



NAMING COUNTRY AGAIN

PLACE NAMES, MAPPING AND ABORIGINAL CULTURAL RENEWAL

2024 ELDERSHAW MEMORIAL LECTURE, NIPALUNA, HOBART

GRACE KARSKENS UNSW

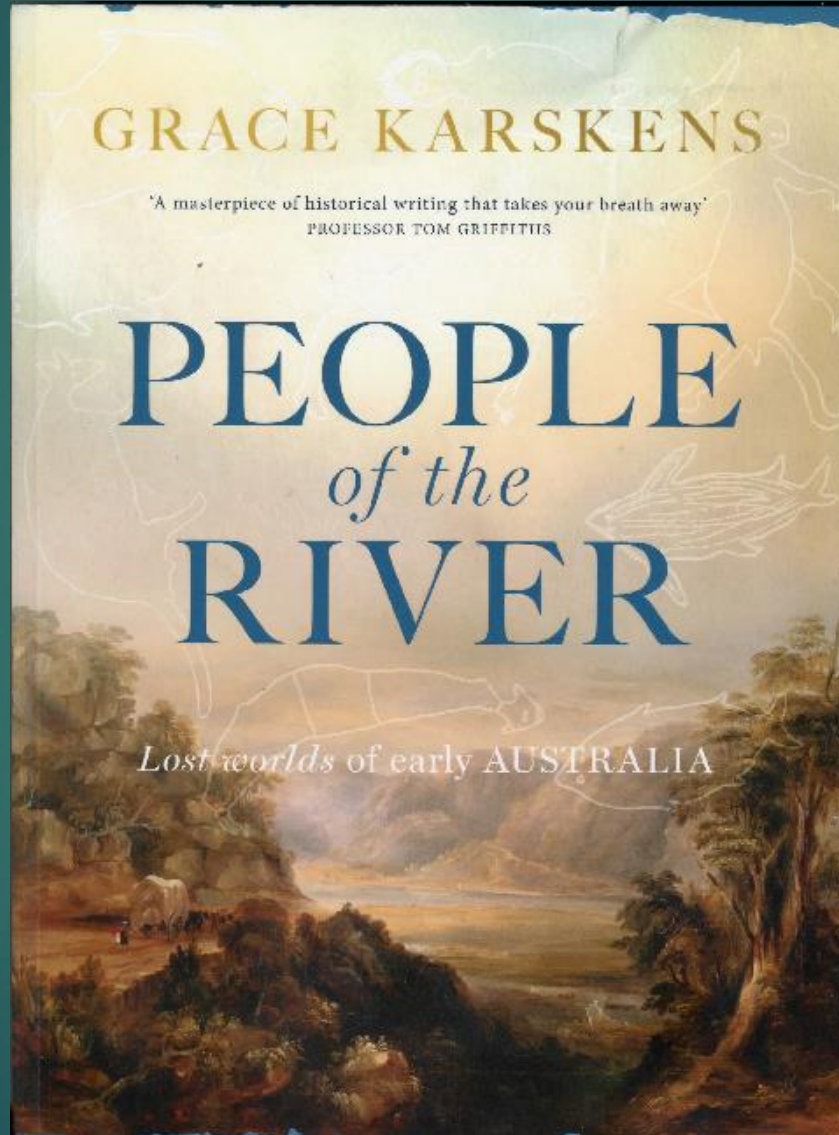
Photo: Joy Lai

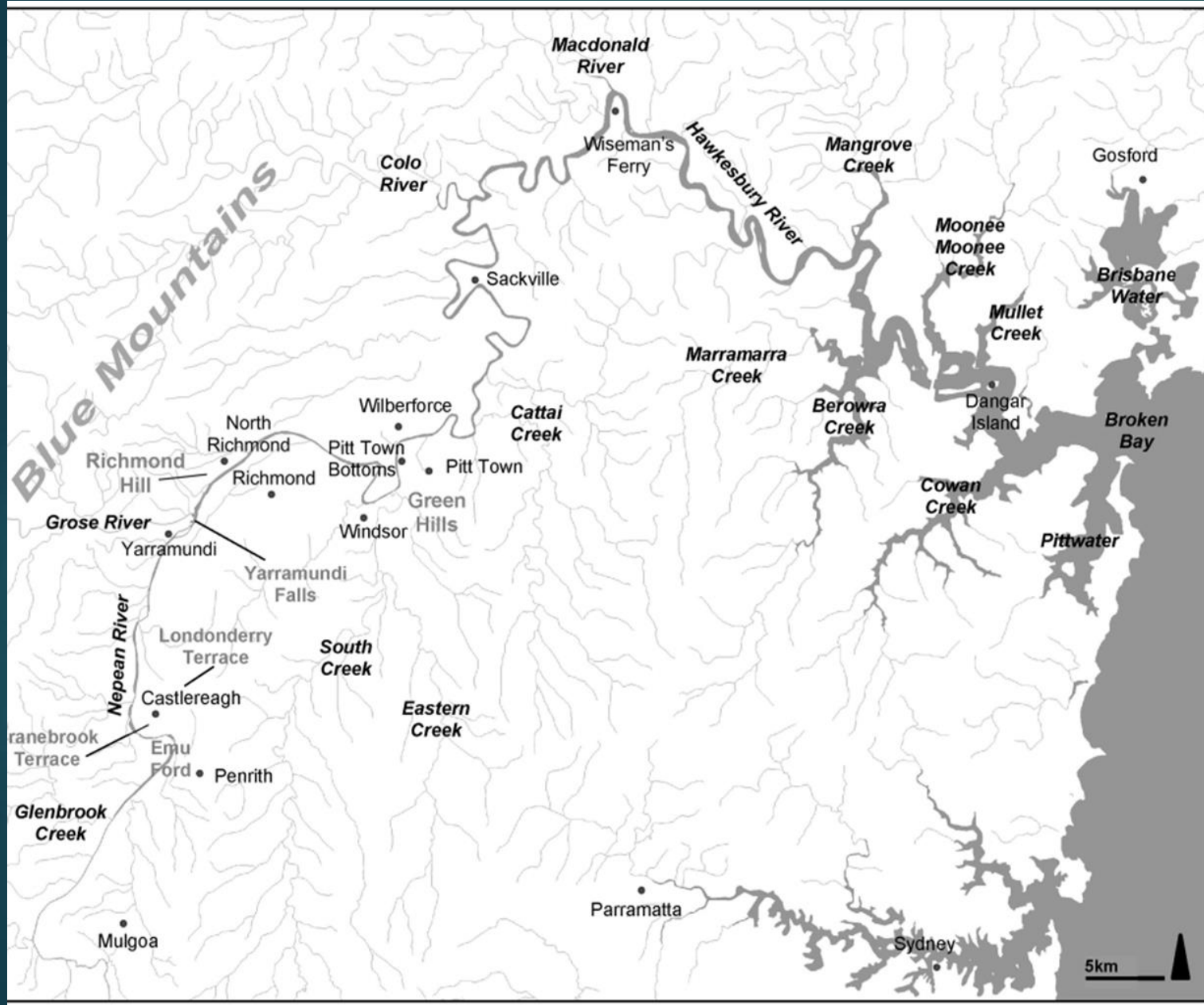
GRACE KARSKENS

'A masterpiece of historical writing that takes your breath away'
PROFESSOR TOM GRIFFITHS

PEOPLE
of the
RIVER

Lost worlds of early AUSTRALIA





Dyarubbin, the
Hawkesbury-
Nepean River,
NSW (Paul Irish)

*Native
 Names of places
 on
 The Hawkesbury below Mr A. Doyle.*

Title and a page from the
 Reverend John
 McGarvie's 'Native Names
 of Places on The
 Hawkesbury River', 1829
 Mitchell Library, SLNSW

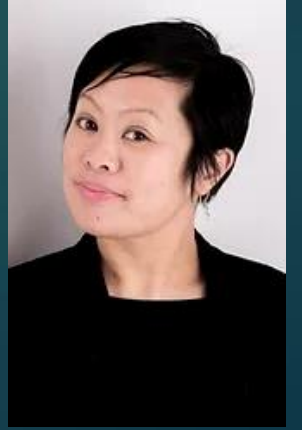
	<i>Borokoko</i>	<i>George Hall's</i>
	<i>Kercher</i>	<i>below D^o</i>
	<i>Kanunoolo mooloo,</i>	<i>below, 2^d narrow 2^d</i>
	<i>Dona Kune,</i>	<i>Phil: Roberts -</i>
	<i>Kwerabi</i>	<i>opposite below Phil,</i>
	<i>Kocheow</i>	<i>Coast of Kaban</i>
	<i>Kocheow</i>	<i>opposite below Phil,</i>
	<i>Kanunay a</i>	<i>below Dick Pidgeon, no</i>
	<i>Engarale</i>	<i>Kirby</i>
	<i>u roobay</i>	<i>below Mr Johnston</i>
	<i>Pallwa</i>	<i>next below A.</i>
	<i>co allie</i>	<i>Mr Johnston's</i>
	<i>yealla yang</i>	<i>D^o upper</i>
	<i>Mulga</i>	<i>Mr Meins</i>
	<i>Bondugga</i>	<i>Jackey Haycock</i>
	<i>wangora</i>	<i>Turnbull</i>
	<i>Koraggai</i>	<i>D^o</i>
	<i>wurung</i>	<i>Trary</i>
	<i>Batang</i>	<i>Davison</i>
	<i>Wero wero Day</i>	<i>D^o Kabau</i>
	<i>Ballangay</i>	<i>D^o at</i>
	<i>Karakai</i>	<i>Trary (see</i>
	<i>Mannu moolo,</i>	<i>Cross Lagoons</i>
	<i>wanna de</i>	<i>Double neck</i>
	<i>Baramba</i>	<i>behind Cross</i>

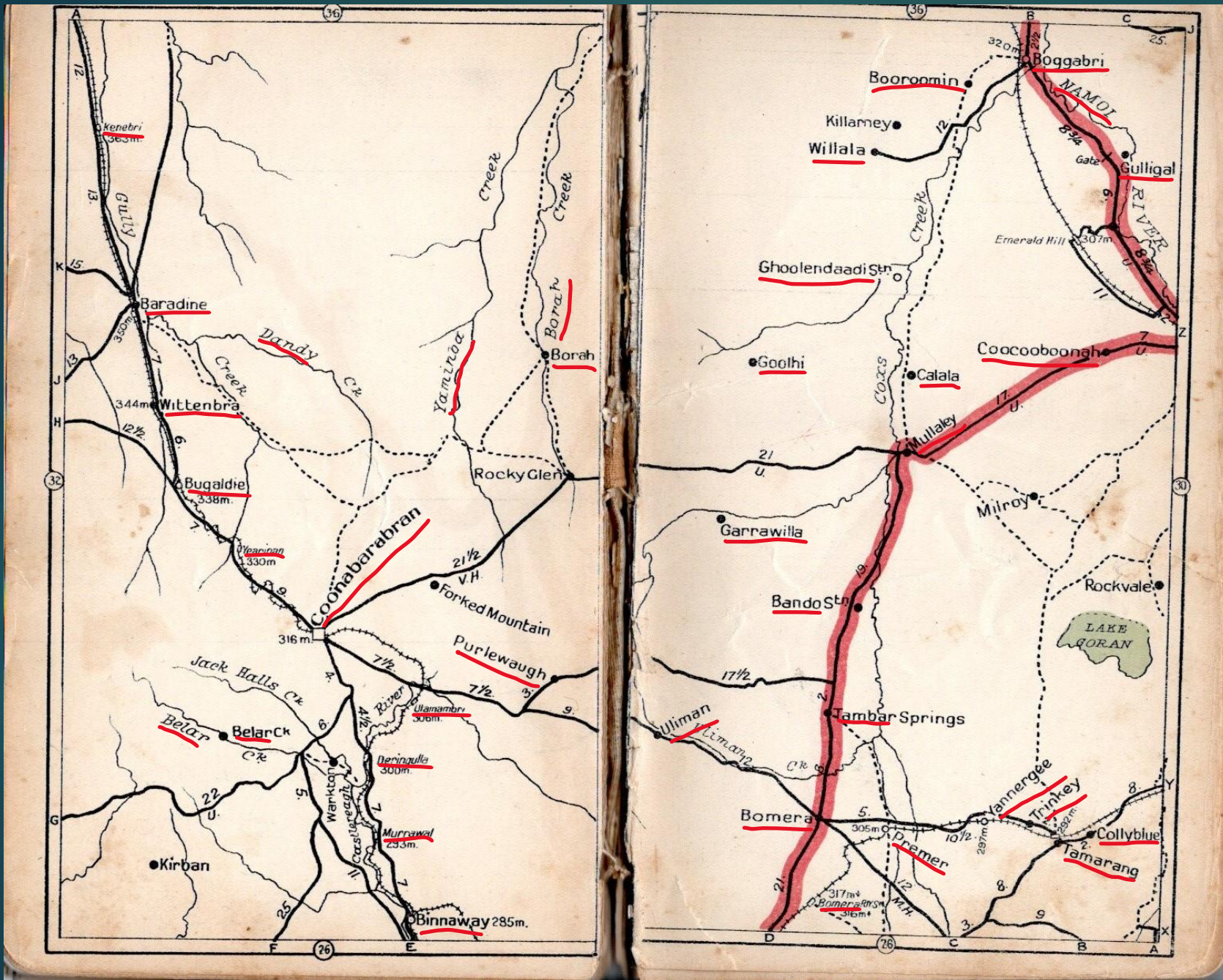


The Real Secret River Dyarubbin Project team

Above: Darug women Leanne Watson, artist, writer, Erin Wilkins, educator, Jasmine Seymour, artist, writer, linguist, Rhiannon Wright, artist, educator and Darkinyung- Darug woman Cindy Laws, writer, artist

Below: Grace Karskens, historian, Jim Wafer, linguist, anthropologist, Paul Irish, archaeologist, historian, Gil Jones, geologist, historian and Joy Lai, photographer.





Aboriginal place names, NSW Central West around Coonabarabran

Source: Robinson's NSW Motorists' Road Guide c1927



Detail from Felton Mathew, Survey of the Range extending round Lake Macquarie to Newcastle also of the Ranges on the Coast, between Wyrabaling and Reid's Mistake, 1831 AO 5939



First project meeting, 2018



Darug women with yam sticks and paddle from Hawkesbury Regional Museum

Dyarubbin: Mapping Aboriginal history, culture and stories of the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales

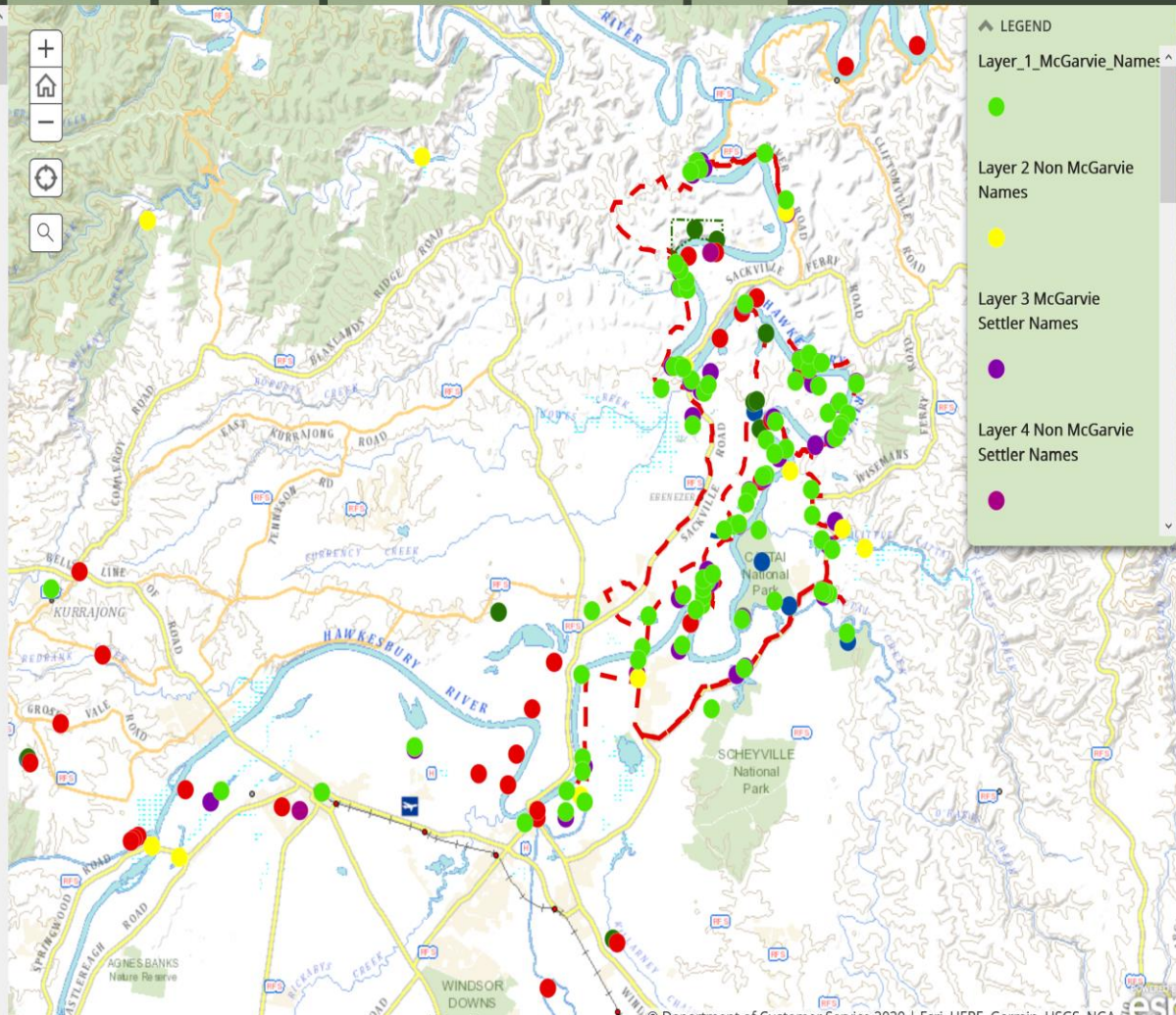
Introduction Bulyayorang Yarramundi Dugga Country Warretja Country Gurangatty Country Dorumbolooa: Sacred Zone Stone Labyrinth Gunanday

Dyarubbin:

Mapping Aboriginal history, culture and stories of the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales



Leanne Mulgo Watson, Waterholes



Dyarubbin Digital Story Map

The [map](https://arcg.is/004i19) is freely available online and shows the locations of place name from the McGarvie list with their likely meanings and phonetic reconstructions. Link: <https://arcg.is/004i19>

ArcGIS StoryMap created by DCS Spatial Services/ Geographic Names Board of New South Wales.



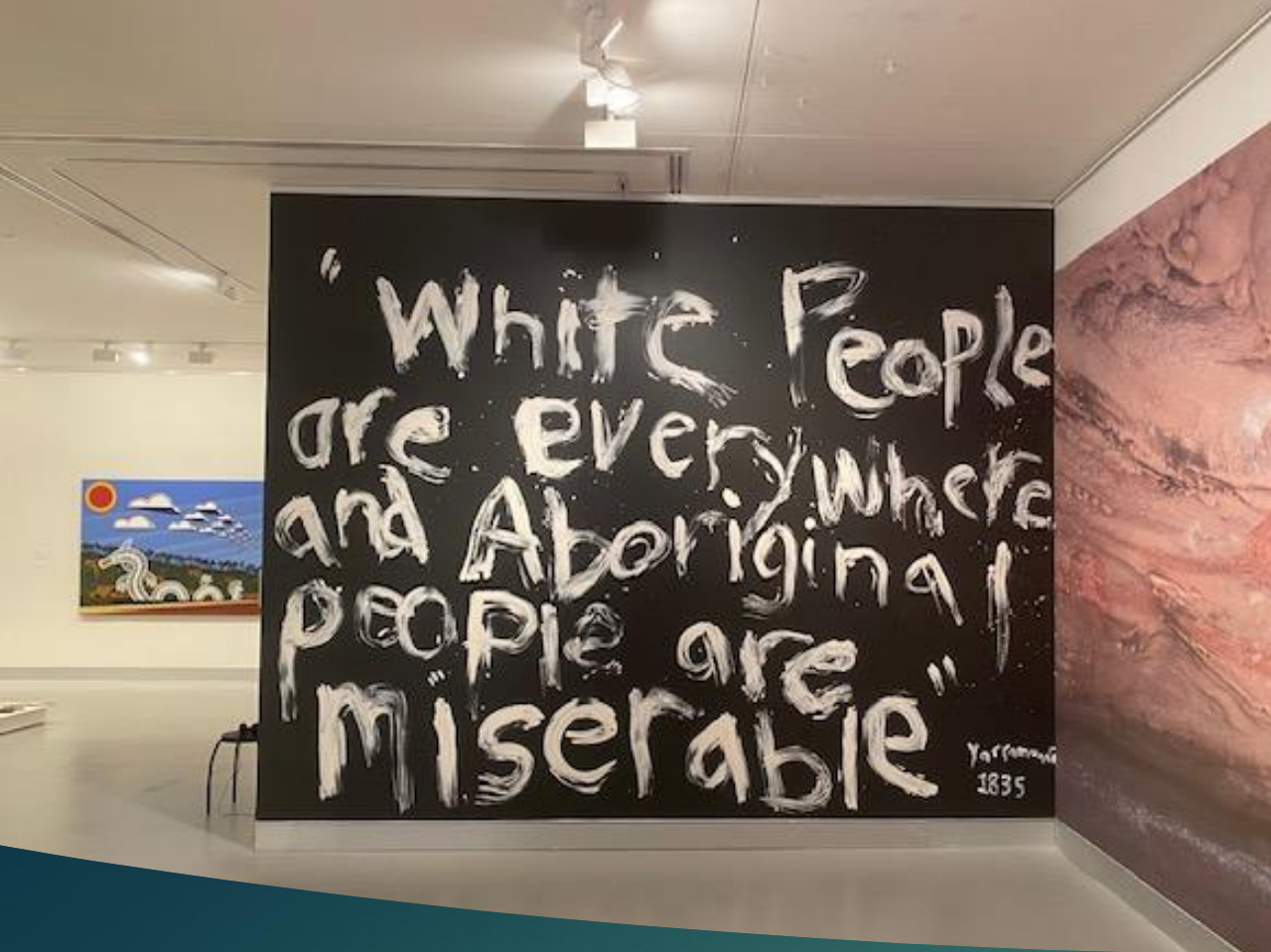
DYARUBBIN: THE REAL SECRET RIVER

A collaborative project exploring Aboriginal history, culture, stories and place names
on Dyarubbin, the Hawkesbury River,
New South Wales, Australia

<https://www.dyarubbin.com/>



Dyarubbin exhibition,
State Library of New South Wales



Dyarubbin exhibition
Hawkesbury Regional Gallery

Boodjar

Nyungar Placenames in the South-West of Western Australia

[Home](#) [Interactive Map](#) [Search Placenames](#) [About the Project](#) [Contact](#) [Information & Resources](#) [News & Events](#)

Balardong

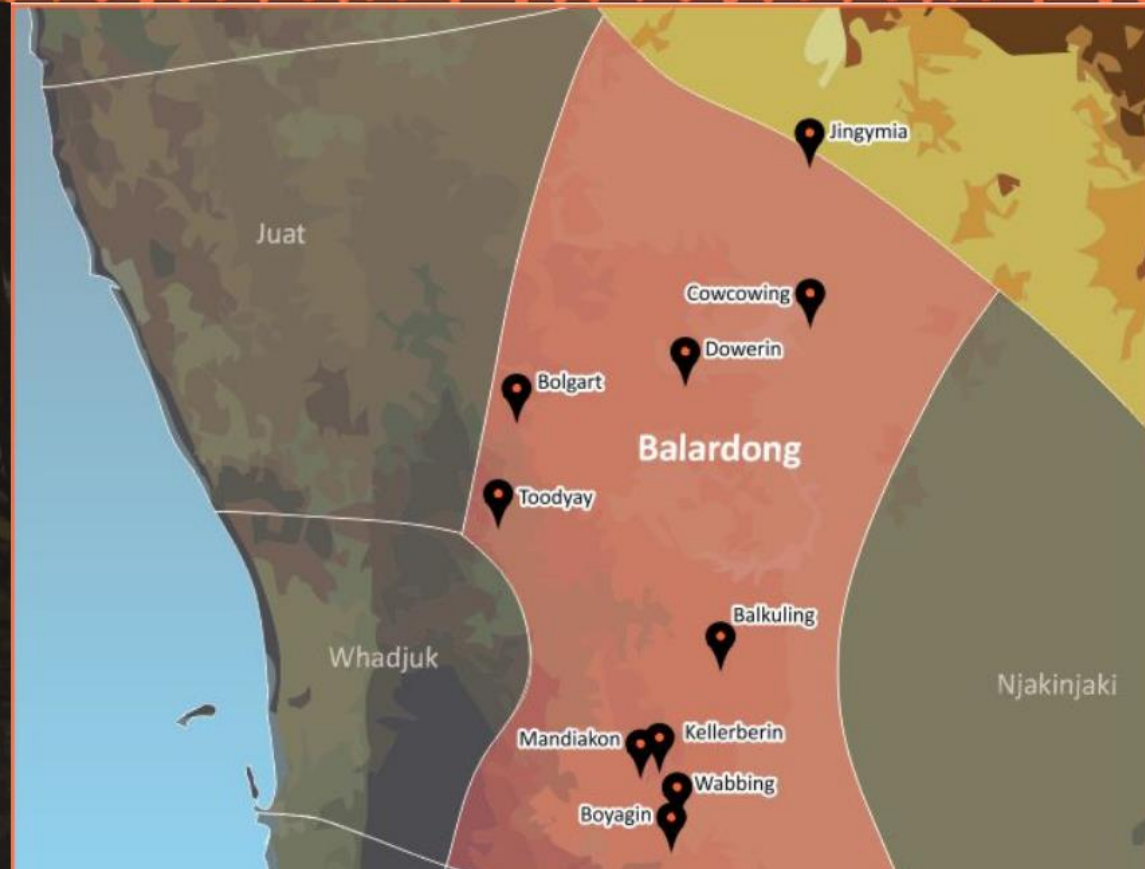
Tribal Region

To explore any of the placenames, simply click on it to bring up further information.

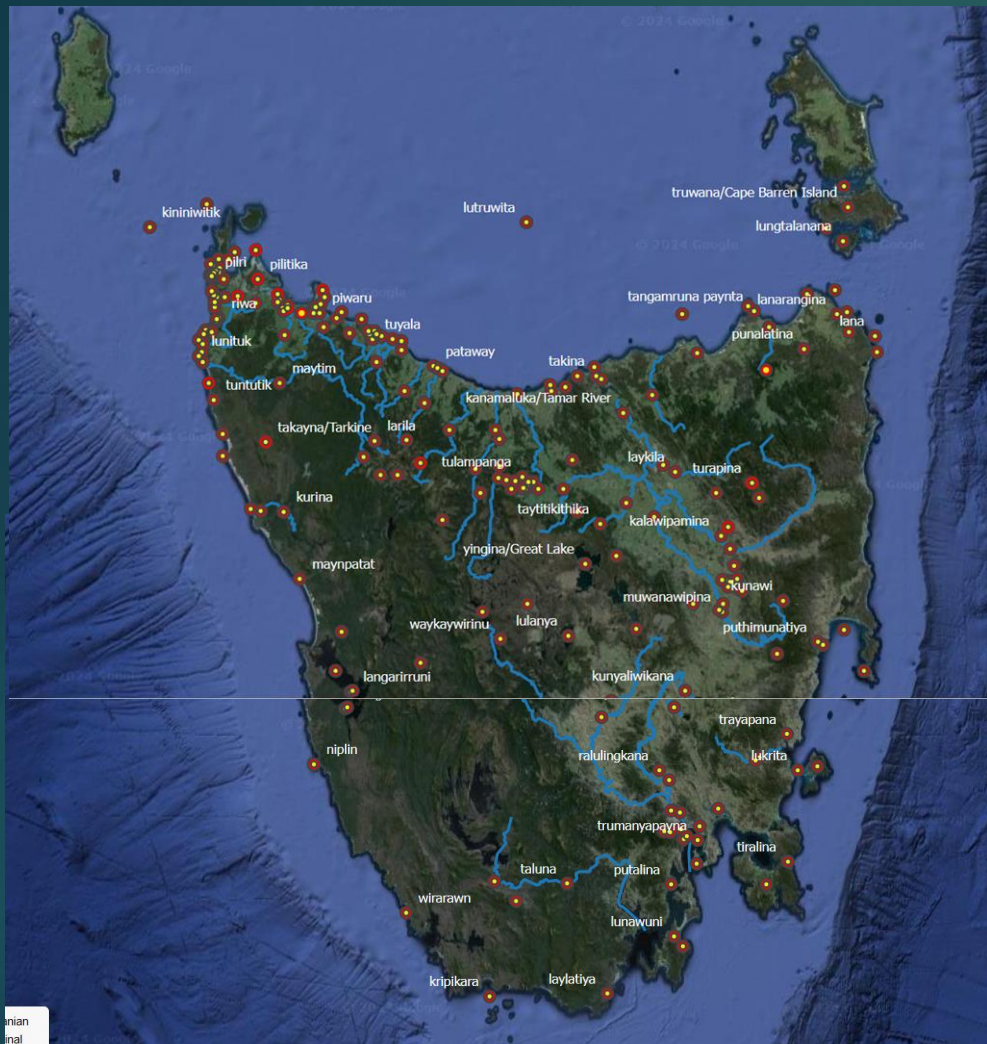
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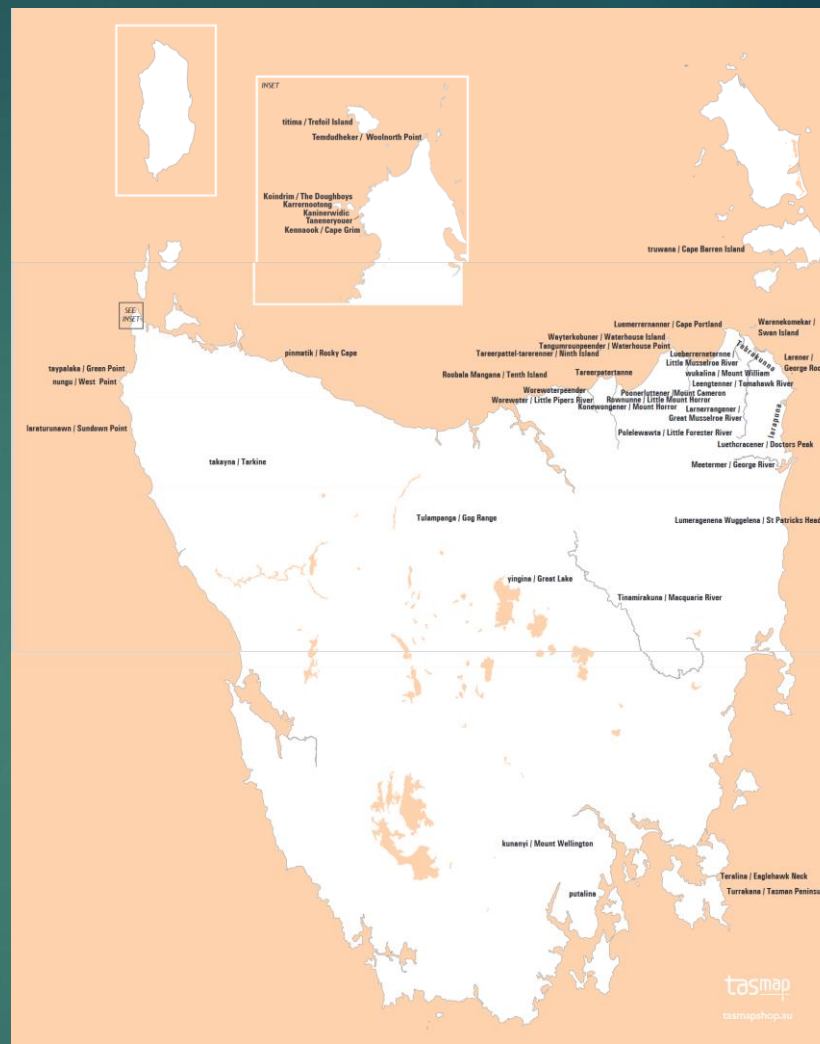
[Search Placenames](#)



Boodjar: Nyungar Placenames in the South-West of Western Australia
<https://www.boodjar.sis.uwa.edu.au/language-region-balardong>



[pulingina to lutruwita \(Tasmania\) Place Names Map](https://tacinc.com.au/pk/GIS/index.html#8/)
 Source: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
<https://tacinc.com.au/pk/GIS/index.html#8/> -
 41.953/146.342



Aboriginal and Dual Names, lutruwita Tasmania 2023
 Source:
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Aboriginal%20Place%20Names%20Map.pdf>

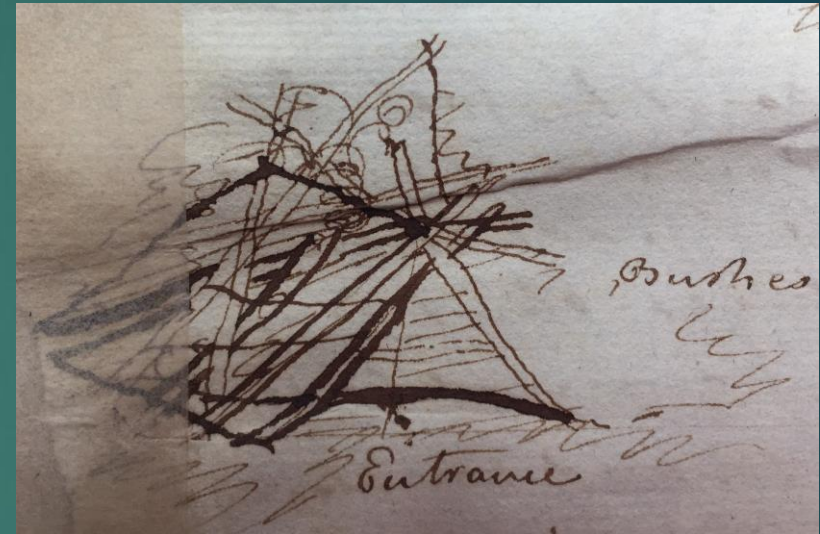


Leanne Mulgo Watson, 'Darug Land'

Abiding Aboriginal presence



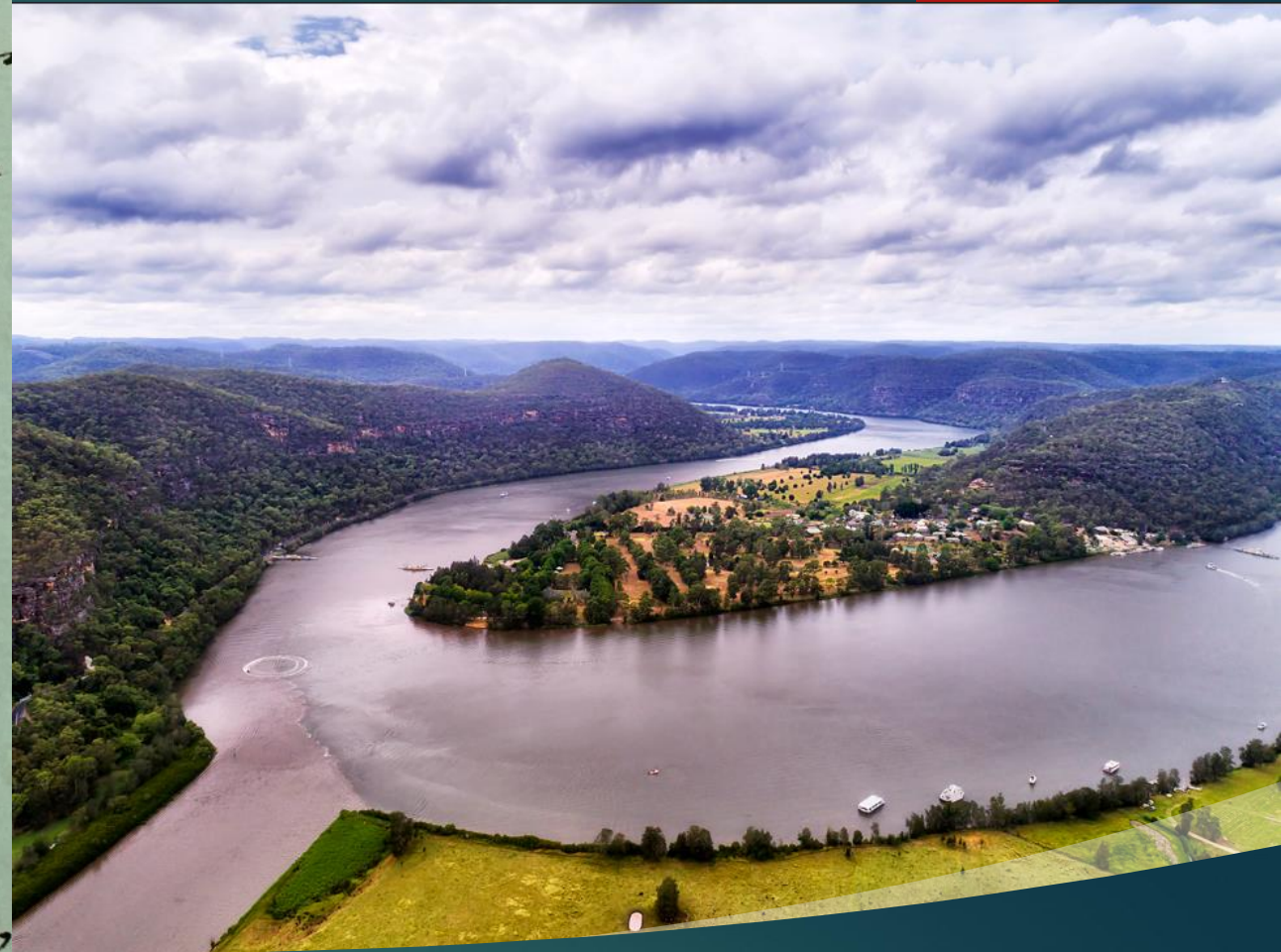
The Manse, Pitt Town, where Reverend John McGarvie lived 1828-29. Darug and Darkinyung people visited him here and camped nearby.
Jean Purtell, Manse Farm at Pitt Town (Hawkesbury City Library)



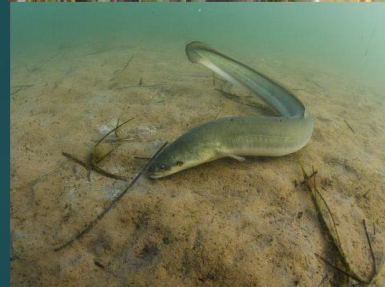
McGarvie's sketch of a gunya (shelter) near his house at Pitt Town
(Rev. J. McGarvie, Diary, 1828, Mitchell Library)

Woolloomoolung Wisemans
Woolloomoolung — Sign
Baabin
Woomunga
Bellacoora,
Bethamoola,
Ovokokai
D'nenburong

N. side
of the
River

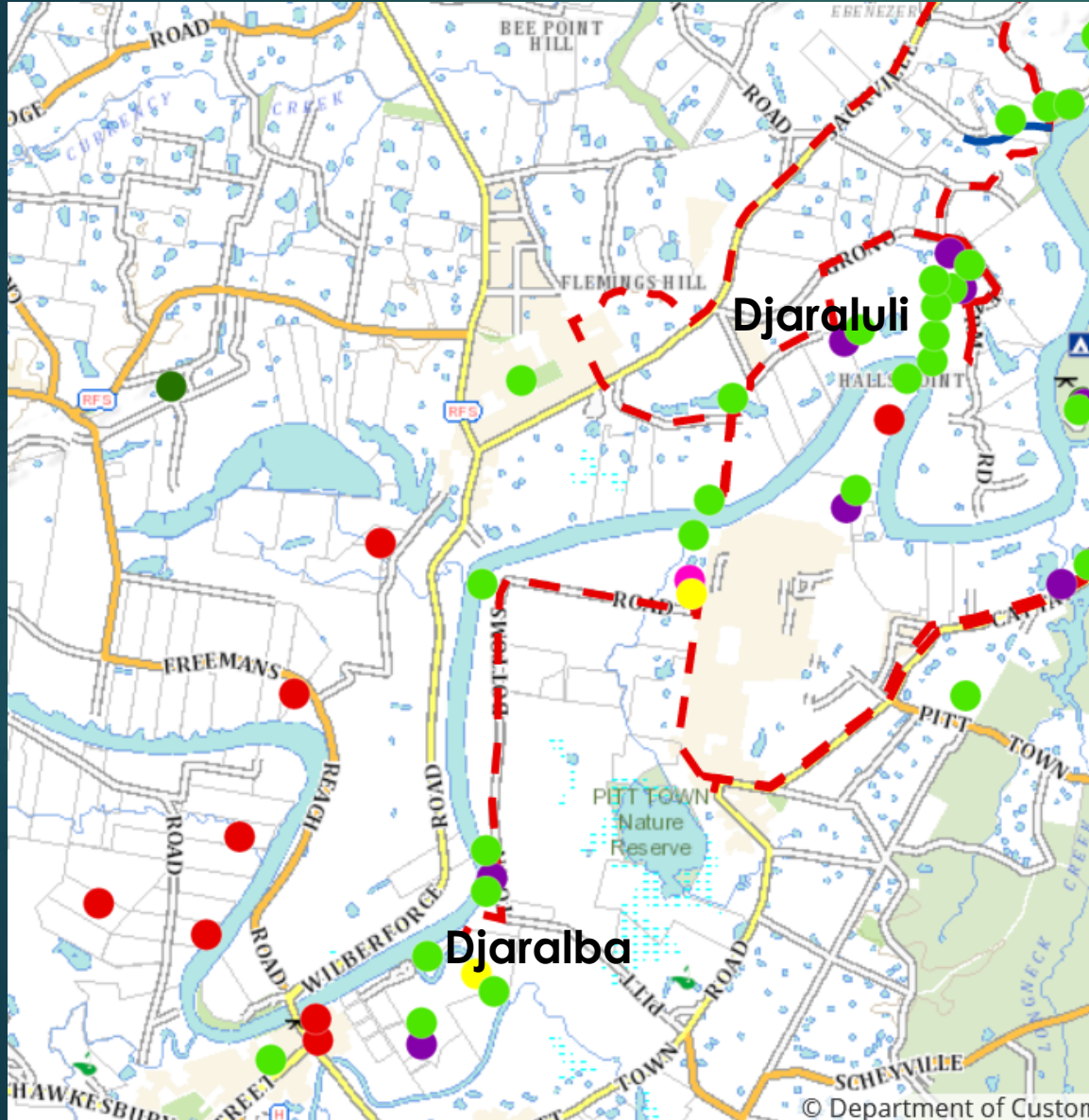


Dyarubbin at Wulumurang, Wisemans Ferry, and the unlocated place names on the 'N. side of the River' that Rev. McGarvie recorded there



Coailli GUWALI – cormorant *Kabawn Coaille* – big
 cormorant hangout *Tanekune* DAYNYA – mud oyster KUNE
 yam stick – where women dug for mud oysters *Beroma*
 PIRIMA –teal duck *Dareli* DURALI – Brolga *Koloway*
 GULIWAYN – Koala *Yoorabool* NGURAPUL – magpie
Barratalloa BARA TJALAWWA – eels sit down
Waikangai WAYI-GANG – big dog

Djaralba and Djaraluli on Dyarubbin – corroboree places

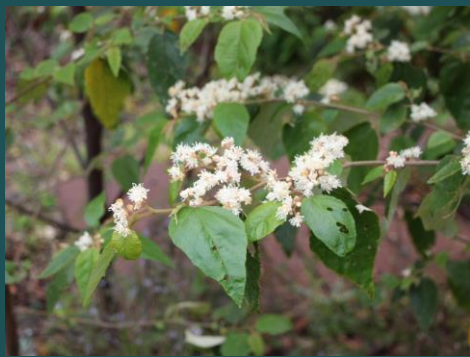


W R Govett, 'Corroboree [near Lake George]' (Mitchell Library)



Photo: Michael Kemp

Yirang Bula? One face of the 'Lovers Leap' cliff at Cattai



Damangoa fig tree

Gooragorimba Brush kurrajong

Kanemaya Gynea Lily

Kolebutba Red cedar

Booldoorra soft corkwood

Melaban black wattle

Many of Dyarubbin's place names refer to plants and trees



Darungara cabbage palm

Marubayi-lang mangroves

Karrowerry native plum tree

Baābin nettles

Wollootottemba Fringed heath myrtle

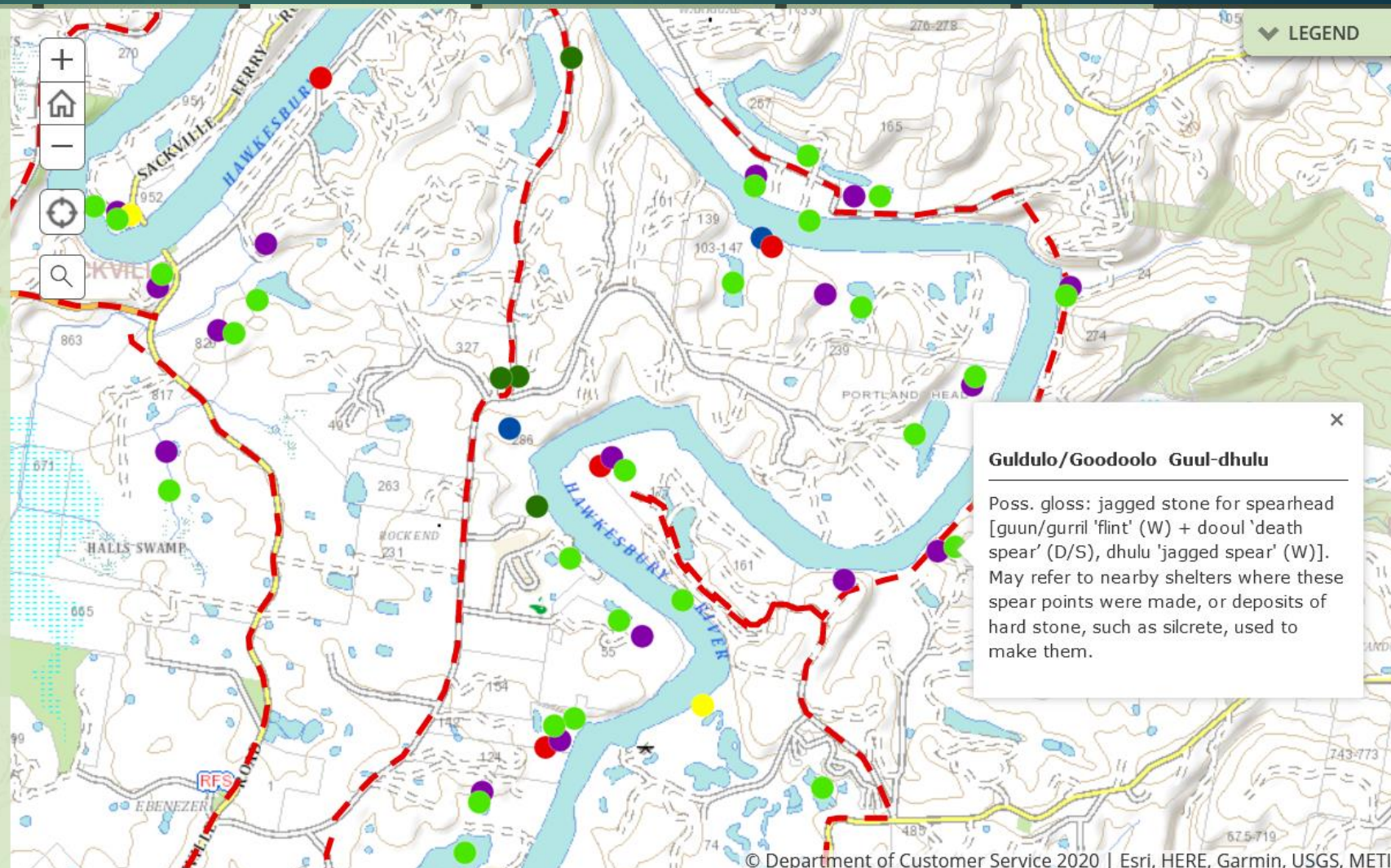
Boolo coachwood



Guul-dhulu – spear-point place

We think that **Guldulo**, *Guul-dhulu*, translates as 'flint for spearhead', the stone barbs fixed to the *doull*, the 'death spear'. Another name for the stone barbed spear was *ganadiyul*. This lethal spear was associated with inland Aboriginal people; the coastal people barbed this type of spear with bits of oyster shell.

The barbs, or points, were often made of silcrete, a hard, shiny stone, most often deep red in colour, but can also be yellow or purple. The best-known silcrete quarry in this region was at Plumpton Ridge, in present day Marsden Park. Another source is located at Freemans Reach. Dyarubbin also brought down silcrete cobbles and boulders; maybe there was a deposit here. Or perhaps **Guldulo** indicates that the points were made here. On the slopes overlooking this valley are three rockshelters. Archaeologists found sharp points and flat-backed blades in all of them, most made from silcrete.





Wawami, watching over Sackville and Kent Reaches

Photo: Joy Lai



Durumbuluwa, Sackville Reach, Dyarubbin

Photo: Joy Lai

Gurangatty: giant
Eel-Being, bringer
of floods,
rock engraving at
Gurriya, meaning
'fish monster'.

Flood on the Hawkesbury at
Windsor 1816

Flood on the Hawkesbury at
Windsor 2021



Garden of
Australia
Dreams',
National
Museum of
Australia



