

Carrum Carrum to Corhanwarrabul

ONCE AS IT WAS

Discover the Natural, Cultural and Ecological Treasures

forested feet of ancient mountain ranges

from vast magical wetlands, to the

of Greater Dandenong and beyond



LEGEND

MORDIALLOC
modern suburb name

MOODY YALLOCK
traditional Bunurong name

- Eucalyptus Woodlands
- Oyster & Shellfish beds, reefs
- Illustration extracts drawn by Aboriginal artist Tommy McRae S.E. Australia 1836-1901
- Wetlands & Floodplains
- Foothills, Rises & Ranges
- Mangroves

This special 'Once As It Was' Map is the combination of several different maps merged into one.

All based on some of the earliest observations by Europeans of this special land.

We are all the newest custodians of these ancient lands to which we now all call 'Home'!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We Acknowledge the local Bunurong custodians, past and present, the Elders and the Ancestral Spirits, and we honour the Land upon which we live and work.

We also Acknowledge the shared custodianship in the health of the Land in which we all must embrace and act upon.

This map was developed by Dean Stewart of Aboriginal Tours and Education Melbourne A-TAEM and City of Greater Dandenong IAH New Directions Mothers and Babies Services in collaboration with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, City Greater Dandenong Council, City of Casey Council, Frankston City Environment Team and the design team at Green Scribble.

This project has been supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme.

This eco-map project has been endorsed by

CARRUM CARRUM | The Carrum Wetlands



Lagoon in Carrum Carrum swamp evening c.1872 J.W. Curtis Courtesy NGA
"The call of the Kookaburra was heard everywhere... when - Oh! Wild turkeys. But what are those tall things over yonder? A flock of native companions (the Brolga)" 1854 Recollections of W. Bruton

Carrum Carrum was once the ecological jewel of early Melbourne's original wetlands - our 'Temperate Kakadu'.

This ancient wetland was huge, stretching from today's Mordialloc to Frankston and reaching back into Dandenong. It covered over 5000 hectares of land, and was many thousands of years old, second only to 'The Great Swamp', the vast Koo-wee-rup wetlands to the East.

Carrum Carrum was the thriving heart of the entire region, with Dandenong and Eumemmering creeks as twin aorta, pumping life giving fresh water from the mountains into a rich wetlands eco-system teeming with life. It was a place of Brolga, Swan, Duck, Cape Barren Geese and Wallaby, with its waters rich in Eel, Fish, Turtle, Frogs and Mussels. It was also a vital migratory point for innumerable other indigenous animal, bird and insect species.

For the traditional Bunurong people Carrum Carrum was a physical and spiritual focal point. For the Europeans it was an intolerable hindrance, and they rapidly set about draining away this natural wonder.

Today only remnants of beautiful Carrum Carrum remain, being Edithvale and Seaford wetlands. These two surviving reserves represent less than 15% of the original Carrum Carrum, even so both sites are now declared international RAMSAR wetlands protected under law for their global ecological significance.

After 100 years absence Brolga may dance once more in Seaford!

CORHANWARRABUL | The Dandenong Ranges



Ferntree Gully in the Dandenong ranges E. von Guerdar c.1857 Courtesy NCV

This low mountain range, the Dandenongs, or Corhanwarrabul is actually an ancient 300 million year old mega volcano!

Massive eruptions of molten lava spilling out over a huge area. After many millions of years of uplift and erosion the deep rich soils and increased rainfall created a dense forest of ancient tree ferns, lyrebirds and towering Mountain Ash Eucalyptus trees.

The Mountain Ash of Corhanwarrabul are one of the tallest trees on earth, rivalling the giant Sequoia Redwoods of California.

The foothills of Corhanwarrabul were traditional winter sanctuaries for the Mayone Bulluk Bunurong clans, with all the remaining extensive forested ranges being the heartlands of the Wurundjeri balluk and willam clans of the Woiwurrung people.

Traditionally every mountain peak and rivulet had an ancestral name and song, with special sacred places hidden deep within quiet gullies, secluded caves and cascading waterfalls.

Today there still exists the cathedral like majesty of these ancient forests, to the elusive performance of the superb lyrebird song echoing within its valleys, within the ancient Corhanwarrabul ranges.

As is the deep connections and its equally ancient spirit!