

*Some time after this (and for what reason the Board is ignorant) the pseudo Trustees recommended the purchase of the Mohican Station. Before the completion of the purchase, and indeed when it was all but perfected, the Members of the Central Board were appointed. At their first meeting the papers relative to the purchase were submitted to them by direction of the Honourable the President of the Board of Lands and Works – and having no knowledge of the localities – the Board acting under the impression that the removal to Mohican Station was desirable – recommended it and the purchase was made. It is to be distinctly understood that the Board was in no respect responsible for this act – as the purchase was all but completed when they first received the papers – and the Board was acting too in this matter under the impression that the gentlemen in the in the locality of the Acheron had been duly appointed as Trustees and were fully informed of all the facts of the case.*

*But a short experience sufficed to show that the removal was detrimental to the interests of the blacks – and when an application was made by the Lessees of the Acheron (Niagaroon) Station for the formal relinquishment of that ground it was refused by the board – and they were informed that the Board would continue to hold all reserves set apart for the use of the Blacks.*

*It has been represented to the Board by many persons that the Mohican Station is altogether unsuited for the purpose of an Aboriginal Settlement – and as there are nearly 100 Blacks in the locality the Board respectfully requests the Honourable the President of the Board of Lands and Works to reconsider his decision and set apart a suitable block of land on the Acheron for the Aborigines.*

This letter is signed by R. Brough Smyth and dated 21 December 1861; subsequent events indicate that the Board of Lands and Works' answer must have been negative.

Robert Hickson, the Superintendent at the Mohican Station, resigned on 23 January 1862 and on 13 February 1862 Mr. John Green, the Board's Inspector, took over but 'entertained no hope of its (the station) being ultimately useful'. He furnished to the Board a list of ninety-eight names of Aborigines, forty-six males and forty two females, located in the Goulburn District, but this list is now lost and it is impossible to know if this number includes a number of Wurunjeri who had followed him from the Yarra River.

There appears to be no record of this 'migration' with the exception of two photographs in the La Trobe Library, one showing 'The Yarra Tribe (page 13) Starting for the Acheron, 1862 and the other 'Celebrating the First Service upon Arrival; a report by the Rev. R. Hamilton of Fitzroy, in the Illustrated Australian News of 25 August 1865, states that he was present at a 'soir'ee held at Coranderrk some months ago in honour of the birthday of Mr. Green' when Simon, Chief of the Yarra tribe, said in the course of a speech that

*Mr. Green and all the Yarra blacks and me went through the mountains. We had no bread for four or five days. We did all this to let you (Goulburn blacks) know about the good word. Now you have come to the Yarra. I am glad.*

Meanwhile the Central Board continued its endeavours to find a better location for the Aborigines. Its second report (1862) states that

*As soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, he (Mr. Green) will be moved to some better site, on the north side of the River Yarra, where it is proposed to found a school for the neglected black and half – caste children, and an asylum for the infirm blacks.*

*It is well to observe, that many of the acts of the Board are tentative. Relying, as it does, on advice received from the local guardians, and having unusual difficulties to contend against, arising mainly from the circumstances of the Aboriginal population being surrounded by an energetic race of Anglo-Saxons, who are pushing their explorations into the least known and wildest tracts of the country in search of gold, it is not a matter of surprise that a site which is admirably suited for the purpose of an Aboriginal settlement today, becomes tomorrow useless and unfit, in consequence of the shifting of the white population. This has prevented the more speedy removal of the Aborigines from the Acheron; for the station on the Woori Yaloak, where it was proposed to locate them is now in the close neighbourhood of gold fields, and is intersected by tracks leading to the diggings on the Upper Yarra. This happened as well on the Yarra as in more remote districts.*

The never –occupied Woori Yaloak Reserve was gazetted on 17 January 1862, and cancelled on 30 December of the same year. It consisted of 1,200 acres of land near the junction of Hoddles Creek and the Yarra River, and ran between that river and Woori Yaloak Creek.

The Third Report of the Central Board (for 1863, printed 1864) pays a tribute to the dedication of Mr. Green, the Inspector, who besides looking after the Acheron Station, between 11 October and 26 December 1862 visited, inspected and reported upon the conditions of the Aboriginies at Belfast, Hopkins, Hexham, Tooram, Terang, Camperdown, Yackandandah, Chiltern, Cobram, Echuca, Gunbower, Boort-boort, Kulkine, Yelta and Swan Hill.