



Bruce Pascoe

Convincing Ground

*Learning to fall in love
with your country*

In prose of lyrical clarity and uncompromising honesty, Bruce Pascoe invites readers to be awakened, enthralled by fresh and breath-taking truths about the story of Australia.

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Pascoe has created a new *Convincing Ground*; one bound within the desire for justice, respect, and ultimately, an honest and unflinching embrace of this country and its incredibly complex histories.

Steve Kinnane

Convincing Ground pulses with love of country. In this powerful, lyrical and passionate new work Bruce Pascoe asks us to fully acknowledge our past and the way those actions continue to influence our nation today, both physically and intellectually. *Convincing Ground* resonates with ongoing debates about identity, dispossession, memory and community.

Pascoe draws on the past through a critical examination of major historical works and witness accounts and finds uncanny parallels between the techniques and language used there to today's national political stage. He has written *Convincing Ground* for all Australians, as an antidote to the great Australian inability to deal respectfully with the nation's constructed Indigenous past.

For Pascoe, the Australian character was not forged at Gallipoli, Eureka and the back of Bourke, but in the furnace of Murdering Flat, *Convincing Ground* and Werribee. He knows we can't reverse the past, but believes we can bring in our soul from the fog of delusion. Pascoe proposes a way forward, beyond shady intellectual argument and immature nationalism, with our strengths enhanced and our weaknesses acknowledged and addressed.

Bruce Pascoe is a widely published and award-winning writer, editor and anthologist, whose books include *Shark*, *Ruby-eyed Coucal*, *Earth* and *Nightjar*. A dictionary of the Wathaurong language has been compiled by the author.

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PASCOE B

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Bruce Pascoe's first two books, *Night Animals* and *Fox*, were published by Penguin. His later novels, stories and histories have been published by Magabala, Bruce Sims Books, Aboriginal Studies Press, Transworld and Seaglass. He won the Australian Literature Award in 2000 for the novel, *Shark*. With Lyn Harwood he published and edited the literary magazine, *Australian Short Stories*, for sixteen years and 64 issues along with other literary publications. He is currently preparing a dictionary and learning program for the Wathaurong language of the Geelong–Ballarat region. Research of the language has uncovered new documents which provoke alternative interpretations of our history. Pascoe has a Bunurong and Cornish heritage which informs his books. After living at Cape Otway for over twenty years he now lives at Gipsy Point with his wife, Lyn Harwood.

Other books by Bruce Pascoe

Novels: *Fox*
Ruby-eyed Coucal
Shark
Earth
Ocean
Ribcage (Leopold Glass)

Story collections: *Night Animals*
Nightjar

History: *Cape Otway–Coast of Secrets*

Children: *Foxies in a Firehose*



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Front cover image: *woorrgnan* — *moorraka* (*birthplace* — *burial place*), Vicki Couzens © 2004, acrylic and paper on canvas. Tattered possum skin cloak with skeletal figure overlaid. The figure is symbolic of both how we were buried in the old days, and the resting places of our Ancestors — in the earth. The markings on the possum skin panels tells a story of the Land, the Laws, the Dance, the Songs. It is about how we are born of, and belong to, the Land. We return to the Land; it is who we are.

Index by Michael Harrington

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Contents

Acknowledgments	viii	
Preface	ix	
Introduction	1	
ONE	Franks is Dead	5
TWO	History, How it Starts	30
THREE	The Lakes	40
FOUR	Lady Macbeth's Clean Hands	44
FIVE	The Lie of the Land	51
SIX	The Psychology of the Frontier	61
SEVEN	Brave Explorers	69
EIGHT	Lake Corangamite	73
NINE	The Raised Sword	78
TEN	The Great Australian Forge	88
ELEVEN	The Great Australian Face	116
TWELVE	Golden Boy	122
THIRTEEN	Don't Mention the War	145
FOURTEEN	The Language of War	166
FIFTEEN	The Language of Resistance	178
SIXTEEN	Native Born	195
SEVENTEEN	True Hunter	223
EIGHTEEN	Germaine to the Problem	234
NINETEEN	The Whispering Land	242
TWENTY	Elbows on the Bar	249
Appendices		
I	Wathaurong Language Sample and map	259
II	Place Names of the Geelong–Ballarat Region	262
III	Jillong Timeline	265
Notes		275
Bibliography		282
Index		291

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Index

- abalone, 227–8
 ABC, 89, 207, 252
 Aboriginal flag, 136, 182
 Aboriginal languages, *see* languages and language groups
 Aboriginal law, 131, 152, 156, 170
 Aboriginality, 116–21, 235, 249–50; Greer's claim, 241; Hasluck's attempts to redefine, 47–8
 Aborigines Protection Society, 97
 Adams, Phillip, 87, 140
 Addis, Captain, 138
 'adoption' by Aborigines, 235
 Age, 66–8, 89, 131–3, 176, 244
 agriculture, 82, 103, 125–6, 173, 223–4
 Aire River massacre, 138, 201
 Akers, William, 70
 alcohol, 176, 243, 246; Colijon word for, 73
 Alexander (convict emancipée), 152
 ALITRA, 255–6
 Allan, Henry, 71, 129–30
 Allen, Jim, 198
 ALP, *see* Australian Labor Party
 Alston, Richard, 128
 America, *see* United States
 animals, *see* fauna
 anthropology, 16; university chairs, 168
 anti-slavery movement, 17–18, 26, 97, 122
 Apollo Bay, 96, 197
 aquaculture techniques, 42, 125–6
 archaeology, 156, 198–200; Cape Otway, 135, 138–9; Glenelg Shire's protection plan for Indigenous sites, 94; Gundidjmara eel farming site, 125–6; *see also* housing and construction
 Archibald, JF, 208
 Armytage, George, 6, 7, 9
 Arnhem Land, *see* Western Arnhem Land
 Arrente stories, 256
 Arthur, George, 17, 25, 96–7; Batman and, 18, 27, 29; dismissal of Gellibrand as Attorney-General, 69–70
 arts and craft, 49–50, 127–8, 179–80; basket weaving, 22, 194; European, 203–14, 218–19, 220–1; Geelong Art Gallery Buckley exhibition, 22; Garma festival, Yirrkala, 128, 169, 188–91; possum-skin cloaks, 173, 174, 182; *see also* stories
 Atkinson, Karen, 175
 Australian accent, 118
Australian Book Review, 140
 Australian character and identity, 88–121, 195–222
 Australian flag, 111
 Australian Labor Party, 150, 252–3; Richardson, Graham, 254; Whitlam, Gough, 236, 243
 Australian Literary Translators Association, 255–6
 Australian Studies Project, 252
 Bairnsdale, 176–7
 Baitlange, 6, 145
 Ballarat, 186; Eureka Stockade, 110–11, 252; *see also* Wathaurong people
 Ballyan, 6, 145
 Barrabool, 116, 161–2; 'hired' by Rev Naylor, 51, 71; with Smythe's and Roadknight's posses, 130–1, 133
 Barton, Edmund, 112
 Barwick, Diane, 38
 basalt stone fences, Western District, 41
 bass, 227
 Bass Strait and Bass Strait islands, 20, 61, 97, 99, 178; Cape Otway lighthouse, 129–38
 Batman, Henry, 6, 20, 21

- Batman, John, 8, 26–9, 62, 125; Arthur and, 18, 27, 29; Indented Head camp, 14, 20, 22, 23; titles and deeds, 13–17, 25
- Baxter, Annie, 107–9
- Beechworth, 160–1
- belief systems, 53, 63, 98; reappearance of spirits of dead, 22; *see also* ceremonies; Christianity
- Bell, Damien, 42, 173
- Bellarine district, *see* Geelong
- Benalla, 159
- Benang*, 213
- Benbow, 6, 145
- Bennett, Sergeant Peter, 154
- bilingual education, 193, 235
- bilingual publishing program, Yuendumu, 252
- Billi-billari, 12
- bird names, 176, 180, 181; pied currawong, 191–2; willy wagtail, 193
- birds, 181–5, 194; black swan, 181–2; blue wren, 176; crows, 7, 180; duck shooting, 227; extinct, 89; geese, 229, 233; Moa, 224; in stories, 111, 176, 179, 180, 181
- Birregurra, 32, 63, 105, 130, 137
- birth rates (fertility), 45, 117–18, 174, 246
- Bishop, Julie, 168
- bison, 185, 230
- Black, Niel, 62–3
- Black Australians*, 47
- blackfish, 225
- Blainey, Geoffrey, 148, 153, 245, 249, 255; attitudes to Chinese, 206–7
- Blair, James, 34–5, 36
- Blanket Bay, 130
- blankets, 174; infected with smallpox, 45
- boats, *see* canoes
- Bolden, Sandford, 84–5, 104
- Boldrewood, Rolf, 153
- Bond, Alan, 80, 90–1
- Border Police, 158
- Borron Goop, 109
- Bourke, Sir Richard, 17, 25, 26, 93, 154, 162; advice received from Chief Justice Forbes, 18; first use of word 'war', 171; police, 146, 157
- Bowen, Lieutenant, 37
- Bradman, Don, 80, 90–1
- Bradshaw, Joseph, 49
- Bram bram bult brothers, 111, 180
- Brambruk Cultural Centre, 180
- Briggs, Aretha, 257
- broadcasting, 176, 236–7, 246, 252; Blainey's 1982 ABC television history, 207
- Brockman, GJ, 46–7, 48
- Broome, Richard, 158
- Brough, Mal, 150
- Broughton, Bishop William, 38
- Brown (Western District), murder of, 65–6
- Brown, Bob, 253
- Brunton, Ron, 153, 165
- Buckley, William, 33, 72; Gellibrand and Hess search parties, 57, 70–1; Wathaurong people and, 14–15, 20–4, 129, 157
- buffalo (bison), 185, 230
- buildings, *see* housing and construction
- Builth, Heather, 125–6
- Bulletin*, 204, 208
- Bunganditj, 162
- Bunjil, 179, 182
- Buntingdale Aboriginal Mission, 32, 105, 130, 158
- Bunurong people, 5, 25, 37
- Burrakin, 240
- bush tucker, 184; *see also* food sources
- bushrangers, 154–5
- Butlin, Noel, 116
- Cameron, Anson, 214
- Campaspe Plains, 162
- Campbell, Alistair, 16
- Campbell, Judy, 44–5, 174
- Camperdown, 42, 140, 153
- cannibalism, 21, 34–6, 51–5, 210
- Cannon, Michael, 84
- canoes, 128, 173, 231–2; stolen by Europeans, 37
- Cape Barren geese, 229
- Cape Otway and Otway ranges, 1–3, 129–39, 184, 192; Gellibrand and Hesse, 71; giant trees, 195; survivors, 131, 132, 135, 178; Aire River, 138, 201; *see also* Gadubanoot
- Carnarvon, 47, 48
- Carpentaria*, 213
- cattle, 25, 182, 184; Alexander's, 152; Mackay's, 160–1; poisoned bullock carcasses, 7; Roadknight's, 134
- ceremonies; death and mourning, 21, 35–6, 52–3, 54; initiation, 23, 191, 211; Tanderrum, 14, 15, 167; tooth evulsion, 16
- Champion*, 5

- The Charcoal Club*, 115, 234
- children, 109, 117–18, 178; infanticide, 35, 124, 174; stolen, 41, 152
- Children Overboard affair, 107–8
- Chinese, 110, 119; in Lawson's writings, 205, 206–7; visits to Australia, 156, 170
- Christianity, 224; church attendance, 246; mortuary cannibalism in, 35; *see also* clergy; missionaries
- civil governance, *see* social organisation
- civilisation and civilisations, 91–2, 237–8; Hasluck's views, 47–8; La Trobe's private views, 123; reasons for collapse, 86; university courses on, 198–200; without violence, 87
- Clark, Uncle Banjo, 192
- Clark, Ian, 53–4, 131
- Clark, Manning, 89, 116, 197, 204; speculations on La Trobe, 138, 142–3
- clergy, 38, 105; Docker, Rev Joseph, 161; Gribble, Rev J, 47–9; Naylor, Rev, 40, 51, 70–1; *see also* missionaries
- cloaks, 173, 174, 182
- Cloudstreet*, 211–12
- Clyde Company, 28
- Coalition government, *see* Howard
- Coalition government
- A Coastal Diary*, 203
- Colac, 40–3, 64, 65, 178, 184; environmental condition of lakes, 230–1, 232; Hurst's belief about numbers shot, 34; meaning of name, 186; meeting organised by Murray, 158; missionaries, 133; Naylor's expedition to, 40, 51, 56; *see also* Colijon
- Colijon, 34, 40–1, 231; language, 73, 192, 193; Murdering Gully massacre, 32; Naylor's expedition, 51, 71; population, 116, 172
- Collapse*, 86
- Collins, Captain, 18–19
- The Colony of Victoria*, 35
- Commonwealth Schools Commission, 252, 256
- Coniston, 137
- Conrad, Peter, 55
- Conroy, James, 130, 131
- conservation, 223–33
- contagious disease, *see* disease
- contemporary culture, 47–8, 177
- convicts, 31, 61, 83, 145, 159; *see also* Buckley, William
- Convincing Ground, 20, 93–4
- copyright, 256–7
- coracles, 128
- corellas, 179
- Cornwall Chronicle*, 8
- Corondeet, 99–101
- Cotter, Dr Barry, 6
- court cases, 98, 162–3; Franks' and Flinders' murders, 7; against Lake Keilambete Jarcoort, 103–4; Muston's Creek massacre, 54; Myall Creek massacre, 157–8; Whitehead's trial for murder of Curacoine (Gilgoran), 31; Wik judgment, 107, 114–15, 201
- Couzens, Auntie Zelda, 192, 193–4
- Crais, Clifton, 55, 146
- crayfish, 228
- cricket and cricketers, 80, 89–90, 184, 246, 250
- Critchett, Jan, 96, 116
- Croke, Crown Prosecutor, 162–3, 164
- Cronulla, 90
- Crown land, 241
- crows, 7, 180
- cultivation, 103, 125–6, 173
- Curacoine, 31
- curfews, 205
- Curr, Edward, 46, 148
- currawongs, 191–2
- Dale-Hallett, Liza, 137
- Dana, Henry, 147–8, 149, 151, 152–4
- dance, 128, 169, 188–91, 254
- dart, 225, 227
- Daugwurrung (Goulburn River) people, 7, 131, 161–2
- Davis, Jack, 202
- Dawson, Isabella, 33, 106–7
- Dawson, James (Camperdown), 42
- Dawson, James (Port Fairy), 32–4, 127
- De Villiers, Christiaan Ludolph Johannes, 146, 147
- Deakin, Alfred, 112
- decision making, 113
- deeds and titles, 13–17, 25
- democracy, 113, 164–5, 242–3; *see also* politicians
- Denning, Greg, 148
- Dent, Lyn, 257
- Derrymock, 6, 145
- Devil River clan, 11–13
- Diamond, Jared, 86, 128
- disease, 44–6, 97, 172–3; pulmonary, 43, 45, 174; small pox, 44–5, 211; venereal, 45, 174
- Djab wurrung, 110, 116, 163, 179

- Djadja wurrong, 110
 Djagurd wurrong, 32, 110
 Docker, Rev Joseph, 161
 Dodson, Mick, 244
 Dodson, Pat, 202
 domestic servants, 117
 driving, 243
 'The Drover's Wife', 205–6
 Drysdale, Anne, 105, 109
 duck shooting, 227
 Durack, Mary, 240
 Durack, Patrick, 235, 240–1
 Durack Clancy, PA, 235
 Dutigalla deed, 13–17, 25
 dwellings, *see* housing and construction
 Dwyer, Henry, 151
- eagles, 179, 182
 East Gippsland, 152, 159, 176–7, 209–10
 Eden, 230
 education, 180, 181, 217–18; Aboriginal language teaching, 235, 256, 257; bilingual, 193, 235; Yuendumu publishing program, 252; school texts, 197; university, 168, 198–200, 217–18, 249
 Edwards, Uncle Bill, 136
 Edwards, Aunty Kath, 136
 eel farming, 125–6
 emu wrens, 176
 emus, 181–2, 185; Tchingal, 111, 180
 enfeoff, 15
 environment, 223–33
 Eumerella War, 28, 63, 64, 83, 153, 172
 Eureka Stockade, 110–11, 252
 'explorers', 69–72, 123, 129–30
- 'Faces in the Street', 204–5
 Faithfull brothers, 159
 farming/agriculture, 82, 103, 125–6, 173, 223–4
 fauna, 55, 181–5, 194, 206, 223–33; Cape Otway, 135; fur seals, 95–6; in stories, 111, 180; wheel technology and, 128; *see also* birds; cattle; sheep
 Fawkner, John Pascoe, 8, 127
 Federation, 112
 Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL), 256
 Fels, Marie, 56, 147, 148–50, 151, 153–5
 females, *see* women
 fertility and births, 45, 117–18, 174, 246
 fish, 225–9; sharks, 182
 fish traps, 42, 75–6, 125–6
- flags, 111, 136, 182
 Flannery, Tim, 82, 169
 Flinders (Hindes), 5–7
 Flinders Island, 97, 99
 Flitt, Captain, 31
 flora, 55; Framlingham remnant forest, 224; names, 194; Otway ranges trees, 195; yams, 103, 125, 173, 184, 189
 flour, 6, 105; poisoned, 162
 Foley, Gary, 202
 food sources, 25, 82, 184–5; cultivation, 103, 125–6, 173; Drysdale's refusal to supply, 105; Maori, 224; *see also* fauna; flora
 football and footballers, 79, 89, 119, 175–6, 179; 'Kardinia', 109–10; Long, Michael, 243–4
 Forbes, Sir Francis, 18
 Foster, David, 214
 Framlingham, 200, 224
 Francis, Job, 33
 Frankland, Richard, 115, 234
 Franks, Charles, murder of, 5–10, 26, 30, 145; Wedge's proposal for perpetrators, 20
 Freestun, Edward, 31
 French, 155–6
A Fringe of Leaves, 210–11
From the Barrel of a Gun, 46–7
 fur seals, 95–6
 Fyans, Captain Foster ('Flogger'), 64–5, 151, 152–3, 157; Aire River massacre, 138; appointment as Police Magistrate in Geelong, 10; investigation of Henty brothers incident, 93; letters to La Trobe, 106; report on infanticide, 35; Sievwright and, 102, 103
- Gadubanoot, 129–39, 172, 197; Landy's remarks, 203; survivors from Cape Otway massacres, 131, 132, 135, 178; Aire River, 138, 201
 Gallipoli, 88, 94
 Gammon Creek, 160
 Ganai, 159–60; language, 176
 Gardner, Peter, 56
 garfish, 225, 228
 Gariwerd, 179
 Garma festival, Yirrkala, 128, 169, 188–91
 Garrard, Sergeant Hatsell, 64–5
 Geelong and Bellarine district, 102, 158, 171–2, 176, 217; Batman's Indented Head camp, 14, 20, 22, 23; Jarcoort, 52–3, 83, 102–4, 159, 172;

- McCormick's history, 196–7; meaning of name, 185; *see also* Cape Otway and Otway ranges; Fyans, Captain Foster; Wathaurong people
 Geelong (Bellarine) deed, 15, 17, 25
 Geelong Football Ground ('Kardinia'), 109–10
 geese, 229, 233
 Gellibrand, Joseph Tice, 9, 14, 18, 27–9, 62, 69–72; drafting of Batman's title, 15; Franks' murder, 6, 8; reference to 'native huts', 41–2; search parties for, 40, 51, 57, 70–1
 Gellibrand River, 129
 genetics, 50, 116–21, 249–50; Hasluck's attempts to redefine Aboriginality, 47–8; tribal rules, 152
 geographic names, *see* place names
 Geraldton, 48
 Gibson (Lake Bringalbert), 65
 Gilgoran, 31
 Gillespie, Jason, 246
 Gipps, George, 36, 85, 104, 158, 160–2, 164; first use of word 'war', 171
 Gippsland, 152, 159–60, 176–7, 209–10, 255
 Glenelg River, 153, 168
 Glenelg Shire Council, 93–4
 Glenormiston, 63
 Glover, John, 29
 gogonassus fossil, 198
 gold, 199
 Goldsworthy, Peter, 211
Good Men and True (Fels), 56, 147, 148–50, 151, 153–5
 Goulburn River District, 84
 Goulburn River people, 7, 131, 161–2
 Greer, Germaine, 49, 118–19, 229, 234–41
 Grenville, Kate, 213
 Grey, Sir George, 171
 Gribble, Rev J, 47–9
 Griffith, Charles, 33
 Gulf Hill station, 28
 gun control, 232
 Gundidjmarra people, 92–6, 171–2, 194
 Baxter's recollections of raids against, 109; Cape Otway Lightstation 150th birthday celebrations, 136; eel farming, 125–6; Eumerella War, 28, 63, 64, 83, 153, 172; Henty brothers and, 19–20, 93, 95–6; language, 177; near Port Fairy, 33–4, 106; possum-skin cloak revival, 173; Robinson's description and sketch of houses, 101;
- Warrnambool, 243
 Gunn, Andreas, 49
Guns, Germs and Steel, 128
 Guy (Point Gellibrand), 6
- Haka, 257
 Hall, CB, 53, 58–9
 Hall's Gap, 179
 Halton, Jane, 108
 Hamilton, JC, 65
 Hanson, Pauline, 35
 Harradine, Brian, 254
 Hasluck, Sir Paul, 47–8
 hats, 96
 Hawden, Joseph, 131–3
 Hayes (shepherd), murder of, 103–4
 health, 182, 244, 253; surgery, 124, 171; *see also* disease
 Hebbe, Isaac, 71, 135
 Heidelberg, 84
 height, 116, 118
 Henty brothers, 19–20, 93, 95–6, 162
 Henty Reef, 96
 Herbert, Jean, 137
 Herbert, Xavier, 209
 heroes, 89–91, 96, 171–2, 175; *see also* sport and sportspeople
 Hesse, George Brooks Legrew, 40, 51, 57, 69–72
 Hewitt, Lleyton, 90
 High Court Wik judgment, 107, 114–15, 201
 Highland Brigade, 159–60
 Hindes (Flinders), 5–7
Historical Records of Victoria, 192–3
 History chairs, 168
 Hobart, 9, 18–19, 21
 Hollins, George, 6
 horse thieves, 171
 hotels, entry into, 243
 House of Commons, 17; Select Committee on Aborigines, 38
 housing and construction, 33, 41–3, 63, 125–6, 172–3, 174; Cape Otway, 135; pioneer cemetery development, 139; Convincing Ground development, 93–4; Durack family, 240; Lake Corangamite, 74–7; Robinson's description and sketch, 101
 Howard, John, 208, 243–7, 252, 253; gun ownership reduction plan, 232; historical view, 89, 122, 168, 243, 249; Iraq War, 80; Marr on, 91, 141; as pre-pubescent, 88–9; refusal to denounce

- racism, 90–1; similarities with La Trobe, 142, 152; Wik judgment, 114–15, 201
- Howard Coalition government, 94, 107, 196, 252–3; Alston, Richard, 128; bilingual education, 235; Brough, Mal, 150; face washing decision, 244; Ministers of Education, 168; Native Title, 244
- Howitt, William, 16
- human occupation, 196–8, 217–18; linguistic record, 114, 167–9; *see also* archaeology
- hunters, 223–33
- Hurst, Benjamin, 34
- identity, 88–121, 195–222, 249–58; *see also* Aboriginality
- Idriess, Ion, 223
- immigration, *see* migration
- imperialism, 123–44, 146–7, 154–6, 164, 218–19
- Indented Head, Batman's camp at, 14, 20, 22, 23
- India, 10, 32, 147–8; Roy, Arundhati, 164; use of native forces to suppress rebel insurgency, 146
- Indigenous ancestry, *see* Aboriginality
- Indigenous authors, 213–14
- Indigenous languages, *see* languages and language groups
- Indigenous law, 131, 152, 156, 170
- Indigenous occupation, *see* human occupation
- Indus Valley, 87
- infanticide, 35, 124, 174
- infectious disease, *see* disease
- initiation, 23, 191, 211
- inter-tribal warfare, 51, 56, 155–6, 224
- Invisible Invaders*, 44–5, 174
- Iraq, 25, 80, 113, 150, 253
- Jackie Jackie, 84–5
- Jarcoort people, 52–3, 83, 102–4, 159, 172
- Jarwadjarli, 179
- Jewish people, 218–19
- Jillong timeline, 265–74
- Joe the Marine, 6
- John Batman and the Aborigines*, 16
- Journal of Australasia*, 29
- Journey to the Stone Country*, 213
- The Kadiitcha Song*, 213
- Kalgoorlie, 46–7
- Kanakas, 112, 212
- Kangaroo Island, 61–2
- kangaroos, 181–2, 184–5, 224, 225; wheel technology and, 128
- Kardinia, 109–10
- Karn, 32
- Kayan and Me*, 214
- Keating, Paul, 61; government, 254
- Keilambete, 103–4
- Kemp, Rod, 168
- Kidman, Stan, 49, 223
- Kilgour, James, 106
- Kimberley, 49
- King Island, 20, 129
- Kings in Grass Castles*, 240
- Kirrae wurrong, 33–4, 96, 116, 127, 172, 224; Muston's Creek massacre, 53–4
- Knowles, Aylward, 162–3
- Knox, Malcolm, 89
- koalas, 182, 183, 185, 224
- Koori flag, 136, 182
- 'koraiyn', 73
- Kulin people, ix, 11–17, 25, 83–5, 127, 197; Bowen's whaling brig's contact with, 37; languages, 169; numbering system, 148–9; Robinson and, 98–101; Tanderrum, 14, 15, 167; Westgarth's reports of infanticide and cannibalism, 35; white wraiths in belief system, 22; *see also* Wathaurong people
- Kuller kullup, 11–13
- La Trobe, Charles, 122–44, 162, 202–3, 208; firearms possessed by 'natives and half-castes', 84–5; Fyans and, 65, 106; Gammon Creek investigation, 160; Gellibrand's reports to, 72; Gipps and, 36, 85, 161–2, 164; first use of word 'war', 171; investigation into Hurst's claims, 34–5, 36; Murdering Gully investigation, 159; Native Police, 147, 148, 151–2, 154; reports from settlers on state of Aboriginal clans, 53, 57–9, 62–4, 106; reports on cannibalism to, 35, 53; Robinson's report on Western Districts deaths to, 46; Sievwright and, 34, 101, 103–4
- La Trobe library, 200–1
- Labor Party, *see* Australian Labor Party
- Lake Bringalbert, 65
- Lake Condah, 33, 182
- Lake Corangamite, 73–7, 168
- Lake Keilambete, 103–4
- Lake Victoria, 200

- Lakota, 184, 202
- land claims, 196, 201
- see also* Native Title
- land use, 82, 103, 125–6, 223–4
- Ord River, 240–1
- Landy, John, 80, 203
- Langhorne, George, 138, 147
- Langley, Eve, 209–10
- Langton, Marcia, 224, 234–5
- languages and language groups, 167–9, 178–94, 255–8; Australian accent, 118; bilingual publishing program, Yuendumu, 252; Colijon, 73, 192, 193; Europeans understanding and recording, 98–9, 105, 127, 147, 200–1; Ganai, 176; Gundidjmarra, 177; map of Victorian areas, 261; numbering system, 148–9; as record of human occupation, 114, 167–9; teaching in schools, 235, 256, 257; Woiwurrung, 147; *see also* names; stories; Wathaurong language
- Languages Other than English (LOTE) committee, 256
- Lawson, Henry, 204–7, 208–9
- legends, *see* stories
- Lehman, Darren, 89–90, 246
- Leonard, Michael, 6
- Lettsom, Major Samuel, 85, 160–1
- Lib Lib, 109
- Liberal Party, 47–8, 249, 253; *see also* Howard, John
- light-skinned Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 249–50
- lighthouse, Cape Otway, 129–38
- Ling, Chek, 206–7
- linguistics, *see* languages
- literary translators, 255–6
- literature, 89, 203–14, 220–1, 223
- Lloyd, Arthur, 40, 64
- Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate, 84, 105
- Long, Michael, 243–4
- Lonsdale, Captain William, 6–7, 31, 70, 101–2, 146–7
- Looking for Blackfella Point*, 255
- Lorne Cricket Club, 250
- LOTE, 256
- Lourandos, 116, 135
- Lovett, Denise, 94
- Lowe, Robert, 140, 242–3
- Macalister, David, murder of, 159–60
- Macalister, Lachlan, 159
- Macassans, 44, 156, 170
- McCormack, R J, 196–7
- McCrae, Georgina, 106–7
- MacDonald (whaler), 93
- McGarvie family history, 63–4
- Mackay, Dr George, 160–1
- McKenna, Mark, 255
- MacKillop, George, 5, 9–10, 32
- McLeod, JN, 40–1
- McMillan, Angus, 159
- 'Made in England', 212
- magistrates, *see* Police Magistrates
- Magpie geese, 229, 233
- Malcom (Point Gellibrand), 6
- males, *see* men
- Malouf, David, 212
- The Man Who Laughs*, 239–40
- Manifold, Peter, 64
- Manifold, Thomas, 63–4
- Manne, Robert, 243
- Mansell, Michael, 234
- Maori, 155–6, 167, 170, 224; Haka, 257; influence on NZ accent, 118
- Mara languages, 169
- Markus, Andrew, 46–7
- Marr, David, 91, 141
- Marshall, Alan, 89
- Marshall, Brendan, 135
- Marybyrnong River, 16–17
- Massacre Bay, 200
- mateship, 118–19
- Mayans, 86
- media, *see* broadcasting; press
- Meenee Meenee, 130
- Melbourne Age, 66, 89, 131–3, 176, 244
- Melbourne Commonwealth Games, 173
- Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), 257–8
- Melbourne Daily News*, 53
- Melville Island, 168–9
- men, 45, 117, 172; mateship, 118–19; shot at between 1836 and 1845, 158
- Menzies, Bob, 249; government, 47–8
- midden, Cape Otway, 135, 138–9
- migration, 119, 167, 197–8, 209–10, 228, 256; *see also* Chinese; human occupation
- Miller, Alex, 213
- missionaries, 123–4, 131, 133, 181; Buntingdale, 32, 105, 130, 158; Hurst, Benjamin, 34; Langhorne, George, 138, 147; *see also* Robinson, George Augustus
- Mitchell, Thomas, 33, 83, 105
- mixed race children, 117–18, 174, 178
- Moa, 224
- mobile phones, 177

Monkey Mia, 230
 Moorabin, 185
 Moorabool, 191, 260
 Moorabool River, 35, 109
 Moore, Michael, 164–5
 Mooroolbark, 185
 Moreton Bay, 157
 Morgan, John, 21, 23
 Morrison, Crosby, 89
 mortuary cannibalism, 21, 35–6, 52–3
 Mount Borradaile, 50
 Mt Cotterell, 5–6
 Mount Eccles (Eeles) district, 46; Eumerella War, 28, 63, 64, 83, 153, 172
 Mount Emu, 32, 159
 Mount Kosciuszko, 187–8
 Mount Rouse, 53, 54, 103
 mourning ceremonies, 52–3, 54
 Mueller, Ferdinand von, 55
 Mundine, Warren, 244
 Munro, Henry, 84
 Murdering Gully, 32, 159
 'Murrangoork', 22
 Murray, Constable George, 137
 Murray, Hugh, 40, 51, 57–8, 62, 158
 Murray, Neil, 220–1
 Murray River people, 23, 168, 200
 Museum Victoria, 17, 137
 music, 128, 169, 188–91, 221
 Muslims, 91
 Muston's Creek massacre, 53–4
 Myall Creek massacre, 157–8
 Myrnong (yam daisy), 103, 125, 173, 184, 189

names, 171–2, 240; fauna, 180; flora, 194; given to Buckley, 22; *see also* bird names; place names
 national character and identity, 88–121, 195–222
 national emblem, 111
 National Indigenous Council, 244
 'Native Born', 221
 Native Police Corp, 56, 145–55
 Native Title, 42, 244, 246, 253; Wik judgment, 107, 114–15, 201
 Naylor, Rev, 40, 51, 70–1
 Nelson, Brendan, 168
 New Right, 92
 New South Wales, 119, 230, 243; *see also* Sydney
 New Zealand, 182; accent, 118; rugby players, 257; *see also* Maori

newspapers, *see* press
 Noongar people, 253
 Noonuccal, Oodgeroo, 193–4, 220
 Norfolk Island, 157
 Northern Territory; Tiwi Islanders, 168–9; Walpiri people, 137, 256; Yolgnu people, 170, 190, 254; *see also* Western Arnhem Land
 novelists, 89, 209–14, 218–19, 223
 numbering systems, 148–9
 nyellpillup, 193

occupation, *see* human occupation
 O'Donohue, Lowitja, 202
Old Melbourne Memories, 153
 Oliver (Western District), 65
 Ord River, 240–1
 Osbrey (Muston's Creek massacre), 53
 Otways, *see* Cape Otway and Otway ranges
 outrigger canoes, 128
 ovens, 125, 135

Pacific Islanders (Kanakas), 112, 212
 paintings, 49–50, 127–8, 179
 pale Kooris, 249–50
 Palm Island, 166
 Park, Ruth, 212
 Parker, Assistant Aboriginal Protector Edward Stone, 84, 85, 116, 130
 Parkinson, Eleanor, 134
 Parsons (Gellibrand search party), 70–1
 Paton, Doris, 257
The Pea Pickers, 209–10
 Peace Prize, 164, 165
 penguins, 183–4
 Pentland Hills, 130
 personal names, *see* names
 Perth, 253
 Pescott, Trevor, 71
 Peterborough, 200
 petroglyphs, 127
 Phillip Island, 99
 phones, mobile, 177
 pied currawong, 191–2
 Pilleau, Arthur, 36
Pioneering Days, 65–6
 Pirron Yallock, 74
 Pirron Yallock Creek, 64
 Pitcairn, David, 6
 place names, 73, 185–8, 193, 262–4; Drysdale's properties, 109–10
Plains of Promise, 213
 plants, *see* flora

ploughing, 103
 poets and poetry, 204–5, 220–1
 Point Gellibrand, 5–6, 9
 Point Henry, 63–4
 poison, 7, 162
 police, 84–5, 157, 158, 160, 162; in 2000s, 166, 176; Aboriginals as aides to, 56, 145–55; Lake Keilambete, 103
 Police Magistrates, 54, 145, 151, 157; Blair, James, 34–5, 36; Lonsdale, Captain William, 6–7, 31, 70, 101–2, 146–7; Thomson, John, 103–4; *see also* Fyans, Captain Foster
 Polish ex-servicemen's association, 188
 political correctness, 92, 150, 207–8
 politicians, 47–8, 150, 243, 252–5; prime ministers, 61, 112, 236, 249; Wilberforce, William, 17–18; *see also* Howard, John
 Pollock, Captain, 57
Poor Fellow My Country, 209
Poor Man's Orange, 212
 population, 116–17, 156; Cape Otway, 135; killed by white violence, 34, 46, 148–9, 158, 162–3; Maori, 224; smallpox exposure and, 44–5; Western District, 116, 172
 population control, 82
 Port Fairy, 32–4, 106
 Port Phillip Association, 8–10, 13–17, 24–5, 63; *see also* Batman, John; Gellibrand, Joseph Tice
Port Phillip Gazette, 151, 158
Port Phillip Patriot, 65
 Portland, 92–6, 153; Blair, Magistrate James, 34–5, 36; Henty brothers, 19–20, 93, 95–6, 162
 possum-skin cloaks, 173, 174, 182
 possums, 180, 182, 183
 potatoes, 72, 105, 173
 Powlett, FA, 151, 152–3, 160
 Prahlan, 185
 press, 46, 53, 127, 166, 171, 176; *Age*, 66–8, 89, 131–3, 176, 244; anti-Chinese campaign, 207; anti-Hurst campaign, 34; *Bulletin*, 204, 208; Franks' murder report, 8; after Myall Creek massacre hangings, 158; *Port Phillip Gazette*, 151, 158; *Port Phillip Patriot* declaration of 1841, 65; reports on heritage area disturbances, 93–4; Robinson and, 98, 99; SIEV X, 107; Western Australia, 48

prime ministers, 61, 112, 236, 249; *see also* Howard, John
 promiscuity, 102, 108, 124, 130
 publishing program, Yuendumu, 252
 Puchapunyal army camp, 182, 185
 pulmonary disease, 43, 45, 174
 Puuroyuup, 32
 Pwebingannai, 54

Rainbow Snake, 168
 rape, 117, 131, 174
 Read, Peter, 221
Ready for the Plough, 196–7
Rebellion at Coranderk, 38
 Reconciliationists, 197, 235
 Redfern, 166
 religion, *see* belief systems; Christianity
Remembering Babylon, 212
 Republican debate, 239
 resistance, 28, 83–5, 153, 157–65, 171–2, 175; equation with criminality, 10; Eumerella War, 28, 63, 64, 83, 153, 172; Portland, 19–20, 93; *see also* survival and survivors
 reticence and reserve, 118–19
 Richardson, Graham, 254
 rite of passage ceremony (Tanderrum), 14, 15, 167
 Roadknight, William, 130–1, 134, 136–8
 Robertson, William, 14–15
 Robinson, George Augustus, 30, 70, 96–101, 104–5, 159; on Blair, 34; estimate of black deaths in battle in Western Victoria, 46; fishing expeditions witnessed by, 231; on Henty brothers, 19; language and communication ability, 98–9, 127; Pilleau's talk with, 36; Sievwright and, 52, 102, 104; sketches, 101, 125
 Rodd and Gunn, 225
 Roy, Arundhati, 164
 Ruddock, Philip, 253
 rugby, 257
 Rumbottle, Captain, 228
 Russell, George, 14–15

Sams, George, 6
 Sandringham swamps, 229
 SBS News, 236–7
Scars in the Landscape, 53–4, 131
 school texts, 197
 schooling, *see* education
 Schools Commission, 252, 256

Scots, 26, 32, 84, 158; Highland Brigade, 159–60
 Scott, Kim, 213–14
 sculpture, 127
 sealers, *see* whalers and sealers
 seals, 95–6
The Secret River, 213
 segregation, 243
 Select Committee on Aborigines (1837), 38
 self-interest, 61–8
 Sellars, Bill, 94
 Senden, Dr Tim, 198
 Seven Sisters, 185
 sharks, 182
 sheep, 9, 25, 83; affects of grazing, 125, 182; Croke's views on theft, 163; Fels' views on theft, 154
 sheep owners and shepherds, 83, 131, 171; Dwyer, Henry, 151; Faithfull brothers, 159; Flinders (Hindes), 5–7; Lloyd, Arthur, 64; Mackay, Dr George, 161; Manifold brothers, 63–4; Munro, Henry, 84; Murray, Hugh, 57–8; Taylor, Frederick, 32; Thomson, John, 103–4; Wedge brothers, 163; Wilsons, Dr David, 158; *see also* Franks, Charles
 SIEV X, 107–8
 Sievwright, Charles, 34, 52–4, 101–5; population census of 1839, 116
 Sievwright, Christina, 101–3
 Sievwright, Fanny, 106–7
 Simpson, James, 15–16
 Sims, Bruce, 140
 Sister Rocks, 179
 skin system, 113
 skulls, 196
 slavery, 17–18, 26, 97, 117, 199; Gribble's allegations, 47–9; La Trobe's views, 122
 smallpox, 44–5, 211
 Smith, George, 5–6, 7, 9–10, 32, 53
 smoke houses, 125
 Smythe, George D, 130–3, 134
 snakes, 182, 183, 184; in Lawson's 'The Drover's Wife', 205–6; Rainbow Snake, 168
 Social Darwinism, 67–8
 social organisation, 81–2, 91–2, 113; Indigenous law, 131, 152, 156, 170; *see also* civilisation and civilisations
A Song of the Republic, 204
 songs, 128, 169, 191, 207, 221; at sports meetings, 257–8
 Sorrento, 14, 18–19

South Africa, 55, 146, 208; cricketers, 90
 South Australia, 98, 153, 168, 171, 211; Kangaroo Island, 61–2
 South Sea Islanders (Kanakas), 112, 212
 Southern Cross, 110–11, 180
 sport and sportspeople, 80, 89–90, 203, 246, 250; Colac vs Apollo Bay school cricket match, 184; fishers, 225–9; Melbourne Commonwealth Games, 173; use of warrior songs, 257–8; *see also* football and footballers
 Sri Lankan cricketers, 246
 Standing Bear, Luther, 184, 202
 stars, 111, 180, 185
 State Library of Victoria, 255; La Trobe library, 200–1
 Stawell, 179
 Stewart (Point Gellibrand), 6
 Stieglitz, Robert William von, 7, 83
 Stolen Generation, 243–4, 245
 stone technology, 127; *see also* housing and construction
 Stony Rises, 73–7, 83
 stories, 111, 168–9, 179–80, 181; about numbers killed in battles, 148–9, 200; English translations, 169, 255–6; about Kuller kullup, 12; literature, 89, 203–14, 219–20, 220–1, 223; about trips to China, 170
 storytelling, 127
 Stratford, 160
 Strehlow, TGH, 257
 strychnine, 7
 Strzelecki, Count, 188
 Subaru, 185
 'sun', Colijon word for, 192
 surgery, 124, 171
 Surridge, Stuart, 184
 survival and survivors, 175, 178–94; Gadubanoot, 131, 132, 135, 178, 203; Aire River, 138, 201; Ganai, 160; Jarcoort, 103–4; Murdering Gully massacre, 32; Muston's Creek massacre, 54; Wathaurong, 84–5; *see also* Buckley, William
 Swanston, Captain, 70
 Swanston, Charles, 10
 Sydney, 166; Aborigines in Port Phillip District from, 8, 16, 29
 Sydney Olympics, 120
 Sydney Peace Prize, 164, 165
 Sydney Writers' Festival, 212
 Syme, David, 67
 syphilis, 45

Tanderrum, 14, 15, 167
 Tasmania, *see* Van Diemen's Land
 Tatz, Colin, 35
 Taylor, Frederick, 30–2, 103, 159
 Taylor, Rebe, 61–2
 Tchingal, 111, 180
 technology, 127–8, 199; fish traps and aquaculture, 42, 75–6, 125–6; mobile phones, 177
 television, 176, 224, 236–7, 246
 Blainey's 1982 ABC history, 207
 Thawa people, 230
 Thomas, Jamie, 233
 Thomas, William, 105, 151, 161; Aboriginal surgery demonstrated to, 124; Kuller kullup and, 12–13; language lists, 127, 200–1
 Thomson, Alexander, 6, 158
 Thomson, John, 103–4
Three Dog Night, 211
 tiger snakes, 184
 timeline, 265–74
 titles and deeds, 13–17, 25
 Tiwi Islanders, 168–9
 Todd, William (Andrew), 14, 20, 22, 23, 125
 Tom, 85
 Tommy, 129
 tooth evulsion ceremony, 16
 toredo, 229
 trade, 170
 treaty, 114; Batman's titles and deeds, 13–17, 25
 Treaty of Waitangi, 155–6
 trees, 195, 224
 trials, *see* court cases
 Truganini, 99
 Tuckey, Lieutenant John, 19
 Tuckfield, Rev, 105
 Tulloh (squatter), 34, 162–3
 Tyers, CJ, 151, 152–3, 160
 Tyrrendara, 173

Unearthed, 61–2
 United States (America), 21, 86, 91, 166; bison, 185, 230; emancipation of slaves, 122; Iraq War, 25, 253; Lakota, 184, 202; place names, 186; smallpox deaths, 45
 university, 168, 198–200, 217–18, 249
 Utopia, 254

 Van Diemen's Land, 8–9, 10, 31, 148; Batman, John, 26–7; Gellibrand,

Joseph Tice, 69–70; Henty brothers, 19; Hobart, 9, 18–19, 21; *last Tasmanian* theory, 61–2; Robinson, George Augustus, 70, 96–7; *see also* Arthur, George
 venereal disease, 45, 174
 Victoria River, WA, 49
 Victorian Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival, 176
 Victorian Archaeological Survey, 126
 Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority, 257
Victorian Express (Geraldton), 48
 Victorian Government Printing Office, 192
 Vietnam War, 172
 villages, *see* housing and construction
 violence, role and functions of, 78–87
 visiting rights (Tanderrum), 14, 15, 167
 volcanic activity, 168, 169
 von Mueller, Ferdinand, 55
 von Stieglitz, Robert William, 7, 83
 Voss, 210

 Waar, 180
 Waitangi Treaty, 155–6
 walking tracks, Cape Otway, 130
 wallabies, 182, 183
 Wallert wallert (possum-skin cloaks), 173, 174, 182
 Walpiri, 137, 256
 Wando River, 153
 Wangegamon, 32
 Wannon River, 137
 'war', use of word in colonial discourse, 27–8, 171
 warfare, inter-tribal, 51, 56, 155–6, 224
 Warmdella, 83–4
 Warne, Shane, 80
 Warragul, 186
 Warrnambool, 178, 242–3
 Warrumpi Band, 221
 water craft, *see* canoes
 Wathaurong language, 191, 194, 257, 259–64; collected by Rev Francis Tuckfield, 105; Drysdale's property names, 109–10
 Wathaurong people, 19, 72, 110, 245; Buckley and, 14–15, 20–4, 129, 157; cannibalism, 21, 34–6; Curacoine (Gilgoran), 31; Drysdale's relations with, 105, 109; Gulf Hill station raid, 28; infanticide, 35; male population, reduction in, 172; in McCormick's

- history, 196; murder of Franks and Flinders, 5–8, 20; Tanderrum (rite of passage ceremony), 14, 15; Warmdella, 83–4
- Watson, Sam, 213
- We of the Never Never*, 49
- Wedge brothers, 162, 163; Charles, 6; Edward, 6; John, 15–16, 20–1, 38
- wedge-tailed eagle, 182
- Werribee, 84, 185
- Wesleyan missions and missionaries, 34; Buntingdale, 32, 105, 130, 158
- West Australian*, 48
- Western Arnhem Land, 50, 254; Garma festival, Yirrkala, 128, 169, 188–91
- Western Australia, 46–9, 230, 243; Durack family, 235, 240–1; Noongar people, 253
- Western District, 26, 62–6, 69–72, 233; Aboriginal population estimates, 116, 172; Baxter's diary records, 108–9; Dawson family, 32–4, 106–7, 127; Lake Corangamite, 73–7, 168; languages, 168, 169; Native Police Corps stationed in, 151–2, 153; Robinson's estimates of black deaths in battle, 46; *see also* Colac; Geelong and Bellarine district; Gundidjmarra people; housing and construction; Kirrae wurrong; Portland
- Western Plains, NSW, 171
- Western Port, 160, 163
- Westgarth, William, 35, 46
- wetlands, draining of, 229
- whalers and sealers, 19, 38, 44; Bowen, Lieutenant, 37; Kangaroo Island, 61; Portland, 93, 95–6; Western Port, 163
- whales, 93, 230
- wheel technology, 128
- White, Patrick, 210–11
- White Supremacy and Black Resistance* (Crais), 55, 146
- 'Whitefella Jump Up', 234–41
- Whitehead, John, 31
- Whitlam, Gough, 236, 243
- Who Killed the Koories?*, 84
- Whyte brothers, 162
- Wik judgment, 107, 114–15, 201
- Wilberforce, William, 17–18
- wildlife, *see* fauna; flora
- Willis, Judge, 163–4, 165
- willy wagtail, 193
- Wilsone, Dr David, 83, 158
- Windberry, 85
- Windberry, William, 6
- Windschuttle, Keith, 140, 151, 153, 165
- Winter family, 137, 162
- Winton, Tim, 211–12
- Woiwurrung people, 5, 7, 14, 25; language, 147
- women, 19, 38, 108, 130; births and fertility, 45, 117–18, 174, 246; in decision making, 113; European, 105, 117; reports written by, 106–9, 134; Kangaroo Island, 61–2; rape, 117, 131; yam cultivation, 125
- Wood, John, 6
- World Wars, 88, 170, 216–17
- wrens, 176
- Wright, Alexis, 213
- Wright, Judith, 210, 220
- Wyndham, NSW, 119
- Yammerbock, 83–4
- yams, 103, 125, 173, 184, 189
- yarna larka, 177
- Yarra River, 17, 32, 173
- Yehoshua, Abraham, 218–19
- Yerrunillam balug, 11–13
- Yirrkala, 128, 169, 188–91
- Yolgnu people, 170, 190, 254
- Yorta Yorta people, 200
- Yuendumu, 252