

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission

From: Anonymous 1505

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Submission:

Eliza Nowen (No one) was taken by Sealers/Whalers from Point Nepean 1832/34. Eliza was brought from a Sealer off of one of the islands of Bass Strait by Robert Gamble. Robert and Eliza stopped along many Islands of the south coast of Australia and settled on Bald Island Yankee Yankee had traveled from Bunurong Country via boat via Bald Island and then returned back to Bunurong Country and told the authorities - Protectorate of Victoria that Eliza was on Bald Island and asked to be returned back home to Country. This was that Eliza was on Bald Island and asked to be returned back home to Country. This was ignored by the authorities. Emma Gamble the youngest female of 7 of Eliza and Robert's children. Remained on Bald Island with Mother Eliza after children were married out or died. Emma learnt women's stories, language and traditional ways to survive on the island from Eliza as most of the time it was just the two of them up until Eliza and Robert's death. And then shortly after her sister's death during childbirth, she took her sister's child and raised it as her own. She soon was raped at 14 and gave birth to the local Dr's baby -a little girl. Emma was supposed to be living and employed by the Dr. Emma at the age of 15 took him to Court and won! For compensation and acknowledgment of the paternity of the baby Emma continued to endure many hardships from sleeping in huts, prostitution, prison and drug dens, petty theft, assault charges and many relationships with whom she had several children too. Emma told the last Magistrate and Perth Aboriginal Protectorate Board that she would no longer get in trouble as she was returning 'home' and that would be good for her. She meant Melbourne.

My direct line of Emma's daughter is Martha. Martha followed in Emma's footsteps and did whatever she could to survive. Martha had different children to a few different men and got herself into some trouble like Emma trying to navigate and survive life. So Emma took Martha's children with her back to Melbourne. - Sth Melbourne and Richmond specifically. Emma remembered her teachings from her mum Eliza and showed/taught Martha's children these too. Emma died in 1926 Melbourne - survived by Martha. Martha's sister's children -Aunty Eileen and my grandmother came to Melbourne during the second world war. 1942-44. Stories and being shown sacred spots were shared. My mother was born on Country in front of a fire in Laverton. The stories and sharing of knowledge were continued though my family line and continues to be shared today. The effects of colonization past and ongoing to my family are as follows

Continued experience of denial and erasure of Eliza's culture for her descendants. Intergenerational sexual abuse and incest Intergenerational FV Intergenerational just barely surviving to and unable to get an education Intergenerational poverty Intergenerational parentification Intergenerational dysfunctional Intergenerational self medicating with AODs Intergenerational low self-worth as a women Intergenerational encounters with statutory departments - Prison, CP etc This generation we are now experiencing lateral violence in the form of denying our Ancestors culture and again trying to erase her. Given my Apical Ancestor's name assigned to her from the colony was Eliza No One. Interpreted as NOWAN. I think it is incredibly hurtful that people to this day still are trying to treat her descendants as No One. We are not No one's. And as the first generation to get an education and be as highly functional as I can be. I will tell her story and give her the voice she was denied. She lives on through us.

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