

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Kate Auty****Dated: 27 November 2024****Submission:**

Our submission is in support of calls for the renaming of places, streets, parks and buildings which are currently named for colonial entities or people who systematically oppressed Aboriginal people. For instance:

1. The main street of Benalla is named for Major Nunn who led the military attacks on and murder of Aboriginal people around the 'Waterloo Creek' in NSW (these predated by a month the Myall Creek massacre in the same area). He was investigated by Governor Gipps but no action was taken and he was sent to Victoria to build police/military capacity against Aboriginal people on the Hume route. In Melbourne Nunn led the attack on Aboriginal people at the Merri Creek. Winberry was murdered during that event. Many people were marched into Melbourne in a parade that horrified even some early residents. No street or place should be named for Nunn.

2. Snodgrass Street in Seymour should be renamed. Snodgrass led a charge on Aboriginal people at the Ovens/King river junction. This was in reprisal for the Aboriginal attack on Faithfull's stockmen at Benalla in 1838. That Aboriginal attack was itself the response to Faithfull's men abusing Aboriginal women. That street should be renamed. Snodgrass was the person who effected the 'transfer' of the Acheron reserve from Taungurung people to his friend Jones in the 1850s.

3. George Faithfull declared his role in an attack on Aboriginal people when writing to La Trobe. That letter appears in the published Letters of Victorian Pioneers. Streets and creeks in the north east of Victoria are named for the Faithfulls. They should be renamed for Taugurung and other First Nations people.

4. As to the Faithfulls, the pioneers' memorial in Seymour at the old cemetery should be interrogated. William Faithfull's name appears on the plaque and his role in the Benalla/ Ovens/King River reprisals is as yet not publicly known. These are just a few of the names that should be removed from public places. We also need to acknowledge the land theft conducted by squatters in Victoria. Not only were they so corrupt as to defy the (highly inadequate) constraints on their land grab, they then went on to steal from other smaller non-Indigenous land aspirants by the 'dummying' that followed the 1860 Land Acts. Henty paid Featherstonehaugh (documented in his book of his early Victorian experiences) and other 'selectors' to take up land and then simply pass it back to the squatter. This squatting 'work-around' further embedded the original land theft.

END OF SUBMISSION