

Minutes of Evidence Curriculum & TRP

Brief biographies

Barak, William (c. 1824 – 1903) was about 11 years old when he witnessed the meeting of John Batman and Kulin clan-heads. He subsequently served with the Native Police, worked for the police as a tracker and, following the death of his cousin Simon Wonga, became the principal leader of the Kulin. He was the leader of the Kulin's struggle to make Coranderrk their home and retain their connection with country.

For more visit http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/barak-william-2930

Billibelary, (d. 1847) was one of the most important clan heads
(Ngurungæta) in the Kulin at the time of European settlement. He was a
Wurundjeri willam man and the major spokesman for the Kulin clans in
their negotiations with the government authorities.

Chief Protector of Aborigines — see below, Robinson, George A

- **Derrimut** (c.1810 1864) was one the Arweets (Clan-heads) of the Yalukit willan clan of Boon wurrung, at the time of European settlement. He became a friend of John Pascoe Fawkner and warned of an impending attack on the young settlement by up-country Aborigines.
- **Fawkner, John Pascoe** (1792 1869) came from Launceston in Tasmania soon after learning of Batman's treaty with the Kulin. Opened the first hotel, published the first newspaper, and became a prominent member of the Port Phillip community.
- **Green, John** (1828 1908) was a Scottish lay preacher who arrived in Melbourne with his wife in 1857. In 1861 he was appointed as Inspector General with the BPA. He assisted the Kulin in the move to Coranderrk

in 1863 and became Manager of the Reserve until replaced by BPA in 1876. His dismissal led to the rebellion by the Kulin residents at Coranderrk.

- Henty Brothers: Edward (1810 1878); Stephen (1811 1872); John (1813 1868) and Francis (1815 1889) were pioneer pastoralists and whalers. The brothers established a whaling station in 1834 at Portland Bay in south-west Victoria and had a number of sheep runs.
- La Trobe, Charles Joseph (1801 1875) was appointed in 1839 as the Superintendant of the Port Phillip District of NSW. He lacked appropriate experience to do what was always a difficult job. However, he was a driving force behind the creation of many of Melbourne's cultural institutions, including the State Library, the Botanic Gardens, and its city parks. After Victoria separated from NSW (in 1851) La Trobe became Lieutenant-Governor. But the social turmoil caused by the discovery of gold was more than he could handle and he resigned in 1852, and left the colony in 1854.
- Robinson, George Augustus (1877 1866) was appointed as Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Port Phillip District in 1839, after a number of years of working with Aboriginal clans in Tasmania. In Melbourne his role was meant to be largely administrative but he spent many months over the ten-year period of the Protectorate travelling through squatting districts and making contact with local clans. His journals are a major primary source of information on Aboriginal society and culture. After the closing of the Protectorate in 1849, Robinson returned to England.
- **Thomas, William** (1793 1867) was appointed an Assistant Protector of Aborigines. He was assigned to the Westernport Protectorate district and administered to the needs of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung clans. At the closure of the Protectorate in 1849 he was appointed Guardian of Aborigines and continued to work with the Kulin, until his death.
- Wonga, Simon (c. 1824 1874). Following the death of his father, Billibelary, Wonga became a clan head (Ngurungæta) of the Kulin. He was an influential and respected leader in the Kulin's attempt to remain in their country. With his cousin William Barak and John Green, led the Kulin to the Coranderrk site in 1863.