

Niina Marni, View from my house,

The early European settlers knew you as Hawke's Valley.
I wonder what your original Peramangk name was or even
what the Kurna called you?

You nurture several springs and the beginning of a creek.

You've hosted market gardens, settler's homes, orchards
and a tobacco kiln (I miss that beautiful old building).

You've formed the backdrop for a tourism campaign and
featured on a phone book, you've also seen many wedding
parties and numerous tourists have stopped to take your
photo.

You watched the original owners walking your lands and
then you saw the coming of the Europeans.

They sculpted your land, planted plants that were foreign
to you and cut through roads.

You watched horses and carts make way for cars and
motorbikes.

You have seen Births and Deaths and major bushfires.

You largely survived Ash Wednesday but you were saddened
to lose your trees and animals.

Your water hole has hosted many birds and animals.

You have known, Kudlee's, Kurlu's, Kuula's, Ngarridla's,
Naalharla's, Kurdakidla's, Kurrakarla's and Pilta.

Did you ever know the Kadlidla I wonder?

Now you know foxes, cats, dogs, cows, horses, goats and
rabbits.

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You have known both sides of my family for many years. I wonder what you thought when they came together? My mother named our house "Hills View", that name is one of the many things that keeps her memory alive for me.

You've been described as a million dollar view but to me you are Hills View, the view from my house.

Someone has looked out through a window at your view from this spot in 1895.

I wonder what you think of the strange white sails which now cover large parts of you? Your view has comforted me and calmed me over many many years, you have seen tears and laughter.

I have loved walking and riding through you, flying kites, fossicking and showing people how beautiful you are.

I have always loved to come back to you over the years and have carried photos with you as of my loved ones when I travelled so I could share you but also keep you close to me.

Ngaitalya