

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From: Anonymous 1128****Dated: 5 November 2024****Submission:****What do you know about the colonisation of Victoria and its impacts on First Peoples?**

I know something about the Henty brothers, John Batman, and attacks on First Nations peoples. The immediate impact was illness, displacement, and loss of livelihood. Later First Nations were forced into certain areas, made to work, and treated like criminals, and deprived of their traditional culture.

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

I learned a little about the violent history in Year 9, in 1972. However, I have learned nothing about stories, rituals, daily life, skills, or language.

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

Our state needs to facilitate teams of historians and First Nations advisers to produce text books and learning kits for both primary and secondary students (perhaps Years 4 and 9) to inform them of the past, and its consequences. By the age of 14, all Australians should be aware of the reason for the 1967 referendum. Between Years 10 and 12, students should read the autobiographies of Charles Perkins, and Sally Morgan.

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

Non-First Nations people should be prepared to listen, and learn on an ongoing basis. They should attend rallies calling for a treaty.

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

I recently attended the two-day Italian festival at the Exhibition Building. Most of the stalls were selling food, but there were also displays of Fiats and small motor bikes. It was very well attended. Has there ever been a big Koori festival? Workshops on how different mobs lived (their food, living location, practices) would be informative. First Nations writers and film makers discussing their works, and musicians performing and speaking about their music could have very positive outcome

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