



The Dreaming Together Experience

ICSA PO BOX 152 Emu Park QLD 4710

Email icsa2@bigpond.com
07 49387558



Dreaming Together Experience,

THE 6th INTERNATIONAL DIABETES & BLINDNESS CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

CAIRNS QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA 2004 SEPTEMBER 1 – 4

The Dreaming together experience is the **theme** for the 2004 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous Peoples. In Australia Indigenous people talk about dreaming as not as dreams as such but the stories of creation, which over eons has guided Indigenous People from the past to the present day, as well as the future. **The Dream Time**, is a way of life, and being.

Together is an Indigenous way of inviting all humanity to come and join us in one of the world's largest corroborees, (**meeting**). Diabetes & Blindness and the issues surrounding these illnesses needs to be tackled in a joint effort from scientist through to communities and such the, **Dream Time Experience** is devoted to the sharing of knowledge, and unification in all areas of the health sector.

Self-determination is a universal human right of all peoples. It can be defined as the right of distinct groups of people, with a shared culture and history, to pursue their lifestyles and culture in a manner consistent with their own traditions.

There is no single or "**right**" way for peoples to express their rights to self-determination. However through the practice of partnership and cooperation much more can be achieved. Dreaming together experience is devoted to sharing of experiences and the development of partnerships through the sharing of knowledge.

As humanity goes forward so must our thinking. Diabetes & Blindness has crossed all boundaries from country to country, from culture to culture, from family to family. As these illnesses have no boundaries, so must the sharing of information and the cooperation must cut across all political, cultural and international boundaries to overcome this modern day nemesis.

Dreaming Together Experience, fully supports the statement in the National Indigenous Health Strategies beliefs that: *"not just the physical well-being of the individual but the social, emotional, and cultural well-being of the whole community. This is a whole-of life view and it also includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life."*

Dreaming together experience is expected to host between 3000 and 5000 delegates from 100 countries.

The program will be divided into 7 sections:

- Community Based Programs
- Scientific Research
- Programs of Cooperation
- Medical Symptoms
- Professional Services Training
- Specializing in Diabetes
- Eye Disease

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THE CONFERENCE HISTORY

The 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous Peoples, is to be held in Cairns Queensland at the world famous Cairns Convention Centre from the 1st to 4th September 2004. The conference will be fundamentally important to Indigenous people with diabetes, health professionals, and people who are interested in the prevention and cure of diabetes through out the world.

The United Nations has said in their Draft declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People 1993 (Article 23) that: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine, develop and to priorities strategies by exercising their right to develop them". In particular, Indigenous people have the right to determine and develop all health, housing, economic and social programs, which effects the administration of such programs, through their own institutions.

CONFERENCE PHILOSOPHY

The 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous People Conference philosophy is to share information between community groups, local government, state, federal and international agencies. This Conference philosophy is designed to further enhance the knowledge of Health professionals, Health workers and the wider community in Diabetes and Eye Disease.

At the 5th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous People which was held in New Zealand, the Honorable Tariana Turia, on behalf of the New Zealand Government said that, "Indigenous strategies often seek not to focus on the sickness, but on a model of wellness, that takes into account the interconnectedness of all things, sometimes referred to in the health sector, as the four cornerstones of health, which is the spiritual, mental, physical and family".

In Australia, Indigenous people have a fundamental belief that a holistic approach needs to be taken to overcome poor health. The 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous People has this as its' guiding principals.

The Conference wishes to acknowledge the Indigenous health professionals and health workers from community controlled organizations through to government agencies throughout Australia, who by their dedication and timeless work, have led to the development of excellent reduction projects in Diabetes related issues, such as eye disease.

It has been shown with a good nutritious diet and proper exercise; Type II Diabetes can be prevented from occurring in people who are at high risk. Health workers and organisations have taken a holistic approach when dealing with diabetes in Indigenous communities. In the past many of the techniques used to treat diabetes and eye disease in Indigenous people have ignored the social component of health and illness, which includes the need for preventive and education programs at the primary health care level. Many sufferers of diabetes have related problems and are often required to leave their communities for treatment such as dialysis or transplantation, isolating them from the family, community and spiritual support. This conference will discuss many of these issues and more.

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CONFERENCE HOST

Australia is to host the 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous Communities. Diabetes Queensland obtained the rights to host the 6th International Conference on Diabetes in Indigenous People and ICSA are the underwriters and host of this event.

Indigenous Conference Services Australia (ICSA) are a professional conference organizers specializing in Indigenous Conferences & Events. ICSA is proudly Indigenous owned and operated. ICSA was established in 1988 and has a social conscience that stems far deeper than just providing professional conferencing services. ICSA is the largest Indigenous conferencing organization in Australia with our head office based in Emu Park, which is in the Darumbal country. ICSA is a community-based organization with strong grassroots affinities and heritage; we are the only Indigenous owned and operated company in Australia.

Diabetes Australia-Queensland is an affiliate of Diabetes Australia. Australia is comprised of 7 states and 2 territories; each state has its own diabetes authority which acts different and totally independently to the National Diabetes Association. Diabetes Australia-Queensland is one of the oldest administrators/providers of programs in Australia.

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony will be a unique experience, with a kaleidoscope of colour, and a proud display of the traditional culture from throughout the world. Indigenous Australia would like to invite all countries of the world to participate in this spectacular event through sponsoring of traditional performers to participate in the opening ceremony.

CONFERENCE THEME – DREAMING TOGETHER

Walking Together

Pukulpa Tjunguringkunyija

*We walk together on sacred ground,
Black feet, white feet,
Foot prints soft upon the land,
The Tjukurpa moves beneath our feet,
The landscape is alive.*

*Anangu Guides and white guides,
working together.
We stand firm in our laws of the two cultures,
keeping the culture and natural heritage strong.*

*Our feet on sacred ground,
our hands reach up to hold the new circle of life;
The campfire, the waterhole,
where people of all cultures can meet and share."*

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CONFERENCE AIMS

The basic principal behind the convening of the 6th International Conference on Diabetes & Blindness in Indigenous People is to:

- Disseminate information in relation to Indigenous Diabetes & Blindness.
- to offer support to workers in the field of Diabetes at all levels.
- to look at Culturally appropriate protocols in the development of services to Indigenous People

It is planned that this event will provide an educational, informative learning experience. This will be achieved by bringing together an international gathering of Indigenous people, scientists, clinicians, and educators. This will empower people to share their experiences, and knowledge of diabetes. The conference will focus the worlds' attention on Indigenous people by creating awareness for its prevention of diabetes. The 2004 Cairns experience may ultimately lead to a greater awareness of diabetes in Indigenous people thus eventually leading to a reduction in diabetes.

It is well known that for Australian Indigenous people, like many other developing third world countries, Diabetes & Blindness is a major health issue. Diabetes & Blindness has become a major health issue among Indigenous communities with a prevalence of 2-6 times a higher rate than for an Australian of European origin. In some communities the prevalence rate is 33% of adults over the age of 35. Type II Diabetes and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) are the most common forms of diabetes amongst Indigenous communities.

The symptoms of Type II Diabetes are often so subtle; sufferers are unaware of the disease. The delay in treatment may lead to the development of secondary complications, which include eye problems such as glaucoma and retinopathy, high blood pressure, kidney failure, coronary heart disease, and the loss of sensation in the hands and feet that could lead to the amputation of limbs

SPECIAL INVITATION

The conference Secretariat is in the process of preparing a diverse and dynamic program with an excellent range of topics and international and local speakers. With this in mind the Indigenous community of Australia invite you to participate in this extremely exciting event.

WHY ATTEND

The conference will provide an excellent opportunity for your organization to participate in a unique experience. The experience of sharing such invaluable knowledge and the opportunity to gain further insight into program development throughout the country which is both cost effective and educational.

When it comes to delivery of health services our every day work environment dictates our level of awareness to different programs and services being provided in the market place. Because the health field is so vast it is virtually impossible to know what programs are being developed in the next region, state, or internationally. The conference has been developed in such a manner that all participants can access information outside their normal environments.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- All community organizations dealing with health issues in Indigenous communities,
- Health workers
- Government organizations

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- Counselors
- Indigenous community elders.
- Non-Indigenous people are encouraged to attend and share in this event.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT ABSTRACT

Through Keynotes and Workshops, individuals, their organisations, academics, service providers, business and industry representatives, and government have the opportunity to present their innovative programs. Abstracts are invited from organisations and individuals from local, regional, state and federal levels. The criterion for selection is that all initiatives are shown to be positive, with achievable goals, and strategies.

Authors are invited to submit for oral and/or poster presentation by **January 31st 2004**, for consideration by the program committee.

CALLING FOR ABSTRACT

All abstracts should be submitted according to the instructions.

All abstracts must **be submitted in full** by **31st January 2004** and addressed to:

Conferences Secretariat

Indigenous Conference Services Australia

PO BOX 152

EMU PARK QLD 4710 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 07 49387558 Facsimile: 07 49387553

From countries from other than Australia: Telephone: +61-7-49387558 Facsimile: +61-7- 49387553

EMAIL: icsa2@bigpond.com

WEBSITE www.geocities.com/indigenouconferences

It is important to comply with all requirements and to make sure that your abstract is:

- Within the scope of the conference and can only be submitted via:
- **Email icsa2@bigpond.com or on a 3.5" IBM high density disk in Microsoft WORD or a CD Rom.**
- The abstract submission deadline is January 31, 2004.
- Abstracts received after this deadline cannot be considered and will be discarded. Submission of an abstract implies the transfer of copyrights to the conference organizers, provided the abstract is accepted for presentation.
- Should be descriptive, concise and meeting the Theme objectives for the conference.
- Written in good English, and should give a description of the aims, methods and results of the study.
- Does not exceed the 350 total word count.
- All papers must be presented in a positive light and be open to questions at the conference if selected.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The abstract should have the following lay out:

- a) Introduction
 - Materials & Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusion

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- b) Abstracts are peer reviewed by an international panel of experts. An abstract may be selected for oral or poster presentation or it may be rejected.
- c) Confirmation of acceptance or rejection by the Scientific Committee will be mailed to the corresponding address as from February 28th 2004, together with instructions for oral or poster presentations.
- d) They will be granted the early registration fee of \$400 Australian dollar,

You will need to complete:

- Name, address and e-mail of the corresponding author to whom the confirmation and further correspondence will be sent.
- Name and address of the presenting author
- Abstract title: Please capitalize the first letter and proper nouns only.
- Co-authors: Registration of co-authors: please add the surnames, initials, institute name, city and country of the co-authors.
- Text of the abstract: The text must be no longer than 350 words. Please do not use HTML codes and end of lines or paragraphs, as we want the text to wrap up automatically. Please do not use footnotes, headers and footers, references, markers/colours an/or security devices in your text. To avoid mistakes we advise you to first type the text on your word processor and then copy it to the email.
- Finally: Do not include any subtitles in the abstract. When using abbreviations, spell in full the first immediately followed by the abbreviation in parentheses.

Please use the fields below to submit your abstract.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| ❖ Name: | Institute: |
| ❖ Indigenous Group/Non-Indigenous Group: | Department: |
| ❖ Address: | City: |
| ❖ Post Code/Zip Code: | Country: |
| ❖ E-mail: | |
| ❖ Presenting author: | |
| ❖ Institute: | |
| ❖ Department: | |
| ❖ Address: | |
| ❖ City: | |
| ❖ Post Code/Zip Code | |
| ❖ Country: | |
| ❖ E-mail: | |

All authors presenting an accepted abstract must register to attend the conference. They will be granted the early registration fee of \$450 Australian dollar.

- ✓ **Please note that registration for abstract presenters has to be completed before January 31st 2004. Abstracts cannot be published in the Program & Abstract book unless the presenting author is registered for the conference.**

Abstract review

Each submission would be reviewed by several independent expert reviewers. On the basis of the combined review ratings, abstracts will either be:

- ✓ accepted for oral presentation in the preferred paper session;
- ✓ accepted for poster presentation;

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✓ rejected.

Authors will receive confirmation of receipt of submission. Abstracts not meeting the above requirements will be returned to the corresponding author, but may be re-submitted after the required adjustments have been made. The outcome of the abstract review procedure will be mailed to the corresponding author not later than **28th, February 2004.**

Abstract Publication

All accepted abstracts will be published in the Program & Abstract Book. Program & Abstract Books will not be available prior to the conference.

The Conference organizers invite authors to submit abstracts for consideration.

For a full conference information pack, please contact the conference secretariat.

LOCATION

Cairns is the only place in the world with two adjoining World Heritage treasures; the Great Barrier Reef and the Australia's Tropical Rainforest. The International Airport combined with sophisticated infrastructure and friendly services makes Cairns a winning choice for the Australian experience.

Cairns is 17 degrees south of the Equator.

- A true tropical paradise with world unique environment.
- Same parallel as Tahiti and Fiji.
- Two World Heritage listed areas, the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics Rainforests.
- Cairns provides access to genuine outback and Australian adventure experiences.
- Caters for people of all ages and nationalities.
- Population - 120,000.

Lifestyle

Cairns is the gateway to Australia's tropical north.

- South Pacific location with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
- Modern and colorful city with International facilities.
- Lifestyle is relaxed and unhurried with wide diversity of accommodation, attractions and activities throughout the region.

Climate

Cairns boasts a superb tropical climate all year round.

Early Cairns History

The city of Cairns is in the lands that traditionally belonged to the Djabugandj people, near the border with the lands of the Yidinjdji people. The people around Cairns referred to themselves as "Bama", which simply means "people". The rich sea life of the Great Barrier Reef and the surrounding rainforest make Cairns a diverse and beautiful location.



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Cairns was created as a port in 1876, to service the Hodgkinson goldfield, west of Mareeba. As a result, among the first European inhabitants of the township were the customs officers who controlled the export of gold by the miners, and the merchants who came to sell supplies.

DISCLAIMER

Indigenous Conference Services reserves the right to make alterations to the program as circumstances dictate and will not accept responsibility for any error, omissions or changes. All program information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing.

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THE 6th INTERNATIONAL DIABETES & BLINDNESS CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE REGISTRATION FORM & TAX INVOICE ABN 800 918 829 87

Registered Delegate. Please print clearly.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Other..... Full Name.....
Organisation
Position
Work Address.....
Town..... State Postcode/Zip Country.....
Email Address.....(work) Fax
Name as you wish it read on your badge
I require that you supply me with Diabetic meals Yes No

Note:All payments are to be made in Australian Dollars. GST is a 10% Goods and Service Tax which is applicable within Australia.

2003

Before March \$450+ \$45 gst Before April \$500+ \$50 gst Before May \$520 + \$52 gst
Before June \$530 + \$53 gst Before July \$540 + \$54 gst Before August \$570+ \$57 gst
Before September \$600 + \$60 gst Before November \$630 + \$63 gst Before December 20th \$660+ \$66gst

2004

Before January \$690 + \$69 gst Before February \$720 + \$72 gst Before March \$750+ \$75 gst Before April \$780+ \$78 gst
Before May \$810 + \$81 gst Before June \$840 + \$84 gst Before July \$850+ \$85 gst Before August \$880+ \$88 gst

Please note registration payments received after the set dates will be strictly enforced.

Tickets to International Conference Dinner Formal Black tie -\$80+\$8gst. This is a event not to be missed. Tickets are limited.
Tickets to Conference Cocktail Party Cost \$35 +\$3gst.

Registration Fees + (gst) \$
Cocktail Party (including gst) \$ 35.00 \$
Conference Dinner (including gst)\$ 80.00 \$
TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

**REGISTRATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT OF THE REGISTRATION
PLEASE NOTE THAT REGISTRATION FEE DO NOT INCLUDE TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION**

Your payment choices are by Credit Card, Cheque or Direct Deposit

Please Complete Credit Card Payment Slip **Bankcard Mastercard Visa**

Cardholder's Name.....Card Number.....Expiry Date---/---/-----

I authorise ICSA to debit my credit Card with the Total Due amount. **Cardholder's Signature**.....

By Cheque Please forward completed form with payment details made payable to

**Conferences Secretariat
Indigenous Conference Services Australia
PO BOX 152
EMU PARK QLD 4710 AUSTRALIA
Telephone: 07 49387558 Facsimile: 07 49387553
From countries from other than Australia: Telephone: +61-7-49387558 Facsimile:+61-7- 49387553
EMAIL:icsa2@bigpond.com WEBSITE www.geocities.com/indigenousconferences**

I have read this brochure and by submitting this registration form we agree to honour the conditions set out in this form which I believe includes all costs marked by my Organisation, and we accept full responsibility for this. Cancellation fees incur an 85% penalty

Signed Date.....

***** Please note that until payment is received registration cannot be confirmed.*****

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TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION

The Conference Secretariat has gone to great time and expense to organise travel and accommodation rates.

To obtain these rates you must contact:

Conferences Secretariat

Indigenous Conference Services Australia

PO BOX 152

EMU PARK QLD 4710 AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 07 49387558 Facsimile: 07 49387553

From countries from other than Australia: Telephone: +61-7-49387558 Facsimile:+61-7- 49387553

EMAIL:icsa2@bigpond.com WEBSITE www.geocities.com/indigenouconferences

Please indicate required price range:

Accommodation Only:

- \$50 - \$70 (Aust.)
- \$70 - \$90 (Aust.)
- \$90 - \$110 (Aust.)
- \$110 - \$140(Aust.)
- Apartment style (1,2, & 3 bedrooms)
- Other \$ (Aust.)
- Complete Airfare/Accommodation Package
- Airfare Only

No bookings will be confirmed until full payment is received.

Take advantage of what Cairns has to offer, Coral Reefs, Sand Cays, Islands, Rainforest, The Outback, and The City of Cairns. Let us organise and show

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you Cairns, Australia.

Activities you can experience:

- Come and join the traditional people of this land the Tjapukai people, who will not only teach you about Tjapukai Aboriginal culture, but also experience it in the most powerful and personal way, which will leave you with a deep and lasting memory.
- Visit a tropical island paradise AND experience the Great Barrier Reef, snorkel and swim in the clear, cool waters or Scuba Dive and view the coral and the abundant fish life or take ride in a Glass bottom boat or Semi-Submarine.
- Set sail aboard a world-renowned catamaran and capture the spirit of the Great Barrier Reef and experience some of the most spectacular and diverse tropical reef in the world. It is a collection of numerous reefs and islands' the largest such system in the world. Today the Great Barrier Reef is home to 350 species of coral and about 10,000 species of sponges, more than 4000 species of mollusc, about 150 species of echinoderms and more than 1500 species of fish. The Cairns region provides the best opportunities for reef viewing.
- Visit the Tropical and enchanting Green Island which is an idyllic coral cay where you can relax on the beach or explore the walking tracks that lead you through the emerald island rainforest.
- Take a ride on the River Train. The Daintree River cruise results in the sighting of birds, reptiles and estuarine Crocodiles basking on the banks – British Naturalist David Attenborough best describes his time spent in the Daintree Rainforest as “One of the most magical experiences of my life”.
- Take an Ultimate Outback Adventure Safari. Visitors to Cairns are in the enviable position of being only hours away from Australia's heartland. The great Australian Outback is one of the last frontiers that is untamed today as it was in the past. Once experienced you will want to come back again and again. The region of spectacular natural wonders and a time capsule stretching back 400 million years, when reef was forming in the Chillagoe region. Today this can be viewed as a legacy of fossils, intriguing limestone cave systems which were outcrops of ancient corals, standing out starkly against the outback sky and the bones of marine dinosaurs uncovered are nearby.
- Take a trip to Kuranda by Skyrail where, on your journey you will enjoy the world's most beautiful rainforest experience and on your return journey take the historical Kuranda Scenic Railway which was built over 100 years ago, this train ride winds you through tropical mountain ranges. The corridor supports a great diversity of wildlife such as Cassowaries. These majestic birds stand taller than human and weigh 80kg. They are Australia's largest animals.

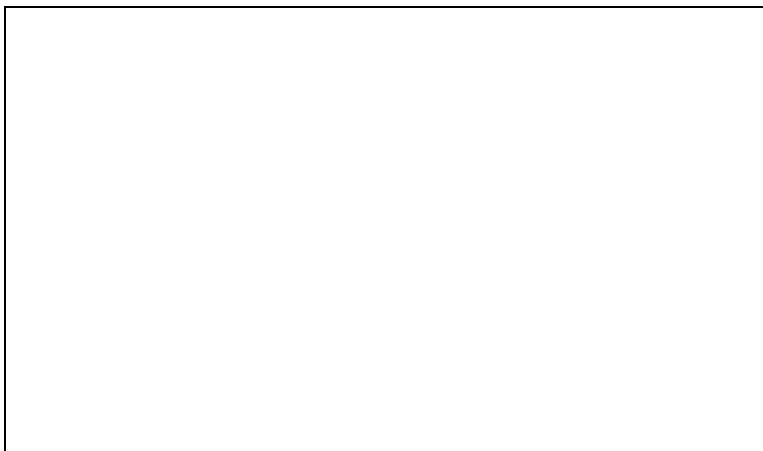


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OUR IDENTITY



The Aboriginal Flag was designed by [Harold Thomas](#), an artist and an Aboriginal, in 1971. The flag was designed to be an eye-catching rallying symbol for the Aboriginal people and a symbol of their race and identity. The black represents the Aboriginal people, the red the earth and their spiritual relationship to the land, and the yellow the sun, the giver of life.

In the late 1960s, Aborigines stepped up their campaign for indigenous land rights through protest marches, demonstrations, banners and posters. The protests increased in the early 1970s and Harold Thomas noticed they were often outnumbered by non-Aborigines with their own banners and placards. He decided they needed to be more visible and the idea of the flag was born.

The Aboriginal flag was first raised in Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aboriginal Day in 1971, but was adopted nationally by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in 1972 after it was flown above the Aboriginal "Tent Embassy" outside of the old Parliament House in Canberra.



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The Torres Strait Islander flag is attributed to the late Bernard Namok of Thursday Island.

The flag is emblazoned with a white *Dari* (headdress) which is a symbol of Torres Strait Islanders. The white five-pointed star beneath it symbolises the five major island groups and the navigational importance of stars to these seafaring people.

The green stripes represent the land, the black stripes represent the people, and the blue the sea. The flag as a whole symbolises the unity of all Torres Strait Islanders.



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Aboriginal people were in Australia over 40,000 years before the first Europeans reached the continent. Some now say for over 100,000 years. Our culture thus predates by tens of thousands of years the building of the pyramids in Egypt a mere 4,500 years ago. The Bungunditj tribe of around Mt. Gambier in South Australia has in its oral history how Mt. Muirhead erupted (20,000 years ago) and then how Mt Gambier erupted (5,000 years ago). At Keilor near Melbourne a 31,000 years old Aboriginal camp has been found. People then hunted wombat-like creatures, today wild pig sized animals, then as big as rhinoceroses as well as ten-foot high kangaroos. These became extinct many thousand years ago but they are still remembered in Aboriginal history told from generation to generation

Before the British came there were some 500 Aboriginal nations, many of whom have now been wiped out, and as many languages. Each nation or tribe was made up by a number of clans (and still is). Each clan held (and many still hold) its own land and they invite others to use it for particular hunts or crops at the right time.

Silas Roberts, an Elder and first Chairman of the Northern Land Council, explained how we feel about land. 'Aborigines have a special connection with everything that is natural. Aborigines see themselves as part of nature. We see all things natural as part of us. All things on earth we see as part human. This is told through the idea of dreaming. By dreaming we mean the belief that long ago these creatures started human society; they made all natural things and put them in a special place. These dreaming creatures were connected to special places and special roads or tracks or paths. In many cases the great creatures changed themselves into sites where their spirits stayed.