



You are invited to a presentation for the Cultural Enquiry Research Group (CEREG), School of Education and Arts.

# Remembering then Rejecting King Billy: Mullawallah and the Naming of a Ballarat Suburb

Presenter: Dr Janice Newton  
School of Education and Arts  
Federation University Australia

**Date: Monday 20th April 2015 at 6.00pm with the seminar commencing at 6:15pm until 6:45pm, followed by questions.  
Venue: Room F200, F Building, Mt Helen Campus**

DRINKS AND NIBBLES WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP: Thursday 16th April 2015  
Demelza Hall, Federation University Australia. Email [d.hall@federation.edu.au](mailto:d.hall@federation.edu.au)

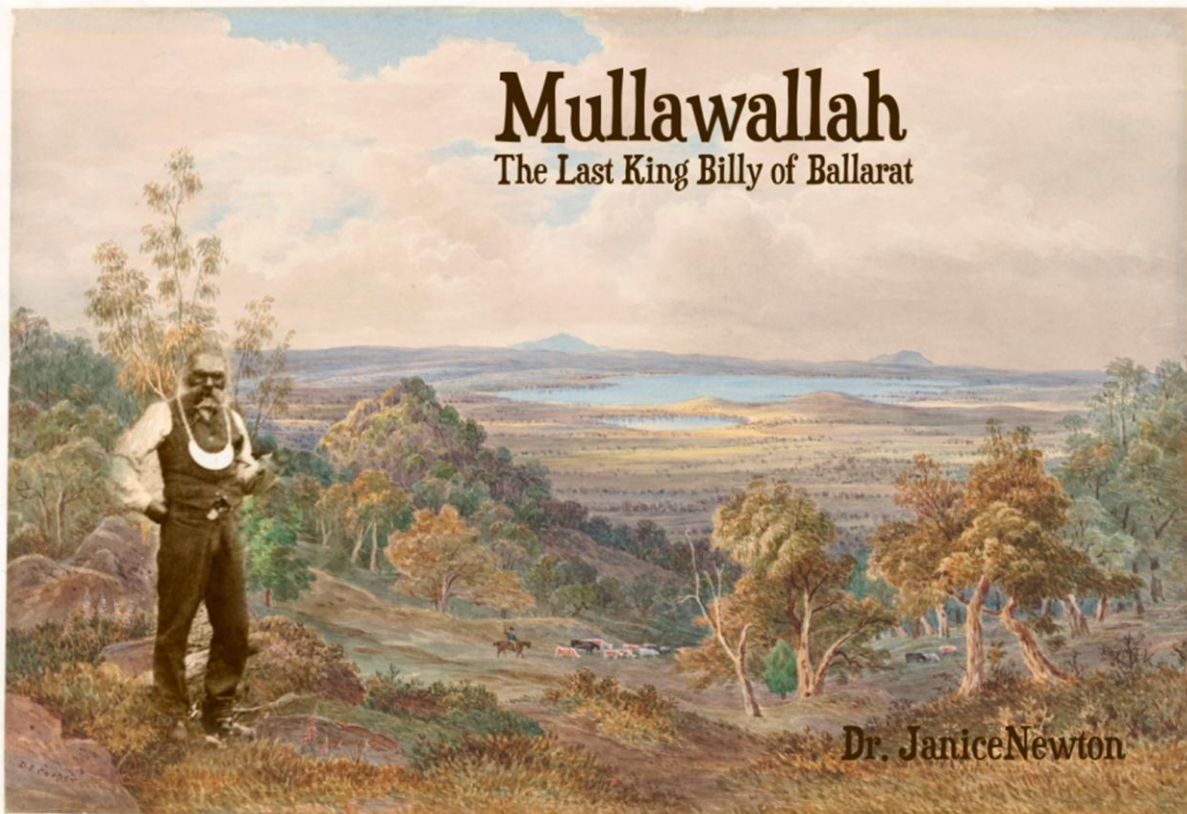
# CERG

CULTURAL ENQUIRY RESEARCH GROUP



## Seminar Synopsis:

This paper offers a cultural analysis of the recent political activity around the rejection of the naming of a new Ballarat suburb, Mullawallah (after Ballarat's last King Billy). After setting out the historical context for the memorialisation of Mullawallah, on the basis of web-based remains of the debate and some participant-observation of media and Ballarat City Council, I consider emotional investment in place names, rationales for the rejection of an Aboriginal name and the generation of an oppositional community spirit.



**Dr Janice Newton** is a former Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and is currently an Adjunct researcher with FEA. Previous book publications cover the economic anthropology of a Papua New Guinean village, a history of Mt Evelyn and a sociological analysis of permanent residents in caravan parks.

Janice has also shown a long term interest in Aboriginality and Australian culture and published articles in relation to the New Age and music and Aboriginality. She has taught in the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines in its first three years (1984-6) and more recently has taught units on Aboriginal health and Aboriginal History at the former University of Ballarat.

In the last decade or so Janice has researched the Ballarat King Billy, named Mullawallah who was buried in 1896 to considerable civic interest as a result of being nominated as 'The Last of His Tribe'. Her booklet, entitled Mullawallah: Ballarat's Last King Billy has been published recently by Ballarat Heritage Services.