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# FORMER CORANDERRK VILLAGE

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## Location

BARAK LANE HEALESVILLE, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8022-0134

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 2020

The Former Coranderrk Village is historically significant as one of a number of Aboriginal missions and stations established in the nineteenth century in Victoria. It is of historical significance for its association with significant Wurundjeri Ngrurungaeta Simon Wonga and William Barak. It associated with one of the earliest known campaigns for human rights by Aboriginal people in Victoria, and the Parliamentary inquiries of 1879 and 1881.

The former Coranderrk Village is archaeological significant for its potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and artefacts relating to the nineteenth century occupation. The archaeological potential is evidenced through historic images and documentation showing the extent.

Hermes Number 206270

Property Number

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## History

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station was established in 1863 on Woi Wurrung country. By 1875, its Aboriginal residents who now numbered more than 100, had built their own family homes and assisted in the establishment of a dormitory school. 700 acres of land had been cleared and fenced and 140 acres were under cultivation. The remainder of the land was used for 500 cattle. The station had its own water supply in the form of a 1.5 mile-long aqueduct complete with its own water driven saw mill. The eventual aim was to develop Coranderrk into a fully self-supporting community. The station ran a substantial milking herd, horses, pigs, poultry, orchard, a market garden and a working hop field. For the first 12 years, Coranderrk was a symbol of unity between Aboriginal and European people working towards the same ideal. Over this 12 year period, the Kulin people transformed Coranderrk's 4850 acres of bushland into one of the most productive stations in the Yarra Valley. In 1886 the Victorian Government adopted a new policy to regulate the lives of Indigenous people under the Aboriginal Protection Law Amendment Act, commonly known as the 'Half-Caste Act'. The law required that Aboriginal people with European ancestry aged between 15 and 35 leave reserves such as Coranderrk to undertake employment and 'absorption' into the general white community. While a deputation of Coranderrk leaders protested against the proposed law, they could not prevent its adoption. The Half-Caste Act reduced the number of Aboriginal people at Coranderrk to 31. It officially closed in 1924.

*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/>*