

Welcome To Country Dorset Council Meeting 15 February 2021

Winnaleah Community Centre

*Yah Pulingina, meena yah pulingina neena melythina Pinterrairer.*

Greetings, I welcome you to the Country of the *Pinterrairer* clan who belonged to the area where Winnaleah is located. The *Pinterrairer* clan Country was situated between the *Leengteener* or Tomahawk River and the Ringarooma River and from Ringarooma Bay to the foot hills southward of the Ringarooma township. We know this area today as beef cattle, sheep and dairy farmlands that are interspersed with dry sclerophyll forests.

Winnaleah translates to 'Fire' in the far Northwest Coast nation language. It is important to acknowledge that many Aboriginal words were selected from the records of 8 to 13 Tasmanian languages that were spoken before 1803 and many Aboriginal placenames in Tasmania named last century were not connected with local languages. That is why it is extremely important that our current Aboriginal and Dual Naming process is supported by the Dorset Council so that where we know the local names, those names can be revived.

During colonial times, before the area was surveyed, George Augustus Robinson came through this place, where council is meeting today, looking about seven clanspeople who were still free in the northeast bush. My ancestral grandfather Mannalargenna was one of Robinson's guides and had joined the group because of his intimate knowledge of every nook and cranny of the northeast Country. After travelling for four days through a thick forest behind *Poonerluttener*, Mt Cameron, it was on July 8, 1831 that they emerged onto a vast plain located due south of *Konewongener*, Mt Horror. Robinson called this plain Welcome Plain or Welcome Dale and he described in his journal what he saw. Here the area covered about 2000 acres (800 hectares) a vast semi-circle of kangaroo and button grasses surrounded by forests of myrtle and wattle trees. There was an excellent water source running through the plain that was probably what we now know as Trout Creek. This was an important clan hunting ground and wombat, a favoured food of the northeast clans, were in abundance. There were about eight traditional bark huts on the plain that Robinson noticed had been recently recovered with fresh bark and green boughs that told Robinson the people they were on the trail of had recently stopped over here.

The Welcome Plain hunting ground was also part of the main corridor or road, called *Lawaimarkenner*, that the clans travelled on between Georges Bay as far as the Tamar River. The corridor was located

behind *Poonerluttener* (Mt Cameron) and *Konewongener* (Mt Horror) before it crossed over the Great Forester River and westward by way of North Scottsdale (*Bungana*).

I am very pleased to be invited to participate in this very first Welcome to Country for Dorset Council in the heartlands that belonged to the *Pinterrairer* clans-people especially considering that this location was called Welcome Plain. Mayor Howard, fellow Councillors and community members I want to thank you from the deep valleys of my heart for this is a great opportunity for me to share with you a story of the ancestors and their connections to this place, for us all to remember their struggles of survival and to celebrate our deep history, unique language, and precious cultural traditions practiced across the northeast.

Thank you.

Aunty Patsy Cameron AO