

1896.  

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VICTORIA.

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THIRTY-SECOND REPORT  
OF  
THE BOARD  
FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

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By Authority:  
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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF ABORIGINES.

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# REPORT.

Melbourne, 20th October, 1896.

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-second, Report on the state and condition of the Aborigines of this colony, together with reports from managers of stations and statements of accounts, &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 is as follows:—

						Lowest.		Highest.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	74
Condah	...	...	...	...	...	63	...	82
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	...	...	68	...	83
Ebenezer	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	58
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	56
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	36
Depôts, and away from stations	...	...	...	...	...	99	...	99
Total	...	...	...	...	...		...	488

3. Returns of marriages, births, and deaths during the past year:—

						Marriages.		Births.		Deaths.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2
Condah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	4
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
Ebenezer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Depôts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	12
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	14	...	22

Decrease during the past year, 8.

4. Rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts for Aborigines, and those half-castes who were in need, have been regularly supplied by the Board through managers of stations and authorized agents at the different depôts throughout the colony. Medical attendance and medicine have likewise been provided in every case when necessary. Special or unforeseen cases have always received due and careful attention during the periodical visits of the General Inspector or by the Board's agents in the various localities where the blacks reside.

Most of the stations and depôts have been visited by members of the Board during the past year, that they might be personally acquainted with the state and condition of the Aborigines, and might assist in cases where help is required.

5. The following table gives particulars (1) of the total expenditure; (2) the net income; and (3) the actual cost of each station:—

Name of Station.	Total Expenditure.			Net Income.			Actual Cost.					
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Coranderrk*	...	1,198	15	0	...	409	10	6	...	789	4	6
Condah	...	808	12	10	...	124	18	9	...	933	11	7
Ramahyuck	...	729	3	10	...	79	2	10	...	807	6	8
Ebenezer	...	553	12	4	...	100	0	7	...	563	12	11
Lake Tyers	...	550	17	6	...	12	2	1	...	562	19	7
Framlingham	...	391	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	391	15	10
Melbourne and Ten Depôts	...	1,216	19	11	...	...	...	...	...	1,216	19	11

\* The income from Coranderrk is always paid into the Revenue.

6. A considerable number of those half-castes who left the stations since the passing of the Act No. 912 have been located on small farms and village settlements, whilst some of the others have gone into service. A few families who were out of employment received assistance from the Board in accordance with the provisions of the law.

7. In consequence of the large number of half-castes having settled among the general population of the country, and the steady decrease of the pure blacks at the stations, the Board relinquished during the last few years about 9,700 acres of good land from the reserves at Coranderrk, Framlingham, Ramahyuck, Condah, Lake Tyers, and Dergholm, and because of this the annual income has been reduced in proportion, as will be observed from the reports of the managers of stations.

8. As the law contemplates the merging of the half-caste among the general population, the Board have endeavoured to carry out this policy, and the number of Aborigines at the stations being on this account considerably lessened, the amalgamation of stations appears an absolute necessity for the sake of economy and the greater comfort of the blacks. The Board, however, regret that owing to outside influences the intentions of the Act and their efforts to bring about this desired object have been to a great extent frustrated.

9. The Board have much pleasure in stating that fair progress has been made in education by the children in the different schools in connexion with the Education Department, and likewise that the health of the blacks throughout the colony has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

ALEX. MORRISON,

Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency

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

&c.,      &c.,      &c.

## APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX I.

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station,  
30th June, 1896.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward you my Annual Report of this station, and of the Aborigines in connexion with it, dating from the 1st July, 1895, to 30th June, 1896.

1. The number of Aborigines resident or attending the station during each month in the year has been as follows:—

	1895.			1896.	
	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.		Lowest Number.	Highest Number.
July ...	62	65	January ...	68	69
August ...	61	66	February ...	68	69
September ...	61	62	March ...	65	71
October ...	62	66	April ...	73	73
November ...	66	68	May ...	73	74
December ...	65	66	June ...	72	73

## 2. TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Name.	Colour.
31st January ...	Mary	F.	{ Davis, Lizzie ... Davis, Alfred ...	Half-caste.
16th March ...	James	M.	{ Wandin, Jemima ... Wandin, Robert ...	Half-caste.

## TABLE OF DEATHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.	Colour.
20th September, 1895	J. Davis	M.	2 years	Bronchia pneumonia	Half-caste
6th May, 1896	H. Barker	M.	18	Phthisis	Black.

## TABLE OF MARRIAGES.

28th March, 1896	Thomas Fenton married Eliza Hammond	Black.
28th March, 1896	E. McDougall married Dinah Hunter	Black.

3. Divine service has been regularly held every Sunday, both morning and afternoon, and have been well attended; as also the Sunday school for the children, who likewise receive religious instruction every morning in the day school.

4. The school is under the control of the Education Department, and from the Inspector's report of the examination satisfactory progress has been made by the children in the various branches.

5. The quantity of ground belonging to the station is about 2,400 acres, and is all fenced in and subdivided into paddocks varying in size from 4 to 450 acres. About 30 acres have been under crops of oats, wheat, and potatoes, and very good results of every kind were obtained.

Our hop crop, as usual, was good, and realized the highest price in the market.

6. The kinds and number of stock at this date are as follows:—Cows, 52; heifers, 37; steers, 74; bulls, 2; horses, 16; working bullocks, 8; total, 189. Some twelve or fourteen cows have been milked daily during the year, the milk and butter being consumed on the station. Thirty-three steers and twelve cows have been killed for food. Sixty-eight of all kinds were sold, realizing £90 19s. 6d., which was paid into the Treasury.

7. Our hop crop realized £318 11s., which amount has also been paid into the revenue.

8. The number of buildings remains the same as last year, viz., 24, eighteen of which have been regularly occupied by the natives, and are fairly well and cleanly kept. The other buildings consist of the church, school, store, manager's and teacher's houses, and stable, &c.

9. The strong and able-bodied men are generally employed in farm and hop-garden work, and some of the women make baskets and mats for sale, as well as attend to their domestic duties. The boys and girls are also encouraged to make themselves useful when out of school.

10. The natives do not now hunt much for native game, partly owing to the land outside the reserve being mostly occupied by Europeans, and partly because they are now regularly supplied with meat at the station.

11. Some of the natives still indulge in intoxicating liquors when they can get it, although everything is done to prevent them obtaining drink.

12. All the half-castes (about 60) who came under the operation of the law have left the station, and are obtaining a living elsewhere.

13. One feature of the improvements made about the station during the year just past, and which may be here mentioned, is the pulling down of the old dormitory and erecting out of some of the best material a very handsome and commodious new church, in which, I am very thankful to say, we can not only worship on the Lord's Day in comfort, but meet together in it every morning before beginning the day's work, thus consecrating ourselves anew to the Lord's good work.

14. The usual supply of rations and clothing have been of good and satisfactory quality, and I have much pleasure in tendering to you and the Board the best thanks of the natives for your kind and ever ready attention to all the necessary requirements of the people and station generally.

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

JOSEPH SHAW.

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

## APPENDIX II.

Mission Station, Lake Condah,  
21st August, 1896.

SIR,

In reply to your notice, I herewith forward my Report for the past year with reference to the condition and management of the Aborigines at this station for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

1. The attendance during the year was as follows:—Lowest number, 60; highest, 70; total belonging to the station, 83.

2. Marriages: *Nil*.

### BIRTHS.

Name.	Date.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
Arthur John ...	18th April, 1895 ...	{ Ernest Mobourn ... Maggie Mobourn ...	Black.
Jessie Elizabeth ...	26th January, 1896	{ William Carter ... Agnes Carter ...	Black. Half-caste.
Lucy Ada ...	10th January, 1896	{ Samuel Mobourn ... Bella Mobourn ...	Black.

### DEATHS.

Name.	Colour.	Cause.	Age.
Emily Watson ...	Black ...	Phtthisis ...	25 years.
William White ...	Black ...	Phtthisis ...	18 years.
Frank McLeod ...	Black ...	Laryngitis ...	36 years.
Agnes McLeod ...	Black ...	Bronchitis ...	12 months.
Mary Watson ...	Black ...	Phtthisis ...	60 years.

3. Religious services are kept daily, morning and evening, and full church service twice every Sunday; Sunday school with the children is held in the afternoon. All these meetings are well attended, and young and old are thus carefully instructed in the things which tend to a profitable life for the time which now is and that which is to come.

4. The school, which is under the Education Department, is carried on by Miss Hooper, who is a painstaking teacher, and the children make good progress under her tuition.

5. The acreage of the reserve, which was 3,700, has been reduced to 2,000 acres, and as the number of the blacks is constantly decreasing, we will at no distant date be able to make a further reduction of the area of the reserve. We had ten acres of land under cultivation with oats for hay and potatoes. Both crops turned out satisfactorily, and were enough to supply the wants of the station. We had sufficient potatoes for our people, and enough hay for our horses. Owing to the dry spring we had very few vegetables, but a good supply of fruit, which was all used on the station.

6. The number of stock is as follows:—Cows, 57; yearlings, 54; heifers and steers, 90; sheep, 132; weaners, 45.

7. The number of buildings is the same as last year, and those houses which needed repairing have been put in good order. The old fences round the gardens have also been removed and replaced by new ones.

8. The total income and expenditure of the station was as set forth in the balance-sheet.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Hides and skins	...	38	13 11	Overdraft	...	4	19 1
Wool and bark	...	80	15 9	General	...	29	3 1
Miscellaneous	...	1	5 0	Wages	...	46	3 11
Stock	...	42	10 0	Miscellaneous	...	12	15 8
				Stock	...	31	17 0
				Cash balance	...	38	5 11
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>£163</b>	<b>4 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	...	<b>£163</b>	<b>4 8</b>

9. All able-bodied men and boys are employed in all kinds of useful work, such as gardening, cultivating, fencing, clearing ground, &c.

10. Fishing and hunting are still pursued by the blacks in their spare time, and fish are generally plentiful in the early part of the winter; but as the flood water rises very quickly, owing to the drainage works at the Condah Swamp, the fishing season in winter is now very short and uncertain.

11. I had no trouble with drunkenness among our blacks this year, I am thankful to say.

12. The supplies of clothing for our people were all very good in quality, and sufficient in quantity.

Thanking the Board and you on behalf of the blacks for the prompt attention given to all matters affecting the welfare of the blacks and the station under my charge, and for all supplies,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. STÄHLE.

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

### APPENDIX III.

Ramahyuck Mission Station,  
21st July, 1896.

SIR,

In accordance with your circular of the 18th inst., I have the honour to forward to you my Annual Report for the past year on the state and progress of the mission work among the Aborigines under my care.

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

1895.				1896.			
		Lowest Number.	Highest Number.			Lowest Number.	Highest Number.
July	...	71	73	January	...	78	83
August	...	70	71	February	...	70	76
September	...	70	72	March	...	74	79
October	...	70	83	April	...	72	81
November	...	75	82	May	...	68	75
December	...	70	75	June	...	70	75

2. (a) Marriages: *Nil*.

(b) BIRTHS.

Names.	Colour.	Date.	Names of Parents.
William Pelham Login	Black	1895. 7th of August	{ William Login. { Louisa Login.
Sophia Darby	Black	1895. 15th of November	{ Albert Darby. { Zooloo Darby.
Alice Grace King	Black	1895. 19th of November	{ Willy King. { Georgiana King.
Adolph Donald Moffat	Black	1896. 3rd of February	{ Ned Moffat. { Florence Moffat.

(c) DEATHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date of Death.	Cause.	Age.
Sophia Darby	Black	1896. 20th of May	Teething	8 months.

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

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

5. About 1,400 acres having been handed over to the Department of Agriculture, there remain only about 850 acres for the Aboriginal Reserve, which is subdivided into several paddocks and a number of gardens, for the use of the Aborigines.

6. The number of stock on the station is now only 157 of all kinds, including 37 cows and 4 working bullocks; 26 fat cows and bullocks have been killed for the supply of meat, and 18 head were sold. Nearly all the cows are milked during the season, and supply milk and butter to the station.



7. The total income from the station has been very small on account of the dry season and the reduction of the reserve. The particulars are as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENSES.								
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
Balance from last year	...	...	2	15	6	General expenses	...	...	59	14	4
Surplus stock	...	...	68	2	9	Wages and incidentals	...	...	18	8	6
Hides, &c.	...	...	6	5	3	Cash balance	...	...	1	14	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	2	12	6						
<b>Total</b>	...	...	<b>£79</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>	...	...	<b>£79</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>

8. The number of buildings is the same as last year, and several of them have undergone considerable repair. A very large amount of new fencing has been done, and other improvements made, which add greatly to the comfort of the people and the appearance of the whole establishment.

9. All able-bodied men who do a certain amount of work receive a small allowance of wages for their labour.

10. Hunting and fishing is constantly carried on.

11. There has been very little drinking reported among the blacks belonging to this station.

12. The state of health among the inhabitants has been very good during the past year.

13. The supplies of rations and clothes have been very good and sufficient for all, for which I desire to express the best thanks to the Government and the Board.

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

G. HAGENAUER, Acting Manager.

The Secretary, B.P.A., Melbourne.

#### APPENDIX IV.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers,  
17th August, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward my Report for the year ending 30th June, 1896.

1. The attendance at the station was as follows:—

1895.				1896.			
	Highest.	Lowest.		Highest.	Lowest.		
July	42	39	January	44	27		
August	43	35	February	41	41		
September	35	35	March	40	40		
October	35	35	April	46	44		
November	38	34	May	37	37		
December	39	39	June	38	35		

The total number belonging to the station is 56.

2. There have been no marriages or deaths, and but two births, viz.:—

William and Caroline Hayes, a son, 21st September, 1895.

William and Maggie Johnson, a daughter, 14th November, 1895.

3. Religious services are held daily, both morning and evening. Religious instruction is also given to the children after morning prayers. The day school under Miss Wall is efficiently taught; the average attendance being fourteen.

4. The quantity of ground which comprises the station is 4,000 acres; 2,000 acres are fenced, besides about 100 acres are fenced near the station, which are used for cultivation and grazing.

5. The rainfall during the season was very scanty, which totally destroyed the potato crop. The apple crop was also much less than previous years.

6. The stock on the station consists of 116 mixed cattle and 100 sheep. During the year 80 sheep and 20 cattle have been killed.

7. The income and expenditure is as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.								
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
Income	...	...	12	2	1	Overdraft for 1894-5	...	...	21	16	1
Overdraft	...	...	37	9	10	Wages account	...	...	17	7	7
						General expenses	...	...	10	8	3
			<b>£49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>				<b>£49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

8. The number of cottages built for the Aborigines is ten. The total number of buildings is sixteen, which includes the mission-house, church, and State school.

9. The blacks are employed in useful work. They have just finished a paling fence of 28 chains, which encloses a very good piece of ground, reclaimed from a swamp. I have to thank the Board for granting wages to the Aborigines while doing the work.

10. The Aborigines still hunt native game to supplement their meat supply.

11. I have not seen much drinking among the people; as a rule they do not come to the station while intoxicated.

12. The supplies of rations and clothes have been very good, for which thanks are due to the Government and the Board.

I have the honour to be,  
Your most obedient servant,  
JOHN BULMER.

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,  
General Inspector, B.P.A.





