

Then under the heading below, in February, 1892, the following appeared in the "Port Macquarie News":

THOSE BLACKS

"We believe that acting under instructions from a superior officer, who is simply nothing more than an old fossil, the police in this and the Macleay and Manning districts are just being run about and made fools of on all sorts of rumours which come to hand of the Dora Dora blacks, who are stated to be somewhere between the head of the Macleay and Port Stephens.

"As we stated, a report came into town last week that a Mrs . . . of Thone Creek, had been outraged by a blackfellow, but although there were undoubtedly bruises on her body, there is not the slightest ground whatever for believing her story, yet the already overworked police are ordered out to search for them, to the neglect of their other and more important duties.

"The Dora Dora blacks have not been seen in this district, nor has anything occurred to warrant any idea that they have, and all that has been done has been to simply frighten the life out of the district blacks who, we are informed, decamp on the appearance of a policeman with a rifle.

"If Mr Superintendent Baker has any authority, he should immediately instruct his police to discontinue the search, and allow them to proceed with their already very heavy duties."

Blacks' blankets

The Queen's Birthday is looked forward to with great delight by the original owners of this continent, as on that day they partake of the liberality of the Government, in the shape of a blanket each. The recompense to these creatures is but scanty, but such as it is they accept with delight, notwithstanding the shoddy nature of the material. We have inspected the blankets forwarded to Port Macquarie, and we fail to detect the least sign of wool in them, the material used in their manufacture being a kind of hair of the coarsest description. As for

warmth, the blankets contain none; and the poor blacks will need better shelter from the cold of winter than the covering doled out to them by the Government will provide. Whoever the contractor for the supply of these blankets may be, we have no hesitation in saying that he has turned out a bad article, and one which does not compare favorably with the blankets of the previous year — either in weight or quality. So much for our beneficent Government. — May 25, 1889.

Ref:- Port Macquarie News 100 years.
Centenary Issue.