

ACTIVITY 2 – Interpreting the Significance of Documents

Read these original documents and discuss its significance (if any) to the Kelly story.

- The Ned Kelly letter of July 1870 to Sergeant Babington of the Kyneton police. It is the only surviving recorded document of Ned's handwriting. It indicates that despite Ned's limited education he knew how to read and write. The final lines show Ned's feeling of isolation upon his return to Greta as the locals thought he had betrayed the bushranger Harry Power. He writes "every one looks on me like A black snake send me an answer me as soon as possible".
- Also a document from Detective Ward that outlined the investigations he had made into the supposed involvement of the Chinese with the Kelly gang. Jo Bryne spoke Chinese and was friendly with the Chinese and the authorities thought the Chinese could be assisting the gang.
- Another is Ned's prison record. It gives an outline of how such documents were used by police and prisons to record a person's criminal history. Police could also use the record for identification purposes.

