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YELTA.

*Marowra Language.*—Spoken by the *Yaako-yaako* tribe, inhabiting the Murray from about ten miles above the Darling Junction to a little below the Rufus (the feeder of Lake Victoria), about fifty miles, and by all the tribes on the Darling, to about 350 miles above its junction with the Murray. About

half-way between Mount Murchison and Fort Bourke a change in dialect is discernible, and at Fort Bourke the *Kamilaroi* language commences, which is understood by the tribes on nearly all the tributaries of the Darling.

English.	Australian.	English.	Australian.
Man - - -	<i>Maa-lee.</i>	Star - - -	<i>Boorlee.</i>
Woman - - -	<i>Nongo.</i>	Sky - - -	<i>Kara wina.</i>
Father - - -	<i>Kambia.</i>	Night - - -	<i>Ton-kon-ko.</i>
Mother - - -	<i>Naamagh.</i>	Day - - -	<i>Minki.</i>
Son - - -	<i>Weymbra.</i>	Fire - - -	<i>Nan-day-lee, koon-ega.</i>
Daughter - - -	<i>Weymbra.</i>	Air - - -	<i>Taparoo.</i>
Brother - - -	<i>Kokquia.</i>	Wind - - -	<i>Yerto.</i>
Sister - - -	<i>Wertooia.</i>	Earth - - -	<i>Merndi.</i>
Head - - -	<i>Therto, kokoro.</i>	Ground - - -	<i>Pom pon deroo.</i>
Hair - - -	<i>Boorlee.</i>	Soil - - -	<i>Merndi.</i>
Eye - - -	<i>Maykee.</i>	River - - -	<i>Berlerroo.</i>
Ear - - -	<i>Uree, munga.</i>	Sea - - -	None, having no idea of it.
Mouth - - -	<i>Yelka.</i>	Stone - - -	<i>Yernda.</i>
Tongue - - -	<i>Therlinya.</i>	Tree - - -	<i>Yarra.</i>
Teeth - - -	<i>Nandee.</i>	Wood - - -	<i>Yarra.</i>
Hand - - -	<i>Mambanna, mera.</i>	Stick - - -	<i>Katy yarra.</i>
Finger - - -	<i>Merra.</i>	Bird - - -	<i>Wonga.</i>
Foot - - -	<i>Thinna.</i>	Egg - - -	<i>Pirty.</i>
Toe - - -	<i>Nerlka thinna.</i>	Snake - - -	<i>Tooroo</i>
Belly - - -	<i>Koorntoo.</i>	Eagle - - -	<i>Bilyarra.</i>
Blood - - -	<i>Kandara.</i>	Crow - - -	<i>Waukoo.</i>
Bone - - -	<i>Pina.</i>	Mopoke - - -	<i>Wau-poo-a.</i>
Sun - - -	<i>Yhuk-ko.</i>	Kangaroo - - -	<i>Bool-oolye.</i>
Moon - - -	<i>Pytoa.</i>		

Is the custom of giving the name of any natural object to a man or woman common, and on the death of the person so named is the word disused and another substituted to indicate such natural object?—I believe it is; and when the person dies, all words having a similar sound are disused and others substituted. When a person of any importance dies, the change is often very great.

Such a custom, it is said, leads to great alterations in the language; are there any other obvious causes in operation leading to changes in the names of things?—I am not aware of any other cause than the above. Sometimes a word is revived after the body of the deceased is supposed to have become dust; this causes, I think, the duplicate words.

The name of a place is as frequently given as that of a bird or animal.

As an instance of the great changes which take place in the language in the course of comparatively few years, I may mention that a few months ago an elderly woman and two lads were met with on the upper part of the ana branch, who had come in from the "scrub," and had never before seen a white man. The language they speak is evidently a dialect of the *Marowra*, but it is so different that the other blacks can understand very little of what they say. I have not had an opportunity of seeing them myself, so I only speak from hearsay evidence.

The supposition is (and the older blacks have an indistinct recollection of the circumstance) that the man, having stolen his wife, escaped with her into

the scrub between the ana branch and the South Australian boundary, where they have remained ever since : when the water has dried up, getting it from the roots of Mallee, or native wells, one of which has been recently discovered. Having no intercourse with any other blacks during a period of fifteen to twenty years, they would be unacquainted with the changes which have taken place in the language during that time ; and speaking that which was current when they went away, and which is now, greater part of it, obsolete, they are not readily understood. The man is supposed to be dead, and the woman with her two sons have made their way to the creek. Such appear to be the facts of the case so far as I have been able to ascertain.

THOS. HILL GOODWIN.

Church Mission Station, Yelta, 15th August 1863.