

ABORIGINES RESERVES GENERALLY

In addition to the stations which have been mentioned previously, there are a large number of reserves for aborigines throughout the State. These differ from stations in that they are not under full-time resident managership. However, in a number of cases non-resident supervisors have been appointed. This is the case at Brungle, Condobolin, Coraki, Karuah, Nambucca Heads, Ulkundahi Island, Wellington and Wilcannia. At Condobolin, Karuah, Nambucca Heads and Wellington, the teacher-in-charge of the school carries out the duties of supervisor.

At La Perouse, where there is a population of 176, together with another 334 living in the vicinity, there is a resident full-time supervisor. On this Reserve there are thirty cottages in which, for the most part, the tenants take a pride. Of these, twenty-two have been connected to the electricity supply and some have washing machines and refrigerators.

La Perouse is a popular tourist spot with historic associations. A number of aborigines supplement their earnings by making and selling curios to visitors. One man has a well equipped workshop with electrically driven lathe and conducts a profitable business in the manufacture of boomerangs and other articles.

Where no supervisor has been appointed, oversight of reserves is exercised by local Police, by arrangement with the Commissioner. Furthermore, it is an integral part of a Welfare Officer's duty to visit reserves as often as possible and give attention to the needs of residents.

The population of some reserves has dwindled considerably in recent years and, in some cases, all residents have removed to other parts. In such cases, action is taken to return the control of the area to the Lands Department.

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The rolling plain and the homestead truck make a good background for Clair and Bennie Flick, of Collarenebri.
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SANTA CLAUS AT WALGETT

Board Members Visit

This year the children of Walgett Aboriginal Station had two Christmas parties. For the first they brought a Christmas tree from the bush themselves and stood it in a drum of sand in one of the schoolrooms.

Many willing little helpers blew up balloons and tied them to the tree together with boxes of sweets (the money for all this having been provided by the Board). The children asked to be allowed to do all the decorations themselves and the result was a pleasant blending of coloured streamers and silver bells from the ceiling, with the tree hung with silver and gold. This first party was held on December 8th.

The Buffalo Lodge and the Church of England combined in giving another party on December 16th, where the guest of honour was the Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C., a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Each child received a present from Santa Claus (Mr. Wallace) for whom much sympathy was felt when the temperature soared over the century mark.

Bottles of cool drinks were supplied but the contents disappeared with lightning rapidity, so the Vicar, Mr. Fincher, went back to town and brought back a huge jar of orange syrup, and an equally huge block of ice. The ladies of the Church supplied sandwiches. Our thanks are due to the Vicar and his helpers who each Christmas help to brighten the lives of these out-back children.

The Hon. E. G. Wright gave a short address to the gathering of parents, on the aims of the Board, which was listened to very intently.

Despite the heat and the terrible road he had to travel to reach the Station, it was evident he enjoyed the party.

Walgett Station certainly possesses some budding young Sherlock Holmes's. When Santa Claus arrived per car, they all broke into the tune of "Jingle Bells," but later were heard to remark that he wasn't "the really truly Santa." When asked why they thought that, they said—"Well, after he'd given out the presents, didn't he get in a car and didn't the car go out only as far as the gate and come back? He went out and took off his red coat and beard, but he forgot to change his shoes."

The very small children were not quite so sure but wanted to know where Santa had left his reindeer. Much mirth was caused when a larger boy said they'd been left hobbled at the fence because there isn't enough grass here for them.