

I am submitting a copy of my book which was published just prior to Xmas 2024 with an article published in the LaTrobeana magazine July 2023. Both were titled '*A Convenient Scapegoat: Angus McMillan and the Gippsland Massacres*'

McMillan has erroneously been remembered as the discoverer of Gippsland which has been perpetuated by a number of cairns dotted through Gippsland. History has not acknowledged that the GunaiKurnai had been in Gippsland for thousands of years and the fact that he was not the first European to penetrate in Gippsland.

He was responsible for opening up a track between the Monaro and Port Albert with Indigenous help ensuring stock could be shipped to Van Diemen's Land. It was however Strelecki's publication of his journey through Gippsland that sparked the main incursion by Europeans.

Following the publication of a small book in 1987 titled '*Our founding Murdering Father*' and with little evidence McMillan has since been identified as the main destroyer of the GunaiKurnai.

What I have tried to achieve is a more evidence-based study of what took place in Gippsland. In doing so throughout the book I have identified a large number of massacre sites and atrocities that took place in the 1840s. Despite the argument that these events took place because there was no law in the district and as a result no written evidence of what took place occurred, this has been found to be incorrect.

A number of men have had their activities recorded with regard to killings and massacres and research has uncovered written accounts of large bone finds in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the vicinity of runs of squatters such as Frederick Taylor who was known to have carried out a massacre at Strathdownie in the western district in 1839.

I do not deny that McMillan probably played a role in the reprisals, but I do not believe the evidence shows him to be the main instigator of the violence. These other protagonists have been ignored in the history of Gippsland.

In contrast McMillan's later life demonstrates his benevolence towards the local GunaiKurnai.

Hopefully what I have written will contribute to the Truth Telling of the events that took place in Gippsland in the early days of settlement.

There is no need to return the book or article please keep both in your files. If you require any further detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rob Christie