

nganganganjin warrit
- - we see long way - -

Wandoon Estate
Aboriginal Corporation
Coranderrk

Strategic Plan

2023-33



Some of our key partners:



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Vision

Nurturing our Land.
Strengthening our
Culture through
Country.



yalingbuth yalingbu yirramboi
yesterday today tomorrow

Respecting our Ancestors from yesterday.

Uplifting our people today.

Preparing our Country for the children of tomorrow.



This is a living 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.

yalingbuth yalingbu yirramboi

Our Values

Caring for Land and Culture.

Strengthening knowledge of Aboriginal Culture and land management.

Continuing the Coranderrk stories into the future.

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 acknowledge the continued and unbroken connection between Wurundjeri Ancestors and Wurundjeri Country on which Coranderrk is located.

We acknowledge and respect the contribution of all other mobs who lived at Coranderrk.



yalingbuth yalingbu yirramboi

Message from the board

The second strategic plan developed by Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation (WEAC) looks and feels different to the first. It shows growth and confidence in working our way.

Reflecting on past projects, we are proud of all that has been achieved here at Coranderrk to date.

Managing the remaining 200 acres of Coranderrk is a responsibility we take seriously. Guided by the legacy of the Coranderrk community, we strive to balance caring for Country and sharing knowledge to amplify the voices of Aboriginal people.

WEAC has developed a new framework to guide our next chapter. The four strategic objectives – environment, reconciliation, education and sustainable organisation – are interconnected and rely on each other, according to Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing.

These objectives are foundational to the many activities and projects we undertake at Coranderrk that aim to help our community, and others we work with, prepare for climate challenges and walk together on the path to reconciliation. At the heart of everything we do is Country, and we seek like-minded partners who understand the benefit of combining traditional knowledge with modern solutions to better care for the environment.

We continue to be inspired by our Ancestors who worked in true reciprocity, with Country, with each other. We are grateful to all our partners, supporters and volunteers who are an integral part of achieving our vision.





'Bon: You would like to be shifted away from here?

Wandon: No; I have made it my home. I would like to stay.'

Robert Wandon and Anne Fraser Bon,
Coranderrk Inquiry 1881 (Coranderrk We
Will Show the Country, p103).

'Having a role at Coranderrk is a privilege that I take seriously. I have a responsibility to this place, to Ancestors, family and the continuum of my people.'

Brooke Wandin, WEAC director



yalingbuth yalingbu yirramboi

Our Story

Since the beginning, our Ancestors cared for Country on which present-day Coranderrk now stands. Colonisation caused great disruption to Culture and Country and, despite ongoing resistance and attempts to reclaim their lands, our Ancestors were pushed to the outskirts of the new settlements.

In 1863, our Ancestors found refuge at Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, at the confluence of Birrarung and Coranderrk creek. The many who lived at Coranderrk, worked hard to build an autonomous farming community, where other displaced mobs could coexist. The size of Coranderrk changed many times, and at its largest covered some 4,750 acres.

By 1924, all but a small group, including our Ancestors and some members of other clans, had been moved to Bung Yarnda (Lake Tyers Mission), and Coranderrk officially closed. Coranderrk passed into private ownership and lay dormant, waiting for its people to return. And its stories lived on. They are stories of hope, vision, success, oppression, strength, power, resignation and survival. Above all, they are stories of community.



In 1998, 200 acres of the original station was purchased with funding from the Indigenous Lands and Sea Corporation (ILSC). WEAC was born, and we began the reawakening of Coranderrk. The confluence of Birrarung and Coranderrk creek keeps us connected to our Ancestors. Connecting to Country and place nourishes our energy reserves, putting energy back into the land where our Ancestors once lived. We continue our cultural responsibility to our Elders and, as Elders, we pass on this to our Elders of the future. Sharing stories from yalingbuth, where they occurred, reclaims these events of an unjust past, shifting the narrative and transforming yalingbu into a positive yirramboi.

'For the sake of my girls I would like a home of my own...'

Granny Jemima, letter to the secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, 1912

'...we will show the country that we can work it and make it pay and I know it will.'

William Barak, in a statement to the Victorian Parliamentary Coranderrk Inquiry, 1881

yalingbuth yalingbu

Rewakening

The strength of our Ancestors still lives within us.

Achievements:

2013	Coranderrk 150th anniversary festival
2014	Coranderrk festival
2015	Pasture improvement program/fencing, weed reduction and water management
2016	We will show the Country, created by Ilbijerri Theatre Company and Giordano Nanni Visitor program/education and training
2017	Planted 20,000 trees for habitat for Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater Victorian Landcare award for partnerships
2018	National Landcare award
2019	Building of Visitor Centre
2021	Establishment of bushfoods program
2022	Completion of the kitchen and training centre





'For over a decade, TarraWarra Museum of Art has engaged and consulted Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation on a broad range of projects. The Directors of WEAC have been highly supportive and enthusiastic consultants for many of the artists and curators we have worked with, providing invaluable guidance, expertise and cultural knowledge. Recently, this relationship has developed into an exciting partnership for our international collaboration The Soils Project, with Uncle Dave Wandin and Brooke Wandin becoming active participants and practitioners in the associated webinars, workshops and exhibitions.'

Anthony Fitzpatrick, TarraWarra Museum of Art



yirramboi
Coranderrk

Partnerships:

We work in partnership with a number of bodies that are committed to addressing urgent environmental challenges and working towards meaningful reconciliation. By drawing on Indigenous knowledge systems, held within the Coranderrk story – past, present, and future – we work with our partners to help build their capacity to meet these challenges, strengthen their commitment, and broaden their understanding of and connection to Country.

Some of our key partners include:

- Yarra Valley Water
- Melbourne Water
- Wine Yarra Valley
- OONAH
- Eastern Health
- Yarra Ranges Council
- University of Melbourne
- Mac Forbes
- Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation

(Their logos on pages 2 & 3 of document)



Yalingbu, we continue their work, and carry it into the future.

Visitor program:

Through our visitor program, we help educate the broader community to meet these challenges. Income generated from the program enables us to work towards becoming a sustainable organisation, both financially and environmentally. Between June 2022 and June 2023, 18 groups visited Coranderrk.

Our program included:

- school visits.
- providing opportunities for on-Country training programs, including Trust for Nature and the Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.
- educational visits for organisations and businesses, including Patagonia, Life Again, Habitat for Humanity, Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.

'Since we began the friendship between Coranderrk and Wine Yarra Valley we have been humbled by the generosity and openness of everyone there. They have shared their stories and knowledge freely and have immeasurably enhanced our understanding of the culture of the Wurundjeri people and how our wine community can be better custodians of country.'

Caroline Evans, Wine Yarra Valley

yalingbuth yalingbu

Coranderrk Ways of Being

The bushfoods project is an example that shows how the four strategic objectives are interconnected at Coranderrk, with Country always at the centre. As WEAC directors, we think beyond five and ten year plans, always guided by the principle of *yalingbuth yalingbu yirramboi*.

Table of Symbols:



Reconciliation



Environment



Education



Sustainable organisation



Reconciliation

Listening to Country and reconciling with the land, which rewards us with new discoveries.

Creating new partnerships via the Bushfoods project.

yirramboi

Knowing and Doing: Bushfoods



Environment

Country left us signs and teaches us what foods to plant and where.

Education

Learning opportunities for ourselves and visitors about bushfoods and biodiversity.

Sustainable organisation

Increasing biodiversity.

New income streams through project partnerships and visitor program.

Strategic Objective 1

Environment

Being the oldest living culture on Earth, if anyone knows anything about sustainability, it's our Ancestors, and this is evidenced in our continuing work today, reading and listening to Country.

Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Care for Country	<p>Develop a strategic plan/nganga wariit to identify the long-term vision for the whole of Coranderrk.</p> <p>Continue developing the infrastructure and programs to enable caring for Country. Reading Country and listening to what it's telling us. </p> <p>Maintaining and expanding the works program, including stream frontage, weed and pest management, fire management, and revegetation.</p> <p>Understand the viability of Indigenous agricultural production, working in conjunction with non-Indigenous methods.</p> <p>Install infrastructure for Bushfoods Project, e.g. nursery.*</p> <p>Research and documentation of animals, birds and insects at Coranderrk.</p>	<p>Continue looking for opportunities to diversify our income in ways that are good for Country. </p> <p>Investigating potential for agriforestry, always keeping in mind health of Country. </p> <p>Continue making sure Country and waterways (Birrarrung/ Coranderrk Creek) are healthy, including revegetation and weed management.**</p> <p>Maintaining and expanding infrastructure as required. </p> <p>Animals, birds and insects are continuing to return, with ongoing surveys/reading Country.</p>






* caring for Country in line with all legislative requirements (2006 Heritage Act)

** caring for Birrarung in line with the principles of the Yarra River Protection Act (in keeping with ancestors' work, see Barak quote on page 11)

Strategic Objective 2

Reconciliation



Reconciling with ourselves, each other and Country.

Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Working with non-Indigenous communities and organisations.	<p>Develop a visitor program that reflects the capacity of our resources – the land and people –and our values and goals.</p> <p>WEAC members continue to take the Coranderrk story and culture out into the community at other sites.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with Melbourne University, amongst others, based on MOUs and agreements, addressing structural injustices and protecting intellectual property (see list of partnerships on page 14).   </p> <p>Establishing partnerships with other organisations who have databases or information relevant to Coranderrk descendants - including Museum Victoria, Public Records Office, State Library of Victoria - to increase access and become the knowledge holders.</p>	<p>A WEAC digital research database is established. Data sovereignty education. </p> <p>An interaction/visitation program is established which includes events, festivals, tours and online interaction, by appointment. </p>

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Continued....



Reconciliation

Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Find ways to communicate and report that better reflect our cultural values.	Developing ways to communicate and report that better reflect our cultural values, e.g. through storytelling and language that demonstrates interconnectedness.	Educating organisations/partners to better understand how cultural values are embedded in reporting. 
Reconnecting Coranderrk and descendents of Coranderrk	Plan for open days for descendants and other mobs.  Establishing partnerships with other organisations who have databases or information relevant to Coranderrk descendents - including Aboriginal Victoria, Oonah, Koorie Heritage Trust, Wurundjeri Land Council - to increase access and become the knowledge holders.	Plan for regular open days with descendants and other mobs. Strong relationships and sharing of information with relevant organisations is established (MOUs). Cultural permissions to use information rests with WEAC.

Strategic Objective 3

Education



Coranderrk becomes known as a place of learning, skills development and capacity building, always focused on strengthening knowledge of Aboriginal culture, history and land management.


Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Engagement	Build capacity for others to host groups at Coranderrk. 	Continue building capacity for others to host groups at Coranderrk. 
Training and education	<p>Share concept of yalinbuth yalingbu yirramboi with visitors.</p> <p>Explore potential for Coranderrk to be a catalyst for other training opportunities (agriculture, waterways, horticulture, hospitality, business management, research, collections management, conservation/restoration) either at Coranderrk or at other institutions and businesses.</p> <p>Encourage training from within and for mob, including creating a culturally safe space; learning on Country.</p>	<p>Continue to share concept of yalinbuth yalingbu yirramboi with visitors.</p> <p>Partnerships are established/strengthened to create a strong skills development program (business management, agriculture, collections management, curating).</p>

Strategic Objective 4

Sustainable organisation

Build individual and collective capacity to continue the Coranderrk story.

Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Protect Coranderrk through legislation.	Continue to seek legal advice to protect Coranderrk (current and former property).*** Preparing for Native Title and Treaty. 	The entry for Coranderrk in the Register of the National Estate is updated to reflect the larger extent of the property.
Infrastructure.	Source funds to allow for the conservation, repair and ongoing maintenance of the Superintendent's House. Build toilets, car park and water infrastructure.	Superintendent's House is conserved, repaired and maintained. Building and maintaining infrastructure as required.
Programs.	Developing capacity for Coranderrk to offer education and training to visitors.	Continue to build our capacity to offer education and training to visitors.
Meet WEAC/ORIC governance requirements.	Develop ways of meeting ORIC requirements, while being guided by our cultural principles. Capacity for governance increased through training/mentorship for WEAC members. 	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.	Managing employees, both paid and volunteer. Streamlining internal processes. Pro-bono services continue with possibility for training/mentoring of others.	Governance/administration services are in place as part of overall business administration functions.

Objective	1-5 years	5-10 years
Explore management and legal requirements for business partnerships and public events.	<p>Management and legal requirements for partnerships and knowledge sharing activities are understood, developed and implemented, based on UNDRIP and ICIP principles.</p> <p>Understanding management and legal requirements for public events.</p>	WEAC has well run governance models.
Achieve financial security.	<p>Budget prepared and funding/partnerships sourced. Income is being generated through appropriate and relevant partnerships.</p> <p>Bushfoods/diversification of the land: explore viability for developing indigenous and non-indigenous plant/food businesses or partnerships.</p> <p>Land is leased for sustainable agistment.</p> <p>Regular income from visitor program.</p> <p>Continue to create employment opportunities for WEAC members and other employees.</p> <p>Establish ongoing support from philanthropic groups, and continue building partnerships to support our strategic objectives.</p> <p>Continue to seek grants for future development of programs.</p> <p>Apply for DGR status.</p>	<p>Income is being generated through multiple streams.</p> <p>WEAC is less reliant on short-term government grants.</p> <p>Sustainable land use partnerships are established and implemented. </p>
Build succession for Board members through increased engagement with interested people.	The next generation is identified, supported and encouraged to participate in Board activities through mentorship and training.	<p>Succession is occurring.</p> <p>The Board consists of decision makers, and strong governance principles that are based in Indigenous Culture.</p>

*** in line with legislative requirements of the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006, and UNDRIP

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