

1899.
—
VICTORIA.

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

ROBT. S. BRAIN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 59.--[9d.]--8976.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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The Rev. F. A. Hagonauer, General Inspector and Secretary.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.		<i>£ s. d.</i>
Preparation—Not given.		
Printing (810 copies)	.. .. .	9 0 0

REPORT.

Melbourne, 4th October, 1899.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Board for the Protection of Aborigines have the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration this, their Thirty-fifth Report on the state and condition of the Aborigines of this colony, together with reports of managers of the different stations, and accounts for the last financial year, &c., &c.

1. The Board have held twelve ordinary and two special meetings during the past year.

2. The number of Aborigines and half-castes under certificates belonging to the various stations and depôts has been as follows:—

Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Condah	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Ebenezer	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Depôts, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	449

3. The returns of marriages, births, and deaths give the following particulars:—

	Marriages.		Births.		Deaths.	
Coranderrk	3	...	2	...
Condah	1	...	5	...
Ebenezer	2	...	1	...
Framlingham	3	...
Lake Tyers...	2	...	5	...
Ramahyuck	2	...	3	...
Depôts	12	...
Total	1	...	10	31

4. Supplies of rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts, with medical attendance, have been regularly administered to all the Aborigines, and likewise to those half-castes who hold the Board's certificates, in accordance with the regulations under which such assistance can be given.

5. The regular visits of inspection by the General Inspector, frequently accompanied by members of the Board, have produced very satisfactory results among the residents on the stations, and likewise to those blacks who live at the various depôts throughout the colony.

6. In last year's Report it was stated that full inquiry would be made with reference to amalgamation of stations, so that no hardship would come to any of the blacks by carrying out that policy. Careful inquiry has now been made by members of the Board on several stations, and the unanimous conclusion has been arrived at that nothing can be done in this direction at present.

After careful inquiry and full consideration, the Board found it advisable to close several of the depôts in different localities.

7. The various reserves under the Board's management are as follows:—

Coranderrk	...	2,400 acres	Ramahyuck	...	810 acres
Condah	...	2,000 "	Framlingham	...	548 "
Ebenezer	...	3,600 "	Colac	...	40 "
Lake Tyers	...	4,000 "	Lake Moodemere	...	8 "

8. The funds granted by Parliament for the use of Aborigines have been carefully and liberally administered, and a full statement of the same will be observed in the accompanying balance-sheet, which is duly certified by the Commissioners of Audit.

9. The following table gives particulars (1) of the total expenditure on each station, (2) the income of each station, and (3) the actual cost of each:—

1898-9.

Name of Station.	Expenditure from the Vote.			Net Income.			Actual Cost.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coranderrk*	1,122	7	7	291	14	7	829	13	0
Condab†	649	8	1	203	1	2	852	9	3
Ramahyuck	705	4	6	105	1	0	810	5	6
Lake Tyers	589	4	8	31	13	2	620	17	10
Ebenezer	515	4	6	122	8	3	637	12	9
Melbourne and 10 Depôts	1,168	8	6	...	...	...	1,168	8	6
Framlingham	330	19	2	9	18	6	321	0	8

* All income from Coranderrk and Framlingham is paid into the Treasury.
 † All station accounts are duly audited at the end of each financial year.

10. In conclusion, the Board have great pleasure to report satisfactory progress in the education of the children, both in religious teaching and in the branches of secular education in connexion with the Department of Public Instruction.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

ALBERT A. C. LE SOUËF,

Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency

The Right Honorable Lord Brassey, K.C.B.,

&c., &c., &c.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Sir,

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station,
1st July, 1899.

I have the honour to forward you my Annual Report of this station, and of the Aborigines connected with it, dating from the 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899.

1. The attendance of Aborigines on the station during each month of the year has been as follows:—

Lowest number, 68 ; highest number, 78.

Total belonging to the station, 84.

2. (a) Marriages, *nil*.

(b) TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Date.	Sex.	Colour.	Name.	Parents' Name.
9th December, 1898	M.	Black	Joseph David	{ Dinah McDougall. { Edward McDougall.
18th March, 1899 ...	M.	Half-caste	Michael	{ Lizzie Davis. { Alfred Davis.
29th April, 1899 ...	M.	Black	Thomas James	{ Eliza Fenton. { Thomas Fenton.

(c) TABLE OF DEATHS.

Date.	Sex.	Colour.	Name.	Cause of Death.	Age.
9th January, 1899	F.	Black	Ada Fenton	Bronchitis	1 year
30th January, 1899	F.	Black	Harriett Smyth	Cancer, &c.	58 years

3. Religious services have been regularly held for the people during the year, not only on Sundays, but every morning during the week before the work of the day begins. Sunday school has also been regularly kept for the children, and all the services, I am pleased to say, have been generally well attended, and by many of the natives very much appreciated.

4. During the week days the children attend the school, which is under the control of the Education Department, and they continue to make very satisfactory progress. It may be interesting and right to state here that one of the station boys, who gives good promise, has been selected by the Government inspector to be trained for a teacher.

5. About 2,000 acres of land belong to the station, and are subdivided into paddocks varying from 6 to 300 acres in size. About 40 acres have been under cultivation with wheat, oats, potatoes, and hops, &c., and I am thankful to say all the crops have been of a good average kind.

6. The stock of the station consists of the following:—Cows, 65; calves, 2; heifers, 59; steers, 52; bulls, 2; working bullocks, 8; horses, 16; total, 204. About 14 cows are generally being milked daily for the use of the station, and any one who will milk one or two properly for themselves is allowed to do so. Twenty-four steers and 10 cows have been killed for food; 5 bullocks, 2 calves, and a small quantity of hay were sold, and realized altogether £45 5s., which amount, together with £246 9s. 7d. from sale of hops, was paid into the Treasury.

7. The number of buildings remains the same, namely 25, eighteen of which are occupied by the natives, and upon the whole are very well and cleanly kept. The other buildings consist of the manager's and teacher's houses, church, school, and store, &c.

8. The men are mostly employed in farm and hop-garden work, and the women in making mats and baskets and household work. When not attending the school, the bigger boys and girls are taught to make themselves useful in such kinds of work as are suitable for them.

9. The blacks being now regularly supplied with either beef or mutton from the station do not hunt very much for native game.

10. A few cases of intoxication have occurred among the blacks during the year. They can almost always get less or more drink from unscrupulous Europeans, who move about the district, but, of course, every effort is made to prevent them doing so.

11. There are three families of half-castes residing here, but they do not come under the operation of the law; none are residing here under the Board's certificate.

12. I have very much pleasure in being able to say that the stores and clothing supplied during the year have been of good quality, and therefore very satisfactory, and, on behalf of the blacks and myself, I thank you very much indeed, and also the Board for kind and prompt attention to all matters affecting the welfare of the people.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, Secretary and General Inspector,
Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

JOSEPH SHAW.

APPENDIX II.

Mission Station, Lake Condah,
28th July, 1899.

SIR,

I have pleasure in forwarding my Annual Report, which is as follows :—

1. The attendance during the year was—

	Daily Attendance.	Total.		Daily Attendance.	Total.
July ...	53	63	January ...	53	61
August ...	53	63	February ...	51	61
September ...	49	63	March ...	52	60
October ...	48	62	April ...	52	60
November ...	51	61	May ...	52	60
December ...	51	61	June ...	41	60

2.

BIRTH.

Name.	Sex.	Colour.	Date.	Parents' Names.
Donald Turner ...	M.	Black	2nd Aug., 1898	{ Robert Turner. Janet Turner.

MARRIAGE.

Name.	Date.	Colour.
Isaac McDuff, widower; and Maria Burns, widow	7th July, 1898	Black.
	7th July, 1898	Black.

DEATHS.

Name.	Sex.	Colour.	Date.	Cause of Death.	Age.
Sarah Carmichael ...	F.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Black	13th July, 1898	Phthisis ...	23 years.
Lottie Mullett ...	F.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Black	4th Sept., 1898	Phthisis ...	11 years.
Eliza Mobourn ...	F.	Black	2nd Oct., 1898	Phthisis ...	12 years.
David Carter ...	M.	Black	10th Dec., 1898	Pneumonia ...	7 years.
Lucy Mobourn ...	F.	Black	7th May, 1898	Phthisis ...	3 years.

3. The devotional services morning and evening, with full church service twice on Sundays, as well as Sunday school, have been carried on all through the year, and were well and regularly attended. That it is not a mere form on the part of our natives, I am thankful to gather from what occurred lately. My wife and I had to leave the station for a few days, and consequently no services were held. After we returned the natives expressed their gladness when the bell rang again for the usual morning and evening prayers, as they said that without prayers the day seemed to have no proper beginning or close.

4. The school, as stated in former reports, is under the Education Department, and is now, and has been for some time, carried on by relieving teachers. The frequent changes are, of course, a drawback to the progress of the pupils, but as the teachers have in each case been very eager to get the scholars on with their lessons, the progress which they make is all that can be expected.

5. The reserve, which consists of 2,000 acres, is subdivided into eight paddocks of various sizes in order to make it convenient to carry on cultivation, and to separate the stock into different paddocks when it is advisable to do so. About 20 acres more under cultivation last season, chiefly with oats for hay, and potatoes for station use. The hay crop was a splendid one, and we have a supply still on hand, which will last us a long time. The potatoes yielded a good crop, too, so that we have not only enough for our use, but will also have sufficient seed potatoes for planting this year. The vegetables in the garden did not do so well, as the summer was rather dry; still we had a fair supply. The orchard yielded a liberal amount of fruit, but the quality was not as good as in former years.

6. The stock on hand consists of 98 head of cattle, cows, steers, and yearlings, and 563 sheep of both sexes, ewes and wethers.

7. The buildings are the same as last year, viz., church, school-house, mission-house, store, stable, and seventeen cottages occupied by the Aborigines. Some of the cottages have been provided with new roofs of galvanized iron and galvanized water tanks. The latter will prove a great boon to the inmates of the cottages.

8. The station is now almost entirely fenced in with post and seven-wire fences on one side, and on the other, where the rabbits have been most troublesome, with post and wire and wire netting. Owing to the latter, our stock (both sheep and cattle) are in splendid condition, and the grass is more plentiful than it ever was before.

9. The station income was as follows :—

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Cash balance 1897-8 ...	...	33	18	10½	General ...	...	61	16	0½
Wool and bark ...	...	115	8	1	Wages ...	...	62	4	5½
Hides and skins ...	...	16	15	0	Stock ...	...	65	0	1
Stock ...	...	32	0	0	Miscellaneous ...	...	14	0	7
Overdraft ...	...	4	19	2½					
		£203	1	2			£203	1	2

10. The men have cleared a considerable amount of land from dead timber. There were also two large water-holes dug to conserve water for the stock during the summer months, so that now we will be well supplied even if the season should happen to be a dry one. As in former years, both men and boys were employed in doing station work such as that mentioned above, as well as planting and digging potatoes, gardening, milking cows, and attending to the rearing of stock.

11. Saturday is always a holiday, and, when the natives have done a special piece of work particularly well, an extra holiday is occasionally given to enable them to go fishing or hunting. Needless to say, they enjoy these outings at all times.

12. I regret to state that there was one case of drunkenness on the station, but I was unable to find out where the intoxicating liquor was obtained, so, beyond giving a warning to the party, I could do nothing further. I am thankful to say that as a whole the people do not give me much trouble now with regard to drunkenness.

13. The health of the Aborigines was fairly good, and their conduct, with one or two exceptions, satisfactory.

14. The supplies, both clothing and rations, were liberal and of good quality, and, on behalf of the blacks under my care, I thank the Board and you for them.

15. As the number of blacks gets less every year, the time will not be far distant when we will be able to do with less land, for the number of able-bodied working men left to improve the station is now very small.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
General Inspector and Secretary, B.P.A., Melbourne.

J. H. STÄHLE.

APPENDIX III.

Mission Station, Ramahyuck,
Gippsland, 17th July, 1899.

SIR,

In accordance with your circular letter of the 15th inst., I have the honour to forward my Report for the past year on the state and progress of the mission work among the Aborigines under my care at this station and its neighbourhood.

1. The attendance has been as follows:—

		1898.				1899.	
		Highest Number.	Lowest Number.			Highest Number.	Lowest Number.
July	...	56	56	January	...	57	56
August	...	56	55	February	...	58	57
September	...	61	56	March	...	59	57
October	...	59	59	April	...	63	61
November	...	59	59	May	...	65	65
December	...	59	57	June	...	56	55

2. Number of marriages, births, deaths.

(a) Marriages:—None.

(b) BIRTHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Names.	Colour
16th August, 1898	Theodore Hexal	M.	{ Stephen, Harry { Stephen, Emily	{ Black.
15th December, 1898	Cornelius William	M.	{ Edward, William { Edward, Eliza	{ Black.

(c) DEATHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.	Colour.
20th December, 1898	Thomas James Wheeler	M.	26 years	Consumption	Black.
15th February, 1899	James Scott	M.	67 years	Cancer	Black.

3. Religious services have been kept every morning and evening during week days, and Sunday services twice, which have all been very well attended. Sunday school is carried on morning and evening, and religious instruction is given to the children five times during the week, and good progress is made.

4. The day school in connexion with the Department of Education is making very good progress under the careful teaching of Miss Armour.

5. The total quantity of land belonging to the Aboriginal Reserve is now only about 750 acres, and it needs very careful management to raise enough meat for the supply of the station.

6. The number of stock of all kinds is 139 head, including fifteen milking cows, supplying the station with milk and butter; 25 fat cows and bullocks and about 60 fat sheep have been killed for the supply of meat, and some surplus stock has been sold, and the money applied for station use.

7. The total income from the station has been rather good, considering the very dry season we have had in this district.

The particulars are as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENSES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year	0	12 0	General expenses... ..	88	4 11
Surplus stock	96	4 6	Wages account	9	7 5
Hides, &c.	8	4 6	Cash balance forward	7	8 8
Total	105	1 0	Total	105	1 0

8. The number of buildings are the same as last year, and, as they are kept in good repair, give a very pleasant appearance, and the native cottages give every comfort for the simple mode of life for their inhabitants.

9. All able-bodied men have to do a certain amount of labour, for which they receive wages according to the work they perform. The women have to attend to their household duties, and to care for the proper training of their children, which sometimes is rather defective, and gives frequent trouble to the manager.

10. All the blacks like hunting and fishing, both for amusement and also to obtain some of the highly-prized native game.

11. The evil of drinking is still among the blacks, and I am afraid that it will take a long time before it will be given up.

12. The state of health at this station has been good during the past year, and the numbers remain the same as last year.

13. I am sorry to say that there is a general tendency among the young people to be lazy, disobedient, and careless, which, if not stopped in due time, will become very troublesome to the Board and dangerous to the white population as well as for themselves.

14. The supplies of rations and clothes have been of very good quality, and in liberal quantities, according to the regulations, and I desire to express the best thanks to the Government and the Board for the same.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. HAGENAUER, Acting Manager.

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX IV.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers,
24th July, 1899.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Report for the year ended 30th June, 1899.

1. The attendance for the year has been as follows:—

	Lowest.	Highest.		Lowest.	Highest.
July	38	40	January	43	45
August	42	42	February	46	46
September	33	38	March	45	46
October	43	45	April	46	47
November	40	42	May	44	45
December	40	43	June	34	36

There are a few Aborigines who are about the district who make the station their home when they are out of work. Many are stripping stringybark for settlers; others are picking maize.

2. The births and deaths were as follows:—

BIRTHS, 1899.

Name.	Date.	Parents.	Colour.
Minna	6th February, 1899	{ Colin Hood Ellen Hood	Black.
Priscilla	26th February, 1899	{ Thomas Johnson Kate Johnson	Mixed blood.

DEATHS.

Date	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.	Colour.
30th August, 1898	Alice Hayes	Female	7 years 4 months	Chorea and abscess on brain	Black.
6th January, 1899	Ernest Johnson	Male	1 year 5 months	Diarrhoea and vomiting	Black.
2nd May, 1899	Susan	Female	60 years	Phthisis and exhaustion	Black.
31st May, 1899	Sally Dairymingee	Female	57 years	Disease of brain and failure of heart's action	Black.

3. Religious instruction is given daily to the children by Miss M. Bulmer. Daily services are also held morning and evening, which are fairly attended. On Sundays the regular church service is held, and the children are taught also in Sunday school. The day school is at present under the charge of Miss Turner, who is painstaking, and seems to be able to manage Aboriginal children.

4. The quantity of land which comprises the reserve is 4,000 acres; 2,000 acres are fenced, and about 150 acres near the homestead is fenced in small paddocks for grazing and cultivation.

5. We have passed through another very dry season. Our apple crop was very poor. We managed, however, to raise a good crop of potatoes and vegetables sufficient for use. At one time we were threatened with a water famine, which, however, was averted by a timely shower of rain.

6. The stock on the station comprises 68 head of mixed cattle and 300 sheep.

7. The income and expenditure is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Income, 1898 and 1899	...	31	13	2	To Balance from 1898	...	102 17 9
Overdraft	...	148	19	1	Wages account	...	28 7 6
					General expenses	...	49 7 0
							£180 12 3
							£180 12 3

With regard to this overdraft, I may state that it will gradually be liquidated by sale of wool and other produce.

8. The number of houses on the station is the same as last year.

9. The blacks have been employed in useful work, mostly connected with cultivation.

10. The Aborigines still hunt native game, for which they are allowed two days each week.

11. The general health of the station has been good. The deaths were caused by chronic complaints which had existed for some years, with the exception of the child Ernest Johnson, who died from disease incident to teething.

12. The clothing and other stores supplied were ample in quantity and suitable as to quality; for which, on behalf of the Aborigines, I thank the Board.

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient servant,

JOHN BULMER.

To the Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines.

APPENDIX V.

Lake Hindmarsh Mission Station,
17th July, 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward my Annual Report for the above station for the year ended 30th June.

1. The attendance of the Aborigines has been as follows:—

1898.			1899.		
	Lowest.	Highest.		Lowest.	Highest.
July	30	35	January	15	34
August	34	37	February	29	35
September	32	36	March	24	34
October	29	35	April	28	34
November	30	35	May	27	34
December	20	32	June	24	34

2. (a) MARRIAGES: None.

(b) BIRTHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Name of Parents.
Margaret Coombs	Black	20th August, 1898	Albert Coombs. Ada Coombs.
Hanna Lena Fenton	Black	19th March, 1899	Henry Fenton. Kitty Fenton.

(c) DEATH.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Cause.	Age.
William Wimmera Coombs	Black	1st September, 1898	Pneumonia	20 years

APPENDIX VII.

STATEMENT showing the Amounts Expended on the various Stations and Depôts from
1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899.

Station.	Salaries.	Medical, &c.	Stores, &c.	Repairs, &c.	Labour, &c.	Management and Insurance.	Travelling Expenses.	Stationery, &c.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coranderk ...	315 19 0	42 8 1	481 8 11	23 12 2	241 3 5	9 16 3	...	7 19 9	1,122 7 7
Framlingham ...	...	20 15 0	255 14 8	24 1 0	8 6 0	22 2 6	...	...	330 19 2
Lake Condah ...	...	22 0 8	421 3 4	54 10 1	49 15 0	100 0 0	...	1 19 0	649 8 1
Lake Wellington ...	...	20 11 9	440 9 4	60 0 7	80 14 3	100 0 0	...	3 8 7	705 4 6
Lake Tyers ...	...	11 8 5	442 2 9	8 4 0	25 10 6	100 0 0	...	1 19 0	580 4 8
Lake Hindmarsh ...	...	14 11 0	311 16 4	52 13 11	34 4 7	100 0 0	...	1 19 0	515 4 10
Melbourne and Depôts ...	534 0 0	6 4 6	254 0 10	5 2 7	...	16 14 0	251 3 7	101 3 0	1,168 8 6
Total Expended ...	849 19 0	137 19 5	2,606 16 2	228 4 4	430 13 9	448 12 9	251 3 7	118 8 4	5,080 17 4
Amount Voted ...	851 0 0	150 0 0	2,980 0 0	230 0 0	450 0 0	452 0 0	260 0 0	120 0 0	5,523 0 0
Balance Unexpended	1 1 0	12 0 7	373 3 10	1 15 8	40 6 3	3 7 3	8 16 5	1 11 8	442 2 8