



palawa kani Guide

It is wonderful that we can honour the original Tasmanian Aboriginal languages that were once spoken in Tasmania and their speakers by bringing back into use those words that have until recently been resting. *palawa kani* means 'Tasmanian Aborigines speak'. It is the only Aboriginal language spoken in Lutruwita/Tasmania today.

Reminders

The following reminders will help guide you in the use of palawa kani:

- The name of the language - *palawa kani* - is always written in lower case letters and italicised where possible.
- Palawa and Pakana are two different words for the same people. It is incorrect to use both words together. People outside the Aboriginal Community are always advised to use the formally adopted word Palawa for Tasmanian Aboriginal person or people.
- At present *palawa kani* cannot be taught as a curriculum subject in schools and other educational facilities. The *palawa kani* Language Program offers short sessions sharing some words in songs, games, and classroom activities on application.

Capitalisation

- 'Palawa' is capitalised
- People's names and when naming a tribe: Manalakina, Tukulunginta, Muwinina, Mumirimina
- Place names are written in this standard format: Nipaluna/Hobart.

Plurals

- With *palawa kani* don't put an 'S' on the end of words to talk about more than one thing.
- *palawa kani* nouns are the same for both singular and plural.

Process for accessing and gaining approval to use *palawa kani*

Policies determining Aboriginal language use are based on the fundamental principle of Aboriginal control. These policies are set by the Aboriginal Community through the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

- Some palawa kani words are available for public use.
- The *palawa kani* words on the 50 words website are available for use.
- Permission is to be sought for any proposed uses of *palawa kani* in the Department for Education, Children, and Young People, such as gardens, buildings, teams, to name any facilities.

For all requests always contact the *palawa kani* Language Program at language@tacinc.com.au



Policy



Place Names Map



About *palawa kani*



50 Words List



Living Landscapes Vol.2
palawa kani chapter at p.86