



A message

from the Board



BURSARIES FOR 1957.

There are now twenty-one current bursaries held by aboriginal children throughout the State, and this includes eight new bursaries awarded this year. It is usual to award four new bursaries, but in 1957, owing to the generosity of outside organisations and the expiry of current bursaries, it was possible to increase the number to eight. The fortunate children were:—

Patricia Davis, attending the Casino High School.

Robert William Bellear, attending the Bullumbimby High School.

Betty Eileen Smith, attending the Kempsey High School.

Alwyn Charles, attending the Griffith High School.

Valerie Maud Hoskins, attending the Kempsey High School.

Fay Francis Taylor, attending the Dubbo High School.

Grace Alison Monaghan, attending the Griffith High School.

John French, attending the Moree High School.

The bursaries which were previously awarded to Lionel McBride of the Woodenbong Central School, and Frederick Miller who is attending Kurri Kurri High School, have been extended for another two years to help them to go on to the Leaving Certificate.

The Board wishes them, and all the other bursars, success in all their studies and hopes that they will get benefit for their after life from this opportunity which is given to them.

A very nice letter was received by Mr. Saxby, the Superintendent, from Alwyn Charles, whose bursary is tenable at the Griffith High School. Alwyn writes:—

“I now take this opportunity to thank you for your kind letter and for what you intend to do for me. I do count this a golden opportunity and I intend to make use of it. I will work hard at school and endeavour to do what is right.

Once again thank you for what you have done and for what you intend doing in the future.”

This letter of thanks was very much appreciated.

EXEMPTION.

Applications for Exemption Certificates continue to be received in goodly numbers. At the last two meetings, the Board approved of twenty-four applications, in each case a satisfactory report having been received regarding the character and living conditions of the applicant. When they have supplied the necessary photographs, they will be given their Certificates.

At this stage the Board wishes to impress upon the holders of Certificates and those who receive Certificates in the future, how very important it is to look after their Certificate. When a Certificate is lost or becomes damaged or destroyed, it causes a lot of unnecessary trouble to all concerned before it can be replaced; so it is a good idea to look after your Certificate and then when you are asked to produce it, you can be proud when you bring it forth in a clean and well preserved condition.

In connection with the issue of Exemption Certificates, the Board wants it to be clearly understood that a Certificate is not to be had simply for the asking. In recent months it has been necessary to decline quite a few applications which have been made by persons whose sole object in having a Certificate, was apparently to put it to a use for which it was never intended.

The Board is always averse to cancelling a Certificate once it has been issued, and only does so after the circumstances leading up to the consideration of the cancellation have been fully investigated. At the same time, they will not hesitate to decline an application if there is a suspicion that the holder would misuse it such as would be the case if, being then free to purchase liquor without restraint, he does so to supply other aborigines who have not been exempted.

A Certificate of Exemption is something to be proud of. It stamps the holder as a person of good character and one who can be trusted. Applicants will realise then, that the general character and habits of the applicant must be fully investigated.