

1893



Plate 1. The Bribie Island school children awaiting transport per *s.s. Minor* to Peel Island en route to Stradbroke Island Mission .
[John Oxley Library]

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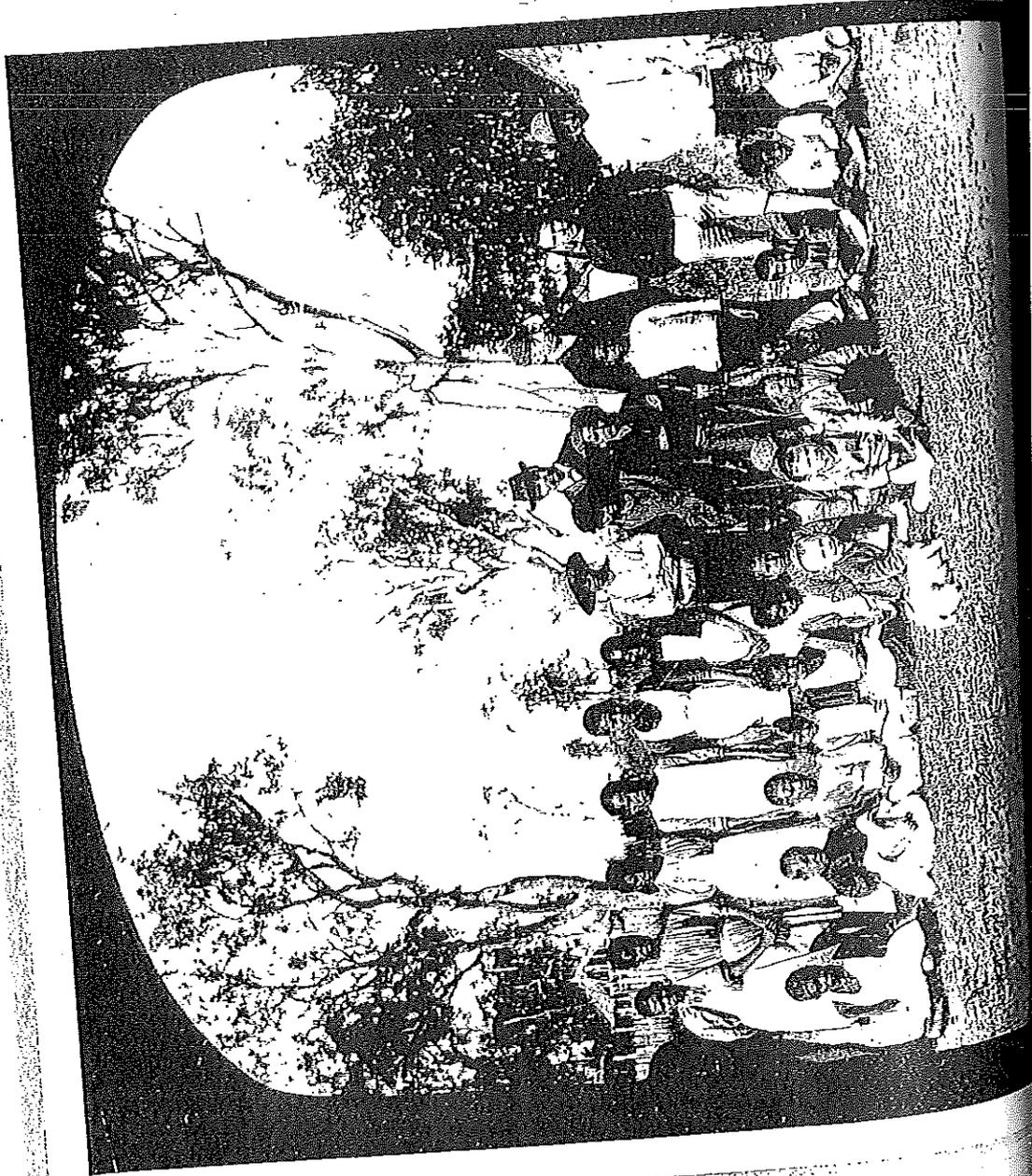
Source: Fischer, B. (1997) *Moongalba (Myora) sitting down place* / compiled and written by Bernice Fischer ; assisted by Rose Borey and Estelle Bertossi ; editors : Ellie Durbridge and Jenny Cooke-Bramley. Dunwich, Qld. : North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association. Page 9.

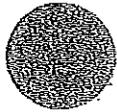
[DH note: there is mention of a photographer named Mathewson taking a photo of the children in 1891. Also Governor Sir Henry Norman visited the Bribie Mission in 1891. – see items in 1891 articles.]

JOL negative 145374

Acc 87-6-12

Aboriginal School,





1851

19

ABORIGINES - Bribie Island, ca. 1892.

Description

Aboriginal School, Bribie Island

Source of Description

Inclusive Dates

Original Photographer

Accession No.

87-6-12

Negative Number

145374

Other

Access Conditions

AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE AND REPRODUCTION

Original

Other

Added Entry

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| | <p>ago in an open boat at sea, and with her there was a young child. I was told that there was evidence that when the boat started on its cruise there must have been two men in it as well. What became of them no one knows. This woman was sent to Dunwich, but from the outset she maintained a sullen and morose demeanour. She could not be induced to speak, and although kanakas from many of the South Sea Islands attempted to converse with her, no one could be found who spoke her language. So she has lived for some two years, speaking to no one and unspoken to! When she came on board the <i>Miner</i> on Tuesday she evidently did not know whether she was being taken, and she maintained a distrustful and apprehensive demeanour all the way to Bribie. It was learned by the committee that during the time she had been at Dunwich her character was not of the best, as she could not agree with any of the other blacks, and that was the reason they were so glad to get rid of her. It was said also that she understood English well enough, but like so many of the Chinese preferred to assume ignorance in the sure knowledge that it would save her the performance of a certain amount of work, but another statement weighed more with me than either of these. They said that if ever she was asked about her home she sobbed and wept like a child. I wondered and still wonder if it would not be a Christian act to place this poor, lonely, homeless waif, degraded and immoral as she may be, in communication with the child that was found in the boat with her, and which is now they say at Lytton! It is apparently the only connecting link between her and her home land, wherever that may be, which is known in this colony - and perhaps it was her own child. To finish with this subject now I may say that I have seldom seen anything more affecting than the condition of that poor creature. The ladies on board the <i>Miner</i> showed her every kindness, and did their utmost to induce her to partake of food, but she stolidly declined all such overtures. She spoke two or three words apparently touched by the sympathy exhibited by those of her own sex, and then reassumed that savagely suspicious look so well known to those who have had dealings with our black-skinned brethren. Like Rachel of old, she refused to be comforted. The other passengers on the <i>Miner</i> were happy enough. They knew where they were going, and were content.</p> <p>Undoubtedly the site chosen for the mission station is as good a one as Bribie Island affords. The fault of it is the approach, for the channel is shallow and tortuous. Captain Gruer, however, by feeling his way with the lead, and by occasionally slowing and even stopping the engines, got close up to the shore without any delay, and in fact made a rapid passage across the Bay. As soon as the steamer came to an anchor the passengers were landed, and cordially welcomed by Mr. A. J. Tyson, the gentleman in charge of the mission, and by Mrs. Tyson, his mother. The ladies of the party busied themselves in preparing tea for the youngsters after Mr. Mathewson had photographed the group, and also the steamer, and then the Government rations sent down by the <i>Miner</i> were landed. By this time night had fallen, and the mosquitoes were, as Mr. Stewart expressed it, "unduly familiar." However, the party having finished their serious business, regarded the balance of the expedition as a picnic, and proceeded to make the best of the circumstances in the true spirit of picnickers. Tea having been served and thoroughly enjoyed, the tables were cleared, and a little inaugural meeting was held, the speakers at which expressed the hope that the mission would prove of lasting benefit to the aborigines. Shortly after daybreak yesterday morning the <i>Miner</i> was again underway, and after a smart run she arrived at the Port Office wharf shortly after 10 o'clock. [source: The Brisbane Courier, Fri 13 Feb 1891, p.5 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3522382 ; also published in The Queenslander, Sat 21 Feb 1891, p.362 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20290309]</p> |
| 1891 Feb | <p>City Police Court. Friday, February 27. . . . Vagrancy. . . . A coloured woman named Wish E. Nib, charged with vagrancy, was sent to the blacks' settlement at Bribie Island. [Source: The Brisbane Courier, Sat 28 Feb 1891, p. 3 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3523030]</p> <p>Accidents and Offences. . . . Wish E. Nib, a coloured woman of 35 years, who had been formerly an inmate of Dunwich, was charged at the City Police Court yesterday morning with having no means of support. The head warder at Dunwich said that she had been turned out of the settlement for immorality and violence to the other inmates, and had since been leading a vagrant's life on the island. She was entirely beyond their control. Mr. Pinnock remanded her for seven days in order that she might be sent to the blacks' settlement on Bribie Island. He said he thought that preferable to having her sent to gaol. Nib was found some time ago in a boat on the high seas with a man and a boy. The man died, and the boy is in the Industrial Home. Nothing is known of the woman, but it is thought she comes from one of the Malay Islands. She apparently understands English, but declines to speak in any language. [Source: The Brisbane Courier, Sat 28 Feb 1891, p. 3 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article3523011]</p> |
| 1891 Mar | <p>MISSION TO THE BLACKS.</p> <p>Sir,-As your columns have been so kindly placed at the disposal of the Aborigines' Protection Association of Queensland on several occasions by reports of proceedings, &c, I venture supplying you with a few particulars connected with the work of the association, and will be thankful if you can find space for them, as they may prove acceptable to such portion of your readers who take interest in the welfare of the dark races of Queensland. After encountering many difficulties the establishment of the first aboriginal mission station, under the auspices of the association, assisted by Government, may now be safely regarded as an accomplished fact. In addition to the</p> |