

GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN HOUSING PROBLEMS

THE STATE Government is planning a scheme to assist original Australians to improve their housing conditions in the metropolitan area and in country districts. In making this announcement Housing Minister H. E. Graham said the plan would be worked out in co-operation with the State Housing Commission and himself.

Mr. Graham envisaged a plan whereby coloured people would be given the opportunity to own their homes.

Modest homes would be built by the State Housing Commission and sold to eligible applicants on conditions of low deposits and easy repayments.

Mr. Graham and representatives of the Coolbaroo League recently visited the Eden Hill, Bassendean, area to discuss proposals with several of the residents. The Minister expressed his satisfaction at the keenness shown by these people to have the opportunity to improve their present conditions.

Land Inspection

After an inspection of land owned by residents of the area Mr. Graham said immediate action would be taken to bring the new scheme into action.

A number of matters had yet to be settled and Coolbaroo League officers would be informed immediately further information was available.

NATIVES ANGRY

COLOURED people of the Gnowangerup-Borden-Ongerup district are incensed at a published report of a protest by the Ongerup Progress Association against what it called "the misbehaviour of the native population in the district."

Association members claimed that natives had been drunk, disturbed the peace and had been co-habiting with white people.

It is well-known that the people of Ongerup have been agitating for years for a police officer to be stationed in the district.

There are only three or four native families at Ongerup and they believe they are being slandered in an attempt to force the hand of the Police Commissioner.

They feel that even if the report was not grossly exaggerated, it is strange that there could be so much drunkenness in a town where there is no hotel, but only a gallon licence held by the local storekeeper.

Natives understand, from the report, that the white people are asking for protection from natives co-habiting with them. They consider it makes strange reading.

COMMISSIONER SAYS JOB A PRIVILEGE

THERE could be no greater privilege in the field of social welfare than that of promoting the welfare and advancement of the aboriginal people, Native Affairs Commissioner S. G. Middleton said in an address in Wesley Church recently.

He was replying to a Methodist conference resolution expressing confidence in his administration and fearless and sincere leadership of natives during the past five years.

Mr. Middleton said his task would be much more satisfactory if he was allowed to develop his own plans unencumbered by out of date restrictive legislation and the interference of a multitude of self-appointed "experts"—a dangerous class of people who believed they knew all about natives.

The social development of any race lay in its children and it was through them that the Native Affairs Department hoped chiefly to guide and direct the cultural change taking place among the aborigines.

For those aborigines, or part aborigines, who lived in daily contact with white civilisation, the department acted as an agent to advise, assist or represent them when they encountered difficulties in the complicated business of civilised living.

(See page 2, column 4.)



THIS HAPPY GROUP is pictured at a recent Euralian Club dance at Port Hedland. They are pictured watching a floorshow which was the highlight of the evening. Dances were formerly held at Port Hedland weekly, but they have been held less often recently. Mr. L. W. (Pop) Clarke is secretary of the Euralian Club.

Grape-Picking Brings Work For Aborigines

MANY aboriginal people from all parts of the South-West are at present busily employed in grape-picking at various vineyards in the Caversham and Middle Swan districts.

A ROYAL OCCASION

In honour of the Queen's visit to WA, the Coolbaroo League will conduct a special dance on Friday, March 26, in the Braille Hall, Perth.

The hall will be specially decorated for the occasion and there will be dancing from 8 p.m. until midnight. There will be novelties and supper will be available. No extra admission charge will be made.

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One couple—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yappo—have travelled from Moora to take part in the picking season.

They usually do farm work at Moora and every February come south for the grape-picking and to visit their son Geoffrey, who is at Mosman Park Deaf and Dumb School.

Geoffrey gets a great deal of enjoyment from their visits because he is able to help them in grape-picking during the week-end.

Mr. Yappo and his wife recently made £35 in a day on grape-picking. At the end of the season—in another two months—they will return to Moora to assist in seeding operations.

As an experiment three young natives are being employed by the Land Settlement Department in the Mt. Barker district. They are doing well. The three are being provided with married men's quarters.

Aboriginal Fred Coyne, of Albany, will represent the native people of the district during the Queen's visit to Albany on March 30.



RIGHT IN AMONG THE GRAPES that will soon be turned into wine are pictured Joe Yappo and his wife, of Moora. The Yappo's make a special trip to Caversham every year to assist in the grape-picking season. Recently the couple earned £35 in a day.

Ben Mason Works For The Future

THOUGH he left school after completing fifth standard, aboriginal Ben Mason (23), formerly of Mt. Margaret Mission, has occupied many long hours in study to better himself.

The reward for his studies will come shortly before Easter when he leaves for New South Wales to study missionary work. The course will probably take two or three years.

Born in the bushland about 100 miles east of Cosmo Newberry Native Mission, of a full-blood mother and white father, Ben is proud of the aboriginal race.

He says that Christianity has taught him that there is no shame in his colour because the outward appearance of a person counts so little.

Little Study

Ben was eight when he began at Mt. Margaret Mission after living with his mother's tribe. His schooling consisted of only two hours study a day. The rest of the time was spent in doing odd jobs about the mission or going for walks.

It was possible for him to have only two hours a day schooling because of a shortage of teachers.

After working as a stockman on several stations he wrote to the Native Affairs Department in the hope that it would help him further his education.



BEN MASON (23) will reap his reward for years of hard work and study soon when he becomes a missionary. He will leave to study missionary work in New South Wales shortly before Easter. He believes it is his duty to help his fellows learn the meaning of Christianity.

Work in Perth

He came to Perth and joined the staff of the WA Wire Netting Company and studied English and mechanics at night school.

Ben feels that it is his duty to study further now so that he can assist his own people in the outback.

He says: "There is always colour prejudice and discouragement in life. For this reason aborigines must not weary, but work together towards a better goal and assist their fellows."

SHEARING COURSE

Aboriginal youths can now learn shearing from the Agricultural Department.

The WA Farmers' Union has advised the Native Affairs Department that the classes will be open to aboriginal youths and men. Anyone interested in the course should get in touch with the nearest NAD welfare officer.

HOUSES PROMISED

HOUSING Minister Graham recently told the Mingenew Road Board that every consideration would be given to the construction of at least one home for a native family in the district.

During a visit to Katanning he told the local authorities that he had been impressed with the first home built in the district by the Katanning Native Welfare Council.

The State Housing Commission would shortly build two homes for natives in the district.

The Katanning Native Welfare Council has bought a disused school and intends to build the second cottage for a native family on the Katanning reserve. New shower, laundry and lavatory facilities on the Katanning reserve are expected to be completed on April 6.

From Page 1

White Men Destroyed Ancient Native Culture

THE few people in the white community who bothered to think about the native problem, invariably did so in the light of current knowledge and circumstances. They forgot the past and its effects upon the aborigines of today.

Native Affairs Commissioner S. G. Middleton said this in a speech at Wesley Church recently.

He said that the white people had taken from the aborigine every vestige of his ancient and interesting culture, smashed his finely balanced tribal and social organisation, destroyed his animistic religion with the fullness of its spiritual affiliations and replaced it with half-caste children, strong liquor, diseases and vices from the old world previously unknown to him.

Said Mr. Middleton: "Worse even than that brutality, we have inflicted upon him the refined cruelty of apathy and neglect."

"If they are to be saved, their survival depends upon their absorption by us — culturally, socially, and economically — into our way of life, for there is no other for them."

"The task of the Native Affairs Department, the missions and others responsible for the welfare of the aborigines is to act — not as a buffer between black and white — but as a bridge and to assist — not hinder — the process of their absorption."

Mr. Middleton said that the starting point demanded by logic and commonsense was that aborigines be brought to the level all other Australians enjoyed as a birthright — that of equal civic status. It was impossible to understand why any sensible person could argue otherwise.

He said: "Where else in the world do you find the eligibility for civic rights being governed by the capability of the candidate to 'hold his liquor'? Fundamentally and basically that is the deciding factor in this State, but it is not imposed on foreign candidates for citizenship in Western Australia or on anybody else but natives. If this is not colour prejudice masquerading in the cloak of heavy paternalism, what is it?"

The tacit acceptance of slavery, exploitation, moral license, brutality and other un-Christian acts had succeeded only in aggravating the native problem.

The attitude towards them had not only been undemocratic, but also un-Christian and hypocritical, he said.



THE CAMERA CAUGHT Croyden Beeman and his wife, of Leonora in a happy mood during the recent Labour Day Sports Carnival at Claremont Showgrounds. They thoroughly enjoyed everything that happened. They will shortly return to Laverton after five weeks' holiday in Perth.

ABORIGINAL SPEAR-THROWERS IMPRESS LABOR DAY CROWDS

LOUD cheers of applause went up at Claremont Showground on Labor Day when native spear-throwers pierced a 24-in. by 18-in. cardboard box from a distance of 75 yards. Spectators were also amazed by their boomerang-throwing display.

The four men who were specially brought to Perth by the Labour Day Committee for the exhibition are Sonny Newton, Ralph Dugard, Joe Dick and Robert Smart, all of Cunderlee Mission Station.

They proved to be superb ambassadors and impressed everyone who met them with their friendliness, dignity and consideration for others. They were quickly recognis-

ed as men to be respected and admired.

The four men were born in the Eastern Goldfields and have had only a slight smattering of elementary education. Until recently they were employed cutting sandalwood when they turned to station work.

During their stay in Perth they were taken on a sight-seeing tour to Fremantle, the various suburbs and the

beach resorts. A visit to the museum and zoo were among the highlights of their visit.

They were shown over a modern newspaper office and half an hour later recorded an interview at station 6KY. The recording contained a hymn sung in their native tongue.

All their expenses were met by the Labour Day Committee.

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Natives' Meeting Goes On Despite Transport Boycott

WHITE owners of trucks and taxis boycotted native passengers in the Gnowangerup-Borden district on March 3, to prevent them from going to a meeting in Borden — called by aborigines — to meet Native Affairs Commissioner S. G. Middleton.

Despite the boycott more than 25 aborigines attended the meeting and Mr. Middleton discussed with them matters of mutual interest.

In lengthy and interesting address, he explained many aspects of the administration of his department, citizenship rights, social services and other matters which had not been fully understood previously.

Questions Answered

He also listened to their problems and their questions put to him by the meeting. In each case he was able to provide satisfactory information and the meeting closed about 10.30 p.m.

At Gnowangerup next day Mr. Middleton met a number of coloured people who had been unable to attend the meeting and discussed with them their problems.

He is now likely to carry out a series of trips to other towns. Anyone wishing to discuss their problems with him should get in touch with him immediately.

DANCE A SUCCESS

The Coolbaroo League's dance at Narrogin this month turned out to be a big success. It was a much more enjoyable show than previous dances at the town.

A big crowd of people thoroughly enjoyed themselves and took part in games and novelty events arranged.

The League's next Narrogin dance will be held in the lesser Town Hall on Saturday, May 1.

SCHOOL DESTROYED

NATIVE Affairs Commissioner S. G. Middleton has received a telegram from Moola Bulla Native Station, Hall's Creek, informing him of a disastrous fire at the station on March 8.

The fire destroyed the junior school and bulk food and clothing store resulting in a heavy loss to the department.

Hall's Creek police are investigating the cause of the fire.

Education For Boys

EVERY year Native Affairs Department field officers visit country school teachers to choose the most advanced aboriginal boys who wish to obtain a secondary education.

The boys are interviewed and the furtherance of their education discussed with their parents.

If parents are agreeable, the boys are brought to McDonald House in Perth and enrolled for either a Junior Certificate course, or a Junior Technical School course.

Work And Play

Life at McDonald House is similar to all other boarding schools. Apart from their academic work the boys have plenty of sport and are obliged to carry out various jobs about the hostel.

Throughout their stay in the city they are regularly visited by a field officer whose job it is to assist them to decide on a career.

Vocational guidance tests are carried out by the Commonwealth Employment Service and the Native Affairs Department assists the boys to find suitable accommodation.

Cliff Slater has been holidaying at his mother's home in Kalgoorlie for some months. He left last week to start shearing again and will be away for three to six months, probably starting in the Carnarvon district.

They'd Melt in Your Mouth



BOOMERANG AND SPEAR-THROWING were not the only good things provided by aboriginal people at the Labour Day Sports Carnival at the Claremont Showgrounds. Mrs. Jean White, of Perth, who is connected with the White Spot Caterers, made more than 1,000 delicious scones for the many spectators. She is pictured carrying a batch of scones fresh from the oven. Miss White is a popular singer at the Coolbaroo League's weekly dances.

Two Native Women To Meet The Queen

TWO aboriginal women have been invited to attend a reception to Queen Elizabeth at the University at 2 p.m. on March 29. They are Coolbaroo League secretary Nora Shea and Sister Sadie Corner, of Bethesda Hospital.

Both have accepted the invitation. Sister Corner came to Perth from Mt. Margaret Mission to take up her work in Perth.

For the past few weeks many aboriginal youths have been receiving marching instruction in preparation for a march past the Royal Couple.

They will march past the Royal Dais on March 29, bearing the banner of the Coolbaroo League and will wear the league's colours of black and white.

The youths will also bear British and Australian flags in the procession.

NO ARRESTS THIS TIME

A young Perth constable was quick to telephone the Native Affairs Department recently after he had seen five aborigines dashing about the city in a Government utility.

Instead of finding that the utility had been stolen he was told that the driver was department welfare officer George Howard.

Mr. Howard had been officially showing four boomerang throwers from Cundeelee Mission about the city after returning from the Labor Day Sports Carnival at Claremont Showgrounds.

Norman Forrest and Arthur Newland are to be congratulated on being granted approval by the Forestry Department to pull sandalwood in the Laverton district.

One Woman Retires— Another is Appointed

WHILE the Perth office of the Native Affairs Department has lost the services of one of its keenest woman members, Kalgoorlie office has gained another outstanding woman worker.

In Perth Miss C. S. Stitfold recently retired from the Native Affairs Department after 40 years of service.

Miss Joan Dick, of Goomalling, has been appointed as a clerical assistant to the Kalgoorlie district Native Affairs office.

Miss Stitfold is well-remembered for her sympathetic understanding of the many native girls who looked to her for guidance. It was her task to arrange their employment and attend to many of their problems.

Coolbaroo League members have extended their best wishes to her for a pleasant holiday abroad.

Miss Dick was formerly a telephonist attached to the Perth office.

Jottings from Here and There

GEORGE HOWARD, who has been stationed at the Kalgoorlie Native Affairs office for the past five months, has been transferred to a more senior position in Perth. Though he will be sadly missed by his many friends they send him their best wishes.

Aubrey Lynch has now completed his training at the Mt. Margaret Mission and is working at Young River Station, Esperance.

New girls at Alvan House this term are Fay Collard, of Brookton, Betty Hardie, of Gnowangerup, Roma Howard and Doreen Farmer, both of Tambellup.

Two well-known Goldfields women — mother and daughter — had new sons in the same week and occupied adjoining beds at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital. They are Mrs. Nora Greenwold and Mrs. Elsie Ridley.

Tommy Wyanga, Western Australia's most travelled man has turned up at Kurrawang Mission again. This time he came from Laverton and after a stay of only a few weeks he headed off to Perth.

George Morrison and Claude Kelly, of Katanning, were in Kalgoorlie for a few days in February. They hoped to find a few loose nuggets, but they ended up paying for repairs to George's motor cycle.

Mr. Shepherd of the Mulga Queen Ration Depot, 90 miles north of Laverton, has succeeded in convincing some parents at his settlement of the great advantages in having their children educated. He has brought three boys and three girls to Mt. Margaret Mission but there are another 12 children still living in the bush with their parents.

Laurel Johnston and Isobel Cable are two new residents in Kalgoorlie. Both come from Mt. Margaret Mission and have positions in town.

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Aboriginal Patriots

By Mary Durack Miller

SYNOPSIS: After a hot-headed visitor from Tasmania had killed Yagan's younger brother Domjuin, Midgegeroo and Yagan became enraged and took their revenge on two innocent men. Perth's settlers clamoured for protection and demanded the immediate arrest of the tribal leaders. A £30 reward for the capture of Yagan, dead or alive, was offered by the governing authorities and soldiers began to comb the countryside. Yagan and Midgegeroo easily evaded them but were growing weary. After a time Midgegeroo became careless and was arrested while alone in his camp. He was tried and executed in Perth. The death sentence proved a mistake, for Yagan made it known that he intended to take three lives to avenge his father's death.

The Gazette commented that Yagan was suffered to go unmolested because there was something in his daring which brought admiration.

YAGAN was a legend in his day and was like a will-o-the-wisp. He still continued to visit his old friends and once during this time he found a white woman lost in the bush and helped her home. He revealed his identity only after he had reached the gate of her home. He took off his coat and displayed his peculiar tribal markings on his back, by which he was known. The woman fainted away.

YAGAN seemed to hesitate in exacting vengeance for his father's death. His friend, the Lieutenant-Governor, had pronounced sentence on Midgegeroo and a whole squad of soldiers had shot him.

"EVERY man must now go in fear of his life," the Gazette warned. Yagan's friends defended him and begged him not to kill. Knowing him incapable of treachery to a friend they had no fear of him. He always listened sadly to their advice, finally shaking his head and declaring that vengeance was his duty.

TWO young boys, John and William Keates, whom he had sometimes taken hunting, one day persuaded him to go off with them again.

IT did not occur to him that these young friends might be seeking the reward that had been placed on his head. They speared kangaroo, cooked and ate it, and when Yagan lay down to sleep in the shade, one of the boys crept up and shot him through the head.

BEFORE he could defend himself the boy was speared by one of Yagan's companions. The younger brother was allowed to escape and lived to collect the reward. However, he received little praise and was sent back to England as soon as possible.

THE Gazette declared that Yagan's death was caused by "a wild and treacherous act . . . The unfortunate youth had suffered for his temerity and has entailed upon us all a stigma which will be the work of time to wipe out . . . We do not remember to have heard one instance in which the aborigines have abused our confidence when we have encountered them in the bush. We must therefore deplore an act which it appears will annihilate the surest road to perfect amity — mutual confidence."

ONLY when Yagan was no longer living did the settlers realise how great an influence for good he had been in the colony. They remembered his many acts of kindness and helpfulness and how many of them had been happy to know that this big, strong man, who had such influence with his often less-balanced countrymen, was camped close to their homes as protection to their families while they were away. Now control of the enraged and disillusioned tribespeople fell largely into the hands of Yagan's mother, old Moyran, who incited her people to deeds of revenge such as neither her husband, Midgegeroo nor her son, would have approved.

GOVERNOR Stirling, a just and moderate man, subjected to pressure on all sides and fearing for the future of his colony resorted to a desperate measure.

EARLY one morning in October, 1854, a party of soldiers moved in on a large group of tribespeople gath-

ered on the banks of the Murray River at Pinjarra. Surprised, but not confused, the men snatched up their spears and made a defiant front before their women and children. Captain Ellis gave the word "Forward" and the horses came galloping into the bristling mass of spears. Governor Stirling's party closed in from the opposite bank.

EXPOSED to the cross-fire the aborigines fought desperately, trying at least to hold the white men at bay until the women and children had made their escape. It could truly be said that the River Murray ran red with blood that day.

(To be continued in the next issue.)

AIR FORCE LEARNS FROM ABORIGINES

THE knowledge of aborigines of Central Australia is being used to teach the RAAF how to live off the land in bush country surrounding the Alice Springs district.

Youth Club At School

MORE than 50 children are now attending the school at the Forrest River Mission. Six more are expected to start there soon.

He Mistress Miss E. Thomas of the three-teacher school played a prominent part in the now disbanded Mudalla Youth Club at Basendean in 1951.

She is now running a Thursday night youth club at the mission.

It is hoped that two girls from the mission will attend Alvan House, Perth, at the end of the year.

A party of RAAF men from Victoria recently travelled by jeep over some hundreds of miles of Centralian country with two aborigines to show them what flora and fauna could be used to live on.

As the natives found plants, bulbs, bushes or wild life that could be eaten, RAAF colour cameras came into operation. The two aborigines showed where the foods could be found, how to prepare them and also pointed out flora to be avoided. Snakes, lizards and other creatures of the country were included in the RAAF men's diet.

The pictures taken are to be incorporated in a RAAF survival method film, designed for screening at all bases.

BEVERLEY WILL GIVE THE QUEEN FLOWERS

ONE of the proudest moments in the life of five-year-old Beverley Joy Noble, of Kurrawang Mission, will come on March 26, when she presents a bouquet to Queen Elizabeth.

Beverley was born in the bush at Kanowna, 14 miles east of Kalgoorlie and spent the first four and a half years of her life living with her nomadic parents.

It was then that her mother heard of the Kurrawang Mission and took her there to be cared for. Her two brothers came to join her at the Mission soon after.

A few months ago two men came to the mission and Beverley was called over to speak to them. It was then that she was told she had been chosen to present a bouquet to the Queen.

Speechless

For a time she was speechless with joy and the other mission children excitedly gathered around her.

Since then Beverley has been practising hard for her part in the Royal tour.

Every day after school she has to repeat her curtsy many times, but she is happy to do it because she realizes the honour she has been given.

For weeks now the main topic of conversation at the mission has been Beverley's small duty.

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TWO VACANT POSITIONS

The Perth Native Affairs Department office has vacancies for two female native clerical assistants.

Their duties will be to handle correspondence and records and they will receive the female basic wage or its age equivalent.

Applications should be sent in to the Perth office as soon as possible.

MONEY WAITING

BEN STACK, who is also known as Ben Morrison, has been asked to get in touch with the Native Affairs Department, Perth, where there is a cheque waiting for him.

He is believed to be in the Toodyay or Northam district. Anyone who knows his whereabouts has been asked to pass the message on to him.



TINY, BROWN-HAIRED Beverley Joy Noble (5), has good reason to smile. She has been chosen to present a bouquet to Queen Elizabeth at the Boulder Oval on March 26. For weeks now she has been practising hard to get her curtsy right.