

Our People Are Fine Citizens

CO-OPERATION IS NECESSARY

This was a brief radio talk given over Radio Station 2KP, Kempsey, on April 12th, by Mr. A. Norton, the Area Welfare Officer.

So little is known by so many of what has been done, what is being done and what will be done for the Australian Aborigine by the Government of N.S.W., that I feel I should endeavour to tell you as much as I can in the short time I have at my disposal.

The problem has been approached with much forethought and foresight, that past experience and encouraging results have proved we are on the right road to assimilation.

There are 16 Government Stations, of which 8 were rebuilt about 5 years ago. These Stations are virtually Housing Settlements, with lovely 2 and 3 bedroom fibro cottages and all essential amenities, a well equipped Recreation Hall, Medical Treatment room, office, ration store, modern school and the larger Stations have very fine Churches.

A resident Manager and Matron are in charge, who care for the health, employment, social, recreational and religious needs of the Aborigine.

Those living in sub-standard conditions are moved to these settlements as opportunity offers, and are given every assistance to uplift themselves to the white man's standard.

When it was found that many Aborigine families were showing rapid progress, the department decided to build houses for them in towns, and move these more advanced families into these homes.

In spite of the fact that reluctance was shown from some quarters of the white community—who were not so long ago decrying the Government for its apathy towards the Aborigine of this State—we went ahead with our policy; and now find, that these Aborigine families have turned out to be fine citizens and their children are showing great promise.

Two Aborigine families who were moved a few years ago into town houses, in Cobargo, and were unfavourably received at first, are now completely assimilated with the white community of the district. They belong to the local golf and tennis clubs, the women are members of the C.W.A. and assist in all the local social functions of the town.

We have two young Aborigine School teachers, who passed out of the Teacher's College; and an Aborigine lad from Kinchela—Harry Penrith—known by all in the Kempsey district, who is in the Agricultural department in Sydney, and doing exceptionally well.

I could quote many such cases where the young Aborigine boy and girl are being given every opportunity to make a success of their lives, both in the literary and sporting field, and their achievements have been encouraging.

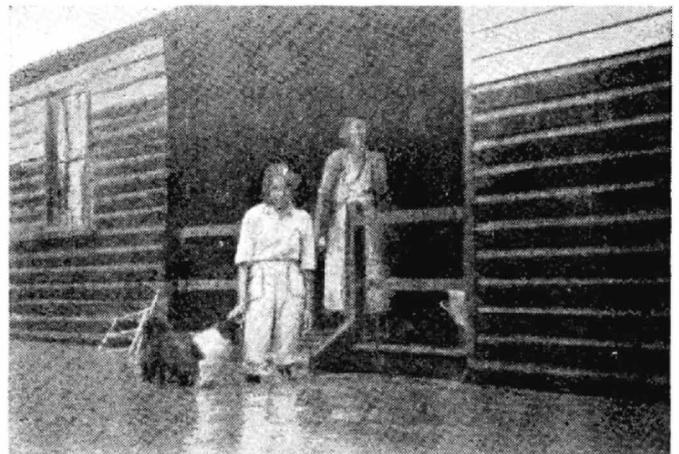
It is our aim to go ahead and progress with the times. We have qualified and experienced men in the field and at Head Office, who can see that our policy is bearing fruit, provided we continue to have the co-operation of the Aborigine and the whole-hearted assistance and understanding of the white community.

If we could get this fine spirit of genuine understanding, and the hand of friendship extended by the white community, to the co-operative and progressive Aborigine, we will then find that the solution to our problem will be just around the corner.

Floods at Boggabilla



George Binge of Boggabilla paddling in the flood waters which recently swept through the Station.



Barbara Duncan and her mother looked worried as the flood waters continued to rise about their Boggabilla home.