

KOORIE GLOSSARY

Aunty/Uncle

We use the terms Aunty or Uncle as a sign of respect. It is used for those who are older than you or that have authority.

Ceremony

Broadly, ceremonies are traditional events or activities that have strong cultural importance. Many ceremonies have been passed down from generation to generation and are very sacred. There are many types of ceremonies and you can read more about them [here](#).

Clan

Clans are larger than an immediate family but are based on family links through a common ancestor. Clan groups share a common language and kinship system, which is based on either patrilineal or matrilineal lines of descent.

Colonisation

Colonisation is one group of people ruling over another in their traditional land. When the British invaded what is now Australia, Aboriginal people were already living here. They colonised our homes through violence and spread foreign disease and Aboriginal people were forced to assimilate.

Corroboree

Corroboree describes a large ceremonial gathering with a sharing of culture, songs and dance.

Country

Country is the traditional lands of a mob.

Cuz

We use cuz to refer to our friends (as well as our cousins) and anyone else that is around the same age as us. We use it alongside sis/sister and bruz/brother. It is a term of endearment.

Deadly

Deadly describes something that is really cool or great.

Dialects

A dialect is a version of a main language that is specific to an area. A language group may have multiple dialects.

Dreaming

The Dreaming goes by many different names throughout Australia, but they have a similar meaning. The Dreaming refers to the 'spirit world' that accompanies our physical one. You can read more about the Dreaming [here](#).

Elder

An Indigenous Elder is someone recognised within our community as a knowledge holder and often has a great deal of authority over the community.



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Kinship

Kinship is at the heart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and community. Kinship establishes where a person fits in their community. You can read more about Kinship [here](#).

Koorie

Koorie or Koori refers to Aboriginal people from Victoria and New South Wales.

Language Group

A language group is a group of people within a tribe or nation that speak the same language.

Lore

Lore is the traditional and cultural rules, guidelines and beliefs of our people. It is our cultural version of western laws.

Mission

A mission is a church-run area of land where Aboriginal people were placed after being forcibly removed from their traditional lands.

Mob

Your mob is who you identify with. It typically means your family and/or your language group.

Moiety

Moiety is the highest level of kinship. People are separated into two groups based on lineage and it determines who you can marry.

Nation

A nation is an alliance/collective of tribes that neighbour each other. These tribes may have similar languages and customs and will have treaties and Lore's in place so things remain peaceful amongst them.

Ochre

Ochre is a natural earth pigment similar to clay. When mixed with water it forms into a paste that Aboriginal people use to paint our faces and bodies for ceremonies and gatherings. There are many colours but the most common are white, yellow, orange, brown and red with some mobs having access to colours like pink and purple.

Oral Culture

Traditionally, we did not write down our history, lore, songs and dances. Sometimes they were painted but usually cultural knowledge was passed down through story telling from one person to another.

Reserve

A reserve is a state-run area of land where Aboriginal people were placed in after being forcibly removed from their traditional lands.

Self-Determination

Self-determination is about being in control your own future without outside intervention.



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Songlines

Songlines are the Aboriginal walking routes that cross our country, linking important sites and locations. Before colonisation they were maintained by regular use, burning off and clearing.

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is tied in with self-determination and is about how we express our control over our affairs, separate from colonial authorities. We as Aboriginal people never gave up our sovereignty when our lands were invaded.

Station

A station is a state-run area of land where Aboriginal people were placed in after being forcibly removed from their traditional lands.

Stolen Generation

The 'Stolen Generations' refers to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their family, community, culture and country

Tanderrum

Tanderrum is a ceremony bringing together the Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung, Boon Wurrung, Taungurung, Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung language groups of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

Tidda

Tidda is a widely used word for sister.

Totem

A totem is a person's spirit protector. It is usually an animal but can be anything that is a part of the natural environment. A person has a strong connection to their totem and may have multiple. You can learn more about totems [here](#).

Traditional Custodian/Owner

A traditional custodian or traditional owner refers to the people of a tribe and their connection to their land. Every tribe had their own area of land and they were the custodians of that land. The words Custodian and Owner are used interchangeably and are more of a personal preference.

Traditional Lands

The traditional lands are the lands of someone's tribe.

Tribe

Tribe refers to a group of people related by genealogy, a common language and occupying (or traditionally occupying) a recognised area of country. A tribe may have many language groups and can also be referred to as someone's 'mob'.

