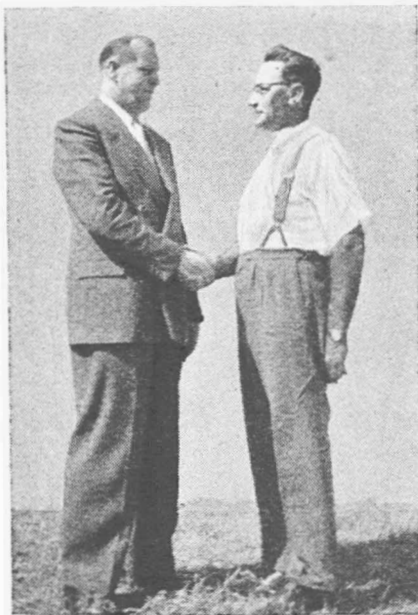


# ABORIGINAL COUPLE TO MANAGE STATION

## WRECK BAY APPOINTMENT

**T**HE Aboriginal Station at Wreck Bay was recently the scene of an historic event in the lives of the aboriginal people of N.S.W. For the first time in the history of this State, and probably in the history of the Commonwealth, an aboriginal couple was given charge of an Aboriginal Station.



**Congratulating Mr. Brown on his appointment as Manager, Mr. J. F. Frazer, M.P., said he felt it indicated the commencement of a new era for the aborigines of the State. Mr. Frazer is seen above, shaking hands with Bob Brown.**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Station, is that couple. Mr. Brown has occupied the position of Handyman on the Station for some years and has performed his duties with commendable ability. Mrs. Brown has played a leading part in the social welfare of the Station residents, and it is felt this background will assist her materially in the future. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have always displayed a genuine interest in the welfare of their own people and this should fit them for the task ahead.

Mr. E. C. Cole, the resident Manager, has been compelled to proceed on leave for health reasons and as his and his wife's absence from duty will be a protracted one, it was necessary for the Board to arrange for him to be relieved. The regular Relieving Officers were not available, being engaged elsewhere, and so the Board

chose Mr. and Mrs. Brown to carry on as Acting Manager and Matron for the time being and possibly until Mr. Cole comes back.

The Board regards it as an important step that one of their own people should be given such a responsible job as Manager of a Station. The appointment, although temporary, is unique and who knows but that much may be learned from the appointment and that Mr. Brown will eventually become a regular member of the Board's administrative staff.

At a public meeting which took place in the new recreation hall on the Station, a large number of residents indicated by their presence, the importance of the occasion. Present on the platform were the Honourable J. Frazer, M.P., The Aborigines Welfare Officer, Mr. P. M. Sephton, the departing Manager, Mr. E. C. Cole, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Cole who, in his remarks, indicated his pleasure at the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Brown. Mr. Cole went on to say that the appointment was a direct forward step in the process of assimilation for the aboriginal people of New South Wales.

Amidst enthusiastic applause, Mr. Brown rose to speak and indicated his pleasure at the appointment of his wife and himself to such an important position. He concluded by expressing his appreciation of the opportunity given by the Board in placing himself and his wife in positions of trust and responsibility.

In his address, Mr. Sephton expressed the confidence of the Board in Mr. and Mrs. Brown. He concluded by pointing out to the residents that they had a responsibility in ensuring that every assistance was rendered the new Manager and Matron in the performance of their new duties.

Amidst further applause the Federal Member for the District, the Honourable J. Frazer, rose to speak. He mentioned that he had known Mr. and Mrs. Brown for a number of years and that he had always held them in the highest regard. Walking across the platform, he shook Mr. Brown by the hand and stated his wish that the future would be a bright and happy one.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a number of the residents were heard to express their confidence in the new appointees.