

## What became of the Wathaurong People of the Geelong District?

### Before 1788

The Europeans on the first Fleet brought with them diseases which spread to the Geelong District. When William Buckley started living with the local Wathaurong he noticed that some had small-pox scars. These people had survived the disease but how many had died from it? Some think as many as 50% of the population.

### About 1803

William Buckley, the escaped convict, reckoned that there were about 700 men, women and children at some of the large gatherings he attended while he lived with the Wathaurong.

### 1835

When John Batman set up his camp at St. Leonards, one of the members of his group, Andrew Todd, kept a diary and in it he listed the names of the Wathaurong who were camped near them. Todd's full list contained 78 men women and children.

It is probably not complete, except perhaps for the 28 Beangali clan on whose land the whites were camping.

### The Beangali 1835:

Warrarick and his two wives Corracarkwingork and Cannawool and seven children, Burdiganook, *Derdanook*, Carkwiniork, Curwellook, Quihnadar, Wondurthiwork and Wondurthon. Perweit and his two wives Memamer and Barncock and two children Marramajore and Lajiccurk Nullamboit and his wife Coromudgenhul and two children, Mudgenhul and Mordulatuwork Warrawarajak and his two wives Corragerrabonook and Corawarajak and four children Darrarbonatwork Woolmabamiss Therrabanook & Warraj and Bannywalan, an orphan.

### 1837

Foster Fyans, Geelong Police Magistrate, asked Buckley to gather all the Aboriginal people within a 20 mile radius of Geelong. 297 men, women and children were counted.

### 1842

Mrs Davenport made a list of the names of all 118 of the Wathaurong living around Geelong.

### NAMES OF THE BARRABOOL TRIBE ABOUT 1841 - 1843

From 'Letters from Victorian Pioneers' pp 310- 311. Mrs F.A.Davenport, daughter of C.W.Sievwright who was protector of the Aborigines in this area.

#### Men:

Mamborn	Winnurdurd	Toort kang
Burda-boonook	Yamarite	Beergaru
Bana-murook	Yayboborne	Borm-dyon
Yama kamer	Woolah	Burdaganeuk
Kalanyoke	Koimot-derg	Tarawil (Turkey)
Warawadyang	(one cane spear)	Deringbaldyon
Balimmoum	Wirdyon	Kang-atuk
Badyakano	Barney wulurn	Toortaderemy-dyon
Boolbine	Tro wernuwil	Kanagobermorg
Moorat dong (pain in stomach)	(foam of waterfall)	(large high cap)
Yoloboyn	Torraneuk (heart)	Moordy ngor-ngor
Neulem-boet	Tirrermap	Kolarn (locust)
Terragubel	Koram	Tromneuk (claw of emu's foot )
(standing up)	Neeram-dinang	Maan gyarong
Pulinelli	(long foot)	Mooradum
	Burda-murra dook	

Yama-wuling

Woormadyon

Tooragbin

Mettamoum

Boolbool

Muren-muren-dyook

Gorwelook

Wormebaneep (King Billy)

Baywang

Kumar-wetong

Boogeamorong-morok

Nirewey

*Boys:*

Karkain-nieu-murt

Bongagornok

Waraduk (stormy wind)

Niramying-ying (loud singing)

*Derdermook (DanDanNook)*

Wirma murma neuk

Toorenbone

Maramome

Momneuk

Wurdy-mura neuk

Boolitengel (two bones)

Torma-wone

Boonga torni neuk

*Women:*

Burdghea geurk

Ngurma-ngar-woreneuk

Kora-koradeuk

Yamakorewoork

Toepootynang

Ngalorwing

Eurok-dimang (foot of iguana)

Boonakboork

Korengeurk

Winya-wae-war

Koimo-moorna-goork

La-work

Welwor-work

Bodyit

Lalageurk

Neuwa-neuwete

Ngarm-ngarm-toe woork

Boodyerneen

Toe woork

Titeyur

Murbang-goork

Titurwoork

Torort goork

Tirap koraneuk

Yilert

Myrghingeurk

Morkoit

Kokboning

Kencywool

Windelwoork

Boona-gheranook

Niram-bookok (long Lake)

Bangoork

Boona-waring-geurk

Banga-Ngare

Noorda-worady-work

Moonaelley

Mornep-dya-work

Bilang-goork

Murdimunny

Mutlerd-goork

(hyacinth girl)

*Girls:*

Ngam-yang-myr-woork

Batkome

Bygoork

Mordaley-dia-woork

Dindong

Bararwoork

Ta-Yanggoork

Kanul-woork (young kangaroo girl)

Torang-goork

Balawadorp

From 297 to 118 in 7 years !! i.e. 60% loss.

By 1853, there were 17 Wathaurong left; nine women, seven men and one child.

The winter camping place of the Wathaurong was Toolim Beal, 'The Place of River Red Gums and Wiry Grass'. It is near Mt. Duneed.

John Armstrong took up the land this camp was on. Later it was divided and some was bought by John Stewart. A few acres along the Armstrong Creek were of no value to Stewart and this small area became a refuge for about ten of the Wathaurong people.

By 1861 there were seven Indigenous people left in the Geelong area.

There were no children.

They were moved to one acre of land called the 'Duneed Aboriginal Land Reserve.'

It had a wooden hut for shelter.

They could not sustain themselves on this small area and had to walk into Geelong each day to live.

They were not allowed to stay in the town after sunset.

Dick died in 1862, Ellen in 1864, Jenny Nelson and Timboo in 1866 and Harry Gore in 1868.

1868. Two remained, Dan Dan Nook and Willem Baa Ni ip.

**Dan Dan Neek** was the sole survivor of the Beangali clan listed by Todd (Derdanook) in 1835 and by Davenport (Derdermook) in 1841-3).

**Willem Baa Ni ip** was Davenport's Wormebaneep.

These two resisted attempts to move them to the Aboriginal Reserve at Coranderrk where some Wathaurong had moved.. They camped at Skepper's Well, Ocean Grove, near the home of fisherman and past Aboriginal Warden, Thomas Blackwell. They made and traded boomerangs as seen in Alexander Webb's painting of Yarra street in 1872.

After **Dan Dan Neek**, ('King' Jerry) died in 1870, **Willem Baa Ni ip (King Billy)**, was alone. He died in Geelong Hospital on 11th of November 1885. He was forty-nine years old.

He was buried at the Western Cemetery along with others of the Wathaurong.

These may have been the last indigenous people living in Geelong at that time but there are living descendants of the Geelong district Wathaurong people.

#### **Quotes re Wathaurong:**

From Fawkner's Diary

*Sunday the 19 of March* .....

found Mr. Darke on board the Caledonia. He came from the Barra-Bool Hills to give the account of Mr. Swanston's two men Moran & Gunshenah being reported to him by one of the Blacks as having been speared to death near Indented Head and also that another man who ran away had also been killed, Buckley refused to believe the acct. and affronted Mr. D. and when he told the affair to Mr. Batman (who was half drunk) he also said it was false, this out of spite to Mr. B. J. Ferguson, Batman is utterly unfit to hold office here, for he is devoid of Intelligence .....

*Sunday the 15 of May*.....

Mr. T.J. [B.J.] Ferguson came here this Evening & Slept, says he has found the bones of the men of his some time ago lost, and reported at the time to have been killed by the Natives, learned that they were so killed and that the names of the Murderers are, **Peewoot, Warrak-reck, Nullarm-bad, Bodie-lodgen, & Bunnee-willan**. The place were [where] they were Killed was about ¾ of a mile East of the Hill called Murrau-duck, and about 6 miles from Alex [?] Hut at Indented Head. Wm ret'd with the cart at 5 Minutes to 3 O'clock P.M.

#### **Account of the massacre which followed the death of Franks and his man, Flinders ?**

*Saturday the 9 of July*

Went down to receive cargo for Ross & Co. found that Mr. Gellibrand had been to the Point in the night and reported that Mr. Franks and his men were missing and also his Sheep .. he says from the way the goods lay about the place has been plundered & both the men Killed. Let us hope not, they had firearms. A strong party left the point on Horseback to find out the Truth in this affair Messrs Gellibrand, Cottar, Malcolm Young, T. Armytage and others formed the Party.

*Sunday 10 of July*

Resolved in full meeting that something must be done to protect ourselves, so we enlisted as many Natives as would consent to go & agreed to send them out to deal with the Murderers as they think according to their Rules they should be treated.

*Tuesday the 12 of July* .....

The bodies of Mr. Franks and his man were buried this day .....

... This day early Messrs Gellibrand, W[edge], G[rey] and 2 Blacks, Derra- & Bai- went from here and picked up Mr P[itcair]n and also Batmans Party of 3 Sydney & 1 resident Natives and Alex, Mich, Farrel, Wim & Bullyan well armed and provided. I furnished Provisions, Arms, Ammunition for our party.

*Saturday the 16 of July 1836*. This day the Party --- sent out a few of the Blacks to fall in with them and the Native Blacks took full satisfaction on the Murderers & they found several Huts and some of the Property in in each Hut .

