

**MESSAGE FROM MARGARET GARDINER, ON BEHALF OF THE  
WURUNDJERI ELDERS, DELIVERED TO THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF THE ROYAL PARK PROTECTION GROUP ON 31 AUGUST  
1998**

I am very sorry that I cannot be in attendance on this momentous occasion of your inaugural AGM.

On behalf of my Elders I wish to extend to each and every one of you a welcome to our land and give you this message.

I would like to explain the importance of our land to you.

Our story is similar to yours.

Your story is by your chosen faith, our story is by the Dreamtime.

We both have creators and believe in our creators.

Bunjuil created great people from the land, that is why we call the land our Mother or Mother of Creation. The trees and birds were also created from the land.

You can establish buildings and put bitumen on the roads to try to hide the land, but the earth is still under there.

Never ever can you take the land away from us and the land will always belong to Aboriginal people, as we are a part of the land and the land is part of us.

You can't own your mother, she owns you. That is why the land is so important to Aboriginal people.

Once again I will extend a welcome to Wurundjeri land.

Yours in Unity and Fighting Spirit

Margaret Gardiner