



The KRU workshop held at Lakes Entrance in April 2007. Photograph: Simon Flagg

The *Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture* workshops targeted all recordkeeping sectors from government, historical societies, Victorian Aboriginal organisations and communities. To successfully reach all target audiences, 1 metropolitan and 6 regional workshops were conducted across Victoria.

The workshops were conducted in the following locations:

- Lakes Entrance (17 & 18 April 2007)
- Warrnambool (8 & 9 May 2007)
- Mildura (28 & 29 May 2007)
- Swan Hill (31 May & 1 June 2007)
- Ballarat (14 & 15 June 2007)
- Shepparton (4 & 5 July 2007)
- Bendigo (24 & 25 July 2007)
- Melbourne (1 & 2 August 2007)



Stolen Generation Worker Vicki Peart, left, and community member Kylee Jones at the Ballarat workshop in June 2007. Photograph: Simon Flagg

The free two-day workshops were broken into two information sessions: the first day focusing on cultural sensitivities included an overview of past reports such as the *Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* and *Bringing Them Home* reports; a Stolen Generations overview, which incorporated presentations by Stolen Generations Victoria and individual Stolen Generations members; an overview of Koorie records available within PROV and National Archives of Australia (NAA) collections.

The second day provided perspectives on key records management and conservation issues.



Workshop participants touring the Victorian Archives Centre repository in Melbourne, August 2007. Photograph: Simon Flagg

The *Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture* workshops made participants aware of the importance of preserving records. People often forget or are unaware of the importance records can play in following history as they provide evidence of events and an insight into the thinking and attitudes of the day.

The *Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture* workshops were a great success with a total of 104 participants attending the 8 workshops across Victoria. The excellent attendance demonstrated the commitment of individuals, agencies and organisations alike to improving recordkeeping standards, access and knowledge. The enthusiasm and involvement from participants during the workshops was a major reason for their success.

Workshop program overview:

Day 1	Day 2
<p>Stolen Generations Overview</p> <p><i>Bringing Them Home</i> report and recommendations relating to record keeping</p> <p><i>wilam naling</i> report and recommendations providing better access to records</p> <p>Aboriginal community guest speaker/s talking about their personal experiences with accessing their records</p> <p>Accessing Koorie records at PROV</p> <p><i>wilam naling</i> Small Grants Scheme</p> <p>Information session on the <i>wilam naling</i> small grants scheme</p>	<p>Records Management Current methods of managing records including collection policies and the arrangement, description, and cataloguing of records</p> <p>Records Conservation On preserving paper records, books and photographs in your collections and to safely handle, display and store them, and about a range of useful conservation resources</p> <p>Records Legislation Exploring the practical and legal issues involved in providing public access to records</p>



Participants at the Mildura workshop in May 2007. Photograph: Bruce Smith

2. *wilam naling* small grants awards 2007

The *wilam naling* small grant project was implemented as a priority from recommendation 6 of the *wilam naling* report. The KRU established a Small Grants scheme for non-Government record holders, offering successful applicants grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000. The small grants will assist community organisations to better manage their Aboriginal records and improve access standards to enable better Aboriginal community awareness and record access.

Projects eligible for funding included:

- ◆ conservation work,
- ◆ indexing,
- ◆ arrangement and description (or cataloguing),
- ◆ digitisation,
- ◆ setting up recordkeeping systems.

For organisations and individuals to be eligible to apply for the *wilam naling* small grants they must have attended the two-day *Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture* workshop. Attendance demonstrated an organisation's or an individual's commitment to learning, developing and improving recordkeeping knowledge to provide better access to Aboriginal records within community and regional collections.

The *wilam naling* small grants have been developed to help improve basic storage and access to records. The projects funded are a small step forward that will provide communities with immediate improvements. All *wilam naling* small grant projects that have received funding are to be completed within 12 months, thereby demonstrating a commitment to improving awareness and access to records.

On 28 November 2007, Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Richard Wynne announced the 13 recipients of the *wilam naling* small grants which were awarded to the following successful applicants:

<p>Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place: Aboriginality in the West</p>	<p>Identify, collect, transcribe and catalogue records on Aboriginal Australian history in the western metropolitan region of Melbourne.</p>
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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Richard Wynne, left, presents Libby Clarke with her award accompanied by her sister Bernice Clarke, November 2007.
Photograph: Peter Casamento



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Richard Wynne, left, presenting Tati Tati (Robinvale) Aboriginal Co-op representative Brendan Kennedy with an award, November 2007.
Photograph: Peter Casamento

<p>Koorie Resources & Information Centre (KRIC): KRIC archiving project</p>	<p>Index and file records within their collection that span an 18-year history of Aboriginal community development work. The filing system will eventually enable the community to access these records.</p>
<p>Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op: Wathaurong family picture history</p>	<p>Collate family and community photos, cataloguing and digitising material, enabling families to access material and preserve family/community history.</p>
<p>Casterton & District Historical Society: Development of Aboriginal Archives within the museum</p>	<p>Develop an Aboriginal archive section within their museum to improve awareness and access to the records within their collection.</p>
<p>Tati Tati Aboriginal Co-op: Tati Ancestry</p>	<p>Research Tati ancestry and history, identifying tribes and providing communities with access to the compiled history at their cultural centre.</p>
<p>Kooramyee Cooper / Reconciliation Victoria: Indigenous Family History through Kinship</p>	<p>Utilise a collection of government records and indigenous community knowledge to create a database of indigenous genealogies that will help reconnect families and help individuals/communities understand the complex kinship system.</p>
<p>Wentworth Historical Society: Identifying Aboriginal records held within Wentworth shire library and historical society</p>	<p>Design and print brochure that will identify Aboriginal resources available within the Wentworth Historical Society and Wentworth Shire library collection. The brochure will be distributed throughout schools, libraries, genealogical/historical societies and Aboriginal organisations.</p>
<p>Mildura Aboriginal Co-op BTH Program: Indigenous community library (Tracing Your Family History)</p>	<p>Purchase of technology equipment to be used in the library to collect life experiences from regional tribes in our catchment area. Information being collected would range from oral history from elders of the tribal area, photographs of families, recording family stories in both electronic and handwritten form to create an overall story that will be stored in the local history section of the Mildura Aboriginal Co-op's library.</p>
<p>Mildura & District Genealogical Society Inc: Koorie Records Identification project</p>	<p>Purchasing a computer and cataloguing software to identify Koorie records held within Mildura and District society's collection. Once located/highlighted the records can be utilised to build a picture of Koorie family history in the Sunraysia area.</p>
<p>Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust: Bung Yarnda</p>	<p>This project will identify the pictorial history of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust from when it first started as a mission station in the mid 1800s. Once completed community and students would be able to utilise the</p>

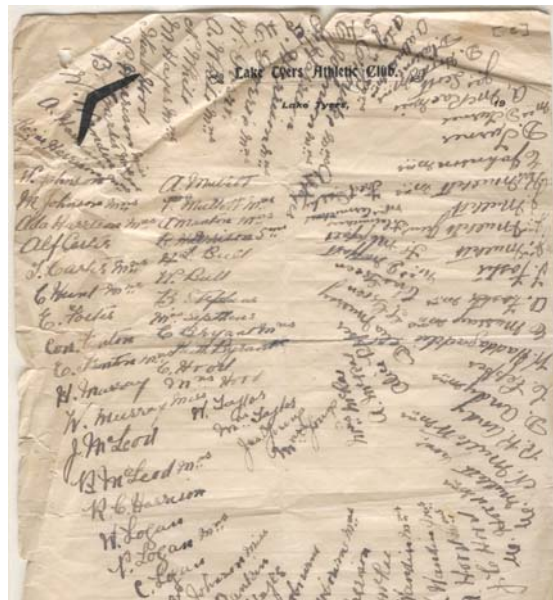
	collection for personal or historical history.
Kirrae Health Service Inc: Making Framlingham history accessible	Currently the history of Framlingham is housed in various boxes spread over a number of buildings. This project will catalogue and archive this important history enabling community members to access this rich resource of material. This project will also allow outside people/organisations having access on a case by case basis.
Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-op: Digitation of photographs, images & documents	This project will protect and file all memorabilia that has been accumulated through our services. We also want to record visual history of events, milestones and history within the Rumbalara community. This will help to capture history and preserve it for future generations, which will greatly benefit schools, historical societies and local community members interested in learning about local Aboriginal history.
Libby Clarke: Preserving Koorie Culture Supported by Koorie Heritage Trust	The project will preserve 18 years of family history research, including a collection of over 3,000 photographs of Koorie families and a collection of family trees specific to the western district. Copies of the material will assist the Koorie Family History Service and Native Title Unit in their research.

3. Koorie Index of Names (KIN) update

The KIN project was developed by PROV in response to recommendation 2 of the *wilam naling* report. The aim of KIN is to provide better access to Aboriginal records within PROV's collection. Particular attention has been given to improving access to records for people affected by past government removal policies.

Records

A great deal of work has been carried out by PROV and NAA in making access to Aboriginal records easier. In Victoria, this combined effort has been important



A petition lodged in 1931 with the Board for the Protection of Aborigines. Signatories were residents of Lake Tyers mission station seeking to prevent the removal of station manager Captain Newman. The petition was unsuccessful. PROV, VPRS 1694/P0 Correspondence Files, Unit 11, file May 1931 – June 1931

because the records of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, and its successor agency the Aborigines Welfare Board, were divided between the Victorian state (PROV) and Australian federal (NAA) archival collections.

To access early government records (from 1860 up to 1920s) relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria researchers need to use the PROV collection. The records are most extensive for the period 1839 to 1859, which covers the period of the Chief Protector of Aborigines and his successor the Guardian of Aborigines.

For the period circa 1860 to 1960, it is necessary to conduct research at both PROV and the Melbourne Office of the NAA. This separation of the archives is a result of the Victorian State Government legislating to transfer responsibility for Aboriginal affairs to the Commonwealth in 1975. Shortly after this, those records not already in the custody of PROV were transferred to the Commonwealth by the Victorian Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. Victoria is the only state in Australia to have this kind of split in regard to the custody of government records relating to Aboriginal people.

In 1998, NAA received funding from the federal government for an indexing project to implement one of the *Bringing Them Home* recommendations. This project led to the indexing of records held in the NAA collection relating to Aboriginal people. This index enabled researchers to access this collection of records relating to Aboriginal people in Victoria with far greater ease. In 2006, as a result of the *wilam naling* report, PROV received funding from AAV to conduct a Koorie name index project of all its relevant records.

The aim of the KIN project is to achieve parity of access across both PROV and NAA collections relating to Aboriginal people. At the same time, the KIN project will also seek to promote Aboriginal records held by PROV to the community.

The information captured in the KIN database is very simple and straightforward. Only identifying details such as name, date of event, and place are recorded. The index allows researchers to quickly establish if any relevant information is available on the individuals they are trying to find. The database saves people having to understand archival record systems to find what they want. A search of the KIN database will provide the basic details relating to an individual and the relevant file references where the information was found.

To find out any further information on individuals, researchers will need to order the relevant records using the file references they discover through the database. We would like to stress that KIN is a name index database only. It is not designed to compile dossiers on Aboriginal people. The KIN database is currently unavailable to the public; the project will be officially launched in late 2008.

PROV's KIN project is currently in phase 1, which involves indexing of records about Aboriginal people in **VPRS 1694 – Correspondence Files** of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines (1889–1946).

It is worth noting that the KIN project will be an ongoing project with no definite end date; thus allowing PROV to index all records that have any relation to Aboriginal history. While indexing the Aboriginal collection is the most essential phase, PROV also sees the importance of indexing less relevant records such as inquest, wills/probates, land selection files etc. The reason for including all types of records as part of the indexing project is that it is often only through piecing together all the various sources of information that people are able to retrace a person's story in full.

The KIN project is a small step forward in assisting members of the Aboriginal community to access records about Aboriginal people and will seek to bring knowledge about them to the fore. To date, these records have been largely under-utilised and have remained unknown to Aboriginal people themselves. Projects such as KIN help to bring these records to the awareness of the Koorie community, and in many ways provide the only avenue to revisit the past and the dramatic events that shaped the lives of many Aboriginal people.

4. Common Access Guidelines

Over the next few years the KRU will be developing and implementing the Common Access Guidelines (CAG) project. The CAG project developed in response to recommendation 1 of the *wilam naling* report and aims to enable Victorian Aboriginal people easier access to records in numerous recordkeeping institutions.

At present individual researchers are required to fill in different forms and documentation to gain access to records at different locations. Under the CAG proposal researchers would be able to fill in one document that would be accepted by a number of recordkeeping agencies and organisations, thus dramatically improving access to records for people affected by removal policies and for the wider Victorian Aboriginal community.

5. *Footprints: The Journey of Lucy and Percy Pepper* – publication update

Archives are becoming an important resource for tracing Aboriginal histories and exploring the lives of people governed by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

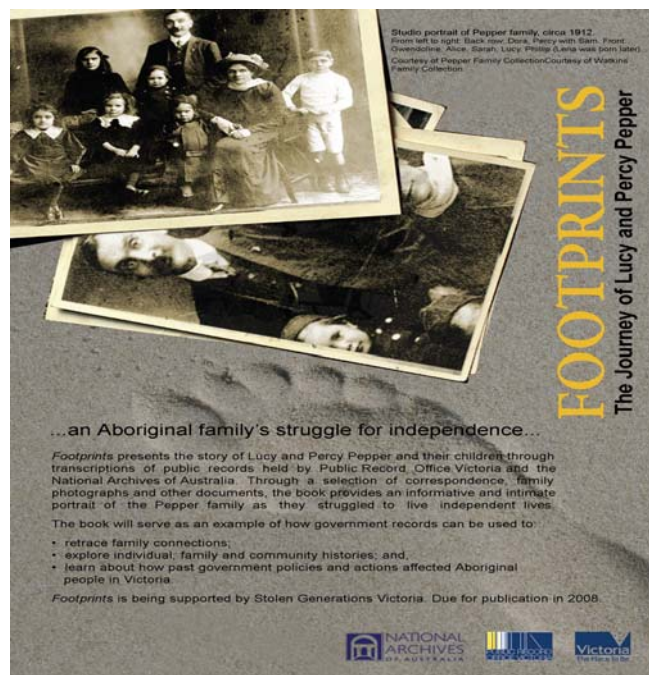
Footprints tells the story of Lucy and Percy Pepper, an Aboriginal family from Gippsland in south-eastern Victoria. The publication details the struggles they faced

dealing with the Board for the Protection of Aborigines through a twenty-year journey that unfolds through transcripts of government documents held in the collections of PROV and NAA.

Footprints illustrates many of the issues that Aboriginal families faced in early twentieth-century Victoria. The publication will help readers understand the many ways in which various state laws affected the daily lives of Aboriginal people.

Footprints will be launched in mid 2008, for further updates please refer to the KRU webpage on PROV's website:

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/about/kru/>



6. Other News

Out of the Darkness: An Aboriginal Moomba exhibition

By Eddie Butler-Bowdon

City Gallery, City of Melbourne

The year 1951 marked both the Centenary of Victoria and the fiftieth anniversary of Federation in Australia. To celebrate these historical milestones, a specially selected Victorian Commemoration Committee planned an arts festival and a parade of floral floats through the streets of Melbourne. However, the absence of any Indigenous Australian content in these arrangements rankled members of the Aboriginal community. With only weeks to go before the festivities were due to start, community leader and Hon. Secretary of the Australian Aborigines' League, Pastor Doug Nicholls (1906–1988), obtained funding from the Commemoration Committee to mount a theatrical production.

The all-Indigenous *An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark* was staged at Melbourne's Princess Theatre and was received with critical and popular acclaim. Most of the principals in the concert-style production, including Doug Nicholls and filmmaker Bill Onus, were from southeastern Australia, but others had a connection to country farther afield. The opera singer Harold Blair was from Queensland, and blues singer Georgia Lee was a Torres Strait Islander.

The City Gallery at Melbourne Town Hall is revisiting this landmark event by presenting an exhibition entitled *Out of the Darkness: An Aboriginal Moomba*. While the City Gallery usually showcases the City of Melbourne's own Art and Heritage Collection, it is delighted on this occasion to be able also to exhibit material on loan from PROV. The record series VPRS 7655/P1 Stationery and Photographs of State Occasions, 1936–1958, unit 1, which includes an original program and black and white photographs taken during one of the five performances of *An Aboriginal Moomba*, forms the nucleus of the exhibition.

The exhibition looks in particular at how a groundbreaking theatrical event set the standard for what has evolved into the modern-day Moomba Waterfest. Celebrated in Melbourne every March since 1955, Moomba is one of the largest and longest-running festivals in Australia. With its emphasis on community involvement, the festival commands a strong place in the social history of Melbourne.

Out of the Darkness: An Aboriginal Moomba is on display from late June to September 2008 at the City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne. Admission is free.

For further details, visit <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Shake Your Family Tree - 27 February 2008

Presented by National Archives of Australia (NAA)

On 27 February 2008, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm, NAA will be holding a national family history information day. *Shake Your Family Tree* will be carried out by



Above: A page from the program for *An Aboriginal Moomba*. PROV, VPRS 7655/P1 Stationery and Photographs of State Occasions, unit 1

Below: A scene from *An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark*, 1951. PROV, VPRS 7655/P1 Stationery and Photographs of State Occasions, unit 1, image 9



all NAA offices across Australia. In Victoria the *Shake Your Family Tree* information day will be at the Victorian Archives Centre (VAC) at 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne. This is a great chance for people interested in tracing family to come experience the government records at VAC. For those unaware VAC is the home of NAA and PROV, which means researchers will be able to learn about what records are available within both Commonwealth and State record collections. It should be noted that Victoria is the only archives in Australia to have a joint facility between Commonwealth and State archives. Once again this is a great opportunity to begin your family history journey, exploring the NAA and PROV record collections.



The day will incorporate a number of activities from:

- **Display & information stalls:** Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Genealogical Society of Victoria
- **Seminar:** *Digging up Your Roots* – An introduction to the records of the National Archives of Australia, with Anne Piggott (10.00 am and 2.00 pm)
- **Seminar:** *Digging up Your Roots* – An introduction to the records of the Public Record Office Victoria, with James McKinnon (11.00 am and 3.00 pm)
- **Exhibition:** *Victorians at Work* on display in main foyer
- **Tour of the Victorian Archives Centre**, with Public Record Office volunteers
- **Show bags** (for the first 200 guests) and Lucky Door prizes

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Book into one of our seminars on the day and find out how easy it can be to start uncovering your own unique story.

For what's on in Melbourne, see www.naa.gov.au or phone (03) 9348 5600

7. Feedback

If you would like to send feedback and suggestions on the content of this newsletter or if you know someone who would be interested in receiving the KRU newsletter, please email ask.prov@prov.vic.gov.au

8. About This Publication

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You can access the web page version of this newsletter at

<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/about/kru/>

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