

# WELCOME TO COUNTRY

## WOMINDJEKA TAUNGURUNG BIIK – WELCOME TO TAUNGURUNG COUNTRY

Taungurung are the first people of the rivers, valleys and mountains in this region.

The Taungurung people lived harmoniously according to the natural cycles of the land and rhythms and moved through this country on a seasonal basis, occupying the cooler more mountainous areas (including the Alpine region) in summer and autumn, and the tributaries of the Goulburn in winter and spring.

Food was plentiful around the region's waterways with emus, kangaroos, possums, wombats, freshwater

fish and abundant plant foods harvested by the nine related clans of the Taungurung people.

Today Taungurung people still live on country and are very active in the protection and preservation of their culture and land.

Resort Management and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority are respectful of the traditional people and continue to work alongside the Taungurung to protect and restore native habitat and preserve the precious waterways in this region.



“WE ASK THAT YOU TREAT THE LAND WITH RESPECT AND THE LAND IN TURN WILL LOOK AFTER YOU”

- TAUNGURUNG CLANS

## WAA THE CROW

At one time, all Kulin ate their food raw and were always sick during winter. There were seven women who never complained about the cold and beautiful smells came from their camp. Waa the white Crow watched these women carefully and noticed that the tops of their digging sticks were glowing red.

The women loved honey ants but were afraid of snakes. Waa put some baby snakes inside a hollow log and sealed it up. He told the women that there were honey ants inside and that they should use their digging sticks to break it open. All the snakes shot out and

the women started hitting the ground so hard to keep the snakes away that the tops of their digging sticks broke off. Waa took off with them.

The women called out, abusing the Crow and calling him thief. All this noise attracted the attention of Bunjil and the women told Bunjil that Waa had stolen the secret of fire. Bunjil asked his two nephews, Jert Jert and Thara, to chase after Waa and get the sticks back. Waa flew so fast that one of the sticks caught fire and he dropped it at a place called Mooneo in the Dandenong's, the first hill burnt by



fire. Thara told Jert Jert to keep going because he was a lot quicker.

Waa then flew so fast that this time all the sticks caught fire, burning Waa and turning him black, and he landed at a place called Nanadhong the Cathedral Ranges in Taungurung Country.



## BUNJIL THE GREAT EAGLE HAWK

This is the ancestor spirit among the Taungurung people of Victoria. Bunjil created the environment and all the plants and animals that live in it, including humans. He also taught the people how to survive in their country, and how to make the weapons and tools they used, and gave them their laws.

Bunjil had 2 wives and a son, Bimbeal, the rainbow is his first wife and the second rainbow that you sometimes see is his second wife. When Bunjil finished creating the earth and the people and animals he decided to go to the sky with his family. He told Bellin-Bellin, the musk crow, who is responsible for the winds, to open the bags he kept the wind in and let out some wind. Bellin-Bellin opened 1 bag and the wind that rushed out uprooted huge trees and blew them into the air. But it wasn't enough, so Bunjil told him to let out more wind. This time Bellin-Bellin opened 2 bags and the wind blew Bunjil and his family into the sky where they became stars watching his people from the sky.