

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Michael Adeney****Dated: 29 September 2024****Submission:**

My ancestors on my mother's side where the first settlers in Wandin. My mother told me stories about at her primary school in Wandin they had a display of aboriginal spears and boomerangs on the wall. This was in the 1930s, she said that one Christmas break someone stole them all. It is my thought that perhaps they came from Coranderrk.

There is an oral history in our family of indigenous being left food on the verandas of the houses of the settlers. I remember a great uncle telling me about William Barack at Coranderrk, King Billy he said laughing... my great Uncle was a gentle and kind man, I did not know him to be nasty, I think his mirth and humour was an echo of the sentiments of that time, of what he was told about Barack. To me it represents a lack of understanding and acknowledgement of the dispossession and destruction of the indigenous way of life.

My mother took care to point out in school photos when I was in prep or grade one of an indigenous girl - [REDACTED] was her name. This was an important fact to my mother, important to her that I understood a little of where [REDACTED] was from. I do not know any details, but I do know that she was indigenous, probably stolen and adopted into a family. My brother also on recollection said yes we had an indigenous in our classroom too. This was the late 1960's, early 1970's.

My father said the indigenous were very in tune with the natural environment, they could read things that are unknown to me. He made a comment that building on or removing or destroying and indigenous burial site would be like someone in Gallipoli building a Car Park on top of Australian diggers graves. As a young boy he helped me make a boomerang and a bullroarer which I enjoyed very much.

My parents helped me appreciate what has happened here with the disposition of the indigenous. For me personally, I struggle to appreciate what happened here in Melbourne and Victoria in 1835 and beyond.

END