

Submission to Yoorrook Justice Commission**From:** DB**Dated:** November 2024**Submission:**

I grew up in the 1970s and 80s on the Great Ocean Road, on what I only recently learned is Gadubanud land. Growing up on that beautiful coastal land, surrounded by bush, birds, and kangaroos, I did not meet a single Aboriginal person or know the Aboriginal history of any of the areas I moved through every day. My extended family had worked in real estate in previous decades and many houses and large blocks of land in the area were owned by my relatives. I never heard a family member mention the Aboriginal history of any of our properties. My grandmother's family once had dairy farms in Warrnambool, an area which I now know to have a shocking history of violence and dispossession, but I don't remember any mention of contact between that family and Aboriginal people, or discussion of how they came by their land or whether they had any moral right to it. None of my family live on Gadubanud land any more, but many of us now own houses on Watha Wurrung, Woi Wurrung, and Gunai lands, and the financial benefits of all of these properties must have flowed through the generations in many ways. Any education I had at school about Aboriginal people was brief, and seemed more like long ago, far way fairy tales than actual rich, lived experience grounded in the land in which we sat. I am sorry to share this, and know that it will form part of a distressing collection of stories of colonial ignorance and indifference. I hope that justice is achieved, and that economic reparations are made.

END