

1897.
VICTORIA.

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

By Authority:

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2nd S.—No. 12.—[3d.]—9039.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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F. A. Hagenauer, General Inspector and Secretary.

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REPORT.

Melbourne, 9th September, 1897.

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-third, 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 Number.	to	Highest Number.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	from 68	to	81
Condah	...	...	...	...	„ 58	to	74
Ebenezer	...	...	...	...	„ 35	to	58
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	„ 30	to	36
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	„ 33	to	56
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	...	„ 64	to	90
Depôts, and away from stations	...	...	...	...	79	to	79
Total	...	...	...	...	367	to	474

3. Return of marriages, births, and deaths:—

					Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
Condah	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ebenezer	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lake Tyers...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	...	1	1	7
Depôts	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	4	7	21

Decrease during the year, 14.

4. In accordance with the rules and regulations, rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts for Aborigines and those half-castes who are still under the Board's care, have been regularly supplied through the managers of stations and authorized agents at the various depôts throughout the colony. Medical attendance and medicine have likewise been provided in every case when required. Unforeseen or special cases have always received due and careful attention during the regular visits of the General Inspector or by the Board's agents in the different localities where they usually reside.

5. All the stations and most of the depôts have been visited by members of the Board during the past year, besides the regular visits of the General Inspector, so that they might be personally acquainted with the whole state and conditions of the Aborigines, and might assist in cases where special help is needed.

6. From personal knowledge thus obtained, members of the Board take this opportunity of again stating their unanimous opinion that it would be a wise policy for the greater comfort and better management of the Aborigines to amalgamate some of the stations under their control as soon as possible.

7. In a number of cases, boys and young men who have received a good education at the station schools, have given considerable trouble to the managers, as in some cases they refuse to do their work at home, and rather adopt a vagabond life instead of earning their living by the labour of their hands. The Board, after careful

consideration, propose to apprentice those who will not work on the stations to useful trades or to farmers, so that they may earn their living and become useful members of the community.

8. The quantity of 9,700 acres of good land from the reserves at Coranderrk, Framlingham, Condah, Dergholm, Ramahyuck, and Lake Tyers, having been handed back to the Department of Lands, the income from that source has been considerably reduced, as will be observed from the statements of managers.

9. Regarding the particulars of the different stations, the reports of managers in the Appendices give all needful information.

The following table shows (1) 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 †	1,208	1	3	442	11	4	765	9	11
Condah	592	9	6	272	18	2	875	4	11
Ebenezer	604	8	8	65	18	5	670	7	1
Framlingham	432	12	6	...	...	...	432	12	6
Lake Tyers	558	1	3	22	0	9	580	2	0
Ramahyuck	727	9	4	82	5	6	809	14	10
Melbourne and Ten Depôts	1,284	4	11	...	...	...	1,284	4	11

* All station accounts are duly examined and audited at the end of each financial year.

† The income from Coranderrk is paid into the Treasury.

10. The Board also wish to repeat that a number of half-castes, who left the stations since the passing of the Act No. 912, have settled on small farms or on village settlements ; some have gone into service and have done fairly well, whilst others, who are too lazy to work, are endeavouring to return to the stations, which the Board under no circumstances can allow, as it would be entirely against the wise enactment of Parliament, and at the same time do great harm to the people themselves.

11. In reference to the education of children at the different station schools under the Department of Education, the Board have much pleasure in stating that very fair progress has been made during the past year.

12. The Board regret to state that the health of the Aborigines generally throughout the colony has not been good, but that medical aid has been bestowed in all cases. There is a constant decrease in their numbers.

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.

Coranderk Aboriginal Station,
1st July, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward you my Annual Report of this station, and of the Aborigines connected with it, dating from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897.

1. The number of Aborigines resident on the station and the average for each month during the year has been as follows:—

	1896.		1897.	
	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.
July ...	69	69	73	74
August ...	71	72	76	77
September ...	68	70	75	81
October ...	72	73	75	80
November ...	72	72	69	76
December ...	72	73	68	71
January ...				
February ...				
March ...				
April ...				
May ...				
June ...				

2. TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Name.	Colour.
24th July, 1896 ...	Edward Thomas ...	M.	{ Foster, Betsy ... Foster, Edward ...	Black.
26th December, 1896	Frances Amy...	F.	{ McDougall, Dinah ... McDougall, Edward ...	Black.

DEATH.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.	Colour.
6th February, 1897	Ellen Mary Carmichael	F.	3 years	Pneumonia ...	Black.

MARRIAGE.

1st April, 1897, Betsy Hammond and Wm. Marks were married by the Rev. Pastor Herlitz.

3. Religious services are regularly held for the people on the station, and religious instruction is given to the children both on week-days and Sundays, and all the services are generally well and willingly attended.

4. The day school for the children is under the control of the Education Department, and the results, educationally, are most satisfactory.

5. The quantity of ground belonging to the station is now about 2,000 acres, and is all enclosed with a good and substantial post and rail fence, and subdivided into twelve paddocks, varying in size from 4 to 350 acres. About 40 acres are generally cultivated, and the produce consists of wheat, oats, potatoes, and hops, &c.

The hop crop was, as usual, heavy and good, and again realized the highest price in the market. The whole crop when sold realized the handsome sum of £402 7s. 8d., which amount was paid into the Treasury, Melbourne.

6. The kinds and number of stock at this date are:—Cows, 51; calves, 3; heifers, 49; steers, 60; bulls, 3; working bullocks, 8; horses, 16; total, 190. On an average about fourteen cows are milked daily for the use of the whole station. Thirty-four steers and eleven cows have been killed for food, and two bullocks and three steers were sold for £28, which amount was also paid into the Treasury.

7. The number of buildings is 25, nineteen of which have been regularly occupied by the natives, and upon the whole have been well and cleanly kept. The other buildings consist of the manager's and teacher's houses, church, school, store, and stable, &c. One new cottage for orphan girls has been erected.

8. The men are mostly employed in farm and hop-garden work, and the women in domestic duties; and in their spare time they make mats and baskets for sale. The boys and girls are also encouraged to make themselves useful when not in school.

9. The blacks do not now hunt much for native game, because they are regularly supplied with beef and mutton at the station, and also because they have now only a small and limited portion of land to hunt upon.

10. There has not been quite so much trouble during the year by the natives obtaining intoxicating drink as in past years, and they are always discouraged in the use of it.

11. There are now no half-castes living here who come under the operation of the law, nor are any residing here under certificates.

12. I am very thankful to say that the usual supply of rations and clothing granted by the Board has been very good and satisfactory in every way, and I beg to tender to you and the Board the grateful thanks of all the blacks, and myself too, for your most ready and prompt attention to all matters affecting the comfort and welfare of the natives, and the station generally.

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

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

JOSEPH SHAW.

APPENDIX II.

Mission Station, Lake Condah,
19th August, 1897.

SIR,

As the time is near when the Reports of station managers are required, I have pleasure in reporting with regard to the condition and management of this station for the year ended 30th June, 1897, as follows:—

1. The attendance during the year was—Lowest number, 58 ; highest, 70 ; total, 74.
2. Births : *Nil*. Marriages : *Nil*.

DEATHS, 1896-7.

Name.	Colour.	Cause of Death.	Age.
Harriet Turner ...	Black ...	Tubercular peritonitis ...	15 years.
Mabel McLeod ...	Black ...	Phthisis pulmonatis ...	19 years.
Mary Gorrie ...	Black ...	Senile decay ...	80 years.
Thomas E. Watson ...	Black ...	Acute phthisis ...	5 years.
Flora Turner ...	Black ...	Phthisis pulmonatis ...	12 years.
Johnston Mohourne ...	Black ...	Phthisis pulmonatis ...	18 years.

3. Public worship, in the form of short family prayers, was kept daily, morning and evening, and full church service twice on Sundays ; Sunday school being held in the afternoon. All these meetings were well attended by young and old, who are thus taught to become good citizens in this world and to live so that they may be such for the next also.

4. The school, which is under the Education Department, is still carried on by Miss Hooper, with satisfactory results ; the percentage at the last examination being considerably higher than it was last year.

5. The land belonging to this station reserve is now 2,000 acres. We had sixteen acres under cultivation with oats for hay, and potatoes for the use of the people, as well as maize and sorghum for feed for stock. Although the season was exceptionally dry, we had hay enough for our horses to last through the most part of the year, also potatoes enough for use for the people, and for seed for the coming season. The maize and sorghum turned out well too, and was found very useful. A large paddock was fenced in with wire-netting to make it rabbit proof, for the purpose of extending our acreage for cultivation.

The garden yielded a large amount of fruit, which was all used on the station.

6. The number of stock is as follows :—Cows, 48 ; calves, 10 ; heifers, 24 ; steers, 109 ; ewes, 560 ; weaners, 50.

7. The number of buildings is the same as last year. They are all in a fair state of repair, and consist of church, school-house, mission-house, teacher's house, store, stable, and seventeen cottages occupied by the Aborigines.

8. Having sold the greater portion of our wattle-bark, the income was larger this year than in former years, but as one cannot sell wattle-bark every year, the station income will be lower again in future. The money realized enabled me to pay fair wages to the Aborigines for work done on the station, to buy a flock of sheep, not only for the meat supply for the station, but for the purpose of breeding and having a better income from wool. I was also enabled to replace some of the station plant and to get the rest repaired for the better working of the station ; while other things were bought from this money, which were generally supplied in former years from the annual vote for Aborigines.

9. The total income and expenditure was as below :—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash balance last year, 30th June	38	5 11	General	101	19 8
Hides and skins	34	9 1½	Wages	61	5 1
Wool and bark	228	12 3	Miscellaneous	7	12 10
			Stock	102	0 7
			Cash balance	28	9 1½
Total	£301	7 3½	Total	£301	7 3½

10. All the able-bodied men and boys worked on the station at fencing, cultivating, gardening, clearing ground, and looking after stock.

11. Fishing and hunting are still pursued by the blacks, but owing to the dry season the fishing has been a complete failure, as the usual flood waters have not come down from the lake.

12. We had one case of drunkenness, but the offending parties were prosecuted and fined.

13. As a spirit of dissatisfaction was raised among the blacks here, we had a visit from the Hon. the Chief Secretary, D. N. McLeod, Esq., M.P., and A. A. C. Le Souëf, Esq., Vice-Chairman of the Board for Aborigines. As everything was fully inquired into and the blacks received the fullest attention regarding this, I feel it my duty to express to those gentlemen who thus officially visited this station my sincerest thanks for the wise and able as well as kind manner with which they dealt with the case. I am glad to report that a better and more contented spirit prevails among the natives since then.

14. All the rations and clothing were of good quality, and the supplies liberal, and on behalf of the blacks I have again much pleasure in tendering my thanks to the Board and you for the kind and wise distribution of the money voted by Parliament for the care and maintenance of the Aborigines.

15. I ought to state, before closing, that, owing to the kind and liberal thoughtfulness of the Board, our people celebrated Her Majesty's Jubilee in a loyal and happy manner, and I am sure the day, as well as the rejoicings they had, will live for many years in their memories.

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.

Ramahyuck Mission Station,
19th July, 1897.

SIR,

In compliance with your request of the 17th inst., I have the honour to forward to you the Annual Report (from 1st of July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897) on the state and progress of the mission work among the Aborigines at this station.

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

	1896.		1897.	
	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.
July	84	90	January	65 ... 68
August	67	82	February	64 ... 67
September	66	68	March	64 ... 67
October	74	77	April	65 ... 68
November	71	74	May	67 ... 69
December	80	84	June	65 ... 68

2. (a) Marriage: One—

Philip Pepper to Christina McCredie.

(b) Birth: One—

Frank Darby 20th July, 1896, father, Albert Darby, mother, Looloo Darby, all full black.

(c) DEATHS.

Names.	Colour.	Date of Death.	Cause.	Age.
		1896.		
Georgiana King	Black	27th July	Consumption	25 years.
Alice Grace King	Black	9th August	Teething	10 months.
Adolph Donald Moffat	Black	17th August	Decline	1 year and 6 months.
Louise C. Login	Black	20th August	Fits	22 years.
Mary Scott	Black	30th October	Consumption	57 years.
Alice Login	Black	10th November	Decline	1 year and 2 months.
William Login	Black	24th November	Inflammation of the bowels	24 years.

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 all the children five times a week, and Sunday school is carried on in the usual way with very good results in all the classes.

4. The school in connexion with the Department of Education is attended by all the children within the required ages, and very good progress has been made through the careful teaching of Miss Armour. The Inspector's examination for results was very satisfactory. Several of the children obtained their certificates at the same examination. Miss Armour has since been transferred to a higher school, and Miss Seymour has been appointed in her place.

5. As stated in last year's Report, 1,400 acres of our reserve having been handed over to the Department of Agriculture, only about 850 acres remain now for the Aboriginal Reserve, which is subdivided into several paddocks and a number of gardens for the private use of the Aborigines.

6. The number of stock of all kinds is at present 163, being 63 cows, 24 heifers, 39 steers, 31 calves, 2 bulls, 4 working bullocks, and 2 draught horses. Twenty-six cows, 2 steers, and 1 heifer have been killed for the supply of meat, and 19 head have been sold. Nearly all the cows are broken in for milkers, and give a good supply of milk and butter during the season.

7. The total income from the station has again been small, and naturally will remain so in future on account of the reduction of the reserve. We had a very good crop of hay, and a great supply of potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables, as well as a rich harvest of fruit, especially apples, so that the blacks could receive regular supplies during the season. The income and expenditure has been as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		
Cash balance forward	1	14	1	Wages	15	6	0
Surplus stock	62	8	0	General expenses	66	19	6
Hides	8	15	8	Balance in cash	0	5	3
Miscellaneous	9	13	0				
Total	£82	10	9	Total	£82	10	9

All accounts have been duly examined, audited, and passed by the General Inspector of Aborigines.

8. The number of buildings on the station is the same as last year, and all the cottages are fully occupied, so that ere long it will be needed to have one or two new ones erected for newly married people. The cottages are all in good repair, and are generally kept clean and well. We have erected some new and very substantial fences during the past year, and hope to carry on the same work for some time longer.

9. All able-bodied men who do a certain amount of work receive a small allowance of wages in addition to their usual supplies of rations, clothes, and other things.

10. Fishing and hunting is still carried on by the blacks, though not to the extent as formerly.

11. There has been very little drinking noticed among the people belonging to this station.

12. The state of health among our people has not been good during the past year, and, with all care and medical attention, seven persons of all ages have passed away.

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

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

E. G. HAGENAUER, Acting Manager.

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX IV.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers,
3rd August, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Report for the year which ended 30th June, 1897.

1. The daily attendance was as follows:—

	Highest.	Lowest.		Highest.	Lowest.
July	38	35	January	39	37
August	33	33	February	44	38
September	23	23	March	42	42
October	38	28	April	45	43
November	42	42	May	43	34
December	38	33	June	42	41

The total number belonging to district is 56.

2. We have had one marriage—

Roderick McLeod and Clara Bull, 21st December, 1896.

There have been two births—

Henry and Lizzie Barratt, a daughter, 20th June, 1896.

Roderick and Clara McLeod, a son, 27th July, 1896.

One death, William Harold, infant son of William and Caroline Hayes, 8th December, 1896.

Cause of death, influenza.

3. Religious services are held daily, both morning and evening. Religious instruction is also given to the children daily after morning prayers. The day school is still under Miss Wall's care.

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

5. The season having been a good one, we raised sufficient potatoes and other vegetables to supply all the people liberally. They have also been well supplied with fruit.

6. The stock on the station consists of 85 head of mixed cattle and 374 sheep.

7. The income and expenditure is as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		
Income	22	0	9	Overdraft for 1896	37	9	10
Overdraft	103	7	8	Wages account	15	17	9
				General expenditure	72	0	10
	£125	8	5				
					£125	8	5

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

9. The blacks have been employed in useful work, such as clearing the ground and fencing cultivation paddocks.

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

11. The general health of the people has been very good; we have had only one case of serious illness.

12. The supply of stores and clothing has been quite sufficient to meet all the reasonable wants of the blacks, and I desire to tender my best thanks to the Board for the same.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

JOHN BULMER.

APPENDIX V.

Lake Hindmarsh Mission Station,
23rd August, 1897.

SIR,

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

1. The attendance of the Aborigines was as follows:—

1896.			1897.		
	Lowest.	Highest.		Lowest.	Highest.
July ...	36	38	January ...	24	41
August ...	32	35	February ...	43	47
September ...	32	33	March ...	36	44
October ...	37	40	April ...	40	41
November ...	34	38	May ...	44	46
December ...	35	38	June ...	47	47

The total number belonging to the station is 58.

2. Number of marriages, births, and deaths:—

(a) MARRIAGE.

29th June, 1897 { William Edwards, black.
 { Eliza Coombs, black.

(b) BIRTHS.

Names.	Date.	Parents.	Colour.
Mary Mathilde Catherine	15th August, 1896	{ Albert Coombs ... Edith Coombs ...	Half-caste. Half-caste.
Alfred Lorenz	3rd May, 1897	{ Alfred Marks ... Clara Marks ...	Black. Half-caste.

(c) DEATHS: Nil.

3. Religious services have been held daily and on Sundays, which have been regularly attended. Religious instruction to the children has been given on week days, and Sunday school is regularly held.

4. The school, which is under the Education Department, is progressing under the tuition of Miss Tyrie.

5. The quantity of land belonging to the Mission Reserve is 3,607 acres, which is fenced in by a strong post, rail, and wire fence. It is divided into several paddocks for pasture and cultivation for hay.

6. The stock on the station consists now, after having killed a good many sheep and cattle for our meat supply, of 4 cows, 6 calves, 4 heifers, 1 bull, 300 sheep, and 4 horses. A great number of sheep died of starvation.

7. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash balance ...	13	0 2	General ...	9	2 1
Wool, skins, and hides...	46	15 5	Wages ...	54	4 0
Produce ...	6	2 10	Cash balance ...	2	12 4
	£65	18 5		£65	18 5

8. The number of cottages for the blacks is ten; some are of limestone, others weatherboard houses; other buildings are the church, school-house, and missionary's house, all built of limestone.

9. The employment of the blacks was mostly clearing and cutting down trees, ploughing, gardening, and fencing.

10. Native game is very rare; fishes are few.

11. I am glad to say I had no trouble with the blacks getting intoxicated, as they are kept away from public-houses.

12. The half-castes have now nearly all left the stations, except those who are here by permission of the Board.

13. The rations and clothes supplied by the Board have been very good and sufficient.

I return my sincerest thanks to the Board and to you, Sir, for all the needful assistance given to our people for their welfare.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Secretary, B.P.A.,
Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, Melbourne.

H. P. BOGISCH.