



"Kaya, Nunga's & Yorga's,

Mooditch kwoorabup Beela nidjak Nganga, il nidja gwirri djanga beeritch ..."

Hello and welcome to this wonderful town, we call Kwoorabup and lets all enjoy the beautiful spirit of this special place...

(Wayne Webb, Recognised Local Indigenous Elder)

M - HISTORY -

Names and place descriptions are one of the oldest forms of geographical information. They help us to navigate our way through the landscape, acting over time as historic markers to locations. including places of cultural or spiritual significance. They give specific features and environments an identity which can be passed from person to person, group to group and generation to generation. This 'location knowledge' has been integral to navigation aids evolving from simple word of mouth, hand drawings and paper maps to today's sophisticated real-time digital capabilities. Aboriginal people of the south-west of Western Australia are known collectively as Noongar (meaning: "the people"). The Noongar lived in and around the Denmark River and Wilson Inlet, or Nullaki, within the Minang and Bibbulman/Wardandi territories to the east and west.

Peaceful Bay - Kwallup - meaning: "Sand/Place of Sand"





Weedon Hill - Warrumbup - meaning: "Place of Warro/Doe or Female Kangaroo'

- CULTURE -

This is an area rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage, with an estimated local indigenous inhabitancy dating back over ten thousand years, evident by the varied cultural places and archaeological sites located throughout the region.

The Denmark River itself is a mythologically important cultural place for the local Traditional Land Owners, as the area is unique in creating "a sense of place and history" due largely to its associated cultural features, oral histories and aesthetic values provided by the striking surrounding landform configurations.



Nornalup – Nornalup – meaning: "Place of Tiger Snake"



Parry Inlet - Kordabup - meaning: "Place of the Heart" "Coming Together Place"

- CHANGE -

Following a successful grant application by the Shire of Denmark to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), a program was developed in order to establish a list of Indigenous names for iconic landscape features within the area.

From that program, a Working Group consisting of members from both the Bibbulman/Wardandi and Minang people and also the Denmark Historical Society was established, in order to provide detailed feedback and advice and to ensure the correct information was recorded for this process.



Parry Beach - Kordabup - meaning: "Place of the Heart"

Mt Shadforth - Wakundup - meaning: "Wakoon/Water Fowl"



- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT -

The Working Group, in consultation with DIA, has determined a list of 20 proposed Noongar names to be used in the Shire, based on historical records and local knowledge.

Features that are proposed for Aboriginal names would, in time, have a second sign at or near the feature in addition to their current name. An example of this is the Kwoorabup which is currently known as the Denmark River.



Denmark River - Kwoorabup - meaning: "Place of the brush tailed wallabies" (Place We Return To)





- RESPECT

The benefits of such a project are immense in terms of recognising local Aboriginal history and the physical significance placed on individual landscape features by the Noongar people, past, present and future.

The project's aim is also to educate the wider local community through the use of signage and information boards at each location in order to increase public awareness in regards to Aboriginal cultural Nakundheritage, history and the many values associated with the use of these



Mt Hallowell - Koorumdinup - meaning: "Place of Many Bush Kangaroo"





Kent River - Gnowerumbup - meaning: "Place of Feathers"

