**Darkiñung Borders:**

A simplified description for Aboriginal ‘Tribal’ geographical borders to the west and north of Sydney at the time of settlement, extracted from “Darkiñung Recognition” 2010 thesis by Dr G.E. (Geoff) Ford - which is a 558 page analysis of the historiography (telling of the history) with new findings. Details of the findings can be read in the 2010 thesis text, with commentary in footnotes. (References given here are to the thesis, online link at University of Sydney Library catalogue, http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7745.)

Common spellings with English characters include ‘Darkinung’, Darkinyung, Darkinjung.

**Why not a map?** That is considered p.347 fn.75.

In mainland Australia, fixed boundaries did not exist before settlement, so these findings taken from analysis of the earliest historical source records are the best available topographical borders for the Aboriginal Darkiñung-language group who were the Wallambine people of the northern Blue Mountains: that is, people of the Hawkesbury-Hunter Ranges between the mid Hunter R. floodplain and the Hawkesbury R. floodplain. Throughout the continent, waterways or other water sources formed the centre of Aboriginal country. Geographical extremities of Aboriginal country in the study were found to be based on topographical watersheds of large catchments, other than when based on a wide body of water [such as Lake Alexandria near the Murray River mouth p.367 fn.16, p.264 fn.35], here a forcefully flowing river making an inland sea across a floodplain (p.234 fn.111).

- The successful intrusion into the upper Hunter valley by interior Kamilaroi people (Chapter 12) was so recent that they did not have stable borders, and it was found that interior Wiradjuri also had begun intrusion with raids into the coastal draining watersheds. The misplacing of the ‘Wonnarua’ (Wannerawa, or Wannungine) of the Central Coast at the upper Hunter valley which had been occupied by these Kamilaroi was found to be from a misstatement published in 1887 from ‘recollections’ more than 40 years earlier (pp.351-356). Ancestors of many of the people now called ‘Wonnarua’ were Darkiñung.

- The mislocation of the Wallambine (‘Wollombi’) Darkiñung-language people to the Central Coast country of the Wannungine people was mapped by Norman Tindale in 1940 when he misplaced them at Wyong / Tuggerah Lakes. The mistake was adopted to be the name of the new Local Aboriginal Land Council, when it was allocated the Wyong / Gosford local government boundaries in 1983. In NSW, Land Councils usually do not take the names of the traditional owners (p.309, fn.22, fn.23). The mistake was due to the presence of the Newman Family from Wollombi (Chapter 8).

- Traditional Dharug (who were from the Georges River south of Sydney) had been mislocated across the Hawkesbury River floodplain and up into the northern Blue Mountains by Norman Tindale in 1940 (pp. 263). That mistake, extended by J.L. (Jim) Kohen 50 years later, has been sourced to a misrepresentation that Robert Mathews had meant the Dharrook when actually, he had placed the Gundungurra at Mount Victoria (pp.364-366). Mathews had found for the Blue Mountains that on the north of the Gundungurra it was the country of the Darkiñung (p.215 fn.66). Ancestors of many of the people now called Dharug (viz. Dharrook) were Darkiñung.

continued . . .
Borders of *Darkiňung* Country to the NE, Chapter 9 (pp.323-358):-  
The watershed of the coastal range, from Newcastle Sugarloaf south along Watagan Range continuing along Peats Ridge to the Hawkesbury River upstream of Mooney Mooney (perhaps Bar Point). Mangrove Creek a border? No Way!! (fn.61 p.271) The areas draining directly to the coast were country of the *Wannungine* (present day ‘Guringai’ + ‘Awabakal’), who would have occupied the continental shelf before sea-levels rose. These *Wannungine* coastal people were allied with the mountain *Wallambine* (‘Wollombi’) *Darkiňung*, together a ‘Middle-Kuri’ language group (p.223). With *Wannungine* occupation of the estuarine Arms of Broken Bay, their border was along Canoelands Ridge and the watershed range used for the old northern road.

Borders of *Darkiňung* Country to the SE, Chapter 10 (pp.359-388, also eg pp.234):-  
While the watershed between the estuaries of Broken Bay and the Parramatta River formed a southern border for the *Wannungine*, the *Darkiňung* border for the Hawkesbury River catchment continued into the Hawkesbury River floodplain along the low divide between Eastern Creek and ‘the ponds’ creeks. At the time of settlement the lower Nepean River was *Darkiňung* territory, while *Dharug* territory south of Sydney extended from Georges River to encompass South Creek drainage. (Over the millennia a border in the floodplain would have varied as the river bed had changed, affecting habitation, shown by ancient Aboriginal archaeological deposits deep under the alluvia.) The *Dharug* were allied with the mountain *Gundungurra*, together a ‘South-Kuri’ language group (p.223).

Borders of *Darkiňung* Country to the SW, Chapter 11 (pp.389-436):-  
Erskine Range [geographical southeast part of topographical Blue Mountains main divide - see 1875 map p.315] to Kings Tableland, then present day Blue Mountains Range (same as Governor Darling’s Causeway from Mount Victoria settlement). This is a reflection of the drainage to Cox River on the southwest of this watershed being territory of the *Gundungurra*. Thence the total Colo River catchment was part of the territory of the Hawkesbury River / Goulburn & Hunter River *Darkiňung* Aborigines. On the Central Tablelands the Aborigines could tell the difference in ecology between drainage to the interior and drainage to the coast, and accordingly could recognise long-standing traditional home range (pp.318).

Borders of *Darkiňung* Country to the NW, Chapter 12 (pp.437-468):-  
The Goulburn River catchment - with the interior *Kamilaroi* having intruded over the Liverpool Range down the upper Hunter River before the settlers arrived, thereby displacing the *Darkiň’ung* or *Katt’ung*-speaking peoples who would have been there. [The interior *Wiradjuri* had not successfully established themselves in traditional *Darkiňung* country by the time of settlement.] At the junction of the Goulburn River, down the mid Hunter floodplain to the catchment of Wallis Creek (Maitland), thence continue as for NE (Chapter 9). The *Geawe’gal*, only a local remnant at “Glendon”, were probably traditional *Darkiňung* people cut off during the *Kamilaroi* invasion.