

Lake Tyers Mission Station

1861 – 1971

Details

Lake Tyers Mission Station was established in 1861 by the Church of England missionary, John Bulmer. It was situated on Lake Tyers in Gippsland and accommodated local Aboriginal people and others who were moved there from reserves such as Coranderrk, Ebenezer and Ramahyuck when they closed. In 1971 the Victorian Government returned the land to the Aboriginal community. It is now known as Bung Yarnda.

In May 1863 the Victorian Government gazetted an area of 2,000 acres as the Lake Tyers Reserve. It was increased to 4,000 acres. This included 16 acres under cultivation, an orchard and stock. John Bulmer managed the Reserve until his resignation at the end of 1907. The Government took over in 1908 and restricted the residents' freedom of movement and narrowed the school curriculum. The buildings, which numbered 17, included a church and school room.

The daily routine for the population included religious services twice a day, while the children had daily bible classes.

Unlike the managers of other Reserves, Bulmer had encouraged the residents to maintain their culture and their hunting practices as a means of supplementing their rations.

In 1906 the residents from Ramahyuck moved to Lake Tyers, followed by others from Lake Condah and Coranderrk, when they closed.

In 1917 the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines adopted a policy of 'concentrating' all Aboriginal people at the Lake Tyers Station.

The residents, with the support of Pastor Doug Nichols and the Aborigines Advancement League, resisted Government assimilation policies. Between 1956 and 1965 they agitated for the Station to become an independent, Aboriginal-run farming cooperative. In 1965 it was declared a permanent reserve.

Gallery



Landscape at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission with dwellings in distance [picture]

Description: This is an image of the landscape at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission with dwellings in the distance.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of Aborigines \(1860 - 1869\)](#)
Date: 1861 - 1869
- [Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, Colony of Victoria \(1869 - 1900\)](#)
Date: 1869 - 1900
- [Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, State Government of Victoria \(1901 - 1957\)](#)
Date: 1900 - 1957
- [Aborigines Welfare Board \(1957 - 1968\)](#)
Date: 1957 - 1958

Related Legislation

- [An Act to Provide for the Protection and Management of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria, Victoria \(1870 - 1890\)](#)
- [The Aborigines Protection Act 1886, Victoria \(1887 - 1890\)](#)
- [Aborigines Act 1890, Victoria \(1890 - 1915\)](#)
- [Aborigines Act 1910, Victoria \(1910 - 1915\)](#)
- [Aborigines Act 1957, Victoria \(1957 - 1959\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Koorie Records Unit, Public Record Office Victoria \(c. 2001 - current\)](#)

Resources

- Nelson, E., Swain, S. and Grimshaw, P., *Letters from Aboriginal women of Victoria 1867-1926*, 2002
- [Lake Tyers](#), Mission Voices: Missions and Reserves website, 2004
- Victoria. Public Record Office; National Archives of Australia. Melbourne Office, with an historical overview by Richard Broome., [walata tyamateetja: a guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria.](#), 2014
- Public Record Office Victoria, [Aboriginal Victorians \(1830s - 1970s\)](#), 2014
- Public Record Office Victoria, [Koorie Heritage - Koorie Index of Names](#), 2014
- Board for the Protection of Aborigines, [Fortieth Report of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, 1904](#), 1904

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