

ACTIVITY 1 – Cultural and Historical Significance of Kelly documents

Students should read the following two sets of statements:

- **Statement of cultural heritage significance**
- **Historic importance of the PROV Kelly documents**

Students should then select some of them and discuss whether they agree with them or not. They can provide evidence from the official records and other sources to support their decisions.

How to use the *Ned Online* site to find documents

The records contained in *Ned Online* relate to:

- **It is quite a dense site and students will need to know what aspects they want to study and investigate further.**
- These original records come from Victorian government police, prison, court and other official records. Together they comprise the most complete, intact collection of original, verified records relating to the notorious bushranger and his gang.
- ***Ned Online* Timeline** is useful for students to follow the order of events in Kelly's life.
- The records also are connected to the extended Kelly family (Ned's mother, brothers and uncles), their lives and various encounters they had with the law and the prison system.
- Also included in *Ned Online* are working drafts of the 1881 Royal Commission into the Victoria Police force.
- The documents are the foundation from which the myths and legends surrounding Kelly's life have grown, and the primary source that historians have studied.
- Featured on the site is nearly every word we know Kelly to have written, as well as the words of his friends, victims, pursuers and executioners. The original documents telling these stories are presented with transcripts and some background material to help with further exploration.



- In addition to the Kelly records the website is a wonderful resource from which people and events emerge or can be reconstructed. Today's readers of the documents are challenged by what they read. Human nature being what it is there is much deceit and skulduggery lurking about in the documents.

***Ned Online* provides a detailed record of people involved in the Kelly story:**

- Hare
- McIntyre
- Steele
- Byrne
- Ellen Kelly
- Nicolson
- Curnow
- Sadleir
- Ward
- John Kelly
- Standish and others.

Each section opens with a brief **Overview** and then the **Text** that consists of the transcribed text and a copy of the original. The documents can be printed off to study.

The exhibition site is divided into:

- **Themes** (Introduction, Using the site, Kelly Collection, Land, Police Case, Police and Press).
- **Kelly Story** (Kelly family, Greta, Stringybark Creek, Euroa, Jerilderie, Glenrowan, Bought to Justice, The Kelly Outbreak).
- **People** (Arthur, Hare, McIntyre, Steele, Byrne, Ned Kelly, Nicolson, Stephens, Curnow, Ellen Kelly, Sadleir, Ward, Gloster, John Kelly, Standish).
- **Places** (an interactive map of where the Kelly's lived and the gang operated. By selecting towns students will gain access to documents associated with the areas).
- **Documents** (Eight pages starting in 1870 with the letter written by Ned Kelly to Sergeant James Babington and ending with a 1907 letter from Alexander James Peacock Chief Secretary of the State of Victoria forbidding the exhibition of a Kelly film at Her Royal Majesty's Theatre, Wangaratta.).

