

HERE WE HAVE THREE WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE. DO YOU KNOW THEM?

Left to right, they are Colin Davis, Editor of Dawn, famous English comedian Tommy Trinder, and Australian filmstar (soon to be seen in "Jedda") Bob Tudawali

These three recently had a night out together and found much to amuse them, particularly Tommy's trick thumb

ABORIGINES' RESERVES

Many Abandoned

Apart from the Aboriginal Stations which have already been mentioned in this report, the Board controls a number of Reserves. These differ from Stations in that they are not under full-time management, although some have a resident Supervisor who, in most instances, is the teacher of the school on the Reserve.

They are not extensive in area and, like most Stations, are simply housing settlements from which aborigines proceed to employment nearby. On some, the Board has erected homes, but on others the aborigines have supplied their own dwellings.

Where there is no Supervisor the local Police exercise supervision and they receive regular visits from the Welfare Officer for the district.

Due to the nomadic habits of the aboriginal people, a number of Reserves have been abandoned and in such cases action has been taken to revoke the area and return control thereof to the Lands Department.

The largest Reserve is at La Perouse. Most of the employable residents are absorbed in local industries, but owing to the large number of tourists who visit this historic spot, a number earn a good livelihood by making boomerangs and other aboriginal curios. Two men have modern workshops with electrically driven equipment.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Many Depend on Casual Work

Speaking broadly, the majority of aboriginal male workers are dependent upon casual seasonal work in rural districts. This, of course, varies from place to place, and with the seasons. The result is that large numbers lead a migratory life and know no permanent home. The adverse effect of this upon the education and training of children can well be imagined.

Although families are encouraged to remain at home, it frequently happens that unless the wife and family accompany the husband, he fails to send any of his earnings for the support of his dependants who are thus left in want. This creates a tendency for the whole family to move about the country.

However, on the other hand, many are in permanent employment even though they may only return home at weekends. Where the income is regular and a fair proportion given to the wife, it is found that in very many instances, a genuine effort is made to improve the home conditions and provide, at least, the normal accessories to a good home atmosphere.

Aboriginal workers are subject to industrial awards in the same way as white workmen. Income and social service tax is deducted at the source and, generally, they suffer no disadvantage because of their colour.