

1925.

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VICTORIA.

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FIFTY-FIRST 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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**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.**

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**The Honorable the CHIEF SECRETARY, Chairman.**  
**W. P. HEATHERSHAW, Esq., J.P., Vice-Chairman.**  
**The Hon. H. S. BAILEY, M.L.A.**  
**The Hon. J. BOWSER, M.L.A.**

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**E. E. Bond, Esq., M.L.A.**  
**Mrs. ANNE F. BON.**

**A. E. PARKER,**  
**Secretary.**

**Melbourne.**

# REPORT

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Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,  
Melbourne, 31st October, 1924.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines has the honour to submit for your Excellency's consideration its Fifty-first Report on the condition of the Aborigines of this State.

In pursuance of the policy of the Board to concentrate the whole of the Aborigines at Lake Tyers 36 additional cottages have been erected, of which six were built during the past year. A five-roomed cottage has been erected for the sub-manager, and a dining hall is in course of erection. It is estimated that the cost will be £350.

Three of the older cottages, condemned by the Public Works Department, have been demolished. The material from these is being used in other buildings. Provision is being sought for a new sewing-room at Lake Tyers, and the question of providing quarters for the school teacher is under consideration. One cottage has been fitted up as a hospital for the use of sick natives.

The station situated at Lake Tyers in Gippsland is the only one now carried on under the control of a manager.

The question of vesting all aboriginal reserves in the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, so that the Board may have power to lease, or in certain circumstances to dispose of any reserve, has been under consideration, and it is hoped that legislation dealing with the matter will be passed at an early date. In the event of the land being used for settlement purposes the Board will carefully consider the claim of any full-blooded aboriginal who may desire to remain on any reserve under the care of the local guardian.

Generally the health of the natives has been fair. On the recommendation of the Government Medical Officer bath houses, with hot and cold water services and fumigating chambers, have been erected at Lake Tyers, to stamp out a scabieic form of skin disease to which the natives are prone. This has had very beneficial results, and the disease has now almost disappeared. An epidemic of influenza laid up practically the whole of the natives at Lake Tyers, but since their recovery there has been less sickness than usual.

**EDUCATION.**—The Education Department conducts the school at Lake Tyers. The school has been enlarged and remodelled, and a teacher with experience in sloyd and carpentry placed in charge. It is proposed to erect a workroom for technical training. A special curriculum has been undertaken, which includes millinery, dressmaking, sloyd work, &c. There are 49 children at present attending the Lake Tyers State School.

A Home cinematograph machine has been sent to the Lake Tyers Station, and monthly programmes are provided.

**CONCENTRATION.**—A clearing sale was held at Coranderrk; £811 10s. 6d. was received from the sale of cattle and £117 16s. 5d. from the sale of old cottages, sundries, &c. Everything likely to be of use was transferred to Lake Tyers. Only six of the old natives have been left at Coranderrk under the care of a local guardian.

At Condah and Framlingham there are numbers of half-castes, who will be transferred to Lake Tyers as soon as cottages can be provided. Experience has shown that the children of these people fail to attend school at those places, and further that an undesirable population of quadroons and octroons gathers in the vicinity of a reserve. This leads to immorality and quarrels, and in the best interests of the natives eligible for assistance these reserves should be closed as early as possible. It is hoped that if the proposed Aborigines Reserves Bill becomes law this problem will speedily be solved.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES.**—Church of England services, Sunday School, and Christian Endeavour meetings are held regularly at Lake Tyers. Services are held at Lake Condah and Framlingham by visiting clergymen and lay preachers.

An abundant supply of vegetables has been grown and distributed at Lake Tyers. Twenty tons of hay were harvested for the use of station stock, but, owing to the long-continued rain, were not in the best condition.

**TIMBER, LAKE TYERS.**—The Forestry Commission is calling for tenders for all mature timber on the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve (both for hewing and milling). It is proposed to sell such timber on the usual forestry royalties.

**OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.**—An additional dam has been built at Lake Tyers; about 40 acres of additional land cleared, fenced, and cultivated; and a concrete meat-house erected by native labour.

The bluestone church at Lake Condah has been repaired at a cost of £228.

The number of aborigines and half-castes who have been maintained or partly provided for during the year ended 30th June, 1924, was as follows:—

Locality.	Blacks.	Half-castes and Under.	Total.
Lake Tyers .. .. .	52	155	207
Coranderrk .. .. .	1	5	6
Framlingham .. .. .	1	32	33
Lake Condah .. .. .	2	35	37
Antwerp .. .. .	3	..	3
Swan Hill .. .. .	4	1	5
Other Dépôts .. .. .	7	10	17
In Institutions .. .. .	..	3	3
In Service .. .. .	2	4	6
	72	245	317

In addition to the above there are at Antwerp and Cove Dam 37 half-castes whom it is proposed to transfer to Lake Tyers. There are about 50 half-castes and quadroons in the Warrnambool and Condah districts not receiving assistance at present.

The number of births, deaths, and marriages is as follows:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Lake Tyers .. .. .	5	11	..
Coranderrk .. .. .	2	1	1
Framlingham .. .. .	..	..	..
Lake Condah .. .. .	..	1	..
	7	13	1

The births recorded were—half-castes, 7. Deaths comprise—blacks, 5; half-castes, 8.

**STATEMENT of Amounts voted by Parliament, Expenditure therefrom, and the Unexpended Vote of Board for the years 1916-17 to 1923-24 inclusive.**

Year.	Amount Voted.	Amount Expended.	Unexpended Vote.
	£	£	£
1916-17 .. .. .	4,732	3,945	787
1917-18 .. .. .	4,409	4,320	89
1918-19 .. .. .	3,537	3,507	30
1919-20 .. .. .	4,403	4,193	210
1920-21 .. .. .	5,709	5,690	19
1921-22 .. .. .	7,008	6,940	68
1922-23 .. .. .	7,039	7,010	29
1923-24 .. .. .	6,912	6,867	45

The revenue from the sale of produce is shown in the Appendices.

The areas of land reserved for the use of the aborigines are as follow :—

						Acres.
Lake Tyers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4,000
Coranderrk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,450
Framlingham .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	548
Lake Condah .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,043
Colac .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	20
Lake Moodemere .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	22
						<hr/>
				Total .. .. .		9,083
						<hr/>

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

W. P. HEATHERSHAW,

Vice-Chairman,

A. E. PARKER,

Secretary.

His Excellency Colonel the Right Honorable

Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., &c., &c.

## APPENDIX IV.

## STATION ACCOUNTS.

## LAKE CONDAH.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>								
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.				
To Balance (1.7.23)	..	..	3,835	9	3	By Repairs Fencing	..	..	9	6	0
„ Stock	..	..	19	0	0	„ Balance (30.6.24)	..	..	4,126	10	11
„ Wool	..	..	13	1	0						
„ Grazing Lease	..	..	268	6	8						
			4,135 16 11						4,135 16 11		

## LAKE TYERS.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>								
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.				
To Sales at Store	..	..	285	0	4	By Balance (1.7.23)	..	..	8,011	7	7
„ Hides	..	..	20	9	1	„ Stock transferred from Coranderrk	..	..	116	0	0
„ Refund Rations	..	..	26	3	2	„ Purchases for Store	..	..	169	16	2
„ Sundries	..	..	2	18	3	„ Refund on Sale of Hides	..	..	2	2	1
„ Balance (30.6.24)	..	..	7,964	15	0						
			8,299 5 10						8,299 5 10		

## CORANDERRK.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>								
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.				
To Balance (1.7.23)	..	..	6,080	11	1	By Balance (30.6.24)	..	..	7,139	12	2
„ Hides	..	..	13	14	2						
„ Clearing Sale of Cattle	..	..	811	10	6						
„ „ „ Sundries	..	..	117	16	5						
„ Stock transferred to Lake Tyers	..	..	116	0	0						
			7,139 12 2					7,139 12 2			

## SWAN HILL.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>								
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.				
To Rent of Hut	..	..	6	5	0	By Balance (30.6.24)	..	..	6	5	0
			6 5 0					6 5 0			

## SUMMARY OF BALANCES.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>								
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.				
To Lake Condah	..	..	4,126	10	11	By Lake Tyers	..	..	7,964	15	0
„ Coranderrk	..	..	7,139	12	2	„ Framlingham	..	..	345	8	11
„ Swan Hill	..	..	6	5	0	„ Balance at Treasury (30.6.24)	..	..	3,397	1	9
„ Dépôts, also Stations closed past years			434	17	7						
			11,707 5 8					11,707 5 8			

Audited and found correct,  
 (Sgd.) E. A. KENT,  
 Inspecting Officer,  
 24th September, 1924.

(Sgd.) W. DICKSON,  
 Vice-Chairman.

(Sgd.) A. E. PARKER,  
 Secretary.  
 1st July, 1924.