



Lake Jindabyne

A Tourist's Guide to the Ngarigu Language

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Spelling

As Aboriginal people originally had no writing, how to spell Aboriginal words became a matter of choice, with the result that there is no single necessarily correct spelling. Language names are often spelt slightly differently. Wherever possible in this guide (i.e. excluding quoted material) the simplest spelling of Aboriginal words has been used.

Who are the Ngarigu?

The Ngarigu are an inland Australian Aboriginal people of south-east New South Wales, whose traditional lands extend around the present border with Victoria. The territory of the Ngarigu language group is in the Great Dividing Range in south-eastern New South Wales. Well-known tourist locations in this area are Cooma, Adaminaby, Thredbo, Perisher Valley and the Kosciuszko National Park.

In the approximate language area map following, which draws on work by Tindale, Dixon and Horton,¹ the purple Ngarigu language area is surrounded by a number of other language groups including Wiradjuri, Gundungurra/Ngunawal, Dhurga, Dyiringany, Thawa, Bidwil, Kurnai and Dhudhuroa.

The Ngarigu people are closely associated with the Monaro region. In the National Parks and Wildlife Snowy Region Visitor Centre [SRVC] in Jindabyne it is stated that Aboriginal people have occupied areas around and within Kosciuszko National Park for at least 20 000 years. The SRVC also features the following information:

The Snowy River and nearby forests provided abundant food for the Aboriginal people who lived in the Jindabyne area. Fish, eels, possums, kangaroos, birds, and a variety of plants were among the many resources used.

Many Aboriginal groups came together each year to perform important ceremonies associated with or sustained by the harvesting of bogong moths. The highest Aboriginal sites recorded in Australia were found near the ski fields of Perisher and on the Main Range.

It is often wrongly claimed that the Aboriginal people of the tablelands and mountains had died out by the early years of the 20th century.

Diseases had certainly taken a tragic toll and it is probable that measles, smallpox and influenza had spread from European communities to the Aboriginal population even before the first Europeans arrived in the area.



Fig. 1 Geographical and language area maps of south-eastern New South Wales

Disease, combined with the increasing loss of traditional land to grazing, pushed many Monaro Aboriginal people onto reserves, such as those at Delegate on the eastern side of the Monaro, Wallaga Lake and Wreck Bay on the south coast of New South Wales and Lake Tyers in Victoria.

The last families left the Delegate Reserve in the 1920s due to economic hardship and to prevent their children being taken by the Aborigines Protection Board although the reserve was used occasionally for several more decades. The history of the Tumut area is a little different in that many Aboriginal people were able to remain in their country, although for some it meant enduring the many restrictions imposed at the Brungle Reserve. It is clear from historical records that Aboriginal guides were critical to the early days of

¹ <https://www.mapworld.com.au/products/aboriginal-australia-tindale-800-x-640mm-map>; Dixon, R. M. W. (2002). Australian Languages. Cambridge, U.K., Cambridge University Press: p.xxviii; <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

exploration. For example, Jemmy Gibber of the Delegate area was the guide on one of the pioneering trips into Gippsland. Aboriginal people were also employed as trackers, stockmen and in agriculture and timber production, particularly in the Bendoc and Adaminaby areas.

Where did the Ngarigu come from?

Some Aboriginal people, when asked about the origins of First Nations people in Australia, assert 'we were always here'. A more generally accepted view is that people arrived in Australia long ago, probably from New Guinea when it was connected to continental Australia when the seas were lower during an ice age. There might have been a succession of such arrivals. Who knows? There is evidence of Aboriginal inhabitation of the country for 65 000 years.² It is thought that people arrived in the vicinity of Darwin, and from there over time spread all over the country.

When a group of people first arrived in continental Australia its members would have all spoken the same language. In all probability the arrival of people in Australia did not happen just once in prehistory but on multiple occasions. And these early visitors who became settlers did not permanently stay where they first arrived. Over time as their numbers grew, some of their descendants moved increasingly further away and eventually to all parts of the continent, including even Tasmania—which at times was connected to the mainland by the same reason of lower sea levels referred to above.

R.M.W. Dixon records (2002, p.9) that there were people in Tasmania by about 35 000 years ago. Dixon further states:

[I]t might have taken little more than two thousand years from the arrival of the first immigrants in Australia for all parts of the continent to have been populated to the limits of their food bearing resources.

If this were so, then the Ngarigu people would have been part of that process. If only it were possible to know how and when this all happened! Did the coastal areas get settled first, and inland later? Mike Smith (2006) states:

Central Australia has been occupied for 35 000

years, at least as long in fact as modern humans have occupied western Europe.³

Commenting on the dryness of the Australian continent, Smith states conditions were much drier previously than now:

[T]he climate of central Australia today probably represents the most favourable period in this desert since the end of the last interglacial (about 120 000 years ago) whereas the peak aridity of the last glacial maximum (about 20 000 years ago) marks the harshest conditions yet identified, with parts of the interior subjected to hyper-arid conditions for a protracted period.

Special conditions here and there might have made certain areas more attractive for settlement, for the Ngarigu and others. Smith again:

Even within an arid or hyper-arid landscape, external factors may selectively affect parts of the landscape. For instance, the reactivation of dry lakes in the Willandra region (south west New South Wales) or of the rivers feeding Lake Eyre (e.g. Coopers Creek), reflects changes in winter or summer rainfall systems outside the arid zone, and the transport of floodwaters into these regions. For instance, Lake Mungo (one of the lakes in the Willandra system) held water at various times between 15 000–55 000 BP, at a time when the surrounding landscape was more arid than today, because colder drier conditions produced more effective runoff in the southern highlands.

Be that as it may, the further people travelled, it stands to reason, the longer would have been the time since they or their forebears left the starting point, and it is also likely that the way they spoke to one another would have slowly evolved. This is what always happens with languages—the greater the distance, and time, of separation, the more languages change.

What happened when?

Ways of obtaining an idea of a historical sequence of events include legends, and DNA and linguistic evidence. In the case of language, for example, a word recorded as part of the Ngarigu language is *ngadyung* for 'water' (4 rows from the bottom in Fig. 2). The table also includes words for 'water' in the languages near Ngarigu: Gundungurra (Gga), Ngunawal (Ngwl), Dharawal

² <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/evidence-of-first-peoples>

³ Article 32006 [Australian Deserts, Deserts Past – The Archaeology and Environmental History of the Australian Deserts: Dr Mike Smith, Director of Research and Development, National Museum of Australia, Canberra]: 2006 <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/1301.0Feature Article32006>

(Dwl), Dhurga (Dga) and Dyiringany (Drgn)—and all are similar to *ngadyung*.

Australian	respelt	English	source
ŋadu(ŋ)	ngadyung	water	Eades, D.K. Dhawawal Dhurga [:87.1:22.2] [Dwl/Dga] [nsw]
nadgung	nadyung	water	Maxwell, W.J. [:1:1] [Gga] [nsw]
ijong	ngadyang	Water	Curr 3 #195 PM Queanbeyan [3:425.1:34] [Ngwl] [nsw]
ngadyung	ngadyung	Water	Mathews NRGU 1908 [:338:4] [Nrgu] [nsw]
Nijong	nadyang	Water (fresh)	SofM 18990921 [141 Brown-llawarra] [:141.3:6] [Dwl] [nsw]
ngaityung	ngadyang	Water	Curr 3 #193 Ridley [3:419.1:34] [Wodi] [nsw]
nadju	nadyu	Water	Curr 3 #194 Dawsey [3:423.1:34] [Drgn] [nsw]

Fig. 2 Ngarigu neighbourhood ‘water’

Around Sydney Harbour, however—Sydney (BB) and Dharug (Dg)—and for languages just to the north of it, it can be seen in Fig. 3 that the word for ‘water’ changes to *badu*: Biripi (Bpi), Darkinyung (Dark), Worimi (Wrmi), and Karree (Kre) are all languages up to around Port Macquarie.

Australian	respelt	English	source
Bādo	badu	Water	Anon (c) [:26:1] [BB] [NSW]
Bādo	badu	water	Mathews 8006/3/5-5 [108-Dharug] [:110:7] [DG] [NSW]
[batto]	badu	Water	Curr 3 #186 Branch [3:341.1:34.1] [Bpi] [nsw]
Battoo	badu	Water	Mathews 8006/3/7- No 7 [7:2:17] [Dark] [nsw]
Ba-rdo	bardu	Water	Larmer (RSNSW) BrisWtr [224.1:38] [NrN] [nsw]
battoo	badu	Water	Hector [:4:10] [Wrmi] [nsw]
Pār-tō	badu	Water	Tkld KRE c.1835 [131:37.2] [Kre] [nsw]

Fig. 3 Sydney neighbourhood ‘water’

Then, generally further north along the NSW coast, the word for ‘water’ changes again, to *gali* and *gung*-type words. In Fig. 4 below the languages are Ngawun (Anaiwan) (Ngwn), Wonnaruua (Wnra), Awabakal (Awa), Dhangatti (Dgdi), and Bundyilung (Bjlg) at the Queensland border. These are all northern coastal NSW languages, except for Awabakal, which, as the Hunter River Lake Macquarie language, might be classed as lower central coast.

Australian	respelt	English	source
gullie	gali	Water	SofM 19000221 [8: Young-Walcha] [8:1] [Ngwn] [nsw]
kalle	gali	Water	Curr 3 #188 Miller [3:357.1:34.1] [Wnra] [nsw]
Kul-ling	galing	... fresh water ...	Tkld 1834 GRAMMAR [89:4] [Awa] [nsw]
Ghoong	gung	Water	SofM 18970227 [16.3: B-Kempsey] [16:1] [Dgdi] [nsw]
Cong	gang	water	SofM 19080520 [p.11: Anon] [12.1:17] [Bjlg] []
kúg	gug	[‘she wants some water’]	Livingstone [11:19.23] [Bjlg] [nsw]
Kogun	gugan	Water	SofM 19030422 [40c Hargrave-Casino] [41.1:2] [Bjlg] [nsw]
Ko-ko-in	guguwin	Water	Tkld 1834 GRAMMAR [86:34] [Awa] [nsw]

Fig. 4 North coast neighbourhood ‘water’

On the western side of the Great Dividing Range, for example in Wiradhuri and Kamilaroi countries, words for ‘water’ also mainly begin with /g/, just as in Fig. 4. Observations such as this might suggest that perhaps, in prehistory, people moved into these different areas at different times, bringing particular vocabulary with them. However, as this happened so long ago, and as there were no written records, much of the early history of Australia remains a mystery.

By the time of the European upheaval in Australia beginning with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, it is thought that there were around 300 or so language groups on the continent—and far more dialects—all associated with their own areas of the country.⁴ So great was the disparity in power between the newcomers and the original inhabitants, however (muskets and cannons against spears and hatchets), and so incessant were the arrivals of shiploads of immigrants at the same time as the numbers of Aboriginal people were declining from new diseases and conflict, that language groups were largely overwhelmed when contact occurred, beginning in Sydney and spreading from there. Of those hundreds of language groups, today only about a dozen in the centre and north of the country remain in the flourishing state of being passed on to children.

Sources of information

Very little remains known about the language spoken by the Ngarigu people. The earliest word

⁴ <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/languages-alive>

lists of the Ngarigu language that have survived were compiled by John Lhotsky (1839), Charles du Vé (1887), John Bulmer (undated), George Augustus Robinson (1844), Alfred W. Howitt (1904) and R.H. Mathews (1906-07). As well as other minor collections, there was an anonymous list published in the journal *Science of Man* in 1904. The most recent list, and the only one compiled by a linguist, was by Luise Hercus in 1969. However, all these sources combined recorded fewer than 1000 words and, being mainly lists of objects, they offer little to enable an understanding of how the language worked.

Speakers of languages generally use around 10 000 words although they may understand or know many more. As this would apply equally to Ngarigu as to any other Australian language, it can be inferred that there was a great deal more to the Ngarigu language than what we can know today. Even so, some things about this language can be asserted with some degree of confidence.

General features of Australian languages

Australian languages vary in the way sentences are formed and how nouns and verbs are made up. In many languages, a verb stem or root is followed by various endings or *suffixes*, often finishing with a tense marker and then bound pronouns. Such elaborating suffixes provide information that in English would be supplied by separate words. Because of its location we can say that the Ngarigu language would have been among the Pama-Nyungan group of Australian languages. This enormous group covered practically the whole of mainland Australia apart from about a quarter of the continent in the north west, in the general vicinity of Darwin. A characteristic of the hundreds of languages in this group is that they depended on suffixes. In Pama-Nyungan languages, generally speaking, it is *all* about the suffixes.

In many languages, including Australian languages, while word order is to some extent useful it is not essential, there being other ways to indicate who or what is doing an action. In Australian languages this is achieved by adding a suffix to the 'do-er', such a suffix often featuring '*-u*' (e.g. *-gu*, *-ngu*, *-du*). The word that includes such an ending is likely to be who or what is doing the action, regardless of where it occurs in the sentence. For example, in the sentence *man sees girl*, when the order is jumbled up but *-gu* is

added to the 'do-er' (*girl man-gu sees*), we can still tell who is doing the seeing: *gu* indicates the man is doing it. The name of this suffix marking the subject, 'do-er', in a *transitive* sentence (one in which there is also a 'done to', or object) is ergative. While English does use suffixes (e.g. *govern: governs, governed, governing, governor, government*), it does not do so in anything like the way or to the extent that Australian languages do.

In contrast to English and other European languages, Australian languages generally do not have verbs 'to be' and 'to have'. They work around this, often using 'to sit' or 'to stand' for 'to be'. They also use noun suffixes indicating 'having' and 'lacking'. So *dogs have tails* and *people don't have tails* would be expressed as *dog tail-having* and *people tail-lacking*. Other features that differ from English and other European languages include a very limited range of words for numbers and colours.

This does not mean that Australian languages are primitive or deficient, however, just that they are different. At times they can be considerably more sophisticated than European languages. For example, where English and other languages have terms for 'we', 'you' and 'they', Australian languages distinguish between two and more-than-two people, having words for 'we-two' and 'we-all', 'you-two' and 'you-all' and 'they-two' and 'they-all'. A further sophistication of some languages occurs in such sentences as *we are going*, in which the use of one pronoun would mean *we (but not you)* are going, while use of a different pronoun would indicate that *we (including you)* are going. Another example of Australian language precision is found in words for human relations: separate terms for 'older sister's husband' and for the son or daughter of a male, for example, make the terms 'aunt', 'nephew', 'grandfather' and 'mother-in-law' used in English look vague.

In other respects, Australian languages tend to keep things simple. They do not have genders, which in some European languages (although not English) make 'tables' feminine (French) or masculine (Italian) or the 'sea', again, feminine in French and masculine in Italian. German is yet more complicated in having neuter. All nouns in these European languages are either masculine, feminine (or neuter), and all speakers have to learn which is which.

Australian languages frequently do not show

plurals. Articles (a, an, the) used in English and other European languages are not found in Australian languages. Nor are prepositions (at, in, by etc.), Australian languages expressing such concepts by using suffixes instead.

There is another instance of the keep-it-simple principle. It was mentioned above that in Australian languages a **gu**-type suffix is added to the 'do-er' in a sentence to show who is doing the action. However, there are some words, often to do with movement, whether there is no other party involved (e.g. horse *gallops*, grasshopper *jumps*). Such verbs are called *intransitive*, and as in these instances no one else other than the horse or grasshopper could be doing the galloping or jumping, generally speaking Australian languages see no need to apply a suffix to them.

Language name Ngarigu

The names of many Australian languages are based on the word 'no' in the language concerned. This may appear strange to English speakers, but Aboriginal people evidently were well aware of the fact that each language had its own distinctive word for 'no', and in one way or another often called their language by it. So major language groups in New South Wales *Wira-dhuri* and *Gamil-arayi*, have names that translate as *no-having*, the word for 'no' in those languages being respectively *wira* and *gamil*. Alternatively a language name might be 'no' repeated, as in the Murray River languages *Bureba Bureba*, *Wemba Wemba* and quite a few others.

This is not how the Ngarigu language got its name, however, as the Ngarigu word for 'no' was recorded as *mugu*. Today it is not known what Ngarigu means.

Ngarigu grammar

No grammar of the Ngarigu language appears to

have been compiled at the time the language was spoken. Surveyor and anthropologist R.H. Mathews wrote:⁵

In 1904 I published a short grammar and vocabulary of the Ngunawal language, a sister tongue of the Ngarrugu. The grammatical structure of these languages is closely similar, and several words of their vocabularies are almost identical.⁶

The Ngunawal language may in due course become part of the Tourist's Guide series, and if so its grammar will be covered then.

Ngarigu vocabulary

The following vocabulary of over 500 words extracted from Jeremy Steele's Bayala databases for Australian languages are taken from the most significant of the historical word lists mentioned earlier. The word in English is given in the first column, arranged alphabetically, followed by the way it was originally recorded. The third column in blue is a simplified standardised respelling of the word. The fourth column shows the original source for the entry, abbreviated as follows:

—**RHM**: R.H. Mathews, 1908 [see footnote 5]

—**Thom**: Surveyor General W.M Thomas and his officers E.J. Halliday, T.B.U. Sloman, W. Wynter, John Allen, A.L. Stinson, Pruscott, J.F. Campbell and J. Anderson, district surveyors, 1904 [from *Science of Man*, 23 May 1904, p.58]⁷

—**Lhot**: Dr J. Lhotsky, 1839 [from *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*]⁸

—**Anon**: Anonymous list [from *Science of Man*, 23 August 1904, p.104]⁹

—**du Vé**: Lists by Charles du Vé and John Bulmer published in Curr, Edward M., *The Australian Race*, Vol. III, 1887, section no. 197.¹⁰

The Bayala databases are not available online owing to their complexity. Anyone wishing to see them is invited to contact Jeremy Steele through

⁵ Mathews, R. H. (1908). "Vocabulary of the Ngarrugu Tribe N.S.W." *Journal and Proceedings of The Royal Society of New South Wales*: 335-340. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/41579844#page/369/mode/1up>

⁶ Mathews, R. H. (1904f). "The Ngunawal Language: in 'The Wiradyuri and Other Languages of New South Wales'." *Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* XXXIV: 294-299; vocabulary 302-305. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-756469845/view?partId=nla.obj-756484713#page/n12/mode/1up>

⁷ <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-522047263/view?partId=nla.obj-522065094#page/n9/mode/1up>

⁸ Lhotsky, J., Dr.Med Jena, F.R.Bot.Soc. Bavaria. "Some Remarks on a Short Vocabulary of the Natives of Van Diemen Land; and Also of the Monero Downs in Australia." *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London* 9 (1839): 157-62. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1797719?seq=1>

⁹ <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-522047323/view?partId=nla.obj-522074408#page/n9/mode/1up>

¹⁰ <https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=W-YqAAAYAAJ&pg=GBS.PA430&printsec=frontcover>

The Bayala databases use conventions such as the following: curly brackets: indicate the record is one of two or more alternatives the source might have provided for the English entry concerned; square brackets: indicates that the example concerned is a single word taken from an immediately preceding record consisting of two or more words. Since the resulting single word was not specifically provided by the source it has become effectively an analysis by Jeremy Steele: in such instances 'JS' may appear in the 'source' column.

In the 'respelt' column, capital letters occasionally appear. As the computer does not distinguish between capital letters and lower case letters, this 'computer blindness' enables capital letters to be used harmlessly to impart additional information about an entry. So capital letters /N/ and /D/, for example, are used to show special sounds for the consonants /n/ and /d/, where recorders have detected a difference in pronunciation, which they might have transcribed as 'nh' and 'dh' in their original entries. The first column of the table retains the capitalisation and spelling of the original record.

Triple /x/ (xxx) indicates 'unknown'.

English	Ngarigu	respelt	source
alive	kubbukudyan	gabugudyan	RHM
anger	Coola	gula	Thom
ant	dyubburu	dyaburu	RHM
anus	gunung	gunung	RHM
arise	nguyuka	nguyuga	RHM
arm	kungathalungi	gungaDalungi	RHM
armband	nurabutbut	nurabudbud	RHM
baby	mumu	mumu	RHM
baby	wengu	wingu	RHM
back	Kungun	gungun	Lhot
bad	moko (?)	mugu	du Vé
bad	muruba	muruba	RHM
bad	{Baka}	baga	Lhot
bad	{Tussi}	dudyi	Lhot
bag	badyung	badyung	RHM
bandicoot	dhurwañ	Durwany	RHM
bandicoot	Manyoc	manyag	Lhot
bandicoot	manyug	manyug	RHM
Banksia	Pirruka	biruga	Lhot
bark	Parrunga	baranga	Lhot
bat	berkun	birgun	RHM
bat	ngud'yan- ngudyan	ngadyan ngadyan	RHM
bead	Droyoyelak	druuyilag	Lhot
beard	Yarang	yarang	Lhot
beard	yerrañ	yirany	RHM
beat	wapma	wabama	RHM
bed	ngaiernger	ngayanga	RHM

beetle	Urrugagan	yurugagan	Lhot
belly	Bindi	bindi	Lhot
belly	bullinguringu	balinguringu	RHM
big	yeppungbilli	yibangbili	RHM
big	yhubung	yubang	du Vé
bird	budyan	budyan	RHM
birdtype	bindha- windherri	bindawindiri	RHM
birdtype	dyarrandyak	dyarandyag	RHM
bite	nyukkangi	nyagangi	RHM
black	dhaguk	Dagug	RHM
black sally	buguger'ak	bugugírag	RHM
blackfish	mundya	mundya	RHM
blood	guruba	guruba	RHM
bone	gundal	gundal	RHM
boomerang	ngullamur	ngalamu	RHM
boomerang	warrungen	warangin	du Vé
bowl	dyinburing	dyinburing	RHM
box	dhukkai	Dagayi	RHM
box	gunumba	gunamba	RHM
box	Kanea Yarma	ganiya yama	Lhot
boy	Bubel	bubil	Lhot
boy	burubal	burubal	RHM
branch	Palluk	balag	Lhot
brave	Matong	madang	Thom
break	kuragungambi	guragungambi	RHM
break	Par	ba	Lhot
breast	Maneroo	manaru	Anon
breast	Monaro	munaru	Anon
breast	munyuknge	munugandy	RHM
breast	Pinenana	bininana	Lhot
bring	bundingalai	bundingala	RHM
brolga	gooyer	guyur	du Vé
brother	Didya	didya	Lhot
brother	dyiddyang	dyidyang	RHM
brother	jydchong	dyadyang	du Vé
brother	kugang	gugang	RHM
bullroarer	mooroonga	murunga	RHM
burn	Walta	walda	Lhot
burn	kunnamarang	gana marang	RHM
bury	Kundeit	gundid	Lhot
butterfly	Jiribal	dyiribal	Lhot
buttocks	Tumun	dumun	Lhot
call	Viribinela	biribinila	Lhot
camp	bandye	bandyi	RHM
camp	wallaan	walAn	du Vé
canoe	dyinburu	dyinburu	RHM
canoe	marring	maring	du Vé
cat	bindyellang	bindyilang	RHM

cat	gundarang	gundarang	RHM
cat	Tathra	daDara	Anon
charcoal	dhallang	Dalang	RHM
charcoal	Mundaith	mundayid	Lhot
chin	Undogera	andugira	Lhot
climb	gulligimbilli	galigimbili	RHM
cloud	Kulumbeo	gulambiyu	Lhot
club	gudyurung	gudyarung	RHM
cockatoo	Ger	gir	Lhot
cockatoo	Gnina	ngina	Lhot
cockatoo	Hannal	yanal	Lhot
cockatoo	ngoul	ngawal	du Vé
cockatoo	yerriak	yiriyag	RHM
cold	curret	garid	du Vé
cold	karattha	garad[D]a	RHM
cold	kurritgo	garidgu	RHM
come	yerrabingalai	yirabingalayi	RHM
confluence	Bibbenluke	bibinalug	Thom
confluence	Bombala	bambala	Thom
confluence	Munder-ringong	mandiringang	Anon
copulate	dyumbullan	dyumbalan	RHM
crayfish	barrinjook	barindyug	du Vé
crow	Wagulin	wagulin	Lhot
crow	warcolin	wagulin	du Vé
crow	yukumbrak	yugumbarag	RHM
curlew	wurbil	wurbil	RHM
dance	Tibiribi	dibiribi	Lhot
day	bruyeo	baruyu	du Vé
day	Nangeri	nangari	Lhot
daylight	mummatch	mamady	RHM
dead	dhirrakumba	Diragamba	RHM
dew	dying-e-ang	dyingiyang	RHM
die	Birraganya	biraganya	Lhot
die	birrakumbañ	biragambany	RHM
doctor	guragalang	guragalang	RHM
dog	mirrigang	mirigang	RHM
dog	mittagang	midagang	du Vé
dog	Warragulmongi	waragul mangi	Lhot
drink	ngukai	ngugayi	RHM
drink	Uikimá	wigima	Lhot
duck	goonarook	gunarug	du Vé
duck	Kurariga	gurariga	Lhot
duck	poodoombarng	budumbang	du Vé
eagle	meerong	mirang	du Vé
eagle	mirrung	mirang	RHM
ear	binneyarre	binyari	du Vé
ear	dyanyange	dyanyangi	RHM
ear	Gundungela	gandangila	Lhot
earth	Bring	baring	Lhot

earth	dhau-ur	Dawur	RHM
earth	Taura	dawura	Lhot
earth	towra	dawura	du Vé
eat	dhambilli	Dambili	RHM
echidna	kau-an	gawan	RHM
echo	{Cooe Dong}	guwidang	Thom
echo	{Quidong}	gwidang	Thom
eel	kalgun	galgun	RHM
elbow	kungalngurunge	gungal ngurundyi	RHM
elbow	Yongra	yangara	Lhot
emu	Biddibang	bidibang	Lhot
emu	biri-biri	biri biri	du Vé
emu	gun-gwan	gunGwan	RHM
excrement	gunnunggu	ganangGu	RHM
eye	gundthul	gunDul	RHM
eye	Mekeleit?	migilid	Lhot
eye	mobbara	mabara	du Vé
eyebrow	Mimorung	mimurang	Lhot
eyelash	Mobeva	mubira	Lhot
eyelid	Daran	daran	Lhot
fall	bukkáli	bagali	RHM
fat	be-wan	byuwan	RHM
fat	Buen	buwin	Thom
father	bobahn	baban	du Vé
father	bubang	bubang	RHM
father's father	ngatyen	ngadyin	RHM
father's mother	kubbing	gabing	RHM
fear	dyau-attbunya	dyawadbanya	RHM
feather	Kiligila	giligila	Lhot
figleaf	dyebañ	dyibany	RHM
fire	gannby	ganbi	du Vé
fire	Kembi	gimbi	Lhot
fire	wattha	waDa	RHM
firewood	kulgagal	gulgagal	RHM
fishtype	birrigigik	birigigig	RHM
fishtype	moolaan	mulAn	du Vé
five	Guba	guba	Lhot
flower	gubbura	gabura	RHM
flower	Marrangaong	marangang	Lhot
flower	Murronumbla	maranambala	Anon
fly	gunagungun	gunagunGun	RHM
fly	Nako	nagu	Lhot
fly	ngago	ngagu	RHM
fog	kanggat	gangGad	RHM
foot	dyinnang	dyinang	RHM
foot	genno	dyinu	du Vé
foot	Mendeng	minding	Lhot

footprint	mooritche	muridyi	du Vé
forehead	ngulange	ngulangi	RHM
forehead	Ullo	ngulu	Lhot
forehead	Wangula lula	wangalalula	Lhot
four	Nalanko	nalanGu	Lhot
frog	dyirrigorat	dyirigarad	RHM
frog	gumbillang	gumbilang	RHM
frog	Yerrigereit	yirigirid	Lhot
fruit	Pirruka Atyango	biruga adyangu	Lhot
Genital cover	barrañ	barany	RHM
girdle	dhurunggal	DurungGal	RHM
girdle	Kumel	gumil	Lhot
girl	mullangan	malanGan	RHM
give	yunganyilla	yunganyila	RHM
glider	ngallawa	ngalawa	RHM
glider	watchgung	wadygung	RHM
go	yarrabye	yarabayi	du Vé
go	yerrabadya	yirabadya	RHM
go	yerrabalinga	yirabalinga	RHM
goanna	buddha'luk	baDalug	RHM
good	Budgony Narrak	badyuni narag	Lhot
good	murrembarang	marimbarang	du Vé
good	yellagañ	yilagany	RHM
grass	Mallak	malag	Lhot
grass	nalluk	nalug	RHM
grass	nulhook	nulug	du Vé
grasshopper	galang-galang	galang Galang	RHM
greedy	mura-nhuna	maraNuna	RHM
grub	gubbadyuk	gabadyug	RHM
grub	gunung-gurañ	gunungGurany	RHM
gum	balluk	balug	RHM
gum	Bridgaong	biridyang	Lhot
gum	dhumba	Damba	RHM
gum	dyua	dyuwa	RHM
gum	Gunningarah	ganingara	Anon
gum	murrigal	marigal	RHM
gum	Nirwan	nirwan	Lhot
hair	eērong	yirang	du Vé
hair	Yarang	yarang	Lhot
hair	Yarang	yarang	Lhot
hair	yerrange	yirang	RHM
hair pubic	burrare	burari	RHM
hand	maraga	maraga	du Vé
hand	Moranga	maranga	Lhot
hand	murrungga	marangGa	RHM
hat	Tombong	dambang	Anon
hatchet	ngumbercung	ngambagang	du Vé

hatchet	ngumbugang	ngumbugang	RHM
hawk	Miuro	miyuru	Lhot
head	kadagong	gadagang	du Vé
head	kuttagang	gadagang	RHM
headband	dyabbatch	dyabady	RHM
hear	ngattai	ngadayi	RHM
heart	Tuntungeran	dandangaran	Lhot
heart	yugurang	yugurang	RHM
hill	Billy Walla	bili wala	Anon
hill	bunggal	bangGal	RHM
hill	Delegate	diligad	Anon
hill	Jerangle	dyiranGal	Anon
hill	Jingara	dyingara	Anon
hill	Jingerah	dyingara	Anon
honey	Cobyingbah	gubyingba	Anon
honey	gwanggal	gwangGal	RHM
honey	Pirruka Goa	biruga guwa	Lhot
honeysuckle	gillarung	gilarang	RHM
hot	weenya	winya	du Vé
hunger	mirritya	miridya	RHM
hurry	[Kokoi !]	gugayi	Lhot
hurry	Murray	marayi	Anon
husband	manggala	mangGala	RHM
I	ngimba	ngimba	du Vé
ice	Quidong	gwidang	Lhot
ill	{Kayar}	gaya	Lhot
inductee	kuringal	guringal	RHM
jay	i-buk	yibug	RHM
jump	bibburai	biburayi	RHM
kangaroo	bundāär	banda	du Vé
kangaroo	burru	baru	RHM
kill	birrak-ngambi	birag ngambi	RHM
knee	bummat	bamad	RHM
knee	Karagarab	garagarab	Lhot
koaka	danddeal	dandiyal	RHM
kookaburra	kumburang	gamburang	RHM
lake	{Cooma or Coola}	guma	Anon
larva	[Ironmongie]	ngayan	JS
larva termite	Ironmongie	ngayan mangi	Anon
laugh	Brigang	barigang	Lhot
laugh	yindiai	yindiyayi	RHM
leaf	gundigang	gundigang	RHM
leaf	Kundika	gundiga	Lhot
leech	dyirrang	dyirang	RHM
leg	Dara	dara	Lhot
lie	Gamburimi	gamburimi	Lhot
light	murdeditch	murdididy	du Vé
lightning	Kurungeran	garungaran	Lhot
lightning	mullup	malab	RHM

lightning	{Towamba or Terrambera}	dawamba	Anon
lip	Tambamba	dambamba	Lhot
liver	dhubbubut	Dabad	RHM
liver	Nako	nagu	Lhot
lizard	dyirri-dyirritch	dyiri dyiridy	RHM
lizard	dyirrimala'ka	dyirimalaga	RHM
lizard	gurgurwúrak	gurgurwurag	RHM
lizard	Moga	muga	Lhot
lizard	ngullum'ba	ngalúmba	RHM
look	nhamai	namayi	RHM
louse	kadyi	gadyi	RHM
lyrebird	bullet-bullet	balid balid	RHM
maggot	ngagomiñ	ngagominy	RHM
magpie	gurambugang	gurambugang	RHM
magpie-lark	dhirra-dhirri	Dira Diri	RHM
man	baual	bawal	RHM
man	[marrin]	marin	JS
man	murriñ	mariny	RHM
man	myang	mayang	du Vé
master	beang'go	biyangGå	RHM
masturbate	wattugañ	wadugany	RHM
matriarch	goan'ditch	guwandidy	RHM
meat	ngulla	ngala	RHM
moon	cubartong	gubardang	du Vé
moon	Kabatá	gadada	Lhot
moon	yeddhi	yidi	RHM
moon	yeddhi	yidi	RHM
mopoke	go-gok	gugug	RHM
mosquito	moolookmar	mulugama	du Vé
mother	mitchong	midyang	du Vé
mother	ngaddyang	ngadyang	RHM
mother's father	ngagun	ngagun	RHM
mother's mother	ngañ	ngany	RHM
mouth	dha	Da	du Vé
mouth	moordingee	murdindi	du Vé
mouth	mundhange	munDang	RHM
mouth	Yabu	yabu	Lhot
nail	Gino	ginu	Lhot
nail	Ulinala	wulinala	Lhot
nares	binggal	bingGal	RHM
navel	Niurung	nyurang	Lhot
navel	nyuri-nyuriñ	nyuri nyuriny	RHM
neck	dhulet	Dulid	RHM
neck	Mokmok	mag mag	Lhot
neck	Unananana	unananana	Lhot
neck	Wadyidya	wadyidya	Lhot
net	Bayken	bayigin	Lhot

night	dhai-a-go	Dayagu	RHM
night	Direit	dirid	Lhot
night	Wallund	waland	Lhot
night	dthag	Dag	du Vé
nit	dhandiko	Dandigu	RHM
no	moko	mugu	du Vé
nose	kung	gung	RHM
nose	nor	nur	du Vé
nose	Nurnana	nurnana	Lhot
ochre	Neir	niyir	Lhot
ochre	ngai-ur	ngayur	RHM
odour	ngulukumban	ngulugamban	RHM
one	bur	bur	RHM
one	bure	buri	RHM
one	mittong	midang	du Vé
one	Mivan yalla	miban yala	Lhot
ornament	Bunumerang	banumarang	Lhot
owl	dyenutch	dyinady	RHM
owl	i-bing	yibing	RHM
oyster	bindugañ	bindugany	RHM
oyster	Taralangana	daralangana	Lhot
paddle	kagang	gagang	RHM
paint	Murugembeli	murugimbili	Lhot
pair	wadyala	wadyala	RHM
parrot	Kulitkat	gulidgad	Lhot
path	be-al'	biyal	RHM
patriarch	jirrybung	dyiribang	du Vé
patriarch	muyulung	muyulung	RHM
patriarch	Yong	yang	Lhot
penis	dyubbadyang	dyabadyang	RHM
penis	Jabijang	dyabidyang	Lhot
pigeon	Bunyan	banyan	Anon
pigeon	Wabangla	wabangala	Lhot
pigeon	wawaka	wawaga	RHM
pine	bumbur	bumbur	RHM
pipeclay	kabbatch	gabady	RHM
pipeclay	Kobat	gubad	Lhot
pipeclay	Milingandi	ili ngandi	Anon
pipeclay	Miridni	miridni	Lhot
planttype	maranggang	marangGang	RHM
platypus	dyam-a'-lung	dyamalung	RHM
plenty water	Murrumbidgee	marambidyi	Anon
possum	balgai	balgayi	RHM
possum	Buckani	bagani	Lhot
possum	Coonerang	gunarang	Anon
possum	Currawidgen	garawidinyin	Anon
possum	Currowoodjeon	garuwudyun	Thom
possum	gungurang	gungurang	RHM
possum	watjen	wadyin	du Vé

powder	birriñ	biriny	RHM
powder	dhan	Dan	RHM
pregnant	bullindherra	balindira	RHM
quarrel	Nolonyula	nulanyula	Lhot
quick	gurung-gurung	gurung Gurung	RHM
quick	[Barabanay !]	barabanayi	Lhot
rain	wallung	walung	RHM
rain	yurong	yurang	du Vé
rainbow	gurangurang	gurang Gurang	RHM
rat	batpu	badbu	RHM
rat	Chitiba	dyidiba	Lhot
rat kangaroo	dyimmang	dyimang	RHM
rat kangaroo	Kunimein	gunimin	Lhot
right	mandhang	manDang	RHM
rosella	duñ	duny	RHM
run	Monri	manri	Lhot
run	munningale	maningali	RHM
sand	memburrang	mimbarang	RHM
scar	Maruyerang	maruyirang	Lhot
scorpion	dhurt	Durad	RHM
scrape	Takumilin	dagumilin	Lhot
scratch	bingga'dya	bingGadya	RHM
seed	Pirruka Yua	biruga yuwa	Lhot
semen	burranya	baranya	RHM
shadow	mambarang'i	mambarangi	RHM
shelter	Wullwye	wulwa	Thom
shield	armmel	ngamil	du Vé
shield	birkumba	birgumba	RHM
shield	ngummal	ngamal	RHM
shoulder	bundagangi	bundagangi	RHM
shoulder	Galonénana	galuninana	Lhot
sick	kokumbalinya	gugambalinya	RHM
sing	yangabilliñ	yangabiliny	RHM
sister	cullan	galan	du Vé
sister	kallan	galan	RHM
sister	Nama	nama	Lhot
sister	ngummang	ngamang	RHM
sit	Malaki	malagi	Lhot
sit	ngullagai	ngalagayi	RHM
sky	Dar El	daril	Anon
sky	Pogrein	bugrin	Lhot
sleep	kubbukai	gabugayi	RHM
sleep	Kumong	gumang	Lhot
small	kubiangai	gubiyangayi	RHM
smoke	dhoomdoook	Dumdug	du Vé
smoke	dhunbuk	Dunbug	RHM
snake	dyiddyugang	dyidugang	RHM
snake	jijucung	dyidugung	du Vé
snake	Tidyuka	didyuga	Lhot

snow	gunama	gunama	RHM
snow	Gunymá	gunyma	Lhot
snow ruin	warrugang	warugang	RHM
song	Yangang	yangang	Lhot
sorcerer	murlimuluntra	murlimulundra	RHM
speak	baiallanga	bayalanga	RHM
speak	bemmaramban	bimaramban	RHM
speak	Myalla	mayala	Anon
spear	cumma	gama	du Vé
spear	dyerrumba	dyiramba	RHM
spear	gerambardee	dyirambadi	du Vé
spear	Jivim	dyibim	Lhot
spear	kamai	gamayi	RHM
spear-thrower	berami	birami	RHM
spider	Marrar	mara	Lhot
spider	matar	madar	RHM
stand	dyubingalai	dyubingalayi	RHM
star	bralung	baralung	RHM
star	dyuang	dyuwang	RHM
star	ieenkee	yinGi	du Vé
star	Jinji	dyindyi	Lhot
steal	kiandyuluk	giyandyulug	RHM
stone	goorobung	gurabang	du Vé
stone	gurubang	gurubang	RHM
stone	Kurrubang	garubang	Lhot
stone	{Tunung}	dunung	Lhot
stone	{Gibba}	giba	Lhot
stone hut	Gibbergunyah	giba ganya	Anon
stream	Buckajo	bagadyu	Anon
stream	Crewati	gariwa	Anon
stream	Crewati	gruwadi	Anon
stream	Mataganah	madagana	Anon
stream	Mowon-bymoney	mawanbimani	Anon
stupid	wangang	wangang	RHM
summer	wirrin	wirin	RHM
sun	Mamadi	mamadi	Lhot
sun	monnutche	manadyi	du Vé
sun	mummatch	mamady	RHM
swan	Goniak	gunyag	Lhot
swan	kunyuk	gunyug	RHM
swift	birging	birging	RHM
swim	bulmai	bulmayi	RHM
tail	kumeang	gumiyang	RHM
tail	Kumiango	gumiyangu	Lhot
tail	Pembingo	bimbingu	Lhot
take	mamutch	mamudy	RHM
termite	[Ironmongie]	mangi	JS
testicle	gurra	gara	RHM

thigh	Dara	dara	Lhot
thigh	dhurra	Dara	RHM
thigh	tharal	Daral	du Vé
thirst	wunya	wunya	RHM
thou	yindigee	yindigi	du Vé
three	boolar martung	bula madung	du Vé
three	Mubiak	mubiayag	Lhot
throw	yerre	yiri	RHM
throw down	burramai	baramayi	RHM
thrush	dangang	dangang	RHM
thrush	dungang	dangang	RHM
thunder	Bobundrah	bubandara	Anon
thunder	Meibi	mibi	Lhot
thunder	mirrabi	mirabi	RHM
tongue	Talang	dalang	Lhot
tooth	erange	yirang	RHM
tooth	Uranganabili	uranganabili	Lhot
tooth	yayra	yara	du Vé
tree	Waddi	wadi	Lhot
treetype	dyelládru	dyládaru	RHM
treetype	Gambar	gamba	Lhot
turkey	karuk	garug	RHM
turtle	ngallukbang	ngalugbang	RHM
two	boolarlar	bulala	du Vé
two	bulala	bulala	RHM
two	Mivan bulla	miban bula	Lhot
urine	dyung-ur	dyangur	RHM
valley	Jindabyne	dyindaban	Anon
venereal	dhaua-dhawathara	Dawa dawaDara	RHM
vomit	dhura dhurat	Dura Durad	RHM
vulva	willing	wiling	RHM
wallaby	dhurragang	Daragang	RHM
wallaby	wai-at	wayad	RHM
water	ngadyung	ngadyung	RHM
water	ngijjong	ngadyang	du Vé
water	Nyjong	nadyang	Anon
water	Wadyang	wadyand	Lhot
waterfall	Dundundra	dandandara	Anon
waterhole	Numbla	nambala	Anon
waterhole	Tallagoong	dalagung	Anon
waterhole	Wolumla	walamala	Anon
wattle	matruk	madarug	RHM
wattle	Nirwan	nirwan	Lhot
weary	yalawunya	yalawunya	RHM
weep	kumbaliñ	gumbaliny	RHM
weep	kumbaliñ	gumbaliny	RHM
weep	Wabmalanga	wabmalanga	Lhot
wellspring	Coolerang	gularang	Anon
where	[ngandoo]	ngandu	JS

whistle	winde-ai	windiyayi	RHM
white	Hogeila	yugila	Lhot
white	kurbit	gurbid	RHM
whiteman	moomoogan	mumugan	du Vé
wind	goonoockomar	gunuguma	du Vé
wind	Kurubmang	gurubmang	Lhot
wind	Tawerong	dawarang	Lhot
wind	Warrineh	warina	Lhot
wing	Gungudulongo	gangudulangu	Lhot
woman	ballaru	balaru	du Vé
woman	bullan	balan	RHM
woman	manggala	mangGala	RHM
wombat	bungadhung	bungadang	RHM
wood	baar	bA	du Vé
wood	Kayora	gayura	Lhot
wrist	Gonéna	gunina	Lhot
wrong	wangang	wangang	RHM
xxx good	Tiilabudgery	dila badyari	Anon
xxx xxx	beamí boor	biyami bur	JS
yam	mewañ	miwany	RHM
yamstick	kuggang	gagang	RHM
yesterday	[beamí]	biyami	JS
yesterday	[boor]	bur	JS
youth	munguyung	mangayang	du Vé

It has not been possible to find any continuous text written in the Ngarigu language.

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