

ASSISTANCE BY OUTSIDE BODIES

At present there are 13 organisations in existence, which were formed with the express object of assisting in the assimilation and welfare of Aborigines throughout the State. These bodies are located at Armidale, Casino, Coff's Harbour, Condobolin, Coonamble, Dareton, Kempsey, Moree, Tamworth, Wellington, Griffith, Maclean and Walcha. In addition to the country associations mentioned, a group of housewives operate in the metropolitan area under the name of the Waterview Group, Seaforth, towards maintaining an aboriginal student at boarding college. A group of journalists employed by the *Sydney Morning Herald* are working to the same end as is also the Glen Innes Branch of Apex Clubs. Philanthropic associations, such as the "Save the Children Fund", St. Ives, and the Soroptimist Club of Canterbury have devoted portion of their income towards the endowment of bursaries.

Worthy of mention during the year under review was the construction of a house, in Kempsey, for an aboriginal family, by the N.S.W. Christian Youth Council with materials supplied by the Board. At Griffith the local Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines undertook to construct a building on the local Reserve to serve as a hall and baby health centre and to subscribe half the cost of the expenditure involved. At Collarenebri the local branch of Apex Clubs accepted responsibility for the installation of a water supply and ablution block to the Collarenebri Aborigines Reserve with materials being made available by the Board. The Kempsey Lions Club constructed a recreation ground and football field at the Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station, helped financially by the Board in this respect. Also worthy of special mention is supervision by the Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines at Armidale of a Canteen erected by the Board as a temporary measure to provide a hot meal and milk or cocoa for pre-school children resident on the Reserve pending the erection of new homes.

ABORIGINES RESERVES GENERALLY

The term "Aborigines Reserve" is applied to those areas where, as distinct from Aboriginal Stations, there is no residential management. In some instances, when degree of population so warrants, part-time supervisors are appointed to attend to the welfare problems of Reserve inhabitants. Usually supervision of Reserves is exercised by local Police with intermittent visits by Welfare Officers.

On a majority of these areas improvised homes have been erected by Aborigines themselves. Recently it has been necessary for the Board—in rectifying unsatisfactory living conditions of local Aborigines—to have gazetted small areas of land as Reserves for Aborigines and erect thereon sufficient houses of approved design to accommodate the families involved.

It might be mentioned here that the Board is forced into this position when Aboriginal communities take up residence on Travelling Stock Reserves and town commons, erect "shanty" dwellings and are allowed to live under unsanitary conditions without any early action being taken by local authorities to enforce the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Local Government Acts.

Too often these unauthorised encampments are allowed to grow unchecked as additional families move in until the situation becomes a serious health menace, leading to unfavourable publicity over a position which should not have been permitted to develop.

The Board feels also that Councils should accept a greater share of responsibility in improving conditions of aborigines living on the outskirts of country towns.



Some Tingha residents rest for a while during a days shopping



Elaine Combo, Roger Little, Ellen Connors and Eric Strong, of Guyra