

1885.
—
VICTORIA.

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES

IN

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

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

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REPORT.

SIR,

1st July, 1885.

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines have the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration their Twenty-first Report on the condition of the Aborigines of this Colony.

1. The Board held twelve meetings during the year.
2. The number of Aborigines belonging to the stations is as follows:—

Coranderrk, under the management of	Mr. Goodall	...	...	...	107
Framlingham,	Revd. R. Thwaites	...	...	...	104
Lake Condah,	Revd. J. H. Stähle	...	...	...	112
Lake Wellington,	Revd. F. A. Hagenauer	...	...	...	83
Lake Tyers,	Mr. J. Bulmer	...	...	...	110
Lake Hindmarsh,	Revd. W. Kramer	...	...	...	78
					594

3. The average attendance of Aborigines during the years 1883-4 and 1884-5 was—

	1883-4.					1884-5.
Coranderrk	104	...	...	...	...	100
Framlingham	90	...	...	...	...	82
Lake Condah	91	...	...	...	...	86
Lake Wellington	79	...	...	...	...	72
Lake Tyers	64	...	...	...	...	64
Lake Hindmarsh	60	...	...	...	...	60
					488	464

4. Outside of these stations, the Board, through local guardians, supply the wants, as far as practicable, of about 250 Aborigines who cannot be induced to live on the stations (see Appendices IX. and XIX.). About 144 of this number live on the Murray, from Koondrook and Swan Hill to Ned's Corner. Between these points there are seven depôts, where stores and clothing can be obtained by those in need of them. During the last year the death rate among these people has been heavy, nine deaths having occurred. There were no births.

5. The number of births, marriages, and deaths on the stations during the year was—

				Births.		Marriages.		Deaths.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	3	...	0	...	6
Framlingham	...	...	...	6	...	2	...	0
Lake Condah	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	2
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	9
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	6	...	1	...	7
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	5	...	0	...	4
					26	6	...	28

In 1883-4, the number of births was 20, and the number of deaths 21.

6. The gross proceeds of the products of the various stations are as follow:—

						£	s.	d.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	1,163	6	2
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	124	17	1
Lake Condah	...	...	...	...	...	926	3	1
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	241	11	7
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	27	10	3
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	...	...	69	16	1
						£2,553	4	3

As stated in former Reports, the greater part of the produce obtained (except that from Coranderrk) is consumed on the stations, and there is, consequently, little left for sale. The Coranderrk hops still keep up their reputation as being the best grown in the colony.

7. The number of children attending school is—

Coranderrk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Lake Condah	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Lake Tyers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
							<u>151</u>

8. The reports of the managers, together with the expenditure and receipts, on the various stations* will be found in the Appendices.

9. The Board regret that the Government have not been able this session to pass the necessary legislation to carry out their recommendations with reference to the merging of those half-castes capable of earning their own living into the general population of the colony.

10. The thanks of the Board are due to the local guardians and honorary correspondents for their services during the year; also to the officials of the Hamilton, Swan Hill, and Sale Hospitals, and to Drs. Reid and McLean, of Sale, for their kind attention to the sick.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

E. H. CAMERON,
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency
Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

* There is no Report from Framlingham, the manager having resigned and left the colony.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Sir, Aboriginal Station, Lake Hindmarsh, September 10th, 1885.

I have the honour to forward my report on this station for the twelvemonth ended June 30th, 1885.

The average daily attendance has been slightly over 60, but the total number of Aborigines belonging to the station is 78.

The number of births and deaths will be found in the schedules forwarded herewith. There were no marriages celebrated during the period under review.

As regards the state of health of the Aborigines during the year, I beg to say that it compares favorably with that of previous years. For months together the station has been quite free from sickness.

The stock on the reserve comprises 3 horses, 30 head of mixed cattle, and 350 sheep. One horse has died, and another is getting too old for work, leaving only 2 fit for work. A good staunch working horse is very much needed. The milking cows are poor, owing to the scarcity of feed, and do not give much milk. The autumn was exceptionally dry, and when the rains came at last they were followed by cold frosty weather, which prevented the grass from growing. Several young calves died for want of sufficient nourishment, and one cow and one heifer from eating poisoned chaff laid for the rabbits. The lambing would have been good but for the fact of the ewes, being low in condition, leaving the lambs as soon as they were born. Considerable numbers of lambs perished in this way. The average in lambs is 70 per cent. Seventy sheep were killed for meat for the blacks.

The crop of hay was very good, and sufficient for the requirements of the station. About 1½ tons of hay were sold. This season the prospects of a good harvest are anything but bright, the season continuing so unfavorable to the growth of the crops.

The vines are still suffering from the oïdium, but seem to be recovering. The crop of grapes was light, and the income from this source is steadily decreasing. The quality of the grapes was good. Excepting peaches, all other kinds of fruit were a failure.

The number of cottages is twelve. Two of the original log-huts are in a bad state of repair, and ought to be pulled down and new ones built instead. Were this done, not only would there be sufficient accommodation for those who wish to live in houses, but the appearance of the station would, likewise, be improved. Perhaps I should say that some of the houses containing only one room afford insufficient accommodation for a married couple with children, and the women find it next to impossible to keep them tidy. The two-roomed ones, as a rule, are kept clean and tidy.

The reserve is now being enclosed with a good substantial fence of red-gum posts, five wires, and top rail. This, when finished, will be a most useful improvement and a great comfort to us. As there is now no public road through the reserve, no one will interfere with us, and we expect to reap the full benefit of our labours in keeping down the rabbits and wild dogs. I am exceedingly obliged to the Board for this fence, and may say that our interest in improving the reserve, which commenced to flag, seeing that strangers were reaping the benefit of our exertions, has since been greatly strengthened. Two gangs of men worked well at ringing trees for some months, others cut down scrub and burned the mallee, whereby the work of eradicating the rabbits has been greatly facilitated, and the grazing capability of the reserve improved. The rabbits, although not exterminated yet, have been got under control, and the wild dogs have not troubled us this year.

The men do not like to pay for their rations for their families while they are at work elsewhere, and much grumbling has again resulted. Otherwise their conduct has been fairly good, and cases of drunkenness have been of rare occurrence.

The supplies of clothing and rations granted by the Board have been invariably good, for which we beg to tender our best thanks on behalf of those under our care.

Thanking you for your kind attention to the well-being of the station and the blacks located here,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Secretary, Aborigines' Board, Melbourne.

C. W. KRAMER.

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS AT THE LAKE HINDMARSH ABORIGINAL STATION DURING THE TWELVEMONTH ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1885.

(a) BIRTHS.

Alice Pepper.

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL AT LAKE HINDMARSH ABORIGINAL STATION.

Boys ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
									17
									78
									78

September 1st, 1885.

C. W. KRAMER.

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, AT THE LAKE HINDMARSH ABORIGINAL STATION
DURING THE TWELVEMONTH ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1885.

(a) BIRTHS.

1. Angus Gordon Marks, December 7th, 1884. Father black; mother half-caste.
2. Albert Wallace Coombs, December 22nd, 1884. Father half-caste; mother half-caste.
3. William Harold Kinear, December 23rd, 1884. Father black; mother half-caste.
4. Archibald Hugh Pepper, January 2nd, 1885. Father black; mother half-caste.
5. Miriam Fenton, April 16th, 1885. Father black; mother half-caste.

(b) MARRIAGES.

Nil.

(c) DEATHS.

1. Alice Pepper, black, July 22nd, 1884, aged 14 years; consumption.
2. Augustus Pepper, black, December 16th, 1884, aged 3 years; peritonitis.
3. Old Toby, black, February 27th, 1885, aged 87 years; senile decay.
4. Julia Taylor, black, June 2nd, 1885, aged 11 years; consumption.

August 31st, 1885.

C. W. KRAMER.

RETURN SHOWING THE INCOME OF LAKE HINDMARSH ABORIGINAL STATION DURING THE
TWELVEMONTH ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1885.

By sale of wool	...	...	...	...	£	s.	d.
By sale of sheepskins	...	...	...	...	47	3	6
By sale of hay	...	...	...	...	3	1	9
By sale of fruit	...	...	...	...	4	11	10
By sale of empty bags	...	...	...	...	13	18	0
By sale of empty case and barrel	...	...	...	...	0	12	6
Hire for one horse	...	...	...	...	0	4	0
					0	4	6
					<hr/>		
					69	16	1

September 1st, 1885.

C. W. KRAMER.

APPENDIX II.

SIR,

Swan Hill, 17th September, 1885.

I have the honour to report for your information that during the last twelve months there has been no change whatever in the moral condition of the blacks on the Lower Murray; they still lead the same wandering existence; the only exception is that of the Stewart family, at Fishpoint. Stewart has a small selection, upon which he and his family live; he is a most industrious man; but none of the other blacks take example from him; industry of every kind seems quite foreign to their nature. Mortality during the year was great, nine deaths having occurred. There was not a single birth amongst them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD TRONSON, Local Guardian.

Captain Page, Genl. Insptr., Melbourne.

APPENDIX III.

SIR,

Ramahyuck Mission Station, Lake Wellington, July 12th, 1885.

I have the honour to forward to you my report on the state and progress of the mission work among the Aborigines at this station and the surrounding district for the past year, from July 1st, 1884, to June 30th, 1885.

I. The total number of Aborigines has been the same as the year before, namely 83, but this number has been decreased through several deaths, which will be observed at the tabular statement as follows, according to the monthly returns:—

	Total.	Attendance.		Total.	Attendance.
1884. July	82	82	1885. January	72	70
„ August	83	83	„ February	74	66
„ September	81	81	„ March	74	60
„ October	79	79	„ April	80	66
„ November	79	76	„ May	70	65
„ December	69	67	„ June	86	66

II. Marriages.—Two; Robert Moffat, Lake Tyers, Florence Foster, Ramahyuck, at present at Lake Tyers; Andrew McKinnon, Emily Brindle, at present at Briagolong.

III. Births.—Rosa Conolly, half-caste child of half-caste parents; Nora McKinnon, half-caste child of half-caste parents.

IV. Deaths.—Charles River, full black, aged 56, died of an abscess; Martha Wood, full black, aged 5, died of consumption; Jane Raymond, full black, aged 45, hydatids; Coline Gilbert, full black, aged 10, inflammation of the bowels; Kate Raymond, full black, aged 10, hydatids; Alfred Kramer, full black, aged 1, teething; Louis Raymond, full black, aged 9, pneumonia; Arthur Pepper, half-caste, aged 3, dropsy; Matilda Gilbert, full black, aged 10, consumption.

It must be stated here that among those who died were several who have been ill for a number of years, and had been at the Sale Hospital several times for longer or shorter periods, and that in all cases the doctor was employed, and every possible attention paid to them.

Among the above stated number of 83 have been 27 of mixed blood and 56 full black; of them all were 39 children and 44 adults. Twenty-seven of the children attended school. This number will be less next year.

V. The school at this station is still enjoying all the benefits of the Education Department as a State school under the excellent and careful management of Mr. and Mrs. Beilby, and is attended by about 40 children, including some scholars from the surrounding district. The selectors are glad to have a good school so handy, and for the black children it is of great benefit to mix at school and in the playground with those of a superior race. The examinations by the Government Inspector of schools have given again very favorable results, so that the school still keeps up the good reputation which was gained from the beginning. Again several children have passed the standard of education fixed by the law of the country. The religious instruction (half-an-hour daily) has been carefully carried on, and good progress made in this class, as also at Sunday-school. Besides the school lessons, both secular and religious, the children received practical instructions in all manner of manual labour: the boys, in gardening, milking, cutting wood, and other things; whilst the girls had lessons in sewing, washing, mending, housework, and ironing, &c. Considering all the labour and patience bestowed on the children, one must feel regret that the results in after life do not come up to the mark which we can reasonably expect, but we still hope to see greater progress made in future.

VI. In reference to the land belonging to this reserve, I may again state that the whole reserve is fenced in with a good three-rail fence, and is subdivided into the following paddocks:—

- A.—Large paddock of 1,800 acres, including 500 acres of morass land, which can only be used in dry seasons. The new division fence of this paddock runs through the morass and up the hill, but is only half finished at present; we hope to get done when we have labour from the blacks available for the purpose.
- B.—This is a well-fenced paddock of 320 acres, which we use for young stock and working bullocks, &c.
- C.—This paddock contains about 200 acres of good grazing land for the milking cows, working horses, and young calves. In it is the home or mission station located, which includes a number of smaller paddocks and gardens enumerated in the next short statement. Paddock C is the best improved one of all belonging to the reserve, and gives a very good return.
- D.—There are, 1st, a four-acre paddock, called the hop ground; 2nd, a five-acre paddock for calves belonging to the milking cows; 3rd, five acres laid out in small allotments for gardens for the natives, and some other small paddocks for cultivation. The returns from the hops and also from the other cultivation grounds have not been up to our expectation, on account of the very dry season during last year, and I fear that it will be the same next season, as we have had no rain at all for the ploughing of the land. In reference to the returns of vegetables in the various gardens, I am happy to say that there has been a good supply of everything for the households, but I could not give the amount according to money value, as all has been used here on the station.

VII. The reserve is fully stocked with about 250 head of cattle, which is at present all that the land can carry, on account of the very dry season. The stock is, on the whole, in as good a condition as any in the district, although we could wish to see it better. Regular returns of the stock are sent in every month, and all particulars stated in them. The 30 cows broken in for milking supply the place during the whole year, and if any of the families wish to milk one or more cows for themselves, we are glad to assist them in this respect. If we have any surplus stock, we sell it for the benefit of the station, and account for the same in the financial statement under paragraph X. below.

VIII. No new cottages have been built during the past year, but all the buildings have been kept in proper repairs, and, where it was needed, additions made to them for the comfort of the families. The new fence in front of one row of houses has been completed, and gives a very pretty appearance to the establishment. Another underground water tank has been added, as well as some new fences for yards and gardens erected, and other smaller improvements made wherever it was required, so that all on the station is in good order, and gives comfort to the inhabitants and a pleasing impression to visitors.

IX. In reference to general condition, comfort, and happiness of the people, I wish to refer to my statements of last year, and can only add that all has been done that was possible for the good of the Aborigines, both by the Government Board and by the Missions Committee and their agents, which the blacks acknowledge with thankfulness. It is to be regretted that the proposed law relating to the half-castes has not been before Parliament yet; but it is to be hoped no long delay will take place, for the good of the people themselves.

X. The financial statement below shows the state of income and expenditure during the year. The failure and the low price of hops has made the income rather lower than was expected; still, if it is considered that the establishment has been fully supplied with fresh meat, and the vegetables for home use all supplied from the station, so that rations from the Board were not required in such quantities as otherwise would have been the case, the results have been quite as much as was needed. The accounts are as follow:—

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.
From hides	...	...	13 10 3	Overdraft of last year	...	...	167 8 3
Surplus stock	...	...	220 19 0	Wages accounts	...	...	87 0 0
Hops	...	...	7 2 4	General expenditures, including build- ings	...	...	67 10 4
Balance due	...	...	84 4 6	For hop labour, &c.	...	...	3 7 6
Total	...	...	<u>£325 16 1</u>	Total	...	...	<u>£325 16 1</u>

The value of the fat cattle killed for use does not appear on the financial statement, for the simple reason that it would have to appear on both sides for no purpose. We have killed only 31 head of fat cattle, but, in addition, had during the hot weather our supply supplemented by the killing of about 60 fat sheep, which are neither brought into account here. Referring to the above accounts, I beg to state that all the original vouchers are numbered before they are entered into the station books, and that the whole is always audited by two public auditors, so that they are ready at any time for inspection at a moment's notice.

XI. In conclusion, I beg to state that our blacks here have been well cared for by the Aboriginal Board and the Inspector-General, and that both the clothes, blankets, and articles of food have been of very suitable and useful qualities, for which I wish to express our best thanks. In my general estimates for the coming year, I have stated the small number of articles and the quantity of building materials required during that time, and, if granted, we shall not want anything for a considerable time besides food and clothes.

XII. I also wish to express our best thanks to Doctors Reid and McLean, of Sale, who have been very attentive to the sick and suffering in the hospital, on the station, or elsewhere.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. A. HAGENAUER.

Captain A. M. A. Page, Inspector-General of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX IV.

SIR,

Lake Condah, September 8th, 1885.

I have the honour to forward my annual report with reference to the management, condition, and progress of this station and the Aborigines under my care.

The total number of the blacks and half-castes belonging to the station is about the same as it was last year, viz., 112, and from 84 to 88 of this number have been continually residing here throughout the year.

The state of health, though wonderfully good during the last four or five months, was not so at the commencement of winter; for we had an unusual amount of sickness at that period. The complaints from which the patients, who were chiefly children, suffered were croup and inflammation of the internal organs.

The return of births and deaths is as follows:—

BIRTHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Names of Parents.	Colour.
George Henry... ..	Black ...	March 24th, 1885...	{ George Egan } Eva Egan... ..	Black. Black.
Ernest John Charles	Black ...	March 5th, 1885 ...	{ Samuel Mobourn } Bella Mobourn	Black. Black.
Edward Jemison	Black ...	June 5th, 1885 ...	{ James Mullet } Ellen Mullet	Black. Half-caste.
Susannah	Half-caste ...	June 19th, 1883 ...	{ Alfred McDonald } Annie McDonald	Half-caste. Half-caste.

DEATHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Cause of Death.	Age.
Flora McKinnon McDonald ...	Half-caste ...	May 4th, 1885 ...	Convulsions	14 months.
Beatrice Mobourn	Black ...	May 8th, 1885 ...	Disease of throat and mouth	20 months.

There was one marriage during the year.

The conduct of the people who resided on the station was satisfactory. They attended willingly to their work, appeared contented with their condition, and lived harmoniously and peacefully together.

The number of children attending school was—15 boys, 12 girls, 27 total. The ages of the pupils range from four to fifteen years. As the school changed hands during the year—Miss Gregory, who carried it on very successfully over eight years, having resigned, and Mr. Oelrich having been appointed—it has not made such satisfactory progress as we could wish; but in consideration of the fact that changes always have some disturbing effect upon the general routine and order of any school or establishment, some allowance must be made, but I hope to be able to report in another year that it has made headway, as was the case in former years.

The work done by the natives was chiefly clearing ground, fencing, cultivating, and gardening. There were about 200 acres cleared from dead timber, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of log fence were erected, and posts and rails split for half-a-mile of fencing to be put up across the swamp, in order to complete another dividing fence on the station reserve. Six acres of oats were sown for hay, and about the same number planted with potatoes. The crops turned out fairly well, but not so well as was the case in previous years.

We had an ample supply of vegetables, for, besides one large general garden, several of the Aborigines have gardens of their own, in which they grow a variety of vegetables.

As our stock of cattle increased to over 300, but became rather impoverished of late years, on account of us having killed, on an average, 50 head for meat for the Aborigines, annually, during the last 10 years, and the stock having never been changed, I recommended that the cattle should be sold and fresh stock placed on the reserve. They were sold by the Inspector of the Board, and realized £2 10s per head all through, and I am happy to learn that the Board has decided to re-stock the station from the money realised for the cattle, and to use the balance in making improvements for the better working of this establishment, and I will feel glad if this is carried out ere long.

I feel thankful to the Board for recommending, and to the Government for kindly granting, the 1,800 acres of stones adjoining the station to be added to this reserve, for through this the blacks, whose hunting grounds have become more circumscribed every year through the land being taken up all round the station, will have a considerable tract of country secured over which they can go unmolested in pursuit of game. The stones, when fenced in, will likewise be profitable to the station, as they will be fair pastoral land for cattle.

Our sheep, of which we have 400, are looking well, from which it is evident that this part of the country is well adapted for them.

The church here, which has been erected to a great extent by the labour of the Aborigines themselves, and through contributions from sympathising friends of the mission, far and near, was opened for service by the Bishop of Ballarat on the 27th March; and as it is a subject of interest in connexion with this station, I will here copy a few extracts from the Bishop's remarks in the visitors' book. He writes—“How can one ever visit this station, as managed now, without delight? As always, I found on every hand the signs—unmistakable to a practical eye—of strong, wise rule, and cheerful sympathetic management. When the lowering storm of the forenoon passed over, and the many visitors gathered with the blacks upon the green, the station looked charming, nay brilliant, as happy magnetic a home of a peaceful industrious Christian community as the eye could wish to rest on. A banner, floating proudly from a lofty staff, proclaimed that it was a day of jubilee, and the beautiful new church, the heart of the station, which now presides imposingly over the station buildings, was the occasion of it. I held two opening services, at 1 and at 7, the latter for the children. They were, to my mind, delightful; the singing and worship full of heart, the attention of old and young perfect, the answers of the latter, when catechised after the evening sermon, admirable. I never heard the singing better done; the anthem, ‘Make a joyful noise,’ was excellently well rendered in the course of the midday service.”

The church being now completed, and the houses of the Aborigines, comparatively speaking, substantial and comfortable, the station has the appearance of a bright and prosperous village; but a new stable is very much needed, for the present one is so dilapidated that it hardly affords any shelter to horses when put there. Further, a large underground tank, to conserve rain water for the use of the people in summer, would be a very great boon—for when the creek (which is in reality only an overflow from the lake) dries up, as it always does in warm weather, the Aborigines have to carry all the water they require for domestic purposes, cooking, &c., a distance of over half-a-mile, in buckets, tubs, &c. About a dozen of really good milking cows are also urgently required, for a number of little children are growing up, for whom milk, as an article of diet, is absolutely necessary, and of the cows we still have, there is at present only one giving milk.

The income and expenditure were as follow:—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash balances from last year ...	24	11 6	10 tons of potatoes, at £3 per ton ...	30	0 0
Wool ...	47	3 2	8 tons of hay, at £3 10s. per ton ...	28	0 0
Bark ...	51	5 9	20 head of cattle used for meat, at £5 per head ...	100	0 0
Hides and skins ...	22	14 2	175 weaners bought, at 4s. each... ..	35	0 0
10 tons of potatoes, at £3 per ton ...	30	0 0	25 fat sheep for meat, at 9s. 6d. each ...	11	17 6
8 tons of hay, at £3 10s. per ton... ..	28	0 0	30 fat sheep for meat, at 12s. each ...	18	0 0
20 head of cattle, at £5 per head ...	100	0 0	Cash to Aborigines in wages and travelling expenses, &c.	42	3 9
30 fat sheep, at 12s. each ...	18	0 0	Station accounts and incidental expenses ...	48	4 1½
				313	5 4½
			Cash on hand	8	9 2½
Total	£321	14 7	Total	£321	14 7

Special thanks, which I herewith desire to express, are due to the Hamilton Hospital Committee and their skilful doctor (Dr. Bennett) for kindness shown and assistance given in many instances to several of our Aborigines, who were willingly received into the hospital, and most kindly and, I am thankful to say, most successfully treated when there.

Finally, I desire to thank the Board and you for all help given in carrying on the management of this station, and especially for the very liberal supply of rations and clothing, which were all of very good quality.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. STÄHLE.

Captain Page, Gen. Insp. and Secretary B.P.A., Melbourne.

APPENDIX V.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers, September 21st, 1885.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward report for the year ending June 30th, 1885.

I am sorry to say I cannot speak of any great results from our cultivation, for, though we put in our usual crops, the farm has been so very dry that we did not reap so much as we sowed. I never remember to have seen it so dry in Gippsland. The rainfall for the year has not been fifteen inches, and even up to the present time we have had no great downfall of rain. The ground is now very dry, and, though occasionally we have a slight shower, yet the ground has not got a good soaking to enable it to stand the summer heat. The prospects at present are not very cheering.

With regard to improvements, we have erected two new cottages, and a third will soon be erected. All the cottages except two are in very comfortable order; the two which are not, are not worth repairing, as they were built many years ago of palings and rough bush timber, which has now taken dry rot, so that it would be almost impossible to make them decent in appearance, either outwardly or inwardly.

We have made considerable improvement in our orchard, having enlarged it to twice its original size. It is well filled with fruit trees, which at present look well, in spite of the dry season. They are all planted in a very good position, and, there being a good subsoil of clay, they retain the moisture.

We have also a very promising orchard on the east side the station, which is planted with apple trees; these also look well.

The blacks have been engaged in clearing the country round the station. They have cleared one of the home paddocks, and it has been sown partly with English grass, which will make it a very valuable enclosure for the milking cows. They have also made a good jetty for landing with the boat. This has been long needed.

The health of the station at present is good, though there have been lately many cases of sickness, arising from the sudden changes of temperature we have had. The sickness took the form of low fever, which in some cases was intermittent. This was rather troublesome, especially in the case of infants. I am happy to state, however, that no deaths took place from this cause.

You will see by schedule enclosed that we have had six births, and seven deaths, and one marriage.

The attendance at the station has averaged 64. The greatest number we have had at the station was 90. There are over 100 who belong to the district, but they have not all been here together during the year.

The children in the boarding-house are well looked after by William and Lily Thorpe, a half-caste couple. There are at present eight boys and four girls living with them.

The number of children attending the school is 27, 14 of which are boys and 13 are girls.

The stock on station numbers 65 mixed cattle, and 226 ewes and 1 ram; 5 cows have been killed for meat, 36 sheep. I may state that, owing to the very dry season, there has not been any material increase either among sheep or cattle; during the lambing of 1884 we lost a great many of the lambs, and this year, though the lambing is very fair, yet I think it would be better were the season more favorable; however, I think we will have a very much better percentage than last year, as there is more grass now for the lambs, owing to the slight showers we have had, so that we may hope they will gain strength before the summer sets in.

I may state that I have been able to supply the Aborigines with more meat than formerly, since the Board allowed me to purchase 10 fat cows; however, as the number living on the station is now 75, I feel it would be too much expense to supply them fully, so I allow some of them to hunt game and fish to supplement the supply. I think this is but right, as the expense would be enormous were all fully supplied, especially as Aborigines consume larger quantities of flesh meat than of other kinds of food.

No produce has been sold. Our potato crop, which occupied 2 acres, did not produce sufficient potatoes for the use of station; I have had to purchase some for seed.

The income and expenditure for the year have been as follow:—

	£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.		
By sale of wool	...	...	...	27	10	3	Expenditure	...	...	...
By balance	...	...	...	38	5	1				
				£65 15 4						£65 15 4	

The clothing and other stores supplied by the Board have been of good quality, and, as to quantity, quite sufficient to meet the wants of the Aborigines.

I am happy to say that there has not been very much drink supplied to the Aborigines, though in one or two cases they have been able to get strong drink; though they have not returned to the station drunk as in former years, they have not camped so much about the lakes' entrance as formerly.

On behalf of the blacks, I would thank the Board for the supplies they have received during the past year.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN BULMER.

Captain A. M. A. Page, General Inspector, B.P.A.

RETURN OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES AT LAKE TYERS.

BIRTHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
Lucy Thorpe	Half-caste	Sept. 20th, 1884	{ William Thorpe Lily Thorpe	Half-caste. Half-caste.
David McDougall	Black	Jan. 31st, 1885	{ William McDougall (Wil- liam since died) Emma McDougall	Black. Black.
Violet Jane Hayes	Black	August 6th, 1884	{ Jack Hayes Rosy Hayes	Black. Black.
No name given (female)	Black	June 8th, 1885	{ Robert Harrim Maggie Harrim	Black. Black.
Theresa Hammond	Quadroon	Aug. 17th, 1885	{ Charles Newkong Eliza Hammond (they were not married)	Quadroon & black
Henry William Hayes	Black	July 27th, 1885	{ William Hayes Caroline Hayes	Black. Black.

DEATHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Cause of Death.	Age.
Mary Hammond	Black	Aug. 22nd, 1884	Bronchitis	16 months.
Louise McDougall	Black	Sept. 17th, 1884	Pneumonia	5 years.
Mary McLeod	Black	Oct. 7th, 1884	Inflammation of lungs	65 years.
Alice Johnson	Black	Oct. 22nd, 1884	Diarrhoea	18 months.
King Charley	Black	Feb. 9th, 1885	Inflammation of brain	50 years.
Alexander Green	Black	May 6, 1885	Phthisis, with congestion of spine	19 years.
No name given (girl)	Black	June 8th, 1885	Premature birth	1 day.

MARRIAGES.

There was one marriage during the year:—Emma McDougall, widow—Dick Cooper, widower, 13th December, 1884.

APPENDIX VI.

SIR,

Aboriginal School, Coranderrk, 1st July, 1885.

I have the honour to report that very satisfactory progress has been made in the work of the school during the past year. In addition to several visits of inspection by yourself, the school has been inspected and examined by Inspectors from the Education Department, and I have much pleasure in stating that, at the last examination, while the whole school passed very creditably, the fifth class deserves special reference.

Out of the six in this class, two passed the Government standard, and, of course, obtained the usual certificate. Of the others, two passed in eight subjects out of nine, three passed in seven subjects out of nine, and one in six out of nine, whilst the percentage of passes gained by the whole school was 80·821, as against 60·698 at the former examination, showing an increase in the percentage of passes of 20·123 over the examination of the previous year.

The attendance of the children throughout the year has been very regular, and, with only one or two exceptions, always punctual.

The highest number on the roll and attending the school was 48, viz., 26 girls and 22 boys; of this number 14 are white children, but the rest (34) belong to the natives.

The girls are taught knitting and sewing by Mrs. Shaw, and some of them are now knitting cuffs and socks, &c., and all passed in this work before the Inspector.

Like all native children, they are fond of music, and some of the girls have good voices and sing well; but the boys are somewhat bashful, and do not exercise their vocal powers as the girls do.

The school is properly furnished, and well supplied with all the necessary books, maps, and slates, &c., and although still somewhat inconvenient for teaching in, owing to its peculiar shape and size, yet it has been much improved both in the matter of accommodation and ventilation. The new fire-place recently erected is a great comfort and improvement upon the little stove we had to put up with, in past years, during the cold winter months. Altogether, I think we may be very thankful for the success and improvement generally that has taken place during the past twelve months.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH SHAW,

Teacher.

Capt. Page, Board for Protection of Aborigines, 69 Temple Court, Melbourne.

APPENDIX VII.

Sir,

Coranderrk, July 27th, 1885.

I have the honour herewith to forward my report for the year ending June 30th, 1885.

Again it gives me much pleasure in being able to forward a very favorable report upon the general condition of things at this station.

The usual work of the station has been carried on very satisfactorily, although the number of hands employed this year is much below that of any previous year, the natives having shown a hearty willingness, which is not always seen.

The hop crop, although not so large as the previous year, was still a good one, much better than many previous ones; and the quality was also, as far as I have been able to ascertain, excellent, giving great satisfaction to the purchaser.

The improvements effected consist of the erection of about two miles of first-class post-and-rail and wire fencing, a six-roomed brick cottage for Mr. Shaw (schoolmaster), and a two-roomed weatherboard cottage for the single men.

The land under cultivation, besides the hop plantation, is five acres of hay, from which we took about ten tons. We also planted about two acres of potatoes, but, owing to adverse weather, we lost them all.

The health of the residents, on the whole, has been fairly good, although several cases of chest disease of long standing have given some trouble. The death rate has also been higher than the two previous years of my residence here, which has been augmented by two unfortunate accidents, viz., that which occurred to John Charles, who accidentally shot himself while searching for a lost child, and that of John Terriek, who received serious burns while sitting near the fire, which terminated fatally four weeks afterward.

The children are making highly satisfactory progress in the school, under the instruction of Mr. Shaw, whose earnest and faithful attention to his duties has been rewarded by having obtained at the last examination the highly satisfactory percentage of results of 80·821 per cent. This high percentage, when the low state of the school at the time when it was taken in charge by him, also the absence for a long period of time of several of the children, must be very gratifying indeed.

The children in the dormitory are, as usual, well looked after and cared for by the matron (Miss Perse). They are clean, orderly, and well looked after, and appear healthy and contented.

The station is now enclosed with a substantial post-and-rail and wire fence, and is subdivided into seven paddocks—one being used for the hop plantation, two for growing potatoes and hay, one for a heifer paddock, one for a fattening paddock, one for the general stock, and one which has just been cleared for a potato paddock.

There have been 80 head killed for consumption on the station, and 8 head have died from different causes.

The stock on the station consists of about 120 head of very indifferent stock, which should be immediately supplemented with a fresh supply, otherwise there will be none for killing purposes.

There are seven head draught stock, and four hacks of a very indifferent kind.

The number of Aborigines belonging to the station is 107, of whom 35 are black and 72 half-caste.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. M. A. Page, Esq.

WILLIAM GOODALL.

RETURN OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS AT CORANDERRK.

BIRTHS.

No.	Name.	Date.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
1	...	August 3, 1883	{ R. Wandin ... J. Wandin ...	Half-caste. Half-caste.
2	...	July 11, 1884	{ D. Rowan ... L. Hunter ...	Half-caste. Half-caste.
3	...	August 12, 1884	{ S. Rowan ... J. Rowan ...	Black. Black.

DEATHS.

No.	Name.	Colour.	Date.	Cause of Death.	Age.
1	John Charles	Half-caste	October 5, 1884	Gunshot wound	35 years.
2	Ann Briggs...	Black	November 6, 1884	Bronchitis	60 years.
4	J. Laidlaw	Black	November 7, 1884	Paralysis	59 years.
4	Bella Spides	Half-caste	March 15, 1885	Consumption	21 years.
5	Sarah Rowan	Black	June 4, 1885	Bronchitis	10 months.
6	J. Terriek	Black	March 16, 1885	Burns	8 years.

APPENDIX X.

TABULAR STATEMENT of the Amounts Paid for each Station from 1st July, 1884 to 30th June, 1885.

Station.	Salaries.	Wages to Aborigines.	Provisions.	Clothing.	Improvements.	Hardware.	Medical Attendance, &c.	Stock.	Sundries.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coranderrk ...	460 0 0	630 19 2	770 0 0	452 1 9	799 9 8	64 5 7	158 7 7	122 5 0	675 16 6	4,133 5 0
Framlingham ...	257 10 0	61 12 0	505 3 0	284 2 5	46 7 9	...	118 8 3	20 0 0	115 11 0	1,408 14 5
Lake Condah ...	20 0 0	51 5 0	448 19 9	273 19 9	29 5 11	16 16 0	78 15 5	25 0 0	68 8 4	1,012 11 2
Lake Wellington ...	...	...	367 15 4	127 12 5	...	...	15 15 0	...	45 6 6	556 9 3
Lake Tyers ...	...	...	733 2 5	189 4 0	82 4 2	30 0 6	27 5 9	72 0 0	48 17 0	1,182 13 10
Lake Hindmarsh ...	...	...	476 9 3	131 3 1	318 13 8	30 14 0	59 11 0	...	17 9 10	1,634 0 10

NOTE.—The Missionaries and School Teachers on the Mission Stations are paid by their respective Committees.

APPENDIX XIII.

ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Received from and the Amounts Expended on Lake Condah
from 1st July, 1884, to 30th June, 1885.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	
To Proceeds sale of cattle	...	...	...	760	10	0	Matron	...	...	...	20	0	0
Balance	...	...	...	252	1	2	Medical attendance, medicines, &c.	...	...	...	78	16	5
							Provisions, &c.	...	...	...	448	19	9
							Clothing	...	...	...	273	19	9
							Wages to Blacks	...	...	...	51	5	0
							Carriage of stores	...	...	...	54	18	10
							Cultivation	...	...	...	10	1	6
							Stock	...	...	...	25	0	0
							Permanent improvements	...	...	...	29	5	11
							Hardware	...	...	...	16	16	0
							Coffins	...	...	...	3	8	0
							£1,012	11	2			£1,012	11	2

APPENDIX XIV.

ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Received from and the Amounts Expended on Lake Wellington
from 1st July, 1884, to 30th June, 1885.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	
To Balance	...	...	...	556	9	3	Medical attendance, medicines, &c.	...	...	...	15	15	0
							Provisions, &c.	...	...	...	367	15	4
							Clothing	...	...	...	127	12	5
							Carriage of stores, &c.	...	...	...	42	1	6
							Furniture	...	...	...	3	5	0
							£556	9	3			£556	9	3

APPENDIX XV.

ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Received from and the Amounts Expended on Lake Tyers from
1st July, 1884, to 30th June, 1885.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.	
To Balance	...	...	...	1,182	13	10	Medical attendance, medicines, &c.	...	...	...	27	5	9
							Provisions, &c.	...	...	...	733	2	5
							Clothing	...	...	...	189	4	0
							Carriage of stores	...	...	...	22	7	3
							Cultivation	...	...	...	8	4	9
							Stock	...	...	...	72	0	0
							Hardware	...	...	...	30	0	6
							Furniture	...	...	...	10	19	0
							Travelling expenses (Aborigines)	...	...	...	3	5	0
							Fishing net	...	...	...	4	1	0
							Permanent improvements	...	...	...	82	4	2
							£1,182	13	10			£1,182	13	10

APPENDIX XIX.

STATEMENT of Total Cost of Clothing, Provisions, &c. (including Transport thereof), Paid for the use of the Aborigines, from 1st July, 1884, to 30th June, 1885.

							<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Coranderrk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,361	7	9
Framlingham ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	798	15	7
Lake Condah ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	777	18	4
Lake Wellington ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	537	9	3
Lake Tyers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	944	13	8
Lake Hindmarsh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	617	18	10
Apsley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	17	7
Casterton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	16	3
Camperdown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	0
Swan Hill, including—									
Pental Island ...									
Bumbang ...									
Mildura ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	788	5	2
Yelta ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ned's Corner ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Koondrook ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geelong ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	3	10
Torrumberry ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	15	3
Wyuna ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112	7	10
Wangaratta ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	4	8
							£6,191 15 0		

APPENDIX XX.

Distribution of Stores Paid for, for the use of the Aborigines, by the Board from 1st July, 1884, to 30th June, 1885.

Name of Station.	Supplies.																																	
	Blankets.	Serge Shirts.	Twill Shirts.	Kc.	Trousers.	Yds. Winey.	Yds. Flaid.	Yds. Print, &c.	Yds. Flannel.	Yds. Serge.	Yds. Shirting.	Yds. Skirting.	Yds. Mokeskin.	Pairs Boots.	Hose and Half-hose.	Dresses.	Petticoats.	Chemises.	Waistcoats.	Yds. Calico.	Flour.	Tea.	Rice.	Sugar.	Tobacco.	Oatmeal.	Salt.	Soap.	Candles.	Kerosene.	Meat.			
Coranderrk ...	75	50	125	118	576	576	...	12	576	44	...	369	...	243	252	2	...	4	51	365	19	1,240	14	97	1	23	...	7	25	22	400	88	24,279	...
Framlingham ...	50	35	75	50	763	763	...	...	384	...	193	148	77	67	144	...	...	...	...	441	15	960	16	89	200	16	16	16	100	32	...	...
Lake Condah ...	34	...	...	100	287	287	98	260	192	...	200	135	...	160	318	...	...	...	48	147	11½	1,021	9½	5	3	199	5½	11	900	40	...	...

2 clocks, 2 bedsteads, 5 palliasses, 3 mattresses, 6 shovels, 6 spades, 20 brooms, 2 buckets, 1 400-gal. tank, 1 bullock dray, 14 bullocks, 1 bull, 12 tomahawks, 5 hay forks, 1 adze, 6 paint brushes, 28 lbs. red lead, 12 axe handles, 1 knife, 1 clam, 6 hoes, 2 scythes, 18 pr. hinges, 12 scrubbing brushes, 6 saucepans, 1 kitchener, 4 tons 7 cwt. coke, 3 scrapers, 5 thermometers, 4 gross screws, 19 lbs. rope, 1 colander, 1 steamer, 7 spoons, 1 teapot, 1 saw, 18 files, 1 brace and bits, 4 gate springs, 1 earth scoop, 1 sledge hammer, 1 dipper, 6 bread tins, 6 plates, 6 pannikins, 6 cups and saucers, 1 kettle, 1 basket, 4 doz. pegs, 2 irons, 1 pair scissors, 3 casks, 1 mail bag, 1 lamp, 42 panses glass, 12 rolls wall paper, 23 yds. coir matting, 1 box knife polish, 3 pr. plough reins, 2 straps, 1 pr. spurs, 1 whiptong, 2 saddles, 2 bridles, 1,790 palings, 5,300 ft battens, 2,570 ft. timber, 144 ft. shelving, 162 ft. pine, 19 ft. scotia, 90 ft. ridging, 68½ gal. tar, 100 wool-packs, 468 yds. hessian, 364 lbs. soda, 5½ cwt. sulphur, 10 cwt. potash, 3 tons guano, 30 bags lime, 24 bus. oats, 2 tons potatoes, 3 lbs. vegetable seeds, 1 gross flower seeds, 4 lbs. tacks, 128 lbs. nails, 2 locks, 3,600 hop poles, 16 yds. linoleum, 41 yds. tick, 20 yds. holland, 23 yds. dimity, 63 yds. forfar, 3 yds. embroidery, 5 overcoats, 2 pr. pants, 51 men's hats, 61 women's hats, 6 yds. cloth, 1 yd. muslin, 2 dresses, 1 nightdress, 1 costume, 1 piece ribbon, 24 yds. persian cord, 12 packets needles, 4 yds. crape, 4 yds. lace, 5 jackets, 47 coats, 15 quilts, 20 yds. sheeting, 6 yds. w.p. sheeting, 1 shirt, 1 pinafore, 400 reels cotton, 53 lbs. butter, 140 lbs. treacle, 24½ lbs. currants, 252 lbs. raisins, 85 lbs. starch, 84 lbs. baking powder, 24 lbs. blue, 80 lbs. maizena, 1 gross matches, 1 gross blacking, 20 lbs. coffee, 14 lbs. cocoa, 149 lbs. sago.

4 cows, 2 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. potatoes, 162 ft. spouting, 240 ft. timber, 4 tons 15 cwt. 1 qr. hay, 1 collar, 1 winkers, 1 bridle, 1½ tons wire, 50 lbs. wire nails, 56 lbs. currants, 56 lbs. raisins, 19½ yds. persian cord, 35 coats, 189 yds. hessian, buttons, thread, &c.

165 lbs. sago, 28 lbs. treacle, 24 lbs. mustard, 6 lbs. cocoa, 31 lbs. hops, 100 lbs. currants, 108

