Melbourne and Surrounds

The Melbourne and Surrounds languages, found in the greater Melbourne area, and beyond to the north and east include:

- Boon wurrung (Coastal Melbourne and Westernport)
- Taungurung/Thagungwurrung (Goulburn Valley - southern)
- Woiwurrung (Yarra Valley)

These languages are also referred to as Eastern Kulin, or the Central Victorian Languages.

Relatedness

Comparison of the historical records of these languages suggests that they shared a high level of similarity in their vocabulary and grammar, although each language is recognised as distinct by its speakers (see Blake and Reid, 1998).

Blake (1991:50) found that Taungurung/Thagungwurrung, Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung are very closely related, sharing a high percentage of vocabulary items:

Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung	83%
Woiwurrung-Boon wurrung	93%
Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Boon wurrung	80%

This close relationship is corroborated by some of the grammatical material recorded for Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung. Nouns in these languages share an ergative-instrumental marker, a genitive marker, a locative-allative marker, and an ablative marker. These languages also share what R.H. Mathews called 'inflected prepositions', number markers, and the expression *indhungga* 'I don't know'.

In this web portal we have separate sections for the language varieties:

- Boon wurrung
- Taungurung/Thagungwurrung
- Woiwurrung

Boon wurrung

It is understood that the Boon wurrung language was traditionally spoken by the people who inhabited the coastal areas of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, and Westerport Bay, stretching from the Werribee River in the west, to the Tarwin River in the east.

Language Name

Mathews (1903:244) states that the name Boon wurrung is comprised of **bun** 'no' and -**wurrung** 'lip, speech, tongue or language'. This combines the northern Kulin practice of naming a language after its word for 'no', and the southern Kulin practice of naming it after a distinguishing feature and the suffix -**wurrung**.

Clark (1990:363) reports that the earliest reference to Boon wurrung dates from 1836. References to Boonwurrung can be found in Stewart (in Bonwick 1883), Wedge (in Croll 1937) and Langhorne (in Gurner Papers ML Mss).

Clans

The Boon wurrung language was spoken by at least six clans whose names consisted of two parts, the first being an identifying feature of the clan, and the second being **balug**, used to refer to a group of people, and/or **willam**, which indicated the location of their camp. The following clans have been identified (see Clark 1990):

> The **Bun Wurung Balug** 'the bun speaking people' roamed the country around Point Nepean and Cape Schanck.

> The **Mayune Balug** 'Mayune people', named after their locality, lived at the top of the Mornington Peninsula, near Mt Eliza, Mordialloc and Narre Warren.

> The **Ngaruk Willam** 'stone dwellers' lived around Brighton, Mordialloc and Dandenong, as well as between Mt Eliza and Mt Martha. Note that Blake (1991:48) argues that the name is more likely to mean 'hill dwellers'.

> The **Yallock Balug** 'river people' were located around Bass River and Tooradin.

> The **Yalukit Willam** 'yalukit dwellers' lived on the coastal tract at the head of Port Phillip Bay, as far as the Werribee River, and at Williamstown, Sandridge and St Kilda.

> The **Yowengarra** roamed the eastern most Kulin territory, west of Wilson's Promontory and east of the Tarwin. Blake (1991:48) refers to this group as the **Yowenjerre**. Clark (1990) transcribed Robinson's (1844) name for them as Yowenjene, but Blake uses the spelling Yowenjerre, which he standardizes to the spelling Yawen-djira. Yawa- is the verb 'to swim' (Blake, 1991:121), and -djirra is a plural marker (Blake, 1991:48).

Relatedness to Other Victorian languages

Blake (1991:50) found that the languages Taungurung/Thagungwurrung, Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung, are very closely related, sharing a high percentage of vocabulary items.

Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung	83%
Woiwurrung-Boon wurrung	93%
Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Boon wurrung	80%

This close relationship is corroborated by the some of the grammatical material recorded for Taungurung/Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung. Nouns in these languages share an ergative-instrumental marker, a genitive marker, a locative-allative marker, and an ablative marker. These languages also share what R.H. Mathews called 'inflected prepositions', number markers, and the expression *indhungga* 'I don't know'.

These languages use the word kuli for 'man' or 'person', a word that is shared with many of the languages of central and western Victoria. All of these languages also share other linguistic features, and together they are known as the **Kulin languages** (see Blake and Reid, 1998).

Taungurung/Thagungwurrung, Woiwurrung and Boon wurrung are referred to collectively as Eastern Kulin or Central Victorian. However, they are referred to collectively by their region, Melbourne and Surrounds, on this website.

Because Woiwurrung, Boon wurrung and Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung are so closely related, it would be linguistically appropriate to incorporate grammar and vocabulary recorded for all **Melbourne and Surrounds languages** in a reclamation grammar. The following list of words illustrates the many ways in which the name of the language was recorded in the sources.

Boatnairo, Boatnarro, Putnaroo, Putmaroo, Bonurong, Bonnings, Boonnong, Boomerang, Bon-gar-rong, Bon-ga-rong, Boom ner wrong, Boomerong, Boonerong, Boong wer rong, Boongerong, Bounworong, Boonwoorong, Boonworong, Bonwarry, Boong.er.rong, Boong.er.ong, Bonwerong, Boormarong, Boonmerong, Bon-worong, Boonmorong, Boonrong, Boongerang, Boon.ger.rong, Boon-wo-rong, Boonurong, Bonwrong, Boungerong, Bournourong, Boongurong, Boonguerong, Boonwerung, Boonwerong, boomeronge, Boon wurong, Boonoorong, Boon-oor-rong, Boonurrong, Bunwurru, Bun-wurru, Bunwurung, Boon-wurung, Boon wurung, Borawong, Bunoorong, Bunurong, Boonerang, Bunuron, Bunarong, Bunerong, Boonoor-ong, Bunwurong, Bunwurra, Thurung, Boonoorung, Boonworung, Boonwurrong, Bonourong, Bunerung, Boonooroong, Bunwurung.

Taungurung / Thagungwurrung

It is understood that the Taungurung/Thagungwurrung language was traditionally spoken by the people who inhabited the land north of the Woiwurrung, from the headwaters of the Goulburn River, down to the Broken River, including the Campaspe valley.

Language Name

The name ***Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung*** is comprised of **thagung** (or **dhagung**) 'no' and **–wurrung** 'lip, speech, tongue or language'. This combines the northern Kulin practice of naming a language after its word for 'no', and the southern Kulin practice of naming it after a distinguishing feature and the suffix **–wurrung**.

Clark (1990:363) reports that the earliest references to the language name were recorded by Langhorne in 1837 and 1839, who called it 'Tonnurong' and 'Torongolong', and Robinson (1839), who called it the 'Daung.ger.rong'.

Clans

The Taungurung/Thagungwurrung language was spoken by at least nine clans whose names consisted of two parts, the first being an identifying feature of the clan, and the second being **balug**, used to refer to a group of people, or **willam**, which indicated the location of their camp, or **gundidj**, which means 'belonging to'. The following clans have been identified (see Clark 1990):

The ***Buthera Balug*** were located on the Upper Goulburn, as far down as Yea and Seymour.

The ***Look Willam*** roamed the area on the Campaspe River, near Kilmore.

The ***Moomoom Gundidj*** 'belonging to Moomoom' lived west of the Campaspe River, and northwest of Mitchellstown.

The ***Nattarak Balug*** 'Nattarak people' lived on the Coliban River and upper Campaspe River.

The ***Nira Balug*** 'Cave People' bordered the Woiwurrung at the Great Dividing Range, and lived on creeks and hills near Kilmore, Broadford, Pyalong and westward towards Mt Macedon.

The ***Warring-Illum Balug*** 'Warring dwelling people', Warring being their name for the Goulburn River, lived on the Upper Goulburn River and its southern sources, at Yea and at Alexandra.

The ***Yarran-Illam*** 'river dwellers' were located on the east side of the Goulburn River, below Seymour and on the Plenty River.

The ***Yeerun-Illam-Balug*** 'Yeerun dwelling people' roamed the area around Benalla.

The ***Yowung-Illam-Balug*** 'stone camp people' lived at Alexandra, Mansfield and the Upper Goulburn River. Blake (1991:48) refers to this group using Howitt's spelling Yauung-illam-baluk, which he standardizes to Yawang-yilam-balug.

Relatedness to Other Victorian Languages

Blake (1991:50) found that the languages Taungurung/Thagungwurrung, Woiwurrung and Boon wurrung, are very closely related, sharing a high percentage of vocabulary items.

Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung	83%
Woiwurrung-Boon wurrung	93%
Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung and Boon wurrung	80%

This close relationship is corroborated by the some of the grammatical material recorded for Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung. Nouns in these languages share an ergative-instrumental marker, a genitive marker, a locative-allative marker, and an ablative marker. These languages also share what R.H. Mathews called 'inflected prepositions', number markers, and the expression *indhungga* 'I don't know'.

These languages use the word kuli for 'man' or 'person', a word that is shared with many of the languages of central and western Victoria. All of these languages also share other linguistic features, and together they are known as the **Kulin languages** (see Blake and Reid, 1998).

Taungurung/Thagungwurrung, Woiwurrung and Boon wurrung are referred to collectively as Eastern Kulin or Central Victorian. However, they are referred to collectively by their region, Melbourne and Surrounds, on this website.

Because Woiwurrung, Boon wurrung and Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung are so closely related, it would be linguistically appropriate to incorporate grammar and vocabulary recorded for other **Melbourne and Surrounds** languages in a reclamation grammar. The following list of words illustrates the many ways in which the name of the language was recorded in the sources.

Tonnurong, Torongolong, Daung.ger.rong, Tar.goon.ger.rong, Tar.goong gor rong, Tarng.goo.rong, Taungoorong, Tarng.hoo.wrong, Tarnboorung, Taung boorong, Tongeoorong, Tar doon gerong, Taung hoo wrong, Tar doon ger rong, Tardoongerong, Tardoon.ger.ong, Tarngorong, Darn goo rong, Tandoongerong, Tar-doon-yen-ongs, Tongueorong, Tongworong, Tongeworong, Tong-wo-rong, Tong-worong, Thongworong, Thong worong, Tongorong, Toungourong, Toungurrong, Townurong, Toungurong, Tangowrong, Targunwurong, Taungerong, Darngooung, Darngooran, Dangourong, Thong-wo-rong, Dunrgaorong, Tarngoo-rong, Tindoongerrang, Toingerang, Tarngaane, Tarngaune, Taungurong, Tarngoorong, Tardoongerong, Darngoorong, Tarngerong, Tarn-goorong, Darngerong, Tar doon gerong, Darngorong, Taoungurong, Dan-go-rang, Tongworonga, Thongrooong, Thorgworong, Taoungarong, Darngorang, Darngerong, Dardoongererong, Dardoongerongs, Taounyirongs, Tarngorongs, Taouringurong, Darngoorangs, Damgourong, Joimgbert, Taoungbert, Taomgurong, Taomjurong, Taongbert, Taounyrong, Taoungerong, Dangourong, Taounegerong, Targoongerong, Taoungerong, Tarounwerong, Tarnghoo-rong, Tar doong er rong, Tar.doon.ger.rong, Dar-goong ger.rong, Dargoongherong, Dargoongerong, Jhongworong, Ta-oungurong, Taonngurong, Ta-unggurong, Thagun-worung, Thargunwurung, Thagunwurung, thagun-wurung, Thagun worung, Thagung-wurung, Thagung wurung, Thaguwurru, Thagu-wurru, Thagunworung, Thagungwurru, Thagunworung, Taungurong, Taguniourung, Taunguron, Tagunwuru, Daguwuru, Taungerong, Thagungurong, Taungurong, Taguwuru, Daguwura, Taguniorung, Tauonyirong, Taourngurong, Taoungaroung, Taungurong, Tong-worrong, Thong-worrong, Dareoon-grong, Tarounwarong, Jhongwurrong, Daungwurung.

Woiwurrung

It is understood that the Woiwurrung language was traditionally spoken by the Wurundjeri people, who inhabited the land along the Yarra and Maribynong Rivers. Robinson and Howitt's Kulin informants told them that the land of the Wurundjeri stretched westward to the Werribee River, which separated their land from that of the Wathawurrung. Their northern border was the Great Dividing Range from Mt Baw Baw to Mt William and Mt Macedon. They lived around the headwaters of the Yarra River, and, to the south, their territory bordered that of the Boon wurrung.

Clark (1990:379) reports that the earliest references to the language name were recorded by Langhorne (1836), who called it 'Waworong'; De Viliers (1838), who referred to it as 'Worworong'; and Robinson (1839 Journal), who called it 'Wave ver rong, Waverong'.

Language Name

Mathews (1903:244) reports that the name Woiwurrung is comprised of **woi** 'no' and **–wurrung** 'lip, speech, tongue or language'. This combines the northern Kulin practice of naming a language after its word for 'no', and the southern Kulin practice of naming it after a distinguishing feature and the suffix **–wurrung**.

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Clans

This language was spoken by several clans whose names consisted of two parts, the first being an identifying feature of the clan, and the second being balug, used to refer to a group of people, and/or willam, which indicated the location of their camp. The following clans have been identified (see Clark 1990):

> The **Gunung Willam Balug** 'creek dwelling people' were located between Mt Macedon and Daylesford. They included a sub-section, the **Talling Willum** 'Talling dwellers', who took their name from their location, that being **Talling** or Toolern Creek, near Bachus Marsh.

> The **Kurung Jang Balug** 'red ground people' were located on the west side of Port Phillip Bay around the Werribee River and Bachus Marsh.

> The **Marin Balug** 'Marin people', whose name Robinson says comes from **Mare.ing.alk** 'at the big water, the Saltwater River', lived between Kororoit Creek, and the Maribyrnong River and Jackson's Creek, in and around Sunbury.

> The **Wurundjeri Balug** 'white gum tree people' were located on the eastern side of Mt Macedon. They included two sub-sections, the **Wurundjeri Willam** 'white gum tree dwellers', whose territory was located along the Yarra and Plenty Rivers; and the **Bulug Willam** 'swamp dwellers', who lived between Cranbourne and the Upper Yarra.

Relatedness to Other Victorian Languages

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Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung	83%
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This close relationship is corroborated by the some of the grammatical material recorded for Taungurung/ Thagungwurrung and Woiwurrung. Nouns in these languages share an ergative-instrumental marker, a genitive marker, a locative-allative marker, and an ablative marker. These languages also share what R.H. Mathews called 'inflected prepositions', number markers, and the expression *indhungga* 'I don't know'.

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Worworong, Wave ver rong, Waverong, Waverang, Waworong, Wavorong, Wavarong, Wavererong, Wavoorong, Wawarong, Waoorong, Wa-wo-rong, Wa-ver-ong, Wooworong, Warworong, Wowoorong, Wawoorong, Waworung, Woovorong, Wayoerong, Woeworong, Wawaurrong, Waworong, Wooeewoorong, wawoorong, Wawurrong, Wa-woo-rong, Woiworung, Woiwurru, Woeworung, Woeywurong, Woe-wurung, Woewurung, Woey-wurung, Woi wurung, Woi-wurru,

Woi worung, Wawroonong, Woeworun, Woiwoeung, Warweroo, Woiwuru, Warwaroo, Wairwaioo, Wainworra, Woiwurra, Woiwurong, Woewurong, Woiwurrung, Woi-Wurung, Wuywurrung, Waworong, Wauerong, Wawoorong, Woororong, Woe-wu-rrong, Waewarung, Woiwurung.