



Indigenous Language Wordlists

Yuwibara Body Parts

all yours

Yuwibara is the name of the language and Aboriginal people of the Mackay Region – often it is listed under the broad term of Yuri or Birri which refers to groups of related languages in North Queensland, extending from Marlborough to Townsville.

There is not much documentation on the Aboriginals of the Mackay Region. Most of what we know about Yuwibara language has been provided by G F Bridgeman, who was the Superintendent of the Aboriginal Mission at Port Mackay. This mission was one of the first established in Queensland and operated from 1870-1885.

As Aboriginal languages were oral-based, the spelling of Yuwibara and Yuwibara language may be differ in historical document and other sources; for example Yuwibara has also been spelt Juwibara, Yuipera, Yuwiburra and Yuibera. It also referred to as Yuwi. There are also other language/dialect groups within the Mackay Region that may be related to Yuwibara.

The following list identifies 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	Yuwibara	Pronunciation
Ankle	Bumugul	Boom-uh-gull
Beard	Ngunga	Noong-ah
Blood	Gooma	Goo-mah
Bone	Bulbun	Bull-boon
Ear	Walloo	Wal-loo
Eye	Dilli	Dill-ee
Foot	Dinna	Din-ah
Hair	Kowno	Cow-no
Hand	Mulla	Mull-ah
Head	Kutta	Koot-tah
Knee	Buhn	Boon
Leg	Toomo	Too-mow
Nose	Bootan	Boo-tun
Shoulder	Wingara	Win-ah-rah
Skin	Bitty	Bit-tee
Stomach	Bunna	Boon-ah
Teeth	Yirra	Year-rah
Tongue	Tallia	Tar-lee-ah
English	Yuwibara	Pronunciation

Learn more about Yuwibara!

Listen to Nadine McDonald-Dowd from the State Library talk about her identity as a Yuwibara/Yuibera woman: <http://vimeo.com/109555902>

Uncle Gary Mooney has made a short digital story for ABC Open – watch it here: <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/90786>

Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced primarily from the publication *The Australian Race: its origins, languages, customs and place of landing in Australian and the routes by which it spread itself over that continent*. George Bridgeman provided a list of words and phrases to E M Curr which was collated into the publication.

While there is minimal material on the Aboriginal history and culture of the Mackay Region, there are general texts within the State Library Collections that refer to Yuwibara or the Aboriginal history of the Mackay region including the following items.

Brayshaw, H. (1990) *Well beaten paths: Aborigines of the Herbert Burdekin district, north Queensland: an ethnographic and archaeological study*. **G 306.0899915 1990**

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**

Hislop, M. (1995) *Sweet settlement: the making of Mackay and the Pioneer Valley 1860-1918*. **GSB 994.36 1995**

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

Howitt, A.W. (reprint) (1996) *The Native Tribes of South-East Australia*. **J 306.089 how [Online access through SLQ]**

Mackay, J. (19--) *Discovery of the Pioneer River, Q: pages from the diary of Captain Mackay, the explorer*. **P 994.36 dis**

Reynolds, H. (2003) *North of Capricorn: the untold story of Australia's north*. **G 994.04 2003**

Roth, H. L. (2009) *The discovery and settlement of Port Mackay, Queensland: with numerous illustrations, charts and maps, and some notes on the natural history of the district*. **Q 994.36 ROT**

Shaw, L. (2005) *History of Mackay & district*. **P 994.36 HIS**

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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