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# Western Port Aboriginal Protectorate and Merri Creek Aboriginal School sites, Merri Creek & Yarra River



Western Port Aboriginal Protectorate Site



Western Port Aboriginal Protectorate Site - Plaque

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## Location

OFF Protectorate Yarra Bend Road, YARRA BEND, City of Yarra

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO307

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Provided by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria 14 December 1998 (submission to L78 to the Yarra Planning Scheme)

## Statement of Significance

The locations of the Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Yarra Protectorate, Native Police Corps Headquarters and associated Aboriginal burials at Yarra Bend park (Clifton Hill, Melbourne) are together of state and possibly national significance. They mark 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 (criterion G.1).

The area was the focus of interaction between Aboriginal people and government officials and settlers during the early years of contact in the Port Phillip District (Criterion A.4 and C.2). In particular the area was the foci for government and church policies towards Aboriginal people, with regard to the Protectorate System Headquarters (1839-1849); the Merri Creek Aboriginal School (1845-1851) and the Native Police Corps Headquarters (1842-1843). Aboriginal people were buried in this area in the past, though the precise location(s) of any surviving burials are not known. The area is associated with important individuals including Billibellary (an Aboriginal clan-head who died in this location in 1846) and William Thomas (Assistant Protector) (Criterion H.1).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Northcote Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1982; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1840,
Hermes Number	101815
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 2

Scatter of building and burial sites, creek crossings east of Merri Creek junction with Yarra River, passed over by freeway, bike path, Yarra R realigned 1970s, north of Dights Falls

## Integrity

Poor

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*