



David Brown and Mrs Agnes Parker at Coonamble

107 YEARS OLD

He is 107 years old, can still recall his tribal tongue, and is the last surviving member of the tribe which once inhabited the Quambone area of north western New South Wales.

His name is David Brown.

David only discovered his correct age a few months ago when a search of some old Aboriginal Welfare records revealed that he was born on September 10, 1867. However he still cannot recall the name given to the tribe from which he is descended. He knows, though, that his father's European name was also David Brown.

It was only seven years ago that he finally gave up work as a stockman. He had spent much of his life working on sheep and cattle stations in the Quambone district.

Despite such a long, hard life, or perhaps because of it, David is still alert and agile, although, he says, "some days I feel better than others". Only

recently he began to wear spectacles, something he blames on "too much television".

Born on Sandy Camp Station, west of Quambone, he recalls a carefree childhood among his tribe, whose leader was his father. He has never attended school.

"I remember going hunting with the men of the tribe", he says, "but I never learned to throw a spear or track animals. As soon as I was old enough I went to work on the station and I only went back to the tribe at weekends. When my tribe went walkabout I stayed on the station".

David's experience and memory stretches back as far as the days of Cobb and Co when his brother worked at the staging post on Quilbone station, changing horses for coaches on their way along the road between Warren and Carinda.

David never married, although he has four generations of nephews and nieces. Today he lives with his great great niece, Mrs Agnes Parker and her husband, in Coonamble.