Entry type: Place
Entry ID: AWE1091

Coranderrk Station

(1860 - 1950)

Born	18600101, Healesville Victoria Australia
Died	19501231
Occupation	Aboriginal Mission or Reserve

Summary

Coranderrk Station was established in 1860 when the government set aside 4,850 acres of land for use as a reserve for Aboriginal people. The site was selected by the local Aboriginal groups, the Wurundjeri, Taungerong and Bunorong people, who built the reserve within a few months, constructing their own huts, a school and dormitories for the Aboriginal children from all over the colony. They sustained themselves by growing their own vegetables and cash crops, including arrowroot and hops. Through the hard work of the Aboriginal people, Coranderrk Station was renowned for its farming produce and became the model for all future stations.

During the 1870s the Board for the Protection of Aborigines placed Aboriginal people from all over Victoria at Coranderrk Station. In 1924 it was closed as a staffed station. Nine Aboriginal people remained, with the Police Constable at Healesville as their local guardian. The rest were sent to Lake Tyers Reserve.

The area was gradually given away over the years until its status as a reserve was revoked. In 1948 the Coranderrk Land Bill released the station for private purchase. In 1998 land at Coranderrk was purchased by the Indigenous Land Corporation and returned to Aboriginal people.

Coranderrk was the home to many Aboriginal women, some of whom became prominent Aboriginal spokespersons.

Published resources

Journal Article
Land rights in south-east Australia: the long struggle, Goodall, Heather, 1987

An 'unfashionable concern with the past': the historical anthropology of Diane Barwick, Kijas, Johanna, 1997

Report
Genealogies of Aboriginal families from Cummeragunja and Moonculla now living in Goulburn Valley and Murray River towns including Shepparton, Echuca, Swan Hill and Deniliquin and descendants now living in Melbourne and some ex Coranderrk families, Jackamos, Alick, 1987

Resource
Moravian Mission Papers in Australia 1832-1916, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/catalogue_resources/MF163-88.htm

Book
Rebellion at Coranderrk, Barwick, Diane, 1998

Archival resources

AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection
A History of Aboriginal lands and reserves in Victoria, 1835-1971 / by Philip Felton

Moravian Mission Papers

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