



Murni Dhungang Jirrar **Living in the Illawarra**

Acknowledgements

Compiled and written by Sue Wesson.

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Warning

Some food and medicine plants are dangerous, and the author and publisher accept no responsibility for any mishaps arising from the use of plants mentioned herein.



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Introduction

Introduction

In 1996 the Commonwealth Government recognised the national importance of Australia's indigenous peoples' knowledge of plants and animals to the conservation of Australia's biological diversity (Commonwealth 1996). It was recommended that resources be provided for the conservation of traditional biological knowledge through cooperative ethnobiological programs. This initiative was further supported in 2001 by the Commonwealth pledge to 'maintain and record indigenous peoples' ethnobiological knowledge' as part of its 'National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005'. The New South Wales Government incorporated these principles into its *NSW Biodiversity Strategy* (1999, 2001) stating that: 'Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander management practices have proved important for the maintenance of biological diversity and their integration into current management programs should be pursued where appropriate (NSW 2001).

History of the project

This project is part of a larger study known as the Illawarra Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study (IRAHS). The IRAHS is a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) initiative in accordance with its Cultural Heritage Conservation Policy (2002). Regional studies fill a critical gap in Aboriginal cultural heritage management in NSW. For the past 30 years virtually all the activity in NSW in off-park assessment and conservation of Aboriginal heritage places and landscapes has taken place in the context of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), in the form of localised impact assessment studies carried out by consultant archaeologists. The work of recording and assessing the significance of Aboriginal heritage places has thus taken place in piecemeal fashion. Regional studies constitute a key means for disseminating and grounding a holistic or multi-value approach to cultural heritage assessment and conservation.¹ Regional Aboriginal heritage studies

serve not only to guide planning but also to encourage partnership with Aboriginal communities for environmental protection.

As part of the IRAHS an Aboriginal Illawarra resources database has been created to incorporate local Aboriginal community knowledge and all relevant oral and written material about Aboriginal connections with the flora and fauna of the Illawarra. A selection of items from the database has been used in the production of this book based on their importance in stories of country and as totems and for their diversity of uses.

Dharawal and Wodi Wodi (Wadi Wadi): people of the Illawarra

The Wodi Wodi² are the Aboriginal custodians of the Illawarra who spoke a variant of the Dharawal language. Dharawal speakers lived and live in the country from Botany Bay and Campbelltown in the north through the Nepean, Wollondilly, Georges, and Cataract water catchments³, west to Moss Vale (Illillawatta) and south to the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay (Figure 1). Dharawal people are distinguished as fresh water or salt water people depending on whether they occupied the coastal regions or the plateaus and inland river valleys. Traditional stories tell of their arrival at the mouth of Lake Illawarra in canoes when the Ancestors were animals. They brought the Dharawal or Cabbage Tree Palm with them from the north and are named for this sacred tree (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Dharawal and their neighbours

The Arrernte word Awelye, from Central Australia, describes the interrelationship of everything; plant, animal, earth and language. Aboriginal knowledge about: plants, animals, non-living things, spirit, economy, aesthetics, kin, responsibility and journeying

¹ Harrison, R. 2003. Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study Draft Documents, DEC.

² Wodi Wodi can also be spelled Wadi Wadi. It should not be confused with a group on the Murray River bordering New South Wales and Victoria having a name with the same spelling and pronunciation.

³ 'History of the D'harawal people (Bodkin.F@rbsyd.gov.au/mount_annan_botanic_garden)

bind types of information with one another. In other words everything informs us about everything else and nothing can be considered in isolation. By contrast non indigenous knowledge structures involve hierarchical and increasing separation of information into ever smaller parts for detailed examination. Aboriginal knowledge stems from the practical experience of natural resources. Like all people that live with and close to the land they have developed an understanding of the interrelationships between ecological functions and broader patterns in climate and geophysical features. Understanding and learning the signals of change is indicative of the depth of knowledge that Aboriginal people have achieved.



Figure: 2 Cabbage tree palm (Photo by: M Van Ewijk ©DEC)

Totems

Totems are a significant symbol of Aboriginal people's inextricable link to land. Aboriginal people gave recognition to the power of the plant and animal spirits by wearing skins and masks of ceremonial paint, and by mimicking, singing praise and dedicating prayers to specific plants and animals. They painted

and engraved them in caves, rock overhangs and on rock platforms, on bark and burial trees and asked Mirrirul⁴ to guide them to plant and animal foods and to bless the spirit of the plant or animal that was killed. These acts allowed people to remain linked to the plant and animal guides and to accept the power they offer in lessons, in life, and in death. It reminded people that all animals are our sisters, brothers, and cousins and most importantly our teachers and our friends.

Mirrirul is a creator being who led the tribe to its present habitat and made the natural features as they are today. He also gave people their social laws and initiation rites.

As Phil Sullivan, a Ngiyampaa man explained recently; *'Having a 'totem' is much deeper: it's about looking after everything. Everything that's associated with the animal, like the yellowbelly, I have to look after the fish, the water, the reeds – everything to do with that fish' (Sullivan 2003).*⁵

Totems of the Illawarra include the Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*); calboonya or Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*); kurungabaa or Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*); bumbiang or Satin Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*); koondyeri⁶ or hawk, jugurawa or kingfisher, moondaar or

⁴ In other places Mirrirul is called Daramalun (far south coast NSW), Nurunderi, Bunjil, Goin or Biral.

⁵ This responsibility also includes the bird that eats the fish (Mason 2004).

⁶ Wombarra is the Dhurga word for the black duck, the language of the people occupying the country from the Bega River to Lake Conjola (Wesson 2000: 158).

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*); bibburdugang red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) and jindaola or Lace Monitor (*goanna*) (*Varanus varius*). Mooloone; the waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) is valued in ceremony and as an indicator for the timing of ceremonies and is the subject of many stories of country (Figure 3). Aboriginal people do not eat their personal totem plant or animal but care for it by conducting increase ceremonies to ensure its good health and reproduction. Sometimes, however, they are obliged to kill their totem to feed their family members and others in their group. Increase ceremonies were and are conducted by people who are of the totem animal or plant and enact historical travels and deeds of the ancestral totemic heroes, especially at places where they rested or were transformed.⁷

Many animals and birds feature in traditional stories for the Illawarra and adjacent regions. These stories are still being used to teach principles and history by the direct descendants of Ellen Anderson.⁸ A list of the stories and their sources can be found in the Appendix.

Dharawal people moved throughout their territories and to a lesser extent those of neighbours (Gundangurra, Darug, Dhurga, Awabakal and Wiradjuri) subject to season and purpose. They had favoured travel routes running north-south and east-

west but travelled widely caring for the country in ceremony and practice and harvesting only what was immediately required. People from other language groups including Gundangurra and Wiradjuri travelled from the inland to the coast to exchange foods, raw materials and artefacts. The fish, oysters, water-fowl and grubs of the Illawarra were particularly valued by inland people. Dharawal and Awabakal shared ceremonies including the ceremony for the brown snake and the shark.⁹

Aboriginal peoples' association with the Illawarra has a history that began thousands of years before Europeans colonised the Australian continent. In that time the landscape has been transformed by ice ages, the deposition of sand dunes approximately 6,500 years ago and the inundation of once dry land to create Lake Illawarra 6,000 years ago (Fuller 1980: 7). Aboriginal people have survived and adapted to the impact of European colonisation and kept their connection to the land through the maintenance of customs and stories and the responsibility for country.

In 1838 a census of Aborigines living in the Illawarra named 49 men, 25 women, 23 boys and 27 girls living in 20 different camps and belonging to ten groups.¹⁰ These were Wollongong (Woolungah), Kiama, Tom Thumb lagoon (Tuckulung), Windang (Berrawurra), Shellharbour (Wonwin), Bulli (Wangewarra), Dapto,

Figure 3: Waratah (Photo by: I Brown © DEC)



⁷ Elkin 1954: 148-9.

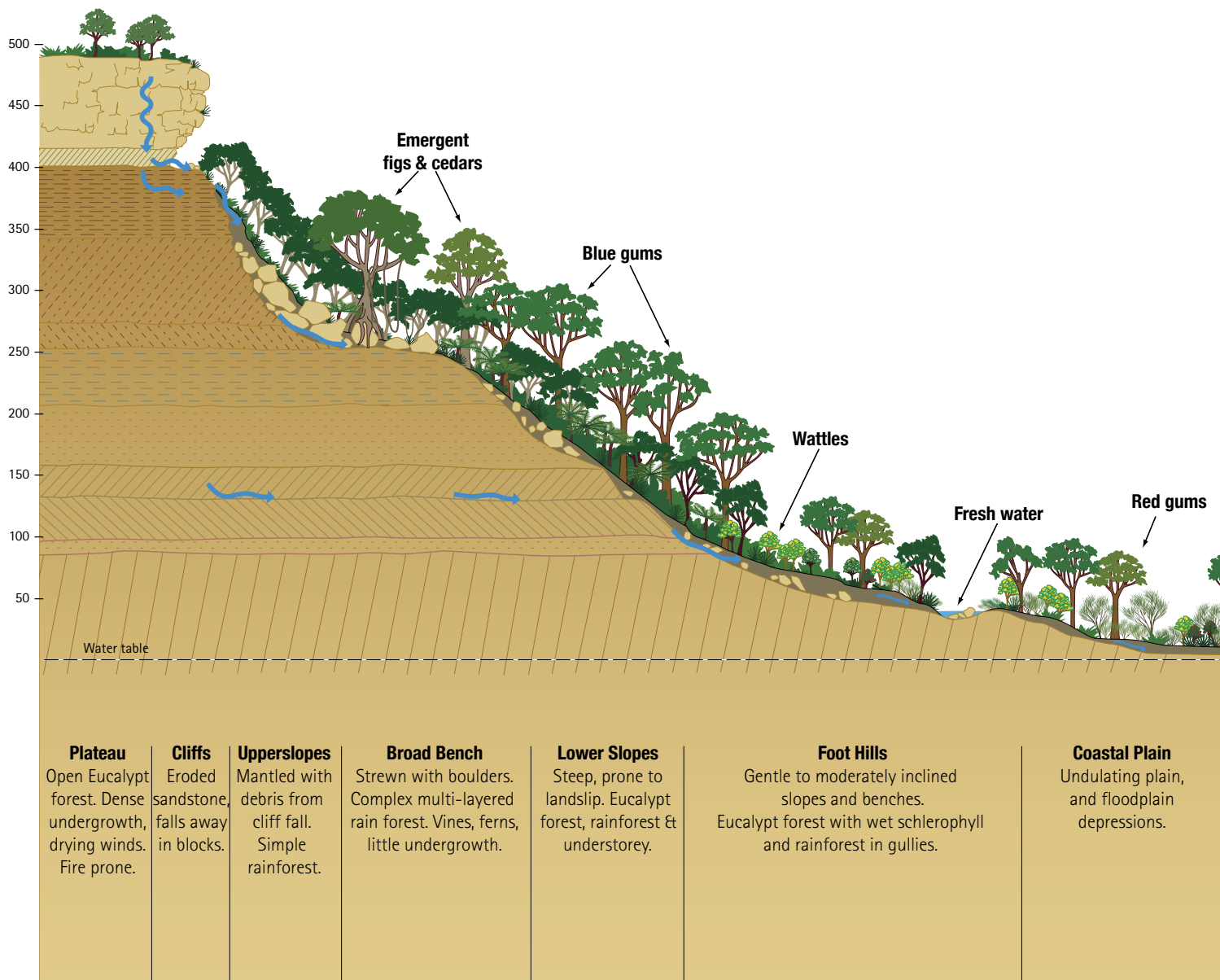
⁸ Mason 2004 personal communication.

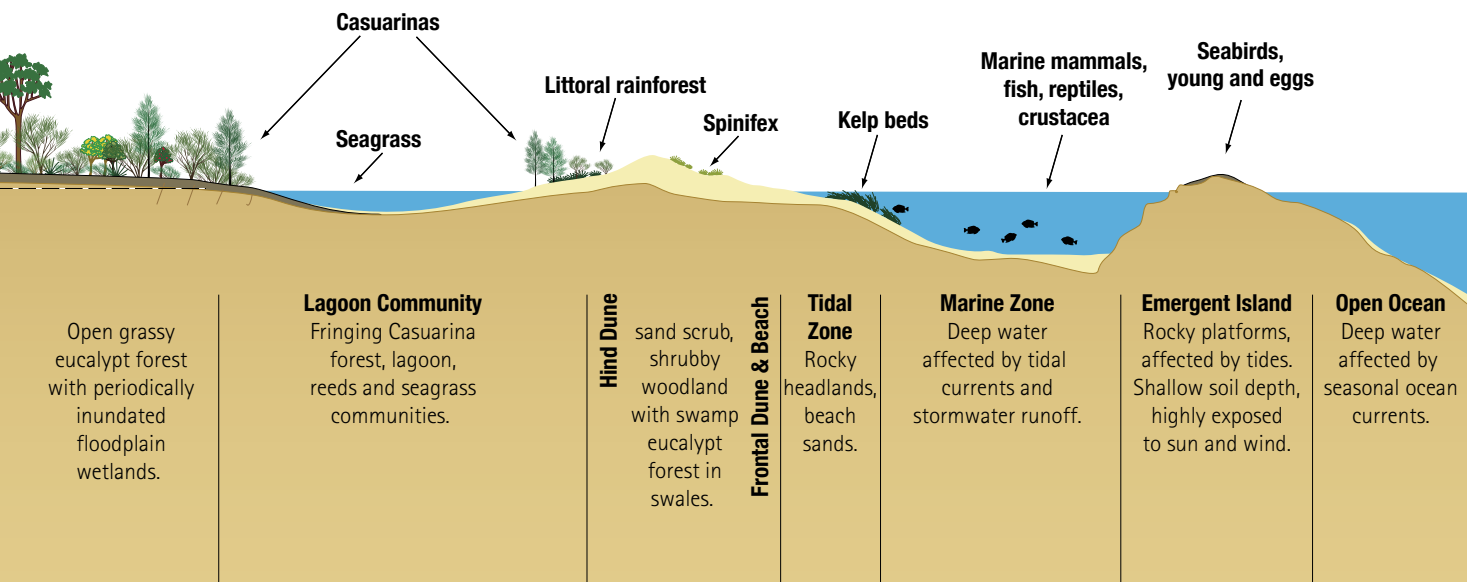
⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ This number may not reflect pre-European reality and is probably conservative.

Illawarra Landscape Profile

(Figure 4)





Red Point (Dhghillawah), Jamberoo and Taitpoly (place unknown), a total of 124. A south coast group usually numbered 70 or 80 (Hoben 1897). Sixty three years later, the 1901 census showed that there were 33 people living at Port Kembla, 13 at the Minnamurra River, 8 at Dapto, 18 at Bombo, 20 at Gerringong, 3 at Jamberoo and 3 at Kiama, making a total Illawarra Aboriginal population of 98.¹¹

The Illawarra is now also home to Aboriginal people who have originated from other Australian regions. They have migrated for employment, change and to maintain family connections.

Illawarra landscape

The study region extends from Stanwell Park in the north to Bass Point in the south (Figure 8) and comprises a spectacular landscape from the visually dominant escarpment and sandstone plateau in the west to the coastal plain which broadens in the south. Lake Illawarra is a significant large coastal lake, one of many on the south coast. The area supports a great diversity of vegetation communities¹² typically including eucalypt forests and woodlands on the plateau, rainforests on the escarpment and grassy woodland, swamps, grasslands and scrubs on the coastal plain (Figure 4). Estuaries and coastal wetlands have been heavily modified by infilling, drainage, altered river systems, artificial streams and diversions. Areas in the coastal plain have been modified first with agriculture and more recently for housing developments. However, the Illawarra region retains pockets of beautiful natural environments, particularly the broad sandy beaches and protected areas of the plateau including Royal National Park, Dharawal State Conservation Area and the catchment areas on the plateau above Wollongong.

The landscape has been considered as six broad landscape zones (Figure 5); plateau, escarpment, coastal plain, estuarine, intertidal and marine. Many species inhabit more than one zone and this is indicated in the text.



Figure 5: Broad Landscape Zones Map

¹¹ 44 females and 54 males (1901 Commonwealth Census).

¹² The NPWS vegetation assessment (August 2002) has identified 55 vegetation communities for the Wollongong LGA.

Aboriginal resources in the Illawarra

'[The] life cycles of native flora provide information to Aboriginal people on the movements of wildlife, sometimes a great distance away. There has been very little local traditional knowledge recorded as to how Aboriginal people use seasonal flower patterns not only to indicate the availability of food and medicinal ingredients but also as a special ceremonial event which has recurred over a long period. Plants play an important role in the spiritual life of Aboriginal people and are associated with important ceremonies. Laws specify that plants cannot be damaged without consent from those responsible for their care'.¹³

Water, stone, clay, plant and animal resources are the raw materials that provided a rich and healthy quality of life for Illawarra's people. Fresh water, which is key to the survival of all people, came from rivers, streams, lakes and swamps. The coastal plain has an abundance of permanent streams and lakes. By contrast the Woronora Plateau can be very dry and has fewer permanent waterways than the coastal area. To alleviate this situation the Dharawal chiselled channels fed by swamps into the sandstone rock platforms and

Figure 6: Stone wells on the Woronora Plateau
(Photo by Kylie Madden©DEC)



connected these with man-made wells (see Figure 6). Ochres and stone artefact materials (including basalt and silcrete) were mined from quarries and traded sometimes long distances. A broad range of habitats exists in the Illawarra from sandy and rocky marine and intertidal environments to woodland, forest, rainforest, swamp, heath, saltmarsh, shrubland and grassland.

'Aboriginal people recorded their plant knowledge orally as part of the traditional way of recording the history of the area in which they lived. Much can be learned from these histories concerning the animals, plants and people who live in the area' (Mason 2001).

Material for this book has been drawn from knowledge in the Illawarra Aboriginal community, Aboriginal stories about the environment, books and databases about Aboriginal plant use, videos, archaeological texts and historical documents. Very early records of the Dharawal and Wodi Wodi names for plants were provided to William Macarthur in the mid 1850s by an Aboriginal man known as Doctor Ellis.¹⁴ More recently Rod Mason, great-grandson of Ellen Anderson¹⁵, has provided a wealth of information about the seasonal indicators and uses of plants. Rod states that Ellen was not only a great story teller but also an important knowledge holder about the life cycles of plants, animals and seasons and the people associated with them.¹⁶

¹³ Mason 2001 database.

¹⁴ Doctor Ellis was recorded in 1836 and 1840 blanket censuses (Organ 1990: 200, 255-6, 305) as being of the Bong Bong or Berrima district born circa 1810 but was later a noted resident of Wollongong. Early recordings of Dharawal names for plants were made by McKenzie (1874), Maiden (1889), Campbell (1900), McCaffrey (n.d.) and Brown (1964).

¹⁵ Ellen Anderson was born at Lake Illawarra circa 1855.

¹⁶ Mason 2004 personal communication.

Seasonal knowledge for the harvesting of food resources was and is an important determinant in the timing of journeys, gatherings and festivals. In recent post-contact history similar journeys and gatherings have taken place through the focus of Aboriginal people's employment. At Robertson, Moss Vale and the Burragorang Valley they collected and sold wattle bark for leather tanning.¹⁷ On the coast they have a long history of involvement in the commercial harvesting of crops including beans, peas and corn (as casual labourers) and of fish and abalone (in Aboriginal family businesses).

Australian native foods come from berries, leaves, tubers, flowers, seeds, nectars and insect larvae such as grubs. The combining of different parts of plants such as flower petals, seeds and leaves provided nutritionally balanced meals.¹⁸ Plants and animal fats are used to create medicinal poultices, juices and healing smoke for external use. Internal medicine includes berries, teas and decoctions. In the Illawarra swamps and lagoons provided important medicinal plants:

'When we were living on Hill 60 old Mrs Timbery lived there. If anyone got sick she used a lot of herbs from around the swamp. Down the back, where they have filled it in with rotten coalwash, we had another big swamp, with all the herbs growing around there'.¹⁹

Artefacts such as spears (karmai), woomeras (womra), boomerangs (bumarin), shields (hilamin), canoes (maduri) were made from timbers, gums and resins (Figure 7). Nuts, feathers, teeth, ochres, animal skins and plant fibres were used to create decorative clothing, cloaks and both everyday and ceremonial



Figure 7: Etchings from Brough Smyth 1878

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Mason 2001, Mason 2003 personal communication.

¹⁹ Wakeman 1987: 15.



ornamentation. Leaves, bark and stems were used to make baskets, string, rope, nets and toys. Bark, stems and leaf fronds made short-term shelter structures. The smoking of leaves high in aromatic oils was used not only for healing but for ceremonial cleansing, to prepare the ground at a camp²⁰ and for long-distance communication. Variants in the smoke (colour, density, height and duration) communicated different meanings.

Distinct land forms could be distinguished from a distance by the colouring and form of the tree species associated with them. There are trees that are specific for use by men and others by women. These distinctions determine what may be gathered and by whom including twigs for fire making.²¹

Ceremonial areas are marked by certain trees which may be carved with significant designs to define the area.²² Trees were also marked to indicate a burial using both symbols and drawings.²³ During gatherings trees were marked to define the temporary home areas for a visiting group:

*'The visiting groups would be allocated an area to camp within Yandel'ora [Campbelltown] and would stay for weeks and sometimes months. Trees were marked to demarcate 'lands within lands' for different groups'.*²⁴

Seasonal plant indicators tell people when plants or animals are in season or available, coming out of hibernation or giving birth from their flowering, fruiting or presence. The indicator can inform about the presence of another plant or animal across long distances or in close proximity. For example, the flowering of an inland wattle informs about sea mammals and the flowering of a coastal plant informs about the bogong moth. A plant or animal may

inform about resources in the country of adjacent but culturally different people, perhaps speaking another language and having different customs.

Two Aboriginal groups sometimes agreed to share a resource whereby one group accessed the mid-season and another the beginning or end of the harvesting season of a plant or animal. The plant indicator creates an association or family of plants and animals that are linked to the indicator species. For example, the bandicoot makes a family or association with the bangalow palm, the vanilla lily, heath banksia, coast banksia, native grape, black plum, chocolate lily, soft tree-fern, wombat berry, native cherry, geebung, king fern and wild parsnip.²⁵

Seasonal patterns which were derived from the weather and from hunting and gathering governed the lives of the old Dharawal people. This became the people's culture and has been passed down through knowledge holders.²⁶

²⁰ It was important to rid a camp area of stinging insects and grubs such as bull ants and stinging caterpillars (Mason 2004 personal communication).

²¹ Mason 2004 personal communication.

²² Timbery, Jeff 2003, Collins 1798.

²³ Tyermann and Bennett 1825.

²⁴ rbgsyd.gov.au.

²⁵ Mason and Young 2001 Plant Use database, Mason 2004 personal communication.

²⁶ Mason 2004 personal communication.

About this book

This book is arranged by six broad landscape zones; marine, intertidal, estuarine, coastal plain, escarpment and plateau (Figure 5). Aboriginal people describe these habitats as different countries each having their own language and people.²⁷ A comprehensive index of common and scientific names can be used to find the plants and animals that are included within the book. It represents a portion of the entries that have been recorded in the Illawarra Aboriginal Use flora and fauna databases by DEC.²⁸ The introduction to each section describes the landscape zone with an image of a typical scene and the Dharawal names for some plants and animals that do not have detailed use notes. The body of text for each zone devotes at least one page to a species or genera.²⁹ It provides Dharawal and Gundangurra names, common names, the most recent scientific name, the part used, the season of use and the landscape zones (there is often more than one) in which the plant or animal may be found. Each species profile includes an image, a guide to the way in which the plant or animal is used and use notes. Wherever possible these notes are in the words of a local person, either a resident of the Illawarra or somebody with Dharawal connections. Historical anecdotes from the Illawarra are also included as well as more general references where appropriate. The bibliography includes details of all the reference material used in compiling the book including oral histories.

Pronunciation

There are a few fairly simple rules for the pronunciation of all Australian Aboriginal languages: *'As a rule, u is like the oo in the English word 'boot', i like the vowel in 'bit' and a like that in 'hat'. If a vowel letter is doubled, then pronounce it very long. B can be substituted for p, d for t and g for k with no difference to the meaning of the word. English distinguishes between b and p but most Aboriginal languages don't. Australian languages recognise a distinction between two kinds of r sound. There is the trilled sound, written rr, similar to that heard in Scottish English, and a liquid sound, r, similar to that in normal Australian English. Where dh or th is written, they indicate a sound like d or t but with the tongue touching the teeth. The hardest sound for English speakers to master is ng. English does have this sound, but only at the end of a word; it is the sound after the a in 'bang'. Australian languages have ng at the beginning of words'*.³⁰

²⁷ Aboriginal cosmologies do not place human beings in a superior status to plants and animals but consider all beings (plants, animals, rocks and spirits) as being equally worthy and are all referred to as people (tree people, goanna people, rock people etc.).

²⁸ There are 225 entries for flora, 70 for mammals, 80 for birds, 42 for reptiles, 57 for fish, 17 for crustacea and 30 for shells.

²⁹ The scientific naming tradition for plants and animals uses two (often latin) words to describe each plant or animal. For example, *Eucalyptus obliqua*, is the scientific name for the messmate. *Eucalyptus* is the generic name and *obliqua* is the species or specific name. There are lots of eucalypts but only one species known as *Eucalyptus obliqua*.

³⁰ www.aboriginalartonline.com/culture/language3.html.

Figure 8: IRAHS Study Area





© Sean Smith

Marine Habitat

The Illawarra marine habitat includes inshore islands which provide habitat for threatened species like pelagic seabirds such as albatrosses. The islands are culturally significant as they have been regularly harvested for thousands of years for shellfish, eggs and young birds. The Illawarra coast is an important marine mammal migration route for a range of whales, dolphins and seals. The continental shelf just off the coast is a source of abalone, crayfish and octopus.

Plants and animals of the marine habitat

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Birragullin	Tailor	Pomotamus saltatrix
Ghun na goon	Starfish	
Goombarringal	Kingfish	Seriola lalandi
Guyyel	Yellowtail	Trachurus novaezelandiae
Irramurri	Yellowtail bream	Acanthopagus australis
Kaoari	Flathead	
Kon	Blue Shark	Prionace glauca
Kurrawinna	Eastern blue groper	
Kwibito	Ground shark	
Unyah, yungga	Shark	
Woolimai	Schnapper	Pugus auratus

Kelp

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Ecklonia sp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Gott 2001

Part used

leaf, stem

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

marine

Uses/Notes

food, implement, indicator (presence) for red crab, lobster and abalone.

The leaves and stem from this sea plant were roasted and eaten as food. Carefully selected parts were made into a carrying utensil for taking food such as crab and shellfish back to camp. This plant indicates a good area to catch red crab, lobster and abalone.' (*Mason 2001*)



© Simon Banks, DEC

Stingray

Dharawal Name

Kurranwall, Kurrah-wah, Puppur

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Dasyatis sp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Brown 1964, McLeod and Carriage 2004

Part used

flesh, skin, spines

Seasonal Availability

all year

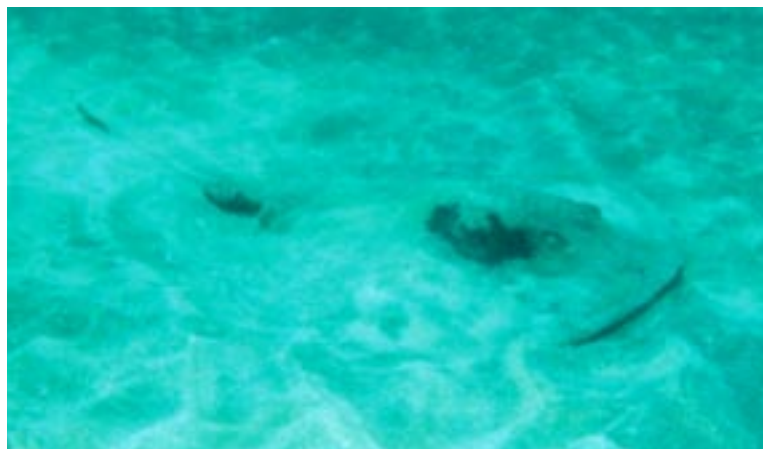
Broad Landscape Zone

marine, estuarine

Uses/Notes

fishing spears, food, artefact manufacture, art subject.

You can use a shark and stingray skin in the same way as sandpaper fig to sharpen utensils such as knives. Once the shark skin is dried it becomes really hard. When you cut into a shark you are sharpening the knife as you cut' (*McLeod and Carriage 2004*). Camerray (Botany Bay) Dharawal used the spines of the stingray in the manufacture of fishing spears (*Attenbrow 2002: 86-87*). Depicted in pigment art in the Illawarra (*Therin 2002*). Depicted in engravings in many Dharawal coastal sites (*Ingray 2005*).



© Tony & Jenny Enderby

Sea Mullet

Dharawal Name

Murra murra, Dibara

Gundangurra Name

Mibbi

Scientific Name

Mugil cephalus

Broad Landscape Zone



Attenbrow 2002: 65, Mathews 1904: 254, Timbery-Bennett 2002, Wakeman 1987: 10

Part used

flesh

Seasonal Availability

December to March

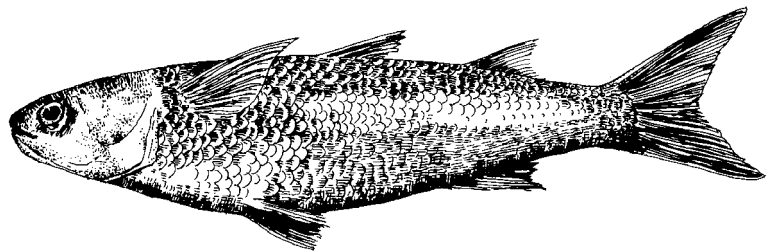
Broad Landscape Zone

freshwater, estuarine, marine

Uses/Notes

food, bait

Residents of Hill 60 and the Official Camps at Port Kembla remember regularly harvesting mullet but that the fish are much smaller in recent times (*Wakeman 1988*). Speaking of the Dharawal Mathews, a nineteenth century recorder, wrote: 'Mullet fat thrown in little pieces on the waves in a lake or estuary is supposed to make the water smoother, while the people are engaged in fishing' (*Mathews 1904: 254*).



Common Dolphin

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
***Delphinus* sp.**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2004, Timbery 2003

Part used
totem animal

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
Marine

Uses/Notes
The dolphin is the policeman for the Dharawal people
(Mason 2004).

"We talk about being created from the dolphin. The dolphin had come onto the land, and the people had been created from the dolphin. The dolphin is regarded as being a part of our family, a part of our ancestry as well"
(Timbery 2003).



© Mike Cufer, Fish Eye Photo, DEC

Southern Right, Humpback and Blue Whales

Dharawal Name

Burri-burri, Murrara
(killer whales)

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Eubalaena glacialis
(southern right whale),
Megaptera novaeangliae
(humpback whale),
Balaenoptera musculus
(blue whale)

Broad Landscape Zone



Attenbrow 2002: 65, Mathews 1904,
Mason 2001, Saddler 1894,
Therin 2002

Part used

blubber, organs, totem animal

Seasonal Availability

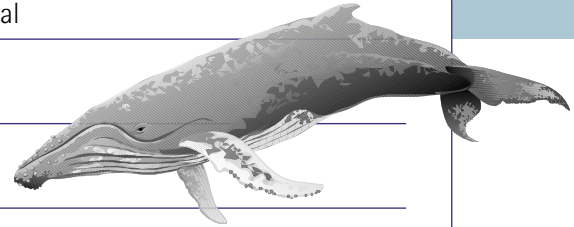
July to October

Broad Landscape Zone

marine, estuarine

Uses/Notes

food, art subject



© Gavin Gatenby, DEC

Wynngnawhra is the place where a great whale came ashore and now refers to the Bulli Woonona locality. (Saddler 1894). The largest whale in the world is the Blue Whale which reaches 33 metres in length and up to 120 tonnes in weight. In 1891 there were 511 Europeans in the Bulli-Woonoona District (NSW 1891 Census for District 33, Subdistrict C). Depicted in pigment and engraving art in the Illawarra (Therin 2002).

"An enormous whale came ashore at Bulli, before the arrival of Europeans, and was cut up and used in different ways by the Aboriginal people who

gathered from far and wide to see the great sea monster. There were more Aborigines at Bulli to see that whale than there were whitefellows in 1894" (Saddler 1894).



© Mike Cufer, Fish Eye Photo, DEC

Spiny Lobster or Sea-crayfish

Dharawal Name

Yangah

Gundangurra Name

magurrung

Scientific Name

Jasus verreauxi

Broad Landscape Zone



Attenbrow 2002: 87, Davis 2002, Mason 2001, Peck 1925: 93-6, 1933: 182-6, Timbery- Bennett 2002, Worgan 1788 in Attenbrow 2002

Part used

flesh, claws

Seasonal Availability

winter

Broad Landscape Zone

marine, estuarine

Uses/Notes

food, decoration for hair

Small hoop nets were used to catch spiny lobsters in the Sydney region (Attenbrow 2002: 87). Men in the Sydney region decorated their hair with ornaments of dingo's teeth, lobsters claws and small bones which they attached with gum (Worgan 1788). The crayfish is the subject of a story recorded by C.W. Peck (Peck 1925: 93-96, 1933: 182-6).

"The time to get them is about June. You start diving in the wet season and you dive in the cold weather too. When we started using wet suits we had to carry lead to keep under the water"
(Davis 2002).

"We would cook lobsters in an old kerosene tin on those old wood burning stoves. We had one for boiling clothing and another one for boiling up lobsters or crabs"
(Timbery-Bennett 2002).



© Mike Cufer, Fish Eye Photo, DEC



© DEC

Intertidal Habitat

The intertidal zone is the area from mean high water mark to mean low water mark. In the Illawarra there are a range of intertidal environments including sandy beaches, rock platforms, rocky beaches and mudflats adjacent to saltmarsh. Each of these environments supports an abundance and variety of plants and animals that are adapted to periodic inundations with sea water and seasonal fluctuations of temperature and rainfall.

Some plants and animals of the intertidal habitat

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bindyerrang-dyerrang	Masked lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Booirodoong	Green eel	<i>Alabes dorsalis</i>
Danyaa	Mud oyster	<i>Ostrea angasi</i>
Kanel	Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>
Ngurribar	Pied oystercatcher	<i>Haemotopus longirostris</i>
Nyiwun	Sea squirt	<i>Pyura stolonifera</i>
Pittangah, leroko, madaai	Oyster	

White Seaweed, Sea Lettuce

Dharawal Name
Darminin

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
***Ulva* sp.**

Broad Landscape Zone



Brown 1964, Mason 2001

Part used
whole plant

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
marine, intertidal

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for blackfish, leatherjacket and red crab

This salt water plant was usually collected at low tide. It can be eaten straight from the water or lightly roasted and prepared for a later meal. This plant is also good for burns, blisters and boils. A large community of this sea plant species in a specific area indicates certain species of fish can be caught there for example: blackfish, leatherjacket and red crab' (*Mason 2001*).



© Simon banks, DEC

White Mangrove

Dharawal Name

Baa-lun

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Avicennia marina subsp.
Australasica**

Broad Landscape Zone



Cruse-Davis 1987, Low 2002, Moore 1987, Macarthur 1861, Renwick 2000

Part used

wood, aquatic worms, leaf shoots, seeds, sap

Seasonal Availability

All year

Broad Landscape Zone

Intertidal

Uses/Notes

weapons, food, medicine, indicator (presence) for fish, crabs and fresh water.

Mangrove timber is dense and has characteristic unusual shapes. 'Aboriginal people split open and gathered large aquatic worms, or wood oysters as some people call them, for food from the dead logs and branches of this plant. The young leaf shoots and seeds of this plant are roasted and eaten as food. Medicine is made from uncooked leaves and sap. The branches with bends in them were made into boomerangs. Weapons and tools were usually made from the thicker main trunk and branches of this tree. (careful preparation needed) This plant indicated a well-sheltered area for hunting fish and crabs. This plant also indicated fresh drinking water can be found nearby.' (Mason 2001) 'The white mangrove was used by the Bundjalung to make shields. ... as many as nine shields were cut from the very big trees' (Low 2002).

"Mrs Henry's brothers the Campbells, George and them [sic], were very skillful, they made snakes and other things ... and boomerangs out of proper hard wood, like the mangrove, ... and these were sold and became collector's items and raffled" (Moore 1987).

"Weeny One and Choc would go and get all the Knees from the mangroves in Minnamurra swamp and they'd make boomerangs and little artefacts" (Cruse-Davis 1987).



© DEC

Cockle, Bimble

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Anadara trapezia

Broad Landscape Zone



Attenbrow 2002:87, Davis 2002a,
Therin 2002

Part used

flesh

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

intertidal

Uses/Notes

food

In the Illawarra bimbles were harvested at Windang by residents of Hill 60 and the Official Camps.

Cockles were a favoured bait in the Sydney region used to attract fish (Attenbrow 2002: 87). Cockles are found extensively in Illawarra middens.

"In the boat towards Koonawarra we'd get the bimbles. They're really big down there. Get heaps of bimbles. Feel for them with your feet among the weeds."
(Davis 2002a)



© Jane Smith

Periwinkle

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Bembicium spp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Moran 1987, Therin 2002,
Timbery-Bennett 2002

Part used
flesh

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
intertidal

Uses/Notes
food

Shell fish were harvested at Island, Shell Harbour, Bass Point; periwinkles and conks.

Periwinkles are found extensively in Illawarra middens.



© DEC

"We'd boil the conks or put them in hot ashes. We'd wriggle out the opening with a pin and eat the lot."

(Timbery-Bennett 2002)

"If we went fishing we'd eat periwinkles. We'd get them odd the rocks and boil them up and eat them."

(Moran 1987)



© DEC

Abalone, Mutton Fish

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Haliotis sp. Notohaliotis sp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Therin 2002,
The Telegraph 1879 in Organ 1990: 142,
Timbery-Bennett 2002, 2004,
Wodi Wodi Elders 2002

Part used
shell, flesh

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
intertidal

Uses/Notes
fish-hook, food, jewellery

Abalone is found extensively in Illawarra middens.

'Only one aboriginal [sic]- a very old gin - could be found in the district to manufacture the fish-hooks after the old style, which must be a great curiosity.' (Organ 1993: 142).



© Jane Smith

'We used iron files to remove the mutton fish; never took the young ones. We cleaned the mutton fish down on the rocks. Sometimes we'd bash them, then wrap them up in a cloth. Our parents would cook vegetables with them. Sometimes they minced them and they made little rissoles. Sometimes they just sliced them and fried them in a frying pan. Mum used to soak them overnight in fresh water. Fry them up with onions.'

'Slice up onion and tomato and potato and make a soup' (Timbery-Bennett 2002).

'Our mothers used to get the muttonfish shell and make boomerang brooches. We used to have to glue the pin on the back and walk along and get shell grit, and all the little shells that weren't broken' (Timbery-Bennett 2004).

Top Shell

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Trochidae sp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Davis-Cruse 1987,
Timbery-Bennett 2004

Part used
shell

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
intertidal

Uses/Notes
artefacts

'Mum used to do a lot of shell work, she'd collect the shells off Bombo beach and went with an aunty who lived with us' (Cruse/Davis 1987).



© Sue Wesson, DEC

'We used to have to walk along and get shell grit, and all the little shells that weren't broken. They used to make little shoes, and the Harbour Bridge and the milk jug covers. Mum used to put the shells on the milk jug covers. People used to come out of town to buy them. She would get a saucer, cut out two layers of the mosquito net, then she'd crochet a little pattern around the outside,

and then they'd hang the shells from them'
(Timbery-Bennett 2004)



© Sue Wesson DEC

Mutton Bird, Short-tailed Shearwater

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Puffinus tenuirostris

Broad Landscape Zone



Davis 2002

Part used

flesh, eggs

Seasonal Availability

February

Broad Landscape Zone

marine, intertidal

Uses/Notes

Food

The older people at the Official Camps used to harvest mutton birds and their eggs from the Five Islands (*Davis 2002*).



© DEC

Little Penguin

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Eudyptula robustus

Broad Landscape Zone



Davis 2002



© Gavin Gatenby, DEC

Part used

flesh, eggs

Seasonal Availability

August to February

Broad Landscape Zone

intertidal, marine

Uses/Notes

Food

The older people at the Official Camps used to harvest penguin eggs from the Five Islands (*Davis 2002*).



© DEC



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Estuarine Habitat

Estuarine habitats occur where there is a mix of salty and fresh water at the confluence of river or swamp drainage and the sea. On the south coast this environment is created by the periodic opening and closing of coastal lakes to the sea. Many fish and crustacean species breed in estuaries and then spend their adult lives in the sea. This makes estuaries an important food source for many wading birds.

Some plants and animals of the estuarine habitat

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Biawur	Water-rat	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>
Bingaam	Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Bungurt	Dusky moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Burra	Short-finned eel	<i>Anguilla australis</i>
Dillan dillan, dildil	Prawn	<i>Penaeus plebejus</i>
Galu	White-faced heron	<i>Egretta novehollandiae</i>
Gunzung	Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Guroo	Garfish	<i>Hypohamphus regularis</i>
Jarrong, kururma	Blackfish or Luderick	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>
Minyungguru	Pied cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Munningang	Beach curlew	<i>Numenius sp.</i>
Murridha	Osprey	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>

Swamp Oak

Dharawal Name
Moombara

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Casuarina glauca

Broad Landscape Zone



Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004

Part used
timber

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
estuarine, coastal plain

Uses/Notes
artefacts

The Exocarpus wood is very hard and was used to make boomerangs, boondis, and nulla nullas. Casuarinas were used for the same purpose' (McLeod 2004).

The bark of the swamp oak was used to make canoes in the Sydney region (Worgan 1788).



A. McWhirter © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Swamp Lily, Crinum Lily

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Crinum pedunculatum

Broad Landscape Zone



Renwick 2000, McLeod 2004

Part used

sap

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

estuarine, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

medicine, indicator for fresh water

The crinum lily was used by coastal people to soothe marine stings, especially blue-bottle stings. The leaf is broken and the sticky web inside is wrapped onto the sting. This numbs the skin and calms the irritation. It can always be found where fresh water comes out of cliffs, littoral rainforest and rocks. Therefore the crinum lily tells Aboriginal people where fresh water is. It flowers in late summer (McLeod 2004).



© D Hardin, Botanic Gardens Trust

Soft Leafed Tea Tree

Dharawal Name
Gurreet dttheerah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Melaleuca linariifolia

Broad Landscape Zone



*Barrallier 1802, Macarthur 1861,
McLeod 2004, Phillip 1793*

Part used

bark

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, estuarine

Uses/Notes

bedding, baby napkins, torch

Bedding, blankets and baby napkins were made from the soft bark of the tea-trees, especially for new-born babies (*Barrallier 1802*). Tea-tree bark was also used as a torch (*Phillip 1798*). A baby carrier made of Bangalow Palm was lined with paperbark (*McLeod 2004*).



© J. Plaza, Botanic Gardens Trust

Black Duck

Dharawal Name

Koondyeri

Gundangurra Name

Gundhareen

Scientific Name

Anas superciliosa

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mathews 1904, McKenzie 1874,
Henry 2002*

Part used

flesh, eggs

Seasonal Availability

June to December

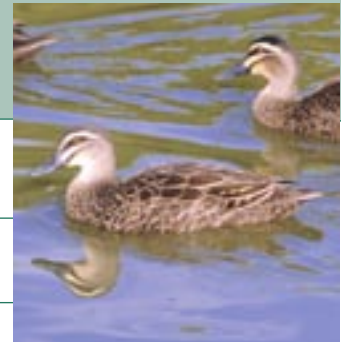
Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, coastal plain, estuarine

Uses/Notes

totem animal, food

There were heaps of birds in the [Coomaditchie] swamp, duck eggs. My uncle (Brown) [used] to get ducks for his mother (*Henry 2002*). Ducks and their eggs were harvested from Coomaditchie Lagoon and its islands. The black duck is a totem for the Illawarra (*Mathews 1904: 261*). It is also group totem for the far south coast Yuin peoples.



© K. Stepnell, DEC



© K. Stepnell, DEC

Pelican

Dharawal Name

Kurungabaa

Gundangurra Name

Carranga bo murray

Scientific Name

Pelecanus conspicillatus

Broad Landscape Zone



McKenzie 1874, Ridley 1872, Mathews 1904, Mathews 1904: 261.

Part used

Seasonal Availability

all year

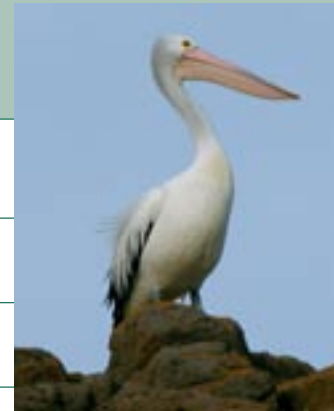
Broad Landscape Zone

estuarine, intertidal, marine

Uses/Notes

totem animal

One of the totems of the Dharawal (*Mathews 1904: 261*).



© Jamie Erskine, Dec



© Dec

Brolga, Native Companion

Dharawal Name
Gooradawaak

Gundangurra Name
Burulga

Scientific Name
Grus rubicundus

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mathews 1899, Mathews 1904,
Massola 1971: 43*

Part used

Seasonal Availability

Broad Landscape Zone

Estuarine, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

In a traditional Illawarra story the brolga had a reputation for being very lively and having a fondness for dancing. He dances upon the whale's canoe until he made a hole in it, pushed it a short distance from the shore where it became Gun-man-gang or Windang, the island at the entrance to Lake Illawarra (*Mathews 1899*).



© J. Cooper. DEC

Why the Whale spouts, the Starfish is ragged, and the Native Bear has strong arms

Many years ago all the animals now living in Australia were people. At that time, they lived in a distant land across the ocean, and, having heard of the wonderful hunting grounds in Australia, they decided to leave their country and sail to this sunny land in a canoe. They knew that the voyage would be long and dangerous and that they would need to have a very strong canoe.

Wondangar, the whale, who was the biggest of all the people and the best canoe maker, had a great strong canoe that could weather the wildest storm. But he was a very selfish fellow and would not allow anybody to use it. His companions realised that only his canoe would fit the task and they looked out for an opportunity to steal it. But Wondangar was cunning and kept strict watch over the canoe.

Some time later Goon na ghun, the Star Fish, paid Wondangar a friendly visit and said, "I have noticed that you have a lot of lice in your hair. Would you like me to kill them for you?"

It was true that Wondangar was badly infested with lice and readily agreed to the offer from his friend. Wondangar moored his canoe in deep water and sat on a rock. Goon na ghun placed his friend's head in his lap and proceeded to hunt diligently for the lice with a special stick which was sharpened on one end. Goon na ghun then gave a signal to the other people who were waiting. They quietly got into the canoe and paddled off fast towards the new country.

He continued to entertain Wondangar with funny stories and at the same time, he scratched very hard around his ears in order to muffle the sound of the other men leaving with the canoe. After some time,

Windang Island © (Illawarra Images)



Wondangar grew tired of his friend's attention and story-telling, and decided to have a look at the canoe himself. He rubbed his eyes and looked away in the distance. He could see the vanishing shape of his canoe and it dawned upon him that he had been tricked.

Wondangar was very angry and beat Goon na ghun unmercifully, throwing him upon the rocks. When they started fighting, Goon na ghun still had the stick in his hand and he stabbed Wondangar in the back of the neck in the hope of getting away. Ghun na ghun got into the boat with Kurrilwa, the koala, and the others and they paddled and paddled with the injured Wondangar coming behind them. Wondangar recovered a bit and chased hard. Kurrilwa, the koala paddled hard. The men in the canoe believed that he was gaining on them, "When he catches us, we shall all be drowned." But Kurrilwa said, "Don't be afraid. My arms are strong enough to paddle fast and keep us ahead of Wondangar."

Just as they saw land, Wollongong as it happened to be, Gooradawaak, the brolga, made a hole in the bottom of the canoe, which he pushed a short distance from the shore where it settled and became Gun-man-gang or Windang Island.

Wondangar had made such great ragged cuts in Goon na ghun that even to this day starfish have a very ragged and torn appearance and hide themselves in the sand to avoid discovery by Wondangar.



© DEC

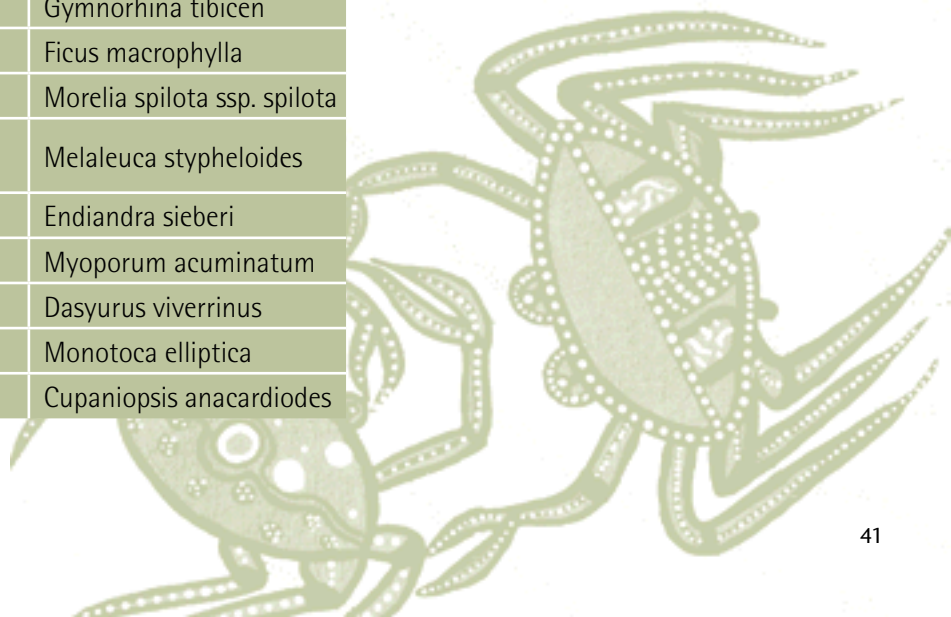
Coastal Plain Habitat

The Illawarra coastal plain comprises a huge variety of environments including spurs that extend from the escarpment, river valleys supporting grassy woodland, swamps and lagoons. Close to the coast are littoral rainforests and massive sand dunes at Primbee that once extended to Port Kembla. There were pure stands of cabbage tree palm at Thirroul and massive fig trees in the rainforest of the Berkeley hills and Figtree.

Some plants and animals of the Coastal Plain habitat

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bool boorah	Corkwood	<i>Duboisia myoporoides</i>
Binderagurang	Fresh-water mussel	<i>Hydridella australis</i>
Boona	Spotted gum	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>
Boondelook	Rosella	<i>Platycercus</i> sp
Booreerra	Myrtle ebony	<i>Diospyros pentamera</i>
Bunburrang	Blue tongue lizard	<i>Tiliqua scinoides</i>
Burra	Long-finned eel	<i>Anguilla reinhardtii</i>

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Burram Murra	Swamp mahogany	Eucalyptus robusta
Burrawarra, baira	Small-leaved fig	Ficus obliqua
Couranga, Mudione	Sydney blue gum	Eucalyptus saligna
Dinggan	Willy wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Dthaaman	Port jackson fig	Ficus rubiginosa
Dthah Dthaang	Thin-leaved stringybark	Eucalyptus eugenoides
Gnaoulie	Woollybutt	Eucalyptus longifolia
Gurauara	Common brushtail possum	Trichosurus vulpeca
Jugurawa	Kingfisher	Alcedo or todiramphus sp
Kaarniming	Long-nosed potoroo	Potorous tridactylus
Karungang	Black Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen
Karreuaira	Moreton bay fig	Ficus macrophylla
Mokka	Diamond python	Morelia spilota ssp. spilota
Naambarr	Prickly-leaved paperbark	Melaleuca stypheloides
Ngmoo	Corkwood	Endiandra sieberi
Ngmoo	Common boobialla	Myoporum acuminatum
Wagara	Eastern quoll	Dasyurus viverrinus
Wallung-unda	Tree broom heath	Monotoca elliptica
Yowarro	Tuckeroo	Cupaniopsis anacardiodes



Apple Berry

Dharawal Name

Mylong

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Billardiera scandens

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Renwick 2000, Low 1991

Part used

fruit, stem, fibre

Seasonal Availability

flowers spring to summer

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

food, string, medicine, indicator for diamond python.

The vine from this plant makes a thin fibrous string. The rotten, ripe fruits can be crushed and used for infected scratches and grazes. The ripe fruit indicates that early in the morning, python can be caught in the area hunting birds' (*Mason 2001*).



C. Macdonald © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Illawarra Flame Tree

Dharawal Name
Weery Wegne

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Brachychiton acerifolius

Broad Landscape Zone



Renwick 2000, Macarthur 1861.

Part used
wood, bark

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes
nets, fishing lines

The soft spongy wood and bark was used in the Illawarra to make nets and fishing lines (*Macarthur 1861*). The timber was used to make artifacts for the tourist trade. There are a number of items held in the National Museum of Australia made by Percy Mumbler.



© DEC



M. Fagg © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Kurrajong

Dharawal Name

Couramyn

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Brachychiton populneus

Broad Landscape Zone



Campbell 1902 in Organ 1990: 472, Isaacs 1987: 219, Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861, Mathews 1904: 349, The Telegraph 30 Oct 1879 in Organ 1990: 142-3

Part used

bark, seed, root, wood, fruit

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal Plain, plateau



© Alan Fairley

Uses/Notes

string, cooking fire, food, clothing, animal indicator

Long strands of string were made from the inner bark of the trunk of this plant. The wood from this plant makes a good coal for cooking food. The seeds from this plant are roasted and ground into a paste which is then made into a nutritious whole meal. The ripe fruit indicated reptile and bird can be caught at this plant feeding' (Mason 2001). 'Many of the blacks even in the early [1840s], wore only a kind of girdle round their loins, from which was suspended a small tassel of about a foot long in front and rear ... The girdle and tassels were usually made of kurrajong fibre, twisted into twine-like thread.' (Campbell 1902). The bark was used by Illawarra people to make nets and fishing lines (Macarthur 1861). The seeds of this plant are particularly high in protein, fat and carbohydrates.

"In the Thurawal tribe the following observance was in vogue for bringing down showers. A muyulu or doctor got a piece of kurrajong bark, which he laid on a log and beat with a stick till it became flexible. Then he took some stringybark and pounded it in the same way and wrapped

it around the kurrajong bark, and bound the whole with string. This parcel was placed in a water hole, and was believed to have the power of causing rain."
(Mathews 1904: 349).

Pig Face

Dharawal Name

Kupburril, Korowal

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Carpobrotus glaucescens

Broad Landscape Zone



Brown 1964, Moran 1987, Mason 2001

Part used

fruit, leaf

Seasonal Availability

spring leaves, summer fruits

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal Plain

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for tailor

The juice from the leaves of this plant is medicinally used for blisters and burns. The flowers can be eaten as food. The sweet centre of the ripe purple fruit is eaten raw as food. The blooming flowers indicate schools of tailor are on the run, and can be caught at shallow beach areas. ' (Mason 2001)

*"If we went on long walks
we'd always eat black fellow's
food: cherries, little cherry*

*things, things like potatoes,
pigface, that type of thing."
(Moran 1987).*



© DEC

Red Bloodwood

Dharawal Name

Boona

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Corymbia gummifera

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, McCaffrey 9, pp. 1-2,
McLeod 2000, McLeod 2004,
Renwick 2000

Part used

gum, medicine, sap, flower

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, coastal plain

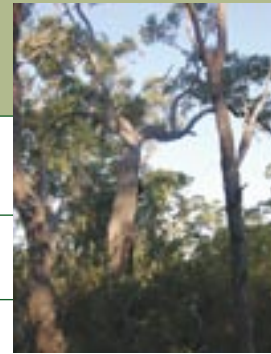
Uses/Notes

tanning for fishing nets, medicine, stain, paint, bird attractant

The sap from this tree can be used for toothache and mouthwash. The sap can also be used for mixing with paints to stain artefacts and for art on cave walls. The flowers attract parrot, galah and cockatoo to the area' (Mason 2001). If you take this mat [of the Cabbage Tree Palm] and twist it and tan it in bloodwood bark you can make ropes and nets and small traps for fish (McLeod 2004).

"We used to collect ironbark from past Huski [Huskisson] and bloodwood gum. The tanning would harden the net up, make it stiff- you'd have to do it every year. I used to buy cotton string and I knotted it, leaded it and hung it. You had to store it in the shade. If you tanned it, it would last for about four years. You chop up ironbark bark and use about half bark and half bloodwood gum- mix with boiling water and boil

the net in it. You could tan with banksia and wattle too."
(McLeod 2000)



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Dianella, Snake Whistle

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Dianella caerulea and
Revoluta**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, McLeod 2004, Peck 1033:
99-102, Renwick 2000, rbgsyd.gov.au

Part used

fruit, leaf, flower

Seasonal Availability

summer

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal Plain, plateau, escarpment

Uses/Notes

dye, decoration, whistle, food, string, weaving of baskets and mats, medicine, indicator for flathead and flounder.

The fruit can be eaten raw when ripe. The ripe fruit is also used as a medicine for sea ulcers. The flower petals can be used as an ingredient for medicines. Aboriginal people made a high-pitched snake whistle from the leaf of this plant. The fruit when ripe can indicate certain saltwater fish are big and fat enough to catch, for example, flathead and flounder, which frequent shallow, sandy areas.' (Mason 2001).

"Snake whistle (Dianella sp.) leaf makes a whistle that is almost outside of human hearing but is irritating to a snake. It is used to remove a snake from camp sites, sheds and so on." (McLeod 2004).

The dianella is associated with a story in which the spirit of the woman who loved birds and animals resides in the plant.

(Peck 1033: 99-102).



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© D. Greig, Australian National Botanical Gardens

Grey Ironbark

Dharawal Name

Baarrimaa

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Eucalyptus paniculata

Broad Landscape Zone



Maiden 1893, Macarthur 1861, Renwick 2000, Timbery 2002.

Part used

bark, wood

Seasonal Availability

all year

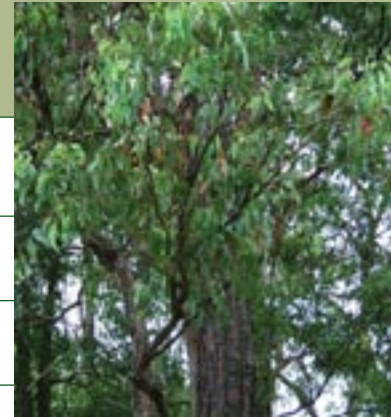
Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

tanning, artifacts, fibre

Bark is mixed with red bloodwood gum to tan fishing nets.



© Greg Steenbeeke, Orkology

"Our families' yam stick was made from iron bark."

(Jeff Timbery 2002).



© Greg Steenbeeke, Orkology

Coast Tea Tree

Dharawal Name

Baanbaan

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Leptospermum laevigatum

Broad Landscape Zone



Campbell 1900 in Organ 1990: 471,
Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861

Part used

stems, leaves, seed capsule, flower, timber

Seasonal Availability

flowers August to December

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain

Uses/Notes

shelter, insect repellent, medicine, brooms, artefacts, food, indicator for shellfish including pippis

This plant supplied Aboriginal people with shelter, for example, frame structures for gunya and mia-mia. This plant is a insect and reptile repellent when burnt half-green and scattered around the camp.

A medicine is made from the seed capsules and leaves when crushed. This is used as an antiseptic body wash for stings, cuts, rashes and burns. This plant is also used as an inhalant for colds and chest complaints. Aboriginal women made brooms from this plant. The small white flowers from this plant can also be eaten as a food ingredient. The white flowers from this plant indicate a certain shellfish is ready to be gathered, for example pippies are fat and ready to be collected from sandy beach areas.' (Mason 2001)

'Wood used formerly by the aborigines for their weapons.' (Macarthur 1861). Baan Baan, the Wadi Wadi word for Coast tea-tree is the name of one of the main streets of Dapto, a Wollongong suburb.



© Jamie Erskine, DEC

"I remember when our mother used to take branches of the tea-tree and tie them together to make a broom. They used to sweep the house out with it. When the leaves

are worn off and you just have the dead twigs, they used to use that as a rake, for raking the yard up, and all that sort of stuff." (Davis 2004).

Cabbage Tree Palm

Dharawal Name

Dtharrowal

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Livistona australis

Broad Landscape Zone



Campbell 14/2/00 in *Organ* 1990: 470, French-Angas 1850, Macarthur 1861, Mason 2001, McLeod 2004, Peck 1925: 113-6, *The Telegraph* 1879 in *Organ* 1990: 144

Part used

leaf, heart, gum, bark, stem fibre

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

brooms, baskets, food, rope, fishing line, patching material

Aboriginal people made baskets from the dead fibrous leaf material from this plant. The centre of the large leaf bulb was eaten as food and the whole plant died. One single plant was eaten once a year during ceremonies. This plant is sacred to the Dharawal Aboriginal people from southern Botany Bay. They believe their ancestors introduced this plant to south-eastern NSW when they first arrived in a large canoe from the dreamtime. The Dharawal Aborigine group from southern Botany Bay are named after this plant. This plant indicates to Aboriginal people that there are very old Aboriginal campsites nearby' (*Mason 2001*).

Phillip noted that in the Sydney region cabbage tree fibre was made into fishing lines and the leaves to patch leaking canoes (*Phillip 1788*). In the Illawarra the fibre was made into rope and the leaf base into brooms (*Organ 1993: 144*) which were traded for other goods (*McLean 1937*). During the same visit Barron Field had witnessed Kooris fishing by torchlight at Red Point he also noted the '[n]atives make their water buckets, by tying up each end [of the cabbage tree palm frond] like their bark canoes... and of the leaves they make hats and thatch'.

Of the cabbage tree palm too, the Wadi-Wadi straddled their long slender trunks across the creeks to make crossings. The agility and ease with which the blacks trot across these cabbage

tree bridges is quite astonishing; even the gins (women) with their piccanninnies [sic] on their backs seem to cross quite at ease! George French-Angas wrote of the manner in which the Wadi-Wadi climbed the cabbage tree palm near Dapto in 1845, though he did not mention for what purpose this was.

'There is a grove of cabbage tree palms on the margin of a small stream close to this spot, and it was amusing to witness the dexterity with which the natives climb the branchless and smooth trunks of these trees, by means of a notched stick, and occasionally with no other assistance than a piece of vine or supple jack, which they draw tight round the tree.' (French 1850).

"The cabbage tree palm has an edible section in the middle, the spear. But you'd have to be on your last legs to eat it because it kills the tree. You only take what you need. People used to chew on the leaves. The mat that comes from the discarded leaf base is criss-crossed. If you take this mat and twist it and tan it in bloodwood bark you can make ropes and nets and small traps for fish." (McLeod 2004).



© M. Van Ewijk, DEC



Cabbage-tree forest, American Creek © National Library of Australia, Eugene Von Guerard

Spiny Headed Mat-rush

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Lomandra longifolia

Broad Landscape Zone



Carey and Gow 1998, Gott and Conran 1991, Low 2002, Mason 2001, McLeod 2004, Timbery 2002

Part used

flower, stem, fibre, seed

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

food, eel traps, bags, baskets, mats, string, jewellery, medicine, indicator for small marsupials and reptiles

String for everyday use was made from this most common plant. The items made included necklaces and armband ornaments. The fleshy part of the leaf shoot is eaten raw or mixed with other plant ingredients to make a whole meal. Parts of the root provide a medicine for ant and hairy grub stings. The small seeds from this plant can be crushed and mixed with other plant ingredients to make a whole meal. (Most Lomandra species have similar, if not the same, uses).

The habitat of this plant indicates to Aboriginal people a good place for hunting small marsupials and reptiles for food.' (Mason 2001) 'In the centre of the mat-rush are seeds and these would be crushed up and made into damper. Even though we now buy our bread at the shop its important that we still keep the knowledge of traditional uses of plants (and how dampers were made before wheat flour or manufactured products -bakery bread -were readily available)' (Jeff Timbery 2002). 'Bundjalung people wove the tough leathery leaves into bags and baskets. Leaves were stripped into ideal widths, then softened by soaking them in water or by drawing them through hot ashes' (Low 2002).



© Jamie Erskine, DEC

'Lomandra; when we were kids we used to go swimming and diving. After that we were thirsty and lomandra was good for quenching your thirst, like a big celery stick.

It was used to make baskets and dilly bags. The older women are holding weaving classes at Wreck Bay to teach the younger kids' (McLeod 2004).

Black Apple

Dharawal Name
Jerra wa wah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Planchonella australis

Broad Landscape Zone



Low 1991, Macarthur 1861,
McLeod 2004

Part used
fruit

Seasonal Availability
February to July

Broad Landscape Zone
coastal plain, escarpment

Uses/Notes
food

Black Apple fruit can be eaten. With all fruit, shake the tree. If it falls to the ground it is ripe and you can eat it. Black apple stains your clothes so you have to be careful' (McLeod 2004).



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Illawarra Plum, Plum Pine, Brown Pine

Dharawal Name
Dyrren dyrren

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Podocarpus elatus

Broad Landscape Zone



Carey and Gow 1998, Low 1991, Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861.

Part used
fruit, wood

Seasonal Availability
March to July

Broad Landscape Zone
coastal plain

Uses/Notes

food, wood, medicine, indicator for birds, reptiles and small marsupials.

The dark purple fruit is actually a swollen stem. The juicy pulp is sweet and very palatable. It can be eaten fresh or cooked. The wood has a fine silky grain and is resistant to termites and marine borers. 'The unripe fruit from this plant is used for internal complaints such as gastric. The ripe fruits indicate animals such as birds, reptiles and small marsupials can be caught at this plant feeding early in the morning' (Mason 2001).



R Hotchkiss © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Banksia

Dharawal Name

Baabir

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Banksia sp.

Broad Landscape Zone



Mathews 1904: 254, Cruse 2004

Part used

flower

Seasonal Availability

species flower throughout the year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

sweet drink

Mathews recorded the following account of Banksia drink preparation by the Dharawal: 'Early in the morning, while the dew is on the trees, the men and women take each a koo lauin, bung'gulli, and go among the small honey suckle [Banksia] trees, babir, when they are out in blossom. A native puts his koolamin under one of the bunches of bloom and shakes the twig, which deposits the honey from flowers into the koolamin. The dew dilutes the honey exuding from the blossom, and it causes it to come away when they are shaken. Each bunch of bloom is shaken in succession, and when a sufficient quantity of honey has been collected, water is added to form a pleasant beverage which can be drunk at any time of the day' (Mathews 1904: 254).

'When we lived out in the bush [Nan Dolly would] send us kids off with a flour bag. A flour bag used to be a little white bag that the flour used to come in. We'd all go off and fill them up with cobs [Banksia flower cones] and take them back 'cos they made a good fire and good coals. You know, they'd brush the coals aside, put

the damper in and brush the coals back over. Then more cobs so she could put some more fire back on top of it. We always thought it was good that Nan knew when to take [the damper] out, because we never had clocks. She'd brush all the coals off and tap it with a stick. We thought she was pretty clever' (Cruse 2004).



© Jamie Erskine, DEC

Brush Cherry

Dharawal Name

Galang arra, Barranduna

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Syzygium australe

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861,
McLeod 2004, Moran 1987

Part used

fruit, seed, inner bark

Seasonal Availability

fruit January to March

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain

Uses/Notes

medicine, food, string, indicator for hunting parrots and small marsupials

The half-ripe fruit is crushed and used as medicine for stings and scratches. The ripe fruit is eaten raw or mixed with other ingredients. The small seed from the fruit can be roasted and eaten. The inner bark is used for string. (Most *Syzygium* species have similar, if not the same uses.) The ripe fruits indicate a good hunting area for parrots and small marsupials, either early in the morning or late in the afternoon' (Mason 2001).

"If we went on long walks we'd always eat black fellow's food, cherries, little cherry things, thing like potatoes, pigface, that type of thing."
(Moran 1987)

You can make a jam from syzygium fruits. It's better than using the acmena fruits." (McLeod 2004).



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Long-necked Tortoise

Dharawal Name

Galang arra, Barranduna

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Chelodina longicollis

Broad Landscape Zone



Attenbrow 2002: 74-75, Sheryl Davis 2004, Mason 2001, Peck 1928, 1933: 33-6

Part used

eggs

Seasonal Availability

early mornings, February to March

Broad Landscape Zone

fresh water, plateau, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

excavated from Sydney Aboriginal sites (Attenbrow 2002: 74-75). Story 'The tail-less tortoise or why the turtle has no tail (the journey after death)' (Peck 1928, 1933: 33-6).

"There used to be tortoises in this lagoon [Coomaditchie] and my mother told me that they used to go down and get the tortoise eggs and cook them up. They would lay their eggs out in the bull rushes there on the edge [of the lagoon]. There'd be a nest of them." (Sheryl Davis 2004).

"When we were getting the tortoise eggs, through a thunderstorm they'd lay the eggs. [During a thunderstorm] the kids used to get their billycans and get the eggs." (Davis 2004).



Goanna, Lace Monitor

Dharawal Name

Gindoala

Gundangurra Name

Werrika

Scientific Name

Varanus varius

Broad Landscape Zone



Part used

flesh, eggs

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

totem animal, food

Named as totem animal for Thurruwal (*Mathews 1904: 261*). Barrallier noted that the Nattai and Wollondilly Dharawal ate lizard eggs which were found buried in sandy river banks (*Barrallier 1802*). Goanna remains are found in Sydney midden sites (*Attenbrow 2002: 74-5*).



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Kookaburra

Dharawal Name

Kookaaraa

Gundangurra Name

Kookooburra

Scientific Name

Dacelo novaeguineae

Broad Landscape Zone



Peck 1925: 110-6, Mathews 1904

Part used

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

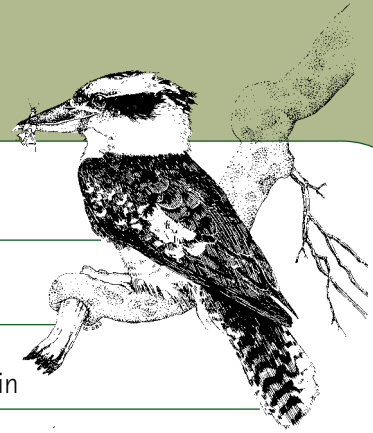
plateau, escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

totem animal

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The lyrebird and the kookaburra' tells the story of a Shoalhaven man whose totem was the lyrebird. He challenged all the other birds that the lyrebird could imitate and excel in their songs. The only bird whose call the lyrebird could not accurately imitate was the kookaburra (Peck 1925: 110-6).



© DEC

Satin Bowerbird

Dharawal Name

Bumbiang

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Ptilonorhynchus violaceus

Broad Landscape Zone



Mathews 1904, Peck 1933: 225-32

Part used

Seasonal Availability

all year

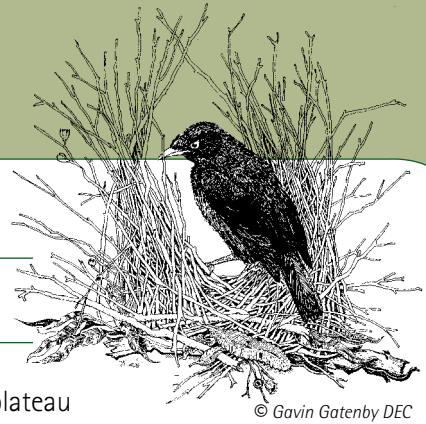
Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

totem animal

'The Black Satin Bird' tells the story of the repercussions of breaking taboo around totem animals. A south coast leader was jet-black and his totem was the satin bowerbird. A group of men were hunting and one of the party killed a bumbiang. The leader's brother, who was also a satin bowerbird man, said that the man who killed it must hide it and cook and eat out of his sight. The bird was then hidden in a bag at the waist of the hunter who had killed it. But at night the slipped out of the bag and beside the leader's brother. When he woke in the morning he was very frightened as he knew that he must not touch his totem. That day the hunters were in the path of a rock fall and the man who had killed and eaten the bowerbird reached out to help the leader's brother with the remains still in his hand. Immediately the two were paralysed and fell and a big tree fell on them. The other members of the party escaped. No one ever went back to the exact place of the tragedy in the Currockbilly Range (*Peck 1933: 225-32*).



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Dingo

Dharawal Name

Nurragee, Mirragang

Gundangurra Name

Merrigang,
Binure (old mountain dingo),
Gudhawung (puppy)

Scientific Name

Canis lupis dingo

Broad Landscape Zone



Bradley 1886-92, Brown 1964, Campbell 22/8/00 in Organ 1990: 471, McCaffrey 13 pp.6-7, Ridley 1875, Worgan 1788, www.wins.net.au/dingofarm

Part used

teeth, flesh, tail

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, estuarine, plateau

Uses/Notes

ornaments, food, companion

The people of the Nattai and Wollondilly rivers ate the dingo (Barrallier 1802) and others used the teeth and tail as ornamentation in their hair fixed with a yellow gum (Worgan 1788, Bradley 1786-92). 'The dingo was a highly valued companion to Aborigines that lived, ate and hunted with people. They were their bed warmers, camp cleaners, hunting companions and guard dogs' (www.wins.net.au/dingofarm).



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Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

wambuyn, booroo (young)

Scientific Name

Macropus giganteus

Broad Landscape Zone



Barrallier 1802, Bradley 1786-92, Brown 1863, Campbell 22/8/00 in Organ 1990: 471, Cohen 1993, Mackenzie 1874, Peck 1925: 93-6, Ridley 1872, Therin 2002

Part used

bone, skin, flesh, pelt, tail sinews, teeth, raw hide

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

fish spear, food, canoe binding, rugs, cloaks, hair ornaments, necklace, art subject

The flesh of the kangaroo is prized throughout Australia and the Dharawal were no exception (*Barrallier 1802*). Other parts of the animal were used as well. The bone was made into barbs for fish spears (*Bradley 1786-92*), the front teeth were used as hair ornaments (*Bradley ibid.*) and the tail sinew and raw hide used to bind the ends of bark canoes (*Peck 1925: 93-6*) as well to sew kangaroo and possum skin rugs. The skins made highly valued rugs, one rug being equal in value to a whole set of weapons (three types of spears, shields and woomera) (*Hewitt 1904*). The teeth were also made into necklaces, the most elaborate found to date consisting of 326 teeth in three rows (*Cohen 1993*). Kangaroos have been depicted in pigment and engraving art in the Illawarra as the wholw animal. (*Therin 2002*)



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Ringtail Possum

Dharawal Name
Dhurrambang

Gundangurra Name
Bookari

Scientific Name
Pseudocheirus peregrinus

Broad Landscape Zone



Barrallier 1802

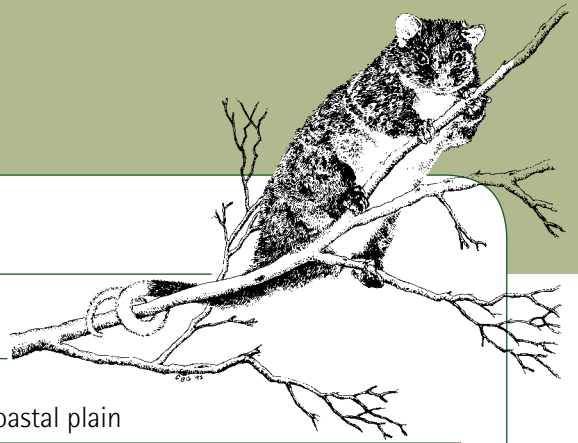
Part used
flesh

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
plateau, escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes
food

The ringtail possum was eaten as food along with other possum species (*Barrallier 1802*).



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Grey-headed Flying Fox, Bat

Dharawal Name

Kubbugang

Gundangurra Name

Werrimbi

Scientific Name

Pteropus poliocephalus

Broad Landscape Zone



McCaffrey 13 pp.6-7 in *Organ* 1990:
475-89, Mathews 1904 p. 351,
Mason 2001, Therin 2002

Part used

flesh

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

food, art subject

If children throw sticks, stones, or any missile at a bat, Kubbugang, it will cause their thumbs to become short. If they point at that animal, to show its location to anyone, they must point with the thumb, and not with the finger'

(Mathews 1904: 351).

The grey-headed flying fox was eaten as food (Barrallier 1802).

It was also depicted in pigment art in the Illawarra (Therin 2002).



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Wombat

Dharawal Name

Gulung

Gundangurra Name

Goolung

Scientific Name

Vombatus ursinus

Broad Landscape Zone



McCaffrey 13 pp.6-7 in *Organ* 1990: 475-89, Mathews 1904 p. 351, Mason 2001, Therin 2002

Part used

flesh, fat

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, coastal plain, estuarine, intertidal

Uses/Notes

food, skin conditioner and moisturiser

The wombat was eaten as food (*Barrallier 1802*). The fat of the wombat was rubbed into the skin of newborn babies to keep them warm and condition the skin (*Peck 1933: 208-14*). Depicted in pigment art in the Illawarra (*Therin 2002*).





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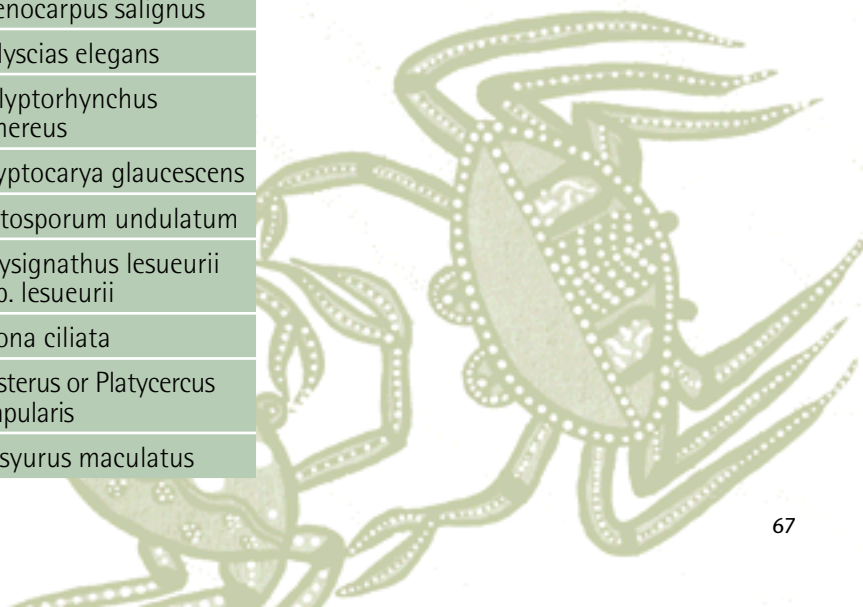
Escarpment habitat

The Illawarra escarpment is an impressive line of cliffs formed by Hawkesbury Sandstone with two prominent benches formed on claystone. The escarpment reaches the height of 450 metres at mounts Keira and Kembla. The vegetation of the escarpment consists of rainforest and sclerophyll forest with a third type intermediate between the two. The rainforest occurs in deep gullies between foothill spurs, at the rear of the benches and on the scree slopes at the base of steep cliffs.

Some plants and animals of the escarpment

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Balwarra	Native guava	<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>
Bao-maa	Emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Boola, murrung	Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Booloowaa	Red-necked pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
Booreerra	Black plum	<i>Diospyros australis</i>
Burdula	Long-nosed bandicoot	<i>Parmeleles nasuta</i>

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Burrunderra	Native tamarind	<i>Diploglottis australis</i>
Caalang	Sassafras	<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>
Coo-in-new, Yeralla, Wallung-unda	Featherwood	<i>Pennantia cunninghamii</i>
Couraiuo	Red olive plum	<i>Cassine australis</i>
Djera	Brush turkey	<i>Alectura lathauri</i>
Dtharandah	Buff hazelwood	<i>Symplocos thwaitzii</i>
Dunga runga	Veined mock-olive	<i>Notelaea venosa</i>
Gnooroo-warra	Coast white box	<i>Eucalyptus quadrangulata</i>
Goo mao mah	Giant stinging tree	<i>Dendrochne excelsa</i>
Gooralga	Topknot pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>
Jinda yinda	Koda	<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>
Meleyn	Scrub beefwood	<i>Stenocarpus salignus</i>
Merring arra	Celery wood	<i>Polyscias elegans</i>
Ngaoaraa	Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Oorawang	Native laurel	<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>
Wallandundeyren	Sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
Waruga	Eastern water dragon	<i>Physignathus lesueurii</i> spp. <i>lesueurii</i>
Winderong	Red cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>
Wullungurrit	King parrot or Crimson rosella	<i>Alisterus</i> or <i>Platycercus scapularis</i>
Wungar	Spotted-tailed quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>



Lillipilly

Dharawal Name

Tdjerrail

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Acmena smithii

Broad Landscape Zone



Isaacs 1984: 217, Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861, Moran 1987, Renwick 2000

Part used

bark, fruit, flower, fibre

Seasonal Availability

flowers in summer, fruit in autumn

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau, coastal plain

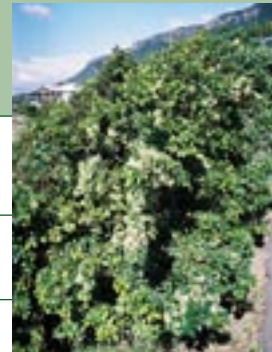
Uses/Notes

food, rope, string, bags, eel traps, binding for shelter frames and canoes, medicine, indicator (flower) for insects and reptiles, indicator for sea animals

'The' fibrous inner bark of the lillipilly supplied Aboriginal people with rope and string to make carrying bags, eel traps and also to bind shelter frames and canoes. The ripe fruit was eaten as food. The green fruit was used as medicine for gastric complaints (careful preparation required). (Most species of Lillipilly plants have similar, if not the same uses.)

The flowers indicated the arrival of certain insects and reptiles to an area. The ripe fruit indicated the seasonal arrival of certain sea animals to hunt along the coast. This was an indicator to inland Aboriginal people as well as coastal.

(Mason 2001).



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Bangalow Palm

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Archontophoenix
cunninghamiana**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, McLeod 2004, Macarthur 1861, Organ 1990: 143, Organ 1993: 143, Peck 1925: 113-6, The Telegraph 1879 in

Part used

leaf base, seed, leaf, leaf shaft

Seasonal Availability

All year, seeds

Broad Landscape Zone

Escarpment

Uses/Notes

water carrier, food, baskets, thatching for shelter, indicator for swamp wallaby, bushrat and bandicoot,

'... sheets of the banglow [sic] palm, out of which the natives manufacture their carrying utensils.' (*Organ 1993: 143*). 'Seeds eaten after crushing, washing, soaking (1 week), and baking. Strong barbed leaf shafts once used to make tools. The seeds from this plant are squashed then soaked in water to leach out toxins. The seeds were then ground into a paste, prepared and eaten as a whole meal. Highly experienced Aboriginal women gathered fallen seeds from around this plant which do not need leaching to remove toxins. Baskets are made from the leaves after careful preparation and curing.

'The fleshy part of the young leaves can also be eaten. Large communities of this species indicated to Aboriginal people that the area is a good spot to catch swamp wallaby, bushrat and bandicoot.' (*Mason 2001*) 'The Bangalow Palm is cut green and the base used to make a number of utensils. A baby carrier was lined with paperbark. A water carrier was cut and shaped with sticks (to hold the shape out) and the ends sewn together with cabbage tree palm string' (*McLeod 2004*).



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Lightwood

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name
Wee-tjellan

Scientific Name
Acacia implexa

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macargtur 1861

Part used
wood, bark, flower

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

fish poison, weapons, implements, fibre, food, fire, shelter and medicine. Indicator (flower) for harvesting insects and ants

'Pretty small tree, wood hard, close tough bark containing much tannin, use by the Aborigines to oison fish, and to make embroations for the cure of cutinous diseases'. This plant has similar uses to the those of most acarcias, for example, for weapons, tools, fibre, food, shelter, fire and medicine'. (carefull preparation needed) 'For most Aboriginal groups the flowers on this plant indicate the seasonal arrival of a certain insect or animal species to an area either local or distant'. *Mason 2001*



© Alan Fairley



© Alan Fairley

Native Grape, Water Vine, Kangaroo Vine

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Cissus antarctica and
hypoglauca**

Broad Landscape Zone



DEC 2003, French-Angas 1850,
Mason 2001

Part used

fruit, stem

Seasonal Availability

fruits summer to winter

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

water, food, climbing hoops, medicine, indicator for bandicoot, ground-feeding birds, black snake and swamp wallaby.

'The ripe, sour fruits are picked from the vine and mixed with water and nectar. The old fruits which fall to the ground later become slightly sweeter. These are then gathered for food. The unripe fruit is used for stomach complaints. The ripe fruit season for this plant, indicates bandicoot, ground-feeding birds, black snake and swamp wallaby can be caught in the area feeding.' (Mason 2001) Stems were used by the Bundjalung as waist bands for climbing tall trees (DEC 2003). Cissus sp. is possibly the vine mentioned as 'supplejack' by French-Angas (1850) for climbing cabbage tree palms.



© M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

King Orchid, Rock Lily and Dagger Orchid

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Dendrobium speciosum
and pugioforme**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

Part used

stem, sap, flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers August to October

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for bearded dragon
and blue tongue lizard

The leaf stems of this plant can be roasted and the centre eaten as food. The raw sap is used for burns and scratches. The flowers can be eaten raw or mixed with other food ingredients. The flower season indicates reptile food such as bearded dragon and blue tongue lizard can be caught in the area feeding' (*Mason 2001*).



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Bangalay, Mahogany, Stringybark

Dharawal Name

Bangalay

Gundangurra Name

Booreen

Scientific Name

Eucalyptus botryoides

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Renwick 2000.

Part used

bark, sap, flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers December to February

Broad Landscape Zone

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

fire, medicine, washing substance, shelter, painting surface, indicator for bees

The hard outer bark of the tree can be used to start fire. The sap can make a good medicinal body wash. Native bees are usually found building hives in this tree. Strips of bark from this tree supplied Aboriginal people with shelter for huts, and also as a surface for painting stories. The flowers attract native bees. This tree indicates a bee hive not far away' (*Mason 2001*).



I. Booker © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Sandpaper Fig, Creek Sandpaper Fig

Dharawal Name

Marrulang, Ulowang

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Ficus coronata

Broad Landscape Zone



*Low 1991, Mason 2001,
Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004*

Part used

fruit, leaf

Seasonal Availability

fruits October to December

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

food, artefact manufacture, medicine, indicator for bat, possum and birds.

'The leaves from this plant can be used as sandpaper for sanding tools and weapons. The leaves are also used for rubbing medicine into sores or infections such as ringworm. The ripe fruit from this plant indicates bat, possum and birds can be caught in the area.' (*Mason 2001*). Sandpaper fig fruit was mashed into a pulp and used to make a jam. The leaves were used as sandpaper to sharpen weapons. There are some really big trees at Depot Beach (*McLeod 2004*).



D. Greig, © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Lance Beard-heath

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Leucopogon lanceolatus

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

Part used

berry, flower

Seasonal Availability

mainly summer

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

medicine, indicator (flower) for bearded dragon and python.

'The unripe berries are crushed and mixed with water for a refreshing medicinal drink. This drink is a good tonic for the liver. The flower season of this plant indicates to Aboriginal people that a bearded dragon and python can be caught at this plant catching insects and small birds.' (Mason 2001)



© Greg Steenbeeke, Orkology



© D. Hardin, Botanic Gardens Trust

Turpentine

Dharawal Name

Booreeah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

***Syncarpia glomulifera*
subsp. *glomulifera***

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Maiden 1893,
Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004

Part used

flower, seed, wood, sap, resin

Seasonal Availability

flowers spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

food, weapons

Flowers and seeds eaten. 'Aboriginal men made weapons and tools from the very hard wood of this tree. The sap was used to colour and stain tools and weapons. The resin was used to patch cracked or broken items.' (Mason 2001)

"The piers at Circular Quay are made of turpentine because it is borer resistant. If you peel off the bark you can smell the turps. Its really good for lighting fires, especially when the wood is wet. You ball up the inner bark and place it among the unburnt wood of your fire." (McLeod 2004).



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Superb Lyrebird

Dharawal Name

Calboonya

Gundangurra Name

Jakular

Scientific Name

Menura novaehollandiae

Broad Landscape Zone



Langloh Parker 1930, Peck 1925: 110-6, Peck 1933: 197-8, Timberly 2003, rbgsyd.gov.au

Part used

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, coastal plain, plateau

Uses/Notes

traditional story

'The lyrebird is sacred to the Timbery family. He is known as a mountain bird. He was evil or nasty to his wives and the family of his wife chased him to the mountains and over the cliff's edge where he remained.' (*Timbery 2003*) Totem animal of the Cammaray Dharawal of Botany Bay (*Peck 1933: 197-8*). 'The lyrebird is the totem of the D'harawal people and even today is a symbol of peace and conciliation' (*Bodling n.d.*).

Two traditional Dharawal stories are associated with the lyrebird, 'The lyrebird' (*Langloh Parker 1930*) and 'The lyrebird and the kookaburra' which tells the story of a Shoalhaven man whose totem was the lyrebird. He challenged all the other birds that the lyrebird could imitate and excel in their songs. The only bird whose call the lyrebird could not accurately imitate was the kookaburra (*Peck 1925: 110-6*).



© Gavin Gatenby, DEC



© K.Stepnell, DEC

Wonga Pigeon

Dharawal Name
Wonga wonga

Gundangurra Name
Telaaraweera

Scientific Name
Leucosaraia melanoleuca

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Peck 1925: 80,
www.inyafacebalckarts.com.au

Part used
flesh

Seasonal Availability
September to November

Broad Landscape Zone
escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes
Food, traditional story



© Donna Brown

'Our story begins with Wonga the Pigeon who used to live in the bushland with her mate. They would spend their time on the floor of the forest gathering food and had a rule never to get out of one another's sight. They had to stay below the trees because they knew that in the land of the sky lived the Hawk - their deadly enemy.

One day when Wonga and her mate were out looking for food they got separated. Wonga called out to her mate but there was no reply. After searching around the lower branches of the forest Wonga decided that the only hope of finding her mate before dark would be to fly above the trees. She flew towards the

tree-tops and into the clear blue sky and started calling for her mate.

Eventually Wonga found her mate way down beneath her but not before the Hawk had spotted her. He had seen Wonga and was hurtling towards her with his strong beak piercing the air. Hawk caught Wonga with a crushing grip from his great brown talons tearing her breast open as he hauled her upwards. Wonga desperately tore herself free from Hawk and plunged downwards towards the forest below. Unable to fly, she landed bleeding and broken in a patch of waratah bushes. Her blood trickled down onto one of the white waratah flowers.

She tried desperately to reach her mate by dragging herself from flower to flower staining each of them a deep red with her blood as she went. Eventually Wonga lost her battle with life and died as she laid upon the waratah bushes.

'This is why today most waratah flowers are red, coloured by the blood of Wonga the Pigeon as long ago she flew from flower to flower in search of her mate. Sometimes, although it is very rare, it is still possible to find a white waratah just as they were back in the Dreamtime'

(www.inyafaceblackarts.com.au).



White Waratah © J.Plaza, Botanic Gardens Trust



© DEC



© DEC

Plateau habitat

The Illawarra plateau consists of Hawkesbury sandstone, eroded in places exposing the underlying Narrabeen sandstones. There are fertile pockets of clay or shale within the sandstone which allow rainforest to form although Narrabeen sandstones are basically nutrient poor. The vegetation of the plateau is mostly woodland although it includes dry sclerophyll forest, hanging swamps, rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest. The swamps support moorland species such as sedges, melaleuca and banksia.

Some plants and animals of the escarpment

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Bibburdugang	Large brown hawk	Accipiter or Falco sp.
Birribain	Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae
Bunggu	Sugar glider	Petaurus breviceps
Burawal	Quail	Coturnix sp.
Dawawah	Maiden's blush	Sloanea australis
Dthalandoon	Three-veined myrtle	Leptospermum trinervium

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Goobalaang	Brown snake	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>
Gooreea, Palahua	Red wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>
Gununggwir	Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Gurgang	Brush bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>
Jowla	Pheasant coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>
Jummalong	Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus antinus</i>
Kurrawang, Kurrawah	Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Moondaar	Red-bellied black snake	<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>
Moutangarra, wallaon	Dogwood	<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>
Ngullaugang	Wood duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Mutmutgang	Dove	<i>Geopelia</i> sp.
Nyumbutsh, Muddyauity	Death adder	<i>Acanthopsis antarcticus</i>
Ooramilly	Water gum, Kanooka	<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>
Pobuck, Pobook	Mopoke, Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>
Waarnung, wawarnang	Crow	<i>Corvus coronoides?</i>
Wallaiarin	Magpie lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Wongarral	White-throated swift	<i>Hirapapus caudatus</i>
Wurrur	Heath monitor	<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>
Yambai-imba	White cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Yander-airy	Silvertop ash	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>
Yarr-warrah, Yerrawarra	Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>
Yeh-dthedeh	Smooth-barked apple	<i>Angophora costata</i>
Yungang	Pied currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>



Two-veined Hickory

Dharawal Name
Myimbarr

Gundangurra Name
Meroan gange
(Cumberland and Camden)

Scientific Name
Acacia binervata

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Maiden 1889, Macarthur 1861.

Part used
wood, seed, leaf, bark, sap, flower

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
plateau, escarpment

Uses/Notes
food, medicine, implement, indicator of an insect or animal on the coast

'Aboriginal people made tools and other items from this tree, for example digging sticks and weapons. The small seeds from this plant can be eaten. Strong medicines can be made from its leaves, bark and sap. The sap from this tree can be used for tanning animal hides. Careful preparation is required if the seeds are to be used for food and medicine. (Most *Acacia* species have similar, if not the same, uses.) This plant is usually found in high rainfall areas for example, rainforests. The flowers on this plant indicate the seasonal arrival of a certain insect or animal. This could be local or an indication of the arrival of an animal some distance away, such as on the coast' (*Mason 2001*). The timber is close grained, tough and light.



© J. Erskine, DEC

Sydney Golden Wattle

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Acacia longifolia

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

Part used

seed, leaf, wood grub, wood, bark, flower, fibre

Seasonal Availability

flowers January to November

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, fish poison, medicine, indicator for whale birthing and mullet harvest

'Seeds eaten. Leaves used as fish poison. This plant is commonly used by coastal Aborigines for its medicinal properties. Leaves and seed were crushed and made into a mild sedative drink for ceremonies for example, initiation and childbirth. Large wood grubs are gathered from the roots and trunk of this plant and eaten for food. Like most other acacia species this plant has a variety of uses, for example, for weapons, tools, fibre, food, fire, shelter and medicine. Grubs are eaten from the galls of this plant.

'(Careful preparation is required). For some Aboriginal groups the flowers of this plant indicate the arrival of ancestral whales coming up the coast to give birth. This plant also indicates the arrival of mullet to well-known hunting areas' (Mason 2001).



© DEC

Blackwood

Dharawal Name

Baaliang

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Acacia melanoxylon

Broad Landscape Zone



Gott and Conran 1991, Isaacs 1984: 231, Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861.

Part used

wood, bark, flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers, spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

shield, spear thrower, medicine, string, food, indicator for insect/animal local/distant

The timber is very hard and beautifully grained and was used for spear-throwers and shields. The bark was heated and infused in water to bathe rheumatic joints. The inner bark was made into string in Gippsland (*Gott and Conran 1991*). 'Aboriginal people prepared this plant for medicinal purposes as a body wash to treat sores, cuts and also as a mouthwash. The medicinal properties of this plant can be used as a remedy for internal infections and upset stomach (careful preparation needed). For most Aboriginal groups the flowers on this plant indicate the seasonal arrival of a certain insect or animal species to an area either local or distant' (*Mason 2001*).



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Port Jackson Pine

Dharawal Name
Dyerren dyerren

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name
Callitris rhomboidea

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861

Part used
wood, resin, sap

Seasonal Availability
all year

Broad Landscape Zone
plateau

Uses/Notes
implements, medicine, patching and filling, stain

'The hard wood from this plant was especially favoured by Aboriginal men for weapons. The resin is used to patch wooden ornaments such as coolamons and other split items. The sap is used to stain other wooden tools and weapons. *C.enlicheri* (Black cypress pine) is found on rock pavement heath and likely had the same uses' (*Mason 2001*).



D. Greig © Australian National Botanic Gardens

White Maple

Dharawal Name

Naanan

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Commersonia fraseri

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861

Part used

stem, bark, flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers in spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

fish spears, string, binding, indicator for wonga pigeon

'Inland coastal Aborigines made fish spears from the long thin stem of this plant. The fibrous bark was used to bind the prongs to the end of the spear. The bark from this plant makes a very strong fibrous string. This plant was most commonly used by the coastal and inland Aborigines of south-east NSW. The flowers on this plant indicate the season when Wonga pigeons are preparing to build nests.' (*Mason 2001*)



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Prickly Currant Bush

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Coprosma quadrifida

Broad Landscape Zone



Carey and Gow 1998, Mason 2001

Part used

fruit

Seasonal Availability

fruits, January to March

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, indicator for small marsupials, birds and reptiles

'The red fruits are juicy, tangy and plentiful. They can be eaten immediately or eaten with other plant leaves, gum, seeds and tubers. This plant indicates small marsupials, birds and reptiles can be caught in the area' (Mason 2001).



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Rough Tree fern

Dharawal Name

Yarrah-wah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Cyathea australis

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Maiden 1891, Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004

Part used

leaf, root

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for gathering food plants and fresh water

The young raw fronds of this plant are crushed and used as medicine for scratches and stings. The raw young fronds can also be roasted and eaten as food. The roots can also be used as a strong medicinal wash for burns and blisters. This plant indicates a well-sheltered area for gathering plant foods and also clean fresh water is close by.' (Mason 2001) 'The centre fiddle of the tree fern can be eaten roasted. About 10cm from the inner base it is shaped like a fiddle. It tastes like a nut when roasted' (McLeod 2004).



© R Hill, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Soft Tree-fern and Prickly Tree-fern

Dharawal Name

Denn-nangue, Yarra-wah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Dicksonia antarctica and
Cyathea leichhardtiana**

Broad Landscape Zone



*Gott and Conran 1991, Macarthur 1861,
Mason 2001,*

Part used

stem, leaf, root

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for tuberous edible roots, bandicoots and fresh water

The top half-metre of the stem was split down and the starchy pith inside it was scooped out for food raw or cooked. The fern is not killed by this procedure. 'The young raw fronds of this plant are crushed and used as medicine for scratches and stings. The raw young fronds can also be roasted and eaten as food. The root sap can also be used as a strong medicine for burns and blisters. This plant indicates a well-sheltered area for gathering animal and plant foods such as bandicoot and plant tubers. This plant also indicates clean fresh water is close by.'

(Mason 2001)



Cyathea leichhardtiana © R Hill, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Giant Lily, GyMEA Lily

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Doryanthes excelsa

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, McLeod 2004,
Peck 1925: 14-21

Part used

flower, leaf, stem, nectar

Seasonal Availability

flowers in spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

traditional story, food, spear, string, flower indicator for saltwater crab egg laying, its presence is indicator for small marsupials, birds and reptiles

'The Gigantic lily came into being as a result of a heroic act by the son of a chief, who, with a party of Kurnell [people], were trapped in a deep ravine of the George's River by a huge fall of rock ... when on their way to Minto' (Peck 1925: 14-21). 'The large red flower of this plant is roasted and eaten as food. The long leaves provide fibre for string. The long flower stem is used for a short-term fish spear. Some Aboriginal groups used the dead flower stem for making fire. Aboriginal people caught small marsupials, birds and reptiles when visiting this plant. The large red flower indicates a species of saltwater crab can be collected after laying its eggs. Small marsupials, birds and reptiles can be caught hunting food or resting at this plant' (Mason 2001). The gyMEA lily flower stem was used as a pole for fishing and for the erection of temporary shelters. It was harvested green then put through fire to make the resin set. You have to keep turning the stem in the fire. You could also leave it to cure for a month but firing speeds up the process. When it went into water it wouldn't sink amongst a school of mullet, for example. Paperbark (Leptospermum sp.) and stringybark (Eucalyptus sp.) were used to finish off the shelter (McLeod 2004).



© Jamie Erskine, DEC

Blueberry Ash

Dharawal Name

tdjeunen

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861

Part used

fruit, bark, wood

Seasonal Availability

flowers in spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, string, implements, weapons

'The purple juice from the ripe berries is a good medicine for boils and sea ulcers. The inner bark was used for string. The trunk and larger branches are used for tools and weapons.'

(Mason 2001)



© DEC

Messmate

Dharawal Name

Warreeah

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Eucalyptus obliqua

Broad Landscape Zone



Gott and Conran 1991, Illawarra
Mercury 1871 in Organ 1993: 135,
Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861, McLeod
2004, The Telegraph 1879 in Organ
1993: 144

Part used

bark, sap, seed, flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers summer to autumn

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

string, fishing nets, bags, baskets, tinder, shelter, burial coverings for body of deceased, stain and paint, jewellery, indicator for presence of beehive

The inner bark of this and other stringybarks was used to make coarse string for bags and fishing nets. The dry outer bark is brittle and was used as tinder to catch the fire made by fire-drills' (Gott and Conran 1990: 56). 'The sap from this tree makes a good stain for tools and artefacts. The unripe seed capsules are used for jewellery. The flowers of this plant attracts native bees which indicates a bee hive close by.' (Mason 2001) Sheets of stringybark (Eucalyptus sp.) were used to cover the frame of a humpy (McLeod 2004). The bark of stringybark was used as a binding in preparation of the body for burial (Organ 1993: 135).



D. Greig © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Native Cherry

Dharawal Name

Ko-ie-yatt, coo-yie

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Exocarpus cupressiformis
and Strictus**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861, Moran 1987, McLeod 2004, Peck 1925: 93-6

Part used

canopy, fruit

Seasonal Availability

flowers most of the year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, coastal plain

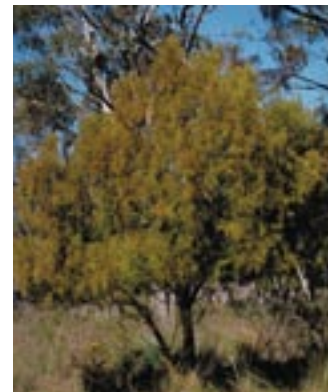
Uses/Notes

shelter, flower indicator for parrot and python, ripe fruit indicator for parrot, lorikeet, possum, bandicoot and python

'This tree was used as a shelter by women and children on very hot days. This tree was chosen for its very good shelter and shade. Parrot and python are mainly caught for food at this tree during early morning and late afternoon. (Most Exocarpus species have similar if not the same uses.) The ripe fruit on this plant indicates a good place for hunting parrot, lorikeet, possum, bandicoot and python.' (Mason 2001).

'The best smoke [for smoking a bark canoe] was that made by throwing the river oak and the wild cherry on the fire' (Peck 1925: 93-6). The Exocarpus wood is very hard and was used to make boomerangs, boondis, and nulla nullas' (McLeod 2004).

*"If we went on long walks
we'd always eat black fellow's
food, cherries, little cherry
things, thing like potatoes,
pigface, that type of thing."
(Moran 1987).*



D. Greig © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Native Geranium

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Geranium homeanum
and solanderi var.
solanderi**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

Part used

flower, leaf, tuber

Seasonal Availability

flowers, spring and summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for marsupial or reptile.

'The flower can be eaten raw or mixed with other ingredients. The leaves can be squashed and applied to burns and blisters. The raw tuber can also be used as medicine for internal complaints. The flower indicates a certain marsupial or reptile can be found in the area' (Mason 2001).



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Native Mulberry

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Hedycarya angustifolia

Broad Landscape Zone



Gott and Conran 1991, Kohen 1993: 26, Mason 2001

Part used

stem, fruit, leaf, sap, wood

Seasonal Availability

flowers in spring

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

fire making, medicine, spear prongs, fire sticks, indicator for birds.

'The raw fruits, leaves and sap can be used as a medicine for cuts, stings, and burns. This plant also makes good flexible spear prongs. The wood from this plant makes good fire sticks. The ripe-fruit season of this plant indicates a good hunting area for birds, small mammals and reptiles' (*Mason 2001*).



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Red Devil, Mountain Devil

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Lambertia formosa

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Renwick 2000

Part used

flower

Seasonal Availability

flowers most of the year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, drink, indicator for bearded dragons

'The nectar-filled flowers from this plant can be mixed with other plant ingredients for example, nuts and berries, and eaten as a whole meal. The red flowers indicate to Aboriginal people a good place to catch reptiles such as bearded dragons hunting for insects around this plant' (*Mason 2001*).



© J. Plaza, Botanic Gardens Trust

Paper Bark, Bracelet Honey-myrtle

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Melaleuca squarrosa

Broad Landscape Zone



Gott and Conran 1991,
Mason 2001, McLeod 2004,
Organ and Speechley 1997: 17.

Part used

bark, flower, nectar, leaf, stem, wood

Seasonal Availability

flowers in summer

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, water, medicine, spears, clubs, cooking, digging sticks, baby blanket, indicator for ocean fish

'Strips of bark from this plant were used to wrap and cook fish. The leaves of this plant are crushed and used for medicinal purposes such as an inhalant for chest complaints or as a mouth and body wash. The yellow flowers from this plant indicate a certain fish species in the ocean are fat and running. This plant also indicates fresh water is nearby.' (Mason 2001)
Melaleuca squarrosa was also used to discourage mosquitoes, as a source of nectar, for shelter, and to make spears, clubs and digging sticks (McLeod 2004).



Broad-leaved Geebung (*levis*) and Narrow-leaved Geebung (*linearis*)

Dharawal Name

Jerayal

Gundangurra Name

Babathool (*levis*)

Scientific Name

Persoonia levis* and *linearis

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mason 2001, McLeod 2004,
Peck 1933: 208-14.*

Part used

seed nut, seed flesh, fruit

Seasonal Availability

flowers spring and summer

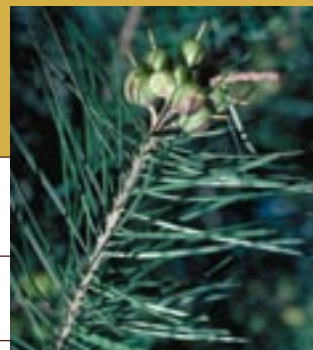
Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment (*linearis* only) and plateau

Uses/Notes

food, medicine, indicator for small possum, bandicoot and wallaby

'The hard fruit seed is slightly roasted then cracked and the nut inside is eaten, or mixed with other plant ingredients. The sweet flesh from around the seed is eaten as food. The sticky juice and the fibrous material is scraped off the green, unripe fruit seed and applied to burns, scratches and rashes. The ripe fruit season for this plant indicates that small marsupials such as possum, bandicoot and wallaby can be caught feeding near this plant.' (*Mason 2001*) 'Geebung fruits can be eaten raw. Don't eat the skin, but suck on the seed to get the pulp off. The inner bark mixed with breast milk makes a good cure for conjunctivitis in babies. The fruits are also used as a dye for reeds for the making of dilly bags and baskets' (*McLeod 2004*).



Persoonia linearis, D. Greig
© Australian National Botanic Gardens



Persoonia levis © Jamie Erskine, DEC

Five Corners

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Styphelia triflora

Broad Landscape Zone



Peck 1933: 208-14, Renwick 2000,
Timbery 2000.

Part used
fruit

Seasonal Availability
spring

Broad Landscape Zone
plateau

Uses/Notes
Food

Fruits are green-brown and about the size of a small grape. 'Fivies; five corners, grows on a little bush. Its beautiful and so sweet. It grows at La Perouse but we don't tell anyone where it is.' (Timbery 2000)



© Jamie Erskine, DEC



C. Green © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Waratah

Dharawal Name

moolone, mooloone

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

Telopea speciosissima

Broad Landscape Zone



Brown 1863, Brown 1964, French-Angas 1850, Mason 2001, Peck 1933: 208-14, Peck 1933: 108-21

Part used

flower, stem

Seasonal Availability

flowers spring on the coast and summer in the mountains

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

Uses/Notes

food, ceremonial significance, ceremonial drink, ceremony timing, ceremonial message stick (for initiation ceremony), indicator for hunting of marsupial, a charm against burning by fire

'This plant has great spiritual significance to most Aboriginal groups. Usually it is not touched. A spiritual drink was made only during ceremonial times. This plant has a variety of Dreamtime stories connected with it. The flower of this plant indicates to Aboriginal people that ceremony time is near. This flower also indicates the arrival of a marsupial which Aboriginal people favoured for food.' (Mason 2001) Two interesting uses of the waratah described in traditional stories include the stem of a waratah as a message stick (Peck 1933:208-14) and carrying a waratah flower as immunity against burns from a bush fire (Peck 1933: 108-21). Women at Dapto decorated their hair with the 'warrator flowers' (French-Angas 1850).



© DEC

Grass Tree, Mingo, Kangaroo Tail

Dharawal Name

Mingo

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

***Xanthorrhoea australis*,
resinifera, *concava* and
*macronema***

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Renwick 2000,
Collins 1798

Part used

unripe seed, flower, stem, resin, leaf

Seasonal Availability

all year

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau

D. Greig © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Uses/Notes

food, fish spears, dye, baskets, fire making, indicator for bees

Leaf bases, young flowers and shoots eaten. Fire made by twirling stick in hole in stem. Flower stalk used as a light-weight spear shaft. Resin used as a glue and to attach fishing hooks to lines and blades or points to spear shafts. 'Green, unripe seeds were collected and eaten raw or mixed with other plant ingredients. The flowers can be mixed and eaten with other ingredients. Aboriginal men made floating fish spears from the stems of this plant. Resin was extracted from a small hole which was cut into the base of the plant. The resin from this plant also makes a good wood-colouring for tools and weapons. Baskets are made from the long thin leaves. (Most *Xanthorrhoea* species have similar, if not the same uses.) When flowering this plant is a good indicator of bee hives in the area.' (Mason 2001)
*Rod Mason's notes refer to *X.concava*. Initiates in the Sydney region at a Farm Cove ceremony wore headresses made of *Xanthorrhoea* fronds (Collins 1798).



D. Greig © Australian National Botanic Gardens

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Dharawal Name

Mulyan

Gundangurra Name

Mullyang

Scientific Name

Aquila audax

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mackenzie 1874, Mathews 1904,
Peck 1925: 74-78*

Part used

feathers

Seasonal Availability

breeding April to September

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

message stick, totem animal

The wedge-tailed eagle is an important totem throughout Australia. One recorded use in the vicinity was attaching the feathers to a spear to signify war from one group, the 'river blacks' to an elder of the Burraborang people (*Peck 1925: 74-78*)



© K. Stepnell, DEC

Swamp Wallaby

Dharawal Name

Buruell

Gundangurra Name

Boombi

Scientific Name

Wallabia bicolor

Broad Landscape Zone



*McCaffrey 13 pp.6-7, Brown 1964,
Mason 2001, Kohen 1993: 28.*

Part used

flesh, pelt, tail sinew, rawhide

Seasonal Availability

breeds when season is favourable

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, escarpment, coastal plain, estuarine, intertidal

Uses/Notes

food, skin cloak, binding

The swamp wallaby and other macropods were eaten and their bones and skin used in the manufacture of cloaks, rugs, artefacts and ornaments. The cloaks were worn fur side out in the rain and skin out in dry, cold weather. The skins were pegged out on the ground for curing and finished with decorative markings stained and etched in to the suede using a sharp bone or shell. Skins were sewn together with animal sinews through holes pierced by bone awls.



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Koala

Dharawal Name

Kurrilwa

Gundangurra Name

Goola, Goola dhoorrook
(female), **Burrandang** (male)

Scientific Name

Phascolarctus cinereus

Broad Landscape Zone



Barrallier 1802, Mathews 1899, Therin 2002, Unaipon 2001: 220-22.

Part used

flesh

Seasonal Availability

breed when the season is favourable

Broad Landscape Zone

plateau, escarpment, coastal plain

Uses/Notes

traditional story, food, art subject

In traditional stories the koala was responsible for instigating and guiding the ancestors from their homes on many islands to the mouth of the Shoalhaven River (*Unaipon 2001: 220-22*). In another story the koala paddles a canoe from the entrance of Lake Illawarra where it was holed by the brolga and then overturned to become Windang Island (*Mathews 1899*). The koala was eaten by people in many parts of Australia including the Dharawal of the Wollondilly valley (*Barrallier 1802*). The koala is depicted in pigment art in the Illawarra (*Therin 2002*).



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Appendix

List of traditional plant and animal stories associated with the Dharawal

Plant/Animal	Story title	Country	Source
Bandicoot	Billen Billen Island	Illawarra	<i>Clio n.d.</i>
Blue flax lily	The dianella berry	East Coast	<i>Peck 1933: 99-102</i>
Christmas bush	The blood of the bloodwood tree, the christmas bush and the waratah		<i>Peck 1925: 117-120</i>
Crayfish	The First Crayfish	Shoalhaven	
Crinkle bush	Winged lomatia seeds	Upper Nepean River	<i>Peck 1929 23/1/29</i>
Eucalyptus	Umbels and stamens of the eucalyptus blossom	Australia	<i>Peck 1928 9/5/28</i>
Fringe lily	Mist and a fringed flower	Maddens Plains	
Groper	Billen Billen Island	Illawarra	<i>Clio n.d.</i>
Gymea lily	The first gymea or gigantic lily	Georges River	<i>Peck 1925: 14-21, 1933: 24-32</i>
Heath	The Epacris	Australia	<i>Peck 1928 25/1/28</i>
Koala	Billen Billen Island, The clinging koala	Illawarra, Wollondilly River	<i>Clio n.d., Peck 1925: 97-99</i>
Kookaburra	The legend of the lyrebird and the kookaburra, A bird legend	Illawarra and Shoalhaven, Burragorang Valley	
Long-necked tortoise	Why the turtle has no tail	Illawarra	<i>Peck 1933: 33-6</i>
Lyrebird	The legend of the lyrebird and the kookaburra, A bird legend, The lyre bird	Illawarra and Shoalhaven, Burragorang Valley, Moruya	<i>Langloh Parker 1930</i>
Magpie	Vicious birds	Upper Shoalhaven	<i>Peck 1928 23/5/28</i>
Possum	Billen Billen Island	Illawarra	<i>Clio n.d.</i>

Plant/Animal	Story title	Country	Source
Quoll, wallaby, koala, kookaburra, flying fox, gang-gang cockatoo, black cockatoo, white cockatoo, robin, wren, friar bird, cat bird, mouse, rat, snake	The struggle for supremacy between birds and animals	Megalong Valley	<i>Peck 1925: 43-47</i>
Red bloodwood	The blood of the bloodwood tree, the christmas bush and the waratah		<i>Peck 1925: 117-120</i>
Red-bellied black snake	Two waratah legends, Billen Billen Island	Illawarra and Burratorang Valley	<i>Clio n.d.</i>
Satin bowerbird	The black satin bird	Moruya-Ulladulla, Currockbilly Range	<i>Peck 1933: 225-32</i>
Starfish	Billen Billen Island	Illawarra	<i>Clio n.d.</i>
Wallaby	Mulgani	South Coast, Illawarra	
Waratah	Mulgani, Two waratah legends, The stars, a meteor and volcanoes, How the white waratah became red, Why the waratah is firm, The first waratah, How the waratah got its honey, How the pistols of the waratah became firm, The hand that tried to draw the waratah, The blood of the bloodwood tree, the christmas bush and the waratah	South Coast, Illawarra, Burratorang Valley, Sherbrooke, Georges River	<i>Peck 1933: 208-214, Peck 1933: 108-21, Peck 1933: 199-201, Peck 1933: 202-3, Peck 1925: 26-9, Peck 1925: 52-5, Peck 1935: 8-13, Peck 1925: 22-25, Peck 1925: 48-51, Peck 1925: 103-6, Peck 1925: 117-120</i>
Whale	Billen Billen Island, Wynngnawhra	Illawarra, Bulli-Wonoona	<i>Clio n.d., Billy Saddler 1894</i>
White-browed tree creeper	The dianella berry	East Coast	<i>Peck 1933: 99-102</i>
White-faced heron	Baagoddah	Moruya	<i>Langloh Parker 1930</i>
Wonga pigeon	How the white waratah became red	Sherbrooke	<i>Peck 1925: 26-9</i>

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Prickly currant bush	87	Sandpaper fig	74	Starfish	16
Prickly tree fern	89	Sassafras	67	Stenocarpus salignus	67
Prickly-leaved paperbark	41	Satin bowerbird	60	Stingray	18
Prionace glauca	16	Schnapper	16	Strepera graculina	81
Pseudechis porphyriacus	81	Sea crayfish	22	Stringybark, thin-leaved	41
Pseudocheirus peregrinus	63	lettuce (sea)	24	Styphelia triflora	99
Pseudonaja textilis	81	squirt (sea)	23	Sugar glider	80
Pteropus poliocephalus	64	Seriola lalandi	16	Swamp lily	34
Ptilonorhynchus violaceus	60	Shark	16	Swamp mahogany	41
Puffinus tenuirostris	30	Shark, blue	16	Swamp oak	33

Swamp wallaby	103	Tree fern, soft	89	White cockatoo	81
Swan	32	Trichosurus vulpeca	41	White mangrove	25
Sweet pittosporum	67	Tristaniopsis laurina	81	White maple	86
Sydney blue gum	41	Trochidae sp.	29	White seaweed	24
Sydney golden wattle	83	Tuckeroo	41	White-faced heron	32
Symplocos thwaitsii	67	Turkey, brush	67	White-throated swift	81
Syncarpia glomulifera	76	Turpentine	76	Willy wagtail	41
Syzigium australe	56	Two-veined hickory	82	Wombat	65
Tachyglossus aculeatus	81	Ulva sp.	24	Wonga pigeon	78-79
Tailor	16	Vanellus miles	23	Wood duck	81
Tamarind, native	67	Varanus rosenbergi	81	Woollybutt	41
Tea-tree, coast	49	Varanus varius	58	Xanthorrhoea australis	101
Tea-tree, soft-leaved	35	Veined mock-olive	67	Yellowtail	16
Telopea speciosissima	100	Vombatus ursinus	65	Yellowtail bream	16
Thin-leaved stringybark	41	Wallabia bicolor	103		
Three-veined myrtle	80	Wallaby, red	81		
Thylogale thetis	66	Wallaby, swamp	103		
<i>Tiliqua scinoides</i>	40	Waratah	78-79, 100		
Toona ciliata	67	Water gum	81		
Top shell	29	Water vine	71		
Topknot pigeon	67	Water-rat	32		
Tortoise, long-necked	57	Wattle, Sydney golden	83		
Trachurus novaezelandiae	16	Wedge-tailed eagle	102		
Tree broom heath	41	Whale, blue	21		
Tree fern, prickly	89	Whale, humpback	21		
Tree fern, rough	88	Whale, southern right	21		