

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

“Say G’day” in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Language!

Introduction

The State Library of Queensland in partnership with Yugambah Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre, Indigenous Language Centres and other community groups would like to invite you to:

“Say G’day in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Language!”

UNESCO has proclaimed 2019 the Year of Indigenous Languages. During this year we encourage Queenslanders to say ‘g’day’ in their local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language; it is a timely reminder of the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.



In Queensland there are over 125 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects; today only about 30 are spoken on a daily basis!

To help raise awareness and promote Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, we are asking schools, organisations, communities, individuals, etc. to find out their local word for ‘G’day’ or ‘Hello’ and use it as part of their daily routine.

- Talk to your local community to find out the word and how to say it!
- Use your library, IKC, Indigenous Language Centre to research other local words!
- Share this new greeting with friends, families and others!

G'day in Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages

Here is a list of some greeting words or phrases from a range of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects and their suggested pronunciation. Where possible, documented greetings have been listed; however, it should be acknowledged that greetings are a fairly contemporary notion that may not have been present in traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander settings. Alternatively, a generic phrase such as 'Good day' 'Are you good?' or 'How are you?' is listed

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Wordlists for 'g'day', 'hello' and other greetings are also posted on the State Library and Yugambeh Museum websites:

State Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Webpages:

www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages/word-lists/say-gday-in-an-indigenous-language

Yugambeh Museum Website: www.yugambeh.com

Pronunciation

In pronouncing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words, there are some sounds which are quite different to English and require practice. The following list is a brief guide to some of the sounds.

Aboriginal sounds	
dh	Pronounced like an English 'd' with the tongue at back of the teeth; can also sound like 'th'.
ng	Single sound closest to 'ng' sound found in singer.
ny	Single sound closest to 'n' sound found at end of onion.
rr	Rolled 'r' sound, similar to a Scottish 'r'; may also sound like a 'd'.
Torres Strait Islander sounds	
dh	Pronounced like an English 'd' with the tongue at back of the teeth; can also sound like 'th'.
dz	Single sound similar to 'dj'.
ng	Single sound closest to 'ng' sound found in singer.
oi	Prolonged sound that can be between 'oi' and 'ai'.
p, s and z	Sound similar to English.

G'day in Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages

Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are oral languages that have only been written since European settlement; 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.

Language and Location	Greeting word	Pronunciation
<i>Agwamin</i> [Einasliegh, Mt Surprise]	<i>Pumbarra oomba</i> = good day	Poom-bah-rra oom-bah
<i>Angkamuthi</i> [Northern Peninsula Area, Cape York]	<i>Iyurrah</i> = hello (I am here)	Eye-you-rrah
<i>Areba</i> [Western Cape York, Staaten River]	<i>Lungga niani</i> = good day	Loong-ga nee-ah-nee
<i>Ayabadhu</i> [Northern Peninsula Area, Cape York]	<i>Tonki ninya ngai y'angkunjya</i> = you come, I'm here <i>Wanthi pungu</i> = good day	Tun-kee niny-ah nay ya-un-kun-jia Won-tee pung-ah
<i>Baranha</i> [Nebo, North Queensland]	<i>Boongonna moogonoo</i> = good day	Boong-on-nah moo-go-noo
<i>Barunggam</i> [Dalby, Bunya Mountains]	<i>Gamba daru</i> = good day <i>Yinundee</i> = goodbye	Gum-bah dah-roo Yin-un-dee
<i>Bidjara</i> [Charleville Region, South West Queensland]	<i>Budabai duru</i> = good day	Bood-ah-bye doo-roo
<i>Bigambul</i> [South-West Queensland]	<i>Weeimba gilee</i> = good day (g'day)	Wee-im-bar Gea-lee
<i>Biri</i> [Central Queensland]	<i>Budjeri gari</i> = good day <i>Yandandji</i> = hello	Budge-ah-ree gah-ree Yan-dan-gee
<i>Birri-gubba</i> [Townsville Region]	<i>Wodda mooli</i> = hello	Wod-dah moo-lee
<i>Biyay</i> [Hinchinbrook Island, Far North Queensland]	<i>Mullee weeyee</i> = good day	Mull-lee wee-yee
<i>Buluguyban</i> [Palm Island]	<i>Wodda mooli</i> = hello	Wod-dah moo-lee
<i>Butchulla</i> [Hervey Bay / Fraser Coast]	<i>Galangoor D'Buthbee</i> = good Morning	Gull-a-ngoor dee-buth-bee
<i>Darumbal</i> [Rockhampton]	<i>Gudamulli</i> = hello	Good-a-ma-lee
<i>Djabugay</i> [Kuranda Range]	<i>Djirri-nyurra</i> = hello	Ji-rii-nyew-rra
<i>Djirbal</i> [Tully]	<i>Nginda nyjangum</i> = how are you?	Ngin-dah nyee-jun-goom

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<i>Duungidjawu</i> [Kilcoy, Upper Brisbane Valley]	<i>Galang meng</i> = good day <i>Galang dulara</i> = good morning	Gull- ung meng Gull- ung doo-lah-rah
<i>Gambuwal</i> [Inglewood, South-West Queensland]	<i>Winba duru</i> = good day (g'day)	Win-bar doo-roo
<i>Gamilaraay / Kamilaroi</i> [South-West Queensland]	<i>Yaama</i> = hello <i>Yaamagara</i> = hello [more respectful way to say hello, especially to Elders and other respected community members or formal settings, meetings, etc.] <i>Gaba yaadha</i> = good day (g'day)	Yah-mah Yah-mah-gah-rah Gar-bar yah-dah
<i>Ganggalida</i> [Doomadgee, Westmoreland Station, Gulf]	<i>Guwa-nyi mirrara</i> = how are you today?	Goo-wah- nyee meerr-ah-ra
<i>Gangulu</i> [Duarina, Central Queensland]	<i>Binbee karri</i> = good day	Bin-bee ca-rree
<i>Ganulu</i> [Comet River, Central Queensland]	<i>Binbee kurri</i> = good day	Bin-bee cu-rry
<i>Garingbal</i> [Peak Downs, Central Queensland]	<i>Binbee karri-yamba</i> = good day	Bin-bee carry-yum-bah
<i>Gayiri</i> [Nogoa River, Central Queensland]	<i>Binbee karri</i> = good day	Bin-bee ca-rree
<i>Giabal</i> [Toowoomba South to Allora]	<i>Budgereee djanahn</i> = good day	Boo-djah-ree jar-nun
<i>Gidhabal</i> [Warwick, Darling Downs]	<i>Bugal numgirr</i> = good day (g'day)	Boog-al numb-gearr
<i>Giya</i> [Proserpine-Bowen, North Queensland]	<i>Bungunna kari</i> = good day	Boong-un-nah car-ee
<i>Goreng Goreng</i> [Bundaberg Region]	<i>Balka wittaberri</i> = good day	Bal-car wit-ah-berry
<i>Gowar</i> [Moreton Island]	<i>Kooemba boodloonggun</i> = good day	Ko-em-bah bood-loong-goon
<i>Gubbi Gubbi</i> [Sunshine Coast]	<i>Ngara</i> = hello <i>Wunya ngulum</i> = welcome everyone	Ngah -ra Wo- nyah ngoo -lum
<i>Gudang</i> [Tip of Cape York]	<i>Mita dju</i> = good day	Mit-ah ju

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<i>Gudjal</i> [Charters Towers, North Queensland]	<i>Nooda kurra</i> = good day	Noo-dah ka-rrah
<i>Gugu Rarmul</i> [Morehead and Kennedy Rivers, Cape York]	<i>Arlalyira ampyu</i> = good day	Arl-al-yee-ra um-pew
<i>Gunggandji / Gunggay</i> [Yarrabah, Cape Grafton, Far North Queensland]	<i>Ngajagurran gurriny</i> = good morning. <i>guygaguygam gurriny</i> = good afternoon. <i>garru nyundu wawal</i> = see you later.	
<i>Gunggari</i> [Mitchell, South-West Queensland]	<i>Yowalla</i> = hello <i>Migany duru</i> = good day <i>Ngunha yinda murdi</i> = how are you?	Yah-wa-la Mee-guny doo-roo N goon-nah yin-dah mur-dee
<i>Guugu Yimithirr</i> [Cooktown, Hope Vale]	<i>Wantharra nyundu?</i> = how are you? <i>Ga-dii wawu-wi</i> = come inside	One-tharr-a ny oon-do Gu-dee wah-woo-wee
<i>Gunya</i> [Cunnamulla-Augathella, Western Queensland]	<i>Mudga dhurdi</i> = good day	Mud-jah d oor-dee
<i>Guwa / Koa</i> [Diamantina River, Western Queensland]	<i>Manyo thuru</i> = good day	Mu-nyo too-roo
<i>Jandai</i> [Stradbroke Island]	<i>Maroomba biggee</i> = good day	Mah-room-bah big-ee
<i>Jarowair</i> [Toowoomba north to Crow's Nest]	<i>Gamba daru</i> = good day	Gum-bah dah-roo
<i>Kaanju</i> [Coen]	<i>Meenee cumballagoo</i> = good day	Mee-nee cum-bah-lah-goo
<i>Kala Kawaw Ya</i> [Western Torres Straits]	<i>Ngi midh</i> = how are you? <i>Seua Ngapa</i> = welcome <i>Lak kaine</i> = see you later	N gee mith Seh-oooh nga -pah Like kine
<i>Kala Lagaw Ya / Kala Kawaw Ya</i> [Western Torres Straits]	<i>Sew ngapa</i> = welcome <i>Kapu goiga</i> = good day	Seh-oooh nga -pah Car-poo gur-gah
<i>Kalili</i> [Western Queensland]	<i>Dhali mura</i> = good day	D ah-lee mah-rah

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<i>Kalkadoon</i> [Mt Isa, North-West Queensland]	<i>Kammanuroo kaamp</i> = good day	Kah-man-ah-roo camp
<i>Kooma / Guwamu</i> [Bollon-Cunnamulla, Western Queensland]	<i>Murga dhurdi</i> = good day	Moor-gah door-dee
<i>Kukatj</i> [Burketown, Gulf of Carpentaria]	<i>Manja mandja</i> = good day	Mun-yah mun-jar
<i>Kuku Yalanji</i> [Mossman, Wujal Wujal]	<i>Yundu yalada</i> = you ok?	Yun-doo yah-la-da
<i>Kungkari</i> [Lower Barcoo and Thompson Rivers, Western Queensland]	<i>Parla kothogum</i> = good day	Pah-lah koth-o-gum
<i>Kunjen</i> [Mitchell River, Kowanyama, Cape York]	<i>Wana yinang</i> = how are you? <i>Mini punga</i> = good day	Wah-na yin-ung Mini pa-ngah
<i>Kunkalanya</i> [Far Western Queensland]	<i>Ulyarri walka</i> = good day	Ool-yah-ree wal-kah
<i>Kuuk Thayorre</i> [Pompuraaw, Western Cape York]	<i>Wooy</i> = hello I'm here <i>Min yoor</i> = good day	Woy Min yaw
<i>Lamalama</i> [Normanby River, Lower Cape York]	<i>Hayi lun</i> = good day	Hay-ee loon
<i>Mandandanji</i> [Roma District, Darling Downs]	<i>Galang genan</i> = good day	Gull-ung gen-un
<i>Mayi Thakurti</i> [Cloncurry, North-West Queensland]	<i>Yathi winja</i> = good day	Yah-thee win-yar
<i>Meriam Mir</i> [Eastern Torres Straits]	<i>Maiem</i> = hello	May-em
<i>Mingin</i> [Burketown, Gulf]	<i>Boorooga tirangana</i> = good day	Boo-roo-gah tear-ung-ah-na
<i>Mithaka</i> [Windorah, Western Queensland]	<i>Patji kayiri</i> = good day	Par-gee kay-erie
<i>Ngadjon</i> [Lake Eacham, Atherton Tablelands]	<i>Wammai kare</i> = good day	Wom-eye kar-ee
<i>Ngaro</i> [Whitsunday Islands]	<i>Malannandu</i> = general greeting <i>Ganniyu</i> = goodbye	Mull-un-narn-doo Gun-nee-yoo

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<i>Ngawun</i> [Taldora-Julia Creek, North-West Queensland]	<i>Kultjin mandharra</i> = good day <i>Wanyu yira?</i> = how are you?	Kul-jin mun-dah-rra Wony-oo year-ah
<i>Nguri</i> [Maranoa River, South-West Queensland]	<i>Migunguri toonee</i> = good day	Mee-gung-oo-ree too-nee
<i>Pirriya / Birria</i> [Cooper Creek, Western Queensland]	<i>Burlo moori</i> = good day	Bur-low moo-ree
<i>Pitta Pitta</i> [Bouliia, Far Western Queensland]	<i>Hoo</i> = general greeting to someone far away <i>Koua</i> = general greeting to someone close <i>Myalli walka</i> = good day	who ko-oo-a My-al-lee wal-kah
<i>Ringu Ringu</i> [Hamilton River, Bouliia District, Far Western Queensland]	<i>Hoo</i> = general greeting to someone far away <i>Koua</i> = general greeting to someone close <i>Myalli walka</i> = good day	who ko-oo-a My-al-lee wal-kah
<i>Tagalaka</i> [Gilbert River, Gulf Region]	<i>Manyarah yunda</i> = are you good?	Muny-a-rah yun-dah
<i>Turrbal</i> [Brisbane Northern Suburbs, Caboolture]	<i>Galang nguruindhau</i> = good day (g'day)	Gull-ung ngoo-roon-dow
<i>Uw Olkola / Olkola</i> [Lower Cape York]	<i>Ungga olong</i> = good day	Oog-ngah oh-long
<i>Waka Waka / Wakka Wakka</i> [South / North Burnett; Burnett River Catchment]	<i>Ngari</i> = hello <i>Yhurri gurri</i> = come this way, welcome friend <i>Galang ngunar</i> = good day <i>Galangul allara</i> = good day	Ngah-ree Yoo-ree goo-ree Gull-ung ngoo-nah Gull-ung-ull al-ah-rah
<i>Wakaman</i> [Mt Mulgrave, Far North Queensland]	<i>Ngulkurr warngku</i> = good day	Ngool-kore warng-koo
<i>Walangama</i> [Croydon-Normanton, Western Queensland]	<i>Wingk punga</i> = good day <i>Wanai yital</i> = how are you?	Wingk pa-nga Won-eye it-al
<i>Wangkangurru</i> [Birdsville, Western Queensland]	<i>Arru</i> = hello there [general greeting] <i>Arru 'npa</i> = hello to you	Ah-roo Ah-roo in-pah

Language and Location	Greeting word	Pronunciation
<i>Wangkumara</i> [Nockatunga, Western Queensland]	<i>Tharli mura</i> = good day	Tha-lee mah-rah
<i>Wargamay</i> [Herbert River, North Queensland]	<i>Nginba nyunga gaganyu</i> = general greeting 'Oh, you have come (here)'	Ngin -bah nyew-ngah gah-guny-oo
<i>Warungu</i> [Upper Herbert River, North Queensland]	<i>Nooda kurra</i> = general greeting	Noo-dah ca-rrah
<i>Wik-Mungkan</i> [Western Cape York]	<i>Niiyalang</i> = hello / general greeting to one person <i>Niipalang</i> = hello / general greeting to two people	Nee-yah-lung Nee-pah-lung
<i>Wiri</i> [Central Queensland]	<i>Wodda mooli</i> = hello / greetings <i>Bunyiba garibiri</i> = good day	Wod-dah moo-lee Bu-nyee-bah gar-ee-beer-ee
<i>Wulgurukaba</i> [Townsville Region]	<i>Wodda mooli</i> = hello / greetings	Wod-dah moo-lee
<i>Wulli Wulli</i> [Eidsvold, Burnett River]	<i>Gamba dunba</i> = good day	Gum-bah doon-bah
<i>Yalarnnga</i> [Duchess, Burke River, North-West Queensland]	<i>Kuyungu mungatha</i> = good day	Koo-ung-oo moong-ath-ah
<i>Yandruwandha</i> [Western Queensland]	<i>Patji dritji</i> = good day	Pat-gee drit-gee
<i>Yangga</i> [Gilbert River, North Queensland]	<i>Marbil kai</i> = good day	Mah-bill kye
<i>Yilba</i> [Cape River, North Queensland]	<i>Thurril adjila</i> = good day	Tha-rrill add-jill-ah
<i>Yiman</i> [Middle-Upper Dawson River]	<i>Kamba booar</i> = good day	Kum-bah boo-ah
<i>Yindiny / Yidinji</i> [Cairns, North Queensland]	<i>Goorin boongun</i> = good day	Goo-rin boong-un
<i>Yiningay / Iningai</i> [Longreach, Central-West Queensland]	<i>Dhuraburra karri</i> = good day	Doo-rah-barr-ah carr-ee
<i>Yintyingka</i> [Port Stewart-Coen, Cape York]	<i>Wanti kampala</i> = good day	Won-tee kum-par-la

Language and Location	Greeting word	Pronunciation
<i>Yirandali</i> [Hughenden, North Queensland]	<i>Dharili kumba</i> = good day	Dah-ree-lee koom-bah
<i>Yugambah</i> [Logan, Gold Coast]	<i>Jingeri</i> = Hello / greetings <i>Jingiwalli wahlu</i> = how are you? <i>Baugull nyungai</i> = good day	Ging-gah-ree Ging-gee-wally wah-loo Bow-gull nyung -eye
<i>Yugarabul</i> [Brisbane Western Suburbs, Ipswich, Boonah]	<i>Gurumba bigi</i> = good day	Goo-room-bah big-ee
<i>Yuggera</i> [Brisbane region]	<i>Wunya</i> = welcome/greetings <i>Gurumba bigi</i> = good day	Wony-ah Goo-room-bah big-ee
<i>Yuru</i> [Burdekin River, North Queensland]	<i>Gudjilia yijiea</i> = good day	Good-jill-ee-a yee-gee-ee-ah
<i>Yuwaalaraay</i> [Hebel, Dirranbandi, South-West Queensland]	<i>Gaba yaadha</i> = good day	Gar-bar yah- dah
<i>Yuwibara / Yuri / Yuwi</i> [Mackay Region, Central Queensland]	<i>Nunungeri nuningai</i> = greetings everyone <i>Binbee kurri</i> = good day	Noon- ung -eh-ree noon- ing -eye Bin-bee car-ree

Further Details

State Library of Queensland's Indigenous Languages project is based on networks with communities, IKCs, Indigenous Language Centres and other groups working with language revival.

For more information on **Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs)** and the work they are doing in communities to support language and cultural heritage:

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about-us/indigenous-knowledge-centres>

For more information on **Brisbane** and **South-East Queensland** languages: [Yugambah Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre](#) serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for Southern Queensland.

For more information on **Central Queensland** languages: [Central Queensland Language Centre](#) serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for Central and Central-Western Queensland.

For more information on **North Queensland** languages: [North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Language Centre](#) serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for North Queensland.

For more information on **Cape York** languages: [Pama Language Centre](#) serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for Cape York.

For more information on **Torres Strait Islander** languages: [Torres Strait Traditional Languages Centre](#) has been established on Thursday Island.

Say G'day

For more information on the 'Say G'day' initiative:

- Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre, Beenleigh; visit Yugambeh Museum's website: www.yugambeh.com
- State Library of Queensland: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages/word-lists/say-gday-in-an-indigenous-language

IYIL Exhibitions

JARJUM STORIES

Jarjum stories: A kuril dhagun showcase focusing on children's books and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. **Opens 19 October 2019.**

SPOKEN

Spoken: celebrating Queensland languages: A major exhibition exploring the survival and revival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages throughout Queensland. Join in the many talks and events to celebrate the rich and diverse languages spoken today. **Opens 21 November 2019.**

State Library of Queensland

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

kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland

Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

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State Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Webpages:

www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

State Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Blog:

<http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>

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