



## ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Melbourne Dreaming* is both a guide book and social history of Melbourne, and the events and cultural traditions that have shaped local Aboriginal people's lives. It aims to show where to look to gain a better understanding of the rich heritage and complex culture of Aboriginal people in Melbourne both before and since colonisation.

It was first published in 1997. This is a completely updated and expanded edition.

*Melbourne Dreaming* provides practical information on visiting both historical and contemporary sites located in the city centre, surrounding suburbs and outer areas. Arranged into seven precincts, *Melbourne Dreaming* takes you to beaches, parklands, camping places, historical sites, exhibitions, cultural displays and buildings.

For Melbourne's Aboriginal people the landscape prior to European settlement over which we travel was the face of the divine — the imprint of the ancestral creation beings that shaped the landscape on their epic journeys. Exploring Melbourne's Aboriginal places is a way of paying respect to this sacred tradition while learning more about our shared and ancient history.

Sites include locations and traces of important places before European settlement in 1835 such as shell middens, scarred trees, wells, fish traps, mounds and quarries. Other sites describe critical events that occurred because of the impact of European settlement. More recent places are the focus of contemporary life. What these places share in common is that each illustrates an important part of the overall story of the first inhabitants, the Kulin.

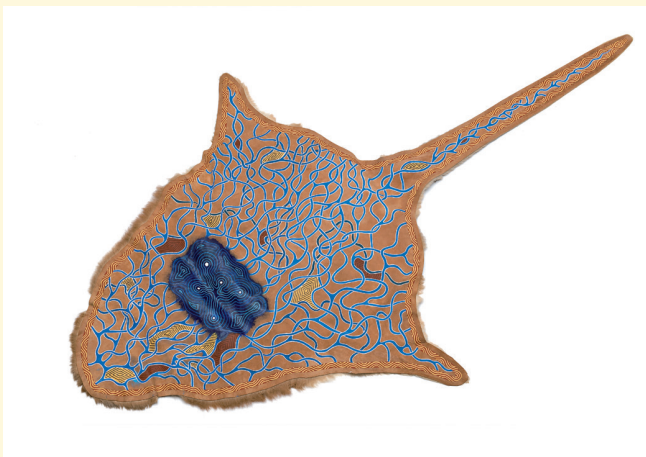
Stories and photographs of some places of interest which have restricted access or cannot be visited have also been included.

*Melbourne Dreaming* is a step towards assisting visitors, local residents and students to understand the enormous economic, cultural, social and historical contributions of Aboriginal people to the city.

### Terms

Since 1969, 'Koori' or 'Koorie' is a term used widely by Aboriginal people in southeast Australia to describe themselves and differentiate from other Aboriginal communities. The terms 'Kulin' (the people), 'wurrungs' (language groups) and 'Aboriginal people' are also used in this book.

Aboriginal languages are oral, not written, and thus spelt with many variations: for example, there are over sixty versions of 'Boon Wurrung'. Today organisations are encouraged to consult and develop protocols with local Aboriginal communities when deciding on appropriate names and spellings. We have chosen spelling for places and names that make meanings as clear as possible while also including some variations to acknowledge that different spellings are widely used today by diverse Koorie communities and others.



Mandy Nicholson, *Map of Port Phillip Bay*, paint, kangaroo skin, 128x80cm.

'This is a map of Port Phillip Bay and all the rivers that flow into it. The Southern Cross represents the Kulin nation. The swirling motion of water in Birrarung (the Yarra River) travels to Port Phillip Bay in the centre. The five circular shapes represent the five clans of the Kulin Nation: Dja Dja wurrung, Boon wurrung, Taun wurrung, Woi wurrung and Watha wurrung. The border represents the land of mountains and valleys around Birrarung and the connection of animal, land and water.'

**Mandy Nicholson**  
**Wurundjeri**



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A glossary of words used in this book can be found at p. 137. An English translation is provided with the first use of the word. Language terms are italicised in the first instance and roman thereafter.

Woiwurrung (today Wurundjeri) and Boon Wurrung languages are estimated to have up to ninety three per cent of words in common. Both used the term *willam* meaning house, home or place, so *willam* is used to describe sites where people camped for purposes such as socialising, food gathering, performance, ceremonies, cultural business or trade.

Some historic accounts have been quoted verbatim to provide important insights into the past, while recognising the language used may include terms not in use today and which may be considered inappropriate to a contemporary reader.

Maps and descriptions are indicative only and should not be interpreted as a definitive statement about traditional or current land ownership or boundaries.

### Getting around

Melbourne's suburbs and transportation radiate out from the CBD so our book starts with the city centre precinct and extends out to east, west, north and south. As a guide, the book provides practical information such as maps, street directory references, transport options, and facilities at the sites. Availability of facilities can change over time so check for up-to-date information before visiting. Bicycle and walking paths are included as most sites in this book are located on these trails.

For information about the many sites managed by Parks Victoria, contact:

Parks Victoria Information Centre  
Tel: 13 19 63 or (03) 8627 4700  
Email: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au)  
Web: [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

## Public transport

For public transport information, including timetables, maps and fares, contact:

Public Transport Victoria

Tel: 1800 800 007 (6 am–midnight seven days a week)

Web: [www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au).

Ticketing: the **myki** smartcard is required to travel on the city's metropolitan trains, trams and buses. They are available from main rail stations, retail outlets such as newsagents and convenience stores, online, and by phone: 13 69 54. Full fare myki cards can be purchased from myki machines at all metropolitan train stations as well as major tram and bus interchanges. For more information on myki, visit: <http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki>

## Bicycle

Melbourne is reasonably flat and well suited to cycling. There are many cycling routes throughout the metropolitan area. It is an ideal way to explore the city centre and inner suburban areas. Bicycles can be taken on suburban trains free of charge during off-peak times. Bicycle hire is available through many outlets including Melbourne Bike Share which is designed for easy hire and return around the inner city.

## Car

To visit some sites, it may be more practical to travel by car. There are some toll roads in and around Melbourne. For more information on the location of these roads and paying tolls, contact:

CityLink

Tel: 13 14 50

Web: [www.citylink.com.au](http://www.citylink.com.au)





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**ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT**

All Aboriginal cultural sites and relics in Victoria are protected by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* which includes Aboriginal artefacts. It is illegal to disturb or harm an Aboriginal site. Do not remove artefacts such as stones or shells from any site. Over 30,000 cultural places and objects are recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register maintained by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

Under the Act, traditional owners including registered Aboriginal parties play essential legal and management roles. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council is the first decision-making body of its kind in Australia. Comprised of up to eleven traditional owners with extensive knowledge and experience, it ensures that Aboriginal people throughout Victoria play a central role in the protection and management of their heritage as well as advising state and local governments.



One of five rare Aboriginal earth rings at Sunbury. Courtesy Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.