

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1132****Dated: 6 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

Very general. The British first settled Victoria in 1803, for a short while there was civility between them and First Nations people, but not for long. I know more about the impact on the natural landscape directly than on its peoples, but of course they are linked. Most of Wurunjeri land was marsh and wetland originally, and building Melbourne city on top of it and not allowing for flooding and drainage us why we see major damage each summer.

What has been your experience learning about First Nations history and culture in Victoria's education system? Do you feel it was comprehensive?

A single unit during my university science degree, circa 2014. We learned about natural sciences discovered and used by indigenous people, their clever inventions (the eel farms) and their astronomy knowledge. It was comprehensive for its short time frame, but I do want to know much more and give similar education far more time and space in the curriculum.

What changes would you like to see in Victoria to promote better understanding and respect for First People's?

As with all things, people need to see and understand how ANY new knowledge applies in their current lives in order to listen, focus and appreciate its importance. Indigenous history IS important, but I believe focussing on practical application of Indigenous knowledge and culture in a 21st century context will be the first step to greater understanding and respect.

In what ways do you think non-First Nations Victorians can contribute to the process of truth-telling and treaty?

Continued normalisation of Acknowledgement of Country, education about the land and how to care for and manage it, and acknowledging the damage colonisation did to the land. (People tend to psychologically accept fault for damage to the land more easily than they accept their part in generational damage to other people.)

In what ways could First Peoples history and culture be promoted in Victoria?

Keep pushing NAIDOC week, let's make it NAIDOC month, then NAIDOC season. I would personally like to see the Kulin Nation seasonal calendar promoted more; No, Melbourne's weather is NOT a joke and weird, it's exactly how it's supposed to be. We just don't run on a European seasonal calendar here. Get this to be common knowledge, and everyday Victorians will have more awareness of Indigenous matters in their daily lives.

END