



PINJARRA MASSACRE MEMORIAL

AN ART ON THE MOVE EDUCATION RESOURCE

PINJARRA MASSACRE MEMORIAL

EDUCATION RESOURCE: CONTENTS

USE OF THIS EDUCATION RESOURCE	2	
BACKGROUND TO THE PINJARRA MASSACRE	3	
THE PINJARRA MASSACRE	4	
DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY IDEAS	5	
AFTER THE MASSACRE	6	
TOTEMS	7	
PROJECT/ACTIVITY IDEAS	7	
THE PINJARRA MASSACRE MEMORIAL ART EXHIBITION	8	
THE ARTWORKS IN THE EXHIBITION	9-13	Cover image: Ben Pushman:
FOCUS ON SOME OF THE ARTISTS	14-16	Melgar Acrylic on canvas
REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	17	150 x 120 cm

USE OF THIS EDUCATION RESOURCE

This education resource has been developed to assist teachers to maximise the educational value and enjoyment of ART ON THE MOVE'S touring exhibition *Pinjarra Massacre Memorial*. It is designed to be used by teachers and students in conjunction with an exhibition visit or an Education Event. Photocopies are permitted for classroom use only.

Smarter than Smoking Education Events are sponsored by Healthway to promote the Heart Foundation's *Smarter than Smoking* message.

ART ON THE MOVE education services for primary and secondary schools:

- *Smarter than Smoking* ARTIST ON THE MOVE - An artist talk and tour through the exhibition OR an artist talk in your classroom.
- *Smarter than Smoking* ARTBUS provides subsidised transport to the gallery for your class to view the exhibition.
- Website subscription: Your school can sign up as members of Education at www.artonthemove.com.au to download all ART ON THE MOVE education resources for free.

Contact the ART ON THE MOVE Education Officer for more information.

PINJARRA MASSACRE MEMORIAL



Map of Pinjarra town site showing approximate boundary of massacre area. (reference - Significant sites file S02125: Battle of Pinjarra. From Aboriginal Sites Department, WA)

'BATTLE' OR 'MASSACRE?'

battle: n. a large-scale fight between armed forces involving combat.

massacre: n. the vicious killing of large numbers of people or animals.

Microsoft Word Dictionary

There has been much debate within the local community about the title of the event. Various sources report that the event was first known as an *encounter*, a *rencontre* and a *skirmish*. It became known in white history as a *battle* after being named as such by George Fletcher Moore, in his own diary entry of 1834.

The *Battle of Pinjarra* soon became the accepted term for the event throughout the white colony. Nyungar history, which is oral, passed down from those around at the time of the event, has always called it a massacre. Many Nyungars believe the term *battle* was chosen by white people in an attempt to glorify and disguise the real nature of the incident.

Many in the white community have been resistant to the incident being termed the *Pinjarra Massacre*, however, over time attitudes are changing. It is hoped that with changing attitudes and a greater understanding of the true nature of the event, will come acceptance of the term *massacre* and a widespread desire to commemorate the incident with a memorial.

the situation so that the settlers would feel safe and the colony would continue to prosper and grow.

Now strongly politically motivated, Stirling used the Nesbit incident as a way to justify his plan of attack against the leaders of the Bindjareb tribe to his superiors in Britain. He indicated to his superiors that the Nyungars needed to be resisted so that the colony could prosper and the survival of the white settlers was assured. Stirling put plans into place for a group of 26 that included John Septimus Roe, Thomas Peel, Captain Ellis and five of his mounted police, soldiers of the 21st and a few settlers, to ride out from Thomas Peel's settlement in Mandurah in search of the Bindjareb Nyungars responsible for the death of Nesbit.

THE PINJARRA MASSACRE

On the morning of October 28, 1834, Governor Stirling and his party followed the Murray River south east, and arrived at the Bindjareb Nyungars' camp.

The party took up strategic positions on both sides of the river surrounding the camp. Captain Ellis and a number of his men rode towards the group to positively identify the Bindjareb tribe. When this happened, a signal was given to the rest of the party and they charged the camp and opened fire upon the surprised Nyungars, many of whom grabbed their spears and began to retaliate.

Stirling and his men continued to fire upon many of the Nyungars as they attempted to cross the river and head for the hills. The fighting continued for over an hour, with the result that there were many casualties on the Nyungars' side and some injuries in Stirling's party with only one death – that of Captain Ellis, who was grazed by a spear, causing him to fall off his horse, hitting his head on a rock as he fell.

The number of deaths on the Bindjareb Nyungars' side has been in dispute for many years. Stirling indicated that around 15 were killed; another report put the number at 25 to 30. Although denied by Stirling, most accounts acknowledged that women and children were numbered amongst the dead. Oral histories handed down amongst the Bindjareb gives a much higher casualty figure.

PINJARRA MASSACRE MEMORIAL

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Contos, N. (1998) Pinjarra Massacre Site Research and Development Project: Report for Stage 1 Pinjarra, WA: Murray Districts Aboriginal Association.
- Stanton, J. E. with Hill, S. (2000) *Aboriginal artists of the South-West: Past and Present*. University of Western Australia, Berndt Museum of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 5.
- Stanton, J. E. (2004) *On Track: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Western Australia*. University of Western Australia, Berndt Museum of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 6.
- WA art memorial to 1834 Pinjarra Massacre (2009, Spring). *ArtsYarnup*, Australia Council for the Arts, p. 18.
- www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/documents/PickettCOPY.pdf. Retrieved 2/12/09.
- www.artists-worldwide.net/artists/paintings/chadd_tjyllyungoo_lance.htm. Retrieved 2/12/09.
- www.artlink.com.au/articles.cfm?id=2216. Retrieved 2/12/09.
- www.ccpr.murdoch.edu.au/art/acquisitions/ben_pushman.html. Retrieved 2/12/09.
- www.gadflygallery.com/artist_view.php?ArtistID=242.
- www.gomboc-gallery.com.au/artists/western_australian/painters/macdonald_biography.htm. Retrieved 3/12/09.
- www.mandurahcommunitymuseum.org/downloads%5CPinjarra%20Massacre.pdf. Retrieved 18/11/09.
- www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/.../indigenous_res012_0804.pdf. Retrieved 7/12/09.
- <http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/news/4595/>. Retrieved 2/12/09.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Education notes development and production:

Writer: Lisa Young with assistance from Karrie-Anne Kearing and Mark Salmon

Production: ART ON THE MOVE

Photographs: Courtesy of Pinjarra Katijin

ISBN

Print: 978 0 9806542 5 7

Online: 978 0 9806542 6 4

© ART ON THE MOVE 2009 The National Exhibitions Touring Structure for Western Australia. Inc.

Pinjarra Massacre Memorial is curated by Karrie-Anne Kearing and Mark Salmon

This exhibition has been supported by the National Exhibitions Touring Structure for Western Australia Inc. through the State Exhibition Development and Touring Funds.

The State of Western Australia has made an investment through the Department of Culture and the Arts in association with the Lotteries Commission in ART ON THE MOVE the National Exhibitions Touring Structure for Western Australia Inc.

ART ON THE MOVE is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. ART ON THE MOVE is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

ART ON THE MOVE
8a Carbon Court
Osborne Park WA 6017
PO Box 1835
Osborne Park Delivery Centre
Osborne Park WA 6919
Telephone (08) 9242 7887
Facsimile (08) 9242 7878

Email: artmoves@artonthemove.com.au
Web: www.artonthemove.com.au