



Traditional language of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape

Connection to history

Indigenous language includes some of the oldest spoken language on Earth. Traditional Owners have identified and used place names for locations for thousands of years, passed on through generations by traditions, songs and stories.

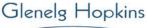
It is estimated that since European settlement, 60-70% of place names in Australia originate or have been adapted from Aboriginal language.

The importance of language

Language has been used for thousands of years to connect people and Country. For the Gunditjmara of the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in western Victoria, the retention of language is of great importance as it provides a connection to land, culture, ancestors and Country.

There are over 700
different Aboriginal and
Torres Straight Island
languages across Australia.
For the Gunditimara of
western Victoria,
the Dhauwurd Wurrung
language is used.







Place names

The everyday use of traditional place names and current terminology is changing with greater understanding of the cultural significance of these places.

For example, the name Uluru (Ayres Rock) is now commonly used to identify the iconic Australian landmark around the world.

Indigenous words and language of the Gunditimara in the Dhauwurd Wurrung language of Western Victoria

Budj Bim (Mt Eccles)
Tae Rak (Lake Condah)
Killara (Darlot Creek()
Palawarra (Fitzroy River)
Bocara (Glenelg River)
Gariwerd (Grampians)
Deen Maar (Lady Julia Percy Island)

Ngata (hello)
Ngatanwarr (welcome)
Tu-Ngootoo (thank you)
Wurruk (goodbye/
until next time)



Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmara mirring

Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditimara Country



Partnerships to continue learning

Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Gunditj Mirring
Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
(GMTOAC) have been working collaboratively
on the Budj Bim Connections Flagship
Waterway Project since 2016.

This project is now in the implementation stage and includes on-ground works to protect and restore important waterway and environmental values, as well as finding ways to engage with the community to raise awareness of the range of cultural values associated with the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

Further information

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References: First Languages Australia – www.firstlanguages.org.au GMTOAC | www.gunditjmirring.com | ABC News – To learn your country, start by learning its Aboriginal names - ABC News

