



Indigenous Language Resources

Yugambeh Everyday Words

The **Yugambeh** language is spoken between the Logan and Tweed Rivers in South-East Queensland – there are several dialects across the language Nation including Gugingin, Bullongin, Wangeriburra, Munanjali, Kombumerri, Migunberri, Birinburra and Minjungbal.

Yugambeh has shared words with neighbouring languages of Bundjalung to the South, Yugara to the North and Yugarabul to the West. The following list identifies a selection of everyday words 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 as to the preferred local pronunciation.

English	Yugambeh	Pronunciation
Boy	Molumm	Moh-lum
Child	Jarjum	Jar-jum
Creek/River	Ballun-ballun	Bah-lun-bah-lun
Ear	Binung	Bin-ung
Echidna	Buneen	Boon-een
Emu	Murun	Moo-run
Eye	Mi	Mee
Father	Biung	Bee-oon
Foot	Jinung	Jin-ung
Friend	Jimbelung	Jim-beh-lun
Girl	Yahgurrie	Yah-gur-ee
Grandfather	Nyajung	Nah-jun
Grandmother	Barbun	Bah-boon
Ground	Jhagun	Jar-gun
Hand	Dunngunn	Dun-gun
Head	Ba-ul	Bow-il
Kangaroo	Muni	Mun-ee
English	Yugambeh	Pronunciation

English	Yugambeh	Pronunciation
Man	Maibin	My-bin
Moon	Gibumm	Gib-oom
Mother	Waijung	Why-jin
Mountain	Borrol	Bow-roll
Rain	Gwong	Gwong [rhymes with song]
Stars	Goromgunn	Goh-rum-goön
Stone	Darrau	Dah-raw
Sun	Nyunga	Noon-gah
Wind	Yarga	Yah-ga
Woman	Talgunn	Tal-goön
English	Yugambeh	Pronunciation

Learn more about Yugambeh!

Listen to the National Anthem sung in Yugambeh language:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd1EJVdmUO0

Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre

Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre serves as the Indigenous Language Centre for Southern Queensland. The centre has developed resources for the Yugambeh language, including a Yugambeh Language App that can be downloaded onto your computer, Android or iPhone/iPad: www.yugambeh.com/

Sources and Further Reading

Words listed above were sourced from several historical texts within the State Library Collections, including the following items.

Allan, J. and Lane, J. (2001) *The language of the Wangerriburra and neighbouring groups in the Yugambeh region*. **P 499.15 all**

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**

Ford, R. & Blake, T. (1998) *Indigenous peoples of southeast Queensland: an annotated guide to ethno-historical sources*. **G 016.30589915 1998**

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

Sharpe, M. (1998) *Dictionary of Yugambeh, including neighbouring dialects, compiled by Margaret Sharpe from various sources*: Pacific Linguistics C-139. **G 499.15 1998**

Sharpe, M. (2005) *Grammar and texts of the Yugambeh-Bundjalung dialect chain in Eastern Australia*. **Q 499.15 sha**

Steele, J. G. (1984) *Aboriginal pathways in southeast Queensland and the Richmond River*. **Q 994.3102 ste**

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 Geographic Society of Australasia (Queensland), No. 34, Vol. XLVIII. **REFJ 499.15 wat**

State Library of Queensland

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

kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland

Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

PO Box 3488, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

Telephone: (07) 3842 9836 Fax: (07) 3842 9893

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

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

This initiative, as part of State Library of Queensland's Indigenous Language Project is supported by funding from the Indigenous Languages Support Program (ILS) from the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department, Ministry for the Arts.



This research guide is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. You are free to copy, communicate and adapt this work, so long as you attribute State Library of Queensland. For more information see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>