




# ANNUAL REPORT

**COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE**



**1958**



**PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

**PERTH:  
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The HON. J. J. BRADY, M.L.A.

Minister for Native Welfare

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Sir,

*In conformity with Section 73 (6) of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-54, I have the honour to submit my report on the condition and welfare of the natives and transactions of the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1958.*

S. G. MIDDLETON,

Commissioner of Native Welfare

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*Annual Report of the Commissioner*  
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The year under report has not been a momentous one. There was a minor carry over of publicity, correspondence and enquiries from the controversy which was triggered off by the activities and reports, official and otherwise, of the Parliamentary Select Committee and several of its members, but with the cessation of Parliamentary proceedings towards the end of the year, and the characteristic loss of public interest, the polemics subsided. Meanwhile the Department, ably assisted by the Health and Education Departments and the Christian Missions, continued to provide adequate, but not lavish, physical and spiritual aid to the natives of the Central Reserve area, and throughout the State. The major limiting factor of administration was, is and always has been, that of unavailability of sufficient funds for even basic needs.

Regular, constant contact was maintained with the various nomadic groups throughout the year through the Missions at Warburton Ranges in the west and Balgo Hills in the north and the Commonwealth Native Patrol Officer at Giles Meteorological Station which is situated near the eastern boundary of the W.A. portion of the Reserve, adjacent to the Rawlinson Ranges.

At the time of writing a Lands and Surveys party is carrying out a survey of the Reserve as part of a plan for the topographical mapping of the State which was commenced some years ago. They are accompanied by two patrol officers of this Department and a medical team headed by Dr. Elphinstone, each party having independent transport and facilities to carry out independent patrols.

### The Policy of Assimilation

Great emphasis has been placed in recent years on the need for the "assimilation of our native people." The word "assimilation" has probably been in use in context with the absorption or integration of one group of people into another for centuries; under other names and in other circumstances it has certainly been practiced from the time of the Neanderthal man or as soon thereafter as homo sapiens commenced to roam the earth, and invade the lands of their fellowmen. Its meaning when applied to our native people is therefore somewhat obscure. Did the early Briton "assimilate" the invading hosts of Gaul and the Roman Empire, or did the reverse obtain? Can it be said that the early settlers, by mixing their blood with that of the aborigines "assimilated" the natives or did the latter, by bearing their children and assisting with the alienation of their lands absorb the settlers?

These questions lead one to believe at this late stage we are adopting a policy and using a term which may be unreal and out of place. Surely the vast majority of natives are already assimilated, or integrated, or absorbed or whatever the term may be. The state of apartness of the few does not provide a general exception to the rule. If we were to be over-run by an enemy they, too, would be over-run; if a pestilence swept the country they would suffer and die with us; what we eat, they eat; they wear our clothes, speak our language, are subject to the same laws (and a few more made specially for them); in what way can it be said that they are basically different from ourselves? Social gradations, colour, caste, ways of living—these do not necessarily make natives a people apart from ourselves, a people who need to be "assimilated" and so become as we are. It follows therefore that the policy and the term assimilation postulates a state of mind, our mind, in regard to natives being a people apart—it appears therefore to be aligned with the policy referred to elsewhere as "apartheid." In its effect it may be even worse because the notion of apartness leads to a belief that we have the right to decide whether they as natives are entitled to share with us certain rights and privileges which we regard and jealously guard as being our birthright. It has led to the belief that we have the right to give them something they already legally have, viz., citizenship rights. It has caused legislation to be passed which specifically denies them those rights. The whole concept, therefore, is wrong; legislation which is based on false assumption should not be permitted to remain on the statutes, and it should not be necessary for us to wait until the victims of such legislation have to put it to the test of a Court of Appeal, that is if they had the right to appeal. As it happens, at the moment, they have not because of the power entrusted to the State in respect to aborigines by the Commonwealth Constitution of 1901.

The simple need appears to be merely one of mutual adjustment. The native must inevitably adjust himself to our way of life and we must adjust our thoughts, attitudes and actions so as that we may have a better understanding of the difficulties they encounter in the complicated business of civilised living.

The social development of any race lies in its children and it is through them that the Department hopes chiefly to guide and direct the cultural change taking place among the aborigines.

Aboriginal natives in Australia constitute a small minority group who are now completely dependent on the white race for their guidance, tutelage and development. It has been said of them that "they are a host moving along the highroad of history." We as the dominant race, have accepted the obligation to make that road as free from obstacles and hardship as we can. The responsibility to do so rests squarely on the shoulders of all sections of our community, not just one Government welfare instrumentality, a handful of missionaries and odd groups of individuals. Our first duty is the basic one of giving them equal legal status with ourselves, thus legally placing their feet on the first rung of the ladder to social and economic equality.

Until this fundamental step is taken education, training and even opportunity lose effect and point.

## Legislation

Towards the end of the 1957 Session of Parliament the Minister for Native Welfare brought down Bill which would have had the effect of giving the rights of citizenship to all natives excepting those declared wards.

The Bill reached Committee stage in the Legislative Assembly and after several sections had been considered progress was reported. The Session of Parliament closed a few days later and the Bill lapsed.

## Special Committee on Native Matters

Towards the end of the 1957 Session, Parliament approved of the formation of a Special Committee to investigate native matters with a view to finding what should be done to improve native matters in this State and to establish the amount of finance required to bring these improvements into effect.

The members of the Committee were—Mr. F. E. Gare (Chairman), Mrs. K. Wilson, Mr. E. C. Gare, Mr. Thornbury and Dr. Snow.

The Committee's report has been presented to the Minister for Native Welfare.

## Allawah Grove

In November, 1957, the transfer of 33 temporary housing flats from the State Housing Commission to this Department was approved.

The land on which the flats are situated had been a Native Reserve which had been taken over by the Commonwealth Defence Forces during the war and later transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation.

On taking over the property, it was found that the Commonwealth Government would not lease the land to this Department and a "gentleman's agreement" was made with the Department of Civil Aviation that this Department could occupy the area until such time as it was required. If and when the land was required the Department of Civil Aviation would assist this Department in obtaining another site.

Experience has shown that external and Government control of natives in relation to their housing and way of living has led to resentment and frustration amongst them. To overcome or reduce this feature an agreement was made with the Coolbaroo League to take over the management of this portion of Allawah Grove as a housing settlement and cultural centre. This will have the effect of the natives managing their own affairs.

The Department has made certain financial arrangements with the Coolbaroo League to enable a paid caretaker to be employed and to provide improvements and repairs.

The Coolbaroo League has obtained assistance from Commonwealth and State Instrumentalities and from private individuals and associations.

The Victoria League is arranging for the provision of pre-school training, the Department assisting the payment of the teachers salary with £400 per year.

Miss Sally Gare has formed a Girl Guide Company of nine girls. These girls have been busy making their own uniforms in the hut provided for them by the Coolbaroo League.

The Coolbaroo League set aside one hut as a Health Clinic. For some months the Public Health Department employed a Nursing Sister to work amongst the people from this clinic. This was necessary to counteract an outbreak of gastro-enteritis shortly after the people moved into the flats from camps scattered around the Metropolitan Area. The health work extended beyond the outbreak and education in hygiene was given. In addition, an ophthalmic survey was undertaken and treatment applied where necessary. The Clinic is now used fortnightly by a visiting Infant Health Sister.

Unfortunately the supply of water and electricity was cut off before the buildings were taken over. The water pipes were replaced and water supply restored within a few weeks. It is expected that lighting will be provided within three months.

The 29 families residing there have a delivery to house postal service and a public mail box. There is also a public telephone and some fire hoses and hydrants.

A butcher, a baker and a mobile store supply the wants of the residents. A small kiosk has been opened by a non-resident under a temporary arrangement. The kiosk is to be replaced by a store run by a native.

A Sunday School and Church Services have been arranged at the request of the residents.

Arrangements are being made for a library and also for a hall. The Department has provided two sewing machines to the Coolbaroo League for the training and use of the residents. Basket ball equipment has been provided. This is being installed by the natives themselves with the help and guidance of some European friends.

Serious unemployment conditions hampered progress of the Coolbaroo League's plan to have regular rental payments made by the residents. Some of these people had never been accustomed to paying rent and this is an important step in their education in the way of living within the community.

Broadly, there has been great improvement in their outlook, self-reliance and contentment. There is room for much more advancement, but it is appreciated that people take a long time to change their outlook and way of living. Given time, encouragement and opportunity it is possible for these people to become satisfactorily integrated into the community.

### **West Australian Youth Club**

On 10th June, 1958 the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare formally opened the West Australian Youth Club

For a number of years Mr. George Abdullah had been endeavouring to organise a Youth Club for Natives. The Chairman and Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. came to his assistance by offering him the use of a large recreation room each Tuesday night during the coming year.

Mr. Abdullah was quick into action. He formed a committee and started the Club. He discussed his problems with Officers of this Department and obtained their advice, but otherwise he and his committee have themselves attended to all negotiations and arrangements. The most important aspect is that this native group are doing this for themselves, fully encouraged by our Department.

Membership, including Australian-European children and adult associate members—some of whom are also Australian-European—totals 80. It is expected this figure will increase.

The Club has obtained donations of crockery and has been given promises of assistance in other directions by members of the public and business houses.

The encouragement given by the public, the untiring efforts of Mr. Abdullah and his associates, coupled with the interest taken by the members augurs well for the success of the Club.

### **Daisy Bates Memorial Prize**

The Daisy Bates Memorial Prize presented each year by the Native Welfare Council was awarded to Duxie Bateman and Dulcie Kickett.

### **Native Reserves**

There are 138 native reserves in the State totalling approximately 28½ million acres. Of these 60 are camping reserves around country towns for the use of natives and 15 are large areas reserved in past years as sanctuaries for nomadic natives.

It is the responsibility of the Department to provide hygiene and sanitation facilities on reserves where natives are constantly camped and in some cases living accommodation has also been provided. Financial stringency is limiting the extent of the work of the Department on native reserves in this regard. Expenditure by the Department on camping reserves for the year was £14,175.

# SECTION "A"

## District Reports

### CENTRAL DISTRICT

#### Introduction

Detailed information on various phases of native welfare and Departmental administration is contained in the sub-district reports appended. They do not, perhaps, adequately reflect the achievements of the Officers concerned, especially as statistical information is lacking in many subjects. Social welfare work is not, however, a subject which lends itself readily to satisfactory statistical record and in any case the Officers have been so fully occupied "on the job" that they have had little opportunity to record what they have done in a form suitable for statistical extraction.

#### District Headquarters

*Staff.*—There has been no change in personnel during the year. The addition of Miss B. Christie to Head Office staff in the capacity of assistant welfare officer late in the financial year has permitted a long standing need to be fulfilled in the Metropolitan Area. As she has been available for "borrowing" by this office, she has been employed in a special capacity to provide a much needed welfare contact with the increasing number of adolescent girls and young women now in employment or training in Perth.

All members of my staff have given a very satisfactory year's service.

*Patrols.*—(District Officer's Inspections)—For a variety of reasons only one formal patrol was undertaken this year. This was during October-November, 1957 when a thorough inspection of the Eastern Goldfields sub-district was made in a tour of 1,972 miles.

*Buildings.*—Conversion of the Head Office basement into suitable offices for the District and Central Sub-District staff was completed early in the year.

#### Bennett House

Despite its inadequate facilities and insufficient size, the hostel in East Perth for transient medical and general welfare cases has made a considerable contribution to native welfare activities in this District. Its function, naturally, is more of an ameliorative nature than anything else and in this field it has provided a very necessary and valued service. It is, however, hopelessly inadequate to deal with all the cases it should provide for and as all the indications point to an increasing need for its special services new suitable premises are an important and urgent necessity.

The report of the Office-in-Charge follows:—

##### *Admissions.*

During the year 1957-58 a total of 269 individuals including 43 babies, were taken in at Bennett House. Total of inmates per day varied from 2 to 17. Many of these had to come back for medical treatment twice or more, making the total of admissions 495. In addition 120 meals were served to single day transients. Very few were able to pay for their stay at Bennett House and the takings over 12 months were only £32 2s. 1d.

##### *Maintenance of Home.*

Starting early in January, 1957, renovations to the building were not completed till October last, and although the main part of the home has improved, a few more small items of maintenance need attending to.

##### *Visitors.*

During the year Bennett House was visited by the Hon. Mr. J. J. Brady, Minister for Native Welfare, accompanied by the Commissioner of Native Welfare, Mr. S. G. Middleton, and Mr. F. E. Gare, Chairman of the Special Committee on Native Welfare, escorted by Mr. B. McLarty, Central District Officer.

##### *General*

Since commencing duty as Officer in Charge of Bennett House in August, 1956, and during most of 1957, our time was taken up by caring for very young babies, on occasions five or seven at a time. Looking after these bottle-fed babies is more than one person's work; feeding occurring every 3-4 hours, preparing various diets, changing and washing their clothes for comfort and well-being. Thus we were greatly relieved by the appointment of a third member on the staff in July, 1957, which helped to make efficient work possible.

One chief concern at Bennett House is the mixing of sexes, there being one dormitory, bathroom and toilet. Expectant mothers and older women, young girls and boys of all ages up to 13 years have to be accommodated, the lounge and dining room often being used as a bed room. This dining room, being the only place for recreation, is often overcrowded leaving little or no scope for activities.

As in any well-run home there are rules and regulations, especially regarding outings and visitors.



We have had staying with us for a longer period some diabetic patients who needed special attention as regard diet, and ex-Claremont Mental Hospital patients on probation. One of these who stayed with us for three months proved herself very useful, and was reluctant to leave us.

Older people we find not difficult to care for ; sympathetic handling and understanding is all they need, but young schoolchildren need more attention and things to occupy their minds, especially boys.

Therefore we are looking forward to the time when we will have a bigger and better Bennett House, which we would like not only to run smoothly domestically, but to be a place of real refuge—a Home.

F. W. VAN ZALM,  
Officer-in-Charge, Bennett House.

### **Mobile Welfare Clinic**

As this unit has operated within the Central District during the whole of this year the report of the Officer-in-Charge has been included as part of the District report and now follows. I have appended additional comment at the end.

#### *General*

The whole of the past year has been spent in the Central District.

Native Reserves visited included those at Moora, Pinjarra, Merredin, Goomalling and Kellerberrin. The total mileage covered is 4,250.

The work of the mobile clinic has generally been on the same lines as of last year. Reserves have been cleaned up, homes improved or rebuilt, and a friendly interest taken in the health and general welfare of children and adults alike. In addition to keeping a watchful eye on the general health of the natives, Mrs. Halford is always on the alert for trachoma and now has the equipment to deal with it.

The standard type of sanitary block being erected by the Department on all principal reserves is much appreciated and the fullest use is being made of them. Nowhere have we found these facilities willfully misused.

There is also growing evidence everywhere that most coloured people are trying to improve their living standards.

Many mothers are working against terrific handicaps to make things better for their children. In the past year we have found that wherever we go the natives are usually expecting us and come to us readily for advice and help.

A departure from our usual routine was experienced during the months of February, March and April when the Mobile Clinic was stationed in an advisory capacity at Allawah Grove, South Guildford. Here the density of population, together with an ever changing stream of visitors, created problems never before encountered.

However, much good was done, a marked improvement being noted in health and hygiene. In this the medical clinic provided by the Department, with Mrs. Halford in charge, assisted by Sister Burns of the Medical Department played an important part.

#### *Public Relations*

The Mobile Clinic has always maintained the friendliest relations with Local Authorities and their staffs and has received considerable help in cleaning up reserves, thereby. In many cases trucks and loaders have been provided for this work. We have also enjoyed the friendly co-operation of Police Officers, and the public generally.

#### *The Unit*

The Dodge Utility, W.A.G. 4177 has given trouble free service throughout the year. The caravan, fitted with a tropical roof, louvres and a refrigerator is greatly improved. Both vehicles are in first class condition.

#### *Conclusion*

The more time we spend among our coloured people the more we realise how great is the need for welfare work among them. More and better homes are needed on the reserves, and simple basic furniture too, is urgently required. In far too many homes beds and bedding are inadequate and there is a pathetic lack of culinary and table ware.

Mrs. Halford and I both feel that material help in this regard will be necessary for some time to come. Education in our way of life is all important, but for this to be effective a foundation from which to start must be laid.

We feel that this foundation must be laid on the native reserves, as the step up from the humpy to a State Housing Commission home is far too great for the majority at present. It is unfortunate that even the hardest working types are seldom free of debt, and rarely have enough money for things we consider so necessary, although they readily throw away the little money they have on what we would term foolish extravagances.

We of the mobile clinic spend much time in trying to bring about the change which to us, is so desirable.

J. HALFORD,  
Officer-in-Charge

The clinic has proved an invaluable addition to the welfare facilities of this District. Its work has been handicapped by lack of suitable building materials and at Moora and Pinjarra the necessity to pick up scrap material from dumps, farms and local authorities is reflected in the household huts erected on the reserves. These still look like scrap humpies, but at least they are an improvement on their predecessors and a coating of white taylorite has given a far better appearance while the paint has lasted. During the year 18 dwellings were erected.

By the time the unit moved to Merredin supplies of good second hand iron had been obtained from the Public Works Department, Architectural Division, surplus stores and the work at Merredin and Kellerberrin is consequently of far better standard than at the other reserves.

The greatest contribution of the clinic, however, is the uplift it gives to the mental and moral attitudes of the natives. This is reflected in many ways, not the least of which is a noticeable drop in court appearances by natives at any centre at which the unit is operating. The work of the clinic has given an impetus to self improvement by the natives themselves and it has been a common result for natives to improve their new dwellings by purchasing furnishings such as stoves, tables and chairs, cutlery and beds and bedding.

The best illustration of this teaching by example is at Merredin. Whilst Mr. Halford was rebuilding four of the camps on the reserve, one native was dilatory about accepting his assistance as he could not make up his mind whether to move on to the reserve or not. Just as the unit was leaving, he asked them to build a house for him. This could not be done at this stage and the native determined to build one for himself "bigger and better" than those erected by the unit. He is employed by the Merredin Road Board and as such has access to second hand materials. He bought second hand iron and some cheap dressed timber which was slightly warped and he started to build. The Health Inspector condemned his first effort before he got very far and he pulled it down and started again. This time with the advice of the Health Inspector he built a very neat three roomed cottage with two stoves, wooden flooring in two of the rooms, and he is now in process of lining it. At the back of the house is a flourishing vegetable garden enclosed in wire netting.

In this case the impetus came from the building activity of the clinic on the native reserve and the best service the Halfords have rendered this native is in refusing to do the job for him at the last moment.

### **Desert Natives**

A joint patrol, comprising representatives of the Public Health, Lands and Surveys and Native Welfare Departments began an extensive survey of the Central Aboriginal Reserve during which it was hoped to achieve a complete census and medical examination of the natives and classification of topographical information.

Examination of the natives in a stretch of country between the Rawlinson Ranges and Lake MacKay, hitherto not touched on the West Australian side of the border, was to be included.

The patrol was still in progress at the close of the year and although, at the time of writing, the Departmental Officers have returned, their written report is not yet available.

B. A. McLarty,  
District Officer—Central District.

### **Central Sub-District**

I submit herewith my third annual report on the various aspects of administrative and welfare work within the Central Sub-District for the year ended 30th June, 1958.

#### **Staff**

Staff this year has been reasonably stable, there being only one change during the year. The position is as follows :—

*Assistant District Officer* : H. R. Tilbrook.

*Patrol Officers* :

K. T. Johnson, 1/7/1957 to 28/4/1958.

Mr. Johnson was sent to the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district on a special patrol which carried into late July, 1958. He is then to be transferred to the Northern District.

E. R. Roberts, 1/4/1958 to 30/6/1958—transferred from Northern District.

In addition Mr. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer on transfer from Kalgoorlie to Broome spent some four months in the Sub-District whilst I was on long service leave.



## Patrols

Routine patrols covering all aspects of native welfare and several patrols covering specific problems were undertaken.

No.	Area	Miles	Days
1	York-Northam	178	1
2	Eastern Wheatbelt	759	6
3	North Midlands	926	6
4	Eastern Wheatbelt	754	10
5	Pinjarra	250	3
6	York-Quairading and Goornalling	539	4
7	Eastern Wheatbelt	481	3
8	Eastern Wheatbelt	459	4
9	Northern Wheatbelt	875	11
10	New Norcia-Moora	280	1
Totals		5,507	49

## Missions and Institutions

The two major missions situated in the sub-district continued to render invaluable service to the native peoples they serve whilst the specialised Institutions fulfilled their various roles as before with great credit.

### *Methodist Mission, Mogumber.*

Superintendent : Rev. E. A. Clarke.

Staff : Mission workers—14 ;

State School teachers—2 ;

Native employees—10.

Inmates : Males 44 ; Females 44.

Of the total 88, 86 are subsidised by this Department and two from other sources.

Improvements to this Mission during the year under review are not as great as those made during 1956-57 but are nevertheless adding to the comfort and efficiency of the Institution. The long awaited power supply has been installed and all buildings re-wired to carry the greater power delivered.

A noteworthy advance in the development of the Mission's 12,000 acres of light land must rank high in the achievements of its Superintendent. Mr. Clarke was able to secure the advice of Mr. Eric Smart of Mingenew who is probably Australia's most successful farmer of light lands and has on this advice brought a considerable amount of land under cultivation. Success in this venture may eventually lead to complete self-support by the Mission and vindication of the Government's policy in this regard.

Mogumber Methodist Mission will always be held in high esteem, by this office and natives alike, for the kindly and firm treatment of its child inmates and the ready assistance of its Superintendent to those in trouble.

### *St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Orphanages, New Norcia.*

Location : Benedictine Community, New Norcia.

Religion : Roman Catholic.

Superintendent : Lord Abbott—Gregory Gomez.

Staff : Provided by the Benedictine Community. Father Basil Noseda has charge of the boys and Mother Felicitas the girls.

Inmates : Male 54 ; Female 88. Total 142.

Of the total of 142, 137 are subsidised by this Department and five from other sources.

This Mission serves the Catholic section of the native community and as such does a good job in the physical and educational welfare of its inmates.

### *Society for Crippled Children (Inc.) Lucy Creeth Hospital, 12 Avonmore Terrace, Mosman Park.*

Fifteen native children requiring the specialised facilities provided by this Society passed through the Lucy Creeth Hospital during the year and five of these unfortunates are still there.

The Institution is subsidised by this Department in the same manner as Missions.

### *Lady Lawley Cottage—Mosman Park.*

A convalescent home for sick children. A number of native children have been accommodated here and payment arranged as for Missions.

### *W.A. Deaf School (Inc.)—Mosman Park.*

Three native children are receiving tuition from this Institution.

### *St. Vincent's Foundling Home—Subiaco.*

A home for unwanted babies and orphans. Six native babies are accommodated at this home which is the only one of its kind in the Metropolitan Area.

## General

I cannot praise too warmly the work done by the Missions and Institutions mentioned above for without them half our work would be nullified. Native children who receive their early care and education from such institutions must be forever grateful for the opportunity of becoming useful, happy citizens, afforded them by these institutions.

## Reserves

There are a total of 12 reserves in the sub-district and a further one is projected at Quairading. Works of a capital nature were undertaken at :—

- (1) Kellerberrin where a complete set of standard facilities were erected in conjunction with the Kellerberrin Road Board, who provided the labour for the job. Total cost £900.
- (2) Merredin where a central stand pipe was erected. Cost £15.

The proposed reserve at Quairading has been the subject of some discussion and dissension among the members of the Quairading Road Board. On 16th December, 1957, in a letter to this office, they agreed to the site selected, but in March, 1958, they withdrew their approval for various reasons. A visit to the Board by the District Officer since this date may have led to a change of attitude, but so far no notification has been received.

Reserves at Moora, Pinjarra, Merredin and Kellerberrin have been the subject of a visit from the Mobile Welfare Clinic and the difference visible after their visits must astound any person familiar with the state of the reserves before their coming.

Natives on these reserves feel, for the first time, that some material physical aid has been given to them. The re-building of their humpies with second hand, but good, corrugated iron, making them into weather-proof huts with doors and stoves and shutters has improved their outlook more than any other single item.

Such a dwelling erected on the inviolate sanctuary of a reserve is, at this stage, as much as most natives want.

## Protectors

Following is a list of Protectors of Natives specifically appointed for this Sub-District :—

Departmental Officers	....	....	4
Mission Superintendents	....	....	2
Church and Laymen	....	....	10
Police Officers	....	....	4

To these people who have unselfishly given of their time to assist natives I extend my gratitude.

## Vehicles

The Volkswagen Micro-bus on issue to this office has proved its worth during the year. It is particularly useful as a personnel carrier, being used as it is, for the carriage of natives who are in the Metropolitan Area for medical treatment. Mileage for the period 1st July, 1957 to 30th June, 1958 was 14,387.

## Public Relations

Apart from actual public contact, this office has excellent relations with various Government and semi-Government bodies. The authorities have given every consideration to requests from this office and in return have received every co-operation from us. Temporary disagreements have arisen from time to time but these have had no effect on the overall harmony.

Particular reference must be made to the good work done by our female welfare officers who deal with the hospitals. Their work is of a high order and has been responsible for the very co-operative attitude existing in these institutions.

## Natives—Vital Statistics

<i>Full bloods</i>				<i>Others</i>			
Male	....	....	13	Male	....	....	293
Female	....	....	8	Female	....	....	287
Children	....	....	4	Children	....	....	730
Total	....	....	25	Total	....	....	1,310

Grand Total, 1,335.

## Health

The only health problems which cause any alarm in this Sub-District are those brought about by neglect. I refer to the occasional cases, sometimes resulting in death, of neglected babies. Improper feeding and lack of knowledge on the artificial feeding of babies have brought many native children to death's door. This is a problem which can only be solved by the education of the parents. Apart from this aspect the ever present cold and flu germs are the main and perennial worry of the native community.

A minor outbreak of gastro-enteric disease at Allawah Grove was quickly dealt with by the Health Authorities and a prophylactic course of sulpha tablets of a new type prevented a further outbreak.

Modern medicine is so quickly available to all parts of the Sub-District that no native need ever suffer from its lack. The cost of medical services as shown in the appendices to the main Head Office report, bears testimony to the extent that natives avail themselves of these services.

In passing I would like to mention a group of natives who by their self-indulgence are rapidly becoming an unnecessary charge on the resources of the Department. I refer of course to the alcoholics. Under our present system there is little or no hope for these people and only an intensive educational and training campaign can hope to save the younger of them.

## Education

School holds no terrors for native children these days and all those able to attend do so.

Most school teachers have an extremely sympathetic viewpoint concerning natives and as the executives of the Education Department are deeply conscious of the need for education of the native race, this section of the coloured community's need is most ably catered for.

Specifically the establishment of three and five year high schools in country districts has brought secondary education right within the grasp of those native children who otherwise might never have had the opportunity of this boon. Quairading particularly has a large number of students.

An unfortunate tendency of parents to withdraw their children from school as soon as they turn 14 years must be overcome, but I am afraid that only a legal extension of the school leaving age will suffice.

A recent survey showed that 33 children attend secondary schools in the Sub-District.

## Employment

The general recession which made its appearance in 1956 reached its peak in the early months of this year and natives were unfortunately the worst sufferers.

Many hundreds were jobless and the organisation of relief for these people provided some difficulties until agreement on responsibility was reached by the various Government Departments.

However, some easing of the recession is now evident and with the help from the hundreds of felling jobs thrown open by the W.A. Government Railways, more than half the formerly jobless are now employed. One effect of these hard times has been to highlight the nomadic nature of some of the natives and the reliability of others. This latter group can always expect to get work in the future but the former group must find themselves almost complete outcasts.

One field in which this office is nearly always able to help is in the employment of the better educated boys and girls who wish to enter professions and trades. This is a very competitive field and it is to the great credit of the coloured youths that they are able to hold their own against all comers. During the year under review some 10 boys were assisted into skilled trades and apprenticeships.

In another field, domestic help, there is a constant demand for suitable coloured girls and this section has grown to such an extent that it occupies much of the time of a new staff member, the Assistant Female Welfare Officer.

Generally therefore, the employment position has progressed to the stage where the native community is split into three groups—(1) Youths and girls going into professions and trades and into domestic service, (2) Known and reliable unskilled workers who are in demand as farm and general labourers, and (3) the shiftless nomads wandering the highways and byways, a drain on the resources of their confreres, constantly in and out of gaol and shying away from the ties of constant employment.

## Housing

Because of the employment situation those natives occupying State Housing Commission purchase homes found themselves deeply in arrears at the end of the year.

The above statement must be qualified by the fact that among the natives occupying S.H.C. purchase homes are some who failed for more than lack of finance. I refer to those to whom the change from camp to modern home was too great a step and failed to make the necessary adjustment. In some respects the housing scheme was too ambitious and one cannot blame too harshly those natives who failed.

A re-assessment of the value of the scheme is now under way and it is anticipated that whilst many natives will lose their present houses the alternative to be presented to them will be more acceptable (if it is adopted).

The figures below will give a concrete idea of the value of the scheme :—

Number applied	....	....	....	....	51
Number granted	....	....	....	....	36
Number still occupying	....	....	....	....	23
Number evicted	....	....	....	....	13
Number in arrears	....	....	....	....	8

From these figures it will be seen that there are less than 45 per cent. successful tenants, but when it is viewed in its proper perspective this is a very heartening figure. The fact that 15 native families were able to completely adjust themselves to the tremendous step from camp to modern home is a matter for congratulation.

## Rationing

In the year just completed the task of rationing those unfortunates who have suffered from the economic recession has added greatly to the administrative work of this office.

Because of the reasonable availability of housing at Allawah Grove a number of native families from country centres flocked to the Metropolitan Area and added to the general group of those unemployed and receiving rations. At one stage this group numbered 43 families.

Normal rationing of those aged and indigent persons who for various reasons are not eligible for social services benefits is carried out from this office. These permanent rationees number five families or individuals. I would mention that in two of the above cases this office is proceeding with re-newed applications for pensions.

Three country centres are issued with ration books and when the occasion warrants assist natives in their periods of seasonal un-employment.

## Conclusion

Whilst much of our work must be ameliorative, real progress is being made and with the assistance of the natives themselves I feel sure that we can look forward to further progress in the ensuing year.

For all those who have assisted me in my work I record here my deep appreciation.

H. R. TILBROOK,  
Assistant District Officer—  
Central Sub-District.

## Eastern Goldfields Sub-District

I submit herewith my annual report for the year 1957-58.

### Area

The Eastern Goldfields Sub-District comprises the Esperance, Dundas, Yilgarn, Westonia, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Menzies, Leonora and Laverton Road Board Districts and in addition a portion of the Wiluna Road Board District. Also included are the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Municipal areas.

The total area comprises approximately 280,000 square miles.

There are six major towns—Southern Cross, Coolgardie, Esperance, Norseman, Laverton and Leonora in addition to the cities of Kalgoorlie and Boulder. But apart from the abovementioned there are innumerable small towns, settlements and camps which make contact with all natives an administrative problem.

### Staff

During the year under review the staff position has been as follows :—

Mr. J. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer, was Officer in Charge until 10th July, 1957.

Mr. C. A. Taylor, Assistant District Officer, Officer in Charge from 11th July, 1957.

Mr. H. G. Moorhouse, Patrol Officer, has been stationed in the Sub-District for the whole period.

Mr. D. W. Hardwick, Patrol Officer, was stationed in the Sub-District from 23rd July, 1957, to 27th May, 1958.

Mr. K. T. Johnson, Patrol Officer, attached for special duties from 29th April, 1958, but not on Sub-District strength.

Miss L. M. Atkinson, Office Assistant, has been stationed in the Sub-District for the whole period under review.

Miss J. Lynch, Office Assistant in Training, attached at Kalgoorlie Office from 3rd February, 1958.

During the year this Department has maintained intermittent manning of a Patrol Post at Laverton. Mr. Patrol Officer Moorhouse has done several tours of duty there.

Misses Atkinson and Lynch are part natives.

### Accommodation

This Department is accommodated in Government Offices in Brookman Street, Kalgoorlie. The property belongs to the Police Department.

Two small offices and a garage-storeroom comprise the accommodation. There are no staff quarters at Kalgoorlie.

The office accommodation is not adequate to needs but the position is ideal.

This Department holds a weekly tenancy of a Railway Cottage at Laverton for premises for use as a Patrol Post. There is both office and staff accommodation there and a small amount of basic furniture—for a single man—is provided. The situation is ideal and the premises adequate.

### Vehicles

Two Land Rovers are in use in the Sub-District.

Long wheel-base Land Rover, W.A.G. 4558, was new in 1957 and short wheel-base Land Rover, W.A.G. 3718, is a 1955 model. Both perform well and are adequate for the Sub-District's needs at the present time.

Trailer W.A.G. 981 is also stationed in the Sub-District.

### Protectors of Natives

At the 30th June, 1958, the following shows the Protectors of Natives appointed under the Native Welfare Act, 1954, for the Eastern Goldfields Sub-District :—

Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	4
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	1
Commonwealth Officers	....	....	....	....	1
Lay persons	....	....	....	....	2
Missionaries	....	....	....	....	10

All the above have answered calls for assistance most willingly and I extend my thanks.



## Missions

There are seven established Missions in this Sub-District and one newly formed itinerant Mission. They are :—

Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cundeelee, via Zanthus	Inter-denominational
Church of Christ Native Mission, Norseman	Church of Christ
Kurrawang Native Mission, via Kalgoorlie	Gospel Brethren
United Aborigines Mission, Cosmo Newbery, via Laverton	Inter-denominational
United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret, via Malcolm	Inter-denominational
United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges, via Laverton	Inter-denominational
Wongutha Mission Training Farm, via Gibson's Soak	Inter-denominational
Western Desert Mission, Leonora, Itinerant	Inter-denominational

All the above Missions with the exception of the itinerant Mission receive Government subsidies at the rate of 25s. per week in respect of adults and 40s. 9d. per week in respect of children. Eleven boys are subsidised at the rate of 45s. 9d. per week. They are over sixteen years of age.

The position at 30th June, 1958, was :—

	Adults		Children	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
A.A.E.M., Cundeelee	7	10	18	4
C. of C., Norseman	....	....	36	34
Kurrawang	14	10	16	22
U.A.M., Cosmo Newbery	4	4	....	2
U.A.M., Mount Margaret	1	6	42	46
U.A.M., Warburton Ranges	12	9	46	46
Wongutha	....	....	12	....
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>154</b>

Wongutha Mission Training Farm, as its name implies, is an Agricultural Training Farm ; United Aborigines Mission, Cosmo Newbery, is being developed as a Pastoral Training Station. The other Missions operate primarily as Children's Institutions and as such they fulfil an important role.

Only limited Grant in Aid assistance could be given to the seven Missions in this Sub-District during the year under review. Three Grants approved in the 1956-57 financial year were finalised and one Grant of £200 was made to the Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, but that amount was not expended. In addition a small grant was made to the Wongutha Mission Training Farm.

All the Missions were inspected during the year by officers of this Sub-District.

## Rationing

The Ration Depot at Mulga Queen continues to function smoothly. During the year the administrative system in connection with the Depot was smoothed. Mr. Shepherd with the able assistance of his wife continues in charge.

At 30th June, 1958, twenty-six adults and five children received rations at Mulga Queen.

Rationing this year has been unusually heavy due to the drastic conditions which necessitated heavy rationing of forty adults and five children at Laverton-Mount Margaret in December and January. The rations extended over four to six weeks until the local situation eased.

Other than the above urgent rationing only routine rationing was maintained. Permanent rations are issued at Leonora and Coolgardie and one family is being rationed indefinitely at Kalgoorlie. Deserted wives and de facto wives have been maintained for short periods during the year. In addition other temporarily destitute natives and wives and families of sentenced prisoners have been maintained for varying periods during the year.

At 30th June, 1958, the position is :—

	Males	Females	Children
Dependants of sentenced prisoners	....	2	2
Unmarried mothers awaiting maintenance	....	1	1
Temporarily destitute	1	1	1
<b>Permanent rationees—</b>			
Kalgoorlie	1	1	....
Leonora	5	4	2
Coolgardie	1	1	....
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>



## Patrols

Fourteen patrols have been mounted during the year under review by officers of this Sub-District. Details of these patrols are :—

Patrol No.	Scope	Miles	Days
1	Southern Cross-Burracoppin area	209	1
2	Laverton-Mulga Queen-Leonora area	876	6½
3	Norseman-Esperance area	1,270	9½
4	Station country north and north-east of Leonora	937	9
5	Leonora	444	1
6	Leonora-Laverton-Mulga Queen area	776	4½
7	Norseman-Esperance area	614	2½
8	Cundeelee Mission	397	2
9	Laverton-Warburton Ranges-Central Aboriginal Reserve area	2,101	21½
10	Station country north of Kalgoorlie	925	7½
11	Survey Esperance-Norseman area	2,604	36½
12	Norseman-Esperance area	553	2½
13	Cundeelee Mission	353	1½
14	Laverton-Mulga Queen-Leonora area	899	6

The above represents 138½ days of patrolling by officers of this Sub-District for 13,572 miles covered. In addition to the above, short trips have been made to Coolgardie and Broad Arrow and to stations which are close to Kalgoorlie.

The Sub-District was inspected by the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare in company with the Commission of Native Welfare in December, 1957 and that inspection embraced Kurrawang and Cundeelee Missions and the southern section of the Sub-District.

The District Officer, Mr. McLarty, also inspected the Sub-District in November, 1957 and his inspection covered all the important areas in the Sub-District but did not extend to Cosmo Newbery and Warburton Ranges Missions.

At the conclusion of the year there is a patrol still on the Central Aborigines Reserve but this patrol has been mounted in connection with Head Office requirements and is divorced from Sub-District administration.

## Reserves

The position at the close of the year under review is :—

Reserve	Facilities	Comment
Kalgoorlie	Standard facilities	Not yet completed
Coolgardie		Reserve cancelled during the year.
Southern Cross	Two pantype latrines and stand pipe	In bad repair.
Jaurdi (Murrawang)	Standard facilities	
Norseman	Stand pipe only	Not used.
Esperance	No facilities	Not used.
Leonora	Standard facilities	
Laverton	Standard facilities and water supply	Not yet completed.
Point Salvation		Not used.
Central Reserve		

Negotiations are currently being made for the reservation of 500 acres at the Mount Maiden Common (Mulga Queen).

All the Missions are situated on reserves.

During the year under review the Coolgardie Road Board commenced the building of facilities for native pensioners on land which was not a native reserve. The Road Board and the Department of Native Welfare shared the cost of those facilities. I would here like to tender my appreciation for the assistance rendered to this office by the Coolgardie Road Board and in particular the assistance received from the secretary of the Board.

The Dundas Road Board is also contemplating the erection of facilities on a similar basis to the above for natives at Salmon Gums. No firm understanding has yet been reached.

## Natives—Population

The population figures available for this Sub-District are not considered accurate but they gave an indication of the overall picture. The Census has received considerable effort during the year and it has been brought up to date a good deal but still requires continued effort to satisfactorily complete the record.

	Males	Females	Children	Grand Total
Full bloods	500	450	400	1,350
Other bloods	200	150	250	600
Totals	700	600	650	1,950

In addition to the above stated population in approximate figures it is estimated that there are 300 native people living beyond the confines of civilization. This figure excludes those natives based on Warburton Ranges Mission.

The native population of the Eastern Goldfields Sub-District is a varied one and ranges through all the varying degrees of assimilation from fully tribalised full-bloods to completely assimilated caste people living the lives of everyday citizens in the towns and cities.

## Crime

Offences committed by natives in the Sub-District during the year under review continued to be mainly associated with drink.

The position may be set out as hereunder :—

Court	Offences by natives	Offences by other than natives against the Act and Regulations
Kalgoorlie	93	22
Boulder-Fimiston	4	1
Coolgardie	32	1
Esperance	16	9
Leonora	9	2
Menzies	.....	.....
Southern Cross	20	.....
Bullfinch	.....	.....
Laverton	8	.....
Norseman	7	.....
Totals	189	35

All the offences against the Native Welfare Act, 1905-54, by persons not natives were for supplying liquor to natives (section 49, Native Welfare Act, 1905-54).

No prosecutions under the Native Welfare Act or Regulations were instituted by this office during the year under review.

Two natives were assisted by this office at Courts of Session during the year. Both natives had counsel briefed. One full-blood native was found not guilty after indictment for murder. The second full-blood native was indicted for causing grievous bodily harm with intent and was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm.

Two caste natives in law appeared before Courts of Session but they each briefed their own counsel.

## Public Relations

This office has maintained a time consuming liaison with other interested bodies and individuals. Only one lecture was given during the year at Kalgoorlie.

This office has received active co-operation in the Sub-District from other State and Commonwealth Government Departments. The Resident Magistrates and Clerks of Court, Mining Registrars and Child Welfare Departments have assisted in no small way. In particular the Police Department have assisted readily at all times and their assistance has been material. One cannot mention all who have assisted and their omission from this report does not in any way detract from the appreciation I offer for their help.

This office has continued its co-operation to other Departments and mention has been made of changing opinion which thinking people hold of the Department of Native Welfare.

## Tribal Gatherings

There were three such gatherings during the year and all were in Laverton-Mulga Queen area. There was no injurious practice as far as can be ascertained.

## Welfare

### Health

Hospitals exist in this Sub-District at Esperance, Norseman, Coolgardie, Southern Cross, Bullfinch, Kalgoorlie (two hospitals), Menzies, Mount Ida, Leonora, Laverton, Mount Margaret Mission, Warburton Ranges Mission and Kurrawang Native Mission (in course of construction under Grant In Aid). There are doctors resident at Esperance, Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Southern Cross and Leonora.

Natives in the Sub-District have a good medical service provided and there has been no instance of sick natives being left without medical attention. The various ambulance services and the Royal Flying Doctor Service also assist when necessary.

There have been no outbreaks of disease in the Sub-District on a large scale. Several isolated instances of the more common maladies are normal and require no elaboration here.

The Tuberculosis Control Branch of the Public Health Department has surveyed the area during the year and their report is that there is a low incidence of slight Tuberculosis in the area ; of all the natives treated in the Leonora-Laverton area (and no natives were omitted from the survey) only three slight cases were recorded.

Two Sisters from the Trachoma Survey team of the Public Health Department toured portions of the Sub-District during the year and it is known that the results are indicative of low incidence only of trachoma.

Despite the bad living conditions of the greater number of the natives, both full and other blood, in the Sub-District, there is an amazingly high standard of health. The doctors, who can be my only medical advisers, inform me that there is no cause for concern at the present time.

As an experiment a Children's Clinic, for preschool age children only, has been inaugurated at Laverton. The results are awaited as the clinic is only very new at the date of writing.

*Education*

I am still awaiting return of education statistics from State, Convent and Mission Schools in this Sub-District. These will not now be available for inclusion in this report but will be submitted when to hand.

All native children in this Sub-District with the exception of some children on the Central Aborigines Reserve attend schools either in towns or on Mission Stations. There is an increasing desire by native parents to insist on their children receiving at least a basic education. There is not the desire evident at this stage in this Sub-District for native parents to demand higher education for their children, but undoubtedly that will come with greater opportunity.

The Sub-District has a good network of schools both primary and secondary and there should be no necessity for native children to have to leave the area to progress in their education. Technical education is also available.

The position regarding education has not changed materially since last year and all children attend school who are within the scope of the Government Administration.

*Employment*

There is still little scope for employment of natives in this area. The pastoral areas attract by far the greater numbers but there is little employment there other than seasonal employment for a few natives.

The sandalwood industry has come almost to a standstill due to market difficulties in the Orient and the few natives who were employed there have necessarily had to seek their livelihood elsewhere. There seems no immediate solution to the market difficulties.

In the southern section of the Sub-District there is more a balance of labour and the employment position there is a more stable one than in the areas to the north. There is a potential in this area which needs development and that can only be carried out with more welfare staff available.

Only a very few natives are employed in mining and Local Government works.

Wages in this area remain low but in many cases they are quite equitable for the work done by those employed. There is need, however, for an award to cover the good workers in the coloured population and to protect them from the injustices which they sometimes suffer under the present system. Conditions in many cases leave a great deal to be desired and it is my intention to take steps to better that position at the first opportunity.

There have been several "cottage industries" inaugurated and they have come to a sudden halt due to statutory and other difficulties. The boomerang project was quite popular with many of the natives but marketing arrangements were instrumental in its cessation. The sandalwood ventures were halted by marketing difficulties as outlined above.

*Housing*

The general standard of housing in this area is very poor. Full blood natives invariably live in gunyah type dwellings with no sanitary or ablutional facilities. Caste people are, in most cases, accommodated in houses of varying degree of suitability in the towns and on the stations. There are a great number of houses available at low rentals in the towns and derelict mining camps throughout the Sub-District. Many caste natives own their own houses and land.

*Social Services*

Where possible natives have been assisted to apply for and receive the various social service benefits.

During the year natives have been assisted to apply for Age, Invalid and Widow's Pensions, Child Endowment and Maternity Bonus, Unemployment and Sickness Benefit and on several occasions for Workers' Compensation.

Natives have frequently stated their thanks for assistance in obtaining the above benefits of which many of them have not been aware of their entitlement. There is an increasing awareness of entitlements and more natives now seek assistance than previously.

*Contact*

Every effort has been made and is continuing to be made to contact all natives in the Sub-District. With the large distances which exist in the area and limited staff this causes considerable effort and is a time consuming task; however with frequent staff changes it is found to be necessary.

One difficulty is that the area is large and many natives confine themselves to wandering in one part of it only. It is necessary to cover the whole district to be sure of contacting all natives.

During the year under review most areas of the Sub-District were visited at least once by officers of this Department. There were some areas, however, which had necessarily to be omitted from itineraries.

*Citizenship and Exemption*

Several natives were granted Citizenship Rights during the year; one native at his request was granted a Certificate under section 2 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-54. No quadroons were granted Certificates.

As necessary, natives were assisted to obtain Certificates of Exemption under Section 72 of the Native Welfare Act.

The position is as under :—

Citizenship Rights granted	....	....	....	....	....	9
Citizenship Rights cancelled	....	....	....	....	....	1
Quadroon Certificates	....	....	....	....	....	....
Section 2 Certificates	....	....	....	....	....	1
Exemptions granted	....	....	....	....	....	8
Exemptions cancelled	....	....	....	....	....	8

### *Native Medicancy*

There has been no change in this condition during the year under review.

Natives still beg in the back lanes of all the larger towns on the Goldfields. There has been no Police action taken during the year to counter this long standing practice of Goldfields natives. Active discouragement by this office has failed to produce any lasting effect.

### **General**

In many ways I can report a year of progress. The progress is slow and often its existence is doubted but careful examination of the overall native problem in the Goldfields will reveal a pleasing progress none-the-less.

There is a terrible frustration evident when one realises that with the present staff position all one can do is mark time and try and achieve a little instead of doing all the things and instituting all the measures which require implementation. The unsatisfactory staff position is only really an evidence of the overall requirement for progress—more money.

My thanks are extended to those officers who assisted in no small way to achieve the volume of work and the little progress which was made during the preceding year.

C. A. TAYLOR,

Assistant District Officer, Eastern Goldfields.

## **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

### **Introduction**

This is my ninth annual report as District Officer in charge of the Southern District.

### **Administration**

*Staff.*—There has been no alteration to the District staff during the year under report. The staff comprises the District Officer, Patrol Officer, Assistant to District Officer and Office Assistant, who is the shorthand typist.

From the 3rd January to the 5th March, 1958, inclusive, the District Officer was stationed in Perth as Acting Deputy Commissioner.

### **Patrols**

The Southern District boundaries have remained unaltered and comprise the Great Southern and South West Districts of the State. The same three patrol areas as in other years have been retained for patrolling purposes: these are designated the Northern, Southern and South West patrol areas according as they are North, South and South-West of the District Headquarters at Narrogin.

During the year under review patrolling was curtailed to the minimum compatible with maintaining contact with the native people of my District—this in an effort to economise on incurring of travelling expenses. I am not altogether happy at the loss of contact resulting from the necessity to economise on what is an essential part of a field officer's duties and it is extremely doubtful whether the savings of, at the most, approximately £200 is justified in view of the loss of contact with the native people resulting from such saving.

The nine weeks spent by me relieving in Perth disorganised the patrol programme for the District, for not only was my own programme not able to be adhered to but the Patrol Officer, perforce, had to spend more time in District Headquarters in my absence, thus not being able to get "on the road" as often as he should have. This resulted in the District allotment for patrolling and vehicle expenditure not being completely used.

During the year 28 patrols were carried out, 15 by the District Officer and 13 by the Patrol Officer. Of this number, five were major patrols to the three pastoral areas—two by the District Officer and three by the Patrol Officer.

A total of 77½ days was spent on patrol—40½ by the District Officer and 37 by the Patrol Officer. Of the total mileage of 9,600 miles travelled on patrol during the year, 4,831 miles were travelled by the District Officer and 4,769 miles by the Patrol Officer. Last year a total mileage of 11,707 miles was travelled by both the field officers. As already explained my absence from the District for nine weeks was mainly responsible for the reduced mileage on patrols in the year under report.

The present patrol policy for this District is for the District Officer and Patrol Officer each to make at least one major patrol in each patrol area. The Patrol Officer was able to keep to this programme but I was only able to visit two of the three major patrol areas on a major patrol—due to pressure of business at Headquarters and my absence in Perth. The third patrol is, however, to be done shortly.

Regular patrolling is imperative not only for the purpose of maintaining our contacts with the native people of the District but also for the equally important purpose of keeping contact with the welfare groups functioning at various centres in my jurisdiction, and also in order to attend to the host of other matters which constitute native welfare work, including inspections of reserves and facilities, calls on the Police and Local Authorities and close liaison with the Headmasters and teachers of schools which have native pupils on their rolls.



## Protectors of Natives

There are 30 Protectors in the Southern District, in the following categories :—

Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	....	3
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	....	4
Church Ministers	....	....	....	....	....	3
Laymen	....	....	....	....	....	5
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	....	15

I am most pleased at the functioning of the Protectorship system in my District. It is only the excellent liaison between District Officer and the Protectors that enable us to maintain contact with the native population as well as we do despite curtailed patrolling.

I would like to express here my appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Department and the native people of my District by the Protectors of natives who so generously give of their time and accomplishments in what is generally considered by many to be unrewarding labour.

## Reserves

There are 22 Native Reserves in the District, of these four are Missions and the remaining 18 are camping grounds for natives. During the year under review only one new native reserve was gazetted, that at Collie; no existing reserve was cancelled. Only two reserves, those at Wandering and Broomehill, are not used by natives for camping.

For the year under report complete facilities (lavatories, laundry and showers) were requested in this District's annual estimates for Beverley, Collie, Mount Barker, Pingelly and Williams Native Reserves and part facilities (one new septic toilet block) for the Narrogin Native Reserve. Provision of a reticulated water supply was also requested for the Beverley, Mount Barker and Williams Reserves.

Due to lack of funds, no money was allocated to this Department for new projects. However, during the year, due to special representations being made, the Williams Reserve was connected to the main Great Southern Pipe Line which runs past the Reserve; money was made available for the construction of complete facilities on the Collie Reserve, the Collie Apex Club very generously agreeing to construct the facilities with materials supplied by the Government; also, at the end of the financial year special financial approval was secured for the water supply and facilities for the Mount Barker native reserve. Whilst the facilities have been commenced at Collie, a start has not been made at Mount Barker beyond the letting of the contract.

Apart from the water supply to the Williams native reserve the only other job completed during the year was the conversion from pan to septic system of the Wagin native reserve's facilities.

For the forthcoming year the requests for facilities on the native reserves at Beverley, Pingelly and Williams have been repeated. Although there has been very little progress during the year under report towards improving conditions on native reserves in my District, once the Collie and Mount Barker facilities are completed, and provided financial approval is forthcoming for the Beverley, Pingelly and Williams native reserves, all the major centres of native population in the Southern District will have the basic facilities needed and necessary for the convenience and comfort of the native families, who by force of circumstances, have to make their homes on these reserves.

The overall position now is that 11 native reserves in the District are connected to the reticulated water schemes of their respective towns; two other native reserves manage on carted water for which this Department pays. Only five reserves have complete facilities which include, besides a reticulated water supply, lavatories, laundry, ablution blocks; eight reserves have lavatories but no ablution-laundry block; for three of these complete facilities have been requested.

Special mention must be made of the Tambellup Road Board's gesture in agreeing to build the ablution-laundry block on their local native reserve with materials provided by the Government. This is the first Local Authority in this District to undertake such a project.

## Missions

The four Missions operating in the Southern District are the Roelands Native Mission Farm (Inc.), the United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup (both Interdenominational), the Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission near Katanning (Baptist) and the St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering Brook (Catholic).

During the year under report the requests for Grants-In-Aid by the various Missions could not be met as the Government was unable to make any finance available; consequently none of the Missions except Wandering was able to make any progress in the direction of badly needed new buildings. Wandering Mission, using second-hand materials and meeting half the costs of the buildings required—the other half being provided by a special grant—was able to provide the extra buildings mentioned by the Superintendent in his report.

Below are the reports of the four Mission Superintendents :—

*The Native Mission Farm Roelands (Inc.) W.A.*

An increase in the number of children being maintained has proved a stimulus to the Mission personnel, all recognising the fact that more children sharing in the opportunities presented here, means more young people able to accept better positions of employment and take their place in the community later. Thirty-two children were admitted to the Mission home during the year while 14 were discharged, making a total of 85 being maintained.

Of the 14 discharges, satisfactory employment was found for ten; 2 were transferred to the Mogumber Mission for occupation in farm work and to assist in the carpentry trade, while 2 returned to their parents.

Enquiries for domestic and farm labour have improved since our last report.



*Health.*—The general health of the community has been well maintained. Medical attention was necessary for some of the new admissions and one boy needed continual medical attention and hospital treatment because of a heart condition following rheumatic fever.

During a recent visit of the officers of the Health Department, they reported that the results of their inspection of the community was very pleasing. There is a marked decrease in the incidence of trachoma.

Attention has been given to immunisation and dental care.

Oversight of the general health of the community was again in the capable hands of Matron Murray, who has returned after a period of long service leave.

*Education.*—Forty-seven scholars are attending the Primary School which is situated on the Mission property. The Headmaster reports steady progress in all grades and he also anticipates 5 scholars being ready for High School in 1959.

Fourteen scholars attend Bunbury High School ; 9 in the 1st year ; 3 in the 2nd year ; 1 in the 3rd year and 1 in the 5th year.

At the end of the year the 3rd year student is planning to sit for the Junior while the 5th year student will sit for the Leaving.

Dulcie Kickett, the 5th year student, was also awarded the Daisy Bates Memorial Prize for 1957.

During the Governor's recent visit to the South-West, the Primary School and High School scholars together with other schools paraded through the streets of Bunbury and assembled in the Recreation Ground. One interested by-stander later sent a coloured photo together with a donation, and in his letter commented:— " I took the enclosed photo of your young people marching in Bunbury Youth Day Celebration. We are very impressed with the appearance and bearing of the children."

*Sport and Recreation.*—Quite an amount of interest has been shown by the press and members of the community in the bearing and ability of the Mission girls' hockey team. In the " B " Grade of the Bunbury Women's Association, they went through the 1957 season undefeated. They have moved up into the " A " Grade section for the 1958 season and at the end of the 1st round they were fourth on the list. Ten teams are competing in this grade.



Block by courtesy of South Western Times

The hockey team from the Roelands Native Mission Farm is pictured before the members took the field to become the undefeated "B" Grade Premiers of the Bunbury Women's Hockey Association in 1957

Towards the end of the 1957 season the Mission boys' football team did not do so well in the " C " Grade Harvey Association because quite a number of the older boys left for places of employment. However, the weekly competitive sport has proved an enjoyable and profitable time of recreation. The boys are very keen in this type of sport.

It was very gratifying to note the way in which the girls' hockey team and the boys' football team were admitted into the Sporting Associations and the co-operation and help rendered by the Club Officials.

A Christmas party was supplied by members of the Bunbury Rotary Club, while various Christian youth groups came during the year and provided fellowship evenings and entertainment.

A visit from the local representatives of the Police Boys' Club assisted in the training of the Mission Athletic Group.

Activity in the Boy Scout group continues to provide a good training. The assistance of the local association is very helpful and a pleasant evening was spent by the Mission Troop when they were guests of the Collie Troop at an enjoyable Christmas party. Each Mission Scout received a very acceptable Christmas present from their hosts.

Film evenings are arranged once a fortnight.

Sport is keenly contested in the school activity. At the annual inter-school sports, the Mission school again won the shield for "B" schools and further individual trophies were received.

As Christmas approached eager questions were asked concerning the annual seaside holiday at Dunsborough Beach. When the time arrived happy young folk enjoyed a romp in the sand, boating, fishing and swimming at the convenient seaside home.

*Staff.*—A change in the education staff at the end of 1957 provided Mr. W. Lowe as Headmaster and Miss H. Waldeck as assistant.

A married couple from Ballarat, Victoria, have joined the Mission staff and one young man has resigned.

*Farm and Improvements.*—New pastures seeded during the past years have become well established and should prove of great assistance in the development of the property. A further three miles of fencing needs to be repaired or renewed before the full benefit of this additional pasture can be effectively utilised.

Farm products continue to supply valuable food for the Mission home and staff.

The increased number of young children and babies in the Mission home has made it necessary to provide a Kindergarten section. Additions and renovations to an existing building have been made so that this need can be met. Additions have also been added to the Junior Boys' home and to the Superintendent's quarters.

Two new washing machines and a chain saw have been purchased during the year.

*Ex-Trainees.*—The year saw the two girls who were in their last year at nursing, pass their final examinations and procure their diplomas; Miss Carol Hume at the Bethesda Hospital, Melbourne and Miss Margery Conway at the Mount Hospital, Perth.

A further two girls applied for a Nursing Aide Course, were accepted and have commenced their training.

Of the 14 discharges, eight were ex-high school scholars and of this number four have entered trades or professions, the percentage being in keeping with the results of the previous year.

One girl has joined the staff of the Marribank Mission.

*Convention.*—Once again an enjoyable time was spent over the Easter weekend. Re-union fellowship was enjoyed with ex-trainees and the Mission personnel. Two married couples and their families were present. One couple travelled all the way from Carnarvon to spend this time at the Mission and to enjoy a holiday in the south. Both couples have established Christian homes and it is very pleasing to note the way in which they have gained respect in the community and the love, affection and practical interest they show in the welfare of their family. If such result were achieved on a larger scale, the native problem would cease to exist.

*General.*—During the year we endeavoured to assist in the welfare work being accomplished in the surrounding districts.

Regular Gospel meetings were conducted and during the Christmas season we were able to organise for the folk and their children living at Collie, a day at the Bunbury beach.

We do appreciate the assistance rendered by the Commissioner of Native Welfare, the District Officer, and other members. The help given, advice tendered and cordial relationship existing between the Department and Mission personnel genders well for the further advancement of the common task ahead.

K. G. CROSS,  
Superintendent.

#### *United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.*

There is little to report of anything but the routine work of the station.

The staff shortage has made any advances out of the question. Five of our number have retired from the work and two others are on furlough, though expected back in the near future.

*Children's Home.*—The numbers here vary very little. One of our older girls has been transferred to the Roelands Mission that she might attend Bunbury High School. A family of four were admitted earlier in the year. We have been able to set aside a cottage and a "House-mother" for nine small school boys, some of whom have come up from the nursery, having started at the town school at the beginning of this year. This arrangement works very well.

*Nursery.*—This Department continues to minister to some 15 little ones under the care of a qualified Sister and a native girl who does an excellent job. We have had to turn away several babies and will not be able to admit any more until the staff position improves. We have been able to install a Warmray heater in the play section of this building.

*Kindergarten.*—Having sent a number of kinders to town school this year our numbers are down to 11. The training in our Kindergarten is a real preparation for the big school and it is noticeable that those who have been here for a year or two are able to adapt themselves more readily to school life. It is gratifying too to see the progress of the girl who is helping in this department.



*Kitchen and Dining Room Department.*—This is a real training ground for our girls who learn general domestic work and even the little ones are quite proficient with their particular jobs. We are planning for (when funds are available) a Domestic Training Cottage for our older girls.

*School.*—Thirty children are transported into the town school and the progress on the part of most according to reports sent home is satisfactory. Some are naturally smarter than others. One of the girls is doing first year "high" and others are moving up year by year. Needle work, arts and crafts and of course sports the children shine at.

*Hospital.*—We had expected to be in our new hospital before this but again lack of staff has held up the building programme. The women continue to come here for their confinements.

*Health.*—There has been little sickness during the year, a few minor cases but on the whole our children enjoy very good health.

*Recreation.*—Besides the usual indoor and outdoor games, there are outings to the local football ground Saturdays and to socials and entertainments at the Baptist Church Hall. Missionary films and slides are a help to enlarge the outlook and increase their knowledge of the work of the church.

The usual holiday at Bremer over the Christmas holidays was enjoyed. Some of the school girls attended the Missions Annual Meetings in Perth where they gave items which were appreciated by those who heard them. The big boys have started basket work and two of the older girls are doing well with a Mothercraft course by correspondence.

*Buildings.*—No additional buildings have gone up this year. Some painting and repairs have been carried out. Lack of proper accommodation hinders our work quite a lot but we hope that as time goes on this can be overcome.

*Transport.*—We have transported many native people to the Doctor, Dentist and Hospital and some as far as Perth for special treatment. Our new waggon is piping up the miles with these trips.

*Staff.*—At the time of writing our staff consists of two married couples (one away on leave), three single ladies and an odd job man, two young native women (former home children) and an older woman doing general domestic work.

In closing this report I would like to thank all who have contributed in any way to make the carrying on of the work of this station possible. Especially would I thank each member of the staff here who have so willingly shouldered extra burdens because of the lack of helpers.

T. STREET,  
Superintendent.

#### *Marribank Baptist Mission, via Katanning*

The Mission has been in a state of flux throughout the past 12 months.

The Superintendent, of the last report, resigned to manage the Mission Farm and a new Superintendent took over in October.

Among the staff there have been resignations from one senior lady worker and two junior native assistants, and the appointment of another house parent and a maintenance man.

*Children.*—During the year there were nine removals, one by death, four by transfer to other institutions and four by discharge. We admitted 12 children, making a total of 52, of which 50 are subsidised by the Department.

*Education.*—At the beginning of the new school year we had a change in the teaching staff, and at the beginning of the second term this year, our four eldest children commenced school at the Katanning Junior High School.

The kindergarten group has nine in attendance.

*Health and Medical.*—The health of the children is good, dental treatment has been arranged when necessary.

The final vaccination injections of Salk Vaccine have been given.

During the year one of the toddlers had a bad Strabismus corrected at Princess Margaret Hospital.

*Recreation.*—The Christian Endeavour Society is serving a useful purpose in encouraging the children in taking part, aside from singing, in the meetings of the group.

A Boy Scouts Troop was commenced three months ago and the lads are keenly entering into the spirit of scouting.

During this year we have arranged evenings each week for competitive and team games. The spirit of co-operation, although still weak, is improving as time goes on.

Films are hired and shown in the hall at least once a fortnight.

A successful camp was held at Rockingham last January when forty of our family were in attendance, for fun, swimming and bright inspirational messages in the evenings.

*Hospitality.*—Arrangements were made for the children, who did not go to their parents for portion of the long school vacation, to have a week's holiday in Perth prior to the Rockingham camp.

The people of the Perth Churches opened their homes gladly to our children.

*Buildings and Property.*—During the year property has been improved and the farm worked considerably.

A new dam was completed in mid-October. This dam will ultimately assist the water supply to the Mission compound, and in operating the proposed septic sewerage system, and we hope also in the production of vegetables.

By early January, a new dwelling had been erected for the Farm Manager's use, it being our first building with a septic system.

*Spiritual Welfare.*—This most important aspect of the work has been intensified. The afternoon Sunday School has been divided into smaller groups and lesson material gleaned from wider sources.

The opportunity to grow spiritually is being given the young people. Herein lies the field which supplies the best basis for future citizenship.

KENNETH W. JONES,  
Superintendent.

*St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering*

In the past year the number of children at the Mission has risen to 73. Of these, six are under school age, two boys are doing farm work and six girls are receiving training in domestic science. The remaining children are attending the Mission school and most of them are making satisfactory progress. One boy is attending the Technical School in Perth.

With the assistance of benefactors and of the Education Department we have been able to buy a 16 m.m. sound projector. We sincerely thank the Education Department for this assistance and for the loan of the very good films of the School and Adult libraries. Just before Christmas, the Apex Clubs from Williams and Narrogin gave the children a wonderful Christmas Party. We thank the members of this Club for their generosity. In April this year the children were taken to Perth where they saw Canning Dam, were shown over Metters' Factory and went for a boat trip on the Swan River.

The health of the children has been very good. At the beginning of September, last year, nearly all the children were in bed with a mild attack of influenza. In the past year the children received their third Salk Vaccination and were examined by a Doctor from the Department of Health. The Trachoma Unit and the School Dental Unit also visited the Mission.

Among the improvements since last year there is to be noted : a new dormitory and recreation room for the boys, a new dormitory, recreation room and further toilet facilities for the girls and also new classrooms and a storeroom, all of which were urgently required. In the Mission farm progress has been made too—120 acres have been cleared. The Mission is self-sufficient with regard to farm produce, meat and eggs (and also vegetables during the summer) for the staff and for the inmates.

FR. A. WELLEMS,  
Superintendent.

**Natives—Population**

Below are population figures for the District ; these are approximate.

	Male	Female	Children	Total
Full Bloods	55	51	123	229
Other Bloods	480	429	1,324	2,233
Grand Total				2,462.

During the year there were 91 births (102 last year), 41 males and 50 females. In the same period there were nine deaths (seven last year), eight being adults and only 1 child.

**Medical and Health**

The health needs of the native population of my District are adequately catered for and as a general rule natives avail themselves freely of the medical facilities available.

The southern hybrid being more sophisticated than his northern brother even picks and chooses his own doctor where there is more than one doctor in a township ; in many cases he even goes to a doctor in another township if he thinks such doctor is better than his own doctor. Similarly, I have found on occasions, natives of my District requiring hospitalisation have proceeded for the purpose to a hospital other than that serving their township or district because the other hospital has a reputation for good treatment of natives.

Free immunisation of children against polio, diphtheria and tetanus has been generally availed of, also free trachoma examination and treatment. There has been almost a 100 per cent. coverage of adult natives by the Mobile Mass X-ray Chest Clinic.

The only service not fully availed of is that of the Infant Health Clinic. In spite of exhortations by Field Staff of the District, native mothers appear to be timid about availing this valuable service. In many cases by personal approaches to native mothers and Infant Health Sisters we have been able to start mothers attending these Clinics, but follow up by us has revealed falling off in and discontinuance of attendance, even though this is a totally free service.

In regard to payment by natives for hospital and medical attention there would appear to be a certain lack of responsibility on the part of natives generally towards meeting their financial obligations for services rendered. The result of this is that doctors and hospitals, understandably, are becoming disgruntled at the prospect of meeting never ending demands on their time and resources with little, if any, prospect of recompense.

Field Staff of this District have preached the benefits of joining Friendly Societies, such as the Hospital Benefits Fund of W.A., etc., but in the few cases where we met with some initial response, subscriptions were not continued and membership lapsed.

However, in spite of adverse living conditions, the health of the native people generally has been good. I have, however, been perturbed at the number of malnutrition cases amongst children in the 1 to 3 year age group coming to our notice. These cases have occurred mostly in areas where employment has been difficult to obtain. Some cases have been due to the inadequacy of the bread-winner of the family, either due to laziness or frequent imprisonment, to provide satisfactorily for his family. In *bona fide* cases the families are helped with rations; in others, committal to the care of the State has been effected in order to ensure the welfare of such children.

Sore eyes in summer and scabies and pediculosis in winter seem to be the main scourges amongst the children, but the presence of facilities provided by the Department in the shape of water supply and lavatories, laundries and showers to most reserves is tending to reduce considerably these ailments.

A feature of child health during the year has been the number of cases of discharging ears amongst children which have come to light. Mostly, these have been detected on patrols and from reports of school-teachers. Immediate medical attention has been advised and even arranged in some cases.

It has been pleasing to see the number of cases of natives discharged from Woorloo Sanatorium where they were receiving attention for T.B. These in due course, after a period of convalescence on T.B. allowance, have resumed employment. Several child T.B. cases have returned home from Princess Margaret Hospital on completion of treatment.

## Education

This year again complete statistics of native children attending schools within the District have been obtained. These figures show that 661 native children are attending school throughout the Great Southern and South-West; of these 329 are boys and 332 are girls. Of the total of 661, 165 are Mission children representing 25 per cent. of the total number of children attending school in the Southern District.

In regard to primary, secondary, tertiary and technical education adequate provision and opportunities exist for our native people and the financial resources of the Department appear to be sufficient to cope with the present small numbers of natives coming forward to avail themselves of education at those levels where expenditure by this Department becomes necessary, e.g., at secondary and technical levels. For the most part such expenditure is related to outfitting boys and girls who go to Perth from the country areas of this District for secondary and technical education and in providing their board in the Metropolis.

No effort is spared by Field Officers of this District to encourage native children to attend regularly and persevere at school. We are now in the fortunate position of being able to point to other coloured boys and girls who have obtained career employment in teaching, nursing and technical avocations, as a stimulus to the ambitions of the present younger generation.

Whilst the majority of native parents co-operate fully and take a personal interest in their children's education there are still many who in the course of patrols have to be taken to task for their obvious indifference which is evidenced by the bad attendance of their children at school.

The number of native children carrying on their education past 14 years of age into the higher classes continues to increase. There are at present 53 children in high school classes as against 36 last year: 40 are in 1st year (26 last year), 9 in 2nd year (6 last year), 3 in 3rd year (3 last year), none in 4th year (1 last year) and 1 in 5th year (Leaving Class).

Four children from this District commenced higher education at Perth at the commencement of the 1958 school term; 3 girls were admitted to Alvan House and 1 boy to McDonald House. A fifth child, a boy, from the Wagin District, won a scholarship which he has availed at the Bunbury High School under arrangements made by this Department.

## Employment

The employment position in my District has deteriorated somewhat as compared to last year. There has been more unemployment in the year under review than in any of the last 6 or 7 years.

The actual employment position varies considerably at different periods of the year. Employment being mainly seasonal follows a pattern; depending on the season, native workers have a few days or a few weeks work at a time and then days and even weeks off work in between jobs. The worst period of the year for unemployment is mid-December to mid-February, the period after harvest and before "burning off." This year there did not appear to be as much "burning off" available as in previous years; this is possibly due to the fact that due to the intensive clearing operations of recent years, when as a result of good wool prices farmers were in a position to meet the costs of clearing their undeveloped land, now most established farmers have little undeveloped country left and also because of the present weak position of the wool market are no longer in a position to spend money on further clearing operations which are quite costly.

The late rains this year throughout the Southern Agricultural areas delayed seeding thus causing a longer period of unemployment for natives between "burning off" and seeding. However, once seeding commenced, the unemployment situation was immediately relieved. By May, 1958, patrol coincided with the commencement of seeding in the Southern patrol area when I found practically no unemployment. Native labour was in great demand for tractor driving and root picking so as to prepare and clear paddocks for the sowing.

At the time of writing heavy and prolonged rainfall has delayed the commencement of the shearing season by more than three weeks. This is the most fruitful season of the year for natives, for apart from shearers who can earn from £30 to £40 per week, shed hands earn from £18 to £22 per week. The delay in commencing shearing has resulted in applications for rations being received from all over the District.



It is obvious, therefore, that the general employment position during the year has not been satisfactory. Summing up, I would say that the average length of employment of most natives in my District varies from 7½ to 9 months out of the 12. Permanent employment is not available to except a very few; excluding native domestics employed in semi-permanent positions and numbering approximately 16, not more than a dozen or two native bread-winners are permanently employed.

This lack of permanent employment is the biggest single factor which militates against the native population of my District attaining to a stable economic position. Lack of regular employment and a regular income is directly responsible for the lowly position of the native in the community. To this can be directly attributed the partial failure of the scheme to house natives. Those who were evicted from or voluntarily left their State Housing Commission homes failed only because of their inability to meet the financial obligations involved. Those still in their homes are making Herculean efforts to meet their obligations on irregular incomes.

Thus it is that it becomes a major problem for the native bread-winner to meet any financial obligation other than the most pressing one of feeding and clothing himself and his family. Medical accounts are not paid simply because the average native has not the means to pay them.

During periods of unemployment many natives manage to obtain credit for stores from storekeepers. Most natives honour their obligations when in funds, but many, unequal to the struggle to maintain their families, move away elsewhere leaving unpaid debts and store accounts behind.

It is a fallacy to think, as some people do, that natives generally are not fond of work and are not concerned at being out of employment. With 9 years experience as a Field Officer in the South of this State, I can say that with very few exceptions—and we have them in our own white community—native bread-winners are most anxious to be in regular employment and are perturbed at the lack of such employment. Most of them want their own home, no matter how small, and a more stable existence and would welcome any move that would provide these conditions.

But with the best will in the world this Department cannot solve this particular and pressing problem of unemployment. We cannot create work for natives, because in a farming and pastoral economy this is regulated by the various seasons and to a great extent by the law of demand and supply. With the recession in the wool industry, the demand for labour has fallen off in the South and South-West.

It is my belief that the employment position in the field of unskilled labour will remain a precarious one, hence the main objective of Field Officers on patrols should be to encourage and insist on the education of native children to well beyond the primary stage, so that in a few years the nucleus of a new stamp of young native, ready and trained for career employment, will have been established. Then with better facilities for living—both on and off reserves—the lot of the native people should be considerably ameliorated. But unless the provision of Government finance keeps pace with the needs of the native community and the plans for their advancement, this will remain a pipe dream.

### Housing and Living Conditions

The native population in the Great Southern and South-West districts is located mainly at the townships in the Great Southern and spur lines and at some townships in the South-West, but the bulk of the District's native population is to be found at the major Great Southern townships from Beverley down to Albany. These towns are from 12 to 37 miles apart.

As a general rule the native families in these towns are concentrated on native reserves. From their camps and huts on the reserves the men go forth to their jobs and on completion of same or at weekends return to the reserves. It would be a fairly accurate guess to say that approximately 85 per cent. of the native population of my District live most of the year on the native reserves. Their living conditions are only too well known to need repetition. I feel, therefore, that it is on these reserves chiefly that every effort to improve the housing and living conditions of natives should be made. The Department is planning to achieve this objective in two ways: (1) by providing facilities in the shape of a water supply and lavatory, laundry and ablution facilities on reserves and (2) modest housing of the type known as "Geraldton Hut" cottages, named after the prototype first built on the Geraldton native reserve. As yet there has been no finance available for the construction of these modest homes on reserves in my District.

I believe that at the present stage of development of our native hybrids in the South and in view of their position as an underprivileged group, without regular employment, unless the Government accepts responsibility for providing, in some degree, modest housing on native reserves, we can expect the continuance of the social degradation which is so much in evidence at the present time. Last year provision of finance for ten homes of this type was requested in my annual estimates without success; this year I have requested 31 such small homes to be provided for native families on native reserves at Gnowangerup, Beverley, Wagin, Pingelly, Katanning, Brookton, Ongerup, Dumbleyung, Tambellup and Williams. Narrogin was not included due to a possible change of reserve site.

In regard to housing other than on Native Reserves, the State Housing Commission has built 25 special type native homes in my District. No new home was built during the year under review. These homes were built at the following places:—

Beverley	....	....	....	....	....	1
Brookton	....	....	....	....	....	1
Pingelly	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cuballing	....	....	....	....	....	2
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	....	4
Wagin	....	....	....	....	....	1
Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	2
Gnowangerup	....	....	....	....	....	2
Tambellup	....	....	....	....	....	1
Mount Barker	....	....	....	....	....	3
Albany	....	....	....	....	....	2
Collie	....	....	....	....	....	2
Busselton	....	....	....	....	....	1

In addition, 10 conventional type State Housing Commission homes have been occupied by persons of native descent at the following places in this District :—

Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	4
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	....	1
Busselton	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cowaramup	....	....	....	....	....	1
Broomehill	....	....	....	....	....	1
Bunbury	....	....	....	....	....	1
Pingelly	....	....	....	....	....	1

All the 10 occupants of these latter homes are still in occupation but of the 25 native type homes, three have never been occupied by natives (two at Gnowangerup and one at Mount Barker) and have been allotted to white persons ; from five homes the native families have been evicted ; in four cases the families vacated of their own accord. Evictions and vacating have been due to inability of the occupants to meet their purchase instalments due to irregular employment.

There is at the present time no demand for further homes of this type in my District.

Unless an enlightened and progressive policy for the housing of natives is adopted and financed by the Government we may well ask ourselves wither are we going. Six hundred and sixty-one native children are attending schools in this District, 165 of whom are being Mission trained with standards of living and accommodation of a high order. Fifty-three are attending High School and this number will increase from year to year. These children who are the coming generation of natives in the South will expect—and surely are entitled to—better living conditions than their parents have had to put up with due to lack of Government finance.

### Rationing and Relief

Rations are issued to indigent and destitute natives and also to the families of imprisoned natives or others incapacitated by illness. The number of permanent rationees in the District is 14, all cases of aged and destitute natives. Several others have been rationed from time to time for reasons stated at the commencement of this paragraph. No exact records exist in my office of the number of these as the ration orders are issued at various centres in my District by the Protectors at those places.

The table below shows the number and location of the permanent rationees of this District :—

Gnowangerup	....	....	....	....	....	4
Mount Barker	....	....	....	....	....	2
Albany	....	....	....	....	....	2
Tambellup	....	....	....	....	....	1
Collie	....	....	....	....	....	1
Roelands	....	....	....	....	....	2
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	....	1
Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	1

Besides the above type of assistance, Field Officers and Office Staff of this District have assisted natives with their claims for various types of Social Service Benefits. The list below shows the number of natives assisted in this way :—

Age Pension	....	....	....	....	....	9
Invalid Pension	....	....	....	....	....	9
T.B. Pension	....	....	....	....	....	2
Unemployment Benefit	....	....	....	....	....	46
Sickness Benefit	....	....	....	....	....	10
Maternity Allowance	....	....	....	....	....	79
Child Endowment	....	....	....	....	....	87
						242

### Public Relations

Great importance is attached to this aspect of our functions as a welfare department. I believe that properly conducted relations with the public can, to a great extent, remove popular misconception regarding what has come to be known as "the native question" and at the same time assist in creating informed opinion on this matter. It is uninformed opinion which is mainly responsible for a great deal of the prejudice and intolerance which exists today in respect of the native people and the work of the Department on their behalf.

To get the general public interested I have followed a policy of getting local people interested in their local natives and this has been achieved usually by addressing a public meeting arranged locally or speaking to interested bodies such as Rotary and Apex Clubs or Church groups. Resulting from these efforts Native Welfare Associations or Councils have been formed at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Kojonup and Mount Barker and, quite recently, at Collie. The Collie District Native Council is the only one formed during the year under report.

Contact is maintained with these welfare groups on patrols and they are kept up to date re plans and policy for native welfare and with any progress made in this regard.

Some of these groups are more active than others but all are doing a good job. I feel special mention should be made of the Mount Barker and Collie groups. At Mount Barker the Committee, with the assistance of Apex, have, during the year under review, constructed on the native reserve four shelters of corrugated iron on timber frames and with sleeper floors. These shelters are closed on three sides and open on the front only and are rented to local families at a very nominal figure. Previously another shelter and a two-roomed cottage had been built by this Committee for native families.

At Collie four nissen huts and a recreation hut have been obtained by this Department from the Railways Department and as a result of approaches made by me these buildings are to be shifted to the native reserve and set up there according to a plan prepared in advance. Electric power supply will be provided. The Local Authority and Apex and Rotary are interested and the job of shifting the buildings to the reserve is being handled as a community project with these three bodies and the Collie Native Welfare Council handling the project.

The Apex Club has very generously agreed to build the facilities, e.g., lavatories (septic), laundry and ablution block with materials supplied by this Department. They have commenced the work which is under the supervision of a Public Works Department Engineer who is voluntarily giving his time as a member of the local Rotary Club. This is indeed a fine effort and when completed will, I hope, be not only a model reserve but also a model for other communities to follow.

To maintain the interest in the natives and their problems and to provide information of the part being played by this Department I have during the year under review addressed Rotary and Apex Clubs and gatherings at which, besides the above bodies, representatives of other groups and the public have been present. These talks have always been well received. Relations with other Government Departments, Local Authorities, Welfare Organisations, the medical confraternity and hospital authorities are most cordial. It is hoped that with increased patrolling, if the funds for same are provided, these cordial relations can be maintained as they are most essential both from the point of view of the needs of the native and good relations between the public and the Department.

### Conclusion

During the year under report 20 natives of my District have been granted Citizenship Rights of which number 16 were adults and four children. Twenty-six natives, all adults, were granted Exemption Certificates. Five Documents of Citizenship were issued to persons of quarter or less native blood who applied for them.

C. R. WRIGHT WEBSTER,  
District Officer, Southern District.

## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

### Administration

#### Staff

The District remained understaffed throughout the year as the full complement of field officers was not attained until the 4th June, 1958, when Patrol Officer D. W. Hardwick commenced duties at District Office. Mr. F. E. Gare, District Officer, was transferred to Perth for duties as Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Native Matters in January, 1958, and was still engaged in that capacity at the close of the financial year.

The present position is as follows :—

District Headquarters, Geraldton—					
Acting District Officer	....	....	....	....	Mr. J. A. Paquin.
Clerical Assistant	....	....	....	....	Miss L. K. Meldrum.
West Murchison Sub-District, Geraldton—					
Patrol Officer	....	....	....	....	Mr. D. W. Hardwick.
East Murchison Sub-District, Meekatharra—					
Acting Assistant District Officer	....	....	....	....	Mr. S. R. Adams.
Clerk Assistant (part native)	....	....	....	....	Mr. K. G. Winder.

#### Accommodation

*Geraldton.*—The District and West Murchison Sub-District Offices remain at 151 Marine Terrace in two rented rooms. No staff quarters are provided.

*Meekatharra.*—The combined office and single quarters referred to in the two previous annual reports served as an office and married quarters during the year. The building is not satisfactory for this dual purpose and considerable inconvenience was experienced by the married A.D.O. and his wife. The possibilities of securing a residence through the State Housing Commission or alternatively of the erection of a new office on a new site and conversion of the present building for use as married quarters are being explored.

### Vehicles

Both the Geraldton and Meekatharra officers are still equipped with standard Land Rovers and these vehicles continue to prove themselves well suited for all round patrolling requirements.

Both vehicles have received routine inspections from the Mobile Plant Inspector of the Public Works Department and are in satisfactory condition.



## Missions

### *Palloine Mission School, Tardun*

This is a Roman Catholic Mission, situated some 30 miles south of Mullewa. The annual report of the Superintendent, Father F. J. Hennessy is quoted hereunder :—

In the reports of the previous two years the educational ideals and principles of the P.M.S., together with some practical features of life at the school, have been set out fairly comprehensively. These ideals and principles are essential elements and from them flows a constant rhythm of life so necessary in education and formation. They are like the organs of the heart and lung—sources of movement and vitality, but the organs themselves unchanging. To these vitalising unchanging elements it will not be necessary to refer in the present report, other than to state simply and briefly that upon these ideals and principles depend the continued existence and progress of the school.

*Children.*—The number of children at present is 77. Girls 45 and boys 32. Besides these there are two boys and one girl being maintained elsewhere (the girl at the Dominican Convent College, Dongara, the boys at the Palloine Mission Centre, Perth) for the purpose of further education.

*Staff.*—The staff comprises : Superintendent and assistant (two priests) ; four sisters ; four brothers ; a teacher. We are expecting one of our mission brothers back from overseas shortly where, after twenty-five years of work for the Australian native people, he has had a well merited holiday back home in Germany. In recent months the sisters have been hard hit by sickness, two of them being obliged to go and remain in Perth for medical treatment. We all miss them badly. One instance is in the school, where extra work has been thrown on the remaining teacher. However under her guidance one of the older girls (now out of school herself) has been giving lessons to the little ones, and doing so well.

*Opening Function.*—A really memorable day for the school in the past year was the 3rd of November, when in the presence of a representative gathering the Bishop of Geraldton, Most Rev. Dr. Gummer, D.D., blessed and opened the new residence then recently completed for our sisters.

As the Bishop stepped from his car he was met by four mission boys in red robes and white surplices, who then escorted him through a guard of honour of the other children. The blessing completed, the members of the official party were introduced to His Lordship. Then as they were taking their places upon the shaded platform the Morawa Band rendered an item.

The Morawa Band merits special reference here, in that each year for a number of years now the band has paid a visit to the school to entertain the children and to bring them a variety of good things. An hour before the opening began the delighted children were gathered around the band, and again after afternoon tea. For the children this is one of the highlights of the year. They eagerly anticipate the coming of the bandsmen, and excitedly talk about the event for long afterwards, and the band, when it comes, is usually accompanied by a large following from the home town. This year their usual visit was combined with the occasion of the November 3rd opening.

Together with Bishop Gummer the official party comprised the Superintendent Fr. J. F. Hennessy, S.C.A., Fr. K. McKelson, S.C.A., representing Bishop Raible, Vicar Apostolic of Kimberley, Dean Lynch, Parish Priest of Mullewa, Fr. J. Barden, S.T.L., of Geraldton, Mr. E. O'Brien, M.L.A., representing the Premier and the Government, Mr. Simpson, M.L.C., representing the Opposition, Patrol Officer Mr. Adams, representing the Native Welfare Department, Mr. McDonald, representing the Lotteries Commission, and representatives of Local Roads Boards. Father Hennessy welcomed the Bishop and all present, after which the children did likewise in their own way by a pleasing bracket of songs. Several brief addresses followed, concluding with the Bishop who among other things expressed his pleasure at the cordial and co-operative relationship between the school and the Native Welfare Department. The function concluded with all the visitors going along to the big school dining room for afternoon tea.

*Girls' Cottage.*—The former residence of the sisters has now become the "Girls Cottage." An independent building, it is now reserved for the bigger girls who have left school. There they live and have their own recreation room and bathroom. They are very pleased with this new arrangement and it is hoped that it will give them a taste for and some practical experience in homemaking.

*Station Trip.*—In January of this year the assistant, Father Haerle, made a trip of some 1,200 miles by utility through the station areas of our north. Most of our children come from this region. His purpose was to gain further knowledge and understanding of the children through immediate contact with them and their people in their environment. At this time the children were back on the stations for the summer holidays.

*A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra.*—About the middle of last year a wonderful opportunity was offered us by the performance of the A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra at Mullewa. We took all the children along, apart from the little ones, for the schools' performance on the afternoon of August 8th. It was certainly well worth the seventy mile trip. The children listened very attentively and will be most eager to go again if the chance offers.

*Improvements, Buildings, etc.*—With regard to the new building mentioned above the making of all the bricks (cement), a good deal of the construction and the cartage of all the materials used, was done by the mission staff. The completion was put into the hands of contractors.

During the year almost the whole of the school buildings (exterior) have been repainted, as well as other renovations.

After much fruitless toil we finally struck a fair supply of water and have added a new bore to augment this precious commodity. A windmill and 5,000 gallon tank have been erected and half a mile of pipe laid. Materials for a stand and another tank of the same capacity are on hand for erection. Water is always a problem. We manage, but if we could double our supply there would still be any amount of uses for it.

Extension to the girls' shower room. Two new storerooms. The extension of another bay to our shearing shed.

The Lotteries Commission has granted us the finance for the purchase of a steel construction poultry shed and a washing machine. The poultry shed has been erected and is now under appropriate occupation. The washing machine is about to be shipped from Melbourne.

A very real necessity is for a complete new laundry, both as regards building and equipment. May this new machine be a good omen of things to come.

A formidable list of hoped for improvements rising up to urgent necessities stands before our minds eye. Unfortunately there also beongs to the picture the restrictive elements of time, hand and finance.

*Farming Operations.*—This can be stated very briefly. Everyone knows what happened to the wool price last season. Regarding crops, this area had about one of the worst seasons on record. The grain harvested (not all was worth putting the harvester over) averaged out at less than a bag an acre. That means you are far down even as regards recovering your costs.

*Conclusion.*—It may be for the better or for the worse, but the most effective forming power in the education of the child remains the environment provided—firstly the environment of the home and family which depends on the parents, secondly the wider social environment. Our children suffer many handicaps under both these heads. It is our task at the school (and in the light of Christian Faith our privilege too) to create for our children that climate in which they can grow towards their true and full stature such as in accordance with their dignity as human beings and still more as children of God. The task has its difficulties—but these make the task itself only the more necessary. The children have had another year in such a climate, they have grown a further stage, and we are pleased to have been of assistance to them.

We wish finally to express our thanks to the Native Welfare Department and its officers for the valuable assistance given, as also to the officers of various medical units who have cared for our children during the past twelve months, and to the Education Department.

#### *Karalundi Mission*

This is a Seventh Day Adventist Mission, located some 36 miles north of Meekatharra. The annual reports of the Superintendent, Pastor D. A. Ferris, and the Mission School Headmaster, Mr. S. O. Jean-Louis are given hereunder :—

#### *Superintendent's Report*

*Staff.*—Superintendent : D. A. Ferris.

Staff : Two Mission workers, three State School Teachers, four native employees.

*Inmates.*—The older boys and girls are appointed to "chore" duties : practical training, whether of domestic or farm routine, is thus obtained. Boys 37 ; girls 38. Pre-school 1 ; Employees 4. Total 80.

*Medical.*—A trained nurse supervises the work carried out each day at the dispensary.

During March we had a visit from the Medical Officer at Meekatharra, who made a check on eye and throat infections. The percentage of enlarged tonsils was high.

*Hygiene.*—The drainage system from laundry, kitchen and dispensary has been renewed during the year. This has meant a definite improvement from the hygiene point of view.

*Improvements.*—Early this year, Mr. Adams (Departmental Patrol Officer) paid us a visit and noted some of the more urgent needs of the mission. As his report goes to the Commissioner of Native Welfare, I would strongly second a plea for additional amenities for Karalundi in this forthcoming disbursement from grants in aid.

*General.*—Several acres of irrigation area are being prepared for pasture ; this has proved to be a real interest to the school lads in their hour of manual work.

The recreational facilities are limited. However, the swimming pool has been immensely popular through the warm months. The recent acquisition of the school projector will of real assistance. Already it is much appreciated.

Not the least important of the outings arranged for the Mission family was the visit to Meekatharra, where the children lined up and were inspected by Prime Minister Menzies and Dame Patty. This was an adventure indeed for the children.

*Building Programme.*—Our thanks are due to the Department of Native Welfare for making available a building in Meekatharra. This has been demolished and material transported to the Mission. An early start on the building of a cottage to house the lady teacher and the single lady in charge of the domestic department is anticipated.

#### *Headmaster's Report*

*Education.*—The grades taught and the number in each is as follows :—

Grade I	....	....	16	Grade V	....	....	5
Grade II	....	....	9	Grade VI	....	....	1
Grade III	....	....	26	Grade VII	....	....	6
Grade IV	....	....	6	Grade VIII	....	....	2 (Correspondence)

In the past year the children have made very satisfactory progress and the teachers are finding much pleasure in their work.



*Training.*—Much more attention is now being given to the teaching of Arts and Crafts and the children are keen in their work. Recently during shearing operations on Munarra Station a number of the boys were given permission to help out in the draughting yards, and gained some valuable first hand experience.

Permission has also been granted to them to accompany the Manager on his visits to the numerous windmills on the Station, in order that they might get first-hand experience in the operation and maintenance of windmills.

Quite a lot of equipment in the way of hoops, poles, skipping ropes, footballs, cricket bats, etc., was purchased recently to pep-up the Physical Education programme.

Not long ago the owners of a nearby Station presented the Mission with a small flock of sheep and the boys will now be given some experience in the general care of sheep.

The girls continue to make the butter and bake the bread and are doing a fine job. They are also very keen in their Sewing and Dressmaking classes. Last year one of the girls made eight garments for herself, including petticoats, dresses and blouses. The girls also do the washing and ironing for the Mission, as well as general domestic work.

The boys continue to look after the cows and do the milking and separating.

Not so long ago the children from Grade III to Grade VIII were taken to Meekatharra and shown over the Hospital, Post Office, Railway Station, Power Station, Roads Board Office, Airways Office, Fire Brigade Station, Court House, Pedal Wireless Station and Bank of New South Wales. Those in charge of these various Public Institutions readily gave of their time to explain to the children the workings of the place under their control and as a result the children have a much better appreciation of the needs and importance of such places. A mock Court was held in the Court House.

#### *Wiluna Mission*

This is also a Seventh Day Adventist Mission. It is situated about seven miles east of Wiluna. The annual report of the Superintendent, Mr. A. D. Vaughan is quoted hereunder :—

We have just completed the first 12 months of Mission operation with the natives living under Mission conditions. We are happy to say that progress can be reported as will be stated further down.

*Inmates.*—Children : 10 males—Subsidised  
11 females—Subsidised  
2 females—Subsidy applied for  
2 babies—Living with mothers.

Total—25.

Eighteen children are living in the dormitory, two living in the Superintendent's home and five living with their parents.

Adults : 16 females—Subsidised  
7 males—Subsidised  
4 females—Not subsidised.

Total—27.

Some of the natives not receiving subsidy make the Mission their home. Two of them are nursing mothers and are indigent. These receive Departmental rations to help sustain them. The numbers of natives grow to a considerable size at times owing to the seasonal labour requirements.

It has been the Mission's part in directing labour to many stations as the calls are made by the owners and managers.

*Staff.*—There are four white workers engaged in the Mission Programme. Native Workers—one trained, native woman has been in charge of the dormitory and kitchen. This arrangement has worked very well. The children have looked to her as a mother and the older natives have respected her position. We regret to say that she is leaving to be married in the very near future. We have been training the native women to take care of the general chores such as washing, bathing the children, making beds, washing up and preparing vegetables, etc. About six women take a turn at these responsibilities.

*Native Men.*—It appears that some wish to become specialists in their work. One man considers his work is watering trees, another with his two wives as gardeners, another as the woodman, others are general. Six men have been occupied on these duties.

*Health.*—Three babies were born on the Mission and two at the District Hospital (four female and one male). All mothers received pre-natal care and food at the Mission before the births. All babies are doing well.

At the beginning of winter a course of Hypol is given to children and adults. This helps to ward off serious respiratory infections. The Hypol was provided by the Native Welfare Department.

There were no serious diseases to report of the Mission natives, other than the usual coughs and colds—some needing hospital attention. There were no deaths of mission inmates. We did appreciate the visit of Sister Philbin from the Infant Health Clinic during the year.

*Pre-School Training.*—We are happy to report that a pre-school training class is now operating, preparing children for the Karalundi Mission School ; 16 children are attending, ages being from four to eight years. The children are enjoying the activities. This also helps to keep little idle hands out of mishap.

*Buildings.*—The Superintendent's home is now completed, also the bathroom, wash-house and septic toilets behind the dormitory. The rough timber, window and door frames and weather boards are on hand to commence building an assembly room and Kindergarten.

At present our school is held in a make-shift room. We are very cramped in dormitory accommodation owing to the fact that we are using one of the rooms of the existing apartment for a kitchen-dining room.

*Electric Light.*—We were very unfortunate to lose our electric light plant by fire in February. It has now been replaced by a more powerful plant that will give light and power for our building extension plan for a few years to come.

*Rotary Hoe.*—Our garden work in the past has been accomplished by shovel, hoe and scythe. It now appears that our work will be easier with the purchase of a rotary hoe.

Our garden during the past year produced almost all the vegetables required for Mission use.

*Deputy Commissioner's Visit.*—The Mission workers appreciated the visit of Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gare and Mr. Paquin and would also like to thank the Department for its continued help, as we endeavour to give these poor, underprivileged people an opportunity in life.

### General

The three Missions continue to achieve excellent results and it is again desired to express sincere appreciation of the dedicated and selfless efforts of the Missionaries who are deserving of the utmost support and assistance.

### Protectors of Natives

The number of Protectors of Natives in this District is as follows :—

#### *West Murchison—*

Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Church Dignitaries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
<b>Total</b>	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	<b>9</b>

#### *East Murchison—*

Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
<b>Total</b>	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	<b>4</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	<b>13</b>

### Reserves

The present position of those reserves in constant use in this District is as follows :—

#### *Geraldton.*

Three prototype "Geraldton" type III houses and two type I houses were completed and have since been in constant use as with the standard ablution and laundry block. Regular sanitary and rubbish removals are still carried out at Departmental expense.

#### *Mingenew.*

The standard ablution and laundry block is still in constant use. During the year the two former panstead lavatories were converted to a septic system. Also, a windmill with an overhead tank and stand were installed. An application has been made for the erection of six prototype "Geraldton" houses.

#### *Mullewa.*

The ablutionary and septic sanitary facilities are still in constant use. A four compartment shelter shed and three prototype "Geraldton" houses have been completed and also are in continuous occupation. An application has been made for the erection of three more houses, fencing off of houses, and for "street" lighting of the reserve living area.

#### *Yalgoo.*

The panstead lavatories are still in use and regular rubbish and sanitary removals are carried out at Departmental expenses. During the year a sub-artesian bore, a windmill, an overhead tank and stand were installed. Application has been made for a standard ablution-laundry block, conversion of the existing panstead lavatories to a septic system, and for the erection of three prototype "Geraldton" houses.

#### *Mt. Magnet.*

Once again the improvements needed on this reserve were shelved because of the financial position. The Local Authority have again urged the completion of all standard facilities, and it is hoped that funds for this work will be available this year.

*Meekatharra.*

All the standard facilities with which this reserve is equipped have been in constant use throughout the year. Meekatharra is a key transport centre for an extensive pastoral area and the reserve offers the only accommodation for a constant stream of transient natives from some hundred or more pastoral stations. The Local Authority has recently condemned several native camps in the township and this will result in an increase in the numbers of permanent residents when the natives from these camps move to the reserve. Application has therefore been made for provision and maintenance of a french drain for disposal of waste water and for two prototype "Geraldton" houses.

*Wiluna.*

The remarks in the previous annual report still apply, i.e. the numbers vary from nil to 400. However, during the past year large numbers of natives camped at the reserve for as long as four months at a time due to seasonal employment lay-offs and this is expected to occur regularly in future. In view of these conditions, application has been made for steel frame shelters based on the prototype "Geraldton" house.

The reserve at Tuckanarra has not been used for several years and was cancelled during the year. The reserve at Wilgie Mia is not used by natives, but remains gazetted as an anthropological reserve. The reserves at Peak Hill, Cue, Paynes Find and Northampton are still little used and have no special facilities.

**Patrolling**

As explained earlier, the District was understaffed throughout the year and as a result the scheduled patrolling programme was not completed in full. Individual patrols carried out were as follows :

District Patrols (by District Officer)	Days	Miles
No. 1—Mullewa, Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Wiluna	6	1,009
No. 2—Mullewa, Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Wiluna, Jigalong Mission	10	1,670
No. 3—Attempt to contact party of nomadic natives east of Lake Carnegie	12	1,664
<b>Totals</b> ....	<b>28</b>	<b>4,352</b>

**West Murchison Patrols—**

No. 1—Mullewa—Erecting of Geraldton Reserve Type III steel and corrugated iron dwelling	20	217
No. 2—Mullewa—Erecting of Geraldton Reserve Type III steel and corrugated iron dwelling	12	350
No. 3—Mullewa—Erecting of Geraldton Reserve Type III steel and corrugated iron dwelling, Tardun, Morowa	18	494
No. 4—Cue, Mt. Magnet, Yalgoo, Mullewa	12	609
No. 5—Mullewa, Tardun, Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra	4	460
No. 6—Mid Murchison area	18	1,239
No. 7—Mullewa—Education Survey	3	136
<b>Totals</b> ....	<b>87</b>	<b>3,505</b>

**East Murchison Patrols—**

No. 1—Lake Carnegie area	11	944
No. 2—Wiluna Township Survey	6	303
No. 3—Upper Ashburton area	16	1,016
No. 4—Upper Gascoyne area	22	575
<b>Totals</b> ....	<b>55</b>	<b>2,838</b>

In addition to the above patrols, several brief visits to townships were made the details of which are given hereunder :—

Mullewa	7 days
Mingenew	2 days
Northampton	2 days
Walkaway	1 day
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 days</b>

## Public Relations

Relations with other Departments, Authorities, Organisations, etc., remain good.

A close liaison is maintained with the local office of the Commonwealth Employment Service with beneficial results.

A number of addresses were given to various organisations in Geraldton, at their invitation.

## Population

As mentioned earlier, patrolling was severely curtailed due to the field staff position and this has hindered the routine checking of the District Census register. However, it has been maintained as accurately as possible as circumstances have permitted and the following statistics are based on the register and other reasonably reliable information.

Sub-District	Full Bloods				Others				Grand Total
	Male	Female	Child'n.	Total	Male	Female	Child'n.	Total	
West Murchison ....	86	71	44	201	224	231	564	1,019	1,220
East Murchison ....	207	185	175	567	139	134	183	456	1,023
Totals ....	293	256	219	768	363	365	747	1,475	2,243

In addition to these totals, it is estimated that there are at most 200 full blood aborigines in the unsettled area to the north and north-east of Lake Carnegie.

## Health

### *West Murchison Sub-District*

In the previous annual report it was explained that the transfer of native families from the old, unsatisfactory, camping ground to the new, improved, reserve at Mullewa was followed by an immediate and marked improvement in the health of children from these families. There was every reason to expect a continued reduction in the incidence of enteric complaints and this in fact was the case for a little more than a year. However, since February, 1958, there has been an increase in these complaints at Mullewa and several deaths have occurred.

Investigation by officers of this Department has revealed that only one of the children concerned came from the native reserve. Further investigations by officers of the Public Works Department showed that the sanitary facilities at the reserve were satisfactory.

It is understood that the Department of Public Health is currently enquiring into the matter. Conditions elsewhere in the Sub-District remain about the same and Station natives on the whole continued to enjoy good health.

The position regarding the "split" families around Geraldton, i.e., coloured families consisting of some natives and some non-natives remains unchanged. The Local Authority is currently exploring the possibility of establishing a camping reserve for these families and has been informed by the Hon. Premier and Treasurer that the Government is prepared to assist the plan on a £ for £ basis in the provision of camping facilities with lavatories and ablution blocks.

### *East Murchison Sub-District*

The Acting Assistant District Officer reports that health generally in the East Murchison remained satisfactory and that natives from missions and pastoral stations particularly enjoyed remarkably good health. He has expressed gratitude for the invaluable assistance given by the Missionaries and Station Managers and their wives. The Acting Assistant District Officer has also recorded his gratitude to the Meekatharra and Wiluna Hospitals and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

## Housing

### *West Murchison Sub-District*

Two houses were occupied during the year under the State Housing Commission's special scheme for housing coloured families. These were at Geraldton and Northampton. This brings the total of coloured families housed under this scheme to eight. There were no evictions during the year.

*Reserve Housing.*—The Prototype "Geraldton" house described in the previous annual report proved very satisfactory and has remained popular with coloured people. Two of the type III and two type I houses were completed at Geraldton during the year and three type III houses were completed at Mullewa. Generally, those remarks made in the previous report regarding housing still apply.

### *East Murchison Sub-District*

The Acting A.D.O. at Meekatharra reports that one house was purchased under Section 6A at Cue and was occupied during the year. No other accommodation is available and the acting A.D.O. reports that there is an acute shortage in his sub-district. He has suggested that the prototype "Geraldton" house presents the solution to both the reserve and town housing problems. In the case of houses for townships where no standard community ablution and sanitary facilities exist the houses would have to be modified so as to be self contained and to conform with local authority by-laws.



## Education

It has again been possible to maintain an accurate register of those native children who attend school anywhere within the District and a summary of these is set out below. One of the objects of this register is to ensure that any child worthy of undertaking secondary or technical education is given the opportunity to do so.

Centres	Primary				Secondary				Grand Total
	Mission Schools	Denomi- national Schools	State Schools	Total	Mission Schools	Denomi- national Schools	State Schools	Total	
<i>West Murchison Sub-District</i>									
Geraldton ....	....	13	34	47	....	2	7	9	56
Galena ....	....	....	14	14	....	....	....	....	14
Northampton ....	....	....	21	21	....	....	....	....	21
Walkaway ....	....	....	3	3	....	....	....	....	3
Dongara ....	....	1	3	4	....	2	....	2	6
Mullewa ....	....	18	24	42	....	....	....	....	42
Mingenew ....	....	....	8	8	....	....	....	....	8
Tardun ....	45	....	....	45	....	....	....	....	45
Morawa ....	....	....	6	6	....	....	....	....	6
Pindar ....	....	....	3	3	....	....	....	....	3
Yalgoo ....	....	....	11	11	....	....	2	2	13
Mt. Magnet ....	....	4	10	14	....	....	....	....	14
<i>East Murchison Sub-District</i>									
Cue ....	....	....	11	11	....	....	....	....	11
Meekatharra ....	....	....	12	12	....	....	....	....	12
Karalundi ....	68	....	....	68	1	....	....	1	69
Wiluna ....	....	....	9	9	....	....	....	....	9
Sandstone ....	....	....	3	3	....	....	....	....	3
Totals ....	113	36	173	321	1	4	9	14	335

The curtailment of patrolling mentioned earlier has made it impossible to keep to date the register of children not attending school. The remarks made in the previous annual report regarding the problem of children not attending school still apply. Also, the drift to townships, thus enabling some of these children to receive an education has continued in the last twelve months.

## Employment

The situation in the West Murchison Sub-District has not improved and if anything has deteriorated. This is the case particularly in the townships. Casual employment of short duration is occasionally available at Geraldton. Vacancies in the West Australian Government Railways and the Main Roads Department are still very infrequent and these Departments demand very high standards of any native employed. The main avenue for employment is the pastoral industry and here also vacancies have been few and the standards required by employers have been high.

The Acting Assistant District Officer, East Murchison, reports that his office is being used extensively as an employment agency by both natives and employers. Fortunately, all natives requesting employment on stations have been placed. Several natives were employed by the W.A.G.R., in addition to the regular native employees. Five natives were employed by the Main Roads Department as grader drivers or labourers. One native is employed in the mining industry although several are engaged in prospecting for minerals. A firm at Cue is paying 3d. per pound for either kangaroo or goat meat and a mobile freezing plant is operating at Meekatharra at present. However, few natives are able to make a living from this and only shoot kangaroos to fill in between other jobs.

With the exception of occasional casual jobs, no avenues for employment exist in the townships, although seven native women are employed on the domestic staff of hospitals.

## Social Services

As reported previously, most natives in this District are aware of their eligibility for Commonwealth Social Services Benefits. In the last twelve months several natives were assisted with successful applications for these benefits.

## Rationing

The necessity for short term rationing was again high and again the causes were unemployment and cases where the "bread-winner" was gaoled for various offences, usually liquor. The permanent ration list as at 30th June, 1958, is as follows:—

Geraldton ....	....	....	1 adult
Yalgoo ....	....	....	2 adults and 4 children
Paynes Find ....	....	....	3 adults
Mt. Magnet ....	....	....	1 adult
Meekatharra ....	....	....	2 adults.

## Crime

For the fourth consecutive year it is reported that no serious crime has been committed by any native in this District during the past twelve months.

## Tribal Activity

Corroborees were again held at Wiluna during the pastoral station's slack season and one man making ceremony took place. This officer has attended several of the corroborees and at no time were any practices warranting suppression seen.

Wiluna remains the centre of tribal activity in the East Murchison and there is still close affiliation with Jigalong.

## General

In the previous annual report it was explained that, taking Geraldton as an example there are many non-natives, both white and coloured, camped within the Municipality in much worse conditions than those now living on the local reserve. The past twelve months have shown that if anything, the position is now more acute and extends throughout the District. However, as this Department has no jurisdiction over these cases there is very little that can be done for them under existing legislation.

J. A. PAQUIN,

Acting District Officer.

## NORTH-WEST DISTRICT

### Administration

#### Staff

During the year there has been one transfer out of the District in the case of the clerk at Carnarvon office, since replaced.

The vacant position of Patrol Officer at Port Hedland was filled. The situation now is:—

Port Hedland Office	....	....	Clerk-Assistant, Mr. E. B. Parker.
			Patrol Officer, Mr. T. G. Brennan.
			District Officer, Mr. A. O. Day.
Carnarvon Office	....	....	Typist, Miss C. Day.
			Patrol Officer, Mr. G. E. Cornish.
Riverdale Native Hostel	....	....	Superintendent, Mr. G. Stevens.
			Labourer, Mr. J. Peindju.

### Gascoyne Sub-District

Having the same Patrol Officer in office at Carnarvon throughout the year has enabled a great improvement in welfare work in the Gascoyne area. It has however produced the expected complication also, that with increased personal confidence in the officer concerned, there has been a large and steady increase in the use of the office, to a point where clerical work is made difficult by the necessity for constant attention to callers.

### Protectors

Departmental staff	....	....	....	4
Stipendiary Magistrate	....	....	....	1
Lay Protectors	....	....	....	4
Ministers of Religion	....	....	....	4
Police Officers	....	....	....	1
Irregulars	....	....	....	2
				—
Total	....	....	....	16
				—

Once again, during a year of limited patrolling, protectors were ever ready with willing assistance to this office. Their help has been invaluable and it is wished to record our warmest thanks.

### Police

It is felt that some mention should be specifically made of the Police Department's officers. In the past it has been common to have Police Officers as protectors, whilst their use in this capacity has now reduced to almost nil. It is most pleasing to report that throughout the District almost without exception, constables and their seniors have offered sincere friendly co-operation and in very many cases have gone out of their way to assist natives quite independently of this office. At the same time we have been pleased to offer them every possible co-operation. It is wished to thank these men for their efforts to engender and maintain the spirit of inter-departmental goodwill which is to the advantage of all, most especially the natives.

## Patrols and Vehicles

For approximately a quarter of the year the Port Hedland office was without transport when the Landrover was in Perth for overhaul. The vehicle at Carnarvon also spent some considerable time being attended to in the local workshops. The Port Hedland vehicle has now completed over 50,000 actual miles in the North West and the Carnarvon vehicle approximately 30,000 miles. The withdrawal from the North West of the recently overhauled Port Hedland Landrover has been recommended by the Government Mechanical Inspector.

The Carnarvon vehicle was the first Landrover put into the field by this Department and is one of the original very short wheel base models. It carries insufficient fuel and water to be an ideal unit for the Gascoyne area and a long wheel base Landrover would be preferable.

During the year a total of 13 patrols covered almost 10,000 miles to bring assistance and advice to the natives of the district. A number of stations which have not been called on for five years or more were visited. Some were visited where no previous record exists of their having ever been inspected.

A great deal of work incorporated in patrolling is covered in other sections of this report.

## Health

No epidemics of any seriousness have occurred during the year. The hope of having a Government Dentist visit all main centres in this District was achieved during the year. His report indicated that the teeth of natives generally were in good condition, especially considering the little amount of dental attention that had been available to most throughout the years.

The incidence of trachoma is still decreasing noticeably, though the constant danger of re-infection exists and is very difficult to combat. The report submitted by the District Medical Officer, Dr. C. Willington, is of interest :—

### *General.*

Matron, Native Hospital, reports that there has been a marked decrease in patients at the hospital and that the general health of natives seems to have improved steadily over the past few years. I would agree with this.

### *Venereal Disease*

The intensive treatment carried out in the past years is reflected in the relatively few cases seen now.

#### *Gonorrhoea—*

Acute cases seen and treated ; 15—all recovered satisfactorily.

Chronic Manifestations. Structure—3 cases were seen and relieved.

Arthritis—1 case.

#### *Syphilis—*

Acute cases—*nil*.

Chronic cases requiring treatment—none seen.

#### *Granuloma Venereum—*

3 cases treated and all have recovered satisfactorily.

The gonorrhoeal rate compares favourably with that of the white population—active measures are taken to track down contacts in all cases seen.

### *Trachoma.*

Intensive treatment and surveying in the past year has indicated that with continuation of this policy, this disease can be reduced to a very small number of new cases each year.

Survey early 1957. Total cases 103.

Survey early 1958. Total cases 55.

Jigalong Mission, a fairly insulated area, gives a good idea of the effect of rigorous treatment.

Cases January 1957.—30.

Cases January 1958.—4.

The Port Hedland medical district extends north to Anna Plains inland to Wittenoom and Jigalong and the area between.

### *Tuberculosis.*

The B.C.G. campaign carried out 2 years ago has resulted in no new cases of this disease being detected. Of the several cases under observation for possible flare-up, X-rays, reveal no reactivation of the disease. A mobile unit is at the moment doing chest films of all citizens in the area, natives included.

### *Malnutrition.*

This is not a problem—in the pregnant woman where this condition becomes manifest, particularly, we have had no cases under our care. Nutrition seems adequate. Only one case of frank malnutrition was treated and that appears to have resulted from the expulsion of the female concerned from her native group. Her condition is now satisfactory. The nutrition of station natives seems uniformly good.

### *Maternity Cases and Infant Welfare.*

There have been no abnormal difficulties with native mothers. An infant welfare doctor has examined a good number of native babies and is satisfied with their condition. A survey for anaemia in pregnancy in native mothers has resulted in the detection of no cases at Jigalong, Hedland or Marble Bar.

*Infant Diseases.*—Two babies died from meningitis but having regard to the general incidence of this condition, this is not abnormal. No evidence of neglect accompanied these cases.

### *Skin Diseases.*

Fungal infections and impetigo in young children has been treated, but generally there has been no great problem.

### *Respiratory Diseases.*

The incidence of upper respiratory tract infections (colds, etc.) seems greater in natives, but only six cases of frank pneumonia have been treated.

### *Diarrhoea.*

The native population share with the whites the periodic outbreaks of diarrhoea and there are relatively more cases among them. No permanent disability seems to result from these attacks, although they are frequently long continued. The cause is poor hygiene.

### *Dental Health.*

Native teeth remain generally better than those of white people. Frequently, however, good teeth have to be removed because of abscesses formation around them. This is usually the case in older natives and may result from long continued poor oral hygiene—tobacco chewing, etc.

### *Immunisation.*

The immunisation of native children at Jigalong Mission is now completed against Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis. "McLeod Group" children have also had these injections. No cases of any of these diseases were detected this year.

### *Special Groups.*

*Jigalong Mission.*—Regular visits have been made to the Mission by the D.M.O. Nutrition is adequate and there are no obvious defects in the local medical care of these children.

*Station Natives.*—Almost all stations in the area have been visited at least once. The general level of health care seems adequate. Many trips have been made by the R.F.D.S. plane to pick up sick natives at the request of station people. No case of gross neglect has come to the notice of the medical staff. There are at least as many radio calls for medical advice relating to natives as to whites.

*"McLeod Group" Natives.*—This group has co-operated very well with both Matron and the D.M.O. Children have been brought into Hedland from outlying camps for immunisation injections. At the moment the health of this group is about the same as other natives in the area. No examples of neglect have been seen by us. Most of the adult natives have been immunised against both tetanus and poliomyelitis in this group.

### *Conclusion.*

My impression is that the general level of health among natives in this area now approximates that of the white population. The one characteristic disease, trachoma, will respond to energetic campaigns as the above figures indicate.

Previous medical opinion indicated a large incidence of venereal diseases, whilst the present report is far more optimistic. With medical statistics, especially concerning natives, it must always be remembered that the incidence recorded of any complaint is invariably due to the percentage rate of voluntary submission. Personality differences in medical staff therefore reflect in statistics. Dr. Willington is thanked for his report which is most informative and concise.

Patrol Officer Cornish reports :—

"With the co-operation of the visiting Infant Health Sister and the free use of the East Carnarvon Hall, the clinic was commenced in August, 1957. From its inception the monthly clinic (Saturday afternoon) has been well attended, the average attendance being at least 12 women.

"A regular check is made of each infant and its mother, and where necessary various medicines and treatment are dispensed. The result has been a consistently high level of infant health, which has also been reflected in the health of the mothers.

"The clinic has also been providing a good weapon of assimilation. Of recent months the numbers of white women attending as well as the coloured mothers has been increasing.

"Polio and other immunisation clinics which have been held during the year have been well attended, resulting in a high percentage of immunisation among the children of the district.

"Full medical facilities with a resident doctor are available at Carnarvon and a hospital with regular doctor's visits at Onslow, provide for the health needs of whites and natives alike.

"The arrival of the aerial ambulance now based at Carnarvon has further helped to provide better medical care for natives in the area."

During the year 25 permits in connection with section 10 of the Native Welfare Act have been issued to natives requiring to remain temporarily or permanently south of the 20th parallel. One leper has been detected and admitted to the Derby Leprosarium. Of the 25 persons concerned, about 10 have remained south of the 20th parallel.

One native was convicted of assisting others to cross the parallel and was fined £1, with £32 10s. costs.

It appears that large numbers of natives are still crossing and re-crossing the line without apprehension and conviction being practicable, or perhaps desirable at this juncture.

### **Housing**

The housing situation is virtually unchanged so far as natives in law are concerned. A small exception has been the building at Roebourne by natives and a Patrol Officer of a three-roomed hut from bush timber and generally speaking scrap materials. Living conditions on this reserve are almost similar to the description in last year's report.



The Patrol Officer, Gascoyne reports :—

“ East Carnarvon, or Yankee town as it is better known has a number of coloured families living on their own properties. The condition of the majority of the buildings is not good, but they reflect a considerable improvement in living conditions to the camps and reserves. The economy of these families is not sufficiently stable to enable them to obtain S.H.C. homes, the menfolk being reliant on station employment and seasonal work for their income.”

### Education

The situation is basically unaltered from last year. The proposed institution at Roebourne is still in the planning stage, so that the major problem of offering education to large numbers of children in the Southern Pilbara and Ashburton Districts remains unsolved. Statistics have altered only slightly, but are as follows :—

Carnarvon	....	....	128 (Mission 71, Carnarvon Junior High 41, Convent 16)
Onslow	....	....	6
Port Hedland	....	....	57
Marble Bar	....	....	12 (including 3 C.R. Holders)
Roebourne	....	....	56
Jigalong School	....	....	46
Total	....	....	305

In addition to this figure, there are approximately 100 other children of school age in the district to whom education is at present not available.

It would not be too sweeping to state that where education is available to native children the level of that service is a credit to the Department concerned.

Education of native children, being attempted as the rule rather than the exception for the first time with this generation of children is naturally recognised to be of vast importance and is an impact which will have and is already having, a very marked effect on the mode of aboriginal life. It has been assumed that the impact would be for the good after all aspects have been considered. However, there is at least sufficient evidence to permit debate on this point.

Vocational training which native children automatically received whilst following in their parents footsteps on stations is naturally enough not available to them now that they are attending school in mission or town centres. An unconscious, or perhaps even conscious, lack of desire of school leaving age aboriginal children to think of the immediate future (because of the lack of promise it holds) is not only reflecting on their latter years at school but is offering possible fertile ground for the seeds of delinquency.

It is felt that the fairly detailed reports submitted by some of the teachers should be included here as giving a clearer picture than might otherwise be presented by merely quoting the statistics of attendances and reporting the level of the services rendered by the Education Department are high.

In a confidential report submitted by one Headmaster (not reproduced here) it is noteworthy that in 41 aboriginal children dealt with only three were reported as “ average ” or “ fair average ” scholastically. Of 15 of 13 years and over, all but one was regarded as “ below average ” scholastically. All others in both groups considered were “ below average ” or “ retarded.” I am convinced that an inability to correlate classroom progress with social success and occupational advancement in later life is the root cause of most of the apparent backwardness with native children. Lack of vocational training at present in no way assists aboriginal youth to view the future more optimistically.

#### School Teachers' Reports

##### *Mr. F. B. Weston, Carnarvon High*

Generally speaking the natives fit into the school life satisfactorily. This however is more noticeable in the younger than the older ones. There has never been any serious disciplinary trouble although one or two occasionally find themselves apprehended for minor offences.

The upper section—Grade 5 and above—appear to be very shy and great difficulty arises in getting them to answer questions in an audible manner if at all. I would say that the difference between educational attainments with the whites is very noticeable in the upper grades, as there the incentive to learn appears to diminish.

The natives from the Mission are inclined to congregate and play in groups. At football they are diffident about going in for the ball although physically they are as well developed as their opponents. Gymnastic ability is rather poor mainly, we think on account of their self-consciousness. At athletics they can more than hold their own.

The girls on the whole are good at sport. At handling a ball, throwing and catching, they are superior to the other children. At home science they are below average as with the wood work.

Many of them show a marked artistic ability.

Both boys and girls come to school clean and well dressed.

##### *Mr. H. E. Lamont, Carnarvon Mission School*

Present enrolment, 71.

Grade 1	....	....	23 plus 4 in upper grade 1
Grade 2	....	....	16
Grade 3	....	....	16
Grade 4	....	....	9
Grade 5	....	....	3

Enrolment includes 24 boys, 47 girls.

Recently up-grading has taken place in an endeavour to improve chronological age grouping with the approval of the District Superintendent, Mr. S. Wallace. All the original Grade 5 plus two up-graded now attend the Carnarvon Junior High School, where they are holding their own in all subjects except arithmetic. One child was in fact placed in Grade 6 and is doing very well. Four eleven year old children were taken out of Grade 3 and put into Grade 4 (two started school late in 1956). It is anticipated that these will pass out of Grade 4 at the end of the year.

During the latter part of 1957 keenness in school work was very evident except for one or two older children but it is not so evident at present. Every endeavour is being made to correct this attitude. Absconding was prevalent during February—a change in infant room teachers plus higher numbers impeded the settling-in progress after holidays—especially in the lower room.

It was most noticeable that the younger children are as a rule keen but there is a definite tendency to oppose learning as the children grow older. I believe that this is in part due to their inability to grasp the advantages of learning and the view that it is too much trouble and why worry about abstract things anyway.

The missionaries don't expect them to do much to help unless they are in the older groups and in fact make no secret of the fact that it is a home of love and entirely based on a religious footing plus attending to the everyday needs of the children. The future does not seem to have been taken into account except with those who show a desire to get on. In the majority of cases the children go back to the station life with no training apart from religious and the hygiene plus what they have absorbed at school.

Lack of ambition, inherent opposition to real work, spasmodic attempts to gain praise, resentment to draw knowledge from them and frustration, seem to lie beneath the surface. Most, but by no means all, have far more ability than they are prepared to show except when their own dormant ego exerts itself.

The most noticeable improvements this year have been the clearer speech both in reading, acting and choral speaking and a higher standard in writing. Neatness is becoming more general in their pad work but this is due mainly to insistence on a set standard.

To keep the children occupied at their tasks and to gain their full attention to lessons especially teaching of sums is a constant battle of wits and a strain on the patience of the teacher. Money and time, which are so vital in this modern world, are the hardest things to make progress with.

Several children who started school at well above normal age later in 1956 are now doing well and this applies to most of those who do make a late start. Quite a large percentage now start at normal age and are in the main keeping up with yearly progress. Some, however, lack maturity and treat school as a kindergarten playroom.

The recent addition of a verandah and painting, has definitely added to the morale of the children as also has improvements in the grounds in the form of a garden and trees. The battle to keep school walls, etc., free from pencil and chalk marks was won long ago as also the hard battle to stop doodling on pads, books and anything with a surface fit to mark with pencil or crayon.

My energies have been devoted to ensure that the children enter Carnarvon Junior High School from here with sufficient knowledge of the skilled subjects to warrant their treatment as normal children. I have been successful in getting some children in ahead of their normal entry there and without exception these have justified my efforts by their attainments. I do feel though that in some cases there is a retrograde step in moving in to mix with the white children, due no doubt to an inferiority complex.

Children who show promise and can mix freely should in my opinion enter the high school at an earlier stage than they do at present in order to get away from the element who seem determined to hold others back. Though dying out to some extent, there is still a tendency to cast a slur on those who would like to lift their level up to that of the white people.

In closing I would say that great credit is due to the mission staff for the general cleanliness of the children when they attend school. Their clothes are clean and very well cared for with only one or two who cast reflection on the efforts of those responsible. Hankies are always carried though not always used or ability to use them very evident but this also applies to other schools and it is not unusual to have white children completely ignorant of the existence of such a useful article.

*Lower Room.*—Report by the teacher concerned :—

*Grade One.*—Generally the children in this grade are fairly alert and keen on learning. The five year olds so far do not show much promise of understanding the set infant course. The better students vary from the age of seven to eleven. Naturally the 11 year old child finds it much easier to understand the work. He, however, is at a disadvantage in the fact that a lot of the work seems too "babyish" for him.

In this Grade 1 class is a lad suffering from muscular atrophy. This is his second year in the infants and he still has no ability at recognising any words. I feel, also, that an epileptic child who started this year will be in the same category.

*Grade Two.*—This grade is divided between the two classrooms. The weaker ones are in the infant room (mainly graded on reading ability). The Grade two (2) specials are very weak and are doing slightly advanced infant work. Three are still in their third school year. The rest of the grade are still backward as far as reading and number work is concerned.

Laziness and lack of interest seem to retard these children from giving their optimum effort.

Last year Miss Delores Prior, a coloured lass, was the infant teacher. Due to limited course at the Teacher's College and her own youth, it was a hard task for her to be confronted with her race who did not possess her own high standards of hygiene, pride in personal achievements or ambitions. That the children loved her was most evident as was also her sincerity of purpose but unfortunately she did not have the support of the big girls at the mission and these made things most unpleasant for her at times as she lived at the mission. It was most evident that Miss Prior herself was treated as a big girl by the Mission Superintendent who no doubt thought the responsibility of her welfare and future rested in his hands. The big boys too, no doubt, were more than eager to win her attentions, and this could have caused embarrassment had it got out of hand.

With more experience Miss Prior should be able to do a great deal for her own coloured people as a teacher and by the very high standard of her own example in hygiene, dress, speech and ability to mix freely. Her own faults in last year's teaching were due to inexperience and the fear of reprisals from the older mission children.

Miss Prior was treated here in Carnarvon as a fellow teacher and with equal status and respect. I have full confidence in her and expect to hear nothing but praise for her efforts. It would be gratifying indeed if more coloured people could emulate her example and so speed the eventual complete assimilation of the natives on an equal footing."

*Mr. Warne, Schoolteacher, Jigalong*

*Staff.*—Two Government School Teachers.

*Grading of Classes.*—Since last report classes have been graded—a definite forward move (there is some elasticity at present but this eventually will disappear when the results of the firmer control becomes apparent).

<i>Statistics.</i> —Grade 4	....	3 boys	3	3 girls
Grade 3	....	1 boy	3	3 girls
Grade 2	....	6 boys	8	8 girls
Grade 1a	....	4 boys	4	4 girls
Grade 1b	....	3 boys	2	2 girls
Grade 1c	....	3 boys	6	6 girls
Total	....	20 boys	26	26 girls

Social behaviour has shown marked improvement in social studies generally, children have reacted very favourably to the increased widening horizon being presented. Some shyness has been overcome.

Whilst the children have free access to the indigent native camp, lack of the use of spoken English will remain a retarding factor in the progress of the school. The Mission Superintendent, Pastor W. A. C. Rowe on 10th March, 1958, wrote *inter alia* :—

"Separation of Native Adults and Children. We discussed this subject at our staff meeting and are bearing in mind the various aspects. The Board has been, and is, doing the same. I will again raise the point with the Board."

Until this problem and also the problem of sufficient potable water is finally and efficiently solved, there appears no great future for the mission school.

The following amenities have been provided (source of donation in parenthesis). Library Books (Hadley Library). Library shelving and tennis courts (District Pastoralists). Windmill Gearbox Assembly (Southern Cross Windmill Co.). Initial grading of playground (Main Roads Department).

The piano has been restored to its rightful place in the school.

The P.W.D. has provided material for the following works : window for the store room, stoves in each classroom and the painting of the interior.

The mission authorities have undertaken to include a sum of £134 in their grant in aid application for the purchase of a school projector. Education Department will subsidise the purchase on a £1 for £1 basis.

Active help has been given by the Myola Club, Rosalie School, South Kensington Junior Teachers' Association and Industrial Extracts Ltd. This is gratefully acknowledged.

A sum of £100 has been donated from an undisclosed source for the purchase of a motor vehicle for the school. This, when purchased will assist to extend school activities in gardening, fencing projects and tanning, etc.

Anzac services have been held at the school, the children taking an active lead in these district assemblies.

School water supply and sanitation are problems yet to be finally solved."

Patrol Officer G. E. Cornish reports as follows :—

"The general standard of education appears to be below average, but notwithstanding it is heartening to see the realisation of parents for the need of schooling.

"All six children enrolled at Onslow school are boarding in the town whilst their parents are on stations. One girl's parents have recently obtained employment in that town, but this does not provide accommodation for their child.

"There is a great need in the Ashburton District for more schooling facilities. Between 70 and 100 children of school and pre-school age are requiring education which they are unable to receive. This is extremely disheartening as the parents of these children are aware of the need for schooling and some are beginning to ask why their children are unable to receive it.

"The position in the Gascoyne is nowhere near as acute, but there are still a large number of children who are not being educated.

"As many of the troubles involving natives revolve around a lack of education in its broader sense, an experiment in adult education by visual education was conducted last year. Both moving and still films were used on separate occasions and were extremely well received, by both reserve and East Carnarvon dwellers. Film matter is plentiful, but unfortunately owing to lack of equipment it has not been possible to continue.

"It is hoped that it will be possible to obtain a strip projector in the foreseeable future for use in Carnarvon and while on patrol."



## Employment

During the year there has been no serious unemployment and after considering the usual seasonal fluctuations, it could be said over the whole district to be approximately in balance.

With the continued increase of numbers of untrained native youths entering the employment field and the general tendency towards lack of full employment throughout the State, the position should not be regarded too optimistically. However, plans are in hand to operate a training scheme in a small way with the co-operation of a well regarded station employer. Upon indications of success it may be possible to extend the scheme, though lack of suitable stations may prove a stumbling block. There has been evidence of a continuation on the part of employers to replace aboriginal staff with whites, especially on the smaller but efficiently run stations. This applies mainly in the Pilbara. The situation further south to Carnarvon appears fairly static and the Patrol Officer there has reported :—

“ In the past 15 months the number of employment enquiries from both natives and stations has risen appreciably. Even during the summer months sufficient employment was located to prevent any hardship being experienced. Good co-operation is received in this respect from the various stock and other firms in the town.”

## Communications

Experiments with carrier pigeons were continued with a modicum of success only. Harsh climatic conditions and birds of prey made serious inroads into pigeon numbers and reduced reliability. Had patrolling continued in the area where pigeons were suitable in this district their use would have been warranted. This, however, not being the case the system has not been persisted with. It is noteworthy that almost all Commonwealth vehicles, station vehicles and even commercial travellers are now equipped with transceivers.

## Tribal Activities

Little time has been available this year to study such matters. None of an undesirable nature has been reported.

## Welfare

Throughout the district a total of an average 66 persons were rationed. Where those who are eligible for social service benefits have been assisted temporarily, applications have been made on their behalf. In this regard a total of 20 pensions have been granted during 1957/58 and 75 child endowment applications made. An additional number was rationed at Jigalong.

Patrol Officer Cornish reports :—

“ During the year under review, an application for assistance under Section 6A was received from a young couple, who have been employed on Gascoyne plantations for a number of years, to enable them to obtain their own property. A committee composed of a bank manager, an agricultural scientist and successful planters was formed to assist and advise them. However, owing to lack of finances the application was refused.”

In various parts of the district comfort has been taken to the aged in the form of clothing and blankets as well as rations, and liaison work with medical authorities has caused the treatment of numerous cases which might otherwise have gone untended for some time.

## Institutions and Missions

*Churches of Christ—Carnarvon* (Superintendent Mr. D. Hammer).

The mission was disappointed when land it was hoped to obtain for vocational training pursuits was acquired by others. This was a severe blow to the future potential of the mission. The mission is still full and in some sections crowded. Mr. Hammer's annual report is quoted—

“ *Mission Family*.—As this mission caters for the most part for children left destitute, or those requiring to attend school, the major part of the report concerns such. During the past year our regular number of inmates reached the maximum figure of 136 children. They ranged from a few weeks old to around 17 years. They have come from districts extending from Port Hedland to Mullewa, and from inland almost to Meekatharra.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the morale of the children over the year and a good spirit now prevails in all activities.

Individual older people have received help at the mission, usually mothers from far inland, waiting confinement. These have been boarded, cared for, taken to hospital in Carnarvon as required, and then encouraged to good care of their new born babes, before returning to their husbands and families.

*Accommodation*.—Although continual extensions have been made, this has remained a constant problem. It is particularly acute in the sections where there are boys and girls just beginning school. The problem has been less acute this year because of several factors—

1. A group of girls has remained in the kindergarten section while attending school, instead of being promoted to the junior girls' section.
2. A small building of two bedrooms and a bathroom and verandah has been completed and given to the use of older boys. These boys have been given a measure of responsibility in caring for themselves in this way and extra room has been available in the larger dormitories from which they have been taken.
3. A building intended to accommodate visitors staying at the mission has been completed and this can be used to accommodate a group of small girls should the pressure in the Junior Girls Section become more acute.



*Staff.*—The staff has remained practically without alteration during the period under review. This in itself has provided an atmosphere of stability and has helped the morale of the mission. Five married couples and eight single workers have achieved splendid co-operation. The very recent addition of a young man for the agricultural side of the work (garden and fowls) is also a help.

*Education.*—Older children continued to attend Carnarvon Junior High School and travelled in the school bus run by the mission. Younger children attend the Government school at the mission, where the two teachers are finding it not too easy to give adequate attention to the large number of children.

*Education and Employment of Older Children.*—Opportunity is taken of the period between leaving school and going out to employment to enlarge the children's interest as well as education. Cooking and dress-making classes conducted by the staff are regular features. Some girls are learning to play the piano with varied success. Boys are taught gardening, fencing, poultry care and general farm work, though some are more interested than others.

We are limited by lack of land from training in pastoral pursuits. With the help of the local District Officer we are experimenting with seasonal station employment in suitable stations as a partial training of older boys.

Young people who have left school receive a nominal sum of 5s. per week as pocket money and are encouraged to buy their own personal requirements. This has been conspicuously successful amongst the girls who have bought dress material and are building up excellent wardrobes.

While the majority of children go into pastoral or house work on stations, two girls this year went to Perth for Nursing Aide Training and one to a dressmaking course. Two boys have gone to farms in the Northern Wheatbelt and write back enthusiastically of their work there. The educational standard of the children, particularly in mathematics, is still below requirements for trades and most skilled employment.

A regular monthly letter contains news of the mission, etc., and is sent to each past inmate of the mission in an effort to maintain a useful contact.

*Other Features of Interest.*—Each month a birthday party continues to provide a highlight in the lives of the children. The staff goes to considerable trouble to make it successful and the whole mission participates. Those whose birthdays (real or assumed) have occurred during the previous month sit at a special table and have birthday cakes and candles. A film programme follows the party.

Christmas holidays in Perth for older girls, and others who have no parents to take them out for holidays, continue. This year 14 older girls were accommodated in Perth and others and some boys went to wheat farms and homes in the metropolitan area.

*Future Programme.*—This included the completion of the septic installations and the general improvement of buildings and facilities, in an effort to surround the children with the amenities which make for civilised living. We hope that this will improve the morale of the mission group still further.

Improvement to the senior boys' building is essential, and also further provision for junior girls. Painting, etc., still continues to need attention."

In the section dealing with accommodation, Mr. Hammer has mentioned that some of the senior boys are now living in what amounts to a "flat." The placing of a measure of responsibility on the shoulders of the boys is an excellent idea. Similar systems at other missions have proved successful and most advantageous.

The facilities for teaching general farm work as mentioned in the report are inadequate and the mission should receive more encouragement and assistance to provide better and more vocational training.

#### *Jigalong—Apostolic Church's Aborigine Rescue Mission.*

(Superintendent, Pastor W. A. C. Rowe. Acting Superintendent, Mr. G. Hartley.)

Extracts from the Superintendent's annual report are as follows:—

"We are glad to report another year of service and progress relating to the work of the mission and the care and advancement of the aborigine natives.

##### *Number of Natives.*

(a) Total number, 129.

(b) Number of pre-school children, 9.

(c) Number of children attending school, 47.

(d) Number of male natives employed by the mission, 7.

Duties range over stock work—sheep and cattle, generally assisting in building works to varying degree of skill, goat-herding and gardening.

(e) Number of indigent natives, 36.

*General Tuition.*—After a flat start a few years ago with children with no civilised background, many of whom were direct from the desert, primary education now rises to fourth grade standard. Under a head teacher and an assistant teacher of the W.A. Education Department, the children are taught in two classrooms, though this does not represent two specific standards. The ages vary in each according to the age of entry to school and measure of knowledge and ability. Individual attention is necessary and is being given. With each year of progress and with each annual inflow the distinct class system will become more normally established and the progress of the children will be quicker and more advanced. Also, the younger children in families are reaping the benefit of the teaching received by their older brothers and sisters. The effect can be noticed on pre-school children. This advantageous educational influence also makes for quicker development. It is noticeable that there is a different mental outlook, howbeit unconsciously, on the part of the younger children to general discipline and to school. The main object of the curriculum at present is to impart the three R's to the standard mentioned, with suitable opportunities of expression in simple art and handwork, team work in sport, as well as general basic knowledge as expressed by such things as time and money. It is confidently anticipated that a fuller measure of benefit will accrue to the younger generation of children at present in school. We expect and are hopeful that as the general level of education rises, that larger opportunities and higher education will open for children who reveal

special aptitude. Recently representatives from the Jigalong school attended a general education camp at Point Peron, thus giving a broader outlook and providing additional incentives to a wider and better life. This was another follow-up to a vacation spent by most of the children in Perth some time previously.

*Health.*—The health aspect of the children has been generally good over the last twelve months, with no major epidemics. There was a period of infective hepatitis, but only a few were affected by it. The physical condition of the children is particularly enhanced and very marked by those who remember the earliest contacts the mission had with the native children. We believe that a still greater measure of immunity from infectious diseases or their threat and a greater level of hygiene would be attained on the installation of septic systems which have now become necessary in view of closer settlement. The hospital and health oversight, under the charge and direction of the Matron, is doing a good work continually.

*Developmental Programme.*—We desire to express warmest appreciation for earliest grants-in-aid from the W.A. Government, which enabled the mission in the past year to install a new generating plant for light and power, especially in regard to the latter the provision of an electric pump at the Jigalong creek, which has enabled collection and storage of an extra 25,000 gallons of water. During the first rainy period it was found possible to extend the collection and storage of water to the house tanks; this has been of outstanding assistance to the mission and its work. The lighting has also been a great facility. Work is continuing for the erection of a further 25,000 gallon tank. The ultimate capacity for storage of water being envisaged as 300,000 gallons. This has been a great advancement in the water position for the natives generally. It is hoped to be enabled to tackle tankage for a further 100,000 gallons of water in the near future.

In addition to this, a major necessity is contained in the missions appeal for grants-in-aid for the installation of septic systems at each of the needful points—Children's dormitories, dining hall, hospital and central point of assembly for indigent natives, etc.

New accommodation is under way for mission native workers. The purpose of the mission, as funds and ability allow, is to develop this aspect for the indigent natives.

A new bore has been made during the past year and fresh water obtained, with a promise of a reasonable flow. This is the first time that such an encouragement has been obtained in this native reserve relating to fresh water as distinct from stock water. Efforts will be made to press on with the exploitation of this in order to prove what permanent possibilities there may be.

Certain building constructions are also in hand for the new period, which would make for greater facility and advantage for the indigent natives and for the children. Proposals for these and other projects have been put forward in detail to the Commissioner for Native Welfare.

*General.*—During the past year the new personnel of the mission staff have been getting established in both their general duties and their particular spheres of responsibility. They have made commendable progress. The emphasis has been made on their younger age group, thus giving larger optimum for the mission's work at present and in the foreseeable future.

The mission is working towards greater care and a gradual expansion of their stock with a view to moving gradually towards a measurable basis of self-support. Extra fencing has been and is being undertaken to this end. More experience is also being assimilated in this branch.

The denudation of trees, bush and other smaller plants in the immediate mission area has been a matter of great concern to the mission staff. Despite keen oversight this has come about over the years through native action and as a result of a herd of goats that are required for milk and fresh meat. This immediate vicinity to the mission has been giving way to a degree of erosion and an added contribution to wind and dust. The problem is being tackled with new vigour. An electric fence is being erected around a limited area to keep out the goats. The native children are responding to an initiative given to them to plant and care for young trees and generally to take a personal interest in bringing back into being the original flora. A general keenness is growing.

Greater concentration is also going into the development of the garden area at Old Jigalong. A jack pump is being installed at the Old Jigalong well in order to ensure water at times of wind drought. This experience and threat has been a handicap.

It is intended to experiment with the planting of various stock fodder to supply nutritious feed for a picked goat-herd and experiment with milking cows.

These are an indication of aspects of the work which the mission has in hand and are proceeding according to the personnel and material capacity."

In last year's annual report note was made of the primitive sanitary arrangements that existed inside the dormitories. They are still in evidence. It is hoped that the mission's plans, in which they regarded this anomaly as year as "urgent priority," will see fruition in the coming year.

It is believed that there has been a decrease in the sheep flock of approximately 30 per cent.

The new pumping unit moving water from a creek soak and one of the 25,000 gallon storage tanks is in use, but the second is as yet incomplete. During the year a vegetable garden was started and proved quite conclusively that excellent vegetables can be produced at Jigalong for at least part of the year. It is likely that, with partial shading and the "jungle type" system of gardening, certain vegetables could be grown in some of the summer months.

Most of the plans made for last year have not materialised, but it is hoped that those made for the coming year may be more successful. Progress at the Government School has made great strides and the schoolmaster is to be warmly commended.

Three projects begun on the mission are showing progress. Fencing has begun in the region of the buildings, a start having been made on a proposed electric fence. A hut of ample size has been begun for a native mission worker who is doing a good deal of the work himself. Huts for native workers are long overdue and this small start is a step in the right direction.

Encouragement given the mission to foster handicrafts in the form of weapon making has provided pleasing results. Orders covering about £80 worth of work have been placed and will certainly be filled. The quality of the work is unsurpassed in my experience and the natives are being encouraged to maintain a high standard.

The export of eggs to the friends of the Missionaries outside the institution, from a flock of 40 birds, when the kitchen for the children is so desperately short of such commodities to vary the diet and provide ample protein, is hard to reconcile.

If the plans for the coming year materialise, a great deal more will have been accomplished than the results obtained in the year under review.

*Roebourne Proposed Institution.*

An additional water supply has been found on the site, but the site has now been abandoned for a new area. No further progress has been made.

*Riverdale Native Hostel.* (Superintendent Mr. G. Stevens.)

The superintendent at this institution is a good gardener and has produced some excellent results. The two only infant inmates living there have been very well cared for.

During the year the system of rationing the aged altered from meals in a dining room to dry rations issued weekly and an average of 16 persons received these.

**Reserves**

*Carnarvon.*

Patrol Officer Cornish reports :—

“No major improvements have been effected on this reserve through the year and accommodation facilities still remain at one Nissen hut and two small open-ended structures (which are mainly used by indigents).

Three additional taps were provided in 1957 and these have resulted in a marked improvement in the reserve generally. Lawns have been planted around the various camps and a number of gardens commenced.

With the advent of the additional taps a number of substantial bough sheds were constructed. These have materially improved living conditions in a number of instances.

One dozen Chinese Elms which were planted are growing steadily and in due course, along with other quick-growing trees which have been planted, should do much to lessen the wind and dust menace which has been prevalent for some time.”

*Onslow.*

Mr. Cornish reports :—

“This year has seen the fulfilment of a long-awaited necessity, the construction of septic toilets and the provision of some living accommodation. This will be of great help to those receiving treatment at the hospital, adjacent, and living on the reserve, as there is no natural protection whatever.

With the advent of fresh water here, it is intended in due course to implement a tree and lawn growing campaign to provide some shelter.”

*Roebourne.*

It was not possible during the year to extend the water system or improve the laundry facilities as intimated as likely in last year's report.

Facilities on the reserve remain basically unaltered with the exception of a three-roomed hut built from bush timber and other scrap material. This was constructed by a patrol officer and natives belonging to the reserve.

*Port Hedland.*

A garden enclosure has been completed during the year and vegetables are growing. Lawn has been extended and ornamental trees that were planted have begun to flourish. A Nissen hut erected by the Public Works Department is almost complete. This addition to the accommodation provides ample shelter for the few natives who in the foreseeable future will use this reserve. Ablution and septic systems remain in good order.

*Marble Bar.*

An average of about 25 natives have used this reserve throughout the year. Two new lavatories have been erected and parts of a windmill transported to Marble Bar for erection on the well in the coming year.

**Native Population**

	Adults		Children under 16		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Full Bloods	865	673	260	178	1,976
Others	232	221	201	189	843
Total	1,097	894	461	367	2,819

During the year within the district, 75 Certificates of Citizenship were issued and in excess of 25 Exemption Certificates.

**Conclusion**

It is wished to acknowledge the readily given assistance offered by all the authorities of various Government Departments, churches, hospitals and the Flying Doctor Service. Without such co-operation and assistance little could have been accomplished.

A. O. DAY,  
District Officer.



# NORTHERN DISTRICT

## Introduction

I have pleasure in submitting my seventh Annual Report in respect of this District.

The most progressive accomplishment during the year under review was the establishment of a Junior Technical School at Derby. It is pleasing to report that although hostel accommodation for native children attending remains to be erected, full classes for the first year were able to be maintained with the co-operation of the United Aborigines Mission. A number of children wishing to enrol for domestic and manual classes were disappointed when advised that for this year these were at capacity and no accommodation was available. The interest generally being shown is very encouraging and bids well for the future.

More and more each year is being attempted to assist the individuals, however, the vastness of the area, combined with inadequate staff strength, makes this task for the few officers available difficult, and the results discouraging.

Good relationships exist between the native and our officers, but many employers still tend to dominate the native employee and think of him as something "owned" by the Station, the management of which makes every endeavour to keep him in his present state. Any attempt by this Department to uplift the natives in such cases is viewed as an intrusion into the "owner's" private affairs.

Under various headings I will attempt to explain more fully the various activities of work in this District for the past year.

## Administration

### Staff

Northern District Office—

- J. Beharell, District Officer.
- R. L. McDonald, Clerk.

Broome Sub-District Office—

- J. Harman, Assistant District Officer.
- C. Martin, Clerk.

East Kimberley Sub-District Office—

- D. Chapman, Patrol Officer.
- S. Alberta, Native Clerk.

During the year Mr. E. Roberts, Patrol Officer, was transferred from Wyndham, being replaced by Mr. Chapman, Patrol Officer who had previously been acting as the Assistant District Officer at Broome, prior to Mr. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer, being appointed.

## Missions

The following Missions are situated in the Northern District :—

Beagle Bay	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Forrest River	....	....	....	Church of England.
Holy Child Orphanage (girls)	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Kalumburu	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
La Grange	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Lombadina	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Mowanjum	....	....	....	Presbyterian.
Pallotine, Balgo	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
United Aborigines :				
Derby	....	....	....	Undenominational.
Fitzroy Crossing	....	....	....	Undenominational.
Sunday Island	....	....	....	Undenominational.

### Beagle Bay Mission

Situated 85 miles north of Broome and is conducted by the Pallottine Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

*Superintendent.*—Rev. Father Francis Huegel took up these duties towards the end of the year relieving Rev. Father Leo Hornung, who took up the position of Superintendent at La Grange Mission. Sisters of St. John of God carry out the nursing and educational activities at the Institution.

In early December, 1957, I visited this mission to investigate a claim submitted in respect to cyclone damage sustained during February of that year.

Other patrols to Beagle Bay were made during the year by Mr. Chapman, Patrol Officer, and Mr. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer.

The work carried out for the period under review has been in the main towards the re-erection of buildings, fences, windmills, etc., damaged by the cyclone. An engine has been installed to supply electricity and power, same being housed in a recently completed building for that purpose.

Married couples are living in improved type homes complete with individual kitchen facilities.

Subsidised children inmates are accommodated in dormitories and meals are prepared and eaten in a common dining room.

A pleasing feature is a newly constructed aerodrome, which will facilitate transport of medical cases or the visit of a medical officer, especially during the "wet" season.



The mission already has a small cattle industry established and hopes to extend its agricultural pursuits, a tractor and disc plough have been obtained for that purpose.

No. of Inmates	Total	Subsidised	Not Subsidised
Adults ....	92	23	69
Children ....	82	74	8
	174	97	77

*Forrest River Mission*

Situated approximately 32 miles by sea and river from Wyndham, and on the north bank of the Forrest River.

*Superintendent*—Rev. R. B. Cranswick.

During the year Mr. Cranswick took over the duties of Superintendent from the Acting Superintendent, Rev. M. H. Gardner.

Patrols have been made within the twelve months under review by Mr. Chapman, Patrol Officer, and myself.

It is pleasing to report that when Mr. Cranswick became Superintendent he allowed anyone desirous of visiting the Mission to do so. Many natives who lived precariously in Wyndham, having been banished by the previous Superintendents, are now back at the Institution. In this way, there is already an improved atmosphere, with the attitude of the people changing for the better as a direct result of this action.

Mr. Cranswick is well aware that there will be problems associated with this move. However he considers there has been too much restriction on the movements of natives connected with the Mission in the past and hopes that in due course matters will adjust themselves. In the meantime, he is prepared to bear with such difficulties as may arise.

Improvements are being made to the sanitation at the mission and an extension of the present cattle industry is contemplated.

It is felt that the future of this mission should be the brighter for the inmates due to the new understanding which the Superintendent is showing.

Approximately 46 children are attending the State School situated on the mission and conducted by a married couple employed by the Education Department.

A small hospital is maintained for the needs of the sick. Those requiring medical aid are transferred to Wyndham by air or sea.

No. of Inmates	Total	Subsidised	Not Subsidised
Adults ....	95	34	61
Children ....	71	56	15
	166	90	76

*Holy Child Orphanage*

This Institution is conducted for girls at Broome by the Sisters of St. John of God. Whilst it is termed an orphanage the majority of the inmates have parents, who consider it better for their girls to live there rather than under the poor conditions obtaining at Broome and other centres.

The children of school age attend St. Mary's Convent School and a kindergarten is also conducted by the same Sisters.

A tentative plan is being considered to establish a domestic science course at the Holy Child Orphanage to cater for the needs of the older girls.

No. of Inmates	Total	Subsidised	Not Subsidised
Children (girls) ....	39	27	12

*Kalumburu Mission*

Situated on the extreme North West of Western Australia on the west bank of the King Edward River, approximately 17 miles from the coast.

*Superintendent*—Rev. Father S. Sanz.

It was possible for me to visit this Institution during July, 1957. Owing to transport difficulties this was the first opportunity to spend any time there and carry out a complete inspection of the Mission.

I was favourably impressed with the conditions generally, particularly as the management had received no grants in aid for any improvements made.

A considerable number of aged natives are located at the Mission and some 30 additional persons were recommended for adult subsidy.

An unlimited supply of fresh water is available from the King Edward River and good use is being made of same for agricultural purposes. Various crops are grown including peanuts which are used exclusively towards the diet of the inmates. Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, fowls are kept, and the recent approval for the leasehold of Barton Plains should greatly assist in extending the cattle industry.

Under the capable supervision of the Superior, Rev. Mother Frances Pardo and Sisters of the Benedictine Order, the education and health of the inmates are catered for.

Subsidised children are accommodated in dormitories. Adults live in hut-type cottages on the mission proper, whilst the more tribal natives live in similar dwellings outside this area, always on the side nearest to their tribal grounds.

The Flying Doctor visits the Mission once monthly.

A great variety of vegetables and tropical fruits are grown for consumption by the staff and inmates. Fish is also easily available.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	153	84	69
Children	.....	36	31	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		189	115	74

*La Grange Mission.*

Situated 112 road miles south of Broome.

Superintendent—Rev. Father Leo Hornung, who recently relieved Rev. Father Francis Huegel, transferred to Beagle Bay Mission as Superintendent.

Patrols were carried out to this Mission during the year by Mr. Chapman, Patrol Officer, and Mr. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer.

This Institution was taken over from the Department by the Pallottine Order of the Roman Catholic Church on the 1st July, 1955.

A grant of £16,000 was given to establish this Mission. Girls' and Boys' dormitories, dining hall, girls' and boys' ablution blocks and store have been erected during the period of the Mission's occupation.

No industry can be established here unless a suitable area can be added to the present holding. As a result there is little opportunity to employ natives and thus absorb any who are unable to find employment on the few surrounding stations. It is believed that negotiations are being made to secure more land and, if successful, a sheep industry will be commenced.

Approximately 20 children attend school on the Mission.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	75	48	27
Children	.....	39	29	10
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		114	77	37

*Lombadina Mission.*

Situated on the coast approximately 130 miles north of Broome and 10 miles from Cape Leveque. Conducted by the Pallottine Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

Superintendent—Rev. Father John Herold.

Children are accommodated in dormitories, adults live in huts of timber and paper bark, sited on sand dunes away from the Mission proper.

Patrols during the year were made by Mr. Chapman, Patrol Officer, and Mr. J. Harman, Assistant District Officer.

The supervision of the school, hospital, and dining hall for children, is carried out by Sisters of St. John of God.

This Mission combines with Beagle Bay in conducting a small cattle industry.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	44	20	24
Children	.....	39	34	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		83	54	29

*Mowanjum Mission.*

Situated 7 miles from the Derby Post Office. This Mission moved from Wotjulum on the coast on the 25th September, 1956. A grant of £18,000 was given for the purpose of covering moving expenses and re-establishment at the new site.

Superintendent—Rev. J. B. Hartshorn.

Twenty-two homes for native families have been erected, besides accommodation for the Superintendent and his Staff, and other small buildings for use as store, church, etc.

School age children are transported to the Derby State School daily. Others attend a kindergarten being conducted by one of the native women at the Mission.

Adults find employment in town and on surrounding stations.

Fences and windmills have been erected and the cattle industry is being developed.

The people have settled in their new surroundings and are considerably better off now than at any previous time in the history of the Mission, thus justifying the decision made by them to transfer to Derby.

Adults and children keenly enter into the sporting activities of the town. Medical aid is readily available at the Derby Native Hospital. The fact that the children are mixing with others at the school will in no small way assist in their ultimate assimilation.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	106	43	63
Children	.....	50	23	27
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		156	66	90

*Pallottine Mission—Balgo.*

Situated 170 miles by road south of Hall's Creek.

Superintendent—Rev. Father A. Bleischwitz.

The Mission is conducted by the Pallottine Order of the Roman Catholic Church with the assistance of the Sisters of St. John of God, who supervise the medical aid, school, and feeding and clothing of children.

A patrol was made by me to this Institution during the year under review.

Approximately 27 children attend school and kindergarten.

The natives in the area are more primitive than elsewhere, and the Mission acts as a good contact for many who are coming into our society for the first time.

With a trained Sister on the Institution much valuable medical assistance is possible. The Flying Doctor visits once monthly and the mission now receives a fortnightly plane service.

A sheep industry is being developed and horses are bred and sold.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	73	22	51
Children	.....	57	39	18
		<hr/> 130	<hr/> 61	<hr/> 69

*United Aborigines Mission—Derby.*

Situated in the township of Derby.

Superintendent—Mr. K. R. Morgan.

Since the establishment of this Mission on the 1st July, 1956, accommodation has been its greatest need as the numbers of children steadily increased, who were desirous of being maintained here.

With the opening of a new Junior Technical School at Derby, the success of this year's attendance is mainly due to Mr. and Mrs. Morgan's efforts in finding room for those wishing to attend from outlying areas.

A grant of £25,000 has been approved for the erection of an hostel by this Mission for boys' and girls' attending the Junior Technical School. Materials are on hand for this building and Mr. Morgan has assured me that same will be completed in time for the commencement of the 1959 school year.

In order to relieve the severe congestion of children, this Department handed over a nissen hut, which was situated in Broome and not in use, and Mr. Morgan, with a good deal of additional material purchased by the Mission, has converted same into a building, used as a boys' dormitory, dining-room cum kitchen.

Miss Gee, a Mission worker, cares for the babies and pre-school children in a separate building.

Taking everything into consideration it is felt that the Superintendent and staff of this Mission have made an outstanding contribution towards the welfare of children in this District and the co-operation given by them on every occasion has been greatly appreciated.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	2	.....	2
Children	.....	39	39	.....
		<hr/> 41	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 2

*United Aborigines Mission—Fitzroy Crossing.*

Situated within two miles of Fitzroy Crossing township. Superintendent, Mr. E. Faulkner.

A patrol was made by me to this Mission during the year under review.

Seven indigent huts have been erected and electricity extended to this area.

A State school is located on this Mission, which is most satisfactory for the children of school ages. The head teacher, Mr. Rankin, is most co-operative in every way and takes an interest in the welfare of children over and above what can be expected. Another pleasing feature is the formation of Girl Guides and Brownie Packs being formed and conducted through the efforts of the school staff.

One of the native girls, Miss Dolores Prior, is an assistant teacher at this school, and in all respects is a creditable example for her people.

During the year school numbers decreased when some children left with their parents to return to Moola Bulla Station, and others came to Derby to enrol at the Junior Technical School. A number of additional children have been admitted from nearby stations, and many others could be but for opposition being shown by station owners and managers to these children residing at the Mission.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	35	10	25
Children	.....	70	53	17
		<hr/> 105	<hr/> 63	<hr/> 42

*United Aborigines Mission—Sunday Island.*

Situated on Sunday Island at the entrance to King's Sound, approximately 70 miles by sea from Derby.

Accessible only by boat.

Superintendent—Mr. W. R. Holmes, who relieved Mr. T. Power, resigned.

A patrol was made by Mr. Harman, Assistant District Officer, to this Mission during the year under review.

Several children have come to Derby this year to attend the Junior Technical School. Primary education at the Institution is in the capable hands of Mr. T. Allan, Department of Education.

During the year an application for the lease of 1,000 acres by the United Aborigines Mission was approved.

Without an industry to absorb the employable population at Sunday Island, there is little or no future here, particularly for the younger generation.

No improvements of a progressive nature can be reported, but it is hoped that the new Superintendent will establish among other necessities, (a) dining hall for children where meals can be prepared and served, (b) an adequate water supply to all sections of the Mission, (c) organise an industry, e.g., trochus shell, to give employment and the means of livelihood to the inhabitants.

	Number of Inmates.	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	.....	85	18	67
Children	.....	51	26	25
		<u>136</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>92</u>

**General Remarks.**

It is pleasing to note when reviewing the activities of the 11 missions situated in this District, that some have made progress without the direct assistance of grants in aid. On the other hand there are those which have remained stationary, even though in some cases materials have been supplied through previous grants in aid, but have not yet been used for the purpose for which they were provided.

Both La Grange and Mowanjum Missions have become established.

Missions in general serve a very useful purpose as hostels to accommodate children in order that they may receive education, when otherwise they would be unable to do so, also to care for indigents. It is interesting to note that within the 11 missions only 431 children are subsidised and attending either school or kindergarten. This figure is approximately one-third of the total number of children in the District. In the case of adults there are only 302 being subsidised, which represents about 8 per cent. of the total adult population.

The small number of adults being subsidised at missions is not a true indication of the total number of such persons, but aged natives prefer to exist with their relatives and within tribal areas rather than proceed to an institution.

Whilst the natives in the West Kimberleys (which includes the Broome Sub-District) are well supplied with hostel facilities, this does not apply in the East Kimberleys, where many children are remaining illiterate because of the lack of this form of accommodation near schools where they could attend. Hostels at Hall's Creek, Wyndham and within the Glenroy-Gibb River area would go far to eliminate this state of affairs and offer every child hostel facilities in order to receive education within a reasonable distance of home.

**Mission inmate statistics—**

	Total.	Subsidised.	Not Subsidised.
Adults	760	302	458
Children	573	431	142
	<u>1,333</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>600</u>

My appreciation is extended to all Superintendents and Staffs of missions who have co-operated with my officers and myself during the year and shown on the occasions of our visits much kindness and hospitality.

**Protectors of Natives**

In addition to staff there are 21 Protectors of natives in this District. My appreciation is shown for the services they have rendered.

**Patrols**

All areas of the District have received visits from officers during the past year, although it has been impossible to carry out much detailed work at any one centre. Concentration has been focussed on outstanding matters which require personal investigation and report.

An opportunity arose to visit Kalumburu Mission and spend a few days there. This was the first occasion I had had in five years to remain at this institution longer than the short time the monthly plane service allows.

Also, a patrol was made to Godfrey's Well on the Canning Stock Route to investigate a report received regarding starving natives in that area.

Mr. Roberts, Patrol Officer, carried out a patrol to Karungie Station, which is only 145 miles from Wyndham, but over an extremely difficult road. It was the first overland visit to this Station by an officer of this Department during my term of office.

From the result of the patrols made it is clear that there is need for more frequent contact with the natives, which, unfortunately, cannot be accomplished with the present staff position, together with the fact that vast areas have to be covered within a period of seven months of each year.



## Education

A most progressive step has been taken by the Department of Education in establishing the Junior Technical School, which commenced courses at Derby this year. Thirty children in all are attending—15 domestic science, 15 manual training. Hostel accommodation for these pupils is under construction, and it is anticipated that numbers desirous of taking these courses will be greater next year. Unfortunately because of the present position several children had to be refused admission for this year.

Mr. S. Wallace, Superintendent of Native Education, made his first and second visits to the North and at the time of writing is still visiting schools in this area.

Opposition by employers still exists at some stations to children going away to school, whilst at others every co-operation and encouragement is given. There appears little doubt that such an attitude on the part of the former employer is related to his anxiety of losing his labour, fearing that parents will follow the children, rather than the variety of reasons offered in such cases. It has been my experience that parents, with very few exceptions, want education for their children, but are still influenced by their employers upon whom they and their relatives are dependent. Furthermore, I have not noticed any "drifting" of parents from stations when children go to missions, but this could be otherwise if the school was situated on another station to the one on which they are employed.

A good number of children from all parts of the District attended the Camp School at Point Peron this year. I was able to visit this centre whilst in Perth returning from leave and all showed their delight in being able to take part in the activities of this scheme. The majority had never been away from the North previously and but for such an opportunity may never have visited Perth.

Miss Ruth Taylor, a full blood native girl from Hall's Creek, accompanied Matron Hurse and several other children on a trip to Canberra and other Capital cities. At Canberra she met Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Since returning she has commenced studies at the Junior Technical School, Derby.

The friendly relationship and co-operation being experienced between officers of the Department of Education and this Department is very gratifying.

## Population Statistics

Classification	Adults		Children		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
<i>West Kimberley Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	762	607	203	173	1,745
Other than fullblood	33	33	45	45	156
	<u>795</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>1,901</u>
<i>East Kimberley Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	757	735	225	208	1,925
Other than fullblood	51	32	49	50	182
	<u>808</u>	<u>767</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>2,107</u>
<i>Broome Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	228	235	85	89	637
Other than fullblood	84	102	105	106	397
	<u>312</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>1,034</u>
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Fullblood	1,747	1,577	513	470	4,307
Other than fullblood	168	167	199	201	735
	<u>1,915</u>	<u>1,744</u>	<u>712</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>5,042</u>

Approximate number of nomadic natives in Northern District, not included in above figures, 300.

## Employment and Industry

The main industries in this District are cattle, sheep and pearl shelling. Natives find ready employment in all these forms of work. However, the conditions vary considerably with each and every employee and in very few cases does the native receive his value for services rendered.

In the absence of an award laying down the conditions under which natives shall be employed, there is no action which a Welfare Officer can take to improve such a state of affairs as exists.

One even finds opposition from some employers against natives receiving Social Service Benefits. It is on account of the fact that a man with two or three children can receive more in endowment than wages.

Payment for services varies from "cash in hand" to credit systems. There have been a number of cases where the native has not been paid and recovery action is most difficult to take owing to the native's state of illiteracy.

There is no serious unemployment. Temporary unemployment sometimes occurs when natives are changing positions. It is pleasing to note the way some natives are obtaining work with basic rate of pay and appear to be carrying out their duties in a manner equal to the Europeans employed with them.

## Medical and Health

The undermentioned medical facilities are available in this District where sick natives can be treated:—

Government Native Hospitals at Derby, Broome and Wyndham.

Nursing Homes conducted by Australian Inland Mission at Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek.

Royal Flying Doctor bases at Derby and Wyndham where wireless communication is made with stations daily and cases of illness or accident discussed with the Medical Officer. When necessary, arrangements are made from these bases to evacuate the patient to hospital by the best means of transport available and in accordance with the urgency of the case.

A Leprosarium situated at Derby cares for natives suffering with Hansen's disease. Sisters of St. John of God carry out all the nursing duties.

The majority of native adults and children have received injections of Salk Vaccine.

Regular trachoma surveys are being carried out.

Ablution, sanitary and laundry block have been completed at the Wyndham Reserve and are now being used.

Sanitary and ablution facilities for natives at many stations remain non-existent although a few managements have made satisfactory arrangements in this way.

Every assistance is being given the natives by medical officers and nursing staff of the various hospitals in the area, and their co-operation with this Department in every way is appreciated.

## Crime and Justice

In the Criminal Court before Senior Puisne Judge Wolff and Jury, Toby Yumbinan was found not guilty of wilful murder. The case was heard at Broome on 31st October, 1957. Mr. E. M. Franklyn of Geraldton was engaged as Counsel for the accused.

This was by far the most serious charge made against any native in this District during the year. A number of native children in Broome were charged with breaking, entering and stealing. There have been the usual number of drinking offences. Several cohabitation cases were brought by the Police against white men and successfully prosecuted.

The behaviour of the natives generally has been good.

My appreciation is extended to the Resident Magistrate, Police Officers, Clerks of Courts, and Protectors of Natives, who have in many ways assisted the natives, my officers and myself.

## Certificates of Citizenship Rights

Number granted, 9.

Number cancelled, 1 (died).

## Certificates of Exemption

Number granted, 40.

Number cancelled, 7 (death), 5 (granted Citizenship).

## Births

Number registered, 48.

## Deaths

Number registered, 73.

## Conclusion

It is always difficult at the end of any single year to review the activities and estimate the value of any real progress made. There are seldom any spectacular results.

Relationship of the natives with officers of this Department remains satisfactory. Those living on stations require more contact and welfare assistance than they can receive at present. This applies particularly when the employer is apathetic or antagonistic towards any improvement in the lives of the natives. Whilst there is no legislation to effectively deal with such situations and the employers are agreed to continue in this way little can be done by appeal. In my experience during the past seven years I have noticed no substantial attempt to generally improve conditions for the natives in the Kimberleys.

My thanks are again extended to officers who have assisted me in the work of this District.

J. BEHARELL,

District Officer.

# SECTION "B"

## Departmental Institutions



### ALVAN HOUSE FOR GIRLS

Resident girls for the latter half of 1957 were 11. Of this number—

Two left school during the year and proceeded to Mogumber Methodist Mission as Hospital Assistants (one is now undergoing a Nursing Aide Course).

One left to enter a Nursing Aide Course.

One left to live with a family in the metropolitan area but continued her schooling.

Seven returned to the House in 1958 for further schooling.

At the 30th June, 1958, there were 14 girls in residence, made up of seven newcomers and seven girls continuing from the previous year.

### Education

*End of School Year 1957.*

Passed 8th Standard (9th Grade) ....	2
Passed 7th Standard (8th Grade) ....	5

*School Enrolments, 1958.*

9th Standard (10th Grade) ....	2
8th Standard (9th Grade) ....	5
7th Standard (8th Grade) ....	7

School reports indicate that the girls are doing reasonably well in the subjects they are taking.

### Sporting

The Alvan House Girl's Basketball Team won the 1957 premiership in the schools competition and so far are undefeated this year. The hockey team is also shaping well.

### Health

All girls have enjoyed good health. All girls had dental checks resulting in one girl having extractions and two girls fillings. The usual minor complaints were treated such as colds, boils, bruises and other minor injuries from sporting games.

### Social Activities

All girls are members of the Y.W.C.A. in Perth. They participated in parades in Perth on Youth Sunday and the Queen Mother's visit. The girls usually attend the pictures once weekly. At concerts or social functions of their own churches they join in willingly.

### Religion

Each girl attends the church of her own denomination each Sunday. The photo hereunder shows some of the girls dressed for confirmation. The dresses and veils were made at Alvan House.





## General

All girls are given particular assignments so as to learn the various aspects of housekeeping. The home is well cared for both inside and outside.

At the end of the year break up and preceding the return home for holidays, a barbecue and film evening is held. All four evenings conducted in past years have been enjoyed by the girls and their guests.

Keen interest has been shown in the girls and their progress by Virgillians, C.W.A. and Church groups.

Acknowledgment is made of the kind gestures and donations during the year by Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Steelybell, Mrs. Herron of the C.W.A., the Subiaco Brick Works Recreation Club and the Victoria Park Methodist Church. The Apex Club also donated some books to the home library which are gratefully acknowledged.

M. YORSTON,  
Officer-in-Charge.

## McDONALD HOUSE FOR BOYS

The beginning of the 1958 school year saw the return of five boys and there were an additional four new boys. One of these returned home the second week after admission and another was sent home at the completion of the first term.

## Education

The new inmates were given a vocational guidance test before being enrolled at school. Three were enrolled at Junior Technical School and one at Tuart Hill High School. This lad was later transferred to Junior Technical School.

School enrolments are as follows :—

### *Perth Boys :*

9th Standard, Junior Division	....	....	....	1 boy.
-------------------------------	------	------	------	--------

### *Junior Technical :*

8th Standard, Junior Division	....	....	....	1 boy.
-------------------------------	------	------	------	--------

8th Standard, School Certificate	....	....	....	3 boys.
----------------------------------	------	------	------	---------

7th Standard, School Certificate	....	....	....	2 boys.
----------------------------------	------	------	------	---------

In the 1957 Junior Certificate Examination Milton Penny passed seven subjects. He is now employed as a junior clerk with a firm of timber merchants at Guildford and continuing with further studies at night school.

William Thorn, who passed his 8th Standard School Certificate in 1957 is apprenticed as a fitter and turner at the Government Railways Workshops at Midland Junction.

## Sporting

The boys all play football. One plays with West Perth under 18 years of age competition, the others play for North Perth under 16 years of age. One lad is captain of this team. Another is vice-captain of the school team, also vice-captain of a faction team and vice-captain of a class basketball team. Most of the lads are very good at athletics and swimming.

## Health

We had a bad attack of influenza before the August, 1957, holidays. Two boys had pneumonia during the year, otherwise all have had excellent health.

## Social

During the year we have visited Mundaring Weir, Bickley Valley and Kalamunda for picnics. During the summer months the boys visited the beaches quite frequently.

The monthly visit on a Sunday afternoon to Alvan House and the girls returning that visit once a month is always very much enjoyed by the young folk. Some of the ex-McDonald House boys and girls often join our young folk also. Softball, basketball and other games help the young folk to mix happily together.

A Christmas party was held here on the back lawn. Alvan House girls and other friends were invited. A good programme of games was arranged and a barbecue supper brought a very happy evening to a close. At the close of first term this year we held a similar evening in one of the local church halls. The boys have also been to Alvan House for barbecue and film evenings.

During Easter we again spent a very happy time at the Roelands Native Mission Farm. The boys always look forward to visiting Roelands at least once a year.

Shortly before the 1957 Christmas holidays the four Junior Technical School boys attended an educational week at Bickley Valley with their fellow school mates. They thoroughly enjoyed their week away. These same four boys are in Army Cadets at school. They will be going to a camp at Northam during the 1958 August holidays.

All the boys attend church regularly on Sundays and some go to Christian Endeavour on Friday nights.

## Maintenance of Home

Very little has been done to the home during the year.



**Library**

We are indebted to the Apex Club for a large donation of very good books during the year.

**Visitors**

Mr. Menon, High Commissioner of India, accompanied by Mr. Middleton visited the home in June, 1958.

**General**

The boys are all happy at school and always mix very well with the other school boys and also at sport. The Headmaster and Teachers speak very highly of the boys and have told me how very well they fit in at school and how glad they are to have them.

Again we would like to record our appreciation for the way sporting organisations, the schools, church groups and others have taken a personal interest in the boys and at all times do what they can to help.

H. STYLES,

Officer-in-Charge.

## SECTION "C"

### Head Office Administration

#### Finance

An amount of £530,144 (see Appendix No. 2) was expended by the Department during the year. This amount was £60,267 above the appropriation made by Parliament. The excess was mainly due to the following factors :—

- (a) Grants in Aid to Missions : to cover expenses in the erection of two hostels at Derby for natives (one by the United Aborigines Mission, Derby—interdenominational—and the other by the Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic of the Kimberleys) to attend the Derby Junior Technical School and a grant to Beagle Bay Mission for storm damage incurred at the Mission.
- (b) Heavier expenditure on relief to natives caused through increased unemployment particularly in the slack December to February period in the farming and station areas.
- (c) Increased reimbursement to the Health Department on health and medical services to natives.
- (d) Increased reimbursement to the Education Department on the education of natives.

The expenditure of our Department is separated into two divisions, i.e. the north and south of the State using the 26 degree parallel of south latitude as the dividing line. In the northern half of the State (in statistics issued by the Treasury Department such expenditure may be shown under the Minister for North-West) the expenditure was £280,464 and in the southern half (shown under Minister for Native Welfare) the expenditure was £249,680.

Departmental subsidy rates to Native Missions remained constant throughout the year. The weekly subsidy for children of 35s. 9d. per week includes an amount of 1s. per week education allowance. As from 1st July, 1958, at the request of the Education Department, the latter will pay this allowance to Head Teachers of schools where native children are attending. The overall yearly expenditure on education allowance for natives will subsequently be reimbursed to the Education Department by our Department in its annual reimbursement for education.

Twenty-one native missions have made use of the purchasing and supply system offered by our Department which enables the Missions to obtain through Government purchasing channels requirements used by them in the maintenance and welfare of natives at missions.

For the year, missions directed £42,048 worth of business through our Department and received the economic and handling advantages associated with the system.

The amount of £114,506 reimbursed to the State Medical Department during the year covered medical services rendered to natives by that Department throughout the State. The expenditure included :—

The operating expenses of the Native Hospitals at Wyndham, Derby, Broome, Port Hedland and the Derby Leprosarium.

The unpaid hospital accounts of natives treated at Government controlled and Government subsidised hospitals in the State.

The cost of drugs, medicines and special equipment supplied to native missions.

The cost of transport of natives, mainly inter-hospital transfers.

Fifty per cent. of the expenditure incurred on Ophthalmic surveys and North-West Dental Clinics.

Thirty-three and one third per cent. of North-West doctors salaries.

Allowance to District Medical Officers at Mt. Magnet and Leonora for attention to natives in district.

Expenditure concerned with medical and nutritional surveys amongst natives.

Services of a qualified matron for a short period at Allawah Grove.

Our Department reimbursed the State Education Department its expenditure on native education throughout the State. The amount of £34,318 included :—

Salaries, travelling and transfer costs of the Superintendent of Native Education and staff attached to native schools at missions and one station school.

Free stock issues, subsidies and grants to these schools.

Revenue of £23,767 for the year was received mainly from the Medical Department, being patients fees collected and hospital benefits received by the Native Hospitals and Derby Leprosarium.

Loan fund expenditure for the year was £10,655 (see Appendix No. 1). Houses built at Port Hedland and Carnarvon were completed and occupied whilst the costs of the Derby and Wyndham residences, which were completed the previous year, were fully paid.

## Trust Accounts

A total of 22 Savings Bank Trust Accounts were being administered by this Department on behalf of natives at the 30th June, 1958. The sum total held in trust accounts is £1,643 8s. 6d.

The amount invested in Commonwealth Treasury Bonds by the Department on behalf of natives is £5,850.

Trust accounts and investments held by this Department on behalf of natives embraces the following :—

1. Moneys received at this Department on behalf of natives under the age of 21 years (e.g., from deceased estates, workers' compensation or motor vehicle third party insurance claims as dependent children) for whom the Commissioner is statutorily appointed guardian and considers trusteeship of such moneys desirable.
2. Moneys belonging to adult natives people 21 years of age or over who have elected of their own volition to have the Commissioner as trustee administer such monyes in a trust account.
3. Amounts received from Workers' Compensation claims in those cases where the Workers' Compensation Board, by powers conferred upon it, orders that compensation which cannot be immediately paid to a person under legal disability to give an effective discharge for payment, on which is payable to any dependant of a deceased worker, be paid to a trustee and the manner in which it shall be applied.

## Workers' Compensation and Third Party Insurance Claims

In order to protect the interests of natives involved in accidents in the course of employment or in motor vehicle accidents the Department acts on their behalf where no other satisfactory provision can be made by the native concerned. It must be understood that Section 35 of the Native Welfare Act obliges our Department to obtain the consent of adult natives to act on their behalf in these matters.

Since the 1954 amendments to the Native Welfare Act which abolished the Medical Fund and imposed on employers the arbitrary responsibility for insuring their native employees under the Workers' Compensation Act, 79 claims have been lodged by the Department on behalf of natives injured in the course of employment and negotiations have followed until final acceptance of £3,571 17s. 8d. specific and general damages, etc., in 35 of these cases. The balance of 44 has yet to be finalised.

Five outstanding third party insurance claims were carried forward for further attention at the beginning of the year and a further two additional claims were handled during the year. At the end of the year one of these claims had been granted, one rejected and five were under consideration.

## Maintenance

During the year four new maintenance cases were opened and six closed. A total of 40 remained on hand at the end of the year.

## Estates

Administration of 31 estates with assets totalling £855 7s. 7d. was handled for the year and 13 estates remained to be finalised.

## Christmas Cheer

The Lotteries Commission and the Young Contingent of the Victoria League made generous donations of £600 and £10 10s. respectively for distribution during Christmas 1957.

This kindly assistance enabled the Department to distribute gifts and provisions amongst destitute natives throughout the State to help brighten the festive season.

## Lotteries Commission

For the year ended 30th June, 1958, the Lotteries Commission paid £4,958 19s. 3d. subsidy towards the maintenance of native children in missions under the control of religious organisations which were prepared to accept assistance from the Lotteries Commission.

In addition generous donations of £5,162 5s. 2d. to missions and £2,593 to Government Institutions were made during the year for the benefit of the natives therein.

The financial assistance rendered by the Lotteries Commission in the field of native welfare is deeply appreciated.

## Population Statistics

See Appendix No. 3.

## Housing

Since the inception of the housing scheme for natives, 191 applications have been received by the State Housing Commission. Statistics at the 30th June, show :—

Applied since inception of scheme	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	191
Refused	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Withdrawn	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
Under consideration	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
Granted homes—under construction	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Granted homes since vacated or evicted	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	30
Homes at present occupied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	80

### Status of Applicants.

	Applied	Homes occupied
(a) Natives in law	58	18
(b) Natives in law (exempted)	19	5
(c) Citizenship Holders (not natives in law)	84	46
(d) Quadroons or less (not natives in law)	26	11
(e) Ex-servicemen (not natives in law)	4	....
	<hr/> 191	<hr/> 80

The State Housing Commission is reluctant to evict for arrears of rent but so far 30 evictions have occurred since the inception of the native housing scheme, in the manner of :—

(a) The tenant vacating without notice from the Commission after firm action to collect outstanding rent.

(b) The tenant vacating after eviction order obtained from the Court.

An allowance of £30 to natives in law taking occupancy of a State Housing Commission home is available from our Department. This grant assists the native to procure some of the essential items of furniture and equipment required when establishing a new home. Since inception 24 natives have been granted this allowance.

### Court Orders, Etc.

At the 30th June, 1958, a total of 152 orders were in force consisting of :—

151 orders issued by Children's Courts under the Child Welfare Act.

1 order issued by the Governor under section 39 of the Native Welfare Act allowing a native in custody under sentence of imprisonment to be placed under custody of a State Servant and employed outside a prison.

Of these 152 persons under the above orders :—

118 were in native institutions.

17 were under the direct control of the Child Welfare Department.

4 were in supervised employment.

13 were released on probation to parents or relations.

### Citizenship

During the year ended 30th June, 1958, notification was received of 98 applications for Citizenship Rights making the total applications notified since inception, 1,592. Of this number of applications :—

1,192 were granted,

253 were dismissed,

51 were withdrawn,

42 were adjourned,

54 await hearing.

Responsible parents have made applications in 138 cases for the inclusion of children on their Certificates of Citizenship and 401 children are recorded as covered on the Certificates of their parents.

All applications for Citizenship Rights by natives are heard and determined by a Citizenship Board on which there is no representative from our Department.

### Exemption

A total of 141 applications were received during the year bringing the total applications to 1,496. Of this number 1,421 have been granted and 75 have been refused.

At the 30th June, 1958, there were 911 Certificates of Exemption in existence, the remainder having been cancelled through death of the holder, procuracy of Citizenship Rights or other reasons causing cancellation by the Hon. Minister.

### Poor Persons' Legal Assistance Act

The benefits of the Poor Persons' Legal Assistance Act is extended to part aborigines who come within the scope of a "poor person." This Act does not apply to cases heard in Courts of Petty Sessions and on the criminal side assistance is limited to those persons committed for trial. The co-operation of the Law Society in assisting part natives in four such cases during the year is acknowledged and appreciated.

Fullblood aborigines continue to be the responsibility of the Department in regard to the briefing and payment of counsel when necessary. Similarly part aborigines who do not qualify for assistance as a "poor person" are also afforded the attention of our Department in respect to proper legal representation.

S. G. MIDDLETON,

Commissioner of Native Welfare.



**Appendix No. 1**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.**

*Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1957/58.*

**GENERAL LOAN FUNDS.**

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at 1/7/57	10,670	15	6	Derby residence	2,029	4	7
Receipt from Public Works over-charge in 1956/57				Wyndham residence	146	9	2
Meekatharra residence	535	6	6	Port Hedland residence	4,671	15	4
				Carnarvon residence	3,807	5	6
	11,206	2	0				
Unexpended balance at 30/6/58	551	7	5				10,654 14 7
			10,654 14 7				
			£10,654 14 7				£10,654 14 7

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the books and documents produced.

(Signed) C. P. MATHEA,

Auditor General.

7th August, 1958.

## Appendix No. 2

### DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

*Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1967/68.*

#### NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>Balance brought forward 1st July, 1967</b> .....			1,000	0	0				
<b>Grant under Section 5 of Native Welfare Act, 1905-54</b> .....			10,000	0	0				
<b>Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund—</b>									
Native Welfare—Division 57 .....			238,679	18	3				
North-West Native Welfare—Division 54 .....			280,463	12	6				
<b>Revenue Collections—</b>									
<i>Departmental :</i>									
Alvan House .....	591	3	6						
Bennett House .....	41	1	1						
McDonald House .....	372	13	10						
District Offices .....	1,403	6	8						
Head Office .....	134	2	11						
Maintenance (recoup subsidy to Missions) .....	888	7	11						
Relief to Natives .....	1,092	14	4						
Bulk Rations—Repayments .....	19	3	6						
Boarding Allowance—Repayments .....	53	6	8						
Native Reserves—rental huts on reserves .....	186	16	3						
Reimbursement from Medical Department .....	18,905	1	7						
Section 6a .....	35	1	2						
Hire of Machinery .....	44	0	0						
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>£23,766</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>						
<b>Child Endowment (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund—Rebates)—</b>									
Alvan House .....	206	7	1						
McDonald House .....	170	14	3						
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>£377</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>						
<b>Carried forward</b> .....	<b>£530,143</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>						
<b>Institutions—</b>									
<b>Alvan House :</b>									
Contingencies .....	3,001	19	2						
Salaries and wages .....	706	12	6						
<b>Bennett House :</b>									
Contingencies .....	1,302	7	11						
Salaries and wages .....	1,346	16	3						
<b>McDonald House :</b>									
Contingencies .....	1,915	19	5						
Salaries and wages .....	892	19	10						
<b>Marble Bar Hostel :</b>									
Contingencies .....	13	16	10						
<b>Riverdale Hostel :</b>									
Contingencies .....	6,804	17	0						
Salaries and wages .....	930	0	0						
<b>Roebourne Hostel :</b>									
Contingencies .....	45	19	3						
<b>Office Administration—</b>									
<b>Sub-District Office—Broome :</b>									
Contingencies .....	652	7	10						
Salaries and wages .....	2,072	8	11						
<b>Sub-District Office—Carnarvon :</b>									
Contingencies .....	783	6	11						
Salaries and wages .....	1,453	12	1						
<b>District Office—Central :</b>									
Contingencies .....	183	0	2						
Salaries and wages .....	3,453	8	6						
<b>Sub-District Office—Central :</b>									
Contingencies .....	631	9	10						
Salaries and wages .....	3,323	3	6						
<b>District Office—Derby :</b>									
Contingencies .....	1,895	17	4						
Salaries and wages .....	3,331	3	7						
<b>District Office—Geraldton :</b>									
Contingencies .....	961	2	0						
Salaries and wages .....	3,411	17	11						
<b>Head Office :</b>									
Contingencies .....	3,938	3	1						
Salaries and wages .....	19,418	15	3						
<b>Minister's Office :</b>									
Contingencies .....	567	4	4						
<b>Sub-District Office—Kalgoorlie :</b>									
Contingencies .....	1,137	14	0						
Salaries and wages .....	3,116	6	11						
<b>Sub-District Office—Marble Bar :</b>									
Contingencies .....	2	13	8						
<b>Sub-District Office—Meekatharra :</b>									
Contingencies .....	625	14	8						
Salaries and wages .....	1,745	0	3						
<b>Mobile Welfare Clinic :</b>									
Contingencies .....	551	4	11						
Salaries and wages .....	1,296	15	1						
<b>District Office—Narrogin :</b>									
Contingencies .....	934	3	2						
Salaries and wages .....	4,646	10	5						
<b>District Office—Port Hedland :</b>									
Contingencies .....	2,051	14	9						
Salaries and wages .....	3,762	2	8						
<b>Carried forward</b> .....	<b>£82,908</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>						

**Appendix No. 2—continued**

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

*Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1957/58.*

NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward	£530,143	10	9	Brought forward	£82,908	9	11
				<b>Sub-District Office—Warburton—</b>			
				<i>Laverton :</i>			
				Contingencies	2,441	13	0
				Salaries and wages	1,060	5	3
							3,501 18 3
				<b>Sub-District Office—Wyndham :</b>			
				Contingencies	966	7	4
				Salaries and wages	1,745	1	8
							2,711 9 0
				<b>Allawah Grove Housing Settle-</b>			
				<i>ment :</i>			
				Salaries and wages	607	9	7
							607 9 7
				<b>Assistance to Missions—</b>			
				Subsidy	180,755	10	3
				Grants-in-Aid	28,459	7	3
				Medical and Transport	9,551	5	2
							218,766 2 8
				<b>Boarding out Cases—</b>			
				Institutions	3,446	5	10
				Private Homes	1,196	5	3
							4,642 11 1
				<b>Bulk Ration Centres—</b>			
				Derby	596	18	5
				Mulga Queen	1,096	9	11
				Turkey Creek	302	4	0
				Wiluna	5	4	4
				Wyndham	1,728	16	6
							3,729 13 2
				<b>Relief to Natives—</b>			
				Stores, provisions and meat	18,180	16	9
				Education and amenities	286	18	9
				Medical :			
				Doctors	428	12	5
				Hospitals	20,730	13	9
				Sundries	297	12	7
				Blankets and clothing	1,560	6	10
				Miscellaneous	1	0	1
				Legal costs	491	4	11
				Furniture and equipment for			
				native houses	295	13	0
				Burials	3,461	4	7
				Transport	3,601	18	0
				Welfare relief	420	13	6
				Welfare relief (rental assistance)	5	13	7
							49,762 8 9
				<b>Improvements to Reserves—</b>			
				General Expenditure	14,174	12	9
							14,174 12 9
				<b>Section 6a—</b>			
				Purchase of house	142	5	8
							142 5 8
				<b>Reimbursement to Medical Dept.</b>			114,506 7 8
				<b>Reimbursement to Education Dept.</b>			34,318 2 11
				<b>Reimbursement to Police Dept.</b>			229 0 10
				<b>Reimbursement to Agricultural Dept.</b>			142 18 6
							£530,143 10 9
							£530,143 10 9

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the books and documents produced.

7th August, 1958.

(Signed) C. P. MATHEA,

Auditor General.

### Appendix No. 3

#### NATIVE POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1958

District	Full Bloods				Other Bloods				Grand Total
	Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total	
<b>Northern—</b>									
Broome .....	228	235	174	637	84	102	211	397	1,034
East Kimberley .....	757	735	493	1,925	51	32	99	182	2,107
West Kimberley .....	762	607	376	1,745	33	33	90	156	1,901
<b>North-West—</b>									
Gascoyne .....	248	200	146	594	137	117	302	556	1,150
Pilbara .....	617	473	292	1,382	95	104	88	287	1,669
<b>Central—</b>									
Central Sub-District .....	13	8	4	25	293	287	730	1,310	1,335
Eastern Goldfields .....	500	450	400	1,350	200	150	250	600	1,950
<b>North Central—</b>									
West Murchison .....	86	71	44	201	224	231	564	1,019	1,220
East Murchison .....	207	185	175	567	139	134	183	456	1,023
<b>Southern—</b>									
Southern .....	55	51	123	229	480	429	1,324	2,233	2,462
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>3,473</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>7,196</b>	<b>15,851</b>
<b>Estimate of nomad natives beyond confines of civilisation</b> .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21,851

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Welfare for the year ended 30th June 1958

Corporate Author: Western Australia. Dept. of Native Welfare

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