

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Albert Franklin Family****Dated: 16 November 2024****Submission:**

My name is Annette Sax and I am a Taungurung woman from the Nira ilum baluk clan group. I would like to share a story of our Mum Maureen Franklin's Dad, my Grandfather Albert Franklin. Albert is the son of Taungurung man John Franklin who spent all his life on his Traditional homelands. Like other young Aboriginal boys in the 1800's he was renamed after a white homelands.

Like other young Aboriginal boys in the 1800's he was renamed after a white man, coloniser Sir John Franklin. Our Great Grandfather John Franklin worked as a servant on Doogalook Station in Yea Victoria. He was a station hand & look after the horses. He met our Great Grandmother Harriet Tull who was a non Aboriginal women who was also a servant at Doogalook Station.

Doogalook Station was under the Aborigines Protectorate and controlled our families. Our Great Grandparents married and had 12 children, our Grandfather Albert being the 11th child in his family. Our Grandfather Albert signed up at the age of 23 in Yea, Victoria to serve in World War 1. He stationed in Egypt & India during WW1 & was a Light Horseman.

As an Aboriginal man he was not entitled to the Soldier Settlement, a parcel of land that all other Australians Soldiers received as a gift from the Australian Government for their service to their country. At the centenary of WW1 Moreland Council engaged with Researchers who found information that gave our family an insight into the racism that our Grandfather Albert Franklin faced. We know that in 1928 he sent his World War 1 medals back to the government, we believe in protest to the racist way he was treated.

Researchers also found a letter that my Mum's Mum Mabel Franklin (Hickey), our Irish Grandmother wrote to the Australian government protesting to her husband Albert Franklin treatment. My Grandfather passed when my Mum was 14 years old. Mabel Franklin could not receive the War Widow Pension because Aboriginal Soldiers families were not entitled to this benefit that all other Australian Soldiers families received.

Mabel wrote to the government in response to learning she was ineligible "My husband said he would never go to war again and he would hate for any of his family to "My husband said he would never go to war again and he would hate for any of his family to be treated the way he was treated." This is just one story of many biases endured by our family. We are really proud of our Taungurung Grandfathers contribution and would like to see him and other First Nations Soldiers acknowledged formally. The work we do in Yarn Strong Sista, Aboriginal Education Consultancy which I established in 2001 honours these strong Taungurung men and our extended family.

We strive to empower our Mob when reclaiming and reviving our Taungurung Cultural practices that John & Albert Franklin's families were prohibited from performing.

END OF SUBMISSION