

# BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD

## All Enjoy the Same Privileges

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:—

Item.	Quantity.
Flour ... ..	10 lb.
Sugar ... ..	2 lb.
Tea ... ..	4 oz.
Jam ... ..	12 oz.
Dripping ... ..	1 lb.
Potatoes ... ..	2 lb.
Onions or Dried Peas ... ..	8 oz.
Baking Powder ... ..	4 oz.
Rice ... ..	1 lb.
Oatmeal ... ..	8 oz.
Powdered Whole Milk ... ..	12 oz.
Soap ... ..	4 oz.
Meat ... ..	4 lb.

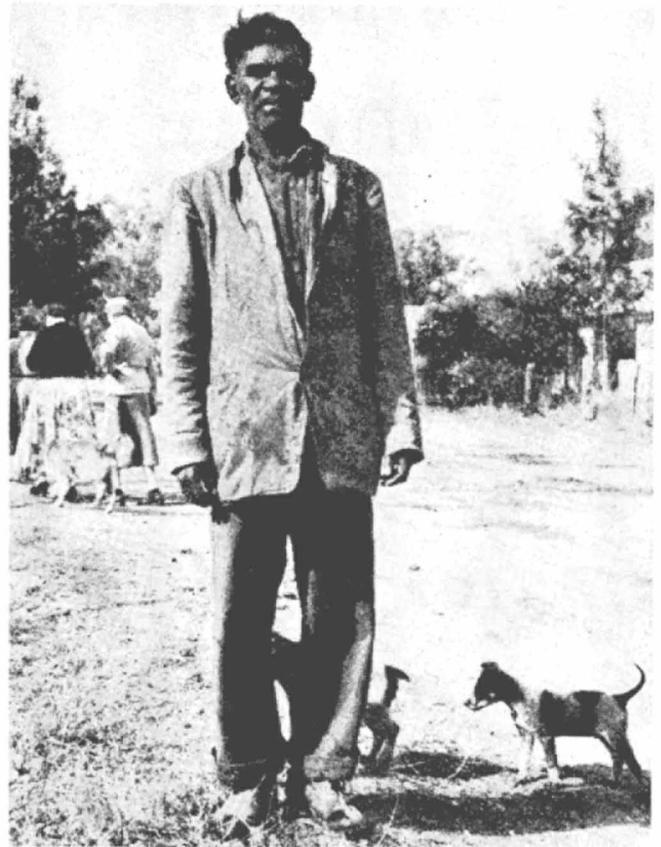
Children under fifteen years of age receive half the above ration with the exception of milk, in which case the same is issued to adults and children. In the case of meat, children over the age of nine years also receive 4 lb. weekly. Where raw milk is available, the issue is at least one pint per head 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 Matron 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 Benefits 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 over 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 local 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 visit of Santa Claus. The boys at Kinchela Home 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.



Tommy Combardello, of Boggabilla, loved by young and old.

## 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 the recent census, when figures are complete, will supply this. It is estimated that there are about 12,000 aborigines in the State at present, very few of whom are full bloods.

However, statistics available reveal that, of the total, whatever it may be, 2,968 are resident on Stations and 1,810 are on Reserves.

The remainder comprises a goodly number who either rent or own their own homes and are virtually assimilated into the community and many who have erected shacks on the outskirts of country towns. Many of these are in receipt of good wages and it is a matter for regret that they display little initiative in improving the conditions under which they live.

It is the constant aim of Welfare Officers to endeavour to persuade and encourage such to use their resources more wisely and to move of their own volition in the direction of establishing themselves in decent living conditions.