

walata tyamateetj

A guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria

Public Record Office Victoria and
National Archives of Australia



With an historical overview
by Richard Broome

walata tyamateetj means 'carry knowledge'
in the Gunditjmara language of western Victoria.

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Foreword

I am very proud and honoured to be associated with Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia. When I first became a member of the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) I had no idea what to expect, and I certainly had no idea that I would still be working with them almost 20 years later! As far as I know, my appointment to PRAC was the first time that a Koorie person had been appointed to such a committee in Australia.

The concern and eagerness to do something for the Koorie community started with Ross Gibbs, the former Keeper of Public Records, who set up a Koorie Taskforce to look at what resources Public Record Office Victoria had on Koorie issues and how to make these available to the Koorie community.

The publication in 1993 of *My Heart is Breaking*, a guide to Aboriginal records held at Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia, and the accompanying touring exhibition were very early achievements. The stories in *My Heart is Breaking* brought the past history of the traditional owners of this land to the present. I believe that there will be no Koorie family in Victoria that has not been touched by the events documented in the records listed in this book.

My Heart is Breaking helped to bring about a better understanding and appreciation of one of the oldest continuing cultures in the world, and assisted in bridging a cultural gap that has been neglected for many years in the education system in Victoria. This new publication *walata tyamateetj* will continue to be an important resource for cross-cultural training programs, and I also recommend it to all Koorie organisations, schools, educational institutions and individuals who are interested in the history of Victoria.

The National Archives of Australia and Public Record Office Victoria are to be congratulated for producing *walata tyamateetj*. When I look back on the past 20 years it is just one of many significant achievements in the partnership between Public Record Office Victoria and the Koorie community in Victoria. The work started by Ross Gibbs has been continued by Justine Heazlewood, and in addition to several advisory committees there have been training programs and positions for Koorie staff, touring exhibitions, books published on Koorie families, and resources made available to the Koorie community as a result of research done by a team of enthusiastic and specially trained volunteers.

In fact, looking back on all of these achievements I can say that the relationship between the Koorie community and Public Record Office Victoria has been one of the most positive relationships that I have ever seen between the Koorie community and a government department, largely because of Ross Gibbs and Justine Heazlewood. I have the deepest respect for the honesty and integrity and commitment of both of these people. I consider them as friends of mine.

Jim Berg JP
Gunditjmara Mob

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Preface

A joint guide to government records about Aboriginal people held in Victoria was first published by the National Archives of Australia and Public Record Office Victoria in 1993, during the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. This guide, called *My Heart is Breaking*, was subsequently reprinted in 1994 and again in 1997 following *Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families*. The records listings originally compiled by Ian MacFarlane and Myrna Deverall have provided the groundwork for this new publication. Demand continues for a guide that assists both the Koorie community and other researchers to access records from Victorian government agencies that relate to Aboriginal people. *walata tyamateetj* includes information about Victoria's Aboriginal records through a comprehensive listing of records, and provides an opportunity to publish a guide to the records in both hard copy and electronic formats.

Uniquely for Victoria, the records created by the many Victorian government agencies overseeing the administration of Aboriginal affairs have become part of the collections held by both Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia. The collection was separated due to an administrative change of responsibility for Aboriginal affairs from the State to the Commonwealth in 1975. This guide highlights the wealth of material about Aboriginal Victorians that can be found within government archives, and assists researchers to access these records, regardless of which archive they are currently in.

walata tyamateetj is one of many joint initiatives between Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia to raise awareness of available resources for Aboriginal Victorians and to improve access to government records about Aboriginal people, families, communities and culture. Much has been achieved in the years since the first guide to records was published 20 years ago. In 2004 a joint Koorie Reference Officer role was created to work across both organisations. The role is now a focal point for the provision of services to the Aboriginal community and part of a small team known as the Koorie Records Unit, which was established within the corporate structure of Public Record Office Victoria with a view to continuing cooperation with the National Archives of Australia.

The creation of a shared reading room facility at the Victorian Archives Centre has also been emblematic of the broader cooperation between the two organisations. The Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne provides a central place to access and research the records listed in this guide.

Other collaborations between the National Archives of Australia's Melbourne office and Public Record Office Victoria to promote and improve accessibility to records relating to Aboriginal people held by government and other organisations include publications, workshops and training, and grants programs targeted at highlighting and raising awareness of the rich collection of Aboriginal resources available in Victoria. The Victorian Koorie Records Taskforce provided leadership for many of these initiatives between 2001 and 2011.

Significantly, the development of indexing projects has made it possible for researchers to conduct name searches of records about Aboriginal people held by both organisations. The National Archives of Australia has compiled over 86,000 name index entries for the Bringing Them Home name index. Public Record Office Victoria continues to index records for its Koorie Index of Names, with the assistance of a dedicated team of volunteers.

Archival records can help Aboriginal people connect with their histories, trace the experiences of ancestors, and learn about the times and places in which their ancestors lived. These records provide evidence of past policies and practices that still affect the lives of Aboriginal people today.

This guide has been made possible through generous funding from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. It contains comprehensive information about records and record series relating to Victorian Aboriginal people and Aboriginal affairs. The historical overview by Professor Richard Broome from La Trobe University situates the records included in this guide within the context of the development of government policies relating to Aboriginal affairs in Victoria. The cover art and title *walata tyamateetj*, meaning ‘carry knowledge’ in the Gunditjmara language, were developed by Vicki Couzens, both reflecting the way in which archives carry knowledge and memories through the generations, from the past to the present and future.

Finally, we extend our thanks to Jim Berg for his endorsement of this publication, and his many contributions over the years to archives and particularly to Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia. We thank him for his ongoing interest in helping to make government records more accessible to the Victorian Aboriginal community.

Justine Heazlewood

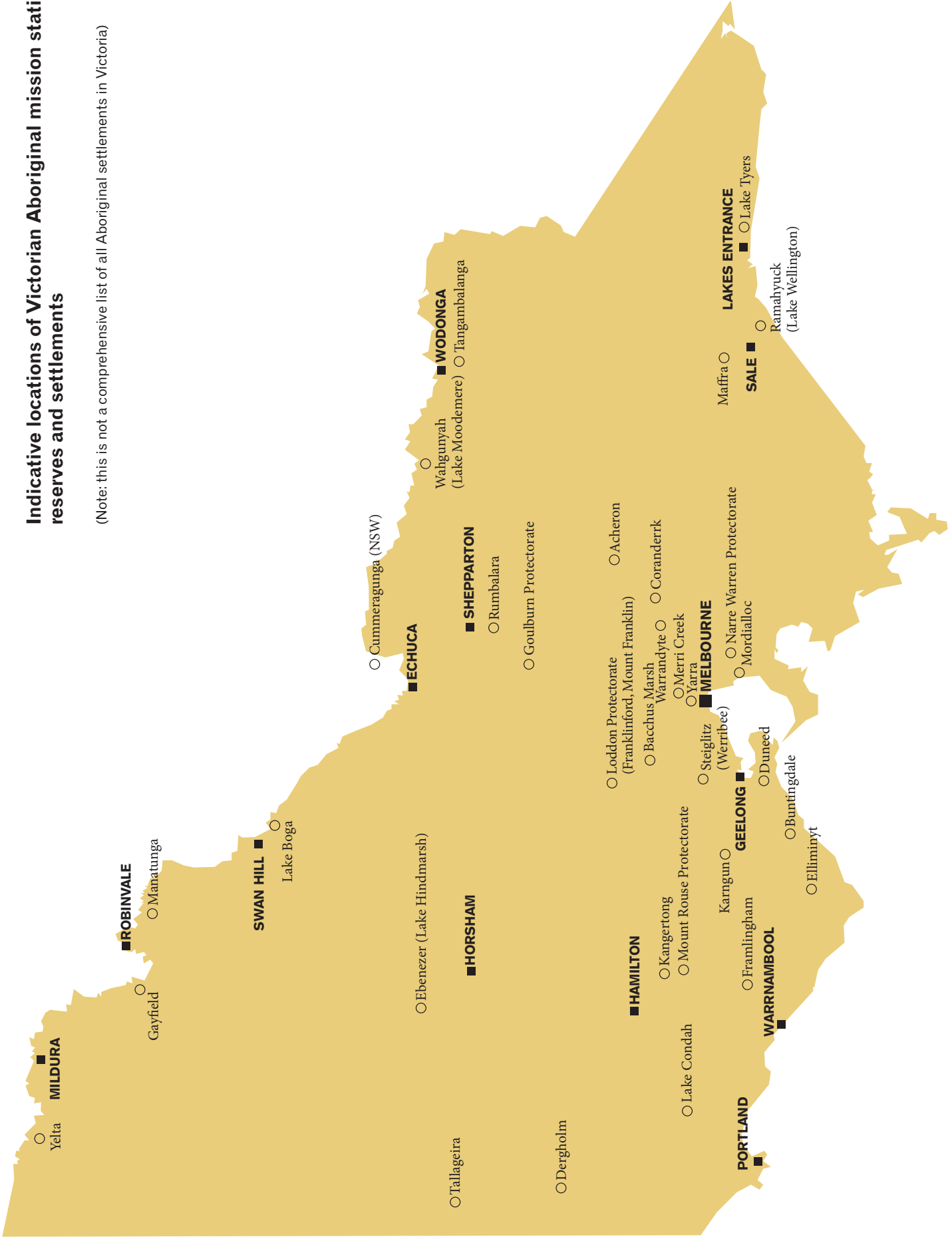
Director and Keeper of Public Records
Public Record Office Victoria

David Fricker

Director-General
National Archives of Australia

Indicative locations of Victorian Aboriginal mission stations, reserves and settlements

(Note: this is not a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal settlements in Victoria)



Aboriginal people and government in Victoria

Richard Broome

Richard Broome is Emeritus Professor of History at La Trobe University, where he has taught Aboriginal history for 30 years. He is the author of eight books including *Aboriginal Australians: A History since 1788* (2010) and the prize-winning *Aboriginal Victorians: A History since 1800* (2005).

Every text found in the public records of Victoria can only be understood in its historical context. Aboriginal people in most Australian colonies – which became one after Federation – were governed and managed in an overtly coercive and discriminatory way from the 1860s to the 1960s, and in many cases beyond.¹ Ironically, this system of management was established when most governments believed in *laissez faire* – that is, minimal government interference and control. Yet after 1860 Aboriginal people were placed under close surveillance and restrictive legislation and management. Why was this the case?

UNDERLYING FACTORS

European ‘discoverers’ and settlers of Terra Australis, the Great South Land, came with ideas of superiority, built on the belief that people should be judged on their social and scientific development. They placed themselves – as people of industry, science and the Enlightenment, who had created the steam engine, clocks and the book – above the original settlers who were without such material culture. They failed to see the remarkable gifts of Aboriginal society to humanity, since reciprocity, kinship and other core Aboriginal values were invisible to them. They also failed to see that Aboriginal people had learnt through much experimentation to live sustainably with nature by developing a spiritual connection to the land. However, such ideas were irrelevant to an individualistic European society, bent on progress by radically transforming Australian lands to resemble European productive landscapes.

Early colonial authorities, being children of the Enlightenment, believed that everybody had potential and could reach it through education – and religion. Each person, they thought, came into the world as a *tabula rasa*, a clean slate, upon which society and the church wrote. A ‘Civilising Mission’ could uplift Aboriginal people in a similar way. Missionaries’ beliefs in converting heathens to Christianity added to this civilising function of government. The management of Aboriginal people that emerged after the wild times of frontier life thus

stemmed from a deep paternalism: the authorities adopted attitudes and practices used by parents towards their own children.² Aboriginal people, despite surviving comfortably in a changing and sometimes inhospitable land for over 2,000 generations, were treated as incapable infants to be controlled for their own good. It is pertinent that Koories (Aboriginal people of south-eastern Australia) called European settlers and their descendants in the south-east of Australia ‘gubbahs’ – as this word is thought to have derived from the word ‘governor’.³ Aboriginal people had very early on perceptively captured the essence of European management practices in the colonial encounter.

Relationships between governors and governed were shaped less by paternalism and more by racism by the 1850s. This was due to a number of factors. Over the nineteenth century there was an erosion of a literal belief in the Bible, particularly the creation story. Developments in science – particularly geology – threw grave doubts on claims that the world was created in seven days and was about 7,000 years old.⁴ Darwin’s argument for evolution in his *On the Origin of Species* (1859) accelerated this trend. Scepticism about the creation story threw doubt on the belief that all people descended from the one creation so were of ‘one blood’. A new belief evolved: that indigenous people might not be a ‘degraded’ people descended from one creation⁵ – but a separate, inferior creation. The colonial struggles over land and resources around the globe, the building of empire, and the use of millions of slaves and indentured servants as cheap labour by settlers in new European colonies, all led inexorably to the idea that people with black skin were inherently inferior.

Race by the 1850s had become an explanation of ability and intelligence – of why some had power and others did not, of why some had everything and others so little. Racism, stemming from a belief that races have distinctive biological characteristics that define their cultures and ability, dominated Western thinking from about the 1850s until at least World War II, the same time as coercive Aboriginal management existed. This was no coincidence. However, since World War II, scientists have abandoned the idea of racial explanations of innate ability. So-called racial characteristics – the melanin pigmentation in dark hair and skin (formula C₁₇H₉₈O₃₃N₁₄S) – came to be seen as a grain of sand on the beach of human genetic make-up.⁶ Scientists now realise this chemical explains nothing about human intelligence and skill level, a fact proven over the last decade by human genome research. Yet for at least a century it was (and still is for

some in Australian football arenas today) seen as the key to ability, culture, and behaviour and thus made to be socially significant. To the late nineteenth-century European administrators of 'native affairs', race explained everything.

The combination of these ideas about racial difference, pressures of competition over land and resources, and the need to justify claims and dispossession led to a demonising of the victims. Albert Memmi, a Tunisian who lived under French colonialism, called this process in his classic *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (1965), the 'usurper complex'. Memmi argued that those who take what belongs to others feel compelled to justify the act of theft and usurpation to the world – and themselves. Thus Aboriginal people were posed as inept and abject people – lacking in what is needed to be 'modern', while the colonisers imagined themselves⁷ as those most able of people – destined to rule and 'save' the local 'natives' from the situation they were in. Yet that very 'situation' was made by colonisation. Prior to their colonial experience, Aboriginal people were in charge of autonomous functioning societies for millennia.

GOVERNING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN PORT PHILLIP 1836–1851: THE ERA OF 'PROTECTION'

Unlike the colonial practices in North America and New Zealand, Australia was possessed by the British without treaty. This was due to the observations made by Lieutenant James Cook and his officers in 1770. Cook believed Aboriginal people were few and roamed about the land 'like wild Beasts'.⁸ They did not farm the land or establish permanent villages so to the British way of thinking they did not develop ownership of the land. This was upheld by one strand of eighteenth-century international law, but other views existed – for instance, that a presence on the land and a belief it was yours denoted ownership.⁹

When Victoria was illegally settled in November 1834 by the Hentys at Portland – that is, against the regulations of the British government which wished to confine settlement around central New South Wales – it was becoming apparent to many Europeans in Australia that Aboriginal people did indeed have a belief that they were owners. Some realised they claimed particular lands, and had common understandings about its use and access. However, authorities clung to the fiction that Aboriginal people were not owners. In May 1835 a group of Van Diemen's Land venture capitalists offered a treaty to the Kulin people of central Victoria in exchange for land. This unique move was an attempt to impress the humanitarian lobby in Great Britain and gain title to vast expanses of land. The Batman treaty was the only one ever offered to Aboriginal people in Australia. It was quickly pronounced void by Governor Bourke in Sydney – declaring that the Crown owned the land and it alone could authorise its private ownership by individuals.¹⁰ Once this 'illegal' treaty was repudiated, the authorities moved to make the 'illegal' settlement by Batman, Fawkner and others into a legal occupation in 1837. The region was called the Port Phillip District of New South Wales – with Melbourne as its administrative centre.

The Batman treaty is not so important in itself – although it continues to intrigue, not least where it might have been signed and what it meant to both sides. Its importance lies in the context that gave it birth. The 1830s was a high point of British humanitarianism, the culmination of a 50-year struggle to free African slaves, progressively: in Britain, from passage in British ships, and from plantations in British possessions. This movement was the work of British evangelicals who clustered around Clapham House (which gave its name to their group). By what soon became modern tactics of pressuring politicians and by capturing parliament itself, they eventually ended slavery in British sugar colonies in 1834. The group then turned their minds to other evils to slay within the British Empire. In 1835, their then leader Thomas Buxton manoeuvred sufficient votes in the House of Commons to gain a select committee into the treatment of indigenous peoples across the British Empire. The committee's damning report, which among other innovations radically acknowledged indigenous peoples as 'original owners' of their lands, reinforced the 'Civilising Mission' in the Australian colonies.¹¹

The Buxton report led to the creation of a series of Aboriginal protectorates in Australia, not least at Port Phillip in 1839. Five protectors acted as intermediaries between Aboriginal people and settlers and also encouraged Aboriginal people to settle on several protectorate stations. The Protectorate, which lasted ten years, was generally reviled by settlers who paid for it out of land-sale moneys, and it was only mildly supported by Superintendent Charles La Trobe in Melbourne and his superior in Sydney. However, it established the idea of 'protection' that had a long history in the management of Aboriginal people. Protection, stemming as it did from paternalism, also meant control.¹² The Protectorate and its successors left a rich body of records listed in this guide. These have been mined by historians and Aboriginal communities over the last generation yet still yield rich treasures.

The Port Phillip Protectorate was not a particularly coercive body, unlike its counterpart in Western Australia and its successors.¹³ The authorities rarely attempted to control Aboriginal movements under the Port Phillip Protectorate, unless an Aboriginal person was breaking the law. And despite efforts to keep Aboriginal people out of Melbourne from 1840, this was generally ineffective. When they tried to reduce Aboriginal freedom by, for instance, denying them the use of guns in 1840, it was often thwarted. In this case London rejected this law in 1841, arguing Aboriginal people were equal before the law. Of course that was in practice nonsense, as Aboriginal people were not able to give evidence in court, being deemed 'heathens' whose sworn oath was unacceptable. And the language of the court and the prejudices of juries often made it an unequal experience. Yet some Aboriginal defenders went free, as the crime they were said to have committed might be judged inter se, that is between themselves, and not considered under the court's sphere of expertise.

Although authorities flip-flopped at times: from seeing Aboriginal people as British citizens to seeing them as outlaws and sometimes enemies, governors in the pre-1850 era generally held to a small 'liberal' view that

Aboriginal people should not be inordinately controlled without good reason. Thus Aboriginal people were not confined to reserves at this time. However, authorities did attempt benign control through pursuing the 'Civilising Mission' as in the case of the Protectorate. Other institutions in the civilising mode were the short-lived Government Mission on the site of the Botanic Gardens (1837–38) and the Native Police Corps (1842–53), whose records are also listed in this guide.¹⁴ The latter reveals that Aboriginal people were able to appropriate institutions to their own advantage, which Marie Fels reveals in her history of the Native Police, *Good Men and True* (1988). However, with the end of the Protectorate in 1849 and the closing of the Native Police Corps in 1853, the new colony of Victoria slumped into a policy vacuum in Aboriginal affairs. The lack of interest was no doubt exacerbated by the Aboriginal population's crash; numbers declined from white settlement through introduced disease, cultural disruption and violence – both from settlers and inter se from other Aborigines – to about 2,000 Aboriginal people by the 1850s. This was less than ten per cent of their number 15 years earlier.¹⁵

GOVERNING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN VICTORIA AFTER 1851: PROTECTION TO ASSIMILATION

The 1850s were perilous times for Aboriginal people. An Aboriginal remnant of 2,000 people was engulfed by the gold rush generation which swelled Victoria's non-Aboriginal population by over 600,000 people. Assistance was only rendered to Aboriginal people by the former Protector William Thomas who remained in Melbourne's environs as 'Guardian of Aborigines'. Also, several ration depots were formed outside of Melbourne for those in need. Mostly, Aboriginal people were left to fend for themselves in the best way they knew how, in the face of a lack of policy. Some provided vital paid labour, as pastoralists and farmers were left bereft of workers when many headed for the goldfields.

The colonial Victorian government, which faced pressing problems of governance, infrastructure, law and order, paid little heed to Aboriginal people. Settlers, not the British government, now controlled the Colony of Victoria through a new constitution that granted 'responsible government'. Power over Aboriginal policy devolved to the new settler democracy in which Aboriginal people (and all women) did not have a vote. A harder edge crept into policy making from this time, as the 1835 Buxton Select Committee report had foreseen, when it warned that settlers should not be given control of Aboriginal policy as they were self-interested. Besides, the age of racial thinking was emerging.

The policy vacuum ended in 1858 when a local select committee was set up to look into the condition of Aboriginal people in Victoria. It was spearheaded by Thomas McCombie who believed in racial hierarchies, but also that 'higher' races had a duty of care to 'inferior' races. Out of this committee, in 1860, came a new protective effort, the Central Board for the Aborigines. Aboriginal people were to be segregated onto seven missions and reserves or confined to 23 pocket-sized camping places in Victoria, all overseen for their own good by reserve managers and 39 honorary

correspondents. Not surprisingly, Aboriginal people actually fought for segregation as well, for they sought reserves as homelands in their traditional places to rebuild their language and cultural communities.

A new Victorian *Aborigines Protection Act* was passed in 1869 that gave the newly constituted Board more power. This Act was the first Aboriginal legislation by an Australia-derived parliament and it proved influential on other colonial administrations.¹⁶ Until then about half of the Aboriginal population did not live on reserves, and many older men continued after that date to defy the Board and reside on pastoral stations where they provided work. The Act increased power on reserves, one provision allowing children for the first time to be removed out of their parents' care and into dormitories.

This new Board for the Protection of Aborigines lasted until 1957, maintained by several versions of the *Aborigines Protection Act*. In its vigorous years until World War I, it produced many metres of minutes, reports, case files, correspondence, maps and surveys, which are listed in this guide. These managerial files, written from white perspectives, tell us about how Aboriginal people were controlled. However, they also give us important access to Aboriginal voices and actions through the letters they wrote to their overlord – the Board. Aboriginal lives can also be seen in the Board's own descriptions of things, when they are read 'against the grain'. This means understanding the values that shaped the Board's writings and reading them for what they tell us about power, detecting in the Board's writings the actions and meanings of Aboriginal people, and reading meaningful silences to detect what was actually there yet unstated. These records give insights into numerous modes of resistance to control, and show how Aboriginal people not only survived on the reserves but often embraced these experiences, making them their own.¹⁷ Many willingly joined the world of work and adopted Christianity, while maintaining their own cultural ideas. William Barak, who became a Christian, led the Coranderrk community at Healesville to become expert farmers and hop growers. However, he also took up painting cultural images from his Aboriginal childhood and led political campaigns to retain Aboriginal possession of Coranderrk in the face of efforts to dispossess his people of land – a second time! Barak and others were both Christian and Aboriginal: their own cultural fusion. In 1884 he convinced sympathetic Victorian Premier Graham Berry, through personal lobbying and political strategy, to make Coranderrk a permanent reserve. This delayed its break-up for two generations, and underpinned the moral claim for its eventual return through purchases in 1985 and 1998.

The reserve system was finally attacked by the very Board that oversaw it. By the 1880s, three forces were behind this. First, pessimism was rife that Aboriginal people of full descent (called 'full blood' at the time) would not survive. Second, a fear existed that the dreaded English poorhouse might be replicated in the new land of Australia, in the form of asylums for the indigent, and reserves for Aboriginal people. Third, people of mixed Aboriginal and European descent were seen to be capable of absorption into the community. The Board engineered a new *Aborigines Act* in 1886 termed popularly the

'Half-caste Act'. It was based on the premise that degrees of race and whiteness underpinned human difference and ability. Once they turned fourteen, those of mixed descent were to be moved from reserves and into society for cultural and physical absorption. There was optimism about their abilities and their chances of becoming part of one Australia, but those deemed to be 'full blood' (and by implication part of a 'dying race') would be cared for on reserves till they passed away.

Under this Act, families were split and reserves weakened as the young and able-bodied workers were moved off. The government was not completely heartless, for rations were available for those pushed out for a period of six years – if they were in need. Aboriginal people resisted this policy as best they could over the next generation. Some at Coranderrk and Lake Condah refused to move and were allowed to stay until their deaths a generation later, whereas the people at Framlingham took to the forest adjoining the reserve in the 1890s to stay in touch with their land. Their actions bore fruit in 1970 with a land handover – and with more to come. Unfortunately, those at Ramahyuck and Ebenezer saw their reserves closed by World War I and their home communities shifted to Lake Tyers after 1917 for the sake of efficiency. The Board was reconstituted in 1916 and soon became a shadow of itself, filing few regular annual reports to the parliament and meeting rarely. Much of its work was carried out by one public servant.

By the 1920s, when the Aboriginal population of Victoria reached its lowest number, the Victorian Government only recognised people as 'Aboriginal' and made policy for them if they were deemed 'full bloods'. This was the assimilationist logic of the 1886 Act – those of mixed descent must make their way in the community and become like others. In a sense it meant Aboriginal people off the reserve were out of the control of the Board – the 'Destruction Board' as they dubbed it with grim humour. However, such freedom was countered by the fact that their Aboriginality was denied by the Victorian Government. And despite facing discrimination from local communities, they received no government assistance or protection as a deprived minority.¹⁸

Policy began to shift again under pressure from Aboriginal people, particularly William Cooper and his Australian Aborigines League but also others such as Shadrach James of Mooroopna. White Victorian activists – especially women such as Helen Baillie, Anna Vroland, Amy Brown, Valentine Leeper, and men like Arthur Burdeu – also championed the Aboriginal cause. Concern was expressed about conditions in fringe camps in the Framlingham forest and at such places as Daish's Paddock at Mooroopna and Jackson's Track near Drouin, which brought forward reluctant help from the Board. Also, Australia swung to an assimilation policy in 1937 for all Aboriginal people, a policy revived after the war with gusto by the Commonwealth Minister for Territories Paul Hasluck, in 1951. In a sense, this new policy was a radical advance from the widely held view that Aboriginal people were incapable and bound to die out. However, the price for the offer of citizenship and equality was another sort of government denial – Aboriginality had no place in a future Australia – all must be 'one people' and Aboriginality must vanish!

Victoria was slow off the assimilation mark, arguing it had no Aboriginal 'problem'. However, the Bolte Government was pressured to appoint Charles McLean in December 1955 to report on the conditions of all Aboriginal people across the state. His report embraced the assimilation policy and led to a new Victorian *Aborigines Welfare Act* in 1957. A Welfare Board was formed with 20 per cent Aboriginal representation, and 'Aboriginal' was defined as 'any person of Aboriginal descent'. Everyone was now recognised by the Victorian Government, but there was a sting in the tail as the old aims of assimilation and managing Aboriginal people under the Act continued. The Welfare Board created housing and education programs to foster assimilation and soon began efforts to close the last remaining reserve at Lake Tyers. The Board met fierce resistance from Aboriginal people who wanted citizenship and equality, but not cultural extinction.¹⁹ One manifestation of their struggle for identity was the creation of the Aborigines Advancement League in 1957, a black-white organisation that pushed for integration instead – a two-way model of cultural encounter.²⁰ It also fought for civil rights, and the Referendum in 1967, which changed the Constitution by allowing the Australian Government to legislate for Aboriginal people across Australia and also for Aboriginal people to be counted in the census with other Australians. The League came under Aboriginal control in 1969 and remains today as the oldest Aboriginal organisation in the country.

A new *Aboriginal Affairs Act* in 1967 ended the Board's era. A Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs was created, with about 40 per cent of its staff being Aboriginal people. The Ministry ended the removal of Aboriginal children and oversaw the first land hand-backs in Australia, giving Aboriginal people custody of Framlingham and Lake Tyers in 1970. While it was more consultative than the two former Boards, it still sought to manage Aboriginal people and faced much criticism from an outspoken Aboriginal leadership. It handed its functions to the federal Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in December 1974. In 1982 the Premier's Department created an Aboriginal liaison unit to work with Victoria's Aboriginal people on local issues. In time, this unit evolved into Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. It still exists today and operates in a new paradigm of power, privileging Aboriginal opinion like never before and servicing the 38,000 Victorians who identified in the 2011 census as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people: 0.7 per cent of the state's population.

Aboriginal people in the past generation have experienced a cultural renaissance which they have made from their own resources. Since the 1970s, Aboriginal-controlled services, organisations, cooperatives and cultural bodies have forged networks of family, kin and those from home country. Each region has a thriving cultural centre to display culture. An increasing move to Melbourne by many Aboriginal people has focused this cultural strength at places like Bunjilaka, the Aboriginal cultural centre at the Museum of Victoria, and also the Koorie Heritage Trust. Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia have proved vital to this cultural renaissance. In the post-Mabo era – that is after 1992 – claims are being made to country under native title with some success, and the archives provide key elements for these claims. The outcomes of *Bringing*

Them Home, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report into stolen children in 1997, opened the archives in new ways to individuals and families to trace their connections to the past. The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation of Languages is researching language renewal through colonial archives – catching the voices of past generations in mellowed pages. But much remains to be done. Unemployment, incarceration, health and wellbeing, and life chances are much poorer generally for Aboriginal Victorians than for the population as a whole. That said, Aboriginal people are now better resourced, educated and freer than at any time since the invasion of their lands – and these challenges now appear surmountable.

- 1 For a much more detailed account of Victorian Aboriginal history since colonisation, see R. Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians: A History since 1800*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005.
- 2 P. van den Berghe, 'Paternalism', in E. Cashmore et al. (eds), *Dictionary of Race and Ethnic Relations*, 3rd edition, Routledge, London & New York, 1994, pp. 236–7.
- 3 On the use of 'Koorie' see R. Broome, 'Why use Koori', *La Trobe Library Journal*, special issue: 'Sources on Koori History', no. 43, 1989, p. 5. On 'Gubba', see *Macquarie Encyclopedic Dictionary*, signature edition, Australia's Heritage Publishers, Sydney, 2011, p. 548.
- 4 N. Stepan, *The Idea of Race in Science: Great Britain, 1800–1960*, Archon Books, Hamden, 1982, chapter 1; and 'The idea of race in western culture', chapter 1 of A. Markus, *Australian Race Relations*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1994.
- 5 P. Brantlinger, *Dark Vanishings: Discourses on the Extinction of Primitive Races, 1800–1930*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2003, chapter 1.
- 6 M. Biddis, 'Race/Racism', in A. Bullock, O. Stallybrass & S. Tromley (eds), *Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought*, 2nd edition, Fontana, London, 1988, p. 714; and E. Cashmore, 'Race – as a signifier', in *Dictionary of Race and Ethnic Relations*, pp. 298–300.
- 7 A. Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, Beacon Press, Boston, 1965, pp. 52–3.
- 8 James Cook, summary remarks of 23 August 1770, in M. Clark (ed.), *Sources of Australian History*, Oxford University Press, London, 1957, p. 52.
- 9 H. Reynolds, *The Law of the Land*, Penguin, Melbourne, 1987, chapter 1.
- 10 For a history of Batman's treaty and its meanings over time, see B. Attwood & H. Doyle, *Possession: Batman's Treaty and the Matter of History*, Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2009.
- 11 M. Cannon (ed.), 'Report for the Select Committee on Aborigines (British Settlements)', House of Commons, 26 June 1837', *Historical Records of Victoria*, vol. 2A, Government Printer, Melbourne, 1982, pp. 61–74.
- 12 For the Protectorate see M. Christie, *Aborigines in Colonial Victoria, 1835–86*, Sydney University Press, 1979, chapters 4 & 5.
- 13 For a comparison see A. Nettelbeck, "A halo of protection": colonial protectors and the principle of Aboriginal protection through punishment', *Australian Historical Studies*, vol. 43, no. 3, September 2012, pp. 396–411.
- 14 Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians*, chapter 3.
- 15 For a discussion of population decline in Victoria see Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians*, pp. 79–93; and R. Broome, 'The statistics of frontier conflict', in B. Attwood & S.G. Foster (eds), *Frontier Conflict: The Australian Experience*, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 2003, pp. 88–98. For a differing view on the specific toll from white violence see L. Ryan, 'Settler massacres on the Port Phillip frontier, 1836–1851', *Journal of Australian Studies*, vol. 34, no. 3, September 2010, pp. 257–73.
- 16 Victoria's distinctiveness and influence are argued in Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians*, pp. xxii–xxv.
- 17 See for instance J. Critchett, *Untold Stories: Memories and Lives of Victorian Kooris*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1998.
- 18 For a history of the Board's management of Aboriginal people see Broome, *Aboriginal Victorians*, chapters 7 & 10. For Coranderrk, Lake Tyers and Framlingham reserves see chapters 9, 11 & 12.
- 19 C. Manning, 'The McLean Report: legitimising Victoria's new assimilationism', *Aboriginal History*, vol. 26, 2002, pp. 159–76; and C. Manning, 'A helping white hand': assimilation, welfare and Victoria's transitional Aboriginal housing policy', *Labour History*, no. 87, November 2004, pp. 193–208.
- 20 R. Broome, 'At the grass roots of white support: Victorian Aboriginal Advancement League branches 1957–1972', *La Trobe Library Journal*, special issue: 'Indigenous Victorians. Repressed, Resourceful and Respected', no. 85, 2010, pp. 141–57.

Introduction

The government records concerning Victorian Aboriginal people are held in two separate but related collections: the collection of Public Record Office Victoria and the collection of the National Archives of Australia.

The split occurred as a result of administrative changes in Aboriginal affairs: between 1839 and 1975 Aboriginal affairs was the responsibility of first the colonial then the state government of Victoria. The Australian Constitution at Federation in 1901 specifically excluded the federal government from making 'laws for the peace, order, and good government' for Aboriginal people living in any of the states. The Constitution was amended following the 1967 referendum, enabling the federal government to establish the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in 1972.

In 1975 the Victorian Government transferred responsibility for Aboriginal affairs to the Commonwealth. Records that had already been deposited with Public Record Office Victoria (in particular records from the period 1836 to 1859) remained in the state collection. A large collection of records dating from circa 1860 to the 1970s was transferred to the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and is now held by the National Archives of Australia in Melbourne. Records created after 1975 by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments are held by the National Archives of Australia and Public Record Office Victoria respectively.

This guide is designed to help researchers find records about Aboriginal people in Victoria in both these collections. It focuses on records that are specifically about Aboriginal people and issues, and includes records created by the various government agencies overseeing the administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria. As well as being a valuable resource for historical and genealogical research, the records also provide an insight into an era of surveillance and control of Aboriginal people by Victorian government agencies.

Records relating to Aboriginal people, communities and issues may also be found in series that are not specifically related to the administration of Aboriginal affairs. The listings that follow include record series created by other key Victorian government agencies where these have been found to contain information about Aboriginal people. Other record series held in both collections that are not included in this guide may also contain information about Victorian Aboriginal people.

The records about Aboriginal people in the Public Record Office Victoria and National Archives of Australia collections were created in the context of government policies and legislation that had a major impact on many Aboriginal families and communities in Victoria. Some of these records

may contain distressing or offensive information and images of deceased people. They provide evidence of past attitudes held by government officials and other individuals, and may contain words, descriptions and information that are culturally insensitive or inappropriate.

VICTORIAN ARCHIVES CENTRE

The Victorian Archives Centre reading room is shared by Public Record Office Victoria and the Melbourne office of the National Archives of Australia, and provides access to records held by both organisations.

The Victorian Archives Centre is located at 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne. Visit the websites of Public Record Office Victoria (www.prov.vic.gov.au) and the National Archives of Australia (www.naa.gov.au) for information about opening hours, access to catalogues, online indexes and other resources.

KOORIE RECORDS UNIT

The Koorie Records Unit promotes awareness of the collections of Aboriginal records held at Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia. A dedicated Koorie Reference Officer assists Aboriginal researchers, including members and descendants of the Stolen Generations, to identify records relating to family, community and culture in both organisations.

Further information about the Koorie Records Unit is available from the Public Record Office Victoria website, www.prov.vic.gov.au.

ABORIGINAL NAME INDEXES

Both Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia have created Aboriginal name indexes to improve access for Aboriginal people to records about themselves, their families and country.

Public Record Office Victoria's Koorie Index of Names can be searched in the Public Record Office Victoria reading rooms at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Victorian Archives Centre; no appointment is necessary to access the Koorie Index of Names database.

Requests for searches of the National Archives of Australia's Bringing Them Home name index can be made to a National Archives of Australia reference officer in any of its capital city reading rooms or by emailing the National Archives of Australia at archives@naa.gov.au.

USING THIS GUIDE

The guide to records is divided into two main sections, one focusing on the collections of Public Record Office Victoria and the other on those of the National Archives of Australia. The introduction to each of these sections provides an overview of each organisation, the collections and any special access requirements. Annotated listings of the records follow, containing descriptions of the records, as well as the government agencies and authorities that created them.

A range of other publications and resources produced by Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia provide further information about records and research relating to Aboriginal history. These publications and resources are listed in Appendices 1 and 2. More information about understanding the components of the archival systems used by both organisations are provided in Appendices 3 and 4.

UNDERSTANDING REFERENCES TO RECORDS

Records from both organisations are listed under the government agency or authority that created them. The listings include brief histories of the agencies and authorities, an overview of their functions as well as descriptions of the records. The listings are not a reflection of how the records are ordered or presented in each organisation's online catalogue. Both organisations use different cataloguing and searching systems so it is important to take note of the specific details contained in this guide to find and order records.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE VICTORIA RECORDS

Following is a sample listing of Public Record Office Victoria records:

Name of agency that created the record series	Chief Protector of Aborigines (1838–1849) VA 512 Guardian of Aborigines (1850–1860) VA 513	Allocated Victorian Agency (VA) number
Title and date range of the record series	Unregistered inward correspondence to the Chief Protector of Aborigines – reports and returns (1847–1851) VPRS 11	Allocated Victorian Public Record Series (VPRS) number
The amount of shelf space the series occupies	Quantity: 1.60m	
A short description of the contents of the series	Inwards correspondence to Chief Protector Robinson from assistant protectors, medical officers and dispensers, and some private individuals. The 575 items in this series deal mainly with the administration of the stations, including rations, crime, medical matters, employment, boundaries, periodic returns, movement of Aboriginal people and conflict with European settlers.	
An indication that reference copies are available for this series	Access a digitised copy of these records online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 11.	

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA RECORDS

Following is a sample listing of National Archives of Australia records:

Name of agency that created the record series	Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines CA 2012	Allocated Commonwealth Agency (CA) number
Title and date range of the record series	Correspondence files (1859–69) B312	Allocated series number within the Melbourne Office of the National Archives of Australia
The amount of shelf space the series occupies	Quantity: 0.37m	
A short description of the contents of the series	The correspondence relates mainly to two stations: Acheron (Mohican) Station in the Upper Goulburn River district (1859–67) and Franklynford (Franklinford) Station, situated between Castlemaine and Ballarat (1864–69). There are also population statistics from 1863, and some references to the 'new' Coranderrk Station in the Upper Yarra district.	
An indication that reference copies are available for this series	Access a photocopy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.	

Lake Tyers Athletic Club.

Lake Tyers,

[5]

A. Mullett
 T. Mullett m.
 A. Mutton m.
 E. Mutton s.
 H. Bull
 W. Bull
 B. Stephens
 M. Stephens
 C. Bryant m.
 C. Bryant m.
 C. Hool
 H. Jaffar
 J. Jaffar
 J. Jaffar
 J. Jaffar

W. Logan
 P. Logan m.
 C. Logan
 J. Johnson m.
 S. Rankin
 H. Hayes
 C. Wainwright
 G. Brown m.
 M. Halsey
 Syd. White
 D. Warden m.
 W. Warden m.
 A. Warden m.

W. Johnson m.
 M. Johnson m.
 Aida Harrison m.
 Alf Carter
 J. Carter m.
 C. Hunt m.
 C. Foster
 C. Foster
 W. Murray m.
 W. Murray m.
 J. McLeod
 B. McLeod m.
 R. C. Harrison
 M. Halsey
 Syd. White
 D. Warden m.
 W. Warden m.
 A. Warden m.

W. Johnson m.
 M. Johnson m.
 Aida Harrison m.
 Alf Carter
 J. Carter m.
 C. Hunt m.
 C. Foster
 C. Foster
 W. Murray m.
 W. Murray m.
 J. McLeod
 B. McLeod m.
 R. C. Harrison
 M. Halsey
 Syd. White
 D. Warden m.
 W. Warden m.
 A. Warden m.

A petition lodged in 1931 with the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, distinctive because the signatures have been arranged in a spiral pattern. Signatories were residents of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station, seeking to prevent the removal of the station manager, Captain Newman. The petition was unsuccessful.

Records held by Public Record Office Victoria

The records listing that follows includes records created by successive colonial and state government agencies responsible under legislation for the administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria from the 1830s. The Public Record Office Victoria collection is particularly strong in the period to 1860, and holds records of the Port Phillip District, including information regarding the early Aboriginal Protectorate and the Guardian of Aborigines.

Also listed in this section are some key record series created by other Victorian government agencies that contain information about Aboriginal affairs as well as Aboriginal people, places and events. Records relating to Aboriginal matters may also be found within other series that are not listed in this guide, although in the case of individuals a person's Aboriginality was often not identified.

The vast majority of records listed are open for public access. Under the provisions of the *Public Records Act 1973*, a small proportion of records are 'closed'. These closures usually relate to records containing information of a personal or private nature about individuals. For access to these records see PROVguide 14: Special Access, and individual record listings.

Some of the record series listed have been digitised and are available to view through Public Record Office Victoria's online catalogue. Other records that are available on microfilm or microfiche can be viewed in Public Record Office Victoria's reading rooms. Records on microfilm or microfiche will be progressively retired and access will made available via digitised versions.

More information on accessing the records at Public Record Office Victoria listed in this guide is available in the following PROVguides, which can be accessed through Public Record Office Victoria's website and reading rooms:

- PROVguide 1: PROV's Reading Room and Reference Services
- PROVguide 14: Special Access
- PROVguide 23: PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes
- PROVguide 65: Aboriginal Records at PROV
- PROVguide 67: Koorie Index of Names Project

List of Public Record Office Victoria records

THE ABORIGINAL PROTECTORATE AND ITS SUCCESSORS

Public Record Office Victoria holds some of the earliest records relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs by the Government of Victoria. Its main holdings are records created by the office of the Chief Protector of Aborigines (VA 512) and its successor, the Guardian of Aborigines (VA 513); both administered Aboriginal affairs in the early years of the Port Phillip District and the colony of Victoria. Public Record Office Victoria also holds records created by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines (1869–1957) (VA 515). Most of the records date from 1839 to 1946, with more extensive holdings for the period 1839 to 1859.

The Aboriginal Protectorate was established in 1838, with George Augustus Robinson as Chief Protector. Four assistant protectors were appointed to oversee and assist the Aboriginal population in the Western (Mount Rouse), North-western (Loddon), North-eastern (Goulburn) and Westernport (Narre Warren) regions of the Port Phillip District. The Protectorate was largely unsuccessful and following a number of Select Committees the system was abolished, to be replaced in 1850 with former Protector William Thomas as Guardian of Aborigines in the Counties of Bourke, Mornington and Mount Evelyn. The Governor of Victoria established the Central Board to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (VA 514) in 1860, overseeing the system of Aboriginal reserves and depots throughout the colony. The *Aborigines Protection Act 1869* gave the Board increased powers over Aboriginal people's place of residence, provision of rations, access to education, working conditions, and the care and custody of children.

These records contain a wide range of information about Aboriginal people, and include medical and education reports, correspondence, employment details, meeting minutes, annual reports, police reports, reports about the issuing of provisions, clothing and rations, notes on Aboriginal languages and cultural practices, and records of the movement of Aboriginal people across Victoria. Letters and petitions to government also show the resilience and determination of Aboriginal people as they dealt with difficult and often repressive administrations.

Chief Protector of Aborigines (1838–1849) VA 512

Guardian of Aborigines (1850–1860) VA 513

Unregistered inward correspondence to the Chief Protector of Aborigines – reports and returns (1847–1851) VPRS 11

Quantity: 1.60m

Inwards correspondence to Chief Protector Robinson from assistant protectors, medical officers and dispensers, and some private individuals. The 575 items in this series deal mainly with the administration of the stations, including rations, crime, medical matters, employment, boundaries, periodic returns, movement of Aboriginal people and conflict with European settlers.

Access a digitised copy of these records online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 11.

Aboriginal Protectorate returns (1840–1849) VPRS 12

Quantity: 1.02m

Detailed monthly, quarterly and annual returns provided to the Chief Protector by the four Aboriginal Protectorate districts. The series is sub-divided by district and includes returns of rations issued to Aboriginal people, inventories of government property, lists of Aboriginal people encountered on journeys by assistant protectors, and expenditure accounts. There are gaps in this series.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Blue Books and accounts [1844–1849]; School records for Aborigines in the Westernport and Melbourne districts [1841–1843] (1841–1849) VPRS 26

Quantity: 0.05m

The entries found at the start of the volume were probably used to compile information on the work of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, subsequently included in the New South Wales 'Blue Books' of civil service establishment and expenditure (refer to VPRS 943 for information about Victoria's Blue Books). Information recorded includes:

- an annual listing of the staff employed by the Chief Protector (identified in this volume as the Department of Aborigines)
- annual accounts of expenditure and estimates for the following year
- accounts and statistical information about the Aboriginal establishments on the Loddon River, Goulburn River, and at Mount Rouse.

The second part of the volume relates to schools for Aboriginal people in the Westernport and Melbourne districts at Narre Warren and on the Merri Creek. The information presented changes over time: between August 1841 and April 1842, information is recorded about school attendance. Students' names are identified as well as dates or classes attended; more detailed information is recorded between July and December 1842. Also included are daily entries written between July 1842 and January 1843, which include observations or an indication of the number of students who attended classes on a particular day.

Chief Protector of Aborigines' outward letter book (1849–1850)
VPRS 2895

Quantity: 0.05m

This series comprises one outward letter book containing a copy of the 1848 Chief Protector's annual report as well as copies of outwards correspondence from the Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The report covers each of the Mount Rouse, Goulburn, Loddon, and Merri Creek Aboriginal stations, as well as various missions and Native Police. Information for each Protectorate district (i.e. North-eastern, North-western, Western and Westernport) is recorded on the following subjects: personnel, medical, agriculture, stock, building and improvements, conduct of Aborigines, births and deaths, expenditures, religion, education, Native Police and crime.

Correspondence covers various aspects of business relating to the office of the Chief Protector of Aborigines. The letters from the 1850 time period relate to the final business of the Chief Protector's department, carried over from its official abolishment in December of 1849.

Annual reports of the Chief Protector of Aborigines to the Superintendent of Port Phillip District can also be located in VPRS 10, VPRS 19 and VPRS 4399.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Unregistered correspondence relating to the suspension of Charles Sievwright from the office of the Assistant Protector of Aborigines, Western District (1842)
VPRS 4397

Quantity: 0.13m

Correspondence relating to the charges of immorality and misappropriation of government stores made against Assistant Protector Charles Sievwright.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Unregistered correspondence relating to the dismissal of W. Le Souef from the office of the Assistant Protector of Aborigines, North-eastern District (1842–1844)
VPRS 4398

Quantity: 0.13m

Correspondence relating to the charges brought against Assistant Protector W. Le Souef for misappropriation of government funds and labour, the board of inquiry established to investigate these charges, and his subsequent dismissal.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Duplicate annual reports of the Chief Protector of Aborigines (1845–1849)
VPRS 4399

Quantity: 0.30m

This series consists of handwritten duplicates of the Chief Protector's annual reports for the period 1845 to 1849. These include information about personnel, births and deaths, medical, judicial, educational, cultural and religious matters.

Annual reports of the Chief Protector of Aborigines to the Superintendent of Port Phillip District can also be located in VPRS 10, VPRS 19 and VPRS 2895.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Copies of correspondence relating to the establishment of the Aboriginal Protectorate (1838–1839)
VPRS 4409

Quantity: 0.13m

Ten items comprising copies of government despatches related to the setting up of the Protectorate. Except for a copy of a despatch from Lord Glenelg to Sir George Gipps announcing the appointment of a Chief Protector of Aborigines (copied by Assistant Protector Thomas), all of the correspondence is copies of Chief Protector G.A. Robinson's inward and outward correspondence. Several letters were from E. Deas Thomson (Colonial Secretary for New South Wales).

Subjects covered by the correspondence include the Native Police Corps, the appointment of the assistant protectors, and governmental policy relating to Aboriginal people. Robinson was given charge over the Native Police Corps from 1839 to 1841 when it was placed under the Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Correspondence relating to the establishment of the Aboriginal Protectorate may also be located in VPRS 4 Inward registered correspondence, VPRS 10 Registered inward correspondence to the Superintendent of Port Phillip District, relating to Aboriginal affairs, and VPRS 19 Inward registered correspondence.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Aboriginal Protectorate weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports and journal (1839–1849)
VPRS 4410

Quantity: 0.51m

This series consists of weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports addressed to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the four Aboriginal Protectorate districts: North-eastern, North-western, Western, and Westernport. Most of the items are dated in the mid-1840s. Includes reports by assistant protectors William Thomas, E.S. Parker and James Dredge (one only), doctors Baylie and Campbell, and dispensers John Walton and Richard Tobin. Includes information about health, crime, daily life and the Native Police Corps.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Extract from the Launceston Examiner regarding a grant of land to G.A. Robinson, Chief Protector of Aborigines (1847)
VPRS 4412

Quantity: 0.13m

A handwritten extract from an 18 September 1847 edition of the *Launceston Examiner*, being a memorial sent to Lieutenant-Governor Denison containing resolutions passed at a public meeting requesting a land grant to George Augustus Robinson in recognition of his work with the Aboriginal people of Van Diemen's Land.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Copy (abridged) of the Chief Protector's journal of an expedition to the Eastern Interior (1844)

VPRS 4414

Quantity: 0.13m

An abridged copy of the journal documenting one of George Augustus Robinson's inland expeditions, from April to October 1844, during which he covered some 2,200 miles (3,540 kilometres) and encountered a number of Aboriginal peoples across south-eastern Australia. An appended letter advises of an epidemic of venereal disease in the Albury district.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Outline of a mission to instruct Aborigines in the principles of Christianity (circa 1843)

VPRS 4465

Quantity: 0.13m

Wesleyan missionary Benjamin Hurst's plan to teach Christianity to the Aboriginal people of the Port Phillip District, but also to European settlers who had recently arrived. The plan proposed that two missionaries and a schoolmaster be appointed to each of the Aboriginal stations at Westernport, the Goulburn Valley, Mount Macedon and the Grampians. Each missionary would attempt to engage with both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in their area. The plan proposed that funding for these activities be financed by contributions from both the church and the government.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Aboriginal estrays (circa 1840–1860)

VPRS 6760

Quantity: 0.52m

One box of miscellaneous papers, including several sketch maps. Among them are maps of Mordialloc Aboriginal Reserve, the Wesleyan Mission near Birregurra, Aboriginal Reserve No. 1 at Warrandyte, Goulburn River Central Station and William Thomas's map of the Westernport Protectorate district (similar to item 67 in unit 3 of VPRS 4410).

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Aboriginal Protectorate records – Stegley Foundation Collection (1839–1841)

VPRS 13172

Quantity: 0.18m

This series consists of letters and reports relating to the Port Phillip Protectorate from 1839 to 1841. They were written by Chief Protector George Augustus Robinson, who was based in Melbourne, and his assistants: William Thomas (Melbourne and Westernport Districts), James Dredge (Goulburn District), Edward Parker (Loddon District), and Charles Sievwright (Western District). The letters and reports within this series detail the policy, responsibilities, and operations of the Aboriginal Protectorate, and the various relationships between Aboriginal people, European settlers and squatters, and the protectors.

Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (1860–1869)

VA 514

See Records in the National Archives of Australia chapter for records created by this agency.

Board for the Protection of Aborigines (1869–1957)

VA 515

Letter book – Coranderrk (1898–1924)

VPRS 926

Quantity: 0.03m

One volume of outward correspondence and reports from the manager of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station to the Board, other stations, and local private individuals.

Correspondence files (1867–1946)

VPRS 1694

Quantity: 3.71m

General inward and outward correspondence of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines. Correspondents included Board members, other government officials, suppliers of goods and services, managers of stations and Aboriginal people resident in or having dealings with the Aboriginal stations and depots. Subjects dealt with include regular reports to the Board from station managers, the supply of goods and services, requisitions, the provision of housing, rights of residence at and visitation to the stations, and reports of events and what were seen as important happenings on these stations and at the depots.

See National Archives of Australia series B313 for further correspondence files.

Secretary's letter book (1905–1917)

VPRS 10309

Quantity: 0.10m

This series consists of two volumes of copies of outward correspondence of the General Inspector of the Board (1905–1907) and the Secretary to the Board (1915–1917) who were responsible for the ongoing administration of the Board's affairs and the Aboriginal reserves. Much of the correspondence is to the managers of the reserves, to police and other officials regarding the management of the stations, the rights of individuals to live at and visit the stations, and the provision of goods and services to the stations.

Visiting book (1903–1906)

VPRS 10310

Quantity: 0.02m

One visitors book, labelled 'Aboriginal Board', which provides details of daily movements and activities of Friedrich August Hagenauer when he was Inspector General of the Board.

Ledgers (1902–1907)

VPRS 10311

Quantity: 0.12m

Details of expenditure are arranged chronologically within the following sections: alphabetically by claimant's name, division and sub-division, and individual stations.

Register of inward correspondence (1909–1939)

VPRS 10768

Quantity: 0.74m

These are registers and indexes of inward correspondence to the Board up to 1917 and after that indexes only. Many of the volumes cover a two-year period. The registers contain references to correspondence which may be found in VPRS 1695, although they are not an index to that series.

For an earlier register see National Archives of Australia series B328.

Journal of Thomas Harris, Coranderrk Station (1874–1877)
VPRS 16648

Quantity: 0.04m

This series consists of a slim journal maintained by Thomas Harris in the course of his duties at the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. Thomas Harris lived and worked at Coranderrk as an assistant, farm hand and finally as farm overseer. His name appears in annual reports of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines from the time of Coranderrk's establishment in 1863 until at least 1883. Contents of this journal include notes about the movements of Aboriginal residents and Coranderrk staff, various listings about cattle at the station, information about stores delivered and distributed at Coranderrk, and a photograph of what is thought to be Badger's Creek.

Aborigines Welfare Board (1957–1968) **VA 4371**

See Records in the National Archives of Australia chapter for records created by this agency.

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THE
PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT AND VICTORIA**

While the administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria was largely the responsibility of the Aboriginal Protectorate and its successors, the central government departments of the Port Phillip District (which became the Colony of Victoria, and then the State of Victoria) also created significant bodies of records relating to Aboriginal people. During the early administration of the newly created Port Phillip District (1836–1851) both the Police Magistrate (VA 472) and the Superintendent (VA 473) had responsibilities relating to Aboriginal affairs. Records relating to Aboriginal affairs during the colonial period (1851–1900) were created by the Colonial Secretary's Office (VA 856) and the Chief Secretary's Department (VA 475). Records relating to Aboriginal affairs created after Federation (1901 onwards) can be found in the Chief Secretary's Department (VA 475) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (VA 1039).

Records created by central government departments for the Port Phillip District and Victoria contain a wide range of information about the administration of Aboriginal affairs including correspondence between government agencies and the Protectorate and its successors, statistics about Aboriginal people in Victoria, official reports and inquiries (including political protests such as during the Coranderrk rebellion), petitions and letters to government by Aboriginal people, information on employment, visitor books from Aboriginal stations, and other information about Aboriginal reserves and missions. These records provide important insight not only into the administration of Aboriginal affairs by successive government administrations of Victoria but also into how Aboriginal people interacted with government and struggled against the controls imposed on their lives.

Researching Aboriginal people and events relating to them in records created by these central government departments is complicated by the fact that they are usually found within bodies of records about many other subjects.

Police Magistrate, Port Phillip District
(1836–1839)

VA 472

Outward letter books (1836–1840)
VPRS 1

Quantity: 0.06m

This series contains transcriptions of the correspondence sent by the Police Magistrate of the Port Phillip District. These letters were sent to the Colonial Secretary and other government officials in Sydney, officials in other Australian colonies such as Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and South Australia, as well as local officials and government servants, leading clergy and private persons in the Port Phillip District. Some of the letters in this series are about Aboriginal people and matters concerning them.

Access a digitised copy of these records online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 1.

Confidential dispatches to Governor Bourke (1836–1837)
VPRS 2

Quantity: 0.03m

Items 5 and 6 contain references respectively to government missionary George Langhorne's arrival in Port Phillip, and the search for Gellibrand and Hesse (believed killed by Aboriginal people).

Access a digitised copy of these records online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 2.

**Inward registered correspondence (1836–1839)
VPRS 4**

Quantity: 0.90m

Correspondence received by Police Magistrate William Lonsdale. Includes material relating to George Langhorne's Mission, the Native Police (under C.L.J. de Villiers), 'Wild White Man' William Buckley, and various outrages attributed to Aboriginal people. All of the records in this series have been transcribed and presented in *Historical Records of Victoria*, volumes 2A and 2B. See VPRS 10 and VPRS 19 for subsequent correspondence relating to Aboriginal people received by the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph La Trobe.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4729 at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

**Superintendent, Port Phillip District
(1839–1851)**

VA 473

**Inward registered correspondence to the Superintendent,
Port Phillip District relating to Aboriginal affairs
(1839–1851)**

VPRS 10

Quantity: 1.41m

This series contains the inward registered correspondence to the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District exclusively related to Aboriginal affairs during the period of the Protectorate system. The majority of the correspondence is from the Chief Protector of Aborigines (G.A. Robinson), assistant protectors (Thomas, Parker, Le Souef, Dredge and Sievwright) and medical officers and dispensers attached to the reserves. A wide variety of subjects is covered, including the daily administration of the Protectorate system (appointments, dismissals, requisitions), crime, reports and returns of the Protectorate districts, and movements of Aboriginal tribes and groups. Also included is correspondence regarding the suspension of Assistant Protector Sievwright and the dismissals of Assistant Protector Le Souef and Doctor Baylie. Other correspondence relates to the Buntingdale Aboriginal Mission and the Merri Creek Aboriginal School.

Correspondence from the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales provides information regarding government policy relating to Aboriginal people whilst correspondence from the commissioners of Crown lands and the Surveyor-General provides information on the granting of land for reserves, boundary disputes, and surveys of the Aboriginal reserves.

Access a digitised copy of these records online through the *Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 10*.

**Outward registered correspondence (1839–1851)
VPRS 16**

Quantity: 1.15m

Twenty self-indexed letter books containing the outward correspondence of Superintendent C.J. La Trobe to the Colonial Secretary, other officials in Sydney, local officials, and individuals.

**Inward registered correspondence (1839–1851)
VPRS 19**

Quantity: 19.33m

Correspondence addressed to the Superintendent, Port Phillip District including applications for employment, various reports and returns, and official and private communication on a variety of subjects relating to the business of government. Much of this information was forwarded to the Governor of New South Wales for his decision or information.

Records in this series relating to Aboriginal people include reports about Aboriginal people from the assistant

protectors, the Commandant of Native Police, magistrates, and the correspondence of individuals regarding, or complaining about, the activities of Aboriginal people.

Following the creation of the Colony of Victoria in 1851, the role of superintendent was abolished. Much of the correspondence that once would have been directed to the superintendent was subsequently directed to the Victorian Colonial Secretary and then the Chief Secretary. This correspondence can be found in VPRS 1189.

Digitised images of these records, as well as descriptions of the letters derived from the original registers of correspondence (VPRS 18), will be progressively made available online.

**Supplementary inward registered correspondence
(1841–1979)
VPRS 1226**

Quantity: 12.30m

This series contains records that were stored separately to the correspondence in VPRS 1189 and includes a handful of files that originated in VPRS 19. Item 4 contains material relating to Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, about the Aboriginal people residing there, and boards of inquiry into the station's management in the early 1880s. Included is correspondence and meeting minutes of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, the report of the Coranderrk Board of Inquiry, correspondence about the future of the Aboriginal stations and Coranderrk in particular, a petition signed by William Barak and others, and a detective's report about a visit to Coranderrk to trace the writer of a letter complaining about the conditions on the station. Correspondence about other stations is also included, along with sketch maps of Lake Tyers and Ebenezer Aboriginal stations.

**Registered inward correspondence to the Superintendent
of Port Phillip District from W. Thomas, Guardian of
Aborigines, and E.S. Parker, Assistant Protector of
Aborigines (1850–1851)
VPRS 2893**

Quantity: 0.18m

Forty-seven items, including weekly reports written by William Thomas. After the dismantling of the Protectorate system, William Thomas was appointed Guardian of Aborigines in the Counties of Bourke, Mornington and Mount Evelyn from 1 January 1850. Up until that time Thomas had held the position of Assistant Protector of Aborigines, Westernport District. This series also contains other items of general correspondence by Assistant Protector E.S. Parker. All reports are addressed to the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph La Trobe. See also records of the Aboriginal Protectorate in VPRS 4410, VPRS 2895 and VPRS 4399 for further reports.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 *Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.*

**Registered inward correspondence of the Land Branch,
Superintendent of Port Phillip District, relating to
Aboriginal stations (1847–1851)
VPRS 2897**

Quantity: 0.26m

The main subject of this series is that of boundary disputes between the government and settlers and between settlers in regard to the land granted for the Aboriginal stations at Mount Rouse, Loddon, Goulburn, Buntingdale and Narre Warren. There is also correspondence regarding encroachments by settlers onto the land of the above stations and the distribution of such land after the abolition of the Protectorate system. Tracings, maps, plans and survey reports are also included.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 *Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.*

Governor (including Lieutenant Governor 1851–1855 and Governor's Office) (1851–ongoing)

VA 466

Statistical returns of gaols and criminals executed [1839–1850]; Estimates of expenditure [1841]; Criminal statistics [1858–1859] (1839–1859)

VPRS 8

Quantity: 0.13m

This series contains a variety of documents relating mostly to law and order in the Port Phillip District. The records held in this series include:

- returns of gaols for the years 1839–1850;
- estimate of the probable expenses of the establishments at Port Phillip for the year 1841;
- criminal statistics for the years 1858 and 1859; and
- returns of criminals executed in Port Phillip for the years 1841–1850.

The documents in the last category contain some information relating to Aboriginal people. As these are statistical returns, these documents do not disclose the names of any individuals.

Special files (1851–1951)

VPRS 1095

Quantity: 6.13m

Files of the Governor of Victoria's office. Included in item 17 is the Secretary of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines R. Brough Smyth's commentary in 1874 on the situation inherited by the Board.

There may be further related information contained elsewhere in other records of the Governor of Victoria, in particular VPRS 4066 Inward correspondence (1854–1857), VPRS 1096 Inward registered correspondence (1857–1907) and VPRS 7575 Inward registered correspondence 3 (1908–1983).

Colonial Secretary's Office (1851–1855)

VA 856

Chief Secretary's Department (1855–1979)

VA 475

Inward registered correspondence I (1851–1863)

VPRS 1189

Quantity: 111.87m

The series was created as the main correspondence system for the Colonial Secretary's office. It was subsequently maintained by the Chief Secretary's Department. Files were arranged in file number order within a number of subject categories.

This series is succeeded by VPRS 3991, VPRS 3992 and VPRS 4723, being parts II, III and IV of the correspondence up to 1985. For indexes and registers, which together provide access to the correspondence, see VPRS 1411 (index) and VPRS 1186, 3993 and 3994 (registers). Prior to the creation of the Colony of Victoria in 1851, the Superintendent was the government official who received much of the correspondence that later would be directed toward the Victorian Colonial Secretary and Chief Secretary. This correspondence can be found in VPRS 19.

Supplementary inward registered correspondence (1841–1979)

VPRS 1226

Quantity: 12.30m

See description of this series under VA 473 Superintendent Port Phillip (1839–1851).

Inward registered correspondence II (1864–1883)

VPRS 3991

Quantity: 188.97m

This series consists of inward correspondence received by the Chief Secretary's Department. The Chief Secretary was responsible for Aboriginal affairs in the years 1855–1856 and 1860–1968, and records pertaining to this function can be found in this series.

This series is preceded by VPRS 1189 and succeeded by VPRS 3992 and VPRS 4723, being parts I, III and IV of the correspondence up to 1985. For indexes and registers, which together provide access to the correspondence, see VPRS 1411 (index) and VPRS 1186, 3993 and 3994 (registers).

Inward registered correspondence III (1884–1971)

VPRS 3992

Quantity: 375.58m

This series consists of inward correspondence received by the Chief Secretary's Department, some of which pertains to Aboriginal affairs.

This series is preceded by VPRS 1189 and VPRS 3991, and succeeded by VPRS 4723, being parts I, II and IV of the correspondence up to 1985. For indexes and registers, which together provide access to the correspondence, see VPRS 1411 (index) and VPRS 1186, 3993 and 3994 (registers).

Chief Secretary's registered inward correspondence relating to Aboriginal affairs transferred to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (1851–1858)

VPRS 4415

Quantity: 0.13m

A considerable quantity of correspondence dealing with former Assistant Protector E.S. Parker's occupancy of portions of the Loddon River Aboriginal Reserve, and the claims for compensation of the Moravian missionaries at Lake Boga. Includes tracings. See also VPRS 2897, VPRS 6915 and VPRS 4411 for further related correspondence.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Inward registered correspondence IV (1874–1985)

VPRS 4723

Quantity: 272.00m

Five boxes in this series contain documents relevant to Lake Tyers, 1897–1928, Lake Condah Mission lease, correspondence from the public about Lake Tyers Aboriginal people, 1965, and relevant legislative amendments.

This series is preceded by VPRS 1189, 3991 and 3992, being parts I, II and III of the correspondence up to 1985. For indexes and registers, which together provide access to the correspondence, see VPRS 1411 (index) and VPRS 1186, 3993 and 3994 (registers).

Legislative Assembly (1856–ongoing)

VA 2585

Original papers tabled in the Legislative Assembly (1851–2006)

VPRS 3253

Quantity: 405.54m

This series comprises the original documents tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Original papers tabled include reports, petitions, returns, messages, division lists, writs, evidence and estimates. These include annual reports of departments of state or statutory authorities required to submit their reports under the *Annual Reporting Act*; or the reports of other public bodies required under specific Acts to table their reports. Originals of both published and unpublished papers are included in the series. Other papers tabled include ministerial papers and parliamentary committee reports and other committee records.

Access to these records requires written permission from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Original papers tabled in the Legislative Council (1851–2006)
VPRS 2599

Quantity: 259.60m

This series contains reports, petitions, returns, messages, division lists and estimates of the Legislative Council of Victoria arranged in chronological order.

Aboriginal materials are contained in the evidence considered by the Select Committee into Aborigines 1858–1859. Other references to Aboriginal people are scattered within the series.

Access to these records requires written permission from the Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (previously known as Parliamentary Draftsman 1879–1970) (1879–ongoing) VA 629

Parliamentary Counsel bill files (1874–1980)
VPRS 10265

Quantity: 131.40m

This series comprises the original drafts and amendments of parliamentary bills, all or most of which incorporate ministerial notes, comments, correspondence and related papers. The series contains material related to Aboriginal affairs, including Acts and amendments, maps and peripheral correspondence.

Department of the Premier (also known as Premier's Department 1960–1982) (1836–1982) VA 2717

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (1982–ongoing) VA 1039

General correspondence files, multiple number system I (1967–1976)
VPRS 7614

Quantity: 46.46m

This series comprises general correspondence files maintained by the Premier's Department between 1972 and 1976. The series contains some records relating to Aboriginal matters.

General correspondence files, multiple number system II (1946–1995)
VPRS 8197

Quantity: 520.02m

This series consists of general correspondence files containing letters received and copies of letters sent by the Premier's Department (VA 2717) from 1976 until 1982 and by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (VA 1039) from 1982 until 1994.

General correspondence files, multiple number system III (1993–1999)
VPRS 12549

Quantity: 159.91m

This series comprises general correspondence files of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (VA 1039). File contents include letters received, internal memoranda and copies of letters sent. Ministerial correspondence was also included in this series. This series contains some records relating to Aboriginal affairs including records relating to Native Title claims during the 1990s.

Public Record Office Victoria holds many records relating to the administration of the legal system, police and prisons. These records date from the start of the colony through to contemporary times.

Under British law, Aboriginal people were British subjects and, in theory, entitled to the protection and privileges of the law. In practice they experienced discrimination, both legal (through specific legislation) and structural (built into general social and administrative systems).

Legal records held by Public Record Office Victoria were created by various agencies of government such as the Supreme Court of Victoria (VA 2549), the Office of the Crown Solicitor (VA 667), Victoria Police (VA 724), Coroners Courts (VA 2263) and the Penal and Gaols Branch, Chief Secretary's Department (VA 1464).

The records contain a variety of information that can give an insight into the lives of Aboriginal people and the history of Aboriginal Victoria after colonisation. An example of this can be found in criminal trial briefs created by the Crown Solicitors Office, less than ten years after the establishment of the colony. A number of cases deal with frontier conflict and atrocities committed against Aboriginal people, and document a history of legal proceedings that denied Aboriginal people rights to justice. Other records such as those created by the Native Police Corps give an insight into the workings of one of a number of forerunners to the Victoria Police. As one of the earliest police agencies in the colony, the Native Police Corps employed Aboriginal men to help impose British law across the colony and intervene in frontier conflict between newly arrived European settlers and local Aboriginal communities. These records document the names of the Aboriginal troopers, as well as their assignments, duties and drills.

Finding references relating to a specific Aboriginal person among legal, police and prisoner records can sometimes require a great deal of research because these records may not identify that a person was Aboriginal.

Office of the Victorian Government Solicitor (previously known as the Office of the Crown Solicitor 1841–1987) (1841–ongoing) VA 667

Superintendent, Port Phillip District: Inward unregistered correspondence (1840–1850)
VPRS 21

Quantity: 0.22m

A collection of accumulated correspondence of Crown Solicitor James Croke, and his opinions on a number of cases. One bundle is devoted solely to 'Collisions with Natives', 1840. Before the establishment of the Office of the Crown Solicitor, the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District had responsibility for the administration of Crown Solicitor's services (VF 36) within the government.

Criminal trial briefs (1841–1997)
VPRS 30

Quantity: 3,827.52m

This series comprises the documentation created in the course of the prosecution of individuals committed for trial on indictable and capital offences. Documentation held for each case consists of the original depositions (often taken in long-hand by magistrates) of witnesses as taken during the committal hearing, original subpoenas and certificates, the pleas and statements of defendants and sometimes exhibits.

Cases involving Aboriginal people – either as defendants or as witnesses – are included within the series. Access to criminal trial briefs relating to cases that occurred less than 75 years ago have been closed to public access for privacy reasons under section 9 of the *Public Records Act 1973*.

Individual cases prior to about 1860 can be identified through the Uhl Index to criminal trial briefs, which can be accessed online through the Public Record Office Victoria Wiki at www.prov.vic.gov.au. Entries in the Uhl Index are being progressively item-listed to allow this information to be searched online via the catalogue entry for VPRS 30.

Melbourne Courts (1836–ongoing) VA 518

Register of drunkards (1842–1847) VPRS 49

Quantity: 0.06m

A single volume containing names and outlines of cases involving drunkenness in Melbourne. Aboriginal people appear occasionally.

Depositions registers (1836–1855) VPRS 51

Quantity: 0.46m

Seven volumes containing the proceedings before the Police Magistrate in Melbourne. Names, dates and results of hearings are shown. Aboriginal people are included amongst these cases.

Chief Secretary's Department (1855–1871) VA 475

Penal and Gaols Branch, Chief Secretary's Department (1871–1949) VA 1464

Central register of male prisoners (1850–1948) VPRS 515

Quantity: 49.75m

Registers of male prisoners. Detailed personal descriptions are often given, and many entries after 1872 also contain photographs.

Aboriginal prisoners are sometimes identified, and crimes and convictions involving an Aboriginal person prior to about 1860 can be located through the Uhl Index to Criminal trial briefs for VPRS 30, which can be accessed online through the Public Record Office Victoria Wiki at www.prov.vic.gov.au. Entries in the Uhl Index are being progressively item-listed to allow this information to be searched online via the catalogue entry for VPRS 30.

Access a digitised copy of this record series online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 515. An online name-searchable index for these digitised volumes (VPRS 10867) is available from PROVguide 23: PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes.

Central register of female prisoners (1857–1948) VPRS 516

Quantity: 2.96m

Registers of female prisoners. Detailed personal descriptions are often given, and many entries after 1872 also contain photographs.

Aboriginal prisoners are sometimes identified, and crimes and convictions involving an Aboriginal person prior to about 1860 can be located through the Uhl Index to Criminal trial briefs for VPRS 30, which can be accessed online through the Public Record Office Victoria Wiki at www.prov.vic.gov.au. Entries in the Uhl Index are being progressively item-listed to allow this information to be searched online via the catalogue entry for VPRS 30.

Access a microfilm copy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Registrar-General's Department (1856–1873) VA 2889

Office of the Registrar-General and the Office of Titles (1873–1988) VA 862

State Coroner's Office (1988–ongoing) VA 2807

Index to inquest deposition files (1840–1987) VPRS 23

Quantity: 1.74m

This is an index to VPRS 24 Inquest deposition files. Deceased females are indexed separately within each volume. Aboriginal people are listed under the heading 'Unknown' in the early indexes. Cases involving Aboriginal people may also be identified by reference to the occupation column.

A searchable online database version of this index is available in Public Record Office Victoria reading rooms, and may also be available through local libraries and genealogical research centres.

Records from 1986 onwards are closed for privacy reasons under section 9 of the Public Records Act 1973.

Inquest deposition files (1840–2003) VPRS 24

Quantity: 795.59m

Documents for each inquest contain the depositions of witnesses and the finding in each case. In some cases, for instance where the coroner found a crime had been committed and there was sufficient evidence to commit an individual for the trial of that crime, the file relating to an inquest may have been transferred to the Crown Solicitor as part of the preparations for a trial brief (see VPRS 30 Criminal trial briefs for further details).

There are a number of inquest files dealing with the death of an Aboriginal person – many were clearly murders, but it seems prosecutions rarely followed, most likely because the coroner found that the crime was committed by 'persons unknown'. In the cases of murders among Aboriginal people themselves, legal difficulties seem to have hindered the course of justice. These are known as 'inter se cases' and, for many years during the early colonial period, Aboriginal people were not permitted to give evidence. Cases involving Aboriginal people may be identified by reference to the occupation column in VPRS 23 Index to inquest deposition files, which can be accessed in Public Record Office Victoria reading rooms, as well as some local libraries and genealogical research centres.

Records from 1986 onwards are closed for privacy reasons under section 9 of the Public Records Act 1973.

Police Magistrate, Portland Bay (1840–1860) VA 4730

Inward Correspondence (1840–1860) VPRS 32

Quantity: 1.75m

Letters to Police Magistrate James Blair from the Deputy Sheriff, Melbourne, the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands and others. A small but significant proportion of letters deal with Aboriginal matters, particularly during the early colonial period.

Letter book (1840–1868) VPRS 34

Quantity: 0.23m

Five volumes of outward letters. Includes some Aboriginal references.

**Native Police Corps, Narre Warren: day book (1845–1853)
VPRS 90**

Quantity: 0.05m

One volume consisting of the journal of day-to-day proceedings of the Native Police Corps, Narre Warren. Includes names of troopers and horses, and references to assignments, duties and drills. See also VPRS 19 which contains Commandant Dana's periodical reports.

Access a digitised copy of these records online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 90.

**Unregistered papers relating to the Native Police Corps (1848–1849)
VPRS 4466**

Quantity: 0.13m

Eighteen items of correspondence addressed to Henry E.P. Dana, Commandant of the Native Police. Subjects include the building of new quarters for the Corps, a report from a detachment guarding a goldfield (two years before the official date of discovery of gold), and details of duties (see also records in VPRS 10 and VPRS 19).

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467 Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Geelong Police Office (1838–1841)

VA659

**Deposition book (1838–1841)
VPRS 109**

Quantity: 0.06m

Police Magistrate Foster Fyans' depositions book, recording many cases concerning Aboriginal people and alleged offences committed by them.

**Royal Commission into Aboriginal
Deaths in Custody (circa 1987–circa 1991) VA 4005****General files, submissions and transcripts of
proceedings (1988–1989)
VPRS 10989**

Quantity: 0.90m

The series was created by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody during the period 1988 to 1989. The commission was established to investigate the deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the custody of police, prison or juvenile detention institutions.

This series is closed under section 9 of the Public Records Act 1973 as it contains information of a private or personal nature. It is due to be opened in 2065. Applications to access these records should be made to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Education records are a rich resource for family and community history research. Records created by the Department of Education (VA 714) include correspondence between departments and schools, inspectors' reports, data about pupils, information on school buildings, teacher record books, examination papers and results, special case files, photographs of students and schools, and much more. In addition, many schools created their own records which included pupil registers, financial records and correspondence with the Department of Education. Education records relating to Aboriginal people and events make up a small fraction of education records held at Public Record Office Victoria and this can make researching Aboriginal education records in this collection a challenging process.

Public Record Office Victoria holds a number of education records that contain information about Victorian Aboriginal people and communities. Among the records created by the Education Department are those relating to schools connected with Aboriginal reserves and missions such as: Ramahyuck (school number 1088), Lake Tyers (school number 1319), Coranderrk (school number 3048), Badger's Creek (school number 3309), Ebenezer Aboriginal Station (school number 3140), Antwerp (school number 3104) and Lake Condah/Whittlebury (school number 2747). These records can be found in the Department of Education's correspondence and school building files.

For some schools at Aboriginal stations, such as the Framlingham Settlement Primary School (VA 3287) and Antwerp Primary School (VA 3163), there are additional school records available. After the closure of Ebenezer Aboriginal Station, many of the students from the station then began attending Antwerp Primary School.

The Public Works Department (VA 669) was responsible for the construction and maintenance of schools, and created plans and drawings of schools.

Chief Protector of Aborigines (1838–1849) VA 512**Blue Books and accounts [1844–1849]; School records for
Aborigines in the Westernport and Melbourne districts
[1841–1843] (1841–1849)
VPRS 26**

Quantity: 0.05m

The entries found at the start of the volume were probably used to compile information on the work of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, subsequently included in the New South Wales 'Blue Books' of civil service establishment and expenditure (refer to VPRS 943 for information about Victoria's Blue Books). Information recorded includes:

- an annual listing of the staff employed by the Chief Protector (identified in this volume as the Department of Aborigines)
- annual accounts of expenditure and estimates for the following year
- accounts and statistical information about the Aboriginal establishments on the Loddon River, Goulburn River, and at Mount Rouse.

The second part of the volume relates to schools for Aboriginal people in the Westernport and Melbourne districts at Narre Warren and on the Merri Creek. The information presented changes over time: between August 1841 and April 1842, information is recorded about school attendance. Students' names are identified as well as dates or classes attended; more detailed information is recorded between

July and December 1842. Also included are daily entries written between July 1842 and January 1843, which include observations or an indication of the number of students who attended classes on a particular day.

Board of Education (1863–1873)	VA 713
Education Department (1873–1975)	VA 714
Department of Education (1993–ongoing)	VA 3098

Central inward primary schools correspondence (1878–1962)
VPRS 640

Quantity: 861.66m

This series contains correspondence from primary schools to the Department of Education. The records are arranged initially by school roll number, and then by school roll number within chronological periods. Correspondence from schools at Aboriginal stations and missions are included in this series. General education correspondence in this series may also contain records relating to Aboriginal schools and people.

Building files: primary schools (1855–1975)
VPRS 795

Quantity: 465.92m

This series comprises correspondence files relating to the construction, alteration and maintenance of state primary school buildings in Victoria. The series also comprises some files relating to school residences and land purchases. Schools for Aboriginal children are included.

Capital expenditure works files: primary schools (1925–1979)
VPRS 8796

Quantity: 28.44m

This series consists of capital expenditure work files relating to the construction of buildings and further extensions of state primary schools. Records relating to schools connected to Aboriginal reserves and missions such as 'School No.1319: Lake Tyers Primary School' can be found.

Teacher record books [Microfilm copy of teacher records VPRS 13579, 13974, 13973, 11481, 14005, 11469, 14012, 13971 and 13970] (1863–1959)
VPRS 13718

Quantity: 1.37m

The majority of the records in this compilation series are a copy of VPRS 13579 Teacher record books, which was created to provide a summary of the working history of each teacher in government service in Victoria. These records were microfilmed by the Department of Education as a preservation measure during the 1980s. Although the information contained within the volumes does change over the years, essentially each entry states: the name of the teacher; their date of birth (and sometimes their place of birth); the school roll number; classification of the teacher, based on assessment, promotions, and so on; authority (the date the teacher commenced at a particular school); and remarks. Researchers can search for a particular teacher using the online index VPRS 13719 Database index to teacher record books, which will provide researchers with the teacher record number that can then be used for locating the teacher's record.

Access this microfilm compilation at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Department of Education, Employment and Training (1999–2002) **VA 4828**

Department of Education and Training (2002–2003) **VA 4829**

Photographs, negatives and slides [Education History Unit] (circa 1838–2003)
VPRS 14514

Quantity: 9.95m

The photographs in this series were accumulated by the Education History Unit of the Department of Education and Training. They depict schools, school students, teachers, educational activities and other education-related subject matter. Some records feature schools connected with Aboriginal stations such as Lake Tyers.

Miscellaneous photographs, negatives and slides and ephemera [Education History Unit] (1899–circa 2003)
VPRS 14562

Quantity: 13.28m

The photographs and other images in this series were accumulated by the Publications Unit, and later the Education History Unit, of the Department of Education and Training. They depict schools, school students, teachers, politicians, maps, educational activities and other education-related subject matter. One volume features a number of images of Aboriginal students, their class work and school buildings at Lake Tyers.

Other Education Department photographs depicting schools, school students, teachers, maps, educational activities and other education-related subject matter can be found in VPRS 14515 File prints of photographs [Publications Branch] (circa 1967) and VPRS 14517 Negatives of photographs [Publications Branch] (circa 1967), which can be searched using VPRS 14516 Index to file prints and negatives of photographs [Publications Branch] (circa 1967).

Antwerp (Primary School No. 3104) (1906–1981) **VA 3163**

School records, Antwerp Primary School (1906–1981)
VPRS 6860

Quantity: 0.44m

This series contains a variety of records created by Antwerp Primary School number 3104 (which was previously known as Antwerp South, Antwerp West and Tarranyurk North). After the closure of Ebenezer Aboriginal Station (school number 3140), students began attending Antwerp Primary School.

Framlingham Settlement (Primary School No. 4532) (1934–1967) **VA 3287**

School records, Framlingham Settlement Primary School (1934–1967)
VPRS 9063

Quantity: 0.13m

This series contains a variety of records created by Framlingham Settlement Primary School number 4532 (also known as Framlingham Aboriginal Settlement Primary School).

LAND, HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION RECORDS

Public Record Office Victoria holds an extensive collection of records relating to land, heritage and conservation in Victoria. The Surveyor General's Department, Port Phillip Branch (VA 943), Surveyor-General's Department (VA 2921) and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (VA 538) all created large numbers of surveys, maps and documents of land in Victoria. These records give an important insight into the ways in which Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their country as these agencies documented and surveyed land for settlement purposes.

References to Aboriginal language and culture can also be found in these records as colonial surveyors and explorers interacted with Aboriginal people in the course of their work.

Records relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs were also created by various land agencies. From 1849 until 1860, Commissioners of Crown Lands working for the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (VA 538) had responsibilities relating to the 'protection' of Aboriginal people. The duties of the various commissioners included visiting reserves, reporting on the condition of Aboriginal people, and in cases of extreme emergency, the supply of food and clothing. The commissioners were also responsible for the prevention of clashes between Aboriginal people and European settlers. The Department of Crown Lands and Survey also created records relating to the establishment of Aboriginal reserves and missions in Victoria.

More contemporary records of land use and heritage reports can be found in records created by the Department of State Forests (Forests Commission) (VA 534), Ministry for Conservation (VA 551), Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands (VA 1034) and Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria (VA 3101).

Surveyor-General's Department (1851–1857)	VA 2921
Colonial Secretary's Office (1851–1855)	VA 856
Crown Lands Department (1853–1857)	VA 2878
Department of Crown Lands and Survey (1857–1983)	VA 538

Inward registered and unregistered correspondence (1839–1930) **VPRS 44**

Quantity: 140.22m

The series contains records relating to Aboriginal people and lands, including:

- reports of commissioners of Crown lands who were also responsible for the 'protection' of Aboriginal people;
- correspondence and reports from Assistant Protector William Thomas together with his weekly reports as Guardian of Aborigines;
- correspondence of R. Brough Smyth, Secretary, Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines;
- the outward correspondence of the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines for 1861; and
- inward correspondence relating to Aboriginal affairs to the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District.

Access an online listing of the contents of VPRS 44 from the *Public Record Office Victoria webpage for the Lands Guide: a guide to finding records of Crown land at Public Record Office Victoria.*

Inwards correspondence (1827–1868) **VPRS 97**

Quantity: 1.12m

Much of the correspondence in this series was addressed to Robert Hoddle as the Surveyor-in-Charge of the Port Phillip District prior to the establishment of the Surveyor-General's Department in 1851 (VA 2921). Some of the correspondence, however, dates from after this period. The series also includes correspondence and circulars directed to Hoddle prior to his work in Victoria. The records date from 1827 onwards, and include records from the time when he was located at Goulburn (New South Wales). Correspondence and circulars came from the Surveyor-General and Colonial Secretary in Sydney, from the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and from surveyors in the field. Some forwarded correspondence has minutes and annotations made by Charles Joseph La Trobe (Superintendent, Port Phillip District). Other comprehensive correspondence is from surveyors employed by the department.

Among the records in this series is correspondence from surveyors in the field, which may also include copies of survey reports and diaries of activities of survey expeditions, with copies of both inwards and outwards correspondence.

Crown reserves correspondence (1850–1980) **VPRS 242**

Quantity: 206.94m

This series primarily contains files relating to the proclamation and management of Crown reserves. Many of these files are for reserves whose status has since been revoked. These files contain correspondence relating to the management of the reserve, maps or plans of the reserve and copies of documents relating to proclamation, alteration of extent or revocation.

Crown land occupation files, correspondence series (1870–1978) **VPRS 441**

Quantity: 167.92m

This series consists of correspondence relating to the occupation of Crown land in:

- region 'J' (Western Victoria – mainly Ballarat and Geelong land districts);
- region 'H' and 'HO' (Eastern Victoria – originally taking in Seymour, Benalla and Beechworth land districts, but eventually including Alexandra, Sale, Bairnsdale and Omeo land districts);
- region 'G' (Central – mainly the Melbourne land district);
- region 'W' (Northern Victoria – the Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kerang and Echuca land districts); and
- region 'M' (North-western Victoria – Mallee district).

Files include official application forms and reports, as well as letters, relating to the temporary licensing of occupation and leasing of land, requests to purchase land under provisions relating to goldfields residence areas and those under Section 172 (*Land Act 1915*) to do with detached strips of land being sold at valuation. Other files relate to requests for the survey of land so a purchase might be made.

Registered inward correspondence to the Surveyor-General from the Guardian of Aborigines (1856) **VPRS 2894**

Quantity: 0.18m

This series comprises registered inward correspondence addressed to the Surveyor-General from William Thomas, Guardian of Aborigines. This correspondence consists mainly of Thomas's weekly reports which provide a comprehensive daily account of his activities as the Guardian of Aborigines for that period. Apart from the weekly reports there are five letters which cover subjects such as the

maintenance of an orphaned Aboriginal child, requisitions and stores, and Aboriginal people in Gippsland.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467
Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Registered inward correspondence to the Surveyor General, Board of Land and Works and Board of Land and Survey relating to Aboriginal affairs (1856–1873)
VPRS 2896

Quantity: 0.51m

Much of this series is devoted to the weekly reports (1856–1860) of Guardian of Aborigines William Thomas, but correspondence is included referring to Aboriginal stations and reserves at Acheron, Coranderrk, Karngun Parish, Lake Wellington, Loddon River (Mount Franklin), Maffra, Mordialloc, Lake Boga (Moravian Mission), Chepstowe Parish and Tangambalanga.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467
Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Copies of registered correspondence relating to the Moravian Mission Lake Boga Aboriginal Reserve (1851–1856)
VPRS 4411

Quantity: 0.13m

This series consists of handwritten copies of registered correspondence regarding the Moravian mission at Lake Boga Aboriginal Reserve. All of this correspondence concerns the claims for compensation by the Moravian missionaries for their improvements at the reserve. These correspondence records are copies of registered inward correspondence to the Chief Secretary contained in VPRS 4415, and registered inward correspondence to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey contained in VPRS 2896.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 4467
Aboriginal affairs records at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Loddon Aboriginal Station files (1853–1856)
VPRS 6915

Quantity: 0.13m

This series contains documents showing the daily school attendance of students and the issue of stores to Aboriginal people at the Loddon Station. These records may have been originally forwarded to the Colonial/Chief Secretary for reporting purposes and subsequently transferred to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (VA 538). It may also be that they were originally part of the same set of correspondence held in VPRS 4415 Chief Secretary's registered inward correspondence relating to Aboriginal affairs transferred to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, which also contains records relating to the Loddon River Aboriginal Reserve.

Register of description of permanent reserves – commons (1861–1878)
VPRS 8769

Quantity: 0.05m

This series is a register recording descriptions of land reserved or appropriated as 'commons', including details about the proclamation and statistical data relating to the population of towns, boroughs and shires. Commons were set apart near towns, gold mines and in agricultural districts. While capable of being revoked whenever settlement needs grew pressing, commons were used to provide 'free' temporary forage and grazing space. Some of these commons were designated as 'Aboriginal Reserves', and the references to these include date and year the reserves were proclaimed, and the size of the area of the land. It is not clear whether these records contain details for all commons reserved during the period 1861–1878.

Surveyor General's Department, Port Phillip Branch (also known as the Melbourne Survey Office) (1836–1851)

VA 943

Surveyor-General's Department (1851–1857)

VA 2921

Department of Crown Lands and Survey (1857–1983)

VA 538

Division of Survey and Mapping (Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands) (1983–1985)

VA 3021

Historic Plan Collection (1802–1984)
VPRS 8168

Quantity: 27.86m

The Historic Plan Collection comprises plans that were known as 'historical' by the Department of Sustainability and Environment to distinguish them from the central collection of parish and township plans (known as 'record plans'). The kinds of historical information often found in these plans include: early descriptions of soils and native vegetation; location of huts, fences, gardens and other capital improvements made by squatters; location of other buildings; tracks used by European settlers; reserves set aside for public use; early place names; location of pastoral runs; shipwrecks; the general progress of European settlement at various times; and, progress of cadastral, geodetic and physiographic surveys at particular times. Some of the maps in this collection were created by the Government of New South Wales prior to the establishment of an independent colony at Port Phillip, now part of the State of Victoria.

Access microfiche copies of the plans (VPRS 15899) at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room. A portion of the records in this series have been digitised and can be accessed online through the Public Record Office Victoria catalogue entry for VPRS 8168. A register of this series is also available online from PROVguide 23: PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes.

Surveyors' field books, black sequence (1837–1927)
VPRS 16685

Quantity: 7.88m

This series includes the field books of the earliest surveyors in the Port Phillip District, including Robert Hoddle, Robert Russell, William Wedge Darke, Henry Williamson Hutchinson Smythe, Thomas Henry Nutt, and Charles James Tyers. Surveyors in the field used small standard books to record both survey data and notes as surveys were carried out. The field books reflect the process of surveying in Victoria and the government's change in emphasis: from the Colony of New South Wales' efforts to control unlicensed occupation of land by the squatters on pastoral runs and the early cadastral surveys mapping Victoria, to the Department's response to public demand for Crown land released under sections of the various Land Acts. They contain details about the original landscape, including waterways, water holes, soils and vegetation.

Ministry for Conservation (1973–1983) VA 551

Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands (1983–1985) VA 1034

**General correspondence files, multiple number series (1972–1987)
VPRS 11544**

Quantity: 121.98m

This series constitutes the general correspondence of the Ministry for Conservation and then the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. The Ministry was responsible for soil conservation, environment protection, fisheries and wildlife, land conservation, national parks, foreshore protection, marine research, zoological gardens, archaeological surveys and animal protection, and the files document the administration of these functions. Among the records in this series are some relating to Aboriginal heritage, land claims and other matters.

**General correspondence files, multiple number system, Fisheries and Wildlife Division (1973–1985)
VPRS 11559**

Quantity: 78.46m

This series constitutes the general correspondence of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division (VA 432) of the Ministry for Conservation (VA 551) and then the Department of Conservation Forests and Lands (VA 1034), which maintained its own recordkeeping system from 1976 to 1984. The files sometimes include correspondence which pre-dates the establishment of the division (for example, documents from the Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Chief Secretary's Department). Among the records in this series are some relating to Aboriginal Victorians.

Department of State Forests (Forests Commission) (1919–1983) VA 534

Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands (1983–1984) VA 1034

**General correspondence files, annual single number system (1919–2004)
VPRS 11563**

Quantity: 421.88m

Among the records in this correspondence series are some relating to Aboriginal Victorians.

Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria (known as Department of Aboriginal Affairs 1991–1992) (1992–ongoing) VA 3101

**Aboriginal cultural heritage reports (Heritage Service Branch) (1897–2005)
VPRS 14397**

Quantity: 24.71m

This series comprises reports of archaeological surveys and assessments involving Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. The reports were submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Regulations (S.R. No 49/2003). The reports deal with the documentation, analysis and assessment of recorded sites resulting from archaeological projects in Victoria. The format and contents of archaeological reports vary according to the requirements of each individual project. However, the reports in general show: title of report, author, year, name of consultancy company, organisation or other body responsible for producing the report, who commissioned/funded the work, where and when the project took place, and aims, results and recommendations. Depending on the type of project,

appendices may include: copies of permits or approvals obtained in connection with the project, copies of detailed site plans and specialist reports (for example material identification), and other relevant information that is not suitable for inclusion in the main body of the report.

This series is closed under section 10 of the Public Records Act 1973, as it contains references to sensitive Aboriginal cultural matters, including depictions of ancestral remains and identification by name of deceased persons. These records will be on open access from 2015. Applications for access to these records should be sought from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS

Commissioners of Crown Lands had many duties, including being responsible for preventing clashes between European settlers and the Aboriginal people in the land district for which they were responsible. As part of their duties as 'honorary protectors of Aborigines', they were required to visit reserves, report on the condition of the Aboriginal people and to supply them with food and clothing in cases of extreme emergency. Commissioners of Crown Lands existed in the Port Phillip District from around 1840, and had ceased most of their duties by around 1858, by which time the State of Victoria had appointed district surveyors to do much of the work the commissioners had once performed.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Port Phillip District (1836–circa 1840) VA 2715

Outward letter book [H.F. Gisborne, Commissioner of Crown Lands 1839–1840] and Letter and report book [Gisborne Police Station, 1853–1857] (1839–1857) VPRS 9

Quantity: 0.05m

This series contains copies of letters written by H.F. Gisborne, Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Port Phillip District, primarily to the Superintendent of Port Phillip District. The letters cover topics such as supplies, expenses, administration of the border police, relations with the mounted police, establishment of headquarters, investigations of squatting or timber cutting without licence, investigation of clashes with Aboriginal people – including a battle in 1840 at Ryrie's Station and the arrest and subsequent escape of Jackie Jacline. A letter dealing with Gisborne's journey to Portland Bay reports on the route taken, gives a description of the country and its potential, discusses the suitability of developing a town at Portland Bay, and comments on relations between settlers and the Aboriginal population.

The second half of the book is a miscellany of letters and reports relating to Gisborne Police Station.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 6766 at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Murray District (1843–circa 1858) VA 2711

Inward correspondence (1839–1865) VPRS 94

Quantity: 0.31m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Murray District based at Benalla. Also included are letters received by H.W.H. Smythe while he was employed as a surveyor prior to his appointment as the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. The series includes correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district.

Access a microfilm copy of part of this series in VPRS 6930 at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Westernport (1840–circa 1858)

VA 2710

Inward correspondence (1841–1856) VPRS 95

Quantity: 0.22m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Westernport District. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district including the settlement of disputes. Outward correspondence may be found in VPRS 103.

Access a microfilm copy of these records in VPRS 6931 at the Ballarat Archives Centre reading room.

Outward letter book (1848–1856) VPRS 103

Quantity: 0.05m

This series contains transcriptions of the outward correspondence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Westernport District. Commissioners during the period covered by these records were E. Grimes, F.A. Powlett, J.C. Thomson and E.V. Barnard. Inward correspondence to which these letters might be responses can be found in VPRS 95. Details given are the registered number, the date, the name and office of the addressee and the text of the piece of correspondence. Matters dealt with cover all the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including matters to do with the Aboriginal inhabitants of the region and the administration of justice. Land matters include the arrangement of surveys and inspections for such things as pre-emptive right purchases, the issuing of leases and licences of occupation, precautions and actions taken with respect to illegal occupation of land and periodical returns relating to the occupation and population of land.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, County of Bourke (1841–circa 1860) VA 4729

Inward registered and unregistered correspondence (1842–1860) VPRS 96

Quantity: 0.36m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the County of Bourke. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district including the settlement of disputes. Outward correspondence may be found in VPRS 104.

Outward letter book (1842–1856) VPRS 104

Quantity: 0.05m

This series contains transcriptions of the outward correspondence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the County of Bourke. Inward correspondence to which these letters might be responses can be found in VPRS 96. Details given are the registered number, the date, the name and office of the addressee and the text of the piece of correspondence. Matters dealt with cover the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including matters to do with the Aboriginal inhabitants of the region and with the administration of justice. Land matters include the arrangement of surveys and inspections for such things as pre-emptive right purchases, the issuing of leases and licenses of occupation, precautions

and actions taken with respect to illegal occupation of land and periodical returns relating to the occupation and population of land. Included is a statement of the boundaries of the County of Bourke, correspondence regarding immigrants at camping grounds and the Immigrants Aid Society, the management of Crown reserves and loose correspondence regarding roads construction in the district of Templestowe.

**Commissioner of Crown Lands,
Portland Bay (1840–1860)**

VA 4737

**Inward correspondence (1842–1860)
VPRS 14956**

Quantity: 0.03m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Portland Bay District based at Portland. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district.

**Commissioner of Crown Lands,
Gippsland District (1843–circa 1858)**

VA 4738

**Inward correspondence (1848–1850)
VPRS 99**

Quantity: 0.12m

This series contains a small quantity of correspondence sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Gippsland District. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district.

**Commissioner of Crown Lands,
County of Grant (1840–circa 1858)**

VA 4739

**Inward correspondence (1852)
VPRS 14958**

Quantity: 0.02m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the County of Grant situated at Geelong. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district.

**Commissioner of Crown Lands,
Wimmera District (1846–circa 1858)**

VA 4740

**Inward correspondence (1849)
VPRS 14959**

Quantity: 0.03m

This series contains correspondence, circulars and completed pro-forma documents sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Wimmera District. Matters dealt with in the correspondence concern all of the duties of commissioners of Crown lands, including dealing with the licensing of occupation, the leasing and sale of land, the management of the border police and other judicial duties. Included is correspondence relating to the administration of Crown lands in the district.

FINANCE, BUILDING AND HOUSING RECORDS

Public Record Office Victoria holds a number of records relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs in the areas of finance, building and housing. Financial records from the Aboriginal Protectorate period (1841–1853) can be found in VPRS 29 Port Phillip expenditure accounts. The Housing Commission (VA 508) had a number of responsibilities relating to Aboriginal affairs, including building houses on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board (1957–1968). In 1966 the Minister for Housing was briefly responsible for administering policy and programs relating to Aboriginal people in Victoria and in 1975 became responsible for the provision of housing services for Aboriginal people. Plans of houses and government buildings built on Aboriginal reserves and missions can be found in the records of the Public Works Department (VA 669).

**Superintendent, Port Phillip District
(1841–1851)**

VA 473

**Department of the Treasurer
(also known as Treasury and Treasurer's
Office) (1851–1853)**

VA 865

**Port Phillip District expenditure accounts (1841–1853)
VPRS 29**

Quantity: 5.82m

This series contains accounts received by the sub-treasurer of the Port Phillip District, for the payment of rations, wages, contracts, rewards or other matters. In many instances, the supporting documentation accompanying the account will be of more interest to the researcher than the documentation of the financial transaction. Included are vouchers for the expenditure of the Aboriginal Protectorate.

Access a microfiche copy of these records in VPRS 123 at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre reading rooms.

Colonial Secretary's Office (1853–1855)

VA 856

Public Works Department (1855–1987)

VA 669

**Pre-metric building plans (circa 1840–1973)
VPRS 3686**

Quantity: 106.72m

This series consists of original pre-metric building plans created by the Public Works Department. The plans relate to works carried out by this department on buildings that it designed and/or constructed, including buildings on Aboriginal stations.

**Photographs and negatives of government buildings
(circa 1926–1965)
VPRS 10516**

Quantity: 6.30m

This series consists of photographic negatives and prints created by the Public Works Department. This department had wide-ranging responsibilities for all public works and buildings, including construction, maintenance and fitting out of these buildings. This series encompasses black and white prints, film, glass plate and transparency negatives, and includes some photographs relating to buildings on Aboriginal stations in Victoria.

**Housing Commission of Victoria
(1938–1983)**

VA 508

**Secretary's general correspondence files, alpha-numeric system (1940–1973)
VPRS 1811**

Quantity: 23.22m

This series constitutes the general correspondence created and received by the Secretary of the Housing Commission. The position of secretary, created in 1937, assumed responsibility for formulating schemes to meet requirements of adequate housing for persons of limited means. The secretary was responsible for submitting proposals to the minister with respect to legislation and conferring with government departments, municipal councils and public statutory corporations. The office of the secretary performed an essential role in the central management and administration of the Housing Commission, providing central control, supervision, administration and coordination. The majority of the secretary's files cover the establishment and management of new estates. However, correspondence related to a broad array of issues ranging from Aboriginal affairs to Auditor-General audits is also included in this series. The records in this series have significant value in documenting the management of issues and the development of new policy and schemes for the Housing Commission for a period of over 30 years.

**Minutes of meetings (1938–1983)
VPRS 8212**

Quantity: 4.48m

The minutes of the Housing Commission record the proceedings and decisions taken by the Commission in relation to their administration under the Housing Acts of Victoria as amended from time to time. The matters dealt with by the Commission varied over time but included:

- improvement of existing housing conditions;
- determining minimum standards for new housing;
- reclamation of unsanitary areas;
- provision of housing for persons of limited means;
- zoning of municipal districts;
- provision of housing for the aged; and
- provision of housing for Aboriginal people.

ARTS AND CULTURE RECORDS

Public Record Office Victoria holds a small number of records relating to Aboriginal arts and culture. One of the strengths of the collection is records relating to 'An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark', a cultural performance that was initiated by Pastor Doug Nicholls in 1951. These records contain a number of images of the performance and a copy of the original program. Public Record Office Victoria also hold records created by the Ministry for the Arts (VA 1025) and Arts Victoria (VA 4416), which contain records relating to Aboriginal art and culture programs and other initiatives.

**Public Record Office (also known as
Public Record Office Victoria from circa 1996)
(1979–ongoing) VA 683**

**Public Record Office Victoria, general correspondence files,
annual single number system (1979–2010)
VPRS 2873**

Quantity: 51.24m

The files contain correspondence, reports, and documents relating to all of the activities and service functions of Public Record Office Victoria in pursuit of its objectives of preserving, managing and ensuring the effective use of the public records of Victoria. Among these records are files relating to the production of *My Heart is Breaking*, the first guide to Victorian Aboriginal records in the collections of Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia in 1983.

**Trustees of the Public Library, Museums and
National Gallery of Victoria (1866–1897) VA 912**

**Correspondence relating to various exhibitions (1866–1897)
VPRS 927**

Quantity: 0.87m

This series contains papers and volumes relating to the organisation of the 1892 Diamond Jubilee Exhibition and various nineteenth century international and intercolonial exhibitions. The volumes in the final unit are letter books pertaining to the 1866–67 Intercolonial Exhibition in Paris, including information about the collection of photographs of Aboriginal people, Aboriginal languages and other material.

Other related correspondence may be found in records of the Trustees of the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria (VA 912), Melbourne Public Library (VA 928), and Public Library of Victoria (VA 913)

Melbourne Public Library (1856–1869) VA 928

Public Library of Victoria (1869–1960) VA 913

**Outward letter books (1853–1873)
VPRS 4366**

Quantity: 0.87m

This series of letter books contains copies of registered correspondence sent by the Melbourne/Public Library to private individuals, other government departments and others. Letters relate to the general workings of the library. Items 2 and 3 contain correspondence relating to Aboriginal material collected as part of various intercolonial exhibitions.

Other related correspondence may be found in records of the Trustees of the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria (VA 912), Melbourne Public Library (VA 928), and Public Library of Victoria (VA 913).

***Aboriginal language and English words and meaning
(typescript) (circa 1930)***

VPRS 11984

Quantity: 0.13m

This series consists of loose pages each with an Aboriginal term and an English translation. The translation was usually four or five sentences long and made reference to other related Aboriginal terms. The pages appear to be a draft of a dictionary or glossary of Aboriginal terms.

Ministry for the Arts (1973–1987)

VA 1025

***General correspondence files, multiple number system
(1973–1987)***

VPRS 12827

Quantity: 62.17m

This series constituted the general correspondence of the Ministry for the Arts. It documents the functions of the ministry and contains files relating to general arts information, correspondence, grants to cultural organisations, development fund, ministry branches, ministry projects and initiatives, office services, policy and procedures, and research information. Among the records in this series are some relating to Aboriginal Victorians.

Department of the Premier (1936–1958)

VA 2717

Stationery and photographs of state occasions (1936–1958)

VPRS 7655

Quantity: 0.07m

These volumes contain samples of stationery printed for state functions and a photographic record of some functions. Among the contents of volume 1 are some photographs and a program relating to the production of 'An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark' held at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne, in 1951 to mark the Centenary of Victoria and the 50th anniversary of Federation in Australia.

Arts Victoria (circa 1991–ongoing)

VA 4416

***General correspondence files, single number system
(1991–1999)***

VPRS 13158

Quantity: 70.74m

This series comprises correspondence files maintained by Arts Victoria. The files contain inward correspondence and copies of outward correspondence relating to all functions undertaken by the agency. Among the records in this series are some relating to Aboriginal Victorians.

Native names of Places.
 Kooyong koot - Mr Gardiners Creek
 Prahran - Mr Langhorne's
 Tukulreen - Mr Wright opposite Mr Langhorne's
 Koonyng koonyng Mr Wood's
~~Little~~ Jika Jika Mr Batman's Dorotta Gallen Wife of Jika Jika
 iNakram Resene Mr Parke
 Budeen - the Yarrn - at Mr Wood's station
~~Walter~~ Polotue - Poin - Kurrum-buruk
 William Bick - where the ground is bare, or unfit
 for Agriculture or grazing purposes.
 Wollers - where opopum abounds & Willummitt, Kalkallo,
 Bondarra - where the ground is the best shaded
 Morang - Keel-bundora - Yan Yean - Tut B, imma,
 Forobrong. Wangoom - Barrig - Will - note
 where the Curlew abounds, has a pond & the city - the Blacks
 have a water pit, small pit
 Yaring Willun - about 40 miles up the Yarrn from this.

A page from Robert Hoddle's 1837 survey field book with Aboriginal place names for locations in and around Melbourne. PROV, VPRS 16685/P1, Unit 12, Bundle 79, Book 1154, Hoddle R, Melbourne Williamstown

List
of Aborigines in the vicinity of Melbourne
on or about March 13. 1839

Warrong Tribe

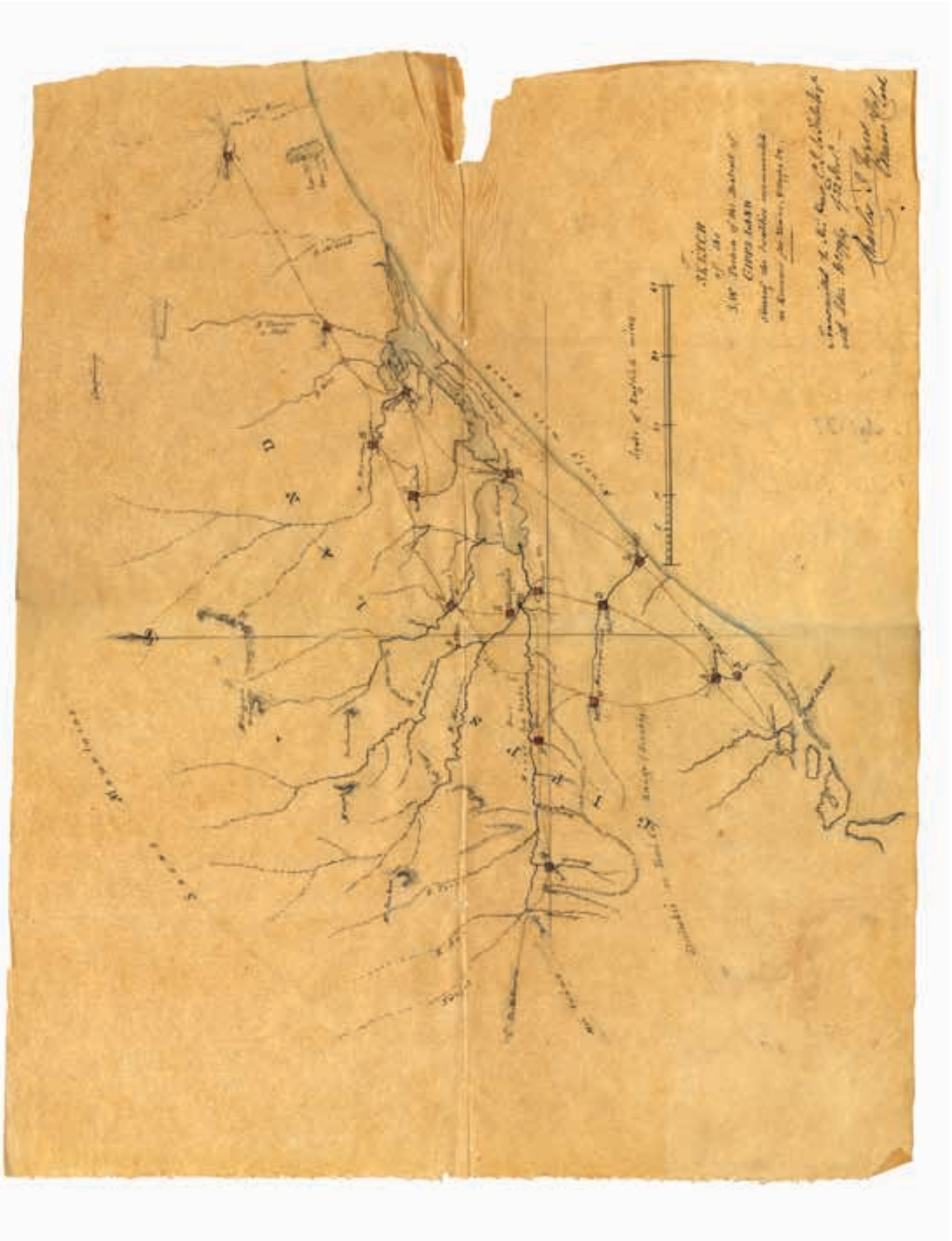
Males		Females	
Name	Age	Name	Age
Murrowun	14	Gohungun karook	25
Korouning	12	Murum dimagook	18
Mambool	7	Dingargook	25
Pendegouel	18	Talanborook	15
5 Gagra	50	5 Goragora	50
Murum murumbien	20	Badyool	3
Maymit	30	Goragool	12
Gingabut	4	Parkoning	15
Blansol	10	Doolooron	14
10 Jammail	9	10 Badyool	30
Tooby	7	Wahamedook	1
Kowan	25	Wigal	12
Warrong ?	30	Margoonook	50
Pogadank	1	Maramygoonook	25
15 Murinook	8	15 Mayborook	4
Nerryminyung	45	Dodtgoonook	20
Bobudoon	40	Tanyangool	3
Talarewurong	25	Badyoom	10
Bullurf bullurf	15	Biebungoonook	15
20 Warruk warruk	30	20 Moongalut	7
Lamurramura	35	Muryap	
Bohango	35	Pingamungool	5
Burbunarra	30	Gulgedaook	16
Murstin	15	Waygul	3
25 Talloon	25	25 Mooringoonook	15
Gardunborook	5	Baabin	8
Pearuk	45		

Waverong Tribe continued

Males		Females	
Name	Age	Name	Age
Derring derring	18	Talloomboorook	15
Nirrihennie	25	Talloorm	12
Boramoolan	10	Gangangoorook	18
Ponedere	14	Tutouwert	25
Wange	35	Bardoorook	20
Babanalle	25	Deruejar	20
Pandemoraderre	50	Nimmook	4
Tingogatte	20	Panamidook	3
Narring narring nook	25	Bartyoom	4
Wambrook	20	Patamayool	15
Wadegul	14	Ngelbouamin	2
Jordubook	5	Purrowerreen	8
Bergomin	4	Nekar	15
Bolarong	20	Martgoorook	50
Wavedook	16	Kardoooorook	25
Moodoorougo	30	Koonagoorook	
Murringoie	25	Budyermanong	
Bumbok	18		
Borasora	25		
Wagum	25		
Munroogan	30		
Barbda	6		
Yerebilluk	8		
Kannakarra	25		
Goranylook	25		
Kolain	25		
Mainy mang	1		
Bodjeredoom	25		
Bazup			
Mankheit			
Togolwil	45		
Nergogum	30		
Panmoruk	12		
Moona moone	15		
Nannaptin			



A map of the Westernport District made by William Thomas, Assistant Protector of Aborigines, in 1841. The map identifies both Aboriginal and European names, geographical features and land use. Also shown is the Aboriginal Protectorate Station at Narre Warren, which was used at various times by the Native Police Corps between 1837 and 1853.



The land of the Gunai-Kurnai people in south Gippsland, as surveyed by Commissioner of Crown Lands Charles Tyers in 1847.
PROV, VPRS 6760/P0, Unit 1, Item 2

Month	Date	Name of Native Trooper and Corporal	Condition	How Employed	Where Employed	Remarks
May 1849	1 st to 31 st	C. M. Davis	Good	Quartered at	Lower Murray	
		Jamieson	Do	The different		
		Marranbidge	Do	Stations		
		Berridge	Do	on the river		
		Mooring	Do	where the		
		Peter	Do	Beaches		
		John White	Do	were empty		
		Robinson	Do	degradations		
		William	Do	on the ship		
		Billy	Do	and cattle		
Jamieson	Do	L. S. S.				
June	1 st to 30 th	C. M. Davis	Do	riding and	Lower Murray	
		Jamieson	Do	the different		
		Marranbidge	Do	Stations		
		Berridge	Do	changing		
		Mooring	Do	the men to		
		Peter	Do	different sta-		
		John White	Do	tions		
		Robinson	Do	sent the		
		William	Do	men to		
		Billy	Bad	Swan Hill at		
Jamieson	Good	departure				
July	1 st to 31 st	C. M. Davis	Good	The same as	Lower Murray	
		Jamieson	Do	the month		
		Marranbidge	Do	of May		
		Berridge	Do			
		Mooring	Do			
		Peter	Do			
		John White	Do			
		Robinson	Do			
		William	Good			
		Billy	Do			
Jamieson	Do					
Loughran	Do					

A list of Aboriginal members of the Native Police Corps, showing how and where they were employed during May, June and July 1849.

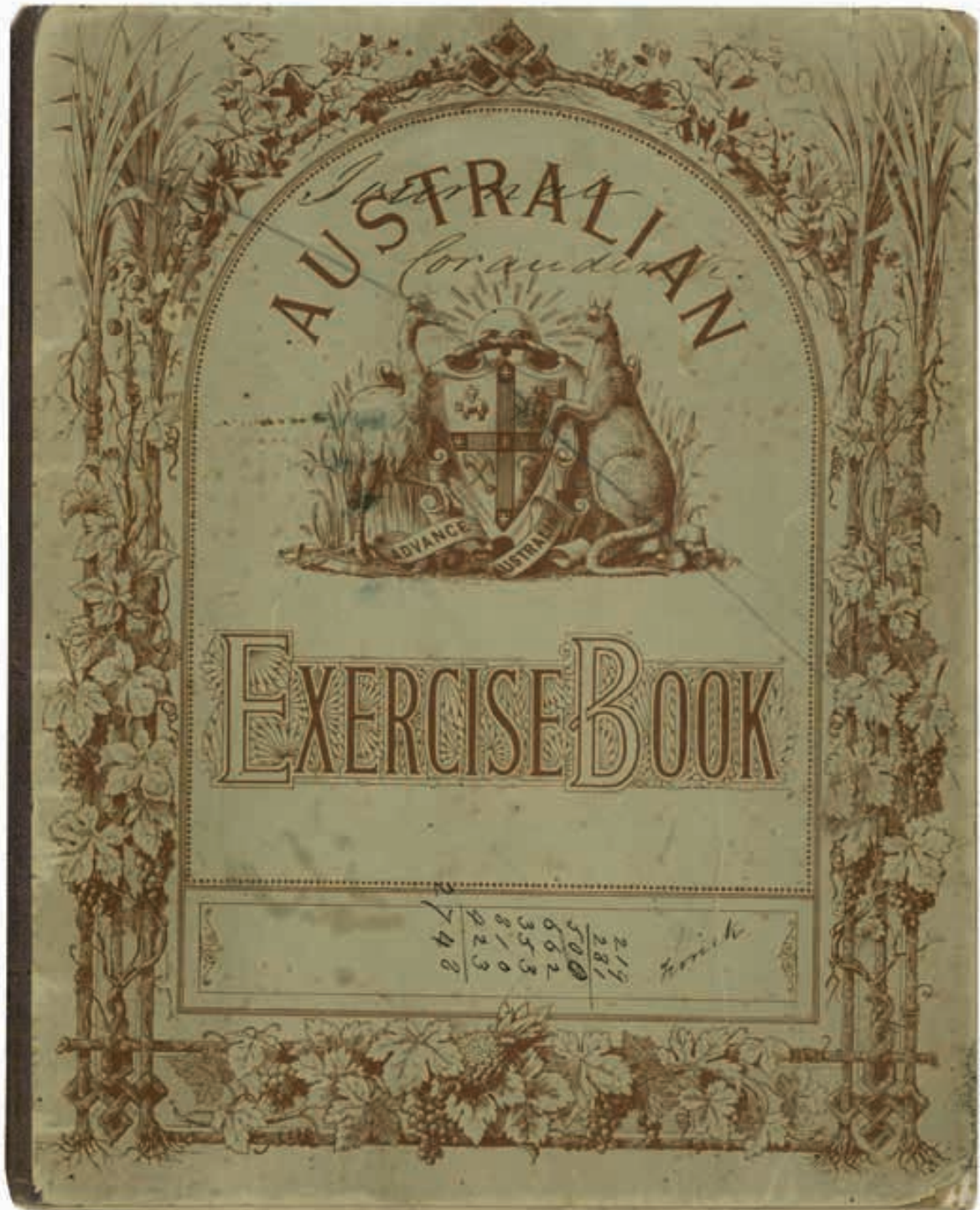
Police Office Bacchus Marsh
8th April 1859

List of Aborigines to whom Blankets have
been distributed.

English Names	Native Names	District
Jimmy	Mungitt	Bacchus Marsh
Johnny	Johna	do
King William	Guraham	do
Mary	Gurkwaranock	
John	Shlactgate	Bacchus Marsh
Lizzie	Sallonsbay	Bor honeyguck
Tommy	Maluanock	Maughtins Bristan Bay
Mary	Yarramakock	Moorabool
Gellehand	Gotan	do
Nancy	Mouramony	do
Fred	Boyan Tuntumock	do
Jack	Shlatawee	do
Harriett	Byanggucak	Bacchus Marsh

Mordant Maclean J.P.

This list of Aboriginal people in the Moorabool and Bacchus Marsh area receiving blankets includes both their English and Aboriginal names, and is signed by Justice of the Peace Mordant Maclean at Bacchus Marsh post office on 8 April 1859.



Cover of Christian Ogilvie's Coranderrk Journal, 1875-1877.
NAA: B2057, 1

Tracing showing Coranderk Aboriginal Station

NOTE

Boundaries of Reserve originally gazetted Colored Blue
 Extension of Reserve as of 1877 Colored Red
 Reserve as at present recognized Colored Yellow
 Lands marked for future acquisition by the State Colored Green
 Lands marked under proclamation of reserve Colored Pink



copy of 11/10
 1877

SCALE
 1 inch = 1 mile

Tracing showing Coranderk Aboriginal Station, 1878.
 NAA: B313, 226

81
 244
 13

Coranderrk
 10th October 1881

Capt Page
 Gen Inspector B.P.A.

Sir I have the honour to forward a list of articles for
 the Station.

I much regret to have to inform you that
 the men are in a state of revolt, they say they are
 waiting to hear if they are to have the place to themselves
 that the Board in Melbourne is to be done away
 with, that I am to go about my business, that you
 will not be required, in fact they are all confederate
 to ruin the Station: according to present prospects
 I shall be surprised if the future gathering of hops
 will be worth the expense of gathering: last week
 Morgan swore that he would not put in another
 hole, not one on the Station will put a potato seed
 in the ground: Harris wishes me to inform you that
 unless a white man is employed the seed you sent
 up will be lost, of course they could be served out
 to the people as they are, but this was not the intention
 what is to be done?

All this disaffection has been increased
 by, and is the result of the late extraordinary Board
 Meeting, in saying this, I am not censuring the gentlemen
 who visited the Station, but those who called the Board
 into existence: Punch, Barak, Dunolly & Morgan are the
 leaders.

Reverend F.P. Strickland, manager of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station wrote to Captain Page, General Inspector of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, on 10 October 1881 stating that 'the men are in a state of revolt' and refusing to work. The government had recently established an Inquiry into the conditions and management at Coranderrk Station, and Page used this report to support his recommendation that Coranderrk be closed.

A
 The Hon. J. M. Grant
 Chief Secretary
 Dear Sir
 We informed
 you by these few lines
 that we don't want
 a Change Manager
 here only the one
 we ask for please.
 We also don't want
 the Central Boards,
 and the present Inspectors
 to be no longer over
 us. We are yours
 most obedient servants
 Wm Bacak X
 J. H. M. Mickle X
 Lantrey X
 Dick Richard X
 Lantrey Stanton X
from our

Wm Hamilton X
 J. H. Gilman X
 Jack Logan X
 Sam Rowan X
 Tom Spider X
 Alfred Morgan X
 Willie Parker X
 Wm D. D. D. D.
 Robt. Wapston
 Henry Karmong
 N. B. Briggs
 Mar. Tol. King
 Alfred Morgan
 Charles
 Dutch Parsons

 Please would you
 be kind enough
 to give us our
 wishes

This petition from Coranderrk residents to the Chief Secretary of the Victorian Government in February 1882 during the Coranderrk Inquiry, protests against their lack of control over the management of the Aboriginal station.

Coranderk Station

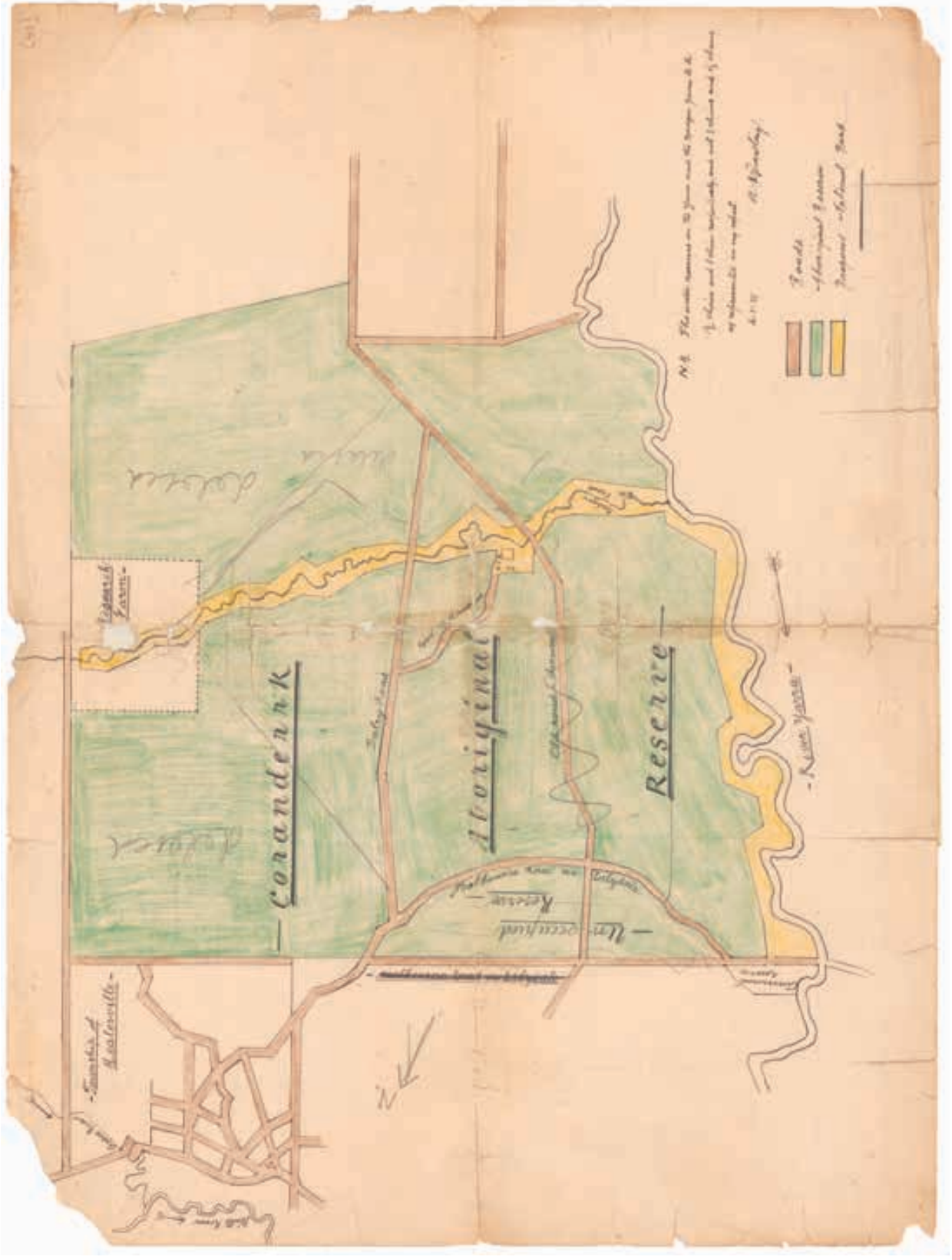
E 9263
21/9/86To
The Chief Secretary

We wish to pass this to act for our wishes that is,
 could we get our freedom to go away Shearing
 and Harvesting and to come home when we wish and
 also to go for the good of our Health when we need it,
 and we Aborigines all wish and hope to have freedom
 not to be bound down by the Resolution of the Board
 or as it says in the Bill, (Clause, 2) But we should be free
 like the White Population there is only few Blacks now
 remaining in Victoria, we are all dying away now and we
 possess of Aboriginal blood, wish to have new freedom
 for all our life time, for the Population is small and the increase
 is slow. For why does the Board exert in these latter days
 more stronger authority over us Aborigines than it has yet
 been. For there is only 24 Aborigines on this Station Coranderk
 including men and women. Yours Obedient Servants

Chief-William Barak x
 John, Logan x
 John, Lurich x
 Charles, Rable x
 Thomas, Branfield x
 Thomas, Gilman x

Thomas, Avoca x
 Dick, Richard x
 Lang, Martin x
 Lanty, Gilmore x
 Edward, McLennan x
 Thomas, McLennan x

Carnigan, John x
 Samuel, Howland x
 Mooney, Clark x



Map of Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve, 1925.
 NAA: B313, 222

Subdivision No 2

— Plan of Survey of —
LAKE TYERS ABORIGINAL STATION

MR FERGUSON'S
COPY

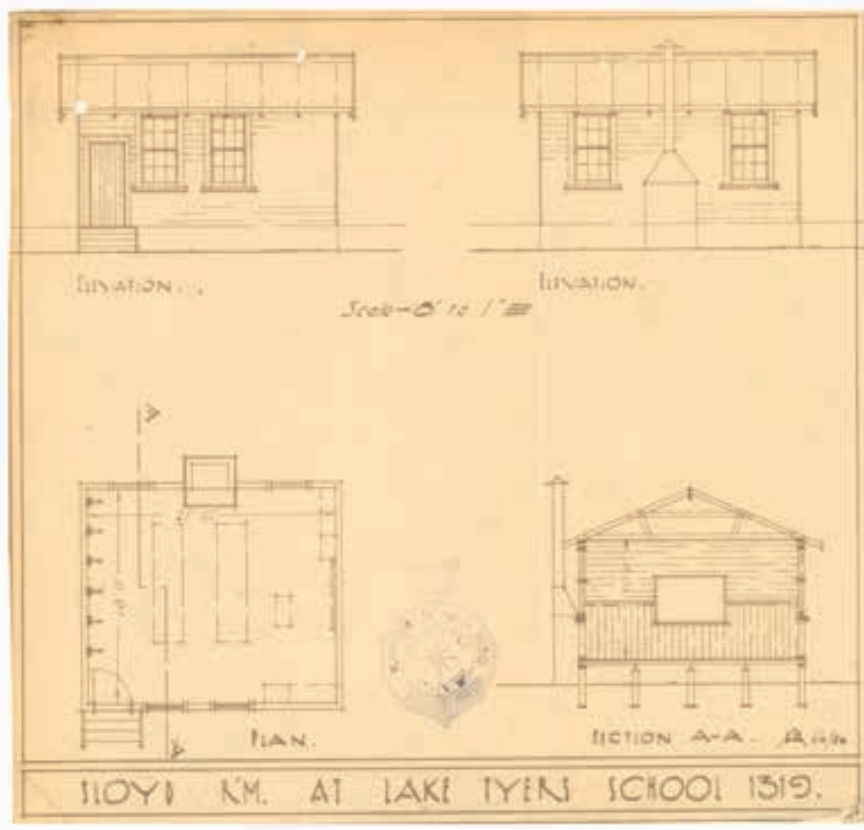
Parish of Colquhoun East - County of Tambo

Additional Allotments for Cottages

— Scale - 2 Chains to 1 Inch. —



Plan of survey of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station, 1922.
NAA: B356, 34



Senior pupils at the Lake Tyers School (date unknown).

For Schools in charge of Fifth or Sixth Class Teachers.

PUPILS' REGISTER.

STATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT *Antwerp*

No. *3104*

DIRECTIONS.

1. Col. 1.—*Register Number.*—The numbers are to be consecutive, commencing with No. 1.
If the columns are filled up before a child leaves the School, his name is to be re-entered and a new register number given as for a new pupil, but the former register number should be written underneath, thus, $\frac{99}{100}$. In no other case should a new register number be given. To facilitate reference, an index will be supplied to Town Schools.
2. Col. 2.—*Names.*
 - (1.) Enter the Names of the children in the order in which they are admitted to the School. Christian Names are to be in full and to be entered after the Surname.
 - (2.) Children's Names should be entered directly they are admitted into the School.
3. COLS. 3-5.—*Date of Birth.*
Enter day, month, and year of child's birth from Admission Form.
4. Col. 6.—*Date of Admission.*
Enter day, month, and year in the following manner:—
4/9/13 for 4th June, 1913.
27/1/14 for 27th January, 1914.
5. Col. 7.—*Name of Parent or Guardian.*
Col. 8.—*By Name of Parent or Guardian.*
Col. 9.—*Distance from School.*
Col. 10.—*Occupation of Parent or Guardian.*
 - (a) The required information must be entered at the time of the child's registration.
 - (b) Distances from school must be entered as along the nearest practicable road, and entered in miles and fractions of a mile, e.g., $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{4}$, and so on.
 - (c) Information for columns 11, 12, and 13 will be obtained from the Transfer Note.
6. COLS. 14 to 37.—*Grade into which admitted.*
 - (a) Complete headings of columns 14 and 15 by entering the number of the year in which the child whose name stands first on the page was admitted to the School. Each subsequent pair of columns is to be dated one year later than the preceding pair.
 - (b) When a child is admitted, enter the Grade in which he is placed in the column headed by the half-year during which he entered the School.
 - (c) Whenever a child is transferred from one Grade or Subdivision to another, enter the number of the Grade or Subdivision in the column headed by the half-year in which the transfer is made.
 - (d) Denote Grade in the following manner:—
P., Preparatory Grade, if no Subd. shown. If Subdivisions, Pa., Pb., An.
I., First Grade, if no Subdivisions. If Subdivisions, Ia., Ib., Ac.
II., Second Grade, if no Subdivisions. If Subdivisions, IIa., IIb., An.
And so on.
7. COLS. 38 to 61.—*Number of Meetings attended.*
 - (a) Complete headings as in columns 14 to 37.
 - (b) Immediately after the close of each half-year, enter the number of Meetings attended by each child during the half-year.
8. COLS. 62 to 64.—*Date of passing Qualifying Examination, and of obtaining Merit Certificate, and date of last attendance.*
Enter day, month, and year as in column 4.
9. Col. 65.—*Destination.*
Whenever possible, state if the pupil has gone to another School (with kind of School), or to work (with nature of work).
Give the name of the School, if known.

N.B.—The accurate keeping of this Register is strictly insisted on. If, therefore, Teachers have any difficulty in substantiating how to fill it up in any particular case should at once apply for further directions to the Inspector of the District, or to the Director. There are not to detain till the Inspector's visit, at which time the record must be complete.

By Authority

ARZANT J. HULLARD, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MISSOURI.

P. 600



Detail of a map from the Historic Plan Collection that was created as part of a survey of the Wimmera River. It shows the Aboriginal reserve at Ebenezer as well as the location of the nearby town of Dimboola.

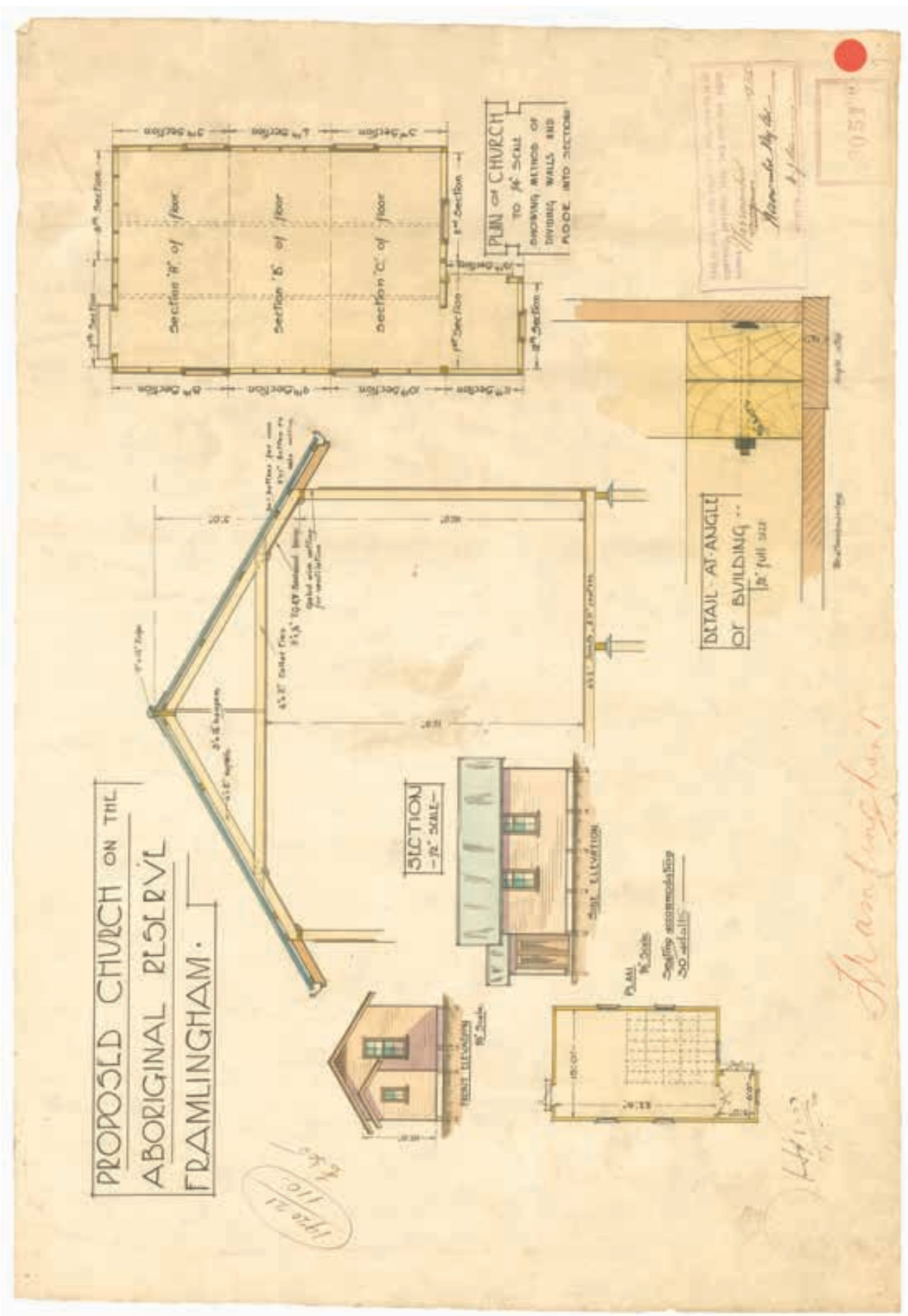
PROV, VPRS 8168/P1, Survey Wimmera River 31



Building constructed by the Public Works Department at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station (date unknown).
PROV, VPRS 10516/P1, Unit 2, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station



Building constructed by the Public Works Department at Framlingham Aboriginal Station (date unknown).
PROV, VPRS 10516/P1, Unit 2, Framlingham Aboriginal Settlement

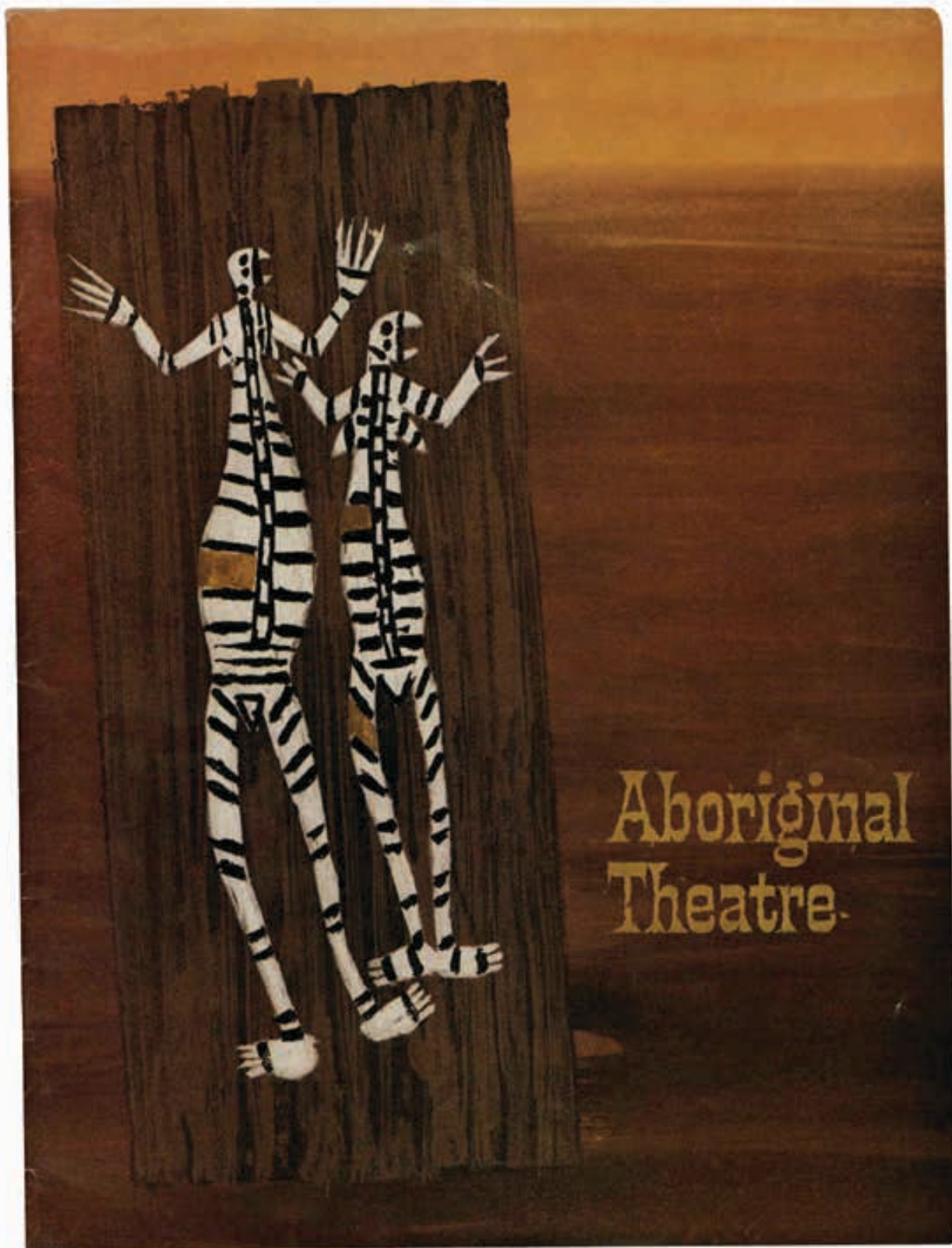


Proposed plan dating from 1920 for a church building at Framlingham Aboriginal Mission Station near Warrnambool in western Victoria. This building is still standing.



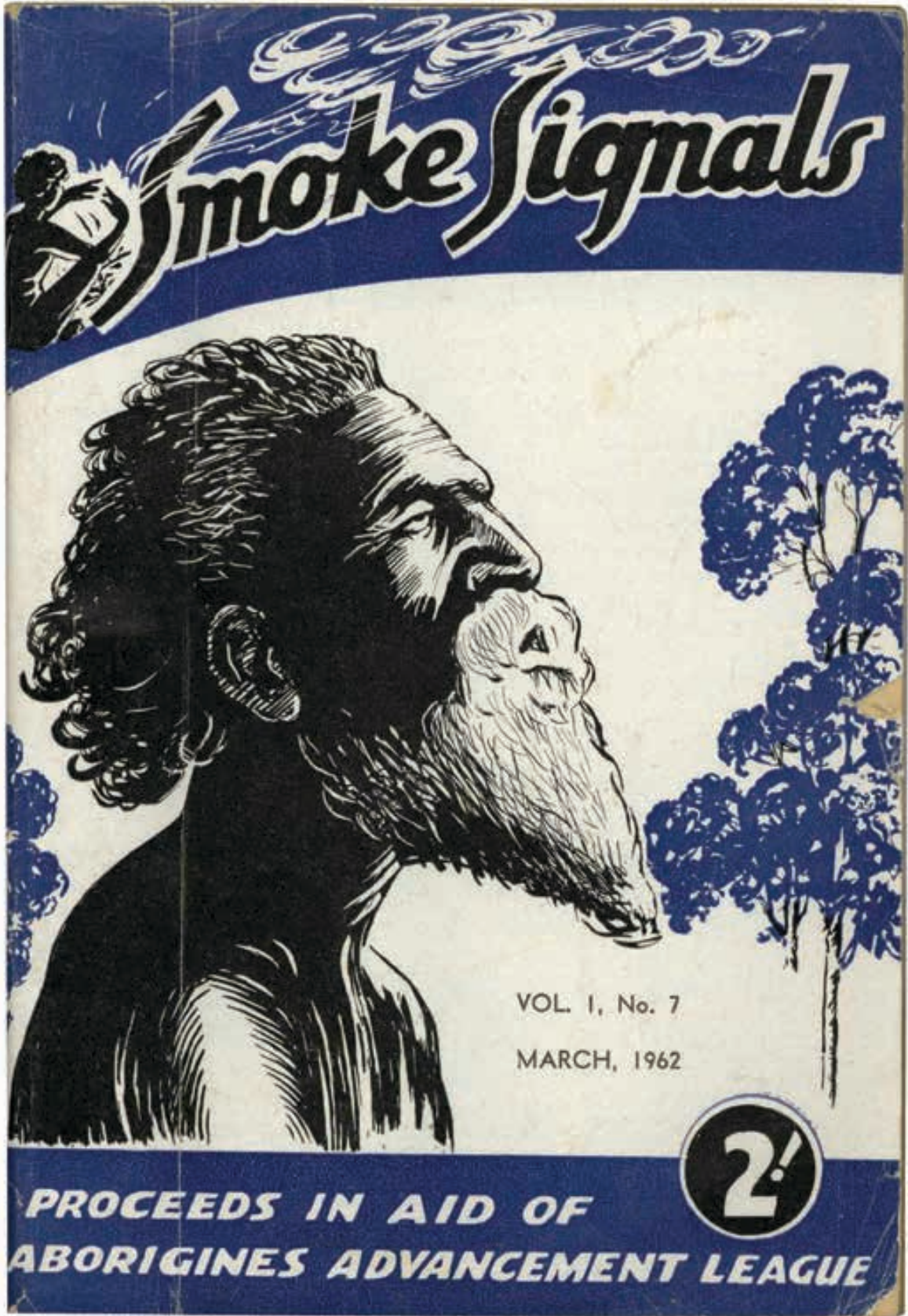
Plan of site, Framlingham Aboriginal Colony, 1938.

NAA: B357, 26



The original programme for Aboriginal Theatre presented by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust in association with the Welfare Branch, Northern Territory Administration and performed in Melbourne and Sydney during 1963. Members of the Aboriginal Theatre presented stories from Bathurst Island, Yirrakala and Daly River through music, dance and song.

NAA: B4697, 1



Cover of *Smoke Signals*, vol. 1, no. 7, March 1962, published on behalf of the Aborigines Advancement League.
NAA: B4697, 2

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ABORIGINES ADVANCEMENT LEAGUE

SMOKE SIGNALS

VOLUME 2, No. 4, AUGUST, 1963. PRICE TWO SHILLINGS



Registered in Australia for
transmission by post as a periodical.

Cover of *Smoke Signals*, vol. 2, no. 4, August 1963, published on behalf of the Aborigines Advancement League, featuring Kathleen Walker, Secretary of the Queensland Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

NAA: B4697, 2

Records in the National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia holds records that cover the period from 1860 to the present and document the history of the administration of Aboriginal people in Victoria.

The records were mainly created by a succession of agencies empowered by the Victorian colonial and state governments to administer the various Acts and regulations relating to Aboriginal people. Those records were subsequently transferred to Commonwealth control in 1975 by legislation, when the functions of the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs passed to the Commonwealth Government.

AGENCIES CREATING THE RECORDS

The key Victorian Government agencies that created the records relating to Victorian Aboriginal people in the pre-1975 period were:

- 1860–1869: Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (CA 2012)
- 1869–1957: Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (CA 2013)
- 1957–1968: Aborigines Welfare Board (CA 2014)
- 1968–1975: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (CA 2015)
- 1968–1975: Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council (CA 2016)
- 1866–1917: Framlingham Aboriginal Station (CA 3053)
- 1908–1971: Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station (CA 2791)
- 1955–1957: Board of Inquiry into the *Aborigines Act* of 1928 (also known as the McLean Inquiry) (CA 3333)
- 1930–1978: Victorian Aboriginal Group, Secretariat (CA 5971)

The key Commonwealth Government agency that created the records in the post-1975 period was:

- 1975–1990: Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Eastern Region (CA 2017)

List of National Archives of Australia records

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AGENCIES

On 21 May 1860 following a vote in the Legislative Assembly, the Governor of Victoria with the advice of the Executive Council appointed the following men: T.J. Sumner, Richard Heates, H. Langlands, H. Jennings, W. Macredie, T. Embling and S.G. Henty to act as members of the Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (CA 2012). In addition, a number of local committees were created and members appointed.

The Board met for the first time on 7 June 1860 and the Commission formally establishing the Central Board was issued by the Governor on 18 June 1860.

The functions of the Board set in the Governor's Commission were to:

- protect Aboriginal people residing in the Colony of Victoria;
- advise the government as to how much public funding was required each year for the benefit of Victoria's Aboriginal people;
- control the expenditure of these funds in the most efficient and economic manner;
- recommend the proclamation of reserves for Aboriginal purposes;
- supply rations, clothes, stock, implements or any other articles that might benefit the Aboriginal people; and
- recommend the appointment or removal of all agents, officers, or local committees in connection with the Central Board, and to direct and control the duties of all such persons so appointed or employed.

The Central Board was to report annually to the Governor of Victoria upon matters relating to the condition of the Aboriginal people, statistics, supplies and expenditure provided by local agents, committees and the Central Board itself.

Because distance militated against meetings of the local committees, they were soon abolished and honorary correspondents were appointed in those districts most frequented by Aboriginal people.

This Central Board was succeeded by the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (CA 2013), established under the *Aborigines Protection Act 1869*. The new Central Board consisted of the minister (that is, the Chief Secretary) together with most of the members of the previous Central Board.

The functions of the new Board, as stated in the Act, included:

- prescribing the place where any Aboriginal person or group of Aboriginal people would reside;
- ensuring the care, custody and education of the children of Aboriginal people; and
- deciding on how the earnings of Aboriginal people would be distributed, whether they were earnings made by an Aboriginal person under contract, or in the case of an Aboriginal person located on a reserve, the net produce of the labour of such Aboriginal people.

The functions of the Board were carried out in places of residence of Aboriginal people (known as stations). These included: Coranderrk, Lake Wellington, Lake Tyers, Lake Condah, Framlingham and Lake Hindmarsh. The functions of the Board were also undertaken through local committees or officers called Local Guardians of Aborigines.

During the 88 years of the Board's existence, modifications of its original duties were made to enhance its powers and to re-define the term 'half-caste'.

As a result of the McLean Report, in 1957 the Board was dissolved by the *Aborigines Welfare Act 1957*, which established a new statutory authority known as the Aborigines Welfare Board (CA 2014). The function of the new Board was 'to promote the moral, intellectual and physical welfare of aborigines (which term for the purposes of this Act includes not only full-blooded Aboriginal natives of Australia but also any person of Aboriginal descent) with a view to their assimilation into the general community' (*Aborigines Welfare Act*, Section 6).

In addition, the Board used funds for the 'relief of aborigines', provided or arranged for the supply of clothing, bedding, rations, medical attention, managed and regulated the use of Aboriginal reserves, acquired and sold or leased land and buildings to Aboriginal people, and exercised general supervision over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of Aboriginal people.

On 1 January 1968, the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs assumed all responsibilities of the Aborigines Welfare Board, with special emphasis on consultation with Aboriginal people regarding all aspects of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria. The function of the Ministry was to enable Aboriginal people to become independent by promoting their social and economic advancement. It worked directly with Aboriginal people in order to improve their living conditions, education, employment and health, and with the rest of the community to provide opportunities for progress.

The Victorian *Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967* also enabled a radical departure from the former policy of protection and welfare. In place of the provision of travel vouchers, material aid, sub-standard housing, food orders, second-hand furniture and blankets, the Ministry tried to create the concept of opportunity for responsible citizenship. Other goals of the Ministry were to ensure that Aboriginal people had the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as other citizens.

The Victorian *Aboriginal Lands Act 1970*, which became effective in 1971, transferred the ownership of two Aboriginal reserves to those Aboriginal people whose domicile entitled their names to be entered on the register of residents. These persons constituted bodies corporate, respectively known as the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust and the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust.

Moreover, from 1969 the Ministry made it possible for Aboriginal people to own their own homes, if they wished to do so, by way of a \$1,500 housing grant. As well as the provision of low-cost public housing through the Housing Commission of Victoria, the Ministry provided houses for rental.

The functions of policy, planning and coordination previously performed by the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs were transferred to the Commonwealth in 1975 where they were administered by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Eastern Region (CA 2017), which reported to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Central Office in Canberra.

RECORDS CREATED BY THE VICTORIAN CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AGENCIES

The following Victorian central administration agencies (listed sequentially) created the records:

- 1860–1869: Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (CA 2012)
- 1869–1957: Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (CA 2013)
- 1957–1968: Aborigines Welfare Board (CA 2014)
- 1968–1975: Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (CA 2015)

The records series listed below have been grouped under the following headings:

- Correspondence
- Correspondence: Minister's office
- Records about individuals
- Records of meetings
- Reports
- Records about specific stations
- Housing and property records
- Newspaper cuttings and related material
- Financial matters
- Miscellaneous material

Correspondence

Correspondence files (1859–1869)

B312

Quantity: 0.37m

The correspondence relates mainly to two stations: Acheron (Mohican) Station in the Upper Goulburn River district (1859–67); and Franklynford (Franklinford) Station, situated between Castlemaine and Ballarat (1864–1869). There are also population statistics from 1863, and some references to the 'new' Coranderrk Station in the Upper Yarra district.

Access a photocopy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Correspondence files (1861–1957)

B313

Quantity: 5.42m

This series comprises mainly correspondence and also copies of Acts relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs, regulations under those Acts, population statistics and maps. Subjects covered include life on the stations and reserves, prevention of access to stations without permit, expulsion from stations for serious misbehaviour, and correspondence from local guardians to the Board covering all aspects of administration.

Stations and reserves referred to are Framlingham (1875–1957), Lake Hindmarsh (Ebenezer) (1875–1900), Lake Condah (1867–1958), Lake Wellington (Ramahyuck) (1863–1906), Coranderrk (1870–1952), Colac (Elliminyt) (1896–1922) and Lake Tyers, as well as other areas for which guardians were appointed.

This series also includes correspondence from the Chief Secretary (1876–1905), Lands and Surveys (1861–1895), police (1876–1921), Railways (1876–1886), Public Service Board (1885–1886) and Census and Statistics (1879–1957). There are registers of inward correspondence that relate to this series for the period 1869–1877 (B328) and 1877–1958 (B2861).

See Public Record Office Victoria series VPRS 1694 for further correspondence files.

Access a photocopy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Registers of inward correspondence (1869–1877)

B328

Quantity: 0.3m

This series contains the register of inward correspondence for the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines. Only one volume is in the collection. Entries are made chronologically in a single number system, which starts again each financial year. The first entry in the volume is numbered 673 of 1876. Entries then continue chronologically to the end of the financial year, the last entry being numbered 119 on 30 March 1877.

The subject matter is of a routine nature, often requesting permission to order stores or forwarding monthly returns. Most of the correspondence is from one person: C. Ogilvie then H. Halliday.

For a later register see Public Record Office Victoria series VPRS 10768.

Letter books (1871–1922)**B329**

Quantity: 2.81m

This series comprises outward correspondence and a nominal index to outward correspondence. The outward letters detail many matters concerning the care, conduct, placement and habitation of Aboriginal people. There are letters listing supplies to be forwarded to stations, requests concerning crops or advice on posts for fencing, letters to the local guardians requesting comment on draft regulations, and related matters. The letters were written by the Secretary or the General Inspector of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines. Many of these letters were direct communications with Aboriginal individuals.

Volumes for the period 1872–1873, 1875–1880, 1883–1885 and 1897–1909 are missing.

Access a microfilm copy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Correspondence files relating to financial matters handled by the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (1876–1957)**B412**

Quantity: 0.18m

These files deal with financial matters, including the Aborigines' Board Produce Fund. The series includes balance sheets and auditors' reports of expenditure estimates.

Register of inwards correspondence relating to financial and other matters (1877–1958)**B2861**

Quantity: 0.52 metres

Two volumes containing written precis on inward correspondence relating to financial and other matters and remarks on any replies/action. Subjects covered in the entries include conduct of Aboriginal people at stations, religious instruction at Coranderrk, enlargement of area at Lake Hindmarsh, clothing for Aboriginal people, marriages, administration of stations and fishing regulations at Lake Tyers. There are also entries relating to payment of accounts and audit queries. There are no entries between May 1906 and March 1957.

The originals of much of the correspondence referred to can be found in B313 and B357.

Access a microfilm copy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Correspondence and other material relating to Aboriginal affairs (1945–1971)**B410**

Quantity: 0.27m (12 items)

This series consists of correspondence, reports, application for educational assistance and copies of legislation dating from after the creation of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

Correspondence files, (subject files), annual single number series with 'V' Victoria prefix (1957–1978)**B411**

Quantity: 49.50m

Subjects covered in this series include: Aboriginal organisations, accounts, alcoholism, artefacts, census, child care, community centres, evictions, housing, interpreters, land rights, legislation and office security as well as more specialised subjects.

Personnel files of staff employed with the Aborigines Welfare Board or Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and who did not continue to work with the Department are kept in files of this series. Files for people employed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs are not in National

Archives of Australia custody. There are nominal index cards (B1074), subject index cards (B1075) and registration and movement cards (B1076) for this series.

Correspondence files (1957–1968)**B357**

Quantity: 3.17m

Includes correspondence relating to subjects such as life on stations, welfare, policy, public protests, social workers, disposal of reserves, health, hostels, employment, holidays, housing and education.

Access a photocopy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Correspondence files relating to financial matters handled by the Aborigines Welfare Board (1957–1968)**B409**

Quantity: 0.9m

These files include records of donations, rent returns, debts, vouchers, requisites and children's savings accounts.

Collection of miscellaneous unregistered files (1969–1979)**B4523**

Quantity: 2.16m

This series contains a miscellaneous collection of correspondence files created by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (South Eastern Region, head office). Correspondence files relate to various Aboriginal organisations, including Victorian Aboriginal Services, Aboriginal Land Fund Commission and Lake Tyers; various locations in western Victoria, including Robinvale, Swan Hill, Mildura, Goulburn Valley, Horsham and Shepparton; various administrative files, including accounts outstanding, employment and revenue accounts; and some files relating to published material, including annual reports, press releases and newsletters.

Master set of copies of memoranda (1973–1974)**B4698**

Quantity: 0.18m

This series consists of staff memoranda produced by the agency, and covering subjects such as Aboriginal employment, staff meetings, whereabouts of missing persons, Aboriginal Study Grant Scheme, housing and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.

The memoranda often contain references to a file number in the Correspondence files series B411.

Correspondence: Minister's office**Ministerial correspondence (1960–1968)****B2017**

Quantity: 0.36m

The correspondence consists of copies of outward letters from successive Victorian ministers for Housing who were also responsible for the Aborigines Welfare Board. Also included are letters from outside groups, other state ministries and the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Subjects covered include housing, reorganisation of the Aborigines Welfare Board, the *Aborigines (Amendment) Act 1965*, policy of assimilation, report on the Framlingham Reserve, Lake Tyers Planning and Action Committee, legal aid, treatment by police, meetings and resolutions of the Aborigines Advancement League, resolutions and constitution of the United Council of Aboriginal Women, Aboriginal Education Incentive Scholarship Fund, establishment of an Aboriginal Education Centre at Swan Hill, 1965 Annual Report of the Victorian Aboriginal Group (amalgamated with the National Association for the

Advancement of the Native Race), submissions from the Federal Council for Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Methodist Commission on Aboriginal Affairs, Commonwealth policies for Aborigines as stated at the Commonwealth/State Aboriginal Welfare Conference 1967, appointments to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council and application for assistance from the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission.

Miscellaneous files of the Minister's office (1971–1975)
B5106

Quantity: 0.36m

The series consists of correspondence files of the Minister's office.

Records about individuals

Please note that the records listed below include some sensitive information about named individuals that will be withheld from general public access. Consult reference staff concerning access arrangements.

Aboriginal case files (circa 1893–1968)
B337

Quantity: 2.88m

The case files were created by the boards for each Aboriginal person with whom they had dealings. Much of the correspondence in this series relates to social welfare matters such as assistance in hospitalisation arrangements, payment of funeral expenses, requests for child endowment, invalid pensions, assistance in gaining employment and workers' compensation. Files often include information on family, neighbours and friends of the individual named in the title.

Name index cards to personal details of Aboriginal people (1960–1965)
B2016

Quantity: 2.34m

This series, arranged alphabetically, records the name, date and place of birth, parents' names, race, date and place of marriage, names of spouse and children.

Access a photocopy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Wages books of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station (1948–1970)
B2863

Quantity: 0.6m (2 items)

This series is arranged alphabetically by name and provides details of occupation, wages, contribution to hospital funds and fines.

Endowment account books (1959–1963)
B4699

Quantity: 0.54m

The series consists of three volumes containing the details of persons receiving endowment payments. A name index for the volume appears at the front of each volume. The entries for each person show the person's name as a heading at the top of the page, and give the date, credit, debit and balance. There are also some loose letters and summaries enclosed in each volume.

Medical treatment survey records (1968–1971)
B2056

Quantity: 0.18m

This series consists of Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs forms recording the medical treatment of individual Aboriginal people between 1968 and 1970. The forms have headings for recording the following: surname, Christian names, address, date of birth, place of birth, occupation, marital status, pension details, hospital benefits, doctor/clinic, hospital, VR No, dentist, date attended, chest x-ray, blood group, immunisation, previous illness.

Record of interviews with Aborigines, with index (1968)
B4696

Quantity: 0.18m

The series consists of two volumes recording interviews with Aboriginal people in the Gippsland area. An officer of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs presumably conducted the interviews. The interviews record details such as the interviewee's personality, outward appearance, occupation, illnesses, physical condition, contact with alcohol, convictions by the police and family situation.

'Developmental records' relating to the Aboriginal Pre-School Scheme (1972–1973)
B1083

Quantity: 0.18m

Questionnaire forms created in order to record the development of Aboriginal children who had received pre-school awards granted by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. Each questionnaire concerned one Aboriginal child and was filled out by the child's teacher. The 'developmental records' had spaces for comments under these main headings: 'areas of activity and interest', 'ability to concentrate on specific task', 'talks to staff', 'talks to other children', 'plays with other children', 'examples of sentence', 'joins in activity of', 'knows towel symbol', 'shows knowledge of numbers', 'can count from 1–5', 'motor and perceptual skills', 'express evidence of', 'record occasions of'.

Records of meetings

Agenda items for Board meetings (1860–1968)
B335

Quantity: 0.18m

The series comprises minutes and correspondence relating to meetings of the three successive boards. Contents cover such subjects as improvements to stations and reserves, statements of accountants, purchases of livestock, sites for reserves, assistance to Aboriginal people, education, Board elections, criticisms of policy and the 'Rehabilitation and Training Programme' at Lake Tyers.

Minutes of meetings, single number series (1860–1967)
B314

Quantity: 1.33m

This series records minutes of the three successive boards responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. Subjects covered include the locations and numbers of Aboriginal people, vaccinations, requisitions, Acheron Station, reports from managers of stations, transfers to Lake Tyers, closing of Coranderk Reserve and the Aborigines Advancement League. A subject and name index for the 1946–1960 period is held in B2012.

Access a microfilm copy of items 1–6, and photocopies of items 7–11 of this series at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Correspondence, agenda, transcriptions of proceedings and resolutions of Welfare Conferences (1937–1967)

B331

Quantity: 0.54m

The series comprises background papers, proceedings and decisions of meetings of Commonwealth and State authorities to discuss Aboriginal welfare and some related correspondence.

Reports

Annual reports (1861–1924)

B332

Quantity: 0.09m (4 items)

These reports to Parliament by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines cover conditions at various Aboriginal stations and reserves, details of distribution of stores, duties of local guardians and medical officers, and population statistics. Some reports are not extant, and some periods are not covered, as reports were not filed every year.

Royal Commission on the Aborigines – Report of the Commissioners (1877)

B353

Quantity: 1 item only

Bound volume containing the results of the inquiry and recommendations together with the minutes of evidence and appendices re correspondence, a list of members of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, census of Aboriginal people, a list of Aboriginal stations, reports of school inspectors, Acts and Regulations. Published in *Parliamentary Papers*.

Report of the Board of Inquiry – Coranderrk Aboriginal Station (1881–1882)

B352

Quantity: 1 item only

Contains minutes of evidence taken before the Board as well as recommendations and written reports.

Draft annual reports (1958–1967)

B2014

Quantity: 0.18m

The Aborigines Welfare Board was required to report its annual (financial year) activities in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the *Aborigines Act 1957*. The series contains typed draft copies of annual reports on which occasional corrections were made. There were also some extracts from minutes of meetings of the Aborigines Welfare Board attached which related to approval of the drafts. The finalised annual reports are contained in B2015.

Annual reports (1958–1967)

B2015

Quantity: 0.09m

These reports of the Aborigines Welfare Board cover topics such as board members, meetings, amending legislation, regulations, numbers and distribution of Aboriginal people in Victoria, housing, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station, staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Framlingham settlement, education, health, employment and the Gippsland settlement. The reports were presented to both Houses of the Victorian Parliament.

Progress reports (1967–1968)

B2019

Quantity: 0.18m

This series consists of copies of progress reports presented to the Council of Aboriginal Affairs (CA 1396) on the activities of the Aborigines Welfare Board from July to December 1967 and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs from January to June 1968. It has not been established whether there were progress reports in later years although the Board and then the Ministry did submit annual reports to the Victorian Parliament. The series covers such topics as policy changes, legislative changes, reserves, settlements, staffing, training, housing, health, education, employment, social services, community organisation, finance, public relations, social development and research.

Records about specific stations

Lake Tyers correspondence files (1863–1968)

B356

Quantity: 5.59m

This series consists of records relating to Lake Tyers Station, including the take-over from church authorities, appointments of station managers and other staff, provision of supplies, medical care, rations, wages, working hours, education, recreation, social services, benefits, managers' reports, complaints, inspections, permits and conduct reports, as well as general policy matters.

Access a photocopy of part of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

'Journal Coranderrk' – diary of Christian Ogilvie (1875–1877)

B2057

Quantity: 1 item only

This series consists of one 'Australian Exercise Book' used by Christian Ogilvie when he was sent to inspect Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. The diary describes the condition of the station, and the Aboriginal people residing there.

Access a microfilm copy of this record at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Clothing book, Lake Wellington (Ramahyuck) Station (1882–1907)

B1272

Quantity: 1 item only

Supplies such as flannel, serge, shirting, boots and towels are listed together with the signature or mark of recipients.

Clothing book, Lake Hindmarsh (Ebenezer) Station (1882–1903)

B2054

Quantity: 1 item only

Supplies such as flannel, serge, shirting, boots and towels are listed together with the signature or mark of recipients.

'Adventure Camp' Lake Tyers folder (1968–1969)

B1071

Quantity: 1 item only

Created in connection with a camp arranged at Lake Tyers in 1969, this series contains the following subject divisions: transport, accommodation, staff, circulars, equipment, campers, food. It also contains photocopies of maps of Lake Tyers, invitation lists and description of camp regulations, activities etc.

Housing and property records

Aboriginal housing, location, furniture and drainage drawings, maps and plans (1924–1967)

B334

Quantity: 0.03m

This series consists mainly of working drawings, as well as site and location plans, for Aboriginal housing in Victorian country areas. The series also contains a few maps dating back to 1924 showing land ownership. The drawings and plans are for timber and pre-cast concrete units of varying sizes located in towns such as Ararat, Healesville, Mooropna, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Bairnsdale, Traralgon, Morwell and Robinvale. Some are preliminary drawings and others depict proposed additions and alterations to the dwellings. The series also contains several drawings of drainage systems and some plans of furniture for the units.

Files of the Housing Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board (1937–1965)

B336

Quantity: 0.73m

The Housing Member of the Board was responsible for Aboriginal housing throughout Victoria, and liaised between the Board and the Housing Commission. The files are mainly correspondence, reports, estimates and minutes. They cover subjects such as individual cases, legislation and furniture.

Aboriginal housing history chart (1962–1963)

B2857

Quantity: 0.02m

Consists of a two-page housing history chart relating to the construction of houses for some Aboriginal people in Victorian country areas.

Property officers' files (1963–1968)

B358

Quantity: 0.19m

Includes reports on housing in the Goulburn Valley, Mallee, Wimmera, Gippsland and Healesville districts.

Photographs of architect's drawings for proposed improvements at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station (1970–1971)

B2007

Quantity: 0.18m

Consists of a Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs envelope containing photographs of an architect's sketches of proposed improvements at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station, which were completed just before the transfer of the title to the residents in 1971.

Newspaper cuttings and related material

Newspaper cuttings (1882–1884)

B2010

Quantity: 1 item only

The cuttings relate to meetings of the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, and to aspects of life on the Aboriginal stations.

Access a microfilm copy of these records at the Victorian Archives Centre reading room.

Booklets, programs, postcards, newspaper clippings and magazines relating to Aboriginal matters (1957–1970)

B4697

Quantity: 0.18m

The material comes from a variety of sources including the Minister for Territories, Australian Presbyterian missions, the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Aborigines Advancement League. The items include programs for Aboriginal theatre productions, invitations to exhibitions of Aboriginal art, newspaper cuttings relating to Aboriginal cultural activities, handwritten notes taken from a book on Aboriginal customs, postcards of Aboriginal people and editions of the magazine *Smoke Signals*.

Press cuttings (1959–1982)

B3168

Quantity: 8.64m

This series consists of press cuttings relating to Aboriginal matters maintained by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (South Eastern Region, head office) and its predecessor, the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. The cuttings are arranged alphabetically under primary and secondary subject headings. This series, together with the other press cuttings series such as that kept by the Victorian Aboriginal Group between 1930 and 1972 (B2292), constitute a survey of public attitudes to Aboriginal people over a number of decades.

Books of press cuttings (1964–1971)

B4088

Quantity: 0.90m

This series consists of six books of press cuttings relating to Aboriginal matters, arranged chronologically. Two of the books have 'MAA Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Morwell' which may indicate that an office in Morwell created the books.

The press cuttings are taken from various publications. Subjects covered in the cuttings include: sporting achievements (i.e. Lionel Rose, Tony Mundine, Evonne Goolagong), cartoons, entertainment, the arts, models, tribal laws, land rights, Lake Tyers, housing, Rolf Harris, customs etc.

Folder of press cuttings (1974)

B4089

Quantity: 1 item only

This series consists of a manila folder of press cuttings, dating from September to December 1974, relating to Aboriginal matters. The press cuttings are taken from Melbourne's *The Age*, *The Sun*, *The Australian*, and *Woman's Day*. Subjects covered in the cuttings include: laws affecting Aboriginal people, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Charles Perkins, Truganini, cartoons, health, standard of living, funding of Aboriginal projects, political issues, housing and customs.

Financial matters

Registers for expenditure and provisions at Aboriginal stations (1877–1970)

B2862

Quantity: 0.09m (7 items)

The first part of these volumes consists of information regarding payments to Aboriginal people. Entries in the volume list the date, the person's name, account number, location and amount. The second part of these volumes is arranged chronologically by the date the account is presented for payment to the Treasury and gives the person's name, the station in which they resided, account number, date of account and amount. In a separate section of each volume there is an itemised list of expenditure for each station, the name of which appears at the top of the appropriate page.

Aborigines Produce Fund/(from 1957) Aborigines Welfare Fund advance accounts book (1921–1965)

B2011

Quantity: 1 item only

The Aborigines Produce Fund was a trust fund maintained by the Victorian Treasury into which receipts from sale of timber and produce, leasing of reserves, etc. were paid. The series consists of a ledger indicating reimbursement vouchers and wages paid to various people, including Aboriginal people.

Aborigines Produce Fund/(from 1957) Aborigines Welfare Fund Collectors cash books (1921–1968)

B2058

Quantity: 0.09m (2 items)

The Aborigines Produce Fund was a trust fund maintained by the Victorian Treasury into which receipts from the sale of timber and produce, leasing of reserves and so on were paid.

Cash payments journal (1930–1965)

B2864

Quantity: 0.47m (7 items)

Bound volumes provide information on 'date', 'payee', 'station', 'service', 'order number', 'itemising of expenditure', and 'total amount spent'.

Ledger (accounts books) (1934–1968)

B2860

Quantity: 1 item only

Entries appear under the following headings: Lake Condah, Coranderrk, depots, Framlingham, stations and depots closed, Lake Tyers, general accounts.

Ledger book (1962–1964)

B4208

Quantity: 1 item only

The entries are listed under various localities or under subject headings such as: direct relief, staff travel, car fleet, staff salaries.

Records of payment cards (1962–1973)

B4700

Quantity: 0.18m

These cards record payments by the Aborigines Welfare Board to institutions and individuals.

Creditors' cards (1962–1967)

B2018

Quantity: 0.18m

These cards record payments made to various persons and organisations for goods or services provided to the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Miscellaneous material

Staff field work reports (1960–1968)

B2009

Quantity: 0.5m

Provides details of work undertaken by individual staff members and mentions the Aboriginal people and localities visited with relevant comments. There is a file for each officer.

Appointment books of the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare (1957–1967)

B2013

Quantity: 0.18m

These contain notes concerning appointments, invitations and correspondence of P.E. Felton. Some loose papers are also included.

Appointment books of the Director of Aboriginal Affairs (1968–1974)

B2020

Quantity: 0.18m

The volumes contain notes relating to appointments, invitations, itineraries and correspondence.

Victorian Public Service Notices (1966–1967)

MP1738/1

Quantity: 0.18m

Victorian Public Service Notices was a publication issued weekly for the general information of officers and employees in the Victorian Public Service and to convey advice and instructions of a general nature to the various departments. This series comprises notices dating from September 1966 to December 1967. There are some gaps in the series.

OTHER AGENCIES

**Framlingham Aboriginal Station
(1866–1917)**

CA 3053

The managers of the Framlingham Aboriginal Station sent frequent reports to the Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines (and its successors) describing the condition of those Aboriginal people under their protection and submitting estimates and orders for stores and other requirements.

The station was closed in 1917. After 1917 the Board appointed the constable in charge of the Warrnambool South Police Station as local guardian of the Aboriginal people at Framlingham. The successive constables reported to the Board on conditions at Framlingham.

In July 1971 the freehold title of the Framlingham Aboriginal Station (some 488 acres) was transferred to the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust of residents.

**'Letter book' (1882–1889)
B330**

Quantity: 0.27m

This letter book contains the handwritten copies of outward letters from the manager of the Aboriginal station at Framlingham (Purnim) asking for supplies. Most were to the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (CA 2013), with some sent directly to suppliers.

**Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station
(1908–1971)**

CA 2791

The Aboriginal reserve at Lake Tyers was originally established as an Anglican mission in 1862 with financial assistance from the government of the Colony of Victoria. It was taken over by the State of Victoria in 1908 and administered successively by the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines (CA 2013), the Aborigines Welfare Board (CA 2014) and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (CA 2015).

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs ceased to be responsible for administering Lake Tyers from 1 July 1971 when the freehold title to the land was transferred to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, comprising the residents.

**Lake Tyers managers' files on administrative matters and records of personal details of the Aboriginal residents (1879–1969)
B354**

Quantity: 1.09m

Records relate to the management of the station and cover issues such as the store and health centre, financial affairs of residents, birth, death, marriage certificates, permits to stay on the station and records of offences, all compiled by the station manager.

**Name index books of Lake Tyers' residents
(1890–1957)
B2025**

Quantity: 0.36m

Books record residents alphabetically by surname with details of place and date of birth; race; spouse and parents; sex; date, place and cause of death; age at death; circumstances of settling at or leaving Lake Tyers. Occasionally tribal origin is also mentioned.

**Clothing book (1908–1959)
B2022**

Quantity: 0.45m

This volume records date of issue, the recipient's name and the number of clothing items of each type issued at Lake Tyers.

**Copies of population statistics of Lake Tyers' residents
(1922–1964)
B2023**

Quantity: 0.09m

This series contains lists recording age, sex, race, and other remarks (whether still resident at the station, behaviour, marital status and spouse). Also included are lists of manpower, sick lists, lists of births, deaths and marriages, household lists, family lists and lists of adults, school children and pre-school children.

**Rolls of work attendance ('time books') and list of family members (alphabetical series) (1933–1965)
B2024**

Quantity: 0.60m

Pages of rolls of work attendance are divided into columns with headings for: name, the days of the month from 1st to 31st, under which hours worked are noted, total hours, rate per hour, and total earnings. A few pages at the end of the first volume have been used to list family groups, dates and places of birth and comments on some individuals.

**Lake Tyers manager's general correspondence
(miscellaneous correspondence) (1950–1967)
B355**

Quantity: 1 item only

This series consist of a file containing correspondence between the manager of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station and the Aborigines Welfare Board, as well as private persons and organisations, covering subjects such as holidays at Lake Tyers, provision of clothing, Victorian Teachers Union educational survey, the Aborigines Advancement League, expulsions from the station and mothercraft classes.

**Name index book of Lake Tyers residents' families (1956)
B2026**

Quantity: 1 item only

An incomplete list of residents (Alberts to Harrison), recording year of birth, race, sex, spouse, names of children and their birth dates.

**Record of debtors (1956–1960)
B2059**

Quantity: 1 item only

A record of sundry debtors at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station, each page is dated and lists the names of debtors, the amounts owed, remarks concerning the reason for the debt and dates of payment.

**Visitors book (1960–1967)
B2027**

Quantity: 1 item only

Visitors book for Lake Tyers Station, providing details of date of visit, visitor's name, visitor's address, and comments.

Clothing book of Lake Tyers and name index of Lake Tyers' Aboriginal residents issued with clothing (1960–1964)
B1273

Quantity: 1 item only

The first section of this volume lists the names of Aboriginal people living at Lake Tyers in alphabetical order. A page is allotted to each person and shows that person's birth date, sex and the size of clothing or shoes. The entries show the items of clothing issued at certain dates. The bottom of the page records the number of people in the person's family and the number of their place of residence, which presumably referred to their house number at Lake Tyers.

The second section is arranged by subject matter, consisting of clothing items, sundries, register of births. The last page is used as a name index to those receiving clothing. There are also many loose items attached within this part of the volume, such as notes, lists of clothing and proposed rations of clothing per person.

Manager's diaries and stock record (1962–1967)
B2055

Quantity: 0.09m

Entries for each day consist of a few sentences depicting important events of the day, such as departures from and arrivals at the station, deaths, health checks, excursions, payment of wages, births, visitors, disturbances and other aspects of life at the station. The diary for 1966 is not extant.

Victorian Aboriginal Group Secretariat (1930–1978) **CA 5971**

The Victorian Aboriginal Group Secretariat was a non-government organisation established to 'study the conditions of the Aborigines throughout Australia, to promote their welfare and to help form a public conscience in favour of just and enlightened treatment of the people under our charge' (from the ninth Annual Report of the Victorian Aboriginal Group, 1938).

Press cuttings (1926–1972)
B2292

Quantity: 10.9m

Cuttings cover such topics as missionary activities, Aboriginal welfare, Donald MacKay's expeditions, Aborigines Advancement League, artefacts, Albert Namatjira, Rev. John Bulmer, Aboriginal health issues and court cases. Early items also contain some correspondence from Aboriginal mission stations and the Australian Student Christian Movement re cuttings. There is a name/subject index book to the press cuttings (B2293) dating from 1933 to 1938.

Board of Inquiry into the Aborigines Act 1928 (also known as the McLean Inquiry) (1955–1957) **CA 3333**

Charles McLean was appointed by order of the Victorian Governor in Council on 20 December 1955 to inquire into and report upon the operation of the *Aborigines Act 1928*. He was to establish the number, distribution and living conditions of Aboriginal people living in Victoria, report on the capacity of the Aboriginal people to maintain themselves and whether there were any factors that would prevent their assimilation into the general community. McLean also investigated whether the Aboriginal station at Lake Tyers should be retained and the system of administration maintained for the Aboriginal people.

He presented his report to the Governor on 18 January 1957. This resulted in the creation of the Aborigines Welfare Board which replaced the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines.

Records relating to the McLean Inquiry (1954–1957)
B408

Quantity: 0.18m (11 items)

The material includes details of research into Aboriginal stations; interviews with Aboriginal people, police, shire councillors and welfare workers; information from officers of the Housing Commission, Education Department and Commonwealth Employment Service. Correspondence with the Board and other state authorities and the final report is also included.

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council (1968–1975) **CA 2016**

Established under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Affairs Act* in 1968, the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council had the following functions:

- to advise the minister on matters relating to the interests and advancement of Aborigines;
- to report on any matter of a like nature referred to it by the minister; and
- to consult, for the purpose, with Aboriginal people, other departments and organisations.

The Council consisted of the Director of Aboriginal Affairs acting as a chairman and twelve other members appointed by the minister.

Minutes of meetings (1968–1974)
B2028

Quantity: 0.18m

The series contains typed minutes of meetings of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council. The minutes cover such topics as election of Aboriginal members to the Council, educational assistance, home ownership, alcoholism, Commonwealth Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme, ownership of reserves, correspondence received, health, racial discrimination in Victoria, Aborigines Advancement League, land rights, Council for Aboriginal Affairs, rents and evictions, National Aboriginal Consultative Council and archaeological remains. The volume also contains copies of letters from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to the Chairman of the Council.

Record of attendance and matters raised and referred (1968–1974)
B2030

Quantity: 0.18m

This series lists the names of members and their agency with a tick next to those in attendance at a particular meeting and a cross against those who were not. The 'Matters raised' section lists the 'item' (i.e. matter raised), 'initiated by council' (i.e. date), 'referred by Minister' (i.e. date, if applicable), 'Action' and 'File No.'. The file numbers referred to are from the series B411 Correspondence files ('subject files').

**Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South
Eastern Region (1975–1990) CA 2017**

The functions of policy, planning and coordination previously performed by the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs were transferred to the Commonwealth in 1975 where they were administered by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Eastern Region (CA 2017), which reported to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Central Office in Canberra. The Department was abolished on 5 March 1990 with its functions passing to the newly created Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In Victoria, the Commission's functions were carried out by the State Office, Victoria–Tasmania (CA 7416).

Some series that were inherited from the Victorian State Government administration were maintained (i.e. new files were added to the series) by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Eastern Region. As these have been listed above, they have not been repeated in detail below:

- 1957–1978: Correspondence files ('subject files') (B411)
- 1959–1982: Press cuttings (B3168)
- 1969–1979: Collection of miscellaneous unregistered files (B4523)

The series listed below were created after 1975.

**Correspondence and operations files (1978–1990)
B4050**

Quantity: 33.84m (Melbourne); 1.26m (Sydney)

In 1978 the agency began a new correspondence series, continuing the administrative and functional subjects covered in the previous series (B411). These files record the functions and day-to-day activities of Aboriginal cooperatives. There are subject index cards (B4051), nominal index cards (B4052), a registration book (B4057) and incoming correspondence registration cards (B4058) for this series.

**Grants files (1978–1990)
B4054**

Quantity: 31.32m (Melbourne); 0.18m (Sydney)

Grants files document the authorisation of funds from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to various projects initiated and administered by Aboriginal cooperatives and organisations. There are name index cards (B4056), incoming correspondence registration cards (B4058), registration and movement cards (B4055) and a registration book (B4057) for the Grants files.

**Correspondence files with LC [Loans Commission]
prefix (1975–1981)
B4512**

Quantity: 0.36m

This series consists of files created by the Melbourne office of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in its capacity as agent for the Aboriginal Loans Commission, which was based in Canberra. Most files deal with applications for funds under the schemes administered by the Commission. A report, including recommendations on each eligible application, would then be forwarded to the Commission in Canberra for decision. Other files record statistics, etc.

**Ministerial submissions ('DAA submissions') files
(1977–1990)
B1078**

Quantity: 0.36m

This series contains submissions from the agency to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. The central office of the department allocated a block of numbers (1982–1999) to the agency for registering such files.

Public Record Office Victoria publications and resources

BOOKS

Footprints: The Journey of Lucy and Percy Pepper, National Archives of Australia and Public Record Office Victoria, 2008; e-book edition, Public Record Office Victoria, 2012.

Developed in consultation with the Pepper family of Victoria, this book tells the story of the family's struggle to stay together, at a time when laws and government policy defined who was 'Aboriginal' and who was not.

Published as an e-book in 2012, which is available from the Public Record Office Victoria website. A travelling exhibition to accompany this publication was also developed by Public Record Office Victoria in 2011.

Private Lives, Public Records: Family History Resources at Public Record Office Victoria, by Bronwyn Fensham, Barbara Wels and Kasia Zygmuntowicz, Public Record Office Victoria, 2003.

An introduction and resource book for family historians and others interested in tracing the stories of individuals through Victoria's government records. It combines research tips, an overview of Public Record Office Victoria's collection and many suggestions about how and where to find information.

Ten Victorian Women, Public Record Office Victoria, 1999.

Explores Public Record Office Victoria's records to reconstruct the lives of ordinary and not-so-ordinary Victorians. Includes a chapter on Anne Fraser Bon, philanthropist and lobbyist for Aboriginal rights during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

RESEARCH GUIDES

Finding Your Story: A Resource Manual to the Records of the Stolen Generations in Victoria, Public Record Office Victoria, 2005.

A reference tool for Aboriginal Victorians seeking information on their separation from family and culture. Includes information about records and how to access them, as well as support services. Available for free download online at www.prov.vic.gov.au.

Lands Guide: A Guide to Finding Records of Crown Land at Public Record Office Victoria, by Philipa Nelson and Lesley Alves, Public Record Office Victoria, 2009.

A comprehensive reference for accessing records relating to Crown land in the State of Victoria. It caters to a wide range of research interests, whether you want to find out about the lives of your ancestors or information about the history of land in a particular location. Available in hard copy and digital formats at www.prov.vic.gov.au.

Koorie Index of Names

An ongoing project to index names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who appear in Public Record Office Victoria's records about Aboriginal people. The index is available to search in all Public Record Office Victoria reading rooms.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Public Record Office Victoria's website – www.prov.vic.gov.au

The Public Record Office Victoria website contains information and resources to help with researching and accessing records in its collection. From the home page, select the 'Start your research' tab and then click on 'Aboriginal Victorians'. A general search of the website will also reveal much information about Aboriginal records.

Public Record Office Victoria's catalogue

Public Record Office Victoria's catalogue can be searched online, and at the reading rooms at the Victorian Archives Centre and Ballarat Archives Centre. Researchers can search and order records online for viewing at Public Record Office Victoria reading rooms.

PROVguides, research pathways, and 'how to' guides

PROVguides, Research Pathways and 'how to' guides will help you with all aspects of Public Record Office Victoria's collection. They are available online or in hard copy at Public Record Office Victoria's reading rooms. Topics include:

PROVguide 65: Aboriginal Records at PROV

PROVguide 67: Koorie Index of Names Project

HowTo guide 67: Koorie Index of Names

Research Pathway: Koorie People and Places

Koorie Records Unit newsletter

A regular online newsletter containing information about the activities of the Koorie Records Unit at Public Record Office Victoria.

Provenance

A number of articles on Aboriginal history have been published in Public Record Office Victoria's annual refereed online journal, *Provenance*. They can be found on the Public Record Office Victoria website.

Appendix 2

National Archives of Australia publications and resources

BOOKS

Between Two Worlds: The Commonwealth Government and the Removal of Aboriginal Children of Part Descent in the Northern Territory, by Rowena MacDonald, IAD Press and Australian Archives, Alice Springs, NT, 1995.

Based on a long-running exhibition, this book examines the separation of Aboriginal children of part descent from their families and their placement into two Northern Territory 'half-caste' institutions run by the Australian Government. It includes oral histories, documents and photographs and shows what happened to the children.

Family Journeys: Stories in the National Archives of Australia, National Archives of Australia, 2008.

One of the stories in this collection of family histories focuses on the Cubillo family of the Northern Territory. Antonio Cubillo migrated from the Philippines and married Lily of the Larrakia people. It is illustrated with various archival records.

Footprints: The Journey of Lucy and Percy Pepper, National Archives of Australia and Public Record Office Victoria, 2008; e-book edition, Public Record Office Victoria, 2012.

Developed in consultation with the Pepper family of Victoria, this book tells the story of the family's struggle to stay together, at a time when laws and government policy defined who was 'Aboriginal' and who was not.

RESEARCH GUIDES

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: The Royal Commission and Its Records, 1987–91, by Peter Nagle and Richard Summerrell, National Archives of Australia, 1996 (revised 1998).

A comprehensive listing of the records of the 1987 Royal Commission examining deaths of Aboriginal people while in custody. Available online for free download at www.naa.gov.au.

Commonwealth Government Records about the Northern Territory, by Ted Ling, National Archives of Australia, 2011.

One hundred and fifty years of Northern Territory history are recounted in this guide, which lists numerous archival records in the National Archives of Australia and the Northern Territory Archives Service. Chapter 8 deals specifically with Aboriginal people. Available online for free download at www.naa.gov.au.

Finding Families: A Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists, compiled by Margaret Chambers, National Archives of Australia, 1998.

A comprehensive guide to finding records related to family history in the National Archives. Chapter 3 deals specifically with records on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Tracking Family: A Guide to Aboriginal Records Relating to the Northern Territory, National Archives of Australia, 2006.

A guide to help Indigenous people of the Northern Territory find records in various government agencies, church archives and libraries. Includes a list of all Northern Territory church-run missions and homes where Aboriginal children were placed. Available online for free download at www.naa.gov.au.

Bringing Them Home name index

This index includes names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who appear in Commonwealth Government files. Staff at the National Archives of Australia can search the index for particular names. Staff can also search a list of World War I Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen.

ONLINE RESOURCES

National Archives of Australia website – www.naa.gov.au

A wealth of information can be found on the National Archives of Australia's website. For information about Indigenous records held in the National Archives of Australia, undertake a website search on 'A–Z for researchers' and then search for 'Indigenous Australians'.

RecordSearch

The main database of the National Archives of Australia, RecordSearch, can be searched online, and at the National Archives of Australia offices in all capital cities. It provides access to millions of records in the collection.

Fact sheets

Fact sheets are available online or in hard copy in National Archives of Australia reading rooms. They list records on specific topics, for example:

- 108 Pastoral industry in the Northern Territory
- 112 The Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody
- 113 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- 114 Memorandum of Understanding with NT Aboriginal people
- 129 British nuclear tests at Maralinga
- 145 Albert Namatjira
- 150 The 1967 Referendum
- 175 Bringing Them Home name index
- 205 Memorandum of Understanding with Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
- 209 Memorandum of Understanding with South Australian Indigenous people
- 224 The Wave Hill walk-off
- 225 Charles Nelson Perkins

For further Fact Sheets, see the National Archives of Australia website.

Your Memento – www.yourmemento.naa.gov.au

A number of articles on Aboriginal history have been published in the National Archives of Australia's quarterly e-magazine, *Your Memento* (previously called *Memento*).

Uncommon Lives – www.uncommonlives.naa.gov.au

This website features biographies of remarkable Australians. See the story of Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda, a Yolngu elder, who was the first Aboriginal person involved in a High Court case.

Vrroom – www.vrroom.naa.gov.au

This website offers easy access to archival records for teachers and students. A keyword search on 'Indigenous' will find a wealth of material.

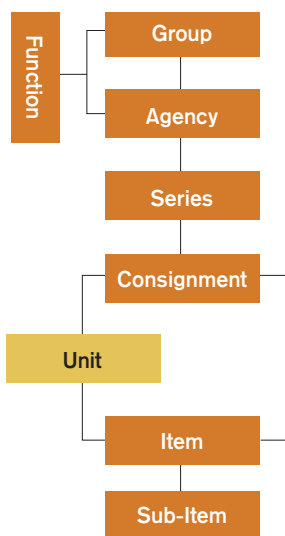
Understanding the Public Record Office Victoria archival system

Public Record Office Victoria's Archival Control Model consists of hierarchically related components of information: Functions, Groups, Agencies, Series, Consignments, Units and Items. These components enable records to be located and ordered, as well as assisting in your research by putting the records in context.

Each record series is a grouping of records relating to a particular government function or activity. A series may consist of one or more consignments, which are created whenever a portion of a series (for example, an annual register) is transferred to Public Record Office Victoria. Consignments may contain one or more units in the form of boxes, volumes, bundles, films, and so on. The item number is a number allocated to a particular record by the agency that created it. The records from a single series may occupy several kilometres of shelving, so without the correct series, consignment and unit numbers it would be impossible to locate the desired record item.

Physical Items and Units can be ordered for viewing in any Public Record Office Victoria reading room. Digital Items can be viewed online.

The diagram shows the various components of the system, which are explained in more detail in the text below.



- Applicable to both physical and digital records
- Applicable to physical records only

Diagram of archival control system used by Public Record Office Victoria. For further information see PROVguide 66: Records Information – PROV's Archival Control Model.

Victorian Agency (VA)

An Agency is a body that has or has had responsibility for at least one aspect of government business and has therefore created and maintained public records. Because each agency has an independent record-keeping system, the agency name (for example, VA 512 Chief Protector of Aborigines) can be helpful in locating and understanding the organisation of specific records after they are archived.

Victorian Function (VF)

Functions describe the role and administrative activities of government. This may be a specific activity (for example, VF 175 Aboriginal Affairs) or a number of related activities (for example, VF 19 Education). Functions thus give you the context in which records were created, and allow you to track records associated with a particular function, even if the function itself moves to another agency or group.

Victorian Record Group (VRG)

A Record Group brings together agencies that have created records documenting similar functions. They may be agencies that:

- are part of the same ministerial portfolio (for example, VRG 18 Lands); or
- have a common function (for example, VRG 24 Educational Institutions); or
- comprise a sector of government (for example, VRG 4 Courts).

Victorian Public Record Series (VPRS)

A Record Series is a group of records that are recorded or maintained by the same agency (or agencies) and which:

- are in the same numerical, alphabetical, chronological or other identifiable sequence; or
- result from the same accumulation or filing process, perform the same function, or are of similar physical shape or information content.

An example is VPRS 11 Unregistered inward correspondence to the Chief Protector of Aborigines – reports and returns (1847–1851).

Consignment

A Consignment consists of record items belonging to a single record series (VPRS) which has been transferred to the custody of Public Record Office Victoria as part of one accession. A consignment may comprise the whole or only a part of a series.

Unit

A storage 'unit' is used by Public Record Office Victoria to store records and to provide physical control over them. A unit may be, for example, a box, bundle, plan press drawer or tube containing individual record items (see below) or it may be a single volume. The unit number directs staff to the relevant physical location within a Public Record Office Victoria repository.

Item

A record 'item' is a single record-keeping item existing as one discrete entity. An item could be, for example, a group of folios fastened together to form a file, a single volume, a card, map, photograph, film, sound recording or computer tape. Within a series there may be only one record item, or there may be several thousand – or more. The identifier for an item may be a file number, perhaps incorporating a date and name.

Appendix 4

Understanding the National Archives of Australia archival system

Records in the National Archives of Australia are described using the Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System, which is based on four elements: organisations, agencies and persons, series, and items. Organisations (for example, a whole government) are made up of agencies; agencies (for example, government departments) create series (groups of related records), which are made up of items (individual records, such as files or maps). These elements are allocated numbers and described in RecordSearch, the National Archives of Australia's online catalogue.

The four primary elements of the CRS System—organisations, agencies and persons, series, and items – are described in more detail below:

Organisations

An organisation is a whole government, learned society, church or company that is independent or broadly autonomous. The National Archives of Australia registers organisations with a CO (Commonwealth Organisation) number, for example:

CO 1, Commonwealth of Australia, 1901–ongoing

CO 6, Colony of Victoria, 1851–1901

Knowledge of the 'parent' organisation provides you with the broad administrative context in which records are created.

Agencies

Agencies are distinct and recognisable bodies that have responsibility for carrying out administrative functions. They create records to document those functions. Agencies can be head, state or local offices of Commonwealth Government departments, statutory authorities, courts or tribunals. The National Archives of Australia registers agencies with a CA (Commonwealth Agency) number, for example:

CA 2012, Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines, 1860–1869

The information gathered about agencies describes the administrative context in which the agency created its records and provides clues as to what the records produced by each agency might be about.

Series

Agencies and persons create records in series. A series is a group of records that has resulted from the same accumulation or filing process (with the same numerical, alphabetical, chronological or other identifiable sequence) or which has a similar format or information content. A series can be a single item or many items. The National Archives of Australia identifies series with a series number, for example:

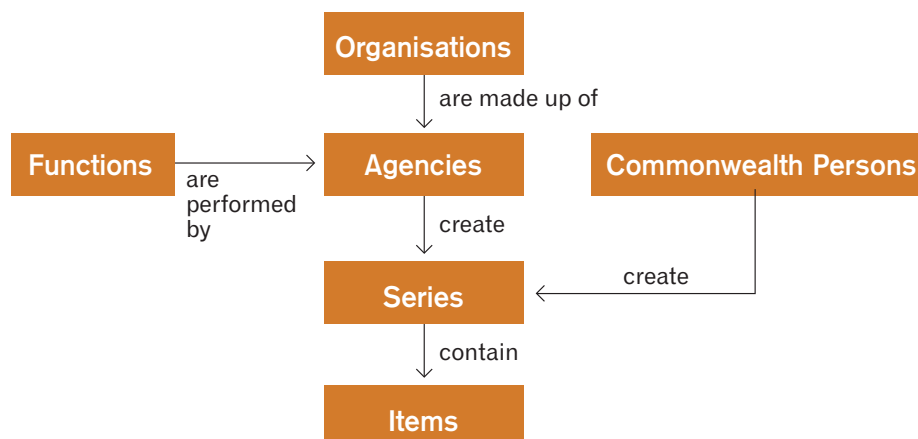
B312, Correspondence files, 1859–1869

You can use a series number to find the items the National Archives of Australia holds that are part of that series. The National Archives of Australia also documents links between series, so that by looking at the information about one series, you can find out which other series are related to it.

Items

Items are the individual files, volumes, maps, films or any other units that make up a series. In most cases the National Archives of Australia identifies each item by the number or symbol that the agency used when it created the item. For example, in series B312, Correspondence files created by CA 2012, Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines, with the control symbol, 6: Acheron Station, 1862.

Diagram representing the Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System. For further information see Fact sheet 6: Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System.



Aboriginal affairs

The area of public administration relating to policy, legislation and funding issues of relevance to Victoria's (and Australia's) Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Protectorate

Sometimes referred to simply as the Protectorate, this was an office of the colonial government established in 1838. The Chief Protector of Aborigines and his assistants were assigned the task of protecting the interests of the Aboriginal people and ensuring minimal conflict between them and the European settlers of the Port Phillip District. The Protectorate also aimed to promote Christianity and educate Aboriginal children, and to provide Aboriginal people with skills in European farming methods, as well as other elements of European culture. These aims remained largely unfulfilled, however, and the Protectorate was abolished in 1849.

Aboriginal reserve

A reserve of Crown land set aside for use by Aboriginal people as a place of residence and work.

Aboriginal station

An area of land occupied by Aboriginal people or a reserve for Aboriginal people, especially one established by a religious mission or government agency. (See also Aboriginal reserve.)

agency

A government body that has or has had responsibility for at least one aspect of government business and has therefore created and maintained records. Agencies are listed in this text with an agency number, preceded by the abbreviation VA (Victorian Agency) for records in the Public Record Office Victoria collection, and CA (Commonwealth Agency) for records in the National Archives of Australia collection.

archives

Records that are kept permanently because of their enduring value. Also can refer to the building, room or storage area where records are kept as well as the organisation responsible for the care of archival records.

border police

Employees of the Surveyor-General's Department which was set up to survey and map the Port Phillip District in the 1830s. Commissioners of Crown Lands were appointed to administer the use and occupation of Crown land and were responsible for policing unauthorised occupation.

cadastral survey

A legalised boundary survey of a parcel or allotment (subdivision) of land.

Chief Secretary

Prior to the creation of the Colony of Victoria in 1851, the Superintendent was the government official that held the central position within government in the Port Phillip District. This then became the role of the Colonial Secretary. Following the achievement of responsible government in 1855, the central role of the Colonial Secretary passed to the Chief Secretary whose department coordinated, in addition to the departmental branches, a wide variety of other agencies not specifically assigned to other ministers. The Chief Secretary's Department also coordinated the policy of government and acted as a channel of communication between departments. The Chief Secretary and his department remained the principal coordinating department, and its minister the head of government, until 1874 and then periodically until 1918.

collection

A body of records in any format that have been transferred into the custody and control of an archive (or other cultural heritage organisation). Sometimes, an archival collection is referred to as 'holdings'.

Colonial Secretary (of New South Wales)

Originally the secretary to the Governor of New South Wales, the position was also later referred to as the Chief Secretary. The responsibilities of the Colonial Secretary were many and varied, and from 1824, the functions of this position were separated from those of the secretary to the Governor. Until the dissolution of the colonies at Federation in 1901, the Colonial (or Chief) Secretary was the second most important position after the Governor.

Colony of New South Wales

From 1788 a British-appointed government administered the eastern half of Australia, which up until 1851 included the Port Phillip District.

Colony of Victoria

The Port Phillip District was separated from New South Wales in 1851 and proclaimed the Colony of Victoria.

Commissioner of Crown Lands

Government official in charge of the administration of land owned by the government (the Crown).

county

In relation to land administration, Victoria was divided into counties, and each county was further divided into smaller local areas or parishes.

Crown

The power or authority residing in the monarchy.

Crown land

Land that has not yet been alienated (or transferred) from the Crown to another owner.

estrays

An archival term that denotes records which have been lost or which have strayed from the custody of a Victorian Government body to an individual or body outside of the Victorian Government.

extant

Records from any given series that are known to exist, and have been transferred into the custody of an archive.

file

A collection of papers and documents, usually enclosed within a particular folder or bundle, and relating to the same matter of government business.

full-blood

A racial term that classified Aboriginal people whose parents and ancestors were exclusively Aboriginal. The term was used throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and often appears in government legislation and records from this era.

Governor

The representative of the Crown in each state, acting on behalf of the monarch.

half-caste

A term that classified Aboriginal people on the basis of their racial background, usually used to identify people who had one Aboriginal parent and one non-Aboriginal parent. The term was used throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and often appears in government legislation and records from this era.

index

An alphabetical or other sequential list of names, subjects etc. used to direct the user to records that are arranged in a different, less accessible sequence. (See also nominal index, numerical index and subject index.)

inquest

A court hearing conducted by the Coroner, in which the circumstances surrounding a death are examined; usually open to the public.

item

A record 'item' is a single discrete record entity – it could be, for example: a group of folios fastened together to form a file, a single volume, a card, a map, or a photograph. There are many more different types of records that could be described as being an item.

land district

An area of Victoria consisting of several parishes and based on a large provincial centre. It was used for the local administration of policy and laws relating to lands.

microfiche

A microfilmed transparency that can contain many reduced pages of text, and can be read or referred to using a microfiche reader (a reader-printer can also generate print copies).

microfilm

A film format used to reproduce fragile, bulky or large publications or documents that can provide safe access and generate copies.

microform

The representation of images in a greatly reduced format, in particular, images on microfilm, microfiche or aperture card.

mission

See Aboriginal station.

Native Police Corps

There were attempts from 1837 to recruit an Aboriginal force of mounted police, however the most successful of these was the Native Police Corps commanded by Henry E.P. Dana between 1842 and 1852. Stationed at Narre Warren, about 25 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, the Native Police was charged with maintaining order between the Aboriginal population and settlers.

nominal (or name) index

An alphabetical list of names that will typically give references to files or correspondence etc. by or about people, places, agencies or organisations.

numerical index

A numerical listing that may be consulted to de-code some multi-number file number systems.

online catalogue

An online search facility provided by an archive to assist researchers to find records using key words, dates or other information about records and their creators.

parish

In relation to land administration, each county in Victoria was divided into parishes which were smaller more local areas than the county. These kinds of parishes are distinct from those relating to church congregations.

pastoral run

The area of land licensed to be occupied and used by a pastoralist for the grazing of animals.

Port Phillip District

The name given to the administrative division of the Colony of New South Wales before it became the separate Colony of Victoria in 1851.

pre-emptive right

The right to be the first purchaser of land from the Crown. Usually refers to the rights of pastoralists to buy portions of pastoral runs.

proclamation

The official giving of public notice of a proposed action by the Crown.

public records

Information or documents created as part of the activities of government departments, agencies and officials.

records

Documents in any form containing data or information. These are created or received and accumulated by an organisation in conducting its business.

register

A record in which transactions or activities are logged, usually in chronological or sequential order.

reservations or Crown reserves

Areas reserved (or put aside) by the Crown for special or public purposes.

series

Records created by an agency (or a sequence of agencies) that are part of the same filing system or kept together because they are the result of the same activity.

subject index

An alphabetical list of subjects used in complex record-keeping systems to assist in identifying file or correspondence numbers. In a typical subject index the subjects relate to the activities of the agency that created it. In some systems, subjects may be represented by sequences of numbers (see numerical index).

Title

In matters of land, the legal ownership of land as shown by a document or deed.

Western District

An area in the south-western corner of Victoria, extending west from Port Phillip Bay to the South Australian border and from the south coast north to the Grampians.

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Public Record Office Victoria and the National Archives of Australia hold many government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria.

This guide is designed to help Victorian Aboriginal people find records about their family and country. It will also assist anyone researching the history and administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria to find relevant records.

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