 tractor, 7 in. by 3 in. four sider planing machine, engine and pump to deliver 20,000 GPH, disc plough and cultivator Ferguson tractor.

Building.—The following buildings have been completed:—

School building, Bamaga;

Government teachers residence, Bamaga;

M.A.P. building, Cowal Creek;

Two cottages, Cowal Creek.

These buildings have been put up by native tradesmen under a native foreman, periodically supervised by the Director of Native Affairs Building Officer. They have done an excellent job. Building is now going forward on a new branch store at Bamaga and on cottages at Cowal Creek. A skillion roof shed 82 by 20 feet was built at the farm.

Shed 65 ft. x 20 ft. for the planing machine at mill.

Roof extension 35 ft. x 20 ft. at mill.

Extension of engine room to house irrigation engine.

Farrowing pens at pig yard 60 ft. x 20 ft. with yards.

All work was performed with Settlement labour.

Fencing and Pasture Improvement.—1½ miles two-wire barbed completed from farm boundary to the eastern check fence, enclosing an area of approximately 1,000 acres which will be used as a bullock paddock and a holding area when mustering. During this year portions of this area will be cleared and large trees rung; suitable grasses will be planted during next "wet." An area of creek bottom approximately 10 acres was hand cleared and planted with Guinea grass, Molasses grass, Buffel and Townsville lucerne. The last three struck well but the Guinea was disappointing. As the season progressed a type of native vine has made its appearance. It has taken over most of the cleared land. Stock will not eat this vine. Experiments will be conducted during the year to find the best method of destruction; till this is done further clearing of creek lands will not be undertaken.

Health.—New hygiene depots have been built at Bamaga, Cowal Creek, and Red Island Point, consisting of buildings with cement floors complete with wash and disinfectant troughs. The sanitary pans are discharged direct into the sea at Cowal Creek and Red Island Point and into trenches at Bamaga. Lavatories and pans are kept in good condition by constant inspections, village hygiene and personal hygiene are closely watched. Fishing parties go out with nets and spears, some good hauls resulting. Fruit and vegetables are made available from the farm, the children receiving their issue from the Matron-Clinic Sister at the hospital.

Somerset Plantation.—Coconuts mostly in copra form are transported to Bamaga for pig feed.

A caretaking family has been in residence most of the year. The top plantation has been cleared of suckers where they encroached on the

palms. During the year it is hoped that the big tractor can be made available to do some clearing on the bottom plantation.

Roads.—A new road has been made to Cowal Creek which cuts the running time to about fifteen minutes each day. Several culverts have still to be put in. We experienced several heavy storms which damaged all roads and bridges.

Statistics.—

Number of Births—				
Bamaga	..	..	..	7
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	10
Number of Deaths—				
Bamaga	..	..	..	5
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	3
Schools—				
Bamaga, boys	..	..	..	35
Bamaga, girls	..	..	..	27
Red Island Point, boys	..	..	..	7
Red Island Point, girls	..	..	..	6
Cowal Creek, boys	..	..	..	20
Cowal Creek, girls	..	..	..	21

Our thanks are due to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their co-operation and assistance. To the G.M.O., doctors and staff of the Thursday Island Hospital for medical assistance, and to the officers of the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture and Stock for their assistance in sawmilling and farming problems.

BAMAGA FARM REPORT.

(Overseer, Mr. J. Harris.)

During the year trials were carried out with the following crops:—

Maize.—

Three varieties were used:—

- Ordinary Tableland Seed
- Durum
- Q.462 Hybrid

The results were as follows:—

Tableland.—Performed quite favourably under rather adverse conditions although some damage by straying stock occurred. The crop average was 8 cwt. per acre.

Q.462.—This variety performed quite well under somewhat better conditions, being fertilized with 3 cwt. of A.C.F. and Shirley's No. 10, with a side dressing of 100 lb. of sulphate of ammonia at tasselling. This crop did exceptionally well, considering it was planted in light-grey sandy loam and suffered considerable damage by straying horses. The harvest amounted to 13 cwt. Seven rows of Q.462 were not side dressed with sulphate of ammonia and production from these seven rows was practically nil.

Durum.—This variety has not as yet been picked and it is not possible to make any estimate of the yield. Growth was quite good with the aid of 3 cwt. of A.C.F. and Shirley's No. 10 fertilizer. The growth of the plants was quite good.

Grain Sorghum.—Six pounds of grain sorghum were procured from the Department of Agriculture and Stock and planted in trial plots, the varieties used being as follows:—

Caprok	Coastland	Kalo
Martin	Alpha	Wheatland.

Caprok.—Germination was good, but early growth was rather slow. However, in the latter stages the growth was vigorous, the plants developing excellent stalk and flag and producing extra good seed heads, height 4 feet 6 inches and very even. This variety has shown ability to grow well and produce under the conditions of this area. Estimated production, 40 bushels to the acre.

Martin.—Good germination, very vigorous growth in the early stages but slowing off when piping for head. Produced quite good seed heads with an estimated production of 33 bushels. This variety has shown ability to grow and produce favourably under the prevailing conditions, being very even in height (4 feet) with good stalk and flag.

Coastland.—Good germination, good growth and owing to the open type of seed head, is worth further consideration as a crop both for seed production and fodder.

Alpha.—Good germination, fair growth but lacking in vigour and seed production.

Kalo.—Good germination, very poor growth, would not be a profitable crop for this area.

Wheatland.—Germination nil.

The above trials were carried out on light sandy loam with a fertilizer rate of 100 lb. of A.C.F. and Shirley's No. 10 without use of irrigation. If seed is available of the suitable varieties more extensive plantings will be carried out next season depending on summer rainfall.

Canes for Fodder Purposes.—Sets of cane which were procured from southern areas arrived in very bad condition and poor strikes were experienced.

C.P.29/116.—Approximately 450 sets were received, but owing to being in a rather decayed condition on arrival a very poor strike resulted. However, the strike did indicate that this variety would be useful for further planting and enough material will be obtained from the present crop to carry out further plantings when conditions are suitable.

Co.301.—Only 100 sets of this variety were received and as these were packed in boxes with damp sawdust, their condition on arrival was fair.

A fairly good strike resulted but this variety has now shown its usual prolific growth of stooling ability, but from the results achieved it is quite suitable for further planting.

With the plant material grown at Bamaga it is possible better results will be obtained during the coming season.

Q.50.—Only 45 sets of this variety were received, and although only in fair condition on arrival a good strike resulted. This cane has performed exceptionally well, showing very vigorous growth and good stooling and gives promise of being a very heavy producer of good quality cane and fodder. A further 1,000 sets have been ordered for planting during July and August.

Arrowroot.—One bag of tubers was received but owing to the majority of it being in a very decayed condition on arrival, only 30 plants resulted, and this will not give sufficient planting material for the July-August plantings. It is recommended that 20 bags of tubers be procured from the best variety which is grown at the Regional Experiment Station at Kairi.

Pasture Trials.—Twelve plots each $\frac{1}{4}$ acre were planted with various pasture crops consisting of grass and tropical legumes:—

1. *Guinea Grass-Townsville Lucerne.*—The germination of Guinea Grass was very poor while Townsville Lucerne was good. It is considered from results that Guinea Grass is not suitable for this area.

2. *Buffel Grass-Townsville Lucerne.*—Good germination of both varieties but poor growth of Buffel Grass has made this trial a failure.

3. *Guinea Grass-Centro.*—Failure of Guinea Grass in this trial again indicates that this type of grass is unsuitable. The Centro grew very vigorously and produced large numbers of Nitrogen Nodules which should have resulted in response from the Guinea Grass.

4. *Buffel-Centro.*—Good germination with both varieties but again the Buffel did not show satisfactory response.

5. *Molasses Grass-Townsville Lucerne.*—This has proved to be an excellent mixture, Molasses showing very vigorous growth and combined with the Townsville Lucerne, should prove good pasture grass.

6. *Molasses-Centro.*—This has proved excellent pasture.

7. *Molasses-Puero.*—This has proved good pasture.

8. *Molasses-Stylo.*—Stylo is somewhat similar to Townsville Lucerne but has a more erect growth than the latter, which gives it distinct haying possibilities and combined with Molasses or any other suitable grass it should be valuable for hay or pasture purposes.

9. *Calofo.*—A valuable soil builder showing prolific growth in the light sandy areas, this legume is a fairly heavy Nitrogen producer and although lacking in palatability is valuable as a soil improver.

10. *Stylo.*—Suitable for haying purposes and pasture has shown good growth.

11. *Centro.*—Showing very vigorous growth, will grow in any soils in this area.

12. *Glycine Javanica-Green Panic.*—This grass with its ability to grow under very adverse conditions shows considerable drought resistance and ability to respond rapidly to rainfall. It is considered ideal for the prevailing conditions. As it was only possible to obtain 2 oz. only two small areas were planted and in both areas the results were good. Glycine is known to be a very valuable fodder for stock (especially pigs). This legume is doing remarkably well and with the Green Panic mixture it is considered to be by far the best pasture proposition.

Peanuts.—A small area of Red Spanish variety was planted but owing to the seed not being treated with a suitable dust some root rot and wilt occurred. Production of first class nuts was quite fair and it is considered this would be quite a profitable summer crop.

General.—An extensive green manure cropping programme was carried out in the citrus, banana, and vegetable growing areas. Some of the citrus trees produced remarkably well but others did not bear fruit at all. This could be caused through soil erosion over part of the citrus area. Soil erosion is rather a serious problem on the Settlement and it is recommended that the soil conservation branch of the Department of Agriculture and Stock be asked to make a survey with a view to advising on methods of prevention. Four thousand five hundred young pineapples have been planted but this will only replace an old plantation now out of production. However, further plantings are to be made as material for planting becomes available. Plants are on hand for the planting of a further area of papaws. An implement shed has been erected, dimensions 72 feet by 21 feet, and this includes a packing shed 12 feet by 21 feet. A nursery building, 21 feet by 12 feet, and a rack for stacking irrigation piping have been constructed. An area of approximately 12 acres has been added by clearing fresh land.

SAWMILL.

Mill Production.—For the year ending 31st March, 1956, a gross total of 952 logs was milled at the Bamaga sawmill. These gave 292,513 superficial feet from which was recovered approximately 144,700 super. feet of sawn timber. No accurate check of sawn timber was made but bulk measurements were taken of all loadings and periodically a check of percentage recovery of individual logs was taken. The above figures quoted are taken from these and it can be fairly stated that such is reliable.

A count of each and every board has not been made because the building programme has created a greater need for timber than the mill has been able to supply, and in my opinion it was not wise to detail crew from various phases of production to one of no production.

Recovery of sawn timber is far from good. The reasons being:—

- (a) Logs from open forest have not been of good quality. They were cut as they are non-susceptible to lyctus borer, and
- (b) If the demand for building sizes was not as great, and smaller sizes for cases mouldings and joinery work, &c., were needed, time could be then used in milling those from that which now goes to refuse.

It would, however, be an uneconomical venture to combine both while using only one running-out bench as is done in this sawmill.

Modifications.—Drop head knees for the breaking down unit became available and were fitted to the carriage in January, 1956. Perusal of the tally sheets for the following months reveals the vast improvement that addition to the mill has been.

A crawler tractor is now on strength and is made available for road making for logging for snigging to loading ramps and on some occasions also for loading logs on the jinkers. This gives the falling gang more time to attend the falling and has eliminated much of the hold-ups in hauling that were very frequent when it was necessary to use the trucks for snigging.

A lean-to building 32 feet by 16 feet was constructed over part of the semi-Canadian tram lines and log storage skids, thereby enabling a plentiful supply of logs under shelter and giving the native crew adequate protection during the monsoonal rains.

Larger saws have been supplied for both units giving them greater efficiency.

A 7 inch by 3 inch four sider planing machine has now been added to the sawmill. All concrete work has been done, 25 h.p. engine installed, and when the countershafting is fitted this machine will be ready to operate. The engine, planing machine and their extras are housed in a 48 feet by 16 feet building adjacent to the sawmill building.

Sawn timber storage stacks capable of carrying up to 30,000 super. feet have been built in a position that will co-operate with the prospective immuniser and also the planer.

A swinging type of docking saw was fitted and power supplied from a 6 h.p. Ronaldson-Tippett diesel engine. This unit came into operation in January, 1956.

All sawn timber is now passed over this bench shot ends, strakes, &c., being removed.

A set of tram lines leading away the docker were laid down and a trolley reconstructed to carry the sawmill refuse when docked to lengths not exceeding 5 feet. This enables greater ease of handling refuse on all stages of its conveyance to Thursday Island depots.

Transshipment of Sawn Timbers.—As no accurate tally of sawn timber leaving the sawmill has been kept exact details of this cannot be given.

E

Timber for one 28 feet by 26 feet cottage, one 2,400 square feet school building, two 26 feet by 22 feet cottages and the M.A.P. at Cowal Creek, the dimensions of which are not known, was supplied to the building gang at Bamaga.

The farm overseer took delivery of timber to construct an implement shed 84 feet by 12 feet and two pig sheds 7 feet by 5 feet.

In addition timber was supplied to have the Showgrounds buildings partially rebuilt and also four new ones erected.

Further deliveries were made for various smaller projects at Bamaga and Cowal Creek.

All timber milled other than that mentioned above was sent forward to Thursday Island.

Visitors.—During the month of September, 1955, the then District Forester at Atherton, Mr. Suttee, accompanied by their Roads Engineer, paid a visit to Bamaga for the purpose of a survey of the timber stands within economical reach of the Bamaga sawmill. This opinion and estimate of the rain forest timber available was of a very high standard.

As the greater part of my experience prior to Bamaga had been on open forest hardwoods there were several aspects of milling rain forest species which I had not grasped. Mr. Suttee's knowledge and his desire to hand it on was gratefully accepted, and I desire here to place on record my appreciation for the assistance given.

In November, Mr. White, a botanist, also with the Sub-Department of Forestry was made available to Bamaga. He collected specimens of all species likely to be milled.

Mr. White's positive identification of the different species we are cutting has enabled the sawmill to mill them to the best building sizes for which they are suited.

General—It is regretted that for the year under review the output of sawn timber did not reach the requirements. However, it was a vast improvement on the previous year, and I feel sure came very close to being the maximum capacity of this mill.

The crew and myself have a better understanding of one another, which, though hard to attain with natives seems to play an important part.

As equipment is made available to the sawmill it is installed and I feel sure that when larger saws are received, correct primary and secondary drivers are fitted and the sawdust removal becomes a mechanical one then the sawmill will be capable of creating an output equal to the demand if sufficient labour to maintain full-time production is provided.

One point worth mentioning is the fact that though sawmill work is reckoned as being as dangerous as any, none of the crew met with any serious accidents throughout the year.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

In-patients	81
Out-patients	10,775
Births	17
Deaths	8
(Comprising 7 from gastroenteritis and 1 from old age.)	

There were 28 Gastroenteritis cases.

Patients transferred to Thursday Island Hospital for further medical attention and X-rays, &c., numbered 261.

In June, we were visited by Doctors Metcalfe, Dowling, Abrahams, Fryberg, Sir Harry Wunderley, and Mr. O'Leary.

An inspection was made of the Hospital, also of the school children.

In July, the hookworm survey was commenced by Mr. Thompson, Government Microscopist and was completed in August. Mass treatment was done to all with the exception of children under the age of three years and of these the positive cases were treated at the Hospital. Mr. J. Elliott, Government Optometrist, visited the Settlement on the 23rd July.

All school children were examined, also any adults who requested treatment. We were stricken with a severe outbreak of gastroenteritis beginning in the month of August. Dr. Manning and staff of sisters came from Thursday Island Hospital and remained at the Settlement during the course of the epidemic. I would like to place on record appreciation of the work done also by the G.M.O., Dr. Meredith and the Matron of the Thursday Island Hospital whose untiring efforts certainly minimised the outbreak. Extra nursing staff was required from our coloured nurses, also girls for laundry work, &c., and to say the least they all responded magnificently.

During the epidemic, Cowal Creek and Red Island Point were constantly patrolled and contact by radio to Cowal Creek enabled us to bring in sick cases immediately.

Sores are not so prevalent now and personal hygiene of the people has improved.

Each month a visit is made to the aged people in their homes and houses are inspected.

Any children who are underweight are brought daily to the Hospital for meals.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS, BAMAGA AND COWAL CREEK.

The number of children attending the clinic as at the 31st March were:—

Babies 18; Toddlers 62.

All clinic children are weighed and checked each week.

Most of the mothers are very co-operative and do their best to carry out instructions.

Pentavite Haliborange, &c., is given as ordered. Fruit as available from the farm is given to the clinic and school children.

Any child of indigent persons who is not getting sufficient food, clothing, &c., is given a special issue.

School children at Cowal Creek continue to get a daily issue of milk.

Clinic children at Cowal Creek receive an issue of milk twice daily.

Vegetables and fruit are issued to mothers and indigents as available from the farm.

WIRELESS NETWORK.

(Engineer-Operator, Mr. J. McKenna.)

(Assistant, I. H. Mullins.)

Base Station.—Thursday Island.

Outstations.—

Hope Vale Mission, Cooktown
Lockhart River Mission
Bamaga Settlement
Mapoon Mission
Weipa Mission
Aurukun Mission
Edward River Mission
Mitchell River Mission
Mornington Island Mission
Badu Island
Boigu Island
Coconut Island
Darnley Island
Murray Island
Mabuiag Island
Naghir Island
St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island
Saibai Island
Stephen Island
Yam Island
Yorke Island
Cowal Creek
M.V. Melbidir
M.V. Gelam
M.V. Kebisu
M.V. Reliance (Presbyterian Mission Launch)

Proposed new outstations.—

Kubin Village
Sue Island
Dauan Island
Bennell Island
Cooktown
Normanton
Yarrabah Mission

Hours of operation.—

Week days	8 a.m.—4 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m.—10 a.m.
Sundays	10 a.m.—11 a.m.

The base station is also kept open outside these hours as required to handle urgent traffic.

The overland telephone line from the Cape is still out of service and the radio link with Cairns Ambulance Base Station is still operative. Routine twice daily schedules are maintained. The aerial ambulance plane is thus available at short notice to any of our outstations with airstrips.

Traffic analysis—Total messages for year.—

Inward	14,800
Outward	13,700
Radio medical	1,600
Total cases treated by radio ..	390
Daily average words	4,730

Weather reports are obtained from outstations for Weather Bureau, Brisbane, twice daily. A weather forecast is transmitted daily for the pearling fleet.

During the epidemic of gastro-enteritis the radio service was able to render considerable assistance by disseminating medical advice and the transmission of case reports; also the link with Cairns enabled supplies of drugs to be easily obtained.

EQUIPMENT.

All outstations were visited for maintenance at least once during the past year. Servicability is maintained at high level and no outstation has been "off the air" for longer than three days.

NEW EQUIPMENT.

In order to provide radio communication with small island settlements which hitherto has been considered impractical owing to costs and the fact that they are all located within a few miles of a larger island equipped with radio, a day battery-operated transmitter-receiver has been developed in the Thursday Island workshop.

The Prototype was tested for two months at Kubin Village and it proved to be superior to PYE equipment at present in service also the cost per unit is approximately £50 as against £120 for the less satisfactory commercial article.

When approvals for expenditures are forthcoming it is planned to construct four such units to equip Kubin, Dauan, Sue, and Rennell Islands.

Also it is planned to use such sets to provide communication at Bamaga Settlement in place of telephone lines which through timbered country are difficult to maintain.

The P.M.G. radio terminal building on Millman Hill is now completed and electric power and telephone lines are available at that site. Two pairs of telephone lines have been rented from the P.M.G. from Millman Hill to the Base Station, and approval granted to house Departmental equipment in the terminal building.

From spare equipment held at Thursday Island against outstations a temporary remotely-controlled three-channel receiver has been installed at Millman Hill. The results obtained have considerably increased overall efficiency.

It is anticipated that equipment on order to effect permanent installation will be delivered during the next year.

An underground telephone cable has been laid between Base Station and Thursday Island Hospital. It is planned in the near future to construct equipment which will permit Medical Officers to communicate directly with outstations from their office which it is hoped will provide more efficient medical service to the outstations.

PROPOSED NEW OUTSTATIONS.

Yarrabah Mission.—Approval has been granted to replace obsolete equipment. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out in June, 1956.

Normanton and Cooktown.—Approval has been requested to equip the Protectors' Offices at these places with radio to permit more efficient and speedier handling of native administration.

The following additional work was carried out during the year extraneous to the radio network:—

Electric power plants at Aurukun and Mitchell River Missions overhauled.

Refrigeration plants at Aurukun Mission and Aplin Hostel repaired.

Inter-Office telephones installed in Thursday Island Hospital.

16-mm. sound projector installed at Mornington Island Mission.

Repairs to radio and electrical equipment and projectors at Hospital, State School, Waiben School, and Aplin Hostel carried out.

BUILDING PROGRAMME.

During the period under review an extensive programme of work has been carried out covering almost every island in Torres Strait and Bamaga area (Cape York Settlement area).

During the year 20 artificers have been very gainfully employed. My efforts have been concentrated on housing, school accommodation, water supply and hygiene. The following is indicative of works accomplished:—

Badu Island.

- Four cottages and lavatories were completed.
- Conversion old store to coloured staff quarters.
- Branch store completed.
- 320 ft. train or trolley line laid.
- Hospital, repaired, and painted.
- Government teacher's house, repaired and painted.
- Office and visitors quarters, repaired and painted.
- Repairs to school effected.
- Water tanks were supplied and installed to the hospital, Government teacher's residence and visitors quarters.
- Supply and installation of wood stoves and E.C. cabinets to the hospital and Government teacher's residence.

Murray Island.

The following buildings were completed:—

- School buildings and lavatories.
- Branch store buildings.
- Branch manager's residence, conversion old school building.
- Conversion old store building to M.A.P.
- Shell store building.
- Repairs, painting and alterations to Government teacher's residence.
- The supply of water tanks and stands, and installation.
- Supply of E.C. cabinets.
- Government teacher's residence fenced.
- Materials supplied and repairs effected to Island bridges.
- Other improvements also carried out.

Yam Island.

The following buildings were completed:—

- School building and lavatories.
- Branch store building and lavatories.
- Medical aid post.
- Government teacher's residence.
- Branch manager's residence.
- Four cottages and lavatories.
- Painting was carried out on school, store, medical aid post, and Government teacher's residence.
- E.C. cabinets and pans were supplied.

Coconut Island.

The following buildings were completed:—

- School building and lavatories.
- Branch store building.
- Medical aid post.
- Government teacher's residence.
- Two cottages and lavatories.
- Supply and installation of tanks and stands to school, Government teacher's residence.

Mabwiag Island.

- Six cottages and lavatories were completed.
- Repairs and improvements to school building.
- Government teacher's house completed.
- Alterations and repairs to engine room.
- Supply of materials for medical aid post, bridges and village improvements.
- Supply and installation of tanks and stands.
- Supply of materials to school Government teacher's residence.
- Supply E.C. cabinet pans.

Kubin Village.

- Two cottages and lavatories completed.
- Repairs school, roofing, structural.
- Two lavatories completed.
- Branch manager's cottage completed.
- Rebuilding of Branch store.
- E.C. cabinets supplied.

Boigu Island.

- Radio building extensions completed.
- Supply of materials for repair of school and Branch store.

Darnley Island.

- Repairs and painting to hospital.
- Repairs and painting to Government teacher's residence.
- Supply and installation of water tanks, stands.
- Repairs to school and general approaches.

Dauan Island.

- Erection and completion of school building and lavatories.

Bamaga.

- Erection and completion school building.
- Erection and completion Government teacher's residence.
- Extensions and repairs to hospital building.
- Foundations completed to Branch store.
- Erection of sanitary buildings, hygiene disposal.
- Three buildings.

Cowal Creek.

- Erection of combined medical aid post and hospital building.
- Erection of three cottages and lavatories.
- Temporary repairs to cyclone damaged buildings.
- Erection sanitary buildings, hygiene disposal.
- Six lavatories.

Red Island Point.

- Erection sanitary disposal building, lavatories at houses and school.

Thursday Island.

- Erection new workshop.
- Installation machinery.
- Erection temporary cottage, accommodation building.
- Erection permanent cottage, native accommodation.
- Erection garbage holding building cottage.
- Demolition lavatories, shower block.
- Demolition old cottage building.
- Rebuilt staff cottage, Island Industries Board.
- Plumbing repairs carried out on vessels.
- Supply of water tanks "Gelam" and "Kebisu."
- Repairs on "Melbidir" construction gangway.
- Building 1,000, 1,500, 2,000 gallon water tanks.
- Making lugger ships fuel water tanks.
- Manufacture E.C. cabinets for distribution to the Islands.
- Pre-fabrication of cottages, building lavatories, tank platforms, steps, &c.
- Repairs, maintenance, improvements and alterations to staff quarters. Supply and installation of water tanks. Rebuilding septic installations.
- Reconstruction and covering all sullage drainage.
- Packing of furniture, &c., staff.
- Erection section new shell store, Island Industries Board.
- Erection ship chandlery store double-storey Island Industries Board.
- Rebuilding slipway roof and adjoining sections, Island Industries Board.
- Repairs various Island Industries Board's buildings quarters.
- Setting out, pouring concrete blocks six cottages in Eagle Camp Reserve area.
- Materials for above prefabricated ready for erection.
- Repairs to drug store—ceiled, gauzed lockers.

Aplin Hostel.

- Erection of new ward.
- Erection of lavatory ablution block.
- Foundations completed for recreation building and further lavatory ablution blocks.
- Septic tanks systems completed.
- Maintenance repairs carried out at this establishment.

Island Industries Board.

- Completion one section new shell store building.
- Completion erection ship chandlery store, two storey.
- Repairs to office retail store.
- Repairs to office slipway roof structure.
- Demolitions position slipway building.
- Rebuilding of portion of slipway roof structure.
- Rebuilding of one staff cottage.
- Repairs carried out to staff quarters—structural, sanitary.

Yorke Island.

- Completion of six cottages and lavatories.
- Repairs and improvements to school building.
- Completion of Government teacher's house.

Church Mission.

During the year much assistance has been provided both materially and technically. Shipments of building materials have been forwarded to various missions.

Maintenance.

A rigid system is continued in all areas; termites poisoned. This work is personally carried out by me. All buildings are retained in first class condition.

Materials.

Approximately 80,000 super. feet of timber was used from Bamaga. These are coming forward and assist in keeping up continuity of programme. Timber from Bamaga is of good quality both in specification and class.

Staff.

The work being performed by the native carpenters, plumbers, painters, builders, labourers is very gratifying to me and I appreciate the

interest being taken by one and all to improve to even higher standards. Their work is, to say the best, of outstanding qualities and is paying dividends for patience in their training.

Apprentices.

To date two are employed and are showing great promise. The attitude of these people is surprising to the layman. It is hoped this Department will continue its policy in this training. In conclusion it may be of interest to record the fact that since the commencement of this scheme to house the people of this area and the erection of various buildings, it has become a very noticeable feature everywhere of the individual efforts of these people to try and improve their own dwellings.

I wish to thank the Director, Deputy Director and staff for their assistance in all things necessary for me to carry out this programme of work.

PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR".

(Master, Captain A. Mellor.)

(Engineer, Mr. A. E. Brown.)

General.—The ship has been actively engaged during the year on routine administrative patrols, cargo carrying of foodstuffs and building materials to the islands of the Torres Strait and Gulf Mission Stations. Frequent medical emergency voyages have been made to the Eastern and Central Islands.

The Director of Native Affairs building programme on the islands was responsible for large quantities of building material being transported from Bamaga Reserve to Thursday Island, and later the dressed timber, with roofing iron, tanks, &c., was taken to the islands with the Director of Native Affairs carpenters. This work of landing timber in open boats proved difficult at times, but by using skiffs lashed together catamaran style the landing of building material became routine work.

The usual large numbers of medical cases have been brought in to Thursday Island from the islands for hospitalisation. Maternity and serious cases and islanders for special treatment not available at their home islands comprise the majority of "Melbidir's" passengers.

Medical survey parties, dental officers, audit officers and Director of Native Affairs and Island Industries Board staff have travelled on duty to the islands.

"Melbidir" in answer to an S.O.S. radio call on the 28th May, 1956, proceeded to the aid of the "Laurabada," Papuan/New Guinea Government vessel aground on the Jervis Reef in Napoleon Passage, 50 miles north of Thursday Island. "Melbidir" stood by all night off "Laurabada," which refloated herself on high water. "Laurabada" sailed in company with "Melbidir" to Thursday Island on the 30th May.

Staff and Crew.—The vessel is crewed by two white officers and fourteen islanders. There have been no illnesses or accidents. The crew are good workers, cheerful in their duties and their bearing and dress both on board and ashore favourably commented upon.

Conduct.—The general conduct of the crew and island passengers has been exemplary.

Ships Engines.—The ship has not had any engine trouble during the past twelve months. Maintenance and overhaul is carried out in Thursday Island at regular intervals monthly.

Annual Mileage.—

Torres Strait	3,500
Cape York area	500
Queensland East Coast	700
Total	4,700

Passengers Carried.—

Government officials	29
Doctors—nurses	14
Approved passengers	10
Mainlanders	147
Islanders	909
Total	1,109

Cargo Carried (on behalf):—

	Tons
Island Industries Board	900
Department Native Affairs	350
Mission stores	100
P.M.G.	20
Medical stores	15
Private (authorised)	40
Islanders goods and chattels	80
Islanders vegetables and fruit (inwards)	100
Total	1,605

Amenities.—The passenger-crew radio speaker extension has been unserviceable and during next refit will be replaced.

Rationing and Quarters.—The rations supplied by the Department are of good quality, varied and ample. Fresh vegetables and fruit is provided per standing order ex "Elsanna." Staff and white passengers mess together, crew and island passengers also eat together. There are two ships galleys, staff and crew. The large refrigerator gives satisfactory service both for ships fresh meat and for fresh meat, butter, &c., for Government teachers on the islands. The cooking and serving of meals in the staff mess is considered first class, for which credit must be given to the cook (James Ambar) and steward (Maia Missi). The forward cook (Gowrie Peters) prepares island food and serves cafeteria style from his own galley. Whether preparing for crew of 12 or 50 deck passengers, Gowrie does a good job at all times even under trying conditions with a full ship and bad weather.

Appreciation.—The Master conveys his appreciation to the Director and staff for ready assistance and co-operation on ship and staff matters which greatly assists in the efficient running of the "Melbidir." To the staff of the Island Industries Board particularly the branch managers and girl cargo workers in the islands. Finally to the engineer and crew of "Melbidir" for their good work and loyalty bearing in mind "A ship is only as good as her crew."

FIRST THURSDAY ISLAND SENIOR SCOUT TROOP.

(Scout Master, G. B. Smale.)

The senior section was started in October, 1955, for the boys who were too old to remain in or join the scouts. This has proved successful and membership is gradually increasing.

So far we have held six week-end and two long week-end camps at which there have been many varied activities, exploring, bridge building, raft and coracle construction, signalling, tracking, cooking, to name but a few.

A First Aid Course was conducted by the local Ambulance Superintendent at the completion of which five boys were awarded First Aid Badges. A Road Safety and Public Service course was conducted by the local Police, and three Despatch Rider and two Messenger Badges were gained.

There have been talks and demonstrations by responsible citizens on chart work, camouflage, tracking, and radio communications.

Other public spirited citizens have helped boys in their own particular interests and have tested for Proficiency Badges resulting in six Badges being gained for swimming, art, and fishing.

Membership now is—

Second Class	6
Tenderfoot	7
Recruits	2
Assistant Scout Master Senior ..	1
Scout Master Senior	1
Total	17

Eight of these boys and the Assistant Scout Master are Torres Strait Islanders.

Herewith my sincere thanks on behalf of the Senior Scouts for all the assistance rendered by the Director of Native Affairs and citizens of Thursday Island for the help given in this past year.

APPENDIX 9.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Acting Manager, Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.)

CONSTITUTION.

Island Industries Board is a Corporation controlled on co-operative lines and managed by a Board comprising—

Chairman—Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.

Members—Mr. P. J. Killoran, Mr. C. V. Daly, Mr. A. G. F. Kirk.

Secretary and Accountant—Mr. P. P. Hanley.

The Board's functions are as set out in "*The Torres Strait Islanders Act, 1939 to 1946.*" These functions give to the Board authority to carry out any trading activities which they deem to be of benefit and assistance to the Torres Strait Islanders for whom the Island Industries

Board was established. It functions as a co-operative, organising and working for the well-being and industrial activity and uplifting of the race of people who inhabit the Torres Strait Islands between Cape York Peninsula and the New Guinea coast.

During the year under review, the Board through its officers has extended these activities and conducted a virile campaign to improve the services and facilities available to these customers, the coloured peoples of the far North.

Here are the Board's functions:—

1. Carry on the business, trade, or occupation, as the case may be, of banker, blacksmith, builder, carpenter, commission agent, common carrier (whether by land or water), dealer (wholesale or retail), engineer, exporter, factor, farmer, fisherman (including fishing for pearl shell, trochus shell, and beche-de-mer), forwarding agent, freight contractor, general merchant, grazier, importer, ironworker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mine-owner, moneylender, plumber, shipping agent, ship's chandler, shipbroker, shipbuilder, shipowner, shopkeeper, stevedore, storekeeper, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or any other trade or business incidental or ancillary to any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid or which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade, or occupation.

2. Acquire from time to time and at all times, either by construction, purchase, lease, or otherwise, all such buildings, premises, plant, machinery, equipment, and stock as may in the opinion of the Board be necessary or desirable for the carrying on by the Board of any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid.

3. Acquire and distribute information relating to or as to the best manner of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, and undertake the education, instruction, and training of islanders or other persons in any such business, trade, or occupation, and for that purpose establish, maintain, and conduct all such schools and classes as the Board may deem necessary, and enter into contracts of apprenticeship with any such person as aforesaid.

4. For the purpose of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, have and exercise all such powers, authorities, and discretions and do all such acts and things as a private person carrying on business in Queensland might have or exercise or do.

5. Cause investigations to be made and from time to time report and make recommendations to the Director upon all or any of the following matters:—

- (a) Any question relating to any trade, commerce, or business carried on by or in which islanders are interested or engaged;
- (b) Markets for goods produced or manufactured by islanders, and trade with other countries in, and the method of marketing such goods;

- (c) Generally as to how the trade, industries, and commerce of islanders can be best encouraged, developed, and protected.

6. Finance any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid, and for that purpose raise money on loan from the Governor in Council, the Treasurer, the Director, the Corporation of the Bureau of Rural Development, or any bank or financial institution or person, and mortgage or assign property of the Board (including contracts between the Board and islanders or other persons relating to or arising out of any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid).

The following facts and figures will indicate the extent of the Board's activities:—

- (a) A turnover of £238,138 from its 16 retail stores, as compared with £187,778 last year;
- (b) Sales of marine produce totalling £159,326, from which can reasonably be deducted £776, representing the sales of scrap metal, which is included in the marine produce account;
- (c) Sales of other products, including pork, fruit, and vegetables from the State Government Settlement on the Peninsula amounting to £2,179;
- (d) The Board owns and controls an up-to-date slipway on which the 24 luggers and cutters owned by Torres Strait Islanders are repaired. On this slipway, when opportunity offers, the vessels of private pearlers and vessels the property of the missions operating in the area are repaired;
- (e) The Board owns two cargo vessels "Gelam" and "Kebisu" which are used for the conveyance of stores from Thursday Island to the branch stores in Torres Strait. The Board is particularly proud of the assistance which it renders not only in the conveyance of stores but in the carrying of passengers between the various islands and Thursday Island free of cost. The

Board's vessels carry Government officials, medical officers, sisters, and the sick, white and coloured, whenever a request is made for such service. It is fairly claimed by the Board that its vessels render a service to the community which makes for the better health of the people in the area for which it caters. Never at any time is a demand made on the Board for the use of its vessels in the interests of the islanders without a ready response, irrespective of the time of sailing or the hours to be worked in such an undertaking;

- (f) The Board employs a staff of 13 whites and 75 islanders. This staff comprises clerical workers, branch store managers and assistants (all Torres Strait Islanders), shipwrights, and island carpenters.

General trading by Island Industries Board is extensive, as is indicated by the figures for the last three years, which are shown hereunder:—

	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
	£	£	£
Stock (end of year) ..	70,281	90,163	75,055
Sales	182,052	191,414	242,289
Purchases	113,130	143,394	144,152
Charges (Freights, &c.)	36,972	37,704	42,045
Stock (beginning of year)	73,628	70,281	90,533
Gross Profit	28,603	30,198	40,614

STATEMENT OF SALES OF PRODUCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1956.

	£	s.	d.
<i>Mother-of-Pearl-Shell</i> —			
188 tons 1 cwt. 0 qr. 18 lb.	99,762	0	1
<i>Trochus Shell</i> —			
165 tons 6 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.	58,788	2	9
<i>Scrap Metal</i> —	776	2	4
	£159,326	5	2

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

STATEMENT OF STORE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1955-56.

Island.	Turnover 1954-55.			Turnover 1955-56.			Cash.			Stock.			Total Cash and Stock.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Badu	19,075	0	2	24,069	13	3	2	0	11	2,334	10	8	2,336	11	7	
Bamaga	10,908	11	3	16,573	8	8	108	14	3	1,272	16	3	1,381	10	6	
Boigu	4,657	6	4	6,069	7	11	234	8	0	1,976	9	5	2,210	17	5	
Coconut	7,491	16	8	10,840	14	0	30	12	3	1,031	19	2	1,062	11	5	
Cowal Creek	8,036	7	5	10,610	17	2	63	14	5	1,385	10	9	1,449	5	2	
Darnley	10,097	19	7	13,770	13	2	150	11	0	2,801	0	11	2,951	11	11	
Dauan	3,693	10	5	3,500	14	4	98	1	1	843	3	11	941	5	0	
Kubin	4,114	10	4	6,392	16	5	92	6	2	612	3	4	704	9	6	
Mabuiag	10,231	6	11	12,433	3	1	75	7	4	1,986	10	4	2,061	17	8	
Murray	14,819	12	9	19,451	17	2	186	19	5	1,958	18	8	2,145	18	1	
Naghir	2,038	8	2	1,509	1	1	56	14	0	897	2	9	953	16	9	
Saibai	9,515	10	1	9,903	4	7	131	5	4	1,193	7	8	1,324	13	0	
Stephen	2,542	7	3	4,053	11	1	246	18	3	864	17	3	1,111	15	6	
Yam	5,306	13	8	10,112	0	11	209	18	1	1,806	4	1	2,016	2	2	
York	8,389	19	2	9,934	10	6	51	11	3	1,389	0	4	1,440	11	7	
Thursday Island Retail	40,306	15	1	51,270	6	9	..	..	..	7,745	18	5	7,745	18	5
Kennedy	26,552	0	1	27,642	4	11	..	..	..	42,111	10	8	42,111	10	8
Bulk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,621	19	10	14,621	19	10
	£	187,777	15	4	238,138	5	0	1,739	1	9	86,833	4	5	88,572	6	2

MARINE INDUSTRY.

The Board has encouraged the operations of the Torres Strait pearling fleet and it is pleasing to record the response by these Torres Strait Islanders who own and operate their own vessels and whose interests are safeguarded by the Board in the marketing of their marine produce. Trochus production has held its own with previous years but the major phase of this activity is mother-of-pearl shell which is the "life blood" of the peoples of Torres Strait and to which they look for their livelihood. Mother-of-pearl shell vessels have increased their production from 137 tons 2 cwt. 3 qr. 0 lb., last year valued at £73,548 4s. 8d. to 188 tons 1 qr. 18 lb., valued at £99,762 0s. 1d., and the Board's activities in this respect are reflected again in the new season.

The efficiency with which the Board handled the annual overhaul of the luggers comprising repairs as necessary after a season of hard work involving heavy wear and tear on these vessels, subject to the turbulence of the seas and the ever present hazards which continually threaten any

primary producer on the high seas has earned commendation from the owners of the vessels.

The relationship of the men manning these vessels, the Board's employees who are dealing directly with the marine section of the Board's activities, and the owners of the vessels is one of harmony and goodwill and such contributed largely to the successful season.

This primary industry and the overall success which has attended the efforts of every person associated with the Torres Strait Islander fleet, results in financial benefit to the people of the Torres Strait which has manifested its benevolence in bringing to the Torres Strait people an improvement in their living standard which will ultimately reflect to a higher health standard and in the future will assure the people of Torres Strait a continuation of the virile race which the Board proudly claims exists to-day.

Hereunder is statement of the boat catches for the year ended 31st March, 1956, all of which produce was disposed of by the Board at current market prices as applicable to the quantities produced:—

BOAT CATCHES YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1956.

Name of Vessel.	Mother-of-Pearl				Trochus.				Scrap Metal.			Total Value.								
	Weight.				Value.				Value.											
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Petta Nona	32	0	2	21	14,874	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,874	1	7	
May Nona	24	12	1	5	11,196	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,196	9	2	
Mosby	24	8	1	26	11,176	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,176	8	1	
Naianga	24	7	1	22	11,058	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,058	5	2	
Relsie Nona	20	14	1	17	9,963	0	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,963	0	7	
Tilona Nona	18	0	1	17	8,330	11	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,330	11	8	
Uropi (now Tilona Nona)	1	5	2	24	743	10	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	743	10	6	
Cessa	14	13	1	24	6,643	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,643	6	5	
Caroline .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	12	3	14	5,780	5	0	..	5,780	5	0
Maria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	14	1	7	5,520	7	6	..	5,520	7	6
Loyalty .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	19	0	4	5,306	10	0	..	5,306	10	0
Macoy	11	17	3	25	5,296	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,296	3	7	
Rebecca .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	1	1	12	4,779	0	0	..	4,779	0	0
S.S. Dona .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	17	0	5	4,438	12	6	..	4,438	12	6
Ella	8	16	2	14	4,198	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,198	19	3	
Adiana .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	18	3	11	3,343	17	6	..	3,343	17	6
Adai .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	12	1	0	2,691	10	0	..	2,691	10	0
Kismet	1	6	2	26	736	16	0	6	0	3	13	1,692	2	6	..	2,428	18	6		
Yaza	2	17	2	0	1,659	19	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,659	19	11	
Maria	2	2	1	18	1,084	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,084	11	1	
Zunal	0	6	1	23	168	0	1	0	16	1	18	228	10	0	..	396	10	1		
Wadumo	0	6	1	23	169	17	7	0	12	0	6	168	15	0	..	338	12	7		
Cape York	0	0	3	15	23	11	10	0	13	3	12	194	0	0	..	217	11	10		
Dinghy (Thursday Island)	0	3	0	26	89	10	1	7	6	3	1	2,054	12	6	..	2,144	2	7		
Dinghy (Islands) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	1	0	24	10,097	0	0	..	10,097	0	0
Slipway Scrap	776	2	4	776	2	4	
Price Adjustments, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..	12,548	17	6	..	..	..	..	12,493	0	3	..	25,041	17	9
	188	1	0	18	99,762	0	1	165	6	3	5	58,788	2	9	776	2	4	159,326	5	2

GENERAL TRADING SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED.

In keeping with the increase in marine production and the consequent financial benefit to the people of Torres Strait the Board has extended its activities in its retail trading. New stores have been constructed at some of the islands and others are now under construction with the ultimate aim of rebuilding or replacing all old stores. In these new stores the Board is placing carefully planned stocks aimed at the betterment of diet and living conditions and to

meet the demands of a progressive and discriminating people. The ultimate aim and object of the Board to give to their coloured customers a service which they demand and for which they are prepared to pay by providing a range of goods equal to, if not better than, anything available in Thursday Island area or, for that matter, in the north.

It is stressed that the Torres Strait Islander customer is insistent that the standard and quality of the goods must be of the best and in keeping with this demand the Board has accepted

its responsibility in providing the services and facilities which it claims is the right of its customers. During the year under review the Board's turnover in its retail stores trading increased from £187,777 15s. 4d. to £238,138 5s., representing an increase of £50,360 9s. 8d. It is felt that this increase in turnover reflects to the credit of the buying officers in the south who are handling the increased demand by the Board's customers and to the Board's officers in maintaining the improved quality and standard which the customers are insisting upon.

It is particularly pleasing to note that the overhead involved in handling this vast improved turnover has not materially increased and the Board is confident that during the forthcoming financial year it may be possible to reduce prices being charged by the Board, which at present compare favourably with any other business organisation operating in the area.

It must be recorded that the large volume of transactions has been handled entirely by Torres Strait Island branch managers and their assistants who have over the years been trained by Island Industries Board to accept the responsibility which has steadily grown and which they have so well carried. In elaboration of this it will be noted that the turnover of individual branch stores in the islands range as high as £24,000 and this turnover has been handled entirely by a native branch manager with one or two native assistants.

It must also be recorded that the Thursday Island retail store is staffed entirely by Torres Strait Islanders and it is indicative of the ability of these people to accept responsibility, when it is noted that the turnover of this store was £51,273. The Board continues to recruit and train the younger men over a period of years to ensure that the people for whom Island Industries Board was created are actually the people who are carrying out the functions of that co-operative organisation.

REBUILDING PROGRAMME.

During the last war and the immediate post-war years, it was not possible for the Board to proceed with any virile rebuilding programme but over the past two years the Board has directed its energies towards the replacement of stores considered beyond repair and the repair of places considered worthwhile. Likewise extensions to those stores too small to cope with the increased stocks and the variety of lines now being carried by the Board have been determined. This rebuilding programme has progressed to the extent that—

- (a) New branch stores have been built on Naghir, Boigu, Badu, Murray, Yam, and Coconut Islands.
- (b) Extensive repairs and renovations (and extensions where necessary) have been made to the branch stores at Kubin, Mabuag, Darnley, and Yorke Islands.
- (c) A new branch store is in the course of construction at the mainland settlement of Bamaga.

These buildings now provide large open airy spaces wherein the customer feels he is welcome and he gains the feeling that his store and the service being rendered are equal to any which he has experienced at southern ports when he has had the opportunity of visiting similar businesses in the south. The buildings are erected with a view to the housing of stocks under tropical conditions and every effort is made to ensure that no contamination of food can occur and damage to stock be limited.

The Board has made and continues to make every effort to raise the standard of food handling and supplies both in its branch stores and in the homes of coloured people. In any such co-operative organisation the management must look to the provision, in its outposts, of equal facilities with its head centre and the Board, having satisfied itself that the interests of the islanders are being safeguarded by improved branch stores conditions, has pursued a continuance of its building programme at Thursday Island to such extent that the marine section which handles all mother-of-pearl shell and trochus shell is being rebuilt and the first bay has been completed. This section is planned on modern lines and provides that, when completed, it will be one of the outstanding buildings on the waterfront of Victoria Parade, Thursday Island.

At the same time the Kennedy Store attached to the Board's slipway has been replaced by a two-storied building handling ships chandlery.

It has been found necessary to extend and repair the bulk store through which flow the supplies necessary to maintain the high standard which now exists throughout Torres Strait and work is proceeding on this project.

The Board wishes to record that the entire rebuilding project which has gone on unabated has been carried out entirely by Torres Strait Islander carpenters, to whom the Board pays full award wages, and the Board's thanks are particularly expressed to Mr. E. Niblett, foreman carpenter, who has trained and organised these men and supervised the complete rebuilding project in conjunction with his own activities.

SLIPWAY.

As a necessary adjunct to marine operations a slipway, capable of providing facilities to enable every phase of repair, replacement, and renovation of the ravages of a particularly hard industry is necessary and the Board has provided such in its own slipway at Thursday Island which is staffed by shipwright, Mr. C. Thus, and a team of Torres Strait Islander carpenters, boat builders, and labourers to meet the requirements of the Torres Strait pearling fleet.

This slipway is organised to meet the most severe demands placed upon it to such extent that every vessel operating on mother-of-pearl shell during the past season was slipped, checked, repaired where necessary, and refitted for sea in the lay-up period of February and March.

The work entailed was entirely carried out by these native craftsmen under the supervision of the shipwright, and hereunder is the shipwright's report of activities during the past year—

“During the year under review 731 gross tons of slipping vessels have been handled by the Board's slipway. Vessels up to 60 feet in length have been slipped and repaired and have had engines installed, &c. In this work Torres Strait Islanders are employed under the supervision of the white shipwright in charge. Some of these men have served nine years. Twelve men and two boys have been constantly employed and are paid in accordance with the Industrial Award (with allowances for holidays and sick leave) as would apply to any white ship builder. All employees keep themselves financial with their union.

“Slipway employees are divided into two gangs each with a Torres Strait Islander leading hand. The men are constantly on ship repair work and the youths either on dinghy building or dinghy repair. Eight dinghies of sharpie design and five clinker-built dinghies have been constructed during the year.

“The yard consists of three slipping cradles, one derrick capable of lifting up to 3 tons, circular saws of various sizes, planing machines, emery grinding wheels, gulleting machines, electric drills, and a steam box. All machinery is operated by electricity. Sharpening tools are maintained by the leading hands who are responsible for their keenness and oiling.

“Twice a week the theoretical side of ship building is taught at evening classes where the technical books and drawing materials are supplied by the slipway.

“Rigging work is also carried out, such as the replacement of slings, standing rigging, block strops, and long splicing of hawsers, &c. Sails and hatch covers are made occasionally and in all repairs materials are drawn from the Board's ships chandlery store.

“This store carries a full supply of all materials and timber required in the repair of vessels. It is operated by coloured store men in the charge of a white officer.”

The slipway has been completely demolished and rebuilt to ensure that vessels, whilst on the slip, are adequately protected and the employees are working under reasonable conditions.

In addition the Board feels that it would be failing in its duty if it did not provide for the years to come, and to this end has encouraged the younger men to take up the occupation of carpenter boat building, and these young men attend classes over the years until they reach manhood and go through the full training of an apprentice carpenter boat builder and ultimately become one of the craftsmen at this slipway. A further matter of interest is the launching of the vessel “Annie Nona” formerly “Thorán” which some time ago was found to be in an unsafe and unseaworthy condition. It was immediately slipped and completely stripped. Work progressed on this vessel to such an extent

that the “Annie Nona” as she now operates is a completely new vessel rebuilt from the keel to the masts. The vessel has in addition been equipped with engines and auxiliary gear necessary for her to take her place as she is now, a unit of the mother-of-pearl fleet owned and operated by the Torres Strait Islanders.

REPORT ON VESSELS SLIPPED FOR GENERAL REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR—1ST APRIL, 1955, TO 31ST MARCH, 1956.

	Gross tons.
Ketch “Naianga”—Pearling (1st April, 1955), D.N.A.	26
M.V. “Sweetheart” (15th April, 1955), Bowden Pearling	15
M.V. “Swingle”—Commonwealth Light-house (24th May, 1955)	30
M.V. “Gelam”—I.I.B. Cargo (27th May, 1955)	30
Ketch “Uropi”—Pearling (17th June, 1955), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Adiana”—Trochus (15th August, 1955), D.N.A.	25
M.V. “Curtis”—Gulf Missions (26th Aug.)	10
Ketch “S.S. Dona”—Trochus (12th September, 1955), D.N.A.	25
M.V. “Sarah Nona”—Pearling (15th September, 1955), D.N.A.	20
M.V. “Waiben”—Harbours and Marine (26th September, 1955)	10
Ketch “Petta Nona”—Pearling (9th Oct. 1955), D.N.A.	25
M.V. “Sarah Nona”—Pearling (11th Oct., 1955), D.N.A.	20
Cutter “Parak”—Trochus (12th October, 1955), D.N.A.	7
Cutter “Janet Thomson”—Presbyterian Mission (3rd November, 1955)	10
M.V. “Kebisu”—I.I.B. Cargo Vessel (29th November, 1955)	30
Ketch “May Nona”—Pearling (30th Nov., 1955), D.N.A.	25
M.V. “Swingle”—Commonwealth Light-house (2nd December, 1955)	30
Ketch “Nobby”—Duffields Pearling (12th December, 1955)	25
Cutter “Kismet”—Trochus (13th December, 1955), D.N.A.	10
Ketch “Stephen Davies”—Church of England Missions (23rd January, 1956)	30
Ketch “Cessa”—Pearling (23rd January, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Uropi”—Pearling (26th January, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Ella”—Pearling (28th January, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Belsie Nona”—Pearling (28th January, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Naianga”—Pearling (6th February, 1956), D.N.A.	28
M.V. “Waiben”—Harbours and Marine (7th February, 1956)	10
Ketch “May Nona”—Pearling (10th Feb., 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Stephen Davies”—Church of England Missions (11th February, 1956)	30
M.V. “Sarah Nona”—Pearling (5th Mar., 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Petta Nona”—Pearling (6th Mar., 1956), D.N.A.	25
M.V. “Sarawak”—Trochus, Neville Trading Co. (13th March, 1956)	10
Ketch “Mosby”—Pearling (20th March, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Ketch “Maeoy”—Pearling (20th March, 1956), D.N.A.	25
Gross Tons	731

TRANSPORT VESSELS "GELAM" AND "KEBISU."

The Board's cargo vessels "Gelam" (Master, Captain N. Le Grand) and "Kebisu" (Master, Captain C. Thus) have continued to operate throughout the year and in conjunction with the "Melbidir," to maintain continuous supplies to the islands.

It must be remembered that these vessels are not wholly and entirely cargo vessels in the direct sense of the word, in that they, in addition, operate as ambulance ships carrying to the stricken, medical aid, and bringing sick people to the medical facilities at Thursday Island.

The number of lives which the Board's vessels have been instrumental in saving cannot be estimated but to illustrate the versatility of the masters of these vessels it is recorded that recently at Boigu the vessel "Gelam" was anchored when at 3 a.m. Captain Le Grand was called to render first aid to a Torres Strait Islander whose leg and arm were severely lacerated by shark attack. Captain Le Grand rendered first aid and immediately commenced the long trip to Thursday Island. Radio advice was received at Thursday Island and a doctor was despatched per Department of Harbour and Marine vessel "Waiben" to meet the "Gelam." The patient was transferred at sea and brought to Thursday Island where for some days this man's life was seriously in danger. It is pleasing to record that at time of writing, this islander is well on the way to recovery and there is no doubt that the prompt and efficient action taken by Captain Le Grand when on a normal cargo run has been the factor which contributed so largely to a speedy and safe recovery. Whilst this is an outstanding instance there are numerous actions not recorded wherein the captains of these vessels by their unselfish devotion to duty and work far beyond the call of ordinary duty render exceptional service to the peoples of Torres Strait.

During the year under review arrangements were made with the Commonwealth Department of Health for the services of Mr. T. Dunwoodie, Quarantine Station at Thursday Island, to be available to the Board as master engineer of the "Kebisu" whilst relieving Captain Thus was absent on sick leave. This action has permitted of a continuance of the tuberculosis survey at Thursday Island, and recently Captain Dunwoodie made a special trip under particularly difficult circumstances to Yorke Island to bring medical aid to a young Torres Strait child who was seriously ill. This spirit of harmony and helpful co-operation is very greatly appreciated by the Board and permits of the maintenance of the exceptionally high standard of efficiency which the Board feels exists throughout its entire organisation.

To the officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs in Brisbane and the officers of the State Stores Board who have co-operated and assisted so efficiently and so well, Island Industries Board wishes to record their appreciation, and similarly to those staff officers at Thursday Island a great measure of thanks and credit for the overall improvement and year of achievement is due. In addition it would not

be fitting to close this report without recording the splendid efforts which have been made by the Torres Strait Islander Branch Managers and their assistants in coping with the increased turnover, the increased volume and variety of goods handled and their ever ready willingness and cheerfulness to measure up to the extending demands of the customers.

APPENDIX 10.

EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, J. W. Chapman.)

Staff.—

School Teacher, Reverend D. Halliday.
Nurse, Mrs. Halliday.
Welfare Worker, Sister Johnson.

Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	..	10
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	2
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

School.

Forty-five children are enrolled. Attendance has been fair but attendance of some nomadic children has been irregular but an improvement is noticeable as semi-nomadic natives are remaining for longer periods on the mission. Our great need is for a new school building such as exists on other missions and settlements. Our present building is constructed of bush material and is quite unsuitable for school purposes. The building is also used as a Church.

Health.

The general health of the people has been good. A trained nurse, Mrs. Halliday, arrived recently and has taken over the dispensary work. We are hoping to have a new hospital building erected during the coming year. The Flying Dentist paid a visit during the year and did much needed dental work.

Church.

Services are conducted daily by the Chaplain and attendance at divine service has greatly improved.

Conduct.

Except for a few minor incidents, satisfactory.

Building.

Five new homes were erected and others repaired. The buildings were erected from local material all material carried by manpower in the absence of other means of transport.

Agriculture.

Garden produce harvested consisted of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava and arrowroot taro as well as vegetable garden produce of papaws, custard apples, bananas. Coconuts were also harvested. We still have to rely mainly on hand hoes for cultivating crops and under such conditions an adequate vegetable supply is difficult to obtain. Up-to-date implements for preparing and cultivating the soil are badly needed.

Cattle.

A cattleman has now arrived to manage the building up of a herd of mixed cattle. He has already erected some yards and done other improvements in readiness for the arrival of breeders. The mission has a large area of country capable of running some thousands of head of cattle.

Recreation.

The most popular recreation continues to be native dances while football and basketball are popular with the children.

General.

Steady progress in the erection of houses and improvements to the villages was maintained as many nomadic natives have now become permanent residents. The population continues to increase and now numbers about three hundred although some are still semi-nomadic but in touch with the mission.

The arrival of two women workers, one a trained nurse, and the other a welfare worker will be of great benefit as previously the mission was without female help.

Appreciation.

I greatly appreciate the help given to the mission by the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for the welfare and advancement of the natives.

APPENDIX 11.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, J. A. Warby.)

Staff.—

Reverend J. B. Goodman, Chaplain.
G. Pidsley, Engineer.
J. Ross-Edwards, Engineer.
R. L. Ewin, Agriculturist.
J. Kaines, Cattle Manager.
Miss A. Hann, School Teacher.
Mrs. G. Pidsley, Kindergarten Teacher.
Mrs. J. A. Warby, Bookkeeper.
Sister H. D. Conn, Hospital.
W. Namok, Carpenter.

During the year the staff has continued with little change. The Rev. N. J. Eley returned south in October after a three-year period on the mission and was replaced by Rev. J. B. Goodman. Cattle manager, Mr. J. Kaines, arrived in April—the first time a European has filled this position since the formation of the mission.

The emphasis during the past year has been on implementation and consolidation of the new policy brought into force during the previous year. This policy involved major changes in mission life, one of the main ones being the formation of the people's own co-operative business based on the trochus shell industry and known as "The Lockhart River Aboriginal Christian Co-operative Society Ltd."

Now that this venture has been going almost two years, it is interesting and instructive to look back to the early days for it is then that

one realises how much has been learnt, especially by the Board of Directors, and how much has been accomplished in numerous ways.

This business is on a sound basis. During this year the new boat "Francis Pritt" has been completely paid off. Two other boats, the "Yola" and "Cape Grey" are being purchased and should be paid off this year. The boats are being fully maintained in all ways. The secretary of the co-operative is taking an increasing share of the secretarial work, although of course, there is still much with which he cannot cope.

The Board of Directors is well aware of their responsibilities and take a lively interest in all co-operative matters. It is of interest to note that at the last general meeting in August, against the supervisor's advice, two original directors were voted out by the shareholders and replaced with two new men. Both these directors have proved superior to their predecessors and it is a heartening sign to realise that the shareholders are learning to think for themselves and to use their own powers of decision.

The Board of Directors recently elected a general manager (Frank O'Brien) and an assistant manager (John Butcher) of the co-operative, the better to facilitate the rapid turn around, repair and upkeep of all boats.

There is no doubt that the new policy is having the desired effect in increasing initiative, building up self respect, and improving self reliance. This is shown repeatedly in daily happenings, the bearing of the people and their more positive outlook.

Religion.

The Rev. N. J. Eley completed a rewarding three years at Lockhart last October and returned south again. His place as Chaplain was taken by Rev. J. B. Goodman who fortunately arrived just prior to Rev. N. J. Eley's departure, so that at no time was the mission without a Priest. Rev. J. B. Goodman reports as follows:—

The religious side of the mission has made some alteration in Church Services during the year. The Mass is now said daily and Evensong continues to be said each night. On Sunday the Mass is sung and on greater festivals is sung solemnly. Also on Sunday, Morning Prayer is said followed by Sunday School, which is attended by all school children who have not been confirmed. During the last school term a special Children's Service was started, so that the children came to Church and then went to school from Church.

The visitors during the year have been two visits from the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria, a visit from Fr. Dr. A. Capell, two visits from Fr. A. Clint, the Director of Co-operatives for the Australian Board of Missions, a visit from Fr. T. B. McCall, Home Secretary of the Australian Board of Missions, and the Rev. Bro. A. Briggs, B.S.B.

During the year there were 18 baptisms, three marriages and four funerals. Eleven people were presented to the Lord Bishop for confirmation.

Church attendances have been reasonable but could be improved. Church attendance is entirely voluntary. On each of the boats, one of the men takes a service each morning and night.

The Mothers' Union made a mat of pandanus leaf for the reredos for the High Altar. Also they have made some Altar linen and gave it to the Church on Easter Day.

One of the most encouraging things is that one of the young men is hoping to test his vocation for the priesthood.

Also during the year, one of our young men, Billy Brown, was licensed as a lay reader of the Church. Also two of our senior school girls and two of the senior school boys offered to help in the Sunday School. This shows that the people are beginning to perceive the idea of Christian service, and we have hopes that more of the natives will do more for the Church in the future.

Education.

The increased education of mission aborigines is a matter of vital importance. We aim at establishing a school to be known as the Peninsula Adult Aboriginal School which would be open to aboriginals from all missions. This would involve the outlay of a considerable sum of money, but the benefits to be gained from it would be substantial enough in the long run to assist materially in making missions self-supporting and through community co-operatives in the course of time, self-directed.

Much emphasis is laid on education in numerous mission activities. For example a fortnightly newspaper has now been commenced and people are engaged to submit articles. This new venture has met with considerable enthusiasm, and people who do not ordinarily read, are growing accustomed to doing so.

Kindergarten.—With the establishment of the Kindergarten, people of all ages from four years to old grey heads are now catered for educationally. Mrs. G. Pidsley who is in charge of the Kindergarten, reports as follows:—

During the year the construction of the Kindergarten room was completed and in July last year a Kindergarten was commenced to cater for the four- to five-year-olds. It is intended to act as a two-year course preliminary to the primary school and already is proving beneficial.

Enrolment in the Kindergarten last year was nine, and Prep. 1, nine. This year, seven Kindergarteners and ten Prep. 1, bringing the total to seventeen. We have two teachers and a junior girl as assistant. The Kindergarten functions mornings only, afternoon school resuming with Prep. 1 only.

The equipment for the Kindergarten has largely been donated by enthusiastic youth organisations of the Church to whom we are very grateful.

Miss A. Hann is in charge of the Primary School and reports as follows:—

Primary School.—

Number of pupils on roll	..	..	69
Average attendance	..	..	65.7
School opened	..	..	202 days.

There are seven grades in the Primary School. Six grades are crowded into one building which makes it difficult for teaching and practical work. The other class has a separate room. The senior grade is Grade VI. standard. Two of the senior boys are away at All Souls School, Charters Towers. This year the emphasis is on visual education.

Provision has been made in the timetable for manual work for the senior grades. Children being sent to Thursday Island for medical attention and the problem of finding suitable personnel for teachers has had a serious effect on progress being maintained.

The Principal of the Adult School, Rev. J. B. Goodman reports as follows:—

Adult School.—During the year the adult school was altered from a night school to a day school held every afternoon at 4 p.m. People who wish to come are released from their ordinary jobs. However, attendance has been irregular for some people because either work on boats or absence from the mission has interfered with study. On the roll are 41 people, including 17 illiterates who are learning to read and write. Another 15 have said they wish to continue studies on the boats, so work is prepared for them to do at sea. This work is greatly facilitated by the new Banda duplicator recently purchased.

Special classes are given in engineering, at which a small number are enrolled. This year a special class in bookkeeping and business principles was started, at which four people were enrolled. As the general education of the people increases it will be necessary to greatly expand the specialised side of things. At the moment the most important aim is to raise the standard of education of the adults so they can get more benefit from specialised work.

The raising of the standard of education is a big problem which needs more staff and more building.

Intelligence Tests.—Non-verbal tests of mental ability as prepared by the Australian Council for Educational Research were given to forty selected people of both sexes, varying in age from eleven years to sixty. Illiterates were included in the junior non-verbal tests. These tests generally confirmed opinions held as to each person's mental ability, though there were some surprises. It is considered that at present no benefit would be gained by testing the balance of the people, but if at a later date the same group are given a similar test the result might prove quite valuable.

Pipeline Project.

Work on this has proceeded so well during the year that this long and laborious job under the direction of Mr. G. Pidsley is now nearing

completion. This pipeline will carry water from Coutha Creek to the mission and is about 2½ miles long. For most of its length it is 3-inch, the last ½ mile being 2-inch pipe.

Water will be pumped from the creek to two 25,000-gallon galvanised iron tanks which will be erected above the mission. From here water will flow by gravity to all houses including each house in the new village. The pipeline from creek to tanks is completed. The pumping station has been rebuilt with concrete engine beds and floor. Work is proceeding on the site for the tanks. The assembled tanks are now at Portland Roads and it is expected that the next few months will see the finalisation of this extremely important work.

The tanks are sufficiently large to allow a reasonable reserve. It is hoped to throw a concrete dam across Coutha Creek and to install a large windmill to enable pumping to be done economically.

Engineering.

This year has proved a particularly busy one for our engineering staff, especially as a new large, light and airy workshop has been built, largely by the efforts of the engineers themselves. Mr. J. Ross-Edwards reports as follows:—

Since May, 1955, apart from many smaller jobs and routine maintenance, the following major projects have been carried out:—

- (a) Major overhaul on single-cylinder Southern Cross engine.
- (b) Major engine overhaul and major chassis repairs to the American Army Chevrolet 4 x 4 truck. The engine of this was completely rebuilt and the chassis, which was stripped to its last nut and bolt, had to be welded in a number of places.
- (c) Major overhaul of the three-cylinder Ruston and Hornsby diesel engine in the mission supply boat "Mary Lockhart" after the engine seized owing to oil pump failure.
- (d) Major overhaul to the three-cylinder Ruston and Hornsby diesel engine in the L.R.A.C. Co-operative lugger "Francis Pritt."
- (e) Erection of a new workshop and garage 60 feet by 36 feet. A section of the engineering staff worked part-time on this project last year between August and December until the carpenters could be spared to finish off. The building allows space for garaging of our two trucks and tractor, and also we have ample space for any maintenance work.

Medical.

The health of the people during the past year has shown a marked improvement. This is brought home, not only by the bearing of the people, but also by the fact that in-patients for the past year are less than half the number of the previous year, being 47 as against 99.

A large number of additional instruments and equipment for the hospital have been acquired, mainly through the personal efforts of Sister H. Conn, who reports as follows:—

Births.—Nine—males six, females three (One female stillborn).

Deaths.—Three—One accidental, two aged.

Out-patients.—Average 20 daily.

In-patients.—During last year, total 47.

Epidemics.—Gastroenteritis during July but we were fortunate in that no serious cases developed. Many people continue to have an undiagnosed fever which varies in severity. Patients transferred to Thursday Island for hospitalisation total eight.

There have been two cases of snakebite, both of which were treated with Tiger Snake Antivenene and responded well without any complications. One snake was definitely a death adder, but the other was not identified.

Forty-seven specimens of faeces have been sent to the Hookworm Control Office, Cairns, and those found to be harbouring hookworm, tapeworm or threadworm have been treated for same.

Baby Welfare Clinic continues to be attended weekly by all mothers with young infants.

Ante-Natal Clinic is attended regularly by all expectant mothers. The general health of the people is very good and the outstanding progress for the year is the fact that the obstetrical cases are now being confined in Hospital.

Children's Community Centre. The children's health has responded well to regular meals at the Centre. There are many less colds and very few sores or boils among the children this year.

All school children have breakfast and dinner on school days at the Centre and pre-school children from six months onwards have dinner and supper for five days a week. Iron mixture and vitamins A, D, and C, are given out daily and a monthly check on weight is kept.

The kitchen is in charge of Nancy Powloo who has five assistants, each having a responsible part in the efficient running of it.

The building of the shower rooms and laundry will shortly be commenced as materials for these have now arrived.

Cattle.

The past year has not been a good one for cattle although the season was excellent. Sixty-one bullocks were sold and were shipped per "Wewak" to Cairns. Wet weather and the poor condition of the few horses mitigated against a better muster. Ninety-six bullocks were killed for home consumption.

Four miles of fencing were erected but has yet to be wired. With the arrival of Mr. Kaines, it is expected that this coming year will be considerably better, especially as delivery of 50

head of horses will be taken shortly. The cattle councillors are gaining experience and they are carrying on in this capacity under Mr. Kaines.

Agriculture.

The vegetable garden at Coutha Creek has been expanded to more than twice its previous size and at present has a fine crop of sweet potatoes. Tomatoes, English cabbage, Chinese cabbage and snake beans were grown under irrigation with mixed results. Maize was planted in three separate areas but failed completely. One thousand four hundred pineapples were planted.

A special paddock of ten acres was worked over and planted with a variety of pasture grasses including Guinea grass, Molasses grass, Buffel and Green Panic, also Centro, and the first two of these struck very well. Stripe ploughing of 200 acres of the Nundah Plains at Lockhart River was carried out and roots of Guinea grass and Molasses grass were planted with poor results, due to a dry spell immediately after Christmas.

Airstrip.

Work on the 1,200-yard airstrip has commenced and it is hoped that this will be ready for use by the end of this year.

Building.

Seven more new houses were completed in the new village. The largest of these is 900 square feet. These houses have cypress pine floors and corrugated iron roofs, while the walls and room partitions are of cemented bags.

Maintenance and additions were carried out on various houses including staff houses.

Appreciation.

Our thanks are due to the many people and organisations who have assisted during the past year, especially to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Australian Board of Missions and all helpers, and to the superintendent and staff of the Thursday Island Hospital.

APPENDIX 12.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, F. W. Currington.)

Staff.—

Mr. A. J. Warman.
 Reverend D. M. Sutherland, Chaplain.
 Miss S. M. Card, Head Teacher.
 Sister J. Squibb, in charge Hospital.
 Mrs. M. H. Warman, Dormitory Matron.
 Mr. K. Hodson, Cattle Manager.

Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	..	14
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	5
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	6

Agriculture.

Staff village and dormitory gardens are progressing favourably although there has been a hold up due to the prolonged wet season.

Industrial Improvements.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the cattle herds and a further sale is about to take place. Both Edward River Mission and Mitchell River Mission have been supplied with the usual killers. Branding is well up to standard. A new drafting and holding yard has been erected (of first class standard). A new horse paddock has been made and other repairs carried out as necessary.

Improvements.

Several village houses have been rebuilt and an extra cabbage-tree-palm classroom added to the school. The garage and butcher shop were rebuilt and repaired. The airstrip has been continually maintained to D.C.A. requirements.

Employment.

The demand for native stockmen has been greater than the supply and efforts have been made to meet this to the best of our ability.

Conduct.

The general conduct of the natives has continued to be satisfactory.

Religion.

The year 1955-56 has seen some improvements in the religious life of the mission. The appointment of Church Councillors last year has helped to bring about a better understanding and interest in the spiritual life. During the year Mass was celebrated daily, and morning and evening prayer said daily. On Sunday, Masses were celebrated at 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and evening prayer said at 6.45 p.m. Church attendance was at the usual standard.

The Sanctuary of the Church building has been improved by the addition of new candlesticks and Tabernacle made and fitted by Mr. Warman.

Daily visits were made by the Chaplain to the villages. During the Chaplain's absence from the mission on duty Morning Prayers were conducted by the Superintendent and other members of the staff.

During the year there were 17 baptisms, six marriages and four burials. There were no confirmations as none of the candidates were ready in time for the last visit of the Bishop. On the whole the Chaplain is pleased with the progress made in the religious life of the mission.

Hospital.

Baby Clinic.—A baby clinic and distribution of milk and oatmeal to mothers of all pre-school children is conducted weekly.

Immunisation.—Immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus (using the combined vaccine) carried out each year.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—Weekly ante-natal clinics conducted.

Hookworm.—Mass treatment for hookworm given every six months.

Chest Patients.—These patients visit Thursday Island Hospital for check-up and treatment as condition warrants.

Royal Flying Doctor Service.—A Doctor conducts a monthly routine clinic in addition to emergency visits and radio advice.

Dental Service.—A Dentist and mechanic attached to the Cairns Base Hospital visits here twice yearly.

The three last-mentioned services are very much appreciated.

Dormitory.

Fifty boys and 64 girls were registered on dormitory roll this year. Of the boys, 11 have left. The age limit for the girls boarding has been raised from six to ten years, leaving 27 girls boarding in the dormitory.

The gardens are still producing watermelons, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, beans and tropical fruits.

The Brownie pack have all earned their first year stars and the elder girls are keen to become guides and a Lone Company may soon be formed.

School.

Teachers and children have attended regularly. At the end of the school year 90 children were in attendance. At the beginning of the new quarter eight children had left and three new ones were enrolled. Maureen who had been learning to teach has now become a teacher.

Teachers' meetings are held weekly and the native teachers have shown interest in their classes and an increased amount of responsibility in their teaching. Children have made progress in their lessons.

Several of the native men have helped the older boys to perform useful tasks around the mission while the women have given instruction in cooking, needlework and native craft work.

School sports were held and the parents have been invited to the school on several occasions.

The new cabbage-palm class room has been a most useful addition.

Recreation.

General sports, native dancing and walkabouts are still encouraged and much enjoyed by all.

Appreciation.

Once again we must tender our thanks to the Director and staff of the Department of Native Affairs for their continued help and co-operation at all times.

APPENDIX 13.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.

(Chaplain, Ven. Archdeacon C. G. Brown, B.A.)

Staff.—

Rev. Fr. Rechnitz, Ph. D., Teacher.
Mr. D. Hooper-Colsey, Teacher.
Miss P. Duncan, Teacher
Mr. Andai Ware, Teacher.
Mrs. Kitty Ware, Teacher.
Mrs. Nazareth Arago, Nurse.

Staff changes. Rev. H. M. Wynter and Mrs. Wynter left for the south in September, Fr. Wynter's place as Priest-Director of Torres Strait Mission being taken by Rev. Fr. Campbell. Rev. D. Scott-Halliday and Mrs. Halliday left in April to take up work at Edward River Mission. Rev. Fr. Rechnitz arrived in April and Mr. D. Hooper-Colsey in May, both from Edward River Mission.

St. Paul's Theological College.—Eleven students have been in residence during the year. Masepah Banu received Deacon's Orders in December and continues his studies in the College until he is ordained Priest. Rev. Fr. Rechnitz assists the principal as Tutor.

School.—The Chaplain has been Acting-Headmaster assisted by Miss Duncan and two Mission Teachers. The arrival of Mr. Hooper-Colsey has relieved Miss Duncan of the care of the senior grades. Rev. Fr. Rechnitz conducts singing classes in all grades. The school concert held in December in the presence of the Lord Bishop and other visitors was a pronounced success.

Village.—Nearly all the men have been away most of the year engaged in the trochus industry returning for a short spell at Christmas. Advantage was taken by several, of a quantity of timber available at the store to improve their houses during this period. There are now 33 houses in the village and three under construction.

Health.—The health of the people has been good with no serious outbreak of sickness. The visits of an optometrist and of a dentist were much appreciated.

Building.—A much needed and capacious Sacristy has been added to the Church. The Head Teacher's residence has been repaired and renovated. The three Deacons' houses have been roofed with iron. The concrete floor of a new school covering 2,500 square feet has been laid, the structure to be of fibrolite. The cost of this building is met by a Government grant. The site for a new college has been cleared and levelled by the students and much stone collected for the concrete floor. As soon as materials both for the school and the college are to hand construction will go forward under the supervision of Mr. F. H. Ayre, the Diocesan builder.

Co-operative Society.—Rev. A. Clint, Director of Christian Co-operatives, Australian Board of Missions, visited the mission in January in order to enlist interest in the principles and methods of the Co-operative Movement. Several meetings both of men and women were held and

finally a representative meeting of the men, including the Chairman and members of the Council, voted unanimously in favour of instituting a local Co-operative Society.

Mission Launch.—The "Florence Buchanan" has been fitted with a new diesel engine and generally reconditioned. It is now in first class order and has resumed a regular fortnightly run to Thursday Island.

Thanks.—The thanks of the mission are cordially extended to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their courteous and ready help at all time.

APPENDIX 14.

MAPOON MISSION.

(Superintendent, P. C. Fletcher.)

Staff.—

Matron, Mrs. P. Fletcher.
School Supervisor, Mrs. C. Paton.

Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	..	9
Deaths (Gastro. epidemic)	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	3

The changing staff of Mapoon has not been remedied throughout this past year and again the station has seen two changes in superintendents. The relieving superintendent, Rev. J. C. Allan, departed during the month of December, upon the return from Brisbane of the Rev. J. B. Hartshorn. However, the period of the Hartshorn service was interrupted by his appointment to Wotjulum Station in Western Australia, and upon his departure from Mapoon in April, 1956, he and his wife were farewelled by the team of missionaries of both denominations in the Gulf who over a period of six or seven years had got to know Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorn as both friends and true missionaries to the people of Mapoon. Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Fletcher who for two years have been in charge of the Thursday Island Missions Agency, were appointed to the task at Mapoon, and took up duties on the 5th April, 1956.

Industry.—With the policy of merger hanging over this station the industries have essentially to be kept within the reach of station running expense.

The Mapoon shell necklaces, feather flowers and fans have been very acceptable and in demand from different quarters. The large consignment sent to the display in Brisbane was sold very quickly and more stocks could easily have been handled.

The crocodile shooters continue to have steady employment. About twelve men are fairly regularly engaged in this work and despite the rise and fall of the skin market they are kept in good employment.

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Coconuts continue to bring a source of revenue to the people both as they are supplied for growing and for resale on Thursday Island.

Activities.—The dairy herd supplied milk for mission use and issue to children throughout most of the current year.

The stock work continues under the guidance of Mapoon man, Benny Charger, and the building of a fence from the Batavia to the Coen Rivers occupied most of their time last year.

Mapoon men are now head stockmen at Mitchell River, Edward River and Aurukun Missions and along with those sprinkled here and there on cattle stations the mission is well represented with stock men.

Poultry supplied eggs for the children of the village and mission use and throughout the year ducks and fowls have been sold on Thursday Island.

Year by year all of the sewing and much of the minor medical work is faithfully attended to by mission woman, Rosie Woodley, who has been as the right hand to missionaries for many years.

General routine work and maintenance keeps a team of men occupied each week. The maintenance of Mapoon is becoming more of a problem as time lapses with the proposed merger in view. Necessity is the power which forces us to repair and renew in the meantime.

Church Life.—The election of native elders has now been confirmed by the Presbytery of Townsville and these men now share the responsibility of the daily prayers which are held before work commences. They have shown every keenness to learn and to be instructed and appear to be shaping well under the newly shared responsibility.

The choir meets each week and at every Sunday service they render an anthem in a way most acceptable. Sacraments have been administered all through the year and attendance has been good.

Health.—With the aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Thursday Island Hospital, Doctors and Sisters, the Director of Native Affairs Radio Network, the health of the people has been very fair. Cases which once would have lapsed because of the absence of the trained care are now arrested and cured quickly. There has of course been the isolated case of sickness and accident, however, on the whole the medical care has been thorough.

The Radio Operator's co-operation and patience in handling messages and explanations and phoning urgent calls through has at all times been appreciated by us.

School.—Mrs. Paton who joined the staff in November, 1955, has taken the responsibility of supervising the education of the children. This was an outstanding need here as previous reports will reveal. For many years the school has had only native teachers who have done really well but have been unable for many reasons to maintain the discipline and standard which is desired.

There are 66 pupils and five native teachers in the school at the present time. Family ties have not hindered Mrs. Paton from giving herself wholeheartedly to this sometimes heart-breaking work.

Community Life.—During Mr. Hartshorn's presence here he introduced indoor carpet bowls for the evening entertainment of the people. This has proved a great success in filling a need long existing. The men and women have taken to it well as also have many of the visitors to Mapoon. Once the problem of the bias was overcome some of the players have become admirably accurate and will soon be ready for challenges.

Conduct.—The native police have been impartial and faithful in their duty and there have been no cases of serious misconduct.

In taking the view of more responsibility being given to the people we have endeavoured to put our policy into operation throughout this year in particular with the careful placing of more responsibility on to the men and women who have for years been under training in certain jobs. Tasks which once would have kept the missionary busy in supervision have been given to key men and they have shown their ability and the way in which they have learned their different trades. Outstanding cases of honesty and trustworthiness have appeared from most. The latest step which has been taken is the training here of one of the bright girls just leaving school in the subject of office routine and bookkeeping. We have no results to produce as yet but it is considered that we have every reason to expect good results.

Thanks.—Our appreciation goes again to all who by their small and large efforts have made the life and prosperity of our mission possible.

In particular, I would mention the Director of Native Affairs, his senior officers and staff, not forgetting the radio engineer and operator whose help has been forthcoming in all matters connected with the wireless life of our isolation, the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, whose Doctor O'Leary and Pilot Captain Galloway are sincerely attached in high regard to the staff and people of our mission, the Government Medical Officer and staff of the Thursday Island Hospitals Board, our Church Committee on Missions, the P.W.M.U. and various Guilds for their never failing thoughtfulness and kindness.

AURUKUN MISSION.

APPENDIX 15.

(Superintendent, Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A.)

Staff.—

Mrs. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A., Dip.Ed., Matron and Head Teacher.
Mr. W. J. Christie, Agriculture and Building.
Mrs. W. J. Christie.
Mr. W. B. Stratford, Technical Assistant.
Mrs. W. B. Stratford.
Mr. Jerry Hudson, Cattle.

During the year the staff at Aurukun has been brought to nearly full strength and we welcome to the work, Sister A. A. Cameron, a triple certificated nurse from Melbourne and Mr. and Mrs. Christie from Brisbane. Mr. Christie has had considerable experience in agriculture and building. Mr. and Mrs. Stratford came to us from Port Augusta, South Australia. Mr. Stratford is a fitter and turner. For the cattle we were fortunate in securing the services of Jerry Hudson, a very experienced and capable man in cattle work. He came to us from Mapoon.

Health.—Report contributed by Sister A. A. Cameron.

Aurukun has been very fortunate this past year in all the help received from various sources.

Firstly, there is the Flying Doctor Service. Dr. T. J. O'Leary of Charters Towers has made monthly visits treating on an average 18 patients each visit. Dr. O'Leary has performed several small operations here and last September brought with him Dr. Davis from Brisbane who amputated the hand of a woman who had been badly burnt out bush and brought into the mission for treatment. On 15th May, the Flying Doctor plane took out five patients for further treatment in hospital.

Secondly, the Flying Ambulance Plane has been four times this last year and removed four patients for treatment at the Cairns Base Hospital.

Thirdly, in October last year, Mr. S. Thompson of the Hookworm Control Campaign paid us a visit and examined 358 people, adults and children. He was able to advise us concerning necessary precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of hookworm and we hope to be able to present a clean sheet at his next visit.

Fourthly, in November, Mr. Z. Darveniza a dentist and his mechanic, Mr. K. Lennane, inspected a large number of the mission people and some who were in from the bush. Fillings, extractions and dentures were attended to.

The health of the people here is on the whole, good. We sent patients to Thursday Island for check-up as requested.

Our population is increasing, 15 babies being born as against three deaths. (Two middle-aged cardiaes and one 6½ month premature baby.)

Statistics.

Births—14 living children (10 males and 4 females).

Deaths 4, 1 male about 50 years, and 1 female 53 years.

1 premature stillborn male at mission.
1 aged female reported from bush.

Marriages 3.

Agriculture.—The recent Nor'west season was an exceptionally heavy one. An all-time record was made at the mission for January when 3,905 points were registered. In all 86 inches fell during the "Wet." During this period at times the ground was too waterlogged to be worked. However, showers continued into May ensuring feed and water for stock all through the year.

At the mission the chain of swamps from which water is drawn was filled to overflowing, thus ensuring the mission population adequate water.

About three acres of sweet potatoes, two acres of cassava, 1½ acres of pigeon peas, one acre of cow peas were planted and are doing well. Eighty young coconuts were planted at Wutan, the coconut plantation. During the dry weather many truckloads of humus and cowyard manure were carted and spread on the main paddocks.

Further areas, about eight acres, were cleaned and suckered and planted with various grasses and legumes for feeding dairy cattle during the dry period.

Cattle.—The beef herd has done well under the care of Jerry Hudson who took over his work in September. Sixty-five head of horses were purchased at Almaden and brought to the mission.

Mustering.—In October and early November only, was mustering able to be done and 521 were branded, 275 males and 246 females.

Yards were overhauled and repaired and during the "Wet," all saddlery was repaired and remade.

Crocodiles, dingoes and pigs are a great menace to the stock and every effort by shooting and poisoning is made to get rid of them.

Dairy.—The dairy is giving splendid results during the peak period when an average of 20 gallons per day was obtained from 30 cows. Through the help of prepared paddocks and the use of hay cut and cured at the end of the "Wet" we are able to keep the cows in production all through the year. Milk is given to all the school children, the toddlers and babies, also the sick. About three tons of hay were cut and stored.

Village.—Six new houses were built and a large number renovated. Through the help of the Director of Native Affairs, roofing iron was obtained and the new houses and ten older ones were roofed. Mess mate bark was used for the walls. All houses now built in the village are on stumps so that the inmates may keep dry during the "Wet" season. Acting on the advice of Mr. Thompson, Hookworm Control Officer, a new system of night soil disposal was planned out and this scheme is now nearing completion. This locality does not lend itself to the installation of a septic system.

Diet and Hunting.—The people are encouraged to keep up their hunting skill as there is a great variety of bush "tucker" on the reserve. At the mission, surplus food such as fish, crabs, shell fish, dugong, game, yams and roots of all kinds are traded at the store for flour, tea, sugar, tobacco and clothing. This surplus is given to the children to ensure that they get a varied diet. Careful attention is paid to the children's diet. Flour is fortified with Cerevite for damper, crushed wheat, freshly ground, is used for porridge and unpolished rice is given out on alternate days with vegetable garden produce for dinner. Each day a ration of beef is given to every child. Fish on trading, supplements the above meals together

with fruit in season such as bananas, papaws, and mangoes. Nursing mothers are helped with a daily ration of food and milk as the care of their babies does not enable them to have the same freedom in hunting.

Discipline.—Minor lapses of discipline are dealt with by the Native Council guided by the superintendent. Three more serious cases in the period concerned were referred to the Director of Native Affairs. However, it is noteworthy that the Native Council is taking a pride in trying to keep order and prevent quarrels from spreading. On the whole, conduct has been very good.

Church Services.—The usual short morning service was held each week day throughout the year. At these and at the Sunday services great interest is shown and the people are encouraged to take part. Some parts of the services have been translated into the main dialect on the mission and used in the services. At Communion services the people are encouraged to make their free-will offerings from their hunting or fishing or from produce from their own gardens. This food is valued and that amount is sent to some specified cause chosen by the people such as Children's Day, the Flying Doctor Service, &c.

Patrol.—Through the help of the Mission Committee and the Director of Native Affairs a splendid 25-foot launch with sails and engine was made available late last year for patrol work. As soon as the wet season was over the Superintendent and the Matron with some mission men set out to visit the Kendall and Holroyd areas. It was the first time for 15 years that the Matron was able to make the visit owing to lack of staff or lack of suitable transport. The people and our faithful Archiewald, the native Missionary, were delighted to have "Mother" visit them again and showed their pleasure by the amount of fish and yams brought as "present". After the heavy "Wet" much of the area was still covered with water with the result that the mosquitoes were very vicious. Despite this discomfort a very happy time was spent with the people. Many of these people do not visit the mission at Christmas owing to bad weather. It was decided to hold a special time for them at the anniversary of the founding of the mission in August, and when this plan was made known they expressed their pleasure and willingness to come to the mission. The launch proved very suitable for patrol work and it is hoped that regular frequent visits shall now be made to these people so that they will not feel they are forgotten.

School.—The Aurukun Mission School was closed for three months during 1955 through the unavoidable absence of the Head Teacher. It was closed a further month to enable the completion of a school building begun during her absence. The building previously used as a school, no special school building ever having been provided, being no longer available, the new school has been built of bush materials that is round bush timber and mess mate bark. It has a large roof spread and is open-sided and the open sides and the bark roof make it the coolest place on the mission in the hot weather. The thick bark roof makes it possible to

continue teaching in a tropical downpour, as the sound of the rain is deadened. Our bush-bred children are much happier and less restless in an open building. It is easier to keep their attention and interest in it than in the enclosed one previously used. There were 110 children on the roll at the end of the year and 120 are expected in the coming school year.

Thanks.—The mission wishes to express its gratitude to all its many friends who have helped us during the year. We wish to thank especially the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, both in Thursday Island, and in Brisbane, the Minister and officials of the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Mission Committee and the ladies of the various Church Guilds, the Doctors and the staff of the hospitals in Thursday Island, Cairns and Charters Towers, the Flying Doctor, Dr. T. J. O'Leary, and his pilot, and the Cairns Aerial Ambulance. We thank you and all other friends for the splendid help and encouragement you have so generously given and pray God that He will bless every effort that is being made to help our aboriginals that they may be able to rise to greater and nobler heights and be able to take their part worthily in the life of our community.

APPENDIX 16.

MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. D. L. Belcher.)

Staff.—

Matron, Mrs. D. L. Belcher.
Nurse, Sister A. O'D. Creagh.

Statistics.—

Births 4.
Deaths 5.
Marriages 1.
Exemptions 1.
Transfer to mainland—one family of five.

Religion.—As religion should be an integral factor of people's lives and not something apart, so the behaviour and progress of our people reflect the steady missionary influence over the years. This is seen more in activity than in spoken demonstration. Outstanding has been the decision by the people to build a new hospital with funds subscribed by themselves.

Daily services are conducted and the Sacraments administered.

Cattle.—The lifting of 450 cattle to Normanston for sale by the barge "Wewak" in November made history as this was the first occasion cattle had been sent away. The cattle generally were in good condition. Adverse circumstances prevented the original plan from being carried out which was to land the cattle on Cape York Peninsula and drove them across to Marina Plains Station and thence again by sea to Cairns. Financially the project was not a success although the mission covered costs, but the experiment was worthwhile and it is

hoped for success later with experience gained. In preparation for this work two and a-half miles of fencing were erected and seven stock yards erected at vital points on the island. A special loading yard on the beach was constructed. On return trip the barge carried six Hereford stud bulls, a gift of Mr. C. P. Edwards of Abingdon Downs.

Under the good management of our head stockman the cattle work is rapidly coming under control with regular mustering. Five miles of fencing is being erected to create a paddock near the mission. Nearby Debham Island is used as a fattening paddock and we have 60 steers there.

A new dairy has been constructed and the regular though not large supply of milk is of great benefit to the children.

Agriculture.—The people continue to develop small garden plots and we favour this policy rather than attempt something on a large scale without adequate staff and equipment. Work on an irrigation dam has been commenced.

Water Conservation.—With the advice and practical help of Mr. C. Ogilvie, formerly of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, a domestic water supply dam has been constructed in a safe catchment area. At present holding 300,000 gallons this could be built up to hold a million gallons. Utilising a rocky gully the work has been carried out by hand labour as a community effort. The installation of water reticulation equipment requires a capital outlay of approximately £2,500. This we hope for.

Housing.—The standard of huts is continually improving and eight prefabricated steel-framed huts, three-roomed, have been delivered. These have been purchased by the people.

General Development.—The need to improve the existing stone jetty is urgent and at present the whole community is collecting stone, and building up the height of the surface. A wooden pile is being added.

Our future requirements are a multi-roomed school building, cook house and dining hall, community bathrooms and effective sanitation installations.

Employment.—There is an ever-increasing demand for cattle industry labour and in endeavouring to meet the need the mission is left without adequate labour for the work of maintenance and development at home.

School.—With four preparatory and Grades II. to VI. there are 107 children attending school. The native Head Teacher has two women and eight girls assisting while overall supervision is made by Mrs. D. L. Belcher. The Primary Correspondence School Papers are used as a guide.

Progress is slow because of the lack of a trained teacher, the staffing of the mission allows for such an appointment but no one is available. This is to be regretted as there are some outstanding pupils. Older girls are trained in simple domestic science, needlework, laundry

work, gardening, &c. Lessons have been continued in natural science, social studies, modelling, health and hygiene, physical education, &c., in addition to the fundamental subjects. Films from the Department of Public Instruction are a great help. A library has been established and sports and concerts are part of the programme. Negotiations are proceeding to enable several children to attend boarding school for secondary education.

Medical.—As reported by Sister A. O'D. Creagh.

Generally the health of the people has improved, showing more resistance to infection. Hookworm remains the major problem. In September a mild gastro. epidemic effected all sections of the community. This was followed by an outbreak of impetigo sores which was widespread. An outbreak of common cold in November was followed by a type of influenza which was severe and often with complications. This caused the death of two old people. Regular mass treatment for hookworm is given and iron therapy. Several marked anaemia cases developed but responded to the use of the new drug Imferon. Immunisation has been carried out and tetanus prophylaxis given to all working people particularly. Dr. Neil Duncan of the Royal Flying Doctor Service has made regular monthly clinic visits and several emergency calls. The direct radio consultation from the Radio Base is of great help.

Dental.—In December, the dental team of the Royal Flying Doctor Service did thorough work. Dentist Mr. C. Robinson reported that only four children required attention, which indicates a good state of dental health.

General.—The great problem is that of eradication of hookworm. Dr. Neil Duncan has given much thought to the matter and is of the opinion that it is a public health, rather than medical, problem basically. After considering several schemes of sanitation we are investigating the possibilities of salt water septic for sewage disposal and are in contact with a Health Officer concerning this. In view of the tendency towards the policy of evacuation of the island held by some, Dr. N. Duncan points out that there is no evidence of tuberculosis, venereal disease, Hansen's disease, yaws, &c. This indicates that the island has much to commend it as a native community location.

It is hoped that the staff shortage will soon be relieved by the appointment of an assistant couple. Sister A. O'D. Creagh will shortly leave the work and a replacement nurse is available. We are grateful for the years of faithful work of Sister Creagh who is particularly interested in the small children and has done much to bring about their better health and it is with regret we say goodbye to her.

A Guide company and Brownie pack has been established under the guidance of Mrs. N. Duncan, wife of the Flying Doctor and a visit by Field Commissioner Weir of the Boy Scout Movement will lead to this organisation becoming active. It is felt that this activity will fill the gap left by the passing of the old way of

native life and the coming of the new. The Young People's Fellowship helps also in this respect allowing for the healthy meeting of young people socially.

Appreciation.—Our sincere thanks to the Department of Native Affairs, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and others who have given of their time and skill to assist in the welfare of the people and the development of the mission.

APPENDIX 17.

WEIPA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn.)

Staff.—

Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn.
 Technical Assistant, Mr. J. Henderson.
 General Assistant, Mrs. Henderson.

The alterations to the staff were brought about by the transfer of Sister A. Cameron from Weipa to Aurukun after three months' service at Weipa, during which time she had earned our highest appreciation. While being sorry to lose her we were conscious that Aurukun would provide much greater scope for her sphere of service.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson with their son, Ian, arrived here early in August. In Mr. Henderson we realised our long sought for help, a carpenter. Their arrival coincided with a visit from Rev. V. Coombes, Secretary for the Presbyterian Board of Missions, and Rev. J. Sweet, Secretary for the Queensland Presbyterian Church Missions. The purpose of the visit was to estimate progress made during the previous twelve months and to plan progress for the year ahead. Looking back from 31st March, 1956, we are impressed at the immense gap between the estimate and that which was fulfilled.

A school and an additional assistant's cottage were on the agenda. It was near the end of the year before the first portion of material become available, viz., enough to construct the framework of the cottage and corrugated fibro to cover the roof, concrete foundations and floors, also enough cement to do the foundations of the school but no floors, and at the 31st March, no further supplies had come forward and the buildings stand as mentioned. Some improvements were made to the existing cottage with timber bought from Thursday Island.

Religious Services.—Sunday and daily services have been maintained throughout the year with good average attendance.

Statistics.—

Communicants on the roll	..	..	84
Marriages	..	..	1
Baptism, Children	..	..	5
Baptism, Adults	..	..	3
Births	..	..	6
Deaths	..	..	1

Medical.—The general health of the people was good throughout the year. A few cases under medical observation were called upon to attend Thursday Island Hospital for their periodical check-up. One patient was flown out by Cairns Ambulance Plane to Cairns Base Hospital to have a common pin removed which she had swallowed. The Flying Doctor Service gave another year of invaluable service. Patients taken out numbered three, and three returned much benefited from their operations. Dr. O'Leary's monthly clinic service is a great boon to people of the mission and members of the staff. Captain Keith Galloway, pilot, completed another year's service of mission visits. Dental survey was undertaken by the Dentist, Mr. Darveniza and accompanying dental mechanic, Mr. K. Lennane, several of the native people receiving dentures.

School.—Mrs. Winn continues as teacher in charge and with the help of Theresa Motton, Florence Mark, Esther John and Gloria James, four native teachers, the children have been kept up to a good standard. We are still looking forward to the time when qualified teachers will be available. This would be most beneficial to scholars and Mrs. Winn. It requires great effort on her part to cope with the school and the many other activities that fall to her task. Divided times and attention are not in the best interests of scholars' advancement. School commenced the year with 39 scholars and closed with 37, two attaining leaving age.

Employment.—Conditions of employment were similar to the previous years, the main employment spheres being on trochus boats and cattle stations. The usual maintenance force for mission service was kept in constant employment. New undertakings were commenced and a number were employed transporting aggregate from the beaches, then in concreting. Cattle industry is worked at different periods during the year, seven men at such times being engaged, two men constantly on milking. Three to seven men are employed in gardening as seasonal opportunity warrants. Maintenance of property and painting activities create employment for others. Cord wood, posts and poles gave remunerative employment to men on their off weeks from mission labour. Baskets, feather flowers and crochet work are avenues open to the women folk. Teaching, cooking and mending keep thirteen women in regular employment.

Agriculture.—The lucerne area continues to spread. Garden yield confined to usual varieties of vegetables, potatoes, beans, pumpkins, lettuce, carrots and beetroot. No produce was sold. Papaws are always a good crop for which we can be very thankful. Mangoes were not so plentiful as one would like, as it was a bad season.

Stock Work.—Eight new saddles were received and these have been maintained in good condition. Condition of the horses' backs was good as a result. Horses number 39. Stock is always an indefinite number, but indications would set the number of cattle handled as

approximately 300. This part of our mission work will show no improvement until qualified stockmen are available.

Air Strips.—These are always improving in area by clearing. Both runways are in excellent condition. The Civil Aviation Department send their representative to inspect twice yearly and favourable reports are received.

Conduct.—No complaints. Conduct on the whole is very good. A few quarrels were reported, trivial beginnings, much noise and little danger.

Social.—Several nights of entertainment were provided by Mr. Fletcher with movie cinema and projector for coloured stills. Mr. Stockman also entertained us in like manner. Dancing by the men (island type) provides many nights of pleasure.

Visitors.—Numbers increase annually. Plane or boat seldom arrives without a quota of visitors. Of those, not personal friends, are many who in different capacities do much good for the welfare of the people. All without exception have been more than welcome and the pleasure is ours in offering hospitality.

Appreciation.—We express our appreciation and indebtedness to the many friends in church organisations who contribute year by year by faithful and loyal service to the cause of our mission. In gifts, innumerable, in prayer, so helpful. To Mr. Sweet and his office staff for their encouragement and helpful advice. To the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. To Dr. O'Leary for his very sincere service at all times. To the medical practitioners at Thursday Island whose guidance we seek in our times of need for their unfailing kindness and patience. We are also indebted to the Cairns Ambulance Brigade ever ready to respond to our call. To members of the Director of Native Affairs Department, radio engineers and wireless operators and to Mr. Killoran who has rendered vital and timely aid when ever necessary. To Mr. C. O'Leary the Director of Native Affairs personally. Special appreciation to you, Mr. O'Leary, from all the people of Weipa Mission. Finally to the Minister of the Department of Health and Home Affairs who in conference with our church representatives showed courtesy and patience and gave helpful consideration to our petitions.

APPENDIX 18.

HAMMOND ISLAND MISSION.

(Priest in Charge—Rev. O. McDermott.)

Staff.—

Resident Priest, Rev. A. J. Collins.
Two Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
Lay Worker, Francis Dorante.

Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	..	3
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
School Children	..	..	..	..	..	30

Discipline.—Discipline on the mission has been satisfactory. A good spirit of co-operation between the staff and mission residents has been maintained and community efforts have been well supported. Church services are well and regularly attended.

Health.—No serious illnesses or epidemics affected the mission folk during the past year. During the gastroenteritis epidemic on Thursday Island the people of the mission avoided unnecessary contact with the town and no cases of this sickness occurred on Hammond Island. The Sister in charge of the Thursday Island Baby Clinic visits the mission at fortnightly intervals and her interest in the children is deeply appreciated. Dental treatment is obtained on Thursday Island without difficulty.

The sea, and their gardens provide the people with good, wholesome food, and adequate hours of rest are observed. These factors coupled with regular employment and open-air recreation have brought a high standard of health to the community.

School.—The two teacher-trained Sisters who have been some years on Hammond Island are very gratified with their school work during the year. Attendances have been most satisfactory and good progress has been made in all departments of the curriculum. Domestic science, needlework, basket making, woodwork and music have been taught to keen pupils. The senior girls have made exceptional progress in playing the piano and organ and act as accompanistes for the school and Church choirs. At their own request two of the younger boys are taking tuition and promise to become pianists.

During the year special emphasis has been placed on the art of correct speech, especially in the junior grades, with a good measure of success. Progress on the new building has not been as rapid as we would wish due to a number of factors but principally to the absence from the mission of most of the men folk who are in regular employment in the marine industries and kindred works. However, we hope to have the new school ready for the next school year.

Employment.—The pearling and trochus shell industries provide work for the majority of the male employable personnel. Two pearling boats and one trochus shell boat are captained by men of the mission who are giving satisfactory service. Men not employed on the boats are working as shipwrights, carpenters or labourers on Thursday Island and return home each evening.

General Remarks.—In February, 1956, Bishop O'Loughlin visited Torres Strait. During his visit he conferred Confirmation on a number of candidates at Hammond Island and solemnly blessed the new stone Church, built by Rev.

Father Dixon and the men of Hammond Island. This Church, dedicated to St. Joseph, is already a landmark in Torres Strait.

Conclusion.—We extend our thanks to Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Killoran and the staff of the Native Affairs Department for their unfailing courtesy and valued assistance during the past year. We realise that without their support and encouragement continuance of our mission effort would be well-nigh impossible.

APPENDIX 19.

PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL.

(Priest in Charge, Rev. Father B. Foster.)

The enrolment has slightly increased, numbering 95 at present, not including a group of senior girls in the domestic science class.

Although the attendance on the whole has been quite good the younger children are unable to attend during the rainy weather owing to the distance from the settlement.

The school is staffed by four Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, three teaching the academic work, assisted by a native nun in the junior division, and one teaching the domestic science class with typewriting to the most promising pupils.

The accommodation is sufficient. With the new blackboards and desks the rooms are fairly well equipped. Films and filmstrips have deepened interest in the various subjects. The children of the different divisions have succeeded in making a fine collection of shells. Progress has been steady and satisfactory.

Attention is given to sports and recreational training. The inter-school games foster the pupils' enthusiasm. Swimming and folk dancing are encouraged.

Music is stressed and the five concerts executed during the year displayed the development of their talent in this line. An interesting feature of one of these events was the native songs and dancing, the girls wearing the customary skirts made at their sewing class.

Sewing is taught in the grades as formerly. During these periods the boys do a little manual work or gardening. Besides keeping the grounds in good condition, the lawn was built up along the sea front. A hedge has been planted to consolidate this.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the Department of Native Affairs for the assistance received throughout the year, also to the settlement superintendent for his interest and co-operation.

Native Affairs - Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1956

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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