

# Dawes's notebooks

## of the Sydney Language

William Dawes  
2nd Lieutenant of the Marines  
Aged 26, in 1788



William Dawes: permission  
requested from the Tasmanian  
Museum and Art Gallery'



# next page

## Dawes b.4 biriwal

Date of entries

All use final spelling system,  
so are after 17 March 1791

Two columns, the creased page assisting

**badyyagarang** is Dawes's  
main informant for BB  
(the Sydney Language)

Dawes provided number keys for  
Patyegarang's several names,  
but not the intended translations

These 'B' entries continue  
onto the 'C' page.

There are no BB words  
beginning with 'c'

Berwail England  
Berwailgo To England  
Bial<sup>1</sup> betayigo<sup>2</sup> I have no<sup>1</sup> rock oysters<sup>2</sup>  
Berai<sup>3</sup> The back of a sword  
Breado<sup>4</sup> tanga She cries for bread  
Tagaran<sup>1</sup> Tuba Patye<sup>2</sup> The names of  
garag<sup>4</sup> Kanmagnal<sup>3</sup> Patyegarang  
Balui<sup>1</sup> (The watch) is soft  
(literally dead)  
Baria<sup>1</sup> Near to:  
Birara<sup>1</sup> Dry. Not wet.  
Bunilbanga (from To take off, as a coat  
Beine a negative and banga or any other garment.  
~~to do~~ rather from banga to do or make.  
Minyur bunilbanga<sup>1</sup> Why do you take off  
jacket? your jacket?  
Burudin from Burudu (Ans.<sup>r</sup>) To rid it  
a flea or louse of in a dip of fleas.  
of the ablative case  
Burenmalga<sup>1</sup> To put on (as a garment)  
Buina or Binama To speak falsely in jest  
or to make believe as  
Beinamadyaon; bial I only made believe; I  
wainyadyaon Did not tell a lie  
Buruwanyen nadyaon I saw from the ship  
Buladyire (from Bula Two are enough  
two of didyire enough)  
Bumarutbanga Open make (the door)  
Bulago, Twice. Wogulgo, Once.



# Another mainly word list page

## Dawes b.5 Duni

Dawes sometimes wrote in  
pencil and copied over it in  
ink later

Entries supplied to Dawes by:  
—(W.): Henry Waterhouse [?]  
—(C.C.): Capt. Campbell [?]

Dtooney	a Scorpion
Dtoora	to pinch
Dani. Deeyin Dani	Mine. My wife
Deeyin	Woman or wife
Diemi	The termination of the
2 <sup>d</sup> person singular	imperfect tense of verbs.
<del>to, Ngia dtoora diemi</del>	<del>I pinched, or did pinch.</del>
Diée wāra	There, or that way
Dargallee (W.)	To scratch
Durālia (W.)	A kind of Heron or Bittern
Datrrung	The shoulder
Dteewara	The hair
Didyi didyi deai - - -	Oh you hurt me
Diée ngalla diée	Here (it is) is, here
†As Ngicēnee Dtooradiemi	Thou pinchedst.
Dtooradiois	I struck or did strike (as
	a fish with a fish-gig)
Domine waie	At Domine's house
Daringal (#C.C.) - - -	How
Damary (C.C.) - - -	A cap
Birong (C.C.) - - -	Belonging
Dtute - - -	Something relative to thirst.
Dtanary - - -	A Wart (I am thirsty)
Dturaduralang - - -	The bark to make fish lines
Dānawāgolāng - - -	For me (See Dymuwigolāng)
Dāna - - -	To me (or) for me
Didyi' murre - - -	It is very painful
Dymoragāng - - -	Old woman
Dtubillāng - - -	A maggot in meat



Burung Kalgaliang. Kolbe Garamata.  
Kurubarabula Garangaliang. Karangarang  
Garamata. Tanung mulugaliang. Murubun  
Benelang. Waruwar Karang<sup>ar</sup>ang. Wurgan.  
Mananguri

# Themes

## Dawes b.9 Burung

This is one of numerous **themes**.  
Dawes used pages that  
did not work for the dictionary.  
This is the **H** page. There is no H  
in Aboriginal languages

Theme: Relationships

- Burung: *older sister* [?]
- Gulubi (Colbee): .... [some relation]
- Gurubarbula: *younger sister* [?]
- Garang-garang: .... [some relation]
- Danung: ... [female]
- Benelong: *sisters*:

Wariwiya, Garang-garang, Wurgan,  
Mananguri



# Sentences

## Dawes b.28 guridyu

Sentences recorded by Dawes enable the language to be analysed

Goredyü tágaren ... I move it (that is I take more of it) from cold (that is to take off the cold) At this time Patyegarag was standing by the fire ~~and I~~ naked, and I desired her to put on her cloaths, on which she said Goredyü tágaren the full meaning of which is "I will <sup>or do</sup> remain longer naked in order to get warm sooner, as the fire is felt better without cloaths than if it had to penetrate thro' them." (This is a mistake. Goredyü signifies something else.) Gore To warm D. Mímadyime, me? What's the matter, what?

P. Tyemihya bunin I am come from play.

Having sung Ghalgear mutigore & Ghalgear being very angry at it; I asked Patye

D. Minyan gülara Why is Ghalgear angry?  
Ghalgear?

P. Beriädwätem -- Because you sung.

On singing the same again at some distance from Ghalgear; Patyegarag said Kamaräta, beriädi nye My friend, he sings about you

Gon. Mäma kaowe My friend, come let us  
yalia bogia (two) go and bathe

Pat. Go go yagu teti Stop stop. I am just going to M<sup>rs</sup> J's house to get my J. N<sup>o</sup>. washed  
baou yagu M<sup>rs</sup>. Johasoma  
gonyégo kagagoläng Jacket  
Pettycoat M<sup>rs</sup>. Brown kagaba M<sup>rs</sup>. B. will wash them

← This sentences may be the longest of all



# More sentences

## Dawes b.34 bayabuniwinya

Dawes used contrasting sentences to illustrate finer points of grammar

Numerals showed which words related to which in the translations

P. Piabuniwinya OT. } I did not speak to you.  
Beal winya piabuni. }  
Beal minga piabuni - You did not speak to me

Muramadyinga galawia : It tires me to stay at home  
Yomling - - - - - : I want to go out :

Oja merawi, Warwar } (I went away) first, and  
wellaga - - - - - } Warwar followed.

Tulumadyinga - - - : He gave it me for nothing.

P. <sup>1</sup>Piyadyangala <sup>2</sup>white <sup>2</sup>A white man <sup>1</sup>beat us two  
<sup>3</sup>mana <sup>3</sup>galara <sup>4</sup>Pindanga } <sup>3</sup>Panda (with me or we two)

<sup>1</sup>Piyadyenina <sup>2</sup>w. mana <sup>2</sup>A white man <sup>1</sup>beat us three  
<sup>3</sup>gyinara <sup>3</sup>Pandaina, <sup>4</sup>Pindanga } <sup>3</sup>we three <sup>4</sup>Panda, <sup>4</sup>Pon-  
da (I myself understood)

<sup>1</sup>Piyadyangala <sup>2</sup>white - <sup>2</sup>A white man <sup>1</sup>beat us two  
<sup>2</sup>mana <sup>3</sup>galara <sup>4</sup>Pindanga } <sup>3</sup>we two <sup>4</sup>Panda (I myself understood)

The difference between speaking of we two & we three as above expressed was obtained 27 Nov. by Patyegarang first speaking to me as <sup>marked</sup> 1 and afterwards as <sup>marked</sup> 2, when on asking her why she did not speak in the same way the 2<sup>d</sup> time as the 1<sup>st</sup> she said it was because she had forgot that Pandat was with them, & explained herself very clearly.

P. Kwirapau Galgearna May I give Galgear  
tyangora - - - - - } some pork

P. Kwiyi tali tapangora He gave pork (and)  
breada eora bread to the eoras

P. Kwiradyaouini magora The eoras gave fish  
eora dyl - - - - - to him



# So many doubtful

**Dawes b.42 Place names**

~~6~~ Koriang moolagay  
Ngatangoon - Bush point  
Booragay - Needley's point  
Talabagay - Fresh water  
Waba Baffa - In yd. Cove  
Too roo moolagay - small  
Bara woozy - S. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Garungal - 2<sup>nd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>  
Kara Bury - Well of water  
Yal gara - Salt staff over  
Talia - so many doubtful

← “so many doubtful”

Not doubtful just about place  
names on the Harbour,  
but knowledge of  
the Sydney Language altogether



# Redfern Lingo Sessions

These presentations are  
the work of  
**Jeremy Macdonald Steele**

For further information see the thesis:  
**THE ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF SYDNEY**

<http://hdl.handle.net/1959.14/738>

and the language blog:  
[naabawinya.blogspot.com.au](http://naabawinya.blogspot.com.au)

## **THE ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF SYDNEY**

A PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE  
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE OF SYDNEY BASED ON  
THE NOTEBOOKS OF WILLIAM DAWES OF 1790-91,  
INFORMED BY OTHER RECORDS OF THE SYDNEY  
AND SURROUNDING LANGUAGES TO c.1905

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