



*Members of the Aborigines Welfare Board: left to right, Mr A. Ferguson, Mr J. Morgan, Mr J. D. Giblett (secretary), Mr A. G. Kingsmill (chairman), Dr A. Douglas, Mr R. Smee, Mr J. Buck
Absent: Professor A. P. Elkin (vice-chairman), Mr J. Purcell, Mr V. J. Truskett, and Mr H. J. Green (superintendent)*

The Board Goes West to Get the Facts

Early in October members of the Aborigines Welfare Board went to Dubbo in the central west of New South Wales on a fact-finding tour. In two days they covered 880 miles and visited many Aborigine people and civic leaders in the towns of Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonamble, Gulargambone, Wellington, and Peak Hill.

Members of the Board feel that these country trips are essential; the best way to understand the problems facing Aborigines is to visit and talk with them in their homes and towns. There is no substitute for on-the-spot knowledge which helps them to make decisions to meet individual problems, and in the State-wide sphere to plan work on a priority basis to use their limited money to satisfy the greatest needs first.

Wherever the Board went on their trip they met people who are living up to the responsibility of creating a climate in which Aborigines can be assimilated into the community. The Board feels that real progress has been made in many of the areas they visited, but much still needs to be done.

One of the most important tasks facing the Board is the provision of suitable housing for Aborigines in these areas.

Press, radio and television coverage of the Board's two-day trip focused attention on problems the Board is dealing with. These country trips not only help the Board in its decisions, but remind townspeople of their responsibilities in Aboriginal affairs.