



📷 Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council spokesman Ron Jones says the use of Batman's name is a slap in the face to the indigenous community. Picture: Stephen McKenzie

North

Darebin Council unanimously backs plan to rename Batman Park

Harrison Tippet, Preston Leader
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THE renaming of Batman Park is moving ahead, with the establishment of a naming committee and the proposal of three possible Wurundjeri replacement names.

Darebin Council last week unanimously voted to establish a Batman Park Renaming

Committee to explore the dumping the use of John Batman's name for its association with indigenous dispossession.

HAVE YOUR SAY: What do you think of the decision to change the name of Batman Park? Tell us below.

The explorer convinced indigenous elders to sign a treaty trading more than 200,000ha of ancestral land for blankets, flour and other goods in 1835.

Councillor Trent McCarthy said the push to rename the park in the spirit of reconciliation was "a terrific way forward".

"It is a really powerful conversation, and quite an emotional conversation to be a part of," Cr McCarthy said.

Councillor Julie Williams said it was important for the council to work with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council to find a more suitable name for the park.

"I think it's really important that our Wurundjeri people have a voice," Cr Williams said.

At the first of four public meetings held to discuss the name change, three Wurundjeri replacement names were suggested.

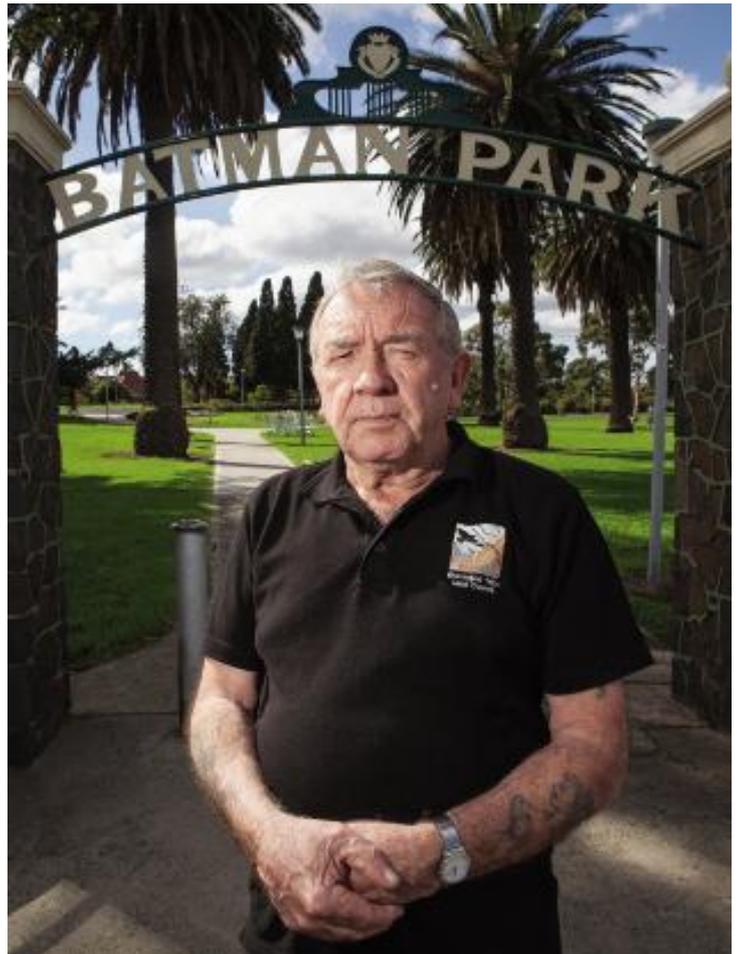
The names include two former Wurundjeri leaders present at the signing of Batman's treaty, Be Be Jern and Billibellary, along with the last girl born on the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve in Healesville, Gumbri.

Darebin Council and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council last month renewed the campaign for the electorate of Batman and Batman Park to be renamed.

Land council spokesman Ron Jones last month said using Batman's name in the area where the treaty was signed was a slap in the face to the indigenous community.

In an online Leader poll of almost 2000 readers, just 20 per cent agreed that the name Batman should be dropped.

There will be three more community discussions regarding the name changes.



📷 Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council spokesman Ron Jones at Batman Park. Picture: Stephen McKenzie

For more information visit darebin.vic.gov.au/batmanconversations.