

Entry type: Place
Entry ID: AWE1090

Ramahyuck Mission

(1862 - 1908)

Born	1 January, 1862, Avon River Victoria Australia
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Died	31 December, 1908
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Occupation	Aboriginal Mission or Reserve
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Summary

Ramahyuck Mission was established in 1862 by the Reverend F.A. Hagenauer on a site near Maffra, Victoria. It was one of three Aboriginal Missions established by Moravian Missioners in Victoria. The local farming community opposed the mission in this location so it was moved to the Avon River, near Lake Wellington.

On 1 April 1869, the Education Department classified Ramahyuck school as half-time Rural School No. 12 and appointed Reverend Kramer as the teacher. Students enrolled at the school did extremely well which encouraged attendance. 1872, there were 19 children at the school. In 1873, the school had gained 100% of marks. In 1877, Ramahyuck Mission Station was placed at the head of the list for 'presenting the most successful results'.

Then, in a strange move, on 13 May 1901, the Department of Education closed the Ramahyuck State School, and the remaining children were told to attend the nearby Perry Bridge school. Aboriginal people protested about their children having to move schools and the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines appointed a teacher to conduct lessons at Ramahyuck school. The school continued under the Board until 1908 when the Mission closed and the remaining residents were sent to Lake Tyers.

Ramahyuck Mission was the home to many Aboriginal women, some of whom later became prominent Aboriginal spokespersons.

Published resources

Book

Moravian Aboriginal missions in Australia 1850-1919, Edwards, W. H. (William Howell), 1999

Aboriginal mission stations in Victoria: Yelta, Ebenezer, Ramahyuck, Lake Condah., Massola, Aldo, 1970

Report

The history of Ramahyuck Aboriginal Mission and a report on the survey of Ramahyuck Mission cemetery, Rhodes, David, 1996

Journal Article

Witness to the crosses at Ramahyuck Cemetery, Paton, Doris, 1994

Off the mission stations: Aborigines in Gippsland 1860-1890, Attwood, Bain, 1986

Ramahyuck Mission controversy, Gardner, P. D. (Peter Dean), 1979

Pamphlet

Reading Sources in Aboriginal history: mission station visitors books, Attwood, Bain, 1989

Resource

Moravian Mission Papers in Australia 1832-1916, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/catalogue_resources/MF163-88.htm

Archival resources

AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection

A History of Aboriginal lands and reserves in Victoria, 1835-1971 / by Philip Felton

Moravian Mission Papers

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Created 24 September 2004

Last modified 24 March 2006