



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Wordlists

“Sunny Murri Christmas”

State Library’s kuril dhagun will again be celebrating Murri Christmas. The following list identifies words from the main South East Queensland Aboriginal languages for ‘sun’, ‘sand’ and ‘water’ – three things associated with Christmas in Queensland.

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 as to the preferred local pronunciation.

Language	Sun	Sand	Water
Duungidjauw [Samford Valley- Woodford-Kilcoy]	<i>Nguwim</i> [pron. new-im]	<i>Yurumbar</i> [pron. you-rum-bah]	<i>Goong</i> [pron. Guun]
Jagera [Lockyer & Brisbane Valleys]	<i>Bigi</i> [pronounced big-ee]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Tabbil</i> [pron. tub-bill]
Jandai / Jandewal [Stradbroke Island]	<i>Bigi</i> [pron. big-ee]	<i>Yarrong</i> [pron. yah-ron]	<i>Tabbil</i> [pron. tub-bill]
Kabi Kabi [Sunshine Coast]	<i>Bigi</i> [pron. big-ee]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Kung</i> [pron. koong]
Mununjali [Beaudesert]	<i>Djalngan</i> [pron. jahl-nun]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Gung</i> [pron. Guun]
Turubul [Brisbane North]	<i>Bigi</i> [pron. big-ee]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Tabbil</i> [pron. tub-bill]
Waka Waka [Burnett Region]	<i>Jigam</i> [pron. jig-um]	<i>Yurumbar</i> [pron. you-rum-bah]	<i>Goong</i> [pron. Guun]
Yugambah [Logan-Gold Coast]	<i>Nyunga</i> [pron. noon-ah]	<i>Yarong</i> [pron. yah-roon]	<i>Gwong</i> [pron. gwon]
Yugara [Brisbane-Ipswich]	<i>Bigi</i> [pronounced big-ee]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Tabbil</i> [pron. tub-bill]
Yugarabul [Boonah District]	<i>Nunka</i> [pron. noon-kah]	<i>Yarung</i> [pron. yah-run]	<i>Tabbil</i> [pron. tub-bill]
Language	Sun	Sand	Water

Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced from several historical texts within the State Library Collections, including the following items.

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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*. John Ferres Government Printer: Melbourne. **RBF 572.994 cur**

Hardcastle, T.W. (1930) 'A Vocabulary of the language of the Aborigines of the Boonah District'. **VF 499.15 har**

Holmer, N. (1983) *Linguistic Survey of South-Eastern Queensland*. Australian National University: Canberra. **J 499.15 HOL**

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

Sharpe, M. (1998) *Dictionary of Yugambeh, including neighbouring dialects, compiled by Margaret Sharpe from various sources*: Pacific Linguistics C-139. **G 499.15 1998**

Watson, F. J. (1944) "Vocabularies of four representative tribes of South Eastern Queensland"; supplement to the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland)*, No. 34, Vol XLVIII. **REFJ 499.15 wat**

Language App

Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre has developed a Language App that features everyday words of several Aboriginal languages from South-East Queensland; free download for your computer Android or iPhone/iPad: www.yugambeh.com

State Library of Queensland

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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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