

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

I awoke from the British lie (as an Pommigrant) after living in PNG in 1970s! Learnt destruction of land first hand during working at IramooGrassland Reserve Melbourne's West that grasslands destroyed within ten years of colonisation and genocide of Wurundjeri along with it!!

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

It enough and needs to be grounded in on country experiences not just in classrooms!

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

In allyship ecological projects such as Chain of Ponds Collaboration along Moonee Ponds Creek Melbourne. Connecting kids with on ground Landcare projects and all enviro works on parks and reserves. Schools responsible for reveg, knowing indigenous flora and fauna species and local indigenous stories Q5. In what ways do you think non-First Nations Victorians can contribute to the process of truth-telling and treaty? Storytelling about waking up,changing thinking to relational thinking across all disciplines and connecting to country in our own backyards.

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

Essential walk abouts in schools, teams of local artists and ecologistsconnectinglocal groups scouts, guides etc to deliver ecological activities connecting people to country!

END OF SUBMISSION