

## HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

Determination Date	Thursday 7 April 2016
Place/Object Name	Nerre Nerre Warren (Dandenong Police Paddocks)
Location	Churchill Park Drive, Endeavour Hills
VHR Number	H2348
Place Category	Heritage Place; Archaeological Place

At a meeting of the Heritage Council on 7 April 2016 it was determined to include this place in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council endorses the attached report.



**Professor Stuart Macintyre AO**  
**Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria**

# ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL



**NAME** NERRE NERRE WARREN (DANDENONG POLICE PADDOCKS)  
**LOCATION** CHURCHILL PARK DRIVE, ENDEAVOUR HILLS  
**VHR NUMBER:** PROV H2348  
**CATEGORY:** HERITAGE PLACE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLACE  
**FILE NUMBER:** FOL/15/31741  
**HERMES NUMBER:** 13456



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That Nerre Nerre Warren be included as a Heritage Place and Archaeological Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1995* [Section 32 (1)(a)].

This report contains images and/or names of Aboriginal people who are now deceased.

**TIM SMITH**

**Executive Director**

**Recommendation Date:** 22 January 2016

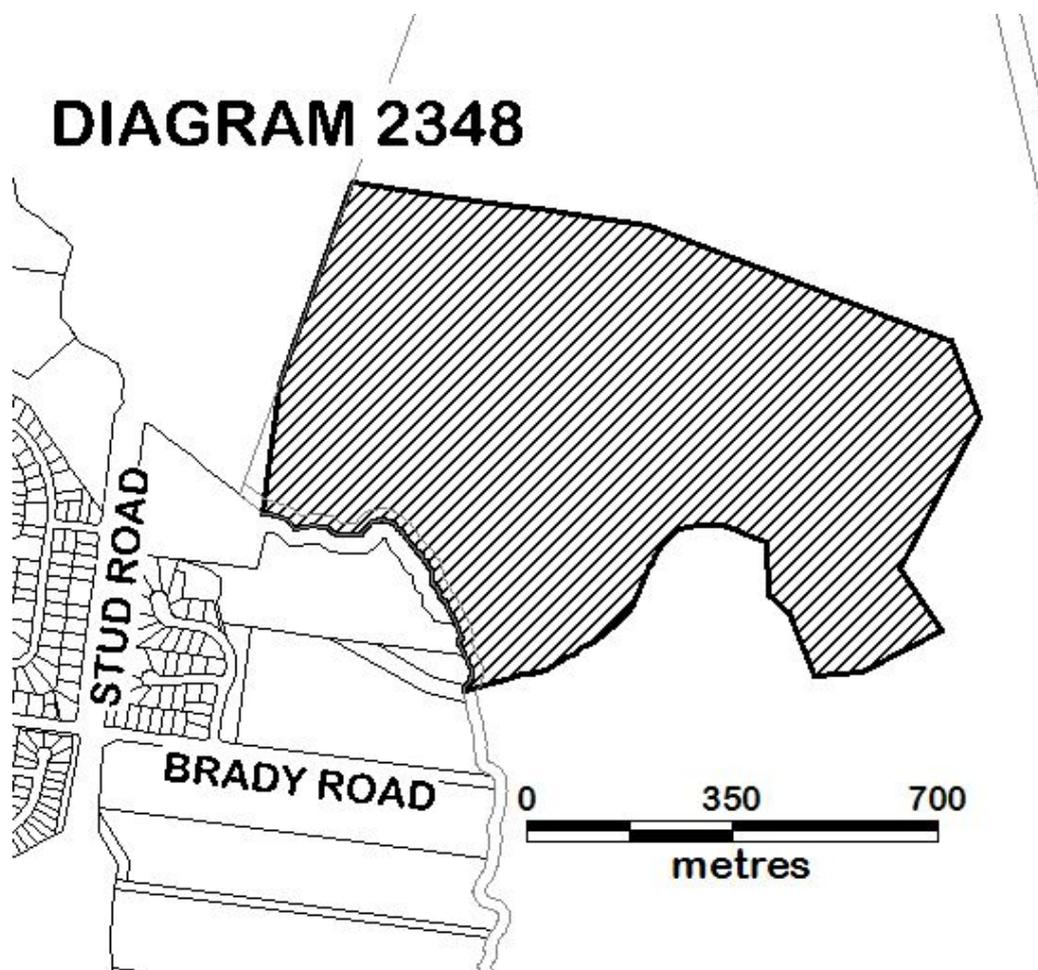
## EXTENT OF NOMINATION

All of the place shown within the red line on the diagram below.



## RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched in Diagram 2348 encompassing parts of Crown Allotments 15B and 15E Parish of Narree Worran.



The proposed extent of registration of Nerre Nerre Warren in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2348 including the land, archaeological features, trees, landscape elements and other features. It includes the Historical Zone of Nerre Nerre Warren in the City of Casey identified by Parks Victoria. This contains areas of known and likely archaeological deposits and an appropriate landscape setting which reflects the history of the place.

# STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

## WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Nerre Nerre Warren is an area of sloping land along a ridge overlooking the Dandenong Creek and river flats which includes the surface and subsurface remains of the Native Police Corps Headquarters, the Westernport Aboriginal Protectorate Home Station, and the Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot.

### History Summary

Nerre Nerre Warren was the site selected in 1837 for the headquarters of the first Native Police Corps in Victoria that was established by Captain Christaan de Villiers. The same site became the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate under Assistant Protector William Thomas between 1841 and 1843. Between 1842 and 1852 the site functioned as the headquarters of the Native Police Corps raised by Henry Edmund Dana. In 1853 ownership of the place passed to the Victorian Police and it became the Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot of the Victoria Police: horses were bred, trained, broken and spelled on the site. From 1879 to 1931 the site was home to a succession of Queensland Aboriginal trackers, initially brought to Victoria to assist in the search for the notorious Kelly Gang in 1879. All the buildings and structures (nineteenth and twentieth century) standing on the site in 1962 were demolished in that year due to safety concerns prior to a Scout Jamboree held 1964-65. This place is currently known as the Dandenong Police Paddocks.

### Description Summary

Nerre Nerre Warren is located in Endeavour Hills approximately 30 kilometres south east of Melbourne. It consists of parklands which contain a number of archaeological ruins and deposits along a prominent ridge line. Brick and granite ruins can be seen at surface level, including one brick wall. The presence of surface fabric indicates that there is a high level of subsurface archaeological intactness.

Nerre Nerre Warren is on the traditional land of the people of the Kulin nation.

## HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Nerre Nerre Warren is of archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

### **Criterion A**

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

### **Criterion C**

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

## **WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

Nerre Nerre Warren is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Nerre Nerre Warren is historically significant as one of the most important sites in the Melbourne area for Aboriginal-settler interactions in the first years of the Port Phillip settlement. It is the place where the first Native Police Corps was established in Victoria in 1837 and was its headquarters from 1842-52. The Native Police Corps performed duties throughout Victoria and were recruited from communities across the Colony. Nerre Nerre Warren was also the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate 1841-43. The place demonstrates the significant role that Aboriginal people played in the settlement and policing of Victoria and the ways in which Aboriginal people experienced colonisation by way of both agency and co-option within British imperial policies and processes. It is also significant in the history of the Victorian Police and demonstrates the important and changing role of horses in policing from the inception of the force in 1853 to 1931. [Criterion A]

Nerre Nerre Warren is of significance for its potential to contain archaeological remains, features and deposits relating to the Native Police Corps (1837 & 1842-52), the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate (1841-43), and the Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot (1853-1931). Important information is likely to be yielded about the first Native Police Corps in Victoria; the daily lives of the people in the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate; construction phases of the buildings; and the workings of the Horse Stud Depot of the Victoria Police. [Criterion C]

### **Nerre Nerre Warren is also significant for the following reasons, but not at the State level:**

Nerre Nerre Warren is significant as the location of the Seventh Australian Boy Scout Jamboree, held from 30 December 1964 to 9 January 1965 and attended by 15,000 scouts. All buildings and structures (nineteenth and twentieth century) were demolished in 1962 to prepare for this event. The place is popular for recreational walkers as an area of natural beauty and includes areas of significant indigenous flora.

## RECOMMENDATION REASONS

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.34A(2)]

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014)*.

#### CRITERION A

**Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.**

##### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

**Plus**

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

**Plus**

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

#### ***Executive Director's Response***

Nerre Nerre Warren is historically significant as the site where the first Native Police Corps was established in Victoria in 1837 and was subsequently its headquarters from 1842-52. The Native Police Corps performed duties throughout Victoria and were recruited from communities across the Colony. It was also the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate 1841-43. It is also significant in the history of the Victorian Police and demonstrates the important and changing role of horses in policing from the inception of the force in 1853 to 1931.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

##### STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

#### ***Executive Director's Response***

Nerre Nerre Warren demonstrates a clear association with the Native Police Corps (1837 & 1842-52) the Westernport Aboriginal Protectorate (1841-43) and the Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot (1853-1931). The place allows these histories to be better understood than most other places with substantially the same association:

- There were two places used as the Headquarters of the Native Police Corps in Victoria, 1) Nerre Nerre Warren, and 2) Jolimont (Melbourne Park Sporting Precinct).

- The use of Nerre Nerre Warren as the Headquarters of the Native Police Corps (1837 & 1842-52) is much better demonstrated than the second location at Jolimont, in an area within what is now know as the Melbourne Park Sporting Precinct, (1838-39). The potential for archaeological deposits at Jolimont is very low given the extent of disturbance to the subsurface.
- The use of Nerre Nerre Warren as an Aboriginal Protectorate is much better demonstrated by the extant archaeology than other protectorates in Victoria. It is more intact and demonstrates more complex occupation patterns.
- The use of Nerre Nerre Warren as the Horse Stud Depot of the Victoria Police continuously from the 1850s to the 1930s demonstrates the important role of horses in policing in Victoria over that 80 year period.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## CRITERION C

**Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.**

### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:

- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
  - oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* of *historical interest* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD*.

**Plus**

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

### ***Executive Director’s Response***

There is strong physical, documentary and oral history that indicates that there is likely to be physical evidence at Nerre Nerre Warren relating to all historical phases that is not currently visible or understood (archaeological remains). Surface artefact scatters indicate the likely presence of subsurface deposits. The subsurface has not been significantly disturbed since the demolition of the above ground structural features in 1962. LiDAR data (gained with remote sensing technology) shows the there are features below ground that are not visible above ground. The ruins and rubble across the site indicate that there is potential for well-preserved archaeological remains to survive below ground.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied at the State Level.

## STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION C

The knowledge that might be obtained through investigation is likely to *MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE* to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

### Plus

The information likely to be yielded from the place/object is *not* already *well documented* or *readily available* from other sources.

### *Executive Director's Response*

Nerre Nerre Warren has potential to produce knowledge about Victoria's first Native Police Corps, the history of Aboriginal people and the operation of the Aboriginal Protectorate system in the Port Phillip District, and the role of horses in policing from 1853 to 1931. The information that may be revealed through this archaeology is not already well documented (particularly in relation to the Native Police and Westernport Protectorate) and not readily available from other sources.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

### **Preamble**

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

**The extent of registration of Nerre Nerre Warren in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2348 including the land, all buildings, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features.** Under the *Heritage Act 1995* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

## Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

## Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

## Aboriginal cultural heritage (including archaeology)

- Under the *Heritage Act 1995* permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. This applies to all parts of the registered place including fabric associated with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to ascertain whether a permit is required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is likely that an approval will also be required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- If this place is registered under both the *Heritage Act 1995* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* the requirements of both Acts need to be met. To establish whether this place is registered under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* please contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.
- The *Heritage Act 1995* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* are separate pieces of legislation. Please be aware that satisfying the requirements of one Act may not satisfy the requirements of the other.

## Human remains

If any suspected human remains are found during any works or activities, the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroners Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 888 544. As required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

## Other approvals

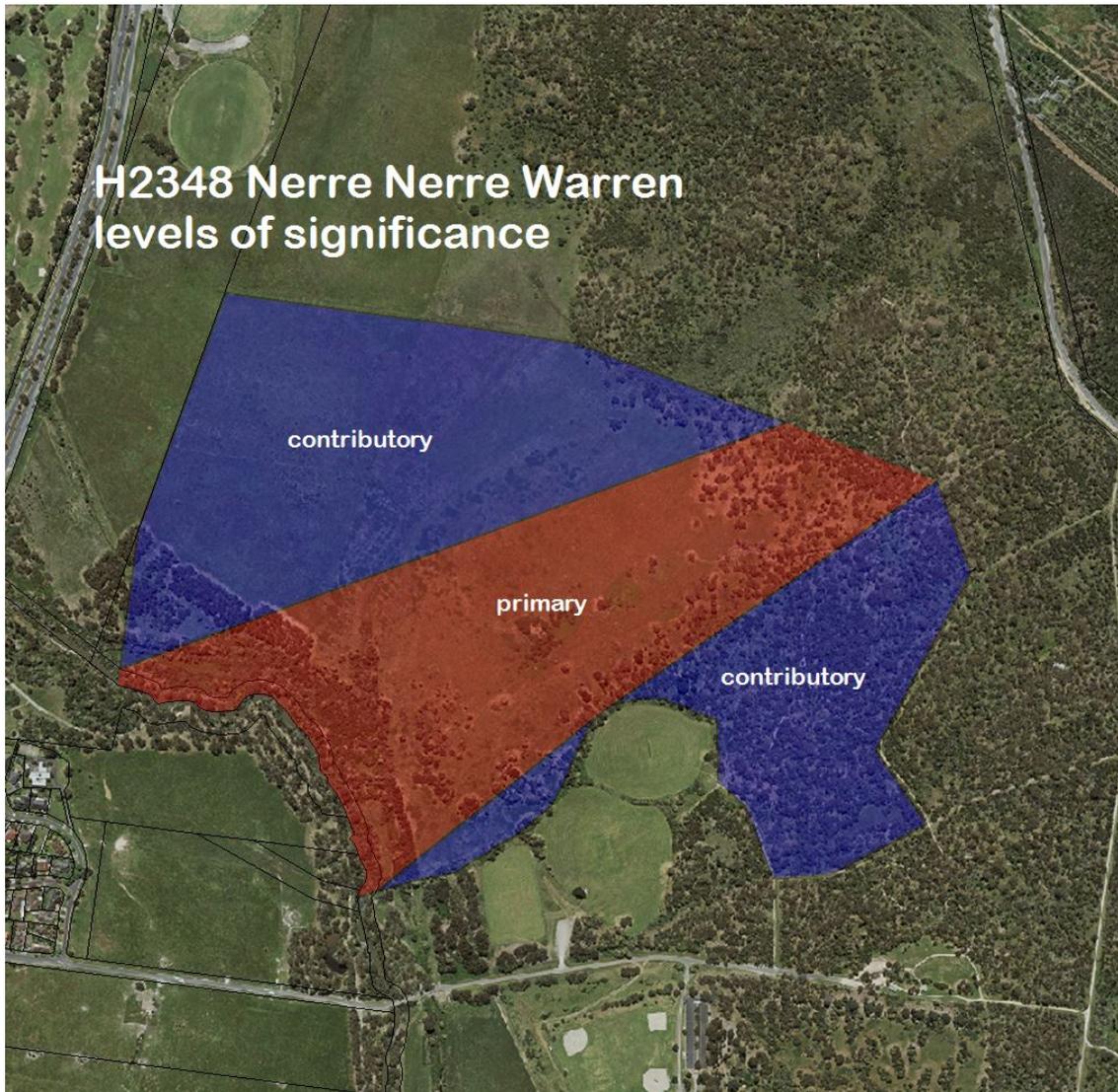
Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

## Cultural heritage significance

### Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of Nerre Nerre Warren lies in its history as the place where the first Native Police Corps was established in Victoria in 1837 and headquartered from 1842 to 1852. It was also the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate from 1841 to 1843. The archaeological deposits across the site contain information relating to these historical uses of the place.

- a) All of the **red** area shown in the below diagram is of **primary cultural heritage significance** in the context of the place. A permit is required for most works within this area. See Permit Exemptions section for specific permit exempt activities.
- b) All of the **blue** area shown in the below diagram features are of **contributory cultural heritage significance**.



## PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

RECOMMENDED UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE HERITAGE ACT

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act)

### General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

## **General Condition 2**

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

## **General Condition 3**

All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

## **General Condition 4**

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

## **General Condition 5**

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

## **Specific Permit Exemptions**

### **Landscape Exemptions:**

- The process of gardening, including mowing, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety. If the tree is identified as being of primary or contributory cultural heritage significance, the Executive Director must be notified of these works within 21 days of them being undertaken.
- Removal of vegetation that is not significant in order to maintain fire safety and to conserve significant buildings and structures.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-1996
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.
- Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Landscape maintenance works provided the activities do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits.

### **Fire Suppression Duties**

The following fire suppression duties are permit exempt: a) Fire suppression and fire fighting duties provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns,

and fire control line construction, provided all significant historical and archaeological features are appropriately recognised and protected.

Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of historical and archaeological places when developing fire suppression and fire fighting strategies. The importance of places listed in the Heritage Register must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed.

### **Weed and Vermin Control**

The following weed and vermin control activities are permit exempt: a) Weed and vermin control activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits.

Note: Particular care must be taken with weed and vermin control works where such activities may have a detrimental affect on the significant fabric of a place. Such works may include the removal of ivy, moss or lichen from an historic structure or feature, or the removal of burrows from a site that has archaeological values.

### **Public Safety and Security**

The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt: a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features; c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public.

Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

### **Signage and Site Interpretation**

The following Signage and Site Interpretation activities are permit exempt: a) signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items; c) signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place; d) signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place.

Note: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials. Note: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

Casey

### HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

- **Heritage Overlay:** H02
- **Aboriginal Heritage Register** Included
- **Heritage Overlay Controls:** External Paint: No  
Internal Alteration: No  
Tree: No
- **Other listing:** Heritage Inventory - H7922-0001

## HISTORY

### Native Police Corps in Victoria

During the nineteenth century, armed Indigenous forces – or Native Police Corps – were a feature of British colonial rule throughout its empire, including in India, South Africa, the West Indies and the Australian colonies. In Victoria, a Native Police Corps was established in the Port Phillip District on three separate occasions – 1837, 1838 and 1842. The philosophy behind the Native Police Corps was that its Aboriginal members could be gradually educated in military discipline and English, and that they would come to see the benefits of ‘civilised society’, abandoning their ‘erratic’ ways, and pass these qualities on to their families. At Nerre Nerre Warren (1837 and 1842-52) the Aboriginal police could work in the gardens, hunt and fish under supervision, but were to give up many traditional activities with the exception of tracking a necessary skill for police work. Another condition of joining up was that members of the Native Police were to distance themselves from Aboriginal people that did not belong to the Native Police as well as the lowest classes of white society that might have sought to corrupt them. In Victoria, the Native Police Corps performed duties across, and were recruited from communities throughout, the Colony.

### Native Police Corps Headquarters – 1837, Nerre Nerre Warren

In 1837 Captain Christaan Ludolph Johannes de Villiers, who had worked with a similar native police force in South Africa, was tasked by Police Magistrate Captain William Lonsdale to create a force of Aboriginal men to be stationed at Nerre Nerre Warren. A site along Dandenong Creek twenty miles from Melbourne, was selected in consultation with the Aboriginal men of the Boon wurrung and Woi wurrung. Traditionally a gathering place, Nerre Nerre Warren was approved by the Colonial Secretary and a large area of 3840 acres was secured so that squatters were prevented from having land nearby. The land formally became a reserve in early 1838. On 1 January 1838 Superintendent de Villiers resigned his position because of interference and complaints by the missionary George Langhorne. Subsequently Langhorne was appointed Superintendent and he arranged for the Mission overseer at Nerre Nerre Warren to take charge of the Native Police Corps, buildings and stores. The Native Police refused to serve under Langhorne and left Nerre Nerre Warren, and the force lapsed.

The 1837 Native Police Corps lasted only ten weeks from 28 October 1837 to 7 January 1838. Their activities mainly involved establishing routines (marching and military drilling) and building structures. With the aid of two convict labourers they constructed the Corps Headquarters: de Villier's quarters, convict quarters, a parade ground and a flagstaff. These early structures were made from timber and no remains are likely to survive.

#### Native Police Corps Headquarters – September 1838-January 39, Jolimont

In September 1838 Lonsdale made a second attempt at establishing the Native Police Corps again with de Villiers as Superintendent. This time it was located to the east of his own cottage at Jolimont at a place known as the Police Magistrates Paddock, within the area now known as the Melbourne Park Sporting Precinct. This attempt lasted from 18 September 1838 to 15 January 1839.

#### Native Police Corps Headquarters – 1842-52, Nerre Nerre Warren (Secondary base at Merri Creek)

The most successful Native Police Corps was established and commanded by Henry EP Dana between 1842 and 1852. The Corps began with twenty men and was stationed at Nerre Nerre Warren between 1842 and 1852, with a secondary base closer to Melbourne at Merri Creek. Between 1841 and 1843 Nerre Nerre Warren was also used the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip.

Many of the Aboriginal men who joined the 1842 Corps were the Elders of the country surrounding Port Phillip Bay, including Billibellary and his nephew Beruk (later known as William Barak). William Thomas, Assistant Protector of Aborigines, wrote that when the idea of establishing the Native Police Corps was put to them, the Aboriginal Elders discussed it for many days. They seem to have concluded that the colonists intended to stay and that it was in their interest to form some kind of alliance. Joining the Native Police Corps was a chance to have some influence on the new government. In addition, through their involvement in the Native Police they would be able to exert an influence in territories outside their own clan alliances. The Native Police were given horses, uniforms and weapons, food and accommodation. They were also promised a salary. While on duty, they had to act under specific orders, rules and regulations. These usually written instructions governed what was considered to be proper conduct for both the Aboriginal troopers and the European officers under whom they served. As exemplars for the behaviour of the Corps, they were part of a hierarchy of responsibility within the colonial government. Whenever it became known that a member of the Native Police had not acted according to these rules, an explanation was required higher up the ranks. Many of the records that document the activities of the Native Police discuss such breaches of discipline. In addition, there was a system of reports that senior officers had to submit to their superiors at regular intervals. These also provide information about the workings of the Native Police Corps.

Although Aboriginal troopers had to submit to forms of military discipline, there were some allowances made for their traditional ways of life. During the summer months they were generally allowed leave to rejoin their communities and take part in activities relating to their own culture. Some of these activities were not in accordance with the ideals of the Native Police, however the colonial government believed that the best way to eventually 'civilise' the troopers was by not forcing them to abandon all their traditional practices immediately. Another concession introduced by Henry Dana was the provision of rations to family dependants of his Aboriginal troopers. The wives of troopers also received their own separate rations. European food and clothing were distributed so that they could care for themselves, their children and any aged dependants. The Aboriginal troopers were expected to supplement their food rations through hunting. As another compromise, Dana allowed troopers' families to live at headquarters. These were some of the main reasons why Dana's Native Police lasted longer than the original corps that Christaan de Villiers had set up in 1837.

The names of the 1842 corps members are as follows: **Billibellary**, Wawoorong headman, known as Jacky Jacky; his cousin **Murrem Murrem Bean** (Mr Hill), headman of the Kurnang-willam at Bacchus Marsh; Billibellary's son **Culpendure**, known as Robin; Billibellary's nephew **Yeaptune**, a Tonguerong from the Goulburn; **Perpine** (Mr McNoel) and **Pereuk** (Poky Poky), Westernport men who had assisted in the capture of the five Palawa men in 1841; **Nangollilbel**, known as John Bull or Captain Turnbull, the leader of the Konugwillam, in the Mt Macedon area; **Tomboko** (Henry), a young Konugwillam man; **Nerimbineck**, also a Konugwillam man, brother to Windberry who was shot by the Army in 1840; **Nunuptune** (Billy Langhorne), Konugwillam man, he had been a member of De Villiers' police and assisted in the capture of five Palawa men; **Polligary** (Tommy); **Waverong** (Mr Murray), one of another powerful section of the Wawoorong, whose country includes the upper Yarra; **Yanki Yanki**, a Westernport man who had been captured by sealers in the early 1830s, taken to Preservation Island in the Bass Strait, from where he escaped to Launceston, took passage to the Swan River in Western Australia, worked there, then returned to Port Phillip via Adelaide; **Munmungina** (Dr Bailey); **Beruke** a man very visible in European society, one who cultivated friendships with Europeans; **Giberuke**, a Goulburn man; **Boro Boro**, known as George or Mr. Walpole, and **Curra Curra** (Davy) and **Buckup** were all Bunerong men, as was **Talliorang** (Mr King), while **Yammabook**, known as Hawks' eye or Charley, was a Marinbulluk man.

More than 100 Aboriginal men served in Dana's Native Police. In 1851 the number of Aboriginal troopers was 45, while European members numbered 15 out of a total of 60 members at that time. The Aboriginal men were recruited from all over Victoria and parts of New South Wales. Throughout the 1840s there were 40-50 men serving Aboriginal men at any time. The Corps were organised into three divisions, two of which were stationed in the field during winter and a third that was comprised of older men and recruits, who remained at Nerre Nerre Warren. The Corps was disbanded after Dana's death in 1852. There were a number of contributory factors, including the Corp's dissatisfaction with their wages and duties and the dramatic changes caused by the gold rush.

#### Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate (1838-1849)

The Port Phillip Protectorate was created by the British House of Commons in 1838. The primary purpose of the Protector was to promote the wellbeing of the colony's Aboriginal people and to represent their interests and grievances to the Colonial Executive or British government. The long-term objective of the scheme was to 'civilise' the Aboriginal residents, to teach them agriculture, house-building and other endeavours, to educate them to a settled European peasant lifestyle and to convert them to Christianity. Under the scheme, the Protector was to move with the Aboriginal groups they were responsible for, learn their customs and gather information on their numbers and tribal areas. In 1839 George Augustus Robinson became the Chief Protector of Aborigines and four assistants were appointed to particular regions: William Thomas to the Melbourne and Westernport regions, James Dredge to the Goulburn region, Edward Stone Parker to the Loddon and Northwest District and Charles Sievwright to the Western District.

#### The Westernport Home Station of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate at Nerre Nerre Warren (1841-43)

Between 1841 and 1843 the home station for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate was Nerre Nerre Warren under Assistant Protector William Thomas. Between 1842 and 1852 Nerre Nerre Warren was also the location of the Native Police Corps. Thomas believed that the people of the Westernport District could live a European peasant existence, away from the evils of Melbourne. He envisaged a school for the children and a hospital for the sick. He hoped to create a place where men and women would raise their families, tend to fields, rear livestock and learn scripture on the Sabbath. This vision was unrealistic. The Westernport groups tried to maintain traditional movements across the landscape, despite the putting up of fences and the hostility of squatters. Chief Protector Robinson asserted that 'No settler is allowed to occupy land within five miles of the Assistant Protector's hut'. Although there

were already three settlers within five miles, it appears that they remained for the duration of the Protectorate. Aboriginal occupation often fluctuated.

Ultimately William Thomas was not successful in convincing the people of the Westernport Protectorate to live permanently at Nerre Nerre Warren, as it was so far from Melbourne. By 1843, Thomas had re-established the Protectorate Headquarters at Merri Creek, but Aboriginal community members still visited Nerre Nerre as required. From 1843 the Native Police at Nerre Nerre Warren also used Merri Creek as an alternative headquarters as required. At this time Nerre Nerre Warren included approximately 1500 acres of well grassed and fenced land, and thirty acres under cultivation. There were five buildings of wattle and daub with bark rooves constructed at this time.

#### The Westernport Home Station of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate at Merri Creek (1843-47)

From 1843 to 1847, the headquarters for the Western Port District of the Protectorate at Merri Creek was a small hut located on a bluff overlooking the Yarra River. But the Westernport Protectorate community also returned to Nerre Nerre Warren from time to time. By the late 1840s the Protectorate system was seen as a failure, and, unsupported by the government or the public, it was dismantled on 31 December 1849. In 1852 George Robinson returned to England.

#### Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot (1853-1931)

The Victorian Police Force was established in 1853. In that year Nerre Nerre Warren passed into the possession of the Victoria Police as a horse stud and stables which operated until 1931. Horses were bred, trained, broken and spelled on the site. By 1858 there were three resident stallions, 140 brood mares and 93 colts and fillies. Two of the most famous police stallions were stabled at the Dandenong Police Paddocks in the 1920s. Sacedon was the sire and grandsire of the famous police greys, and Gortland was sire to a long line of capable police horses.

In 1879 Aboriginal trackers from Queensland were housed at Nerre Nerre Warren, to aid in the efforts to track the Kelly Gang. In a 1925 article in the *Argus*, it was noted that two Aboriginal Trackers remained in residence at the time. All buildings (nineteenth and twentieth century) standing on the site in 1962 were demolished in that year due to safety concerns prior to a Scout Jamboree which was held over the new year period 1964-65.

## Timeline – Uses of Nerre Nerre Warren

1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845
NP-HQ					NP-HQ	NP-HQ	NP-HQ	NP-HQ
				P-HQ	P-HQ	P-HQ	P-TT	P-TT

1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	... to 1931
NP-HQ								
P-TT	P-TT							
							PHSD	PHSD

### Legend

NP-HQ = Native Police Headquarters

P-HQ = Protectorate Headquarters

P-TT = Protectorate community members still visited Nerre Nerre from time to time

PHSD = Police Horse Stud Depot

### Note

Sept 1838- Jan 39: Native Police Corps HQ was at Jolimont

1843-47: Aboriginal Protectorate HQ was at Merri Creek but community members still visited Nerre Nerre as required.

## VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

### 02 Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes

2.6 Maintaining distinctive cultures

2.8 Fighting for identity

### 05 Building Victoria's industries and workforce

5.8 Working

### 07 Governing Victorians

7.3 Maintaining law and order

### 08 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE THEMES

### 2.0 Making contact with newcomers

2.3 Acting as guides

### 4.0 Segregation, incarceration and institutionalisation

4.4 Being forcibly moved to missions, reserves and protectorate stations

## **6.0 New types of work**

6.4 Working as police

6.5 Tracking

## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Nerre Nerre Warren is located in Endeavour Hills approximately 30 kilometres south east of Melbourne. It consists of parklands which contain a number of archaeological ruins and deposits along a prominent ridge line. Brick and granite ruins can be seen at surface level, including one brick wall. The presence of surface fabric indicates that there is a high level of subsurface archaeological intactness.

## **LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS**

There are a number of trees within the registration, none of which are significant at a State level individually. Their removal, however, would potentially have a negative impact on the cultural heritage significance of archaeological deposits.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

All buildings (nineteenth and twentieth century) which stood on the site in 1962 were demolished in that year to prepare for the Scout Jamboree of 1964-65. To date there have been no archaeological investigations at Nerre Nerre Warren. The place is likely to contain archaeological remains, features and deposits of the Native Police Corps (1837 & 1842-52) the Westernport Aboriginal Protectorate (1841-43), and the Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot (1853-1931).

### **Surface remains**

- 1) Granite rubble
- 2) One wall remains standing which is likely to be from a Police Horse stud building.

The nature of the surface ruins and artefacts suggests that the site has a high level of archaeological potential from a number of phases of activities

### **Subsurface remains**

There is likely to be the subsurface remains of the 1842 Native Police Corps Headquarters as follows:

- 1) some (4-5) officers huts/quarters
- 2) stables
- 3) the church house/school
- 4) the overseers rooms
- 5) the school masters quarters
- 6) the barracks which were known to accommodate fifty men
- 7) a bridge across the Dandenong creek.

There may also be the subsurface remains of other structures relating to the Native Police Corps, Aboriginal Protectorate and Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot.

The archaeological deposits at this place can provide significant information about the Native Police; the daily lives of the people at the Protectorate; construction materials and phases; and the workings of the Police Stud. There are Aboriginal burials relating to the Native Police Corps and Protectorate phases at Nerre Nerre Warren, although the locations are unknown. Identification of the location of the burials would provide important information as to the funeral practices of Aboriginal People in the 1800s.

## INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

There is a high potential for intact archaeological deposits relating to all phases of occupation. The presence of surface artefact scatters, rubble and ruined building features suggests that there is a high potential for intact archaeological deposits. Recent LiDAR imagery (remote sensing technology) has given further evidence of subsurface features. There is some indication of disturbance by fossickers, most likely individuals with metal detectors. (March 2015)

## CONDITION

The place is in good condition. The periwinkle that covers much of the site, obscures the surface ruins. The hindrance to visibility is severe, less than 1%. The periwinkle cover, however, helps discourage the disturbance that people visiting the site might cause. The subsurface archaeological condition of the site is thought to be good. (March 2015)

## COMPARISONS

Nerre Nerre Warren was used for three main purposes: as a Native Police Corps Headquarters, a Head Station for an Aboriginal Protectorate, and as a Police Horse Stud Depot and Paddocks. It is usefully compared with places in the VHR with these associations.

### Places Related to Native Police Corps

- There are currently **no places** included the VHR which have associations with the Native Police Corps.
- There is currently **one place** included in a Local Heritage Overlay related to the Native Police Corps.
  - Nerre Nerre Warren (City of Casey, HO2).

In Victoria very little fabric relating to the Native Police Corps survives, particularly above ground structures. The Hermes database indicates that camps existed at the following places: Merri Creek, Green Hills, Maffra (tent), Heywood (unknown location), Strathkellar and Pentridge. The Native Police were the first guards at Pentridge when it was known as Pentridge Stockade (1850-51). The site of the 1839 Native Police at Jolimont – the Police Magistrates Paddock (in the Melbourne Park Sports Precinct) – is the site of several major sporting arenas and there is low potential for any intact archaeological deposits.

### Aboriginal Protectorates

- There are currently **no places** included the VHR which were Aboriginal Protectorates.
- There are currently **five places** included in Local Heritage Overlays which were Aboriginal Protectorates:
  - Nerre Nerre Warren
  - Franklindford
  - Tuerong Park
  - Westernport (Merri Creek)
  - Mt Franklin
- There are currently **five places** included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (for archaeology) which were Aboriginal Protectorates:
  - Nerre Nerre Warren
  - Franklindford
  - Tuerong Park
  - Goulburn (Murchison)
  - Penshurst

In Victoria very little fabric relating to Aboriginal Protectorates survives, particularly above ground structures. The Hermes database indicates that structures at the following Protectorates are known to have been demolished: Murchison, Goulburn, Loddon, Jackson's Creek, Mount Rouse.

The **Western Port Aboriginal Protectorate** (City of Yarra HO307) included the Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Yarra Protectorate, Native Police Corps Headquarters and associated Aboriginal burials at Yarra Bend park (Clifton Hill, Melbourne). There is no surface fabric or structures remaining and low potential for archaeological deposits due to its level of disturbance. The place, however, is of high significance historically. It marks one of the most significant post-contact Aboriginal places in metropolitan Melbourne and a place of great significance to many Aboriginal people, and particularly the Wurundjeri community. Nerre Nerre Warren is of higher archaeological integrity and is substantially more intact than this place.



Western Port Aboriginal Protectorate Site  
Source: City of Yarra HO307

#### **Goulburn River Aboriginal Protectorate, Murchison**

The first European settlers arrived in the Murchison district in 1840. Under the supervision of Assistant Protector James Dredge, a Protectorate Station was set up at Mitchellstown in May 1839. In July 1840, Dredge was replaced as Assistant to the Protectorate by William Le Souef who moved the station to the Murchison. The Native Police from Nerre Nerre Warren visited the Murchison site on a couple of occasions to assist in particular activities. The Protectorate Station at Murchison was closed in 1853. There are no standing remains. Surface features postholes and mounding define the location of a number of the protectorate buildings. A greater historical complexity of occupation phases is evident at Nerre Nerre Warren.

#### **Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate Station, Franklinford**

In 1841 Assistant Protector Edward Parker established the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate Station on the northern side of Mount Franklin at Franklinford. A Homestead, church, school and several out buildings were initially constructed. The protectorate ended on 31 December 1848. The central section of the protectorate station was used as an Aboriginal school until 1864. The visible archaeological features include the remains of a horse-drawn whim, consisting of a semi-circular area of raised ground in a stone circle (partly visible), a pile of stones and a row of 'pseudo-acacia' trees on the eastern boundary. The condition of the site is disturbed. A greater level of intactness and complexity of phases of occupation is evident at Nerre Nerre Warren.

Nerre Nerre Warren is the most intact extant example of a Native Police Corps Headquarters and Protectorate Head Station in Victoria. It is an exceptionally rich archaeological and historical site, with the many phases of occupation of these institutions across the nineteenth century represented. It is an important site to not only the Kulin Nation, but to many Aboriginal groups across Victoria and other states because the Native Police Corps included Aboriginal people from throughout Victoria and New South Wales, and the men worked across Victoria.

### Horse Stables and Police Paddocks

Working horses were an important part of the Victorian economy in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Horse stables are well represented in the VHR as Heritage Places, particularly those in town or homestead settings. Many have survived beyond the era of the working horse due to the adaptive reuse of the buildings to accommodate vehicles or be used for other purposes over time. By contrast there are few Police Paddocks (or other types of paddocks) in the VHR listed in their own right. This may be because a paddock alone is insufficient to demonstrate a historical association, and/or structures may have been demolished or replaced. There are more Police Paddocks included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (around seven) than the VHR (less than five). Those included in the VHR are typically part of the registration of individual police stations.

The **Former Victoria Police Depot** on St Kilda Road (**VHR H1541**) includes the Stables, the Riding School, Drill Hall (1912-13), Police Hospital and Dispensers Residence (1914), Police Stores and Workshop, (c.1916-20), Police Barracks (1925 ) and Rough Riders Residence (1929). It was constructed between 1912 and 1929 as the headquarters for police training and mounted police operations in Victoria. It shares some similar uses to Nerre Nerre Warren from 1853 onwards, but represents a different historical period (1912 onwards) and does not demonstrate a multi-layered history stretching back to the 1830s.

The former **Municipal Stables** at South Yarra (**VHR H2161**) as constructed in 1910. The Council used horses to cart rubbish, move tar used for road construction, power the horse brooms used for street sweeping and for tasks associated with the destructor. By 1912 there were seventeen horses in the stables, but in that year the Council began to acquire a fleet of motor vehicles and by 1928 operated several Ford trucks, mainly used for street cleaning. While these stables are extant, they represent a different historical period (1910 onwards) and does not demonstrate a multi-layered history stretching back to the 1830s.

There are a large number of **private stables included in the VHR** such as the Point Cook Homestead and Stables (H1509), Mt Mitchell Homestead and Stables (H0312), Bael Bael Homestead (H2196) and the Deanside Homestead Complex (H0810). This reflects the number of rural homesteads with outbuildings which have been registered since the 1970s. The stables at the Larra homestead (VHR H0298) in the Western District town of Derrinallum are an extensive, integrated complex of bluestone buildings which were constructed in 1873. These stables have survived because of their close historical connections with, and often physical proximity to, these historic homesteads.

The **Beechworth Police Station/Justice Precinct (VHR H1464 – Heritage Place, Archaeological Place)** was gazetted by 1856. What is now known as the Police Paddock originally formed part of the government camp and once contained Police Barracks, Superintendent's Quarters, Offices, Officer's Quarters, Offices, Police Kitchen and a stone Lock-Up. A brick stables was built in 1870. The Beechworth Justice Precinct is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria, mainly for the extant buildings, their architecture and historical associations. The place is also of archaeological significance as a Police Paddock and has been relatively undisturbed. It plays an integral part in the understanding of the history of the Beechworth Justice Precinct. This place, however, has a different history to Nerre Nerre Warren. The Beechworth site is more narrowly focused around the history of the Victoria Police, without the layered history that the Nerre Nerre Warren demonstrates.

### **Murchison Police Paddocks/ Goulburn River Aboriginal Protectorate, Murchison (In the Victorian Heritage Inventory. Not in the VHR)**

The Murchison Police Paddocks were used as an Aboriginal Protectorate station and as a Native Police Corps Depot and Police Paddocks. There are no standing remains. Surface features include postholes and mounding which define the location of a number of the Protectorate buildings. A greater historical complexity of occupation phases is evident at Nerre Nerre Warren.

### **Kalkallo Police Paddocks (In the Victorian Heritage Inventory. Not in the VHR)**

A police station and paddock was located at Kalkallo prior to 1853 as a stopping point for the gold escort. The archaeological remains of this place include remains of a large timber and iron shed. A greater historical complexity of occupation phases is evident at Nerre Nerre Warren.

The primary significance of Nerre Nerre Warren is its associations with the Native Police Corps and Aboriginal Protectorate in the early years of the Port Phillip settlement from 1837 to 1853. After this phase it became the primary Horse Stud and Depot for Victoria Police in the years after the establishment of the force in 1853. It operated continuously for almost 80 years as a place where police horses were bred, trained, broken and spelled. Despite the absence of above ground fabric and an extant stable at Nerre Nerre Warren, the complex layered history of the place and its archaeological potential sets it apart from other horse-related places in Victoria.

### **KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT**

Blake, L 1982 *Captain Dana and the Native Police*, Neptune Press.

Fels, M 1988, *Good Men and True: the Aboriginal Police of the Port Phillip District 1827-1853*, Melbourne University Press.

Fels, M 1990, *The Dandenong Police Paddocks Volume 1: Early Use as a native police headquarters and aboriginal protectorate station 1837-1853*, Victoria Archaeological Survey.

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Goulding, M and Menism, M 2006, *Moreland post-contact Aboriginal heritage study*, Golden Heritage Consulting: Moreland City Council.

Rhodes, D 1990, *The Dandenong Police Paddocks Volume 3: An Archaeological Survey*, Victoria Archaeological Survey.

Clark, D and Heydon, T 2004 *A Bend in the Yarra: A History of the Merri Creek Protectorate Station and Merri Creek Aboriginal School 1841-1851*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra.

Public Record Office Victoria, 'Tracking the Native Police', Website, accessed January 2016.

### **PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE BLUE HERITAGE PLAQUE**

Nerre Nerre Warren is an important site of Aboriginal-settler interactions in the early Port Phillip settlement. It was the Native Police headquarters in 1837 and 1842-52 and the location of the 1841 Westernport Aboriginal Protectorate. From 1853-31 it was the Victoria Police Horse Stud and Paddocks.

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

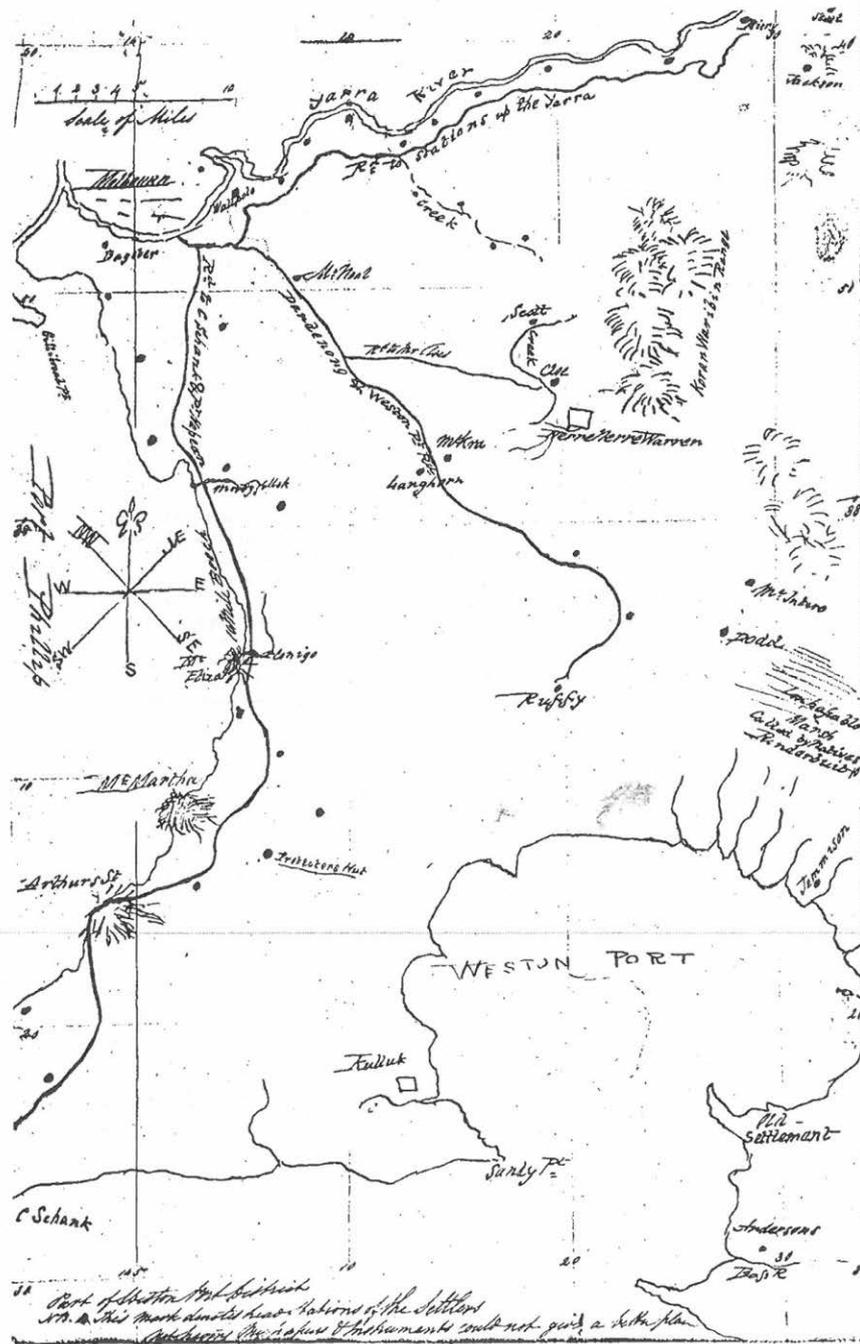
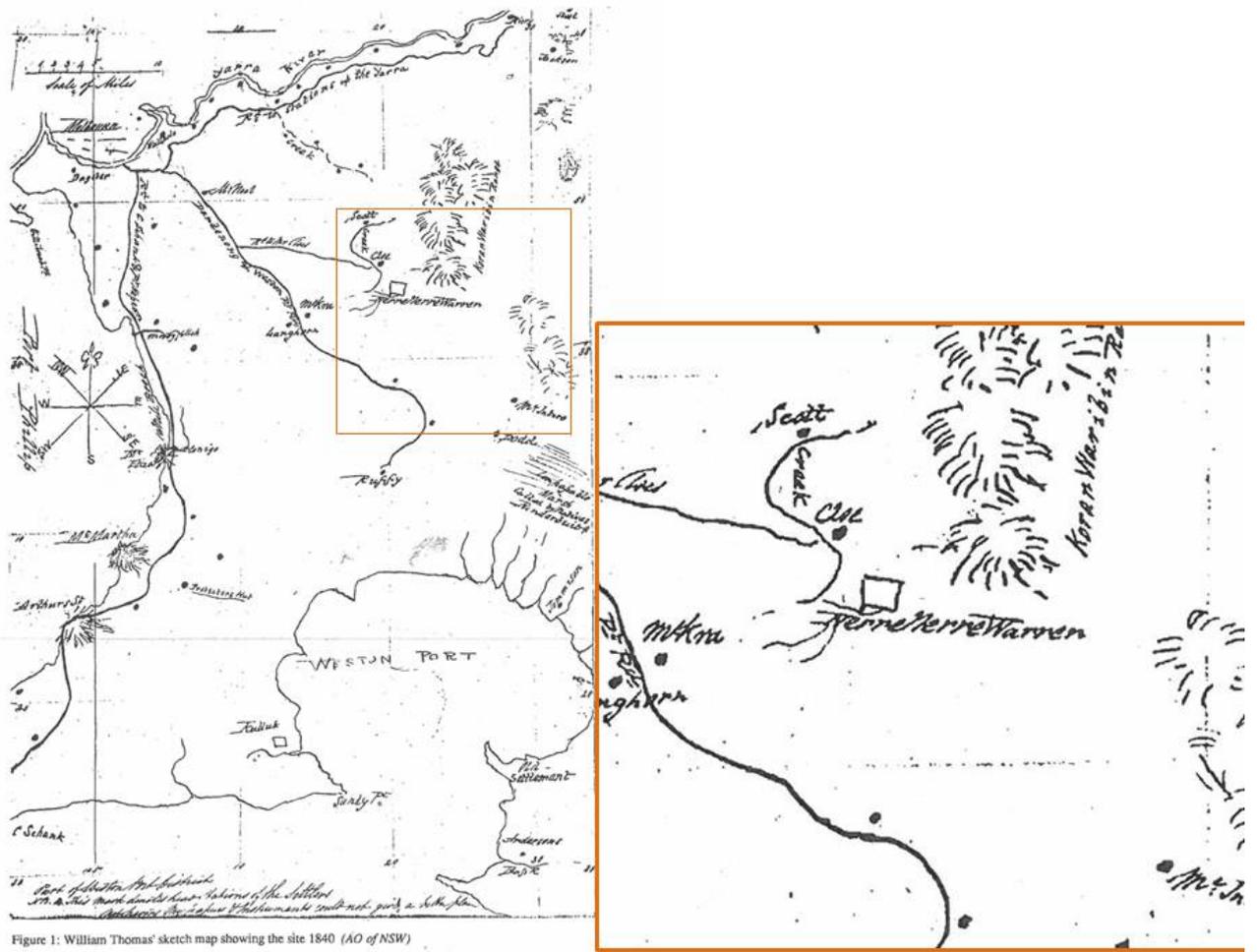
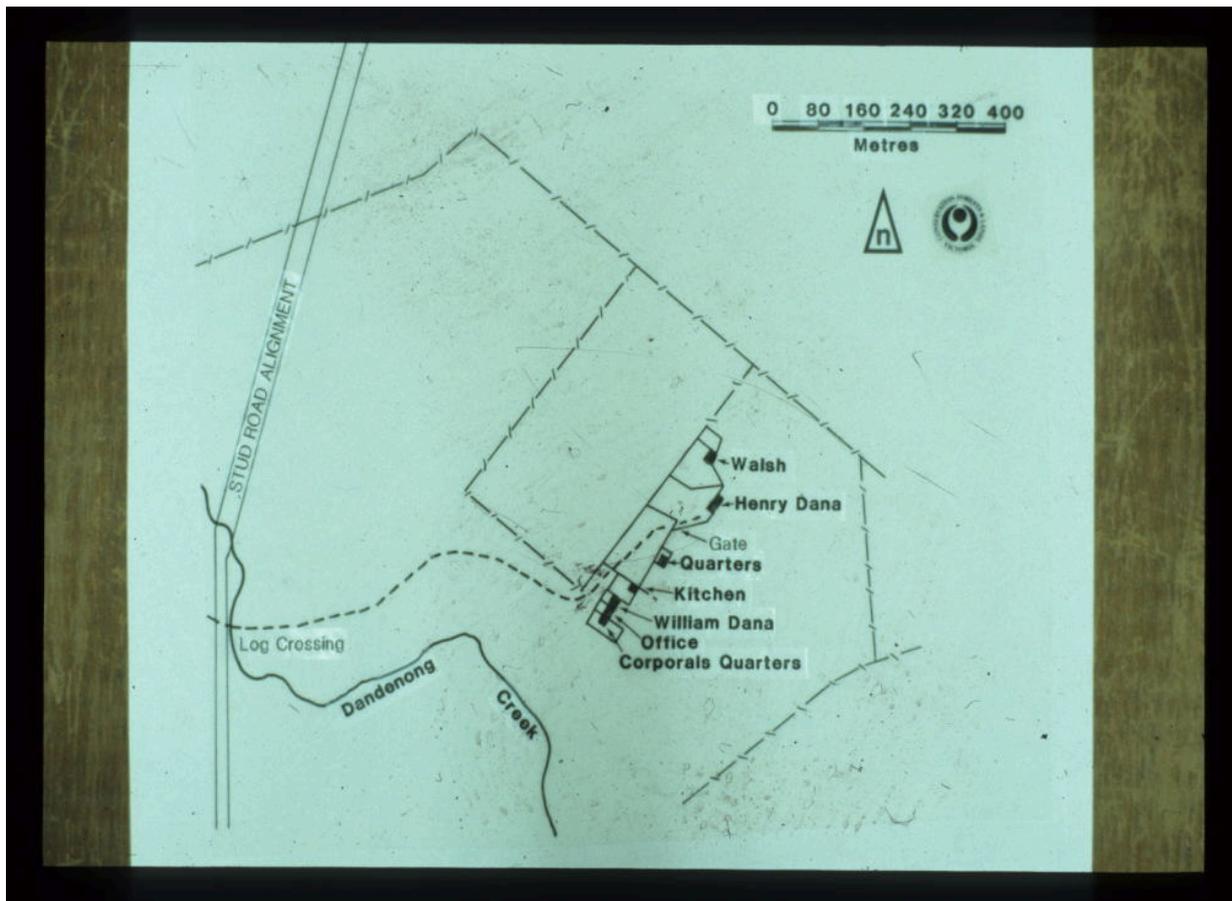


Figure 1: William Thomas' sketch map showing the site 1840 (AO of NSW)

William Thomas' sketch map showing Nerre Nerre Warren (1840)



Detail - William Thomas' Sketch map showing Nerre Nerre Warren (1840)



Map showing the approximate location of some of the buildings relating to the Native Police.

Source: D. Rhodes, *The Dandenong Police Paddocks Volume 3: An Archaeological Survey*,  
Victoria Archaeological Survey.



Surface model of LiDAR point cloud illustrating structural features



Location of the Dandenong River, extant wall and turning circle for cars at Nerre Nerre Warren.



Nerre Nerre Warren – looking toward the Dandenong River from the current turning circle (2015)



Nerre Nerre Warren looking south east from the current turning circle (2015).



Nerre Nerre Warren – Periwinkle covering the remains of the granite ruins, unknown building (2015).



Nerre Nerre Warren – Ruinous fabric from the Police Paddock and Horse Stud phase of occupation. This area is locally referred to as ‘the dairy’, but the exact purpose of these structure remains is to be determined (2015).



Nerre Nerre Warren – Surface Artefact Scatter (bone, bottle, horse shoe and saddle pieces) (2015).



Nerre Nerre Warren – Close up of granite rubble covered in Periwinkle (2015).



Eugène von Guérard, Police Station ... Gap Hills ... station [?] native Police, 21 Feb. 1855, in *The Dandenong Ranges, 1855-58*. Source: Public Record Office Victoria.



This is a photo (c.1925) of unidentified buildings at Nerre Nerre Warren. It shows the buildings prior to their demolition in 1962 for the Scout Jamboree which occurred over the New Year period 1964-65.

Source: L. Blake, *Captain Dana and the Native Police*, Neptune Press.



This is a photo (c.1925) of an unidentified building at Nerre Nerre Warren. It shows the building prior to its demolition in 1962 for the Scout Jamboree which occurred over the New Year period 1964-65.

Source: L. Blake, *Captain Dana and the Native Police*, Neptune Press.

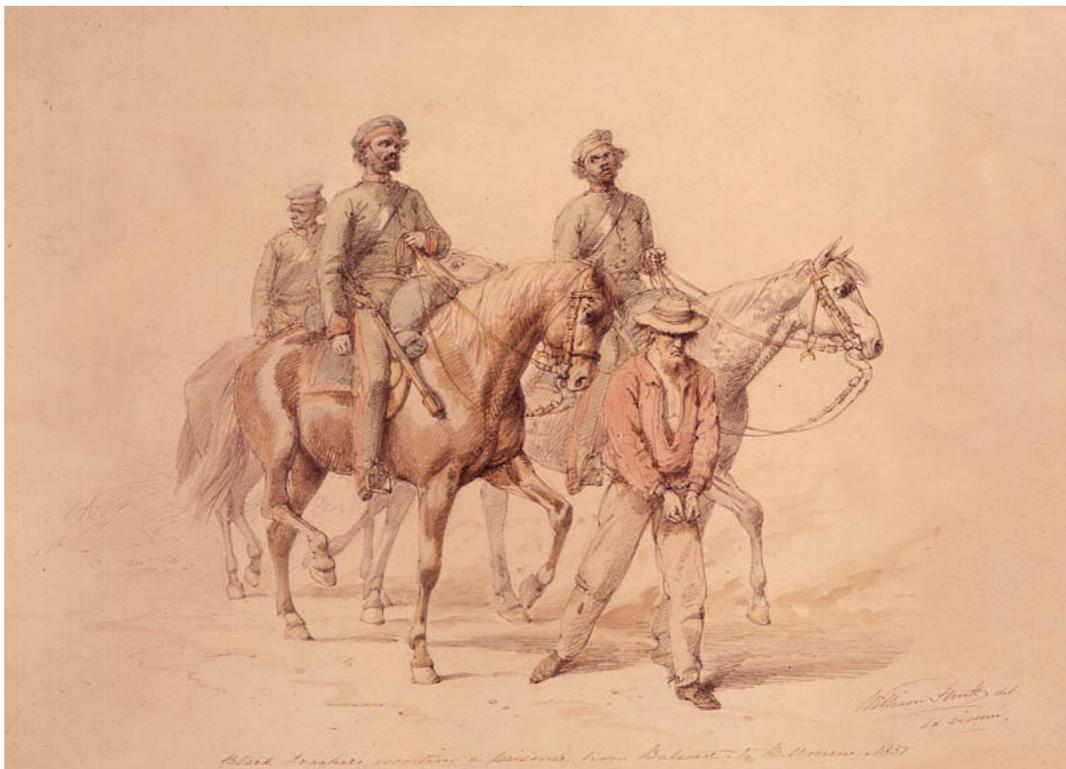


This is a photo (c.1925) of an unidentified building at Nerre Nerre Warren. It shows the building prior to its demolition in 1962 for the Scout Jamboree which occurred over the New Year period 1964-65.

Source: L. Blake, *Captain Dana and the Native Police*, Neptune Press.



William Strutt, *Aboriginal troopers, Melbourne police, with English corporal*, 1850  
Source: Public Record Office Victoria.



William Strutt, *Black troopers escorting prisoner from Ballarat to Melbourne*, pencil and watercolour, 1851,  
*in Victoria the Golden: scenes, sketches and jottings from nature, 1850-1862.*  
Source: Public Record Office Victoria.



Photo from around 1879-80 showing police trackers recruited from Aboriginal tribes in Queensland participating in a man hunt for the Ned Kelly Gang in north-east Victoria.

Source: National Archives of Australia.



Photograph of James John Whetham (non-Aboriginal Member of the Native Police) circa 1855 in a Prince of Wales Light Horse Uniform Jacket

Source: Public Record Office, Ross Harrison Snow.