

# Languages of the Condamine

## Giabul Vocabulary



**Giabul** is also spelt Giyabal, as well as being referred to as Paiamba or Gomaingguru ['men of the Condamine']; linguistically there is uncertainty regarding its language alignment with research reviewed by Wafer and Lissarrague (2008) leading more towards the Wakka Wakka language chain rather than the Bundjalung group of languages.

The Giabul language sits on the Main Range between Warwick and Toowoomba then extends West towards Allora and Oakey while on the East continues down the range towards Gatton and Helidon.

The following wordlist represents a selection of everyday words from the Giabul language of the Condamine River. There is minimal documentation on Giabul language; however it is believed there were shared words with neighbouring groups, particularly Jarowair.

### PEOPLE

**birranga** – boy  
**burra** – people  
**dyan** – man  
**gidang** – woman

### PARTS OF THE BODY

**binang** – ear  
**boondoor** – knee  
**dirung** – tooth / teeth  
**djinang** – foot  
**djungar** – leg  
**gillin** – finger  
**mii** – eye  
**wallee** – shoulder

### ANIMALS

**andaccal** – mullet  
**cumbookie** – crayfish  
**dalbugon** – turtle  
**djineelwa** – scrub turkey  
**giara** – white cockatoo  
**gooramom** – kangaroo  
**koobara** – plains turkey  
**manahroong** – black duck

### PLANTS

**bony** – bunya nut / tree  
(refers to both)  
**booyong** – black jack tree  
**cambooya** – water reed  
**goori** – Moreton Bay Fig  
**woodyun** – grass (generic)

### ENVIRONMENT

**biarah** – mountain  
**djah** – ground / earth  
**goong** – water  
**ngallorah** – lagoon  
**warril** – river

### ARTEFACTS & TOOLS

**bargan** – boomerang  
**helimon** – shield  
**muggin** – stone axe

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## NUMBERS

*bula* – two  
*bula yabul* – three  
*yabul* – one

## ELEMENTS

*bayal* – cloud / clouds  
*booran* – wind  
*goolowan* – moon  
*gowang* – rain  
*murrar* – lightning  
*oonah* – blue sky  
*yanahn* – sun

## INTRODUCED /

## CONTEMPORARY WORDS

*bunggu* – money (from the word stone – originally referred to stones)  
*yarraman* - horse

## Further Reading & References

Bannister, D. (1975) Papers on the Aboriginal Languages of Queensland. Manuscript.

Barlow, H. (1873) "Vocabulary of Aboriginal Dialects of Queensland" in Royal Anthropological Institute Journal, V.2, pp.166-175.

Curr, E. M. (1887) The Australian Race: its origins, languages, customs, place of landing in Australia and the routes by which it spread itself over that continent. V. 3 pp. 220-221. John Ferres Government Printer: Melbourne.

Holmer, N. (1983) Linguistic Survey of South-Eastern Queensland. Australian National University: Canberra.

Jackson, G. K. (1940) 'Darling Downs Aborigines' in McDonald, & Rosbrook Darling Downs Centenary Souvenir 1840-1940.

Tindale, N. B. (1974) Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits and Proper Names. Australian National University Press: Canberra.

## Resources and Contacts

There is a range of local, regional, state and national organisations that can support communities and/or school-communities in the development of Aboriginal language activities. The organisations below are a good starting point for communities and/or school-communities wishing to find out more about Giabul or other Aboriginal languages.

### Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

GPO Box 553 Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6246 1111 Website: [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)

### Yugambeh Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre

2 Plantation Road, Beenleigh. QLD 4207

Phone: 07 3807 6155 Email: [info@yugambeh.com](mailto:info@yugambeh.com) Website: [www.yugambeh.com](http://www.yugambeh.com)

### State Library of Queensland

PO Box 3488 South Brisbane. QLD 4101

Phone: 07 3840 7666 Website: [www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages)