REPORT
OF THE
ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD
FOR THE
Year ended 30th June, 1954

BY COMMAND

Ordered to be printed, 28 October, 1954

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Presented to The Honourable Christopher Augustus Kelly, M.L.A., Chief Secretary, pursuant to Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943.

I. THE BOARD.

Personal and Meetings.

The only change in the personnel of the Board during the year, was the resignation of Mr. E. Wetherell, M.L.A., and his replacement by Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A., nominated by the Minister.

The present constitution of the Board is as follows:

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—Mr. C. J. Butttworth (Chairman).
Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.
Officer in Charge of Public Health—Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.R., B.S., D.P.H.
Officer of Department of Public Instruction—Mr. J. P. Gisbeken.
Member of the Police Force—Superintendent J. D. Shoesmith.
An expert in Agriculture—Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.
An expert on Sociology and/or Anthropology—Professor A. F. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice Chairman).
Two persons nominated by the Minister—Mr. M. Sawtell, Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.
Two aborigines—
(a) one full blood—Vacant.
(b) one having admixture of aboriginal blood—Mr. H. S. Groves.

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

No nominations were received to fill the vacancy for a full-blooded aboriginal.

Policy.

During the year, the Board has pursued its policy, formulated in recent years, of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community.

Education, better housing, regular employment in skilled or semi-skilled occupations by those capable of undertaking such work, and welfare work by a team of trained Welfare Officers were the chief means used throughout the year in the implementation of this policy.

Some barriers to the attainment of this objective still remain. They lie in the apathy and lack of initiative on the part of a greater number of aborigines, and the prejudice of the white community and its reluctance to fully accept them. It can be said that the efforts of the Board are bearing fruit, and there is evidence on the part of not a few aborigines, of an awakening to their responsibilities and a conscious effort towards self-help, and a determination to establish themselves as acceptable members of the community. Towards these, there is a perceptible lessening of that prejudice which has for so long characterised the attitude of members of the white race towards the aboriginal in Australia.

Visits by Board Members.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare and members of the Board are required to visit at regular intervals each Station and training school. This has been done, and during the year, a total of seventy visits was paid by the Superintendent to Stations and Reserves.

Advantage was taken of the opportunity, on these occasions, to confer with local civic authorities, and to the aborigines and to other bodies interested in the problem of aboriginal welfare.

Staff.

A number of changes took place in the personnel of Station staff which was, however, maintained at full strength.

The staff of Welfare Officers was increased from five to six, and the Public Service Board approved the appointment of a Lady Welfare Officer, with nursing qualifications. It is anticipated that she will take up duty early in the new year. This will materially strengthen the corps of Welfare workers, and provide a much-needed service, particularly to mothers and adolescent girls.

The Public Service Board also approved the appointment of a Building Maintenance Officer and a Plant Engineer. These appointments will enable much-needed maintenance and repair work to be regularly undertaken.

General Expenditure.

Expenditure by the Board of funds made available from Consolidated Revenue by the State Government amounted to £129,456, which approximated the expenditure of the previous year.

The amount spent from the General Loan Account was £29,088, compared with £36,747. This was a decrease of £7,659.

A full statement of expenditure is set out in Appendix "D".

Acknowledgments.

The Board relies for expert advice in various matters, upon other Departments as Education, Agriculture, Health, Police and Lands, who have rendered assistance in various ways. Church groups and local Committees for the aborigines in many places and are of valuable assistance in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of aborigines. More specific reference will be made to such bodies in this Report.

Their interest and help is appreciated.

II. FEATURES OF ADMINISTRATION.

Housing.

The Board was able to complete the rebuilding of the Meara Station, and eight additional homes were erected there.

Towards the end of the year, commitments were entered into with the Housing Commission for the erection on town sites of six houses in Yass. These, when erected early next year, will be allotted to the most worthy aboriginal families. The Board also purchased a number of allotments in other country towns and will build on these in the coming year. It is hoped that funds will be available for the erection of some fifty houses.

During the year, an amount of £9,600 was granted by the Treasury to enable the Board to make advances to selected aborigines by way of loan, to enable them to purchase a home, or erect a home on land they may already have acquired. Applications for such loans are now being considered.

Improvements and repairs to dwellings on other Stations have been effected and improved water supplies installed at some Stations and Reserves.

Since the War, the Board has completely rebuilt eight Stations providing two and three bedroom homes of modern design. For these, rentals of 15s. and 17s. 6d. per week are charged, in agreement with tenants. This is not regarded as being economic rental, but as a means of inculcating a sense of responsibility and preparing aborigines to accept their obligations in the community.

While a few have regularly met their commitments, the response generally has been disappointing. The position at the 30th June, 1954, that of the total amount due and payable, £2,102 14s. 6d. has been paid, and £24,709 19s. 5d. is outstanding.

Education.

It is the policy of the Board that, wherever possible, aboriginal children should receive their education in the ordinary Public Schools of the State. With this in view, the aboriginal schools on two Stations, viz., Tarae and Burra Bee Dee, were closed and the children teamed at the local Public School.

Where it has been possible to merge the children into public schools, it has been found that they are not only well accepted by white children, but that they invariably hold their own and, in some instances, enter the white pupils in educational attainment and sporting ability.

This is a valuable contribution in the process of assimilation. Moreover, as it has enabled the Board to absorb children, a degree of confidence in their own ability which could not be gained by continued segregation.

Secondary education is available to any aboriginal child of the requisite standard, and as an encouragement, the Board awards a number of bursaries each year. During the year, four were awarded. There are now twelve current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

At the close of the year, there was a total of 85 children attending High School.
Walgett, Moree and Coffs Harbour. Each is responsible for completed a period of training in a Home and have been placed children, is attached to Head Office. Almost daily, her help tion of the aborigines themselves to play their part in securing the resultant responsibilities.

Welfare Activities.

The Board is firmly convinced that, hand in hand with a vigorous policy of relieving and education, must go the work of the District Welfare Officer. This takes the form of benerolent guidance and, where war­ tected, court action, with the object of securing the co-opera­ tion of the aborigines themselves to play their part in securing acceptance by the community generally, and their ultimate assimilation.

The Board now has seven officers engaged entirely in these activities. A lady officer of many years experience and with a sympathetic, motherly manner, has for some years with children, is attached to Head Office. Almost daily, her help and advice is sought on many and varied problems. She is large inquirers as to government aid as well as the welfare of the Board, and aftercare work with those who have com­ pleted a period of training in a Home and have been placed out in employment.

Six male officers are located at Nowra, Lenton, Dubbo, Walgett, Moree and Cooffs Harbour. Each is responsible for a large area contiguous to his headquarters and their work lies primarily, that of the original function of the District Stations where they have the advantage of the guidance and advice of a resident Manager. These officers maintain a regular itinerary of visitation throughout their districts and are frequently called upon to work under most adverse con­ ditions. This they cheerfully do.

They cooperate with the Station Managers of Stations in all matters affecting the welfare of aborigines and endeavour to foster good relationships between the aborigines and the Board in the various centres and the townspeople.

They maintain contact with local civic authorities, social and welfare workers, and endeavour to promote a better appreciation and acceptance of the aborigine. They are frequently called upon to address meetings of citizens interested in our problems.

Their work is designed to encourage aborigines to accept and honour fully, the privileges of citizenship, together with the resultant responsibilities and duties.

The nature of their work is many-sided and the following is a typical diary of a Welfare Officer, covering a trip away from headquarters.

1.15 p.m.—Arrive at Station. Go round all the housekeeping. Go to Manager's office and get some information.

6 a.m.—Depart from Station. Go to petrol store. Back to the office with her. This continues until 11 a.m. when I eventually get to —— .

11.30 p.m.—Arrive at —— Station. Go round all the housekeeping. They are very anxious to get her a job. When she has gone, a married woman arrives and starts to talk to me about her. I know whether she is entitled to maintenance. I take her to the Manager's office and get some information.

Back to the petrol store and another woman arrives; back to the office with her. This continues until 10 a.m. when I eventually get to —— .

12.30 p.m.—Arrive In —— . Here I have a very active meeting progresses from 7.30 p.m. until 10.15 p.m. on and depart for . Arrive 11 p.m.

1 p.m.—Arrive —— . Visit Mrs. —— who tells me that her husband has been away to town. She has sent home no money for two months. She wants to know if she can summon him. I tell her that I will be back to town and that I will see him first.

Slowly I work through the Reserve with the junior who has missed her Child Endowment payments. Another family have a T.B. suspect and arrangements have been made with the Board for an examination. A young man has been placed in the Homestead Motor Garage as a motor mechanic.

5 p.m.—Finish in —— .

6.30 p.m.—Arrive in —— . Here I have a very active meeting called to discuss the disappointing result and to ask the coloured people in attendance just what they intend to do about it.

Meeting progresses from 7.30 p.m. until 10.15 p.m. on and depart for headquarters.

2 a.m.—Arrive at headquarters.

Mileage for day, 212 miles.

Total mileage for trip, 457 miles.

As stated previously, the objective of the Board is the ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general community. Welfare Officers endeavour to promote the work of Station Managers, whose duty it is to educate and encourage aborigines in the attainment of acceptable standards of living and social behaviour. They act as liaison officers between the administration, the aborigines, and the members of the community.

The effectiveness of their work can be seen, firstly, in the improved relationships between aborigines and the Board, and secondly in the decreasing degree of prejudice manifest in the white community.

Before the appointment of Welfare Officers, the vast majority of aborigines had little contact with the Board and regarded it merely as an administrative body in the capital city. Today, they are an integral part of all Station activities and the Welfare Officer has given them a more personal contact and helped them to understand that the Board exists rather for the welfare of the people who live on the Reserve, than to control them.

It is regrettable that a measure of prejudice still exists in some quarters, against these people. It varies from a blind, unreasoning intolerance based upon extremely superficial judg­ ment, through mere apathy, to open antagonism. However, progress is noticeable in the attitude of the white popula­tion towards the aborigine, and as feelings of understanding and tolerance replace ignorance and antipathy, the aborigine is found to be responsive, and is encouraged to make his own effort to bridge the gap.
The policy of the Board, strongly supported by the Education Department, is that the aboriginal children in the outstation public schools, is paying dividends, and is regarded as a potent factor in the elimination of prejudice, the results of which will be evident in the future, and are already evidenced in the present generation of children reaching maturity. The benefit of training aboriginal girls in domestic science is even now being felt and will be seen more fully when they become housewives in the future.

All Welfare Officers have been active in securing the maximum amount of work for aboriginal workers, and report pleasing results to the Board. Particulars of their employment are in work of a permanent character, in skilled or semi-skilled occupations, rather than in unskilled seasonal work.

In order to encourage the improvement of the "job status" of aboriginal workers, not only to improve the economic stability of the home, but also to act as an excellent moral builder. Employment has been found with the Railway Department, public works, saw-mills, factories, as well as regular pastoral work. A number are contractors on their own account.

It is not easy to wean the aboriginal from casual seasonal occupations, rather than in unskilled seasonal work.

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The Magazine is a valuable medium through which to bring to the public, both coloured and white, the objectives of the Board and the methods adopted for their implementation. Contributions continue from many of the aboriginal people.

Advantages have been taken of the opportunity to feature articles on health, hygiene and home management.

Summer Seaside Camp.

The Summer Camp was held in January on the Board's property at Kinchela, near Kempsey, on the banks of the Macleay River. It comprises 34 acres of good dairy land on which is maintained a dairy herd and poultry farm. The buildings are of a simple design and considered comfortable. This is an important part of the work of Welfare Officers.

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The general health of the inmates has been of a high standard, and a complete medical examination was conducted in January. A dental visit was twice during the year and gave attention to inmates. Where necessary, hospital attention is given at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey. Surveys were also made for tuberculosis and worm infestation.

Forty-three inmates attend the Public School situated in the Home grounds. Four inmates attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training. Of the four boys attending Kempsey High School, one is in fifth year and is "opportunity" first year class.

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The Board records its appreciation of those whose assistance and generosity contributed to the success of the camp.

III. ABORIGINAL WARDS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Aboriginal children may be received to the wardship of the Board on the application of a parent or guardian, or may be committed by a Children's Court to the care of the Board. Neglected children may be committed to a Children's Home constituted under the Aboriginal Administration Protection Act, for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards.

The Act also authorizes the boarding out of a ward in a selected foster home and the payment of an allowance to the foster parent, in addition to which the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to receive further benefits such as medical and dental expenses.

Action to remove a child from its own home is not taken until all efforts to rehabilitate the home have proved unsuccessful. This is an important part of the work of Welfare Officers.

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The school choir won first place for the third successive year in the 1953 Kempsey Eisteddfod—small school choir section—and the professional judges are quoted as saying "their singing qualities were most professional and of a very high standard."

No effort is spared to keep all boys actively interested and engaged in some form of recreation. Football, basketball, tennis, swimming, rowing, cricket, and golf are all provided for. Every boy is taught to swim and a particular form of swimming is actively followed at all available times during the spring, summer, and autumn.

Boating is a favourite form of sport amongst practically every boy, and many boxing competitions are held in the Home recreation hall. Indian clubs swinging from the ceiling are taught to some boys in their work in the gymnasium. A very high standard and a gymnastic display was held for members of the Kempsey Rotary Club on their annual visit to the Home at Christmas 1952.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and the end of the 1953 season saw their team major and minor premiers of Group 2 New South Wales Country Rugby Football League.

Six lads are members of the South-West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club and take part in all functions of the club. They hold the bronze medallion for life saving and five have passed their proficiency test. During the Surf Life Saving Carnival season, one boy won every beach sprint in the whole season. The boys would each be qualified to sit for the examination for their bronze medallions except that they are not qualified by age.

Amateur Hour competitions throughout the district have received entries from boys at the Home. During the past six months, one boy has won all four competitions he has entered for.

A 16 mm. Cinevox Film Projector supplied to the Home, provides a weekly film show to all inmates and staff, and this form of entertainment is very popular with boys of all ages.

High quality films are obtained from such well-known film companies as Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pty. Ltd., Warner Bros., First National Pictures Pty. Ltd., Columbia Pictures Pty. Ltd., and 20th Century Fox Studios, Ltd.

In addition, selected senior boys attend at Kempsey "Mayfair" Theatre at intervals throughout the year. The Manager of the Theatre permits these boys to sit with their white companions from the Football and Surf Life Saving Clubs in any priced seats, thus eliminating the humiliation suffered by other Aboriginal residents of this particular area who are forced into a segregated enclosure at the front of the cinema.

Firm friendships have been made between white and coloured youths thus breaking down to a degree, the obvious prejudice existing in this area. There is a considerable decrease amongst the white community that prejudices must go and that friendship may be given and extended to the lads, provided they are loyal and law-abiding. "We wish to teach them to take their place quite naturally in their midst on discharge from the Home environment."

Inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties including feeding, milking, training in butter making, vegetable gardening, fencing duties, horse riding and general farm maintenance. Younger inmates perform domestic duties and general cleaning duties throughout the Home area. With the increase in the number of poultry now kept at Kinchela, additional training is given in the care of poultry. Except for work boys, all duties are rostered, no inmate spending more than one month at any particular task.

Regular religious instruction is imparted by visiting clergy.

During the Christmas period, the boys at the Home were entertained by the members of the Kempsey Rotary Club. On the afternoons of Monday, 21st December, several carloads of members of Rotary and their wives visited the Home. Prior to sitting down to refreshments, the boys entertained the visitors with a gymnastic display and an exhibition of Surf Life Saving Drills. The choir rendered Christmas carols and part-songs.

After the party, the President of the Kempsey Rotary Club presented to the Home over £263, obtained from the members of the club, although the total yields were far below expectations as shown hereunder, could be classed as most satisfactory. The results as shown hereunder, could be classed as most satisfactory, although the yields were far below expectations. Details of the vegetable yield are set out hereunder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Estimated Production</th>
<th>Estimated Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beeren .....</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20 tons</td>
<td>26 0 0 0 per ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize (Corn) .....</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65 bush.</td>
<td>17 0 0 per bush.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Securities of products from the farm during the year is estimated at about £3,920.

Surplus livestock was sold and yielded £233.

Production obtained from the dairy farm for the period under review was as follows:

Total milk produced = 9,139 gals.
Milk separated = 3,532 gals.
Butter produced = 3,603 gals.

The total value of products from the farm during the year is estimated at about £3,920.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.

This Home is a compact block of buildings within the Cootamundra town boundaries. A small dairy herd, vegetable garden and orchard are maintained together with some poultry, which supply the Home with fresh milk, vegetables, fruit and eggs, to some extent.

The number of inmates at the beginning of the year was forty-nine. There were four admissions and eleven discharges during the period.

Girls of school age attend the Public Schools in Cootamundra, a number being enrolled at the High School. One girl who obtained her Intermediate Certificate has commenced her nursing training at the Young District Hospital.

The health of the girls throughout the year was good. Medical and dental attention to all girls was given twice during the year.

The girls attend the local churches of their particular denomination, and the Church of England Minister attends each Thursday evening for prayers and singing.

They participate in the general sporting activities of the local school, going to other towns to play sports. The tennis court at the Home is popular, as also are vigoro and basketball. Weekend hikes and picnics are arranged. Pictures were shown twice during the year, and musical and games evenings were given the children by different societies from the town.

The local picture show Manager admits the girls free, and the local school, going to other towns to play sports. The tennis court at the Home is popular, as also are vigoro and basketball. Weekend hikes and picnics are arranged. Pictures were shown twice during the year, and musical and games evenings were given the children by different societies from the town.

Improvements and repairs to buildings were effected during the year, outdoor showers and basins were installed and the dining room louvred. A servery unit and new sink were installed.

A pleasing feature of this establishment is the homely atmosphere and excellent spirit de corps. The Home is held in high regard in the district and no difficulties are experienced in securing good and efficient personnel who have completed their training. Old girls frequently visit the Home and the Christmas period is always a time for reunion. The Home has proved a veritable haven to many unfortunate girls.
The Board has sixteen Stations under full resident supervision and each Station consists of a number of neat, whitewashed cottages in charge as Manager and Matron, the Matron being, in some cases, a trained nurse. These homes. Many are tastefully furnished, spotlessly clean, and tenants have provided for themselves such amenities as floor polishers, radios, washing machines and refrigerators.

The menfolk and other workers proceed to employment in nearby towns or country districts. Where they are remote from neighbouring towns, they have their own community organisations which cater for the social and recreational life of residents. In other instances, the people are encouraged to participate in the local school systems.

Church and recreation hall buildings have been provided, and regular services and functions of various kinds are held. At one Station, a Council was set up, and the Councils of a Municipal Council, with Mayor and Aldermen has been elected and works in co-operation with the Manager in the government and general care of the Station. Great improvements have been effected on this Station and further progress is envisaged. An excellent community spirit prevails.

During the year, quite a deal has been accomplished. The residents have been given a lot more freedom and encouraged to mix with the white community. The several organisations in the towns of Goondiwindi and Boggabilla have been approached with a view to inviting the aborigines to their functions. As a result, children and adults have been going to the various functions. As a result, children and adults have been invited to participate in the various tournaments.

Previously, the Goondiwindi Hospital refused to accept the aborigines in their hospital. The Manager, by establishing good relations with the staff and doctors, and donating money to the hospital and the Ambulance Brigade at Goondiwindi, has, more or less, done away with the white prevalence.

A new dairy yard has been completed and a new dairy unit and barns are to be installed.

During the year, a trend has developed amongst the Station residents to become involved in community activities with a view to live out on such stations. This trend is slowly but definitely gathering momentum. Some families have already left the Station and won employment in nearby towns.

Buildings on the Station are all of weatherboard construction and are very old. However, several residents have made additional rooms, including bathrooms, and have painted rooms at their own cost. A supply of paint has now been received to paint all cottages on the Station. When this is applied the cottages will look more cheerful and have a lot more individuality.

The health of the residents generally, has been very good. No epidemics or other infectious diseases have occurred during the year. There have been some cases of malaria, and a few cases of boil and acne. The health of the children is very good. No cases of smallpox or pneumonia have been reported. Some cases of influenza have occurred, but no serious complications have been noted.

The Station now has a beautiful boxing ring and all necessary equipment. This ring was built by the headmen under the financial backing of the "Boggabilla Aboriginal Station Social Club". This club has been very busy during the year in organising numerous activities. This club has been very busy during the year in organising numerous activities. It has been very successful in raising funds for the construction of the ring.

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The class of work performed by residents ranges through many groups including fencing, potting, sewing, wool, sheep work, crutching, droving, both cattle and sheep, and general handymen round station households. Three of the residents have their own plant, and contract for work in the district.

Interest in local organisations is at the moment confined to football, but Matron is endeavouring to interest the local people in the welfare of the residents. This year the residents formed an Artistic Club with the purpose in mind of building a children's playground. Various functions were held, and with the Board's assistance, a number of pieces of playground equipment were purchased, leaving a very full balance of money which will be used to purchase a piano. The football club was formed and is now in possession of full equipment. The club has been very successful in raising money.

The health of the residents, both adult and infant, is excellent. Due to a programme of sanitations, and rigid policing, the usual gastroenteritis cases have been completely eliminated. The health of the children is very good. No cases of pellagra have been reported during the year. The school children are now getting a lot more freedom and encouragement to participate in community activities. The health of the children is very good. No cases of pellagra have been reported during the year. The school children are now getting a lot more freedom and encouragement to participate in community activities.

The condition of the Station is improving, both from moral and physical viewpoint. The present Manager has been here for some time and is interested in the welfare of the residents. He has been very successful in raising funds for the construction of the ring.

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The education of the children is much the same as on any other Station. The Station has a large vegetable garden and the pupils are very well turned out.

The Methodist Sisters visit the school once a week to instruct the children in English. The Board has decided that if a hall is erected, which is not unlikely, the sisters will be able to visit the school more regularly. If the Board is able to visit the school more regularly, this is to be held at Boggabilla. A minister of the Australian Inland Mission holds fairly regular services in one of the residences and in the open during summer.
It is pleasing to report that most of the repair work done during the latter part of the year has been completed, and work formed at the week-ends and during slack times of their employment. The communal indoor-hospital has been completed; the four-dwellings completed. The cementing of the roadway and concrete will be completed shortly. Three acres of ground has been ploughed and planted to peas, beans, and various root crops, also sown and raised. The vegetation of the Station, all of the Station's trees and shrubs, and flowers planted. Water has been laid on to both the Park and the vegetation, and a local pump is installed in the vegetable garden so that the water may be supplied by a local pump instead of ditch irrigation. The steam cleaner in the sanitary department has not been used during the course of the year, but is available to improve the water pumping system. The Station vehicle has an engine overhaul, work performed by Station staff.

Matron instituted a sewing circle among those attending showing some good attitude. Attendance, however, has not been as good in spite of encouragement by way of afternoon tea, etc. A Baby and pre-school medical clinic has been operating for six months; the pre-school clinic is held in conjunction with this.

Due to vigilance of the local Police, drunkenness is rare on the Station (three cases in six months). It is growing to note that since the residents have been painting their homes, the cleanliness has improved to a very great extent. The road to and from the Station is in excellent condition. The road is the Station's responsibility and is about 8 miles long. Fire breaks have been made around the Station. The Station is connected to a 7 Bush Fire Fighting Unit, one of the aboriginal residents being the Captain. All material and food storage systems have been reorganised, nearly all administrative buildings repainted, and a workshop fitted out.

Burrt Bridge (near Kempsey).

During the course of the year, a movement of population, both from and to the Station, has been quite noticeable, comprising the Manager's and Assistant Manager's residences, treatment room, office, ration store, and hall were connected to the Macleay County Council's electricity supply during the year. These repairs were made to aborigines dwellings. Two community lavatories, one with a shower room attached, provide facilities for washing of clothing, and for bathing, and a week-end laundry service, carried out under contract, is provided. The Station is connected to the Kempey water supply and water is pumped to the Station overhead water storage 10,000 gallons tank and distributed to administrative and aborigines dwellings on the Station.

The general health of residents throughout the year has been reasonably good, but at one period there was an epidemic of measles amongst the children, with treatment being carried out by Matron on the Station. The only other case of importance was a poliomyelitis case, admitted in the District Hospital and later transferred to the For West Home at Manly for special attention.

During the course of the year, employment was not of a stable nature, especially in the timber trade, which provides an avenue of employment for a great number of male aborigines. The employment during the course of the year was fairly high, but this position seemed to cause the native. Nevertheless, the instability of many male aborigines when assisted to find employment was of the greatest importance. The necessity of the assimilation policy of the Department expressed and carried out by Field Staff. The lack of realization of the value of money, or the proper use of at least a portion of earnings, is another disturbing factor in the lives of many aborigines, the incidence of liquor and gambling testifying to the improper use of this commodity.

Raising and growing of the main roadway into the Station has been carried out during the latter part of the year, and at present is nearing completion with incidental jobs such as repainting of all buildings. A long water supply has been laid on to both the Park and the vegetable garden, and a booster pump installed in the sanitary department.

The Park has been cleared, all ornamental trees trimmed and flowers planted. Water has been laid on to both the Park and the vegetable garden, and a booster pump installed in the sanitary department.

The station school has brought financial strain on some families. In order to meet this, a couple and their five children who left the Station for a period of three months, have not yet been analysed, but a discussion with teachers indicates that some special effort will need to be made to bring the Station children to average standards. The closing of the Station for the purpose of broadcasting the interest displayed in this privilege.

The schools have been held in the Agricultural Hall at the Showground, Kempsey, the proceeds of the function being approximately £70. In connection with these functions, the local radio station, 2KM, has now made a recording at the Manager's residence on the Station, for the purpose of broadcasting the interest displayed, and a great deal of good aborigines towards the above-mentioned Queen Competition.

Many young males who do their training in the Station Recreation hall, conduct religious instruction at the Burnt Bridge Public School, and frequently attend religious services in the Station, for the purpose of broadcasting the interest displayed in the Station, for the purpose of broadcasting the interest displayed, and a great deal of good aborigines towards the above-mentioned Queen Competition.

There has been some trend for residents to move away from the Station, all into better conditions. An example of this is a couple and their five children who left the Station, to live in a poorly constructed shanty closer to the town.

The employment position is most satisfactory, with nine men being permanently employed as full hands, station hands and fitters. Two others are sheared with a ram of shearing, given them seven months full employment at the high award rates normally given. Pensioners, and in most cases employed on a casual basis and seldom need the Board's assistance with rations.

One old dwelling was demolished and the residence formerly occupied by the school teacher has become available for an aborigines dwelling. An old kennel for dogs has been brought into being, and a recreation hall. Repairs have been effected to most buildings but some minor repairs still remain to be done. General painting is needed on all buildings.

The health of the residents has been remarkably good with only one case of serious illness, rheumatic fever. The residents are clean and hygienic in their habits and show a very commendable interest in the care of their children.

Despite the distance from Coonabarabran, four of the younger snow represent the town at football and are very keen with a strong following from other members of the Station. Coloured people are able to attend all public functions in Coonabarabran without any bar, and from time to time exercise this privilege.

The Station school was closed at the end of the last school year, and all Station children now attend the Public School in Coonabarabran, travelling to and from town from the special school bus. The results of the half-yearly examinations have not yet been analysed, but a discussion with teachers indicates that some special effort will need to be made to bring the Station children to average standards. The closing of the Station school has brought financial strain on some families, but in all cases the parents of the children have made special efforts to see that their children are able to meet and mingle with the white children on equal terms. It is understood that there are boys from this Station will shortly represent their school at football when the school team visits Narrabri.

The missionaries, Miss Barnett and Miss Knight, regularly visited the Station and Miss Barnett's death was regretted. Since then Miss Knight has carried on the bi-weekly visits as before. The board of the Station is pledged to support the bi-weekly visits, and the Manager and Matron, and the Station school has brought financial strain on some families, but in all cases the parents of the children have made special efforts to see that their children are able to meet and mingle with the white children on equal terms. It is understood that there are boys from this Station will shortly represent their school at football when the school team visits Narrabri.

After two terms of this year, there have been no serious cases of illness. The Station has been adjourned to the Station for Christmas Day, and a sports meeting held on New Year's Day, when prizes were given liberally for the winners in a wide range of races and sports.

It is decided to hold a sports meeting on the Station on New Year's Day, when prizes were given liberally for the winners in a wide range of races and sports.
The Board's policy of assimilation has been followed with some degree of success. Two families have left the Station, and five of the younger set have been engaged to get work away from their homes. Work in the district is seasonal. To offset this disadvantage, private market gardening has been commenced on the Station. Four residents, apart from normal gardening, have commenced market gardening. This scheme is in its infancy, and it is hoped before long to have a larger following.

The advancement of mechanism has shown its effects on the residents of this Station. Improved crushing of sugar has narrowed the field of the young men's employment. The automatic cane planter and rotary hoe has dispensed with labour which was normally drawn from this Station. The award wage enables only the resident's to obtain gainful employment, and a high percentage of the young men are able to get available work in the area at contract rates, were successful. A small percentage get work in the off season, in the sugar mill, spouting yard, or as contract labourers. A number of the more progressive types tried to get permanent employment as labourers in Railway gangs. One obtained employment.

This Station has twelve new buildings in very good condition. Sambo Creek has been raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree.

Towards the end of last year in about October, November, December, 1953, and early in this year, April, May, 1954, there were three small outbreaks of influenza amongst the children. Of the Station and consisted of an accordion, guitar and guava leaves. Visitors commented on the time and quality of the music.

The Salvation Army is holding a "Home Loginette" for the women every Thursday. This is well attended, and during the past year the hymn singing was continued. A trip to Bathurst was a great success, and a number of the contestants in the boxing tournament being successful, and again this year, but were guided by the President of the Bathurst Police Boys' Club.

The Youth Club was held regularly during the winter months but was suspended when the weather became warm and the attendance fell off.

Twenty-two children attend the Cowra Public School, of whom five attend the High School. Five children attend the Cowra Public School, of whom five attend the High School. All children are ready and willing to accept full membership in the general occupations, necessitate in some cases to continue the parents of the necessity of attendance.

The usual migration took place during the past year, some very fine vegetables have been produced as well as attractive flower gardens in a large percentage of the homes. The trees planted in the children's playground and the Church grounds are making good progress.

The students of the School, with the encouragement of the Headmaster of the School on the Island, have been very successful in general progress of the children. It has been furnished with modern furniture, and supplied with the latest physical training equipment. Inter-school matches have broadened the outlook of the children and helped to lessen their shyness. The first school concert was given at Christmas time as an audience. More could be achieved in this line with the active co-operation of parents.

Active participation by mothers did much in furthering the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the allowance provided by the Board. This, together with donations by mothers and local tradespeople enabled a function for all the children of the Cabbage Tree Island to be held. Later, the mothers on the reception committee entertained the guests to tea.

Above and also of families who have been employed on properties and living in houses provided by employers on such properties. When the job ceases, they return to the Station and may spend weeks here before returning to other similar employment.

A considerable amount of work has been completed on the Station, the playing area has been completely fenced and the playground equipment now in operation. This work has been performed by voluntary Station labour. Broken windows have been mended and an attempt made to inspire residents of the Station to mend their own.

Another innovation has been the formation of a Station Council. This Council was elected by the people after the nominating of selected candidates. The duties of the Council will be to report annually on the progress of the management and as far as possible to make the people handle their own affairs.

A Boys' Club has been formed and is enthusiastically attended by the younger boys of the Station. At the Boys' Club they learn weight-lifting, community games and general sport, and it is hoped that through this Club they will grow up with a feeling of solidarity with their friends and that a healthy team spirit will be developed.

Several dances have been held during the year and the money has been accumulated with the intention of purchasing amenities for the Station. All the residents take a keen interest in the social life of the Station and attend most of the gatherings.

The Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist ministers attend the Station and hold services. Special committal services for the deceased in the Station are conducted by the Resident Manager and have taken a considerable interest in the Station and have given it a socialising spirit.

The health of the people has been quite good, complaints of noxious weeds. The health of the residents has been satisfactory throughout the year, and apart from an outbreak of gastro-enteritis, there have been no major epidemics.

It is intended that the following work on the Station be undertaken in the near future:

1. The laying of water piping—grassing and complete laying out of sporting fields.
2. The building and erecting of the children's playground which is to consist of sixteen different articles of playground equipment.
3. Installing hot water service to all homes on the Station.
4. Electric light and power to each home.
5. Painting of all homes both inside and out.
6. The eradication of the thorn bushes.

The above work is to be carried out using Station labour with the guidance of the management and the Station Council. The materials and equipment for the electric light (4) to be found by the residents desiring this amenity. This work to be supervised by the Assistant Manager who is a licensed electrician.

Marrin Bridge (near Lake Cargelligo).

There has been very little fluctuation in the number of school children during the past year. Most of the able-bodied men have been in constant employment during the past year. Classes of employment are farming, trapping, shearing, timber cutting, tree poisoning, burning off and general farm work. Several of the men are permanently employed by the Water Commission, and one or two by local timber mills.

A new 5,000 gallon tank, complete with stand, has been erected, and the children's playground completed and painted in bright colours. Repairs have been carried out to housing, gates and fences, and roads graded. The whole of the boundary fence has been renewed and the old one pulled down. A sullage pit has been made at the school teacher's residence and is now in operation, and the Assistant Manager's cottage has been passed for use by the Health Department.

Buildings are in very fair condition. The residents take an interest in the Station and have given much attention to their homes and gardens. The home gardens on the Station are very creditable indeed, and with assistance and encouragement from the management, may be made much better.

There is a dairy herd of thirty-four and milk is supplied to the school for the school lunch. Milk is also distributed to the cottages for the benefit of the pre-school children.

A Boys' Club has been formed and is enthusiastically attended by the younger boys of the Station. Owing to the long distance and transport difficulties, the boys cannot attend the high school. Sunday School and religious instruction are given twice a week at the school. During the last quarter, aboriginal missionaries have held meetings, these being very well attended.

Dances have been held at Christmas time and proceeds went to the children of this people, the houses are on the whole, well cared for. Their social life is very much restricted due to the isolation of the Station. The children make the most of their playground. This is definitely an asset to the Station. The Station property is stock-proof now that the whole of the boundary fence has been renewed.

For the most part, the people on this Station cannot be regarded as having progressed to a stage where their absorption into the general community could be considered.

Garmas (near Quirindi).

The total Aboriginal population on the Station is 227, and a number of these, who are employed, and who live near by, are a part of the Station community. They are closely related to the Station residents, take a prominent part in Station activities, the children go to the Station School, and they come to the Manager and Matron for assistance in their troubles and illnesses.

All cottages are fitted with burners and showers, and Station water is laid on. In addition, each new cottage is equipped with a 1,000 gallon rain water tank. Earth closets are provided in all new cottages, and a number of existing dwellings have had garbage emptied once a week, and drawn to the township garbage dump.

The Station is supplied with water from a number of artesian bores and has a 5,000 gallon overhead tank. This water, while very hard, has been passed as fit for use by the Health Department.

There are fifteen children from the Station attending the Quirindi High School. travelling by bus. Owing to the distance from Quirindi, the parents of High School children cannot attend the school on a regular basis. As a result, the Manager has been in close touch with the Headmaster and has arranged to have the school lunch on the Station. The Headmaster is doing most excellent work. He is very interested in the welfare of the children and is making arrangements to have a number of the boys attend the High School on a regular basis.

There is a primary school on the Station with forty-three pupils at present, but there is a seasonal fluctuation in numbers. The Headmaster is doing most excellent work. He is very interested in the welfare of the children and is making arrangements to have a number of the boys attend the High School on a regular basis.

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The employment position on this Station is good. No rations are issued. One family of nine has just moved onto the Station from an adjoining property and there are no children in the family. The children are employed on the Station. They come to the Manager and Matron for assistance in their troubles and illnesses.

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A breaking-up party was held at Christmas. Gifts of drinks and ice cream were made by Caroona storekeepers. The Pupils and Citizens' Association is functioning satisfactorily.

Taree

An increase in population has been largely due to the inclusion of those aboriginal families who lived on the Travelling Station and which has now become part of the Station. The increase by adoption and birth has been temporarily offset by departures resulting from repatriation and other causes.

Taree

A team from the school played social matches against all other schools. The team received the Gosse Cup for being the runner-up in the Far North Coast Schools Carnival at Casino. To obtain match practice, the school arranged for the team to play in the Casino District Sports and were an unqualified success. For the second year in succession the school was presented with a large cup for their services to the community.

A large cup was awarded to the team for their smart outfit and it is hoped that they will meet with more success this year.

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Pupils from the school participated in the Mummulgum and Citizens' Association is functioning satisfactorily. Generously the school had a successful year.

Various sporting equipment has been purchased by the school and this gives confidence and enthusiasm to the pupils. The field is large and the playing area is of foot-ball proportions. Cricket and other games are being played and this will make a big improvement due to the added confidence given and the realisation of the colourful spectacle it presents.

The employment position has not improved, as most of the work in the district is casual. Better wages for casual labour have been obtained due to discussion and meetings with the local townpeople.

Health among the older residents has greatly improved, although many of them still need quite an amount of dental attention. There has only been one death on the Station during the year, that being an aborigine of 65 years who had been in ill health for a considerable period.

The Station dairy herd is being maintained.

Weekly religious services are being held on the Station, and the general morale is quite high. Various denominations visit the school regularly to give religious instruction.

Weekly dances are held which are well supported both by young and old.

A team from the school played social matches against the local schools. They were undefeated in those games and their good form led them to be nominated in the All-Aboriginal Schools Carnival at Casino. To obtain match practice and experience, matches were arranged on Sundays.

The Athletic Team participated in the Casino District P.S.A.A.A. Carnival and came third out of thirty-nine schools. The team received the Gooley Cup for being the runner-up in the Far North Coast Schools Carnival at Casino.

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Church ministers visited the school for the purpose of religious instruction and four different missionaries visited the Station. The Church of England Minister holds service once a month and on an occasion the training post, cord wood, corn pulling, pipe-line work, labour gear and other trades were carried out on several of the aborigines' cottages. All cottages have shower recesses and now that there is an adequate supply of water, full advantage is being taken of this asset.

The Station is now connected to the Mt Dromedary Gravitation Main, and there is ample water to meet the needs of the population of this Station consists of permanent residents and "drifters". The latter form quite a large percentage of the total number. A number use the Station as a week-end stop-over and some of the boys from Wallaga Lake, are also members of the Gum Leaf Band and comprise a treatment room, office and spacious workshop. The radion room, recreation hall and double garage have been repainted in keeping with the new buildings. Repairs were carried out on several of the aborigines' cottages. All cottages have adequate access and now that there is an adequate supply of water, full advantage is being taken of this asset. Sanitary service in render twice weekly and garbage once a week by an aborigine employed by the Department.

A service bus conveys the Station residents to the pictures at Bermagui twice weekly in the summer and every Saturday in the winter. The bus was engaged for a very nominal fee and was given the people. On two occasions there were lantern slide lectures given by them.

In May, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales visited Walgett and the school children were all taken to meet him. At the reception, a full blood boy, aged 12 years, from the School attended in an address on the theme of "His Excellency. The Governor congratulated and shook hands with him.

A presentation to the children's Library of new books was made by the Society of Friends. This was an important occasion of the year. The children had a full and interesting programme of events that consisted of a number of speeches, a concert and afternoon tea for all. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Several of the boys of Wallaga Lake participated in boxing tournaments in the district and as usual, were a great attraction. It has been proved that it is far more advantageous to include aborigines from this Station in white football teams rather than form a separate aborigines' team. This year again, several of the boys were included in both the A and B Teams of Bermagui and Cobargo and did exceptionally well.

The school children participated in the Cobargo sports and gained a number of prizes.

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Church ministers visited the school for the purpose of religious instruction and four different missionaries visited the Station. The Church of England Minister holds service once a month and on an occasion the training post, cord wood, corn pulling, pipe-line work, labour gear and other trades were carried out on several of the aborigines' cottages. All cottages have shower recesses and now that there is an adequate supply of water, full advantage is being taken of this asset.

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The school children participated in the Cobargo sports and gained a number of prizes.
There is abundant employment in the district and all eligible willing workers are employed. The remainder who may be classed as vagrant types, find casual work whenever they feel inclined to seek it. Many of these are alcoholics and there is a high percentage of unemployed men and women in the town. Most of them are long-term residents of the town and have difficulty in adjusting to a life of work. Some of the unemployed are from the rural areas and have difficulty in finding work due to the seasonal nature of the employment in the agriculture and fishing industries.

The main source of income for most families is farming and fishing. However, many families also have other sources of income such as casual work in the town. There are some seasonal workers who come to the town during the summer months to work in the tourism industry. The majority of the residents are employed in the local industries, which include food processing and the manufacture of fish products.

The population of the town the 30th June, 1954, was 166. There are twenty modern cottages, six smaller dwellings, a recreation hall, store, dispensary, garage, domestic science room, Manager's dwelling, an office, boathouse and one school building. The children attend these buildings and Sunday School and a number have flower gardens and other improvements.

The water supply to this Station is conveyed through the pipeline from Wreck Bay. The Wreck Bay supply is installed in each dwelling, which gives ample supply for household and garden purposes.

Electricity is connected and there is a power line created in the town. The town has a power plant and a number of street lights. This service is maintained by the Council of Jervis Bay.

The health of the residents has been good. Apart from the common cold, there has been no serious illness recorded. When necessary, a doctor is called.

During the summer months, the men on the Station formed a cricket team and often travelled to the nearby towns for a social game. When the football season opened, six men from the Station joined the Jervis Bay team and acquitted themselves well. One of them was selected as vice-captain.

The Station recreation hall during the year under review. The Matron and a teacher conduct Sunday School and when necessary, a doctor is called.

VI.aborigine Reserves Generally.

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 houses, 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 pittance by making souvenirs and other aboriginal curios. Two men have modern workshops with electrically driven equipment.

Appendix "C" attached gives details of existing Reserves.

VI. aboriginal Life and Conditions.

Vital Statistics.

There is no reliable up-to-date information as to the exact number of aborigines in New South Wales, but at the recent census, when figures are complete, this is estimated that there are about 15,000 aborigines in the State at present, and about 200 or more records to the School and Station by the group, are two phonograms placed on neatness and appearance of school work. The children was enjoyed by children and adults alike, and some residents.

A school break-up party and concert was held in the recreation hall of the school at the end of 1953. A display of work was given in the form of an exhibition to the Queensland University helpers who conduct monthly competitions in art and music.

During the summer months, the residents held dances in the recreation hall for the Parents and Citizens' Association meets once a month. A display of work was given at a special drive on hygiene. Special emphasis has been placed on neatness and appearance of school work. The teachers have been greatly assisted with this by the Queensland University helpers who conduct monthly competitions in art and music.

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

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

Assistance is provided to indigent aborigines, whether or not residing on Aboriginal Stations or Reserves. It consists of rations, blankets and clothing.

The weekly scale of rations has been approved by the Health Department and consists of:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>10 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>2 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam</td>
<td>12 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dripping</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions or Dried Peas</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baking Powder</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatmeal</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdered Whole Milk</td>
<td>12 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>4 lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children under fifteen years of age receive half the above ration with the exception of milk, in case which the same is issued to adults and children. In the case of most children over the age of nine years also receive 4 lb. weekly. Where milk is available, the issue is at least one pint per head per day.

On some Stations where a community garden exists, issues of green vegetables are made as available.

All Stations have treatment rooms where minor ailments or accidents receive attention. Cases beyond the capacity of the Medical Officer are referred to local doctors or hospitals. Drugs, dressing, etc., are issued without charge, irrespective of whether the patient is indigent or not.

Aboriginal patients are entitled to exactly the same hospitalisation as ordinary individuals, and are subject to the means test imposed by hospitals regarding ability to pay. If able to pay, aborigines are expected to do so. They are urged to avail themselves of Medical, Ambulance and Hospital Benefit Schemes, and many have joined.

Christmas cheer is provided every year for the aged, infirm and destitute aborigines; a practice which has been in existence for a long period of time. Special grants are also made to the aboriginal schools to assist in providing funds for the organisation of breaking-up functions. These functions are usually a highlight of the school social activity; local interested persons and organisations assist in the finance and arrangements for the parties, their co-operation being further demonstrated by their attendance at the functions. So far as the aboriginal children are concerned, not only the school pupils but also the younger children participate in the parties and the events of the festive season. The boys at Bega Station and the girls of Cootamundra Home also have a very happy time at Christmas. They are not forgotten and their Christmas parties and dinner are outstanding events. At the Homes too, local friends and organisations assist to give the children a pleasurable time at this time of the year.

Pension and Unemployment Benefits.

The Unemployment Benefit is paid to aborigines on the same basis as the ordinary individual, namely to the genuinely unemployed. This payment is made irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence. In this instance it is apparently recognised by the Commonwealth that the worker, when employed, pays a Social Service tax irrespective of his nationality and where he is unemployed, he should have the benefit of his contributions.

The position in regard to pensions, however, is still unsatisfactory. Towards the end of the year, the Commonwealth did liberalise the conditions of payment to the extent that, on certain Reserves which are not under resident supervision, those entitled to a pension may now claim if they are also in possession of an Exemption Certificate. It is the opinion of the Board that there are few cases of aborigines in this State in which there is any justification for questioning their right to Social Services merely by reason of the fact that the applicant is an aboriginal or caste aboriginal. This view has been approved and strongly represented by the Government on more than one occasion, and the suggestion by the Commonwealth that a Certificate of Exemption is regarded as a pre-requisite to the granting of a pension, is disturbing. The Commonwealth has been requested to clarify its attitude to the question whether a Certificate of Exemption is a necessity to eligibility for a pension.

Exemption Certificates.

The issue of an Exemption Certificate is intended to indicate that the holder is ready for assimilation. It will be appreciated that the acute housing position existing over a period of years, is a factor which compels an exempted aborigine to remain in his aboriginal environment.

The issue of a Certificate of Exemption is determined after careful inquiry into the applicant's background, mode of living and general character. The issue of a Certificate, therefore, cannot always be made solely for the reason of qualifying an applicant for a pension. There are certain factors which, whilst disqualifying an applicant for an Exemption Certificate, should not necessarily disqualify him for the payment of a pension.

Fifty Certificates were issued during the year under review and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended 30th June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Grant       | 51 | 50 |
| Deferred    | 2  | 2  |
| Declined    | 3  | 6  |
| Cancelled   | 1  | 3  |
Expulsion Orders.

Although the Board has wide powers in regard to the residency of aborigines on its Reserves, it very reluctantly approaches the matter of expelling or refusing admission to any particular aboriginal. The attitude adopted over the last few years of avoiding expulsions as far as possible, has proved to have had a very good effect. The issue of a stern warning and follow-up by a Welfare Officer has, in most instances, proved effective in the improvement of the conduct of the person concerned. During the year, only three Expulsion Orders were issued, but five were cancelled.

VII. CONCLUSION.

The Board does not look for immediate and spectacular results. The very nature of the problem must envisage a steady, but persistent attack, and a process of development rather than drastic sudden change.

Hope lies in the education of the rising generation, at the same time rendering help and encouragement to those aborigines who display a desire and effort on their own part to progress beyond the sub-standard living conditions with which so many have been so long content.

The Board feels justified in claiming that its policy of assimilation is gaining steady momentum and that the next few years will be a time of real progress in this direction.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board’s resolution dated this twenty-first day of September, 1954.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.
M. H. SAXBY, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

APPENDIX “A”.

MOVEMENTS OF WARDS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1951-52</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of wards at beginning of year</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number admitted during year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number committed during year</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number discharged during year</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number at end of year</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLACEMENT OF WARDS ADMITTED OR COMMITTED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1951-52</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kincalia Boys’ Home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cootamundra Girls’ Home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denominational Homes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarded out with foster parents</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placed in employment under Reg. conditions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otherwise placed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLACEMENT OF WARDS AT END OF YEAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1951-52</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kincalia Boys’ Home</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cootamundra Girls’ Home</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denominational Homes</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarded out with foster parents</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In employment under Reg. conditions</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otherwise placed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>171</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX "B".
LIST OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS—VITAL STATISTICS AND RATION RECIPIENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1901-02.</th>
<th>1902-03.</th>
<th>1903-04.</th>
<th>1903-04.</th>
<th>1903-04.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellbrook</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boggabilla</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrabeen</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burt Hill</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt Bridge</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capertee Island</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage Tree Island</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diamondvale</td>
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<td>232</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merribridge</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moonahullah</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moree</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murrin Bridge</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>116</td>
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<td>Newell</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>143</td>
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<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrabri</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambucca Heads</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrabeen</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobby Park</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nabulloon</td>
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APPENDIX "C".
LIST OF ABORIGINAL RESERVES—PARTICULARS OF RATION RECIPIENTS.

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<th>Station or Reserve</th>
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<td>2,155</td>
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**APPENDIX "D".**

**STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE.**

Expenditure incurred by the Board—

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td>67,279</td>
<td>65,954</td>
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<td>Maintenance of Buildings</td>
<td>2,872</td>
<td>5,551</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport Expenses</td>
<td>13,193</td>
<td>13,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines...</td>
<td>43,962</td>
<td>39,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other charges</td>
<td>2,162</td>
<td>2,035</td>
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<td>Purchase of Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>1,425</td>
<td>3,660</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>129,893</td>
<td>129,456</td>
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Payable from General Loan Account—

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Buildings, Station improvements and land Purchases</td>
<td>36,747</td>
<td>29,008</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>166,640</strong></td>
<td><strong>158,464</strong></td>
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Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1952-53</th>
<th>1953-54</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies</td>
<td>7,624</td>
<td>8,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.</td>
<td>1,914</td>
<td>1,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services</td>
<td>4,655</td>
<td>6,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding</td>
<td>3,602</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18,707</td>
<td>21,844</td>
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**Total** | £185,399 | £180,108 |

---

**APPENDIX "E".**

**VISITS AND INTERVIEWS BY WELFARE OFFICERS.**


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<th>Nature of Visit or Interview</th>
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<td>Wards of the Board</td>
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<td>Neglected or uncontrollable children</td>
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<td>Stations or Reserves</td>
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<td>Police</td>
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<td>Enquiries re employment</td>
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<td>Affiliation or Maintenance</td>
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<td>Public Authorities</td>
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<td>Voluntary Agencies</td>
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<td>Attendance at Court</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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**Total** | 6,433 |