

Death of Former Member of Board

Former member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Dr. John J. Donnellan, who was 64, died at his Vaucluse (Sydney) home after a heart attack on April 21.

Dr. Donnellan was Metropolitan Medical Officer for Health in Sydney from March, 1953, until last July when he retired from the Public Service. He ended a long term as a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board at the same time.

Before joining the Health Department in 1940 he had five years' service with the Education Department and was assistant officer for health at Lismore.

Mrs. Donnellan, a son and a daughter survive Dr. Donnellan.

The sympathy of the Board to the family was expressed by the Chairman, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, who said Dr. Donnellan had brought to the councils of the Board a very deep and abiding interest in the problems of aboriginal welfare.

Mr. Kingsmill said Dr. Donnellan's extensive knowledge of health matters had proved invaluable.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, Mr. H. J. Green, represented the Chairman at the funeral to Botany Cemetery which followed a Requiem Mass at the Star of the Sea Church at Watsons Bay.

SKY-PILOT'S MOTHER DIES AT MARELLA MISSION FARM

Mrs. Charlotte Emily Langford-Smith, a granddaughter of the pioneer Elizabeth Hawkins, who crossed the Blue Mountains in an ox cart in 1820, died on March 30 at the age of 88.

Mrs. Langford-Smith became seriously ill at her home at Wentworth Falls in mid-March and was taken to the home of her son, Mr. Keith Langford-Smith, at Marella Mission Farm for Aborigine children, at Kellyville.

Her death there occurred a fortnight later.

Mrs. Langford-Smith was a daughter of the late Mr. F. W. Webb, who figured prominently in the welding of Australia's states into the Commonwealth.

A Clerk of the N.S.W. Colonial Legislative Assembly, Mr. Webb was appointed Secretary to the Federation Conference in the late 1890s.

Mrs. Langford-Smith was the widow of Canon S. E. Langford-Smith, who was rector of St. Andrew's for 20 years before serving as the Anglican Archdeacon of Cumberland.

Her son, Mr. Keith Langford-Smith, a well-known author and missionary airman, founded the Sky Pilot Fellowship which runs the Marella Farm for Aborigine children.

Other sons are Mr. Fritz Langford-Smith, engineer, Bishop Neville Langford-Smith, Bishop of Nakura, Kenya, and Dr. Trevor Langford-Smith.

The Last of His Tribe

AIR PILGRIMAGE TO LONDON

A 79-years-old Aborigine flew to London on April 15 to join in the celebrations of the Centenary anniversary of his religion.

He is Fred Murray (pictured) from Renmark in South Australia. The religion is the Baha'i World Faith, a hundred-year-old religious movement which came from Persia last century and has since spread to most parts of the world. It stresses the universality of all religions and the unity of mankind.

Fred Murray is the last survivor of the Minen tribe. His people roamed the sandy wastes of the West Australian coastal area until, late last century, the tribe was almost wiped out at a poisoned waterhole.

Fred, then a child of nine years, was amongst the few who survived the tragedy. The decimated tribe moved eastward and the boy grew up in the Renmark area.



Fred was a member of a party of 41 Australian followers of the Baha'i faith who travelled to London for the celebrations. Some 7,000 Baha'is from all parts of the world attended the congress in London to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their Faith.