

dyi-ni-ba-ra

One of the many Australian indigenous languages

dyini-bara

Jinibara

Jeremy Steele

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[aboriginallanguages.com](http://aboriginallanguages.com)

April 2024

# Welcome to country ba dyawunGu

gan djawun dyinibara

this

country

Jinibara

this is Jinibara country

ya yawan nguwan nawa ming

speak

they-all

you-all

stranger

today

they say you are strangers today

nawa waga bindygu

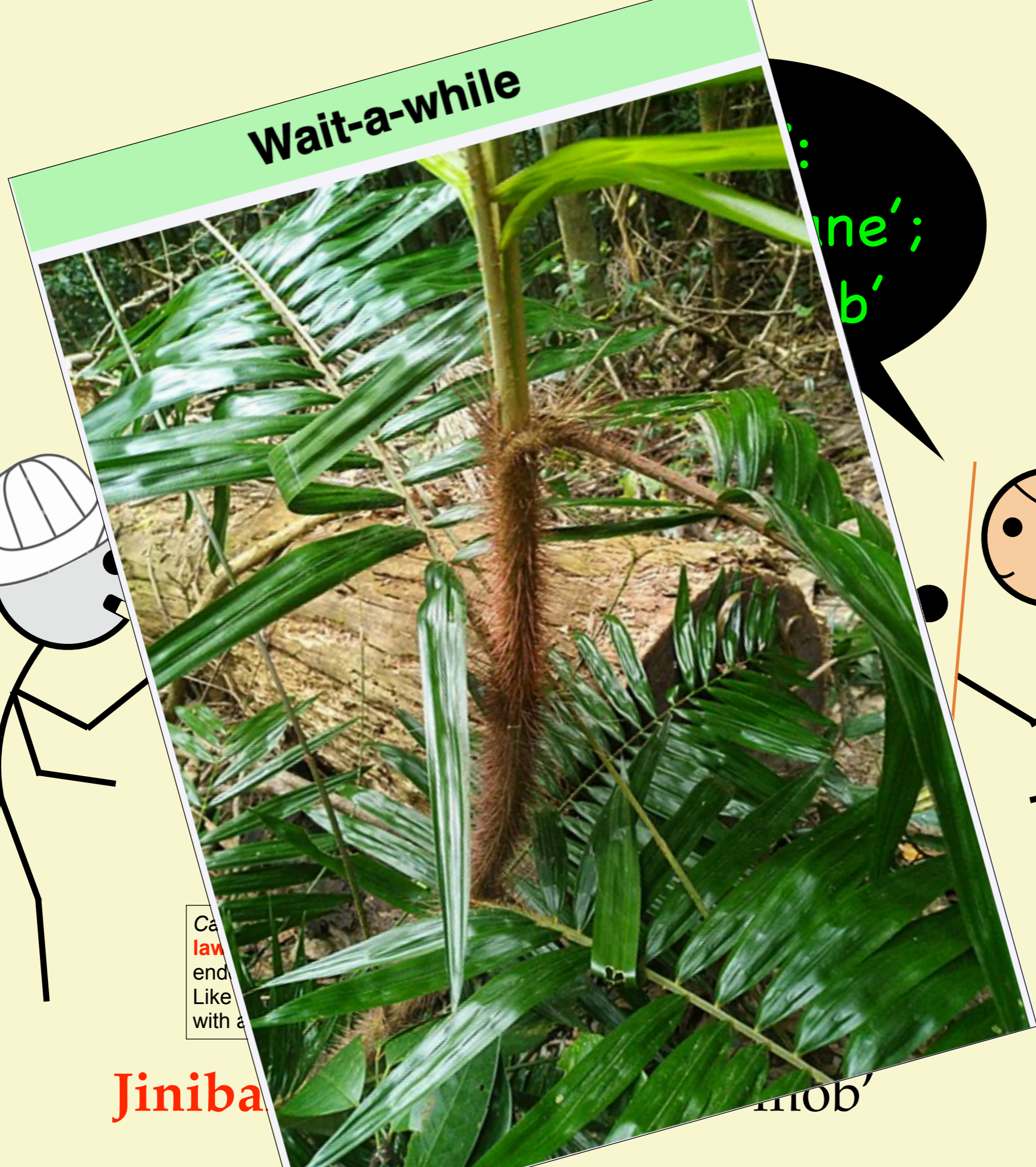
stranger

not

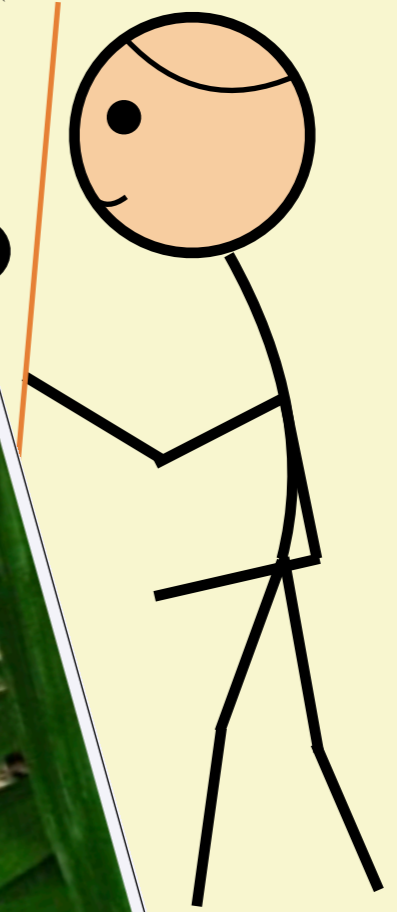
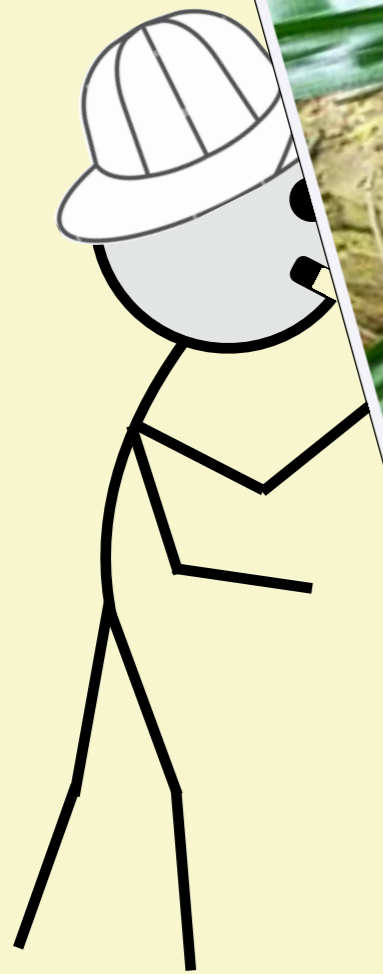
tomorrow

not strangers tomorrow

Wait-a-while



ne';  
b'



Ca  
law  
end  
Like  
with a

Jiniba

thob'

The Indigenous languages of Australia number in the  
hundreds,

although there is a range of estimates from a minimum of  
around **250**<sup>[1]</sup>

up to possibly **363**<sup>[2]</sup>



Here they are

[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Sub-Regional-Indigenous-Groups-of-South-East-Queensland\\_fig1\\_50600957](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Sub-Regional-Indigenous-Groups-of-South-East-Queensland_fig1_50600957)

# Map 1 showing Jinibara

west of  
Moreton Island  
near the coast

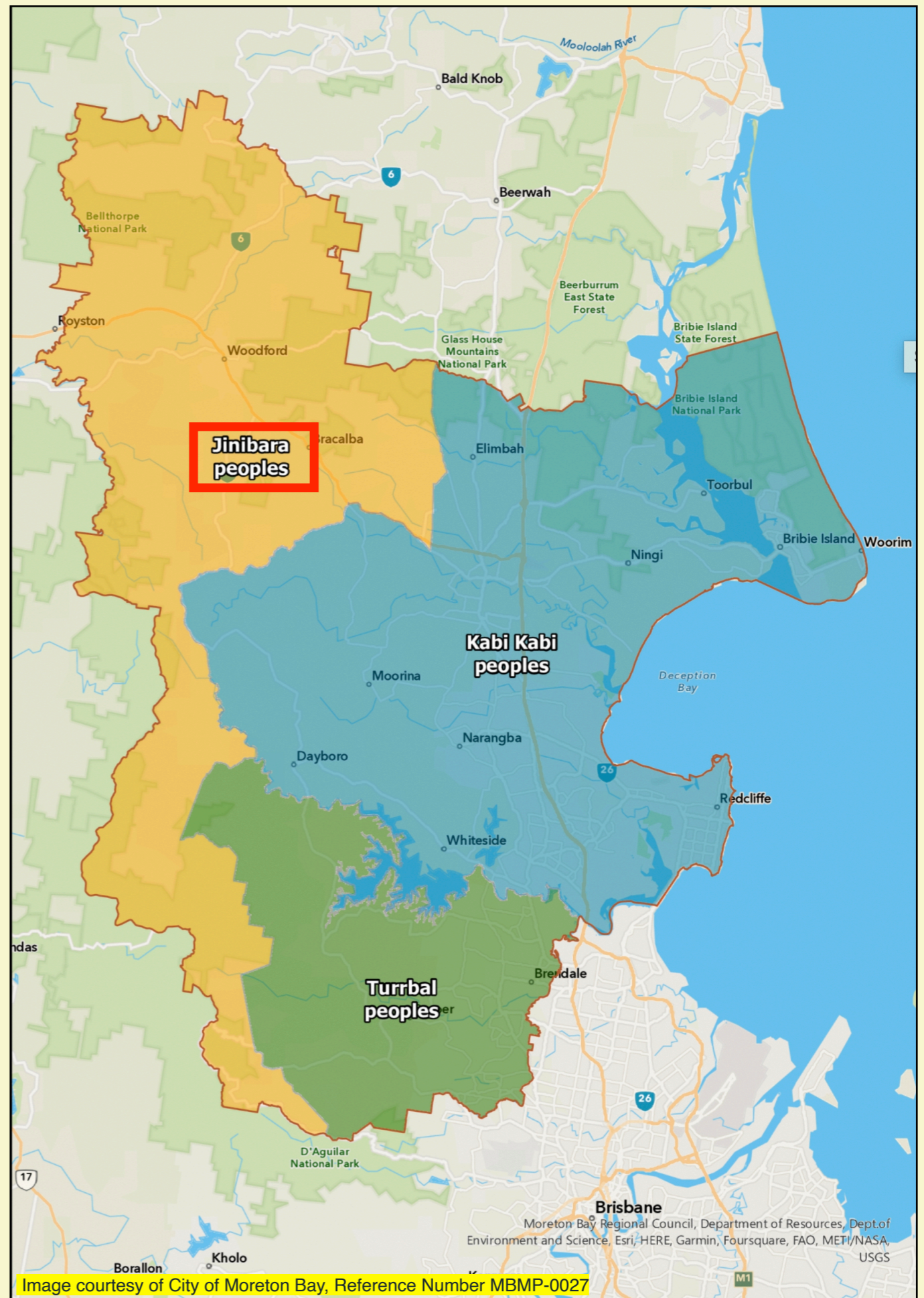


# Map 2 with Jinibara

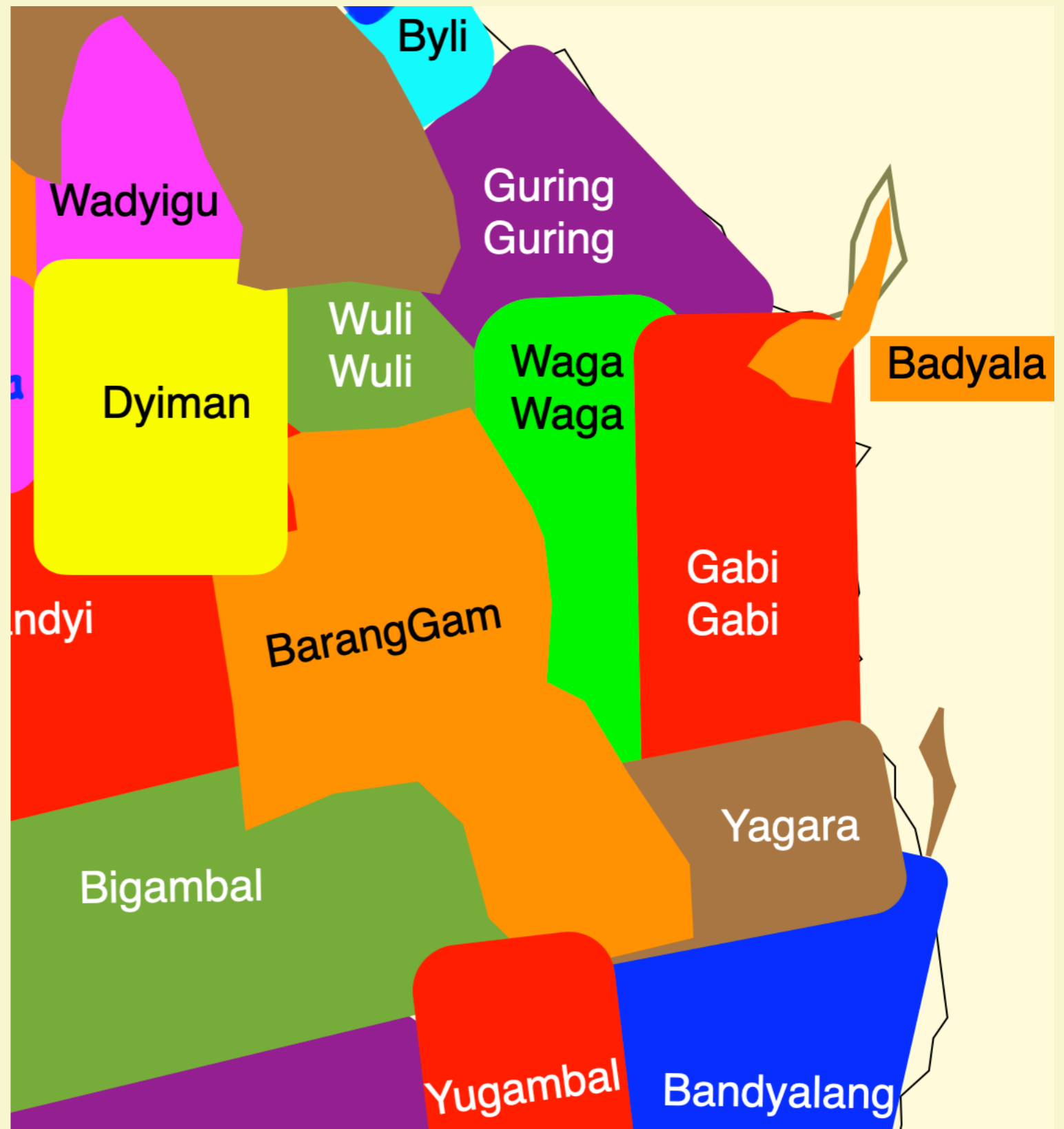
The map we saw before



How it fits in



The most easterly  
part of the  
Australian  
continent



The area of special interest

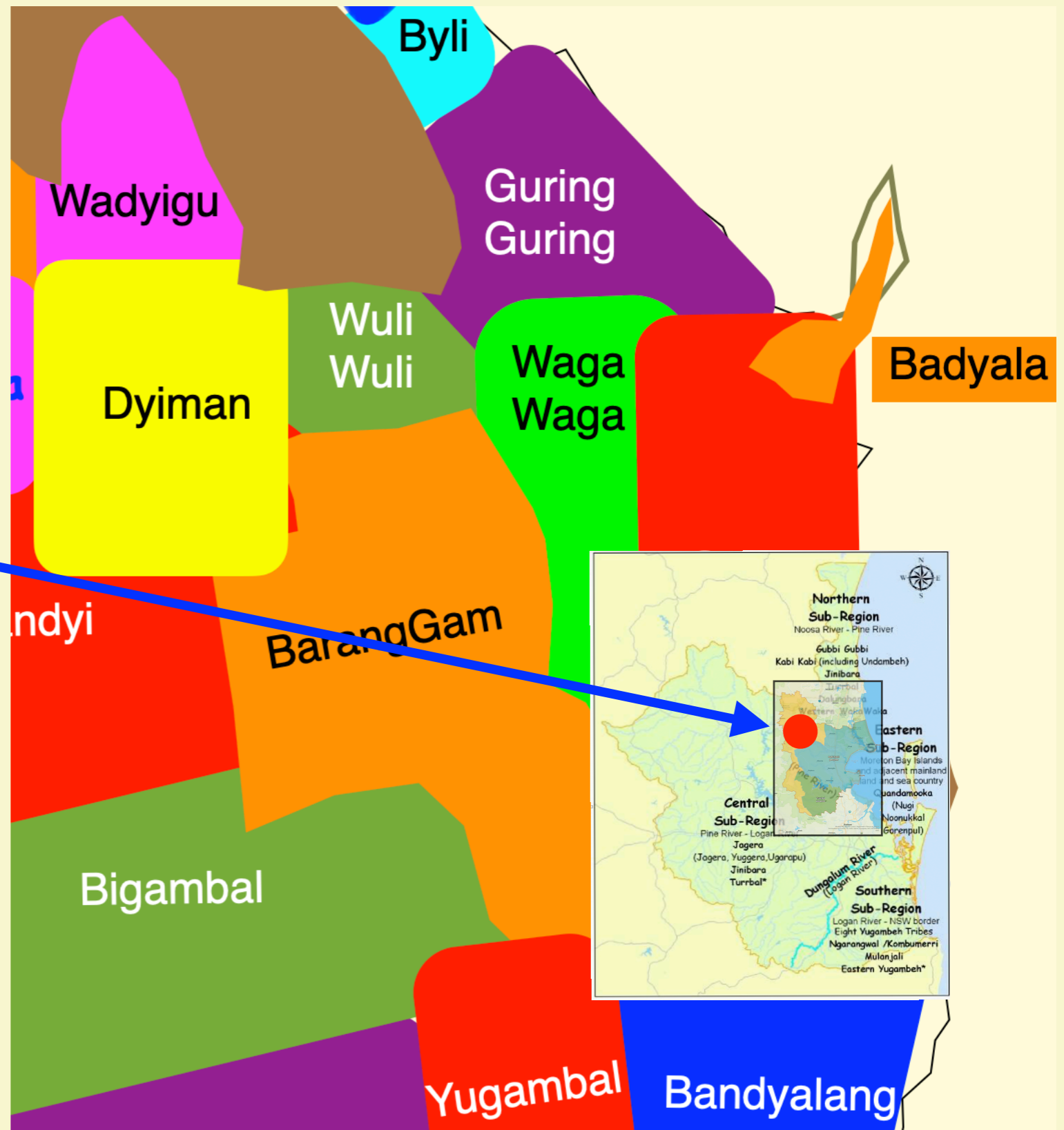
So where is  
**Jinibara**?

At the bottom  
of red  
Gabi Gabi

Add Map 1

Add Map 2

Add **Jinibara**



**What about the local language groups?**

# Jinibara

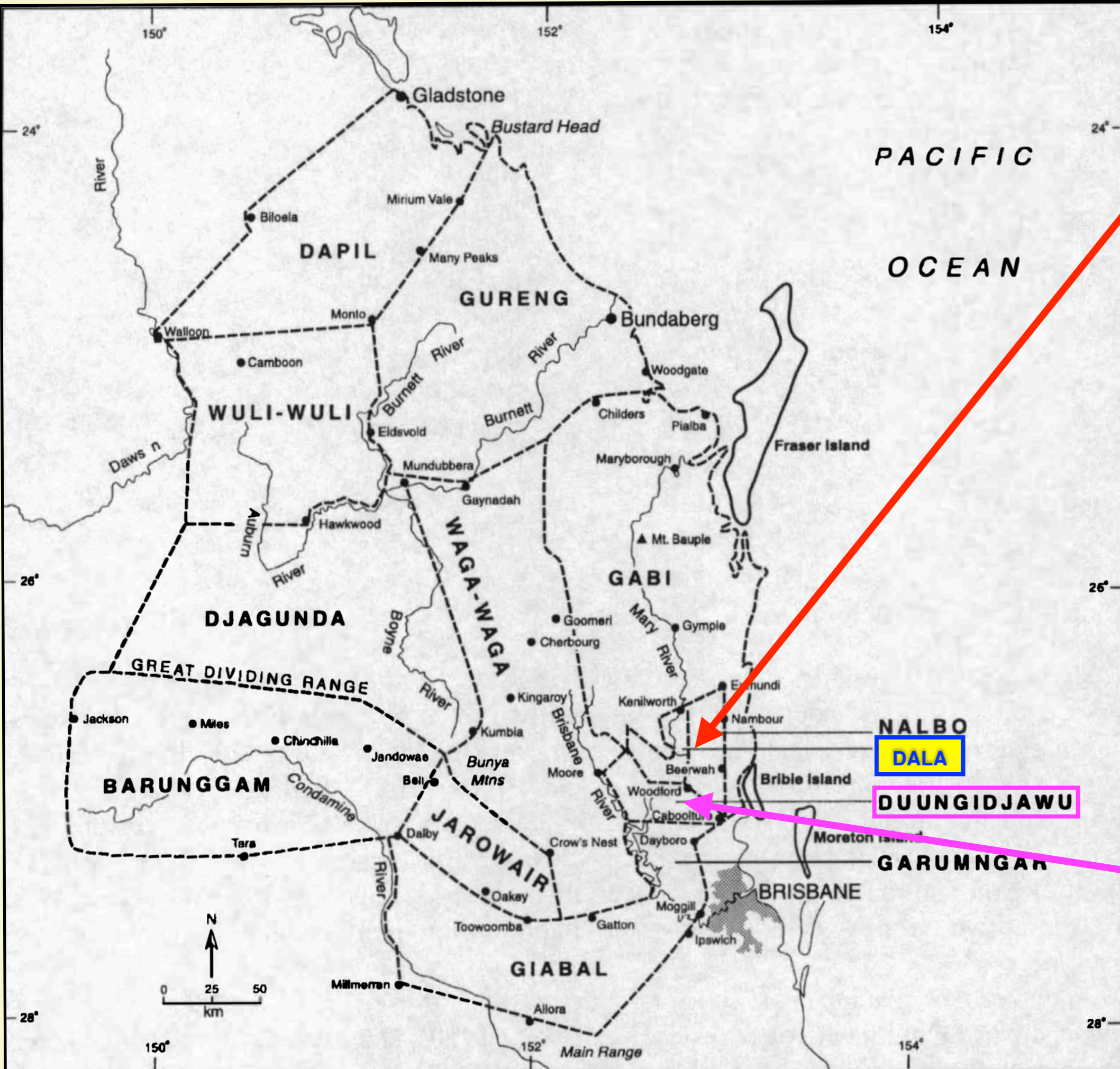
same as

**DALA**

The **Dalla**, also known as **Jinibara**,<sup>[1]</sup> are an indigenous Australian people of southern Queensland whose tribal lands lay close to Brisbane.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

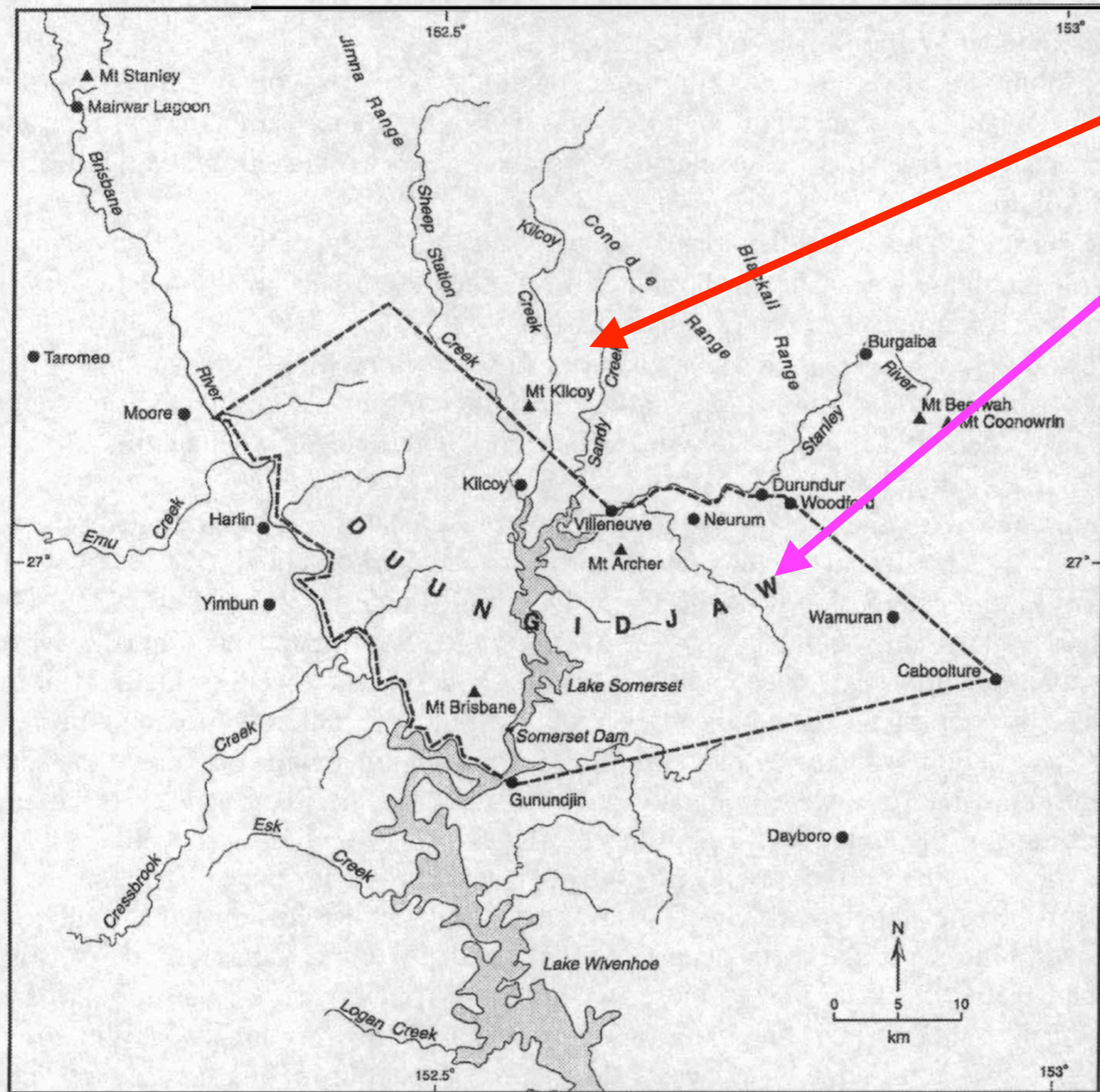
Next door  
to  
**Duungijawu**



Jinibara (**DALA**)

and

Duungidjawu  
are neighbours



Map 1: Duungidjawu territory

To the north of the **Duungidjawu** were the **Dala**. Their lands went across the Conondale Range (the mountains at the head of the Mary River) and the Blackall Range. They extended as far north as Kenilworth Bluff and to the south as far as Woodford. Burgalba Lagoon on the Stanley River was part of their territory (Steele 1983:206).

To the east of the **Dala** on the Mary River Plains were the **Nalbo**. The eastern boundary of the **Nalbo** was roughly a line from Eumundi to Caboolture. The Glasshouse Mountains were part of their territory. Willie McKenzie says that the **Dala** and **Nalbo** were once enemies, but became friends after a big fight (Winterbotham 1957).

# Dalla people

from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Dalla**, also known as **Jinibara**, are an indigenous Australian people of southern Queensland whose tribal lands lay close to Brisbane.

## Language

The term **Dalla** refers to a variety of staghorn fern, which was said to be applied also the language they spoke. The language itself was closely related to the **Gubbi Gubbi** language.

## Country

**Dalla** lands, estimated by Norman Tindale to encompass around 3,000 square miles (7,800 km<sup>2</sup>), were centred on the hinterland ranges just north of Brisbane, such as the D'Aguilar, Glass House, Blackall and Jimna ranges west of the present-day Sunshine Coast. The territory encompassed Nanango, ran east to Nambour, Palmwoods, Durundur, including the upper Brisbane River and the headwaters of the Mary River. To their west were the **Wakka Wakka** people, the **Gubbi Gubbi** were to their north, divided from them by the Mary River. East towards the coast was the southern Undanbi clan of the **Ningy Ningy** who, together with the **Djindubari** on Bribie Island, the **Dalla** referred to as 'Saltwater people' (Mwoirnewar)

The **Dalla** traditionally comprised five clans:

- (1) **Dalla** (alternatively called the **Dalambara, Dallanbarah, Ngoera**). These inhabited the headwaters of the Mary and Brisbane rivers
- (2) The **Dungidau**, (a language name) centred in the Kilcoy region
- (3) The **Nalbo** (also called **Njalbo, Nalboo**) inhabited the eastern foothills from Eumundi south as far as Beerwah and Caboolture.
- (4) The **Dungibara** (**Doongibarra, Doongiburra**) were on the Upper Pine River and the D'Aguilar Range.
- (5) The **Garumga** (also written **Garumnga, Garumgma**) lay west of the Brisbane River as far as Crows Nest and the Cooyar Range, with a southern limit at Esk.

## History of contact with whites

A late attempt at salvage ethnology undertaken by Lindsay Page Winterbotham who, supported and advised by Norman Tindale, conducted over several years (1950-1955) in-depth interviews with a **Jinibara** man, **Gaiarbau (Willie Mackenzie)** which resulted in a massive manuscript conserving **Dalla** traditions and music which, on failing to get published, he entrusted to the Queensland Museum.

- **Ngoera**
- **Jarbu**. The exonym for the **Dalla** (meaning 'inlanders') used by the Undanbi and other coastal tribes.
- **Jinibara**
- **Djunggidjau**

**Duunjidjawu**, which is a dialect of the same language as **Waga-Waga**, spoken just to the northwest of Brisbane.

R.M.W. Dixon

Foreword to *The **Duunjidjawu** language of southeast Queensland: grammar, texts and vocabulary*

SUZANNE KITE AND STEPHEN WURM

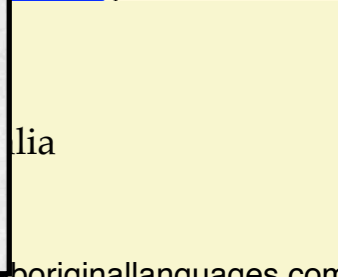
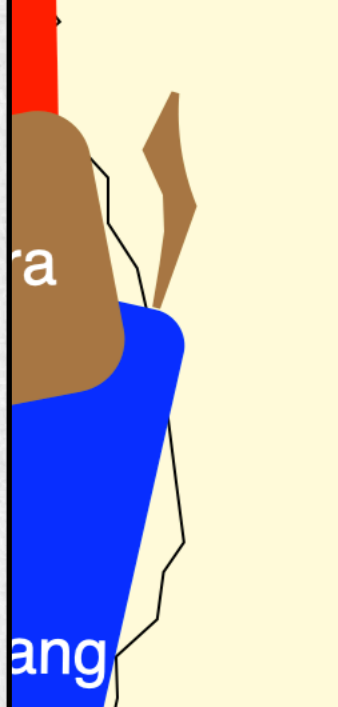
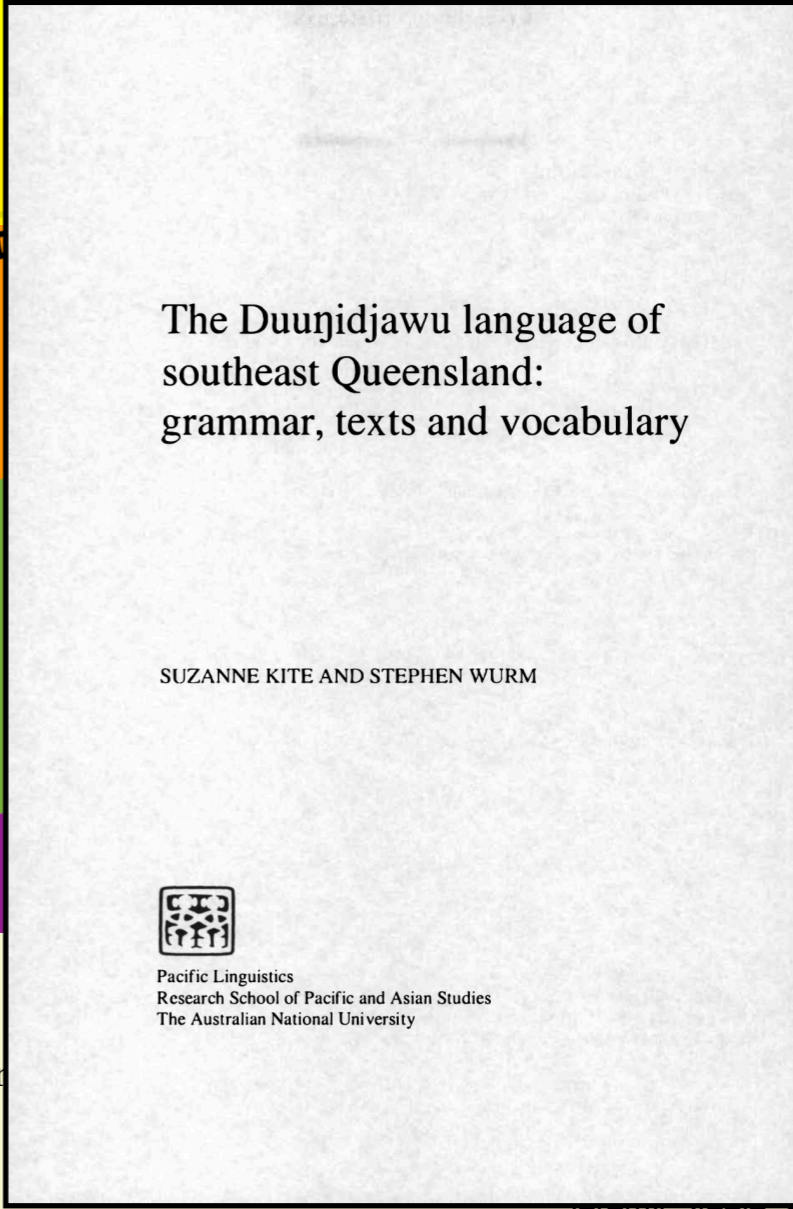
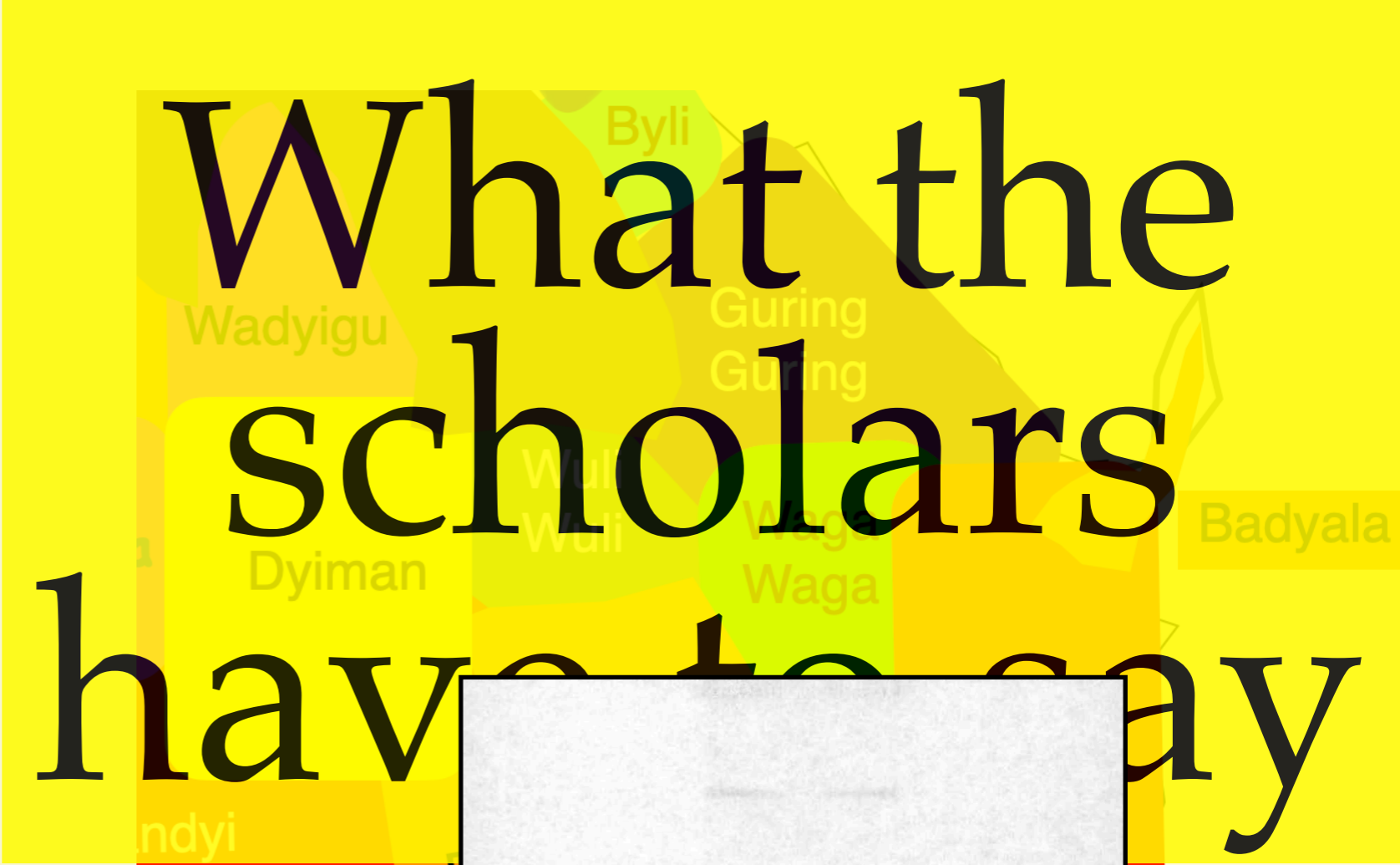
All of the information obtained by Wurm and analysed by Kite was provided by **Willie McKenzie**, who was believed to be about eighty years old when Wurm first met him in October 1955 and who died in 1965.

It comprises an invaluable record of the language of the **Duunjidjawu** people, and through this of their traditions, customs and laws.

Published by Pacific Linguistics Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies The Australian

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First published 2 004



The Duunjidjawu language of  
southeast Queensland:  
grammar, texts and vocabulary

SUZANNE KITE AND STEPHEN WURM



Pacific Linguistics  
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies  
The Australian National University

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Vocabulary	275

## January 2024

794 words extracted from the Vocabulary

### Texts

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# How the language works

79. ba-yi guwe gari-nma guwe yo: gange-nji  
come-PAST then DEM-EMPH then 3SG call.out-PERFV  
He came here and called out.
80. guyum yowa:m-bu moro-yi guyur dja:-yi  
fire 3DU-ERG stir-PAST food eat-PAST  
They two stirred the fire and ate food.
81. ya:-ye-nji guwe be:ŋa-ø gana djiwi gange-nji-na  
say-RECIP-PERFV then hear-GENRL DEM bird call.out-PERFV-ACC  
[They] were saying to each other, 'Did (you) hear this bird which was calling out?'
82. waga djiwi yi-ŋi yo: mana yi-ŋi  
not bird be-PAST 3SG DEM be-PAST  
It wasn't a bird, he was that one (i.e. it was him).
83. gange-nji wu:ŋ wu:ŋ wu:ŋ  
call.out-PERFV ONOM ONOM ONOM  
[He] called out 'wong wong wong'.
84. waga me:ndi-ø mana djiwi mana  
not chase-GENRL DEM bird DEM  
Those [women] couldn't chase the bird there away.
85. man gam wu:ŋ yanga-yi mo:  
DEM probably nest make-PAST DEM  
That [bird] must have made a nest there.

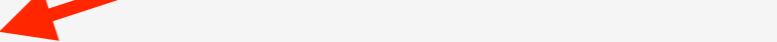
## TEXTS

The sentences in the texts are analysed word by word

Every sentence in every story is analysed in this way

There are also very many sentence examples in the grammar section

This book could be a comprehensive introduction to the neighbouring language, **Jinibara**

recorder	date	words	area/language
Frederic de Brebant Cooper	1857	200 50 sentences	Waga-Waga
D. Bunce	1851		Waga-Waga
Harriott Barlow	1872-1873)	52	Banungam / Waga-Waga
Ridley 1	1875	8	Darling Downs.
Ridley 2	1875	33	Durundurun, near the Glasshouse mountains'.
E.M. Curr	1887		Dawson River
E.M. Curr	1887		Brisbane River
E.M. Curr	1887		Condamine River and Charley Creek.
Thomas Illidge	1887	12 pages	Wokka / Wokkaburra
Gir-oonbah (pseud.)	1894	7	Waga-Waga
John Shirley	1896		Waga-Waga
John Ross	1904	10	Wuka Wuka
Mathew	1910/1926	10 pp & 7 pp, 33 pp	Waga-Waga / Wulili
W.E. Parry-Okeden	1934	words and sentences	Waga-Waga
Tindale 1	1938	90	Dala 
Tindale 2	1938	7	Djagunda
Tindale 3	1938	90	Waga-Waga.
Watson	1943-1944		Waga-Waga
<a href="#">Lindsay Page Winterbotham</a>	1957	<u>300</u>	Duunjidjauw
Allen Hall 1	early 1970s		Woka-Woka
Allen Hall 2	early 1970s	<u>eighty words and many more phrases</u>	Wuli-Wuli
Holmer	1983	<u>45 pp</u>	Waga-Waga, Barungam and Wuli-Wuli
Edward F. Armitage	n.d.		upper Mary River, Noosa and Fraser Island: Gabi and Waga-Waga.
Meston	c. 1900		Wacca-Wacca / Gabi
Meston 1		<u>3 pp</u>	Boobbera tribe
Meston 2		<u>1 p</u>	Gooray dialect
Meston 3		<u>7.5 pp</u>	a language (?) whose name is illegible.

# Vocabulary sources

No  
**Jinibara,**  
one Dala

# Some important things in language

1. Words (vocabulary)
2. How to put the words together (grammar)
3. Pronunciation (how to say the words properly)



# Pronunciation (phonology): Consonants

Suzanne Kite explains aspects of *Duunidjarwu*

## Technical phonetics

Table 2.1: Consonant phonemes

	labial-velar	apicoalveolar	apico-postalveolar	laminopalatal	dorsovelar
stop	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>		<i>dj</i>	<i>g</i>
nasal	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>		<i>nj</i>	<i>ŋ</i>
lateral		<i>l</i>			
rhotic		<i>rr</i>	<i>r</i>		
semivowel	<i>w</i>			<i>y</i>	

Duunidjarwu distinguishes four points of articulation for stops and nasals, namely labial-velar, apicoalveolar, laminopalatal and dorsovelar. In having just one apical and one laminal series, Duunidjarwu is similar to other eastern languages such as Gugu-Yalanji, Dyirbal and Wargamay from Queensland and Gumbaynggir and Bandjalang from northeastern New South Wales (Dixon 1980). Stops are invariably voiced.

'apico', for example, just means the tip (of your tongue)

A labial consonant is produced by using your lips. Bilabial consonants are made by using both lips, labiodental consonants by using your top lip and your teeth.

A velar consonant is a consonant that is pronounced with the back part of the tongue against the soft palate, also known as the velum, which is the back part of the roof of the mouth. Velar consonants in English are [k], [g] and [ŋ].

An alveolar sound is produced by placing the tongue tip on or just in front of the alveolar ridge (the bump behind the upper teeth)

an apicoalveolar articulation involves the tip of the tongue but leaves the lips and back of the tongue free to produce some degree of further stricture in the vocal tract

laminal: Articulated with the \*blade of the tongue. A lamino-alveolar consonant, such as [t] in *tip*, is articulated with the blade against or approximated to the ridge behind the upper teeth; in a lamino-dental the passive articulator would be the teeth themselves.

# Vowels: 5 vowels

## 2.1.2 Vowels

Duunjdjawu is unusual for an eastern Australian language in having a five-vowel system /i/, /ɛ/, /a/, /ɔ/, /u/ (/ɛ/ and /ɔ/ are written as *e* and *o* respectively). Each of these also occurs as a long vowel. The following minimal and near-minimal pairs illustrate the contrastive vowel length:

<b>'burry'</b>	<i>bari</i>	'child'	<i>ba:ri</i>	'bring'	<b>'bahri'</b>
	<i>muwe</i>	'possess'	<i>buwe:</i>	'stick in'	
	<i>gira</i>	'wake up'	<i>gi:ra</i>	'bone'	
	<i>ḡowa:m</i>	'2DU'	<i>ḡo:wan</i>	'2PL'	
	<i>duḡa</i>	'cry'	<i>du:ḡi</i>	'river'	

Only 3 used in Bayala respelling, to align with other languages, and enable matches

All vowels have normal and long versions (marked with :)

# Fifty words

(actually 74)

by English

Australian		English
	respelt	
"{giniŋ}"	gining	arm
"bi:ra"	bira	ask
"baribari"	baribari	baby
"dje:m"	dyim	bag
"buma"	buma	beat
"djiwindu"	dyiwi-ndu	bird
"{diyir}"	diyir	blood
"gi:randu"	gira-ndu	bone
"gibar"	gibar	boy uninitiated
"gamŋa"	gamnga	break
"{moro}"	mur	camp
"njunam"	ndyunam	child
"murr"	muR	club
"ba"	ba	come
"djawun"	dyawun	country
"{ma:}"	ma	do
"buginj"	bugindy	dog
"binaŋ"	binang	ear
"{djuyu}"	dyuyu	evening
"ŋuwar"	nguwar	face
"di:ŋ"	ding	fly
"dawari"	dawari	follow
"{mowa}"	mawa	gather
"ŋamuŋa"	ngamunga	girl
"wiye"	wiyi	give
"{yere}"	yiri	go
"ban"	ban	grass
"mowarr"	mawaR	hail
"yo:"	yu	he she, it
"bayer"	bayir	hill
"djurayi"	dyuayi	hunger
"ŋay"	ngayi	I
"giyuru"	giyuru	ill
"bun"	bun	knee
"mundji"	mundyi	laugh
"ŋarrbema"	ngaRbima	lose
"djan"	dyan	man

"gagare"	gagari	moon
"wanda"	wanda	neck
"djambal"	dyambal	pain
"{buwa}"	buwa	pierce
"{nimŋa}"	nimnga	pinch
"wa:ndji"	wandyi	prepare
"gurruy"	guRuyu	rain
"{yere}"	yiri	return
"mu"	mu	rise
"{go:ma}"	guma	rub
"bure"	huri	run
"{gaŋga}"	gangGa	shout
"yandi"	yandi	sing
"njine"	ndyini	sit
"{yune}"	yuni	sleep
"djum"	dyum	smoke
"yu:wunŋ"	yuwundy	snake
"gurangur"	gurangGur	spear
"ba:"	ba	stand
"mirinjgim"	mirindygim	star
"{doyi}"	duyi	stone
"mungaya"	mungGaya	stop
"no:wa"	nawa	stranger
"djun"	dyun	tail
"yo:wan"	yawan	they-all
"yowa:m"	yawam	they-two
"ŋin"	ngin	thou
"{mi:re}"	miri	thunder
"wabe"	wabi	wait
"ŋa"	nga	we-all
"ŋa:m"	ngam	we-two
"duŋa"	dunga	weep
"ŋan"	ngan	who
"njowamgan"	ndyawamgan	wife
"buran"	buran	wind
"ŋo:wan"	nguwan	you-all
"ŋowa:m"	ngawam	you-two

# Fifty words

(actually 74)

by Australian

Australian	respelt	English
"ba"	ba	come
"ba:"	ba	stand
"ban"	ban	grass
"baribari"	baribari	baby
"bayer"	bayir	hill
"binaŋ"	binang	ear
"bi:ra"	birra	ask
"buginj"	bugindy	dog
"buma"	buma	beat
"bun"	bun	knee
"buran"	buran	wind
"bure"	huri	run
"{buwa}"	buwa	pierce
"dawari"	dawari	follow
"di:ŋ"	ding	fly
"{diyir}"	diyir	blood
"duŋa"	dunga	weep
"{doyi}"	duyi	stone
"djambal"	dyambal	pain
"djan"	dyan	man
"djawun"	dyawun	country
"dje:m"	dyim	bag
"djiwindu"	dyiwi-ndu	bird
"djurayi"	dyuayi	hunger
"djum"	dyum	smoke
"djun"	dyun	tail
"{djuyu}"	dyuyu	evening
"gagare"	gagari	moon
"gamŋa"	gamnga	break
"{gaŋga}"	gangGa	shout
"gibar"	gibar	boy uninitiated
"{giniŋ}"	gining	arm
"gi:randu"	gira-ndu	bone
"giyuru"	giyuru	ill
"{go:ma}"	guma	rub
"gurangur"	gurangGur	spear

"gurruy"	guRuyu	rain
"{ma:}"	ma	do
"{mowa}"	mawa	gather
"mowarr"	mawaR	hail
"{mi:re}"	miri	thunder
"mirinjgim"	mirindygim	star
"mu"	mu	rise
"mundji"	mundyi	laugh
"mugaya"	mungGaya	stop
"murr"	muR	club
"{moro}"	murru	camp
"no:wa"	nawa	stranger
"njowamgan"	ndyawamgan	wife
"njine"	ndyini	sit
"njunam"	ndyunam	child
"ŋa"	nga	we-all
"ŋa:m"	ngam	we-two
"ŋamuŋa"	ngamunga	girl
"ŋan"	ngan	who
"ŋarrbema"	ngaRbima	lose
"ŋowa:m"	ngawam	you-two
"ŋay"	ngayi	I
"ŋin"	ngin	thou
"ŋo:wan"	nguwan	you-all
"ŋuwar"	nguwar	face
"{nimŋa}"	nimnga	pinch
"wabe"	wabi	wait
"wanda"	wanda	neck
"wa:ndji"	wandyi	prepare
"wiye"	wiyi	give
"yandi"	yandi	sing
"yowa:m"	yawam	they-two
"yo:wan"	yawan	they-all
"{yere}"	yiri	go
"{yere}"	yiri	return
"yo:"	yu	he she, it
"{yune}"	yuni	sleep
"yu:wunj"	yuwundy	snake

# Welcome to country: 2

## ba dyawun-Gu

ba dyawun-Gu

come-IMP                      country-ALL  
(wel)come                      to country

ngam-du nga-ye ngin-a ming

we-two-ERG                      see-PRES                      thee-ACC                      now/today  
we-two                      see                      you                      today

wandya nga-wu bindygu ngin galang

when                      see-FUT                      tomorrow                      —                      thou                      good  
when                      will see (you)                      tomorrow,                      you                      good

# Comments

**Jinibara** is a language just to the north of Brisbane

It is in the **Gabi Gabi** language area, and is clearly related to that language

It seems to be the same language as **Dala**

The adjacent language to the south is **Duunḡidyawu**

There are very few records for the languages nearby, except for **Duunḡidyawu**

Anyone hoping to revive **Jinibara** has an astonishingly good resource in the **Duunḡidyawu** material

This is probably far better than for most other language

# What next for the **Jinibara** language?

Find out how verb tenses work

Find out how noun cases work

Find out about derivational suffixes

How?

By looking at the **Duunḡidyawu** sentence examples  
and looking at the grammar section in the book



The  
end

dyyun

tail [end]