

Yoorrook Justice Commission

Submission on *Land, Sky and Water*

by *Evon (McDonald) Barker*

of Tae Rak (Lake Condah)

11 January 2024

Document Control

Document Name	Submission on Land, Sky and Water by Evon (McDonald) Barker of Tae Rak (Lake Condah)
Document Primary Authors	Evon (McDonald) Barker
Primary Author's Contact Details	Evon Barker: evon.barker@me.com 0417 364 741
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Document Submitted on Behalf of	Descendant of Alfred McDonald, George Winter McDonald and Claude Henry McDonald

Dedication

I pay my respects to our Ancestors and Elders for whom I make this submission on behalf of. My Ancestors had their Country taken from them, then they were removed from their Country. To those Ancestors who showed resilience; to those who fought for recognition; and to those that made the ultimate sacrifice—I thank them and honor them.

Generational Experiences

1. **Susannah McDonald**
2. **Alfred McDonald** (Husband of Annie McKinnon McDonald (née Rich))
3. **George Winter McDonald** (Husband of Mary Elizabeth Fuller “Maisie”)
4. **Claude Henry McDonald** (Husband of Alice Clarke McDonald (née Lovett))

Introduction

This submission is being made on behalf of Gunditjmara men:

Alfred ‘Boppo’ McDonald, his son George Winter McDonald and grandson Claude McDonald (my father).

Alfred was the only son of Apical Ancestor, Susannah McDonald, Kerupjmara woman from Lake Condah.

I wish to make a submission to the Yoorrook Justice Commission to tell the story of these men, the McDonald family, and have it documented and acknowledged, to highlight the systemic injustices, inhumane treatment,

and theft and dispossession of our Country (see Figure 1), that occurred from the settlement of the Colony of Port Phillip in 1834, and continued throughout the development of the State of Victoria.

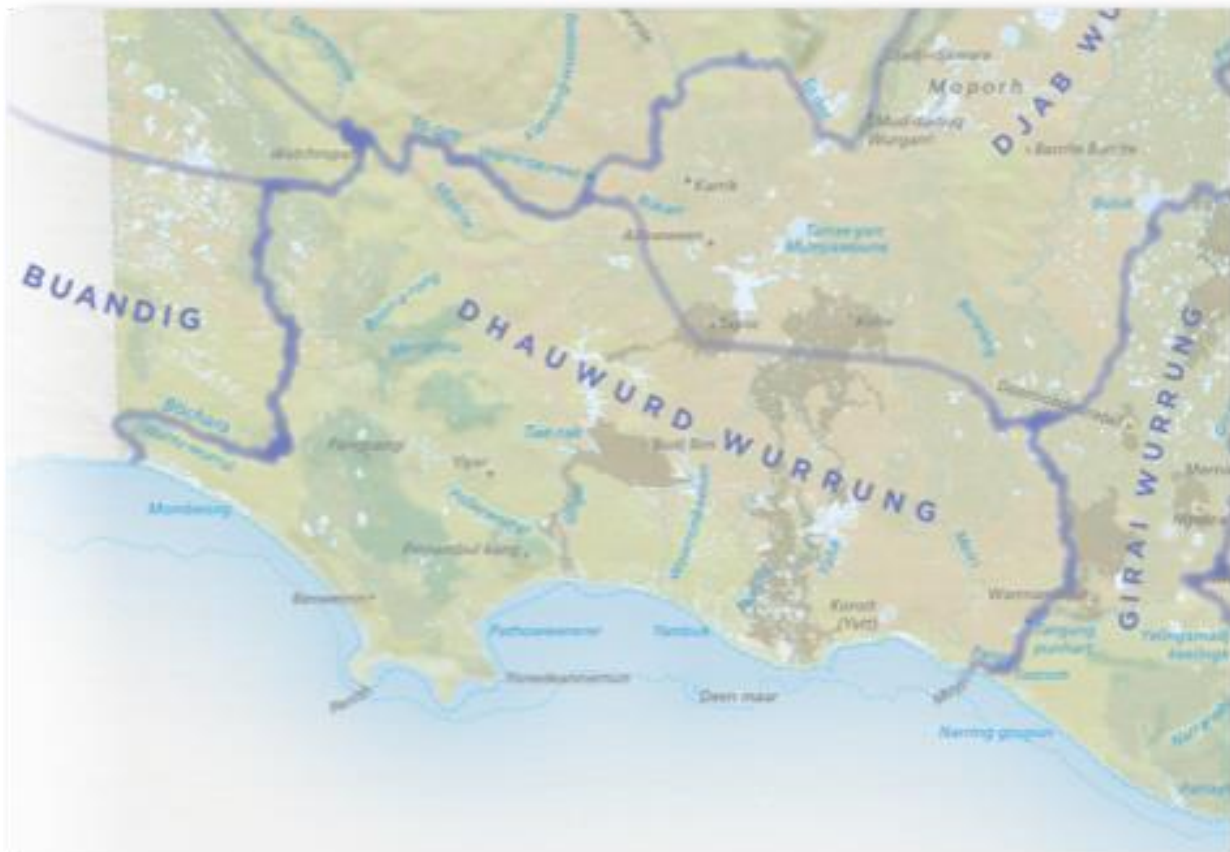


Figure 1: Dhauwurd wurrung language area, Gunditjmara Country. (CartDeco, 2022)

Over the intervening generations, since white settlement, our family has suffered through the laws, rules and restrictions placed upon them, purely because of their colour and race. This story is not one in isolation, but echoed in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Victoria, and indeed Australia. The pain and suffering felt in those earlier generations continues to be felt by the current generations. It is important that Australians of all backgrounds hear the past trauma suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, acknowledge that these past wrongs happened and understand the long- standing suffering felt through the

generations. [SEP]

In my submission I have included personal reminiscences, letters, documents, certificates, etc. that identify individuals.

Generational Experiences

1. **Susannah** b. Abt. 1834, Gunditjmarra Country—d. 1871, Lake Condah Mission.

Susannah (traditional name unknown) was born on Gunditjmarra Country about 1834. Oral history suggests she was from the Kerupjmarra (also known as Kerup gunditj) clan—the people of Tae Rak (Lake Condah). (See Appendix 1, p. 3 for detailed map) [SEP] [SEP]

2. **Alfred McDonald** b. Abt. 1860, Gunditjmarra Country—d. 1944, Ballarat

Alfred McDonald, (traditional name – Boppo) was the only son of Kerupjmarra woman Susannah. From his marriage certificate, we have determined that he was born around 1860 and he stated that he was born at Ettrick station. This appears to be at odds with the oral history that suggests that Susannah and her children were at McDonald's station (Knebsworth, which was a near- neighbour to Ettrick.

Around 1867, Alfred, his sister Hannah, and their mother Susannah moved onto the Lake Condah Mission, which was established by the Church of England (CoE). From our oral history, the family moved to the Mission under duress, rather than by choice. As they had lived in a cave on the Budj Bim landscape, the need for food and housing became paramount, and

Susannah and the children walked onto the Mission in a desperate state. [SEP]

Alfred spent his childhood on the Mission under the supervision of various missionaries in its early years. In 1875, J. H. Stähle became superintendent of the Mission. Stähle was considered a disciplinarian and was not fondly remembered by the residents of the Mission.

One record of his strict approach involved Alfred. Alfred, along with two other boys, were caught in the girl's dormitory. Alfred stated: *"Afterwards Mr Stähle our Missionary found us out and gave us a good **whipping**, afterwards he sent us to work in the garden and after we were finished in the garden, Mr Stähle [SEP] called us, and he prayed with us and asked the Lord to forgive us our sins."*

He [Stähle] had sent Alfred MacDonald, an Aboriginal orphan boy, to Castlemaddie because McLeod had requested the help of an Aboriginal boy for milking his cows. He was allowed to keep the Aboriginal boy on his station for a month initially and this was further extended on McLeod's request to two months. However McLeod had written to the Board requesting a six month further work certificate for the boy without telling Stähle. McLeod drew up an agreement with the Aboriginal boy. The boy was working both for McLeod and another nearby farmer, Wallace, as a farm labourer and milking cows. This was further annoyance to Stähle who said he needed the assistance of the boy at Lake Condah as well. This dispute simmered while other more serious ones began.

Agreement between J. N. McLeod and Alfred MacDonald [SEP]

Castlemaddie August 1877

[SEP] *Memorandum of Agreement made this day between J. N. McLeod and Alfred McDonald who agree to serve me as general servant for six months from date for the wages of six pounds which I bind myself to pay him and give him food and lodging.*
J. N. McLeod [SEP] *Alfred McDonald* [SEP]

[Item III, Box 7, Lake Condah, B303, Correspondence Files] (Clark, 1990, pp. 269-270)

According to the *Twelfth Report of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria* 1876, they listed Alfred as present at the Lake Condah Mission. He is shown as the son of Edward McDonald (known as Neddie). **Susannah** took **Neddie as a tribal husband** before she moved onto the Mission with her children. Neddie and Susannah also had a child, Euphemia. The *Twelfth Report* also described J. N. McLeod as a Local Guardian of Aborigines.

“In 1877, J.H. Stähle, the Condah Manager, J.N. McLeod (Castlemaddie) and the Rev. U. Coombs from Warrnambool, were correspondents to the Victorian Government’s Royal Commission into the condition of Aborigines of the colony.

Stähle was asked several questions regarding the twelve Aborigines in the Portland district not living on the station. He believed that by law they should be forced to go to an Aboriginal station of their choice. Asked how these twelve lived, he replied by hunting and fishing and knocking about, making their mi-mis here and there. Some had been recently found drunk near Coleraine. McLeod favoured the concentration of all the colony’s Aborigines onto existing Aboriginal stations, where the young could be apprenticed out to employers from the age of 15, for a period of three years after which they would be able to earn good wages. **He proposed a system where, at the age of 22, if the men had saved £100 and the women £50 the Government could give each Aborigine 100 acres of land as a farm on which they could settle.**” (Clark, 1990, p. 262)

In November **1883**, **Alfred** married **Annie Rich** at St. Stephens Church, Portland. Annie had been living on the Mission for a short time and had brought with her a child from a previous relationship. Alfred and Annie had

eight children, one of which died in infancy. [SEP]

Alfred and the other men worked daily on the Mission managing stock, maintaining fences and producing fruit and vegetables to supplement their rations and provide an income. Whilst the CoE ran the Mission on behalf of the State, the BPA took whatever income was produced off the Mission.

[SEP]

A glowing description of the Lake Condah Mission was provided by a journalist travelling through the area in 1883, and published in the Melbourne *Leader* newspaper (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/196713067>), which was a testimony to the hard work and toil of the men and women of the Mission. It is also noted in the article that, “*The half-castes are growing up strong, self relying men, and in proof of this three families have applied for and obtained certificates allowing them to leave the station and obtain their own living, and so far they are doing well.*” The use of ‘certificates’ to control the lives of Aboriginal families was a demeaning tactic used by the BPA to balance both segregation and assimilation. [SEP]

In 1886, the Victorian Government passed an amendment to the *Aborigines Protection Act*, which became known as the **Half-caste Act** by Aboriginal people. **The Act gave the BPA extensive control over Aboriginal people, including where they lived, where they could be employed, whom they could marry and whether they could remain on the Mission as a family unit.**

The Half-caste Act also created great worry for the BPA and the CoE, who managed the Mission. A report of their meeting in *The Age* of 4 March 1887 details their concerns.

ABORIGINES' PROTECTION BOARD. The board for the protection of aborigines met yesterday, when there were present :-

Dr. Morrison (in the chair), Messers. W. Anderson and C. M, Officer, M.L.A.'s, and Mr.

Maccready. The Proposed Corroboree. The following is the report of the committee appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor:-

A year later, Alfred and others wrote to the BPA (Lee, 2002, p. 28) in a desperate situation, unable to find housing for their families:

Lake Condah October 7th 1893

To Charles Officer Esq. Chairman

Board for Aborigines Melbourne

Sir, We the undersigned half-castes who had to leave the Aboriginal Mission Station Lake Condah in accordance with the Act relating to half-castes and who have hitherto vainly tried to find a home for ourselves and our families, would most respectfully ask the Board for Aborigines to grant us land from the Aboriginal Reserve at Lake Condah so as to enable us to have a settled home.

While we place this petition before you we beg to state that most of us were born at the station and since we left school and before we had to leave the Station, we took our share in the work, which was carried on in our time to improve the land as well as the home station.

If the Board will kindly comply our request we will be satisfied to accept the land under such conditions as the Board may consider it fair and prudent to make.

An early reply to this our request will very much oblige. Sir, Yours most respectfully, Alfred McDonald

Harry Connelly James Lovett Alex Taylor John King

J. H. Stähle lent his support to this letter, saying “*our homeless half-castes ... cannot find or get land anywhere on which to make a home for themselves and families...*”. It appears that the BPA rejected Stähle’s entreaty, and Alfred and Annie, as well as their family, remained homeless.

Alfred and Annie were in a desperate state at this time. Annie was compelled to write to J. H. Stähle requesting assistance.

Mission Station Lake Condah Jun 30th 1894

Dear Mr. Stahle

As my husband Alfred is out of work just now we find it very hard to get food for ourselves & our children so I write to you asking you whether you would be so good as to write to Mr. Hagenauer for me to ask the Aboriginal Board whether they would be so good as to give us some help till the worst of the winter is over & my husband can manage to find some regular work. If you will so kindly do this we will be very thankfull [sic]. We are dear Mr. Stahle

Yours respectfully Annie & Alf McDonald

Stähle was quite proud of the fact that the ‘half-castes’ were living off the Mission and providing for themselves. In the *Hamilton Spectator* of **9 January 1897** he responded to a letter-writer,

“Sir, - In your issue of this day you have a paragraph headed “Our Mission Station.” Permit me to state that the half-castes “of intelligence and muscular development” referred to, are not living at the Mission Station, but do as the writer suggests they

should “paddle their own canoes.” Only in very special and urgent cases have they obtained a little help from the Government. The principal portion of the money annually voted by Parliament for the aborigines is spent in making the lives of the remaining full blacks and children as comfortable as possible, but nevertheless they constantly complain and are readily believed when they say they are not sufficiently cared for. The following married men with families are out earning their own living, viz., Angus King, John King, Alfred M’Donald, James Lovett and Henry Albert: also a few single men, viz., Isaac Green, Fred. Reid, David Mullett and James Arden. A number of half-caste girls are likewise out in service. If you will kindly give publication to this I will feel obliged.—

Yours, etc.,

J. H. STAHLÉ^[SEP] Mission Station, Condah^[SEP] Jan 7, 1897.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/225552279>

Little did Stähle let on the actual struggle that the families were going through. He emphasised the benevolence of the government and how it was helping those in desperate need, whilst Annie and Alfred’s correspondence would show otherwise.^[SEP]

The belief by the BPA that Aboriginal children were ‘happy’ with their situation does not appear to be based on any evidence. The removal of half-castes and their children from the Lake Condah Mission had devastating consequences, as was detailed in Alfred and Annie’s letters.

In 1910, Alfred petitioned his local member to see if he, and others who had been displaced from the Lake Condah Mission, could be given a portion of Mission land so that they would have a place to call home, and some land that could provide for them.

COPY: [Victorian Public Records Series 1694/PO] title: Correspondence, Board for the Protection of Aborigines 1889-1946]

Drayton^[SEP] Wallacedale

J.K. McDougall Esq, M.H.R. Parliament House Melbourne

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 20th December 1909 received, requesting me to forward you names of how many half caste families that have been put off the Lake Condah Mission Station, which you will please find as follows:-

Angus King wife and two children John King wife and one boy Harry Connolly wife and two children Charles Foster wife and four children James Lovett wife and twelve children Henry Albert and eight children Alex Taylor and four children Alfred McDonald wife and seven children Some time back the fathers of these families made application through our late member

Mr. Cameron to Mr. Murray then Minister of Lands "personally" for the portion of land containing 1000 acres that had at that time been cut off the Aboriginal reserve as being no longer of any use to the station and which the Minister of Lands Mr. Murray came to inspect with the then member mentioned, for to be cut up in small holdings for homes for each of these families.

Our late member took a lively interest in the matter for us moved a motion in the House to the effect that this matter would be placed before the House at its next meeting, but sad to say his untimely death came for which our cause was never revived. Some of us have spoken about the matter to our present member Mr. Campbell, but seemingly he has no interest in the matter and we hope and trust that you will do what you can in the matter.

I am, yours respectfully (signed)

Alfred McDonald

P.S. I am writing Chairman Aborigines Protection Board also Mr. Wall in respect to the matter. (initd.) A. McD.

Attached copy page 53

This letter seemed to provoke a response, as Mr. Wall from the BPA

forwarded Alfred's letter onwards to the Secretary of Lands.

COPY: [L]
[SEP]

State Parliament House Melbourne, 3rd March 1910.

*Mr. Jas. Skene [L]
[SEP] Secretary for Lands Melbourne.*

*Dear Sir, [L]
[SEP] The enclosed has been forwarded to me by Mr. McDougall M.H.R. having been received by him from A. McDonald one of the half castes who were put off the Condah Mission Station some time ago. It appears that these men made application for a portion of the 1000 acres that had been cut off the Mission reserve at that time, and as nothing has since been done in the matter I trust that you will give their claims every consideration. They are a hard working steady lot of fellows and it seems a hard thing that they, the descendants of the original proprietors of the whole of Australia should now have trouble to obtain enough of it to make a living on.*

*Yours faithfully (Signed) [L]
[SEP] J. Wall*

Attached copy page 54

Wall speaks compassionately in defence of Alfred and the remnant families from the Mission and appears to understand that they have been dispossessed of their rightful lands.

In 1913, J. H. Stähle retired from the Mission and management was taken over by the BPA. By the end of WWI, the Mission had closed and the remaining residents were either sent to Lake Tyers or had to find their own way in the world. Those that remained moved the weatherboard cottages by horse and dray to Little Dunmore

The constant letter writing from the Aboriginal residents of the Lake Condah Mission, and other missions, was creating great annoyance to the hierarchy of the BPA.

Is there no way of putting a stop to this letter writing by natives. In my opinion these letters should be dropped in the waste paper basket whenever received and thus put an end to all unnecessary correspondence as natives do not know their own mind five minutes. Since the [name] family has returned, and receiving private letters from Mrs Bon the other natives are now under the impression this is the only way to get satisfaction. Discipline can not be properly maintained on the station while natives are allowed to write to individual members of the Board.

W L Galbraith [Manager of the Lake Condah Mission]

To R W Ditchburn,

July 10, 1916.

(VPRS 1694, unit 3, Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV), Melbourne.)

The Mrs. Bon referred to in Galbraith's correspondence was Mrs. Ann Bon a local philanthropist and member on the BPA. Horton (2012, p. 164.) described her, "concern for Aboriginal people's welfare made her a valued correspondent for many Aboriginal people across Victoria. Although personal correspondence between Bon and Aboriginal people annoyed the Board, it was in the Board's best interests to keep up the appearance of ensuring Aboriginal people's basic rights."

Alfred and Annie continued to stay in the area and keep a close association with the Mission site. For a brief time they moved to Richmond to live with their daughter Georgina.

Around 1924. Alfred and Annie returned to living at the Mission, even though the land was leased by someone else. They were living in the bluestone quarters once built for J. H. Stähle

In 1931 they were requested to leave by the owner, and an ally of Alfred's intervened on his behalf, requesting the BPA to allow Alfred and Annie to remain at the Mission.

T. H. Laidlaw and Co. Ltd. Auctioneers. Stock and Station Agents.

Telephone 73 Box 104

Hamilton

Oct 15th 1931

*The Secretary Board Protection Aborigines Chief Secretary Office
Melbourne Dear Sir, Yours of 13th inst. re with Cox's Lease Lake Condah
Reserve. Have instructed April to send you Fire Policy. My overseer Mr McIntosh
informs me there is a move on to shift Alf McDonald from the Mission Station. I
trust this is not correct. I have known McDonald for over 40 years he is the best
man on the Mission. Keeps an eye to every thing as if he owned it, any of my stock
gets out and he puts them back. & closes up any breakages in the fences. The
mission folk generally have odd horses and cattle running? on the land trust. I don't
mind this while McDonald is there to look after them. In my opinion he is a good
asset to the Board to keep there as any one ?ting the Mission can get him to look
after. Keep an eye on the place. He is really too old for any work except riding about
it. Would be a shame to shift him now.*

Yours truly T. H. Laidlaw

Attached copy page 57

The Secretary responded on the 20th of October 1931.

*Sir, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th instant and to inform you
that, in view of your representations in the matter, no action will be taken to
remove Alfred McDonald from the Lake Condah Reserve during the present lease.*

Yours faithfully, Secretary.

Attached copy page 58

At the same time, the Registrar of Pensions was investigating Alfred and Annie and enquiring of the BPA as to how much money they were receiving from the Board and were they receiving free board and lodgings,

or free rations

In 1937, Annie became ill and returned to Richmond to live with her daughter Georgina, and by July she had passed away. Alfred continued to live at the Mission, and in *1840 the Portland Guardian* reported him taking members of the Aborigines Uplift Society on a tour of the Mission grounds, “He is now well over 80 years of age, but is very alert mentally and physically. Some of the Hamilton party had already arrived when the old gentleman rode in from Milltown. Mounted on his smart brown pony, erect in saddle and fully spurred, he presented a very pleasing picture.”

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/64395340>

On the 8 February 1943, he is mentioned in the Portland Guardian as one of “Only three pioneers,” to remain at the Mission, “... Alf McDonald, who is 83 years of age, is another old identity living. He was well known for his ability in breaking in horses and also stock riding. He was a boundary rider for Mr. Cope, senr, and also for Mr. Fred Cope at Drayton for a number of years, and also for Mr. T. H. Laidlaw and Mr Selwyn Stewart. He was born at Ettrick and reared a family of seven, and has quite a number of grandchildren.

Alfred died on the 10 July 1944 at the Ballarat Base Hospital.

Alfred’s death certificate states that he was buried in Footscray Cemetery, however this is incorrect, as he was **interred in the Springvale Botanical Cemetery** with his grandchildren, Alfred and Allan Egan, far from his traditional Country. Alfred’s grave is not marked.

Alfred was a **fierce defender** of his **people**, and a **noted linguist** of his **native tongue**.

Alfred's wife Annie Rich died **23 July 1937** and was buried at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 26 July 1937.

Her death notice in *The Age* of the 24 July 1937 simply stated:

MCDONALD.—On the 23rd July, at her son-in-law's residence, No. 16 Cook-street, Abbotsford. Annie, dearly beloved wife of Alfred McDonald, loved mother of Flora (deceased), Susan (Mrs. Egan), Allan (late A.I.F.), Phemie (deceased), George (late A.I.F.) Jessie (Mrs. Mahoney), Georgina (Mrs. Chuter) and Florence (Mrs. Farey), late of Wallacedale, aged 87 years.

Source: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/205567326>

10/330

81

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY.

Correspondence Branch.

BOARDS
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
ABORIGINES

G2785

Condah Aborigines Reserve

J.Wall M.P.

Forwards letter addressed to Mr McDougall M.H.R. by Alfred Mc Donald relative to the application of certain half castes for 1000 acres of the site

Copy

This matter should be referred to the Aborigines Board for an expression of opinion thereon and for information as to what portion of the reserve may be dealt with.

(signed)

J.M.Reed

21/ 3/ 10.

Referred to the Under Secretary.

W.H.P.Rogers
for
Secretary for Lands

24/ 3/ 10

Referred to the Vice-Chairman Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

(Signed)

H.E.Macdowell

for

Under Secretary.

C. S. O.
31: 3: 10

The Board have decided to keep the whole of this reserve for the use and maintenance of the aborigines.

59/

*The
Unon Secy.*

W. J. O'Sullivan
Secretary.

19. 4. 10

The following petition dated **7th October 1893**

is from **Alfred McDonald**, Harry Connolly, James Lovett, Alex Taylor, John King of Lake Condah

Petition addressed to:

Charles Officer Esq

Chairman, Board for Aborigines Melbourne

The request “*in accordance with the act relating to half castes and who have hither to vainly try to find a home for ourselves and our families would you most respectfully ask the Board for Aborigines and you Sir to **grant each one of us from 50 to 60 acres of land** from the Aboriginal Reserve at Lake Condah so as to enable us to have a settled home.*”

See original copy on next page:

Lake Condah [26]
October 7th 1893

To
Charles Officer Esq.
Chairman
Board for Aborigines Melbourne

Sir

We the undersigned half-castes who had to leave the aboriginal mission Station Lake Condah in accordance with the Act relating to half-castes and who have hitherto vainly tried to find a home for ourselves and our families, would most respectfully ask the Board for Aborigines and you Sir to grant each one of us from 50 to 60 acres of land from the Aboriginal Reserve at Lake Condah so as to enable us to have a settled home.

While we place this petition before you we beg to state that most of us were born at the Station and since we left the school and before we had to leave the Station, we took our share in the work which was carried on in our time to improve the land as well as the home Station.

If the Board will kindly comply

[26A]

with our request we will be satisfied to accept the land under such conditions as the Board may consider it fair and prudent to make.

An early reply to this our request will very much oblige
Sir

Yours most respectfully

Alfred McDonald

Harry Connolly

James Lovett

Alex Taylor

John King

3. George Winter McDonald^[L]_[SEP] b. 1890, Lake Condah

Mission—d. 1944, Richmond

George Winter McDonald, affectionately known as **Joe**, was born on the Lake Condah Mission on the 26 November 1890. His birth is recorded in the *Twenty-Seventh Report to the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines*, 1891, (Officer, 1891, p. 7), whilst his birth certificate confirms he was born on the Lake Condah Mission.

George spent his early childhood at the Mission, then followed his parents around as they searched for a place to live after they were removed under the Half-caste Act.

George enlists in the Army for WWI on the 21 September 1915 at Royal Park, Melbourne.

At the end of WWI, the Australian Government established a scheme for returned servicemen.

In 1920, George applied for land under the government's Soldier Settlement Scheme. Along with only one other Aboriginal soldier in Victoria, George was successful in his application, whilst his kith and kin from the Lake Condah Mission were not. He was granted about 95 acres of land near Beeac, Victoria. George would pay £2000 for the land to be paid off over 39½ years at 5% interest, with the first 3 years free.

Times were hard for the newly-weds trying to carve out a living on their small ^[L]_[SEP] acreage. The quality of the land was poor by any standards, much of

it stone- country similar to George's birthplace. Not long after taking possession of the land, George wrote to the Closer Settlement Board and his local member, Mr. McDonald MLA, requesting a reduction in price for the land. George paid £19 per acre, whilst his new neighbours suggested that it should have been closer to £12 per acre.

George and Maisie McDonald continued on at **Beeac** until **1923**.

The urge to return to his Country must have been strong for George, as, like his father Alfred had done previously, he applied to access a portion of the Lake Condah Mission land from the government. In 1927, at the opening of State Parliament, George approached a Member of Parliament and reminded him of a previous discussion in a letter:

Bridgewater Road Portland [L] [SEP] 4-8-27

Mr. E. E. Bond M.L.A. [L] [SEP]

Dear Sir, [L] [SEP]

*When I was speaking to you at the opening of Parliament you mentioned about the Mission Station. I am asking you if you think I could **rent a part of the Station** (say the sheepwash paddock and the old home station). I have been paying rent all along. I am as you know that I am not like the rest of the halfcasts—to [sic] lazy to work. I am at present grubbing scrub for R. E. Vickery. I would like very much to have that paddock as I have cows and five pure bred Tamworth sows. I would go in for dairying and pig breeding.*

Trusting that you will do all that is in your power.

I am [L] [SEP] *Yours faithfully* [L] [SEP]

G. W. McDonald Attached copy page 73

[L] [SEP]

Mr. Bond MLA, true to his word, forwarded George's request on to the relevant Government department for consideration. Sadly for George, the response was far from considerate.

E. E. Bond Esq. M.L.A., State Parliament House,

11th. August 27^[SEP]

Dear Sir^[SEP]

*With reference to your personal representations on behalf of Mr. G. W. McDonald, Bridgewater Road, Portland, relative to a request that he be allowed to lease portion of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve I have to inform you that it has been resolved to **call for tenders for leasing the whole of the Reserve other than an area set apart for the occupants:-***

*Particulars are as under:^[SEP] **Area to be leased - 2000 acres for a period of 12 months from the 1st. October next.***

Tenders will be called within a few days, and will be advertised in the Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool Papers. Tenders must be accompanied by the first quarter's rent (in advance) and also a **deposit of £10** which will be held as a guarantee that the reserve will be left in order at the end of the contract. The conditions will be available for inspection shortly at the Police Stations at Portland and Heywood, and also at the Land Office Hamilton.

Yours faithfully^[SEP]

Secretary

Attached copy page 74

George continued to pursue his birth-right, and in 1930 he again applied to get access to his Country to strip wattle bark. This time there was a more desperate tone in his letter, almost pleading to the higher power to give him a chance.

Carngham Rd Linton 29-9-30

Mr Parker

Dear Sir, Would you please let me have a Tenders form as I want to put in for the wattle bark on the Lake Condah Mission Stn. Mr Bond wrote to you and told you that I was eager to do something. I have only one leg and find it hard to do lots of harder jobs. The Stripping I could always have a spell as I would be my own boss. I have seven little children and a sick wife and have to keep help so I am free to go and earn money.

Do you want me to put in my own price or according to market. I believe Mrs Stahle has sent word to the Alberts about it, has she still got a say. I would do it well and think the Bakers would buy the wattle wood as it is very scarce. So let me know if I should Tender for cutting that or would the board pay me separately for that, there would be a great lot of wood and I get 5/- a ton here for cutting it up, I could stack it there and let you know. I'm not afraid of any sort of work.

I am writing to Mr Bond as he told me to let him know when I was putting in for the work. Let me know about the wood please and if I will cut it in the Barkers length.

I am sure it could be sold in any part between Portland and Hamilton 5/- is a price at the stump and the Bakers nearby always pay anything from 10/- per ton.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully

G. W. McDonald

Attached copy page 75

Again, the letter produced no result. George had an ally however, in **Mrs. Ann Bon**, who at the time was a member of the BPA. Upon seeing how George and other Aboriginal people from Lake Condah would not be able to compete in a tender process, let alone raise **£10** to submit a tender, wrote to the Chief Secretary.

Oct. 11th 30

To the Hon. Chief Secretary

Dear Mr Tunnecliffe^[1]_[SEP], I enclose copy of advertisement with rules for bark-stripping (which I only receive from the Aborigines this morning) from which you will see, that the framing of these rules completely prohibits them from having the slightest chance of obtaining the job. The Depression which is dearly felt by white people, is **more intensely felt by the Aborigines**, who cannot raise £10 were it to save their lives. It takes all their time, to provide food for themselves and their children although, they are steady hard-working people and highly respected by the white people who surround them. The **Reserve legally belongs to them** and not to the white-man; & they have certainly a prior claim to stripping the bark there-on.

To publicly invite "tenders" with the conditions attached, skews clearly, that neither the unemployed white man **nor the coloured man to whom the land belongs**, could attempt to send in a "tender", seeing they have no money; it therefore follows that the successful tender will be a man of means & at the sacrifice of the necessitous is to have another opportunity of further enriching himself.

As a member of the board, and wishing to do further justice to the suffering poor, more especially our coloured friends, to whom we owe so much, I would respectfully request you to allow no tender to be accepted until we have a meeting of the Board & have the subject fully discussed.

These poor people, who were driven from their Condah Reserve, have squatted in the vicinity, and are struggling to earn an honest livelihood.

One family named Lovett have had 12 children, five of their sons went to the front, the 6th being rejected. Some time ago one of these returned soldiers applied for leave to occupy an empty house on the Reserve; but was refused by the board although I have no recollection of the case ever coming before us. Surely these people are worthy of every consideration & assistance.

There are other respectable families who could assist in this bark-stripping and from what I know of the Aborigines as a servant, do not hesitate to say he will do this work with credit to himself and others.

We have a paid local agent on the spot who could supervise the work.^[1]_[SEP] I hope your views will coincide with mine and that you will see that justice is done to the

Aborigines of Condah. With much sympathy in your present troubles

Your sincere friend *Anne A Bon* Attached copy page 76

Again, the answer was ‘no’.

In spite of George’s personal faults and failings, he suffered from many injustices throughout his short life: initially segregation on the Mission lands; then the removal from his ancestral Country under the Half-caste Act; the denial of access to his Country to earn a living.

4. Claude Henry McDonald b. 1920, Richmond—d. 1983,

Geelong

After his mother’s death, 12 year old Claude and his four siblings were taken to the newly built Glastonbury Protestant Orphanage, Geelong.

Once Claude reached the age of 15 (about 1936) he was required to go into ‘domestic service’ outside of the constraints of the orphanage. Claude was sent to a farm near Wensleydale, Victoria, under the supervision of Mr. Strickland. Later, his brother Walter joined him. Claude resided in a tin shed whilst on the farm, and during his stay there he contracted pneumonia quite severely. Claude’s brother Mervyn had informed Mrs. Devitt, who lived at 3 Cairns Avenue, Newtown (Geelong), that Claude was sick with pneumonia. A concerned Mrs. Devitt went to the farm, reprimanded the farmer, then demanded Claude pack his belongings and return with her to stay and recover. An angry Mrs. Devitt voiced her concerns to the orphanage about Claude’s treatment and health.

By the outbreak of WWII, Claude had been working for four years as a farm

labourer. In 1941, he joined the **Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F)** and enlisted at Royal Park on the **7th of August**. His home address was shown as **3 Cairns Ave, Newtown (Mrs Devitt's)**.

For the first couple of years of military service he appears to have been in and out of hospital with rubella, pneumonia, adenitis and other unnamed complaints.

Whilst on leave from his time in New Guinea, **Claude married Alice Clarke Lovett on the 7 December 1944**. Claude returned to Bougainville after the wedding and continued his service until the end of the war in the Pacific in August 1945. He was **discharged from the army on 9 January 1946**. [SEP]

On his return from service, Claude spent seven months in the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital due to a nervous breakdown (war neurosis). Later, he and his wife Alice and **daughter Alice (1945)** settled down in the Melbourne suburb of Carnegie, where **son Mervyn Stanley (1946)**, and daughter **Dianne Joy (1948)** were born. Due to Claude's health, his doctor advised him to move to a warmer climate. His daughter **Evon Lynette (1950)** was born in **Echuca**.

Shortly after this, **Claude and Alice** moved to **Lower Moira near Barmah East**. In **1951** they welcomed a son, **Ian Robert**, who was born in Nathalia.

In 1956, Claude had another breakdown, due to past trauma, and he spent further time in the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

After WWII, **Claude's occupation was a carpenter**, and he continued working as a carpenter in the Lower Moira-Barmah East area in excess of 20 years. **Claude also assisted** his elderly neighbor **Mr Thomas Ferrari** with his **farm duties**.

Claude desired to move back to his Country in 1955 and applied to lease a

portion of the Lake Condah Mission land. He wrote to Mr. Rutherford, the former secretary of the Aborigines Welfare Board,

C/o W. M. Schier Private Bag Picola^[L]_[SEP] 20.1.55

Mr. Rutherford^[L]_[SEP]

Dear Sir^[L]_[SEP]

Before I get down to business I will tell you who I am, Claude McDonald is my name. I used to live at 10 Buckley St. Carnegie, with Mrs. Farey, I am her nephew. I suppose you know that Mrs. Farey was reared on the Lake Condah Mission Station. I also lived there for about 6 years, that would be between 1920 and 1930. My grandfather's name was Alf McDonald & he lived in the manager's residence after Mr. Staley [Stähle] left.

*I am writing to you to inquire if there is any **possible chance of leasing what remains of the land on Lake Condah Mission.***

*I have just returned from a trip right through there and also through the Mission at Purnim. I noticed that there is nothing being done with the land, I would say there may be 200 acres of ground where the church is & the houses used to be I suppose you know all of the other land is taken up for soldier settlement.^[L]_[SEP] At present there is no one living on the mission from what I could find out from different people I spoke to, and all that remains is the Church, the school & what was known as the dormitory, that is where Mrs. Foster lived.^[L]_[SEP] My wife & I have **every ambition of milking cows for a living & we have not enough money to buy a farm, but if I could lease some ground I could definitely make a start that way.** I have been in this area for 5 years on building & I can supply get [sic] references from anyone around here.^[L]_[SEP] If by any chance you are not on the Aborigines [Welfare] Board could you*

let me know of anyone I could write to please. I am married, I mentioned earlier & we have 5 children, 4 school age, and the place we are at present living in has only tank water which of course runs out every summer, so we have decided to go back to the Western District. I have had 4 years 8 months army service, 2 years and 10 months overseas. Trusting you may be able to help me in some way or direct me to someone that could tell me about that land.

I remain Yours Sincerely

Claude H. McDonald Attached copy page 78, 79 & 80

If you should desire to speak to Mrs. Farey at all she is on the phone (I don't have her number) but her address is 42 Railway Parade Highett. C. H. McD.

Claude also included a reference from **Councillor Schier** to support his land claim.

To Whom It May Concern, This is to certify that I have known Mr. C. McDonald for 10 years & have always found him a straightforward & honest man & an excellent worker. I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. McDonald in being assisted to purchase land suitable for dairying.

Signed Cr. W. H. Schier Attached copy page 82

The Secretary wrote back: 14th February, 55

Mr. C. McDonald,

c/- Mr. W. Schier

Private Bag, Picola

Dear Sir, Referring to your letter of 20th January last, addressed to Mr. Rutherford, a former secretary of the Aborigines [Welfare] Board, I would advise you that the temporary reservation of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve was revoked by the Lands Department several years ago, and with the exception of about 43 acres, on which the Church and several other buildings were standing, the land

was made available for soldier settlement.

The Aborigines Board has since had no control over the property, and therefore we cannot do anything about your desire to lease some of it.

I should think that the only course open to you to get a block there would be to apply to the Soldier Settlement Commission, or, in respect of any part of the area which may not be controlled by that body, to the Secretary of Lands, who would best advise you as to the position.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY

Attached copy page 83

Undeterred, **Claude** followed up the **letter** and **wrote** to the **Department of Lands**:

C/o Mr. W. Schier Private Bag

Picola Vic 21.2.55

Secretary Lands Dept. Dear Sir, I wrote to the Board for the Protection of Aborigines (Mr. Garnet, Sec.) to enquire if there is any chance of leasing all or a part of what is left of the Lake Condah Mission Station & Mr. Garnet told me to write to your dept. I was down that way at Xmas time & I noticed that there would be approx. 150 to 200 acres of ground there that is at present over grown with trees & thistles & if it were possible to lease any or all of it as I would like to do so. Why I am so interested in the Lake Condah Mission is I went to school there during approx. 1925-1929, and also my father & grandfather resided on the mission. I am not eligable [sic] for a Soldier Settlement Block as I was not classified during the right years after discharge from the Army. I am a returned Soldier with 4 years 8 months service, 34 months overseas. I am married with 5 children all school-age, my age is 34 years. I have worked on a farm for 4 years before the war. If that property is not for leasing would it be for sale.

Yours sincerely

Claude Henry McDonald

Attached copy page 84

In a curt response *from the Department of Lands*, Claude's hopes were dashed:

2nd March,

55 J29094 Hamilton LS/PW

Sir, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant and in reply desire to advise you that less than 50 acres remain in the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve, the larger portion having been taken over by the Soldier Settlement Commission. It would seem that such a small area would be suitable only as an addition to an established holding.

Yours faithfully, pro SECRETARY FOR LANDS.

Mr. C.H. McDonald C/- W.M. Shier, Private Bag, PICOLA. Vict.

Attached copy page 85

Much like his father and grandfather before him, Claude was denied access to his Country. As a returned serviceman, his land was not available to him

through the Soldier Settlement scheme, as he had been deemed ineligible, whilst much of the Mission land had been assigned to white servicemen.

At Barmah, Claude gave assistance to his close neighbour **Mr Tom Ferrari**. Mr Ferrari allowed Claude to build a milking shed on his property, where Claude milked approximately 20 cows and sold the cream to the Nathalia Casein (butter) factory. Claude also raised a large number of poultry on the farm and sold their eggs.

Mr Ferrari also allowed Claude to purchase and run sheep alongside his own on ^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}his 900 acre property. This was a mutually beneficial financial arrangement for Mr Ferrari and Claude, as Mr Ferrari was elderly and needed assistance with livestock, general farm work and shearing. ^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}

Claude's son Mervyn did the majority of paddock ploughing before the wheat was sown. This allowed Claude to complete his daily carpentry jobs. Claude, Alice, Alice junior and Mervyn would milk their cows before and after school. When required at the weekends, the whole family would assist with the movement of Claude's and Mr Ferrari's sheep between paddocks.

^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}

Before **Mr Ferrari's** death he added a **Codicil** to his last Will of **15 April 1954**. In recognition of the **services rendered to Mr Ferrari by Claude Henry McDonald** he received the benefit, use, enjoyment and income of 303 acres of Mr Ferrari's farm for a period of 3 years immediately following Mr Ferrari's death.

See the following Codicil document:

"C"

113190 / 3

3/3

THIS is a second Codicil to the last Will dated the 15th day of April 1954 of me THOMAS FERRARI of Lower Moira farmer

1. I EMPOWER my Trustees to increase the expenditure on a tombstone over my grave to TWO HUNDRED POUNDS

2. I LEAVE to CHARLES LANCE COWELL my Holden utility motor vehicle in place of my Dodge Utility motor vehicle and I LEAVE to him my ponies, cart and harness, pieball horse, hamless gun and rifle

3. In recognition of the services rendered to me by my neighbour CLAUDE HENRY McDONALD he shall have the benefit use enjoyment and income of All those pieces of land in the Parish of Moira County of Moira being Crown Allotment 9 Section A of 160 acres 1 rood 10 perches Crown Allotment 9 Section B of 34 acres 3 roods 4 perches and Crown Allotment 17 Section A of 109 acres 1 rood 10 perches for a period of three years immediately following my death subject to his paying all municipal rates and land taxes payable in respect thereof during that period

4. In all other respects I CONFIRM my said Will

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 13^d day of November One thousand nine hundred and sixty one.

SIGNED by the said Testator as and for a second Codicil to his said last Will in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request in his sight and presence and in the sight and presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses.

Thomas Ferrari

L. L. McCalland

W. H. L. S. N. A.

The Aborigines Welfare Board meanwhile were monitoring Aboriginal people, including Claude, Alice and their family. In 1961 they noted that Mr. & Mrs. Claude McDonald, “were camped in the Barmah area.” while in fact they were living in a farmhouse at Barmah East. [SEP]

Another report on the McDonald family in 1965 included Claude’s brother Walter (known as Wally), who had moved to the area to be near his brother.

S.C.F. Welfare Centre Box 164 [SEP] Echuca [SEP] 25/6/1965

Mr. P. E. Felton [SEP]

A. W. Board [SEP] Melbourne [SEP]

Dear Mr. Felton [SEP]

Re: Claude McDonald & W.E.G. McDonald (reply to your letter 11/5/65) [SEP] Mr. Claude McDonald has a five year lease of several hundred acres and about three years of this lease have expired. His brother now works on a farm near Nathalia. Yesterday I spoke to Mrs. Claude McDonald and I queried whether they were still interested in the War Settlement Scheme and she said they were so I suggested that they write to you and tell you how they were at present situated...

Yours sincerely [SEP] Miss Khaitin [SEP] Welfare Officer Attached copy page 87

Claude’s anxiety caused by the traumatic death of his mother, separation from his father and siblings, violent war experiences, the refusal of

assistance from the Aborigines Welfare Board, and the wounding of his son in the Vietnam War, led to Claude applying for a Total and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pension from Veteran's Affairs in June 1983. [SEP]

Tragedy struck one last time in Claude's life, when his youngest son Ian passed away suddenly in March of 1983. [SEP]

This was to be the breaking point for Claude, as he then passed away three months after the death of Ian, aged 63. He is buried in Geelong Eastern Cemetery, the same plot as his son Ian, far from his Ancestral home. Claude's application for TPI was approved after his death, and this in turn was allocated to his wife Alice. [SEP]

Effects

The prolonged inter-generational effects of the injustices perpetrated upon the McDonald family still resonate with the current generations. We would like to acknowledge that the present generations largely have avoided much of the discrimination and hurt that our Ancestors were faced with. Society today has removed many of the barriers our Ancestors experienced and our opportunities, consequently, are much improved. [SEP]

Reflecting upon our previous generations' experiences, going as far back as Susannah in the 1830s, we can clearly see that their experiences mirror those that many Aboriginal families across Australia have encountered. Whilst ours is not a unique story, the evidence is clear that our family experienced the stereotypical aspects of colonisation — **dispossession**, **segregation** and **assimilation**. But our story is so much more than those three words. [SEP]

We know from oral histories and first hand accounts that **murders** and

massacres were part of the settler experience and was an expected way to deal with Aboriginal people. The loss of stock and attacks on their property led the white settlers to perpetrate these atrocities in the name of 'self defence', according to Thomas Browne. Niel Black, a first settler in the Western District, noted in his journal, December 9, 1839, when talking about squatting, "...The best way is to go outside and take up a new run, provided the conscience of the party is sufficiently seared to enable him without remorse to slaughter natives right and left." (MacKellar, 2008, p. 106-107.) Murder was a means to an end when settling 'virgin ground.'

The government of the United Kingdom was fully aware of the wholesale dispossession and violence being carried out in Australia. In 1837 the Select Parliamentary Committee on Aboriginal Tribes reported that, "...Such, indeed, is the barbarous state of these people, and so entirely destitute are they even of the rudest forms of civil polity, that their claims, whether as sovereigns or proprietors of the soil, have been utterly disregarded. The land has been taken from them without the assertion of any other title than that of superior force..." (Aborigines Protection Society, 1837, p. 125).

The aristocrat Robert Dundas Murray wrote of his experiences visiting the new colony in 1843, in his book entitled *A Summer at Port Phillip*, where he commented about the cause of the decline in the 'native' population: "It would, perhaps, be found, that it has not always been the untutored native who has sought the blood of his neighbour, nor that his weapons have alone been raised in anger amid the forest. If all tales be true, there are certain spots in the province that have witnessed scenes in which the white men have acted a cruel and remorseless part; where, for the offence of one or two, a sweeping vengeance has been taken alike upon the guilty and the innocent; where the musket, at the dead of night, has not ceased to play upon its surprised and helpless victims, until, one and all, they were stretched in death where their pursuers found them;—the strong men of the

tribe together with the stripling—the mother beside her child!” (Dundas, 1843, p. 243.) [L] [SEP]

Susannah witnessed and survived a massacre, though we cannot be 100% certain which massacre this was. The lack of reporting of such massacres (and often active concealment), an absence of a dedicated police force in the Portland Bay District at that time, and the local judiciary and ‘squattocracy’ turning a blind eye to such events, makes it difficult to pinpoint a precise event. Of the documented atrocities committed in the area of Susannah’s people, the Kerupjmara, we have recounted one of the possible incidents that may coincide with our oral history. [L] [SEP]

When reading books, articles, reports, minutes, letters and notes from the early period of governance and management of Aboriginal people it is worth noting that on most occasions there is little reference to individual Aboriginal people. As time wore on at the Missions and individual Aboriginal people became more troublesome, only then do we start to see any persons’ names mentioned. For the most part, Aboriginal people were largely an invisible ‘other’, described using collective nouns like ‘savages’, ‘cannibals’, ‘blacks’, or ‘natives’. The dehumanising of Aboriginal peoples was a tactic used by colonisers across the globe. As we try and piece together our ancestry and cultural heritage the **invisibility** of our Ancestors is notable, with scant references to be found the further we go back in time. [L] [SEP]

Dispossession of land was taken under force, and whilst resistance from local Aboriginal people was encountered, they were no match for the armed [L] [SEP] invaders. The first settlers in the Colony of Port Phillip were quick to distance themselves of any guilt and to justify their methods in the name of ‘settlement’. In 1839, 82 Port Phillip colonists sent a missive to Sir George Gipps, the then Governor of New South Wales, stating that, “your [L] [SEP] memorialists are not aware of any aggression on the part of Her Majesty’s

white subjects which could have excited the blacks to commit the excesses and barbarities,” and that they were required to “put an end to by coercive measures.”, (Labouchere, 1839, p. 29. See Appendix 1, p. 86 for original document.) placing the blame for such an attack squarely on the Aboriginal people, whilst they were forced to retaliate.

The ‘**cleansing**’ of the large Aboriginal population in the Portland Bay District during the mid- to late-1830s and early-1840s had other intended [L] [SEP] consequences. Many men, women and children found ‘employment’ on the new stations and were quickly indoctrinated into European culture and language. Whilst still speaking their own language, this was the start of a **decline in culture, language and a traditional way of life** for Aboriginal people in Western Victoria. Sadly, this impacted Susannah and her children Hannah, Alfred and Euphemia. Introduction of **disease** was, perhaps, an unintended consequence of the invasion of Europeans, though it did impact greatly on Aboriginal people in the area. We have no specific records that our Ancestors were impacted, however there was a recorded outbreak of measles at the Lake Condah Mission in 1874 (Clark, 1990, p. 232), which affected most people on the Mission. [L] [SEP]

In attempting to mitigate the reasons for the rapid decline of the Aboriginal population in Victoria, William Westgarth wrote at the time, “The diminution of his number, and the final extinction of savage man, as he makes room for the civilised occupant of his territory, is a feature of which Australia furnishes neither the first nor the only example. ... The causes of this gradual extinction appear to be tolerably ascertained; their own mutual wars; their hostile encounters with the whites; the diseases and vices of European society, unusually destructive in their effects, from irregularity in the mode of life, and the want of proper medical treatment; the common practice of infanticide; and, more remotely, perhaps, by the gradual disappearance of various animals used as food, and of other sources of their

support.” (1846, p. 5-6.) Westgarth considers the rapid decline of the Aboriginal population ‘tolerable’, and the fact that they fight amongst themselves, commit infanticide (with no evidence provided) and do not seek out medical treatment, he infers that they have assisted in their own demise.

Along with the dispossession of traditional lands by the invaders, came the **clearing** of these newly acquired lands for farming. Much of the land had been managed by Aboriginal people for millennia, creating grasslands for native animals like kangaroo, wallaby and emu to thrive. Bill Gammage (2005) noted that, “Over long periods, usually centuries, people laid down a template of plant communities — rainforest, open forest, scrub, heath, grass and so on. They could leave as it was what climax (natural) vegetation they needed, but they made the other communities, and distributed them not randomly, but linked to each other, or associated. A common association was a grass plain near water and ringed by open forest; another was swamp, grass, and scrub or heath. Associations provided habitats or edges between habitats for each plant and animal species, and balanced their myriad conflicting needs. Aboriginal landscapes were consciously made to let all creation survive.” As land clearing commenced and new stock were introduced, native plants and animals that were traditionally ‘harvested’ or foraged disappeared. This terraforming by settlers greatly impacted on traditional cultural practices. Significant sites were also demolished in this process; sometimes intentionally by settlers, and sometimes less intentionally by their livestock. Fences were erected to limit access to important sites on Country, and simultaneously impacting the natural patterns and habitats of native fauna.

The cleansing and clearing of land also included the **renaming** of features with European names. The major river known as Bochara, for example, was [L]replaced with the name of the British Colonial Secretary, Glenelg, by explorer Thomas Mitchell. Mitchell also renamed the spiritually significant

Budj Bim with the name of his friend, William Eeles, to Mount Eeles. The instant erasure of the name of a feature enhanced the loss of the stories connected with that feature. [SEP]

Place names are culturally important and provide a tangible connection to place. Gammage (2011, p. 130.) speaks on the importance of geographic features. “Since creator ancestors made all the land, no land can be wilderness. It is made and has a Dreaming, or it does not exist. People see in land, sea and sky proofs of the Dreaming and their own past and future. Every hill, plain, rock and tree is alive with story and imagery, and filled with presences.” The loss of these cultural features reduced our connection to Country and annihilated some of our Creation stories. [SEP]

Another example of Connection can be found in a letter from **Mr. Henry Pottage** who wrote to *The Argus*, published on the 11 July 1907, where he makes it clear how the Gunditjmara valued **Connection to Country**. *In his letter he references Susannah’s brother, Johnny Sutton. “...I have known different members of the Condah tribe and each has, in his simple way, shown his regard for his home. Years ago I spent frequent Sunday afternoons wandering [SEP] over a Western District sheep station further north, with one or two natives, looking for suitable sheoak trees for boomerang timber. The burden of the blackfellow’s lament always was, ‘No good phellow tree here; Lake Con-Dah better.’ I used to write letters for old Johnny Sutton (Mr Stahle will remember him) to his daughter Eva at home at the mission station, and he always bid me put in that he was glad to say that he would soon be home again. Others I have known at various times in different places, and they always seemed to be looking forward to the time when they would be going home—if not preparing to go or on the way.”* <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/10142550>

With the complete take over of unceded Aboriginal lands, the problem of

Aboriginal people roaming freely on their traditional lands caused consternation to the new settlers. Not because Aboriginal people would practice their traditional hunting or maintaining their aquaculture sites, in the case of Tae Rak, but because they needed **protection** from the Aboriginal people and Aboriginal people needed protection from them. In the logic of the coloniser, it was recommended to the government of the United Kingdom that, “...Her Majesty's sovereignty over the whole of New Holland is asserted without reserve. It follows, therefore, that the Aborigines of the whole territory must be considered as within the allegiance of the Queen, and as entitled to her protection...” (Aborigines Protection Society, 1837, p. 126.) [SEP]

The concept of ‘protection’ was taken further by the government (firstly New South Wales, until 1850, then later Victorian) to mean ‘segregation’. With firstly the establishment of Protectorates (Mount Rouse 1842-1849, and others), then followed by a series of missions and reserves across the state. Isolating Aboriginal people on small pieces of land that could sustain their reduced [SEP] population was a means of keeping them out of mainstream society and thereby ‘protecting’ settlers from the ‘savages’.

The Protectorate system was very quickly deemed a failure by the settlers, as [SEP] Aboriginal people were using the Protectorate land as a secure haven after launching guerrilla attacks on the settlers and their stock. A local correspondent to the *Geelong Advertiser* of the 27 March 1841 wrote about the escalating situation, “This never-ending subject becomes more and more urgent upon our notice every week; and if any doubt ever existed in the public mind, as to the necessity for entirely abandoning the present system, and commencing a different course of legislation for the blacks, it must now be cleared away. The intercourse between settlers and aborigines is invariably pernicious in its results. The invaders are generally divided into two large classes—the Exterminators by cruelty, and the Exterminators by

indulgence. The two classes are alike injurious—the pseudo-philanthropist will effect the destruction of a native race, as surely as the most sanguinary hunter.” The correspondent later remarked, “The system pursued by Colonel Gawler, revolting though it be in appearance (namely, shooting a few blacks in a summary manner, to strike terror into the remainder,) will, in the long run be found to have a more merciful tendency than the ‘blank-cartridge system’ of our government.”

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/225006480> ^[1]_[SEP]

The establishment of missions and reserves in Victoria, managed by church or state, had a more fruitful result for settlers and the government. Church missionaries were placed on some missions, like Lake Condah for example, with funding coming from the newly created Central Board to Watch Over the Interests of the Aborigines, 1860 (later, the Board for the Protection for the ^[1]_[SEP]Protection of Aborigines) (Critchett, 1998, p. 28). Women and children were moved from stations and placed on the missions and reserves during this time. In the minutes of a special meeting of the Board on 19 January 1872, it was minuted that, “*A letter from Mr. Green explanatory of the action taken by him in removing some Aboriginal women from the western stations and placing them at Lake Condah was read and approved of and the Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Shaw thereof.*” (NAA, B314, Roll 1, Item ID 32045807 p. 255.) Later that year the Board also considered a, “*proposal for the removal of the young persons and children very gradually from Lake Hindmarsh to Lake Condah.*” (NAA, B314, Roll 1, Item ID 32045807 p. 261.)

Aboriginal people required permission to move off the missions and reserves to move around in the community and gain employment. A certificate was required to be carried on the person to show authorities that they had permission to move about (Critchett, 1998, p. 153). This systematic **removal** of Aboriginal people from their traditional lands, and the use of certificates

to control movement, was a form of **coercion and control** by the government. In 1880 Rev. Stähle removed Susannah's brother, Johnny Sutton, to Mount Ebenezer Mission, in the Wimmera, because he was creating trouble (Wettenhall, 2022, p. 41). van Toorn (2014, p. 405) summarised the effects that coercion had on the Aboriginal and white population, "I would suggest that while Aboriginal people were coerced into submission, most non-Aboriginal people were persuaded by hegemonic racist and colonialist discourses that such coercion was natural, just or a matter of necessary discipline." [L] [SEP]

The managers of the missions were provided with rations and goods to be doled out to the mission population. The management of rations were used as a [L] [SEP] **control** measure over Aboriginal people. Critchett (1998, p. 151) relates the story where Aboriginal people on the Lake Condah Mission rebelled to **Stähle's** authoritarian style, "*He reacted by stopping rations, including tobacco, and when this move produced an uproar he called in the police. Stähle also attempted to force obedience by refusing to permit the rebels to apply to the Board for certificates allowing them to work off the station.*"

Missionaries attempted to 'assimilate' and 'civilise' Aboriginal people by educating them in Western skills, language and religion. As part of this, [L] [SEP] Aboriginal people were not allowed to speak their customary language or partake of their cultural practices. Elder Euphemia Day recalled, "On the mission they weren't allowed – you lost your song and dance, the language that was taken away from us so we weren't allowed to speak your language ... My grandmothers [Hannah McDonald and Christina Arden] were both in their nineties and I never ever heard them speak any language because they knew the consequences of that action." (Weir, 2009, p. 10.) [L] [SEP]

In 1877, the Royal Commission on the Aborigines recommended that,

“when the natives are permitted to engage themselves in service to private employers, it would be well to give the manager of the Aboriginal station power to insist at his discretion that the wages should be paid through him to the native employed.” (p. xiv.) There was a distinct **power imbalance** between Aboriginal people and their so-called protectors. Where once they had managed themselves and their Country, they were now at the control and behest of their white overlords. This involved a loss of **self-determination** that has only partially been returned. It is clear that Alfred and his wider family suffered through these control measures in their time at the Lake Condah Mission. [L] [SEP]

After the *Aboriginal Protection Act* 1869 and its later amendment in 1886 (known colloquially as the Half-caste Act), there was a desire from government to reduce the costs of protection for Aboriginal people and they began the process of ‘**assimilation**’. Broome (2005, p. 178) indicates that a new breed of politician had swept into power in Victoria, with a philosophy that, “... individuals should educate themselves, work hard, learn to save and reject things like alcohol, gambling and the unchaste behaviours...” and that Aboriginal reserves were “**only tolerated because Europeans felt the guilt of the colonial usurper.**” The Board’s General Inspector, George Ogilvie, suggested that, “Adult Aboriginal people ‘should be encouraged’ to leave the reserves in search of work and it ‘should be compulsory’ for the educated youths of both sexes to be apprenticed out to ‘responsible masters and mistresses’. His aim was ‘the absorption of the whole race into the general community eventually’.” (Broome, 2005, p.179.) [L] [SEP]

Alfred, Annie McDonald and their growing family were removed from the Mission against their will. Pushed out into society to make their own way, with little resources to draw upon. Clearly they struggled to provide even the basics for their family, with Annie begging to Stähle for basic rations. [L] [SEP]

Broome (2005, p.185.) described the Aboriginal experience of removal from the Mission and ‘**assimilation** or **absorption**’ as follows: “The two generations following the passage of the 1886 Act and its amendments were the most coercive time for Aboriginal people since white settlement. They lost significant civil rights as the Board dealt with families and moved people around as it pleased, all in the name of a grand design: the absorption and disappearance of Aboriginal people into the wider community.”^[L]_[SEP] The process of assimilation saw Alfred’s children disperse across the state looking for work, with none of them remaining in the Portland district. In 1900, the manager of the Lake Condah Mission noted, “*As the blacks are dying out, and the Board removes the half-caste boys and girls by handing them over to the Industrial Schools Department, finality is greatly facilitated and will doubtless be attained in a few years.*” (Muirhead, 1987, <https://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/rciadic/regional/nsw-vic-tas/195.html>)

World War I intervened through the early years of the assimilation process, and for those that chose to enlist, this provided a further chance to become ‘assimilated’ with their white brethren. According to Dodson and McDonnell (2016, p.12), “The Australian Imperial Force was influenced by the ‘**white Australia**’ policy and was determined to keep the military force white.” For Alfred’s sons, George and Allan, this did not stop them attempting to enlist, as they were deemed ‘white enough,’ unlike some of their cousins from the Mission, who were deemed ‘too black’.

The **Hamilton Spectator** on **25 March 1916** reported that:

In common with other Government institutions, the Defence Department appears to interpret its own regulations in a most remarkable manner. It will be remembered that a few days ago a batch of men from the Lake Condah Mission Station passed the necessary examinations for active service with the Australian

Imperial Forces^[1] in Hamilton, and were jubilant at being allowed to show their willingness to assist the Empire in her hour of trial. They were a fine body of men, and as they marched through the streets received congratulations from the people, and children who met them saluted in token of their admiration. There cannot be a shadow of doubt as to their patriotism and ability to serve their country, but word has been received from headquarters that they are not to be enlisted. This has caused surprise to the residents of this part of the district, and needless to say the gallant volunteers are keenly disappointed. There appears to be no possible reason for the rejection of these men, and it is hoped that full enquiries will be made. Instructions say, "That only men substantially of European origin can be enlisted," and if half-castes do not come under that category, the ordinary civilian will be puzzled to know what is meant. They are allowed the full rights of citizenship, and many are even now serving abroad. One man (Mr. Lovett), who has now to stand aside, has two brothers at the front, and they have displayed such splendid qualities as soldiers that they have on different occasions been detailed for the special and important work, of sniping and scouting. Every man is wanted in the contest against an unscrupulous enemy, and we are sure that our soldiers would be only too pleased to march into battle shoulder to shoulder with the boys from the mission Station. In all walks of life they have proved themselves true Australians, and their untiring energy would be of valuable assistance to their comrades they are so eager to join.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133695523>^[1]_[SEP]

After the Great War the BPA turned its mind to what to do with Aboriginal Reserve land, now that it had closed all but Lake Tyers, and was in the process of closing Framlingham. Their policy of '**concentration**' was to put all Aboriginal people who remained on reserves to be placed at Lake Tyers. Returned Aboriginal servicemen, such as George and his brother Allan, wanted to acquire a portion of the Lake Condah Mission. At that time the Board was planning to sell off the land for Soldier Settlement. When the wider community got wind of the scheme they petitioned Board member

Hon. H. J. M. Campbell in May 1920.

Sir,—Considerable interest has been aroused recently in our district in connection with the new policy of concentration decided upon by the Board controlling the aboriginal reserves of the State, under which all the stations are to be closed except Lake Tyers. Petitions signed by some 1200 residents of the district, asking that the Lake Condah station should be retained, were presented by me to the Board at a meeting held last week, and the following is the reply that I have just received from the Secretary to the Board:—"I am to acknowledge the receipt of petitions from residents and ratepayers, and also half-castes of the Lake Condah district, urging that the Lake Condah aboriginal station be retained for the use of half-castes in the district, and am to inform you that same were considered at the Board meeting today (April 21). I was instructed to forward to you a resume of the Board's policy with reference to concentration and the disposal of reserves under its control. In 1917, after exhaustive enquiry, the Board decided that in the best interests of the aborigines and half-castes all native population should be concentrated at the Lake Tyers aboriginal station, and that the revenue derived from the sale or leasing of other reserves — Lake Condah, Frandingham [sic], Coranderrk and Antwerp — should be applied to the upkeep of the "natives" so concentrated. Under this scheme managerial and other expenses will be considerably reduced, better supervision will be assured, proper medical attention, teaching of trades, farming and agriculture, facilities for religious and secular education can all be provided. Moreover, under concentration it can easily be perceived that revenue will go much further than at present where there are stations and depots scattered throughout the country. I am to add that there is no intention of transferring the old natives at present on the Lake Condah reserve, and further, that no aborigine will be transferred to Tyers against his or her will. The question of the disposal of aboriginal reserves other than at Lake Tyers has not yet been decided, but these reserves must either be sold or leased if effect is to be given to the policy outlined herein. Should Parliament decide that the Condah reserve is to be made available for selection there is no doubt that in connection therewith the claims of those of aboriginal blood will have special consideration." <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/64021317>^[SEP]

From Mr. Campbell's response it is clear the policy of 'concentration' was designed to save costs, and even though he suggests that the policy was in

the 'best interests' of the Aboriginal men and women, it clearly lacked understanding of Connection to Country and what removal from their Country would mean.^[1] By August of 1920 the BPA was still trying to find ways to either gain income from the Lake Condah Mission or sell it. In the minutes of a Board meeting from 11 August 1920 it was noted that:

(2) Secretary reported Tenders had been invited for leasing the L. Condah Aboriginal Reserve from 12 months from 1/10/20. Tenders to close 14/8/20.

Hon. H. J. M. Campbell stated that there was strong opposition to leasing L. Condah by Hamilton Sub Branch R.S.S.I.L.A. and that considerable notice of same had been taken by local press.

Resolved that Mr. Campbell forward a letter for publication in reply in Hamilton papers. Resolved also that Chief Secretary be asked to arrange an interview between the Premier,

the Chief Secretary, the Assistant Minister for Lands and members of the Board, to endeavour to reach finality as to the proprietary rights of Aboriginal Reserves. The C. Secretary also to be informed that Board desires to state its views at such interview with reference to previous requests that sanction of Parliament be obtained to all Aboriginal Reserves being vested in the Board so that same can be disposed of or leased, and the proceeds funded; Interest to be applied to the upkeep of the Aborigines. The Secretary to add that the matter was regarded as most urgent as members who represented Districts where Aboriginal Reserves were situated, were being misrepresented in the Press, and it was also understood that the R.S.S.I.L.A. Conference now sitting, intended making the matter of the disposal of such reserves one of its principal planks.

Cd. also that tenders for leasing Lake Condah be held in abeyance pending such conference.

Source: NAA, B314, Roll 2 p. 532 (see Appendix 1, p. 87 for original document)

In 1920, George applied for land under the Soldier Settlement scheme but

was granted land far away from his traditional Country, and at a price that was believed to be over the market value (see paragraph 111).

Other Aboriginal servicemen from the Mission, like George's brother Allan and his cousins the Lovett brothers, missed out. In 1921 the Lake Condah Mission was broken up for Soldier Settlement.

On the **30 May 1921** the *Portland Guardian* wrote:

CONDAH MISSION STATION.^[1]^[SEP] Messrs W. E. Thomas (Glenelg), Bailey (Port Fairy) and W. H. Everard (Evelyn). M.L.A.,

members of the Aboriginal Board, visited Condah Mission Station on Friday. Although nothing official has been announced, it is understood that in keeping with the policy decided upon this land will be thrown open for soldier settlement, and the natives removed and concentrated at Lake Tyers. Deputations of blacks and half castes met the Board and asked not to be driven from home; but, as one Member stated, the time of sentimentality in matters leading to the development of the State has passed, and it is considered that better use can be made of the land, which is now practically lying idle, by throwing it open to returned soldiers. Other areas set apart for the exclusive use of aborigines, such as Antwerp, and Coranderrk, will be taken over in the same way, and the natives concentrated at Lake Tyers, an ideal place for such a purpose.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/64023878>

^[1]^[SEP]It is clear from this statement that members of the State parliament felt it was time for a hard-nosed and unsentimental approach to dealing with Aboriginal people and the 'concentration' of them in one place was more pragmatic.

We know that Alfred and Annie McDonald, and George and Maisie McDonald, lived a life of **poverty** and were dependent on handouts and **welfare**. They were never able to rise ^[1]^[SEP]out of that poverty due to being Aboriginal and being placed on the lowest rung of the social ladder by white

Australia. George and Maisie's children were ^[1]_[SEP]the first generation capable of rising out of that cycle of poverty through education and creating their own opportunities through hard work and toil. It is worthy of note that George and Maisie's sons, **Claude and Wally**, both **applied for land under the soldier settlement scheme**, as they were entitled to do as **returned servicemen**, yet were both declined for reasons unknown.

For all of George and Maisie McDonald's children there was a sense of **shame** about who they were and where they had come from. The idea that any of them could acknowledge their Aboriginality in a public sense was anathema to them. This was probably due to the conscious and unconscious **racism** in society at that time, even though Australia, as a country, had denounced the 'white Australia' policy. They all carried with them the 'burden' of being Aboriginal — indoctrinated with shame to acknowledge who they were, sometimes not brave enough to confront where they had come from. It could be argued that identifying as Aboriginal meant that you would not be able to gain the same benefits as white society, such as land through the Soldier Settlement scheme. ^[1]_[SEP]

The letters of Alfred, George and Claude McDonald — three generations of one family — all requesting **access to land** at the Lake Condah Mission, displays a powerful connection each of them had to their Country. It was not lost on the neighbouring white settlers that the families that were connected to the Lake ^[1]_[SEP]Condah Mission should maintain that connection.

On **15 June 1945** the **Hamilton Aborigines Uplift Society** wrote to Mr. Hedditch, MLA, "...the 46 acres, on which stand church and school are almost exclusively used by ... [the] Aborigines. It is their social centre. Where their sports and other functions are held. In the church their children are baptized, and there their young people are married, and when death overtakes them they lie in their own little cemetery on the edge of the

forest.” (Lake Condah Aboriginal Education Committee, 1988, p. 21.)

All of the effects of **trauma** laid out show a continued pattern of destruction wrought by the white invaders to Gunditjmara Country and people for over six generations of our family.

Recommendations

I considered the long term impacts of **land injustice**, white settlement, government laws and regulations, and societal attitudes to our Ancestors and current family members. Having documented and detailed these impacts and their effects. I therefore provide the following recommendation to the Yoorrook Justice Commission to be considered in your final report and recommendations to the Victorian government, for the **Repatriation of the stolen land**.

Country, sky and waters

During European settlement the Gunditjmara people were dispossessed of their ^[1]_[SEP]rightful Country through genocidal practices and government administration. I would recommend that free and unhindered access be made to all Gunditjmara people to their rightful Country. This would include access to land that is currently considered private land. Our Country was never ceded, and as such, any ‘title’ to the land resides with Gunditjmara people. Establishing a new scheme that appropriately addresses the recognition of native title alongside European notions of proprietary title, meaning that Gunditjmara people cannot be arbitrarily denied access to their traditional lands by modern, legal, artificial boundaries, is of significant cultural importance to our family.

Justice^[L]_[SEP]

I recommend an Aboriginal-led taskforce be established to garner information from Elders and the community, to develop policies and practices that promote ongoing justice and reparation for past wrongs. Existing redress schemes should be accessible by the direct descendants of those who were eligible, but have passed without access to them. The justification for redress is based on the inter-generational wealth transfer from the Gunditjmara people to the European settlers that stole the land and profited from its exploitation.

Conclusion

I thank the Yoorrook Justice Commission for allowing me on behalf of Alfred, George and Claude McDonald's family to make a submission that documents our story and our truth, and hope that the evidence presented and the recommendations made will be accepted in good faith and put forward in your final report to government. Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard.

Abbreviations^[L]_[SEP]

ABC Australian Broadcasting Corporation

^[L]_[SEP]**AIATSIS** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

AIF Australian Imperial Force^[L]_[SEP]

ANZAC Australian and New Zealand Army Corps^[L]_[SEP]

APS Associated Public Schools of Victoria^[L]_[SEP]

BPA Board for the Protection of the Aborigines^[L]_[SEP]

CO Commanding Officer^[SEP]
CoE Church of England^[SEP]
DNA Deoxyribonucleic Acid^[SEP]
^[SEP]**MLA** Member of Legislative Assembly
NAA National Archives of Australia^[SEP]
PROV Public Record Office of Victoria^[SEP]
RAAF Royal Australian Air Force^[SEP]
RSL Returned & Services League^[SEP]
RSSILA Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia
TB Tuberculosis
^[SEP]**TPI** Total and Permanently Incapacitated
UNDRIP United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VCE Victorian Certificate of Education
WAAAF Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force
WWI World War One^[SEP]
WWII World War Two^[SEP]

Document for Alfred McDonald

[79]

C O P Y.

Drayton

Wallacedale

J.K. McDougall Esq, M.H.R.

Parliament House

Melbourne.

*(Signed) A. McDonald
15/2/10*

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 20th December 1909 received, requesting me to forward you names of how many half caste families that have been put off the Lake Condah Mission Station, which you will please find as follows :-

Angus King wife and two children
John King wife and one boy
Harry Connolly wife and two children
Charles Foster wife and four children
James Lovett wife and twelve children
Henry Albert and eight children
Alex Taylor and four children
Alfred McDonald wife and seven children.

Some time back the fathers of these families made application through our late member Mr Cameron to Mr Murray then Minister of Lands "personally" for the portion of land containing 1000 acres that had at that time been cut off the Aboriginal reserve as being no longer of any use to the station and which the Minister of Lands Mr Murray came to inspect with the then member mentioned, for to be cut up in small holdings for homes for each of these families.

Our late member took a lively interest in the matter for us moved a motion in the House to the effect that this matter would be placed before the House at its next meeting, but sad to say his untimely death came for which our cause was never revived. Some of us have spoken about the matter to our present member Mr Campbell, but seemingly he has no interest in the matter and we hope and trust that you will do what you can in the matter.

P.S.

I am writing Chairman
Aborigines Protection Board also
Mr Wall in respect to the matter.
(Initd.)

A. McD.

I am, yours respectfully
(Signed)

Alfred McDonald.

[80]

State Parliament House

Melbourne 3rd March 1910.

C O P Y.

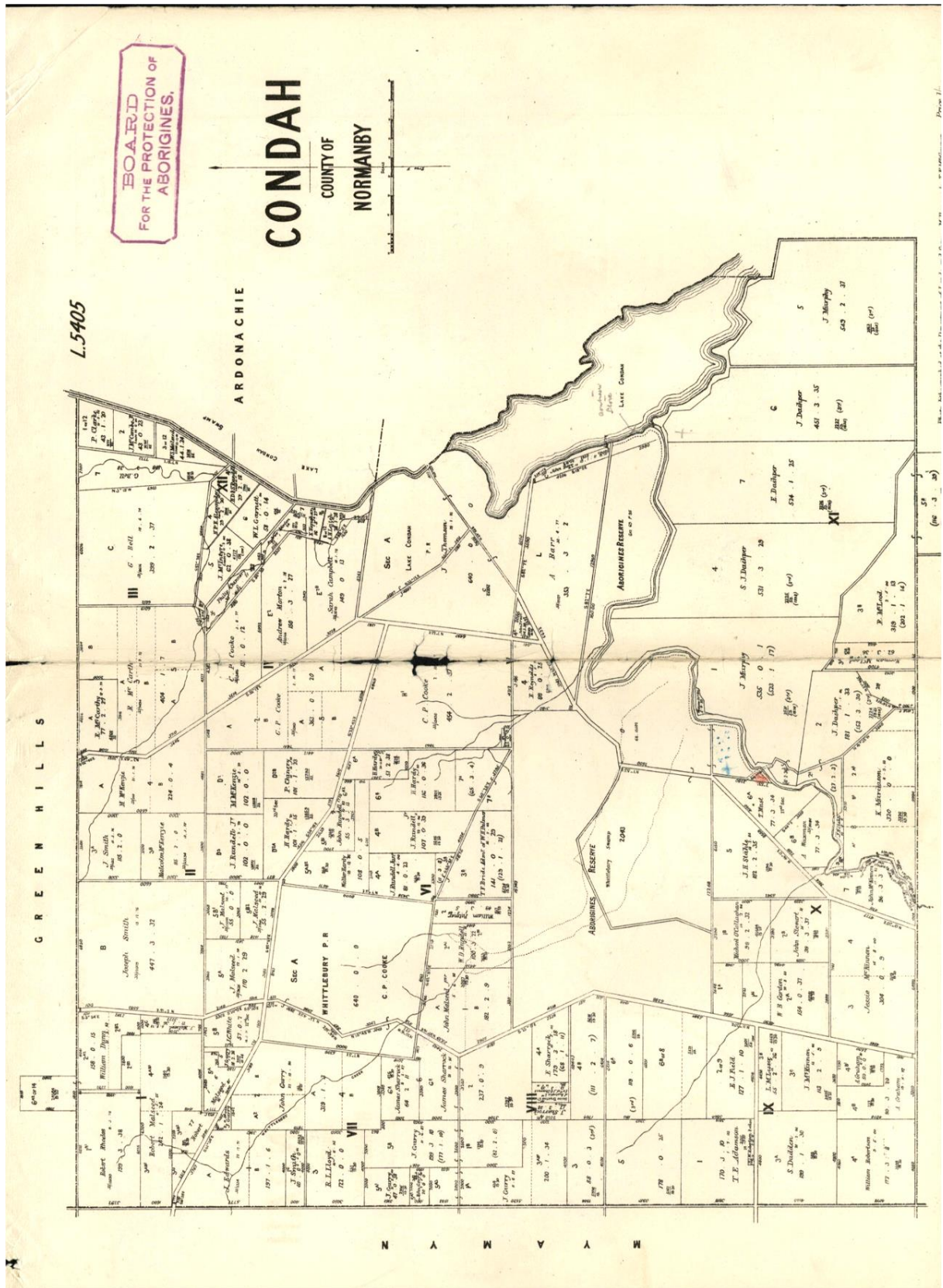
Mr Jas. Skene
Secretary for Lands
Melbourne.

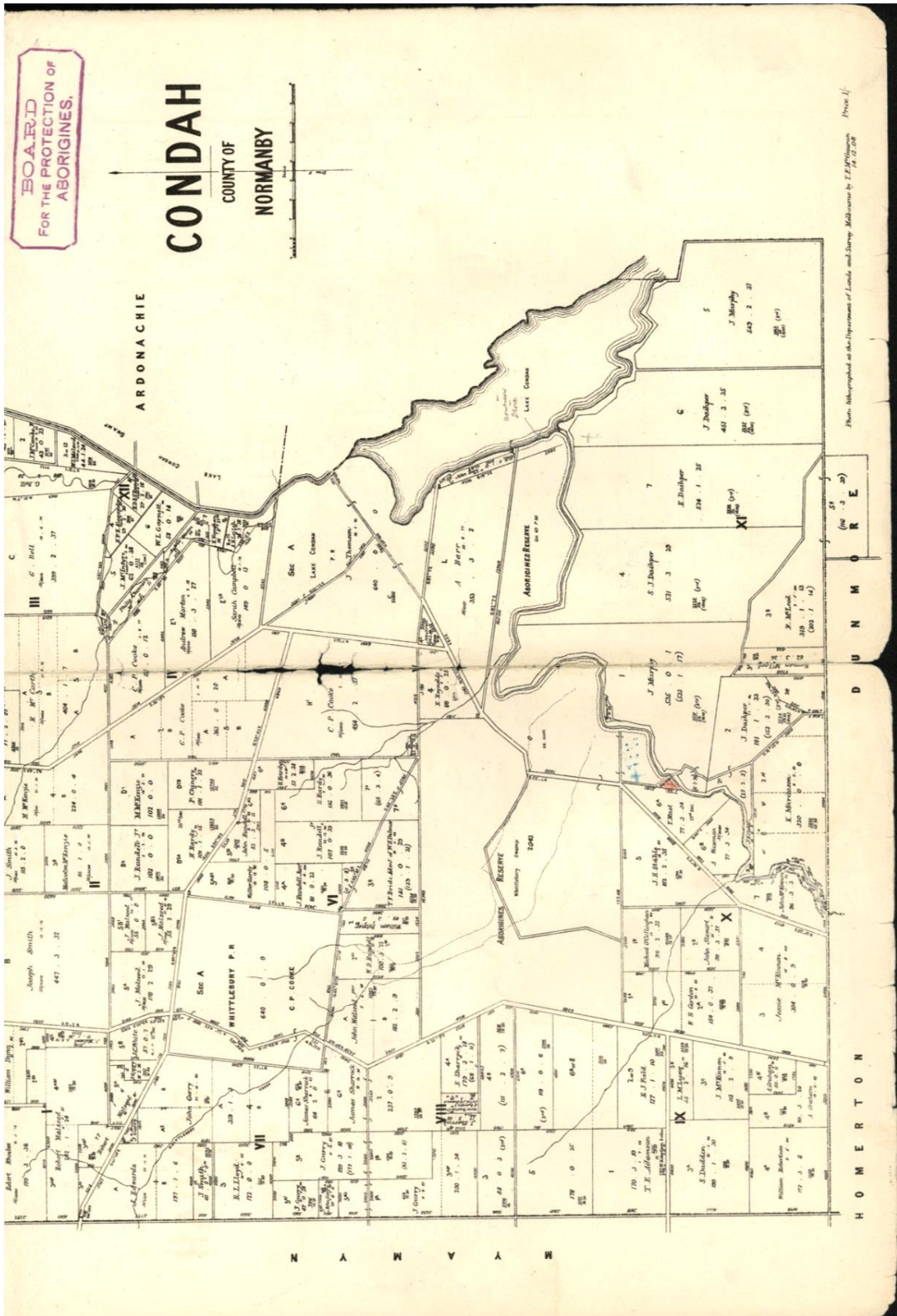
Dear Sir,

The enclosed has been forwarded to me by Mr McDougall M.H.R. having been received by him from A. McDonald one of the half castes who were put off the Condah Mission Station some time ago. It appears that these men made application for a portion of the 1000 acres that had been cut off the Mission reserve at that time, and as nothing has since been done in the matter I trust that you will give their claims every consideration. They are a hard working steady lot of fellows and it seems a hard thing that they, the descendants of the original proprietors of the whole of Australia should now have trouble to obtain enough of it to make a living on.

Yours faithfully
(Signed)

J.Wall





J. H. Laidlaw & Co. Ltd.

AUCTIONEERS,
STOCK AND STATION
AGENTS.

TELEPHONE 73.

Box 104.

Hamilton.

6th 15th 1931

Recd 1931
330

The Secretary
Board Protection Aborigines
Chief Secretary Office Wellington

Dear Sir

Your of 13th inst rec with Copy Lease Lake
Candah Reserve Have instructed Agent Board for
Fire Policy -
My overseer Mr McDonald informs me there is a
move on to shift Alf McDonald from the Museum
Station. I trust this is not correct. I have known
McDonald for over 20 years he is the best man on
The Museum keeps an eye however they as if he
owned it any of my stock gets out he puts them
back. & does up any breakages in the fences -
The museum folk generally have odd horses and
Cattle running on the land itself I don't mind
this while McDonald is there to look after them
In my opinion he is a good asset to the Board to
keep there as anyone wanting the museum could
get him to look after keep an eye on the place -
he is really too old for any work except looking after
it would be a shame to shift him now

Yours truly
J. H. Laidlaw

330 [20]

20th October, 1.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th instant and to inform you that, in view of your representations in the matter, no action will be taken to remove Alfred McDonald from the Lake Concaah reserve during the present lease.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. T. H. Laidlaw,
Box 104,
HAMILTON.

Secretary.

Source: Private collection.

DM
C/55253

[57]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Form 7.

323

The Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1928.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT—GENERAL.

Full Name of ~~Claimant~~ Pensioners Re Alfred & Annie McDonald
Mission Station,
Address of Claimant Milltown.

Section 28, Sub-section 2, of the Act reads—

"The Registrar may require any person, whom he believes to be in a position to do so, to furnish to him, for submission to the Magistrate, a confidential report as to the circumstances or the financial transactions of any claimant or pensioner or of any relatives of a claimant or pensioner; and any person who, on being required to do so by the Registrar, fails to furnish a report within a reasonable time, or furnishes a report containing any statement which is untrue in any particular, shall be guilty of an offence."

Penalty :—One hundred pounds or six months' imprisonment.

FROM THE REGISTRAR OF PENSIONS AT Melbourne. C. 1

To The Secretary,
Aborigines Board,
C/o Chief Secretary,
State Treasury,
MELBOURNE.

~~The above named is a claimant for a pension~~ and I have to request that you will be so good as to inform me as follows :—

1. What benefits are received weekly by Alfred & Annie McDonald from the Board, or from the Mission Station?
2. Are they in receipt of free board & lodging, or free rations?

It is requested that your reply be written hereunder.

Wm. McPherson *J.S.*
Registrar.

Date 14/10/31.

From

To the Registrar of Pensions at

Source: Private collection.

George Winter McDonald (Joe)

ENLISTED

GEELONG

ENLISTED

P.H. 241.

Case No. _____

No. _____

CORANGAMITE

ESTATE.

3495
80.6

The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917.

**Application for Selection Purchase Lease.
Conditional Purchase Lease.**

Geo. Walter McDonald Date received *12.1.20*
95 acres *2* roods *20* perches.
Allot. _____ Sec. _____ Parish *Candare*

This face not to be written on by applicant.

QUESTION.	REPORT.												
Has land been classified. If so, in what class?													
Are there any objections to the application?													
Has land or any part of it been previously selected or applied for, or reserved? If so, give particulars													
Valuation of improvements (if any) and how payable													
Term for which no instalment of purchase shall be payable	<i>Three years full</i>												
CAPITAL VALUE { <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Land</td> <td>£ 1816.17.6</td> <td>ADVANCES.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improvements</td> <td>£ <i>Mallacott 1919</i></td> <td>Improvements effected by previous tenant</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£ _____</td> <td>House erected by Board</td> <td>£</td> </tr> </table>	Land	£ 1816.17.6	ADVANCES.		Improvements	£ <i>Mallacott 1919</i>	Improvements effected by previous tenant	£	Total	£ _____	House erected by Board	£	Cost of work done by Board ... £ Boundary fencing to be charged ... £ Stock ... £ Implements ... £ Seeds, &c. ... £ Other items ... £
Land	£ 1816.17.6	ADVANCES.											
Improvements	£ <i>Mallacott 1919</i>	Improvements effected by previous tenant	£										
Total	£ _____	House erected by Board	£										
Principal payable on	£												
Balance of Principal	£												
Half-yearly instalment	<i>? If any Impts on block to be paid for 1917, 1918</i>												
Has this allotment been previously held?	<i>Yes by E. W. Reed (335/866) Permit cancelled see within</i>												
Are there any objections to the application?	<i>No.</i>												
Was the allotment specially purchased for the applicant under Section 20 Closer Settlement Act 1915?	<i>No.</i>												

No Homestead

43 Geelong 12.1.20
17
23/1/20

Considered by the Inquiry Board held at *Beelbowne* on *12th January*
1920, and recommended that this application be granted
Enquiry Board Joseph Marshall & Stampers 20.1.20
58150
R. W. for permission
Done F. E. Stampers
4/2/20
3.2.20

Approved by LANDS PURCHASE BOARD, _____ on _____ Schedule No. R/ _____

PERMIT DATED *28/1/20* ISSUED *1/1/20*
Noted by Draughtsman *Gray 19.2.20* Lease facing prepared
Ledger-keeper *Mallacott 3.3.20* Lease to bear date _____

SCHEDULE "C."

Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917.

Application for a Lease.

(Insert name in full, occupation, and address.) I, *George White Mc Donald* of *20 Waltham Place Richmond*
 a discharged soldier being desirous of applying for land under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917*, and having obtained a Qualification Certificate, hereby apply for the allotment described hereunder, the same being land the intended alienation of which is governed by the provisions of the *Closer Settlement Act 1915* save as otherwise provided by the *Land Act 1915* the Act first mentioned:—

Parish.	Allotment.	Section.	Area.	Classification—Capital Value.
<i>Bundare</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>95.2.20</i>	<i>Mixed Farming 1816-17-6</i>

I hereby make the following replies to the undermentioned questions, and am prepared to embody same in a statutory declaration at the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Inquiry Board:—

Questions.	Replies.
Have you previously held any land? If so, give full particulars.	<i>No</i>
Do you hold or have you an interest in any land? If so, give full particulars of same.	<i>No</i>
If married, does your wife hold or has she an interest in any land? If so, give full particulars.	<i>No</i>
In the event of your application being successful, are you prepared to make your home on the land at once?	<i>Yes</i>
If your application is successful, are you prepared to insure with the Board at their insurable value all buildings and fencing now on the land, or which may subsequently be placed on the land?	<i>Yes</i>

Date *12 / 1 / 20* Signature *G. W. Mc Donald*

Declaration to be made by Applicant at Discharged Soldiers Settlement Inquiry Board.

I, George Winter McDonald
of Waltham Place Richmond in the State of Victoria Returned Soldier

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I have assets as per statement below. These assets are not mortgaged in any way.

Total, £ _____ My liabilities are £ _____

I propose to use the land for the purpose of Mixed Farming

I am prepared to enter into residence on the allotment within one months from the date of permit, and to continue thenceforth to reside thereon.

I know the obligations imposed upon me by the lease I am applying for with regard to personal residence on the land.

I know of the lease conditions, and will comply with them.

My assets consist of— Nil

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cows	—	—	—	Total Value of Assets			
Horses	—	—	—	My Liabilities consist of			
Sheep	—	—	—				
Pigs	—	—	—				
Other Stock	—	—	—				
Cash in hand	—	—	—				
Cash in Bank of	—	—	—				
Farm Implements	—	—	—				
Furniture	—	—	—				
Land	—	—	—				
Any other Assets	—	—	—				
Total Assets	—	—	—	Net Value of Assets	—	—	—

I hold G. 6 for mixed farming. I have inspected the land and it meets my requirements.

I am not an agent or trustee for any other person, and have not entered into any agreement to permit any other person to acquire by purchase or otherwise the land in respect of which this application is made.

I am not already the holder of any land the value of which, when added to the value of the allotment I am applying for, will exceed a total value of £2,500, and the statements made by me herein are true and correct in every particular.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of the Parliament of Victoria rendering persons making a false declaration punishable for wilful and corrupt perjury.

DECLARED before me, at Melbourne
in the State aforesaid this 15th day of January
in the year of our Lord One thousand
nine hundred and twenty

George W. McDonald

Walsby Lewis Dept

Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for taking declarations and affidavits.

Issued Certificate for
Mixed farm on 6/1/1920
Papers missing
12/1/20
Enquiry Br.

LAND ACT 1915.

Corr. No.

LOCAL LAND BOARD.

At Melbourne On 12 1 1920
Name George Winter Mc Donald
Allot. 4 Sec. - Area 95.2.20 Parish Cundare

NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

~~28/11~~ Discharged Soldier, 20 Waltham Place Richmond,
Single, Age 29 years. No previous
selection. Own no land. Have obtained
Qualification Certificate for mixed farming.
Had 15 years farming experience before
enlistment in Western & Wimmera Districts.
Have inspected land applied for. Would
use it for mixed farming. Know w
conditions under which land is granted and
will comply fully. Will apply for Advances
under Discharged Soldiers Sett Act 1917.
Understand that I will be required to pay
Municipal and Water Rates. Will go into
occupation immediately. Have no stock
nor implements at present. No banking a/c
Intend to be married on 24th inst. Will
require C. S. Board to provide a house

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that the evidence given by me and set forth as above is true and correct in every particular. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of the Parliament of Victoria rendering persons making a false declaration punishable for wilful and corrupt perjury.

J. H. Dillon Commissioner for taking Declarations and Affidavits.
George Winter Mc Donald

Duplicate

3495/86-6. Geelong.
Corangamite.

SCHEDULE "F"

P.H. 108.

Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917.

**Notification of Acceptance of Application for Conditional Purchase Lease
and Permit for Immediate Occupation of Allotment.**

To GEORGE WINTER MC.DONALD,
of 20 Waltham Place, RICHMOND.

TAKE NOTICE that your application for a Conditional Purchase Lease for the Farm Allotment referred to in the margin has been granted, and that a lease will issue to you in due course as and from the Twenty-eighth day of January 1920, from which date your tenancy will run.

Estate—

Corangamite.

Parish—

Cundare.

Allotment—

4.

Section—

--

Area—

95. 2. 20.

Pending the execution by you of the lease the Closer Settlement Board hereby grants you permission and authority to enter upon and occupy the allotment referred to on the conditions provided by the *Closer Settlement Act 1915*, as varied by the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1917*.

The substance of some of the more material covenants and conditions which will be incorporated in the lease to be issued, with which it is desirable that you should be acquainted pending its issue, are printed on the back for your information and guidance.

Value of Improvements, if any, to be paid for in addition. Capital Value of land only, £ 1816-17-6.

Dated this Fourth day of February 1920.
This permit is subject to the Board having the right of access to the block and to enter thereon for the purpose of removing or erecting any buildings, fencing or other improvements.

[Signature]
Secretary, Closer Settlement Board.

I, the above-named GEORGE WINTER MC.DONALD hereby acknowledge myself a tenant of His Majesty the King (as from and inclusive of the date indicated when the tenancy is expressed to run), in respect of the allotment above referred to as a tenant under Conditional Purchase Lease to be issued to me in due course.

Dated the 9th day of February 1920

Signature George Winter McDonald

Witness Bert Pranke

765.

[SEE OVER.]

FEB 11 DEPT

3495766

May 2nd 1920

Soldiers Settlement
The Dundare
Via Beccac

Closer Settlement Board
Melbourne

Sir

I am writing to see if you would reduce the price on my land, as I think that the present price is so high as there are a good few acres that will not feed a rabbit. I would say about £12 would be more reasonable. Trusting that you will give me your consideration

I am

Yours Truly

P. W. McDonald

MAY 4 REC

Super Bd cannot entertain
request
11/5/20 M.C.

3rd May 1920

Soldiers Settlement
Nth Candara
Via Bece

M^r. M^r. Donald. M. L. A

Dear Sir

I am writing
to you to support my claim re a reduction
on my land that I spoke about when you
were through the district. I am also writing to
the Closes Settlement Board and M^r. M^r. Rimmon
Minister of Lands. I thought that £12 was its
value and some of the local residents of this
district think that the price that I was asked to
pay is too high.

Trusting that you will do all you can
for me.

I am

Yours Truly
Geo. W. McDonald

Received in 013
MAY 18 1920
S. V. Hoyn



3495/86.6.

NAME G. W. McDonald ESTATE Corangamite

MEMORANDUM.

When replying please quote— Closer Settlement Board,
C. S. Bd. No. _____ Melbourne, 8. 10. 1923
L. W. _____

L.O. Geelong please
return by first post
G.W. McDonald's file
3495 sent you on 4th
86.6
inst. for hearing by
C.S. Bd. *W. Burgess*

Mr Burgess
This file has not yet reached Geelong
office *Blissett*
10/10/23

L.O. please return file when
you do receive it; probably it is
en route per railway *G.W.*
11.10.23

Improvements when valued to be paid for in addition.

Mr Meyer To gazette cancellation of permit
and area available under b.t. conditions

Permit cancelled & made
available Gazette 3. 10. 23.
Adv. order to Colac Reformentals *A. Meyer*
Macbulla advised form sent. *Blissett*
2. 10. 23.

and land
24.9.23 on DS 298.

Area 95. 2. 20.

Deposit £

W. Burgess
1. 10. 23

advance

available.

per Bal PM 14 Justab
8.2.6 £1760 £5216 0

W. Burgess
11/10/23.

W. Burgess
1. 10. 23
L.O. Geelong to advertise
as available and to send
with applications
Recd. 11/10/23



3195/86.6.

NAME G. W. McDonald ESTATE Corangamite

Recommended that lease be cancelled and land
made available to decision 21.9.23 on D.S. 298.

Description—Allot. 4 Sec. — Area 95.2.20.

Parish Bundare

Capital Value £2000 Half-Yearly Instal. £60 Deposit £

Improvements valued at £

Shire and Water rates owing

Instalments owing

Wm. Scummin
1.10.23

Advance obtained

Due on advance

Particulars for making available.

Plot	Area	Parish	Value	Deposited	Balance	Instal
4	95.2.20.	Bundare	£1816.17.6	£58.2.6	£1760	£52.16.0

Improvements when valued to be Went
paid for in addition. 1/10/23.

Mr. Meyer to give the cancellation of permit
and area available under b.t. conditions

Permit cancelled & made
available 3.10.23.

Advt. order to local Reformentals 11/10/23
Macburt advised form sent.

A. Meyer
2.10.23.

Stanger
1.10.23
L.D. Feeling to advertise
as available and to send
with applications
Recd. 11/10/23

ENLISTED

GEELONG

ENLISTED

No. | 3495
86 6

Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1917.

(CLOSER SETTLEMENT ACT 1915.)

CONDITIONAL PURCHASE LEASE.

Farm ALLOTMENT. D

Recommended Wm. Souerwile

Special Condition: 50 feet.

Name George Winter McDonald

Address North Bundare via Deebac

Occupation Farmer

Date of Lease 28. 1. 20 Term 39 1/2 3 yrs free years.

Purchase Money .. £ 2000 . s. . d. Rate of Interest 5 per cent.

Adjustment Amount } £ . s. . d.
(if any)

Balance of Purchase Money } £ 2000 . s. . d. Balance of Purchase Money } £ 1353. 15 . s. . d.
with interest added

in 7 1/2 instalments of £ 60 . s. . d. and a final instalment of £ 33. 15 . s. . d.

First instalment due 28. 7. 23. Payable at Colac

Allotment 4 Section _____

Parish Bundare County Grenville

Area 95 ac. 2 r. 20 p. more or less.

Lease examined _____ Date / /

Approved by Gov. in Cl. _____ Ex. Cl. No. _____

Gaz. _____ Page _____

Charted As Graup O.P. C 350 0/1 L.P. 22

Handwritten notes and signatures:
L.H. 20.5.20
M. W. 20/5/20
W. W. 6.10.22
M. W. 10/10/22
M. W. 11/10/22

See of 1. 2. 28
 Board decision to make available under
 closer settlement conditions at original capital value
 for particulars to council please
 and make available
 1.10.23

20th May 1920.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of yours, of
 the 17th inst., in regard to your desire
 to have your block reduced in value. As
 I promised when I saw you during my visit
 to the Eastern District I have spoken to
 the Director of Soldier Settlement about
 it, and I have sent your letter along to
 him as a reminder.

I remain,
 Yours faithfully,

Assistant Minister of Lands.

Mr Geo. W. McDonald,
 Soldier Settlement,
 NORTH GURDARS.

W. Burgess
 24.5.20
 Answer already sent on 20.5.20 as before

Send for
of assistance

[123]

Bridgetown Barb
Portland
4-8-27

M^r E. E. Wood, M. L. A.

Dear Sir

When I was speak-
ing to you at the opening of Parliament you mentioned
about the Mission Station. I am asking you
if you think I could rent a part of the
Station (say the sheepwash paddock and the
old home-stead). I have been paying rent
all along. I am as you know that I am
not like the rest of the Halfcasts so lazy
to work. I am at present grubbing scrub
for N. E. Vetchy. I would like very much to have
that paddock as I ^{have} cows and five pure
Bred Tamworth sows. I would go in for
Dairying and pig breeding.

Trusting that you will do all that is
in your power.

I am

Yours faithfully
E. W. Donald

Source: PROV

11th. August 27

Dear Sir,

With reference to your personal representations on behalf of Mr. G. W. McDonald, Bridgewater Road, Portland, relative to a request that he be allowed to lease portion of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve I have to inform you that it has been resolved to call for tenders for leasing the whole of the Reserve other than an area set apart for the occupants:-

Particulars are as under :-

Area to be leased - 2000 acres for a period of 12 months from the 1st. October next. Tenders will be called within a few days, and will be advertised in the Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool Papers. Tenders must be accompanied by the first quarter's rent (in advance) and also a deposit of £10 which will be held as a guarantee that the reserve will be left in order at the end of the contract. The conditions will be available for inspection shortly at the Police Stations at Portland and Heywood, and also at the land Office Hamilton.

Yours faithfully,

E. E. Bond Esq., M. L. A.,
State Parliament House,
MELBOURNE.

Secretary

Source: PROV

Barnham Rd
Linton
29-9-30

Mr. Parker

Dear Sir

Would you please let me have a Tender form as I want to put in for the Wattle Bark on the Lake Bondah Mission Str. Mr Bond wrote to you & told you that I was eager to do some thing I have only one leg & find it hard to do lots of harder jobs. the stripping I could always have a spell as I would be my own boss. I have seven little children & a sick wife I have to keep help so I am free to go & earn money. Do you want me to put in my own price or according to Market I believe Mrs Stahl has sent word to the alberts about it, has she still got a say I would do it well & I think the Bakers

would buy the Wattle wood as it is very scarce. So let me know if I should tender for cutting that or would the board pay me ~~se~~ seperately for that, there would be a great lot of wood & I get 5/- a ton here for cutting it up. I could stack it there & let you know. I am not afraid of any sort of work.

I am writing to Mr Bond as he told me to let him know when I was putting in for the work. Let me know about the wood please & if I will cut it in Bakers length I am sure it could be sold in any part between Port land & Hamilton 5/- is a price at the stump & the Bakers nearly always pay anything from 10/- per ton.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully
G. W. McDonald

the 6th being rejected. Some time ago, one of those returned soldiers applied for leave to occupy an empty house on the Reserve; but was refused by the Board although I have no recollection of the case ever coming before us. Surely these people are worthy of every consideration & assistance.

There are other respectable families who could assist in this bark-stripping & from what I know of the Aborigines as a race, do not hesitate to say he will do the work with credit to himself & others.

We have a paid local agent on the spot, who could supervise the work.

I hope your views will co-incide with mine & that you will see that justice is due to the Aborigines of Condam.

With much sympathy in your present trouble,
Yours sincerely friend

Samuel F. Mason

The Hon
The Chief Secretary

HOTEL



WINDSOR

W-11-13

Dear Mr. Turrecliffe

I enclose copy of advertisement, with rules for bark-stripping, (which I only received from the Aborigines this morning) from which you will see, that the framing of these rules completely prohibits them from having the slightest chance of obtaining the job. The depression which is keenly felt by white people is more intensely felt by the Aborigines, who cannot earn £12

mere £ to save their lives. It takes all their time, to provide food for themselves & their children; although, they are steady, hard-working people, & highly respected by the white people who surround them. The Reserve legally belongs to them & not to the white men; & they have certainly a prior claim to stripping the bark there on.

To publicly invite "tenders" with the conditions attached, shows clearly, that neither the unemployed white man nor the coloured man, to whom the land belongs, could attempt to send in a "tender", seeing they have no money; it therefore follows, that the successful tenderer will be a man of means & at the sacrifice of the necessitous is to have another opportunity of further enriching himself.

As a member of the Board, wishing to do justice to the suffering poor, more especially our coloured friends, to whom we owe so much, I would respectfully request you to allow no tender to be accepted until we have a meeting of the Board where the subject fully discussed.

These poor people, who were driven from the Condam Reserve, have squatted in the vicinity & are struggling to eke an honest livelihood. One family named Foote have had 12 children, five of their sons, went to the front,

Document for Claude Henry McDonald

(3)

Mr Garnet.
Referred as arranged
25/1/55
6/p W. M. Schier
Private Bag
Piccola
20. 1. 55.

Mr Rutherford.
Dear Sir.

Before I get down to business I will tell you who I am, Claude McDonald is my name I used to live at 10 Buckley St. Barragie, with Mrs. Faray I am her nephew I suppose you know that Mrs. Faray was married on the Lake Condah Mission Station I also lived there for about 6 years that would be between 1920 & 1930, my grandfather's name was Alf McDonald & he lived in the manager's residence after Mr. Staley left.

I am writing to you to enquire if there is any possible chance of leasing what remains of the land on Lake Condah Mission.

I have just returned from a trip right through the land and also through the mission at Purrim.

Source: NAA, B313, 156, 411881, Lake Condah [Aboriginal] Reserve

[2]

(2)

I noticed that there is nothing being done with the land, I would say there may be 200 acres of ground where the Church is? the houses used to be I suppose you know all of the other land is taken up for Soldier Settlement.

At present there is no one living on the manor from what I could find out from different ~~the~~ people I spoke to, and all that remains is the Church, the school & what was known as the dormitory, that is where Mr Foster lived.

My wife & I have every ambition of milking cows for a living & we have not enough money to buy a farm, but if I could lease some ground I could definitely make a start that way.

I have been in this area for 5 years on building & I can supply get references from anyone around here.

If by any chance you are not on the Aboriginal Board could you let me know if anyone I could write to please.

I am married, I mentioned earlier & we have 5 children, 4 school age, and the place

[1]

(3)

we are at present living in has only tank water which of course runs out every summer so we have decided to go back to the Western District.

I have had 4 years 8 months army service, 2 years 9 10 months overseas.

Trusting you may be able to help me in some way or direct me to someone that could tell me about that land.

I remain Yours.

Sincerely

Claude H. McDonald.

If you should desire to speak to Mrs. Foley, at all she is on the phone (I don't know her number) but her address is 42 Railway Parade Highett.

W. H. H. H.

[4]

14th February, 55.

Mr. C. McDonald,
c/- Mr. W. H. Schier,
Private Bag,
PICOLA.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 20th January last, addressed to Mr. Rutherford, a former secretary of the Aborigines Board, I would advise you that the temporary reservation of the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve was revoked by the Lands Department several years ago, and with the exception of about 43 acres, on which the Church and other buildings were standing, the land was made available for soldier settlement.

The Aborigines Board has since had no control over the property, and therefore, we cannot do anything about your desire to lease some of it.

I should think that the only course open to you to get a block there would be to apply to the Soldier Settlement Commission, or, in respect of any part of the area which may not be controlled by that body, to the Secretary for Lands, who could best advise you as to the position.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

To Whom It May Concern

This is to Certify that I have known Mr C McDonald for 10 years & have always found him a straightforward & honest man & an excellent worker.

I have no hesitation in recommending Mr McDonald in being assisted to purchase land suitable for dairying

Signed G^r W. H. Schier

Source: Private collection.

RS 510

Hamm

Mr. M. A. Schier
Private Post
Piccola Vic
21-2-55

Secretary Lands Dept
Dear Sir

I wrote to the Board for the
Protection of Aborigines (Mr. Garnet Lee) to enquire if there
is any chance of leasing all or a part of what
is left of the Lake Condah Mission Station
& Mr. Garnet told me to write to your dept.

I was down that way at Xmas
time & I noticed that there would be approx
150 to 200 acres of ground there, that is
at present over grown with trees & thickets & if it
it were possible to lease any or all of it, I would
like to do so.

Why I am so interested in Lake Condah
Mission is I went to school there ~~then~~ during approx
1925 - 1929, & also my father & grandfather resided
on the mission.

I am not eligible for a Soldier Settlement
Block as I was not classified during the right
years after discharge from the Army.

OPENED
22 FEB 1955
Lands

Source: NAA

(2)
I am a returned Soldier with 4 years 8 months
service, 34 months overseas
I am married with 5 children all school
age, my age is 34 years.
I have worked on a farm for 2 years
before the war.
If that property is not for leasing
would it be for sale.
Yours. Sincerely
Claude Henry McDonald.

OPENED
22 FEB 1955
LADBS

Source: NAA

2nd March, 55.

J29094 Hamilton.
LS/PV

Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant and in reply desire to advise you that less than 50 acres remain in the Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve, the larger portion having been taken over by the Soldier Settlement Commission.

It would seem that such a small area would be suitable only as an addition to an established holding.

Yours faithfully,-

pro SECRETARY FOR LANDS.

Mr. C.H. McDonald,
C/- W.M. Shier,
Private Bag,
PICOLA. Vict.

Source: NAA

36

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

BARMAH DISTRICT

The following people were camped in the Barmah area in January, 1961.

Barmah Riverbank:

1. [redacted] - Pensioner. (Died [redacted])
2. [redacted] his wife [redacted] and [redacted]
3. [redacted] wife and [redacted]
4. [redacted] family. (I was told this family normally camps at Barmah, but was away following seasonal work).
5. [redacted] (temporarily absent at Marysville), and her son, [redacted] ([redacted] and his de facto, [redacted] and [redacted] were absent at Marysville).

Lakes area:

Only one family is living in the Lakes district -

[redacted] These people have one son, [redacted] who on the [redacted] married a white girl from [redacted] [redacted] is employed by the Railways at Spencer Street Station and lives with his wife at a flat at [redacted] - exact address unknown. [redacted] turns [redacted] sometime this year.

[redacted] Also working at Spencer Street Station is an uncle of this man, [redacted] brother of [redacted] and [redacted]

Modalla Park:

[redacted] have returned to their old camp on the Riverbank at [redacted] PARK. Living with the [redacted] is Mrs. [redacted]

Barmah:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Aborigines Welfare Officer.
25th January, 1961.

Albert Gibson Yalca
Fanny Glemis
Hadden M.D. [redacted]

SAVE THE CHILDREN

6 copies please and

[25]

TELEPHONE: 62 2470



VICTORIAN DIVISION: CHIEF PATRON: LADY DELACOMBE PATRON: DAME MARY HERRING

49 Elizabeth St., Melbourne

FUND

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

S.C.F. Welfare Centre

Box 164

Echuca

25/6/1965

Mr P. E. Feltow,
AW Board,
Melbourne
Dear Mr Feltow,

Re: Claude McDonald & W. G. McDonald (reply to your letter 11/5/65)

Mr Claude McDonald has a five year lease of several hundred acres and about three years of this lease have expired. His brother now works on a farm near Nathalia. Yesterday I spoke to Mrs Claude McDonald and I queried whether they were still interested in the War Settlement Scheme and she said they were so I suggested that they write direct to you and tell you how they were at present situated.

Re: Mrs Rose Tang (reply to your letter of 17th May)

I feel sure Mrs Tang could get employment at UBCO if she so desired and her statement that hands were recruited from vacancies on a waiting list is incorrect. I have suggested Unemployment Benefit to Mrs Tang but she has said she would not like to do anything that would involve her husband viz. the maintenance claim which she should make beforehand. I also think she must get an allowance from her husband. Her unpaid rent amounts to £132.18.6 and nothing has been paid since your visit. Maureen could also get some kind of domestic

Source: NAA, B357, 33, 4115804, Districts - Echuca/Barmah - 1957-1968 [2.00 cms]

[124]

SAVE THE CHILDREN



TELEPHONE: 62 2470

VICTORIAN DIVISION: CHIEF PATRON: LADY DELACOMBE PATRON: DAME MARY HERRING

49 Elizabeth St., Melbourne

FUND

S.C.F. Welfare Centre

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

P. 2.

.....19.....

job but she gives no co-operation when I suggest this.

Re: Mr and Mrs Alf Kerr Echuca (your letter 10/6/65)
No application for a housing commission home has been made by this couple because they have mostly lived at Bunnaloo NSW with the other Kerr family. If they request it, I shall assist them to apply for a Commission home. However I do not see them very often.

Re: Mrs Lydia Barker (your letter 17/6/65)
Several times I have tried to locate Mrs Barker and Daisy but there never seems to be anyone home at the Morgan household. Shall try and locate them if they are here. No, I have never assisted Mrs Barker to apply for a Commission home.

Re: Amos Altheison and Jean? (reply to your letter 22/6/65)
Yesterday I saw Jean at Rumbalara - she is pregnant and expects to go into Mooropna Hospital any day. Yes, they submitted an application to the Housing Commission approximately two years ago - Jean was called up for an interview at the Civic Centre by two women representatives who also saw the caravan where they were living but she has never heard any more.

Re: Mr Doug Nicholls
The above visited Echuca during Queen's Birthday weekend and collected a petition of signatures from people who claim that nothing is being done for them in the way of housing. He is supposed to be returning at a

PTO

111

later date to call a public meeting. Some who complained were Bill & Maisie Atkinson, Mrs Mitchell and other members of the Egan household. Mr Nicholls informed them all to stick by him and he would do something!! I am supposed to be at fault too because I don't do enough for some of the people here. — Quite amusing I feel but since Bill and Maisie Atkinson have come to the area they do nothing but cause strife. I have only to mention this to the Health Inspector that their house is fit for condemnation and could have them moved out within a month if like. If they cause much more trouble, I won't hesitate.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Martin
Welfare Officer.