

GriffithReview 63

Writing the Country

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PHOTO ESSAY

Turralyendi Yerta

JAMES TYLOR



Turralyendi Yerta (Tindo Kakirra Yerta)

'Turralyendi Yerta' is a Kurna phrase meaning 'to see yourself in the landscape'. In a two-year period, I travelled over 300 kilometres of the southern part of the Heysen Trail in South Australia, which runs parallel along the Kurna nation boundary line in the Mount Lofty Ranges. My Nunga (South Australian Aboriginal) Kurna family has been in the region of South Australia for 65,000-80,000 years and has a rich cultural connection to this land.



Turralyendi Yerta (Wirramumeyu)

At Encounter Bay on Ramindjeri land. Ramindjeri are a clan of Ngarrindjeri people south of Tarntanya-Adelaide in South Australia. Kurna have had a long cultural connection with Ramindjeri people and call them 'Wirramumeyu' ('scrub forest people').



Turralyendi Yerta (Wirra)

The land of the Ramindjeri is covered in wirra (low windswept forest).



Turralyendi Yerta (Yerlo)

At Itjikawingga (Second Valley), looking down the coast at Patpangga (Rapid Bay) in the Yerlo (Spencer Gulf).



Turralyendi Yerta (Yakki)

In the yakki (valley) in the Watiparingga Reserve. This is one of my favourite places to hike on Tarntanya-Adelaide.



Turralyendi Yerta (Turro)

At Morialta in the Nganu Mount Lofty Ranges on Kurna Country. Kurna and other language groups would traditionally travel along the line of the turro (mountain ridge) between the Peramangk and Kurna border when moving through the area. The Heysen Trail follows a similar route to an old Indigenous trade route.



Turralyendi Yerta (Womma)

A womma (plain) near Burra on the Heysen Trail, on Ngadjuri land. Since European colonisation, much of the land has been cleared of timber for sheep grazing, wheat and mining.



Turralyendi Yerta (Wirrameyu)

Kaurna called Ngadjuri people 'Wirrameyu' ('forest people') because of the river red gum forests that grow on their land.

James Tylor (Possum) is an Australian visual artist, writer, researcher and historian. James' practice examines cultural identity in Australian contemporary society and social history. He explores Australian cultural representations through his multicultural heritage, which comprises Nunga (Kaurna), Māori (Te Arawa) and European (British, Irish, Dutch and Norwegian) Australian ancestry.