

## BELIEF SYSTEMS

All humans have a set of beliefs and ideas that account for the world around them, its origins, and the place of humans. These beliefs and ideas define the meaning and purpose of our lives. They also explain and guide humans through the great transitions of life including birth, coming of age as an adult, partnerships, parenthood, and death. These beliefs and ideas are often expressed through religious and ideological systems. These systems generally provide firm, unchanging ground on which to build our lives. The Aboriginal belief system is based around the Dreaming. The Dreaming stories, songs, art, dances and rituals of Nyoongars describe the creation of their environment and reveal the laws and customs that guide them through life. Dreaming stories, songs, art, dances and rituals would often be connected to actual places. Sometimes these places linked together into a Dreaming Trail. Particular places would have a specific story, song, art, dance or ritual to be undertaken which would keep the Dreaming Trail alive. For example, Mulkas Cave, Wave Rock, **Jilakin Rock**, Jitarning Rock, Dumblebung Lake and Puntapin Rock are all connected via an ancient Dreaming Trail that reaches the coast at Augusta.

### JILAKIN ROCK

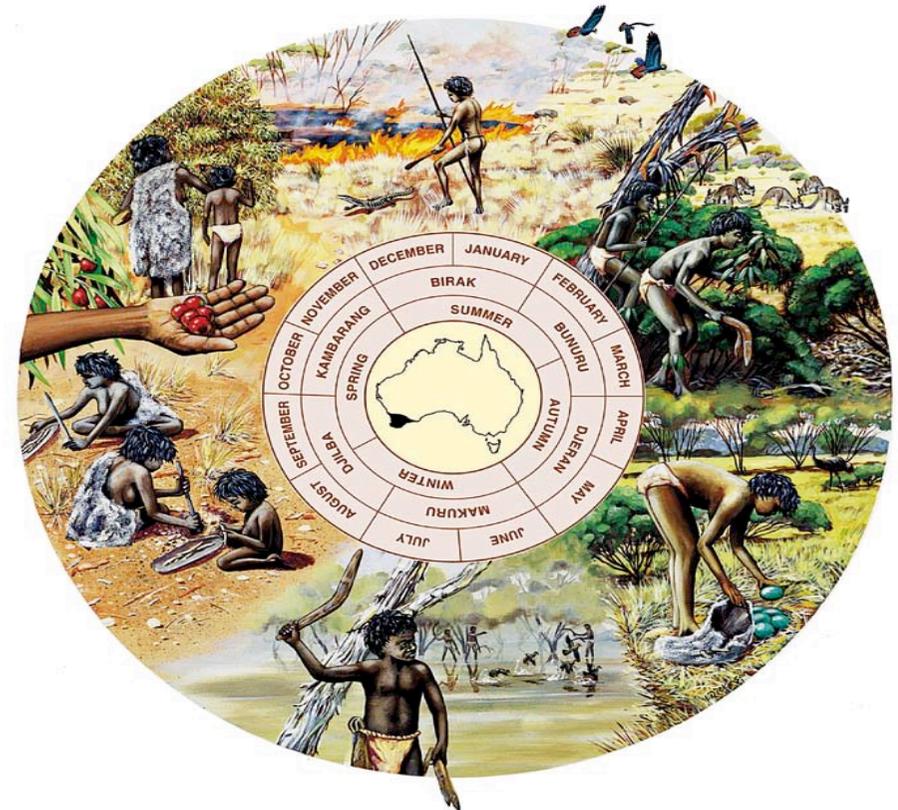
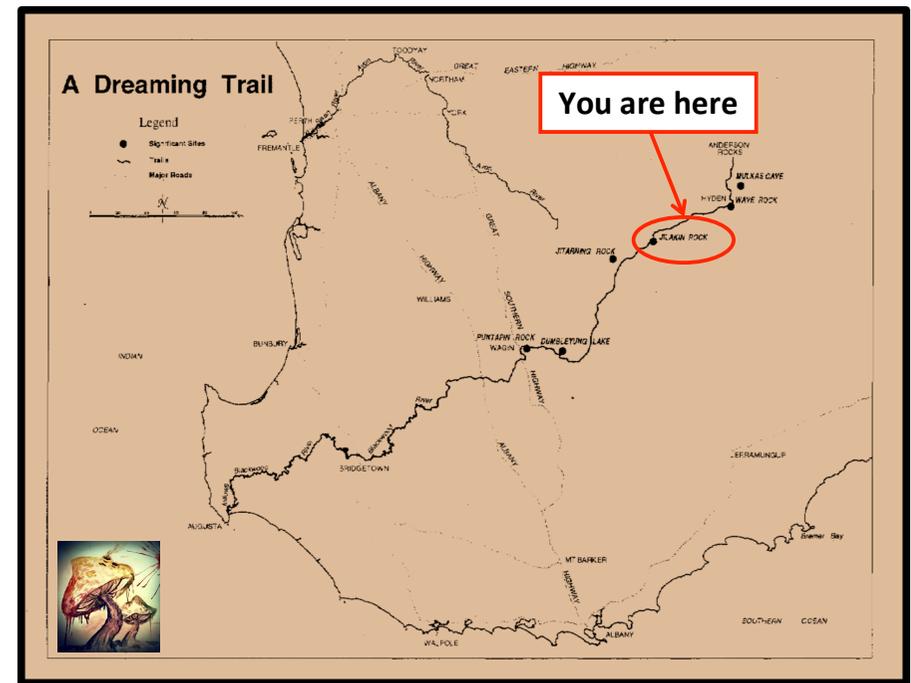
Jilakin Rock was a place where the salt water and fresh water people met and was an important place of trade for these groups of people. Legend tells a story of two Nyoongar groups that met at this site. As a sign of their friendship, the group from the south-west placed their spears on the ground. From these spears as legend has it, grew the outcrop of jarrah trees, which are considered unique to this particular region of W.A. They are the most isolated stand of jarrah trees, 150km from the main jarrah belt and survive on run off and quarry soils at the base of Jilakin Rock.

### BLAZING SWAN

Blazing Swan is a place where diverse groups of people are meeting, gifting and developing friendships, similar to what the Nyoongars used this landscape for. The Nyoongars dropped their spears as a sign of friendship and something amazing grew, and we drop our concept of money and build Jilakin Rock City. This site has saved itself as the Community we build helps to keep the ancient energy here alive.

### NYOONGAR BOODJA

Nyoongar means 'a person of the south-west of Western Australia,' or the name for the 'original inhabitants of the south-west of Western Australia' and are one of the largest Aboriginal cultural blocks in Australia. Boodja means 'land'. Nyoongar people did not have names for the months, and did not measure time in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months or years. Their 'year' was divided into six seasons according to the weather cycle. These were decided by the food available, not the time. April is in Djeran, the season for fishing, flowering banksias and ants.



Thanks to Darren (Boodja) Venn