WE ARE ALL TEAM-MATES

LET'S PLAY OUR PART

A Letter from the Superintendent

My Dear Aboriginal Friends,

This great country of ours, Australia, is a rich country, a country that offers unlimited opportunities for everyone but just at present our nation, like a healthy infant, is suffering growing pains, and we find times and conditions can be a little difficult.

These changes taking place must affect every one of us, no matter what our occupation or station in life, and we must all play our parts like members of a great team, thereby helping ourselves and at the same time helping each other.

We must work harder, we must save diligently and we must be prepared to accept some of those conditions which may perhaps seem harsh and unkind.

The Aborigines Welfare Board, has one great objective . . . the welfare . . . that is the material, physical and spiritual welfare, of all our people, and the Board is determined that every effort will be made towards the attainment of that objective.

The Board has planned to build many modern homes throughout the State, to construct playing areas and recreation halls, to foster education and to improve the aborigines way of life in every direction.

Now we must mark time for a brief space, but even while we wait to put all these plans into operation, we must still go on planning.

This great country of ours has been passing through an era of unprecedented prosperity since the days of World War II and money has been easily earned, and everyone had plenty to spend, but money is scarcer, there is less to spend, and accordingly, we can’t buy or build those many things on which we had set our hearts.

Christmas is approaching . . . a time for happiness and festivity . . . a time when we all make joyous happy plans . . . and knowing our aboriginal people as I do, I am confident they will reconcile themselves to these temporary setbacks and continue to prepare and plan for those not far distant days when we will be able to realise our hopes and ambitions.

One of the major faults attributed to our aboriginal people has been their reluctance to plan ahead, their acceptance of what today brings without a thought or care for tomorrow.

Just as we must plan our garden weeks or months ahead, preparing sowing and nurturing the seed and then harvesting the crop, so must we sow the seeds of our ambition by planning and continuing to plan, for the future ahead.

This country, this State, and our people, have met and overcome many difficulties before, you have suffered reverses and come back for more, you have suffered disappointments and still continued to hope. Maintain that proud record and let us help each other as best we can. Let us, once again hope, and prepare, and plan for a brighter future.

Kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

This is how Lloyd Dennison (11) of Boggabilla sees the Woodchopper.