

1922.

VICTORIA.

FORTY-NINTH REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

[*Approximate Cost of Paper—Preparation, not given; printing (275 copies), £9.*]

By Authority

ALBERT J. MULLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 6.—[6D.].—19706.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

The Honorable the CHIEF SECRETARY, Chairman.
C. S. McPHERSON, Esq., J.P., Vice-Chairman.
H. S. BAILEY, Esq., M.L.A.
The Hon. J. BOWSER, M.L.A.
W. A. CALLAWAY, Esq., J.P.
The Hon. J. CAMERON.

W. H. EVERARD, Esq., M.L.A.
W. G. MACALISTER, Esq.
J. MENZIES, Esq.
W. E. THOMAS, Esq., M.L.A.
Mrs. ANNIE F. BON.

A. E. PARKER,
Secretary.

Melbourne,

REPORT.

Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,
Melbourne, 14th November, 1921.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines has the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration its Forty-ninth Report on the condition of the Aborigines of this State.

This is the first report submitted since that dated the 12th November, 1912.

Owing to representations made in 1916 to the Hon. Donald McLeod, Chief Secretary, it was decided to appoint as members of the Board the Parliamentary Representatives in whose districts aboriginal stations or depôts existed. Pursuant to that decision, in May, 1916, the Honorables John Bowser, James Cameron, H. J. M. Campbell, John Gray, and Messrs. H. S. Bailey, J. G. Johnston, James Menzies, and James Rouget, M's.L.A., were appointed. Subsequently Messrs. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., and W. G. Macalister and W. E. Thomas, M.L.A., were appointed on 4th April, 1918, on 23rd April, 1918, and on 13th April, 1921, respectively. Messrs. Campbell, Gray, Johnston, and Rouget have severed their connexion with the Board.

At the inception of the newly-constituted body the general policy to be adopted was considered, and after very full discussion it was decided that in the interests of economical management the remaining blacks and such half castes as are unable to maintain themselves should be housed on one station.

The Board further decided that the income derived from the sale or leasing of the land vacated should be appropriated towards the maintenance of the aborigines remaining under care and thereby greatly relieve the charge on the general revenue. In pursuance of this policy the station at Lake Condah has been closed as such. Four old blacks have been allowed to remain in their cottages, their supply of food and clothing being supervised by a local guardian (Constable J. A. Graham) appointed for the purpose.

On the 7th August, 1917, after all stations had been inspected and a visit had been paid to the principal New South Wales station at Cumeroogunga (Moama), it was resolved that all blacks and half castes needing assistance should be concentrated at Lake Tyers as soon as the necessary accommodation was provided. The station was chosen on account of the fine climatic conditions, its isolation, and the few hotels in the locality.

The greatest need at Lake Tyers, other than housing accommodation, is an adequate water supply for domestic purposes. A hand boring plant was lent by the Mines Department, together with the services of a skilled operator. Several bores were put down to a depth of over 200 feet, but without result. Each house has been furnished with a tank, but in order to place the settlement on a proper basis as regards water supply further provision is necessary, and an estimate of the cost has been obtained from the Public Works Department for a dam and necessary plant.

Fifteen additional cottages have been completed at Lake Tyers and paid for from the Produce Fund of the Board. Some of the older cottages having been condemned by the Public Works Department, arrangements have been made to erect ten cottages at Lake Tyers during the current financial year.

As trouble is caused from time to time by the blacks at Lake Tyers obtaining liquor, the Government has been requested to introduce an amendment of the Licensing Act with a view to tightening up the provisions of law regarding the sale of liquor to half castes or quadroons within 20 miles of any station.

The number of aborigines and half castes who have been maintained or partly provided for during the year ended 30th June, 1921, was as follows:—

Locality.	Blacks.	Three-quarter Caste.	Half Caste and Under.	Total.
Lake Tyers	54	18	82	154
Coranderrk	10	8	34	52
Framlingham	1	..	65	66
Lake Condah	3	..	16	19
Antwerp	2	..	3	5
Swan Hill	4	..	1	5
Other Depôts	9	..	14	23
In Institutions	3	..	..	3
In Service	2	..	2	4
	88	26	217	331

In addition to the above there are at Antwerp and Cove Dam 60 half castes whom it is proposed to transfer to Lake Tyers.

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

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Lake Tyers	2	6	1
Coranderrk	3	3	..
Framlingham	1	2	1
	6	11	2

The births recorded were—Three-quarter caste, 1; half castes, 5. Deaths comprise—blacks, 6; half castes, 5. Marriages—1 full blood to half caste; and 1 half caste to half caste.

STATEMENT of amounts voted by Parliament, Expenditure therefrom, and the Unexpended Vote of Board for the Financial Year 1892-3, and for the years 1914-15 to 1920-21 inclusive.

Year.	Amount Voted.	Amount Expended.	Unexpended Vote.
	£	£	£
1892-93	6,788	5,578	1,210
1914-15	4,246	4,228	18
1915-16	4,621	4,601	20
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

* This is made up of £187 salaries, £21 temporary assistance, and £2 stores, &c.

† This increase is accounted for by the high cost of commodities and the fact that 38 additional half castes received assistance during the year.

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

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

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

At Lake Tyers the children attend the State School on the station, and the children from Coranderrk are instructed at the Badger Creek State School. The reports of progress made are satisfactory.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

C. S. McPHERSON,
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., &c.

APPENDIX I.

ABORIGINES BOARD PRODUCE FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1921.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
To Balance forward (1.7.20)	.. ..	2,319 11 5		By Sundries, Condah ..	13 0 0		
„ Wool, Condah ..	18 12 8			„ „ Tyers ..	124 14 1		
„ Wool, Tyers ..	0 7 0			„ „ Framlingham ..	2 0 0		
		18 19 8		„ „ Coranderrk ..	2 0 0		
„ Sundries, Condah ..	2 0 0			„ „ Depôts ..	2 10 0		
„ „ Tyers ..	5 6 1					144 4 1	
„ „ Coranderrk ..	3 0 0			„ Transfer Wages—			
		10 6 1		W. Austin ..	7 10 0		
„ Sale of Stock, Condah ..	.. ..	12 1 9		A. Harrison ..	2 0 0		
„ Grazing, Condah ..	53 2 6					9 10 0	
„ „ Coranderrk ..	335 13 7			„ Purchase Stock for Rations, Tyers ..		594 17 4	
		388 16 1		„ Sale Store, Tyers ..		174 11 8	
„ Sale of Bark, Tyers ..	.. ..	14 0 5		„ Wages, Tyers (Blacks) ..		208 19 2	
„ Sale Store, Tyers ..	.. ..	250 7 6		„ Erection Cottages, Tyers ..		462 11 2	
„ Sale Hides, Tyers ..	18 17 8			„ Portable Church, Framlingham ..		325 10 0	
„ „ Coranderrk ..	35 7 7			„ Balance ..		1,234 6 6	
		54 5 3					
„ Refund Wages, Tyers ..	.. ..	4 1 4					
„ Rations ..	.. ..	40 12 11					
„ Rent Hut, Swan Hill ..	.. ..	7 2 6					
„ Refund Buildings, Tyers ..	.. ..	34 5 0					
		3,154 9 11				3,154 9 11	

APPENDIX II.

LAKE CONDAH STATION.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
To Balance forward (1.7.20)	3,295 4 1		By Sundries (Boundary Rider, £12 10s.)	.. ..	13 0 0	
„ Sale of Wool (deferred payment)	18 12 8		„ Transfer Wages (Winnie Austin)	.. ..	7 10 0	
„ Sundries	2 0 0		„ Balance ..	.. ..	3,360 11 0	
„ Stock	12 1 9					
„ Grazing	53 2 6					
		3,381 1 0				3,381 1 0	

LAKE TYERS STATION.

		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	
To Wool (deferred payment)	.. ..	0 7 0		By Balance (1.7.20)	.. ..	6,409 16 8	
„ Sale Bark ..	.. ..	14 0 5		„ Sundries ..	.. ..	124 14 1	
„ Sundries ..	.. ..	5 6 1		„ Stock for Rations ..	.. ..	594 17 4	
„ Sale Store ..	.. ..	250 7 6		„ Sale Store ..	.. ..	174 11 8	
„ Sale of Hides ..	.. ..	18 17 8		„ Erection Cottages ..	.. ..	462 11 2	
„ Refund Buildings ..	.. ..	34 5 0		„ Wages, Blacks ..	.. ..	208 19 2	
„ Refund Wages ..	.. ..	4 1 4		„ Transfer Wages, Annie Harrison	.. ..	2 0 0	
„ Refund Rations ..	.. ..	40 12 11					
„ Balance ..	.. ..	7,609 12 2					
		7,977 10 1				7,977 10 1	

APPENDIX II.—*continued.*

FRAMLINGHAM.				
<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		£ s. d.		
To Balance		383 3 11	By Balance (1.7.20)	55 13 11
			„ Xmas Presents	2 0 0
			„ Cost Portable Church	325 10 0
		383 3 11		383 3 11

CORANDERRK.				
<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		£ s. d.		
To Balance forward (1.7.20)		5,071 12 10	By Sundries (Presents)	2 0 0
„ Sundries		3 0 0	„ Balance	5,443 14 0
„ Sale of Hides		35 7 7		
„ Grazing		335 13 7		
		5,445 14 0		5,445 14 0

DEPOTS.				
<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		£ s. d.		
To Rent of Hut, Swan Hill		7 2 6	By Sundries, £2 10s.	2 10 0
			„ Balance	4 12 6
		7 2 6		7 2 6

SUMMARY.				
<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		£ s. d.		
To Balance (1.7.20)		2,319 11 5	By Deficiency, Tyers	1,199 15 6
„ Surplus, Condah		65 6 11	„ „ Framlingham	327 10 0
„ „ Coranderrk		372 1 2	„ Balance	1,234 6 6
„ „ Depôts		4 12 6		
		2,761 12 0		2,761 12 0

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT WITH TREASURY.

To Balance as per Cash Book	£ s. d.	1,234 6 6
Add unpaid Accounts, Treasury—		
J. E. Hunt	£8 11 8	
E. Beale	4 7 10	
		12 19 6
„ Balance at Treasury		1,247 6 0

Audited and found correct,
A. E. SHIELDS,
Inspecting Officer,
18th July, 1921.

C. S. McPHERSON,
Vice-Chairman.
A. E. PARKER,
Secretary.