

Australian Wars and Resistance

Mapping colonial and Indigenous conflict across the continent from 1788 to the 1930s.

<https://australianwars.net>

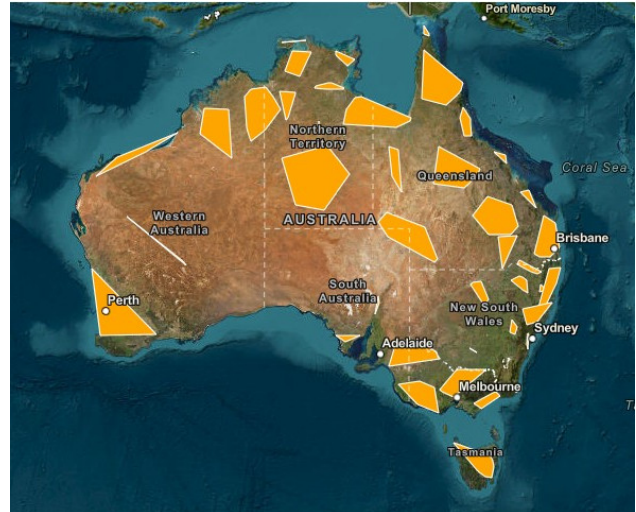
Calls for recognition and acknowledgement of Australian wars and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resistance grow louder with every decade, yet most Australians know little about these conflicts.

While some wars, resistance movements and leaders are well researched and relatively widely known, there is no clear distinction of every war across the continent and nobody can identify and name all of them. This history is important to everyone in Australia. The full story of all these wars need to be told.

To acknowledge these wars work needs to be done to identify, map and name them, to identify the people involved, and to make these stories common knowledge.

This must be done in a way that has a sound theoretical basis, that provides robust evidence and that is ethical. This requires a combination of archival research; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people telling their own stories from their own perspective, and; IT methods which make such a large project feasible, and to provide easy, interactive access to the information.

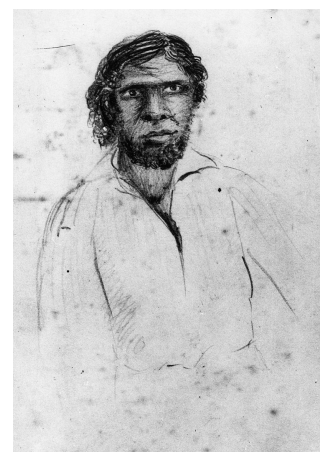
Any donation helps to commit people to this work, providing appropriate remuneration for research, knowledge and expertise. All funds will have an equivalent amount dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities autonomously controlling their own information, representations and story telling as goes towards archival research.



Initial results indicate there were 39 wars and 2 maritime conflicts within 12 regions and 4 periods. This is just a beginning. An estimated 125 to 500 incidents need to be researched for each war, or roughly 10,000 in total.

Resistance fighters like Pemulway, Windradyne, Tunnerminnerwait, Dundalli, Yagan and Jandamarra are well known. We estimate hundreds of named and thousands of unnamed individual resistance fighters can be identified and listed in connection with these wars.

Image: Dundalli, sketched by Sylvester Diggles



“Aboriginal children have a right to be proud
of the part their ancestors played in the Australian Wars.”

– Gomeroi school teacher

Our aims

1. Distinguish, identify and map Australian wars and resistance movements prior to the 'mission phase' across the whole of Australia, based on theory, reason, evidence and ethics.
2. Collaboratively research, gather sources, and produce text and media by combining Indigenous knowledge, historical sources, and IT methods to provide access to the full story in a way that is feasible.
3. Establish a consistent and coherent framework for researching and accessing information about all regions, that is flexible enough for people to represent the stories of their own country in their own way.
4. Catalogue and map incidents that comprise the wars; the people named and unnamed involved; and the sources these details were obtained from.
5. Reliably inform public and political debate about Australian Wars and Resistance in plain language.

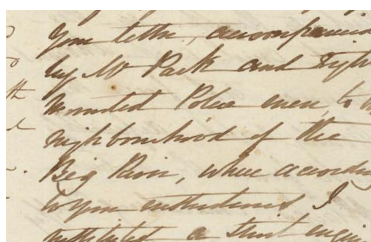
Cost estimates

Work can be undertaken as funds for each block of work become available.

IT set up and maintenance Includes research tools, information workflows and web presentation.	\$35,000
Per War or Resistance Movement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous community collaboration and productions \$10,000• Archival research \$10,000• Project coordination: \$10,000	\$30,000 * 41 = \$1,230,000
Total	\$1,265,000

The full story

Archival records, many digitised and OCR'd, provide many details, including names of resistance fighters that can be pieced together.

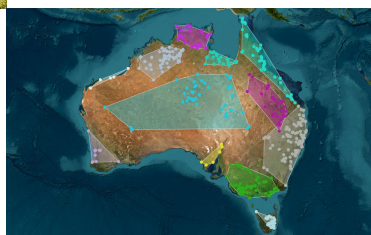


Indigenous knowledge and country itself is necessary to fully understand these conflicts.

Image: Gwydir River, a focal point of Gomeri resistance.



Without computational methods to handle workflows for finding, organising and presenting the large scale of information the work would not be feasible.



Who we are

The Australian Wars and Resistance website and collective builds on more than a 100 years of work by knowledge holders, historians and activists calling for the truth about colonial violence.

With the conclusion of Lyndall Ryan's *Colonial Frontier Massacres in Australia, 1788-1930* project, Dr Bill Pascoe is joining with 50 leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, historians, archaeologists and authors to take the next steps.

Donate



<https://australianwars.net/funding.php>