The Dreamtime is the Aboriginal understanding of the world and its creation. According to the local Nyoongars, a mythological Rainbow Snake called Waugal entered the ground where Parliament House now stands. The snake made its way through Mount Eliza, emerging at the spring, which feeds the Kennedy Fountain, and continued on to the sea, so creating the Swan River.

Snake called Waugal entered the

Nyoongars, a mythological Rainbow creation. According to the local understanding of the world and its

diverse methods of survival used by Nyoongar people to live off the land in the south-west of Western Australia. (see map overleaf)

See artwork on the Lotterywest Federation Walkway as part of the Boodja Gnarning Walk. The Boodja Gnarning Walk offers a unique experience that highlights the diverse methods of survival used by Nyoongar people to live off the land in the south-west of Western Australia. (see map overleaf)
The Dreamtime
Experience Nyoongar
and continue on to the sea, so creating the Swan River.

The mia-mia structure draws upon the key architectural elements of the
temporary shelters built by Nyoongars and provides an opportunity to
express this aspect of Aboriginal culture in a unique and interesting way.

The Boodja Gnarning Walk offers a unique experience that highlights the
diverse methods of survival used by Nyoongar people to live off the land
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Lotterywest Federation Walkway
Take a breathtaking walk through the treetops. This striking landscape
artwork celebrates the Centenary of Federation, Aboriginal Culture and
the magnificent trees of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Scatree
Located in the Banksia Garden. Discover why Aboriginal people
scared these trees.

The Beedawong Meeting Place
The Beedawong Meeting Place (meaning Celebration) designed by
Piyinjapariny is a stone amphitheatre located in a bush garden setting used
for Indigenous cultural performances. A great place to sit and ponder.

Kuarta Gar-up Lookout
Located on Fraser Avenue, this lookout offers one of Kings Park’s most
magnificent views, incorporating both the city skyline and the Swan
Cunning Riverpark, with the Darling Range as a backdrop.

Aboriginal Art Gallery
The gallery is now permanently closed. A selection of Aboriginal art is
available at Aspects of Kings Park.

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have been visiting Mooro Kattra or Kuarta Gar-up, two of the many names for Mount Eliza, the highest point of Kings Park. Nyoongar is the generic term for Indigenous people of the southwest of Western Australia. The area at the base of Kings Park, known as Goonininup, was an important ceremonial and dreaming area for Aboriginal males.

A place of ceremony... a place of reflection... a place of food and shelter.

Aboriginal Cultural Places to Visit in Kings Park and Botanic Garden

1. **Kuarta Gar-up Lookout**
   - Located on Fraser Avenue, this lookout offers one of Kings Park’s most magnificent views, incorporating both the city skyline and the Swan Cunning Riverpark, with the Darling Range as a backdrop.

2. **Aboriginal Art Gallery**
   - The gallery is now permanently closed. A selection of Aboriginal art is available at Aspects of Kings Park.

3. **Boodja Gnarning Walk**
   - The Boodja Gnarning Walk offers a unique experience that highlights the diverse methods of survival used by Nyoongar people to live off the land in the southwest of Western Australia.

4. **Lotterywest Federation Walkway**
   - Take a breathtaking walk through the treetops. This striking landscape artwork celebrates the Centenary of Federation, Aboriginal Culture and the magnificent trees of the Swan Coastal Plain.

5. **Scatree**
   - Located in the Banksia Garden. Discover why Aboriginal people scared these trees.

6. **The Beedawong Meeting Place**
   - The Beedawong Meeting Place (meaning Celebration) designed by Piyinjapariny is a stone amphitheatre located in a bush garden setting used for Indigenous cultural performances. A great place to sit and ponder.

For more information, visit the website at www.bgpa.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9480 3638.
...and bulbs for food.

**Kondar**

Gould’s Monitor Lizard

Varanus gouldii

Glossy or monitor lizards were readily caught during the day (except in winter). When caught they were treated in a precise ritual before being cooked in the fire, the legs were broken on wooden sticks so that the heat did not cause the dead goanna to stand up.

**Poolgarla**

Bull Banksia

* Banksia grandis

The flowers were soaked for nectar or soaked in water to make a mildly intoxicating honey-sweet beverage known as mango. The dried fruiting cones were used as firelighters and were carried under their kangaroo skin cloaks in winter to provide a ready source of fire and warmth.

**Djuridji**

Zamia

* Macrozamia fraseri

This ancient plant is a relic of the dinosaur. The Zama, or yared, is a flowering, and cone bearing plant. The female plant pineapple-like cones containing large red seeds known as bryoo that are poisonous for edibles. But our scientists experienced by the crew of Vlamingh’s ship, who visited in 1697. Nyoongars would soak the toxins before eating.

**War-rong**

Australian Raven

* Corvus coronoides

Nyoongar society was divided into two totemic groups symbolized by the black Raven and the white cockatoo.

**Goonal**

Common Brush-tailed Possum

* Trichosurus vulpecula

Possums usually nest in tree hollows and feed on leaves, flowers, fruits and insects. Possum for far was spun into long strands for bulbs and bands. The meat would then be cooked in hot coals or ashes and eaten.

**Koolbandi**

Maggpie

* Gymnorhina tibicen

The loud flute-like calling is the distinctive song of the magpie. According to the Nyoongar story the magpie got its white feathers after fighting with the crow. The crow threw the magpie into a hot fire and the white ash streaked his feathers white. Even to this day crows and magpies are never friendly to each other!

**Kwonan**

Black Wattle

* Acacia saligna

Flowers June to October and provides a good source of Bardi or damper. (Seeds of some species are toxic).

**Ngalark**

White-tailed Black Cockato

* Calyptorhynchus latirostris

Also known as Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo. These straight magpie-like birds are often identified by their harsh wailing cries. They are often seen tearing open thick woody seed pods such as Mami nuts to get to the seed.

**Jarrah**

Eucalyptus marginata

These straight majestic hardwood trees, once known as Swan River Mahogany are uniquely Western Australian. They flower from September to February and provide a rich source of nectar for bees, birds and possums. The fruits are strong enough to make scattered persons ‘rested on the branches’ en route to the island of the dead ‘beyond the western sea’. When the mulga was in blossom, it was a sign to move towards the coast.

**Tuart**

Eucalyptus gomphocephala

The Tuart is the tallest tree on the Swan Coastal Plain, providing an important habitat for fauna. It was known by the early settlers as the Mt Eliza Gum. Trees were scarred by Aboriginal people who removed the bark or timber to make containers, shields and to build temporary shelters.

**Marri**

Corymbia calophylla

Known as the medicine tree, the red gum which oozes from the marri contains tanin, a known antiseptic agent. The liquid gum was traditionally used as a plaster for sores and wounds to prevent bleeding, infection and flies. For the treatment of stomach conditions, such as diarrhoea and dysentery, small quantities of the dried gum or kino were eaten, or dissolved in water. Marri blossom, which was collected and soaked in water to make a honey-sweet beverage, numbit, was relished by the Nyoongars.

When the Christmas Tree flowers, it’s time to travel to inland hunting areas.

Time to collect seeds and bulbs for food.

Time to collect roots and hunt en route possums and kangaroos.

When the Wildfowl Season and the Season of Marriage and Relationship Commences.

April - May

The Six Nyoongar Seasons.

**The Autumn Season and the Season of Birth.**

Rain is decreasing.

The leaves are crushed. The leaves then the vapour was inhaled to clear the nose; or the smoke was inhaled to help vision.

Bunuru Time to collect seeds and bulbs for food.

Time to collect bird’s eggs, fledglings, frogs, crayfish and tortoises.