

Djillong, a Timeline.

Djillong: 'tongue of land' is the Wathaurong (Wadda Wurrung) Aboriginal name for Geelong
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100,000 years ago.	Evidence of Aboriginal people living on the Australian continent & of the world's earliest human art. (French cave painting 5,000 years ago, the Mona Lisa, 14th century)
1600	William Dampier (England) lands on the west coast of Australia.
1688	Captain James Cook (England) lands on the east coast of Australia.
1700	Lt James Grant (Lady Nelson ship) sails through Bass Strait.
1800	Dispossession begins as Lieutenant John Murray takes possession of Port Phillip in King George III's name & raises the British flag.
1802	First contact between Wathaurong & the Europeans.
1803	William Buckley escapes from Capt. Collins temporary settlement at Sorrento & walks around Port Phillip bay. Later he is invited to join the Monmart clan of Wathaurong people when Kondiakruk (Swan Wing) declares him her husband returned from the dead. Aboriginal people believed that the dead were reincarnated in a white form. They call Buckley Morranggurk (Ghost blood).
1820	Hume & Hovell arrive on Wathaurong land at Corio Bay & are greeted by Wathaurong resistance. In Tasmania settlers are authorized to shoot Aborigines. Martial law is declared in Bathurst (NSW) after violent clashes between settlers & Aborigines.
1828	Martial law declared in Tasmania where the Solicitor General says 'the Aborigines are the open enemies of the King & in a state of actual warfare against him'.
1827	Batman & Gellibrand apply to the colonial government for Kulin nation land.
1830	Tasmanian newspaper correspondents declare 'we are at war with them'. Gellibrand says, 'we are about to enter a war of extermination, for such I apprehend is the declared object of the present operation & that in its progress we shall be compelled to destroy the innocent with the guilty'.
1831	First massacres of Aboriginal people by Europeans occur near Geelong (& Melbourne). Whalers massacre a large group of Gunditjamarra near Portland. Violent clashes occur around Port Phillip as Aboriginal people defend their territories.
1835	The Port Phillip Association is formed & spearheads the invasion of Wathaurong land. John Helder Wedge leads a group to examine the land west of Indented Head. Batman's party shoots a native dog for no apparent reason. Batman first meets Wathaurong. Batman transacts a 'treaty' with Wathaurong members. Batman establishes a holding station on Wathaurong land at Indented Head by leaving Todd, Gumm & Thompson (the Todd party) to secure the area & dispossession of Wathaurong people begins. Clearing of native timber & planting of European crops begins the decimation of traditional Aboriginal food sources on the Bellarine. William Buckley makes himself known to the Todd camp, Indented Head. Batman establishes a ration station in Geelong to hand out flour & potatoes to local Aborigines. John Helder Wedge expresses racist colonial sentiments as he proposes the Bellarine Peninsula be used as a place to 'civilize' Aborigines. New South Wales Governor, Sir Richard Bourke asserts Terra Nullius & voids Batman's Treaty.
1836	William Lonsdale appointed Police Magistrate amongst increased killing & dispossession of Aboriginal people amongst authorities' disinterest or lack of control. Cowie, von Steiglitz, Sutherland, Thompson & Manifold rush to take land near Geelong. Thompson calls his property Kardinia & claims all the land on the south bank of the Barwon River to Barwon Heads. Settler Franks killed near Werribee. White revenge party fires on 50 - 100 Aborigines killing at least 12. Willem Baa Ni ip, destined to be the last traditional Wathaurong person is born. Sealers continue their practice of abducting Aboriginal women. Buckley acts as an interpreter between the Port Phillip Association & the Wathaurong. Curacoine, a 'settler' shoots clan-head of the Wada wurrung balug & his body dumped in the Barwon River. After just 18 months since European arrival dispossession of Wathaurong land within 25-mile radius of Geelong is complete & only 279 Wathaurong remain in the Geelong region.
1837	First Police magistrate (Foster Fyans) arrives in Geelong giving its settlement official colonial government recognition. Squatters complain to him 'of attacks of the most determined character' by Aborigines. Fyans complains of settlers killing blacks indiscriminately. Governor Richard Burke names Geelong, with the name derived from the local Wathaurong (Wadda Wurrung) Aboriginal name for the region, Djillong, which was understood to mean 'tongue of land'. Foster Fyans orders Buckley to assemble Aboriginal people & his census of Aboriginal people in the Geelong region counts 297 Wathaurong within 30 miles of Geelong. Buckley resigns from working with the white authorities dismayed his engagement as translator is not working to the advantage of the Wathaurong. First European house is built in Geelong. Wathaurong resist their land being taken & attack William Yuille's station at Murgehboluc. Two Wathaurong killed by shepherds on the Leigh River; another drowns' after being chained to a log. Armytage & others squat at Winchelsea; Murray at Colac. Governor Bourke rides south & selects site for Geelong on the banks of the Barwon. Squatters are well established throughout the district. Fisher builds house on the north bank of the Barwon. The House of Commons Select Committee (Westminster, London) allows 'that the right of civilized states to take possession of barbarous countries rested entirely on the full equivalent begin given by the invaders'. The Native Police is formed.
1838	Lake Burrumbeet, an important food source, is drying up & Wathaurong claim it is an effect of white settlement. Wathaurong resistance continues throughout the region. Geelong township surveyed & land 'sales' begin. Fyans choses land on the Barwon River. European population grows to 545 as the Wathaurong population declines. Blacks drive off sheep from Werribee pastures. Six are captured & sent to Sydney for trial. Siewwright arrives as the Protector of Aborigines for Geelong & the Western district. He spends time living with Wathaurong people & unsuccessfully seeks prosecutions for massacres of Aboriginal people. Governor Gipps authorizes public execution of whites convicted of killing blacks amongst white public outrage. Future murder & massacres in the war go unreported by the settlers.
1839	First European mission (Buntingdale) established in Victoria on Wathaurong borders at Birregurra. Fyans travels the Western district to investigate the massacre of blacks, & reports on 'fine country available for pasture'. LaTrobe appointed Superintendent of the Port Phillip district & Protectorate system introduced. G A Robinson appointed Chief Protector of Aborigines. LaTrobe reports that, within 5 years of Batman's arrival most land in the Western District is 'settled' & indigenous populations are much reduced. William Hunt charged with wantonly assaulting Mundyendoc as European atrocities against Aboriginal people continue. Rev Joseph Orton arrives in Geelong & attempts to engage Wathaurong in establishing a mission site. Siewwright submits a plan for 'civilizing' the Wathaurong. Yaw-ya-rite, a Wada wurrung balug is shot at Station Peak.
1840	1840 European massacres of Aboriginal people continue as 50 'natives' are shot near Colac (Pascoe, 2003, p. 56). Wathaurong are banned from the streets of Geelong. Sheep grazing is destroying Wathaurong traditional foods - especially the murnong yam daisy. Public meeting of British settlers in North Geelong calls for government protection of Aborigines as a way to reduce conflict. Geelong squatters petition the Government against Aboriginal protector Siewwright. Police are given authority to keep Aborigines out Corio. Wathaurong insurgence & resistance against European squatters (Invaders) continues. Detailed notes on Wathaurong language are lost in a fire at Buntingdale. 60 Wada wurrung visit Anne Drysdale's station (Borron-Goop) on the Bellarine Peninsula in search of food. She says 'they are causing no trouble'. Drysdale & Alexander Thompson (Kardinia) sometimes supply food for Buntingdale mission.
1841	Crown Commissioner Addis finds 150 remaining 'Barrabool' Wathaurong 'settling down' near Geelong. Robinson reports most 'blacks east of Hopkins River eliminated'. Geelong Advertiser expresses prevalent colonial racism in advocating the removal Aborigines to Victorian offshore islands for 'civilizing'. 'Barrabool' people decline to take up residence at Buntingdale. All clans find being lumped together with other groups dispiriting. Assistant Protector Siewwright takes out a warrant to arrest Mom-Bourne (Bengali clan) for murder. Mom-Bourne escaped in chains from the cutter transporting him to Melbourne. The rebel leader is never heard of again. He was part of an organized resistance to settlement - the Silent War. Massacres of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Aboriginal people elsewhere in the region. Approximately 20 white shepherds & settlers killed. District conference of Aborigines near Mt Ararat complains of mistreatment & loss of food from loss of habitat. Wathaurong, like Aborigines elsewhere in Australia, respond to poisonings, shootings, rapes, dispossession & starvation by dispersing flocks of sheep. Settlers respond by burning down Aboriginal villages making Aborigines vulnerable to colds & respiratory infections. Judge Willis admits that the frequent conflicts between settlers & Aboriginal clans showed they were 'not a conquered people' nor did they 'acquiesce to the supremacy of the settlers'.
1842	All native trees on the surveyed streets of Geelong have been removed. Dan Dan Nook, Bengali clansman & once fastest runner in Geelong saves Samuel Mossman from drowning. Dan Dan Nook's father & two uncles flee from British justice after fighting to protect their land. 7 years after Europeans arrive a census at Bukar Bulok (Fyansford) shows only 118 Aboriginal people survive in Geelong region. Protector Robinson reports 90% of Aboriginal reprisals against whites are due to their rape of Aboriginal women (Pascoe, 2003).
1845	Reports sent to Governor LaTrobe by Addis of Barrabool tell Aboriginal women being 'interfered with' by Europeans.
1848	Eumeralla War: massive fighting near the Crawford & Glenelg Rivers.
1848	Foster Fyans reports that there are virtually no Aborigines at the Mount Rouse & Buntingdale missions.
1849	The Geelong Town Council is incorporated with no recognition of Wathaurong country.
1850	'Landholders' complain of Aboriginal Protectorates & stations taking up 'good land' & attracting Aboriginal people 'near our properties'.
1850	Gold is discovered in Victoria. Thousands flock to diggings & more land is taken from Wathaurong as a result. The Buninyong people around Ballarat are the worst affected by the influx of rapacious diggers.
1851	Geelong is the 5th largest town in Victoria but only a handful Wathaurong survive.
1852	Small groups of Aborigines from different clans are moving into Geelong. William Thomas (former Protector) appointed as Guardian of all surviving Aborigines. Addis appointed Commissioner of Lands in the Geelong district. He suggests a reserve should be set aside as a Living Place for Aborigines near Point Lonsdale - never implemented.
1853	A census of Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal people living in Geelong shows the extermination of the Wathaurong population nearly complete.
1856	A 'secret' Geelong pamphlet is published in The Argus that admits complicity in dispossession of Aborigines from their lands & debates what is to be done.
1858	Wathaurong people compete for the first time in the second Highland Games in Geelong. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council of Victoria is appointed to enquire into the living conditions of Aborigines. It blames Aborigines for their plight & recommends reserves to protect, constrain & control them. Finds population of indigenes declined by 50% in last decade.
1860	1860 Victorian government (Land & Survey Office) announces a Central Board & District Committees for the Protection of the Aborigines of Victoria. 1861 Colonial government gazettes one acre of land for Geelong Aboriginal people (the Duneed Reserve, Ghazepore Rd, Waurn Ponds) where 6 surviving people live. Colonial government census of Aboriginal people living in the Geelong region shows only 7 Wathaurong left in the region. Land set aside by the Lands & Survey Office, Melbourne for the Aborigines of the Moorabool & Werribee district.
1863	'Queen Eliza' wife of Dan Dan Nook dies & is buried at Portarlington.
1865	Framlingham is gazetted as a reserve.
1867	Lake Condah Mission established. John Barrat & Charles Read become guardians of surviving Geelong clans' people & those of Colac, Winchelsea & Waurn Ponds (Duneed).
1868	Victorian Aboriginal Protection Board is given statutory authority.
1869	Parliament enacts an inhumane Act for the Protection & Management of the Victorian Aborigines (the Mission Act). It restricts the rights of Aboriginal people to control where they lived & worked & whom they married. This is the beginning of legislation that produces the Stolen generations. It also forces Aborigines of fair complexion off reserves. Some reserves are broken up & land sold.
1870	1870 Dan Dan Nook once the fastest runner in Geelong (Djillong) dies in the Geelong Invalid Asylum of tuberculosis. 1874 Only one male Aborigine requests & receives aid from the local guardian in Geelong. The Victorian Aborigines Protection Act denies human rights as it increases control measures including empowering the Victorian Board for the Protection of Aborigines to apprentice Aboriginal children at 13 & enabling them to receive children to seek their permission to visit their families.
1880	1886 Willem Baa Ni ip, the last traditional Wathaurong person, dies at Geelong Hospital of tuberculosis after living along for 15 years after the last of his contemporaries died. 'Who can imagine his sorrow?'
1890	1897 Robert Shirra raised money to erect a railing around Wada wurrung gram in the Herne Hill cemetery.
1900	1902 The Aboriginal reserve at Stieglitz (63 acres) is given back to the Department of Lands due to the continuing decrease in Aboriginal numbers in the area.
1910	1910 Aboriginal Act 1910 reduces some government restrictions on Aboriginal life but maintains distinctions between the rights of white Victorians & Aboriginal Victorians.
1916	1916 The Aboriginal Protection Board begins to withhold payment of wage to Aboriginal workers as a form of punishment & control.
1920	1925 Australian Aborigines Progressive Association formed.
1930	1932 Australian Aborigines League is established in Melbourne.
1938	Aborigines Progressive Association declares Australia Day, a national day of mourning.
1950	1951 Assimilation Policy formed: 'All Aborigines expected to attain the same manner of living as other Australians'. 1956 Uncle Rocky Couzens a Geelong resident becomes the first Aboriginal train driver in Victoria.
1960	1962 All Victorian Aborigines are finally given voting rights for the first time. 1965 Assimilation Policy restated as Integration Policy.
1967	1967 Referendum to amend the Australian constitutions in ways that gave Aboriginal people citizenship rights, free movement, right to choose their government & have uniform laws made by the Commonwealth for all Aborigines irrespective of the state that they lived in.
1970	1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy outside Parliament House, Canberra, calling for land rights & compensation. Federal Government agrees that Aborigines could hold leases & form pastoral companies. 1974 Gough Whitlam (then Prime Minister) pours Gurindji sand into the hand of Vincent Lingiari thus returning the land to traditional owners. 1975 Federal Racial Discrimination Act passed. 1976 Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) allows Aborigines to own traditional land & make claims for Crown Lands. 1977 The Wurdji Youang stone arrangement on Wathaurong lands is declared a protected archaeological site. 1978 Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd is formed.
1980	1980 Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative is formally registered. 1981 Vicki Couzens appointed Chairperson & Director Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. 1984 Lyn McInnes begins work as Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer in the Department of Aboriginal Health, Geelong Hospital. 1988 Koori Hour a Wathaurong Aboriginal Radio Program begins operation.
1990	1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. 1992 The High Court rejected doctrine of Terra Nullius and concluded that consequently Native Title could have survived on lands where it had not been extinguished. 1993 The Commonwealth parliament introduces The Native Title Act. It was amended in 1998 & 2006.
1994	1994 Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report handed down. Milla Milla Playgroup begins operation at the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. High Court rules in favor of Wik people's right to receive Native Title Rights.
1996	1996 Narana Creations moves to Torquay Road, Geelong. City of Greater Geelong presents a tree to the Wathaurong Co-operative to acknowledge the 39th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. 1997 Report Into the Separation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families (The Bringing Them Home Report) published. Wathaurong: Too Bloody Strong published. Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group is formed in Geelong.
1998	1998 The Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and VACL start work on the Wathaurong Language Program. Wathaurong Glass is formed.
1999	1999 Wathaurong acknowledged as owners of Wurdji Youang astrological stone arrangement with traditional knowledge of the site's sanctity.
2000	2000 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management & Protection Development Planning Protocol agreed between City of Greater Geelong & the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.
2001	2001 City of Greater Geelong agrees to archaeological examinations for all development within 500 metres of the ocean, bays or waterways in order to protect Aboriginal sites (Pascoe, 2003). Yorta Yorta loses court case for land rights claim.
2004	2004 Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative expands to include a community controlled health service. William Buckley Labyrinth opened at St Leonards. Wathaurong Elder stands beside Moopor as she points the bone at the then Prime Minister John Howard's decision to end ATSIC.
2005	2005 Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative 25th Anniversary. Wathaurong Co-operative participates in 'Finding Your Story: A Resource Manual to records of the Stolen Generations of Victoria'. William Buckley Discovery Trail launched. Wathaurong elders, community members & members of the Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group mark 120th Anniversary Willem Baa Ni ip's death.
2006	2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the Corangamite Water Catchment Management Authority & the Aboriginal Community Organizations in the area.
2008	2008 Statement of commitment to partnership with the Wathaurong by the City of Greater Geelong. City of Greater Geelong endorses the apology made to the stolen generations by Prime Minister Rudd. Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative BBO & gathering to watch Prime Minister Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations.
2010	2010 The Storyteller Aboriginal board game is launched. 2011 Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd is the largest employer of Aboriginal people within the Geelong region. Rocky Couzens, first Aboriginal train driver in Victoria, dies in Geelong hospital. Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative participates in the 25th Anniversary of Deakin University's Institute of Koorie Education (IKE).

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