



all yours

Indigenous Language Wordlists

Wakka Wakka Body Parts

Wakka Wakka is the name of the language and Aboriginal people of the Burnett Region – Wakka Wakka is also documented by several other names, including Waka Waka, Wokka, Woka-Woka and Woga. The language area includes several dialects and extends across the South and North Burnett regions and takes in the communities of Cherbourg, Kingaroy, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Jimna and the Bunya Mountains.

There is a significant amount of documentation on the Wakka Wakka language from first contact in the 1840's with several lexicons, wordlists and other vocabularies. Linguistic work by Rev John Mathew and recent linguists such as Holmer means there is an accompanying grammar to provide clues on how the language was constructed and spoken. Unfortunately, there are minimal speakers and there is a real concern that the language is not spoken on a daily basis in communities to keep Wakka Wakka as a thriving, living language.

This wordlist is drawn from historical and community sources and identifies language words for the parts of the body and their suggested pronunciation.

Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were oral-based; there may be several variations in spelling and pronunciation. The following list should be seen as a guide - check with local language speakers/custodians as to the preferred local pronunciation.

English	Wakka Wakka	Pronunciation
Ankle	Wulu	Woo-loo
Arm	Gining	Geen-inn
Armpit	Wamgir	Warm-gear
Back	Burum	Boo-rum
Backside	Mundi	Moon-dee
Beard	Yikka	Yick-ah
Blood	Dir	De-ah
Bone	Gira	Gear-ah
Calf	Buyu	Boo-yoo
Cheek	Wanga	Won-ah
Chin	Yikka	Yick-ah
Ear	Binang	Bin-ung
Elbow	Kulumur	Kool-oo-moor
Eye	Ma	Mah
Eyebrow	Dhipin	Dee-pin
Eyelash	Buel-buel	Bewl-bewl
Face	Ngwar	Ing-wah
Finger	Na	Nah

English	Wakka Wakka	Pronunciation
Fingernail	Gillin	Gill-lin
Foot	Djinang	Gin-ung
Hair	Gam	Gam
Hand	Na	Nah
Head	Mau	Maw
Heart	Du	Doo
Intestines	Gunang	Goon-un
Knee	Bundur	Boon-door
Leg	Djangar	Jun-gar
Lips	Dhambur	Dum-burr
Mouth	Dhambur	Dum-burr
Neck	Wanda	Wun-dah
Nose	Mi	Mee
Shoulder	Wali	Wah-lee
Skin	Dumee	Doo-mee
Stomach	Mu	Moo
Teeth	Diang	Dee-ung
Thigh	Djungor	Jung-or
Toe / Toes	Djinang	Gin-ung
Tongue	Dunam	Doo-nam
English	Wakka Wakka	Pronunciation

Learn more about the language and culture of Cherbourg!

The Ration Shed Museum has an online archive Cherbourg Memory to explore the lives, histories and cultures of the people of Cherbourg; view images and other stories relating to the theme of language and culture: <http://cherbourgmemory.org/themes/language-culture/>

Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced primarily from the publications *Vocabulary of the Wakka Wakka* by Rev John Mathew and Watson's "Four vocabularies of four representative tribes of South-Eastern Queensland". Additional words were sourced from Granny Cobbo's Barambah Language and the Barambah Language & Culture ATSLIP Project.

Within the State Library Collections, there is a range of material on the Aboriginal history and culture of the Burnett Region, including linguistic texts and wordlists for Wakka Wakka. Such references include the following items.

Barambah ATSLIP Language Project Wordlist (1999).

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*. **RBF 572.994 cur**

Granny Cobbo's Barambah Language Wordlist (n.d.).

Holmer, N. (1983) *Linguistic Survey of South-Eastern Queensland*. **J 499.15 HOL**

Kite, S. and Wurm, S. (2004) *The Duungidjawa language of southeast Queensland: grammar, texts and vocabulary*: Pacific Linguistics 553. **J 499.15 KIT**

Mathew, J. (1910) *Two representative tribes of Queensland: with an inquiry concerning the origin of the Australian race*. **J 306.0899915 MAT**

John Mathew Papers 1872-1929; 1973. **OM74-17**

Tennant-Kelly, C. and University of Queensland (2011) *The Caroline Tennant-Kelly ethnographic collection: fieldwork accounts of Aboriginal culture in the 1930s*. (CD-ROM) **HCF 305.89915 CAR**

Tindale, N. B. (1974) *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits and Proper Names*. **Q 994.0049915 tin**

Watson, F. J. (1944) "Vocabularies of four representative tribes of South Eastern Queensland"; supplement to the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland)*, No. 34, Vol XLVIII. **REFJ 499.15 wat**

Further Details

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

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SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>

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