



Total Solar Eclipse

Queensland 14 November 2012



INDIGENOUS ASTRONOMY:

Information for teachers to include an Indigenous Perspective
in science lessons

Australian Aboriginal Astronomy Project by Dr Duane Hamacher

The Australian Aboriginal Astronomy Project, centred within the Department of Indigenous Studies (Warawara) at Macquarie University, is a collaboration of academics and Indigenous Elders who are researching the astronomical knowledge and traditions of Indigenous Australians. Also, check out references in C2C lesson plans, e.g. Yr 5 Earth and Space Sciences.

Dr Hamacher has a blog on Aboriginal Astronomy, which he will update about once a week, covering latest research, educational material, information about upcoming talks, meetings and events, and general knowledge on the subject. The group's work is rigorous and members are in close collaboration with Indigenous Elders and communities.

Blog: <http://aboriginalastronomy.blogspot.com/>

Astronomy is a great way to educate about Indigenous culture, as it is a topic everyone finds fascinating!

Try: <http://emudreaming.com/examples.htm> further information for teachers on Aboriginal Astronomy.

Also, a web search will easily provide further resources, as well as information on Torres Strait, Pacific and Asian cultural perspectives relating to the solar system.

Some recent papers from the Project published on Aboriginal Astronomy since 2010.

Meteoritics and cosmology among the Aboriginal cultures of Central Australia
<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2011arXiv1103.0595H>

"Bridging the Gap" through Australian Cultural Astronomy
<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2011arXiv1103.1928H>

Astronomical Symbolism in Australian Aboriginal Rock Art

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2011RArtR..28...99N>

Comets in Australian Aboriginal Astronomy

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2010arXiv1010.0801H>

Australian Aboriginal Geomythology: Eyewitness Accounts of Cosmic Impacts?

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2010arXiv1009.4251H4>

An Aboriginal Australian Record of the Great Eruption of Eta Carinae

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2010JAHH...13..220H>

The *Boorong Night Sky* and *Stellarium* by Alex Cherney and John Morieson

Stellarium is a free planetarium program for a computer. It shows a relatively realistic sky as seen with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. It has multiple sky cultures - the constellations from the traditions of Polynesian, Inuit, Navajo, Korean, Lakota, Egyptian and Chinese astronomers, as well as the traditional Western constellations.

At the Lake Tyrrell Star Party in October, John Morieson and Alex Cherney discussed how to incorporate John's research into Stellarium and make it easy for everyone to visualise how the Boorong people may have seen the night sky.

John has built up over the years a series of sketches and images which suited and Alex placed them into the Stellarium program. Bendigo Discovery Science & Technology Centre offered financial assistance to get the constellation figures professionally designed. A few months later the project had been completed and the Boorong Night Sky lives again.

To see and use the *Boorong Night Sky* on your computer you need to download Stellarium for Windows version 0.10.6.1 or later from the Stellarium website: <http://www.stellarium.org> and then download and install the Boorong sky culture from this web address:

<http://www.terraastro.com/boorong>. **Look for the story of the image below.**

