



Clan — a level of social organisation within Aboriginal society, in which members can trace descent from a common ancestor. The clan is the most important level because it is through the clan that people manage their connections to their country.

Estate — The term that is used to refer to the tract of land that is owned by a clan. The boundaries of a clan's estate are generally marked by natural features such as stream courses or drainage patterns.

'Half-caste' Act — the term by which the 1886 *Aboriginal Protection Act* was known. This was because its main provision was that Aborigines of mixed heritage aged 35 or less could not reside on Government reserves.

*inter se* — a Legal Latin phrase meaning 'between or amongst themselves'.

Language group — comprises a collection of clans, where members speak the same language and their estates share a boundary. An example is the Woi wurrung language group, which was made up of four clans: Wurundjeri balluk, Marin balluk, Gunung willam balluk and Kurung jang balluk.

Mainmeet — was an expression used by the Kulin language groups to convey the concept that a person was no good because they were foreign or a stranger.

'Marvelous Melbourne' — was a term coined by George Augustus Sala to describe the city, during a visit in 1885. Sala was an English journalist who was in Victoria on a speaking tour.

Moravians — The Moravian church is a protestant religious movement that began in the mid-15th century in a region that is now part of the Czech Republic. Moravian missionaries came from Germany to set up missions to the Aborigines in the Port Phillip District. These were at Lake Boga on the Murray River (1851–1858), the Ebenezer mission at Lake Hindmarsh (1859–1904), and Ramahyuk at Lake Wellington in Gippsland (1863 – 1908).

Nation — The term that is used to refer to a confederation of several language groups. Where language groups speak mutually understandable languages, have the same spiritual beliefs, and can exchange marriage partners, they form a cultural bloc, called (by Europeans) a nation. For

example, the Kulin nation (in two halves) is made up of the Woi wurrung, Boon wurrung, Taung wurrung and Ngarai illam wurrung language groups in the east, and the marriageable Watha wurrung and DjaDja wurrung in the west. The name of a nation usually meant 'human being' in each of the language in the confederation.

Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate — was created by the British Parliament in 1838 to reduce the harm caused to the Indigenous population of the Port Phillip District through European settlement. The department was headed by a Chief Protector, and four Assistant Protectors were appointed. Each had a station in a different part of the District, on which they were to encourage local Aborigines to settle. For a number of reasons the scheme was a failure and it was terminated in December 1849. (See below, biographical entries for GA Robinson and W Thomas.)

Reciprocity — is the concept of repaying an action in equal kind. It is a central principle in the dealings of Aboriginal people with each other. If a person or group shows hospitality or friendship, one is duty bound to return those sentiments in equal measure. In this way, resources are spread equally, and not to the advantage of one party.

Treponema — a genus of bacteria that cause a range of closely related diseases. Some of these diseases, such as syphilis, are spread through sexual activity but others, including yaws and pinta, are non-venereal.