

NATIVE VOCABULARY

Compiled by

Yowinbunga or Jillabungoo, male,  
a Banaka,

Of Yeeramuggaloo or Yuramukkadoo

ROEBURNE Magisterial District

Yowinbungoo is balgoonjee thaaloo  
(carpet snake totem)

MAN, HIS RELATIONSHIPS, etc.

Aunt	Ngangardee (mother's sister)
	Moogul, moogulyee (father's sister)
	yooragee " "
Blackfellow	Maiagoo, maiaga
Blackwoman	Munga
Boy	Mungoola
Brother	Kajja
Brother-in-law	Marrgai, margai
Daughter	Koondal
Daughter-in-law	Yoomunee
Father	Mam'ma
Father-in-law	Kogga
Granddaughter	Ngab'barree, tham'mu
Grandfather	Maialee
Grandmother	Ngabbaree
Husband	Yaggan
Man	Mai'agoo
Mother	Ngan'ga, ngan'gardee
Mother-in-law	Thoa
Nephew	Ngajjala
Orphan	Booja
Sister	Theordoo
Sister-in-law	Boongallee (woman speaking)
	Yarrungoo (man " )

Man, his relationships, etc. (continued)

Son	Main'ga
Son-in-law	Ngajjala
Uncle	Kogga
White man }	Murda murra
White woman }	War'rooga
Widow, widower	Mar'roona, marroo
Wife	Yaggan

PARTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BODY

Ankle	Burdara
Arm (left)	Jillee
Arm (lower)	Yarrgoo
Back	Meeroo
Beard	Nganga
Blood	Morda
Bone	Koojee
Breast, breasts	Beebee
Breathe, to	Nga'ain
Calf of leg	Kool'dha'murra
Cheek	Kardara
Chest	Kandee, boordoo
Chin	Ngarn-ngarn
Cry, to	Ngajjee
Drink, to	Bin'jarroo
Ear	Koorgia
Eat, to	Bajjalgoo
Elbow	Won'goola
Eyebrow	Nyarree
Eyelash	Nyar'reemun'dhoo
Eye	Thoola
Face	Koomba
Fat	Jinjee
Finger	Marra
Finger nail	Mindeeree
Foot	Jinna

Parts and Functions of the Body (cont.)

Hair	Koolgoora
Hand	Marra
Head	Yoolga
Heart	Boola
Heel	Warla
Hip bone	Milla
Jaw	Kar'dara
Kidney	Kal'leeber'ree, ngardan yoongoo
Knee	Manbooroo
Leg	Koojee
Lip	Warlee
Liver	Ngamarree
Lung	Wal'dhan
Mouth	Thai'a
Nape of the neck	Nan'ga
Nose	Moola
Rib	Thaanbee
Seeing	Naagoo
Shoulder	Weerarlee
Skin	Kabboorn
Sleep	Bamba
Sneeze, to	Kanjir
Speak, to	Wonga

Parts and Functions of the Body (cont.)

Tears	Karnda
Teeth	Eera, yeera
Thigh	Wooloogalla
Throat	Ngalyee
Thumb	Ngangarin
Tongue	Yaldnooroo
Vein	Kandara
Walk, to	Wokkai
Wink, to	Dhoola boggai

ANIMALS

Animal (generic)	Moola
Ant-eater	Jeerelbooga
Bandicoot	Koordee
Bat	Warra mooroonga
Dingo	Moojera
Dugong	Nyammama
Kangaroo (generic)	Mangeroo
Kangaroo, Rock	Jardmurra
Mouse	Kalloo boora
Opossum	Wallumberree
Porpoise	Warrungaroo
Wallaby	Wajjawarra

BIRDS

Bell-bird	Joorderēree
Bird (generic)	Moola
Bird's egg	Jimboo
Bustard, Wild turkey	Bardoora
Cockatoo (generic)	Bærdeera
Cockatoo, Galah, grey and pink	Bilago
Cockatoo, white, northern variety	Beerdeera
Coot	Kalallee
Crane, Blue	Bai'oolarree
Crow	Wog'goora
Crow, Shrike (Squeaker)	Jarrooroo
Cuckoo	Thoollee
Curlew	Weeloomurra
Duck	Koon'dharree
Eagle	War'reeda
Emu	Jan'goona
Shag	Mar'raman'gool



REPTILES

Snake                      Bal'goonjee (carpet), bajjamulla (magic)

THE ELEMENTS, etc.

Fire                        Karla

Lightning                Walleebillee

Moon                        Wilarra

Rain                        Yoongoo

Star                        Bin'deree

Sun                         Yarnda, yanda

GENERAL VOCABULARY

Blind	Ban'boora
Cannibal	Mai'agoo bajjalgo
Corroboree	Ban'yeroo
Drunk	Doree'jungoo
Far away	Warrba
Flour	Mardoomurree
He	Baloo
Her	"
I	Ngaia, ngai, ngajjoo
Initiate, to	Boggalee
Me	Ngai
Mine, my own	Ngajjoo, ngaiyoo
My	Ngaiyoo
No	Meera
Nose-piercing	Beerdawongoo
One	Koonjerree
Our	Ngallee
Sit down	Bar'nee
Strangle, to	Man'noogurra
Three	Boerrgoo, poerrkeo
Two	Kootharra
Yes	Ko

SHORT SENTENCES

Afraid, I am not, of you	Ngais meeta waia nyinda
Afraid, What are you of?	Naala wallee ngooroo nyinda wara
Asleep, He is	Baloo bamba
Bad, That is very	Wailga
Brother, He is my	Ngainyoo kajja, ngajjoo kajja
Bury him	Tharda jooroo
Children, Where are your?	Wanjila nyingoo kumbara
Come from, Where do you?	Wanjila ngoora nyinda
Come here	Koogai
Come, I, from	Ngai ngoorongoo ngoo
Coming, They are	Moon'abow
Coming with you, I am	Ngai'lee woggai (we two go)
Cook that	Boondha warra man'ma
Country, Where is your?	Wanjee nyingoo ngoora
Coward, You are a	Walgaburnee nyinda, waiagurra
Daughter, Is that your?	Nyingoo koondal
Dead, He is	Nyoondee, nyoondee ngarreegoo
Deceiving me, You are	Ngarla wongagoo
Dingoes, Are there many?	Marroo moojera
Doing, What are you?	Nalla warneegoo nyinda
Father, He is my	Ngajjoo mammardinna
Find, Where did you, them?	Wanjila nyinna marboorndinna
Fire, Make a	Kalla warra man'ma
Fire make, by friction	Jil'long'arra (rubbing method)
Fish, Cook that	Woggaree kumbanna
Food, Give me	Yoongooma ngajjoo mardoomurree
Food, I have no	Ngai meera mardoomurree
Food, I will give you	Ngai yingo yoongeroo karlara
Friend, I am your	Ngajjoo maiagoo boorai

Short Sentences (continued)

Get along	Wokkai
Get up	Kalbama
Give me	Yoongeroo ngajjoo
Go before me	Boolara woggama
Go behind me	Bandha woggama
Going away, I am	Ngai eejala woggagoo
Gone, He has just	Baloo eejala ngoona woggagoo
Gone, Where has he?	Wandhamu woggagoo
Good, That is no	Wailgo
Good, That is very	Wabba, moonga
Go quickly	Moordeewarra woggama
Go quietly	Nyaanee woggama
Go there	Woggama ngoonagurra
Here it is	Nooroo ngarreegoo
Horses, Bring in the	Koogai karbanna koor kajjigoo
Horses, Did you see the?	Nyinda naggoona yowerda
House, Am I near a?	Ngan maia moona
Husband, Is that your?	Ngoonoo nyingoo yaggan
Husband, Where is your?	Wanjilla nyingoo yaggan
Ill, I am	Ngai weeragoo
Kangaroo, Are you hunting?	Nyinna woggama dhoogoodharroo bajjarrigoo
Kangaroo, Where shall I find?	Wanjala ngai dhaggare bajjarigoo
Killed, He has been	Balalyee nyoondée ngarreegoo
Killed, Who has, him?	Nganna nyoondée gurna
Killed, You have, him	Nyinda nyoondée gurna
Know, I	Ngai wanyarree
Know, I do not	Ngai meera wanyabarree

Short Sentences (continued)

Lazy, You are	Nyinda wanda wanda
Let it alone	Kandha ngarreema
Lie down	Ngarreema
Listen to me	Wanya barreema
Long time ago, that was	Baldhalyee goora
Look out	Paldhai
Lying, He is, down	Ngoonoo ngarreegoo
Mother, She is my	Ngangardeena ngajjoo
Mother-in-law, She is my	Thecajinna
Name, What is your?	Nganna nyinda yinnee
Natives, Where are the?	Wanjala maiaga booraa barneego
Native, Who is this?	Nganna ngoonoo maiaga
Noise, What is that?	Ya walla warnina
Relation, What, are you, to?	Pardangwarra
Sea, Am I near the?	Booreea moona barneegoo
Sleep, I shall now	Ngai eejala ngarree bamba
Slow, You are very	Nyinna wanda wanda
Speak, Do not	Meeta wongai
Spear, Where is your?	Wanjee na nyingoo koorjarda
Stay, you, here	Nyinna ban'nima
Steal, From whom did you?	Nganna nyinda moojarna
Tell ... to come to me	Wongama ngoona mungai kannangurra
Tired, I am	Ngai wailga warneega
Track, Where is the?	Wanjee na jinna
Tribe, To what, do you belong?	Wanja burdee nyinda

Short Sentences (continued)

True, That is not	Ngalla wongagoo
Understand, Do you?	Nyinda wanya barreegoo
Understand, I do not	Nga meeta wanyabarreegoo
Want, What do you?	Nallae nyinda boolbee
Water, Give me	Babba ngajjee yoongooma
Well, Where is the?	Wanjina babba
What is it?	Nalla
Where are you going?	Wandhana nyinna woggagoo
Where do you come from?	Wanjaburdee nyinda
Who is that?	Nganna ngoonoo
Wife, Where is your?	Wanjee nyingoo munga
You and I	Ngallee (we two)

## QUESTIONS

1. Various rites, ceremonies, circumcision, etc., practised in district?

Koorongarraa (singers and musician)

Beerdawongoo (nosepiercing)

Jalloora or mooja bindera, same as the yarda

Nyeedeegurra (old men dancing)

2. Native modes of burial in district?

Head west, feet east, reclining, eyes looking towards sunrise.

3. Names of weapons, implements, domestic utensils used in district?

Koorjarda, spear

Bilarra           "

Maggoondoo       "

Meeroo

Wokkabburra

Yarra           shield

Yeerangoo, knife

Yeerangoo

Wirra, kallee

4. Game traps, other methods of capture, description of?

Boornda - trap

Jangoorna - emu, also yallabeera

5. Carvings and paintings on rocks or in caves in district?

Murnee, snakes, kangaroo, emu.

6. Games, corroborees, amusements, - are these symbolical?

Jalloora koonangoo, quivering, stooping and rising dance.

Mamma koonangoo, shield dance

Questions, continued

7. Extent of tribal country, and approximate number of natives in district?

Roeburne natives are neighbours of Onslow, and through their mothers they can go to the Gascoyne and north as far as Port Hedland, and east as far as Mulga-down.

8. Do the tribes meet at any distant places for exchange?

Jeenjee, at Koolimba, Forbescue River, a famous bartering place.

9. Native foods in district. How obtained, prepared and named?

Ngalloowain (like grapes) roots

Yarrkalain (koolyoo) "

Mardoowarree "

Kajjawarree, like coconut, a big thaaloo

Kanje seed, bandoowarra, seeds

Jajjee - forbidden. The totem is not eaten for moothoo tijoora.

10. Is cannibalism known to exist in district?

East of Roeburne, yes.

11. Methods of obtaining water from trees, roots, etc.

Jarrga, knarled knob or bole on certain trees which contains water.

Mailgana, a white gum tree (roots).

12. Native belief in ghosts, or a future state?

Worroega, a ghost or white man.



Sherlock Station,  
ROEBURNE Magisterial District

Answers to Questions

1. System of consanguinity among natives. How regulated in district?

Yinney-june, a Banaka, married

Yinney-abba, a Boorong.

Their children were :-

Willambong a Paljeri, who married

Walbarring, a Kymera.

If Willambong had a baby, it would be of

the Boorong class and would marry a Banaka.

2. Native marriage laws in district?

A Boorong man marries a Banaka woman.

Their child is Kymera.

A Puljerri man marries a Kymera woman.

Their child is Banaka.

A Kymera man marries a Puljerri woman.

Their child is Boorong.

3. Native modes of burial in district?

In some places (where they circumcise) they take out the forearm bone, clean and scrape it, and carry it about for years, then they break all the other bones and bury the corpse quite flat with its head in no particular direction.

4. Hairdressing, various modes of?

Twisted hair string (pur-rur) is wound round their heads, but no ornaments seem to be placed in the hair.

5. Names of weapons, implements and domestic utensils used in district?

Kyly, walbarn (spearthrower), magundo (spear) yarra (fighting stick), walkiburra (another fighting stick), pardoo (millstones), yandies (scoops for carrying grain), beera (conch shells used for digging, or carrying grain), wommera (also spearthrower), wil-goordoo (spear barbed on one side only).

6. Carvings and paintings on rocks or in caves (if any) in district?

Animal foot tracks, human hands.

7. Native justice, system of (if any)?

They must keep their marriage laws under pain of death. If Paljeri eloped with Paljeri, Kymera must kill them. Their laws are propounded by the old men and women in the camp at night (?)

8. Diseases peculiar to natives of district?

Skin diseases, rheumatism and lung diseases.

Their ages don't extend over 65 years or so (?)

9. Native remedies for wounds, sickness, fever, etc.?

Hot ashes, the young tender shoots of the Eucalyptus are boiled and the rheumatic points are rubbed with the juice. Also used for bathing the eyes; before boiling was known amongst them they bruised the leaves and applied to the affected parts (?)

10. Native names of tribes in district?

The name of the Sherlock district Ballamongerry. The tribal name is Ngalooma.

11. Do the tribes meet at any distant places for exchange?

Yes, shells and flint hammers were exchanged for kyleys and spears.

12. Native foods in district? How obtained, prepared and named?

Balgoos, yams, bookadjie (roots of bulrushes), berries, jeema (wild currant), kulba (wild cherries), walyarra (long pod with seeds), badjela (similar to pomegranate), warrombo (another species of pod), columburr (a kind of nut, like zamia), ngaburda (native rock melon), munjimurra (another kind of wild gooseberry), tabbori (wild fig).

13. Is cannibalism known to exist in district?

Yes. (Mrs. Mears says that there are really bad families, every member of which has bad instincts, useless beings too and treacherous, just the same as white families.)

14. Any idea of a deity?

Juno is the evil spirit. They have no good spirit.

15. Native belief in ghosts, or a future state?

Yes, in gnosts, usually enemies.

16. What beliefs have the natives in witchcraft, sorcery; and is there a "boylya" or sorcerer, among the tribes?

Mammangurra (father of all). He had charms which he charmed away the illnesses with.

17. Is there a gesture language amongst the natives?

Yes.