

# Barngarlidhi Manoo

## "Speaking Barngarla Together"

Barngarla Alphabet & Picture Book

Introduction to the Barngarla Language

Written by Linguistics Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann with the Barngarla People of  
Port Lincoln, Port Augusta & Whyalla



**DISCLAIMER: Please note that this book is not a full comprehensive dictionary of the Barngarla language and does not include every single word of Barngarla. More than 3000 Barngarla words are available on the website [www.BarngarlaLanguage.com](http://www.BarngarlaLanguage.com) and through the Barngarla Language App developed for both iPhone and Android. Further information and material is also available at our Facebook Group Page 'Barngarla People's of South Australia'.**

**Any use of any material from this Alphabet Book should be first approved by BLAC.**

**About this Book and the Barngarla Language Reclamation:**

Based on material recorded by Revd Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann in the 1840s, the Barngarla language reclamation has been undertaken since 2011 by Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, working with the Barngarla Language Advisory Committee (BLAC) on behalf of the Barngarla communities of Port Lincoln (Galinyala), Whyalla (Waiala) and Port Augusta (Goordnada).

This book has been developed by revivalist-linguist Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (The University of Adelaide), with the support of Jenna Richards (Barngarla Language Advisory Committee, BLAC). It is meant to assist the Barngarla community in continuing their project to reclaim their 'Dreaming, Sleeping Beauty' tongue. The creation of the book was supported by ILA (Indigenous Languages & Arts, Department of Communications & the Arts, Government of Australia), BLAC, the Yitpi Foundation, NHMRC, Petter Naessan and the Wardliparingga Unit at the South Australian Medical Health Research Institute (SAMHRI, Adelaide).

Design of Book by Jenna Richards 2019 ©

Cover Page and Background Artwork by Vera Richards 2019 ©

Artwork within book by members of the Barngarla Community including Colleen and Candace Taylor 2019 ©

Photography within book by members of the Barngarla Community, Photographer Ekaterina Shipova Bell 2019 ©,

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann and stock photos.

**Contact Person/s:**

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann	0423 901 808	<a href="mailto:ghilad.zuckermann@adelaide.edu.au">ghilad.zuckermann@adelaide.edu.au</a>
BLAC Chairperson Stephen Atkinson	0499 224 019	<a href="mailto:statkinson72@gmail.com">statkinson72@gmail.com</a>
BLAC Member Jenna Richards	0473 679 389	<a href="mailto:jenna21richards@hotmail.com">jenna21richards@hotmail.com</a>
BLAC Member Emma Richards	0459 188 536	<a href="mailto:karkalla75@hotmail.com">karkalla75@hotmail.com</a>
BLAC Member Harry Dare	0413 618 298	<a href="mailto:harold.dare@gmail.com">harold.dare@gmail.com</a>

*\* Permission has been received from appropriate family members for the use of photographs of any children & deceased persons within this book.*



**BARNGARLA LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*"Learning and speaking in Barngarla together"*

**Website:** [www.barngaralanguage.com](http://www.barngaralanguage.com)

**Email address:** [BLAC00@outlook.com.au](mailto:BLAC00@outlook.com.au)

*“If you talk to a man  
in a language he  
understands, that goes  
to his head.  
If you talk to him in his  
language, that goes  
to his heart.”*

**- Nelson Mandela**



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE



Australian Government  
Indigenous Languages and Arts



# *Welcome to Country*



**Ngarrinyarlboo nhagoodhoo yoorra Barngarlamadha yarda galgarridhi malboorri.**

We acknowledge and respect that the land we are on is the traditional land of the Barngarla People.

We acknowledge the Barngarla People as the traditional custodians and are the cultural authority of their ancestral land.

**Ngarrinyarlboo nhagoodhoo yoorra Barngarlamadhanga yarda wardarna moondalyabmidhi.**

We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and the maintained relationship of the Barngarla people to the land and the sea.

We acknowledge all Barngarla elders; past, present and future, and respect that their spiritual and cultural practices are important to the living Barngarla People today.

*Ngarrinyarlboo nhoorralini  
ngoonidhigamanggoodhoo  
ngarrinyarlbooroo  
yardaroowardanarriroo.*

*Welcome to our country and seas.*

*Yarda boogininya inha  
galgarridhimalboorriroo.*

*The ancient country of our ancestors.*

*Ngarrinyarlboodningi  
babmandigayadharoo*

*ngarrinyarlboo nhooralini*

*yardaboogininya ngarrinyarlbooroo*

*ilgarringgoodhoo, wardanarri*

*gabirri indoo.*

*Come with us and we will show  
you our ancient country, our seas  
and our waters.*

# History of the Language

## A brief history of the language:

The traditional people of the Eyre Peninsula are the Barngarla (BARN.ga.rla) (*also known as Parnkalla with many other variations having to do with the fact that there was no distinction between P and B*) People and this has been supported with documentation by Revd Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann and Charles Willhelmi, Esq.

The Barngarla language belongs to the Thura Yura language family. Within this group one can also find the Adnyamanthanha, Kuyani, Kurna, Wirangu, Narungga and Nukunu languages, who are connected through location as neighbours, as well as through marriage and trade. The Thura-Yura language family is within the Pama-Nyungan language family.

Not all the information on the **Tindale language map** was documented correctly as many groups were not included and some were recorded incorrectly. This error has yet to be amended by the Aboriginal Language Map Publisher although we were advised that they can attach a notation to the map instead.

However, the language map produced by Wilhelm Schmidt in 1914, and published in 1927 in his book *Sprachfamilien und Sprachenkreise der Erde*, clearly shows that the Barngarla Language was spoken over the Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta area/townships.

This has also been supported by the Federal Court when our Barngarla Native Title Claim *Croft vs the State* was successful in reaching the first Determination on 22 January 2015 and officially handed back to the Barngarla Community in a special ceremony in Whyalla on 27th June 2018.



Barngarla Native Title Determination Map

Schürmann recorded the Parnkalla Language starting in the early 1840s after he was assigned by the Government to Port Lincoln to engage with and convert the original inhabitants to make relations more amicable between the authorities. He also opened a Native School located just outside of Port Lincoln which only Barngarla People attended.

This resulted in him publishing *A Vocabulary of the Parnkalla Language* and his records were also collated in the book *Natives of South Australia*. A descendent call Ted Schurmann also went on to publish "*I'd rather dig potatoes: Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann and the Aborigines of South Australia 1838-1853*".



Aboriginal Language Map by Wilhelm Schmidt 1914

# The Barngarla Language

## **What happened (why has it been dormant)**

The Barngarla ngawala (language) has been dormant for a long time and the last Barngarla person recorded as speaking it fluently was Senior Barngarla Elder Moonie Davis back in the 1960s which to date is over 50 years ago. He was also the last known Barngarla person to sing a special song in the Barngarla language that would call the sharks and dolphins to chase the fish into the shallows to the waiting Barngarla people on the shoreline.

The Barngarla language was eroded and became dormant due to the impacts of colonization and government legislation such as the assimilation policy that created the Stolen Generations. For the Barngarla People, this would have tragic consequences for future generations which we are now working to rectify by reclaiming the language.

## **What it means to the Barngarla people - 'Reawakening the Barngarla Language'**

Awakening the Barngarla ngawala (language) means different things for different people. To some, it means reconnecting to your country and ancestors. To others, it means developing a sense of pride in self and identity or strengthening what you already know in your heart. To others still, it gives you a sense of belonging to family, community and country.

One thing that is for certain is that the Barngarla people of Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta are wholeheartedly embracing awakening the ancient ngawala of their ancestors and this can only mean positive things for their people and communities.

## **Future Directions**

The Barngarla Community strives to continue to reclaim its ancient language and hopes that with the publication of the Alphabet Book and other educational resources such as the development of the website and the Barngarla language app that is currently free and available to all will lead to more members of the Barngarla Community embedding the language into their daily lives and developing fluent speakers within the younger generations.

# 8 Quotes from Barngarla Community Members

*"I think that maybe this language  
is a way of bringing people together.  
It's a way of talking to people.*

*It's a way of sharing things.  
It's a way of talking about the past, talking  
about the future and what we have, the hope  
that we have for the kids that are coming."*

*"Language breathes life.  
Like we talked about breathing life back  
into the land, and it's that ancient  
language that you started."*



# The Barngarla Language Advisory Committee (BLAC)

## Helping to reclaim the Barngarla Language:

The Barngarla Language Advisory Committee currently consists of 4 people from the Barngarla Community, namely Stephen Atkinson (Chairperson) and committee members Emma Richards, Harold Dare and Jenna Richards.

Since 2012, we have consistently worked with the revivalist-linguist Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann since he was engaged by the Barngarla community to seek funding to commence language reclamation workshops. Our role is to provide advice to Ghil'ad and other guests on how to engage with the Barngarla Community respectfully and to ensure that the ancient language of our ancestors remains within the Barngarla Community as a whole.

We are currently on our second round of funding and have run regular successful language workshops to interested community members over the past 7 years.

Our current round of activities involve BLAC, Professor Zuckermann and interested participants from the Barngarla Community working in conjunction with members of the Wardliparringa Unit from SAHMRI on a 5 year research project, which measures the impacts of reclaiming the Barngarla language on the health and wellbeing of participants, as well as continuing to run our regular language workshops and teachers training with the help of the Indigenous Languages & the Arts (ILA).

BLAC is the authorised language body of the Barngarla People and is responsible for learning and teaching the Language, and governing and regulating the usage of the language across the board, as well as providing advice and support to those interested parties, other community organisations, services and government departments. We are happy to answer any query from anybody in regards to the Barngarla Language and our contact details are provided within this book.

### ***All usage of the Barngarla Language needs to be approved by BLAC.***

BLAC also holds regular language workshops, which are run throughout Barngarla yarda (country), either by Professor Zuckermann or by internal Barngarla teachers. For the BLAC Committee, the language workshops have been part of our individual empowering journeys and we are happy to see this continue.

# Explanation of Letters, Sounds & Pronunciations

The following letters make up the Barngarla Alphabet:

**a ai aw b d dy dh g i ii l ly m n ng nh ny oo**

**r rr rd rl rn w y**

## Vowels **a, i, ii, oo**

**a** as in the English words **papa, visa**

**i** as in the English words **bit, sit, pit**

**ii** as in the English words **tea, key, ski**

**oo** as In the English words **put, butcher**

## Diphthongs (combinations of two vowels)

**ai, aw**

**ai** as in the English words **pie, sky**

**aw** as in the English words **power, town**

## Consonants

**g l m n w y** : These sounds are pronounced much the same as in English.

There are many two-letter sounds in the Barngarla alphabet. In English a **sh** in 'washing' does not simply represent a **s** followed by a **h**, in the same way **dy** does not mean a **d** followed by a **y**. These letters **dy** represent a single sound.

**The following sounds are made by putting your tongue against the roof of your mouth.**

**dy** as in the English word **judge**

**bidyindi** (smooth, soft)

**dyimba** (ashes) word initial 1st

**ly** as in the English words **million, will-you**

**bardalya** (scar)

**bilyilya** (butterfly)

# Sounds

**ny** as in the English word **onion**

nanya (lean, ugly), gadnya (stone, rock)

**The following sounds are made by sticking your tongue between your teeth.**

**dh** is a **d** pronounced with the tongue outside your mouth, as between the sound of the English words **this** and **dust**

dhadli (spit), gandhi (thigh)

**nh** as in the **n** in the English word **tenth**

nhayirri (sky, heaven), banha (he, she, it)

**The following sound is made by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your mouth.**

**ng** as in the English words

**ringing, singing, Long Island**

ngama (breast, milk)

ganbangooroo (whiskers).

The following sounds do not occur in English but are made with your tongue tip curled back behind your teeth.

Like in Indian languages.

**rd** boordli (star)

**rl** ngarla (much ,plenty, many)

**rn** ngarnarra (north east wind)

**r-sounds**

**r** as in the English word **roaring**

bira (moon)

**rr** as in the tap or a flap of Japanese, which can also be heard when an American person pronounces the 't' in water.

warri (wind)

When spoken slowly, or for emphasis, the **rr** is pronounced as a rolled 'r' trill of Italian (as in *Ferrari*), Spanish and Scottish English.

# Greetings

<b>Bawoo</b>	Hello/Goodbye
<b>Nhina yoowa?</b>	How are you?
<b>Ngai yoowa</b>	I am well
<b>Nhoongoo wandya midyi?</b>	What's your name?
<b>Ngaidya midyi .....</b>	My name is .....
<b>Ngoonidhi gamangoodhoo</b>	Welcome
<b>Ngai wayirridhi</b>	I am well/in good health
<b>Mandyari</b>	Fine, right, nice
<b>Walda</b>	'I say', 'pray' (an exclamation)
<b>Nga / awoo</b>	Yes
<b>Gooda / maga</b>	No
<b>Ngai Barngarla barlarra</b>	I am a Barngarla woman
<b>Ngai Barngarla yoorra</b>	I am a Barngarla man
<b>Ngai Barngarla gardni</b>	I am a Barngarla girl
<b>Ngai Barngarla maralya</b>	I am a Barngarla boy
<b>Ngai Barngarla gaidya</b>	I am a Barngarla child

**Yoowa** means 'good', and can be added to the following:

<b>walira</b>	day, daylight
<b>yoornoo (warda)</b>	day (light)
<b>maldoorloo</b>	morning/tomorrow
<b>gara-ara</b>	noon-afternoon
<b>maldhi</b>	night

**Yoowa yoorndoo/walira, mardana/ngalira/goonyala.**

Good day, mate.

**Yoowa yoorndoo, mardana.**

**Yoowa yoorndoo, ngalira.**

**Yoowa yoorndoo, goonyala.**

**Yoowa walira, mardana.**

**Yoowa walira, ngalira.**

**Yoowa walira, goonyala.**

**All meaning:** Good day, mate.

This can also be applied to whoever you may be addressing  
i.e. family member, mother, father such as:

**Yoowa walira, boodlanbi moori**

Good day, family

**Yoowa walira, ngami**

Good day, mum

# A a



**Ant (Black)**  
**Wiba**



**Axe**

**Garndi**



**B b**



**Big Belly**

**Warna wadla**



**Bird**

**Irda**

C c



Claw

Birri

Cloud

Mabinya



Crayfish

Goonggooloo

# D d



**Dirt**

**Babmi**



**Day (Sun)**

**Yoorndoo**

E e



Egg

Bibi



Empty

(hungry)

Garnba

**F f**



**Fish**

**Gooya**



**Flower**

**Boordnoo**

# Animals



**Birlda**  
**Possum**

**Wardoo**  
**Wombat**



**Wagari**  
**Female Kangaroo**



**Idnya**  
**Native cat**  
**(quoll)**

**Warraidya**  
**Emu**



**Yoobara**  
**Pig**

# Birds



**Galbanya**  
**Mallee Fowl**

**Marnbi**  
**Bronze-wing Pigeon**



**Wirloo**  
**Southern Stone**  
**Curlew**





**Marara**  
**Black Duck**

**Yarnoo**  
**Eagle, Hawk**



**Wiroogoo**  
**Cuckoo (Fantail)**

# Numbers in Barngarla

Singular

Mina (Eye)

Dual

Minalbili (2 Eyes)

Plural

Minarri (Eyes)

Superplural

Minailyarranha (Heaps of Eyes)



# Let's Count

**Gooma**

**One**



**Goodharra**

**Two**



**Gaba**  
**Three**



**Ngarla Many**

# How Many Animals?



Gadabi

Dolphin

Gooma gadabi

One dolphin

Warraidya

Emu

Gooma warraidya

One emu

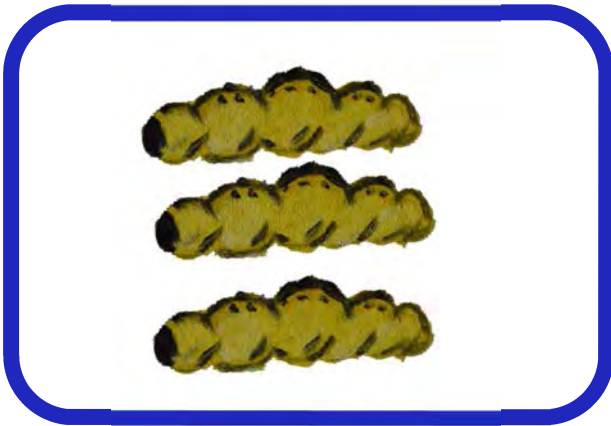


**Goordnini**

**Native Dog**

**Goordnini/bili /  
Goodara goordnini**

**Two native dogs**



**Bardi**

**Witchetty Grub**

**Gaba bardirri**

**Three witchetty grubs**



**G g**



**Grass**

**Gara**



**Gum**

**(resin)**

**Galdya**

# H h



**Hat**

**Moona**



**Home**

**Yoorla**



“I”

Ngai



Island

Yagala



J

j



**Jump**

**Balgadha**



**Jar (pot)**

**Bawooroo**

**K k**



**Kangaroo**

**Warroo;**

**Goordloo**

(Moonie Davis 1965)



**Knife**

**(to knife)**

**Bagibagi**



**Leaf**  
**Garlbi**



**Limestone**  
**Barndala**  
**gadnya**

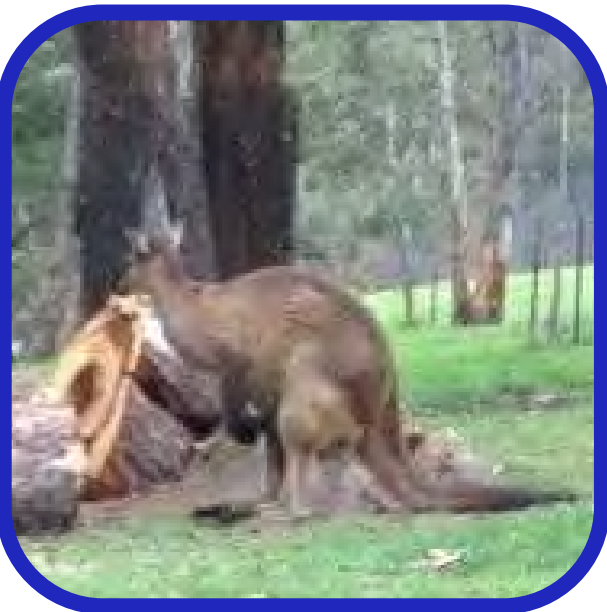
# Let's have a try

The word for *Kangaroo* in Barngarla is **Warroo**  
and *Dog* in Barngarla is **Goordnini**

How would you say *two kangaroos, two dogs?*

How would you say *Kangaroos, Dogs?*

How would you say *Heaps of Kangaroos or heaps of dogs?*



# Let's have a try

Write the answers:

Two Kangaroos

---

Two Dogs

---

Kangaroos

---

Dogs

---

Heaps of Dogs

---

Heaps of Kangaroos

---

# How Many Animals?



Warroilyarranha

Heaps of kangaroos

Warraidyailyarranha

Heaps of emus



**Goordniniilyarranha**  
**Heaps of native dogs**



**Bardiilyarranha**  
**Heaps of witchetty grubs**



# Insects



**Bilyilya**  
**Butterfly**

**Bardi**

**Grub, caterpillar**  
**(Witchetty)**



**Gooyoorragooroo**  
**Dragonfly**





**Yoombara**  
**Common Fly**

**Goonodyooloo**  
**Mosquito**



**Manya**  
**Ant grub**

# Birth Order

Order	Male	Female
First (1st ) born	<b>Biri</b>	<b>Gardanya</b>
Second (2nd)	<b>Warri</b>	<b>Wayooroo</b>
Third (3rd)	<b>Gooni</b>	<b>Goonda</b>
Fourth (4th)	<b>Mooni</b>	<b>Moonaga</b>
Fifth (5th)	<b>Mari</b>	<b>Maroogoo</b>
Sixth (6th)	<b>Yari</b>	<b>Yaranda</b>
Seventh (7th)	<b>Mili</b>	<b>Milaga</b>
Eight (8th)	<b>Wanggooyoo</b>	<b>Wanggoordoo</b>
Ninth (9th)	<b>Ngalai</b>	<b>Ngalaga</b>

# My Family

**Ngaidya boodlanbi moori**  
**(my, they two, together)**

## My Family

<b><i>Mother</i></b>	<b>Ngami, Ngamaidyoo</b>
<b><i>Father</i></b>	<b>Babi</b>
<b><i>Wife</i></b>	<b>Gardidi, Yoongara</b>
<b><i>Husband</i></b>	<b>Yardli</b>
<b><i>Sister</i></b>	<b>Yaga</b>
<b><i>Elder brother</i></b>	<b>Yoonga</b>
<b><i>Younger brother</i></b>	<b>Ngaidyaba</b>
<b><i>Uncle</i></b>	<b>Ngamana</b>
<b><i>Daughter</i></b>	<b>Ngabirdi</b>
<b><i>Girl</i></b>	<b>Gardni</b>
<b><i>Boy</i></b>	<b>Maralya, Mambarna</b>
<b><i>Female relative, Grandmother</i></b>	<b>Gadyini</b>
<b><i>Old man</i></b>	<b>Boorlga</b>

**M m**



**Meat**  
**Baroo**

**Milk**  
**Ngama**



**Moon**  
**Bira**

# N n



Night  
Maldhi

Nest  
Boodni



Net bag  
(for fishing)  
Mindi