

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Place
Entry ID: AWE1094

Ebenezer Mission Station

(1859 - 1904)

Born 10 January, 1859, Near Dimboola Victoria Australia

Died 31 December, 1904

Occupation Aboriginal Mission or Reserve

Summary

Ebenezer Mission Station began on 10 January 1859, with the school opening on 17 January with one pupil. Two other boys joined the school the next day. Sixty people were at the Mission station by the end of March. However, it was obvious that the Aboriginal people had no intention of staying there permanently. It was not until the middle of April that the three pupils came back to the school.

Despite these beginnings, with circumstances beyond their control, the Wotjobaluk and Wergaia from the area began to settle on the station and the 1901 report to the Board states that 40 people were registered as permanent residents. The schoolteacher, Miss Isabel Tyre taught 30 children.

In 1904, the Mission was closed and the Moravian Mission Board wrote to the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, thanking them for their support and asking the government to make a permanent reserve of the burial land because it had five of their missionaries buried there. The Lake Hindmarsh Land Act (1904) revoked the Reserve and the land was made available for selection, however, the cemetery was made a Permanent Reserve.

Ebenezer Mission was the home to many Aboriginal women, some of whom 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

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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