

Lake Condah Mission Station

1867 – 1919

Other Names: • Condah Mission Station

Details

Lake Condah Mission Station was established in 1867 as a Church of England Mission, approximately three kilometres from the Lake. The Lake Condah area in south western Victoria was home to the Kerrupjmara people prior to European occupation. The station was closed in 1919 after the government assumed control.

The Lake Condah Station comprised a missionary cottage and kitchen, schoolhouse, children's dormitory and store. A number of the buildings were weatherboard and in good condition. They also used local stone to build houses. There were 26 buildings in total. The church was built out of bluestone in 1883, but it was demolished in 1957. The Reserve was on 2,000 acres, of which 15 were under cultivation.

The residents of Lake Condah were subject to a severe and strict regime. Missionary Stahle refused to support work certificates for residents to work on neighbouring farms – upsetting both the local farmers and Mission residents; he refused requests for family members to move onto the Mission; and he provided rations as a reward instead of a right. Missionaries at Lake Condah saw their goal as 'civilising' Aboriginal people through the imposition of European education and Christianity. The daily routine included morning and evening prayers, church services twice on Sundays as well as Sunday school in the afternoon.

The Aboriginal people used grasses to create intricate fish traps as a way of supplementing their diet.

The passing of the 1886 'Half-Caste' Act led to the expulsion of many mixed race people from the Mission greatly reducing the population. Many of these expelled people set up residence close by at Greenvale and Little Dunmore. This allowed them to visit family still living on the Mission, and the Church.

As the numbers declined the Station was closed in 1919, but Aborigines remained in the area. They requested the Reserve to be handed over to them to be run as a farming co-operative. The Government denied this request and the land was carved up for soldier settler blocks.

As a joint project with the Kerrupjmara people and the National Parks Service, to assist the community in appreciating its history, part of the Mission was brought back, Mission buildings rebuilt, and cabin accommodation built for tourists. In 1987, land was handed over to the Kerrupjmara Elder's Association at Lake Condah and Framlingham.

Lake Condah Mission Station was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

Gallery



Lake Condah Aboriginal Station [picture]

Description: This is an image of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission. It was published in the 'Illustrated Australian News for Home readers.' It shows the Aboriginal settlement, with a cricket game in progress in the foreground.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Central Board Appointed to Watch Over the Interests of Aborigines \(1860 - 1869\)](#)
Date: 1860 - 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 - 1919

Related Legislation

- [The Aborigines Protection Act 1886, Victoria \(1887 - 1890\)](#)
- [Aborigines Act 1910, Victoria \(1910 - 1915\)](#)

Related Organisations

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

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. Relevance: Lake Condah Mission Station was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- Nelson, E., Swain, S. and Grimshaw, P., *Letters from Aboriginal women of Victoria 1867-1926*, 2002
- Critchett, Jan, *A History of Framlingham and Lake Condah Aboriginal Stations, 1860-1918*, 1980
- 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
- [Nathan Lovett-Murray: ex-AFL star and family still surviving despite struggles](#), The Guardian, 23 April 2015
- Board for the Protection of Aborigines, [Fortieth Report of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, 1904](#), 1904
- Rhodes, David & Stocks, Robyn, [Excavations at Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission 1984-85](#), Historic Environment, 1985

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