

# A shared history

by DAVID BELL

LEN COLLARD wants to share the history of his ancestral lands.

An associate professor at Curtin University's sustainability policy institute, he is a traditional owner and has laid a native title claim to Perth.

He's also helping Perth city council produce a new tourist map to point people to WA's indigenous history.

For years the PCC has produced maps showing visitors where to find colonial history and convict history, but the indigenous history map has fallen out of date and is no longer in print. The PCC has now voted to spend \$44,000 on a new Aboriginal history trail brochure

"I think they're important stories that are part of the landscape that have been there since humans lived here," Assoc Prof Collard says.

"[The project] is part of carrying on the information for public consumption. They're there for children or members of the public to engage in and give us an understanding of our sense of place... they're not secret stories hidden under a rock."

The *Voice* met up with Assoc Prof Collard down at Point Fraser (Boodjargabelup—the place of water and land). It's a traditional fishing, hunting and meeting place for Nyungar people, he says, and a good example that the footprint of the capital itself was once a thriving activity site.

"I use [Boodjargabelup] in my work as an academic resource," he says. "Instead of taking [students] on-country in the bush, I take them on-country in the city."

He says the project is intended to, "reflect the dreamtime narrative and some of the contact history when people came on the boats". These were stories he grew up hearing as a youngster from his elders, and he's keen to see the histories kept current and passed on.

Tourism WA says 83 per cent of international visitors seek Aboriginal tourism experiences. There are three maps planned: Pre-contact and early European settlement up to 1900, social history 1900 to present, and a collection of arts and culture.



• Len Collard down at the traditional Nyungar hunting and meeting place, Boodjargabelup. Photo by Matthew Dwyer