### Item 1: Barham

**Location:** Barham

**Theme:** River Environment, Ecology, Flora

**Image 1:** Murray River vegetation

Source: Material culture

### Item 2: Barham

**Location:** Barham

**Theme:** Transportation, History, Punt

**Image 1:** Punt that crossed the Murray River between Koondrook and Barham in the late 1880s.

Source: The Barham-Koondrook Historical Society

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### Notes

1. TO BE INSTALLED ON PICNIC TABLE AS DETAILED IN LD-401
2. IMAGES AND TEXT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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### Text 1

The vegetation type of Riverina bioregion occurs on the floodplains of major rivers, in slightly elevated positions that rarely flood, on deposited silt and sands, with fertile alluvial soils. The main vegetation association that occurs within the site is the River Red Gum - Black Box woodland/forest on floodplains. River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) occurs in the Barham side of the river and Black Box (Eucalyptus largiflorens) Woodland, also called Riverina Grassy Woodland, occurs on the Koondrook side. Both associations in their original state would have had trees up to 40 metres tall with herbaceous groundcover understorey, interspersed with scattered shrubs.

Due to the extensive clearing undertaken in the area, there are only remnant patches of this vegetation remaining. It is important to maintain the extent of the River Red Gum and Black Box communities and to tend to those communities where possible. These communities are essential for providing food and habitat for many native animals and birds across the Murray River Basin and they are culturally significant to Aboriginal people.


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### Text 2

In 1877 the site for the township of Koondrook was selected near the junction of Sunbower Creek and the Murray River. Its location was driven by its access to the river, being apparently the only site between Echuca and Swan Hill. This set up a great speculation for commanding trade in the region, including the establishment of a flour mill and cattle trade.

The idea of a punt crossing over the Murray River further established the strategic significance of this crossing. Trade by land had greatly increased and the construction of a jetty commenced in 1878. With the strong movement of cattle from New South Wales and Queensland, the Koondrook crossing became more significant as a trade route for this stock into Victoria.

In 1884 the Koondrook and Murumbat Punt opened and its strategic location near the Victorian railway system in Kerang underpinned its importance as a trade route.

The photo, taken in the late 1880s, shows the punt that crossed the river between Koondrook and Barham, at a site near the Koondrook State School and Punt Road. It is said that the punt operator had a specially trained sheep to lead a flock of sheep on to the punt. This was a very busy crossing place between the states for stock and produce and a customs house was on the New South Wales side of the Murray River.

Source: The Barham-Koondrook Historical Society