

# Key moments in time

22,000 BC

Petroglyphs, rock engravings, some of the oldest forms of human expression are created at Preaminghana (Mount Cameron West, Tasmania).



1642

The first Europeans arrive at the island now known as Tasmania. Dutchman Abel Jansen Tasman names the island Van Diemen's Land after the governor-general of the Dutch East India Company.

1772

French expedition led by Nicholas Marion du Fresne lands on Van Diemen's Land.

1777

Captain Cook's second British voyage lands on Van Diemen's Land. John Webber creates studies of Aboriginal people.

1788

The British Crown Colony of New South Wales is established with a settlement at Sydney Cove.

1800-1804

Baudin voyage to Van Diemen's Land. French artist Nicolas-Martin Petit makes sensitively observed portrait studies of Aborigines.

1820s

Conflict escalates into the 'Black War' - a campaign of terror directed against the Aboriginal people of Van Diemen's Land.

1803

Van Diemen's Land established as a British convict settlement. More than 65,000 convicts settled. Four to ten thousand Aboriginal people lived in Van Diemen's Land at this time.

Drawings found on a bark shelter over a grave are recorded, regrettably none survive.

1830

The infamous 'Black Line', a human chain that swept across Van Diemen's Land in an attempt to corral the Aborigines.

Around 70 Aboriginal women living with European sealers on a dozen islands of the Furneaux group in Bass Strait.

1835

A tiny pencil drawing c 1835 by the boy Lacklag (or Probelattener) is the only Indigenous art from Van Diemen's Land to have survived from the 19th C.

1833

The remaining several hundred Indigenous people are removed to Flinders Island, most die in poor conditions over the next 14 years. The last survivor, Truganini, died in 1876.

1847

13 Aboriginal families, including the Maynards, remain on the Bass Strait islands, continuing their cultural practice of mutton birding.

1866

The Aboriginal community on Cape Barren Island seeks communal ownership of the island. The Tasmanian government refuses.

1851

Three pencil drawings of Aborigines by Robert Neill (1801-1852) held in the Mitchell Library; a drawing titled Aborigines of Van Diemen's Land was exhibited at Hobart, Town in March 1851.

1858

Francis Russell Nixon (1803-79) Bishop of Tasmania photographs nine members of the Oyster Cove Coal Tribe. Professional photographer, John Watt Beattie (1859-1930) makes copies for sale to tourists under his own name in the 1890s.

1855

Van Diemen's Land renamed Tasmania.

1920

The population of Aborigines on Cape Barren Island is reduced to 300. Government policy, including the forcible removal of children, ultimately forces people to the Tasmanian mainland.

1912

Cape Barren Island Reserve Act 1912 (Tas) established by the Tasmanian government.

1947

A committee recommends the Cape Barren Aboriginal Reserve be closed.

1958

120 islanders left on the Bass Strait islands.

1962

60 islanders left on the Bass Strait islands.

1938

Day of Mourning protest meeting held in Sydney drawing attention to 150 years of repressive government policies.

1988

Bi-centennial protest March held in Sydney.

'After 200 Years', a documentary project for the Australian bicentenary. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal photographers including Ricky Maynard, work collaboratively in twenty communities across the country to represent the diversity of Indigenous life. The project culminates in an exhibition and publication.

1986

First exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal and Islander photography held during NADOC week.

1987-1991

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody established to investigate the causes of deaths of Aboriginal people while held in State and Territory gaols.

1967

Australian citizens vote 'yes' in a referendum to count Aboriginal people in the census.

1992

The Mabo decision of the High Court of Australia, Mabo v State of Queensland (No2), recognises native title under Australian law.

1996

The Wik decision of the High Court of Australia, Wik peoples v State of Queensland, finds that native title rights can coexist with pastoral leases; a pastoral lease does not necessarily extinguish native title.

1997

Bringing them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families is tabled in Federal Parliament.

May 1997 Prime Minister John Howard responds to the Wik decision by releasing the '10-point plan' draft legislation.

1999

'Re-Take: Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander photography' is shown at National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. Includes work by Ricky Maynard.

1998

The remains of several Aborigines from the colonial era, held by the Royal College of Surgeons, are returned to Tasmania. Included is hair and skin from Truganini, a woman once hailed as the last Tasmanian Aborigine.

2008

On the 13th of February an official apology is made to the Stolen Generation of Indigenous Australians by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

2008-09

'Half Light: Portraits from Black Australia' is shown at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. Includes work by Ricky Maynard.

2007

The Natural History Museum, London hands over remains of 17 Tasmanian Aboriginal people after a 20-year struggle for their return. Looted in the 19th Century, the oldest fragments date back to 1839.

The University of Edinburgh, Scotland hand over Tasmanian Aboriginal remains for repatriation.

2009

Approximately 200 Aboriginal people living on the Bass Strait islands, 70 residing on Cape Barren Island.

2006

Stolen Generations of Aboriginal Children Act 2006 (Tas) is passed unanimously in both houses of parliament making Tasmania the first state to pass legislation enabling compensation to members of the stolen generation.

2005

Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon hands back Cape Barren and Clarke islands to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community under the Aboriginal Lands Amendment Act 2004 (Tas).

1995

Tasmanian Government passes the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995 (Tas). An elected Aboriginal Land Council is created. Twelve parcels of culturally significant Crown land are returned to Tasmanian Aboriginal community.