

**BULUWAI  
LANGUAGE  
DICTIONARY**

**Handbook Guide**  
The Language of Our Ancestors



# BULUWAI LANGUAGE DICTIONARY

## Handbook Guide

The Language of Our Ancestors

### **Acknowledging Ancestors**

This Handbook Guide was researched and written by Dianne Brim, who founded this book using Norman B Tindale 'Primary Source' language informants at Mona Mona Mission during 1938 and from many invaluable records sourced, made this project more special.

From a modern people, we respectfully acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude, our past and present Buluwanydji Elders, who patiently gave their time, wisdom and knowledge for all future generations.

Cover Photograph: Kunindooran, Bare Hill, Buluwai Digital Library

Paintings: Bundarra Dreaming (p4), Dilly Bag (p21) by Tanique Brim

Map: Bama Bulmba Aboriginal Rainforest Homelands, Cairns Region, Timothy Bottoms (p2-3)

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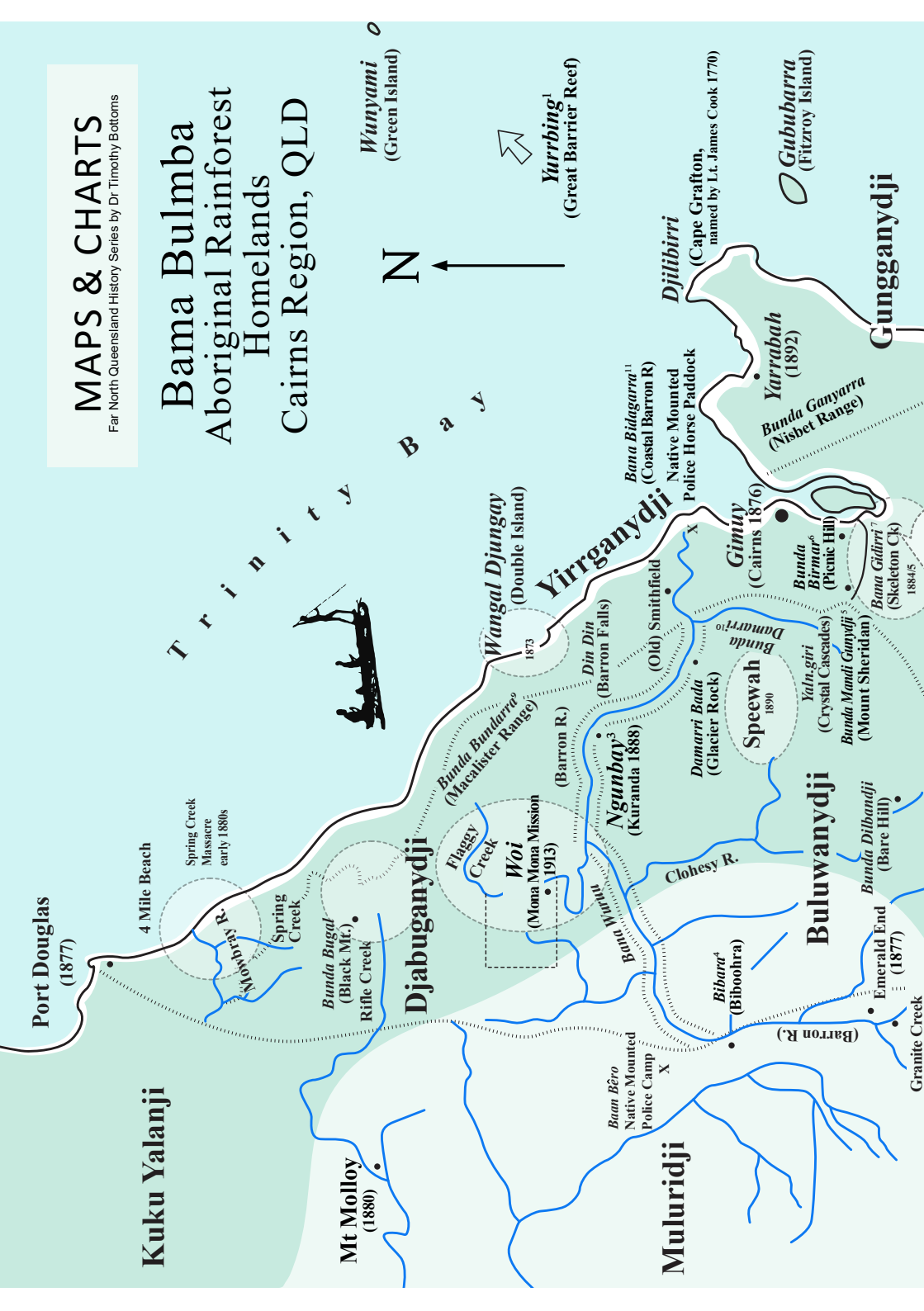
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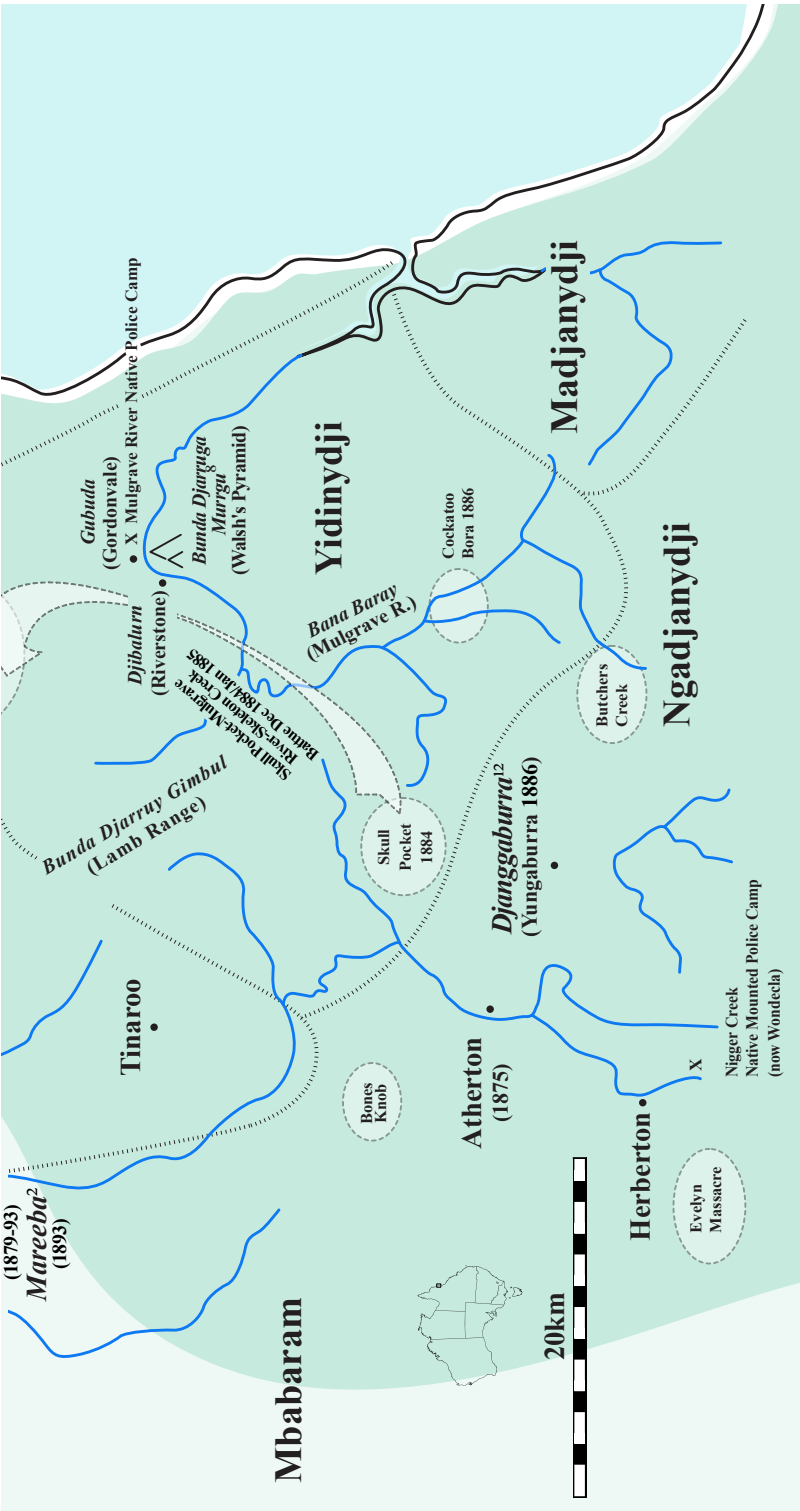


# MAPS & CHARTS

Fair North Queensland History Series by Dr Timothy Bottoms

## Bama Bulmba Aboriginal Rainforest Homelands Cairns Region, QLD





Copyright T.Bottoms 1999  
 Remastered 2018  
 Published MAP 2, Djabugay Country, 1999  
 Published MAP 5, A History of Cairns, City  
 of the South Pacific 1770-1995, 2016  
[www.cairnshistory.com.au](http://www.cairnshistory.com.au)

**Legend**

- Some of the Identified Massacre Sites
- Approximate tribal boundaries
- (1875) Year established
- X** Native Mounted Police camps
- Wet Tropics Rainforests

**Place names and meanings**

- <sup>1</sup> grinding teeth
- <sup>2</sup> meeting place of waters
- <sup>3</sup> place of the platypus
- <sup>4</sup> sacred clapsticks (referring to *warrma* ground)
- <sup>5</sup> Mt Broken Hand, warrior *Bangga:lin* while up the Mt. tried to get *wanggalay dinggal* (cockatoo eggs) in a tree and fell and broke his hand
- <sup>6</sup> hill of charcoal left by campfires
- <sup>7</sup> Flare Creek
- <sup>8</sup> *djarruga* (scrub hen) *murrugu* (earth-mound incubator nest)
- <sup>9</sup> cassowary mountain
- <sup>10</sup> heroic *Bularru* character
- <sup>11</sup> place of bark canoe - river fishing
- <sup>12</sup> Queensland Silver Ash or *Flindersia bourjotiana*, and F. pubescens



# Contents

**P1 Acknowledging Ancestors**

**P2 Buluwai Sovereign Traditional Tribal Estate – Map**

**P5 Using this Dictionary**

This dictionary is proper only to Buluwai traditional land and waters, therefore, our words and meanings may not be appropriate for use in describing other tribal landscapes.

*See page 6: A Simple Rough Guide to Pronunciation*

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## **First Section**

All words in this Dictionary are in alphabetical order and to simplify reading, we use the English common word first, followed by our Buluwai traditional language word.

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## **Second Section**

The latter section of this Dictionary is in the same format as the first, however, words have been tabled under various category headings which may be easier for young readers.

The categories are:

**22-27**

Amphibians

Birds

Buluwai Place Names

Creation

Food

From our Waters

Galaxy

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Insects

Mammals

Nature

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Parasites

Parts of the Body

Plants

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Reptiles

Tools

Trees

Words Any Day

4 Directions

4 Elements

What to Avoid

## **A Simple Rough Guide to Pronunciation**

### **Vowel Sounds**

[a:] pronounced as [aa], [I:] as [ii], [u:] as [uu]

[a] pronounced like the vowel in the word some

[I] pronounced like the vowel in the words lit, bit

[u] pronounced like the vowel in the word book

### **Consonants**

[b], [d], [l], [m], [n], [w], [y] are same as in English

[g] is pronounced as in the words gas, gun, gate

[r] is pronounced as in the word part

[rr] rolled the same way the Scottish pronounce 'r'

[dj] pronounced as the 'j' in the words jab, jot, jury

[ay] is pronounced like the word eye

[ng] is pronounced like omitting the 'r' in ring



# Aa

<b>Air</b> – Wind .....	‘Kujuru
<b>Ant</b> – Bed .....	Gabay
<b>Ant</b> – Black .....	Gudjin
<b>Ant</b> – Brown .....	Manunggul
<b>Ant</b> – Bull .....	Gawun gawun
<b>Ant</b> – Green .....	Djiliburay
<b>Ant</b> – Light Brown .....	Munyi munyi
<b>Ant</b> – Nest in tree .....	Gadju:
<b>Ant</b> – White .....	Gabay barra

# Bb

<b>Backside</b> – Buttocks .....	Bun:nu
<b>Bandicoot</b> – Long Nose .....	Tjalbay
<b>Bare Hill</b> .....	Bunda Bibandji
<b>Bat</b> .....	Mundji
<b>Belly</b> .....	‘Bulku
<b>Bee</b> – Honey .....	Wulubuga
<b>Beetle</b> – Grasshopper .....	Djindjalam
<b>Beetle</b> – Green .....	Yulilul
<b>Beetle</b> – Rhinoceros .....	Budjany
<b>Blood</b> .....	‘Kolbal
<b>Boomerang</b> .....	‘Wayal
<b>Boomerang</b> – Fighting .....	Loangal
<b>Bower Bird</b> .....	Giradjalbu
<b>Brother</b> .....	Barda
<b>Bush Onion</b> .....	Kalala

**Butcher Bird** ..... Galbu  
**Butterfly** ..... Walbirr walbirr

## Cc

**Cat – Native** ..... Tjikur  
**Catbird** ..... Djiguwa  
**Caterpillar – Hairy** ..... Gin ga  
**Cassowary** ..... Bùnda:ra  
**Cassowary – young** ..... Wiyam  
**Centipede** ..... Ginba  
**Choeba Peak** ..... Bunda Djudjiba  
**Cicada** ..... Tjillari  
**Cockatoo – Black** ..... Garna also Burm gin  
**Cockatoo – White** ..... Waygulei  
**Cockroach** ..... Djiyarr djiyarr  
**Come here** ..... ‘Tjikaran  
**Crab** ..... Didji also Gidju  
**Crane** ..... Bana barra  
**Crayfish** ..... Tjùngi  
**Creation God – Landscape** ..... Buda:dji  
**Creation God – Law of Land** ..... Damarri  
**Creation God – Society** ..... Guyula  
**Crocodile** ..... Ganyarra or Kanyarra  
**Crow** ..... Wuwul  
**Crystal Cascades** ..... Gidgaree  
**Curlew – Stone** ..... Walabira  
**Cycad** ..... Badil

## Dd

<b>Darter</b> .....	Dagarr
<b>Dingo</b> .....	Gannibarra
<b>Dog</b> .....	Kora
<b>Dove</b> – Peace .....	Gùlatoo
<b>Dove</b> – Emerald .....	Gurrbum
<b>Drongo</b> – Spangled .....	Badjinydjila
<b>Duck</b> .....	Dagi
<b>Duck</b> – Whistling .....	Buru:

## Ee

<b>Eagle</b> .....	‘Tjarui
<b>Eagle</b> – Sea .....	Guyula
<b>Ear</b> .....	Bin:a
<b>Earth</b> – Ground .....	Buruygan
<b>East</b> – Direction .....	‘No:
<b>Echidna</b> .....	Korim:a
<b>Eel</b> .....	‘Njiygara
<b>Egg</b> .....	‘Deyal
<b>Eye</b> .....	Tjili

## Ff

<b>Fantail</b> – Rufous .....	Djindjinbulga
<b>Fern</b> – Tree .....	Madja:l
<b>Fig Bird</b> .....	Djirambay
<b>Fig Tree fruit</b> .....	Yang

<b>Fire</b> .....	‘Biri
<b>Fish</b> .....	‘Yapi
<b>Fish</b> – Barramundi .....	Djilibiri or Wuban barra
<b>Fish</b> – Big Mouth .....	Ngurruy
<b>Fish</b> – Bone .....	Bumba
<b>Fish</b> – Bream .....	Wulam
<b>Fish</b> – Gar .....	Garrgadji
<b>Fish</b> – Jew .....	Gidiga
<b>Fish</b> – Small .....	Bikka or Gudabah
<b>Fish</b> – Mullet .....	Bulumay or Burumay
<b>Fish</b> – Mud Cod .....	Djabulagay
<b>Fish</b> – Perch .....	Gumu
<b>Fish</b> – Silver Bream .....	Gumidjila
<b>Five</b> .....	‘Mara
<b>Flaggy Creek</b> – Old campsite .....	Djindjili
<b>Fly</b> – March .....	Biray
<b>Fly</b> – Fire .....	Wugam
<b>Flying Fox</b> .....	Guginy
<b>Food</b> .....	Ma also Ma:yee
<b>Foot</b> .....	Tjina

## Gg

<b>Ginger</b> .....	Munyin
<b>Glacier Rock</b> .....	Bunda Damarri
<b>Ghost</b> .....	Gwingun
<b>Goanna</b> .....	‘Kanjal also ‘Yonal

<b>Goanna</b> – Grey .....	Gurrudji
<b>Goanna</b> – Water .....	Gurguday
<b>Go away</b> .....	‘Kalin
<b>Goose</b> .....	Dagi
<b>Grass</b> – Blady .....	Djirrgar
<b>Grass</b> – River Reed .....	Wuyin
<b>Grasshopper</b> .....	Bundim
<b>Grasshopper</b> – Biting .....	Bungudjin
<b>Ground</b> .....	Buruygan
<b>Ground</b> – home, land.....	Bulmba

## Hh

<b>Hair</b> .....	Tji:pi
<b>Hand</b> .....	Mara
<b>Head</b> .....	Bada
<b>Hawk</b> – Chicken .....	Diguy
<b>Hawk</b> – Eagle .....	Nalmalbarra
<b>Hawk</b> – Fish .....	Bidju
<b>Hen</b> – Scrub .....	Djarruga
<b>Hill or Mountain</b> .....	Bunda
<b>Honey</b> – Bee .....	Wulubuga
<b>Honey</b> – Eater .....	Girrgirr
<b>Honey</b> – Sugar Bag .....	Wunba

## Ii – Jj

<b>Junction</b> – Barron River & Freshwater Ck .....	Bidda
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## Kk

<b>Kahlpahlim Rocks</b> .....	Walba Galba
<b>Kalorama Rocks</b> .....	Walba Calurama
<b>Kangaroo</b> .....	Tjokala
<b>Kangaroo</b> – Grey .....	Gan gula
<b>Kangaroo</b> – White .....	Djugala
<b>Kangaroo</b> – Tree .....	Buganbarra
<b>Kangaroo</b> – Pademelon .....	Yidji
<b>Kingfisher</b> .....	Gira:gira:
<b>Kingfisher</b> – long tail .....	Yindalin
<b>Kookaburra</b> .....	Googa:tja or Gurrungga
<b>Kuranda</b> .....	Ngùmba

## Ll

<b>Lambs Head</b> .....	Djirr Bagi
<b>Lambs Head</b> – Peak .....	‘Waru’ka:bunda
<b>Lambs Range</b> – NE end .....	‘I:purar
<b>Lambs Head</b> – Campsite .....	Tjiribadji
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Edible Berry .....	Milmarr
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Fish Tail .....	Bugul
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Hairy Mary .....	Yabulam
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Vicious HM .....	Mulugun
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Yellow .....	Bidjjirr
<b>Leech</b> .....	Djirrirr
<b>Leatherhead</b> (Friarbird) .....	Gaguwarr
<b>Lily</b> – Water .....	Mimu:

<b>Lizard</b> – Brown frail tail .....	Gulamba
<b>Lizard</b> – Frilled .....	Binandjal also Gilbay
<b>Lizard</b> – Tommy Round Head .....	Djunggalungann
<b>Lorriquet</b> – Rainbow .....	Galbirr

## Mm

<b>Magpie</b> .....	Djawa djawa
<b>Magpie Lark</b> – Pee Wee .....	Diwi diwi
<b>Man</b> .....	‘Aija
<b>Meat</b> .....	Minya
<b>Moiety</b> – Dry Country .....	Kuramina
<b>Moiety</b> – Wet Country .....	Kurabana
<b>Mona Mona Mission</b> – Site .....	‘Woi
<b>Moon</b> .....	Keinden
<b>Moon Beam</b> .....	Keinden da
<b>Mosquito</b> .....	Ngugun
<b>Mouse or Rat</b> .....	Yidji barra
<b>Mountain or Hill</b> .....	Bunda
<b>Mouth</b> .....	Binyi
<b>Mussel</b> .....	Ngidjubany
<b>Mt Coobaingalgi</b> .....	Bùnda Gù Baingalgi

## Nn

<b>Native Cat</b> – Quoll .....	‘Tjikur
<b>No</b> .....	‘Maiyka
<b>North</b> – Direction .....	‘Konkari
<b>Nose</b> .....	Ko:

## Oo

<b>Oak</b> – Silky or She .....	Bubun
<b>Old Speewah</b> .....	Guwala
<b>One</b> .....	‘Njiwul
<b>Onion</b> – Bush .....	Ka:lala
<b>Open forest country</b> .....	‘Bad:a
<b>Orchid</b> – edible bulb .....	Djibal
<b>Owl</b> .....	Tjillibulu
<b>Owl</b> – Barking .....	Birrgala
<b>Owl</b> – Boobook .....	Djurrgu:
<b>Owl</b> – Mopoke .....	Durrgu
<b>Owl</b> – Night .....	Gudju gudju

## Pp

<b>Pants</b> .....	Tjudija
<b>Parrot</b> – King .....	Guringaygu
<b>Pelican</b> .....	Wurrnmbul
<b>People</b> .....	Bama
<b>Pheasant coucal</b> .....	Gùbal gubal
<b>Pigeon</b> – Torres Strait .....	Nyungga l
<b>Pigeon</b> – Wompoo .....	Bagam
<b>Platypus</b> .....	Ngunba
<b>Porcupine</b> – Echidna .....	Korim:a
<b>Possum</b> .....	‘Kaijara
<b>Possum</b> – Sugar Glider .....	Walburri
<b>Possum</b> – Striped .....	Gubuguru
<b>Pretend</b> .....	Ga:min
<b>Python</b> .....	Buda:dji



## Qq

**Quail** ..... Djirribi

## Rr

**Rain** ..... ‘Kabau

**Rat or Mouse** ..... Yidji barra

**Rat or Mouse – Scrub** ..... Wubu

**Rat or Mouse – Water** ..... Dalgan also Wubul

**Run** ..... Tjimbaldjuyai

## Ss

**Salt Water** ..... ‘Kulbul

**Scorpion** ..... Dumbunum also Maranggily

**Scrub** ..... Dulgu

**Scrub – Big** ..... ‘Tulkin

**Scrub – Itch** ..... Gurungga

**Scrub – Turkey** ..... ‘Djarunka

**Shelter – Hand woven** ..... Bayou

**Shield** ..... ‘Tagur

**Sister** ..... Tidda

**Sisterhood** ..... Tjidge:a

**Skeleton Creek** ..... Bana Gidirri

**Sky** ..... Djilngarnda

**Smoke** ..... Tjokai

**Snail – Slug** ..... Djalga

**Snail – With Shell** ..... Gadugal also Garraway

<b>Snake</b> .....	‘Djam:a
<b>Snake</b> – Carpet .....	Buda:dji also Wungali
<b>Snake</b> – Creation .....	Buda:dj
<b>Snake</b> – Death Adder .....	Gundjilbay
<b>Snake</b> – Grass .....	Gilway
<b>Snake</b> – Green .....	Wilgarr
<b>Snake</b> – Green spotted .....	Mimbirri
<b>Snake</b> – Green Tree .....	Wuwala
<b>Snake</b> – Python .....	Buda:dji
<b>Snake</b> – Red Belly Black .....	. Gurrumbun
<b>Snake</b> – Taipan .....	Katjiraka
<b>Snake</b> – Water .....	. Dundji
<b>Snake</b> – Yellow .....	Garrbarri also Galbarri
<b>Snake</b> – Yellow Whip .....	Wiramu
<b>South</b> – Direction .....	Tjiwari
<b>Spear</b> .....	‘Kul:u
<b>Spider</b> .....	Garra
<b>Shrivelled, Wrinkled</b> .....	Nuddah
<b>Star</b> .....	Kawai
<b>Starling</b> – Red Eye .....	Djiliwanday
<b>Stink Bug</b> .....	Gumbudjaga
<b>Stone</b> .....	Walba
<b>Stoney Creek</b> .....	Garndal Garndal
<b>Stoney Creek</b> – Campsite .....	Dina:ru
<b>Storm Bird</b> – Ind. Koel .....	Gurril
<b>Sugarbag or Honey</b> .....	Wunba
<b>Sun</b> .....	Buyan
<b>Sword</b> .....	‘Wa:kai

# Tt

<b>Teeth</b> .....	Didda
<b>Three</b> .....	‘Tawul
<b>Tick</b> .....	Mindil
<b>Tick – small</b> .....	Giri
<b>Tired</b> .....	Butchigurri
<b>Tomahawk</b> .....	‘Waimbil
<b>Tree</b> .....	Djulbin
<b>Tree – Bean</b> .....	Giwurra
<b>Tree – Black Bean</b> .....	Yiwurra
<b>Tree – Boxwood</b> .....	Burirrum
<b>Tree – Black Pine Nut</b> .....	Guln gay
<b>Tree – Black Walnut</b> .....	Djulu djulu
<b>Tree – Bloodwood</b> .....	Gambul
<b>Tree – Blue Kauri Pine</b> .....	Girringirr
<b>Tree – Blue Quondong</b> .....	Murrigan
<b>Tree – Brown Apple</b> .....	Wongabel
<b>Tree – Burdekin Plum</b> .....	Wagaday
<b>Tree – Cabbage Pine</b> .....	Madjanydjan
<b>Tree – Candlenut</b> .....	Ngabala
<b>Tree – Cedar</b> .....	Dulmbilay
<b>Tree – Grass</b> .....	Bulyan
<b>Tree – Gum</b> .....	Gawula
<b>Tree – Fig</b> .....	. Ngalga
<b>Tree – Fig (Ficus albipila)</b> .....	Gunagarray
<b>Tree – Fig (Ficus copiosa)</b> .....	Gulugay
<b>Tree – Fig (Ficus virens)</b> .....	Gulari
<b>Tree – Finger Cherry</b> .....	Djarrudja also Galbridji
<b>Tree – Flame</b> .....	Gurrngam

<b>Tree</b> – Hickory .....	Waguy
<b>Tree</b> – Ironwood .....	Walnydjan
<b>Tree</b> – Kauri Pine .....	Duguy
<b>Tree</b> – Kuranda Quondong .....	Wadjin gal
<b>Tree</b> – Kuranda Satinash .....	Wandjan also Wanggabal
<b>Tree</b> – Leichardt .....	. Gudagay
<b>Tree</b> – Milky Pine .....	Gulula also Gurula
<b>Tree</b> – Pandanus .....	Yagal
<b>Tree</b> – Plum Boxwood .....	Dugala
<b>Tree</b> – Sandpaper Fig .....	Djayn arr
<b>Tree</b> – Spear Stick .....	Djuba
<b>Tree</b> – Stinging .....	Gayam
<b>Tree</b> – Tar .....	Djulgil
<b>Tree</b> – Water Gum .....	Bana bulu
<b>Tree</b> – Wild Cherry .....	Djidju
<b>Tree</b> – Water Gum .....	Bana bulu
<b>Tree</b> – Wild Cherry .....	Djidju
<b>Tree</b> – White Apple .....	Gubirranggan
<b>Tree</b> – Yellow Walnut .....	Dja:nda
<b>Tree Wallaby</b> .....	‘Bokanbara
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai North .....	Tjapukai
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai South .....	Idindji
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai East .....	Yirrgandji
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai West .....	Muluritji
<b>Turkey</b> – Scrub .....	Wawun
<b>Turtle</b> – Freshwater .....	Budgigal
<b>Two</b> .....	‘Mùlu

## Uu – Vv

<b>Vine</b> – for toothache .....	Djibay
<b>Vine</b> – Giant Bramble .....	Gaybam
<b>Vine</b> – Lawyer Hairy Mary .....	Yabulam
<b>Vine</b> – Lawyer Yellow .....	Bidjirr
<b>Vine</b> – Lawyer Fish Tail .....	Bugul
<b>Vine</b> – Vicious Hairy Mary .....	Mulugun
<b>Vine</b> – Lawyer Edible berries .....	Milmarr
<b>Vine</b> – Thorny .....	Danba

## Ww

<b>Wallaby</b> .....	‘Yutjudi also ‘Ji:tji
<b>Wallaby</b> – Scrub .....	Borutjur
<b>Walk</b> .....	Tjinala kaling
<b>Wagtail</b> – Willy .....	Didjirr didjirr
<b>Wasp</b> .....	Mulma
<b>Water</b> .....	‘Ban:a
<b>Water Fairy</b> – Mermaid .....	Bun:unda
<b>Wattle</b> – Brown Salwood .....	Bugu
<b>West</b> – Direction .....	‘Kowa
<b>Whip Bird</b> – Eastern .....	Guwan
<b>Wild Cucumber</b> .....	Gurrbadja
<b>Wild Cucumber</b> – Fruit .....	Kolung Kai
<b>Wind</b> .....	‘Kujuru
<b>Witchetty</b> – Grub .....	Tjumbin
<b>Witchetty</b> – Beetle .....	Bagarr
<b>Witchetty</b> – Flying .....	Gima

<b>Woomera</b> – Spear Thrower .....	‘Milai
<b>Woman</b> .....	‘Bandjil
<b>Wren</b> .....	Djiribi
<b>Wrinkled, Shrivelled</b> .....	Nuddah

## Xx – Yy – Zz

<b>Yam</b> .....	Nyuru also Wulmbi
<b>Yam</b> – Dioscorea .....	Dandi
<b>Yam</b> – Hairy .....	Garu:
<b>Yam</b> – Wild .....	‘Kalumba
<b>Yellow Walnut Tree</b> .....	Dja:nda
<b>Yellow Whip Snake</b> .....	Wiramu
<b>Yellow Snake</b> .....	Garrbarri also Galbarri
<b>Yes</b> .....	i:



# Amphibians

**Frog or Toad** ..... Wubun

# Birds

**Bower Bird** ..... Giradjalbu

**Butcher Bird** ..... Galbu

**Cassowary** ..... Bunda:ra

**Cassowary – young** ..... Wiyam

**Catbird** ..... Tjiguwa

**Cockatoo – Black** ..... Birrngin also Garna

**Cockatoo – White** ..... Waygulei

**Crane** ..... Bana barra

**Curlew – Stone** ..... Walabira

**Darter** ..... Dagarr

**Dove – Peace** ..... Gulatoo

**Dove – Emerald** ..... Gurrbum

**Dove – Fantail** ..... Djindjinbulga

**Drongo – Spangle** ..... Badinydjila

**Duck – Whistling** ..... Buru:

**Eagle** ..... ‘Tjarui

**Eagle – Sea** ..... Guyula

**Fig Bird – yellow** ..... Djirambay

**Goose** ..... Dagi

**Hawk – Chicken** ..... Diguy

**Hawk – Eagle** ..... Nalmal barra

**Hawk – Fish** ..... Bidju



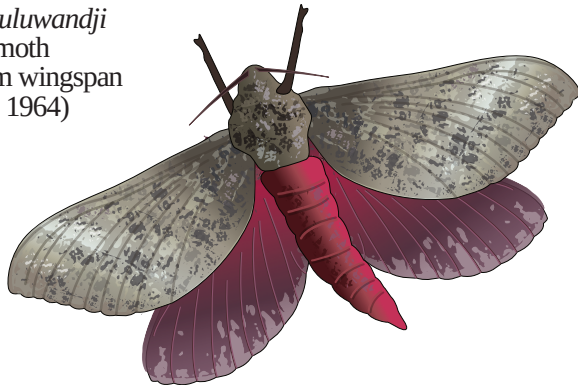
<b>Honey Eater</b> .....	Girrgirr
<b>Kingfisher – White tail</b> .....	Gira:gira:
<b>Kingfisher – Long tail</b> .....	Yindalin
<b>Kookaburra</b> .....	Googa:tja
<b>Leatherhead</b> .....	Gaguwarr
<b>Magpie</b> .....	Djawa djawa
<b>Orange Foot Hen</b> .....	Djarruga
<b>Orange Foot Hen - nest</b> .....	Murggu
<b>Owl</b> .....	Djillibulu
<b>Owl – Barking</b> .....	Birrgala
<b>Owl – Boobook</b> .....	Djurrgu:
<b>Owl – Mopoke</b> .....	Durrgu
<b>Parrot – King</b> .....	Guringaygu
<b>Pewee</b> .....	Diwi diwi
<b>Pelican</b> .....	Wurrmbul
<b>Pheasant coucal</b> .....	Gubal gubal
<b>Pigeon</b> .....	Gulguruwuy
<b>Pigeon – Torres Strait</b> .....	Nyungga l
<b>Pigeon – Wompoo Fruit Dove</b> .....	Wompoo
<b>Quail</b> .....	Djirribi
<b>Rainbow Lorrieket</b> .....	Galbirr
<b>Scrub Turkey</b> .....	‘Djarunka also Wawun
<b>Starling – Red Eye</b> .....	Djiliwanday
<b>Storm Bird</b> .....	Gurril
<b>Whip Bird - Eastern</b> .....	Guwan
<b>Willy Wagtail</b> .....	Didjirr didjirr
<b>Wren</b> .....	Djiribi

## Buluwai Place Names

<b>Bare Hill</b> .....	Bunda Bibandji
<b>Barron Falls</b> Gudju Gudju (rainbow serpent) is often seen here in Gurra Bana (Wet Season)	Din Din
<b>Barron River</b> Sacred path of Budadji (water carpet snake)	Bana Wuruu
<b>Choeba Peak</b> .....	Bunda Djudjiba
<b>Crystal Cascades</b> .....	Gidgaree
<b>Dinner Pocket c1800's</b> .....	Myola
<b>Freshwater Creek</b> (Valley of the singing waters)	Bana Wara:nggulan
<b>Glacier Rock</b> Damarri's head/face .....	Damarri Bada
<b>Junction – Barron River &amp; Freshwater Ck</b> .....	Bidda
<b>Kahlpahlim Rocks</b> .....	Walba Galba
<b>Kalorama Rocks</b> .....	Walba Calurama
<b>Kuranda</b> .....	Ngunba
<b>Lambs Head – Peak</b> .....	'Waru'ka:bunda
<b>Lambs Head</b> .....	Djirr Bagi
<b>Lambs Range – NE end</b> .....	'I:purar
<b>Lambs Head – Campsite</b> .....	Tjiribadji
<b>Mt Coobaingalgi</b> .....	Bùnda Gù Baingalgi
<b>Red Bluff</b> Bama ancestral creators .....	Mirimbi
<b>Red Bluff to North Peak</b> Creation ancestor Damarri: his body became part of the mountain escarpment, lying down facing the Pacific Ocean	Bunda Damarri
<b>Old Speewah</b> .....	Guwalla
<b>Robs Monument</b> Observance of marriage customs & taboos	Mayila
<b>Skeleton Creek</b> .....	Bana Gidirri
<b>Stoney Creek</b> Place of slippery green rocks, sacred path of Budadji (carpet snake), traditional path of trade	Garndal Garndal

<b>Stoney Creek</b> – to Speewah Seasonal food resource Gulanguy (black pine in abundance)	Gulgar
<b>Stoney Creek</b> – Campsite .....	Dina:ru
<b>Stoney Creek</b> – Falls Budadji (water carpet snake) many journeys to the Atherton Tablelands	Di:Wunga
<b>Surprise Creek</b> Journey of Budadji (water carpet snake)	Waalara
<b>Welcome Pocket c1800's</b> .....	Mantaka

*Oxycanus buluwandji*  
Swift moth  
Approx. 12cm wingspan  
(Tindale 1964)



## Creation

<b>God</b> – Landscape .....	Buda:dji
<b>God</b> – Society Law of Land .....	Damarri
<b>God</b> – Society Rules .....	Guyula
<b>Moiety</b> – Dry Country .....	Kuramina
<b>Moiety</b> – Wet Country .....	Kurabana

## Food

<b>Apple</b> – Brown .....	Wongabel
<b>Apple</b> – White .....	Gubirranggan
<b>Egg</b> .....	‘Deyal
<b>Food</b> .....	Ma also Ma:yee
<b>Honey</b> – Sugar Bag .....	Wunba
<b>Wild Cherry</b> .....	Djidju
<b>Wild Cucumber</b> .....	Gurrbadja
<b>Wild Fruit</b> .....	Kolung Kai
<b>Wild Onion</b> .....	Kalala
<b>Yam</b> – Wild .....	‘Kalumba
<b>Yam</b> – Wild (Dioscorea) .....	Dandi
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Edible berry .....	Milmarr

## From Our Waters

<b>Crab</b> .....	Didju also Gidju
<b>Crayfish</b> .....	Djun gi
<b>Crocodile</b> .....	Ganyarra also Canyarra
<b>Eel</b> .....	‘Njiygara
<b>Fish</b> .....	‘Yapi

<b>Fish</b> – Bream .....	Wulam
<b>Fish</b> – Gar .....	Garrgadji
<b>Fish</b> – Jew .....	Gidiga
<b>Fish</b> – Small .....	Bikka or Gudabah
<b>Fish</b> – Mullet .....	Bulumay also Burumay
<b>Fish</b> – Mud Cod .....	Djabulagay also Manyarranggan
<b>Fish</b> – Perch .....	Gumu
<b>Fish</b> – Silver Bream .....	Gumidjila
<b>Mussel</b> .....	Ngidjubany
<b>Turtle</b> – Fresh water .....	Budgigal

## Galaxy

<b>Sun</b> .....	Buyan
<b>Moon</b> .....	Keinden
<b>Moon</b> - Beam .....	Keinden da
<b>Star</b> .....	Kawai

## Insects

<b>Ant</b> – Bed (ground) .....	Gabay also Manunggul
<b>Ant</b> – Black .....	Gudjin
<b>Ant</b> – Brown .....	Manunggul
<b>Ant</b> – Bull .....	Gawun gawun
<b>Ant</b> – Green .....	Djiliburay
<b>Ant</b> – Nest (tree) .....	Gadju:
<b>Ant</b> – White .....	Gabay barra
<b>Bee</b> – Honey .....	Wulubuga
<b>Beetle</b> – Green .....	Yulilul

<b>Butterfly</b> .....	Walbir walbirr
<b>Caterpillar - Hairy</b> .....	Gin ga
<b>Centipede</b> .....	Ginba
<b>Cicada</b> .....	Djillari
<b>Cockroach</b> .....	Djiyarr djirarr
<b>Fly – March</b> .....	Biray
<b>Fly – Fire</b> .....	Wugam
<b>Grasshopper</b> .....	Bundim
<b>Honeyeater (Lewin’s)</b> .....	Girrgirr
<b>Mosquito</b> .....	Ngugun
<b>Scorpion</b> .....	Dumbunum or Maranggalay
<b>Spider</b> .....	Garra
<b>Stink Bug</b> .....	Gumbudjga
<b>Tick</b> .....	Mindil
<b>Tick – small</b> .....	Giri
<b>Wasp</b> .....	Mulma
<b>Witchetty Grub</b> .....	Djumbun
<b>Witchetty Grub – Beetle</b> .....	Bagarr
<b>Witchetty Grub – Flying Beetle</b> .....	Gima

## Mammals

<b>Bandicoot</b> .....	Djundurru
<b>Bandicoot – Long Nose</b> .....	Tjalbay
<b>Bat</b> .....	Mundji
<b>Dingo</b> .....	Gannibarra
<b>Dog</b> .....	Kora
<b>Echidna</b> .....	Korim:a
<b>Flying Fox</b> .....	Guginy

<b>Kangaroo</b> .....	Tjokala
<b>Kangaroo – Grey</b> .....	Gan gula
<b>Kangaroo – White</b> .....	Djugala
<b>Kangaroo – Tree</b> .....	Buganbarra
<b>Kangaroo – Pademelon</b> .....	Yidji
<b>Mouse or Rat</b> .....	Yidji barra
<b>Native Cat - Quoll</b> .....	‘Tjikir
<b>Platypus</b> .....	Ngunba
<b>Porcupine</b> .....	Korim:a
<b>Possum</b> .....	‘Kaijara
<b>Possum – Sugar Glider</b> .....	Walburri
<b>Possum – Striped</b> .....	Gubuguru
<b>Rat – Scrub</b> .....	Wubu
<b>Rat – Water</b> .....	Dalgan also Wubul
<b>Wallaby</b> .....	‘Ji:tji also ‘Yutjudi
<b>Wallaby – Scrub</b> .....	Borutjur
<b>Wallaby – Tree</b> .....	‘Bokanbara

## Nature

<b>Ground</b> .....	‘Buruygan
<b>Ground – home, land</b> .....	Bulmba
<b>Mountain or Hill</b> .....	Bunda
<b>Open Forest country</b> .....	‘Bad:a
<b>Rain</b> .....	‘Kabau
<b>Scrub</b> .....	Dulgu
<b>Scrub – Big</b> .....	‘Tulkin
<b>Sky</b> .....	Djilngarnda
<b>Stone</b> .....	Walba
<b>Salt Water</b> .....	‘Kulbul
<b>Water</b> .....	‘Ban:a

## Numbers 1 – 5

1 ..... <b>One</b> .....	‘Njiwul
2 ..... <b>Two</b> .....	‘Mulu
3 ..... <b>Three</b> .....	‘Tawul
4 ..... <b>Four</b> .....	_____
5 ..... <b>Five</b> .....	‘Mara

## Parasites

<b>Leech</b> .....	Djirrirr
<b>Mosquito</b> .....	Ngugun
<b>Tick</b> .....	Mindil
<b>Tick – small</b> .....	Giri

## Parts of the Body

<b>Backside – Buttocks</b> .....	Bun:nu
<b>Belly</b> .....	‘Bulku
<b>Blood</b> .....	‘Kolbal
<b>Ear/s</b> .....	Bin:a
<b>Eye/s</b> .....	Tjili
<b>Foot</b> .....	Tjina
<b>Hair</b> .....	Tji:pi
<b>Hand</b> .....	‘Mara
<b>Head</b> .....	Bada
<b>Mouth</b> .....	Binyi
<b>Nose</b> .....	Ko:
<b>Teeth</b> .....	Didda



# Plants

<b>Fern</b> – Tree .....	Madja:l
<b>Ginger</b> .....	Munyin
<b>Grass</b> – Blady .....	Djirrgar
<b>Grass</b> – River Reed .....	Wuyin
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Edible berry .....	Milmarr
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Fish tail .....	Bugul
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Hairy Mary .....	Yabulam
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Thorny .....	Danba
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Vicious Hairy Mary .....	Mulugun
<b>Lawyer Vine</b> – Yellow .....	Bidjjirr
<b>Lily</b> – Water .....	Mimu:
<b>Onion</b> – Bush .....	Ka:lala
<b>Orchid</b> – with edible bulb .....	Djibal
<b>Vine</b> – for toothache .....	Djibay
<b>Vine</b> – Giant Ramble .....	Gaybam

# Reptiles

<b>Crocodile</b> .....	Ganyara also Canyarra
<b>Goanna</b> .....	‘Yonal also ‘Kanjall
<b>Goanna</b> – Grey .....	Gurrudji
<b>Goanna</b> – Water .....	Gurruguday
<b>Lizard</b> – Blue Tongue .....	Badja-badja
<b>Lizard</b> – Brown frail tail .....	Gulamba
<b>Lizard</b> – Frilled .....	Binandjal also Gilbay

<b>Lizard</b> – Tom Round Head .....	Tjungalungan
<b>Snake</b> .....	Djam:a
<b>Snake</b> – Carpet .....	Buda:dji also Wungali
<b>Snake</b> – Death Adder .....	Gundjilbay
<b>Snake</b> – Grass .....	Gilway
<b>Snake</b> – Green .....	Wilgarr
<b>Snake</b> – Green spotted .....	Mimbirri
<b>Snake</b> – Green Tree .....	Wuwala
<b>Snake</b> – Red Belly Black .....	Gurrumbun
<b>Snake</b> – Taipan .....	Katjiraka
<b>Snake</b> – Water .....	Dundji
<b>Snake</b> – Whip .....	Wiramu
<b>Snake</b> – Yellow .....	Garrbarri also Galbarri
<b>Snake</b> – Python .....	Buda:dji
<b>Turtle</b> – Fresh water .....	Budgigal

## Tools and Weapons

<b>Boomerang</b> .....	‘Wayal
<b>Boomerang</b> – Fighting .....	Loangal
<b>Spear</b> .....	‘Kul:u
<b>Shield</b> .....	‘Tagur
<b>Sword</b> – Rainforest .....	‘Wa:kai
<b>Tomahawk</b> .....	‘Waimbil
<b>Woomera</b> .....	‘Milai

# Trees

<b>Bean</b> .....	Giwurra
<b>Black Bean</b> .....	Yiwurra
<b>Boxwood</b> .....	Burirrum
<b>Black Pine Nut</b> .....	Guln gay
<b>Black Walnut/Red Penda</b> .....	Djulu djulu
<b>Bloodwood</b> .....	Gambul
<b>Blue Kauri Pine</b> .....	Girrngirr
<b>Bumpy Satinash</b> .....	Gubirranggan
<b>Blue Quondong</b> .....	Murrigan
<b>Burdekin Plum</b> .....	Wagaday
<b>Cabbage Pine</b> .....	Madjanydjan
<b>Candlenut</b> .....	Ngabala
<b>Cedar</b> .....	Dulmbilay
<b>Cycad</b> .....	Badil
<b>Fig</b> .....	Ngalga
<b>Fig – Ficus albipila</b> .....	Gunagarray
<b>Fig – Ficus copiosa</b> .....	Gulugay
<b>Fig – Ficus virens</b> .....	Gulari
<b>Finger Cherry</b> .....	Djarrudja also Galbridji
<b>Flame</b> .....	Gurrngam
<b>Grass Tree</b> .....	Bulyan
<b>Gum</b> .....	Gawula
<b>Hickory</b> .....	Waguy
<b>Ironwood</b> .....	Walnydjan
<b>Kauri Pine</b> .....	Duguy
<b>Kuranda Quondong</b> .....	Wadjin gal
<b>Kuranda Satinash</b> .....	Wandjan also Wanggabal
<b>Leichardt</b> .....	Gudgay

<b>Milky Pine</b> .....	Gulula also Gurula
<b>Pandanus</b> .....	Yagal
<b>Plum Boxwood</b> .....	Dugala
<b>Sandpaper Fig</b> .....	Djayn garr
<b>Silky (She) Oak</b> .....	Bubun
<b>Spear Stick</b> .....	Djuba
<b>Stinging</b> .....	Gayam
<b>Tar</b> .....	Djulgil
<b>Tea</b> .....	Diwirri also Gidi
<b>Tree</b> .....	Djulbin
<b>Tree Fern</b> .....	Madja:l
<b>Water Gum</b> .....	Bana bulu
<b>Wattle – Brown Salwood</b> .....	Bugu
<b>Wild Cherry</b> .....	Djidju
<b>Yellow Walnut</b> .....	Dja:nda

## Words for Any Day

<b>Brother</b> .....	Barda
<b>Come here</b> .....	‘Tjikaran
<b>Ghost</b> .....	Gwingun
<b>Go away</b> .....	‘Kalin
<b>Ground – home, land</b> .....	Bulmba
<b>Leave nothing left</b> .....	Skumpt
<b>Man</b> .....	‘Aija
<b>Meat</b> .....	Minya
<b>No</b> .....	‘Maika
<b>Pants</b> .....	Tjudija
<b>People</b> .....	Bama

<b>Pretend</b> .....	Gamin
<b>Run</b> .....	Tjimbaldjuyai
<b>Shelter</b> – Hand woven .....	Bayou
<b>Shrivalled, Wrinkled</b> .....	Nuddah
<b>Sister</b> .....	Tidda
<b>Sisterhood</b> .....	Tgidg:a
<b>Smoke</b> .....	‘Tjokai
<b>That person</b> – He or She .....	Nullah
<b>Tired</b> .....	Butchigurri
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai North .....	Tjapukai
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai South .....	Idindji
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai East .....	Yirrgandyji
<b>Tribal Neighbour</b> – Buluwai West .....	Muluritji
<b>Walk</b> – Go on foot .....	Tjinala kaling
<b>Woman</b> .....	‘Bandjil
<b>Yes</b> .....	i:

## 4 Directions

North ..... ‘Konkari  
 South ..... Tjiwari  
 East ..... ‘No:  
 West ..... ‘Kowa



# What to Stay Away From

<b>Ant</b> – Bull .....	Gawun gawun
<b>Cassowary</b> .....	Bunda:ra
<b>Caterpillar</b> – Hairy .....	Gin ga
<b>Centipede</b> .....	Ginba
<b>Crocodile</b> .....	Ganyarra or Canyarra
<b>Dingo</b> .....	Gannibarra
<b>Dog</b> .....	Kora
<b>Fish</b> – Silver Bream .....	Gumidjila
<b>Native Cat</b> – Quoll .....	‘Tjikur
<b>Platypus</b> .....	Ngunba
<b>Snake</b> .....	Djam:a
<b>Scorpion</b> .....	Dumbunum or Maranggalay
<b>Spider</b> .....	Garra
<b>Tree</b> – Finger Cherry .....	Djarrudja also Galbridji
<b>Tree</b> – Stinging .....	Gayam

## 4 Elements

Earth .....	Buruygan
Water .....	‘Ban:a
Air .....	‘Kujuru
Fire .....	‘Biri





## Acknowledging Dedication

With any newly discovered peopled society, an attempt to communicate is the first step in working out what is needed. Learning a new language alters your global perspective.

Far North Queensland 1963, came the closure of Mona Mona Mission and since then, the passing of our tribal people and our older Mission generations, has seen a need to salvage and record for all time, our traditional languages that were once spoken not so long ago.

For this important project, the Buluwai people sincerely thank and acknowledge the time and dedication undertaken throughout the years, in the recording of tribal languages that make up Far North Queensland Wet Tropics Rainforest Aboriginal People's areas.

Buluwai Tribal people humbly acknowledge the timeless dedication in preserving our 'lost' languages and we give with gratitude, references to N B Tindale 1938 'Primary Source' Parallel Vocabularies; R. M. Dixon, A Grammar of Yidiny, CUP, Melbourne, 1977, p.xxiii; M. Quinn, Djabugay Ngirrma Gulu, Cairns, 1989, pp.110-111 and Dr. T. Bottoms with his invaluable knowledge, truth and easygoing guidance.

Every tribal landscape is uniquely different to it's neighbour and because of this, the language spoken can only represent the land for which it speaks. With this mind, the Traditional Owners of Buluwai Traditional Tribal Estate, are proud to present our first Language Dictionary Handbook specific to our country.

Buluwai Traditional Owners welcome all visitors to our iconic country and we trust our Dictionary Handbook Guide, will give an awareness of the natural landscape that surrounds us, as this will help protect it's uniqueness for future generations.

Katjiraka Clan, Buluwai Tribe  
*Buluwai Language Dictionary*  
[www.buluwai.org](http://www.buluwai.org)

