



Indigenous Language Wordlists Yuwaalaraay Body Parts

all yours

Yuwaalaraay is the name of the language and Aboriginal people of the Balonne River Region – Yuwaalaraay is connected linguistically to Gamilaraay, the language of the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people. Yuwaalaraay is also documented by several other names, including Juwalarai, Ualarai, Yularai, Yualloroi, Yowaleri, Uollaroi, Youallerie, Yualari, Yualai, Yualeai, Yerraleroi, Yowairi, Yuolary, and Eu-ahlayi. The language area extends across North-West NSW on the Barwon River into South-West Queensland along the Culgoa and Balonne Rivers. This area takes in the communities of Hebel, Dirranbandi, and St. George extending south towards Goodooga, Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri.

There is a significant amount of documentation on the Yuwaalaraay language from first contact in the 1840's with several lexicons, wordlists and other vocabularies. Linguistic work by Rev William Ridley and recent linguists such as Austin, Lissarrague, Ash and Giacon means there is an accompanying grammar to provide clues on how the language was constructed and spoken. Fortunately, there have been ongoing language revival activities across the region to bring the language back to life in schools and communities. However there is a concern that Yuwaalaraay language is not spoken on a daily basis as there are minimal fluent speakers.

This wordlist is drawn from historical and published sources and identifies language words for the parts of the body and their suggested pronunciation.

Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were oral-based; there may be several variations in spelling and pronunciation. The following list should be seen as a guide – check with local language speakers/custodians as to the preferred local pronunciation.

English	Yuwaalaraay	Pronunciation
Ankle	Baranggal	Bah-run-gull
Arm	Bungun	Boong-un
Armpit	Yuuwirr	You-wid
Back	Bawa	Bar-wah
Backside	Murru	Moo-roo
Beard	Yarray	Yah-ray
Blood	Guway	Gwoy
Bone	Buya	Boo-yah
Calf	Buyu	Boo-yoo
Cheek	Dhaal	Darl
Chin	Dhaal	Darl
Ear	Bina	Bin-ah
Elbow	Dhiin	Din
Eye	Mil	Mill
Eyebrow	Ngudjiin	Nud-jean
English	Yuwaalaraay	Pronunciation

English	Yuwaalaraay	Pronunciation
Eyelash	Ngudjiin	Nud-jean
Face	Ngulu	Noo-loo
Finger / Fingers	Bambugal	Bum-bah-gull
Fingernail	Yulu	You-loo
Foot	Dhina	Din-ah
Hair	Dhaygal	Dah-gull
Hand	Maa	Mah
Head	Dhaygal	Dah-gull
Heart	Gii	Gee
Knee	Dhinbirr	Din-beer
Leg	Buyu	Boo-yoo
Lips	Yili	Yill-ee
Mouth	Ngaay	Nah
Neck	Nhun	Noon
Nose	Muyu	Moo-yoo
Shoulder	Walarr	Wah-lah
Skin	Yulay	You-lay
Stomach	Mubil	Moo-bill
Thigh	Mabun	Mah-boon
Toe / Toes	Bambugal	Bum-bah-gull
Tongue	Dhalay	Dah-lay
Tooth / Teeth	Yira	Yee-rah
Waist	Bagurr	Bah-gurr
English	Yuwaalaraay	Pronunciation

Learn more about the Yuwaalaraay language!

Listen to Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay on the [Gamilaraay Language App](#) which has been developed for iPhones with an Android version also [available](#).

Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced primarily from the publications *Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay Dictionary* by Anna Ash et al and Giacon's *Yuwaalaraay/Gamilaraay Wordlist*. Pronunciation guided by the 'Ma! Gamilaraay Language App.

Within the State Library Collections, there is a range of material on the Aboriginal history and culture of the Balonne and Barwon Rivers Region, including linguistic texts and wordlists for Yuwaalaraay. Such references include the following items.

Ash, A., Giacon, J. and Lissarrague, A. (2003) *Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay Dictionary*. **J 499.1503 GAM**

Barlow, H. (1865) Harriet Barlow Manuscript. [Provides the basis for her work "Aboriginal Vocabularies of Queensland"]. **OM91-69**.

Curr, E. M. (1887) *The Australian Race: its origins, languages, customs, place of landing in Australia and the routes by which it spread itself over that continent*. **RBF 572.994 cur**

Giacon, J. (1999) *Yuwaalaraay/Gamilaraay Wordlist*. **P 499.1503 yuw**

Giacon, J. and Sim, I. (1998) *Yuwaalayaay, the language of the Narran River*. **P 499.15 yuw**

Holmer, N. (1983) *Linguistic Survey of South-Eastern Queensland*. **J 499.15 HOL**

O'Rourke, M. (1997) *The Kamilaroi lands: North-central New South Wales in the early 19th century*. **J 305.89915 oro**

Ridley, W. (1866) *Kamilaroi, Dippil and Turrabul: languages spoken by Australian Aborigines*. **RBJ 499.15 rid**

Ridley, W. (1875) 2nd edn, *Kamilaroi and other Australian Languages*. **Q 499.15 rid**

Tindale, N. B. (1974) *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits and Proper Names*. **Q 994.0049915 tin**

Wafer, J. and Lissarrague, A. (2008) *A handbook of Aboriginal languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory*. **J 499.15 WAF**

Further Details

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

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SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>

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