Koorie Services at the Victorian Archives Centre

David Taylor, Assistant Director, Access Services, Public Record Office Victoria
Tsari Anderson, Coordinator Koorie Records Unit, Public Record Office Victoria

Image: Vicki Couzens, *Untitled* 2005 (detail)
Victorian Archives Centre

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) – state government archive

National Archives of Australia (Victorian office) – federal government archive

Records about Aboriginal people in Victoria are held in both collections
Government records about Aboriginal people and places in Victoria

Legislation governing Victorian Aboriginal people 1830s – 1970s

- Aboriginal Protectorate
- Aboriginal protection and welfare boards

Aboriginal missions and reserves: Lake Tyers, Coranderrk, Framlingham, Lake Condah, Ebenezer, Ramahyuck
Increasing awareness and access to records

Koorie Records Unit

• Promoting awareness about Aboriginal records within the collections of both PROV and National Archives, and

• Improving accessibility to these records for Aboriginal communities.

1931 “spiral” petition from Lake Tyers residents lodged with the Aboriginal Protection Board.
PROV, VPRS 1694, Unit 11
A source for family and community history

1839 List of Aboriginal people in the vicinity of Melbourne (detail)
PROV, VPRS 13172, Unit 1

1915 Request from Lucy Pepper to the Chief Secretary of the Victorian Government for a pass to move to western Victoria for warmer climate
PROV, VPRS 1694, Unit 5, Bundle 3

1922 Plan of survey of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station
NAA, B356, 34

1886 Petition from Coranderrk residents to the Chief Secretary demanding greater autonomy from the Aboriginal Protection Board
PROV, VPRS 1694, Unit 5, Bundle 3

1839 List of Aboriginal people in the vicinity of Melbourne (detail)
PROV, VPRS 13172, Unit 1
The Stolen Generations

The generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated at a young age from family, community, traditional culture and traditional country, as well as the families of that separated child.

Removal occurred under past government Acts e.g. Aboriginal welfare legislation, or through adoption, fostering, being placed in an institution under other government legislation.

Link Up Victoria
linkupvictoria.org.au
Recordkeeping and the Stolen Generations

Bringing Them Home (BTH) Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families (1997)

Highlighted the importance of records in reclaiming identity, history and culture.
“records about Aboriginal people help to tell our stories of survival and for us those records are not just names on paper – they are another way to look into what has happened to bring us to where we are today and reflect what has been passed down to us by our families and communities.”

Stolen Generations stakeholder, 2018
Inclusiveness of archival spaces

Recordkeeping systems traditionally prioritise record “creators” and government agencies rather than record “subjects” and users of records.
# Digital resources – finding family

## Public Record Office Victoria - Koorie Index of Names

9 records found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Given Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Photo</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Record Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Tyers, Vic, Koo Wee Rup, Vic</td>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VPRS 1694/P0 Unit 8, Item: Bundle 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>1907-1918</td>
<td>m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stratford, Vic, Lake Tyers, Vic, Koo Wee-ru, Vic, Cunningham, Vic, Lakes Entrance, Vic, Lake Condah, Vic, Framlingham, Vic, Howood, Vic, Portland, Vic</td>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VPRS 1694/P0 Unit 5, Item: Bundle 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakes Entrance, Vic</td>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VPRS 1694/P0 Unit 5, Item: Bundle 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Tyers, Vic, Stratford, Vic, Swan Hill, Vic</td>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VPRS 1694/P0 Unit 11, Item: Bundle Sept 1931 - Oct 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Percy</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kooweerup, Vic</td>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VPRS 1694/P0 Unit 7, Item: Bundle 7, Item 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Being responsive to community projects

Taungurung Land and Waters Council research, transcription and mapping project.

‘to discover important historical information about Taungurung history and connection to country’

Letter from James Dredge, Assistant Protector of the Goulburn District, to Chief Protector Robinson, with the suggestion of five Taungurung men to be appointed to a proposed Native Police corps.

PROV, VPRS 11, unit 1, item 26
KRU Researcher Story: Kylie Clarke

Contact us

Koorie Records Unit

Public Record Office Victoria
Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street
North Melbourne, VIC 3051

koorie.records@prov.vic.gov.au

03 9348 5600