

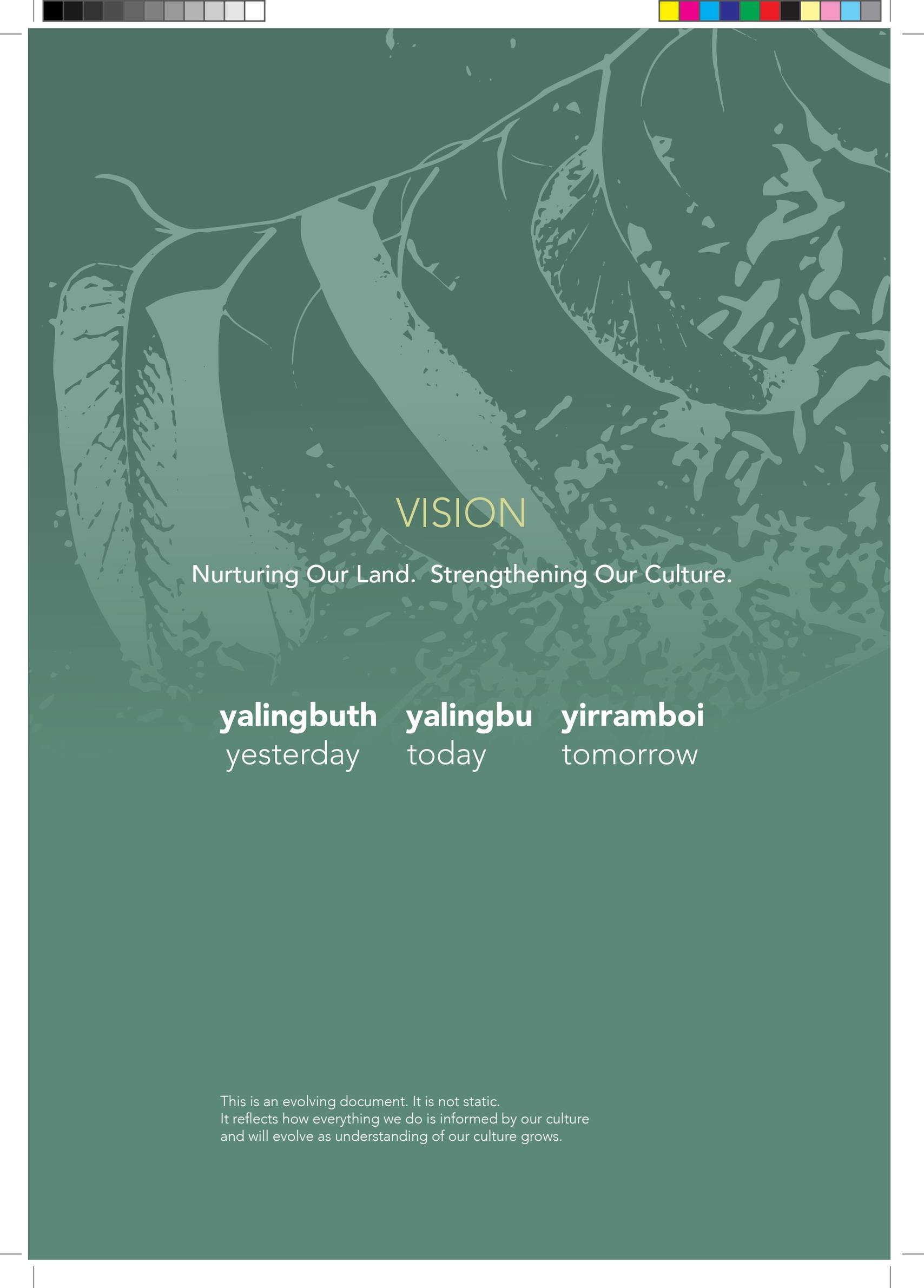


Coranderrk

Aboriginal Station Strategic Plan

WANDOON ESTATE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2018 - 2028



VISION

Nurturing Our Land. Strengthening Our Culture.

yalingbuth
yesterday

yalingbu
today

yirramboi
tomorrow

This is an evolving document. It is not static.
It reflects how everything we do is informed by our culture
and will evolve as understanding of our culture grows.

OUR VALUES

Caring for land and culture.

Strengthening knowledge of Aboriginal culture and land management.

Continuing the Coranderrk stories into the twenty first century.

Building on our ancestors legacy of an inclusive Coranderrk community.

Building independence and sharing knowledge.



We pay respect to our Elders past and present.

They give us guidance, strength and courage.

We care for Coranderrk and share its stories in their names.

We acknowledge the continued and unbroken connection between our Wurundjeri ancestors and the Wurundjeri country on which Coranderrk is located.

We acknowledge and respect the continued and unbroken family connections between Coranderrk and all Coranderrk descendants.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This is the first strategic plan developed by Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation (WEAC)

It outlines how we will care for country and community by building on the legacy of the Aboriginal people who lived at Coranderrk during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Through hard work and determination, and through strong friendships and partnerships these people, the ancestors, worked towards achieving a self sufficient and safe place to live and work.

Like them, we walk in two worlds. Culture is not separate from what we do but is part of us and informs everything we do. Alongside this, we acknowledge the need for best practice management and governance.

Like those who came before us, we seek mutually respectful, open, and transparent friendships and partnerships to help us to achieve our vision.





OUR STORY SO FAR

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station was established in 1863 and at its largest, comprised 4,750 acres. It officially closed in 1924 but its stories did not end. They are stories of hope, vision, success, oppression, strength, power, resignation and survival. Above all, they are stories of community.

Our ancestors, Simon Wonga and William Barak and the many others who lived at Coranderrk worked hard to build a place of self sufficiency and self governance.

They cleared the land, built homes, a kitchen, a store, a dairy, hops kilns, a school and a dormitory which became the hub of the village. They grew hay, maize, vegetables and flowers and produced award winning hops.

They made cheese, jam, baskets, weapons and rugs to use, but also to sell and make money. They lobbied government, instigated two inquiries and appeared as witnesses at both to fight to retain the place they had created as their home. They developed friendships with people who helped them in their achievements and as much as possible, they retained their cultural identities.

In 1924, all but a small group of people were moved to Lake Tyers. Most of the buildings had collapsed or were dismantled. Coranderrk passed in to private ownership and lay dormant, waiting for its people to return.

In 1998, 200 acres of the original station including the superintendent's house was purchased with funding from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). WEAC was established to manage Coranderrk. The cemetery also survives and is managed by the Wurundjeri Council.

“

This ancient story connects the past to the present. It was the responsibility of my great great great grandfather to look after the country surrounding the Birrarung from it's source at Mt. Baw Baw to the area we know as Heidelberg today. Currently I, along with some family members are looking after a much smaller tract of the Birrarung, it gives me great joy to know that I am continuing the endless adaption and evolution of my culture. We have suffered many interruptions, obstructions, and injustices, yet as the river will always flow, so do my people. We have our ancient stories and songs, and we have our modified and contemporary ways, these will guide the future generations that are yet to come.

”

Brooke Wandin, 2018



In 2013, WEAC members Brooke Wandin and Jacqui Wandin organised a festival to celebrate 150 years since the establishment of Coranderk. This was the catalyst for many other projects focusing on caring for and improving the health of the land and waterways, and sharing Coranderk stories through events and tours. Friendships and partnerships were established with organisations including Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Indigenous Lands Corporation, Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, HEHO and Landcare. A Property Management Plan has been developed which has guided the construction of new fences, a watering system and weed management program and almost 20,000 indigenous plants have been planted. Tours have taken place, and the play 'We will show the Country' was performed at Coranderk in 2016. WEAC members share Coranderk and cultural knowledge outwardly through speaking and working with schools, community groups and government organisations.

The next phase will consolidate and build on this work, providing a management and vision framework and opening up opportunities for others to be involved through participating, contributing, learning and sharing.





Care for the land and culture

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: LAND

Restore and protect Coranderrk land.

The ancestors cleared enough land to allow for the production of enough food (crops and cattle) to sustain them. The remaining land was left as natural

Objective	1-5 Years	5-10 Years
Care for country	<p>Establish the infrastructure to enable caring for country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Master Plan to identify the long term vision for the whole of Coranderrk. Develop an Environmental Management Plan (land and waterways). Develop a Farm Management Plan. Develop an annual program of works to support weed management, healthy waterways, fire management, revegetation. Understand the viability of indigenous and non-indigenous agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas are identified for crops, grazing, building. The land is healthy. The waterways are healthy. Revegetation is complete and waterways are cleared and free of weeds. Best practice farm management is being implemented. Fencing and water systems are maintained, and in good order. Animals, birds, insects have returned.
Protect Coranderrk through legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate Coranderrk to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coranderrk is in the VHR and protected under the Heritage Act 2017 The entry for Coranderrk in the Register of the National Estate is updated to reflect the larger extent.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: **COMMUNITY**

Working towards reconnecting Coranderrk and descendants of Coranderrk.
Sharing Coranderrk stories with the broader community.

The ancestors created an inclusive community where people from across Victoria came together and lived harmoniously on Wurundjeri country.

Objective	1-5 Years	5-10 Years
To reconnect Coranderrk and descendants of Coranderrk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with other organisations who have established data bases or have information relevant to Coranderrk descendants including Aboriginal Victoria, HICSA, Koorie Heritage Trust, Museum Victoria, Public Records Office of Victoria, State Library of Victoria, Wurundjeri Land Council and others. Plan for a digital research data base of information based on existing information. Plan for the establishment of a meeting place, a permanent yarn tent. Plan for open days for descendants. Budget prepared and funding/ partnerships sourced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong relationships and sharing of information with relevant organisations is established. (MOUs) Cultural permissions to use information rests with WEAC (e.g.: SLV photos) Information sharing systems are established with these organisations. A digital research data base is established. A community meeting place is established. Regular open days for descendants are established and operational.

Provide infrastructure





Objective	1-5 Years	5-10 Years
Interaction with community not descended from Coranderrk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand what visitation/ interaction means for Coranderrk.• Develop a Visitation Strategy as outlined in the Yarra Ranges Partnership agreement.• WEAC members continue to take the Coranderrk story and culture more broadly to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An interaction/visitation program is established which includes events, festivals, tours and online interaction.
Increase story sharing ability at Coranderrk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate the Visitation Strategy into the Master Plan to understand and inform:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use zones (farming, building, story sharing etc.)• story sharing concepts• brief, budgets• time frame• Source funding and/or partnerships.• Invite tenders based on brief.• Source funds to allow for the conservation repair and ongoing maintenance of the Superintendent's House.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A quality Coranderrk learning experience is established using Nicola Stairmand's SLV Fellowship project and other resources. Visitors will leave feeling their mind has been blown and their heart has been shifted.• Management systems are established (Apps, website, booking systems etc)• Superintendent's House is conserved, repaired and maintained.
Provide infrastructure to support workers and visitors (shelter, toilets, water).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure funding to convert and/or construct a space into a weatherproof shelter with composting toilets and drinkable water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelter and amenities are provided.
Provide office/ information/research spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage 1: Rooms in the Superintendents House.• Stage 2: Build an additional space as identified through Mater Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary spaces in the Superintendents House are completed.• Plan towards additional spaces is underway.

Pass on knowledge and learn new skills



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: **GROWTH**

Build independence in a sustainable way through partnerships.
Provide training and education opportunities.

The ancestors handed down traditional skills, learnt new skills, built partnerships and friendships.

Objective	1-5 Years	5-10 Years
Build partnership opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land is leased for agistment.• Explore viability for developing indigenous and non-indigenous (but with historical connection such as hops, potatoes) plant/food businesses or partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viable land use partnerships are established and implemented.
Training and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore potential for Coranderk to be a catalyst for other training opportunities (agriculture, waterways, business management, research, collections management, conservation/restoration, skills e.g.: weaving, rug making, dance, song, language etc) either at Coranderk or at other institutions and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships are established to create a strong skills development program (business management, agriculture, collections management, curating).• Coranderk is known as a place of learning, skills development and capacity building, always focused on strengthening knowledge of Aboriginal culture and land management.



*Build respectful partnerships
Lore and Law*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: **GOVERNANCE**

Lore and Law. Respect, Responsibility and Accountability. To our ancestors, ourselves, our friends and partners.

The ancestors understood that to survive, they had to draw on their traditional life and lore, but also work within the laws of the day.

Objective	1-5 Years	5-10 Years
Meet WEAC governance requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review governance requirements recognising indigenous lore and non-indigenous law. Capacity for governance increased through training/mentorship for WEAC members. A business plan is completed. Above all, be guided by Lore. 	There is a strong knowledge and skills base for business governance within the organisation.
Build capacity for administration, governance services such as reports, acquittals, Board members information needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-bono Executive Services role continues with possibility for training/mentoring of others. 	Governance/executive services is in place as part of overall business administration functions.
Explore management and legal requirements for business partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and legal requirements for partnerships and story sharing activities are understood, developed and implemented. 	WEAC has well run governance models.
Achieve financial independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income base is established through businesses/leasing arrangements. Grants, philanthropic and other partnerships are secured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income is being generated through appropriate and relevant partnerships. WEAC is not fully reliant on grants.
Build succession for Board members through increased engagement with interested people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next generation is identified, supported and encouraged to participate in Board activities through mentorship and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succession is occurring. People have learnt skills.

