Commissioner Buck Leaves Welfare Board

Mr J. H. Buck, Police representative on the Aborigines Welfare Board since June, 1962, resigned from the Board in March on his retirement from the Police Force.

He was promoted from the position of Superintendent to Assistant Commissioner of Police during his term of office with the Welfare Board.

Mr Buck knew a great deal about Aboriginal conditions in country towns in N.S.W.—particularly in western districts of the State. Many years ago he was officer in charge of the first travelling Police station in western New South Wales, and saw at first hand many of the problems confronting Aboriginal people.

His practical and sympathetic approach to these problems made very valuable his contribution as a member of the Board.

Typical of Mr Buck’s personal interest in Aboriginal young people was his visit to David Kerin, studying in London with financial assistance from the Board. Mr Buck visited his old home in Britain during six months of personal leave and official Police business in 1964. He was very busy but interrupted his trip and went to see David.

David is blind, and at the time of Mr Buck’s visit was studying physiotherapy—the electrical treatment and massage of the human body. Mr Buck encouraged David and gave him good advice, at a time when David was alone 12,000 miles from his home and in need of such help.

(David continued his studies and passed his final exams—see Dawn, March, 1967.)

Mr Buck’s regular attendance at meetings and the important part he played in Aboriginal affairs will be missed by members of the Board and Aborigines throughout the State.

Above: Mr Buck entertained the children of Nanima school (near Wellington) with nursery rhymes during a trip he made to the central west of N.S.W. with the Welfare Board in October, 1965. He was actively interested in Aboriginal young people and gained their confidence.