

Re: KU and GYN as oldest words for woman

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- *From:* "John Atkinson" <johnacko@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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"Franz Gnaedinger" <frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote...

Some Australian aboriginal words from a small compilation
by Alexander Wyclif:

I assume you mean Alexander Wyclif Reed, the New Zealand publisher, who was the author of books on Maori legends, books on Maori place-names, and several children's books. Since he wasn't much interested in the Australian aborigines, he probably didn't realise how ridiculous this list is. True, many compilers of Australian wordlists had tin ears and couldn't even spell their own language, but this bloke certainly takes the cake.

quei and cue-on-meme for a little girl,
quei-marla for an adolescent and a big girl, que-on-buntor
for girl, gin for woman, gunee for mother, kurtoo for wife,
kurunto for womb.

I see he includes "gin", which is Australian English for an aboriginal woman, and comes from /diyini/, meaning woman or wife in Dharug, the Sydney language.

Also, "gunee" is /gunay/, Wiradhuri (central western NSW) for mother.

And "kurtoo" is /gurdu/, Nyungar (Western Australia) for spouse (wife or husband)

"Kurunto", not to mention "quei" and "cue-on" (however these monstrosities were really pronounced), must come from yet other languages, somewhere else in Australia.

Wow!

John.

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