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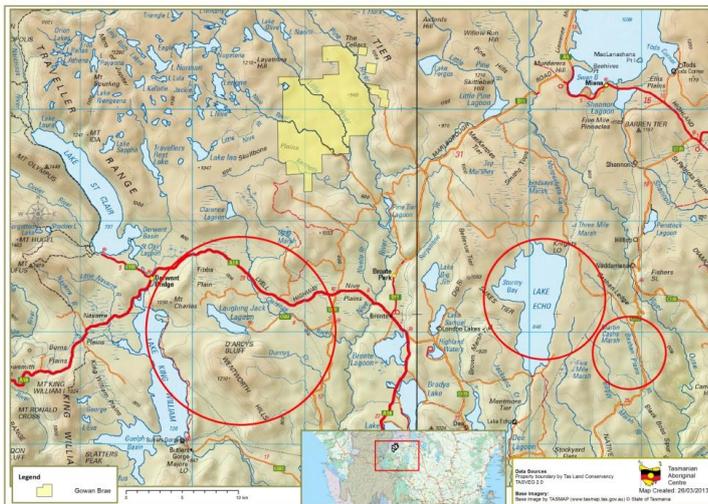
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## A palawa kani name to replace the name "Gowan Brae"

Since we bought Gowan Brae in May 2013 a big topic of discussion has been about renaming the place with a palawa kani name. Here are some of the ideas that have been suggested.

### 1. Original Aboriginal name:

- a. There is no original language name for this place. There are original names for Lake Echo 18 kms away and Bashan Plains 30 kms away. These are the two red circles on the right in the map below.
- b. The nearest place to Gowan Brae for which there is a language name is around 15kms south west from the Gowan Brae border, in the area roughly shown by the big red circle on the left below. Gowan Brae is marked in yellow above that.



c) That name, *waykaywirinu*, was recorded by Robinson for "the country where I met the Oyster Bay and Big River tribes". These were Oyster Bay chief Tukulunginta and Big River chief Montpelliater and their group, met by Robinson on 31 December 31, whose story is told in TAC's booklet *Mumirimina people of the Lower Jordan River Valley*. So a name for Gowan Brae could be:

<b>lurini</b>	<b>waykaywirinu</b>
(lu ree nee)	(why kye wee ree nu)
near	the place where the Oyster Bay and Big River people were captured.

d) Disadvantages of this name are:

\* *waykaywirinu* most likely comes from a northern language (Port Sorell), not from language spoken by the Big River people

\* ANYWHERE around about *waykaywirinu* could be described as *lurini* (near) *waykaywirinu*, so confusion about the locality could be possible and it's not specific to Gowan Brae

\* it doesn't say anything specific about the values or characteristics of the place Gowan Brae, but defines it only by its relationship to another place.

**2. An Aboriginal name we create reflecting the values we consider important. Community suggestions so far include:**

- a) a name that includes the name of the old people who lived here (the Big River people), or the name of the Big River chief in the 1830s (Montpeliat);
- b) a name that reflects a sense of the old people walking up the tracks over the open land, just being free. (There is no word with a meaning like "free" in our original languages.)
- c) a name that includes the word *makuminya*: native track. Three native tracks run through Big River country, so another word may need to be used with *makuminya* to specify exactly which track is meant. *makuminya* is already part of the original name *lukita makuminya*: the native road from Kemps Marsh at Sorell Lake to the Lagoon of Islands.
- d) a word that describes the climate there: eg. snow country; cold country; winter place. However names like this could equally well apply to most places in Tasmania.

**3. An option that offers most opportunities is to create a name which uses:**

- \* one word describing specific features of the area – eg. hilly, rocky, many rivers, big river etc
- \* plus another word meaning country/place
- \* to produce a name like "country of hills", "country of the big river" etc.

*milaythina*, the *palawa kani* word for country, is from a north east language and perhaps not the best choice for a central highlands area;

There is one recording, said to be from the Big River language, of a word *trawtha*: country.

*trawtha* could be used as part of this specific place name. We wouldn't use it for "country" generally, as we already say *milaythina* for that.

**4. Some possible names could be:**

country of the big river	<b>trawtha</b> (trow dthah)	<b>minanya</b> (mee nah nyah)	<b>lakarana</b> (lah kah rah nah)
country of hills/hilly country	<b>trawtha</b> (trow dthah)	<b>nanalini</b> (nah nah lee nee)	)
high country	<b>trawtha</b> (trow dthah)	<b>withikitha</b> (wee dthee kee dthah)	
tracks in the mist/ misty tracks	<b>makuminya</b> (mah ku mee nyah)	<b>munanina</b> (mu nah nee nah)	
strong earth	<b>manina</b> (mah nee nah)	<b>rrala</b> (rrah lah)	
strong ground	<b>manina</b> (mah nee nah)	<b>kuntana</b> (kun tah nah)	

**5. A decision is to be made at this year's AGM this Sunday.**

If you have a view but can't get to the meeting, let us know in advance.