

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



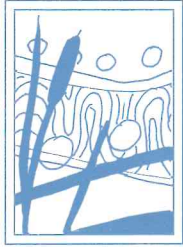
# SHARING THE DREAMING

Nyoongar Aboriginal Stories of the Dreaming



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
CALM ... caring for Aboriginal heritage





## THE WAGYL

(The Nyoongar Rainbow Serpent)

A long time ago in the Dreaming, the animals and other beings were huge. Two rainbow serpents, called wagyls (maned, seal-faced creatures), left York and followed the Avon River down to Walyunga National Park, to where the river bends east. The female wagyl laid some eggs, then the two wagyls crossed over the hill and continued along the other side before rejoining the Swan River.

Today you can see where the eggs have turned to stone. You can also see the side of the hill without trees where the wagyls slithered.

The wagyls continued along the river to where Ascot Raceway is today at Belmont. The male wagyl shook himself so hard that some of his scales fell off. They can still be seen embedded in the riverbank, although you may mistake them for shells.

The wagyls continued on to Melville Waters and swam around, creating the huge bay. The female wagyl laid some more eggs at the foot of Kings Park where Kennedy Fountain is today. She then went south, under the ground. Where she surfaced she created Bibra Lake. She then went on to create Yangebup Lake (Jilbup), Thompson Lake and White Lake.

In the meantime, the male wagyl went north underneath Kings Park, coming up and creating Lake Monger, Karrinyup Lake, Joondalup Lake and Yanchep Lake. Later they got lonely and went back underground to meet again at Melville Waters.

The two rainbow serpents were glad to see each other. They swam around together, so creating Crawley Bay, then followed the river down to Fremantle. There they lay in the sun creating a rock bar

across the river. At one time Nyoongar people used this bar to cross the river.

Then the two serpents followed the river out from Fremantle, beyond Rottnest Island and back to the Dreaming.

