

## Wangkiny / Language Glossary

Nyungar wangkiny or language, and the commitment to it, is central to Nyungar identity.

Nyungar language is evident in place names, street names, plants and animals found throughout Nyungar boodjar. Nyungar words such as 'gidge' for spear have also been incorporated into the Australian-English language, Nyungar have remained faithful to our Nyungar wangkiny despite regressive policies and practices imposed upon us.

Nyungar wangkiny assists in restoring and preserving Nyungar ways of expressing culture and experience<sup>1</sup>. As stated by the late Ballardong man Ralph Winmar (1996), Elder and "Keeper of the Stories", "Nyungar language has a harmonious quality, and it is a real treat to hear two fluent speakers in conversation"<sup>2</sup>.

This glossary does not include place names. For Nyungar names of Plants and Animals, or Placenames, see other documents.

There are often multiple names and/or multiple spellings of similar names. For example, 'whale' is written as mamang, mamung, mummung, mammang, mamong, meemonga or namang. As Nyungar was not a written language before colonisation, these spellings represent variations in the interpretation by various recorders of the pronunciation of a given Nyungar word. The pronunciation itself may also have varied from place to place or clan to clan. Here we include one spelling for each similar sounding name; hence for whale we present 'mamang'<sup>3</sup>.

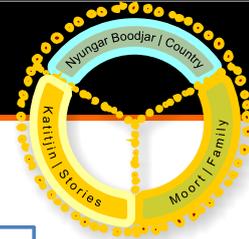
There may also be names for a single species that are quite different. These different names could represent different stages in the life cycle, different sexes, different features of the species' lifestyle or regional variations in usage. For example, for humpback whale we found the names recorded as goonga goombar (carrying a large neck or back), booga bidern (back of whale a creating trail in water as it jumps, i.e. breaching) and bugal-el-ngor (literally hillock on back) (personal communication, Clint Bracknell and Len Collard).

NYUNGAR WORD	PLACENAME	ENGLISH WORD & COMMENTS
<b>Bidi</b>		Trail
<b>Boodjar, boodjera</b>		Country, land
<b>Boodjar-gordo</b>		An island
<b>booga bidern</b>		Back of whale a creating trail in water as it jumps, i.e. breaching
<b>Booka</b>		Coat
<b>Boolyada</b>		One who possesses magic
<b>Boorda</b>		Valley
<b>Boornyarri</b>		Man's name

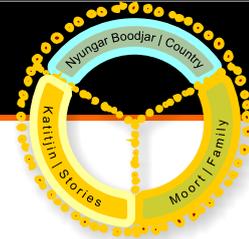
1 Collard, Harben & van den Berg. Nidja Beeliar Boodjar Noonookurt Nyininy, 13.

2 Winmar. Walwalinj, v.

3 Scott & Woods. Mamang.



<b>Booyee</b>		Rock
<b>Borda borda</b>		Later on
<b>bugal-el-ngor</b>		Literally hillock on back
<b>Bulland</b>		Crane
<b>Bullung</b>		Pelican
<b>By-yu</b>		Zamia season/fruit
<b>Daap</b>		Knife (ceremonial)
<b>Derbal Nara</b>	Cockburn Sound	Derbal = estuary, Nara = salmon
<b>Derbal Yaragan</b>		Swan River
<b>Derbow</b>		Dive or stoop
<b>Djakat</b>		Roots
<b>Dogee</b>		Rain
<b>Doordajee Doordajee</b>		Now that means she is going to have a baby
<b>Dowak</b>		Short heavy stick
<b>Dwert</b>		Dingo (dog)
<b>Gabbee, gaba</b>		Water
<b>Gidge, gidjee</b>		Fishing Spear
<b>Gilgie</b>		Freshwater crayfish
<b>Gnarnk</b>		Bloodline
<b>Gnoort</b>		Horse
<b>Gooiara</b>		Sand
<b>Goonga goombar</b>		Carrying a large neck or back
<b>Jenna koorliny</b>		Walk
<b>Jennark</b>		Spirit
<b>Jimbar</b>		
<b>Jobaitch</b>		Nyungar man
<b>Kaanya</b>		Spirit
<b>Kaarda</b>		Goanna
<b>Katitjin</b>		Knowledge
<b>Katta</b>		Hill
<b>Keirp</b>		Water
<b>Kieler</b>		Dolphin
<b>Kodj</b>		Stone axe
<b>Kooboorl kooboorl, koombar kumbariny</b>		That means the belly is getting big
<b>Koorannup</b>		Spirit place across the sea
<b>Koormul</b>		Possum
<b>Koorndan</b>		Shame
<b>Kooyal</b>		Frog
<b>Kulbardi</b>		Magpie
<b>Kuljak</b>		Swans
<b>Kura</b>		Long time ago



<b>Kura yeye boorda</b>		From the past, today and into the future
<b>Kurrlonggur</b>		Children
<b>kurrlonggur ngarnk</b>		Child's mother
<b>Kyli</b>		Boomerang
<b>Maaman, Maam</b>		Male (also father)
<b>Mamong</b>		Whale
<b>Mar</b>		Wind
<b>Meeandip</b>	Garden Island	
<b>Meeka</b>		Moon
<b>Meen</b>		Roots
<b>Mia</b>		Shelter, hut, camp
<b>Miro</b>		Spear thrower
<b>Moodjar</b>		Christmas Tree ( <i>Nuytsia floribunda</i> )
<b>Moort</b>		Family
<b>Nangar</b>		The stars
<b>Ngoorndiny</b>		(A) Resting place (of the Waarkle)
<b>Nyingar</b>		Echidna
<b>Nyitting</b>		Cold time or Dreamtime
<b>Nyungar, Noongar</b>		People
<b>Waakal, Waarkle, Waugal</b>		Dream time or rainbow serpent
<b>Wadjemup</b>	Rottneest Island	Place of the Emu's *
<b>Waigen</b>		Rainbow
<b>Waitch</b>		Emu
<b>Wardan</b>		Sea
<b>Wardong</b>		Crow
<b>Warra</b>		Bad
<b>Wedjela, wedjella</b>		White person
<b>Whadjuk</b>		Collard speculates that 'whad' refers to emu
<b>Woonda</b>		Shield
<b>Woodanung</b>		Spirit place across the sea
<b>Woorriji</b>		Lizard
<b>Wort buranginy</b>		To pinch (grab) throat
<b>Yondock</b>		Ancestral Crocodile
<b>Yonka, yonga</b>		Kangaroo
<b>Yorga</b>		Female