

A brief history

Fact sheet



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

A brief history of the Boon Wurrung / Bunurong People

The Mornington Peninsula is located on the traditional lands of the Boon Wurrung / Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation. They are the Traditional Owners of the land that covers the coast from the Werribee River in the north-west, down to Wilson's Promontory in the south-east, taking in the catchments of the Old Carrum swamp, Kooweerup swamp (the great swamp), Tarwin River and Westernport Bay, and including Mornington Peninsula, French and Phillip Islands.

The Boon Wurrung / Bunurong people have lived in this area for over 40,000 years. Before the great pyramids in Egypt had been built, the Boon Wurrung / Bunurong people were here. They lived as all people of the Kulin nation lived, sustainably on the land for tens of thousands of years. People ate local animals, plants, fish and shellfish. They used boats, or canoes to frequent nearby islands. These canoes were made from bark and often were able to support a small fire in the middle for warmth and cooking fish.


They lived in small huts made from bark and wood from the trees. They made


all of their tools from stone and wood. With these tools they caught all of the food they needed. Life depended on the seasonal availability of different plants and animals. The foreshores and creeks provided ideal places to fish and hunt for seafood and salt water plants. The creeks also provided drinking water, encouraged animals to the area and nourished other plants and trees, supplied ingredients for medicine and painting, materials for clothing and implements for activities such as hunting and aids for carrying babies. These were found locally or traded with neighbouring tribes.


They had a great respect for the land and all of the animals. The Boon Wurrung / Bunurong people are still here, looking after the land and their families. Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all over Australia live within the shire boundaries. Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Owners of the land is an important part of showing respect for the indigenous peoples of Australia.

Traditional Owner and Registered
Aboriginal Party (RAP)

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Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the
Boon Wurrung/Bunurong people, the traditional custodians of these lands and waters.

Artwork by Shaydon Bloomfield