

Index to Home Secretary's Office Correspondence 1896–1903 – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Please be advised this index contains language and attitudes that are not appropriate today. We know there are offensive and derogatory terms that may cause distress and offence.

Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this index contains names of people who have passed.

About this index

This index was compiled from these Special Batches, S8400 created by the Home Secretary's Office between 6 August 1896 and 31 December 1903 (special batches are correspondence and papers that were not included in the general correspondence of the Office):

- Correspondence - supply of rations to Aborigines, 1888–1902, ITM6820
- Correspondence and report, *The Aborigines of Queensland* 1896, 1868–1900 ITM6826
- Correspondence and printed papers relating to 'the Queensland Aborigines', 1896–1902, ITM17980–ITM17981
- Correspondence records and printed papers relating to The Queensland Aborigines, 1900–1903, ITM17982–ITM17983

This historical index does not include traditional names such as K'gari. Names have not been anglicised and appear as in the original record. Further, many words in the descriptive text have been transcribed directly from the original record.

The citations for these in-letters are listed with the year the correspondence was received, followed by the number of the correspondence. For example, 02/10909 is Letter 10909 of 1902

Historical contextual note: the letters in these special batches were originally available on microfilms Z1604, Z1608-Z1611, Z1613.

Tips for searching this index

- Digitised copies of the letters referenced in this index are available by clicking on the ITM links to proceed to *View Digital Copy* to search for the letter numbers.
- To do a keyword search within a PDF file, press the Ctrl and F (or Command and F for Mac computers) buttons on your keyboard and type in your keyword, then press Search.
- Consider all possible spelling variants as many names have been spelt phonetically in the original record. The spelling of names varies considerably.
- Some letters were top-numbered to subsequent letters. For example, Letter 02/4391, Top-numbered to 02/10909, Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#). For more information, read [Research guide to top-numbering](#).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/4149 (this top letter is missing)

Letter number: 88/328

Letter from the Reverend GJ Richner on behalf of the Committee for the Lutheran Mission of South Australia. He acknowledges receipt of the Colonial Secretary's letter advising that CA Meyer and FG Pfalser have been appointed trustees of Bloomfield River Mission Station (Wujal Wujal). He also asks for government support for both Bloomfield River and Cape Bedford Mission stations. He suggests that "It is really too much for the Mission Societies to spend the collections of poor Christians for to feed the natives". A note on letter 88/328 advises "10 pounds per month for 12 months".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/4149 (this top letter is missing)

Letter number: 88/4058

Letter from the Reverend GJ Richner thanking the Colonial Secretary for the allowance of 10 pounds per month for Cape Bedford and Bloomfield River Mission Stations. He suggests, however, that the 10 pounds is "fully required" for the Cape Bedford Mission Station and asks for further funding to support Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/9301 (this top letter is missing) Letter number: 87/7064

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society requesting a grant of land to establish a mission station between Mackay and Bowen. "We intend to civilise the aboriginals, educate their children and Christianise the grown up people". Andreas Clausen and his family are recommended to run the mission.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/9301 (this top letter is missing)

Letter number 87/9874

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the grant of land on the Andromache River, Proserpine for an Aboriginal mission station (Marie Yamba). They also ask for funding until the mission becomes self-sufficient.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/9301 (this top letter is missing)

Letter number 88/243

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the interview at which he promised to provide support for the mission at the Andromache River (Marie Yamba).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 88/9301 (this top letter is missing)

Letter number 88/2469

Letter from the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Missionary Society thanking the Colonial Secretary for the grant of 20 pounds per month to assist with the running of the mission at the Andromache River (Marie Yamba).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 88/9359](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in the series).

Letter from Fred Robinson of Wooroora Run, Herberton complaining that the Aborigines are spearing his cattle and asking for Native Police protection. He advises that he wired the Sub- Inspector in charge of the Native Police camp at Barron Waters but he has not yet arrived. Attached is a copy of the telegrams sent by Robinson to the Native Police at Barron Waters.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/268](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in series)

Letter from the Police department in Port Douglas advising that when Mr Fred Robinson requested Native Police assistance at Wooroora Run they already "had their hands full repressing the outrages of the aboriginals on the Barron Waters".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/268](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in series)

Letter from Native Police cadet Attleck at Barron River camp to Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas advising him that he was unable to act on Fred Robinson's request for protection immediately. He advises that he already had requests from the owners of Mitchellvale Station and Barron River station to attend to.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/268](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in series)

Letter sent to Fred Robinson of Wooroora Run from Native Police cadet Attleck advising that he will patrol his run as soon as possible.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/268](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in series)

Note from Thomas Stewart at Barron River: "Mr Affleck, Sir black sperin cattle down the river saw three just dead 5 speared. One month since the started sperin down the river".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/268](#)

Police (no top number chronologically arranged in series)

Letter from Mr Fullerton at Mitchellvale Station to the Inspector of Police in Port Douglas: "The Blacks have been spearing cattle on Bushy Creek about three miles from here during the last few moonlight nights, can you send a detachment of the boys to patrol this part".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/2011](#)

Telegram from George Robinson at Wooroora Run: "Blacks killed maimed seven cattle last week cannot you assist".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/2011](#)

Memorandum from Inspector Stuart to Native Police cadet Affleck in relation to alleged depredations by the Aborigines on Wooroora Run, owned by Mr Robinson. The Inspector wants to know: How does Mr Robinson patrol his run, how does he treat the aboriginals, are the aboriginals allowed to camp in and around the Head Station, are any aboriginals employed or used by Mr Robinson in any of the station lands.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/2011](#)

Report from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane. Stuart advises that Mr Robinson, the owner of Wooroora Run, does "nothing himself towards patrolling his run". He only employs one Aborigine, does not interfere with them or allow them to camp near the Head station. Stuart also recommends that a detachment of Native Police should be stationed at Nigger Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/2011](#)

Memo from the Police Sergeant at Herberton forwarding a statement from Native Police cadet Affleck in relation to complaints received from George Robinson of Wooroora Run.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/2011](#)

Brief report from Native Police cadet Affleck replying to questions asked by Inspector Stuart re Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run, Herberton.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/3544](#)

Letter from D Seymour the Commissioner of Police to the Colonial Secretary: "I have the honor to forward herewith a report received from Sub-Inspector Brooke, now in charge of the Native Police camp at Barron River. As Mr Brooke has had considerable experience with the blacks when in charge of the reserve at Mackay and since, his remarks may be worth consideration".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/3544](#)

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke from the Barron River Native Police detachment on a patrol to Thornborough and the Union Camp. He advises that many "depredations" have taken place in this district lately. He suggests that these are due to the Aborigines receiving free rations from the government. "If these blacks are encouraged to loaf in idleness it is not to be wondered at if they steal". He also suggests that this behaviour is "what may be expected at Atherton if the blacks receive government rations without being made to do some work".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/3544](#)

Report from the Police Station at Thornborough advising that an Aborigine named Jarvie had speared another Aborigine named Tommy, who had then come running into the town with the spear sticking out of him. The offender was charged with assault and sentenced to seven days in the Thorn borough lockup.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/3951](#)

Letter number 89/3230

Letter from FG Pfalser forwarding a report for the year 1888 on Elim Mission Station, Cape Bedford.

Reports that they are having trouble growing crops; the school is progressing well; two cottages have been built to separate the children; few Aborigines stay on the station because they are encouraged to stay in Cooktown; there are many children "roving about Cooktown", they should be induced to come to the mission station; asks for funds to support the mission school; suggests that the mission should say where it is because all the productive country was taken up by the settlers.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/3951](#)

Report on the Elim mission Station from the Police Magistrate in Cooktown. The Magistrate, Hugh Milman, recommends that a grant of 200 pounds per annum should be given to Elim but should be discontinued if the management at any time is deemed unsatisfactory. Concurs with the recommendation from the mission (see letter directly above) that the children should be kept out of Cooktown and induced to live on the mission.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/6114](#)

Letter from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane. The letter is in relation to the forwarding of two reports from Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke one in relation to Mr Robinson's station, Woorora Run, Herberton, and the other in relation to the Aborigines at Atherton (see directly below).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/6114](#)

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke at the Barron River Native Police camp advising on a patrol to Woorora Run. Informs that the Aborigines have been killing cattle on the run; he sent the Native Troopers in to the scrub to try and induce the Aborigines to come into the station, they brought one man back to the station to talk to him, Brooke told the man that if they did not kill any cattle they would not be molested by the Native Police; Mr Robinson agreed to kill one bullock per month for them if they would come in and camp near the station and not hunt the cattle. Also reports on a patrol to Atherton where there are about 60 Aborigines;" there is a good chance that the government can do some good. And if I am asked to do so will make suggestions that may be of use to the government".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/6320](#)

Report on Bloomfield River Mission Station from CA Meyer suggesting that the Lutheran Mission of South Australia has substantially contributed to the running of the mission station and has done all in its power to make the mission self-supporting but will need further government assistance. "I am of the opinion: they should all and everyone be supplied with the necessities of life so as to prevent them from roaming about and inducing them to settle down on those reserves laid out by the government". "It is certainly not only the aim of the mission to civilize the aborigines but also to teach them the word of god and to make them acquainted with the rules put down by the same".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/7756](#), Letter number 89/1789

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "WB Kelly of Herberton reports trooper Hanson has gathered large mob of blacks from the scrub in starving condition asks Government supply them with some food please instruct me report in full by mail".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_89/7756](#), No letter number.

Letter from WB Kelly on behalf of the settlers of the Upper Barron Valley to AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton. Kelly advises that the Aborigines in the Atherton district are starving. He states

that some of the Aborigines have been persuaded to come into town and are supplied with some rations from his store but they need government assistance to supply them with further rations. Constable Hanson "is confident that he is able to get all the blacks in if there was a little food given them by the government. After a short time the selectors would employ them they would be in a short time in a position to earn sufficient for themselves".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/2147

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary. Reports on a trip to Atherton to supply the Aborigines with rations. Advises that Mr Kelly has supplied some rations and suggests that the Aborigines should be supplied further rations to induce them to come in. This course of action will "be a good policy" to stop "their depredations on the crops of the settlers".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/4062

Letter from WB Kelly on behalf of the settlers of the Upper Barron Valley to AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton. Kelly advises that the Aborigines in the Atherton district are starving. He states that some of the Aborigines have been persuaded to come into town and are supplied with some rations from his store but they need government assistance to supply them with further rations. Constable Hanson "is confident that he is able to get all the blacks in if there was a little food given them by the government. After a short time the selectors would employ them they would be in a short time in a position to earn sufficient for themselves".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/2464

Report from Inspector Stuart sent from Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police. Advises that Mr Kelly has suggested that there are about 200 Aborigines in and around Atherton in a destitute condition. He has instructed Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke to proceed to Atherton at once and furnish him with a report. If the report corroborates Mr Kelly's assertions he asks if he can expend 20 pounds per month for three months on rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/2573

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary. He acknowledges the authorisation to spend 20 pounds per month on rations for the Aborigines in Atherton and asks for it to be increased to 50 pounds per month. He states that at Atherton he saw one camp of 25 "scrub blacks". There are about 80 more waiting.

Constable Hanson has recommended that it is not advisable at this stage because there are not enough rations for them all. "There are in all, it is estimated, about two hundred blacks in the Barron Scrub willing to come into Atherton ... I think if they were fed for a month or two and a good understanding with them established, they would, like the Russell and Johnstone River blacks, become of use to the selectors".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/2813

Letter from Fred Wimble to the Colonial Secretary forwarding some suggestions to stop the depredations of the Aborigines in the Barron Valley and to afford them some means of subsistence. He suggests that a reserve should be established, this is "more humane than carrying out the old regime of the Native Police Force whose simple but evasive reports invariably stated: Inspector so and so had visited the scene of such and such depredation and with his troopers followed up the tracks of the offenders who had now been dispersed, a phrase which is capable of being significantly translated!"; the government to subsidise the reserve until it was self-supporting; the Aborigines on the reserve could be hired out to

the selectors.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/4238

Telegram from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Commissioner of Police advising that Sub-Inspector Brooke has reported that the Aboriginals in Atherton are not in a starving condition.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/4756

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke to Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas reporting that he has visited Atherton and found that the Aboriginals were not in a starving condition. "I think it is a mistake giving out rations to blacks without some kind of work is done in return for them". He also advises that "there is a reserve of 640 acres at Atherton for agricultural purposes and if the blacks could be got to clear it I think the German Mission Society would be glad to take the blacks in hand".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/3035

Report from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary forwarding a report from Sub-Inspector Brooke. He reports that Sub-Inspector Brooke has advised that the Aboriginals in Atherton are not in a starving condition and concurs with Brooke's suggestion that the Aboriginals should not be supplied with rations without working for them. Stuart suggests that "to civilize the wild aboriginal the primary step is to overcome his fear of the white man which can only be done through his stomach - but once that is accomplished the remainder of his education is mainly a matter of time".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/3161

Letter from WB Kelly in Atherton to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are about 70 Aboriginals in Atherton and 200 wanting to come in. He requests that the allowance for rations be increased to 100 pounds. He also comments that there are between 300 and 400 Aboriginals that could be placed on a reserve.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/3554

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary acknowledging that a further 40 pounds was authorised for rations to the Aboriginals in Atherton. He reports on the supply of rations and gives his reasons for recommending that they continued to be given out.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/5263

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary forwarding vouchers from Mr Kelly for payment of rations supplied to the Aboriginals in Atherton. He also makes the recommendation that reserve be gazetted and a reliable man, such as Constable Hanson, is appointed to run it.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/19510

Letter from Hans [Halkien?] sending AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, a copy of a letter sent to Mr Little and Mr Wimble. The letter sets out his ideas for a reserve for the Aboriginals, which he suggests should be located at Pinnacle Pocket on the Barron River to Cairns road. He also offers his services as manager of the proposed reserve. Attached are copies of his references.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/5684

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary advising on the progress made in relation to the scheme of supplying rations to the Aboriginals at Atherton.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/6113

Letter from the Tinaroo Divisional Board, Herberton to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate. They ask for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Atherton to be continued. They state that there are about 100 Aboriginals in Atherton and "fully two hundred on the Mulgrave and Russell waiting to come in". They suggest if the rations are discontinued the Aboriginals will most likely go back to committing depredations even worse than before.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/6543

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary forwarding a map of the land recommended for an Aboriginal reserve at Atherton (no map attached).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/7372

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary: "Is rationing allowance to blacks at Atherton to be continued".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 89/7756](#), Letter number 89/7756

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, to the Colonial Secretary. Advises that since the Aboriginals in Atherton have been supplied with rations they have been "peaceably disposed" and have not "molested the selectors". He advises that it would be "injudicious to stop the supply of rations as they would probably resume their depredations". He also states that the Native Police Force was reduced in the district and "if the rations are stopped and the blacks again become troublesome there would not be adequate protection against them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#), Letter number 92/4723 (*no top number-no previous or subsequent letters*).

Letter from Charles Denford at California Creek via Herberton to WC Little MLA advising that the Aboriginals in the district have been stealing rations from the miner's camps. "There are often from 150 to 200 of them in at a time and I have at my own expense been feeding them. He wishes to make an application to the government for remuneration and asks Mr Little to direct him to the proper department.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 92/7165](#), Letter number 92/6319

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is going to the California Creek district to inquire about the condition and necessities of the Aboriginals and to determine the best place and method of distributing rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 92/7165](#)

Report from AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he was unable to proceed to California Creek to enquire into the condition of the Aboriginals so he sent Sub-Inspector Lamond in his place. He makes the recommendation that the present expenditure on rations for the Aboriginals of one pound 11 shillings and 8 pence per week is excessive. He suggests that it would be better just to supply them with 100 pounds of beef per week.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_92/7165](#), Letter number 92/195

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton on the condition of the California Creek Aboriginals. He advises that they are "fairly well off" and distributed half a blanket to each of the 30 or so Aboriginals there. He has also advised that if a 50 pound bag of flour and 100 pounds of beef weekly there "would be no further complaints". He also comments: "I made particular inquiry as to whether the California Creek tribe ever went to [Mulania?], Coolgarra, Mount Albion or Irvinebank but found they do not, this tribe's boundary in the north east being near California Creek".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_92/12879](#)

Letter from TP Lucas on behalf of the Bribie Island Mission Station to the Colonial Secretary: "As our Mission is in straits, as to the needful, I am directed by the Committee of the Bribie Island Aboriginal Mission to respectfully ask you for the quarter's grant June 30th to Sept 30th of this year, as promised by yourself. We have kept down the expenses as much as possible, by the Ladies Auxiliary making clothes and by other helps, but at present we are as reduced as to be unable to carry on our work unless by your aid as promised".

PS: The grant of 250 pounds per annum would be 62 pounds, 10 shillings for this quarter.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) No letter numbers

Itemised lists showing the amount spent on rations to the Aboriginals by location and institution: Atherton, Bloomfield River, Cooktown, Queensland Aborigines Protection Society, Cape Bedford, Cullen Point, California Creek, Dugandan, Daintree River, Deebing Creek, Marie Yamba, Mount Orient, Montalbion, Thornborough, Union Camp and Waterford, Westwood, Bowen, Taroom and Croydon.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 91/11873

Telegram from Charles Masterton at the Daintree River to the Colonial Secretary: "Great number of aborigines on this river no police handy would you advise distribution of food among them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 91/12174

Letter from Charles Masterton at the Daintree River to the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas advising that there are a great many Aboriginals on the Daintree River and that he has been giving them rations but he needs government help to continue. He is afraid that if they are not given rations they will have to be dispersed.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), No letter number

Telegram from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary: "Am leaving tomorrow with Inspector Police for Daintree re rationing blacks".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 91/12174

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary. He advises that there are about 50 Aboriginals camped near Mr Masterton's station on the Daintree River. He suggests that Mr Masterton would be a suitable person to supervise the distribution of rations to these Aboriginals. He also suggests that the Aboriginals who are working for selectors should be supplied rations by them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 91/12471

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police advising that there are about 30 Aboriginals on the Daintree River and more are expected. Mr Masterton is distributing rations to the aged and infirm Aboriginals. I "believe a very small outlay in rations will have a most pacifying effect as the blacks are most anxious to get back to their Daintree hunting grounds and also get employment from settlers they thoroughly understand if they commit depredations the rations will cease and Native Police be sent instead".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 91/12751

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that Sub-Inspector Lamond has delivered rations to the Aboriginals of the Daintree River. He suggests that 20 or 30 pounds per annum would be sufficient to cover the ongoing cost of the rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 91/14528

Report advising that rations have been supplied to the Aboriginals at Mr Masterton's on the Daintree River and that their numbers are increasing. There are presently 87 Aboriginals there. If they do not soon return to their hunting grounds the initial cost estimate for the supply of rations will have to be increased.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 92/5650

Telegram from the Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas: "Continue supply to blacks and report at end of January".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 92/5689

Telegram from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that the number of Aboriginals on the Daintree River has greatly increased since the rations have been issued. Between 70 and 90 are now being fed.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 92/6141

Report from Alex Lawson the Sub-Collector of Customs in Port Douglas to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are between 70 and 90 Aboriginals on Mr Masterton's station. He advises that the Aboriginals do not look like they will leave so the supply of rations will have to be maintained. He states that only one "depredation" has been committed since last October and that was committed by a party from Bloomfield.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 92/11115

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond advising that he visited the Aboriginal camp on Mr Masterton's station and found the rations were being distributed properly. He does not think that the rations can be reduced because there are on average 50 Aboriginals living there. "And if that number can be kept quite for an expenditure of 6 or 7 pounds per month as also the orphans and old people, feel it is very good work". "The Native Police camp at Saltwater is not in the Daintree River blacks country, and I do not think it advisable to rush any change to existing arrangements".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 94/1581, Letter number 92/11115

Letter from Alex Lawson in Port Douglas advising that he has instructed Sub-Inspector Lamond to inquire

whether the rations supplied to the Aboriginals at the Daintree River can be reduced. Alternatively, he wants to know if it would be better to have the Native Police from Saltwater Creek distribute them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 92/13414

Letter from Charles Masterton at The Chestnuts, Daintree River complaining that the supply of rations for the 50 to 60 Aboriginals on his station have been irregular. He is worried that if the rations are discontinued he will need police surveillance.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 92/14804

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas advising that the supply of rations to the Aboriginals should be continued until there is closer settlement of the district. He also advises that the present Aboriginal population consists of 17 men, 23 women and 20 children.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 93/775

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Port Douglas forwarding vouchers for the payment of rations to the Aboriginals on the Daintree River. He also advises that the cost has increased from 3 pounds to 5 pounds per month.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 93/308

Report from Constable Casey at the police station in Port Douglas to Sub-Inspector Galbraith in Herberton. Casey reports that most of the settlers on the Daintree River are happy with the conduct of the Aboriginals except Mr Osbourne. He fails to see what he is complaining about because he allows his son to go fishing with them. The settlers in the lower Daintree stated that they never see any Aboriginals and wished they did so that they could employ them. He also reports that Mr Reynolds two miles up the river from Mr Osbourne's place hires the Aboriginals to clear the scrub for him. He also suggests that if the police were to distribute the rations to the Aboriginals it would be too expensive.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/158](#), Letter number 93/13228

Letter from Frank Osbourne on the Daintree River recommending that the supply of rations to the Aboriginals on the Daintree River should be discontinued. He suggests that the supply of rations brings other Aboriginals from the interior into the district which causes "great annoyance". He is concerned that the nearest police are 30 miles away and that the rations are distributed by an irresponsible person [Mr Masterson]. "It is rather an anomalous state of affairs when blacks are pampered and allowed with impunity to destroy the property and threaten the lives of people who are taxed to feed them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#), Letter number 94/896

Letter from D Seymour the Commissioner of Police forwarding a report from Constable Casey in relation to complaints from Mr Osbourne about supplying rations to the Aboriginals on the Daintree River. He also advises that from Constable Casey's statement it would not be advisable to alter the existing arrangements for distributing the rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/1581](#)

Letter from Frank Osbourne on the Daintree River complaining about the distribution of rations to the Aboriginals. He states that it leads to large "assemblages" of Aboriginals who then threaten the

settlers.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 89/9303

Telegram from Arthur Longden sent from Cairns advising that he has some Aboriginals in his camp at the Mulgrave goldfields and asking if he can be supplied with rations for them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 89/11398

Telegram from Arthur Longden sent from Cairns advising that the Aboriginals are waiting at the top camp of the Mulgrave goldfields for rations. He asks when they will be supplied.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 93/14672

Letter from Arthur Longden sent from the Mulgrave River, Cairns forwarding the new supply structure for the rations distributed to the Aboriginals at the Mulgrave River.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 94/1887

Letter from James Allen at Goldsborough alleging that Arthur Longden has been supplying the Aboriginals working for him with rations. Allen is of the opinion that the rations are supplied to feed the old men and women.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 94/2417

Letter from Arthur Longden at the Mulgrave River, Cairns forwarding the new supply structure for the rations distributed to the Aboriginals at the Mulgrave River. Also includes a telegram from Longden to the Colonial Secretary: "police magistrate here states instructed not sign vouchers Blacks rations past month as rations have been consumed please instruct him to sign vouchers collect".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 94/2742

Letter from Arthur Longden advising that he was told that the Police Magistrate in Cairns has been instructed not to sign any more vouchers for rations to the Aboriginals. He asks that they be signed so that the supply of rations can continue. He states that it has not been necessary to use the Native Police to control them since the rations have been supplied but this cannot be guaranteed if they cease.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#), Letter number 94/2745

Letters from Arthur Longden and James Thomas in relation to stopping the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in the Mulgrave River district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/2853](#)

Telegram from Arthur Longden to the Colonial Secretary requesting that the supply of rations to the Aboriginals on the Mulgrave River be continued.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/4875](#), Letter number 93/3674

Letter from Alex Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has ordered the officers in charge of distributing rations to the Aboriginals to exercise the strictest control. He has ordered that rations are not to be given out if their natural food is obtainable without much difficulty. He suggests that the rations should be discontinued at Mountbion and the Aboriginals supplied in one central place, such as California Creek. They should also be discontinued at Thornborough and distributed

from the Union Camp, a central point.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/4875](#), Letter number 93/7987

Letter from Samuel Byrnes at Olive Vale, Laura River requesting rations for the Aboriginals that come into his station. He suggests that there are far more Aboriginals there than in other parts of the colony where rations are distributed. He writes that "the blacks come in from all parts, especially if they do anything wrong out side, for they know that the Native Police can do nothing with them while they stoop inside". He also comments that there are "over 200 blacks within 3 miles of the Laura terminus. The letter includes an answer from Inspector Fitzgerald stating that rations should not be supplied.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/5829](#) (no previous or subsequent correspondence-placed in chronological order)

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Ingham advising that the Police Constable has given him a voucher for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Cardwell at the rate of 100 pounds per month. He states that there is no need to supply them with rations because they have a 30 mile stretch of coastline, with not a soul living on it, which has ample supplies of fish, oysters, clams, crabs and wallabies.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/6465](#)

Letter from the Clerk of Petty Sessions in Thornborough advising that after the Aboriginals had received their blankets at the Courthouse they were reluctant to leave before they also received their rations, which have been stopped for over 12 months. The Police Magistrate bought and distributed some tobacco to them. He hopes that this action meets with the Colonial Secretary's approval and that the enclosed voucher will be paid.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/13850](#)

Letter from J Hamilton MLA enclosing three letters sent to him suggesting ways to solve the plight of the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/13850](#)

The first letter is from Frederick Margetts (ex-Native Police officer) sent from Townsville suggesting that, in his experience, when the Aboriginals are brought into the stations and fed, after a while, they "commit fewer depredations". He suggests that this course of action is safer because "supervision can then be exercised over them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_94/13850](#)

The second letter is from (unknown author) suggesting that it is time the government did something about the plight of the Aboriginals. He suggests that to say we will not feed them or cannot afford to feed them would be a "stigma on ourselves to hand down to future times". However the supply of rations should be done judiciously so that they are not given too many rations and give up their traditional hunting. They should also be gradually encouraged to work for their rations. The rations should be handed out by the police because "they know more about the blacks and their movements, centres, number, requirements and condition generally than anyone else". He suggests that rations should be distributed at designated centres such as Coen, Maytown, Laura, Bloomfield, Butchers Hill, Thornborough and Atherton. And on the coast at Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns and Innisfail. He also asks why the Aboriginals did not get their blankets this winter, "surely the government did not stoop to false economy". He suggests that a country which exports 8 million pounds worth of goods per

year can afford half a blanket for each Aboriginal. "After all it is the blacks country taken from them which yields the 8 million pounds worth". "The intruders are not satisfied with having shot half the aboriginals that were in the country but they actually refuse a rag to each of the survivors, once a year".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 94/13850](#)

The third letter is from James Earl at Butcher Hill who suggests that the best way to treat the Aboriginals "is to let them live as near as possible in tribes as distinct as when the white man came and took the country from them and do not let them gather up to great Borears, as that is the time the mischief commences". He states that by feeding them he keeps them in hand and makes them a home where they know they are safe. "Some say hunt them out" but if you do that they only go wild again, they are not afraid of anyone. "The half caste children could be made some good if they were taken from the influence of the blacks at a certain age". "The government should form reserves where they can camp and get a living without molesting the settlers".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/12276

Letter from W Wolstencroft to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "I have the honor by direction of a meeting held at Thornborough on Tuesday 6th inst to call your attention to the state of the aboriginals at Woodville and Waterford where there are several picanninies apparently of the age from 6 to 10 years in a state of starvation".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/12291

Letter from AH Zillman to the Colonial Secretary enclosing a letter from the Clerk of the Woothakala Divisional Board. "I am unable to report thereon without inspection and inquiry and await your instructions herein".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/12599

Telegram from AH Zillamn the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is unable to visit the Aboriginals at Waterford and Woodville until Tuesday and asks if Sub-Inspector Lamond can accompany him.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/13031

Telegram form Sub-Inspector Lamond advising that he is leaving for Woodville and Waterford.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/13031

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police advising he has returned from Waterford and Woodville and that there are about 40 Aboriginals at each place. They are mainly "old blacks and orphan children". He advises that they are nearly starving and that rations should be supplied to them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 95/823](#), Letter number 91/13031

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "Upon Inspector Lamond's report Colonial Secretary directs that rations be distributed at Waterford and Woodville and discontinued at Union Camp. Please arrange for this being done under proper supervision".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13120

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton urging the Colonial Secretary to increase the amount of rations supplied to the Aboriginals in the Thornborough district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13177

Telegram from AH Zillman: "Starting for Thornborough tomorrow to carry out your instructions please wire me there what amount monthly is allowed for rations when I will make proper arrangements for distribution".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13651

Letter from Edward Putt at Carrington, Barron River suggesting that the rations distributed to the Aboriginals at Atherton should be stopped. He suggests that it is unfair that the Aboriginals are all working for the Chinese and Malays and yet the government supplies the Aboriginals with rations and the Chinese and Malay employers only have to supply the Aboriginals with tobacco. He is also concerned that the rations are only given once a week, which will encourage the Aboriginals to steal in between distribution time. "With the police protection the government has been pleased to give us the aboriginal question is solved as far as our own district is concerned, with the food they get from the various selectors, while the back scrubs are teeming with tucker that has supplied them for centuries".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13031

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "Upon Inspector Lamond's report Colonial Secretary directs that rations be distributed at Waterford and Woodville and discontinued at Union Camp. Please arrange for this being done under proper supervision".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, No letter number

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "It has been stated, more than once, that Wason does not fairly distribute rations to blacks and that even a more serious charge might be substantiated. Colonial Secretary wishes you to make full inquiry and report by letter".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, No letter number

Telegram to the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "Pending receipt of your report which should afford information as to the system of relief generally in the district Colonial Secretary consents to increase to twelve pounds per month".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13975

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, on a visit to Thornborough, Waterford and Woodville in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals. Reports that Mr Wason supplies the rations and gives good value for money. He suggests that the ill feeling towards Mr Wason is the result of him being a witness in the case of a white man shooting an Aboriginal woman. "In this case the man Coombes rode into a camp of blacks at Union Camp and fired into a mob of gins wounding one Polly and for which he was afterwards sentenced to three years imprisonment". Wason was also instrumental in getting Duffy and Crowley arrested for shooting Aboriginals at the Union Camp. "I found about 30 blacks at Woodville about 20 at Union Camp and about a dozen at Waterford. At the latter place I was informed that a number of the blacks were out fishing and that the average number located there was 30.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/12552

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond at Thornborough to the Commissioner of Police advising that the flour for the Aboriginals was dispatched this morning and asking if the vouchers are to be sent to the Commissioner.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/13211

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from the police station in Thornborough advising that he has received verbal reports that the rations supplied by the government are not being distributed to the Aboriginals at the Union Camp.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/14183

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond at Herberton advising that the Aboriginals at the Union Camp, Waterford and Woodville are not receiving the rations allocated by the government. He suggests that in future the police should distribute them. At Woodville and also at Waterford there were 40 Aboriginals. He suggests "that a sufficient supply of rations be given to each tribe twice a week as would enable them all to go out for 2 or 3 days hunting expedition".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/14474

Telegram from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from Herberton: "The half ton flour purchased twelfth ultimo for food Woodville Waterford blacks exhausted please wire if another supply granted for them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, No letter number

Newspaper clipping from The Wild River Times in relation to a proposal at a Board meeting: "Mr Putt moved that the government be asked to increase the ration allowance to the blacks at Atherton by 20 pounds a month, and that the male aboriginals be employed under the supervision of Mr Kelly to clear the Cairns road, also that Mr Zillman be asked to support the application".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 91/14879

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that the time has not yet come "when it would be advisable or safe to cease feeding the blacks at Atherton. I believe were the rations stopped now we should have a return of the old state of affairs so bitterly complained of by the selectors three or four years ago. "The chief object, I take it, is to restrain the Aboriginals from committing depredations and I maintain that since they have been fed this object has been attained at far less cost to the Government than could have been possible under the old system of sending the [Native Police] troopers after them". He also comments on the tension between the white settlers and the Chinese and Malays, the latter are accused of not feeding their Aboriginal employees.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 92/7

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, and Sub-Inspector Lamond in relation to their reports on feeding the Aboriginals at the Union Camp. They state that the statements made against Mr Wason, which accused him of not supplying the rations he is given by the government, are not proved. The trouble seems to be that he only distributed them intermittently and that he gives them everyone in the camp, not just the women, children and old men but "the able men took umbrage and made compliant about it".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 92/2465

Voucher from Wah Lee and Company for the payment of flour delivered to Woodford and Waterford for the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 92/2306

Letter from Sub-Inspector Lamond to the Commissioner of Police forwarding a voucher for the payment of flour supplied to the Hodgkinson Aboriginals (see directly above- 92/2465 Police).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/248

Letter from JW Crowley at Curraghmore Station, Thornborough complaining that Mr Wason's privilege of supplying the Aboriginals with rations gives him complete control over them. He alleges that the "depredations" committed on his station by the Aboriginals are being encouraged by Wason. He suggests that the rations should only be distributed in Thornborough and by the police. He also suggests that the Aboriginals are not getting the quantity of rations allowed them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/140

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he is going to Waterford to investigate claims that the rations supplied to the Aboriginals there are below standard. "Inclined to think Waterford may be closed".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, No letter number

List of questions (with answers) put to Constable McGuire of Thornborough by AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals. Includes: what is the number of Aboriginals at Waterford: 21; if the Aboriginals are fed at Union Camp would this interfere with their hunting pursuits: no; what is the average number fed at Union Camp: 18; are the Aboriginals at Waterford and Union Camp the same tribe: yes.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/851

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, recommending that the supply of rations be stopped at Waterford and all the rations given out at Union Camp.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/1407

Report from Constable McGuire sent from the police station, Thornborough replying to several accusations from Mr Cowley. McGuire states that he has not heard of any depredations being committed by the Aboriginals on Mr Cowley's, or any other station, since the rations have been supplied. He also advises that the Aboriginals were told that if they burned the grass or committed any other depredations the rations would stop.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/1407

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he had instructed Constable McGuire to investigate accusations made by Mr Cowley in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals by Mr Wason. There appears to be no foundation for the accusations. He also comments that the Aboriginals are afraid of Mr Cowley "particularly since several of them were shot in the raid made upon their camps some two years ago on the Mitchell River".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/2735

Telegram from J Crowley sent from Thornborough stating that he can prove his allegations in relation to Mr Wason and the supply of rations to the Aboriginals (see above).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/9737

Letter from T Marchal on the Barron River to the Colonial Secretary drawing his attention to an article in The Wild River Times written by Edward Putt. He suggests that Putt's remarks that the Aboriginals around Atherton are self-supporting and therefore do not need rations are correct. He states that the Aboriginals that are employed by Europeans "are supplied with clothes and food, they wish for no government aid it is only the Chinamen and Kanakas who make the go to police of supplies".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/11487

Report from Constable Higgins sent from the Atherton police station in relation to allegations from Edward Putt that the Aboriginals trade their rations with the Chinese, Kanakas and Malays for tobacco.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/11487

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he cannot find out who Mr Marchal of Barron River (see above: Letter 93/9737) is and the handwriting is suspiciously like Mr Kelly's the former contractor who supplied rations to the Aboriginals. Mr Marchal's letter suggested that the Aboriginals no longer need rations because they are self-supporting. Zillman makes the recommendation that the rations should continue.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 93/11487

Memorandum from Inspector Stuart to Constable Higgins instructing him to find out who Mr Putt's informants are that state the rations given to the Aboriginals are exchanged with the Kanakas for tobacco. He also wants a report on how many Aboriginals are receiving rations and what condition they are in; where the rations are distributed; who held the previous contract; the number of Chinese who employ Aboriginals; the names of the principle employers of Kanaka labour; the number of Kanakas in the district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 95/288

Telegram from Thomas Kilpatrick sent from Thornborough advising that the tribe at Union Camp will not go to Thornborough to receive rations. He asks if the rations can be brought there as this will "benefit residents and prevent depredations".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, No letter number

Telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Herberton to the Commissioner of Police advising that the Police Magistrate in Herberton has instructed that the rations to the Aboriginals be distributed at Thornborough not at Union Camp. "Very advisable under circumstances".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 95/688

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/823, Letter number 95/823

Telegram from H Wason to the Colonial Secretary: "have not received any money for rationing aboriginals four months due not rationing them now kindly inquire into it".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/1170, Letter number 94/14209

Letter from Mr Giles in Thornborough complaining that it would be an injustice to hand out rations to the Aboriginals in the town for the following reasons: they are all suffering from disease, the water supply in the town is limited and the Aboriginals would bath in it and make it dirt and the main tribe would not come to town and instead rob the miner's camps and Chinese gardens for food. He asks that for the "benefit of parents of families (of which I am One) keep the blacks away from the township".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/1170

Report from Constable McGuire at the police station in Thornborough in relation to tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Thornborough. He also comments on Mr Giles' letter (see directly above) and suggests that the Aboriginals are no worse with disease in the district then elsewhere, they do not pollute the water in the river, the Aboriginals would come to Thornborough for rations only for the amount of influence but on them to remain down the river, only one act of theft has occurred from the Chinese gardens, the Aboriginals are fed 2 miles out of town.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) *No file or letter number*

Note: "Deputation from? of the Presbyterian Church. Whether the government would not issue an order that no children attending mission schools should be taken away for employment in connection with the fisheries four northern seas until 14 years old".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/6927, Letter number 89/5666

Telegram from AH Zillman advising that Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run has thirty Aboriginals on his property and many more to come in. Robinson asks for an allowance to supply them with meat. Zillman states that Robinson had over thirty head of cattle speared last year and giving the Aboriginals some meat may stop the "depredations".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/6927, Letter number 89/5832

Telegram from Herberton advising that the Aboriginals have been brought in to Wooroora Run and asking for a subsidy for Mr Robinson to feed them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/6927, Letter number 89/5905

Letter from AH Zillamn, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, recommending that 8 pounds per month be authorised to feed the Aboriginals on Wooroora Run. This will allow them to stay there for a month or two after which they can be incorporated with the Aboriginals in Atherton. He suggests that the Aboriginals in the district "can be tamed" with the assistance of the government.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 95/6927, No previous letter number

Letter from Frederick Robinson sent from Herberton requesting rations for the 30 Aboriginals who have come in to his run (Wooroora). He states that if they get food they will give up "molesting the stock".

Letter from Inspector Stuart in Port Douglas recommending that the Aboriginals on Wooroora Run receive rations. "As this appears favourable opportunity of doing something towards civilizing them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/7629

Report from Sub-Inspector Brooke sent from Barron Waters advising that he is enclosing a letter from Mr Robinson. He also advises that the Aboriginals have been killing stock on Mr Robinson's station, Wooroora Run and he had tried harsh measures but it seemed to make them worse. Brooke states that Robinson devised another plan to get the Aboriginals to come in. "With that object in view he had got one black in but as he had tried to escape had been beaten and chained him".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/7628

Letter from Frederick Robinson advising that the Aboriginals are starting to come into the station (Wooroora Run) and requesting blankets and rations for them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/7917

Letter from Frederick Robinson advising that there are 70 Aboriginals from the south Johnstone and district at Wooroora but he could muster about 120. He asks for government assistance to feed them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/3665

Voucher from Mr Wason on the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at the Union Camp.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/4001

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he is going to Thornborough to investigate the expenses in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/4806

Report from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that it would not be a good idea to stop the rations to the Aboriginals at Thornborough, where he "found some 30 blacks. I saw no half castes". He recommends that Mr Wason continue to supply them. Also advises that Native Police Sub-Inspector Brooke and his troopers visited the Union Camp and that an Aboriginal man speared another in order to take one of his wives off him.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/7503

Letter from the Chairman of the Woothakala Divisional Board, Thornborough complaining that the rations to the Aboriginals have been stopped and asking for them to be resumed.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/7591

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton: "re blacks Northcote do not think it necessary to feed them travel about a good deal and employed and fed by whites numbers small re union camp think amount allowed scarcely sufficient".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/8172

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising he has had a request from William Atherton at Chillagoe Station for rations for the Aboriginals. He states they are from the Walsh River.

He suggests that they do not need rations because they "pick up a good deal in their ramblings".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/8172

Letter from William Atherton requesting rations for the Aboriginals on Chillagoe Station (see directly above). He states that there are about 200 in the tribe and that they may be hostile if brought into Atherton because they speak a different language to the tribe there.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/8738

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton, suggesting that the amount paid to Mr Robinson to feed the Aboriginals on Wooroora Run is not sufficient. There are far more Aboriginals than a first anticipated. He recommends an increase in the allowance because this is the only way to get them to come in. He is of the opinion that this is a preliminary stage in dealing with the whole subject. "I have already suggested a reservation for them with a competent person in charge where they would be under certain restraints and under proper control. It will probably be necessary to establish more than one reserve on account of tribal differences".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/8172

Letter from WH Rider, the Assistant Under Colonial Secretary, to G Murray the Police Magistrate in Brisbane. He suggests that the Colonial Secretary has come to the conclusion that the time has come to do something comprehensive about the condition of the Aboriginals in the Herberton district. He directs Murray to travel north to investigate and report on the matter.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), No letter number

Copies of telegrams sent from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Herberton in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at Herberton, Northcote, Union Camp and Wooroora run.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/1069

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that authorisation was given to increase the expenditure in rations to the Aboriginals in Atherton. However, it appears as though there are conflicting in relation to the condition of the Aboriginals and a more detailed report is required.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/1140

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to F Wimble MLA acknowledging Wimble's letter suggesting a reserve should be set up for the Aboriginals in the Barron Valley. He advises that consideration of the proposal will be brought forward to when the next estimates are being prepared.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/5684

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to AH Zillman the Police Magistrate in Herberton directing him to mark on the enclosed map the land required of a reserve for the Aboriginals (the map is not attached).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/6103

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to the Clerk of the Herberton Divisional Board acknowledging the Board's letter requesting that the rations to the Aboriginals be continued and informing

that the decision is to continue.

Letter from the Under Colonial Secretary to Bench in Herberton advising that the rations applied for by William Atherton of Chillagoe station will not be supplied.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/9948

Report from G Murray on the condition of the Aboriginals at Herberton. He informs that on Wooroora Run there are 65 Aboriginals camped on the river; "the blacks are very numerous and live chiefly on the heads of the Johnstone, Tully and Murray rivers on to the Herbert River"; in Atherton there were 50 Aboriginals in the camp; feeding the Aboriginals has decreased the stealing of settlers' crops; at Northcote there were 17 Aboriginals; during the recent ration distribution in Thornborough about 80 Aboriginals attended; a short time previously there were between 70 and 100 Aboriginals; "the Russell River, Johnstone River, Herberton and Atherton Aboriginals come about Mount Orient"; he thinks that setting up a reserve for the Aboriginals and encouraging them to cultivate the soil would be "time and money thrown away" because "hunters they have been in the last century (and may have been the same for the past thousand years) and hunters they will remain"; the only permanent way of benefiting the Aboriginals would be to remove them far from their homes where they could be taught to support themselves; it is only a question of a few years how long they will exist, the sooner they are brought in contact with the whites under present circumstances the sooner will they disappear, disease, clothing, rum etc will soon work their destruction"; a strong detachment of Native Police should be stationed in the district for the next twelve months to stop the fights when the white men molest the Aboriginal women.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/10209

Letter from Mr Robinson of Wooroora Run requesting an increase in the ration allowance because he has had up to 120 Aboriginals come in to his station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 89/10800

Letter from the Lands department advising that the land selected by Mr Murray for a reserve is needed for agricultural purposes. A note on the letter states: "The Lands department should select an area not required for agricultural settlement".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/606

Letter from the Cairns Divisional Board advising that they assist in the dispensing of food to the Aboriginals of the district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/756

Letter from the Woothakata Divisional Board advising that they have agreed to assist in the dispensing of rations to the Aboriginals in the Thornborough district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/1036

Letter from the Tinaroo Divisional Board advising that they have agreed to assist in the dispensing of rations to the Aboriginals in their district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/1150

Letter from the Lands department informing that it is not advisable to proceed with a reserve for the

Aboriginals at present.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/4071

Report from AH Zillman, the Police magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has made a visit to Atherton and found there are about 120 Aboriginals in the camp and a good many more out hunting. He asks for the ration allowance to be increased. About 50 of the Aboriginals are employed by the selectors in the district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/6314

Letter from WB Kelly to the Colonial Secretary advising that there are a great number of Aboriginals now in Atherton and he has found many of them work. He advises that the natural food is becoming scarce with the onset of winter and asks if the present allowance of 12 pounds for rations can be increased to 20 pounds.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/10196

Telegram from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, reporting that there are 300 Aboriginals in the camp at Atherton and requesting an increase in the ration allowance.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/11961

Letter from WB Kelly in Atherton to Inspector Lamond reporting that there are about 200 Aboriginals presently receiving rations. Another large group are camped on Freshwater Creek. He point out the success of the scheme to bring them in and feed them and to get them to work for a living. He points out that previous to the scheme it had cost 3000 pounds to keep a Native Police camp at the Barron River. The district is now prospering with more land cleared in all directions and cultivation taking place. He asks for an increase in the Ration allowance.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/11961

Report from Sub-Inspector Lamond sent from the police office in Herberton forwarding reports from Constable Higgins and WB Kelly in relation to the number of Aboriginals fed on the present allowance. He suggests that the scheme is a success and many are now employed. He asks for the ration allowance to be increased so that more Aboriginals will be persuaded to come in and can then be "civilized".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/11961

Report from Constable Higgins sent from the Atherton police station advising that 250 to 300 Aboriginals are camped at Atherton and during the winter months have no food and are unable to gain employment. He asks for an increase in the ration allowance.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/11961

Report from Inspector Frederick Murray sent from the Cooktown police office stating that the rations supplied to the Aboriginals have so much good that he recommends that the ration allowance be increased.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 90/12292

Letter from WB Kelly requesting that new tenders be called for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals

in and around Atherton because he can now supply them much cheaper. He also suggests that the expenditure can cut because many of the Aboriginals are now working and are supplied rations by their employers.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 94/12834

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that he has arranged with Robert Gordon for the price of the flour supplied to the Aboriginals in Atherton to be reduced.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 95/29

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton advising that he has arranged with Robert Gordon for the price of the beef supplied to the Aboriginals in Atherton to be reduced.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#), Letter number 95/5380

Petition from several residents of the Barron Valley calling for the rations supplied to the Aboriginals to be stopped because there is plenty of employment, the selectors are only too happy to feed and cloth them if they will work, to keep them about Atherton is better than exposing them to the Chinese and Malays.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/6927](#) (top number)

Report from the Police Magistrate in Herberton suggesting that the petition sent by the residents of the Barron Valley (see directly above) was instigated by Mr Kelly. Kelly had a grudge against the contractor who supplies the rations to the Aboriginals and used the petition to retaliate. The Police Magistrate advises that the rations should be continued because there were 400 Aboriginals at the last blanket distribution. This number cannot be fed from the meagre natural resources in the Barron Valley. He also suggests that Atherton is the place to distribute the rations because it is sparsely populated with Europeans and therefore minimises the inconvenience and shock caused by the presence of Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/10689](#)

Brief letter from the Police Magistrate in Cairns in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/14071](#)

Letter from John Douglas on Thursday Island forwarding a return sent by Burns, Philp and Co for the cost of goods supplied to the Batavia River Mission Station (Mapoon).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/14290](#), Letter number 95/12189

Letter from Mr [Hannam?] at Northbourne, Myola requesting rations for the tribe on his selection. He states that they were here long before we came and chopped down all the trees and took "their creek from them and sent away their wallabies". "I try to civilize some of the young ones but there are too many".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_95/14290](#) (top number)

Letter from the Bench in Cairns suggesting that tenders be called for the supply of beef to the Aboriginals at Myola.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/10](#)

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton forwarding the tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Atherton. He recommends that Mr Gordon's tender be accepted.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/5091](#)

Letter from William Gray at Niagara Vale, Cardwell drawing attention to the treatment of the Aboriginals by the Cardwell Native Police. He alleges that the Aboriginals will not go hunting because some of their companions have been killed by the Native Police and they are afraid to leave the safety of the stations. He also alleges that the Native Police have given license to kidnappers to take Aboriginal women and children and if they attempt to leave they trump up charges against their husbands.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/8199](#), Letter number 96/419

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/8199](#) (top number)

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/10839](#), Letter number 93/7838

Letter from AH Zillman, the Police Magistrate in Herberton, advising that he has had an offer from Charles Denford to supply beef to the Aboriginals at California Creek but if the present contractor can match his offer he suggests that he should retain the contract.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/10839](#), Letter number 93/13381

Two letters from Charles Denford forwarding a tender for the supply of beef to the Aboriginals at California Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/10839](#), Letter number 93/13381

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of beef to the Aboriginals at California Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/10839](#) (top number)

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of beef to the Aboriginals at California Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/13634](#), Letter number 93/13223

Petition from the residents of the Murray River and Tully River near Cardwell requesting Native Police protection from the "depredations" of the Aboriginals. A note from the Police Commissioner states there is a detachment of Native Police at Stewarts Creek who can patrol the district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820 96/13634](#), Letter number 95/4225

Petition from several residents of the Tully River and Murray River districts requesting Native Police protection. They state that it is over a year since they requested Native Police protection and as yet none has been forthcoming. They advise that another outrage was recently committed by the Aboriginals on the Tully River. Mr William Evan's station (Rockingham Station) was robbed and the buildings and stores burnt. Also contains a telegram from Constable John Splaine to Inspector Murray

advising that he has visited Mr Evan's station, (Rockingham Station) on the Tully River and found that the dwelling house had been burned to the ground. "heavy rains having set in after the fire no blacks to be seen within miles of the place supposed burned by the range blacks who are totally uncivilized". There is also a previous telegram from Constable Splaine that advises the Aboriginals had also attempted to spear the manager of the station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_96/13634](#), Letter number 95/7054

Contains a report from Constable Splaine sent from the Cardwell police station advising that he had visited Rockingham Station and found that the Dwelling house had been burned to the ground and that an Aboriginal had attempted to spear the manager. He also reports that he visited a run on Bedford Creek to ask the Aboriginals working there if they knew who had committed the outrage. "Some of the blacks were under the belief that the range blacks burned the building who are numerous and treacherous in the range". Also a report from Inspector Murray in Townsville to the Commissioner of Police. He advises that the only reports of depredations he has received is the burning of the dwelling house at Rockingham Station and the murder of one Aboriginal by another at Clump Point. He suggests that a few trackers stationed at or near Cardwell "would no doubt be of service".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_96/13634](#), Letter number 96/6483

Telegram advising that there are between 80 and 100 Aboriginals requiring rations in Cardwell.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_96/13634](#) (top number).

Letter from the Police Commissioner to the Colonial Secretary in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Cardwell. He suggests that a boat should be purchased so that the rations can be distributed from Kirkton. The boat can take the rations to the government reserve on the coasts and also to the Tully River once per week, "thus avoiding bringing the blacks into Cardwell or collision with each other.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/976](#) and [97/977](#)

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at California Creek and Irvinebank.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/7080](#), Letter number 96/13709

Contains a letter from the Tate Mineral Field Progress Association to the Police Magistrate in Herberton. They state that the Aboriginals have been stealing the miner's rations while they are absent from their camps and ask the government for a weekly supply of rations to distribute to the Aboriginals.

Also, a letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton to the Colonial Secretary forwarding the letter from the Tate Progress Association (see directly above) and recommending that the rations be supplied.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/7080](#), Letter number 96/14999

Letter from the Police Magistrate in Herberton recommending that a relief camp should be set up on the Tate River. He advises that there are about 50 Aboriginals there at present many old men and women who cannot fend for themselves therefore they have resorted to stealing from the miner's camps. He recommends that rations be supplied to them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/7080, Letter number 97/3632

Report from Inspector Gilmour to the Commissioner of Police in relation to the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at the Tate River tin mines. Also contains tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at the Tate tin mines.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/7913, Letter number 97/7602

Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton applying for rations for the Aboriginals at Herberton for distribution on Jubilee Day.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/7913, Letter number 97/7746

Correspondence in relation to a request from the Mountalbion Progress Association for rations for the 50 Aboriginals in the town camp, to be distributed on Jubilee Day.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/9119, Letter number 90/1211

Report from the Police Magistrate in Bowen in relation to a request from the Reverend Cassar for medical assistance and rations for the Aboriginals of the district. The Police Magistrate suggests that the Aboriginals are "having a go" at Reverend Cassar because he is a "new chum." They make out they are starving to get money from him. He advises that the Aboriginals already get medical assistance. However, he suggests that it would be a good idea to employ an "intelligent black boy" as a tracker to go around the camps and bring in any cases of disease for the Medical Officer to attend to and to report any cases of destitution so that he can arrange for rations to be supplied to the needy. He also suggests that the tracker should report any cases of alcohol being supplied to the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/9119, Letter number 2023

Letter from the Bowen Hospital Committee complaining about the stoppage of the allowance for the treatment of Aboriginals. They advise that they are unable to afford to pay for the treatment themselves and ask for the allowance to be resumed.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/10215

Correspondence from the Irvinebank Progress Association requesting rations for the Aboriginals there.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/10813, Letter number 96/16347

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in Atherton.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/10813, Letter number 96/16681

Correspondence in relation to tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in the Herberton district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/10813, Letter number 96/16682

Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton calling for fresh tenders at several centres for the next year.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#) 97/10813, Letter number 97/84

Telegram from the Police Magistrate in Herberton asking if he can accept the lowest tender for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals if the amounts do not exceed the yearly estimate.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/10813](#), Letter number 97/645

Tenders for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals at Thornborough and Atherton.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/10813](#), Letter number 97/1999

Correspondence from Atherton in relation to vouchers for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals in the district.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/10813](#) (top number)

Telegram from Joseph Cummings in relation to the price of rations supplied to the Aboriginals at Thornborough.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/2205

Report from Archibald Meston dated February 17, 1897 to the Colonial Secretary advising that he is leaving for Maryborough tomorrow to arrange for the removal of Aboriginals to Fraser Island. He also recommends that the allowance given to Hislop for rations for the Aboriginals should be stopped because they could easily walk to Bloomfield River mission to get them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/11141

Letter from several residents of the Bloomfield River protesting that public money is supplied to Robert Hislop so that he can supply the Aboriginals with rations. They suggest that the money should be handed over to the Bloomfield River Mission Station. Also mentions that Robert Hislop of Bloomfield River is the father of "several half caste children".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/11193

Letter from George Hislop at Wyalla, Bloomfield River advising that it would be a "false step" to discontinue the rations to the Aboriginals at Cooktown. Attached is a return showing the average number of Aboriginals in the camp at Wyalla from March to August 1897.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/12828

Correspondence from George Hislop in relation to the discontinuation of rations to the Aboriginals at Wyalla, Bloomfield River.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/12850

Letter from Henry Chester, the Police Magistrate in Cooktown, forwarding a letter from George Hislop (see directly above) and defending his "moral character".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/14897

Letter from AJ Trill to George Hislop at Bloomfield River stating that it is "rather hard lines" for the government to stop his allowance for the supply of rations to the Aboriginals on the testimony of Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission. Also includes a letter from George Hislop acknowledging a copy of a letter from Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission making allegations that Mr Hislop keeps the Aboriginals away from the mission station and that his son, Robert Hislop, has an Aboriginal wife and "half caste children".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_97/16399](#), Letter number 97/15870

Report from Archibald Meston advising that Mr Hislop junior of Bloomfield River is cohabiting with Aboriginal women for some years, "one of whom has borne three half caste children". Meston comments that a man who cohabits with Aboriginal women loses all respect of the other Aboriginals. He therefore recommends that the rations to the Aboriginals should only be supplied at Bloomfield River mission and not by Hislop at Wyalla.

Letter from several residents of the Bloomfield River district stating that the allegations from Mr Collins of Bloomfield River mission against Robert Hislop are false. In their opinion there is no better or experienced man to take control of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals. They also comment that although Hislop has "half caste" children he looks after them out of his own pocket, unlike some who allow them to "run wild" and become an expense to the government.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_98/10081](#)

Return showing the financial assistance given for Aboriginals by location and amount. Includes Fraser Island, Atherton, Ayton, Rossville, Banana, Batavia River, Bellenden Kerr, Bloomfield River, Bowen, Butchers Hill, California Creek, Cape Bedford, Coen, Cardwell, Daintree, Deebing Creek, Fisherton, Highbury, Normanton district, Mareeba, Marie Yamba, Maytown, Montalbion, Cook district, Mein, Mungindi, Myola, Thornborough, Thursday Island and Whitsunday Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_02/18877](#), Letter number 02/12168

Letter from the Maryborough police office advising that a voucher for the payment of rations supplied to an "old blind aboriginal" at Cania has not been paid.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_02/18877](#), Letter number 02/13096

Letter from the Maryborough police office in relation to the payment of a voucher for rations supplied to a blind Aboriginal at Cania.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_02/18877](#), Letter number 02/15924

Correspondence in relation to rations supplied to a blind Aboriginal at Cania.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_02/18877](#)

Letter from the Cania police station advising that one blind Aboriginal and three others are receiving government rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820_03/3906](#)

Letter from Walter E Roth to Mr Foxtton enclosing a return of the northern districts showing the number of Aboriginals receiving government relief, the nature of the relief, and the cost. Includes a reference to "17 incorrigibles being sent to southern reserves", with the return.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

page 205 beginning of letter 03 3906 DR57972 find additional details if needed

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 4, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Recommends that no permits will be issued to publicans to employ Aboriginals; asks for authority to send a letter (in the report) to the Shipping Master in Cooktown setting down the regulations for employing Aboriginals on "coasting, trading, beche-de-mer, pearling and other vessels"; he discusses the expense of treating Aboriginals in the hospital and proposes to move them to the 8 Mile Native Police camp; asks permission to visit the Bloomfield district; advises that he has visited three local Aboriginal camps to give them "expressions of my friendship" and where he counted "about 130 souls" but some were out hunting and in town and the number would be nearer to 200, their health was mainly good; people have been spreading "malicious rumours" about him so that the Aboriginals will all leave the area. These have been started by people who are keeping horses and cattle on the Quarantine and Aboriginal reserves; he has been working on Aboriginal vocabularies and customs. Also see ITM17980.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 11, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

As soon as he has permission he will remove the remaining Aboriginals from the hospital; the residents of the local Aboriginal camps "are beginning to understand that I am here on their behalf and acting in their interests", He names some of the Aboriginal people who have sought medical treatment: Barney's gin, Tommy, Corporal Dick's wife.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he will immediately see about moving the Aboriginals to 8 Mile Native Police camp; he is keen to visit the Bloomfield River district and gain information on the customs of the Aboriginals from Mr Hislop. Discusses the issue of rations at Wyalla and Butchers Hill; advises that white men have been over to the North Shore reserve after Aboriginal women; he has two requests from miners to employ Aboriginals, he has draw their attention to the fact they need permits. Also see ITM17980.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Gives the number of Aboriginals at stations, mining camps and missions: Tablelands Station 36, Wyalla Station 37, Bloomfield Station 4, Bannabilla Station 34, St Nicholas Station 6, Nunnville Station 2, Granite Creek Station 2, Cunnamurra Station 2, Mt Romeo mining camp 10, Mt Hartley mining camp 10, China Camp 60, Mt Amos 35, Bloomfield River Mission Station 35. Also an entry for "wild ones": "there is said to be a small tribe living on the Tableland independently of Young: they cannot be got in, Const Whelan has never seen them". He estimates he has 300 Aboriginals "to deal with" in the district; advises on visits to selectors in the district who employ Aboriginals and gives general comments about their health, the availability of food and the treatment of the Aboriginals; advises that Mr Hislop of Wyalla has three "half caste children who he cares for; Mr Johnson, Antonio and another man living at St Nicholas Station are Portugese and are living with Aboriginal women to whom they have "half caste children" who attend school, the three men own a boat that trades with Cooktown; advises on the produce grown, living arrangements, buildings and treatment of the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station; mentions that Mr Baird (formally Mayor of Cooktown) of Cunnamurra has two "half caste" children who are sent to school; at China Camp there are complaints from Aboriginal men that Mr Coleman, Mr Leslie, Mr Murray and John Waugh are cohabiting with their women, also at Mt Romeo Ross Kelly and Ah Moo are cohabiting with Aboriginal women. Also see ITM17980.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 25, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Acknowledges the maps showing the size and location of the reserves and suggests they should be made smaller, he is keen to have the Quarantine reserve proclaimed an Aboriginal reserve; advises that he is working on his ethnological notes of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals; briefly mentions receiving a letter from RN Smith about his Kanaka and Aboriginal wife; hopes that Police Inspectors will soon be proclaimed Aboriginal Protectors and then refuse permits to publicans and "Asiatics" so that they are unable to employ Aboriginals; asks for permission to increase the allowance for rations supplied to the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated March 11, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police

Advises that he is getting information on prospective employers of Aboriginals from "the most reliable source - the police"; states that he is "taking every care to work the Act in a manner least irksome to the public"; proposes to send monthly returns of employment permits granted and refused and returns of Aboriginals coming to Cooktown for medical treatment; he has several Aboriginal weapons to forward and is trying to get the police interested in collecting them; advises that a Clergyman from the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) advised him that some beche-de-mer fishermen have been recruiting at the mission and that some of the people recruited have not been returned, the Clergyman is keen to have the station proclaimed a reserve so that no one would have the right to go there.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Letter from Edwin Brown at Mapoon dated May 3, 1898 advising that a pearl shelling boat named 'Bingo' had arrived at the mission after recruiting Aboriginals "the hands of the aboriginals were tied, and they were fastened down to the hold. During the night however the men managed to get off their ropes, knocked the hatches off, jumped overboard, swam ashore and escaped".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated May 6, 1898.

Discusses the employment of Aboriginals in and beyond Queensland waters; about 300 Aboriginals are employed pearl shell diving; the natives employed in the fisheries in the Torres Strait are able to look after themselves and do not require protective legislation; the resurgence of the pearl shelling trade has increased the recruitment of mainland Aboriginals, principally from the Seven Rivers district of western Cape York; the press-gang system of recruiting is carried on at the present time; permits for recruiting south of Duyphen Point will not be issued because the Aboriginals are "myalls" and outrages will follow if it continues; deposits should be paid by the fishermen for each Aboriginal they employ to encourage them to return the Aboriginals to their homes after their employment agreements expire; there has been a suggestion from Mr Douglas that the Japanese, Malays and Manilla men should not be allowed to employ Aboriginals; included in the report are copies of notices re the employment of Aboriginals by aliens that appeared in the Torres Strait Pilot; also comments that there are Aboriginals employed on Thursday Island who will need permits; he has advised the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) to get the Aboriginal residents under employment permits to prevent the raids on the mission; reports that at Normanton the Europeans are very keen to get their Aboriginals under work agreements.

Also see ITM17980.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 13, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Report forwarding an account of some of the native foods of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals. Description of how yams, nuts, fruits and berries, bulbs and tubers and game animals are harvested, prepared and cooked. Also some detail of the customs associated with their consumption, e.g. yams harvested by men can only be eaten by men. Also the names of the various food resources in the local Aboriginal language:

Native names for yams: Diobcorea Satava (redish yam growing on edges of scrub): wo-ki long white yam growing in forest country: kal-koor Long whit yam growing in hills and rocky places: kou-oo Short white yam growing on exposed ridges: mareme

Nuts:

Pygeum Turnerianum: joon-da (called abill by the Cairns Aboriginals). Match Box Bean: baboor Morton Bay Chestnut: marchay

Candlenut: belere Almond: berka Zamia: ma-ra

Cyrtocarya Palmerstoni: bood-ja-bi Microfilm Z1604,

Bulbs and Tubers: Amorphophallus: woo-rad ji

Poppy: mar-kad-ji

Microstemma Tuberosum: wa-ra-boo-ga Typhonium Brownii Schott: bund-ja

Also marbil, dillanjure (no English equivalents noted) Curculio vel Hyposcis: koo-mool Tacca

Pinnatifida: be-ung-gal

Blue Water Lily: de-ker

Fruits and Berries: Wild Loquat: wanakan Cherry: choonka, warta or walkarran Green Fig: toolbal Brown Fig: wool-ko Black Fig: chattermal Scrub Banana: tattermo Forest Banana: koolnjoor Quandong: tanbal Leichhardt Apple: kappal Berry of large Lawyer Vine: milmur, koomar or tokonjacker Love Apple: pudginjacker Burdekin Plum: kooroy Black Cherry: koor-koor Blackberry: wong-oor or bind-jay Pencil Cedar berry: merbungger Screw Palm tchillaynje Wild Ginger: jeddo or john john Panadanus: quika Cherry Guava: marko Wild Grape: gunga Cashew Nut: gindja Leaf Stalks etc: Sago Palm: youal Black Palm: dooare Grass Tree: gnanger Lawyer Palm: ka-ko

Animals: Nests of green ants: moindjure Chewed grass used to mop up squashed ant and egg slurry: wood-joo Insect inhabiting green ant nest (delicacy) be-be Forest Snail: karaway Scrub Snail: balong gool Arboreal Snail: bin-ye Freshwater clam: warpa bugger Mussel: bime-bi Spiral shaped shell: barbe Oyster: tchon-ye Shell fish found in sand on beach: bullgeje Large clam: mongee Cockle: worool Sea urchin: tchallan Large carpet snake: korreal-la Small carpet snake: karbool Brown constrictor: bunamo Jew lizard: bunja bunja Lizard similar to jew: jee-ra-bi Yellow iguana: tat-ti

Black iguana: walkar Dark face lizard: wonggo Light face lizard: gal-lidga Frilled scrub lizard: talbil

Frilled forest lizard: binadje Water lizard: bull-boo Minerals:

Clay from ant hills: kappay

White clay: kumbar - eaten and used to paint weapons

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he has forwarded some photographs including scenes depicted launching a canoe and Aboriginal huts etc (the photographs are not in the file).

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Roth expresses his surprise that a deputation of graziers who met the Premier in Cairns suggested that the "Aboriginals Protection Act" was enacted to remove Aboriginals to reserves. He states that this is "a false impression" ... "originally emanating in the imagination of mischievous whites".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

The report includes a letter sent from several Aboriginals living at Cape Bedford to the Chief Protector (ie the Commissioner of Police) in their own language with an English translation. The authors of the letter are: Magdalena, Elisabeth, Martha, Freida, Maria and Anna. The report also has a section on the manufacture of hair twine and the customs associated with it "as practiced on the Morehead River and Musgrave River". The informant is Mary, a native tracker's wife from 8 Mile Native Police camp, Cooktown.

Aboriginal name for human hair twine: ma-nung-an

The needle used: ng-gi-ur-jur

Report from Sub-Inspector Cooper sent from Cairns and dated June 3, 1898.

Advises that he travelled from Cairns to the Tate River police station visiting the Aboriginal camps on the way in his capacity as Aboriginal Protector. The visit was in response to the "wishes expressed by the Honourable TJ Byrnes the Premier that he would like to know the feelings of the Cairns district with regard to the amending of the Aboriginal Act". He advises that he met with the various progress associations and "fully explained the Act at the meetings referred to" (see below for the minutes from the meetings). He interviewed 500 Aboriginals on the way and explained to them that the government was their friend and that they would not be removed from their country, but that they must work. Also advises that he authorised the issue of rations to those incapable of work; he does not think the idea of removing Aboriginals on to reserves would be a success, public opinion is against it; there are 5 or 6 blind Aboriginals in Atherton, the blindness is thought to be caused from eating a poisonous root or nut; Mr Kelly the Chairman of the Atherton Progress Association has been feeding the Aboriginals which is a burden on him, suggests only feeding those incapable of looking after themselves; there is a large and increasing demand for Aboriginal labour and if the able bodied were not fed they will look for work; suggests that the presents of pipes and tobacco he gave them from the government had more effect in showing the Aboriginals that they were to be befriended than all the talking in the world could have done.

Attached to the report are the minutes from the meetings between Sub-Inspector Cooper and the Barron Valley and Montalbion progress associations. The main resolutions of the meetings include: Asiatics, Chinese and Malays should not be able to employ Aboriginal labour, Aboriginals should not be removed because they "pine for their native country and friends and die under the confinement".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Letter from Sub-Inspector Cooper to the Chief Protector sent from Cairns and dated June 2, 1898 in relation to the "Employment of Aborigines by Chinese and other Aliens".

Advises that the Chinese and South Sea Islanders have been in the habit of employing Aborigines in the district and that this practice has led to abuses, mainly because the Chinese pay the Aborigines in opium. He asks for instructions for the issue of work permits to Chinese or Kanakas. He also advises that many Chinese and Kanakas are living with Aboriginal women and have families of "half caste" children. He suggests that cases such as these "should not be interfered with".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 6, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he visited Boggy Creek reserve at Butchers Hill and Kings Plains. At Boggy Creek there are about 60 Aborigines; 4 Aborigines are employed at Springvale; at Kings Plains 2 Aboriginal women are employed. "The gins [at Kings Plains] complained to me of their children being detained, against their wishes, at a neighbouring station. Maggie has a full-blooded son about 8 or 9 years of age at Springvale, whence he has already attempted to run away but been brought back: Mollie has a little half-caste girl at Oakey Creek station. I have written to Mr Cooke to return the former, and Mr Marrett will deal with the latter". Also gives the Aboriginal language names of various places in the district: Butchers Hill headstation: da-bi-Li The whole run: young-koor West Normanby River, main portion: cho-kon Its most westerly head: jou-wool Head of the Daintree River: jol-li Mount Windsor: kulm-bar Kings Plains run: tandi Lake country above run: boon-ka-ra Christmas Day Lagoon: wou-a-bud-ja East Normanby River: yoo-moo Mount Byerley: kun-ya-ka-ra Banana Creek: ka-boo Scrubby Creek: mud-ja Maytown: wool -boor-joor-boor

"The only tribes discoverable in the district just traversed are the Yoongkoo-ara of Butchers Hill and amongst them two remnants of the Jou-wool-ara (of the most westerly head of the W Normanby River): the former speak Koko-yalanji, and the latter Kokoboin-ji". "These Butchers Hill aborigines used in the old days to have their walkabout comprising the head of the Daintree R, the Bloomfield, Mount Windsor, and sometimes to the Laura and Maytown". Maytown is the "head-camp of the wool-boor-ara who wander between that township, Laura and Palmerville and who speak Ko-ko-min-ni . . . [and who are] "at enmity with the Deighton blacks who speak Ko-ko-wa-ra. The social organisation of the Butchers Hill Aborigines has four primary divisions: Woongko, Bunburi, Koorkilla and Koopooroo.

Also lists the Aboriginal names of some of the things not covered in his earlier vocabulary: Mir-rim-bal: the cockatoo-top-knot head ornament used only by the leader in inter-tribal fighting. Ngon-yin: "hour-glass" pattern dilly bag.

Ye-kan-e-kan: "hour-glass" pattern-mesh fishing net.

Yer-ko: grass bead necklace worn and made only by women.

Jo-rong-oor: a small flat piece of iron wood for smoothing down the resin in the manufacture of a spear, at the union of the shaft and butt.

Too-cha-ba-la: ironwood

Chil-ngar: the square nautilus-chip necklace worn by men over the forehead, by women around the neck.

Mel-bar: the cup-shaped nautilus shell worn by men over the back of the shoulders, by women between the breasts.

Mar-war: the particular form of string used for tying round the waists of women and old men, or across from one shoulder to the opposite arm-pit, in the case of women, as signifiatory of mourning.

Nging-gun: mussel shell (used a "spoon" etc) brought here from Byerstown and Palmer River. War-kul and Kar-bo: "spoons" made from marine shell obtained from the Bloomfield and Cooktown.

Boo-rad-ja and Ji-ba: two names for the beeswax used for fixing the pegs and hafts on to the woomeras.

Mil-bar: the woomera made of ironwood.

Nga-til: woomera made of yellow-coloured wood.

Mun-nim-bul: match-box firesticks.

The report also advises on a trip to Bloomfield River and Cape Bedford mission stations. Roth suggests that the Bloomfield mission station is not run "for the amelioration of the blacks and is run rather on commercial lines than on philanthropic lines", if they do not show a marked improvement in the next 12 months their subsidy should be cut; Cape Bedford should be granted a subsidy of 100 pounds on the understanding that they take in more of the "Cooktown aboriginal waifs and strays"; requests the condemned tobacco from the Customs stores for distribution to the Aborigines; the main beche-de-mer fishing grounds are near New Caledonia and out of the jurisdiction of Queensland, which puts any Aborigines working in the industry out of reach of any supervision; suggests that marriages between white men and Aboriginal women will be resorted to in order to evade the provisions of the Act, which may prove advantageous to both parties, as well as the children, but permission should be sought from the local Protectors who will enquire into the particulars; Roth is anxious for the reserves to be gazetted: "when the cattle come the blacks must go, and each succeeding year will increase the difficulties of protecting the aborigines so long as certain tracts of land are not specially set apart for them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Report on a visit to the Starcke River in the neighbourhood of Munbarra. Roth advises on the Aboriginal language names of places in the district: Mountain range east of Starcke River: Moon-bar, and the Aborigines inhabiting them: Moonbar-ara (it was this name which gave the first settlers Munbarra for the township). Country on either side of the Starcke River: Doon-jo, and the Aborigines inhabiting it: Doonjo-ara. Now, piri is the locally spoken (Kokoyimidir) name for a river and hence: Starcke River: Piri-doonjo Similarly, Wallace's selection on the Mclvor: Bin-di and occupied by the Bindi-wara, Mclvor River, or rather that portion passing through it, being called Piri-bindir,

Mclvor River, country at its mouth: Koo-lul, inhabited by Koolul-ara, Mclvor River, Coate's selection and country around it at its junction with Cocoa Creek: Woondul, inhabited by Woondul-ara. Morgan River: Walm-bar. Gorton's selection: Par-ra. Thygeson's selection: Kam-bar. Cape Flattery: Vor-ro. Lookout Point: Tan-yil. Barrow Point: Mo-yer. Jeannie River: Vorl-boon.

"The Koko-jombol speaking aborigines inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke R round to Cape Flattery. They walk about down the coast to the mouth of the Mclvor River where they meet the Cape Bedford and Mclvor blacks, and up the banks of the Starcke as far as Munbarra".

"The Koko-yimbol speaking blacks inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke as far certainly as Barrow Point, travelling a little way up both the Jeannie and Starcke rivers". "From the fact of the Munbarra (Starcke River) people being able to communicate with both the koke-jom-bol and koko-jimol speaking blacks, there cannot be much difference in their dialects and that of the Cooktown (koko-yimidir speaking) individuals".

Also discusses the relations between the Aborigines and the miners at Munbarra and names three of

the Aboriginals as Frank, Missy and Billy.

Roth also asks for an opinion on Aboriginal minors being employed on fishing boats, there is mention of an instance of a father trading one of his children to a fisherman for flour and tobacco. "As far as I can learn from tribal customs any child under puberty (i.e. before the first initiation ceremony) is the absolute slave, and has to obey the absolute bidding, of its father". "Hence if the father (bribed or not) says yes, the child has to go".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Telegram from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police advising that he is going to the Starcke River to inspect the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Telegram from Walter Roth advising he has returned from the Starcke River and is forwarding a report.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6820](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated October 30, 1898 from Atherton to The Commissioner of Police.

Report on "the Barron Valley Farmers and Progress Association and its opposition to the employment of Aboriginals by coloured Aliens". In a letter to the Sub-Inspector of Police in Cairns the Association has demanded that something be done about "aliens" employing Aboriginals and that heavy fines be imposed. Roth advises that he has spent a week in Atherton investigating the situation. He describes the character of each Association member

and whom they employ. Roth also comments that the "anti-Chinese feeling is not confined to the members of the Committee, but is rife and rampant throughout the district". He lists the Chinese men who have been charged with supplying opium and the amount of land under cultivation. Advises that the local Aboriginals are made up of three tribes; at the last blanket distribution in Atherton 350 Aboriginals were supplied and "it is safe to presume there are more than 400 in the whole district"; the Aboriginals told him there is plenty of game in the scrub; the 100 European farmers in the Atherton district, according to the register books, employ 116 Aboriginals; the 300 Chinese farmers employ under 100. Roth concludes that the grounds for protest are not supported by the evidence but recommends that "the coloured aliens be not allowed to employ black labour". "At the same time I do not wish it to be thought for one moment that I am sacrificing the aboriginal for State policy, in taking him away from his employment under a Chinaman. I am perfectly satisfied that those who are able to work for their food in the cornfield, are able to hunt for it in the scrub where plenty is to be found, their alternative if not willing to serve a European man".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_96/2538](#)

Memorandum and letter from John Douglas, the Government Resident on Thursday Island, strongly recommending legislative action to restrict and regulate the sale of opium because "The Sale and Use of Poisons Act of 1891 is not sufficiently elastic and definite to admit of the easy conviction of offenders".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_96/2538](#)

Deputations in the case of Police v John Lewis, who was charged with selling opium on Thursday Island but who was dismissed for lack of admissible evidence.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_96/14640](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of rations for the Kamerunga Aboriginals. The report from Archibald Meston suggests that Kamerunga is not a suitable location to distribute rations and they would go to Kuranda, where the police distribute rations, if they wanted food. Meston also comments that Kamerunga "was originally used as a burial ground and as such was visited only during the performance of funeral ceremonies".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_96/15515](#)

Report on the Aboriginal Reserve at Durundur from Archibald Meston. Gives an overview of its history, size and geographical location and features. Meston also comments that "the Durundur reserve was, in old times, a favourite resort for the aboriginals and a friendly meeting place for tribes speaking three dialects; a neutral territory for at least two thousand blacks ... who once assembled at grand corroborees and great Bora ceremonies of departed days". "The widespread Wacca and Cabbee dialects, and the Gooray dialect of Durundur, are spoken by the few men and women who are brushing and ringbarking their old domain". Among them is the widow of the once notorious Johnny Campbell ... and the wife of Sambo who is suspected of recently poisoning two blacks at Kedron Brook ... one woman (Warranty) a widow, has a boy and girl Wangindie and Jandoo, at Deebing Creek where they are known as Robertson and Julia. One old man (Chumgurra) is quite blind ... and a feeble old woman named Barriebill ... belong to the old Boolwanburra tribe of Durundur, speaking Wacca, a dialect spoken by Darling Downs tribes and down the Burnett to Bundaberg, the Cabbee and Yuggaran dialects intervening between it and those spoken at Morton Bay". Meston also comments that Durundur is in an excellent location and that it, and the one proposed at Fraser Island, would "easily accommodate all the blacks left in South Queensland".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_97/147](#)

Report on the South Queensland Aboriginals from Archibald Meston. Reports on the Aboriginals south of the Burnett River and east of the Great Diving Range. The report "refers to their numbers and condition, their prospects of amelioration and the requisite conditions under which that amelioration is likely to be accomplished". Meston comments that "In the convict period of Morton Bay, the aboriginal population from Wide Bay to the Darling Downs was estimated (in 1836) at 10,000. Including the tribes north to the Burnett the number would have been extended to 12 or 15 thousand. As there were then at least 2000 aboriginals on Fraser Island alone, there is a probability that there were at least 20,000 aboriginals between the Burnett and the Tweed. On Bribie Island there were about four or five hundred and Morton and Stradbroke islands represented at least eight hundred more". Meston states that in 1896 there were only about 450 Aboriginals between the Burnett and the Tweed: 130 at Deebing Creek, 60 at Maryborough, a few working on stations "and the rest living a fugitive existence combining their primitive habits with some of the customs of civilisation". Also comments on the use of opium; "pointing the bone"; recommends the removal of the Aboriginals at Maryborough and Bundaberg to Fraser Island; mentions the Aboriginals at Tiaro, Gympie, Landsborough, Boonah, Beaudesert, Beenleigh and Southport. He suggests that the Boonah and Beaudesert Aboriginals "profess to be much attached to the locality as their fathers or mothers were born there. Meston suggests that "this is not to be accepted as an argument against collecting them together for their own benefit in some central reserve. It is too late in the day to humour these caprices and sentimentalisms which the total change of environment has deprived of all tangible significance"; Meston comments that the Aboriginals at Deebing Creek come from "all directions" and that he has sent up from Brisbane one man from the Tuccalugga tribe on the Palmer and another from the Yeeranthully tribe near Ravenswood; "there are no blacks either in or around Stanthorpe, the old Toowoomba aboriginals are now represented by ten or a dozen men and

women"; mentions he has had requests from NSW and Victoria asking for young Aboriginals either for domestic servants or adoption.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826](#) No letter number

Memorandum from W Parry-Okeden to the Home Secretary forwarding suggestions from Walter Roth in relation to the draft of the proposed bill "Protection of Aborigines, p.18.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826](#) 97/10508

Correspondence in relation to keeping the pine nursery on Fraser Island operational after the Aboriginals are removed there. There is a suggestion that whoever is in charge of the Aboriginal reserve on Fraser Island can also run the plantation, "who will have at his command a sufficiency of aboriginal labour to assist in the work of the nursery". There is the suggestion that Mr Mitchell who presently runs the plantation should also take over the running of the reserve. However, Meston is against Mr Mitchell having anything to do with the reserve and Mitchell has been told to leave the island. The file also contains a letter from Archibald Meston (97/10415) advising that a "crowd of larrikins" intends to land on Fraser Island to protest Mr Mitchell's removal from the island in defiance of the "Home Secretary and the law of the country".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826](#) 97/12483

Letter from the Chief Secretary in response to a directive from the Governor asking what action the Ministers have taken in regard to Mr Parry-Okeken's report on the North Queensland Aboriginals and the Native Police (a copy of this report is available at the CPH office at QSA). The Governor is advised that the Police Commissioner is empowered to continue the employment of the Native Police north of the Tropic of Capricorn and the supply of rations to the Aboriginals. "In the southern part of the colony where the conditions are altogether different from those in the north, the protection of the blacks is authorised to apply experimentally a system of a less repressive nature, from which good results are anticipated". Also advises that a Bill for the protection and better government of the Aboriginals of the colony is now prepared and will shortly be ready.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826](#) 97/13206

Correspondence from the Attorney General's department enclosing documents forwarded to the department in relation to drafting a Bill for the protection of Aboriginals. Includes letters from Thursday Island in relation to the inability to convict Mr Lewis for supplying opium, a letter from Edward Baker at Mitchell suggesting that something should be done about the use of opium by Aboriginals, a draft of the Aborigines Protection Act from Archibald Meston with a copy of the "American Indian Laws on Indian Reserves".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826](#) 97/13253

Report from Archibald Meston titled: "Queensland Aboriginals, Outline of Work In 1897: New Systems of Improvement Their Future Welfare". Reports on one innovation: "the creation of Reserves on which they are entirely isolated from all contact with other races"; the Native Police have been changed from "an aggressive force" to one that is "entrusted with the defence of the whites and the protection of their countrymen"; gives a brief history of the Native Police Force; Native Police officers have been instructed to protect the Aboriginals from all forms of injustice by lawless whites and only to punish the Aboriginals who are directly responsible for any outrages; the Native Police are also to distribute rations and tobacco as "a satisfactory guarantee that the new professions of friendship are genuine"; the Commissioner of Police is initiating a policy of protecting and improving the condition of the

Aboriginals in the north and a system of reserves is being established in the older and settled districts; mentions the reserve on Fraser Island and that 52 Aboriginals have been removed from Maryborough to Fraser Island; also mentions Durundur and that it will be used to accommodate some of the coastal Aboriginals and those removed from the west; the reserve near Cairns extending from False Bay to the Mulgrave River will be able to accommodate all the Aboriginals in north Queensland; discusses the mission stations at Deebing Creek, Marie Yamba, Bloomfield River, Cape Bedford and Batavia River (Mapoon); discusses the steps taken by the two Commissioners (Meston and Parry-Okeden), appointed to inquire into the condition of the Aboriginals, leading up to the introduction of the *Protection of Aborigines and Restriction of Opium Act*; also contains a list of the food distribution centres in Queensland and the cost associated with each centre; contains a return of blanket distributions for 1897 with entries for the number issued and the location.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_98/5120](#)

"Progress Report" from Archibald Meston dated April 18, 1898. Suggests the new "Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act" has already had a beneficial effect; applications for permits to employ Aboriginals have "come in from all quarters ... and were in all cases so far immediately granted"; the Act needs to be enforced with considerable tact and great moderation; Meston intends to encourage the employment of Aboriginals and "half-castes" by respectable people; "when originally advising the establishment of reserves and the principle of isolation from whites, I indicated, among other advantages of the system, the training of the aboriginal tracker", after barely one year the Fraser Island Settlement is already supplying the Commissioner of Police with Trackers: one at Goondiwindi, one at Wyandra, one at Surat, one at Charleville and two at Longreach; advises that on March 21 he removed the Durundur and Gympie Aboriginals to Fraser Island, a total of 31, "the reason for removing the blacks from Durundur will be given in a special report ... the Gympie blacks were removed because they were leading lives which made their removal highly desirable"; mentions the Fraser Island reserve, comments on health, food gathering, which locations the Aboriginals on the reserve come from (no names); gives the numbers sent out to employment from Fraser Island and Deebing Creek, and hopes the skills learned while they are away will be an example to the others when they return; recommends that a school be established on the Fraser Island reserve; intends to ask the Minister's approval for a second reserve to be established on Fraser Island near the pine plantation and the Durundur reserve abandoned "making Fraser's Island the one great central permanent aboriginal home for all South Queensland.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_98/8319](#)

Report re the *Aboriginals Protection Act* from Archibald Meston dated June 21, 1898. The report forwards a return of those persons who have written directly to Meston for permits to employ Aboriginals. The list has headings for the person's name and location or station name. (He also advises that he has entrusted a considerable number of signed permits to the Pastoralists' Association and to the Police. These lists have not yet been returned). The return also lists the Native Trackers and Native Troopers who have been supplied to the Commissioner of Police from the Fraser Island reserve: Galmarra to Ingelwood Terinnamee and wife to Wyandra Moloora and wife to Longreach Windanndera and wife to Jundah Nandee and wife to Surat Nanboono and wife to Roma Wangera and wife to Southwood Naboor to Mitchell Coolbine to Victoria Narallie and wife to Charleville Windunna to Inglewood.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_98/12952](#)

The letter 98/12951 from Archibald Meston advises that two white fishermen are in the habit of fishing

on the beach frontage of the Aboriginal reserve at Bogimbah Creek on Fraser Island. He asks that the beach frontage be kept entirely for the use of the Aboriginals. Meston suggests that it is unfair to the Aboriginals and a potential source of "serious friction". The second letter in the file from Meston (98/12952) asks that the oysters on Little Woody Island be reserved for the exclusive use of the Aboriginals. It "is a favourite resort of the aboriginals for fishing and oystering and excursions for the women".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_98/14424](#)

Large file containing correspondence in relation to allegations from Archibald Meston that Dr Garde of Toowoomba was negligent in the treatment of an Aboriginal woman named Lottie Law. Lottie's husband is named as Willie Law, who was employed as a Native Tracker. Also mentions Willie's sister Annie Law (Lottie, Willie and Annie are described as "half-caste" in the correspondence). Lottie had become ill after giving birth to a child, which subsequently died. Dr Garde is accused of letting Lottie leave the Toowoomba Immigration Depot for Fraser Island where she also died. The report from Meston (98/13982) also mentions "as there was no need for Annie Law and Willie Law to remain at the Depot I took them away with me, sending [Willie] Law to Deebing Creek and bringing Annie to Brisbane".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_99/3618](#)

Return from Archibald Meston of all those who employ Aboriginals in South Queensland. Entries for the names of the persons employing Aboriginals, where they live, his category for the Aboriginal employee (e.g. "station blacks", "domestic blacks"), some entries for the number of employees, entries for the date the permit was issued. Meston also comments that "there must be at least 2000 aboriginals employed South of the Tropic of Capricorn".

The following entries name the Aboriginal employee or employees: T Bowman of Harrisville: Beeba (a Cairns boy)

JG Dickson of via Mitchell: half caste Collins. Mrs Gillies (Constable) of Dalby: Amelia Combo. Mrs JJ Hammond of Tenham, Windorah: Sarah.
JC Hassall of Mount Ubi, Eumundi: Darby and Polly.
May Johnson of Kingholme, Ipswich: Susie Ben.
GH Jones of Nambour: Jacky Ball.
Sergeant J Kelly of Childers: Susie.
John Laherty of Nanango: George.
G and V Lloyd-Owen of Konobi: Quelp. WJ
Mahoney of Oxley: Tahbillie. Tom
Mellish (police dept): Amelia.

Mrs DR Martin of Charlotte Street, Brisbane: Emma. Arthur O'Leary of Mile End, Warwick: Jack and Lizzie. WD O'Connor of Waterloo Bay Hotel, Wynnum: George. Harry Pegler of Riverston: Albert and Maggie.
Thomas Patrick of Lowood: Dick and Joanna.
Miss Simpson of Woodford (application to remove half caste girl named Goolall to Yeppoon). GW Story MLA of Brisbane: Tommy White.
F Stretton of Lara, Beaudesert: Willie Williams and Eliza Williams. OE Sleightz of Bedowrie, Taroom: Willie King.
CW Sargeant of Childers: Louisa Garry.
Teitzel and Gibson of Bollon: Jack.

John Viewers of Talgai, Nerang: Sandy.
Mrs Walker of Redland Bay: half caste Nina.
C Wragge: half caste girl from Carandotta named Maud Jeffries. A
Watson of Woolerina, Bollon: Jeannie.
J Ratcliffe-Wilson: to remove half caste girl named Sally Downs to Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_99/6621](#)

Large file in relation to the reserve at Durundur. Includes an audit report, accounts for rations supplied to the reserve, returns of the distribution of rations, bank account statements and associated correspondence in relation to the financial affairs of Durundur reserve. The file also contains returns listing the names of the Aboriginals who received rations at Durundur:

Microfilm Z1608,

Return for January 1890: Barbara, Queen Beauty, Queen Anne, Gowrie, Darville, Walken.

Return for February 1890: Lucifer, Constable, Sarah, Clara, Sambo, Dinah. Microfilm Z1608,

Return for March 1890: Sambo, Dinah, Constable, Sarah, Lucifer, Queen Beauty, Queen Anne, Barbara, Billy Barlow, Maggie, Fanny, Wombi, Fanny (no2), Bella, Coolool, Lawrence, Clementina, Walter.

Return for April 1890: Constable, Sarah, Lucifer, Sambo, Dinah, Horace, Queen Beauty, Queen Anne, Barbara, Billy Barlow, Maggie, Willie, Johnny McKenzie, Fanny, Lily, Wombi, Bella, Coolool, Walter, Clementina, Kiena, King Bendy, Mickey, Kitty, Gowrie, Emily, Georgie.

Return for May 1890: King Bendy, Barbara, Queen Beauty, Queen Anne, Fanny, Johnny McKenzie, Dusty Bob, Mickey, Kitty, Willie, Kirienah, Lawrence, Lucifer, Constable, Sarah, Emily, Sandy, Wombi, Gowrie, Clementina, Walter, Coolool, Sambo, Dinah, Horace, Peter, Lily, Maggie, Billy Barlow.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_99/12117](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston dated September 1899 advising that he is too sick to be able to meet the visitors at Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_99/14622](#)

Correspondence in relation to the removal of two Aboriginal girls from Canterbury via Windorah. The two girls, Annie and Bidy, are described as "half caste", fifteen years old and working for the last five years as domestic servants for a publican named Fred Bowman at Canterbury. The correspondence also states that Bidy gave birth to a child about May 1899. Archibald Meston recommended their "urgent" removal to Brisbane where Mrs Meston sent them on to Woolloowin. The memorandum from Sergeant Broderick at Windorah also mentions the renewal of work permit number 1408 for an Aboriginal man named Peter. The memorandum from Longreach to Archibald Meston also mentions Sally and Lucy. The memo suggests that Sally was living on Herbert Downs station in 1897.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/1953](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston dated February 9, 1900 recommending that instead of a holiday Harold Meston, who has been at Fraser Island for three years, should take over the organising of the movements of Aboriginals in his absence. Meston states that this arrangement will allow him "to travel to a number of places urgently in need of a long expected visit".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/2382](#)

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston in relation to a request to Cobb and Co for a reduction in coach fares for "all half caste and aboriginal girls coming in from the west". Also a letter from Cobb and Co

advising that the agreement for reduced fares only covers "police prisoners and gold escorts ... and does not include aboriginals or half castes unless they are police trackers or prisoners".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/2387](#)

Telegram from Inspector Garroway in Coen: "Please inform me whether permit for aboriginal labour is cancelled the agreement also falls through". A note attached to the telegram from Archibald Meston states that "when the permit is cancelled the agreement is dead and aboriginals must quite service at once, leaving no redress for employer ... no permits should be cancelled without clear and serious reason".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/2404](#)

Letter from Harold Meston in relation to sending tea and sugar to Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/2525](#)

Letter from Harold Meston discussing the best place to send two pregnant Aboriginal girls named Bessie and Nellie. There is a recommendation from Mrs Frew to send them to the Industrial Home at Normanby Hills, where they were subsequently taken.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/3912](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Rockhampton dated March 20, 1900 advising that he is leaving for Keppel Island and then will return to Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/4236](#)

Letter from Harold Meston advising that he had an Aboriginal woman (unnamed) taken out of Brisbane hospital and transferred to the Aboriginals Girls Home at West End. The woman had been admitted with injuries to both eyes but the doctors were unable to cure her.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/5526](#)

Correspondence in relation to an Aboriginal girl named Gerribah (also named as Girrila in the correspondence) from Normanton being removed from Toowoomba to Brisbane. Gerribah had travelled from Burketown to Toowoomba with her employers, Gerald Boyce and Margaret Boyce. Complaints had been received that Mrs Boyce had flogged Gerribah and Mr Boyce had kicked her. Archibald Meston then had Gerribah removed from the Boyce's and taken to Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/5833](#)

Telegrams from Archibald Meston in relation to a visit to the Eulo, Thargomindah and Hungerford districts. The telegram sent from Thargomindah and dated April 24, 1900 advises: "arrived last night leaving tomorrow for stations on the Wilson and Coopers Creek urgently in need of attention many troubles to settle have met large number of blacks assembled all directions shall wire later ask home secretary's authority for decisive action expect return here three weeks". The telegram from Thargomindah dated April 25, 1900 recommends that the "half caste children and women arriving Brisbane probably Saturday be sent to Deebing Creek".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826 00/5848](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston sent from Thargomindah and dated April 25, 1900: "party of blacks

from west about fifty will walk to Cunnamulla" "... they would starve here and rations too expensive will advise you later".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/7572](#)

Contains a telegram from the Sub-Collector of Customs in Cairns: "Please inform me if agreements with female half caste under aboriginal act is binding said half caste having lived in white family before and since act was passed".

Advises that "a half caste under the circumstances named is within the Interpretation Cause defining a half caste (sec 3, page 6174) and unless exempted under sec 33 an agreement made in accordance with sec 15 would be binding".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/8675](#)

Correspondence in relation to an Aboriginal woman named Rosie. Rosie is described as a native of the Maranoa and was admitted to Brisbane hospital on December 6, 1899 suffering from tuberculosis. There is a recommendation that she be moved to Roma hospital until well and then sent to a Home. She was subsequently sent to Myora (Stradbroke Island) and put in the care of a "half caste" named Mary Ann Phillips aka Beeamuribar.

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/9678](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Home Secretary denying allegations made against him that he had the wives of six Aboriginal men at Durundur removed to Fraser Island. 'I never took any women from these 6 boys because they never had any to take ... during the last three years no aboriginal women even resided on Durundur Station except a woman named Julia, now on Frasers Island, and she had her own husband at Deebing Creek where she was married by the Rev Peter Robertson. When I removed to Frasers Island the Woodford blacks who were camped in the reserve, there was only one single woman, named Bella (Toomullo) with a half caste child, and she certainly had nothing to do with the boys at Durundur. Meston also comments that "there are special reasons however why these boys should be sent somewhere where they can mate with women of their own race".

Queensland State Archives [ITM6826_00/9753](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston requesting someone to help him with clerical duties.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 4, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Recommends that no permits will be issued to publicans to employ Aboriginals; asks for authority to send a letter (in the report) to the Shipping Master in Cooktown setting down the regulations for employing Aboriginals on "coasting, trading, beche-de-mer, pearling and other vessels"; he discusses the expense of treating Aboriginals in the hospital and proposes to move them to the 8 Mile Native Police camp; asks permission to visit the Bloomfield district; advises that he has visited three local Aboriginal camps to give them "expressions of my friendship" and where he counted "about 130 souls" but some were out hunting and in town and the number would be nearer to 200, their health was mainly good; people have been spreading "malicious rumours" about him so that the Aboriginals will all leave the area. These have been started by people who are keeping horses and cattle on the Quarantine and Aboriginal reserves; he has been working on Aboriginal vocabularies and customs.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Advises that he will immediately see about moving the Aboriginals to 8 Mile Native Police camp; he is keen to visit the Bloomfield River district and gain information on the customs of the Aboriginals from Mr Hislop, discusses the issue of rations at Wyalla and Butchers Hill; advises that white men have been over to the North Shore reserve after Aboriginal women; he has two requests from miners to employ Aboriginals, he has draw their attention to the fact they need permits.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/2804](#)

Letter from the Reverend Hey to the Home Secretary dated February 15, 1898 advising that section 11 of the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act of 1897* does not allow anyone but Aboriginals and Superintendents of the reserves to be on a reserve. He advises that if the provisions of the Act were adhered to both the Reverend Brown and himself would be excluded from the two mission reserves in Cape York. He asks for them to be appointed superintendents by the Governor in Council.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Gives the number of Aboriginals at stations, mining camps and missions: Tablelands Station 36, Wyalla Station 37, Bloomfield Station 4, Bannabilla Station 34, St Nicholas Station 6, Nunnville Station 2, Granite Creek Station 2, Cunnamurra Station 2, Mt Romeo mining camp 10, Mt Hartley mining camp 10, China Camp 60, Mt Amos 35, Bloomfield River Mission Station 35. Also an entry for "wild ones": "there is said to be a small tribe living on the Tableland independently of Young: they cannot be got in, Const Whelan has never seen them". He estimates he has 300 Aboriginals "to deal with" in the district; advises on visits to selectors in the district who employ Aboriginals and gives general comments about their health, the availability of food and the treatment of the Aboriginals; advises that Mr Hislop of Wyalla has three "half caste children who he cares for; Mr Johnson, Antonio and another man living at St Nicholas Station are Portugese and are living with Aboriginal women to whom they have "half caste children" who attend school, the three men own a boat that trades with Cooktown; advises on the produce grown, living arrangements, buildings and treatment of the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station; mentions that Mr Baird (formally Mayor of Cooktown) of Cunnamurra has two "half caste" children who are sent to school; at China Camp there are complaints from Aboriginal men that Mr Coleman, Mr Leslie, Mr Murray and John Waugh are cohabiting with their women, also at Mt Romeo Ross Kelly and Ah Moo are cohabiting with Aboriginal women.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 25, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police.

Acknowledges the maps showing the size and location of the reserves and suggests they should be made smaller, he is keen to have the Quarantine reserve proclaimed an Aboriginal reserve; advises that he is working on his ethnological notes of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals; briefly mentions receiving a letter from RN Smith about his Kanaka and Aboriginal wife; hopes that Police Inspectors will soon be proclaimed Aboriginal Protectors and then refuse permits to publicans and "Asiatics" so that they are unable to employ Aboriginals; asks for permission to increase the allowance for rations supplied to the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Letter from Professor Van Luschan sent from Berlin to Walter Roth dated January 1, 1898 thanking Roth for the volume on the Queensland Aboriginals he sent him.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 4, 1898.

Advises that Roth is writing up a report on the ethnology of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals, mainly from notes supplied by Robert Hislop; the weather has delayed his visit to Cape Bedford and the Starcke and Mclvor districts; he has heard "of the good work being done at the Cape Bedford mission, "the native women being under control etc"; he intends starting on the ethnology of the Rockhampton Aboriginals, mainly from notes supplied by Mr Wyndham of Boyne Island; advises that he removed the Aboriginals from the hospital to the 8 Mile Native Police camp; Constable Whelan has visited the China Camp at Ayton and counted 83 Aboriginals there; apologises for not having gathered more information on the Cooktown Aboriginals, "the fact is they are so demoralised and yet half-civilised that it is extremely difficult to obtain anything really reliable concerning habits and customs of the old days".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3254](#)

Letter from the Commissioner of Police to the Home Secretary dated February 28, 1898 advising that he is forwarding three reports from Walter Roth in Cooktown (see below). "From a perusal of these it will be seen that he is doing useful preliminary work. I have instructed him on most of the points raised, and hope soon to make certain recommendations with a view to gradually bringing the Act into full operation".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3254](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated January 28, 1898 advising that he has been 'literally rushed' by applications for permits to employ Aboriginals, "I trust you will see your way to giving instructions that no permits be granted to publicans or Asiatics"; recommends that Aboriginal women should not be employed on beche-de-mer vessels, mentions one man named James Underwood who does take his Aboriginal wife with him and informs that "she has born him children whom he looks after and provides for", there are some Aboriginals outside the Cook district who are literally forced to go on these vessels; also mentions a proposed visit to the surrounding districts when the weather improves.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3254](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 4, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. (This is a typescript copy of the report). Recommends that no permits will be issued to publicans to employ Aboriginals; asks for authority to send a letter (in the report) to the Shipping Master in Cooktown setting down the regulations for employing Aboriginals on "coasting, trading, beche-de-mer, pearling and other vessels"; he discusses the expense of treating Aboriginals in the hospital and proposes to move them to the 8 Mile Native Police camp; asks permission to visit the Bloomfield district; advises that he has visited three local Aboriginal camps to give them "expressions of my friendship" and where he counted "about 130 souls" but some were out hunting and in town and the number would be nearer to 200, their health was mainly good; people have been spreading "malicious rumours" about him so that the Aboriginals will all leave the area. These have been started by people who are keeping horses and cattle on the Quarantine and Aboriginal reserves; he has been

working on Aboriginal vocabularies and customs.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3254](#)

(This is a typescript copy of the report).

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated February 11, 1898. Advises on sick Aboriginals in hospital and states that he will remove the Aboriginals from the hospital as soon as he has the permission to do so; gives the names of some of the Aboriginals who have come to him for medical treatment: Barney's gin, Tommy and Corporal Dick's child; he has been using the medicines from the Police Barracks to treat the sick Aboriginals; advises that he has forwarded some Aboriginal artifacts.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated March 11, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Advises that he is getting information on prospective employers of Aboriginals from "the most reliable source - the police"; states that he is "taking every care to work the Act in a manner least irksome to the public"; proposes to send monthly returns of employment permits granted and refused and returns of Aboriginals coming to Cooktown for medical treatment; he has several Aboriginal weapons to forward and is trying to get the police interested in collecting them; advises that a Clergyman from the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) advised him that some beche-de-mer fishermen have been recruiting at the mission and that some of the people recruited have not been returned, the Clergyman is keen to have the station proclaimed a reserve so that no one would have the right to go there.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#)

Two copies of the above report from Roth dated March 11, 1898.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3455](#)

Letter from the Commissioner of Police to the Home Secretary dated March 12, 1898 forwarding three reports from Walter Roth in Cooktown (see below).

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3455](#)

(This report is a typescript copy).

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 15, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Advises that he will immediately see about moving the Aboriginals to 8 Mile Native Police camp; he is keen to visit the Bloomfield River district and gain information on the customs of the Aboriginals from Mr Hislop; discusses the issue of rations at Wyalla and Butchers Hill; advises that white men have been over to the North Shore reserve after Aboriginal women; he has two requests from miners to employ Aboriginals, he has draw their attention to the fact they need permits.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/3455](#)

(This report is a typescript copy).

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Gives the number of Aboriginals at stations, mining camps and missions: Tablelands Station 36, Wyalla Station 37, Bloomfield Station 4, Bannabilla Station 34, St Nicholas Station 6, Nunnville

Station 2, Granite Creek Station 2, Cunnamurra Station 2, Mt Romeo mining camp 10, Mt Hartley mining camp 10, China Camp 60, Mt Amos 35, Bloomfield River Mission Station 35. Also an entry for "wild ones": "there is said to be a small tribe living on the Tableland independently of Young: they cannot be got in, Const Whelan has never seen them". He estimates he has 300 Aboriginals "to deal with" in the district; advises on visits to selectors in the district who employ Aboriginals and gives general comments about their health, the availability of food and the treatment of the Aboriginals; advises that Mr Hislop of Wyalla has three "half caste children who he cares for; Mr Johnson, Antonio and another man living at St Nicholas Station are Portugese and are living with Aboriginal women to whom they have "half caste children" who attend school, the three men own a boat that trades with Cooktown; advises on the produce grown, living arrangements, buildings and treatment of the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station; mentions that Mr Baird (formally Mayor of Cooktown) of Cunnamurra has two "half caste" children who are sent to school; at China Camp there are complaints from Aboriginal men that Mr Coleman, Mr Leslie, Mr Murray and John Waugh are cohabiting with their women, also at Mt Romeo Ross Kelly and Ah Moo are cohabiting with Aboriginal women.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/3455](#)

(This report is a typescript copy).

Report from Walter E Roth dated February 25, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Acknowledges the maps showing the size and location of the reserves and suggests they should be made smaller, he is keen to have the Quarantine reserve proclaimed an Aboriginal reserve; advises that he is working on his ethnological notes of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals; briefly mentions receiving a letter from RN Smith about his Kanaka and Aboriginal wife; hopes that Police Inspectors will soon be proclaimed Aboriginal Protectors and then refuse permits to publicans and "Asiatics" so that they are unable to employ Aboriginals; asks for permission to increase the allowance for rations supplied to the Aboriginals at Bloomfield River Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/3455](#)

(This report is a typescript copy).

Letter from Professor Van Luschan sent from Berlin to Walter Roth dated January 1, 1898 thanking Roth for the volume on the Queensland Aboriginals he sent him.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/4501](#)

Correspondence in relation to requests for advice and amendments to the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act (section on employment permits).

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/4506](#)

Telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Townsville to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898 requesting Aboriginal work agreement forms and work permits.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/4652](#)

Telegram from Inspector Graham in Normanton: "Re aboriginal protector may I suggest that an advisement be put into local press giving notice to employers of aboriginals that an agreement must be made between them can I do so what wages are to be paid to males and females per month".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5181](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated April 15, 1898 advising that he has forwarded a report on the ethnology of the Cape Bedford Aboriginals; he has sent for more medicine, which is required for the Musgrave and Coen districts; he is making enquiries re the correspondence forwarded to him concerning the employment of Aboriginals on coconut plantations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5351](#)

Letter (98/4906) is a telegram from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "Your wire to me of January 26th last mislaid re no aboriginals to be shipped on vessels trading to New Guinea or outside Queensland waters please wire copy immediately".

Letter (98/4990) is a telegram from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "Suggest advisability of leaving next Saturday for Thursday Island where according to last Queenslander to hand notice has been issued by Government Resident to the effect that mainland natives will not be granted permit until my arrival I could proceed to Normanton and return here by same boat kindly advise".

Letter (98/5351) is a telegram from John Douglas on Thursday Island to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "Dr Roth passed through yesterday on his way to Normanton returning by same boat satisfactory interview with him have no doubt that we shall gradually get aboriginal matters into shape". A note on the telegram from the Police Commissioner states: "Glad of your telegram 26th re Dr Roth. I wish Protection Act worked to cause as little friction as possible and not to be enforced as to interfere with the proper and lawful employment of natives; but to be used to put down abuses. I desire matters on Thursday Island to be carried on in harmony with your views and shall be glad of your assistance and advice at any time".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5357](#)

Letter (98/5316) is a telegram from Walter Roth on Thursday Island to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "Everything satisfactorily arranged writing fully leaving this afternoon for Normanton to initiate and consult with Inspector Graham return by same boat". A note on the telegram from the Commissioner of Police states: "Yours 25th re initiating Protection Act at Normanton. I do not wish too drastic action taken the status quo should not be disturbed where no abuse exists and blacks are properly treated. In such cases even agreements need not be insisted on. I wish to cause as little friction as possible and to throw no obstacles in the way of legitimate employment of natives. Good police supervision will meet the case".

Letter (98/5346) is a telegram from Walter Roth in Normanton to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "Will consult with Inspector Graham this morning and explain to him the arrangements we have carried out at Cooktown re Aboriginals Protection Act am leaving here Saturday".

Letter (98/5357) is a telegram from Walter Roth in Normanton to the Commissioner of Police dated April 1898: "I went over all matters with Inspector Graham and have this morning given him in writing the substance of your instructions telegraphed last night".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5373](#)

Letter from Inspector Marrett in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated April 22, 1898 advising that 176 applications for permits to employ Aboriginals have been received, 172 of which have been

granted. "There are some persons here who persistently employ aboriginals without permission notwithstanding having been warned". He suggests that action should be taken against them "as a conviction or two would have the desired effect of making people in outlying districts comply with the Act".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5395](#)

Correspondence from Inspector Marrett and Walter Roth in Cooktown in relation to work permits for employing Aboriginal labour. Also includes draft forms of the work permits and agreements and a legal opinion from the Crown Solicitor.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5733](#)

Telegram from Inspector Brannelly in Longreach dated May 1898 requesting work agreement forms and permits to employ Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5872](#)

Telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Townsville dated May 1898: "I cannot comply with the provisions of the aboriginal protection act without the agreements when will they be forwarded".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/5931](#)

Correspondence from Thursday Island in relation to applying the employment provisions of the *Aboriginals Protection Act* to the 300 Torres Strait Islanders currently employed in the pearl shell fishing industry in Torres Strait.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/6450](#)

Telegram from Inspector Medrum in Rockhampton requesting work permit and agreement forms for employing Aboriginals under the provisions of the Act.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/6462](#)

Contains an article from the March 29, 1899 edition of the Brisbane Courier re work agreements for Aboriginals: "Our local police officer has received instructions to see that those who employ aboriginals have them duly registered, otherwise the Act will be brought to bear on those offending; but having to attach a duty stamp to the agreement appears most absurd, as in many cases the aboriginal, body and soul for twelve months, is not worth the amount, and the public generally do not feel disposed to feed them gratis, therefore some steps will have to be taken to supply them with food or shift them to a reserve". The file also contains associated correspondence from Cairns in relation to complaints that shipping masters have to pay a shipping fee and a work agreement fee under the new Act to employ Aboriginal labourers in the beche-de-mer trade. Also contains correspondence in relation to Walter Roth preventing the 'Daultless' and 'Curlew' from sailing from Cairns to the Coral Sea outside Queensland waters with Aboriginal labourers on board, including an article from the April 28, 1898 edition of the Cairns Post.

Suggests that the beche-de-mer trade was nearly ruined by Roth's decision, but fortunately the decision was overturned by the Commissioner of Police.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/6932](#)

Correspondence from Inspector Marrett in Cooktown forwarding a draft Aboriginal work permit form,

which he and Walter Roth recommend as the best format.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6933](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated May 15, 1898 requesting that his photographic negatives of Aboriginal subjects be printed.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6934](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Roth expresses his surprise that a deputation of graziers who met the Premier in Cairns suggested that the *Aboriginals Protection Act* was enacted to remove Aboriginals to reserves. He states that this is "a false impression" ... "originally emanating in the imagination of mischievous whites".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6935](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 18, 1898 advising on a visit to Cape Bedford Mission Station. He informs that the Aboriginals are at present "crowding into" the station. The report also contains details of a conversation between Roth and the Reverend Schwartz in relation to the government taking away the subsidy to Cape Bedford and giving one to the Boggy Creek reserve. Also advises that there are 25 permanent Aboriginals at Cape Bedford, all of them attend school, go to church and attend to the garden; describes the produce grown on the reserve and the limited natural food resources; the average number of Aboriginals fed during the year is 70; there is a problem with Messrs Brannigan and Miller who run their cattle on the reserve and refuse to move them; the settlers from the Mclvor district are sending the Aboriginals into the station for rations and this has increased to 90 those who are fed; advises that he handed out tobacco to the Aboriginals; visited the camps on the North Shore and told the Aboriginals there that "after having their permits and agreements they must not attempt to leave their employers and try and obtain work from others; advises that the Aboriginals at the North Shore are living on a Quarantine reserve not an Aboriginal reserve so until this is changed, under the Act, he cannot prevent them from being molested or interfered with; advises that he has refused to issue work permits to two miners; brief discussion of the patients in the Aboriginal hospital (no names).

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6935](#)

Letter from the Reverend Schwartz in Cooktown to Walter Roth dated March 16, 1898 advising that there are at present about 90 Aboriginals at Cape Bedford asking for food. He states that for the last 5 years the mission has not received any government assistance and asks Roth to approach the government for help.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6936](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 25, 1898. Advises that the local Aboriginals are recognising that he is there in their interests "and as their friend", this will allow him to gain information of scientific interest from them; mentions the government approving an allowance for Cape Bedford mission; in wet weather he travels in one of the native canoes to get to the mission; advises the cancellation of the Quarantine reserve at North Shore and having it proclaimed an Aboriginal reserve; he is anxious to get all the children of the Cooktown Aboriginals under the charge of the missionaries, "far more and lasting improvement can be made in their condition if we can get hold of them when young.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6936](#)

Letter from Walter Roth to the editor of the Australasian dated March 25, 1898 in relation to the word "Kangaroo" (see also the end of the above report from Roth dated March 25, 1898). Advises that in vindication of Captain Cook's accuracy of detail in the dialect of the Koko-yemodic the term Gang-oo-roo expresses the old man grey kangaroo. Also discusses the use of sign language by the Aboriginals in the Cooktown and Boulia districts.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6937](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 31, 1898. Suggests that the printed agreement and permit forms for the employment of Aboriginals are not suitable for this district, there is no provision for the employers name and not enough descriptive details of the employee required; the wording of the agreement forms will encourage the Act to be exploited, he suggests that the draft forms submitted by Inspector Marrett would be more suitable to the district; advises that he has forwarded some anthropometric charts and will soon forward some message sticks and netted dilly bags; he has forwarded 28 specimens of native plants to the Government Botanist for identification; he has visited 17 sick Aboriginals and the Aboriginals at the 8 Mile hospital are doing fairly well, seven are now under treatment there; intends to visit Cape Bedford and he will be sailing on the same schooner that is to take the rations to the mission; advises that he does not have a problem with the working of the *Native Labourers Act*; he is pleased at the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors being appointed Protectors of Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6938](#)

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Commissioner of Police dated May 30, 1898 acknowledging receipt of three reports from Walter Roth and advising that the Home Secretary has approved Roth's request that a letter accompanying his March 25 report be sent to the Australasian for publication.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6943](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated April 22, 1898. Advises that he intends to visit Thursday Island and Normanton in relation to instigating the provisions of the Aboriginals Protection Act; he is unhappy about the decision to allow shipping masters to employ Aboriginals without a work permit; advises that he gave Sub-Inspector Fergusson permission to remove two Aboriginal women from Cairns to Brisbane, when asked for the agreements Fergusson stated that he had been informed by Meston that Police officers did not require agreements, Roth suggests that the Act should be enforced the same as it is in the north.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6944](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated May 6, 1898. Discusses the employment of Aboriginals in and beyond Queensland waters; about 300 Aboriginals are employed pearl shell diving; the natives employed in the fisheries in the Torres Strait are able to look after themselves and do not require protective legislation; the resurgence of the pearl shelling trade has increased the recruitment of mainland Aboriginals, principally from the Seven Rivers district of western Cape York; the press-gang system of recruiting is carried on at the present time; permits for recruiting south of Duyphen Point will not be issued because the Aboriginals are "myalls" and outrages will follow if it continues; deposits should be paid by the fishermen for each Aboriginal they employ to encourage them to return the Aboriginals to their homes after their employment agreements expire; there has been a suggestion from Mr Douglas that the Japanese, Malays and Manilla men should not be allowed to employ Aboriginals; included in the report are copies of notices

re the employment of Aboriginals by aliens that appeared in the Torres Strait Pilot; also comments that there are Aboriginals employed on Thursday Island who will need permits; he has advised the Batavia River mission (Mapoon) to get the Aboriginal residents under employment permits to prevent the raids on the mission; reports that at Normanton the Europeans are very keen to get their Aboriginals under work agreements.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/6946](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 27, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. The report includes a letter sent from several Aboriginals living at Cape Bedford to the Chief Protector (i.e. the Commissioner of Police) in their own language with an English translation. The authors of the letter are: Magdalena, Elisabeth, Martha, Freida, Maria and Anna. The report also has a section on the manufacture of hair twine and the customs associated with it "as practiced on the Morehead River and Musgrave River". The informant is Mary, a native tracker's wife from 8 Mile Native Police camp, Cooktown. Also: Aboriginal name for human hair twine: ma-nung-an. The needle used: ng-gi-ur-jur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/7160](#)

Letter from the Cairns Police Station to the Commissioner of Police dated June 2, 1898 in relation to the employment of Aboriginals by Chinese and other aliens. The letter advises that a great many Chinese and South Sea Islanders have been employing Aboriginals and this has led to abuses of Aboriginals. There is a suggestion that the Chinese pay Aboriginals in opium. The letter states that to date no permits have been issued to these people but 20 applications have been received. There is a request for advice in the matter and a suggestion that families of mixed South Sea Islander and Aboriginal descent should not be "interfered with".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/7179](#)

Report from Sub-Inspector Cooper sent from Cairns and dated June 3, 1898. Advises that he travelled from Cairns to the Tate River police station visiting the Aboriginal camps on the way in his capacity as Aboriginal Protector. The visit was in response to the "wishes expressed by the Honourable TJ Byrnes the Premier that he would like to know the feelings of the Cairns district with regard to the amending of the Aboriginal Act". He advises that he met with the various progress associations and "fully explained the Act at the meetings referred to". He interviewed 500 Aboriginals on the way and explained to them that the government was their friend and that they would not be removed from their country, but that they must work.

Also advises that he authorised the issue of rations to those incapable of work; he does not think the idea of removing Aboriginals on to reserves would be a success, public opinion is against it; there are 5 or 6 blind Aboriginals in Atherton, the blindness is thought to be caused from eating a poisonous root or nut; Mr Kelly the Chairman of the Atherton Progress Association has been feeding the Aboriginals which is a burden on him, suggests only feeding those incapable of looking after themselves; there is a large and increasing demand for Aboriginal labour and if the able bodied were not fed they will look for work; suggests that the presents of pipes and tobacco he gave them from the government had more effect in showing the Aboriginals that they were to be befriended than all the talking in the world could have done. Attached to the report are the minutes from the meetings between Sub-Inspector Cooper and the Barron Valley and Montalbion progress associations. The main resolutions of the meetings include: Asiatics, Chinese and Malays should not be able to employ Aboriginal labour, Aboriginals should not be removed because they "pine for their native country and friends and die under the confinement". Also includes related newspaper articles from the Cairns Advocate.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/7416](#)

Correspondence in relation to the condition of, and the supplying rations to, the Aboriginals at the Tate River. Also concerns from the Aboriginals at Herberton that they would be removed. Also includes a photograph of several Aboriginals at the Tate River.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/7701](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 6, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Advises that he visited Boggy Creek reserve at Butchers Hill and Kings Plains. At Boggy Creek there are about 60 Aboriginals; 4 Aboriginals are employed at Springvale; at Kings Plains 2 Aboriginal women are employed. "The gins [at Kings Plains] complained to me of their children being detained, against their wishes, at a neighbouring station. Maggie has a full-blooded son about 8 or 9 years of age at Springvale, whence he has already attempted to run away but been brought back: Mollie has a little half-caste girl at Oakey Creek station. I have written to Mr Cooke to return the former, and Mr Marrett will deal with the latter". Also gives the Aboriginal language names of various places in the district:

Butchers Hill headstation: da-bi-Li The whole run: young-koor
West Normanby River, main portion: cho-kon It's most westerly head: jou-wool
Head of the Daintree River: jol-li
Mount Windsor: kulm-bar Kings Plains run: tandi Lake country above run: boon-ka-ra
Christmas Day Lagoon: wou-a-bud-ja
East Normanby River: yoo-moo Mount Byerley: kun-ya-ka-ra
Banana Creek: ka-boo Scrubby Creek: mud-ja Maytown: wool-boor-joor-boor.

"The only tribes discoverable in the district just traversed are the Yoong-koor-ara of Butchers Hill and amongst them two remnants of the Jou-wool-ara (of the most westerly head of the W Normanby River): the former speak Koko yalanji, and the latter Kokoboin-ji". "These Butchers Hill aboriginals used in the old days to have their walkabout comprising the head of the Daintree R, the Bloomfield, Mount Windsor, and sometimes to the Laura and Maytown". Maytown is the "head camp of the wool-boor-ara who wander between that township, Laura and Palmerville and who speak Ko-ko-min-ni . . . [and who are] "at enmity with the Deighton blacks who speak Ko-ko-wa-ra. The social organisation of the Butchers Hill Aboriginals has four primary divisions: Woongko, Bunburi, Koorkilla and Koopooroo.

Also lists the Aboriginal names of some of the things not covered in his earlier vocabulary:

Mir-rim-bal: the cockatoo-top-knot head ornament used only by the leader in inter tribal fighting.

Ngon-yin: "hour-glass" pattern dilly bag.

Ye-kan-e-kan: "hour-glass" pattern-mesh fishing net.

Yer-ko: grass bead necklace worn and made only by women.

Jo-rong-oor: a small flat piece of iron wood for smoothing down the resin in the manufacture of a spear, at the union of the shaft and butt.

Too-cha-ba-la: ironwood

Chil-ngar: the square nautilus-chip necklace worn by men over the forehead, by women around the neck.

Mel-bar: the cup-shaped nautilus shell worn by men over the back of the shoulders, by women between the breasts.

Mar-war: the particular form of string used for tying round the waists of women and old men, or across from one shoulder to the opposite arm-pit, in the case of women, as signficatory of mourning.

Nging-gun: mussel shell (used a "spoon" etc) brought here from Byerstown and Palmer River. War-kul and Kar-bo: "spoons" made from marine shell obtained from the Bloomfield and Cooktown.

Boo-rad-ja and Ji-ba: two names for the beeswax used for fixing the pegs and hafts on to the woomeras.

Mil-bar: the woomera made of ironwood.

Nga-til: woomera made of yellow-coloured wood. Mun-nim-bul: match-box firesticks.

Also gives illustrations of some hand gestures and their meanings customary to the Butchers Hill Aboriginals.

The report also advises on a trip to Bloomfield River and Cape Bedford mission stations. Roth suggests that the Bloomfield mission station is not run "for the amelioration of the blacks and is run rather on commercial lines than on philanthropic lines", if they do not show a marked improvement in the next 12 months their subsidy should be cut; Cape Bedford should be granted a subsidy of 100 pounds on the understanding that they take in more of the "Cooktown aboriginal waifs and strays"; requests the condemned tobacco from the Customs stores for distribution to the Aboriginals; the main beche-de-mer fishing grounds are near New Caledonia and out of the jurisdiction of Queensland, which puts any Aboriginals working in the industry out of reach of any supervision; suggests that marriages between white men and Aboriginal women will be resorted to in order to evade the provisions of the Act, which may prove advantageous to both parties, as well as the children, but permission should be sought from the local Protectors who will enquire into the particulars; Roth is anxious for the reserves to be gazetted: "when the cattle come the blacks must go, and each succeeding year will increase the difficulties of protecting the aboriginals so long as certain tracts of land are not specially set apart for them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/7714](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated May 13, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police. Report forwarding an account of some of the native foods of the Bloomfield River Aboriginals. Description of how yams, nuts, fruits and berries, bulbs and tubers and game animals are harvested, prepared and cooked. Also some detail of the customs associated with their consumption, e.g. yams harvested by men can only be eaten by men. Also the names of the various food resources in the local Aboriginal language.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No Letter number

Brief report from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police dated July 1, 1898 advising that 210 permits or agreements have been registered in his district, and only one refusal. Also advises that "the Act is working fairly well but it requires time before proper result can be known".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

First half-yearly report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated July 1, 1898. Advises that the provisions of the Act have been carried out with as little friction as possible; about 1100 permits have been issued; John Douglas on Thursday Island, Inspector Marrett in Cooktown and Inspector Cooper in Cairns report that with regard to the Act everything is working smoothly; the subsidy for Cape Bedford mission has been continued; a hospital at 8 Mile Creek has been erected for sick Aboriginals; all Aboriginal women and children under puberty have been refused permission to be shipped on the pearl shelling and beche-de-mer boats; he has been collecting information of anthropological and ethnological interest, some of which have already been forwarded; he forwards several suggestions "which may perhaps prove opportune in case of any amendments of the Act".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/8347](#)

Letter from The Commissioner of Police forwarding three reports from Walter Roth. The third report from Roth dated May 27 is advising that he was surprised that the deputation by graziers to the Premier

in Cairns grossly misrepresented the *Aboriginals Protection Act*. The deputation of graziers suggested that the Aboriginals Protection Act was enacted to remove Aboriginals to reserves. He states that this is "a false impression" ... "originally emanating in the imagination of mischievous whites".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/9106](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated July 15, 1898. Advises that the fishing net has arrived for Cape Bedford mission and that he intends to deliver it personally; he proposes a visit to the Aboriginals at the Daintree River, 140 of whom are sick on Mr Fisher's station. He then proposes visiting Cairns, Atherton, Ingham and Cardwell.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/9478](#)

Report from Walter E Roth dated June 24, 1898 from Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police, with associated correspondence. Reports on a visit to the Starcke River in the neighbourhood of Munbarra. Roth advises on the Aboriginal language names of places in the district: Mountain range east of Starcke River: Moon-bar, and the Aboriginals inhabiting them: Moonbar-ara (it was this name which gave the first settlers Munbarra for the township).

Country on either side of the Starcke River: Doon-jo, and the Aboriginals inhabiting it: Doonjo- ara, Now, piri is the locally spoken (Kokoyimidir) name for a river and hence: Starcke River: Piri-doonjo. Similarly, Wallace's selection on the Mclvor: Bin-di and occupied by the Bindi-wara, Mclvor River, or rather that portion passing through it, being called Piri- bindi, Mclvor River, country at its mouth: Koo-lul, inhabited by Koolul-ara, Mclvor River, Coate's selection and country around it at its junction with Cocoa Creek: Woon-dul, inhabited by Woondul-ara. Morgan River: Walm-bar. Gorton's selection: Par-ra. Thygeson's selection: Kam-bar. Cape Flattery: Vor-ro. Lookout Point: Tan-yil. Barrow Point: Mo-yer. Jeannie River: Vorl-boon.

"The Koko-jombol speaking aboriginals inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke R round to Cape Flattery. They walk about down the coast to the mouth of the Mclvor River where they meet the Cape Bedford and Mclvor blacks, and up the banks of the Starcke as far as Munbarra".

"The Koko-yimbol speaking blacks inhabit the coast line from the mouth of the Starcke as far certainly as Barrow Point, travelling a little way up both the Jeannie and Starcke rivers".

"From the fact of the Munbarra (Starcke River) people being able to communicate with both the koke-jom-bol and koko-jimol speaking blacks, there cannot be much difference in their dialects

and that of the Cooktown (koko-yimidir speaking) individuals".

Also discusses the relations between the Aboriginals and the miners at Munbarra and names three of the Aboriginals as Frank, Missy and Billy.

Roth also asks for an opinion on Aboriginal minors being employed on fishing boats, there has been a case of a father trading one of his children to a fisherman for flour and tobacco. "As far as I can learn from tribal customs any child under puberty (i.e. before the first initiation ceremony) is the absolute slave, and has to obey the absolute bidding" of the father. "Hence if the father (bribed or not) says yes, the child has to go".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 98/9567](#)

Copy of the report from Sub-Inspector Cooper sent from Cairns and dated June 3, 1898 advising that he travelled from Cairns to the Tate River police station visiting the Aboriginal camps on the way in his

capacity as Aboriginal Protector.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police dated July 31, 1898 enclosing a memo from the government printer advising that he is having trouble reproducing some of Roth's photographs. Roth's letter also advises that he is surprised to learn that his Cape Bedford Mission report was to be published. He also asks if the government printer can have the negatives of his photos, which he has forwarded so that they can print from them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/9571](#)

Letter from the Commissioner of Police to the Home Secretary dated July 18, 1898 forwarding Walter Roth's first half-yearly report (see also the original) dated July 1, 1898. The Commissioner states that he does not endorse all of Roth's recommendations, but that he proposes to deal with the whole question when he visits the north.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Return advising that ministerial authority is required for the continuation of payments for the relief of Aborigines for the financial year 1898-1899. Shows the amount spent by location. Locations include Atherton, Ayton, Banana, Batavia River, Bellenden Kerr, Bloomfield, Bowen, Butchers Hill, California Creek, Cape Bedford, Coen, Cardwell, Daintree River, Deebing Creek, Fisherton, Highbury, Lawn Hill, Turn off Lagoon, Mareeba, Marie Yamba, Mackay, Maytown, Moreton, Mein, Mungindi, Myola, Thornborough, Thursday Island, Whitsunday Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from Walter Roth at Bellenden Kerr Mission Station to the Commissioner of Police dated 1898. Advises that he went to see the Sub-Collector in Cairns in relation to two Aboriginal women on the 'Spitfire' for which he had blamed the Shipping Master (no other details). He learned, however, that permission had been granted by the police sergeant in Inspector Cooper's absence.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police dated August 6, 1898 forwarding a report on the Bellenden Kerr Mission Station (see directly below). He advises that he distributed rations at the mission and accompanied Mr Gribble "up the Inlet, visiting 6 or 7 native camps", and inspected his method of recruiting - he brought back two children on the trip".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Report on the Bellenden Kerr Mission Station from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police. Gives a brief history of the mission station; the mission is staffed by the Reverend Ernest Gribble, Gribble's mother and the captain of the cutter, a South Sea Islander named Ambrym; there are an average of 77 "regulars" fed at the mission and an average of 80 "casuals"; gives details of the buildings at the mission; the number of livestock; the area under cultivation, the varieties of foods grown and eaten; the Aborigines are given music lessons; describes the domestic training the girls and boys receive; there is a rule that once a girl comes to the mission she is not allowed to leave, Roth states that this is an excellent rule because it "means a settled family"; discusses the finances of the mission; the aims and objects of the mission are to work towards self-support in the future; the health of the Aborigines on the mission is very good; also gives some general recommendations and suggestions in relation to

the running of the mission.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from B Marshall sent from Coffee Farm, Hambledon to Walter Roth in Cairns dated August 5, 1898. He advises that the Aboriginals from the Yarrabah mission under the charge of the Reverend Gribble have picked the whole of his coffee crop. He states that he is very happy with the work done. "The whole conduct of the boys speaks volumes for the careful training they have evidently received".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Two telegrams from Walter Roth in Cairns to the Commissioner of Police dated August 1898.

The first advises that he has returned from the Bellenden Kerr mission with a collection of photographs to illustrate his report which will be forwarded by the next mail. The second telegram advises that he will forward a report on the mission and that he accompanied the mission cutter on a recruiting trip.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Two telegrams from Walter Roth to the Commissioner of Police dated July 1898. The first sent from Cairns advises that he is leaving for the Bellenden Kerr Mission Station. The second sent from Cooktown advises: "find that local boats at Port Douglas do not suit time table of boat from north this would mean requisition pilot boat and engaging special services an unnecessary expense leaving therefore direct for Cairns will visit Daintree on return journey".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) 98/9665

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated July 28, 1898. Advises that there is a great deal of sickness amongst the Aboriginals of the Musgrave and Coen districts and he has forwarded medicine to the districts; he has been supplied with unsaleable tobacco by the Sub-Collector for distribution to the Aboriginals; advises that in his last report he stated that Aboriginal women and children under the age of puberty would be prohibited from working on peal shelling or beche-de-mer boats. However, Roth is upset that he has received a telegram from the Government Resident on Thursday Island informing that the 'Spitfire' was in that port with two Aboriginal women on board who had been shipped from Cairns, he hopes that the government will regulate so that Protectors "have a legal say in the matter".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated September 1, 1898 forwarding a report on the Cape Bedford mission (see directly below) and a report on the Mapoon Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Report on the Aboriginal Mission Stations Elim and Hope Valley at Cape Bedford For the Last Ten Years from the Reverend Flierl. Gives a brief history of the missions; a number of young Aboriginals stay at the mission and receive instruction in religion, reading and writing, 14 children are baptised, ten more attend school and there are a total of 24 Aboriginals on the mission and "camp blacks" coming and going; the greater part of the tribe prefer to live in the bush or stay in Cooktown; discusses the attempts to grow produce and farm cattle; lists the expenses incurred by the mission since 1888;

states that missionary work is much harder in North Queensland than in New Guinea but they will persevere; they know 300 Aboriginals belonging to the Cooktown tribe and reckon the whole tribe to number 500 living on the coast from Cooktown over Cape Bedford and Cape Flattery to a distance of about 100 miles; states that they receive 5 pounds per month for rations and they hope they will not be overlooked by the government but treated in the same manner as other mission stations; mission work with the Aboriginals needs time and patience because they are not used to hard work and they are slow to leave their former manners and customs; "the Aboriginals left their hunting grounds to the white settlers. The ancient owner, the poor black man is nearly dying out, leaving a beautiful rich land to the white man. How many thousand happy homes are founded on the inheritance of the black people!".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/11977](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated September 21, 1898 advising that he has inserted the following notice in the local newspaper:

Aboriginals Protection And Restriction Of Sale Of Opium Act 1897 "All persons to whom permits have been granted for employment of Aboriginals or female half castes under the above Act, are requested to call, accompanied by the employees, at the local police stations, for the purpose of filling up the required agreement forms".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/11978](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated September 16, 1898 in relation to work agreements, permits etc. Recommends the printing of permit forms for the employment of casual labour and gives an example of the form; also gives an example of a suitable agreement form; he requests some books to register employment details; he would like to see only one branch of the police service issue relief to the Aboriginals, at present relief is administered by Police Magistrates and local Protectors, he suggests that the Police Inspector in each district be responsible; suggests that he send monthly reports on expenditure, any special cases of relief, permits granted etc; the list of permits for the removal of Aboriginals from outside the district is extremely necessary for him to have, included is a suggested form for the documenting of relief etc; Roth notes the Commissioners concern about taking too drastic measures for violations of the Act but suggests that the time is now ripe for enforcing any flagrant breaches; suggests that it is not advisable to let Chinese or "coloured aliens" employ Aboriginals but where there are cases of these persons being married to Aboriginal women there should be leniency shown; suggests that the missionaries on the various reserves be appointed superintendents and given the legal status to which they are entitled; suggests that his work organising and initiating the Act in the Cooktown district is nearly finished but he would like to arrange things in the Normanton or Townsville district before leaving; the method of blanket distribution is unsatisfactory, blankets should be forwarded to the Police Inspectors "who are the best judges as to where and when to distribute them".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/13442](#)

Correspondence in relation to complaints from the Barron Valley Farmers and Progress Association and the Atherton Farmers Progress Society that the Chinese are employing Aboriginal labour. There are also complaints that the Aboriginals Protection and the Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 will interfere with the employment of Aboriginals, fears are raised that Aboriginals will be removed from the district to reserves.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_98/13586](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated October 26, 1898 advising

that he has inserted some amendments to the conditions of the Aboriginal work agreement forms. These conditions require the employers to provide suitable shelter, blankets, rations including tobacco, clothing, maintenance during sickness, and the employee must be returned to his/her native country (contains a copy of the work agreement form with the amendments written in - this form mentions Toby of Bloomfield River who was working for James Johnston of Cooktown). The agreement may be terminated if there is ill-treatment or want of proper shelter, rations or clothing. Roth also advises that he has discharged three patients from the Aboriginal hospital [8 Mile Creek] and returned to Highbury.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Telegram from Walter Roth at Musgrave to the Commissioner of Police dated November 1898: "Please try visit Cairns Bloomfield and Cape Bedford missions on your journey north will advise you whenever possible as to my movements".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Return from Inspector Marrett in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated November 28, 1898 showing the amount sent of Aboriginal relief in the Cook district. Includes amounts for Atherton, Ayton, Batavia River, Bellenden Kerr, Bloomfield, Butchers Hill, California Creek, Cape Bedford, Coen, Daintree River, Fisherton, Mareeba, Maytown, Mountalbyn, Moreton, Mein, Musgrave, Myola, Thornborough, Thursday Island, Palmer. Marrett also suggests that relief should be under the supervision of the District Protectors and the Police Magistrates relieved of the duty.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) 98/15678

Letter from the Camooweal police station to Inspector Graham in Normanton dated November 16, 1898 advising that a sick Aboriginal named Echo has taken a turn for the worst. He also advises that many of the Aboriginals in the camp are suffering from disease. "they sorley need medical advice and treatment by some doctor or person who properly understands this disease".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) 98/16232 Letter number 98/16070

Report from Inspector Marrett in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated December 19, 1898. Advises that all efforts have been turned towards suppressing the supply of opium to Aboriginals; the Act is working smoothly, disease is very prevalent amongst the town and coastal Aboriginals; he is unable to give an exact figure on the number of "half-caste" children, "but would average them throughout the district at about 6 to 7 per cent of births", I "would strongly recommend that they should be removed to a Mission Station or reserve under supervision at an early age, say 4 or 5 and kept there until puberty".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) 98/16232

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated December 23, 1898. Advises that the supply of opium to the Aboriginals is being minimised in the settled districts but is still a problem in the outlying districts; the special regulations introduced to ensure the tins of opium were labelled have not worked; He comments that "he is aware of the difficulties under which the government labours in dealing with the opium question, from which a very large revenue is derived", Roth makes some suggestions stop the supply of opium to Aboriginals; Roth estimates that there is one "half-caste" among very 25 Aboriginals, "this of course does not present the total average of h.c. children actually born, because many are killed as a matter of principle - the colour being sufficient"; states he has removed a

young female "half-caste" to one of the missions; also comments on the health of the Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_99/2208](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated February 2, 1899 forwarding a letter from Mr Kelly in Atherton (see directly below). Roth also advises that he has forwarded photographs of the Musgrave native Police camp and of White ford with his Trackers.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_99/2208](#)

Letter from W Kelly in Atherton to Walter Roth dated January 16, 1899 advising that he has distributed clothes to the Aboriginals. "I am sure you will be pleased that instead of 30/- worth clothes there was between three and four pounds worth given to them and were you hear their expressions of thanks and gratitude both to yourself and the government you would feel amply repaid for the kindness you have shown on this occasion". Kelly also asks for a bottle of medicine for a young Aboriginal woman.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_99/4285](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of rations to Cape Bedford Mission Station, Cooktown. Also mentions that Cape Bedford gets 5 pounds per month, Butchers Hill 4 pounds per month and Bloomfield River gets 200 pounds per year for rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from the Reverend Gribble at Bellenden Kerr Mission Station to the Commissioner of Police dated March 27, 1899 requesting assistance to purchase a new boat for the mission and advising that several young children have been gathered into the mission station and that some of the men are out picking coffee.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_99/5033](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 23, 1899. Advises that he visited Cape Bedford mission and completed the grammar of the local language, which he will be forwarding; he intended making a surprise visit on the pearling fleet, but found that a "terrible disaster" have befallen it. "I have since been instructed by the Under Secretary to make arrangements for personally distributing among the coastal blacks, who buried the bodies the various gifts which the government are rewarding them with"; he suggests that there is a need for a boat to be based in Cooktown to bring in police supplies, he also comments that the boat should be crewed by Native Police troopers under the command of Constable Kenny, because "I feel more and more convinced, as time goes on, that trouble will most certainly sooner or later arise amongst these coastal tribes, consequent on the depredations and outrages inflicted upon them by the beche-de-mer men, pearlery etc".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_99/5294](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated March 31, 1899. Advises that he intends to visit Keppel Island; he is forwarding a report on the Kokojimider language; he intends to visit the Laura and Maytown districts; he also intends to visit Bloomfield River mission and while there investigate reports of the 'disgraceful state of affairs alleged to exist on Hope Island where the beche-de-mer man Underwood has his station; he then proposes to visit Marie Yamba and then Clump Point "where the trouble has been concerning the recruiting of blacks".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 99/7553](#)

Correspondence in relation to appointing the Police Commissioner the Protector of Petty Sessions districts, Roth the Protector of the northern region, and Meston Protector of the southern region.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 99/7643](#)

Report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated May 12, 1899 advising that he has forwarded a scientific report on the Kokominni Aboriginals of the middle Palmer and an annual report on the Aboriginals Protection Act. He also states that on page 8 of the latter report he makes reference to Rokeby station being "owned" by the Masseys. "In case of my veracity being called into question, I am attaching my authority for making it herewith (see below*)." "There is too much of this sort of thing going on up here in the north - people hunting off the blacks from land on which they have no legal right to depasture cattle, and then complaining to the police about the aboriginals spearing cattle". Roth also advises that he intends to leave for Port Douglas and the Daintree River with Mr Hislop, "there are numerous blacks along all these dense intervening scrubs and very little known about them".

Contains a letter from Arthur Dean the Land Agent in Cooktown advising that Rokeby station or any country near it is not held from the Crown.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 99/10623](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of rations to Cape Bedford Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from Mr Fraser at [Kalliduwarry?] station via Birdsville to Archibald Meston dated September 4, 1899 forwarding a letter from Mr Ralston of [Glengyle?] station (see below). Fraser complains that Mr Ralston has been living with a "purebred" South Australian Aboriginal woman named Sally for the last twelve years. "Ralston has now a half-bred Chinese gin riding about with him and when at the homestead always sleeps in the same room, yet this gin has not yet seen twelve summers, surely she should be removed".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from R Ralston at [Glengyle?] station to the manager of the Union Bank of Australasia in Rockhampton dated July 23, 1898 advising him of the "unneighbourly conduct" of his manger on Dubbo Downs. Ralston states that the manager of Dubbo Downs assisted Mr Fraser of [Kalliduwarry?] Station and a "half-caste" named [George?] McDermott to take away all the Aboriginals employed on his station, among them a girl named Sally, who was one of the best cattle hands in the district and who had been employed for the last 11. Also mentions an ex-Native Police trooper called Buckley on [Glengyle?] station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980 00/17276](#)

Correspondence in response to allegations contained in three letters sent to Archibald Meston. The first letter is from Michael Clearey in Thargomindah dated July 28, 1900, which alleges that the Aboriginals on Orient Station are beaten and encouraged to drink. The letter also mentions the following Aboriginal persons: Tiger, Lucy, Old Neddey and Mother Neddey and their daughter Emily (aka Winnie), Pintha and his wife Lolly Pop, Larrey and his wife Salley, Salley's brother Tommy Kilarnick (in Brisbane) a native of Morning Plains and Davey of Nockatunga.

The second letter is from A Harvey describing the treatment of the Aboriginals on Glendower Station

30 miles from Hughenden. He states that there are about 12 Aboriginals in the camp on Glendower Station and that one of them; a "half-caste" girl of about 10 or 11 had been seduced by one of the workers on the station. He also alleges that the women are taken into Hughenden and used for prostitution and that the kangaroo shooters on the station give the Aboriginal men alcohol in return for the sexual favours of their women. The letter mentions the following Aboriginal persons: Mary (also named Lily in the police report) 10 or 11 years old described as "half-caste" and Billy who is crippled and walks on his hands and knees.

The third letter is from H Fisher in Thargomindah dated August 4, 1900. Fisher describes the scenes he witnessed during shearing at Durham Downs Station. He alleges that there were about 30 or 40 Aboriginals employed in the shearing shed and that the Aboriginal women were made to carry water from the creek, "a distance of about 300 yards, and they had to keep going all day in the sun and the class of gin employed being the most feeble". He also alleges that sexual intercourse between the Aboriginal women and the white men on the station is a daily event. He also informs that on "Bullo Downs I am personally acquainted with a man named Tom Jones who has got a gin and by her a family of six or seven half castes, any one of these that are able to work on the station do so without remuneration and materially assist the said Jones to keep his job". The letter also mentions Bombo, she is described as a "yellow gin of Thargomindah Station" who was living with a man named Buckingham to whom she had several children.

The file also contains various police reports investigating the above allegations. The report from Sergeant Blyton from the Hughenden police station mentions the following Aboriginal persons in relation to Glendower Station: Annie, Topsy and her husband Tommy, George "boy aged about 10 years - half caste", Jock boy aged about 2 years - half caste. The report from Sub-Inspector Sweetman from the Nocundra police station mentions the following Aboriginal persons in relation to Durham Downs: Lilley and her husband Albert, Bidy and her husband Barney, Maria and her husband Alick and Toby.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980_01/4884](#)

Report of The Northern Protector Of Aboriginals For 1900 from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated January 1, 1901 (a photocopy of this report is available at the CPH office, QSA). Roth advises that he has relaxed his stance on restricting the Chinese from employing Aboriginals; Aboriginals are not allowed to sign on to boats for longer than six months; Aboriginals are not being returned to their native place after their employment agreement has expired, he has notified all Protectors that this section of the Act should be "rigidly enforced"; several exemption applications have been received, these have principally been for "little girls but should only be issued to those half castes old enough and mentally able to appreciate them"; suggests that the Aboriginals are not receiving the wages "they are justly entitled to under their agreements"; women and children under puberty are still forbidden to be carried on boats, mentions a young "half caste" child named Willie who was found on one of the vessels; discusses the supply of food and other relief to Aboriginals with a table showing the sum spent at each of the distribution centres and comments that "if white settlement is allowed to advance further up into the Gulf coast and Peninsula without due provision being made for the blacks who are thereby disposed of their native hunting grounds and sources of water supply, the distribution of food relief will in a few years become a very heavy charge upon the State"; discusses blanket distribution with a table showing the number of blankets issued by location for 1900; discusses the employment of Aboriginals on boats and mentions an Aboriginal named Jackie who was a native of Batavia River and who was left stranded in Cooktown after sailing to New Guinea with Nicholas Minster; in the last six months there have been no convictions of Aboriginals for drunkenness, lists those persons convicted of supplying alcohol to Aboriginals during the previous year and lists Jimmy and Jack of Croydon and Nimms of Camooweal who were convicted for drunkenness; discusses the supply of opium to Aboriginals and gives a list of those persons convicted of possessing opium and supplying opium to Aboriginals; contains a table showing mission expenditure at Weipa, Mapoon, Yarrabah, Marie Yamba and Cape Bedford, also suggests that more land should be resumed in Cape York for Aboriginal reserves and comments on the settlers of

the Cape York area who, in some cases, have taken up land, dispossessed the Aboriginals, and do not pay rent, also comments on the continued killings of Aboriginals in the Cape York area and suggests that "bloodshed and retribution will be certain to ensue"; Roth also states that "there is nothing illegal in either blacks (or Europeans) travelling through unfenced leasehold runs ... it is certainly illegal for station managers to use force and threats to turn blacks (or Europeans) so travelling off such lands"; discusses sickness and disease amongst the Aboriginal population and comments that there is a believe among the "less civilised" Aboriginals that the present prevalence of disease is the result of "sorcery and witchcraft and the hands of an enemy, by non-observance of certain rules of conduct, by the breaking of taboo", also mentions the use of medicine men to cure the sick and how certain traditional customs impact on the health of the Aboriginals; comments on the removal of "half-caste" and "true-blooded" children to missions and reserves to separate them from their "aboriginal environments" and mentions Jenny from Cairns who was mentioned in the Home Secretary's speech to the Legislative Assembly in December 1900, Nellie described as a "half-caste Kananka" from the Murray River/Cardwell district and Topsy from Torrens Creek; comments on mixed marriages, whites frequenting "black's camps"; comments on Aboriginal crime and lists Andy from the Endeavour River, Shellfish from the Batavia River, Missie from the Starcke River, Ponto from the Endeavour River, Tommy Roderick from the Normanby River, Long George from Mount Amos, Billy Nolan from the Normanby River, Bendigo from the Mitchell River and Larry from the Endeavour River; also lists the anthropological reports he has forwarded to the Minister.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) 02/10961

Correspondence from George Bennett the Protector of Aboriginals on Thursday Island:

Letter 02/5271 is a telegram to the Under Secretary requesting that all mail in relation to the White Star Native School or other matters be addressed to him in Mr Douglas' absence.

Letter 02/9819 is a report sent from Daru Island advising that he has distributed trade goods to the people of Boigu Island. "This action was taken in consequence of certain negotiations whereby compensation to a fixed amount was paid by Her Majesty's Government of the Netherlands to the government of British New Guinea for distribution amongst the various natives who have suffered from the incursions and raids committed by the Tugeri".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17980](#) No letter number

Letter from the Police Commissioner on Thursday Island to the Home Secretary dated September 17, 1902: The more I think over Roth and I sitting together as Justices, to hold a Magisterial Enquiry into causes of alleged deaths, the greater appear the difficulties in the way. Roth will have to give evidence, and of course, could not act in magisterial capacity as well. I will confer with him and doubtless we will arrive at some satisfactory arrangement. At present my idea is to prevail upon the Rev Hey to accompany me from Mapoon. He would, if he goes, be invaluable in assisting to [?] the matters to be investigated. I have not seen Const Hoole but Marrett brought him with him. Marrett appears to think (very decidedly) there is nothing in the matter as affecting the police. I feel sure that in saying to you how earnestly I hope he is right. You will not have any doubt but that I will do my utmost to get at the true facts, a difficult task I feel most certain. I landed at 7 this morning and was much disappointed that the Vigilant not here she is expected some time tonight. I had hoped to reach Mapoon tonight and Bertiehaugh early tomorrow".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#) 97/6112

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated May 1, 1897: "It seems especially

undesirable for aboriginals men and women, to be rambling about Brisbane and the vicinity of the Exhibition in a more or less demoralised condition while the metropolis is full of visitors. These people should be removed to Deebing Creek and Frasers Island. I have received several reliable reports regarding the deplorable condition of the aboriginals at Childers, and their removal to Frasers Island appears to be urgently required. The attention of the Home Secretary is very earnestly and respectfully directed to both cases".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/13341](#)

Letter from Alex Douglas the Police Inspector in Townsville to the Commissioner of Police dated July 26, 1899 submitting his views on the administration of the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act* in respect to clause 20, the engagement of Aboriginals for fishing purposes, and the protection of "half-caste" children. In relation to the latter Douglas informs that "an order was issued by the Colonial Secretary's department on the 21st October 1881 and published in the Police Gazette on the 29th Oct 1881 instructing that all half caste aboriginal children were to be collected by the police and sent to Brisbane for the purposes of education etc, this order was rescinded by Circular no.51 - 6th February 1882 and no action has been taken since that I am aware of". Douglas states that in 1897 he called attention to the female "half-caste" children and recommended, as I do now, the removal of "half-caste" children. "I would not interfere with those children now in employment of persons who have permits but a large number could be gathered who are still roaming about with the blacks more especially in the south and west though there are a good sprinkling in the north". Contains a return showing the cases involving opium tried in Townsville between June 1898 and June 1899.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11342](#)

Correspondence from Dent Island, Townsville and Bowen in relation to supplying rations to several aged Aboriginals on Dent Island. The correspondence names the following Aboriginal persons in relation to Dent Island: Maggie, Josephine, Billie Malukey aka Crankey Billie and Cassey.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11344](#)

Correspondence from Cairns and Cooktown in relation to the expenses incurred in the search for the murderers of Paul Paulsen. It is alleged that Aboriginals murdered Paulsen at the Chester River. Mentions hiring a boat and that Constable Kenny and two Native Police troopers accompanied the search party.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/13346](#)

Includes a report from Sergeant King in Normanton dated June 14, 1899 advising that the physical condition of the Aboriginals in the district has improved since last year and that those employed under the Act are being treated very well "which goes to show that the Act is doing good work in this district".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/13347](#)

Report from Constable Pollard at the Augathella police station to the Inspector of Police in Charleville dated August 7, 1899 in relation to the arrest and conviction of Thomas Entwistle for harbouring a female "half-caste" named Luisa and having opium in his possession. Also mentions that there were 11 Aboriginals camped close to Entwistle's camp 2 miles from Augathella.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/13348](#)

Correspondence in relation to an Aboriginal boy named Larry from Butchers Hill. Larry was about 10 years old in 1899 and when about 7 sent to work for Mrs Goaghan of the Three Mile via Cooktown. Larry was accused of a number of petty thefts and sent to jail. There is a recommendation from Walter Roth for the boy's removal to either Keppel Island or into the charge of Archibald Meston.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11350](#)

Contains a report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated February 16, 1899. Roth advises that the supply of alcohol by whites to the Aboriginals in on the increase in Cooktown. Included in the report is an extract from a letter received from Aboriginals via the Reverend Shwartz giving the "aboriginal version" of the death of "Tea" by drowning and which appeals for Kalkadu, Bedford and Sugar to be kept out of town because the temptation to drink is too great for them to resist. Roth suggests that either publicans who supply alcohol to Aboriginals should have their permits to sell alcohol cancelled or if sufficient evidence cannot be obtained and Aboriginals are found on licence premises they should be charged with harbouring Aboriginals.

Contains a second report from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Commissioner of Police dated January 26, 1899 advising that he has forwarded a report on "Some Queensland Aboriginal Implements Illustrative of the Stone Age". He also advises that he personally saw Captain McMaster pay off his Aboriginal crew and took them to the store so that they could buy supplies. He has also warned the police that they are in the town and that there is very likelihood that alcohol would be sold to them in the next few nights. Also mentions that the supply of alcohol to Aboriginals in Cooktown is on the increase and that one of the crew who worked for Captain McMaster was named Chalky who came from Cape Bedford. The report also contains a newspaper article from the Cooktown Independent accusing Roth of not contributing to the improvement of the Aboriginals' "social condition".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11351](#)

Letter from John Withnall on Whitsunday Island to Archibald Meston dated March 15, 1899. He advises that, during the eight years he has lived on the island, there have been a large number of Aboriginals coming and going but they are becoming considerably less now. He states that the crews of turtle fishing boats have been taking the Aboriginal men away without permission, which leaves the old women to fend for themselves. He asks if Meston can come to the island to see the condition of these people and see if he can do anything for them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11352](#)

Correspondence in relation to complaints about the Aboriginals being camped too close to Maytown and calls for the camp to be moved further away. Also includes a map showing where the old camp was, where the present camp is, and where it should be moved to.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_99/11354](#)

Correspondence in relation to forming a reserve for the Aboriginals in the Cardwell district. Includes a letter from the Police Commissioner's office to the Surveyor General forwarding a rough sketch of the country inland from Cardwell. "At the head of Saltwater Creek there is shown in blue pencil an area which it is proposed should be reserved for Aboriginals; the Commissioner of Police will be obliged if you will cause him to be supplied with a description of this area in order that steps may be taken to secure its reservation".

Contains a map showing the area in question at the base of the Rockingham Bay Range (Shire of

Glenbora/Vale of Herbert), which also shows the location of the bora ground on the reserve. The map also shows the reserve proposed at Gowrie Creek. Has a note from Queensland State Archives staff advising that the plan of the Cardwell Police District showing Aboriginal sites and reserves has been removed, and is in the QSA maps collection at 16m sh5 1897. The file also contains a letter from William Craig of Niagara Vale suggesting that the timber reserve on Gowrie Creek would be a good location for a reserve. This letter also briefly mentions the gathering of traditional foods by the Aboriginals. The report from Constable Holmes suggests that the reserve at the head of Meunga (or Saltwater) Creek would be a better location for the Aboriginals to live and is a favourite camping ground of the Aboriginals. Holmes also states that the "blacks come down from Niagra Vale country and the Vale of Herbert and the Herbert Gorge to the head of Saltwater Creek ... frequently where their bora ground is visited by blacks from different parts of the district and the constable has seen as many as 300 blacks here at one time". He also mentions that the country around Saltwater Creek supplies the Aboriginals with good native food such as Tcoopeua, Wongha, Burra, Wild Ginger and Yams and that the reserve is close to the beach where they can collect shellfish.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_00/3029](#), Letter number 99/14562 (top letter missing)

Telegram from Walter Roth on Thursday Island dated November 17, 1899: "Please kindly arrange soon as possible appointment of Nicholas Hey and Edwin Brown as Supts of reserves as per my letter September thirteenth".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_00/14206](#)

The file includes a letter from Walter Roth to the Home Secretary dated September 1900 forwarding a report from constable James Old at the Georgetown police station (see below). Roth also protests against the reduction in the fines imposed on the Chinese for harbouring and supplying opium to Aboriginals. He states that on becoming Protector he was given explicit instructions to "stop this iniquitous traffic" and he realises that some 35,000 pounds in revenue would be lost to the government would result if the Act were strictly enforced, but asks that the fines not be reduced in future. The report from constable Old suggests that since the Act came into force the condition of the Aboriginals has improved "for the Chinese were poisoning them with opium". The file also includes a return (72-74) naming the Aboriginals who were charged at Georgetown between July 1899 and July 1900: Tommy, Sam, Jimmy, King, Jackey, Polly, Willie and Tommy. The return also lists the Chinese who have been charged with various offences including harbouring Aboriginals, being in possession of an Aboriginal blanket and supplying opium to Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_01/5025](#)

Correspondence from Colin Bell of Ayrshire Downs station, Winton, Archibald Meston and Mrs Frew in relation to the removal of "half-caste" Ettie Walsh and her three children. Ettie was working on Torilla station in the St Lawrence district and then removed to a Home in Brisbane. On arrival Mrs Frew sent her to Fraser Island. Meston states that she should never have been sent to Fraser Island and recommends that she be placed in hired service in Brisbane and her children sent to the school at Deebing Creek or one of the orphanages. There is a suggestion in the correspondence that Mr Todd of Torilla station is the father of Ettie's children.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/7734](#)

Large file in relation to Darkie who was jailed for the murder of George Hobson. Darkie was tried and convicted of the murder of Hobson in the Circuit Court, Cairns on February 2, 1891 and sent to St Helena. The file includes a petition dated 1894 pleading for his release. A second petition dated 1896 states that Darkie had been convicted of murdering his employer who lived at Myola, Barron River.

There is a suggestion that Hobson had shot several Aboriginals who were trespassing on his run and he was killed in a revenge attack. The note from the Superintendent of St Helena dated 1896 advises: "do not release at present - too cunning refuses to go to Native Police". Contains a third petition for the release of Darkie. Contains the depositions from the trial of Darkie, which mention that Hobson employed two other Aboriginals named Billy and Bismark. Bismark was discharged from the trial and sent to the Nigger Creek Native Police camp as a recruit. Contains a fourth petition for the release of Darkie, which was also denied. A telegram advises that Darkie was released during the Jubilee celebrations and sent to Fraser Island but that he escaped and made his way to Cairns where he was arrested.

The report from Archibald Meston dated April 22, 1902 complains that if he had been informed of Darkie's escape from Fraser Island he could have got trackers to intercept him before he got to Bundaberg. Meston also complains that since the Anglican missionaries took over Fraser Island 26 Aboriginals have escaped including Gympie Nellie who he removed from Gympie 3 years ago and who is still at large.

The letter from Meston advises that Darkie has been brought from Cairns and sent to Durundur. Meston states: "I sent him on to Durundur where he will be quite contented. He knows who he is dealing with now".

The letter from Meston mentions Alberta Clift who Meston states was causing trouble at Fraser Island. "I advise that she and her husband be sent on to Maryborough ... and I will have both sent direct to North Keppel Island".

Letter 02/7411, 02/7335, 02/6906, 02/6663, 02/6390, 02/6351, 02/5724, 99/9761, 98/13605, 98/12249, 97/15260, 97/4228, 96/16543, 96/7472, 94/660, Top-numbered to 02/7734

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/8204](#)

Two letters from G Lucas in Goondiwindi requesting payment for return coach fares for Archibald Meston.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/8804](#)

Letter from Mr Hannaford of Marble Hill, Glenlyon, Stanthorpe dated May 20, 1902 requesting a permit to retain an Aboriginal boy named Frank who he took about seven years ago at the request of the police at Southwood.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/8815](#)

Correspondence from Bundaberg and Rockhampton from Archibald Meston advising that he has removed nine Aboriginals from Rockhampton to Durundur and that he will be returning to the central districts. He also asks for money to be deposited in his account because of unforeseen expenses on the trip.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/9088](#)

Telegram from Albert Tronson the Superintendent at Durundur dated July 1902: "Two aboriginal women leaving today for hospital would you please see [? . . .] past Caboolture today for them".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/9131](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Emerald to the Under Home Secretary dated July 1902:

"Deputation twelve leading residents here asking me remove local blacks shall report and ask authority have settled troubles further west am leaving tonight for Duaringa and Rockhampton next day kindly wire there if Home Secretary intends aboriginals take part in coronation celebrations".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/9275](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston requesting the address of Harold Meston.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/9590](#)

Telegrams from Archibald Meston requesting Harold Meston for "special work Keppel Island and Clermont tell him bring Jack Dowling or Alpha Bob". He also requests that Willie Gordon be also sent [this appears to be a request for native trackers].

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/9609](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Rockhampton to the Under Home Secretary dated June 1902: "Mrs Frew wanted here badly take charge of girls kindly instruct her leave by mail train tonight for Rockhampton or shall I send woman in charge from here kindly reply".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/9665](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Rockhampton to the Under Home Secretary dated June 1902: "Thirty five western blacks left here mail train last night for Durundur kindly instruct Harold Meston meet them Caboolture tomorrow morning".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#) No letter number

Newspaper clippings in relation to Archibald Meston's removal of 35 Aboriginals from Barcaldine to Durundur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/9969](#)

Includes a letter to Mr Kent MLA from Edward Williams dated June 16, 1902 asking if he can arrange for rations to be given to several starving Aboriginals at Cania. "Constable Hagan has frequently tried to persuade them to agree to the State Reserves but they say they want to die where they were born, and have lived, and would rather be shot than removed".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/10037](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Rockhampton dated June 27, 1902 advising that he and Harold Meston are leaving for Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/10499](#)

Correspondence in relation to the jailing of a "half-caste" named Alex Cockrandt. Alex was convicted of vagrancy at Eulo in May 1902 and sent to Roma jail.

The report from Constable Walsh mentions that his mother was named Margaret Collins. Alex had previously been living with his father in Charleville, also described as "half-caste".

The letter from J Gill mentions that Alex was 16 years old and had been working for him for about two

years. Gill asks for the boy to be returned to him. The file also contains correspondence in relation to calls from Meston for constable Walsh to be removed from Eulo.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/10566](#)

Correspondence in relation to a charge of murder brought against Bob of Eulbertie Station for the poisoning of another Aboriginal named Monkey at Betoota and his subsequent acquittal. Bob was tried in the Supreme Court Rockhampton on the 18th and 19th of November 1901.

The letter from Archibald Meston mentions that he intends to bring a Cooper Creek Aboriginal named Maroolda to Rockhampton to act as interpreter in court because he speaks the same language as Bob. There is a complaint from Archibald Meston about the unsatisfactory character of the evidence and the cost of the prosecution". Meston suggests that the northern and southern Protectors should appear in court on behalf of Aboriginals, which would "save all legal costs and secure the best possible advocacy for the prisoner".

Contains a newspaper clipping reporting on the court case, which mentions Tommy Oil.

The letter from Meston mentions that he is going to visit Central Queensland in relation to blanket distribution, removal of Aboriginals and a reduction in expenditure for rations.

Contains correspondence in relation to the trial of Doughboy and Bobby at Rockhampton. Meston is outraged that Bob was even brought to trial "because there was not a particle of evidence to connect him with the crime".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/10609](#)

Letter signed "Half Caste Queensland" sent to the Home Secretary dated June 10, 1902: "Sir I am writing you these few lines to ask you why shoulder the dark girls hold our bank book or Mrs Frew not show us the bill that she spent on clothes she will not tell us what she has taken out of the bank what is she doing with the money if she doesn't want us to know what she's taken out of the bank all work hard enough for our money and we wish to know what we got in the bank when handle money before and knew what we had but to be treated like this by such a woman as Mrs Frew which we got such a dislike to it is bad enough to be kept in at night without her doing that she would not do it to white girls they would soon make a fuss Sir we do not like the old woman their ways only makes us bad tempered we do not like being in this home if they think we are a bad lot why don't they leave us alone we would rather go back to where we all came from if Mrs Frew think she's going to do what she likes with our money we are going to walk out of the place they keep us cheap enough in the home jail as we call it we are going to [come?]our places we wish to be on our own".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/10624](#)

Newspaper articles from the May 22, 1902 edition of the South Australian Register and the January 10, 1902 edition of the Mercury sent from Walter Roth to the Under Secretary. The articles are in relation to lectures by Roth on the games, sports and amusements of the north Queensland Aboriginals.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/10643](#)

Correspondence in relation to an Aboriginal woman named Mrs Huxley and her five children living at Eromanga. Mrs Huxley had lived with William Huxley for the last 14 years but has now been deserted by her husband and is unable to provide for her children. There is a suggestion that her children be

removed. Meston states "Woman not under Act, and the children could only be removed if neglected. The mother is a quadroon as I saw her on my visit to Eromanga. There are much more urgent cases deserving attention".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/10805](#)

Letter from Mr Bayley in Toowoomba to the Under Secretary advising that he is organising an exhibition to be held at the showgrounds and requesting "some of your fine Aboriginals" to perform a corroboree as part of the entertainment.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/10850](#)

Correspondence from Sergeant Walsh and Harold Meston in relation to vouchers for Aboriginals at Cunnamulla. One voucher is for accommodation for a "half-caste" named Richards and another for accommodation for "half-caste" Norley Kitty and her child. There is also one which just states "W Gordon" [Willie Gordon ?, tracker?].

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/10909](#)

Correspondence re tenders for the supply of meat to Durundur reserve including from the Superintendent, Aboriginal Settlement, Woodford. The return lists the population of the reserve between October 1901 and April 1902.

Letter 02/10888, 02/10653, 02/8627, 02/6383, 02/5111, 02/4391, Top-numbered to 02/10909

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11075](#)

The file includes a letter from Joseph Steele of the Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty asking for food and clothing to be supplied to 24 destitute Aboriginals at Springsure and a report from Sergeant Kennedy stating that he is not aware that the Aboriginals are destitute.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11167](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston: "Herewith I return the butt of my last requisition book with a request that you will kindly supply me another".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11196](#)

Telegram from Inspector Driscoll in Gladstone: "Aboriginal girl asks pass Bundaberg has two sisters there no employment here deserving case". A note on the telegram from Archibald Meston states: "Not desirable send this girl to Bundaberg. I shall obtain full information before deciding where to send her".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11398](#)

Letter from Tommy Randy in Nambour to Archibald Meston dated July 8, 1902. Tommy asks for his wife and children to be reunited with him in Nambour. From the letter it appears that Tommy's wife and children were removed from the "Sand Hills", Rockhampton to Durundur and that Meston had promised that they would be reunited when Tommy found work and was able to provide a home for them. Tommy describes himself as a South Sea Islander.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11614](#)

Letter from Harold Meston dated July 24, 1902 calling the Minister's attention to the small wages that

Native Trackers receive and asking that they be paid more. He also states that usually their wives accompany them to where they are posted and are expected to do domestic duties but are not paid for the work. He also makes reference to one of his trackers who helped to capture the Kenniffs.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/11912](#)

Correspondence dated July 1902 in relation to Minnie Roderick who was brought from Fraser Island to Maryborough suspected of being of unsound mind. Meston subsequently removed Minnie to Durundur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/12201](#)

Correspondence re a disagreement between Archibald Meston and Mrs Frew. Meston is concerned that he is not kept informed of the movements and situations of the girls he removes to the Brisbane Girl's Home. Mrs Meston is also accused of causing discontent amongst the girls at the Home and of taking upon herself to do Mrs Frew's job as Protector.

Mrs Meston's letter also mentions Nina who came to see her from Mrs Blackborough's place at Manly, Florry, Bessie, Rosie and her two children who came from Charleville and were sent to Durundur, Lily McKenzie who Mrs Meston took to see her sister at Deebing Creek.

The letter from Ban Ban, Gayndah to Meston mentions a "half-caste" girl named Ethel the daughter of Cobbo. There is a request from Cobbo that his daughter be sent from Barambah to work for Mrs Guilford Davidson who her knows well.

The letter from Archibald Meston mentions Alice Barnett who was brought from Cooktown by Mrs Blakeney who resides at Burleigh Heads. Alice was deemed to be uncontrollable and sent to Mrs Meston's house in Brisbane where Archibald Meston allowed her to stay for a while. Alice was accompanied to Brisbane by a "half-caste" girl named Emily Graham. Also mentions Ethel Cobbo (above) who was under engagement to Dr Guilford Davidson at Sandgate and Sylvia who came down from Barambah and was sent to Deebing Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/12208](#)

Letter in relation to a "half-caste" named Sally Woods dated July 23, 1902 who complains that she is required to work too hard as a domestic servant for Captain Mackay. She has been working for Captain Mackay for the last two years.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_No Letter number](#)

Brief note - no details: "K Piele 1902/12569, re proposed reserve for aboriginals on Auburn River Gayndah district, All papers to lands Dept per Mr Massey 24.6.02"

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/13102](#)

Correspondence in relation to the removal of Boondoo of Toompine from Duck Creek to Cunnamulla and then to Woodford (Durundur). A telegram also mentions Con bar Tom who is to be removed from Eulo.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/13126](#)

Telegram from Mr Peile at Gayndah asking what he should do about Aboriginals hunting on his property against his wishes. A note on the telegram states that: "As far as I am aware the *Enclosed Lands Act* is the only one under which aboriginals or anyone else can be dealt with in such circumstances".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/13418](#)

Correspondence in relation to Minnie Graham. Minnie was born in the house of Jessie Cran in Mackay and worked for Cran in their hotel in Townsville. She was removed from Townsville and sent to live with Mrs Meston and then to the Magdalen Home. She then absconded to Gatton where she married a tracker named Peter Graham. She was then removed to Fraser Island and then allowed to go back to Jessie Cran of John Street Maryborough.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/13854](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Rockhampton to the Under Secretary dated September 1902: "Keppel Island Lucas holds occupation licence three islands would earnestly ask you advise Lands Office not to accept rent if offered this month until you receive my report next week have good reasons for refusal kindly act at once or may be too late".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/13857](#)

Telegram from Harold Meston in Charleville: "Kindly ask railway authorities send all goods first train without fail teamster getting impatient no feed here for his bullocks".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/14077](#)

Letter from Mr Lukin in Maryborough to Archibald Meston dated September 9, 1902 in relation to a demand from a butcher at Pialba for payment of meat supplied to the mission on Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/14127](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston justifying how certain railway passes were used. Most are for himself, Harold Meston, Mrs Meston and Mr Tronson. Others of relevance include pass number 69076: "Mrs A Meston went to Gracemere at my request to bring a black girl from Mrs Matthews, the wife of the schoolteacher, Mrs Meston brought the girl to Brisbane and sent her direct to Mrs Frew". Pass 69077: "Return of Harold Meston and Mrs A Meston from Emu Park when we failed to get the Keppel Island blacks".

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/14264](#)

Correspondence in relation to payment for the supply of rations for an Aboriginal named Charlie at Birdsville. Charlie had broken his leg and been supplied with rations but had subsequently died.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/14384](#)

Correspondence in relation to returning two Aboriginal boys from New South Wales to Queensland. The boys are named as George Hunter and Bungie. Bungie is described as a "full-blood" Aboriginal from the St George district about sixteen years of age. George Hunter is described as "half-caste", fifteen years of age and coming from the Barwon district. There is some doubt whether George is a native of Queensland or New South Wales. Both were taken away by white men when they were children. Meston states: "I have situations ready for both of them in Brisbane so there will be no need to send them to one of the reserves".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14605](#)

Large file containing correspondence spanning 1898-1902 in relation to Emily Blackman. Emily was living with her husband Thomas Blackman at Arawara Siding via Tiaro in the Maryborough district until her husband's death from cancer in October 1898. Emily was unable to support her five children, Louisa, Alfred, Thomas, Mary and Charles. Thomas was sent to live with Emily's brother-in-law Alfred Blackman who lived at Pine Creek via Bundaberg with his wife and four children. Louisa was sent to work for Mr Patterson the stationmaster at Tiaro and Alfred was sent to work for James Dowzer a dairyman of Tiaro. Emily obtained work with Mr Elliott of [Owanyilla?]. Emily also had a child to a man named Windie who is described as a "half- caste Kananka" who was working on Bingera Station in 1902. In 1902 Emily was living in [Croften?] Street, Bundaberg with her six children. There is a recommendation from Meston that her children be removed.

Letter 99/983, 99/233, 98/15314, 98/14993, 98/14992, 98/14250, 98/12936, 98/12935, 98/12230, 98/10524, 98/9420, 98/8836, 98/7287, 98/6444, 98/4126, 98/3627, Top-numbered to 02/14605

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14667](#)

Complaint from William Brotherton of Woodford that Aboriginals are ringbarking and felling the trees on his property. Includes a map of the district showing the location of Brotherton's property.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#) No letter number

Correspondence dated September 1902 in relation to Annie Bowman, "aboriginal half-caste girl aged 22", who was removed from Windorah. Annie's parents are named as Lucy and George Bowman. The correspondence suggests that George Bowman was Chinese. Annie was taken to Lock hospital and then to Magdalen Asylum and then to Durundur where she married an Aboriginal man named Teddy from Longreach. Annie was then taken to Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14754](#)

Very large file in relation to charges brought against Harold Meston by Sergeant Walsh, alleging that he conducted himself improperly towards Aboriginal women in the camp at Eulo and that he would not supply the Aboriginals with rations. Includes various correspondence on the subject and depositions from the inquiry.

The depositions mention the following Aboriginal persons: Nedly, Charlie Robinson Cooper, Big Mick, Dick, Widge and his wife Nanny a native of Eulo and her daughter Sarah and her husband Eulo Jimmy ("they have a half-caste daughter"), Fred Scales native of Bungarra run, Maggie a native of Eulo and her daughter Florrie (these persons are also named in the depositions further in the file).

There are also references to Meston wanting to remove the Aboriginals to Durundur. The telegram from the Under Secretary to Harold Meston in Thargomindah states: "re your reports make no arrangements for the removal of any aboriginals without first submitting the facts to the minister and obtaining his sanction unless the case is one of palpable and extreme urgency you must confine your efforts for the present to making inquiries and obtaining information which will enable the department to formulate comprehensive methods for dealing with the Aboriginals in the districts you may visit".

Also contains a letter from the Police Commissioner stating that the bearer (Harold Meston) is to be given every assistance by the police in the carrying out his duty as Western Protector.

Contains a report from Harold Meston submitting some condensed proposals re the Aboriginals of the west. "To avoid any heavy expense it is necessary to exercise great caution in dealing in any comprehensive manner with so large a number of aboriginals; Meston also recommends that for the present only the destitute and those not employed should be removed; he recommends that those that remain should not be issued rations because it encourages them to stay in the camps and become lazy; those able to walk should be removed first to save on coach fares; "half-caste" girls and women should be sent straight to Mrs Frew; those in employment should not be interfered with; any Aboriginal addicted to opium should be removed a reserve; children whether orphans or with parents should also be sent to reserves.

Contains a list of the Aboriginals Meston recommends for removal from Western Queensland: From North Comongin Station: Judy, Jennie, Maryann, Polly, Topsy, Minnie a half caste girl aged six, Warrego, Tippo, Bertie, Jim Crow, Charlie and Tobo. From Eromanga: A half-caste woman, Lily Hurst and 5 quadron children 2 boys, and 3 girls aged 11, 7, 6, 4, 2 - the mother being about 35. From Mount Margaret: cripple half-caste girl Angelina aged 16, dwarf black boy Monton aged about 16. At Womoonuku Creek 70 miles from Nocundra there are six aged Aboriginals who will receive rations "these are too feeble for removal". From Chastleton: a half-caste girl named Alice aged about 24 and living in the black's camp, a black girl Jennie aged 12 also living in the camp. From Ontoo: a half-caste girl Cora aged about 20 with a quadron child boy 3 months old. From Ardoch: Wandilla a girl aged 23, Raby a girl aged 12, Mollie aged 16, three half-caste boys Tommy, Toby and Frank aged 9, 8 and 7, Bantam aged 6 a pure Aboriginal. From South Comongin: a girl named Sarah aged 7, black woman Nellie aged 30. From Dundoo Station: Boondow a man about 30 crippled below the knee. "At Yowah and Dundoo there are altogether about 24 aboriginals in a very destitute state. To those whom it is absolutely necessary to feed I would give the option of walking to Cunnamulla on the way to the Coast Reserves or finding food for themselves if they wish to stay where they are. Feeding them would be very expensive and entirely unsatisfactory". From Cunnamulla: a half-caste man named Sam Hooper aged 28, his wife Lizzie of the same age, a son aged 9, two girls aged 11 and 8 and one girl aged one year. Also lists the estimated cost of removal by location.

Contains a telegram from the Home Secretary's office to Harold Meston dated January 1, 1902: "Twelve pounds for rations Eulo one month have stopped expenses there by wire you are not to incur any expense without reference to under secretary".

A section of Meston's deposition mentions Willie Gordon and Tiger Stanley who assisted Meston on his trip; mentions that he saw 30 or 40 Aboriginals on his arrival at Eulo; mentions that Tiger Stanley was native of western Queensland and could speak the language used around Eulo; Meston's deposition also mentions that the Aboriginals at Eulo were "talking of having a corroboree".

Contains a report from Inspector Graham sent from Charleville in relation to the charges Sergeant Graham brought against Harold Meston but which also mentions that Archibald Meston removed Susie from Eulo in 1899 "to the Home in Brisbane", she had been living in Eulo with a white man.

Contains a return showing the names of the Aboriginals given rations at Eulo on January 4 and January 7 1902: Neddy, Sally, Davey, Kitty, Sarah, Old Kitty, Jessie, Nanny, King, Morgan, Jimmy, Charlie, Dick, Harry, Mick and George.

Letter 02/13375, 02/13324, 02/11750, 02/11314, 02/10822, 02/11078, 02/7440, 02/4529, 02/4346, 02/3938, 02/3481, 02/3480, 02/2781, 02/2649, 02/2112, 02/1885, 02/1631, 02/1630, 02/1553, 02/1424, 02/1194, 02/551, Top-numbered to 02/14754. Note: Letter 02/16673 is missing

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14754](#)

Very large file in relation to charges brought against Harold Meston by Sergeant Walsh, alleging that he conducted himself improperly towards Aboriginal women in the camp at Eulo and that he would not supply theAboriginals with rations.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14989](#)

Correspondence in relation to South Sea Islanders married to Aboriginal women at Buderim (Maroochydore district).

Letter number 02/8756 from Mrs Frew advises that she is going to accompany Mr Brenan the Immigration Agent on a visit Buderim Mountain. Brenan is going to Buderim to obtain "certain information" on the South Sea Islanders for the Commonwealth Government.

Letter 02/9312 from Mrs Frew states that her reason for going to Buderim was to "ascertain particulars of any aboriginal women married". "I found 16 of them so married". Frew mentions Lilly Mark Natherloo who has three children and Alice Jack Sandwich with one child. She recommends that they be removed.

A letter from Archibald Meston advises that he instructed a tracker named Willie Gordon (from Durundur) to muster the women and their children for transport to the Home in Brisbane. The letter from George Jones of the Maroochy Divisional Board advises that a New Caledonian man named Sam Gee Gee (also named Sam Wageegee in the correspondence), who is working for Mr Burnett at Buderim, has asked him to help him get his three children, who were removed, returned to him. Sam was the stepfather of the three children and was married to Annie Lawrie. The children were attending school and were seized by the police on their way home. A note on the letter from Meston states, "I do not think that Mrs Frew's choice to remove these children from their mother was altogether wise".

Contains a letter from Immigration Agent Brenan defending the removal of the children.

The letter from Mrs Frew mentions Robert Wassemo, Alice Sandwich and Mary Ann Brown who were removed from Buderim.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/14997](#)

Correspondence in relation to Aboriginals at Surat, Taroom and Miles.

The letter from Mr Moore MLA dated September 1899 advises that a white child about 4 years of age is living in the "black's camp" at Surat. He suggests that Mr Meston should pay a visit to Surat, Miles and Taroom. He states that he has received complaints about several Aboriginals living in the camp at Miles. He names them as Jacob [King Jacob of Tieryboo ?] and his wife Maggie, Jacky Nerang and his wife Nanny, and Tommy Tommy and his wife Bersie.

The letter dated September 1899 asks for rations to be supplied to the remaining Aboriginals at Miles. "If they don't hurry up they will not get a chance as the old blacks will be all dead. Since I wrote to the department about them Old Sandy, Stumpy, Wallan Charlie, Major and another one that I do not know his name have died". He mentions Jacob, Jacky Nerang and Tommy Tommy. "These old blacks will not leave their old towrie they say that they will die here".

Contains a petition dated December 1900 from the residents of Taroom requesting that an Aboriginal man named Carbo (also called Carlow and Carboy in the correspondence) be removed because he is suffering from what looks like cancer. They are afraid that "whatever he is suffering from will be spread amongst us". Contains a report from constable Conway in Surat dated December 1900 advising that there is an old blind Aboriginal man in the camp there and three women with seven "half-caste" children. Contains a telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Roma dated December 1900 in relation to expenditure for the removal of several Aboriginals from Taroom to Ipswich.

Contains a letter from William Addison in Miles dated December 1897 asking for relief for several Aboriginals of the district. He also mentions King Sandy of Condamine: "He has always been held in high estimation among his tribe and has always great influence amongst them as a physician, a surgeon and as a rainmaker". He also mentions that there are several "half-caste" boys who should be removed and "taught some useful occupation".

Contains another letter from William Addison dated April 1901 re the Aboriginals at Condamine.

Contains a return from the Taroom police station dated September 1901 listing the two Aboriginals in need of removal and the "half-castes" in the district: Removal: Carboy and Johnnie. Half-castes: Mary Bundie, Mabel Jerecho [Serico?], Arthur Bundi, Harry Bundi, Harold Doyle, Willie Smith, Edward Jerecho [Serico?], Johnnie, Robert, Siemon, Lizzie and Ada. Also includes further correspondence on the removal of Aboriginals from Taroom.

Letter 01/17052, 01/14750, 01/5689, 00/19122, 00/18710, 00/18523, 99/12164, 99/12040
Note: Letters 01/4942, 01/3903, 01/3507, 01/2401, 01/2341 are missing.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/15672](#)

Contains an extract from a letter from Bernard Mullin in Clermont dated September 22, 1902 drawing attention to the starving condition of the Aboriginals in Clermont. He suggests that the government should instruct the Police Magistrate to issue rations to them.

Contains a letter from the Clermont Town Clerk asking the same as above.

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/16277](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated September 24, 1902 complaining that Walter Roth is sending too many Aboriginal men from the north into his care. He mentions Sandy from Coen who he sent to Durundur, Charlie an ex Native Police trooper from north of Cooktown who had a son named Toby who was reared by Mr Moran the Police Magistrate in Cunnamulla -Charley was sent to work with Mr Chatterton the Stock Inspector, George and Daylight who served time in St Helena, Darkey from Cairns and Larry sent to Durundur. He also mentions three Native Police troopers sent down to him and "I learn that there are two more on the way down. The three are supposed to be concerned in some recent trouble in the north and these men were sent down by the Commissioner of Police, doubtless for some special reason". Meston also comments that some of these persons sent down from the north where sent as a result of acts allowable under tribal law, for instance: "an Aboriginal man took Charley's wife and started towards the Palmer River ... Charley overtook them and speared the abductor as he was perfectly justified in doing under tribal law"

Queensland State Archives [TM17981_02/16324](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of goods to the Protector of Aborigines at Whitula, which are

to be dispatched to Charleville.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/16491](#)

Letter from the "Board Of Protection For Aborigines" in Sydney to Archibald Meston dated October 16, 1902: "with reference to the Queensland Aborigine named Jack Ash who was reported to be in a destitute circumstances, I am directed to inform you that it has since been found that he is employed at Livery Stables at La Perouse and he refuses to go back to Queensland".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/16865](#)

Correspondence in relation to a boating accident on Moreton Bay involving Katie Mackay. Katie is described as a "pure aboriginal"; she worked for Mrs Mackay the butcher's wife in Cairns. Mrs Mackay brought her to Brisbane where she worked for Mr Pratton of the Railway Department. There is a recommendation that she be removed to Durundur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_02/17956](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cairns dated October 1902 advising that he shall finish up his annual work in Bowen and Mackay and be in Brisbane for Christmas. He also advises that if there are any lepers at Townsville or Ingham for removal to Friday Island he will take them on the same terms as before.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#) No letter number

Correspondence, including a report from the Mossman police station dated December 19, 1902, advising that a man named Thomas Williams was prosecuted for employing two Aborigines named Two pence and Spider without holding a permit to do so. A man named William Rutherford was also prosecuted for employing Jimmy and Harry without permits.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981](#) No letter number

Report from the Aborigines Department of Western Australia for 1902. Reports on Aboriginal affairs in WA. Also includes a photograph of a group of Aborigines and their teacher at Ellensbrook Farm Home and the native reserve at Welshpool. Some names are also listed in the report.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_03/355](#)

Correspondence in relation to the delivery of mail from York Downs to the Weipa Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_03/2392](#)

Correspondence from Walter Roth recommending Sergeant James King for the position of Aboriginal Protector for the districts of Cooke and Palmer.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_03/3313](#)

Correspondence from Walter Roth in relation to payment for the services of an extra seaman on the 'Melbidir' during its trip north of Cooktown to collect names for the federal electoral rolls.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_03/3498](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated January 14, 1903. He advises that an agreement was reached with the Police Commissioner that the rations of tracker's wives would be paid out of the "Aboriginals vote"

and the removal of "aboriginals of undesirable character" to southern reserves would be paid out of the police vote. He suggests that now that the Act has made removals legal the rations for tracker's wives should be paid out of the police vote. The file also contains a related report from the Police Commissioner.

Letter from Walter Roth to the Under Secretary dated March 26, 1903: "Could you kindly let me have (for insertion in my annual report) the number of children attending school in the Aboriginal Missions in southern portions of the state. [Rev Harris tells me he has 40 at Fraser Island]"

Queensland State Archives [ITM17981_03/5114](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown dated January 15, 1903 advising that he has been informed that the government is incurring a "heavy expense" keeping eleven Aboriginal children at Nudgee. He advises that Bishop Frodsham has agreed to provide a home for them at Yarrabah without any extra subsidy being granted.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_99/9809](#)

Correspondence in relation to medical treatment for Aboriginals at Burketown, including a man named Barney. Roth has been asked to investigate.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_99/11343](#)

Report from Inspector Lamond in Normanton to the Commissioner of Police dated July 1899 advising that there are a large number of Aboriginals in the Normanton district at present and that he has supplied them with tomahawks and tobacco. He states that he will not be giving them any more food rations because giving them tomahawks gives them the means to procure their own food and puts them on good terms with the police.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_99/12175](#)

Letter from Walter Roth in Cooktown to the Under Secretary dated September 15, 1899 suggesting that under present legislation holders of mining rights are able to occupy Aboriginal Reserves. He asks that in the proposed amending legislation a clause be inserted to exclude them from the reserves.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_99/16013](#)

Contains a letter from Alex Gordon submitting the estimated cost to supply rations to the Aboriginals in his Petty Sessions district (Boulia and north-west Queensland).

Contains a report from Archibald Meston dated December 14, 1899 suggesting that the estimate is far too high and if the same were given to the 25,000 Aboriginals in Queensland the cost would be about 100,000 pounds. He also states that Gordon is only dealing with about 1/50 of the total Queensland Aboriginal population. Meston sets out the extent of the relief that should be given to the Aboriginals. He also suggests that it "would be infinitely better to at once face the problem as the American people with the remnants of the Indian tribes, by collecting them in reserves where alone they can be properly fed and medically treated and maintained in a healthy mental and physical condition". A note from the Home Secretary states that he is in favour of a reserve and directs Gordon to give this idea "prominence".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/1017](#)

Correspondence in relation to Archibald Meston taking 25 Queensland Aboriginals to Sydney for the

re-enactment of the landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay. Also includes newspaper clippings from the Melbourne Argus, Sydney Morning Herald, Evening News and Australian Star on the subject.

Queensland State Archives [TM17982_01/15120](#)

Report titled "The Western Aboriginals" from Archibald Meston dated June 16 1897. Advises that there are 64 "Gnooree" people camped near Charleville; suggests that the Gnooree language is also spoken by the Badjeri, Barraballa, Goammo and Yeeman people and that they all have the same class divisions; lists the class divisions and the marriage relationships; gives a brief list of some Gnooree words: gnarbanna: bora ceremony; meeca: good; I: inda; you: ginya; he: eelang-go; she: yabang-o; describes the living conditions at the camp near Charleville and their dispossession from country and comments that some are employed on stations; at Mitchell there were 32 Aboriginals in the camp near the town; briefly discusses the living conditions and the health of the Mitchell Aboriginals; comments that these people belong to the same tribe as the people at Charleville and that they are bounded by the "Coonggarrie, Coongaboola, Beecha and Yeeman tribes; they call the Maranoa "Boorinjay"; their word for river is "alba"; some of the Aboriginals at Mitchell work on the surrounding stations; comments that one aged Aboriginal told him that he had seen Sir Thomas Mitchell's expedition in 1848, another gave him a circumstantial account of the killing of Leichhardt's party; at Roma there were 62 Aboriginals camped at Bungil Creek belonging to the Coonggarrie tribe and speaking the Gnooree language; comments on the conditions in the camp; discusses the use of opium; "The Western blacks, like those on the coast, can only be saved from perishing, miserably and rapidly, by removing them to reserves created to secure their seclusion from contact with other races, and initiating to industrious habits by placing them under those conditions which are essential to enable the primitive savage of the Stone Age, to pass, by gradual transition, to the third, or agricultural stage of mankind"; comments that a few Aboriginals are camped at or near stations between Dalby and Charleville who still practice a "migratory" lifestyle; at Dulacca he met an Aboriginal named Eening-gobilla who belonged to the Yeeman tribe and who spoke the Yung-gumm-bil language, this man had been raised by William Miles, he also gave Meston the meanings for Yeulba: stone knife, Dulacca: sandalwood, Channing: cypress pine, Mungallala: from munggal sand, Wamallila; from wamal a honeysuckle, his tribe has the same class divisions as the Gnooree and he is "Woongoo"; a few Aboriginals are camped at Warra; there were 14 Aboriginals camped at Jimbour, but some "migrate" to Nanango and elsewhere; the Aboriginals at Jimbour speak the "Wacca-Wacca" language; there was an Aboriginal at Jimbour named Yanminggalowie who came from the "Big River" in New South Wales who spoke the Kamilaroi language of the Namoi, his son was named Yathabbarowie, who was also known as Samuels, a champion runner; gives the class divisions and marriage rules of the Kamilaroi; comments that the Kamilaroi language is a totally different dialect to the language spoken on the Darling Downs; the Aboriginals are treated kindly by the Bell family at Jimbour; comments that the recent tour of north Queensland by the Police Commissioner has resulted in a change of attitude towards the Aboriginals by the Native Police and settlers; the report makes the recommendations that gradual removal of the unemployed Aboriginals should be implemented and that some stern measures should be introduced to stop the sale of opium. The appendix to the report lists the number of Aboriginals, including those working on stations, in several locations: Charleville: 68; Augathella: 130; Woороooka: 45; Adavale: 60; Cunnamulla: 35; Morven: 12; Mitchell: 38; Roma: 71 and Roma to Toowoomba: 58.

Queensland State Archives [TM17982_01/15120](#)

Report titled "Aboriginals West of the Warrego" from Archibald Meston dated June 1900. The report focuses on the Aboriginals of the Paroo, Bulloo, Wilson rivers and Cooper Creek. The report contrasts the number of Aboriginals at several locations in western Queensland in 1897 (see directly above) and in June 1900 Charleville: 9; Augathella: 17; Woороooka: 2; Adavale: 10; Cunnamulla: 7; Morven: 5; Mitchell: 15; Roma: 30; Roma to Toowoomba: 42; suggests that the decrease in the

population is due to disease, addiction to opium and the migration to other localities; discusses the language boundaries of the Maranoa Warrego- far south west Queensland-northern NSW regions; mentions the use of pituri; discusses the contact history of the settlers and the Aboriginals of the region; hints that Western philosophies such as "Social Darwinism" and "The Great Chain of Being" are largely responsible for the gross mistreatment of the western Aboriginals; suggests that Queensland is not alone in the mistreatment of "inferior" races, all of Australia and other countries also share the blame; the only solution is removal and "protection"; comments that Aboriginal family members in the region have long suffered from separation from each other; discusses the treatment of Aboriginal station employees including wages and forced prostitution; discusses the supply of alcohol to Aboriginals; it is not advisable to separate families comprising a white father and Aboriginal mother if the children are treated properly; "the only prevention for the increase of half castes and the serious wrongs they suffer is the removal of the aboriginal women where they will be restricted absolutely to men of their own race"; "at Thargomindah I met eight aboriginals who were assembled there performing the "Moola" corroboree. This corroboree started from the Georgina River and had been twelve months travelling down to the Bulloo taking in the Diamantina, Cooper Creek and Wilson on the way"; discusses the condition of the Aboriginals at Thargomindah and Meston states that he explained the benefits of removal to them; comments on the removal program, i.e. walking the Aboriginals into Cunnamulla; states that Nellie Maher and her two children from Thargomindah, Bomba and her five children from Thargomindah Station and Weebine from Denevor Downs were removed to Durundur; "had none been removed the western employers would have regarded my visit as merely a polite formality".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/15120](#)

Report titled "The Western Aboriginals" from Archibald Meston dated July 1901. States that the drought in western Queensland has increased the demand (and the financial cost) of supplying rations to the Aboriginals; suggests that the Cooper Creek, Wilson River and Bullo River have been the worst effected; the drought and the necessity of stopping the Aboriginal women from having "half-caste" children are put forward as reasons for the removal program; states that he has removed 46 Aboriginal and "half-caste" girls from the west in the last three years, also 68 men and 49 women; of those removed there has only been one death: Bismarck from Nocatunga Station on the Wilson who died in Brisbane hospital on the 9th of June; briefly mentions prostitution, alcohol and opium contributing to the Aboriginals' misery; recommends Harold Meston as "travelling Protector" for the west.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/15120](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated July 1901 forwarding a letter from Harry Pegler, the manager of Comongin Station asking for rations for the Aboriginals. Meston states that there have also been requests from several stations, including Thylungra and Pilterro, to have the Aboriginals removed. He recommends that requests for rations should be refused, "removal to the coast Reserves is the only remedy". He suggests that the climate at Durundur is good for the health of the Aboriginals, there having been only one death that of Bismarck, who died after catching a chill at a corroboree at Government House. Pegler's letter also names the Aboriginals presently on Comongin Station: Warrego, Jenny, Jimmy, Jenny, Ada, Minnie, Tommy, Maggie, Tippo, Peter and Topsy. "There are others close at hand at Bierbank".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/15120](#)

Letter from Harold Meston dated September 2, 1901 requesting a horse and trap for his work in western Queensland.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/15120](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated September 4, 1901 in relation to Harold Meston's appointment to work among the Aboriginals of western Queensland. He wants to know Harold's official position, his salary and details of expenses. "Before he starts I will give him a full list of type written instructions subject to the Home Secretary's approval".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_01/19693](#)

Correspondence in relation to Charley Fort Cooper who was stranded in New South Wales. Charley was taken away driving as a boy to NSW and now wishes to return to Mackay or Nebo.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/532](#)

Letter from John Stuart at Warroo via St George to Mr Story MLA dated January 4, 1902 asking if a "half-caste" girl of about 17 years named Ida Rigby can be returned to him. Ida had been working at Stuart's Warroo Hotel for the last two years. The file also contains a letter from Meston stating that Ida Rigby was removed to Mrs Frew because "a western bush public house, with no police within 45 miles, is not a good school for a girl of any colour".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/1231](#)

Letter from the Aboriginal Girls Home in West End requesting a book of railway passes for the Home.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/1742](#)

Letter from the manager of Thomby Station via St George dated December 3, 1901 asking Mr Story MLA if a "half-caste" girl named Lizzie Cook can be returned to him. She had been working with a Chinese man at Cooroorah but had left him and was living on Thomby when she was removed to Durundur. The letter in the file from Meston states that she was known to the St George police as an opium smoker. The file also contains associated police reports and a letter from Mr Story MLA requesting that the Home Secretary look into the matter.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/2371](#)

Letter from Mrs Frew to the Under Secretary dated February 4, 1902 asking if she can borrow the 'Otter' for a river picnic for the girls at the Home. "It occurred to me some little time ago that the Department might at intervals mingle a little pleasure with the protection it dispenses".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/3256](#)

Letter from Inspector Graham in Charleville dated February 18, 1902 forwarding vouchers for the payment of rations supplied to Jenny, Maryanne (1) and Maryanne (2) who were removed from Eulo near Adavale to Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/3469](#)

Telegram from the Home Secretary in Stanthorpe dated February 1902: "Beatrice Turner aboriginal half caste been living here many years with Mr Alexander McDonald of Stanthorpe has tumour requiring operation send McDonald pass for her to Brisbane and inform Mrs Frew he will advise her at what train to meet girl".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/3544](#)

Letter from the Border Customs Office at Oontoo (Birdsville/Innamincka district-SA/QLD border) requesting rations for the destitute Aboriginals in the district. Because of the drought and the lack of work they are unable to fend for themselves. Page 2 of the letter mentions that the only Aboriginal who has work is a man named Nappa Werrie. Notes on the first page of the letter from Archibald Meston and the Home Secretary recommend their removal.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/3584](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated May 1, 1902 advising the removal of an Aboriginal girl from Killarney (Warwick district) to the Girl's Home in West End. The unnamed girl was living with Sergeant O'Brien and he recommended that she be sent to a new mistress.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/4075](#)

Correspondence in relation to a request from a white man named Charles Whittaker of Barcaldine to marry an Aboriginal woman named Maggie Barlow who was removed to Durundur. A note from Meston states that "I removed Maggie to Durundur with her half caste Chinese girl of two years".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/4226](#)

Correspondence in relation to the removal of Catherine Limpsey aka Emily Limpsey from Banana. The correspondence suggests that Catherine was born on August 12, 1886 at Banana and adopted by John Limpsey when she was five. She was educated at the Banana State School. She was removed to Rockhampton under the control of Inspector Brannelly.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/4296](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Warwick dated March 11, 1902 advising that he arrived from Goondiwindi yesterday and will arrive in Brisbane tomorrow.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/5413](#)

Contains a letter from the Pastoral Inspector to the Under Secretary dated May 1900 complaining that Mr Meston removed an Aboriginal man named Peter from his home on Ardoch station, Bulloo River and asking for him to be returned. A second letter from the Pastoral Inspector advises that Peter was removed at the same time as Willie.

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston dated June 27, 1900 advising that he did not remove Willie but left him at Ardoch. The only other Aboriginal with him was Jimmy, Inspector Graham's trooper. Meston states that the Aboriginal people he talked to on Ardoch Station complained to him about the wages and treatment they were getting. Meston states that he did not remove Peter but that he probably ran away.

Contains an article from the Worker dated July 21, 1900 in which the scrub cutters of south west Queensland relate their experience of the conditions of bush workers. Point no 3 makes reference to Mr Green of Ardoch Station: "This man employs only blacks if he can get them. In fact he had eight or nine black gins fenced in with rabbit proof netting adjoining the house". A third letter from the Pastoral Inspector dated July 1900 states that Mr Green of Ardoch Station treats the Aboriginals fairly.

Contains a letter from Harold Meston acknowledging that he has been appointed "Protector of Aboriginals".

Contains a telegram from Harold Meston in Charleville: "Have just secured horses leaving tomorrow reach Adavale about twenty second will wire from there".

Letters from Carter and Company in Charleville are in relation to payment for two horses supplied to Harold Meston.

Contains a letter from the Government Storekeeper advising that he is forwarding a voucher for payment a harness supplied by Butler Brothers to Harold Meston.

Letter 01/18067, 01/16652, 01/16386, 01/15333, Top-numbered to 02/5413

Note: the following letters are missing 01/14777, 01/12400, 01/12399, 01/10987, 00/11145, 00/10207, 00/9677, 00/9660, 00/7662, 99/1606, 98/14870

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/5679](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated April 1902 requesting another book of railway passes.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/5908](#)

The file contains a letter from Peter Robinson at Deebing Creek complaining of the visits by New South Wales Aboriginals to Deebing Creek. He advises that on one occasion an Aboriginal named Jackie Crofton enticed a woman away and assaulted her. He is now in jail awaiting trial. He asks if there is law that allows them to be sent back to New South Wales. The file also contains a letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated April 1902 suggesting that the exchange of Aboriginals between the States is unavoidable, however, a man like Crofton should not be allowed to stay one day at Deebing Creek. Meston states that if Robinson advises him of any misconduct he will have them removed straight away. Meston is also critical of the administration of the reserve which needs to be more effective in dealing with the abuses "which are a public scandal in the Ipswich district".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/6353](#)

The file contains a letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated April 7, 1902 advising that he has cut expenditure in his department. He has recalled Harold Meston from the west and sent him to work at Durundur, corrected the abuses in blanket distribution, cut off avoidable expenditure at Birdsville, Mungindi, Miles, Rockhampton and Springsure. He also suggests the closure of the Aboriginal Girls Home.

Contains a letter from Harold Meston dated April 16, 1902 suggesting that the services he performs as "travelling protector" are urgently needed at present. He suggests that to cut costs he will travel around on a bicycle instead of by horse.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/7341](#)

Large file re-Durundur and the Aboriginals from Western Queensland who were removed there.

Contains a newspaper clipping from the Brisbane Courier dated June 8, 1900 reporting on a public meeting and subsequent deputation to the Home Secretary in relation to concerns about removing the western Aboriginals to Durundur. And a newspaper clipping from the Daily Telegraph dated October

27, 1897 on the same subject.

Contains a report from Archibald Meston dated June 6, 1900 submitting some information that may help the Home Secretary with any future deputations. He advises that the main "agitator is a man named James Horne, the man who tried hard to evade paying wages to his half caste servant Clementina". Meston also states that during Father McNab's time on Durundur there were 100 to 200 Aboriginals on the reserve but there was never any trouble from them. In 1897 the number had dropped to 26, who were then removed to Fraser Island. The Deebing Creek reserve is in the middle of a populated area and yet the settlers there have never complained.

Contains a report from Archibald Meston dated June 27 1900 in relation to the Durundur reserve. He advises that the reserve is the best in Queensland and under the proper management could be a very successful home for the Aboriginals. Meston also comments that the previous Durundur Aboriginals were the "remnant of the Boolwanburra tribe speaking the Gooray dialect. At present there are 74 Aboriginals living on Durundur including two Fraser Island Aboriginals Windandera and Neeallera and their wives Elsie and Bessie. Meston recommends that some of the Fraser Island Aboriginals should be moved to Durundur because it is not a good idea to have a reserve populated by people from only one tribe. Meston also comments on the improvements needed at Durundur and the need to re-gazette portions of it as "Aboriginal Reserve". He also comments that the Western Aboriginals are unlikely to cause any trouble in the district. Contains a letter from Archibald Meston advising the Under Secretary of the soil conditions at Durundur.

Contains a letter from Walter Hume to the Home Secretary dated October 13, 1898 drawing his attention to the "deplorable condition" of the female Aboriginals in the Hughenden, Cloncurry, Urandangie, Boulia, Birdsville and Windorah districts. He states that prostitution and venereal disease are rife and that this state of affairs is "a public scandal reflecting on the good name of the colony". He asks for something to be done to "ameliorate the condition of these unfortunate women".

Contains a report from Sergeant Broderick of the Windorah Police dated January 5, 1899 advising that he has visited the stations in the district and found that the treatment and condition of the female Aboriginals in the district was good. Stations mentioned in the report: Galoway Plains, Manilla, Whitula, Eulbertie, Canterbury, Dalton. Morney, Springfield, Maroo and [Weroongooloo?]. His report also mentions a corroboree. Contains a report from the Boulia Police Station dated December 20, 1898 advising that "prostitution is rampant" in the district and that there have been cases of venereal disease; a report from the Boulia Police Station dated December 10, 1898 advising that the previous report (above) re female Aboriginals, prostitution and venereal disease "is an accurate account of their condition in this part of the Sub-district"; a report from the Boulia Police Station dated December 5, 1898 advising that the few Aboriginals in the camp at Betoota and those on stations are not suffering from venereal disease. But most of them have been at the lower Cooper Creek for the last twelve months; a report from the Birdsville Police Station dated December 7, 1898 in reply to Mr Hume's letter (above). The letter advises that prostitution is common on the stations in the district but that the only disease suffered by the Aboriginals lately is influenza. There is a recommendation for the Aboriginals' removal; a report from the Urandangie Police Station advising that venereal disease is common in the district and that co-habitation is also common; a report from the Winton Police Station advising that the Aboriginals of the district are healthy with the exception of those in the Diamantina camp; a report from the Kynuna Police Station in relation to the Aboriginals in the district; a report from the Diamantina Police Station re the Aboriginals in the district; a report from the Middleton Police Station re the condition of the Aboriginals on Cork Station.

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston dated December 21, 1899 forwarding correspondence re the

condition of the Aboriginals in the west, particularly the area assigned to Mr Gordon (see above); a copy of the letter from Walter Hume; further correspondence re the condition of the Aboriginals in the west.

Also contains a return listing the Aboriginals on Durundur reserve, their native names, where they were removed from and what station, their age and their class (this is the appendix to the report below dated July 1900. Location removed from and name (Men):

Cooper Creek: Tommy, Dick, Christmas and Sam. Wilson River: Cobby, Billy, Brutus, Bismarck, Monkey, Maori, Kyee Jack, Conbar Tommy, Perry, Charlie and Pinta. Bulloo Lake: Hebel. Thargomindah: Willie, King Neddy, Dynevor Billy, Tommy, Tiger and Charlie. Bulloo River: Lively, Obehiah, Soona Jimmy and Tommy. Warrego River: Jack Broome and Billy. Coolgardie: Toney and Jimmy. Fraser Island: Willie, George, Bob, and Ned. Paroo River: Dick.

(Women): Bulloo River: Fanny, Kitty, Rosie, Mother Neddy, Lucy, Alice, Bomba, Cissie, Coojee, Judy, Susie and Rosey. Wilson River: Nelly, Lizzie, Maggie, Tootie, Nelly, Sally, Mary Ann and Kitty. Warrego River: Lizzie Broome. Ipswich: Bessie. Rockhampton: Elsie. Fraser Island: Maggie.

(Children): Thargomindah: Weebee, Binda, Ivy, Clare, Elsie, Annie and Jack. Wilson River: Silbie, Violet and Angelina. Cunnamulla: Wilson (boy).

Contains a report from Archibald Meston titled "Western Aboriginals At Durundur" dated July 1900 discussing some of the Aboriginals from the Wilson, Bulloo, Thargomindah, Cunnamulla, Paroo and Cooper Creek districts listed in the above return. For instance, "Nellie Maher the widow of a white man to whom she was married in Cunnamulla, and who died there. Nellie was residing at Thargomindah about half a mile from the town".

A return lists the names of the Aboriginals at Durundur who have obtained employment and how much they are paid dated February 1901. Names listed: Bismarck, Barney, Christmas, Brutus, Tiger, Billy Button, Bob, Conbar Tommy, Diamantina Tommy, Warrigal Charlie, Cobby, Sam, Maori, Charleville Jimmy and Thylungra Tommy.

Contains a list of the Aboriginals employed from Durundur and how much they were paid dated July 1901.

Contains further correspondence re the employment and wages of Aboriginals from Durundur (some names).

Contains two reports from Archibald Meston dated August 1901 in relation to moving the Aboriginals from Durundur to Barambah.

Contains a letter from Harold Meston at Durundur dated August 1901 advising that the Aboriginals soon adapt to new locations so there should be no hesitation in bringing more Aboriginals in from the west or continuing the Durundur reserve.

Contains correspondence in relation to the handing over of Durundur reserve to Albert Tronson dated October 1901.

A return lists the household and other goods belonging to the reserve.

Contains a return of all the Aboriginal males on Durundur with entries for place of employment, wages and age. Names listed: Lively, Charleville Jimmy, Sam, Toney, Diamantina Tom, Johnny Rankin, Tiger,

Peter, Jack Dowling, Toby, Jerry, Wallace, Gilbert, Willie Gordon, Conbar Tom, Tiger Stanley, Captain, Jimmy Murdoch, Thylungra Tom, Billy Barcoo, Monkey, Whitchello, Tinninburra Charlie, Roma Tom, Rockhampton Sam.

Women and children: Topsy, Lucy Susie, Maggie, Tom's Sally, Derry's Sally, Big Sally, Charleville Rosie, Tookey, Tom's Polly, Goonmee, Weebine, Alice Obadiah, Alice, Polly White, Minnie, Denny, Neville, Bertie, Jack, Minnie, Johanna, Daisy, Norma, Violet, Binda, Sylvia, Jessie, Emily and Minnie's baby.

Contains a report from Archibald Meston dated May 9, 1902 recommending that the Durundur police paddock be gazetted an Aboriginal reserve.

Letter 01/15936, 01/12962, 01/12484, 01/12030, 01/11375, 01/10510, 01/2674, 00/11167, 00/10284, 00/9675, 00/8561, 00/8526, 99/16178, 98/12948, Top-numbered to 02/7341

Note: these previous letters are not top-numbered as they are missing – 00/8363, 00/8151, 00/7970, 00/7775, 00/7622, 00/7529, 00/7521, 00/7353.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/8980](#)

Newspaper clipping from the Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton) dated June 4, 1902 in relation to Archibald Meston's removal of the Aboriginals from the "Sand Hills", North Rockhampton to Durundur. Names mentioned: Lizzie and Winnie who had been living with Solomon Island men, May and her husband Sunflower and their two children, Linnie Calarrie (husband of Minnie) and Mundabell.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/12581](#)

Correspondence in relation to the payment of Medical Officers for attending to Aboriginals. Includes correspondence from Cloncurry that mentions an Aboriginal woman named Kitty aka Mary who sought medical treatment in Cloncurry and correspondence from Mungindi including a return for the payment of medical attention to Aboriginals in Mungindi. Aboriginals named on the Mungindi return: Jack Brown, Mungya Mary, Wee Wee, Lizzie's baby, Warree Jack, Billy and Lizzie.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/12740](#)

Correspondence in relation to complaints from Tabby Koran that Archibald Meston removed his Aboriginal wife Minnie from the "Sand Hills", Rockhampton to Durundur. Tabby is described as a "Pacific Islander" and was also known as "Captain". The file includes their marriage certificate that names Minnie's parents as King Buckley and Kate Buckley and a sad letter from Minnie at Durundur to her husband in Rockhampton. Contains a newspaper clipping in relation to Minnie's removal from her husband.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/16931](#)

The file includes a letter from J Ledgewood (described as "half-caste") of Oakwood Station via Charleville to Archibald Meston dated August 1902 asking him to remove his wife Maggie and child Nellie because his wife is addicted to opium. There is a directive from Meston to remove them to Deebing Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_02/17887](#)

Contains a letter from Thomas Ivins at Deebing Creek advising that May [Nullville?] has died of consumption. He states that she was from the Yuggara tribe and about 22 years of age. He also advises

the death of a baby boy belonging to Minna. Minnie was then removed to Durundur. Includes a second letter from Ivins at Deebing Creek in relation to Minna but which also mentions that Molly and her husband have gone to New South Wales.

Letter 02/16460, Top-numbered to 02/17887

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 02/18309](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston requesting a new railway pass book.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 02/18316](#)

Correspondence from the Waggamba Divisional Board complaining that the Aboriginals are dirtying the waterhole at Talwood and asking for them to be removed. Mentions that they stir up the water to make it muddy to help them catch fish. Also includes a letter from Donald Gunn in reply to the points made in the letter from the Waggamba Divisional Board. He states that the letter is very misleading and that the only Aboriginals camping on the Talwood reserve are two aged Aboriginal women named Caroline and Aunty, "also a half caste with three or four children named Mrs Weatherall her husband is away droving sheep for me". He also states that the only person he knows who has complained is Mr Hooper of Talwood. He also comments that "it is hard lines if we cannot spare three unfortunates a little water which was in former times their own land".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 02/18684](#)

Correspondence in relation to a request from the Rockhampton Hospital Board for the Dawson Aboriginals to perform a corroboree as part as a fundraising exhibition. There is also a request from the Mount Morgan Brass Band Committee for the Aboriginals to perform in their town after they have performed in Rockhampton.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/70](#)

Correspondence in relation to a request from George Haughton for the removal of an Aboriginal man named Hippi from Eulo. Hippi is accused of being a "menace" to the other Aboriginals because he "points the bone" at them. Meston suggests that Haughton is just out to make trouble.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/448](#)

The file contains a letter from Mr Thompson at Pikes Creek via Stanthorpe asking if two Aboriginals named Taffy and Lucy can be removed from Birdsville to come to work for him and that the government pay the cost of removal. Thompson had previously employed them when living on Durrie Station, Birdsville district and there is a suggestion that they are presently employed there looking after the mail horses. The file also contains a letter from Archibald Meston refusing the request. He states that Taffy is already employed and that the cost of removing them to Stanthorpe would be far too high to be justified. Meston comments that "Mr Thompson's proposal is sufficiently cool to be refreshing in this hot weather".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/1010](#)

Contains a letter from Harry Pegler at Comongin Station dated October 1901 asking that two Aboriginal women on his station named Ellen and Ada not be removed but be exempted from the Act or failing that be allowed to stay on the station as domestic servants. He advises that Ada is married to another Aboriginal named Jimmy [Mack?] and Ellen is married to a white man named Templeton.

Contains a report from Harold Meston sent from Cunnamulla dated February 18, 1902 in relation to a tour of western stations and localities. Reports on the numbers and health etc of the Aboriginals at Oaiwarra, Hungerford, Bulloo Downs and Dynevor Downs. Names mentioned in relation to Bulloo Downs: Mary a "half-caste" married to Mr Jones the Storekeeper on the station, they have a family of six children, Dinah with a child six months old. Dynevor Downs: Minnie, 23 years.

Contains a return dated between Jan and Feb 1902 of the Aboriginals at Oaiwarra, Hungerford, Bulloo Downs and Dynevor Downs with headings for sex, age, class, caste, English name, Aboriginal name, native of, employment and health. The following English names appear on the return. Where Aboriginal names are recorded these are in brackets after the English names, some entries only have the Aboriginal name recorded, some of the Aboriginal names are hard to read and some may be spelled incorrectly): Peter (Yenkoola); Maggie (Bunringaringa); Booroora Charlie (Yungahnee); Jenny; Arthur; Minnie (Murroolgalu); Yinmah; Yocal; Mary (Boojooboo); Johnny (Morningo); Clyde (Yingarlah); Willie (Coorah); Annie; Jessie; Bob (Bunda); Mick (Jakkulla); Jack (Meeposee); Maggie (Yeelee); Croppy (Yelluberee); Maggie (Ollennee); Paddy (Yoongalla); Lollypop (Noothoo); Pinbah; Fanny (Coolittee); Womburah; Mary (Wokkowoggah); Cocoa (Eureurramee); Frank (Nokkatuppeea); Bob (Unmo); Albert (Nahkillee); Womby; Dinah (Mumbah); Baby; Charlie (Yurree); Old Woman (Coonmee); Bandicoot (Poonkillee); Duncan (Dalkillee); Mary (Womminyia); King Jack (Padilly); Barney (Yaroolee); Bob (Helpillee); Charlie Fitzroy (Moonbillee); Wallace (Yalloolee); Willie (Coorkee); Willie (Brilyerry); Charlie (Windybundie); Alf; Toby (Mingah); Fred (Bullttchen); Joe; Polly (Elkie); Minnie (Yambo); Jenny (Bikkool); Sarah (Bingeer); Eva; Mary (Cobbo); Old Woman (Coolkee); Margorie (Coobbo); Binda; Ada; Minnies baby; Yowny (Goorah).

Contains a telegram from Harold Meston to the Under Secretary dated March 1902 advising that he is leaving Cunnamulla for Beechal, Bulloo Downs, Windorah, the Cooper River and the Diamantina River to inspect the Aboriginals "requiring urgent attention".

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston to the Home Secretary dated March 26, 1902 advising him to recall Harold Meston from the west and place him in charge of Durundur until the drought breaks. "There is a clear prospect of killing his horses and a fair prospect of ending by killing himself for ... travelling in that country across long dry stages is a serious business". "I can undertake to manage the Western blacks somehow with the aid of the police".

Contains a telegram from Harold Meston to the Under Secretary dated March 26, 1902 advising that he has arrived in Adavale via Tilboroo and North Comongin and is leaving for Jundah.

Contains a telegram from Harold Meston advising that he is leaving for Listowel and Tambo.

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated April 5, 1902 advising that he has received the following telegrams from Harold Meston: April 3, 1902: "Just arrived by Milo, Listowel and Minnie Downs, will wire tomorrow re Listowel blacks". April 4, 1902: "saw 15 aboriginals, all colours, at Listowel mostly bad state disease and opium, 15 others gone to Lorne to obtain fresh supply of opium, kindly get Blackall police instructed catch Chinese gardener there".

Contains a report from Harold Meston dated April 16, 1902 on an inspection tour of Tilboroo, Homeburn, Beechal, Emudilla, Milo, Listowel Downs, Tambo and Oakwood. At Tilboroo there was one Aboriginal man employed as a stockman; on the creek near Humeburn there was one "half-caste" man employed as a kangaroo shooter with his wife and two "half-caste" children. At Humeburn there were 4 "pure" Aboriginals and six "half-castes". The station manager and his wife recommended their removal. At

Beechal there were 10 Aboriginals in good health. "This station was always a great camping ground for the blacks". At Umudilla there was one Aboriginal employed as a gardener and one employed as a stockman. At Milo 6 Aboriginals were employed. At Lisotwel Downs there were 30 Aboriginals in poor health and smoking opium, one Aboriginal named Tom Brown from Mitchell was going blind and asked to be taken to the hospital in Brisbane. Meston recommends that the Aboriginals be removed to a reserve because it is "useless" to treat the sick Aboriginals without the proper supervision. At Tambo the Aboriginals were camped in the bed of the river and on a sand hill near the cemetery. They were all in poor health and "walking skeletons" from smoking opium. At Oakwood the condition of the Aboriginals was similar to those at Tambo and Listowel. Meston asks for authority to remove the Aboriginals at Humbern, Listowel, Tambo and Oakwood. Attached to the report is a return of the Aboriginals at Tilboroo, Humbern, Beechal, Emudilla, Milo, Listowel, Tambo and Oakwood between March and April 1902 with headings for sex, age, class, caste, English name, Aboriginal name, native of, employment and health. The following English names appear on the return. Where Aboriginal names are recorded these are in brackets after the English names, some of the Aboriginal names are hard to read and some may be spelled incorrectly): Albert (Coongaroo); Maggie (Etallee); Jack; Tommy; Albert (Minyalla); Kitty (Peckillee); Rosie (Burkull); Polly (Yakburony); Bundy; Willie (Eulorothillee); Johnny; Boney (Yunggoongoolie); Henry (Neeleewrung); Jack (Deerwinny); Jessie (Muthilla); Yimblah; Maryanne (Yimbeeree); Colin; Nelly (Moojool); Toby (Papeelo); Nelly (Bunyindoo); Maggie (Nanyeroo); Paddy Martin (Undooyo); Paddy Murphy (Kyooboothoo); Harry Black (Wokkee); Yurkully; Billy (Murjunny); Captain (Yabeejahloo); Boney (Tahgillee); Charlie (Toomburrul); Tommy (Enjurraythee); Maggie (Terroconah); Nellie (Tummublee); Alec (Woongo); Tommy (Byilla); Portland (Nullabullaingua); Louie (Tamboonyah); Terrick (Myinbuidah); Caroo; Tom Brown (Nukkuree); George (Boorah); Nelly (Kynbah); Jack (Wolla); Gordon (Dinninallee); Cudjellah; Jack; Willie [Beanie?]; Alec McLaren (Waggubnah); Maria (Goolehah); Pilot (Beechah); Dick; Johnny (Womalgo); Arthur (Moorgay); Tommy Glynn (Arrodeedoo); Jimmy (Deekind); Paddy (Dickundo); Freddy (Peelleeno); Jack (Neeloyo); Bob (Dargo); Paddy (Bahniando); Blind Billy (Onaudo); Jujube (Anambi); Albert (Moonango); Boko (Goorkilla); Big Henry (Alboomullary); Paddy (Coogaroo); Court (Coomoo); Maggie (Banderow); Totty (Coojaroo); Lizzie (Coojaroo); Old Polly (Wundurnna); Annie (Bunberry); Jenny (Bunberry); Susie (Humbern); Paddy; Henry; Fat Jack (Cowroo); Jenny and baby; Sam; Old Charlie; Charlie; Jenny; Sandy; Emma; Jack Wilson; Jimmy; Yiny; Jacky; Mick; Nancy; Freddy; Louey; Maggie; Nelly; Bobby; Albert; Ivor.

Contains a telegram from Harold Meston sent from Windorah dated June 2, 1902: "Have visited Bulgroo Cooper Crossing Windorah Canterbury Morney Plains Currawilla Mooraberrie [Wonta?] Palparara this last place twenty-nine blacks urgently in need of food clothing medical attendance ...".

Contains a report from Harold Meston dated June 14, 1902 on the number and condition of the Aboriginals at Bulgroo, Cooper Crossing, Windorah district, Canterbury, Morney Plains, Currawilla, Palparara, Mooraberrie, Hammond Downs, Keeroongooloo, Beetoota and Oakwood station. Meston also comments that the station owners are refusing to feed the Aboriginals unless they work and recommends the establishment of a reserve at Cooper Creek, Tanbar station, Eulbertie station or Witula station until the drought breaks and the Aboriginals can be employed again on the stations. Attached to the report is a return listing the Aboriginals at Bulgroo, Cooper Crossing, Canterbury, Morney Plains, Currawilla, Mooraberrie, Hammond Downs and Palparara in May 1902 with headings for sex, age, class, caste, English name, Aboriginal name, native of, employment and health. The following English names appear on the return. Where Aboriginal names are recorded these are in brackets after the English names, some of the Aboriginal names are hard to read and some may be spelled incorrectly): Harry (Nahehillee); Jack; Herbert; Arthur; Polly; Joe; Bidy (Bunberry); Willie (Woorrillee); Billy (Mooroo); Annie (Yeeindah); Jacky (Banbahbooraling); Kitty (Yukken Yukkee); Polly (Urando); Punch (Woogooneetha); Wallace (Yarbirrah); Jenny (Coonggil); Tommy (Mooloojoolah); Lucy (Burroo Burroo); Minnie (Yalbibillee); Maggie (Diarrellee); Joe (Bungunyah); Moses (Yoolpee); Peter (Birreel); Maggie (Muttamurrie); Judy (Peeroo); Mary Anne (Mundahkee); Mary

Anne (Bunjinjah); Charlie (Nookoomulla); Jimmy (Bookaltun); Polly; Tally (Yaloombeering); Larry (Uilderukka); Cooranwinya; Charlie (Yargunnee); Paddy (Peenah); Peter (Yarrunnee); Mary Anne (Womeedah); Billy (Warringah); Jacky (Hiego); Arpikheenoow; Mary Anne (Coomindah); Sally (Yenpeelooke); Darby (Coojoroo); Mirandi; Bessie (Coojoroo); Tommy (Goorkillee); Dicky (Bunberry); Polly (Punjah); Pinta (Mundurkee); Lucy (Yammerloo); Lively (Mooloo); Kitty (Uilyeema); Susie (Penyarkee); Andy (Pltabundee); Maria (Wolkurtee); Fanny (Mookkoouru); Mary (Poonjurkee); Lizzie (Pinyahkee); Joe (Oomooralkee); Kangaroo (Hchillee); Charlie (Wilpillee); Charlie (Yahkilwundahlee); Charlie (Wolbillee); Mick (Walkoollee); Jimmy (Cooroorinya); Peter (Yilpillee); Hackett (Yakkungurra); Charlie (Yunkillee); Sam (Mullourree); Fred (Wyoolee); Jumbo (Pirriepulliah); Paddy (Murrandidgee); Nipper (Wilkoolee); Wotto (Wotto); Ibo (ibo); Tyson.

Contains a report from Harold Meston to the Under Secretary dated July 1, 1902 submitting costs for removing the western Aboriginals to the coast reserves and costing for an alternative plan to keep them in the west and set up a reserve in the Cooper Creek district. He also discusses the wages and general treatment of the Aboriginals and the need to stop white men from having sexual intercourse with Aboriginal women. Attached is a map showing the location of the proposed reserve.

Contains further correspondence and a map re the proposal to set up a reserve in the west. There is a recommendation to locate the reserve at Whitula in the Cooper Creek district.

Contains a report from Harold Meston dated August 8, 1902 re the supply of goods to the reserve at Whitula on the Cooper Creek and which also mentions an Aboriginal man named Charlie from Cooktown who accompanied Meston to Charleville and who was sent to work for Mr Chatterton the Stock Inspector. A margin note on the report advises that the reserve was gazetted on 19/9/02. Also contains further general correspondence re the reserve at Whitula.

Contains a report from Harold Meston dated November 1902 re the reserve at Whitula but which also mentions the names and ages of the Aboriginals on Ray station: Sally 25 years; Nelly 18 years; Mommy 90 years; Millie 13 years; Squib 11 years; May 15 months; Towser 20 years; Brien 26 years; Brazil 50 years; Mailman 35 years; Georgey 3 years. Also mentions that there was only one Aboriginal person on Tenham station, a woman named Dizzie aged about 50 years. Another report from Harold Meston dated October 29, 1902 documents the removal of Aboriginals to Whitula station. He expects to have between 150 and 200 Aboriginals at the reserve in the next three months. Meston also comments on the buildings at Whitula and the abundance of native foods. He also comments that there are 29 Aboriginals at Palparara that he will "get in as soon as possible". He has received a letter from Mrs Scott at Money Plains praising his efforts at setting up a reserve of the Aboriginals but also commenting that " it does frighten the poor old things to take them away from their own country. It is quite natural that they should wish to end their lives in their own land".

Contains correspondence from Harold Meston re the removal of several men camped on Whitula station.

Contains the gazettal notice for the proclamation of the Whitula block as an Aboriginal reserve.

Letter 02/18290, 02/17647, 02/17038, 02/16989, 02/16730, 02/16403, 02/15810, 02/15462, 02/14603, 02/13215, 02/12828, 02/12827, 02/11168, 02/10162, 02/9385, 02/8657, 02/6352, 02/5334, 02/4871, 02/4852, 02/4838, 02/4165, 02/3103, Top-numbered to 03/1010

Note: the following letters are missing - 02/17888, 02/13005, 02/10434, 02/134, 01/20199, 01/19685, 01/19117, 01/18818, 01/17824, 01/17809, 01/17521, 01/17520, 01/17389, 01/17131, 01/17129,

01/17093, 01/16733

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/1524](#)

Contains a draft of Archibald Meston's "Report of the Southern Protector of Aboriginals" for 1902 (presented to both houses of parliament), and two copies of the "Report of the Southern Protector of Aboriginals" for 1902 from Archibald Meston presented to both houses of parliament (a copy of this report is also available at the CPH office, QSA).

Contains a report from Archibald Meston dated January 13, 1903 submitting an outline of the details not contained in the 1902 parliamentary report and work done since the report was issued. 16 Aboriginals have been removed from Cunnamulla and Charleville, including an old woman from Gilmore Station; an Aboriginal named Newland and his wife and three children were sent to Wallangarra and handed over to New South Wales, to which state they belonged; two Native Police troopers named Charley and Toney were sent from Durundur to Victoria to work as trackers; twelve trackers have been sent from Durundur to work for the Queensland Police Force, including Jack Rankin the tracker who found the Kenniffs; a "half-caste" named Yellow George was removed from St George to Durundur; Harold Meston has visited St George, Surat and Bollon; Mrs Williamson of Eidsvold brought down an Aboriginal girl who was sent to the Home. This girl had a "half-caste" child by a man named Alick Kidd; George and Daylight, two prisoners at St Helena were sent back to Normanton; some women and children were removed from Nambour by Mrs Frew; Boondoo, a crippled man from Duck Creek was removed to Durundur; Larry and Daylight were sent from St Helena to Durundur; Chris and Sandy from Cooktown were removed by Walter Roth and sent to Durundur; Charley and Sandy were sent down by Roth from Cooktown by steamer in chains, Sandy was sent to Durundur and Charley was sent to Charleville with Harold Meston then given to the Stock Inspector; Dick from Cooktown presently in St Helena will be released to Durundur; two boys aged 15 or 16 were brought back from New South Wales (the training ship Sobraon) one was sent out to service the other sent to Durundur; Tom Thumb and Billy Boy returned from Bowen to Durundur; on October 17 the three trackers suspected of shooting blacks in the Cape York Peninsula were handed over to me and sent to Durundur; Jacky Flinders was brought from Conobic station on the Flinders River and sent to Durundur; Mackenzie from Coonambula station was sent to Fraser Island, also Harry from Townsville; trackers Charley and Ponto returned from Victoria and Ponto was sent back home to Normanton; Jack Clancy was sent from St Helena to Mount Morgan accompanied by Mitchell from Westwood; 32 Aboriginals were removed from Barcaldine to Durundur; 12 Keppel Island Aboriginals were removed to Durundur; all 14 Aboriginals have been removed from Rockhampton; Katie Mackay was sent to Durundur, she was originally from Mulgrave where nearly all her tribe were shot; Cissie Johnson was removed from Banana to Durundur where she married Charley Turner (ex Native Police trooper with Inspector Fitzgerald) from Nocatunga station; two men and three women were removed from Goodna Asylum to Durundur; Minna in service under Mrs Frew became pregnant and was sent to Deebing Creek and then to her father and mother at Durundur; 3 Blackman children were removed from Bundaberg to Durundur; at Christmas Creek, Logan River there is a widow with 5 children, "I have not yet decided what to do with her. These half caste women and their children are everywhere a serious problem"; Annie Combo is at Durundur married to ex Native Police trooper Willie Gordon and Annie Bowman is at Fraser Island; briefly mentions the reserve at Whitula Station, Cooper River; and the cost cutting that has been implemented.

Letter 02/16189, Top-numbered to 03/1524. Note: Letter 03/594 is missing

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/2068](#)

Letter from the New South Wales Chief Secretary's office dated February 2, 1903 requesting that the possum skins hired to the Queensland Aboriginals who took part in the 1901 Commonwealth

celebrations be returned.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/2443](#)

Letter from Joshua Bell at Jimbour to the Under Secretary dated February 15, 1903 asking if an Aboriginal woman on his station named Maggie can be given a railway pass to go and see her daughter Ethel at Fraser Island or if a pass can be given to Ethel to visit her mother at Jimbour. A margin note from Archibald Meston states that "Maggie has already had one trip to Fraser's Island to see her daughter the return fare is considerable and I would not advise it at present".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/3314](#)

Correspondence in relation to an exhibition by the Durundur Aboriginals performed at Rockhampton and Mount Morgan.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/3755](#)

Letter from the Gladstone School Of Arts dated March 11, 1903 for Archibald Meston to arrange an exhibition of the Durundur Aboriginals at Gladstone.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/3867](#)

Letter from SC Harris sent from St John's Cathedral, Brisbane to the Home Secretary dated March 13, 1903 asking if Billy Fitz and his wife can have railway passes to visit their sons on Bengalla station. A margin note from Meston advises that Billy and his wife were removed from Warwick to Fraser Island 3 1/2 years ago.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/3933](#)

Correspondence from the Maryborough hospital and the Gympie School of Arts and Mines asking if Archibald Meston can arrange for Aboriginals to provide some entertainment to help them raise funds.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/4271](#)

Contains a report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated January 5, 1903. Advises that he removed 6 Aboriginals from Keeroongooloo station to Whitula, an Aboriginal named Long Billy (Yappurra) told him that they had been reluctant to come in because they were told they would then be sent to Fraser Island; the Aboriginals at Keeroongooloo unable to walk to Whitula will be brought in by buggy; the Aboriginals at Keeroongooloo able to work complained that they received very small wages, Meston is arranging for a portion of their wages to be paid directly to him.

Contains a report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated December 20, 1902. Advises that he visited Windorah where he met Tiger Stanley; he left for Canterbury with Tiger Stanley and Billy Shaw and explained the benefits of living at Whitula to the 8 Aboriginals there; at Money Plains there were 8 Aboriginals, three aged Aboriginals were removed to Whitula; at Farrars Creek there had been 33 Aboriginals in the camp but most were out gathering food; lists the work permits that have been issued since his last report, including one to DC Wright to employ Tommy and one to the manager of Kyabra to act as guardian to Jacky Clarke, "h caste, aged 8 years".

Contains a report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated December 22, 1902. Advises that no permits will be issued at Cooper Crossing because the prevalence of opium smoking there makes it an undesirable location for Aboriginals; Retreat station will be investigated re the prevalence of opium

smoking; the police are handing out work permits to persons not fit to hold them, for instance F Little at Tanbar station is a single man who employs to Aboriginal girls; "some people out here make as light knocking down a blackfellow with a sliprail or flogging him with a stock whip", Punch (Wooganeetha) was beaten by Mr Hackett at Whitula.

Contains a report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated February 23, 1903. Advises that there are 11 Aboriginals at Thunda station who are "walk about blacks who in their search for food had come to Thunda", "one man Mundowie goes about on his hands and knees exactly the same as Bundoo the man who went to Durundur"; on Welford Downs there were 7 Aboriginals all suffering from the effects of opium smoking; on Retreat station there were 11 Aboriginals, also opium smokers; the publican at Cooper Crossing has been warned not to let Aboriginals near the place.

Contains a letter from Harold Meston at Whitula dated February 23, 1903 requesting that Whitula be stocked with sheep to feed the Aboriginals and to provide an income for the reserve.

Contains a report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated January 20, 1903. Advises that he visited Tarko station where there were 19 Aboriginals in the camp, including Scrappy Jimmy and Kitty, "four of the old men were painted up to make fish (according to their belief) in the Tarko waterhole", the Aboriginals agreed to come to Whitula; "one the way back from Tarko I came past Lake McKillop or Yamma Yamma and Eulbertie waterhole on Coopers Creek. The blacks at both these places had only recently shifted camp"; Rosie aged 24 years and Nelly aged 15 years were removed from Tanbar station to Whitula, one of the girls will be sent to Mrs Cairns of Currawilla and the other to the Postmaster's wife at Windorah or to Mrs Oliffe at Hammond Downs; the Aboriginals are now coming in to Whitula from several locations; comments that the Aboriginals are not getting their wages. "I think that those who get any wages are few and far between. It is just time that this slave system was put down out here".

Letters 03/3934, 03/1466, Top-numbered to 03/4271

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/4631](#)

Report from Harold Meston at Whitula dated March 11, 1903 advising that he has visited Galway Downs, "with the exception of two old black men in the camp all the other blacks were out on the run"; permits have been issued to Morgan Peppin of Kyabra to act as guardian to Jacky Clarke, to the manager of Bulloo Downs to employ Paddy, Croppy, Tinda, Womby, Mick, Coeo, Frank, Bob, Lollie, Maggie, Fanny and Momba, to Mount Margerat to employ Snip, Dick and Angelina; there are now 45 Aboriginals at Whitula and the total number who have been relieved to dated from Whitula numbers 105; Rosie from Tanbar was placed in service with Mrs Oliffe of Hammond Downs. Also contains a letter from Harold Meston at Whitula to JF Kidd of Galway Downs dated March 3, 1903 advising him that he saw two Aboriginal men on Galway smoking opium. Meston informs Kidd that if this practice is not stopped he will remove all the Aboriginals from Galway Plains.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/4679](#)

Correspondence in relation to a request from a white man named Robert Smith at Pinkenjinnie via Roma to marry an Aboriginal woman named Nelly Hogan of Dalmaly station. Nelly has two children a boy two years old born at Roma and another to Smith about one month old.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982 03/4721](#)

Correspondence in relation to the purchase and agistment of sheep at Whitula reserve.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/4802](#)

Report from Archibald Meston of the work done by the Southern Protector "for the whole period and for last year specifically" dated March 30, 1903. Advises on the cost of the Aboriginal Stations for 1902 at Deebing Creek, Barambah, Bogimbah, Myora, Durundur, Whitula, St Vincent's Orphanage and the Aboriginal Girls Home; the cost of Protector's salaries and the cost of removals; savings have been made in blanket expenditure; 104 Aboriginals were removed to reserves in 1902, since the Act came into force 604 Aboriginals have been removed, 94 to Brisbane hospital, 7 to Rockhampton hospital, girls sent in to service 84, alleged criminals from the north sent south 17, handed over from St Helena and Boggo Road in 1901-1902 21, alleged dangerous Aboriginals removed on request of police and benches in 1902: 11, trackers supplied to the police in 1902-1903: 28; "three northern trackers handed over to me by Commissioner of Police for special reason (1903) 3; discusses the supply and cost of rations to the Aboriginals; 33 Aboriginal girls have been sent to the Magdalen Asylum, gives the number of girls sent into service from the Asylum and the cost of running the Asylum; there have been 46 prosecutions in relation to opium.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/5063](#)

Contains a letter from Mr Whiteman at Rockhampton dated April 4, 1902 requesting payment for rations supplied to an Aboriginal man named Osman and his wife at Isisford; a letter from J King in Ipswich dated June 12, 1902 requesting payment for cab hire to take an Aboriginal man to Deebing Creek and to take four others to the railway station; a letter from Rich and Company dated June 20, 1902 requesting payment for the conveyance of a "half-caste" named Richards from Cooroopa to Cunnamulla; a letter from Herbert Hassall at Woodford dated June 25, 1902 requesting payment for goods supplied to Durundur; a letter from Mr Lukin in Maryborough dated August 13, 1902 asking for payment of an overdue account; a letter from the Under Secretary to Herbert Hassall of Woodford dated July 21, 1902 in relation to several alleged amounts owing to Hassall for the supply of goods to Durundur. "I have the honor to inform you the Mr Meston, Protector of Aboriginals, states that your vouchers from June 1900 to May 1902 have been paid monthly, and that it is not therefore apparent what amounts are still owing to you".

Contains further correspondence re the outstanding amounts owed to Hassall. Also a letter from Mr Lukin in Maryborough dated August 30, 1902 asking if it will be necessary to summons Mr Meston in relation to an outstanding account or if the account will be paid; a letter from Mr Lukin in Maryborough dated January 10, 1902 requesting payment for the transportation of Aboriginals from Fraser Island to Maryborough who were on their way to the "Royal Festivities" in Brisbane; and, a letter from Shaw and Company of Brisbane dated March 20, 1903 requesting payment for goods supplied to the Aboriginal Girls Home. Contains further correspondence re the Shaw and Company account.

Letters 03/4320, 03/4293, 03/588, 02/13608, 02/13543, 02/12904, 02/12769, 02/10210, 02/9800, 02/9716, 02/5414, Top-numbered to 03/5063.

Note: Letters 02/4050, 02/1051, 02/793, 02/432, 01/10020, 01/9748, 01/9632, 01/6687, 01/6233, 01/5791, 01/4593, 01/3603, 00/17998 are missing.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/5224](#)

Telegram from the Railway Office at Macalister to the Under Secretary dated April 1903 requesting payment for railway passes issued for travel from Chinchilla to Miles for Aboriginals Peter Munro and Tommy Boney.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/5459](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated April 1903 requesting another railway pass book.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17982_03/12029](#)

Letter from W Scott in the Department of Public Lands to the Home Secretary dated October 16, 1903: "Will you please let me have per bearer the papers relating to the Keppel Island Aborigines. They do not seem to have been sent over with the general papers".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/1121](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston dated January 24, 1900 advising that Constance Vowles has resigned as the Matron of the Aboriginal Girls Home, West End. Attached is a letter of resignation from Vowles.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/10339](#)

Letter from Harold Meston dated July 4, 1900 (first page only - the rest of the letter is missing) in relation to the unauthorised removal of Aborigines from the west to Woodford Aboriginal Station (Durundur). Meston also asks if he and his wife are to be appointed to run the station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/11087](#)

A report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated July 5, 1900 suggesting that Mrs Frew and Mrs Whipham are unsuitable people to be Superintendent and Matron of the Girl's Home. Mentions Kitty Stott and her daughter Sarah who were removed from Charleville.

Contains a letter from Mrs Whipham to the Under Secretary dated July 1900 advising that Kitty Stott had left the Aboriginal Girl's Home at West End, Brisbane and went to Mr Meston's Home. Meston advised Kitty to go and see the Home Secretary and tell him that she did not wish to go to Fraser Island. The report on the Girl's Home from Mrs Frew on also mentions Nellie Maher from Thargomindah.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/11259](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated July 21, 1900 explaining the expenditure for rations supplied to Aborigines. Mentions expenditure at Jimbom station and advises that all the Aborigines from that station have now been removed to Deebing Creek; payment to Rich and Company of Cunnamulla for rations to "75 aborigines including those in and around Cunnamulla and 52 from the west ... "this is the first expense in that district and there is not likely to be any more. The biscuits were obtained for the train journey [removed?]; payment for beef for 77 Aborigines at Durundur; bill for clothing supplied to the Girl's Home and the Aboriginal women at Roma and Charleville; coach fares for the removal of women from Thargomindah to Brisbane; also mentions the supply of rations to a blind Aboriginal named Osman and his wife at Isisford; there has been no expense associated with the Aborigines on Mount Morris Station because the owner supplied them himself.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/11356](#)

Correspondence in relation to a request from an Aboriginal named Combo to return to Jimbour station from Deebing Creek (request granted). Combo was the father of Charlie Samuels the champion runner and originally came from the Namoi in NSW in 1844. Combo was one of the Jimbour Aborigines removed to Deebing Creek at the request of Mr Bell.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/12155](#)

Correspondence in relation to sending Native Trackers to NSW to capture some alleged murderers and allegations that Archibald Meston leaked secret government information to the press.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/12291](#)

Correspondence in relation to a letter published in the August 1, 1900 edition of the Church News (in the file), which asked for donations of goods for the Aboriginal Mission on Fraser Island. Meston suggests that these sort of appeals to the public reflect badly on the Department.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/14180](#)

Correspondence requesting rations for a sick Aboriginal man named Barney who is living in the Aboriginal camp near Charleville.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/14335](#)

Correspondence from Archibald Meston requesting that the residence of the Superintendent and his wife at Durundur be re-roofed with iron. There is also a list of furniture purchased for Durundur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/14442](#)

Correspondence from Mitchell in relation to a request from Alfred McCarthy (Aboriginal) to marry Kate, a Maranoa native. Correspondence re complaints from Mr Mitchell of Listowel Downs via Blackall about the 25 Aboriginals camped on his station. Mitchell suggests that either a settlement should be formed for them or they should be removed to the coast. It is suggested that they have been "hunted" from the Langlo district. Meston also suggests that these Aboriginals are in the same "unfortunate position" as many others in the west who are starving because the stations can no longer afford to feed them because of the drought. He suggests that the only solution is removal to the coast. Meston also comments that "The absolute isolation of the aboriginal women from contact with the whites is the only effective method of stopping all further supplies of half castes and their attendant quadroon and octoroons among whom the law of Atavism will assert itself in after years with unpleasant results among some of the descendents".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/14806](#)

Correspondence in relation to Jane Gordon who was taken from Hughenden to London by Mrs Christison. Mrs Christison advises that Jane is to be returned to Queensland because the English weather is making her ill. She is on the 'SS Duke of Sutherland' which leaves London on the 4th of August 1900. Mrs Christison advises that she "had the child christened Jane Gordon as her mother told me the father had given her this name". She also advises that Jane's mother was named Judy and that Judy spend some time in Hughenden hospital and that Jane also associated with an Aboriginal woman named Maggie, and that Jane had been born on Yarrow Mere Station. Memo advises that Jane was taken to the Girl's Home in South Brisbane and that she will be sent to Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/15049](#)

Correspondence in relation to supplying Sambo with rations at Westwood. Sambo was under agreement to Mr McLean of Wandoo Station (Duaringa police district) but was no longer needed. Sambo was on his way back to Fraser Island but was detained in Westwood.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/15753](#)

Correspondence in relation to the removal of an unnamed sick Aboriginal man from the camp near Surat and an Aboriginal man named Ivory from Mitchell. The correspondence suggests that they were both sent to Brisbane for medical treatment.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/15775](#)

Correspondence in relation to a blind girl named Topsy of about 16 years being taken from Mr Burke of Annan River via Cooktown to the Blind Deaf and Dumb Institution, Brisbane. Topsy had been living with Mr Burke since she was a small child and was a member of the "Cocopoothan tribe". There is a later recommendation that she be removed from the Blind Institution to Deebing Creek.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/15883](#)

Correspondence in relation to Jack aka Jack White aka Jack Warwick being absent without leave from Fraser Island. Meston suggests that " It is very needful that the Aboriginals should not think that they can leave the Mission at their own sweet will ... such a state of affairs would militate against your plans for the future of the Aborigines". The correspondence also mentions that Jack is a native of Roma and that he married a woman named Alice on Fraser Island. The correspondence also mentions an Aboriginal named Dave Mclvor who was returned to Jimbour from Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/16122](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated October 1900 advising that he has returned to Mitchell from the head of the Maranoa and that he will soon return to Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/16332](#)

Correspondence in relation to passes for Rosie King to travel to Brisbane hospital from Durundur to see her son.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/16461](#)

Letter from Mrs Meston to the Home Secretary dated October 9, 1900 in relation to Rosie Blackman travelling from Durundur to the Brisbane hospital and the Orphanage to see her children. On arriving in Brisbane Rosie was denied entry into the Girl's Home by Mrs Whipham to see her children.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/16692](#)

Telegram from Inspector Fitzgerald in Roma to the Commissioner of Police dated October 1900: "half caste woman with five children nearly white by different fathers at Albany station in deplorable condition with prospects of another born shortly will you authorise me take charge and bring to Mitchell pending decision re disposal starvation threatens matter urgent".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/16930](#)

Correspondence in relation to the Queensland government purchasing the property occupied by the Aboriginal Girl's Home Hill End, Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/17492](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated November 1900 forwarding the latest report from the Aborigines Board of New South Wales (not in the file) which contains photographs depicting "various phases of Aboriginal life". Meston suggests that the same sort of report should be produced on the Queensland Aborigines to be sent to the other governments of the colony and to the ethnological societies.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/17587](#)

Correspondence in relation to the payment of vouchers for the supply of rations to Nelly and Caroline who were removed from Mitchell to the Girl's Home in Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/17601](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated November 16, 1900 complaining that horse racing is to be conducted on the Aboriginal Reserve at Durundur. A margin note from the Home Secretary advises that 'it is hoped that the aboriginals will be away from Durundur before the races-If not permanently so it would be well to move them temporarily on some small expedition-The reserve at Baramba is I believe nearly ready for their reception".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/17602](#)

Letter from Mrs Frew to the Under Secretary dated November 15, 1900 asking if a "half-caste" girl (unnamed) comes under the *Aboriginals Protection Act* if she has been employed as a domestic servant since 1897.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/18054](#)

Letter from Sergeant Sullivan at Cunnamulla in relation to the supply of rations to Yellow Harry and Jacky Broom. Also mentions another Aboriginal named Charley.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/18778](#)

Correspondence in relation to a complaint from Archibald Meston that Thomas Ivins of Deebing Creek issues to many railway passes to the Aborigines. Combo (father of Charlie Samuels) has received a railway pass to return to Jimbour Station (see also 00/11356) and also Neddy Myers and Fred Query were given passes to return to Jimbour.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/18785](#)

Correspondence in relation to the payment of vouchers for rations and clothing supplied to "half- caste" Julia and her three children. Julia and her children were removed from East Woodlands to Mitchell and then to Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_00/19054](#)

Letter from Inspector Driscoll in Maryborough to the Commissioner of Police dated December 7, 1900 forwarding vouchers for the supply of rations to George while he was on his way from Brisbane to Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 00/19269](#)

Report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated December 1900. Includes the blanket distribution figures for 1900 south of the 22nd parallel; the number of Aboriginals employed and the total number of Aboriginals: about 3500; the populations of Deebing Creek, Fraser Island and Durundur totals about 400; the Queensland Police have been supplied with 22 trackers and the Victorian Police with 2; Nearly 100 Half Castes have been removed; "over fifty aboriginal half-caste girls urgently in need of protection have been brought in from the west"; 8 children were sent to St Vincent's Orphanage; aged Aboriginals at north Rockhampton, Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Springsure, Cooroogoola, Nindigully and Mungindi were supplied with rations; the police have been active in discovering opium sellers; there has been a decided change in the condition of the Aboriginals since the introduction of the Act; the work agreement provisions of the Act have not been overly administered.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/526](#)

Telegram from Archibald Meston in Warwick to the Under Secretary dated January 1901: "kindly advise Immigration Depot that aboriginals will be there tonight for supper and breakfast".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/2377](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated February 1901 forwarding a list of the Durundur Aboriginals paid for clearing the police paddocks of undergrowth: Bismarck, Billy Boy, Captain, Billy Button (snr), Pinta, Diamantina Tommy, Charleville Jimmy, Christmas, Tiger, Big Jack, Sam, Dick and Willie Watt.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/2447](#)

Correspondence from A Oschalz (Sydney) requesting information on Aboriginal customs and weapons.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/3246](#)

Correspondence in relation to Minnie, Madeline and Willie who are in the Aboriginal camp at Conbar Station, Nocatunga. They ran away from Mount Margaret station with 10 other Aboriginals and refuse to go back. The two girls were removed to the Girl's Home in Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/4139](#)

Request from the Queensland Acclimatisation Society for the Aboriginals on Fraser Island to collect the seeds of the Bunya Pine and Kauri Pine for them.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/4548](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated March 1901: "referring to the Pilteeroo aboriginals in the annexed correspondence [not in file], I would advise that they be sent by the first available cart or dray to Thargomindah to be fed there under the supervision of the police, and receive any necessary medicine and suitable food. I would not advise removing any very old people to the coast except under very exceptional circumstances. They can be fed at Thargomindah for at least one half what they would cost on the station, and be much more advantageously situated. We shall likely have a number of similar cases to deal with on an early date".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/4766](#)

Large file in relation to Jessie Thompson and Ruby who absconded from the Aboriginal Girl's Home,

Brisbane. Letters mention an Aboriginal man named Billy Boles, and a Matilda Logan. Ruby was found in Chinchilla and Jessie in Dalby attempting to travel to Roma.

Contains Education Department "Irregular Attendance of Children" forms from Chinchilla State School where Jessie is named as Maud Thompson and her father as William Thompson; Matilda Logan and her father as George Logan; and also named is William Page whose father is named as Henry Page.

Letter from Archibald Meston re-inefficiency of the Aboriginal Girl's Home also mentions that the women who were brought from Nerang and Stradbroke Island for the corroboree at the Exhibition were badly treated at the Home and "one half caste woman from Southport, Emily Graham, was so indignant that she wanted to go at once and tell the Home Secretary"; Fanny who also ran away from the Home; "there is serious need at the Home for a Matron of a kind and sympathetic nature". Reference also to Fanny who was living at the Girl's Home.

Letter 01/4566, 01/4136, 01/3786, 01/3291, 01/2797, 01/2279, 01/2644, 00/14434, Top-numbered to 01/4766

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#), Letter 01/4965

Telegram from Alex Gordon, Protector of Aboriginals, Boulia dated March 1901: "Drought completely broken this district and rivers all in flood three inches here this week".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/5487

Telegram from William Dodd in Winton asking permission to marry a "half caste minor age nineteen". A note on the telegram from Meston states "these two were married in may by the Rev Stuart".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/6684

Three letters from C Blyth the manager of Mount Morris Station via Charleville asking for the 8 Aboriginals on the station to be removed. He states that they are old and do no work and the station can no longer afford to keep them. One letter is addressed to the Home Secretary, one to Archibald Meston and one to Inspector Graham in Charleville.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/7665

Letter from the manager of Boxleigh Downs Station via Urandangie dated April 17, 1901 advising that he allowed one of his female Aboriginal employees to take one month's leave but she has not returned. He has heard that another white man has taken her. He asks if there are provisions under the Aboriginals Protection Act to have her returned to him.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/8105

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated May 1901 requesting that he obtain consent from the Education Department for some Aboriginals to camp in the grounds of the East Brisbane State School adjacent to the Woolloongabba Sports Ground. Request denied. [this letter may be related to the display for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, see Letter 01/10256.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/8176

The file contains a letter from Mr Jones at Gayndah advising that Nugent Wade Brown of Ban Ban Station via Gayndah has an Aboriginal girl named Gertie employed against her wishes and pays her no wages. He asks if the Protector can give permission to employ the girl if neither the girl nor her father

are willing that she be so employed. He also asks if he is allowed to employ the girl without paying her wages. The file also contains a letter from Brown of Ban Ban Station advising that Gertie's father and mother want to take her back to the "black's camp". He states that Gertie is well clothed and taught to read and write and that she is happy to work for him. He also states that he is aware that he has no power to keep the child without a permit and asks if he can be issued one.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/9235](#)

Contains a report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated June 1901 forwarding a list of Aboriginals receiving rations and the cost. Aboriginals listed: sick woman named Ida at Thargomindah; 4 old Aboriginals at North Rockhampton; 4 old Aboriginals at Banana; 1 sick woman at Emu Park; 8 old Aboriginals at Emerald; 3 old Aboriginals at Springsure; an old woman named Sarah Galeen at Southport; from 10 to 20 Aboriginals at Keeroongooloo Station, Windorah; a blind man named Osman and his wife at Isisford; 8 Aboriginals at Miles; 4 Aboriginals at Condamine; 20 Aboriginals at Duck Creek [Eulo?]; a number at Cunnamulla and Eulo; Thylungra Station has applied for rations or removal of the "station blacks"; "Palparara Station made a similar request but withdrew it when I instructed the Thargomindah police to arrange for a cheap removal of the blacks". A margin note from the Home Secretary advises "the amounts paid in some of the cases mentioned are absurdly excessive and must be stopped at once - If necessary the blacks affected by the stoppage may be brought in and placed on some of the reserves, say Durundur or at Deebing Creek or Fraser's Island". Includes a letter from Mr Birt on Keeroongooloo Station advising that he has had to stop supplying rations to all but two Aboriginals on his station. He asks if the government can supply rations to the old Aboriginals during the coming winter. Letter 01/9039, Top-numbered to 01/9235

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/9690](#)

Correspondence spanning 1900-1901 in relation to supplying rations to 5 old Aboriginals in the camp at Nindigully via St George; names one of the old Aboriginals as Jimmy McQuade.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/10210](#)

Contains a letter from Peter Birt the manager of Keeroongooloo Station via Windorah to Archibald Meston dated August 19, 1900. Birt advises that he is feeding 8 old and sick Aboriginals and that he employs a further 13 on his station, although 7 of the 13 are presently on "walkabout". Also contains a letter from the manager of the Union Bank of Australia in relation to the Aboriginals on Thylungra Station. He advises that there are between 8 and 20 destitute Aboriginals on the station and that the cost of feeding them is quite considerable. He states that he has been informed that nearby Keeroongooloo Station has an assurance by the government that they will be repaid any expenditure in relation to feeding the Aboriginals. He asks if the same can be granted to Thylungra Station. He also comments that Meston "led us to believe that the blacks would be removed or otherwise provided for by the government".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/10256](#)

Correspondence in relation to a display featuring Aboriginals during the visit by the Duke and Duchess of York held at the Brisbane Cricket Ground. Lists the Aboriginals from Durundur who were paid for helping with the decorations: Brutus, J Agnew, Fraser Island Bob, Conbah Tommy and Bulgi, see Letter 01/8105. Letter 01/8634, 01/8525, 01/8014, 01/7883, 01/5117, 01/5078, 01/4298, 01/3290, Top-numbered to 01/10256

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/10691](#)

Letter from Joshua Bell at Jimbour via Dalby advising that 4 Aboriginals at Warra have not received their blankets. They are named as: Billy Mount Esk, Tommy Bowen, Jack and Jacky Daylight (boy). "The aboriginals have been at Warra for months past".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/11989](#)

Report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated July 1901 forwarding particulars of girls recently removed to the Home and prisoners sent to reserves.

Girls removed to the Home: Mary and Jessie from Charleville who were brought in by a "half-caste" named Jacob Anderson, "Anderson having for some years lived with their mother regards himself as their stepfather ... he is a kangaroo shooter and the whole family had been camped about 40 miles from Charleville"; Lizzie Smith from Alpha who had a child to a Chinese father; five year old "half-caste" girl named May whose mother named Maggie is in the service of Mrs Turnbull of Silver Spur, "for three years the child has been in the care of an aboriginal named Bungarie on the Tweed River where Bungarie's wife died, and he himself died recently in Brisbane hospital so May was brought from the Tweed River and sent to the Home"; Minnie Mackay removed from Townsville and sent out to service in Brisbane, Minnie later married Peter Graham at Gatton, contains a newspaper article from the Queensland Times on their wedding. Peter was then sent to Augathella as a Tracker.

Prisoners: Conbar Tommy sent to Boggo Road for 3 months for assaulting an Aboriginal woman after which he was released to Durundur; Cherrabin convicted of stealing on the Murray River at Cardwell and sentenced to 6 months in Brisbane gaol, released to Fraser Island, Cherrabin originally came from north of Townsville; Sundown sentenced to 3 years for throwing a man overboard and drowning him near the Chester River sent to Durundur, Sundown's native name is Carragoobi a member of the Cocarra tribe in Cape York.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/12170](#)

Correspondence in relation to rations supplied to 7 unnamed Aboriginals who escaped from Fraser Island.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/12267](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated August 1901 in relation to an account from Mrs Lightbody for accommodation costs. Aboriginals from Deebing Creek stay at Mrs Lightbody's on their way to "Barambah, or to Beaudesert or the Bay". "The bill is unusually large on account of a number of aboriginals coming to Brisbane without authority to see the Duke and Duchess festivities".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/12268](#)

Correspondence in relation to an unpaid bill for tea supplied in June 1899 to the Fraser Island Mission Station.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/13284](#)

Contains a letter from Daniel Matthews dated April 21, 1898 asking if a deputation can call on the Home Secretary to discuss setting up a mission for Aboriginal children on land owned by Matthews at the Glass House Mountains (north of Brisbane).

Contains the twenty first report of the Maloga Mission to the Aborigines of Australia from Victoria (previously run by Matthews). The report includes several photographs of Aborigines, some of them named.

Contains a newspaper article from the May 10, 1898 edition of the Brisbane Courier in relation to the deputation calling on the Home Secretary.

Contains a report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated June 15, 1898 suggesting that Mr Matthews is not a suitable person to run an Aboriginal Mission. Meston uses the example of a Queensland Aboriginal named Tippo (who was renamed Charlie Chambers after the of missionaries associated with Matthews) who after being "subjected to a systematic course of religious instruction for nearly four years ... is now serving a second sentence of four months in Boggo Road jail". Meston concludes that Matthews should not be allowed to set up the Mission because it is not necessary, Fraser Island and Deebing Creek already perform the functions proposed; the site is unsuitable; Matthews does not have the qualifications; and it would end in failure. The file also contains correspondence from 1901 in relation to Matthew's prosecution for vagrancy including a newspaper clipping from the Melbourne Argus on the court case.

Letter 98/9126, 98/8143, 98/5785, 98/5370, Top-numbered to 01/13284

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/13695](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated August 1901 suggesting that if Aboriginal prisoners are to be sent to Fraser Island after release a more effective and authoritarian management should be implemented. The file also contains a telegram from Sergeant McGuire in Cairns. Correspondence advises: "Constable Creedy leaves here tonight per Innamincka escorting incorrigible aboriginal Jackey to Frasers Island [Fraser Island]".

Includes a letter from the Prisons Department to Archibald Meston in relation to transferring an Aboriginal prisoner named Charley Wabash to Fraser Island after his release from prison.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/13696](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of rations to "half-caste" Lizzie Smith and her baby during her removal from Barcaldine to the Girl's Home, Brisbane.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/13823](#)

Contains a letter from James Dudley in Chinchilla dated January 1901 written on behalf of Mrs Page who requests that her grandson, William Ryan, be returned to her. William was removed by Meston to Deebing Creek. "The mother is 3/4 white and legal married to a hard-working white man name William Bateman".

Contains a letter from Archibald Meston to the Home Secretary dated August 1901 enclosing a letter from Mrs Page's son-in-law who is "emphatically opposed" to William returning to Chinchilla. Meston states that he will "give the old lady the option of leaving the boy where he is or going to join him at Deebing Creek".

Contains a report from Constable Reeves in Chinchilla dated July 29, 1901 recommending that William stay where he is. The report also advises Meston that Jessie Thompson's mother died in the Dalby hospital, also mentions a girl named Ruby.

Letter 01/930, Top-numbered to 01/13823

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/14109](#)

Contains a letter from Stewarts Creek Prison in Townsville to the Prisons Department in Brisbane asking if an Aboriginal prisoner named Charlie Warbash should be sent to Fraser Island after his sentence is served. Charlie was sentenced to six months for stealing at Thornborough on the 5th of March 1901. The file also contains further correspondence re Charlie Warbash stating that Charlie is a native of Thornborough and that he was a constant source of trouble in the district, inciting the other Aboriginals to commit "depredations". Meston recommends that he be sent to Deebing Creek.

Letter 01/11672, 01/9131, 01/7251, 01/5859, Top-numbered to 01/14109

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/14631](#)

Letter from the Reverend Peter Robinson to the Home Secretary dated September 11, 1901 advising that he has read in the Courier that the Aborigines Protection Bill is before the Parliament and asking if a cause can be added giving Superintendents, Matrons etc giving consent to the marriage of female Aboriginals. At present only the Protector is allowed to give consent.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/15139](#)

Contains a report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated August 22, 1901 in relation to Aboriginals who have been removed: Sam from Mitchell, who was partly paralysed, was sent to the Brisbane Hospital; Billy from St George, "a source of terror to a number of nervous people" sent to Fraser Island; Minnie Thomas and her two children removed from Toooloomba via Rockhampton to Durundur (destitute); Violet originally from Cooktown and now at Charleville wants a pass to Brisbane so she can live at Durundur.

Contains a report from Archibald Meston to the Under secretary dated September 23, 1901. Removals: One from St George (see above); a blind man from Windorah sent to Rockhampton and then to Durundur; Charlie Warbash from Townsville jail to Boggo Road jail to Deebing Creek then to Fraser Island. Three married couples sent to Mackay to Colonel Armytage: Charlie Walla and Emma, Tom and Nelly and Christmas and Kitty who "came in with the western blacks from the Wilson and Bulloo Rivers". Weebine and Alice from Roma to Durundur, their husbands are trackers at Roma, Alice returned for health reasons and Weebine accompanied another woman to hospital and will return to her husband. Agnew from Noosa died in the Brisbane hospital he is the third person to die from exposure after the corroboree at Government House. Agnew had lived all his life at Tewantin when I sent for him to come to Durundur 4 months ago as he had been in some trouble with a white woman, though acquitted of the charge, and residents asked me to remove him. Two half caste couples have been married at my house: Willie Exton a Logan man married Eva Coolwell and Dick Dalton married Rosie Coolwell; also a West Indian man named John Horatio Parsons married an Aboriginal woman named Alice Moree from Nerang Creek, they have been living together for 4 years and have two children. "At the end of this week I am leaving to settle some troubles at Taroom, Surat and St George".

Letter 01/13380, Top-numbered to 01/15139. Note: letter 01/12417 is missing

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/15772](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated October 1901 advising that a "half- caste" named Sophie from Waverley Station, Broadsound and presently in Brisbane hospital is ready to be discharged. He asks if Mrs Frew can be notified and that she arrange to collect Sophie.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/15941](#)

Medical certificate advising that Mrs Frew is suffering from the flu and is unable to attend to her duties for the present.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/15970](#)

Letter from Harold Meston to the Under Secretary dated October 9, 1901 asking for a railway pass book and a railway order book for the transmission of goods for use in the west.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/16081](#)

Letter from Inspector Graham in Charleville forwarding vouchers for the payment of rations supplied to an unnamed sick Aboriginal woman at Thargomindah.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/16520](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated October 16, 1901. Mary Brown "half-caste" girl from Barclay Downs Station Camooweal sent to the Home at West End; Ida from Thargomindah brought to Cunnamulla then sent to Brisbane hospital; two Aboriginal women named Alice and Minnie arrived by the north coast train and were sent to hospital. "On Friday I am leaving for Taroom to arrange there for removal of the half-castes and aboriginals in need of removal".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/16708](#)

The file contains a letter from James Stewart and Company in Rockhampton dated May 21, 1901 requesting payment for an outstanding account for supplying goods to the Aboriginals in 1900; a letter from Stewart and Company dated October 1901 acknowledging payment of the account.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/16781](#)

Voucher from Fitz-Walter and Company in Charleville for the payment for goods supplied to Harold Meston.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/16807](#)

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated October 23, 1901 forwarding a letter from Egerton Murray-Prior in relation to a "half-caste" girl named Ivy. Prior does not want to keep the girl any longer and Meston recommends that Ivy be moved to a reserve or Mrs Frew may be able to find her a mistress. A B/C from Mrs Frew states "The Sister in charge of the Tufnell Home Nundah wishes to retain this child Ivy under her carefree of state aid. Permit will be issued accordingly".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/17035](#)

Correspondence in relation to supplying rations to Aboriginals at Birdsville.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983 01/17492](#)

Large file containing correspondence in relation to providing relief to Aboriginals in Alex Gordon's Boulia protectorate. Contains a letter from Alex Gordon to the Home Secretary dated November 1, 1899 suggesting that he is "unable to discover in what way [the 1897 Act] has directly benefited the blacks materially in the far west". He is most concerned about the Aboriginals on the Georgina River and Lower Diamantina River from Camooweal to Birdsville. "In this district there are a number of half-caste girls who should certainly be under a more direct control ... and saved from an early death through

starvation and disease". He mentions one as Violet Nathan, 7 years, "Mr Edge the manager of Carandotta Station is now defraying the expenses to sending her to school in Urandangie. "Those who have not been about these districts could never for a moment realise the frightful state of disease and starvation that the majority of the blacks are now reduced to". "During the last three years owing to the drought they have been deprived of the back country for hunting purposes and what little water there is in the river they are not allowed to go near as it is crowded with stock". They are consequently compelled to congregate about the townships and stations where there are wells, and even then, in many instances, they are forced to steal water". Gordon also suggests that the amount of blankets issued should be increased; female Aboriginals should not be allowed to love with white men, which is nothing less than forced prostitution and slavery; medical aid and clothing is urgently needed.

Contains a letter from the Home Secretary dated November 1899 appointing Alex Gordon as Aboriginal Protector for the far west region. Also includes details of setting up relief stations for the Aboriginals.

Contains correspondence in relation to the appointment of Alex Gordon as Protector for the far west.

Contains a telegram from Alex Gordon in Boulia advising that the camels have arrived with the flour for the Aboriginals.

Includes a report from Alex Gordon in Boulia dated January 26, 1900 advising that he has started supplying rations to the Aboriginals in Boulia and that the police in Camooweal and Urandangie have been instructed to do the same there. He has also arranged for the Aboriginals at Glenormiston Station on the Georgina River, Bedourie, [Monkira?] Station, Devonport Station, Gates Station and Marion Downs. He also advises that until the rains cease there is no way to remove the Aboriginals to the coast.

Contains correspondence in relation to removing three "half-caste" girls from Marion Downs: Sally and her sister Mary and Lucy, Meston also complains about the cost involved.

Includes a list of Aboriginals attended to by Alex Gordon (also lists their ages). Boulia: Micky, Stumpy, Maggie, Billy, Monkey, Katie, Maggie, Molly, Sarah, Jack Abbot, Joe, Georgie, Peter, Peter, Micky, Tommy, Laddy, Jimmy, Jacky, Tommy, Lucy, Katie, Alice, Pellie, Bidy, Maggie, Jennie, Pellie, Maggie, Polly, Katie, Stumpy, Paddy, Judy, Tommy, Daylight, Davie, Lucy, Charlie, Nugget, Larry, Mary, Louie, Larry, Charlie Hamilton, Maggie, Charlie, Katie, Polly, Jinnie and Willie. Marion Downs: Herbert and Mary.

Contains a letter from Alex Gordon dated May 2, 1900 in relation to a voucher for the supply of rations to Aboriginals at Glenormiston Station, and a telegram from Alex Gordon to the Under Secretary dated June 1900 asking for authority to buy clothes for the Aboriginals at Boulia, Camooweal and Urandangie as the blankets have not arrived.

Also, a letter from Alex Gordon to the Under Secretary dated June 25, 1900 advising that he has not been able to visit any of the outside camps in his district because of the drought, however the police and station managers have issued rations and medicines to those in need and "there is now no distress among the aboriginals". "There are 175 of both sexes in employment and these are well treated by their employers". "I have sent since my appointment four female half castes and one full blooded female aboriginal to Brisbane. There is a number of others which I hope to send as soon as the drought breaks".

Contains telegrams in relation to and application for leave from Alex Gordon; and a telegram from Alex

Gordon to Archibald Meston dated March 1900 reporting that there is sickness among the 50 Aboriginals at Urandangie and that four have died. He has ordered them to be fed and moved them to another waterhole.

Contains a report from Alex Gordon in Boulia to the Under Secretary dated March 9, 1900 in relation to flu among the Aboriginals in the camp at Urandangie (see also telegram directly above). Gordon also reports that there is venereal disease among the Aboriginals at Camooweal but most of them are away hunting. "I find that in the south west portion of the colony along the border of the N Territory there is not nearly so many blacks as I expected they have died out to a great extent".

Also a report from Alex Gordon in Boulia to the Under Secretary dated April 20, 1900 forwarding vouchers for the supply of relief to the Aboriginals at Urandangie and Camooweal. He also reports that the flu epidemic is nearly over and that 11 Aboriginals have died.

Contains a telegram from Alex Gordon in Boulia dated May 1900: "yesterday started by Cobbs Coach to Winton one half caste girl Ruby Doolan and her child three quarter bred, one aboriginal girl Alice, the epidemic has passed away from among the blacks at Urandangie I have stopped store supplies except to actual helpless people no change in drought".

Includes general correspondence in relation to supplying rations to the Aboriginals in the Boulia district.

Contains a letter from Alex Gordon to the Under Secretary dated September 24, 1900 forwarding two photos of Aboriginals dressed for a corroboree (the photos are not in the file); a letter setting out the total expenditure by Alex Gordon for the six months ending 30 June 1900. Also asks if Gordon is to be reappointed when his contract ends on November 24, 1900 (a margin note advises "Continue appointment terminable by months notice"); and, letter dated February 18, 1900 from Alex Gordon mentions that 60 Aboriginals were at the camp in Boulia holding a corroboree.

Contains more general correspondence re the supply of rations to Aboriginals in the Boulia district.

Contains a list of Aboriginals supplied with rations at Roxborough Downs in April and May 1901: Walaja Jacky and 2 females; Dick and 2 females; Kangaroo and 2 females; Landy and 2 females; Charlie and 1 gin and 2 children; Stumpy and 1 gin; Boney and 1 gin; Boko and 1 gin; Tommy and 2 females; Walubay and 1 half caste girl; Charlie and 1 gin; Major and 1 gin and 4 children; Lame Jacky and 1 gin; Old Paddy; Wallace and gin; Old Jemmy; Rory and 1 gin; Billy and 1 gin and their daughter.

Letter 01/15682, 01/14260, 01/9317, 01/8342, 01/7204, 01/5485, 01/3570, 01/819, 01/125, 00/17943, 00/16151, 00/16097, 00/15358, 00/14882, 00/14149, 00/12564, 00/12123, 00/10206, 00/8094, 00/7661, 00/5545, 00/2381, 00/2380, 00/1894, 00/1505, 00/11319, 00/12306, 00/10205, 00/8601, 00/7995, 00/6631, 00/6289, 00/4121, 00/3370, 00/4791, 00/4278, 99/15251, 99/14921, 99/14700, 99/14699, Top-numbered to 01/17492

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/17649

Correspondence re-Lizzie Smith of Barcardine. Lizzie was living with a Chinese man at Barcardine and had one child to him. There is a request from Lee Soy (also named Charlie Holloway in the correspondence) to marry Lizzie, which was denied by Meston. The letter from the Barcardine Police Station advises that Lizzie was a "native of [Edwinstowe ?] about 14 miles from Jerico Central Railway, where her father works as a labourer. The letter from the Barcardine Police Station advises that Lizzie's brother Jack is a tracker at Isisford and that they had the same mother but different fathers.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/17832](#)

Correspondence in relation to a work agreement drawn up for an Aboriginal boy named Buyed. Buyed was born on Grosvenor Downs Station via Clermont and the owner Mr McDonald now wishes to place him under a work agreement to stop him running away with his tribe. Meston states that the work agreement is "distinctly original" and "mediaeval": "This indenture witnessed that Buyed of Grosvenor Downs, Queensland, doth put himself Apprentice to AB McDonald of Grosvenor Downs to learn the art and mystery of grazier after the manner of an Apprentice".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/17877](#)

Correspondence in relation a work permit to employ Janey Wiseman of Nambour. Janey is working for Robert Blair but John Low also wants to employ her and Meston suggests that she be removed to Mrs Frew's. Janey's mother is named as Lucy and her father is a Kanaka named Mark.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/18402](#)

Letter from Mrs Frew asking for permission for a copy of the Courier newspaper to be delivered daily to the Aboriginal Girls Home.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/18506](#)

Correspondence in relation to the supply of beef to Durundur reserve. Contains a letter from Arthur Palmer to the Home Secretary dated November 20, 1901: I have the honor to bring under your notice the following: The Superintendent of the aboriginal camp in this district, called here yesterday and produced a letter from the Protector Mr Meston instructing him (the said superintendent) to collect the wages of all the aboriginals out at work and to keep back half the amount earned towards their maintenance. I would be glad to know if this is done with your sanction, as in the event of this arrangement being carried into force I will be compelled to dispense with the services of all those I employ, as I cannot be a party to such which I consider unfairness". A margin note from the Home Secretary states: "Mr Palmer and his employers can please themselves. His opinion as to the unfairness or otherwise of the arrangement is quite irrelevant".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/18528](#)

Correspondence in relation to Sam a native of Muckadilla (who also resided at the Dawson River and Roma) who is paralysed and in the Brisbane hospital. There is a recommendation that he be moved to Dunwich: "This man being aboriginal cannot become an inmate of Dunwich - He should be disposed of somewhere in the vicinity of the institution convenient for treatment [i.e. Myora].

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983_01/19396](#)

Report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated December 1901. Advises that he visited Rockhampton to act as a witness in the trial of Bobo. Bobo was convicted of poisoning another Aboriginal at Beetoota but was acquitted and sent to Durundur; also removed 10 Aboriginals from North Rockhampton to Durundur "in accordance with the earnest wishes of the North Rockhampton Municipal Council"; comments on the Keppel Island Aboriginals, and recommends their removal, they are working for Mr Lucas but receive no wages, "the condition of these blacks has long been a public scandal and if armed with the Home Secretary's authority I shall take prompt action to prevent a continuation"; also recommends the removal of the Aboriginals from Emerald; mentions Jimmy Hopkins who spent some time in Springsure hospital but who is now discharged and receiving rations, he advises his

removal to Durundur; Ida from Nocundra has arrived in Brisbane and has been sent to hospital; Cissie Fraser was removed from Mitchell where she had been working for Mrs Munro, sent to Mrs Frew; Lizzie from St George sent to Durundur; Maudie from Tambo removed to Mrs Frew; Maggie removed from Charleville to Durundur, "she is a woman of the Coonggarrie tribes on the heads of the Dawson, Warrego and Maranoa and speaks the Cogai dialect of those tribes"; "the troubles at Myora were ended by removal of Alberta, Harriet and Rosie Martin and her children to Fraser's Island and Janie Morton to Deebing Creek. This girl has written to me for consent to marry George Coolwell, whose wife Julia, to whom he was married by the Reverend Peter Robinson, deserted him about four years ago and she is now on Fraser's Island"; also comments that he needs to visit Gayndah, Eidsvold, St George and Surat and that the Taroom Aboriginals will be removed "with the least possible delay".

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/19410

Report from Archibald Meston to the Under Secretary dated December 12, 1901 re-expenditure on relief to Aboriginals and the distribution of blankets. Includes comment on Emerald, Rockhampton, Birdsville, Mungindi, Miles and Springsure.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) 01/20331

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Undersecretary dated December 30, 1901 asking permission to spend funds on the erection of a kitchen at Durundur.

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) no letter number

Letter from the Toowoomba Police Station dated March 13, 1902 in relation to the supply of rations to Aboriginals (no names or numbers).

Queensland State Archives [ITM17983](#) no letter number

Letter from Archibald Meston to the Secretary of the Brisbane hospital dated September 18, 1902: "The bearer Mrs Dalton, a half-caste woman has a child evidently in need of medical advice. The Medical Superintendent may kindly advise her what is best to be done".

Notes about this index

- Please be advised this index contains language and attitudes that are not appropriate today. We know there are offensive and derogatory terms that may cause distress and offence. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this index contains names of people who have passed.
- This historical index does not include traditional names such as K'gari.
- To do a keyword search within a PDF file, press the Ctrl and F (or Command and F for Mac computers) buttons on your keyboard and type in your keyword, then press Search.
- Many words in the descriptive text have been transcribed directly from the original record.
- Consider all possible spelling variants as many names have been spelt phonetically in the original record. The spelling of names varies considerably.
- Names have not been anglicised and appear as in the original record.

- The year is listed first, followed by the number of the correspondence. For example, 01/20331 indicates 1901 Letter No. 20331.