

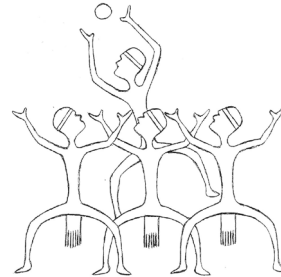
Yarra valley Aboriginal Sites of Significance

- **Aboriginal sculptures at William Ricketts Sanctuary:** Mt. Dandenong, Melways 52 H10.
- **Coranderrk Aboriginal Cemetery:** Barak Lane, Badger Creek, 300 Kulin graves, Melways 277 K9.
- **Battle of Yering Memorial Rock:** Site of battle between Border Police & Wurundjeri, 13/01/1840.
- **William Barak Memorial at Brushy Creek:** Stone monument plaque and tree, Melways 37 C7.
- **Barngoon Birthing Site:** At the confluence of Brushy Creek and Yarra is a Wurundjeri birthing and female initiation site where William Barak was born, Melways 24 K6.
- **Gawa Wurundjeri Resource Trail:** 340m bushland walking trail at Watson's Creek with 9 resource markers along the way, Melways 272 D5.
- **Pound Bend South Memorial Rock:** Dedicated to Reserve & 1852 corroboree site, Melways 23 C12.
- **Wurundjeri Stories Walk:** Start at Pound Bend tunnel & follow signage, Melways 23 A11.
- **Pound Bend North Memorial Rock:** Dedicated to Reserve & 1852 corroboree site, Melways 23 C9.
- **Moorrul Viewing Platform in Kangaroo Ground:** Interpretive panels, memorial, Melways 271 E11.
- **Tikalara Park:** Aboriginal living area occupied by Major Newman in 1837, Melways 22 C11.
- **Fish Farms at Finns:** Traditional fish & eel trap area, yabbie & mussel farms, etc, Melways 33 B3.
- **Yingabeal - the Scar Tree at Heide Museum:** Not just a canoe tree, also Marker Tree at junction of five Songlines (walking trails), Melways 32 E5.
- **Bolin-Bolin Billabong:** Eel and duck hunting site adjacent to corroboree ground, Melways 32 C8.
- **Bunjilaka Centre:** Melbourne Museum Carlton, 'First Peoples Exhibition', Melways 2B J9.
- **Birrarung Marr:** Celebrating Wurundjeri culture, displays, etc, along riverside walk, Melways 2F K6.
- **Koorie Heritage Trust:** Federation Square, Melb., Interactive displays, souvenirs, Melways 1A P10.

POUND BEND ABORIGINAL RESERVE IN WARRANDYTE

Two memorial plaques now mark this Reserve, one on the north side of the Yarra at its confluence with Stony Creek, and the other, on the south side at its confluence with Anderson's Creek (Beal Yallock). These plaques and this pamphlet were initiated by **Nillumbik Reconciliation Group** and **Reconciliation Manningham**, with funding for the project through the generosity of **The Robert Bridgford Trust, Nillumbik Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Manningham City Council Small Grants Program.**

The last great Kulin Nation corroboree was held at Pound Bend in March 1852. Many traditional games were played such as Marngrook, the tribal football game played throughout Australia. The most exciting feature of Marngrook was how players jumped on each other's backs to catch the ball. Marngrook is generally accepted as having been a precursor to Australian Rules football.



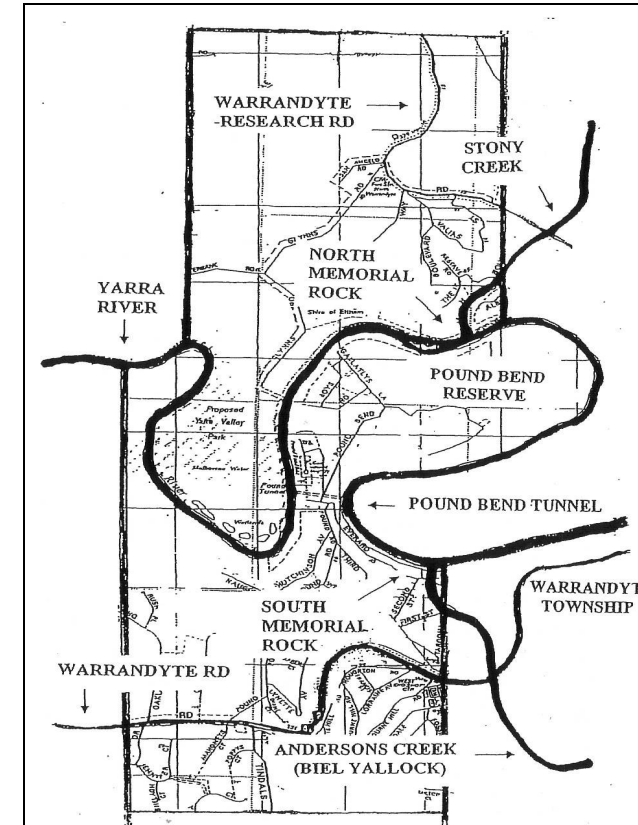
For information on the activities and contact details of Reconciliation Manningham, please visit our website at:

[HTTP://WWW.RECMAN.ORG.AU](http://www.recman.org.au)

Or contact the Secretary, Jim Poulter, on 9842 3598



WARRANDYTE ABORIGINAL RESERVE



Centered on Pound Bend, the Warrandyte Aboriginal Reserve was established in 1852. It covered 1,908 acres on both the north and south sides of the Yarra River at Warrandyte.

The Traditional Caretakers of the Yarra Valley Estate

The Wurundjeri people are the traditional custodians of the Yarra Valley Estate. The word 'estate' is used advisedly because every square metre of every clan estate in Australia was known, and managed by the Aboriginal people in an ecologically sustainable way.

All environmental signs and ecological relationships within each tribal area were symbolised in the totem system and coded into complex songs. It was through these songs that they memorised all travel routes, seasonal firestick farming schedules, species conservation, and land management practices, as well as the Dreamtime creation stories of each area.

Travelling through the bush was therefore a joyous occasion for Aboriginal families, because they were always 'Singing Country' to remind themselves of the wonders of creation that surrounded them and of their responsibilities for its stewardship.

Impacts of Colonisation

The impacts of colonisation were felt by the Wurundjeri and all other clans across Australia, usually long before they ever saw Europeans. Within one year of settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788, a smallpox plague swept across Australia, killing 90% of the Aboriginal population, plunging their society into extreme stress with many traditional customs having to be modified in order to adapt to the massive depopulation. This adaptation had scarcely begun when a second smallpox plague occurred in the 1820's.

When colonisation of Victoria began in 1835, it was initially welcomed by the Wurundjeri as there was plenty of good land to share. However, they soon found that European people did not share their long-embedded customs of balanced ecological management.

Jagga-Jagga's War

After Batman's bogus treaty in 1835, settlement and dispossession of the Wurundjeri happened at breakneck speed. The first settlers in the area near Pound Bend were Major Charles Newman at Mullum-Mullum Creek in 1838 and James Anderson on Beal Yallock (Anderson's Creek) in 1839. Both men were ruthless in their dispossession of the Wurundjeri who fought back with guerrilla tactics, burning their paddocks and driving off their stock. The leader of these Wurundjeri men was Jagga-Jagga.

In mid-January 1840, Jagga-Jagga and some 50 Wurundjeri men stopped at Anderson's run whilst on their way to Yering, where they helped themselves to some potatoes ('whitefella yams'). Anderson confronted them angrily but one of Jagga-Jagga's men, who possessed rifles, carefully aimed a shot which whistled past Anderson's ear. It stopped him dead in his tracks and he wisely withdrew. He sent advice of the encounter to Captain Henry Gisborne, the commander of the Border Police. The Wurundjeri men moved on to Yering station at Yarra Glen, arriving on the 13th January 1840, but Gisborne made it there before them and set a trap. A bullock was killed by the station owner and Jagga-Jagga's men were invited to a feast. It took four Border Police to subdue him, but Jagga-Jagga was captured, handcuffed and imprisoned. The Wurundjeri men retreated to work out their strategy, which was to at first advance with muskets and spears, but then strategically retreat into a wetland, whilst others circled around a hill to rescue Jagga-Jagga. Gisborne later wrote in his report to La Trobe:

'I am unable to account for them never having hit us as they are capital marksmen.'

The 'Battle of Yering' was the major event in Wurundjeri resistance to white settlement in the Yarra Valley, yet still the settlers poured in. The situation was summed up by the Kulin Elder, Derrimut when he lamented:

'You see ..all this mine. All along here Derrimut's once. No matter now, me soon tumble down...Why me have no lubra? Why me have no piccaninny? You have all this place. No good have children, no good have lubra. Me tumble down and die very soon now.'

A Short-lived Reserve

The Chief Aboriginal Protector, George Augustus Robinson, fought to secure land for the Wurundjeri people, noting in his diary on May 3rd 1839:

'Had a long conversation with surveyor, Mr. Hoddle. Showed me a map of the county, marked off into allotments comprising, I think, fully 30 square miles and not a single reserve for the blacks except the mission which I have no wish to retain. I said if that or a similar map was exhibited to the people of England, they would at once see the way the natives are treated. Their lands sold from them and no provision made for their maintenance and this by the government who are bound to protect them.'

It took until 1852 for a 1,908-acre Aboriginal Reserve to be formally set aside at Pound Bend. However, gold had been discovered at Warrandyte in 1851 and the Reserve's future was doomed. The Wurundjeri knew this and decided to hold one last corroboree. They sent messages out to all the Kulin Nation clans and the Aboriginal Protector, William Thomas, described the event held in March 1852 as follows:

'They had not met for many years and wanted to have once more some corroboree together....and night after night for fourteen days they did indulge themselves.'

However, after the corroboree, some of the Wurundjeri decided to go on one last walkabout to Melbourne. Not having permission to leave the reserve, they were arrested at Bulleen and jailed at Heidelberg. Others continued to live on creek side encampments or work on local stations, while others moved to the safety of the Upper Goulburn until land was reserved for them at Coranderrk in 1863. Pound Bend served as a ration station until closed in 1862.