



Wardlada Mardinidhi

Barngarla Bush Medicines

Evelyn Walker and Prof. Ghil'ad Zuckermann

First Edition

COVER: The word ‘wardlada’ in Barngarla means ‘bush’ or ‘tree’. The word ‘mardinidhi’ in Barngarla means ‘healing’. The cover photo is of the Eucalyptus albopurpurea, commonly known as the Port Lincoln Mallee, and in Barngarla: Galinyala Wardlada (Port Lincoln tree).

DISCLAIMER: Please note that this book is not a comprehensive documentation of the Barngarla Aboriginal language and does not include every single word of Barngarla. This book is based on the ancient Barngarla language as documented by Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann in 1844, during early settlement of Galinyala (Port Lincoln). More than 3,000 Barngarla lexical items are available on the websites www.zuckermann.org and www.professorzuckermann.com, and through the Barngarla Language Dictionary App developed by Professor Ghil‘ad Zuckermann, REGENER8, and Barngarla community members. The app is available for both iPhone and Android.

Copy Rights are reserved for this book by Author Evelyn Walker, Sharon Richards, Elizabeth Richards and others that they have endorsed. Any use of any material from this book should be first be approved by them. This is the First Edition and there are hopes for further editions to follow.

About this Book and the Barngarla Language Reclamation: Based on the original Galinyala Barngarla language material recorded by Revd Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann in 1844, the Barngarla language reclamation began on 14 September 2011 by revivalist-linguist Professor Ghil‘ad Zuckermann, Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, and the Barngarla Aboriginal people. Schürmann’s Barngarla dictionary has been a valuable resource for the Barngarla people for many years. This Barngarla language book is an educational resource initiative of Evelyn Walker supported by the Galinyala Barngarla community. Galinyala Barngarla community consultation and engagement has been used throughout the book development process.

This book was written and designed by Evelyn Walker with the approval of Galinyala Elders Sharon Richards, Elizabeth Richards, Galinyala community members and others with the aim to assist the Galinyala Barngarla community in continuing their project to reclaim their ‘Dreaming, Sleeping Beauty’ tongue. Evelyn Walker, together with her Elders and others, attended field trips on country as part of the research to develop this book. The creation of the book was supported through the Australian Government’s Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) program, and Professor Ghil‘ad Zuckermann, D.Phil. (Oxford), Ph.D. (Cambridge).

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Introduction

Galinyala (Port Lincoln) is a women's country.
Barlarri (meaning both women and Seven Sisters)
travelled throughout our *yarda* (country) and
surrounding *yagalarri* (islands).

The Seven Sisters provides us with all that we need,
including rock holes, soaks, springs,
food and minerals.

The purpose of this book is to facilitate the continued
learning about our region's native plants, their medical
use, knowledge and stories, and passing them on to
next generations.

*This book is dedicated to all our women past and present
with special acknowledgements to our*

♥ *Grandmothers and Mothers* ♥

&

Sharon Richards (Shazza)
Elizabeth Richards (Lizzie)
Tina Richards



We have gone out on country on our own accord to locate, document and capture photos of native plants. We are passionate about the survival of knowledge that is to be passed onto to the next generations.

The Barngarla words in this book are from the Galinyala Barngarla language workshops held at Galinyala (Port Lincoln) by Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann and the Galinyala Barngarla people.

During research, Barlarri Munda Rubs natural therapeutical products were established to support and fund activities to transfer knowledge onto the next generation, by showing children methods to make rubs, taking them on country to learn about native plants and their uses, as part of the revival and preservation of native plant knowledge.

*Follow via Instagram
@barlarri*



The Barngarla Language

A brief history of the Barngarla 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 in Barngarla there is no distinction between B and P, and neither is there a distinction between G and K*) people. This has been supported by Revd Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann's 1844 dictionary, and work by Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann.

The Barngarla language belongs to the Thura-Yura language family. Within the Thura-Yura grouping there are language similarities and shared linguistic features that connect Barngarla to Adnyamanthanha, Kuyani, Kaurna, Wirangu, Narungga and Nukunu languages, whose speakers are connected locally as neighbours, as well as through marriage and trade. The Thura-Yura language family is within the Pama-Nyungan language family, which includes 306 out of 400 Aboriginal languages in Australia, and whose name is a merism derived from the two end-points of the range: the Pama languages of northeast Australia (where the word for 'man' is *pama*) and the Nyungan languages of southwest Australia (where the word for 'man' is *nyunga*).

Not all the information on the Tindale language map was documented correctly as many groups were not included at all, and some groups' mapping were recorded incorrectly. These errors have yet to be amended by AIATSIS.

The language map produced by Wilhelm Schmidt in 1914, and published in 1927 in his book *Die Sprachfamilien und Sprachenkreise der Erde*, clearly shows that the Barngarla language was spoken over the Port Lincoln (Galinyala), Whyalla (Wayala) and Port Augusta (Goordnada) regions.

This has also been supported by the Federal Court of Australia, when Barngarla was granted Native Title in federal courts in the trial of Barngarla Native Title Claim *Croft v State of South Australia*. The Barngarla were successful in reaching the first court determination on 22 January 2015. The land was officially handed back to the Barngarla community in Whyalla on 27 June 2018.

Schürmann recorded the Barngarla Language, starting in the early 1840s, after being assigned by the Government to Port Lincoln to engage with and convert the original inhabitants, in order to make relations more amicable between the Barngarla and the authorities. He also opened the Barngarla Native School, located just outside of Port Lincoln at North Shields hillside.

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

Barngarla Language

What happened to the Barngarla language?

The Barngarla *ngawala* (language) has been dormant for a long time. The last Barngarla person recorded as speaking it was Senior Barngarla Elder Mooni Davis, back in the 1960s. He was also the last known Barngarla person to sing a special song in the Barngarla language that was said to call 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 a Sleeping, Dreaming Beauty 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, who are now working to rectify this by reclaiming their language.

What does reawakening the Barngarla language mean to the Barngarla people?

Awakening the Barngarla *ngawala* means different things for different people. To some, it means reconnecting to their country and ancestors. To others, it means developing a sense of pride in self for their identity, or strengthening what they already know in their heart. To others still, it gives a sense of belonging to family, community and country. One thing for certain is that the Barngarla people of Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta are wholeheartedly embracing the awakening of their ancestors' *ngawala*, and this can only mean positive things for their people and communities.

Future directions

The Barngarla community is aiming to reclaim its traditional Barngarla language, and will continue to develop more resources in various forms of digitization, media and other contemporary ways of communication. Since the publication of the alphabet book, *Barngarlidhi Manoo (Speaking Barngarla Together)*, the second book *Mangiri Yarda ("Healthy Country": Barngarla Wellbeing and Nature)*, and other educational resources, often online, access to material for the Barngarla people and wider community has been made much much easier. With updates to the website and the Barngarla language app continuing, more and more members of the Barngarla community are embracing their heritage language into their daily lives and raising fluent speakers within the younger generations, which would ensure that the language grows from now and into the future.

Sounds and Letters

These sounds/letters make up the Barngarla language alphabet:

A	AI	AW	B	D
DH	DY	G	I	II
L	LY	M	N	NG
NH	NY	OO	R	RR
RD	RL	RN	W	Y

Vowels

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	as in the English words pie, sky
AW	as in the English words power, town

Consonants

B G L M N W Y	These sounds are pronounced basically the same as in English.
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Stress

Stress is when a specific syllable in a word is emphasised. Some people call it accent. For example, in the English word *university* the stress is on the VER. In the word *revival*, the stress is on the VI, but in *revivalistics*, the stress is on the LI.

In the name *Evelyn*, the stress is on the first syllable E. In the surname *Richards*, the stress is also on the first syllable, RI. In the surname *Zuckermann*, the stress is also on the first syllable, ZU. However, in the name *Ghil'ad*, the stress is on the last syllable, AD.

In Barngarla the stress is on the first syllable: *Barngarla*, *Galinyala*, *garrgala*, *boolgara*, *yarda* (country).

Two-letter sounds

There are many two-letter sounds in the Barngarla alphabet.

In English a *sh* like in *washing* does not just represent an *s* followed by an *h*, in the same way *dy* does not mean a *d* followed by a *y* in Barngarla. The letters *dy* represent a single sound.

This sound is made by putting the back of your tongue on the roof of your mouth:

Sound	Explanation	Example
NG	as in the English words ringing, singing, long	ngama (<i>breast, milk</i>) ganba ngooroo (<i>whiskers</i>)

These sounds are made by putting your tongue against the roof of your mouth:

Sound	Explanation	Example
DY	as in the English word judge	bidyindi (<i>smooth, soft</i>) dyimba (<i>ashes</i>)
LY	as in the English words million, will you	bardalya (<i>scar</i>) bilyilya (<i>butterfly</i>)
NY	as in the English onion	nanya (<i>lean, ugly</i>) gadnya (<i>stone, rock</i>)

These sounds are made by sticking your tongue between your teeth:

Sound	Explanation	Example
DH	'dh' is a 'd' pronounced with the tongue outside your mouth. A sound between the sound of the English words this and dust	dhadli (<i>spit</i>) gandhi (<i>thigh</i>)
NH	as in the 'n' in the English word tenth	nhayirri (<i>sky, heaven</i>) banha (<i>he, she, it</i>)

Garrgala

ENGLISH NAME: Coastal pigface

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carpobrotus virescens*

Garrgala was called “*karkalla*” and described as the most abundant and important of fruit species of cactus in the book *the Aboriginal Tribes of Port Lincoln in South Australia, Their mode of life, manners, customs, etc* by Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann. Garrgala has been around for thousands of years and is a special plant to us, as it is affiliated with our dreamtime story. Garrgala is used to treat all kinds of sores and aches. The leaf can be turned into an aloe vera-like paste and rubbed onto sore spots on the body. The bulb of the plant tastes sweet. The plant treats minor wounds, sunburn, and mosquito bites. Garrgala blooms in the spring and in the summer.

WHERE TO FIND GARRGALA:

Garrgala grows natively on the south coast of Eyre Peninsula. You can particularly find it in abundance around Sleaford Bay (Dhanana), Port Lincoln (Galinyala) and other areas. The dreamtime story recalls it as blooming throughout the *wailbi* (southwest) country.



Nandoo

ENGLISH NAME: Emu bush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eremophila alternifolia*

Nandoo is a well-known medicine in South Australia. Many traditional healers are known to use the plant to traditionally heal people. Nandoo is anti-inflammatory, and used to relieve headaches, joint pain and eczema. The leaf can be dried out, and then placed in boiling water to infuse until ready to drink as tea. Finally, the plant can also be used as a natural ointment to rub onto an aching body. Nandoo blooms in the spring, autumn to winter.

WHERE TO FIND NANDOO:

Nandoo grows natively on the Eyre Peninsula. It can be found in abundance in areas known to us and our people. Traditional Healers from other tribes have been using this plant from these areas, to heal people as its closer for them to travel, to obtain the plant. It is important to respect and acknowledge our traditional healers.



Yarda

ENGLISH NAME: Weeping emu bush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eremophila longifolia*

Yarda is a medicine used traditionally by infusing the stem in water for drinking. It can also be mixed with eucalyptus and used as a rub to apply to a sore and aching body. We recommend rubbing it into a beard to soften it. The *yarda* tree branches can be burned for ritual smoking. The berries of the plant, once ripened to black, are eaten by emus. These berries were also used as poison on spears to take down kangaroos to eat. Yarda is in season from spring to early summer; some flowers bloom all year, but they disappear when the berries turn black. When the berries are black, they're ready to be used.

WHERE TO FIND YARDA:

Yarda grows natively on the Eyre Peninsula. It can be found around Port Lincoln, other areas and along the *wailbi* (southwest) country.



Goordi

ENGLISH NAME: Quandong, native peach

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Santalum acuminatum*

Goordi is a well-known fruit of South Australia and has medicinal uses. Goordi is a source of calcium, folate, vitamin E and magnesium.

When eaten, its antioxidants help to boost the immune system and to reduce inflammation. The leaves can be made into an ointment for the skin, and the fruit can be used to brew tea. The tree roots, when grinded up, can be used to help treat rheumatism. From the seed it's possible to extract oil. Quandong is a favourite fruit to use in baking such as pies, cakes, breads and jams. Schürmann recorded it as *kuri* and *mai* and called it a native peach. It's in season from October to March.

WHERE TO FIND GOORDI:

Goordi grows natively on the Eyre Peninsula. It can be found around Port Lincoln and its National Parks including other areas and *wailbi* (southwest) country through to Haslam.



Bailba

ENGLISH NAME: Sticky hop bush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dodonaea viscosa*

Bailba corresponds to Schürmann's recording of *pailba*. Bailba's aroma smells sweet. It grows in swamps, sandhills and bushland, and is very delicate to prepare. It is also used in beer by commercial businesses. We handpicked *bailba* to prepare a natural medicinal rub that helps to relieve fungal infections, headaches, itching and inflammation. Bailba is a mild anaesthetic. It can also be used to keep mosquitos away. Bailba is available from spring to summer.

WHERE TO FIND BAILBA:

Bailba grows natively on the coast of Eyre Peninsula. It can be found in abundance around Port Lincoln, Whalers Way and along other areas of the *wailbi* (southwest) country.



Boolgara

ENGLISH NAME: Sandalwood

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Santalum spicatum*

Boolgara grows abundantly in Whyalla, Kimba and certain areas throughout Eyre Peninsula. Schürmann recorded it as *pulkarra*; a species of tree producing a black sort of raisin. The oil is used as an antiseptic and astringent medicine. Boolgara oil, extracted from the plant's leaves, can be used to aid with anti-aging. The oil helps to sooth inflammation of the skin like dermatitis and eczema, including being used as a therapeutic massage oil. Its leaves are used extensively for smoking ceremonies. Seedlings emerge from July to August.

WHERE TO FIND BOOLGARA:

Boolgara grows natively on the Eyre Peninsula. It can be found around Port Lincoln National Park, Coffin Bay, Tulka and other areas, also along the south western areas.



Wadniri

ENGLISH NAME: Seaberry saltbush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Rhagodia candolleana*

Wadniri is described by Schürmann as a “kind of red berry growing on the beach and of a sweet saltish taste”.

This coastal saltbush grows in the sandy and clay soils by the sea. Johann Freiderich Carl Wilhelmi (1829 - 1884) describes them as growing on the seashore, bearing small red sweet berries. Wadniri is available spring, summer and autumn.

WHERE TO FIND WADNIRI:

Wadniri grows natively on the south coast of Eyre Peninsula. It can be found around Port Lincoln National Park, Whalers Way, Coffin Bay and along the southwestern coastline .



Bibara

ENGLISH NAME: Witchetty grub tree

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Leguminosae acacia*

Bibara is known to grow in specific areas of Eyre Peninsula and is identified when it flowers; the flowers are yellow. In Dorothy Tumbridge's *Plants of the Whyalla region and their Aboriginal significance* this plant was described as a "hills tree" with yellow flowers where witchetty grubs can be found. The tree is known as a food source for witchetty grubs. Elders would show us as children how to get the witchetty grubs and how to eat them. Witchetty grubs are available from November to January.

WHERE TO FIND BIBARA:

Bibara grows natively throughout Eyre Peninsula. It is particularly found in abundance in areas known to us and our people.



Mardoo

ENGLISH NAME: Native apricot

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*

Mardoo is described by Schürmann as “a tree bearing a yellow berry”. The leaves can be infused to drink as a tea to treat colds and coughs. It can be used for eczema externally. The seed tastes like throat lozenges. Mardoo grows from late-winter to mid-spring.

WHERE TO FIND MARDOO:

Mardoo grows natively on the coast of Eyre Peninsula. It can particularly be found in abundance around Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay, Tulka, and along the southern western coastline.



Gooyooroo

ENGLISH NAME: Silver emu-bush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eremophila scoparia*

Gooyooroo sap has a mildly scented aroma and the bush itself can be used as a medicinal plant. Its flowers are lilac when they bloom. Gooyooroo grows vastly across Whyalla and the wider Eyre Peninsula. It's in season all the way from January to December.

WHERE TO FIND GOOYOOROO:

Gooyooroo grows natively on the coast of Eyre Peninsula. It can particularly be found in abundance around Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay, Tulka, and along the southern western coastline.



Want to know more?

FURTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO THE BARNGARLA LANGUAGE:

Books:

- ***Barngarlidhi Manoo (Speaking Barngarla Together)*, 2019 (second edition: 2021),**
Part 1:
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ghilad.zuckermann?dsn=directory.file;field=dat a;id=41076;m=view>
Part 2:
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ghilad.zuckermann?dsn=directory.file;field=dat a;id=41096;m=view>
- ***Mangiri Yarda ('Healthy Country': Barngarla Wellbeing and Nature)*, Adelaide: Revivalistics Press, 2021,**
Part 1:
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ghilad.zuckermann?dsn=directory.file;field=dat a;id=43536;m=view>
Part 2:
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ghilad.zuckermann?dsn=directory.file;field=dat a;id=43537;m=view>
Part 3:
<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/directory/ghilad.zuckermann?dsn=directory.file;field=dat a;id=43538;m=view>
- ***Engaging – A Guide to Interacting Respectfully and Reciprocally with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, and their Arts Practices and Intellectual Property*, 2015**, <http://www.zuckermann.org/guide.html>
- ***Revivalistics: From the Genesis of Israeli to Language Reclamation in Australia and Beyond***. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020, ISBN 9780199812790 (pbk), ISBN 9780199812776 (hbk), Special 30% Discount Promo Code: AAFLYG6
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/revivalistics-9780199812790>

Apps:

- ***Barngarla Aboriginal Language Dictionary App (available also on the Internet):***
iOS: bit.ly/3NuA0f0
Android: bit.ly/42Hs8Lu
Web: guyulgang.com/language/barngarla
www.barngarlalanguage.com
www.wcclp.com.au/barngarla

Online resources:

- ***Dictionary of the Barngarla Aboriginal Language of Eyre Peninsula, South Australia*, 2018,**
<https://www.zuckermann.org>
- ***Language Revival: Securing the Future of Endangered Languages*** (Massive Open Online Course), <https://www.edx.org/course/language-revival-securing-future-adelaidx-lang101x>
- **Barngarla texts in LARA form:**
<https://www.zuckermann.com/BarngarLARA.html>
- **Visit Port Lincoln (Galinyala)**
<https://portlincoln.com.au/what-to-do-port-lincoln/parnkalla-trail/>
<https://www.visitportlincolnaccommodation.net.au/>
<https://www.nautilusartscentre.com.au/>
<https://portlincoln.com.au/products/information-services/port-lincoln-visitor-information-centre/>

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