



The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Ballarat

Ballarat Anglican Diocesan Corporation Ltd
ABN 32 603 316 696

The Diocesan Centre
P.O. Box 89
(49 Lydiard Street Sth)
Ballarat Vic. 3353

T. (03) 5331 1183
E. registrar@ballaratanglican.org.au
www.ballaratanglican.org.au

25 March 2024

King & Wood Mallesons
Level 27 Collins Arch
447 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Attention: Emily Heffernan/Chris Holland
Email: emily.heffernan@au.kwm.com
chris.holland@au.kwm.com

Dear Ms Hefferan and Mr Holland,

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has passed on to the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat your letter dated 19 March 2024 on behalf of the Yoorrook Justice Commission. We have been asked to respond on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat to the Annexure to your letter entitled "Yoorrook's Requests for Information".

We note your advice that these answers are voluntary, and we have done our best to provide our answers in the short time you have stipulated. Responding to your Requests seriatim we advise as follows:

1. Overview: Anglican Diocese of Ballarat.

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat is a diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia. The Diocese was created in 1875 out of territory of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (which, until that time, had covered the whole of Victoria). This Diocese is centred in the City of Ballarat and covers the south-west region of the State of Victoria. It is one of five dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia in Victoria (the others being Melbourne, Bendigo, Wangaratta and Gippsland).

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat began its existence on **11 August 1875**, the day of the enthronement of its first bishop.

2. Missions, Reserves and Institutions

This Diocese has been unable to locate anyone with first-hand memory of these Missions (all but one of which, we note, were closed more than a century ago), but doing the best we can, we provide the following information and its sources.

a) Yelta Aboriginal Mission (1855-1868)

The Yelta Aboriginal Mission was established in 1855 by a body based in Melbourne known as the Church of England Mission to the Aborigines (sometimes referred to as the Church of England Missionary Society).

According to contemporary newspaper reports (see the National Library of Australia Trove references, below) the Chairman of the Church of England Mission to the Aborigines was in 1857 Mr Justice Molesworth of the Supreme Court of Victoria, in 1863 it was Sir William Stawell (the then Chief Justice of Victoria), and in 1882 it was the Anglican Bishop of Melbourne.

The Yelta Mission was established on the banks of the Murray River opposite Wentworth, at the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers. The land is in what was then the Church of England Diocese of Melbourne but is now the Diocese of Bendigo. The Mission was established in 1855 and closed in 1868.

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat (which did not come into existence until 1875) did not have any involvement in the establishment or operation of this Mission.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yelta,_Victoria

<https://www.oocities.org/mallee2004/herit/yelta.html?202421>

<https://openjournals.library.sydney.edu.au/AASR/article/download/16623/14043>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/7144029>

b) Lake Condah Mission (1867-1919)

Lake Condah Mission Station was established in 1867 by the Church of England Mission to the Aborigines.

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat (which did not come into existence until 1875) did not have any involvement in the establishment of this Mission. The Mission was conducted by the (Melbourne-based) Church of England Mission to the Aborigines.

The mission station, of about 2,000 acres, was located approximately three kilometres from Lake Condah, which is about 20km north-east of Heywood in Victoria. The mission was taken over and closed by the Victorian government in 1919.

After the station was closed the residents remained in the area. They requested the land to be handed over to them to be run as a farming co-operative, but the Victorian Government refused, and the land was divided up for post-WWI soldier settler blocks.

The mission lands were returned to the local Gunditjmarra people on 1 January 1987.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Condah_Mission

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000930b.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Condah_Mission

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/6485454>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1154227>

c) Framlingham Aboriginal Station (1865-1890)

Framlingham Aboriginal Station commenced in 1865, when the Church of England Mission to the Aborigines applied to the Victorian government to open a station on the Framlingham Reserve beside the Hopkins River, approximately 25 kilometres from Warrnambool. In 1861 the Government had gazetted 3,500 acres for that purpose.

The Mission was not established by the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat (which did not exist until 1875). The Mission was conducted by the (Melbourne-based) Church of England Mission to the Aborigines.

The Church of England Mission to the Aborigines operated Framlingham for two years, from 1865 until 1867; in 1867 it was taken over by a Victorian Government Body, the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

In 1867 the Victorian Government Board decided to move those living on Framlingham to Lake Condah where a new station would be opened. The move was resisted by the people living at Framlingham, and the Framlingham Station was re-opened in 1870. There was considerable movement of people between Framlingham and Lake Condah.

Framlingham Station closed finally in 1890. The lands were returned to the local Eastern Maar people in 1970.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Framlingham,_Victoria

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000929b.htm>

https://deadlystory.com/page/aboriginal-country-map/Community_Places/Framlingham_Mission

- d) Lake Tyers mission (1863-1971)** commenced in 1863, it was a Mission established near Bairnsdale (in what was then the Church of England Diocese of Melbourne but which is now in the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland). It was operated by the Church of England from 1863 until 1908, when it was taken over by the Victorian Government. The mission area was 2000 acres, later increased to 4000 acres. The mission at Lake Tyers was closed in 1971, and the land was returned to the local people.

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat did not have any involvement in the establishment or operation of this Mission.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Tyers_Mission

https://deadlystory.com/page/aboriginal-country-map/Community_Places/Bung_Yarnda_Lake_Tyers_Mission

3. Not applicable.

4. The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat presently comprises 25 centres, as follows:

Ararat (Parish Centres: Holy Trinity Ararat, Christ Church Great Western, All Saints' Willaura:

Beaufort & Skipton (Parish Centres: St. John's Beaufort, Christ Church Skipton, St. Paul's Linton, Holy Trinity Carngham).

Buninyong (Parish Centres: Holy Trinity Buninyong)

Camperdown and Holy Apostles (Parish Centres: St. Paul's Camperdown, St. Jude's Timboon, All Saints' Terang and St. Mary's Cobden).

Christ Church Cathedral (Centre: The Cathedral Church of Christ the King)

Colac (Parish Centres: Ss. Johns' Colac, St. Andrew's Alvie, Christ Church Birregurra).

Glenelg Wannon (Parish Centres: Holy Trinity Coleraine, Christ Church Casterton and St. Mary's Balmoral)

Hamilton (Parish Centres: Christ Church Hamilton, St. Mark's Cavendish, St. Mary's Dunkeld, St. Peter's Glenthompson, All Saints' Peshurst)

Horsham (Parish Centres: St Johns Horsham, Holy Trinity Murtoa, St. Aidan's Natimuk and St. Philip's Rupanyup).

Kowree (Parish Centres: All Souls' Edenhope and St. Paul's Harrow.

Lower Glenelg (Parish Centres: St Stephen's Portland, St John's Heywood & St James Tyrendarra)

Mortlake (Parish Centres: St. James' Mortlake, St. Paul's Caramut, St. John's Westmere)

Port Fairy (Parish Centres: St. John's Port Fairy, St. Paul's Koroit)

Sebastopol (Parish Centre: Holy Trinity Sebastopol)

Springmount (Parish Centres: St. John's Creswick, St. Paul's Clunes, St. Matthew's, Newlyn and All Saints' Learmonth).

St John's Soldiers' Hill (Parish Centre: St John's Soldier's Hill)

St Matthew's Wendouree (Parish Centre: St Matthew's Wendouree)

St Paul's Ballarat (Parish Centre: St Paul's Ballarat)

St Peter's Ballarat (Parish Centre: St Peter's Ballarat)

Stawell (Parish Centres: Holy Trinity Stawell, St. John's Halls Gap, Christ Church Navarre, St John's Landsborough).

The Otways (Parish Centres: St. Aidan's Apollo Bay, St. Anselm's Beech Forest, St. James' Forrest, Christ the King Carlisle River).

Warracknabeal (Parish Centres: Christ Church Warracknabeal and St. Mark's Areegra).

Warrnambool (Parish Centres: Christ Church Warrnambool)

West Moorabool (Parish Centres: St. John's Ballan, St. John's Bungaree, St. James' Morrisons).

West Wimmera (Parish Centres: St. George's Nhill, St. Augustine's Kaniva, St Paul's Rainbow, Saint Peter's Dimboola).

Source:

<https://ballaratanglican.org.au/parishes/>

5. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, is extremely wide and oppressive in scope, and could not be answered in the short time allowed.
6. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.
7. Not to the best of our knowledge.
8. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.
9. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, and is based on a false premise (that the *State Aid to Religion Abolition Act 1871* provides for the making of grants of land to the Anglican church in Victoria “for little or no consideration”).
10. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, is extremely wide and oppressive in scope, and could not be answered in the short time allowed.
11. This Request is not relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, and is based on a false premise (that the *State Aid to Religion Abolition Act 1871* imposes upon the Anglican Church a “role as a beneficiary of land”).
12. The Anglican Church stands strongly against any form of racism, whether systemic or not. Anglicans affirm that all people, including those described in this paragraph as “First Peoples in Victoria”, have equal rights to be respected and to be emotionally and physically safe, and to have their views and opinions and persons valued at all times. Anglicans affirm that God calls his people to minister to vulnerable people, and identified classes of vulnerable people who were to be protected and given special care and treatment in society because of their powerlessness (Ex. 22:21-22, Deut. 10:17-19, Jer. 22:2-4, James 1:27).
13. This is a question directed to the Anglican Province of Victoria, not to the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat, and the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat is unable to answer it.
14. This is a question directed to the Anglican Province of Victoria, not to the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat, and the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat is unable to answer it.
15. The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat engages respectfully and positively with those communities with which it has contact, principally the Wadawurrung community and its associated Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Gunditjmara community and its associated Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and the Eastern Maar community and its associated Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.

Your Sincerely,



Ms Nicole Cox
Registrar and Business Manager
Anglican Diocese of Ballarat
25 March 2024