

A.W.

1957

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT

OF THE

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1957

BY COMMAND



Ordered to be printed, 31 October, 1957

Wholly set up and printed in Australia by
 A. H. PETTIFER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

1957
 [1.]



Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1957.

Presented to the Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary,
pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-43.

I. THE BOARD.

Personnel and Meetings.

During the year, the following changes took place in the personnel of the Board. Mr. N. W. Drummond, B.A., the representative of the Education Department, retired, and Mr. P. C. Price, B.Sc., Deputy Director-General of Secondary Education was appointed to succeed him. Later in the year Mr. Price resigned and Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A., Deputy Director of Primary Education was appointed. Superintendent J. D. McAuley, representing the Police Department also retired, and Superintendent P. R. Clifton was appointed in his stead.

The constitution of the Board at 30th June, 1957, was as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—Mr. C. J. Buttsworth (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.
Officer of the Department of Public Health—Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction—Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.

Member of Police Force—Superintendent P. R. Clifton.

An expert in Agriculture—Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

An expert in Sociology and/or Anthropology—Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice-Chairman).

Two persons nominated by the Minister—Mr. H. Sawtell, Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two aborigines—

(a) one full-blood—Vacant.

(b) one having admixture of aboriginal blood—Mrs. P. M. Gibbs.

Monthly meetings were held during the year, when statutory business was transacted and matters of general policy discussed.

As yet, no nomination has been received to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full-blooded aboriginal member.

Policy.

The gradual, and ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community, has been and will continue to be the policy of the Board. This policy has been adopted in all States of Australia and by the Commonwealth Government.

The measures adopted by the Board, for the improvement in the housing, education, health and employment of the aborigines are directed towards the preparation of these people, to enable them to take their place as worthy and accepted citizens in the community.

The Board's activities cover persons of aboriginal descent, either full-blood or with admixture of aboriginal and other races. Reference to "Aborigine" in this report, is to be understood in this sense.

Visits by Board Members.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare paid a total of seventy-eight visits during the year to Stations and Reserves and the Training Homes for boys and girls. Other visits were made by the Chairman and Board Members.

On a number of occasions contact was made with local civic authorities and other bodies interested in the welfare of Aborigines. Addresses were given by various groups on the problems of aborigines welfare and the work of the Board. Such contacts have had a noticeable impact on the understanding and attitudes of many interested white citizens.

General Expenditure.

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government, amounted to £190,610 which represented an increase of £2,331 on the previous year's expenditure.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £4,772. This was a decrease of £8,867 compared with last year.

Acknowledgements.

The Board could not function effectively without the helpful interest and advice of other State Departments, such as Education, Works, Agriculture, Health, Police, Lands, Forestry and the Housing Commission; and the assistance of these is gratefully acknowledged.

Mention is also made of the valuable services rendered by Church groups and local committees which function actively in many centres in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of aborigines. In addition, other organisations such as Apex, Rotary, Lions and many private persons, have rendered valuable assistance.

Special mention must be made of the work of Apex during the year.

About two years ago the Association of Apex Clubs adopted as its National Service Scheme for a period of two years, "Aboriginal Welfare" throughout Australia.

Great interest has been evinced by the Clubs in N.S.W. and opportunities have been afforded to the Superintendent and many field officers, to address members of Apex in various parts of the State. Many misconceptions concerning the problem were dispelled and enlightenment afforded on the Board's policy and the measures being undertaken for its implementation.

Practical contribution by Apex has been forthcoming in many directions. Social activities among aborigines have been sponsored and participation of members of the white community fostered. Encouragement has been given to health schemes, and assistance rendered in a number of cases, to enable children to continue their education at the super-primary level. Sporting and playground equipment has been supplied at a number of aboriginal schools and Stations. At Cootamundra Girls' Home local clubs undertook the internal painting of the home.

During the year the Press, both metropolitan and country has rendered invaluable service in bringing before the public many of the problems that constantly present themselves to the administration and the difficulties which the aboriginal people encounter in their efforts to win a place for themselves in the community.

It is felt that a great deal has been achieved in arousing the public conscience over the treatment of aborigines in the past and the obligations of citizens to adopt a sympathetic and helpful attitude towards the aspirations of these people.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Housing.

Progress with the Board's rehousing programme was restricted owing to the limitation of funds for this purpose. Two houses were erected on town sites in the town of Dubbo and four on a new reserve within the town boundaries at Peak Hill.

Twenty-eight homes have been erected in various country towns, and for the most part, the occupants have become well integrated with the community.

The question of non-payment of rent by aborigines who occupy new houses on Reserves has continued a problem. At the end of this year a total of £49,845 was outstanding, while an amount of £17,190 had been paid. This represents a slight improvement on the position last year.

During the year it was decided that some positive action should be taken and proceedings were instituted against one tenant who was well able to pay, but who was evading his obligations. This resulted in a cash payment of some £260 covering arrears of rent and it is anticipated that this action will stimulate others to meet their obligations.

The Board felt it was desirable for special encouragement to be given to aborigines who, by their thrift, demonstrated they are making an effort to help themselves. With this in view, loans for the purchase or erection of homes have been approved to those who have purchased their own land or have a substantial deposit to offer. Loans totalling over £9,000 have been made to persons in this category.

Education.

The same educational facilities exist for aboriginal children as are available to children of white parents. All schools are staffed by fully qualified teachers of the Education Department and wherever possible children attend the district public school and mix freely with their white companions.

Many excel in sport and approximately 200 have gained admission to High Schools.

One girl who secured her Leaving Certificate at Casino High School last year is now enrolled in the Arts Course at Brisbane University, to which she gained a Scholarship.

During the year, ten bursaries, each of the value of £50 per annum, were awarded by the Board. There are now eighteen current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

Many of the children possess outstanding manual dexterity and the Education Department is generous in its supplies of special school equipment and issue of materials for needlework, manual work, gardening and other activities. Aboriginal children receive free milk, conveyance subsidy (where required) and other amenities on exactly the same basis as white pupils.

Welfare Activities.

The Board now has a staff of six male Welfare Officers stationed at Sydney, Kempsey, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Lismore.

In addition, two lady Welfare Officers are located at Sydney. One of them is a trained nurse whose time is spent mainly in country districts working among mothers, babies and adolescent girls, in the field of child care, home management and domestic hygiene.

Welfare Officers cover large territories and are in constant touch with members of the aboriginal population. While they regularly visit all Stations and Reserves, their work lies primarily among those people who have not the advantage of the advice and guidance of Station management, and the facilities available to Station residents.

By their contact with individuals and organisations in the general community these officers endeavour to enlist the sympathy and intelligent co-operation of the white population in the problem of aborigines.

Over the years, their work in this direction has been fruitful and there is now in the community a much better informed public attitude towards the needs of our aboriginal population.

"Dawn Magazine".

Publication of the Magazine has been continued each month. It is a magazine for the aboriginal people who to an increasing degree are contributing to its contents. Each issue is eagerly awaited, both by the aboriginal folk and an ever-growing number of sympathisers in the white community.

Summer Seaside Camp.

As in past years, a Summer Camp was again held in January on the Board's property at La Perouse. A total of seventy-four boys and girls from the far western districts of the State enjoyed a fortnight's holiday by the sea. The children were specially selected from those living in remote country areas, and they benefited not only in health, but their outlook was broadened and their knowledge increased.

A full programme of recreation and entertainment, together with instructional outings was arranged. All campers received a medical and dental check up.

These camps are a wonderful experience for those outback children who are selected to attend.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Contrary to a popular misconception, the Board has no power to assume control of aboriginal children—they can only come under the legal control of the Board on the application of a responsible person, or if committed by a competent court.

Welfare Officers are vigilant in their oversight of sub-standard homes. Their efforts are directed towards the rehabilitation of the residents of such dwellings and only in extreme cases is court action taken for the removal of neglected children from their parents' care.

The Board maintains two homes for wards, one for girls at Cootamundra and one for boys at Kinchela.

It is the policy and constant endeavour of the Board to secure suitable foster homes for its wards. Such placement is considered to be superior to institutional care, since it provides the best substitute for a child's own home.

Many worthy citizens in the white community have offered their services as foster parents, and quite a number of aboriginal children are happily placed in the homes of these people. Others are boarded out with selected aboriginal families.

At the 30th June, 1957, 260 children were in the care of the Board as wards. Of these, eighty-nine were in the Board's two homes, 128 were in foster homes, and the remainder in denominational or other supervised homes.

Foster parents are paid a weekly boarding-out allowance, and are further assisted in the payment of medical and dental expenses, as well as incidental fees for educational purposes.

Wards over school leaving age, are placed in employment, and a proportion of their wages is paid to a trust account available to the ward on attaining the age of eighteen years.

Statistics concerning the number of placements of wards during the year, are shown in Appendix "A". Brief accounts of the activities of the two Homes conducted by the Board, appear at the end of this report.

IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

The Board conducts sixteen aboriginal Stations, each of which is under the full-time control of a Manager and Matron, the latter in many instances being a trained nurse.

Houses are provided for the residents and every encouragement is given to the aboriginal people to adopt a standard of living comparable with that of the white community. Minor medical attention is given at a well equipped treatment room, and the Station endeavours to instruct mothers in child care and home management.

A Church and Recreation Hall exists to cater for religious and recreational activities. Social life is fostered and the people are encouraged to take an active part in community life. This has proved to be helpful in preparation for assimilation into the general community. In many instances, residents through local progress associations have displayed a keen interest in the management of their own affairs, and are developing a commendable degree of responsibility.

On one Station a branch of the Country Women's Association has been established, and members mingle freely with those of nearby white branches.

Appendix "B" indicates the population of the various Stations at 30th June, 1957. Brief accounts of activities appear at the end of this report.

V. ABORIGINAL RESERVES GENERALLY.

The Board has a number of Reserves, which are areas set aside for the exclusive use of aborigines. They are not under full-time management, as is the case with Stations, but in some instances part-time supervisors are employed.

On some Reserves the Board has erected a simple type home but, in the main, the people have built their own dwellings.

Generally speaking, the population on Reserves is not as large as on Stations, and some are used mainly as temporary camping places by aborigines who follow seasonal work, such as fruit, bean and pea picking.

Appendix "C" sets out statistics concerning Reserves.

VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Statistics.

A survey of the aboriginal population of New South Wales was completed during the year by the Board's Officers. This revealed that the number in this State was:

Full Bloods	235
Half castes	6,600
Lesser castes	6,763
Total	13,598

This represents a slight increase under each heading on the figures of the previous census.

This can be accepted as a fairly accurate census of pure bloods and people having an identifiable admixture of aboriginal blood, but it is safe to say that there are many others in the community of so light a caste as to be no longer identified as of aboriginal descent.

Of the numbers stated, 4,758 reside on Stations and Reserves under the control of the Board. Of the remaining 8,840 some live in sub-standard conditions on the outskirts of country towns. Very many however, own or rent their own homes and may be regarded as completely assimilated.

Labour and Employment.

While increasing numbers of aborigines are finding more permanent types of employment, there are still many who follow seasonal occupations and lead a somewhat migratory existence. This is inimical to a stable economic position and has an adverse effect on the home life and education of the children. Officers of the Board make it their constant endeavour to settle workers in permanent occupations. Many have obtained positions with the Railway Department, Main Roads Board, Local Government bodies, and other work of a stable nature. Some are self employed as shearing and fencing contractors. During the year, employment has been found for a number of girls as trainee nurses, nursing aids and hospital domestics.

Relief and Benefits provided by the Board.

Indigent aborigines who are not eligible for the usual Social Service Benefits are assisted by the Board. The policy of the Commonwealth Government in regard to these benefits, is dealt with later in this report. Food rations are issued weekly and winter and summer issues of clothing and blankets are made.

Treatment for minor ailments is available on Aboriginal Stations and the more serious cases are referred for medical attention or hospitalisation as necessary. These services are available without charge to indigent persons. Those able to pay are expected to do so, but are encouraged to join Ambulance, Hospital and Medical Benefit Funds. Many have availed themselves of the services provided through these schemes.

Each Christmas a special issue of Christmas cheer is made and special functions are arranged by the Board for the children.

Where Progress and Parents and Citizens' Associations exist, the Board subsidises their funds to provide amenities for the general benefit of Stations.

Issues of clothing to indigent and other dependent aborigines, were as shown in the table hereunder:—

Outfits.	Year ended 30th June.								
	Male.			Female.			Total.		
	1955	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957
Summer Outfits	168	132	111	216	169	192	384	301	303
Winter Outfits	141	131	115	194	173	175	335	304	290
Totals	309	263	226	410	342	367	719	605	593

Exemption Certificates.

Under the Aborigines Protection Act, a certificate of exemption from the provisions thereof, may be granted upon the application of any person having an admixture of aboriginal blood, who, in the opinion of the Board, is no longer subject

to such provisions. Exemptions are granted only after the enquiry, to persons of good character who have attained a satisfactory standard of living.

During the year under review, 137 such certificates were issued and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Granted	99	110	137
Deferred	—	—	1
Declined	3	7	25
Cancelled	3	5	6

Expulsion Orders.

The Board is empowered to order the expulsion of an aborigine from any Reserve. This power is exercised only in extreme cases of misconduct which has proved inimical to the good order of the Station or the welfare of other residents, and then only with extreme reluctance after all other measures have failed.

During the year only two such orders were issued.

VII. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.

Aborigines are entitled to Commonwealth Social Service benefits such as Family Endowment, Maternity Allowances, Sickness and Unemployment Benefit without restrictions. In the case of Family Endowment, if it is considered to be in the interest of the endowee and her children, payments may be administered by the Board. At the end of the year under review, this was deemed necessary in forty-three cases only as compared with fifty-seven at the end of June, 1956.

So far as Invalid, Old Age and Widow's Pensions are concerned it is not the policy of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to pay these to aborigines living on a Station which is under resident supervision by a Manager and Matron.

The Board feel that in so far as conditions in New South Wales are concerned, this distinction is illogical and unjust. Aged and invalid aborigines who may have paid taxes for many years from their earnings are deprived of their pension rights, simply because they do not wish to move from the place which has been their home for a lifetime and where they can enjoy the associations of relatives and friends. If they move from the Station they may qualify for such benefits even though by doing so this may mean residing under less favourable conditions.

The Board will continue its efforts to have this anomaly removed.

CONCLUSION.

Housing remains a major problem and due to the limited funds available during the year, it was not possible for the Board to make much impact upon the arrears.

Although over £600,000 has been spent to date, it is estimated that in the vicinity of an additional sum of £800,000 will be required to complete the programme.

The Government's policy of assimilation of the aboriginal people into the community is inextricably linked with the attainment of a better standard of living, to which improved housing conditions are essential. While aborigines live under substandard conditions, they will not be accepted socially by the rest of the community, and also will lack the incentive to progress.

There is ample evidence to justify the Board's belief that due to the active co-operation previously referred to and to the vigorous efforts of the Board's officers, important advances have been made in the appreciation of the aboriginal problem by the public.

It is equally certain that the aborigines themselves are gaining an increasing awareness of their obligations, particularly regarding the need to increase their own efforts to improve their living standards and gain the respect of the community in which they live.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH,
Chairman, Aborigines Welfare Board.

M. H. SAXBY,
Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

APPENDIX TO "III" ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Kinchela Boys' Home.

This is a Home for aboriginal boys who have become wards of the Board. Their ages range from 5 to 17 years, and at the 30th June, 1957, forty-seven boys were in residence.

A school is conducted on the premises, and boys of High School standard travel to Kempsey where eighteen are in attendance. Those over school leaving age receive training in agricultural pursuits, prior to placement in employment.

The health of inmates was good throughout the year. Regular medical and dental check-ups were carried out, and necessary treatment afforded.

A very full programme of sport and recreation is maintained, and a number of boys compete in district competitions.

Farm produce contributes largely to the domestic needs of the Home and during the year was valued at nearly £3,000. It included 4,282 lb. of vegetables, 8,261 gallons of milk, 1,710 lb. of butter and 1,015 dozen eggs.

Freedom from floods during the year resulted in an all round improvement in total production.

Local interest in the Home is high and the boys have a good reputation in the district.

Regular religious instruction is given, and the inmates are frequently entertained by local organisations.

The Home is making a valuable contribution in preparing under-privileged boys to become worthy citizens.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.

This Home now caters for a small number of boys of tender age. At the end of the period under review, there were forty-two inmates in the Home, four of whom were young boys.

Children of school age attend the schools at Cootamundra and of these ten attend High School. One girl will sit for her Intermediate Certificate at the end of the year, and another is undertaking a business course at the local Technical College.

Twelve children were discharged during the year, including a number of girls placed in employment.

A small dairy herd, orchard, poultry farm and vegetable garden are maintained at the Home. Produce is available for home consumption and practically all butter and jam used is produced at the Home.

A keen local interest is displayed in the Home and the children participate freely in church and social activities, while entertainment is frequently provided at the Home by interested friends.

Local Apex Clubs assisted materially during the year, and undertook internal painting of the buildings and erection of fencing.

During the year the girls were favoured with a visit by Albert Namatjira, who later presented the Home with a valuable painting.

APPENDIX TO "IV"—ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY.

Boggabilla.

The population of the Station remained fairly static, but four people left during the year to take up residence in the community. The employment position has been good and the menfolk are willing workers.

A vigorous repair programme was followed and considerable damage occasioned by floods last year was repaired. A Recreation Hall and Church were completed which enabled an expansion of social and spiritual activities.

A branch of the Country Women's Association was formed, and members are active in C.W.A. affairs. A library has been commenced and enthusiasm is high.

Brewarrina.

For this Station the year has been a period of recovery from the devastating floods of 1955 and 1956. Much repair work was necessary to residences and the pumping plant and progress has been made in this direction.

The Station Recreation Hall was completed and is now available for social and religious functions.

Employment of able bodied men has been plentiful in the vicinity and it has not been necessary for workers to go so far afield as formerly.

There is a school on the Station, but the Board regrets that this has been closed for some time, due to no teacher being available. Some residents moved away to enable their children to attend school elsewhere.

Burnt Bridge (near Kempsey)

Although the residences are of the old type, they have recently been repaired and painted in attractive colours. Set in tall timber and well spaced they have a pleasing appearance.

Extensions to the Recreation Hall have been made and the interior has been lined and painted. Regular social activities are held and the people of Burnt Bridge are taking an increasing interest in communal activities. In addition, they are participating in district functions. The sum of £66 was raised by the Station residents and donated by the Progress Association to the local ambulance.

Mothers and babies attend a Baby Clinic conducted fortnightly on the Station and there has been an improvement in the general health of the children.

An excellent school is conducted near the Station and children have done well in the fields of education and sport.

A very pleasing change in the attitude of the local white community towards aborigines is apparent, and, undoubtedly this can be attributed to the work and conduct of the Station residents.

Burra Bee Dee (via Coonabarabran).

This is a small Station and the Manager is responsible also for the supervision of a nearby Reserve and of a number of families living in the town of Coonabarabran.

There is little social activity on the Station, due to the fact the residents attend functions in the town. All children attend the local public school and the residents are generally well integrated with the local white community.

Employment has been somewhat spasmodic, but nevertheless a number of men are permanently employed in the timber and pastoral industries and the Railway Department.

Cabbage Tree Island.

This Station is located on a pleasantly situated island in the Richmond River, near Ballina. The residents are well advanced socially and if homes were available many could merge with the local community. During the year five people left the Station to take up residence elsewhere.

The health of residents has been good, and efforts towards worm eradication have had satisfactory results.

Residents participate freely in district sport and are well accepted in the district.

School is conducted on the Island, where one of the teachers is an aboriginal young woman, who qualified at the Teacher's College. Five children attend Ballina High School.

The Manager reports the conduct and co-operation of the people to be good.

Cowra.

The Station is quite close to the town, and children are able to attend the town schools.

Houses are fairly new, for the most part well cared for and many residents have flower and vegetable gardens.

The employment position during the year has not been good, seasonal work having been affected by adverse local conditions. Heavy transport of stock also has had its effect on the employment of some who previously followed droving as an occupation.

A number of local residents display an interest in the Station and frequently conduct religious services, and social functions on the property.

Moree.

This Station is located close to the town of Moree, and all residences are modern. Most are well cared for and many are comfortably furnished.

Employment in the district has been plentiful and a number of men are in work of a permanent nature.

The behaviour of residents is good, and a keen interest is displayed in social activities.

Aboriginal pensioners have been invited to join the Moree Pensioners' Association and attend its monthly functions.

School on the Station is attended by about 160 children.

Murrin Bridge (near Lake Cargelligo)

Floods affected this Station early in the year, but a good recovery has been made and damage repaired. Roads have been regraded and gravelled and other maintenance work carried out. The houses are of modern design.

The employment position was affected by the floods, and later by a very dry spell. Taken over the whole year it has not been good, even though men went far afield in search of it.

There is not a great deal of social activity, although some interest is displayed by children. A Brownie Pack is well patronised by girls and efforts are being made to commence a Boy Scout Troop.

School on the Station is attended by 108 children.

Caroona (near Quirindi).

Of the 204 residents, the majority are ready to take their place in the community. Their homes are well kept and nicely furnished, and many of the residents are in lucrative employment.

The Station is in very good physical condition, and with gardens and shrubs, presents a neat and tidy appearance.

Although well able to do so, residents of this Station have consistently refused to pay the very nominal rental charged by the Board for the modern type cottages erected since the war. In an endeavour to overcome this attitude proceedings were taken to recover arrears from one tenant. This has resulted in a marked improvement in the position. The Board considers it essential that these people should learn to accept their obligations, as well as enjoy privileges afforded them.

Roseby Park (near Nowra)

This is one of the Board's smallest Station, being situated on Orient Point near the mouth of the Shoalhaven River. There is a growing white settlement adjacent to the Station, and it is anticipated that eventually it will be possible to absorb the Station residents in the local community.

Some white children attend the school on the Station, and this assists the process of assimilation.

Residents generally follow seasonal work along the South Coast, which this year was fair only.

The road of access has been improved and the town electricity supply connected to the Station.

Tabulam (near Casino).

The 153 residents are comfortably housed in modern homes, which are well cared for, with gardens, lawns and some poultry runs.

Able bodied men are employed in the surrounding district, mainly on farm work of a casual nature. There is little opportunity for permanent employment.

Children attend school on the Station, and a good standard of education is maintained.

Outstanding success has been achieved by pupils in sport and group singing.

Residents are interested in religious activities, the social club, women's sewing class and hobbies class. Six girls attend the Brownie Pack at Tabulam.

The Social Club has raised substantial funds, by growing corn towards the purchase of a projector. It has also made donations to the Casino Hospital and District Ambulance.

Taree.

A pleasing feature of this Station is the degree of acceptance of most residents by the local white community. The people seem to display a greater degree of initiative and self-reliance than in most other places.

An active native Church, managed entirely by the people, is in existence, and there is a healthy social organisation on the Station which extends to participation in outside activities. A child from the Station is a pupil of the School for Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children and the residents organised a function and sent £16 to the School.

All children attend the local town school and are becoming well integrated.

Many houses were painted during the year and some residents had their homes connected to the town electricity supply.

The Station roads were re-formed and graded.

Walgett.

Separation of the duties of Manager and Teacher at the Station has resulted in a general improvement. The Manager has had more time to devote to care and maintenance of the Station and the organisation of social activities. A recreation hall has been erected, and a vigorous programme of building repairs embarked upon. The people have co-operated well and a reawakening of interest on the Station is manifest.

Work has been plentiful, and the economic position of residents much more stable.

Wallaga Lake.

Marked improvement in this Station is apparent. Greater interest is being displayed by residents in social activities, and the recreation hall is used almost every night. The weekly games night is popular. Dances are held and the ladies on the Station provide an excellent supper.

The position has been helped by the availability of work and the improved economic status of the people for the greater part of the year.

A Baby Clinic operates and there has been a general improvement in the health of the children.

School is conducted on the Station, but two children attend High School at Narooma.

Woodenbong.

The population of this Station has fluctuated during the year. The minimum was 125 and the maximum 208; the reason being the variation in seasonal occupations. The more stable type of workman found fairly regular employment in the timber industry.

There was very little serious illness and treatment for worm infestation was continued, and a reduction in its incidence was noted.

Resident Missionaries of the United Aborigines Mission were appointed and, in addition to ministering to the spiritual needs of the people, boys' and girls' clubs and a kindergarten were established.

The Station Football Club was disbanded and a number of the players have become members of the local town teams.

Wreck Bay (near Jervis Bay).

This Station is situated in Commonwealth Territory and is administered by the Aborigines Welfare Board on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

Buildings were repaired and painted and residents are showing improvement in the care of their homes. A sewerage system was installed and this should assist materially in combating worm infestation.

Employment is found in the fishing and timber industries, and, in the off season, in bean and pea picking.

There is an active Social Club, and money was raised towards the purchase of a film projector, the balance being provided by the A.C.T. Services Department, Canberra.

A community vegetable garden is maintained and the playing field was levelled and planted with grass.

Children attend school on the Station and two travel to High School in Nowra.

APPENDIX "A".
MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Number of wards at beginning of year	194	215	232
Number admitted during year	15	17	27
Number committed during year	26	55	82
	235	287	341
Number discharged during year	20	55	81
	215	232	260

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Kinchela Boys' Home	45	44	47
Cootamundra Girls' Home	47	29	42
Denominational Homes	15	8	3
Boarded-out with foster parents	69	93	93
In employment under Reg. conditions	29	27	35
Otherwise placed	10	31	40
	215	232	260

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home	2	3	...	7	4	11
Cootamundra Girls' Home	7	6	1	10	9	22
Denominational Homes	1	5	1	1	...	...
Boarded-out with foster parents	5	8	7	20	6	18
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions .....	...	1	3	9	6	17
Otherwise placed .....	...	3	5	8	2	14
	15	26	17	55	27	82

APPENDIX "B".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station.	Area in Acres.	Population on Station.			Ration Recipients.			Statistics.								
								Births.			Deaths.			Marriages.		
		1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Boggabilla	457	202	208	211	21	19	9	12	13	8	1	4	7	3	1	1
Brewarrina	638	124	122	173	7	26	50	4	9	5	...	3	2	...	...	3
Burnt Bridge	106	312	283	278	33	33	31	9	14	8	1	1	...	1	...	1
Burra Bee Dee	473	60	78	62	2	24	20	6	2	4	...	1	3	...	...	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	143	148	128	16	16	8	10	5	7	2	3	3	...	1	1
Cowra	31	138	149	142	9	12	15	9	3	8	1	1	2	...	1	3
Jervis Bay	100	163	150	143	9	16	16	11	9	5	2	2	2	...	2	...
Moree	55	305	306	319	6	6	17	12	14	10	4	3	4	3	3	4
Murrin Bridge	937	267	283	284	62	46	62	9	15	8	...	1	1	...	3	2
Quirindi	220	202	200	204	...	...	11	9	7	8	2	4	2	1	1	2
Roseby Park	66	103	103	81	11	5	13	3	5	4	...	...	2	...	1	...
Tabulam	490	142	129	153	38	29	30	8	4	9	4	2	3	6	4	3
Taree	51	249	228	220	14	20	6	14	14	11	2	4	3	2	2	...
Walgett	337	163	178	202	30	23	28	8	10	8	2	2	...	2	...	...
Wallaga Lake	341	162	122	126	25	8	17	6	7	2	4	7	1	4	2	4
Woodenbong	126	184	173	152	34	35	46	9	8	5	6	2	1	...	2	1
Totals .....	...	2,919	2,860	2,878	317	318	379	139	139	110	31	37	38	24	24	25

APPENDIX "C".

LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

Station or Reserve.	Area.	Population on Station or Reserve.			Ration Recipients.		
		1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Balranald.....	142	52	42	52	...	...	...
Bellbrook	96	106	90	93	17	12	6
Bourke	34	55	15	45	...	...	...
Bowraville	36	163	171	79	10	...	4
Brungle	12	34	34	30	...	...	...
Coff's Harbour	6	New Reserve		108	...	...	5
Condobolin	16	72	69	82	11	9	12
Coonabarabran	20	New Reserve		40	...	...	20
Coraki	10	54	84	86	4	5	4
Cubawee	24	120	105	94	...	...	...
Cumeroogunga	200	49	49	61	...	...	...
Dubbo	18	63	31	21	...	...	...
Forster	19	97	94	87	...	...	...
Goodooga.....	80	128	128	135	2	2	2
Gulargambone	52	58	132	180	...	...	...
Karuah	50	53	58	43	...	...	...
Kyogle	28	11	16	5	...	2	...
La Perouse	6	159	171	178	...	3	...
Moonahcullah	232	80	80	95	...	...	...
Nambucca Heads	70	60	75	65	...	1	...
Peak Hill	7	New Reserve		23	...	...	...
Tibooburra	100	12	12	10	...	...	...
Tingha	15	35	34	...	...	...	...
Ulgundahi Island	44	31	31	36	3	3	3
Uralla	100	9	12	12	...	...	...
Walcha	107	40	54	45	4	6	...
Wellington	100	67	47	46	54	12	3
Wilcannia	75	180	263	105	11	11	5
Yass	9	45	31	24	...	...	...
Total .....	...	1,961	1,928	1,880	116	66	64

APPENDIX "D".

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

	1955-56.		1956-57.	
	£	£	£	£
Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—				
Salaries and Wages	82,741		78,385	
Maintenance of Buildings	8,172		6,522	
Transport Expenses	12,360		16,298	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...	42,320		48,372	
Other charges	2,987		2,874	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment.....	3,073		3,117	
		151,653		155,568
Payable from General Loan Account—				
New Buildings, Station Improvements and Land Purchases	13,639		4,772	
		165,292		164,340
<i>Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—</i>				
Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	8,946		7,746	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	401		254	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.	2,373		3,118	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services	7,055		11,305	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	4,212		3,847	
		22,987		26,270
Total		£188,279		£190,610

APPENDIX "E".

VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS.

<i>Nature of Visit or Interview—</i>	1st July, 1954 to 30th June, 1955.	1st July, 1955 to 30th June, 1956.	1st January, 1956 to 30th June, 1957.
	Number.	Number.	Number.
Supervisory home visits	1,905	1,544	1,794
Wards of the Board	321	434	561
Neglected or uncontrollable children	329	242	239
Stations or Reserves	490	583	647
Police	597	633	514
Schools	336	322	348
Enquiries <i>re</i> employment	1,028	700	803
Affiliation or Maintenance	316	264	426
Public Authorities.....	1,526	1,715	1,550
Voluntary Agencies	216	193	226
Attendance at Court.....	96	40	59
Miscellaneous	6,185	6,162	7,489
Total	13,345	12,832	14,656