

Languages in Australia

Biyal-Biyal
The Aboriginal Language of Sydney



a few languages

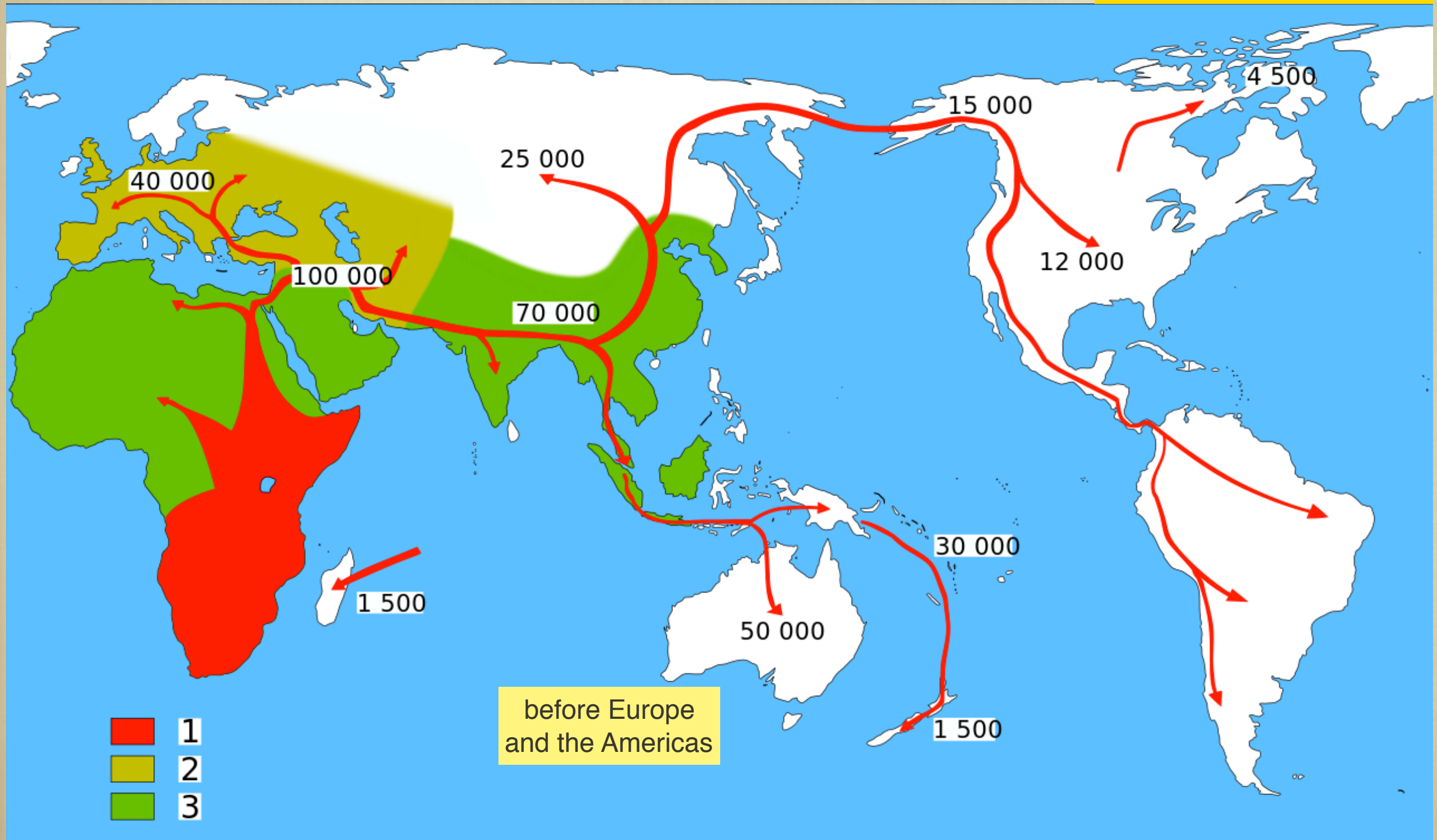
the
big
ones



The first explorations

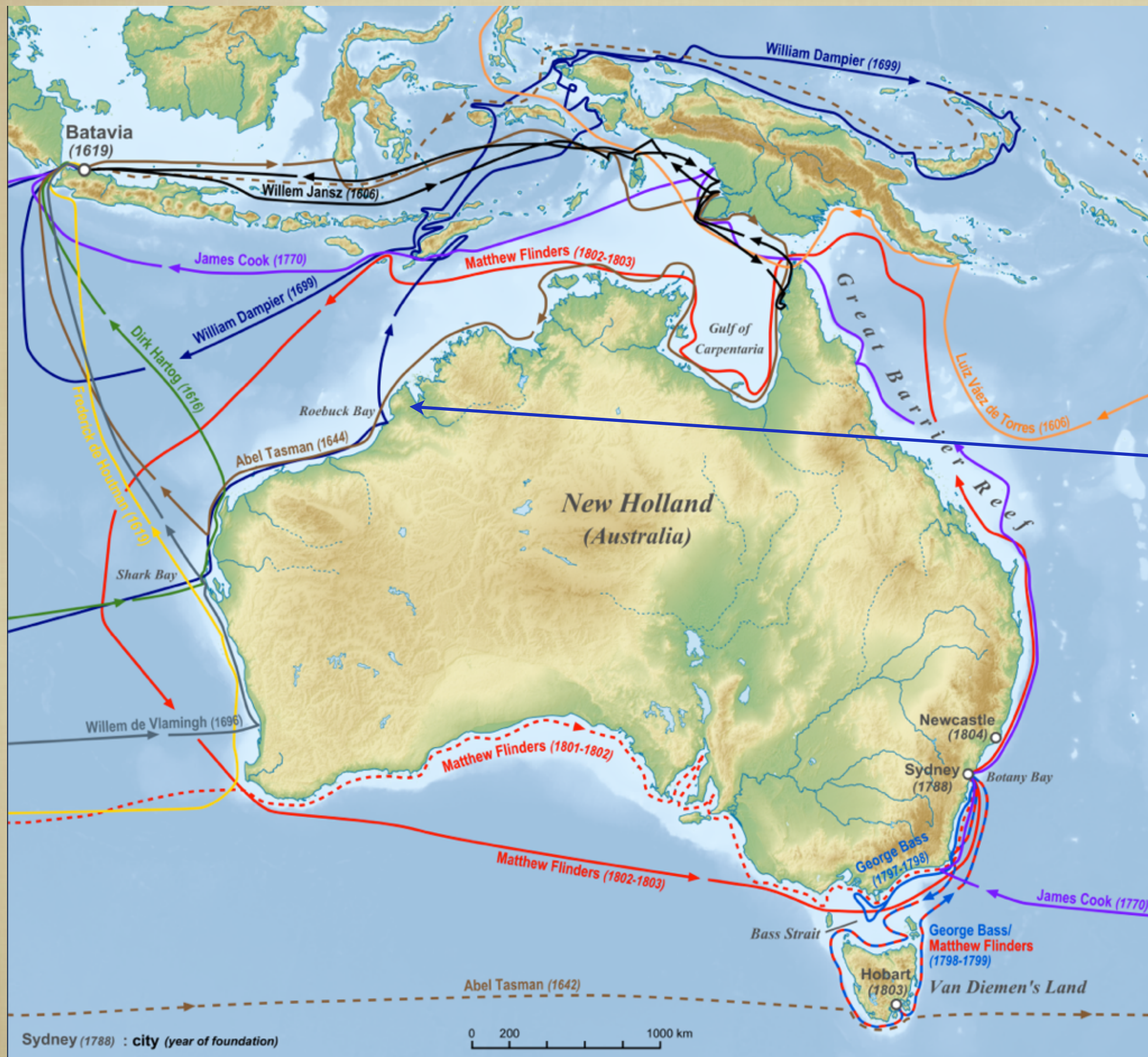
Finding Australia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Spreading_homo_sapiens.svg



Later explorations

Beginnings



17th CENTURY

1606 Luiz Vaez de **Torres**
1606 Willem **Jansz**
1616 Dirk **Hartog**
1619 Frederick de **Houtmann**
1642, 1644 Abel **Tasman**

FIRST LANGUAGE RECORD

1688 William **Dampier**

1696 Willem de **Vlamingh**
1699 William **Dampier**

18th CENTURY

1770 James **Cook**
1798-99 **Bass** & Flinders
1801-3 Matthew **Flinders**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_discoveries_by_Europeans_before_1813_en.png

William Dampier

1688

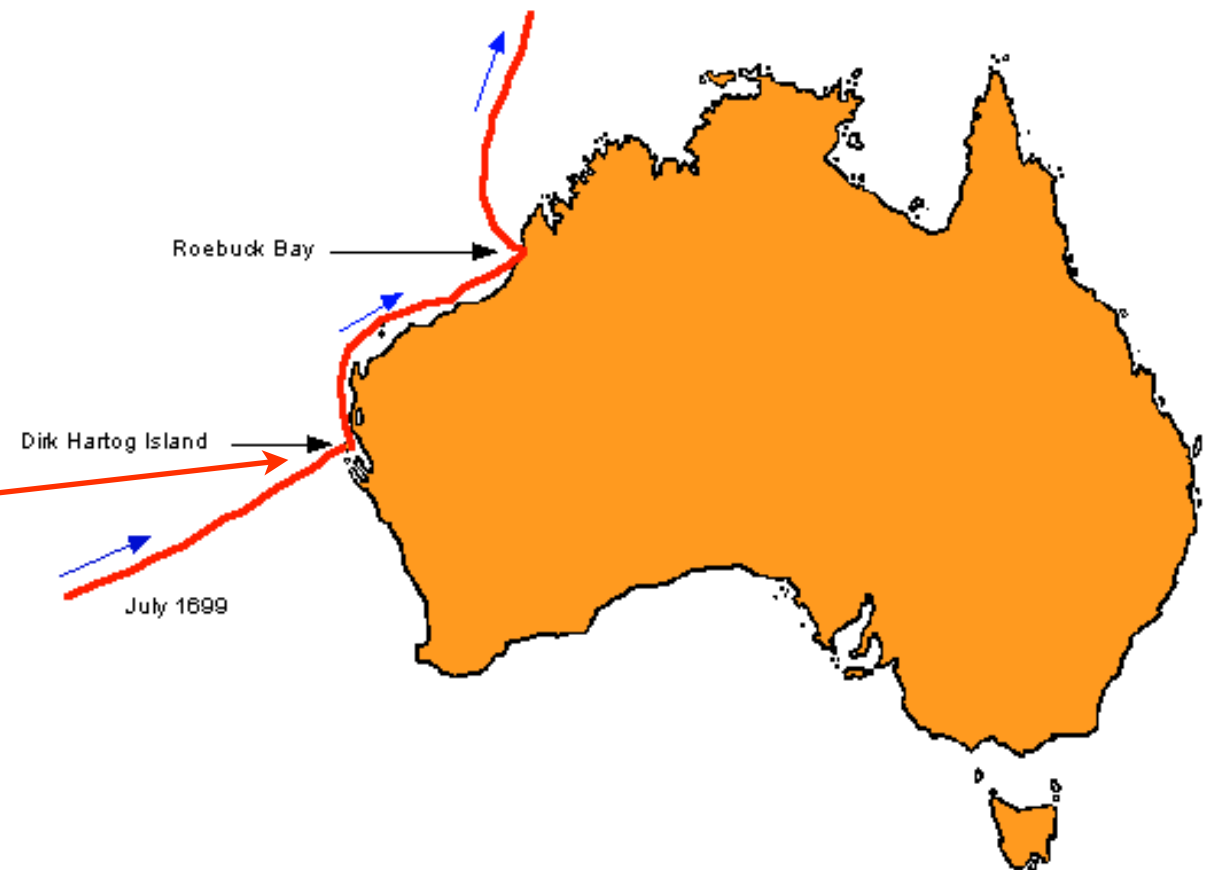
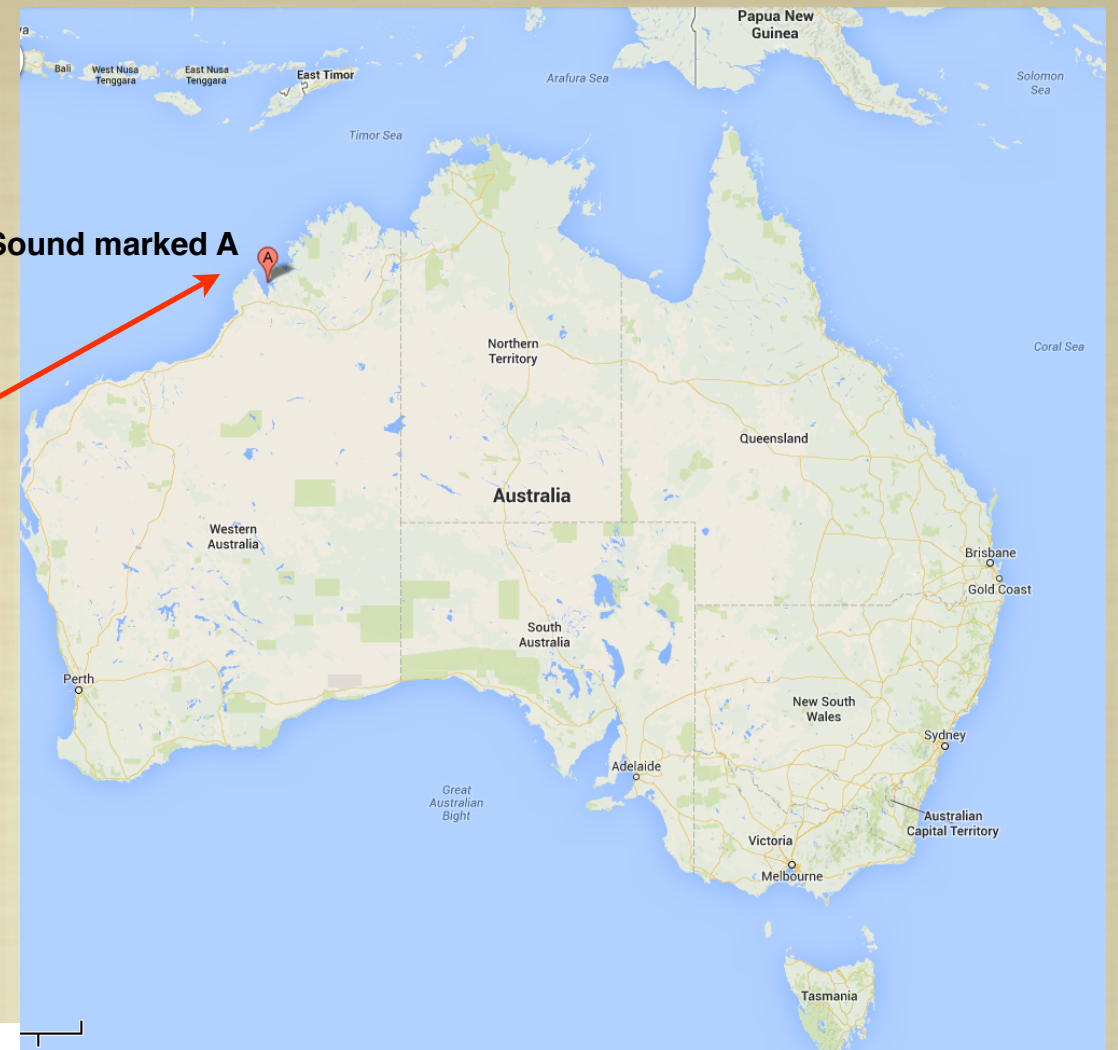
Early in January 1688, with Dampier and crew, the English pirate ship *Cygnnet* was beached on the northwest Australian coast, somewhere in the vicinity of **King Sound** in Western Australia. Whilst the ship was being repaired Dampier took notes about the voyage and things he had seen — and published them when he returned to England.

1699

Sailing in the *Roebuck* Dampier and his crew rounded Africa and crossed the Indian Ocean and headed for the west coast of what we know as Australia. In July 1699 he landed on **Hartog Island** in Shark Bay, which he named for the large number of sharks he saw there.

First
language
records

King Sound marked A



First language record 1688

gari ! gari !

First
language
records

Their Shieness. The Tides here. 469
any thing in it, and when they were set on Land *An. 1688.*
again, they ran away as fast as they could. At
our first coming, before we were acquainted with
them, or they with us, a Company of them who
liv'd on the Main, came just against our Ship, and
standing on a pretty high Bank, threatned us
with their Swords and Lances, by shaking them
at us: At last the Captain ordered the Drum to be
beaten, which was done of a sudden with much
vigour, purposely to scare the poor Creatures.
They hearing the noise, ran away as fast as they
could drive; and when they ran away in haste,
they would cry *Gurry, Gurry*, speaking deep in the
Throat. Those Inhabitants also that live on the
Main, would always run away from us; yet we

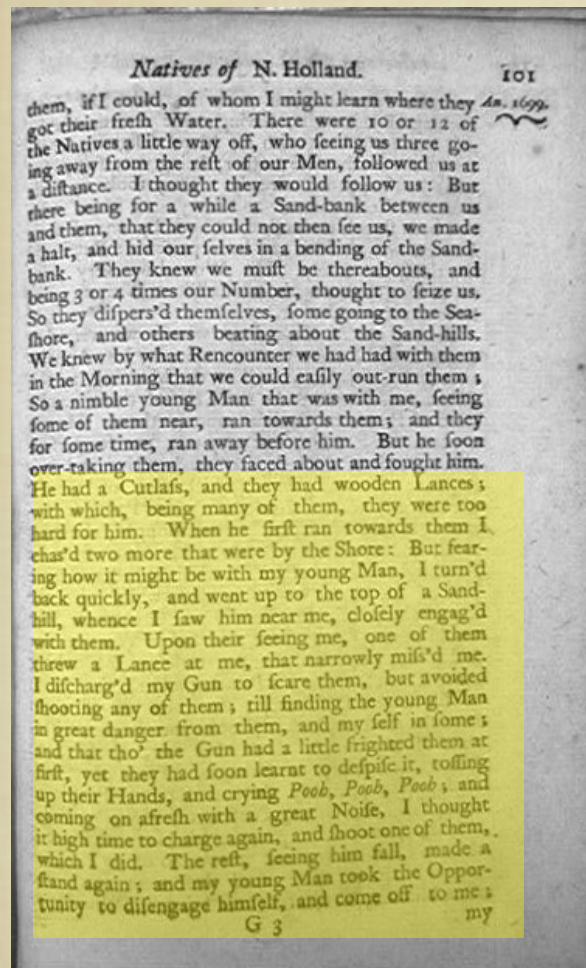
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they would cry *Gurry, Gurry*, speaking deep in the
Throat. Those Inhabitants also that live on the
Main, would always run away from us; yet we
took several of them. For, as I have already ob-
served, they had such bad Eyes, that they could
not see us till we came close to them. We did
always give them Victuals, and let them go again,
but the Islanders, after our first time of being a-
mong them, did not stir for us.
When we had been here about a Week, we hal'd
our Ship into a small sandy Cove, at a Spring-
tide, as far as she would float; and at low Water
she was left dry, and the Sand dry without us near
half a Mile; for the Sea riseth and falleth here
about five fathom. The Flood runs North by East,
and the Ebb South by West. All the Neep-tides
we lay wholly a-ground, for the Sea did not come
near us by about a hundred Yards. We had there-
fore time enough to clean our Ships bottom, which
we did very well. Most of our Men lay ashore in
a Tent, where our Sails were mending; and our
Stalkers brought home Turtle and Manatee every
Day, which was our constant Food.
While we lay here, I did endeavour to persuade
our Men to go to some *Englisb* Factory; but was
determined to be turned ashore, and left here for
H h 2 it.

Dampier, William. 1729. *A voyage to New-Holland, &c. in the year 1699.* 4 vols. Vol. III, A Collection of voyages: in four volumes: illustrated with maps and draughts: also several birds, fishes, and plants, not found in this part of the world: curiously engraven on copper-plates. London: James and John Knapton.

Next language record 1699

First
language
records

bu bu bu



Dampier, William. 1729. *A voyage to New-Holland, &c. in the year 1699.* 4 vols. Vol. III, A Collection of voyages: in four volumes: illustrated with maps and draughts: also several birds, fishes, and plants, not found in this part of the world: curiously engraven on copper-plates. London: James and John Knapton.

He had a Cutlass, and they had wooden Lances; with which, being many of them, they were too hard for him. When he first ran towards them I chas'd two more that were by the Shore: But fearing how it might be with my young Man, I turn'd back quickly, and went up to the top of a Sand-hill, whence I saw him near me, closely engag'd with them. Upon their seeing me, one of them threw a Lance at me, that narrowly miss'd me. I discharg'd my Gun to scare them, but avoided shooting any of them; till finding the young Man in great danger from them, and my self in some; and that tho' the Gun had a little frightened them at first, yet they had soon learnt to despise it, tossing up their Hands, and crying *Poob, Poob, Poob*; and coming on afresh with a great Noise, I thought it high time to charge again, and shoot one of them, which I did. The rest, seeing him fall, made a stand again; and my young Man took the Opportunity to disengage himself, and come off to me: my

G 3

James Cook 1770



While H.M. Bark *Endeavour* was being repaired at the **Endeavour River**, Cook collected a **list of words**

miyal – wala – bama

Journal of Capt. Cook's voyage in H.M.S. *Endeavour*, 1768-1771 [microform] James Cook
National Library of Australia, Bib ID 2565363

up this point I shall add a short Vocabulary of a few words in the New-Holland Language which we learnt when in Endeavour River

English	New-Holland
The head	Whaguzee
" Hair of the head	Morye or More
" Eyes	Meul
" Ears	Melea
" Lips	Yembe or Jembi
" Teeth	Mulere or Moilo
" Chin	Jaeal
" Beard	Waller

English	New-Holland
The Tongue	Unjar
" Nose	Bonjoo
" Naval	Toolpoor or Julpur
" Penis	Meriel or Herrial
" Scrotum	Coonal or Hunnol
" Arms	Aes or Aeol
" Hands	Mangal
" Thumb	Eboorbalga
" Fore, Middle & Ring finger	Egalbalga
" Little Finger	Kahil or Eboorna hill
" The Thighs	Loman
" Knees	Ponga
" Legs	Puigoorge
" Feet	Eadamal
" Nails	Hothke or Hulke
A Stone	Walba
Sand	Jodwal, yowall or Jorabba
A Rope or Line	Goorge or Gurba
Fire	Maianang or Meanang
The Sun	Galan or Gallan
" Sky	There or Hearre
A Father	Dunjo
A Son	Jumurre
A Man	Bamma or Bama
A Day	Cotta or Hotu
A Torreyquit	Perpere or Perpier
A Cocatoo	Wanda
Male Turtle	Poenja or Poingee
Female	Mamingo
a great Cockle	Moenje or Moingo
Cocos yamms	Maraiotr
A Canoe	Maragan

First
language
records

Cook's Journal: 1768-71

First
language
records

CAPTAIN COOK'S JOURNAL. FIRST VOYAGE.



PLATE: PORTRAIT OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK WITH A FACSIMILE OF HIS
SIGNATURE.

Collotype, Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

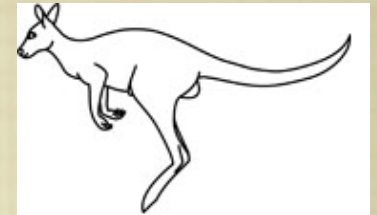
CAPTAIN COOK'S JOURNAL
DURING HIS
FIRST VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD
MADE IN
H.M. BARK "ENDEAVOUR"
1768-71
A Literal Transcription of the Original MSS.
WITH
NOTES AND INTRODUCTION
EDITED BY
CAPTAIN W.J.L. WHARTON, R.N., F.R.S.
Hydrographer of the Admiralty.
Illustrated by Maps and Facsimiles.

LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62 PATERNOSTER ROW
1893

43931

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION
TO
ADMIRAL H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH,
K.G., ETC.,
WHOSE DEEP INTEREST IN ALL MATTERS CONNECTED
WITH
THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE BRITISH NAVY
IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL WHO HAVE HAD
THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING WITH HIM.

James Cook, 1770 **ganjuru**



Included in the Journal but not in the list was *Kangooroo* or *Kanguru*

Land Animals are scarce, so far as we know confin'd to a very few species; all that we saw I have before mentioned. The sort which is in the greatest Plenty is the Kangooroo or Kanguru, so called by the Natives; we saw a good many of them about Endeavour River, but kill'd only 3, which we found very good Eating. Here are likewise Lizards, Snakes, Scorpions, Centapees, etc., but not in any plenty. Tame Animals they have none but Dogs, and of these we saw but one, and therefore must be very scarce, probably they eat them faster than they breed them; we should not have seen this one had he not made us frequent Visits while we lay in Endeavour River.

The land Fowls are Bustards, Eagles, Hawks, Crows, such as we have in England, Cockatoes of 2 sorts, White and Brown, very beautiful Birds of the Parrot kind, such as Lorryquets, etc., Pidgeons,

* The Black Apple, or Sapota Australis.

† A species of Taro, Colocasia macrorhiza.

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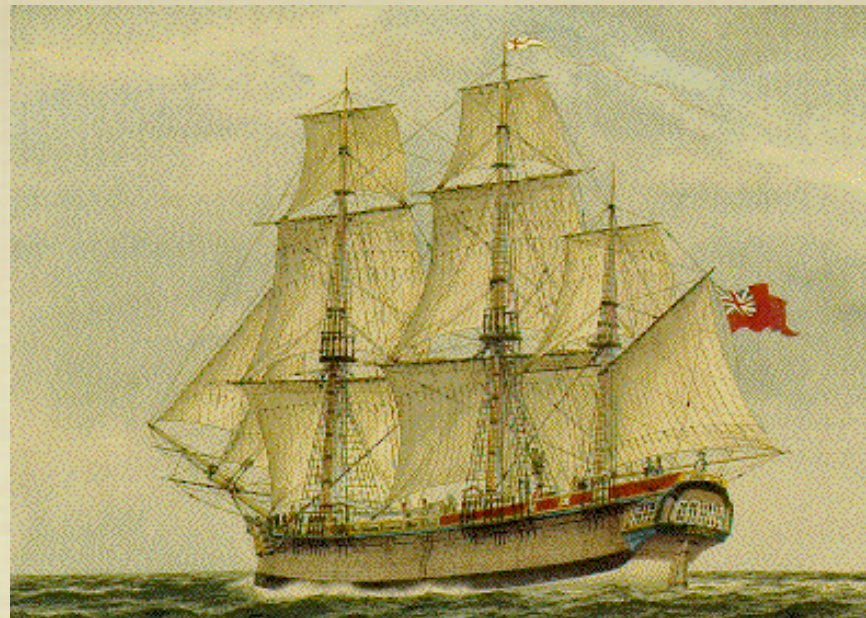
Cook's Journal.--First Voyage.

[Aug. 1770.]

First Fleet, 1788

Sirius ***Supply***

6 Transports
3 Storeships



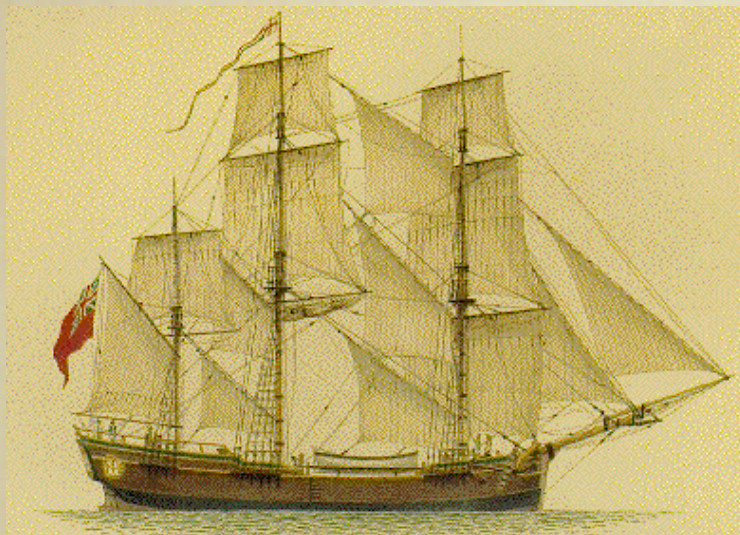
FF ***Sirius*** 540 t



FF ***Supply*** 170 t



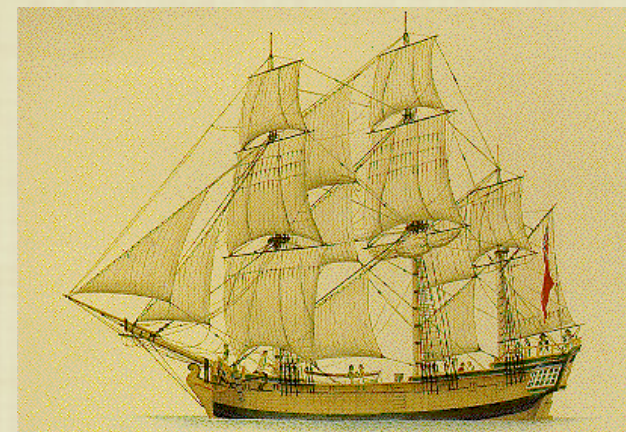
FF ***Alexander*** transport 452 t



FF ***Scarborough*** transport 430 t



FF ***Fishburn*** storeship 378 t



FF ***Golden Grove*** storeship 375 t



FF ***Borrowdale*** storeship 375 t



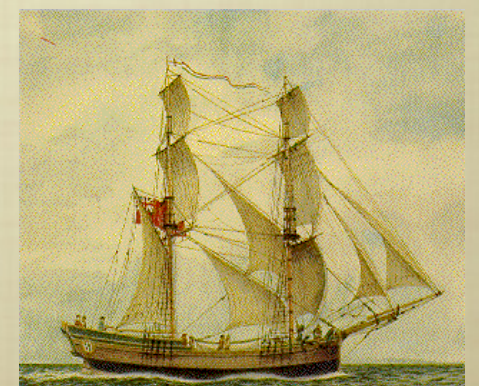
FF ***Prince of Wales*** transport 350 t



FF ***Charlotte*** transport 335 t



FF ***Lady Penrhyn*** transport 333 t



FF ***Friendship*** transport 274 t

First words: **wara ! wara !**

The first words of the Sydney Aboriginal language (Biyal-Biyal) to be heard by members of the First Fleet in January 1788 were recorded by Captain John **Hunter** and others:

At eight A.M. of the 20th, we anchored with the whole of the convoy in Botany-bay, in eight fathoms water.

*As the ships were sailing in, a number of the natives assembled on the south shore, and, by their motions, seemed to threaten; they pointed their spears, and often repeated the words, **wara, wara** (Hunter 1968 [1793]:28).*

There was little doubt as to what they meant:

As we came near them they spoke us in a loud dissonant manner, principally uttering these words — **warra, warra, war**, which we judged to be to tell us to go **away** (quoted in Cobley 1962:66—letter of Rev. Richard and Mary Johnson to Mr Henry Fricker, of 10 February 1788).

wara ! wara !**(Collins)**

Monday 21 January 1788, in Botany Bay: *David Collins*

The governor set off on Monday the 21st, accompanied by Captain Hunter, Captain Collins (the judge advocate), a lieutenant, and the master of the *Sirius*, with a small party of marines for their protection, the whole being embarked in three open boats. The day was mild and serene, and there being but a gentle swell without the mouth of the harbour, the excursion promised to be a pleasant one. Their little fleet attracted the attention of several parties of the natives, as they proceeded along the coast, who all greeted them in the same words, and in the same tone of vociferation, shouting every where 'Warra, warra, warra' words which, by the gestures that accompanied them, could not be interpreted into invitations to land, or expressions of welcome.⁶ It must however be observed, that at Botany Bay the natives had hitherto conducted themselves sociably and peaceably toward all the parties of our officers and people with whom they had hitherto met, and by no means seemed to regard them as enemies or invaders of their country and tranquillity*.

warra ! warra !

(Tench)

“warra warra” **warra warra** = “.....*” begone : Southwell: Journal (HRNSW) [:692:17] [BB]

* “The ships saluted at sunrise, noon, and sunset, which must have frightened the **warra warras**, for so we call the blacks, from their constant cry of ‘**warra warra**’ at everything they see that is new.” [Southwell Jnl 23 Jan. 1788]

January 1788, in Botany Bay: *Watkin Tench*: 36:30

These people seemed at a loss to know (probably from our want of beards) of what **sex** we were, which having understood, they burst into the most immoderate fits of **laughter**, talking to each other at the same time with such rapidity and vociferation as I had never before heard. After nearly an hour's conversation by signs and gestures, they repeated several times the word **whurra**, which signifies, **begone**, and walked away from us to the head of the Bay.

Tench, Watkin. 1979 [1789, 1793]. Sydney's First Four Years, being a reprint of 'A narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay; with an account of New South Wales, its Productions, Inhabitants, &c., to which is subjoined, A List of the Civil and Military Establishments at Port Jackson' and 'A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson in New South Wales, including an accurate description of the Situation of the Colony; of the Natives; and of its Natural Productions'. Sydney: Library of Australian History in association with the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Locals keep away

February 1788, at Port Jackson: *Watkin Tench: Narrative*, p. 46

I have already said, we had been but **very few days at Port Jackson**, when an alteration in the behaviour of the natives was perceptible; and I wish I could add, that a longer residence in their neighbourhood had introduced a greater degree of cordiality and intermixture between the old, and new, lords of the soil, than at the day on which this publication is dated subsists.

[77] From their **easy reception of us in the beginning**, many were induced to call in question the accounts which Mr. **Cook** had given of this people. That celebrated navigator, we were willing to believe, had somehow by his conduct **offended them**, which prevented the intercourse that would otherwise have taken place. The result, however, of our repeated endeavours to induce them to come among us has been such as to confirm me in an opinion, that **they either fear or despise us** too much, to be anxious for a closer connection.

February 1788, at Port Jackson: *Watkin Tench: Complete Account*, p. 135

1788. With the natives we were very little more acquainted than [4] on our arrival in the country. Our intercourse with them was neither frequent or cordial. They seemed studiously to **avoid us, either from fear, jealousy, or hatred**. When they met with unarmed stragglers, they sometimes **killed**, and sometimes **wounded** them.

Settlement, July 1788

Early
days in
Sydney
Cove



No
indigenous
placenames

Settlement, 1807

Early
days in
Sydney
Cove

"Tar-ra"	Dara =	"Ditto Ditto [Sydney Cove] west point"	Dawes Point : Anon (c) [c:38:8] [BB]
"Wåráng"	warang =	".. whiteman ... wounded ... Kadi to Wåráng ..."	Sydney Cove : Dawes (b) [b:33:4.3] [BB]
"Tobegully"	dabagali =	"....." [Bennelong Point] :	Meehan 1807 [:] [Syd]
"Woccanmagully"	wagan-ma-gali =	"Farm Cove"	Farm Cove : Meehan 1807 [:] [Syd]
"Yurong"	yurang =	"....." Mrs Macquaries Point :	Meehan 1807 [:] [Syd]

Map by James Meehan, 3 October 1807



Capture of Arabanoo

This wasn't his name! He was saying he didn't understand!

Early
days in
Sydney
Cove

ngara-buni

“Ngarabóoni” **ngara-buni** = “I do not, or did not hear” hear-lacking : Dawes (a) [a:36:1] [BB]

It being remarked with concern, that the natives were becoming every day more troublesome and hostile, several people having been wounded, and others, who were necessarily employed in the woods, driven in and much alarmed by them, the governor determined on endeavouring to seize and bring into the settlement, one or two of those people, whose **language it was become absolutely necessary to acquire**, that they might learn to distinguish friends from enemies.

Accordingly, on the 30th [December 1788] a **young man was seized** and brought up by Lieutenant Ball of the *Supply*, and Lieutenant George Johnston of the marines. A second was taken; but, after dragging into the water beyond his depth the man who seized him, he got clear off. [Collins 40:17]

Various events 1788-89

Early
days in
Sydney
Cove

- Sirius to Cape Town for supplies (Oct. 1788)
- Settlement at Rose Hill (Parramatta) (Nov. 1788)
- various explorations undertaken (1778-91)
- Newcomers meet various local people;
learn a few words of the language:

he called it '**Ben-gad-ee**' (or ornament), but his delight changed to rage and hatred when he discovered its use. [Tench 141:21]

and sighing deeply two or three times, uttered the word '**gweè-un**' (fire). [Tench 141:38]

he was now often heard to repeat that of **Weè-rong** (Sydney), which was doubtless to inform his countrymen of the place of his captivity; [Tench 142:29]

Bàdo, bàdo (water), was his cry [Tench 147:28]

those of the tribe called **Cam-ee-ra-gal** [Tench 160:28]

- Colony faces starvation
- Smallpox strikes (Apr. 1789)

Smallpox

“Gall Gall”	gal gal =	“Smallpox”	smallpox :King MS [:398:8] [BB]
“Gal-galla”	gal gala =	“Small pox”	smallpox :Anon (c) [c:17:19] [BB]

May 1789, at Port Jackson: *William Bradley*

... an old man and his child were brought up to Sydney Cove with the **small pox** out on them. Soon after this old man, another native man was found [162] in the same situation with a child laying by him, both of which were brought up to the hospital. The native at the Governor (**Arrabanoo**) met them without fear of the disorder by which it was then supposed that he was ignorant of that disorder or that he had had it and was recovered. The two men died before we arrived, but the children were then on the recovery.

From the great number of dead natives found in every part of the Harbour, it appears that the **smallpox had made dreadful havoc among them** [Bradley 161:22]

[Monday] 18 May 1789

Arrabanoo, the native of the Governor’s, **died of the smallpox** which it is supposed he caught from the native children. [Bradley 163:14]

Various events 1789-90

Early
days in
Sydney
Cove

■ Bennelong and Coleby captured for language learning (Nov. 89)

... sometimes called him **Been-èn-a** (father) [Tench 160:37]

... but I have got **Bul-la Mur-ee Dee-in** [two large women] to compensate for her loss.
[Tench 177:16]

Bùlla Mògo Parrabùgò (two hatchets to-morrow) I repeatedly cried; [Tench 188:2]

None of the natives who had come in the boat would touch the body, or even go near it, saying, the **Mawn** would come; that is literally, the spirit of the deceased would seize them.
[Tench 216:17]

who said that we were Englishmen, and **Bùd-yee-ree** (good), [Tench 226:18]

Of our [226] compass they had taken early notice, and had talked much to each other about it: they comprehended its use; and called it “**Naa-Mòro**,” literally, “To see the way”; [Tench 226:39]

they point to the spot they are upon, and all around it, crying **Weè-ree, Weè-ree**, [228]
(bad) [Tench 228:37]

■ Second Fleet arrives (Jun. 90)

■ Governor Phillip speared at Manly (Sep. 90)

Locals are everywhere

November 1790

“With the **natives we are hand and glove.**

They throng the camp every day, and sometimes by their clamour and importunity for bread and meat (of which they now all eat greedily) are become very troublesome.

God knows, we have little [74] enough for ourselves!” [Tench 192:15]

- **Gamekeeper speared near Botany Bay** (Dec. 90)
- **Settlement gradually gets established**

Some local men

Locals
everywhere



Benelong — binilang



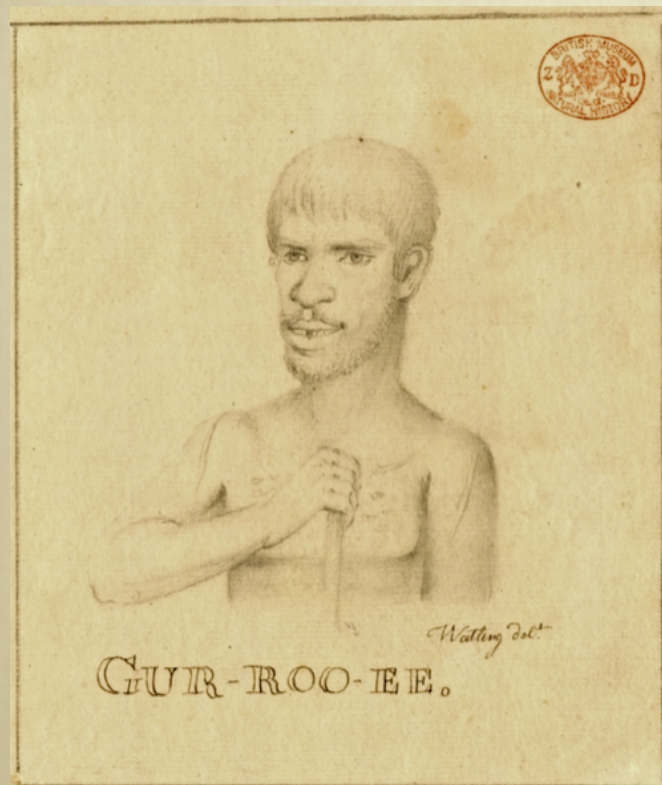
Colbee — gulubi



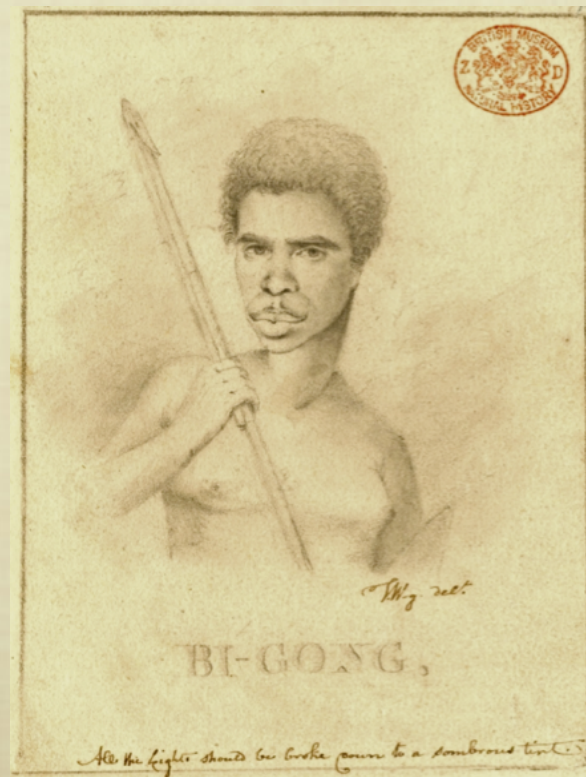
ngana ngana Collins



Nanberry — nganbarayi



Guroowee — guruwi



Bigong — bayigang

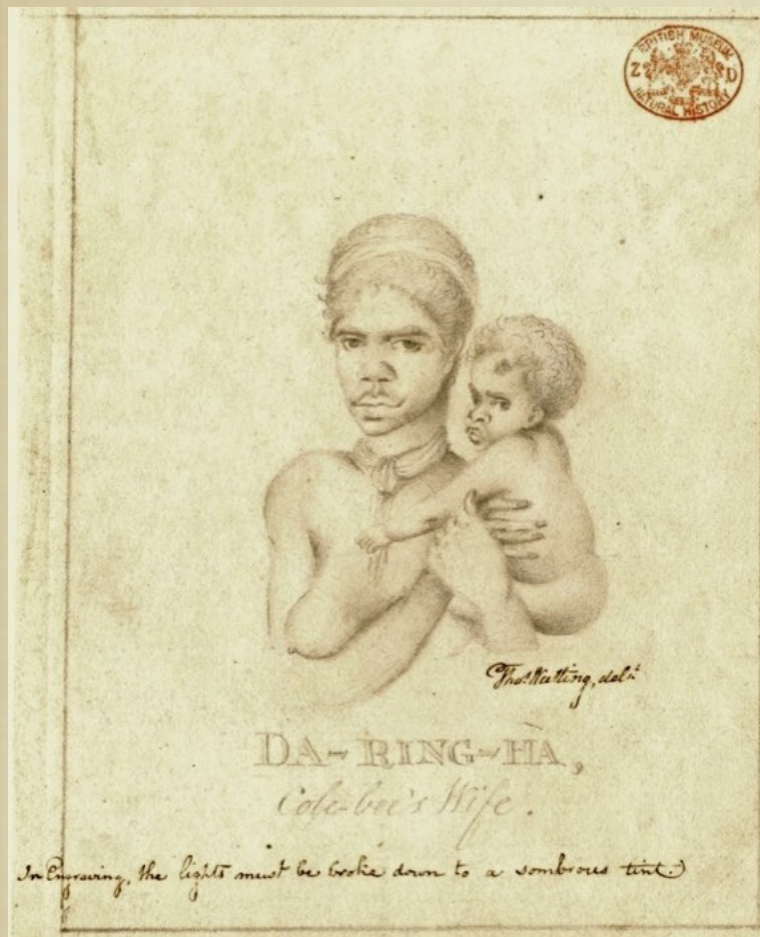


Baloderry — baladarayi

Portraits by
Thomas Watling
and the darker portraits
by the
Port Jackson Painter

Copyright
Natural History
Museum, London

Some local women



Dar-in-ga — daringa



Dirragoa — diraguwa



Boo-roong — burung

Prominent women without portraits

Ba-rang-a-roo barangaru

Go-roo-bar-roo-bool-lo gurubarabula

Pat-ye-ga-rang badyigarang

Portraits by
Thomas Watling
and the darker portraits
by the
Port Jackson Painter

Copyright
Natural History
Museum, London

No Aboriginal texts



Brisbane Water Man

No written
language records
Many rock engraving



Bantry Bay Shield

So all language records
were made by
Europeans

Language knowledge explosion late 1790

Knowledge explosion



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



Notebooks 41645 (a-c) held by the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London: **Anon** (c), left;

(a) and (b) **Dawes**, right

DAWES

Second lieutenant **William Dawes** begins to compile **notebooks** of words and sentences.

TENCH

*"Of the language of New South Wales I once hoped to have subjoined to this work such an exposition, [with] Mr. Dawes, who ... had advanced his researches **beyond the reach of competition.**"*

[Tench 291:29]

Narrative accounts

included words and word lists

Knowledge
explosion



- Watkin Tench
- William Collins
- William Bradley
- Daniel Paine
- John Hunter
- Arthur Phillip
- Modern diary compilation by John Cobley

PRINTED: David Collins



APPENDIX XII

New South Wales	English
Moo-ting	
Cal-larr	Fizgigs
Car-rab-ba	Prong of the moo-ting
Dam-moo-ne,	Prong of the cal-larr.
Woo-dah,	
Can-na-tal-ling,	Names of clubs.
Doo-win-nul,	
Can-ni-cull,	
Car-ru-wāng,	
Wo-mur-rāng.	
Gnal-lung-ul-la,	
Tar-ril-ber-re,	
Mo-go,	Stone hatchet.
We-bat,	Handle of ditto.
Wo-mer-ra,	Throwing-stick
Pronouns, Adverbs, and Mode of Address	
Gni-a,	I, or myself.
Gnee-ne,	You.
Gnee-ne-de,	Yours.
Dān-nai,	Mine.
Dar-ring-al,	His.
Gnā-ni,	Whose.
Wau,	Where.
De,	There.
Diam,	Here.
Diam o waw?	Where are you?
Diam o diam o,	Here I am.
Gnahn Chiara,	What is your name?
gnahn?	
Bir-rong,	Appertaining.
Winds	
Bow-wān,	North.
Bal-gay-al-lang,	South.
Boo-roo-wee,	East.
Bain-mar-ray,	West.
Doo-loo-gal,	North-west.
Yare-bā-lahng,	South-west.
Go-nie-mah,	North-east.

New South Wales	English
Gwār-ra,	A high wind.
Inflexions of the Verbs.	
Gnia-na,	Sighing.
Bwo-me,	Breathing.
Dere-rign-ang,	Sneezing.
Car-re-nar-re-bil-le,	Coughing.
Yen-no-rā,	Walking.
Yen-mow,	I will walk or go.
Yenn,	Go or walk.
Yen-mā-nia,	We will walk or go.
Yen-wor-ro,	He is gone.
Yen-nim-me,	You are going.
Yen-nool,	Relating to walking.
Yen-noong,	
Yen-nore-yen,	
Yen-nang-allea,	Let us both walk.
Al-loey,	Stay.
Wo-roo-wo-roo,	Go away.
War-rē-war-re,	
Pat-ta-diow,	I have eaten.
Pat-tā-die-mi,	You have eaten.
Pat-ty,	He has eaten.
Pat-ta-bow,	I will eat.
Pat-tā-baw-me,	You will eat, or will you eat?
Pat-tā-ne,	They eat.
Wui-da-diow,	I have drank.
Wui-da-die-mi,	You have drank.
Nwya je-ming-a,	Give me.
Py-yay,	Killed.
Jung-ara py-yay,	Killed by dogs.
Par-rat-ben-ni-diow,	I have emptied.
Py-ya-bow,	I will strike or beat.
Py-yee,	He did beat.
E-ra-bow,	I will throw.
E-ra,	Throw you.
E-rail-leiz,	Throwing.
Mahn-me-diow,	I have taken it.
Mahn-iow,	Shall I, or I shall take.

APPENDIX XII

New South Wales	English
Goo-rā,	Sunk.
Ton-ga-bil-lie,	Did cry.
Wau-me,	Scolding or abusing.
Wau-me-bow	I will scold or abuse
Wau-me-diow	I have scolded or abused
Wau-me-diang-ha	They have scolded or abused
Nang-er-ra	He sleeps
Nang-a	
Nang-a-bow	I will sleep
Nang-a-diow	I have slept
Nang-a-diem-me	You have slept
Nang-a-bau-me?	Will you sleep?
Go-ro-da	He snores
Gnā-nā le-mā	She or he breathes
Al-lo-wan	He lives or remains
Al-lo-wah	Stay here, or sit down
Wal-loo-me-yen-wal-loo?	Where are you going?
War-re-me-war-re?	Where have you been?
Gnā-diow	You have seen
Gnā-diem-me	I have seen
Gnā-bow	I will see
Gnā	See
Era-mad-jow-in-nia	Forced from him
Car-rah-mā	Stealing
Wor-ga-wee-na	He whistles, or whistling
Goo-lar-ra py-yel-la	Snarling with anger
Man-nie mong-alla	Surprised

New South Wales	English
Yare-bā	Tired
Pe-to-e	Sought for
Man-nie mal-lee	He was startled
Nwya-bow-in-nia	I will give you
Wan-ye-wan-yi	He lies
Mā-row-e	He creeps
Bang-a-ja-bun	He did paddle
Noy-ga	Howling as a dog
Toll	Biting
Co-e, Cow-e	
Cwoi, Cow-ana	Come here
Wad-be	Swimming
Bo-gay	Diving
Ta-yo-ra, Me-dianga-a	Severely cold.
	Me-dianga is compounded of Me-diong, a sore
Mul-la-rā	Married. Compounded of Mulla a man
Beasts	
Jung-o	Common name
Pat-a-go-rāng	A large grey kang-oo-roo
Bag-gar-ray	Small red ditto
Wal-li-bah	Black ditto
Tein-go	
Din-go	Dog
Wor-re-gal	
Boo-roo-min	Grey vulpine opossum
Go-ra-go-ro	Red ditto
Wob-bin	Flying squirrel
Ga-ni-mong	Kang-oo-roo rat
Wee-ree-a-min	Large fox rat
Wee-ree-am-by	
Bo-gul	Rat or mouse
Me-rea-gine	Spotted rat

David Collins, Judge-Advocate and Secretary of the Colony

Collins, David. 1975 [1798]. **An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, With Remarks on the Dispositions, Customs, Manners. etc., of the Native Inhabitants of that Country:** Volume I. Edited by B. H. Fletcher. First ed. 2 vols. Vol. I. Sydney: A.H. & A.W. Reed in association with the Royal Australian Historical Society. Original edition, 1798, published by T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, London.

Other printed lists

- P.G. King
- Daniel Paine

Manuscripts: Southwell

DANIEL SOUTHWELL

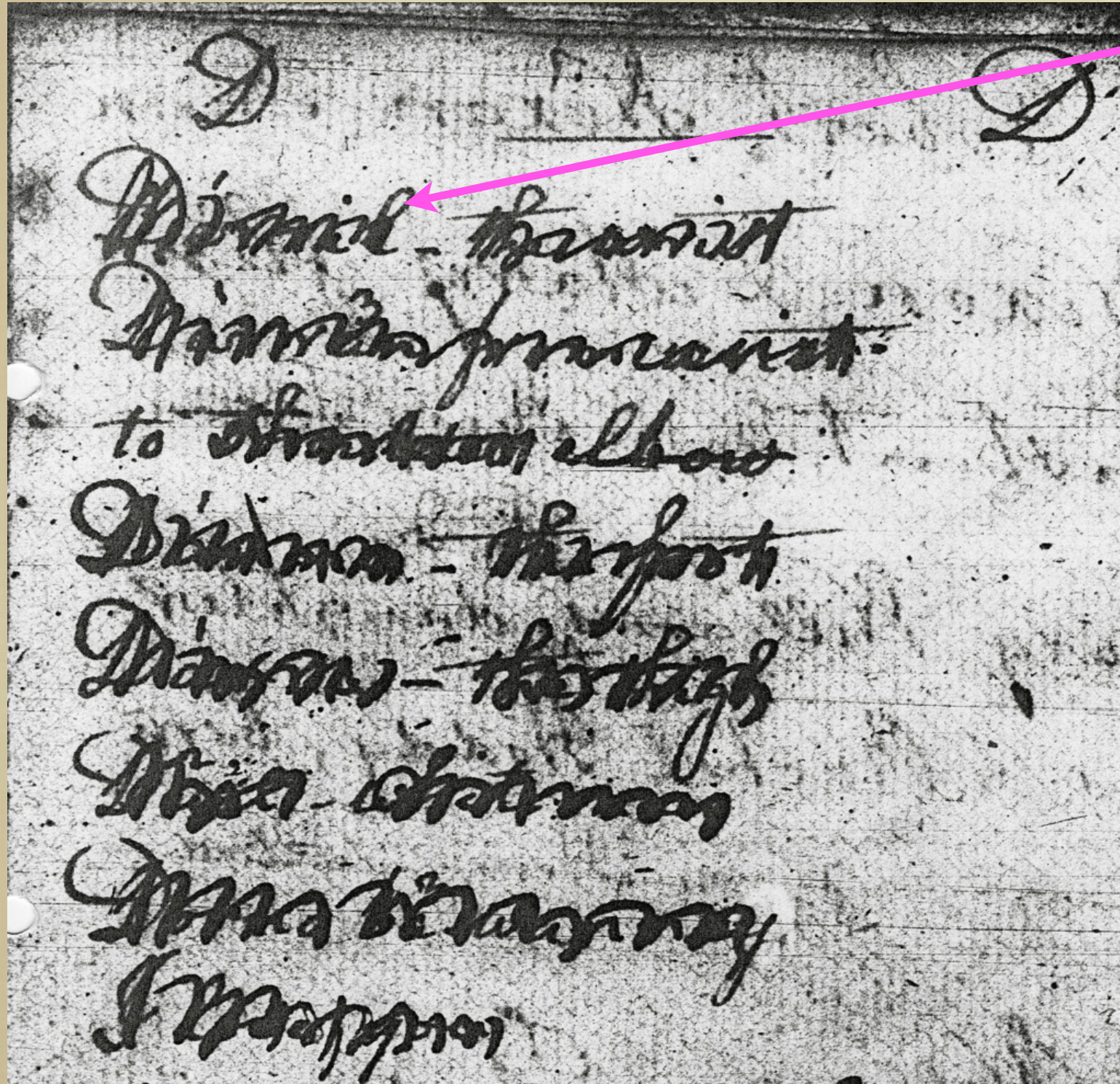
Page 1 of a 7-page manuscript, typical of the difficulty in reading many of the records

147

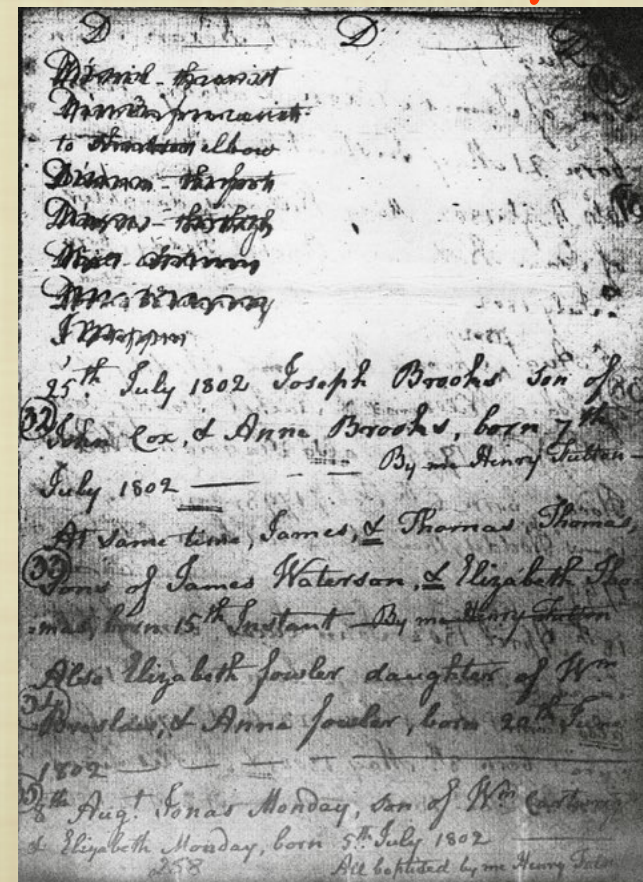
List of words used by the Natives of New Holland, in the District of Port Jackson, New South Wales, as could be gathered from them; and expressed as nearly as possible according to their Mode of Enunciation. To which are added, the Words in English, that most ~~dearly~~ correspond to them.

Man's Name	Be'ma-long
My Wife	Be'ma-long
Woman	Be'ma-long
Father	Be'ma-long
My Brother	Be'ma-long
Wife	Be'ma-long
Mother	Be'ma-long
Brother, or Friend	Be'ma-long
Sister	Be'ma-long
Male Child, Boy, Young	Be'ma-long
ster pretty well grown	Be'ma-long
ge-ra- pa-be	Be'ma-long
nerve. a Boy.	Be'ma-long

Manuscripts: Fulton



Darril	the wrist
Darran	from wrist to shoulder or elbow
Danna	the foot
Darra	the thigh
Dul	white man
Durra ba winney	I love you



Rev. Henry Fulton:
Births
Deaths and
Marriages
Register
with
Indigenous
language
records
crossed out

Mysteries clarified

1. **biyal**: no

* We had lived almost three years at Port Jackson ... before we knew that the word **Bée- al**, signified **no**, and not **good**.... The cause of our error was this.

— The epithet **Wee-ree**, signifying **bad**, we knew; and as the use of this word, and its opposite, afford the most simple form of denoting consent, or disapprobation, to uninstructed **Indians**, in order to find out their word for **good**, when **Arabanoo** was first brought among us, we used jokingly to say, that any thing, which he liked, was **Weereee**, in order to provoke him to tell us that it was **good**.

When we said **Weereee**, he answered **Beeal**, which we translated, and adopted for **good**; whereas he meant no more than simply to deny our inference, and say, **no** — it is not **bad**. —

After this, it cannot be thought extraordinary, that the little **vocabulary**, inserted in Mr. Cooke's account of this part of the world, should appear defective; even were we not to take in the great probability of the **dialects** at Endeavour river, and Van Dieman's land, **differing from that spoken at Port Jackson**.

And it remains to be proved, that the animal, called here **Pat-a-ga-ram**, is not there called **Kanguroo**. [Tench 231:15]

2. Kangaroo: **gaṇuru**

Hitherto I have spoken only of the large, or grey kangaroo, to which the **natives** give the name of **Pat-ag-a-ràn**.* But there are (besides the kangaroo-rat) two other sorts. One of them we called the red kangaroo, from the colour of its fur, which is like that of a hare, and sometimes is mingled with a large portion of black: the **natives** call it **Bàg-a-ray**. [Tench 269:1]

* **Kanguroo**, was a name unknown to them for any animal, until we introduced it. When I showed **Colbee** the **cows** brought out in the *Gorgon*, he asked me if they were kangaroos?

Dialects: Tench, Collins

Knowledge
explosion

Although our **natives** and the **strangers** conversed on a par, and understood each other perfectly, yet they spoke different dialects of the same language; many of the most common and necessary words, used in life, bearing no similitude, and others being slightly different. [**Tench** 230:34]

English Name on the **sea coast**. Name at the **Hawkesbury**.

The Moon	Yèn-ee-da	Con-dò-en
The Ear	Goo-reè	Bèn-na
The Forehead	Nùl-lo	Nar-ràn
The Belly	Bar-an'g	Bin'-dee
The Navel	Mùn-ee-ro	Boom-bon'g
The Buttocks	Boong	Bay-leè
The Neck	Càl-ang	Gan-gà
The Thigh	Tàr-a	Dàr-a
The Hair	Deè-war-a	Keè-war-a

The following difference of dialect was observed between the natives of the Hawkesbury and at Sydney.

Head	ca-ber-ra	co-co	[Collins 512:20]
Hair	de-war-ra	ke-war-ra	
Forehead	gnul-lo	nar-ran	
Eye	mi	me	
Ear	go-ray	ben-ne	
Neck	cad-lian	gang-a	
Belly	ba-rong	ben-de	
Navel	moo-nur-ro	boom-boong	
Buttocks	boong	bay-ley	
Moon	yen-na-dah	dil-luck	
Sun	coing	con-do-in	
Hail	go-ra	go-ri-ba	
Laughing Jack-ass	go-gen-ne-gine	go-con-de	

Dawes also
recorded dialect
differences

Language areas

Knowledge
explosion



**NOT ONE
LANGUAGE
IN
AUSTRALIA
BUT
AROUND
250**

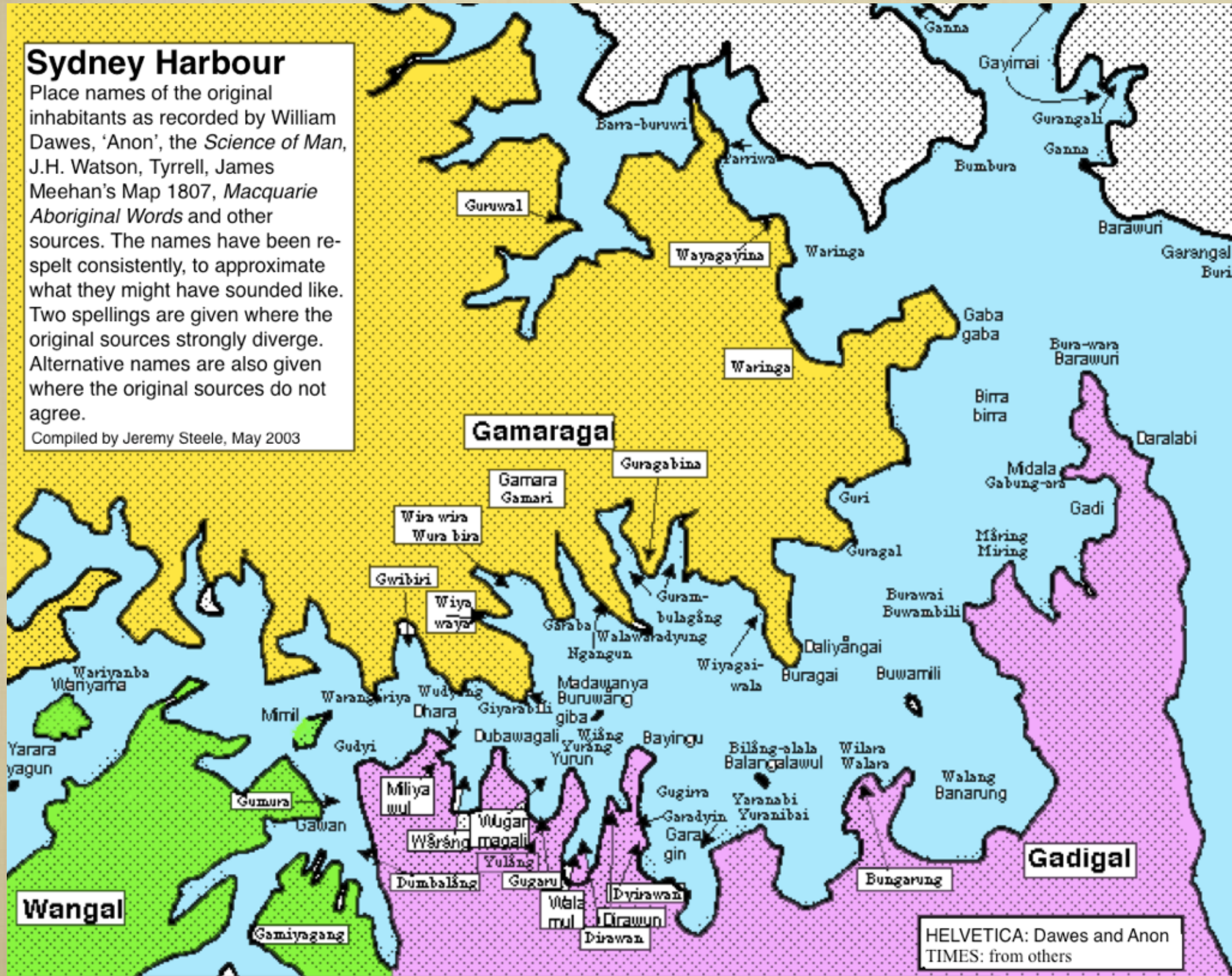
Aboriginal Australia map
compiled by David Horton
AIATSIS: Australian Institute of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies, Canberra

Harbour placenames

Sydney Harbour

Place names of the original inhabitants as recorded by William Dawes, 'Anon', the *Science of Man*, J.H. Watson, Tyrrell, James Meehan's Map 1807, *Macquarie Aboriginal Words* and other sources. The names have been respelt consistently, to approximate what they might have sounded like. Two spellings are given where the original sources strongly diverge. Alternative names are also given where the original sources do not agree.

Compiled by Jeremy Steele, May 2003



Language: Tench

The letters **s** and **v** they never could pronounce:
the latter became invariably **w**, and the former mocked all their efforts ...

They inflect both their **nouns** and **verbs** regularly;
and denote the **cases** of the former,
and the **tenses** of the latter,
not like the English by auxiliary words;
but like the **Latins** by **change of termination**.

Their nouns, whether substantive or adjective, seem to admit of no **plural**.

I have heard Mr. Dawes hint his belief of their using a **dual number** [Tench 293:7]

What happened next

The Indigenous people, reckoned to number around **1500** in the Sydney region at the outset, were to be soon **overwhelmed** by the flood of European immigrants.

The people and the language were virtually finished by about **1825**.

So a history of tens of thousands of years came to an end.

Houses covered many of the rock engravings.

Silent figures remind us of what was here from time immemorial.



A woman and a man in the scrub beside the highway at Mt Kuring-gai

Biyal Biyal in English

■ cooee

■ dingo

■ waratah

■ geebung

■ koala

■ wallaby

■ wombat

■ woomera

■ corroboree

■ yellowmundee

■ nulla-nulla

but NOT:

— kookaburra

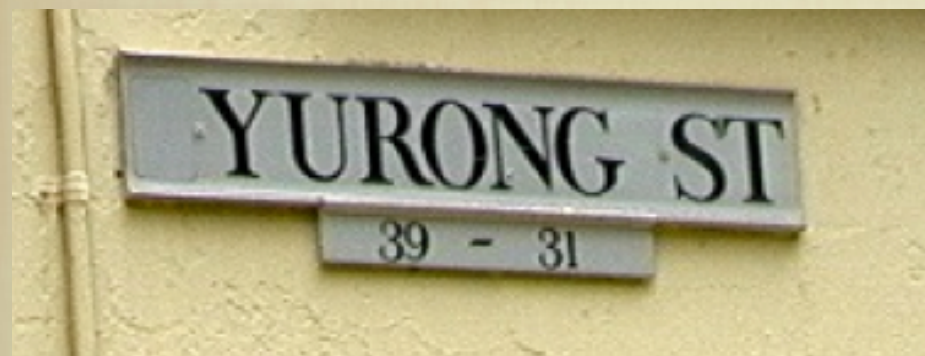
— billabong

which are **Wiradhuri**

Other reminders



... a few more



LANGUAGE

But what about:

- nouns
- verbs
- pronouns
- prepositions
- adjectives
- conjunctions

What about:

- colours
- numbers
- courtesies

What about:

- exclamations
- plurals
- vocabulary
- kin terms
- suffixes
- having / lacking

What about:

- conjugations, cases
- prohibitions: -nb-, r-, l-
- vowel harmony
- transitivity
- ergative / locative
- reflexive / reciprocal
- imperative
- etc. etc. etc.

For more
on language,
just ask

THE END

BEROWRA: FISHHOOKS / SHELLS

*P. to D. Ngia ngirinarabaouw } I will go and fetch you
winua berāra. } some fish hooks (or the
shells)*

Australian	respelt	English	EngJSM	source
"P to D. Ngia ngirinarabaouw inia berāra"	ngaya ngayirinarabawi nya birara =	"I will go and fetch you some fish hooks (or the shells)"	I bring will I thee fishhooks :	Dawes (b) [b:29:14] [BB]
"[P to D. Ngia ngirinarabaouw inia berāra]"	ngayiri-nara-ba- wi-nya =	"[I will go and fetch you some fish hooks (or the shells)]"	bring PURP will I thee:	Dawes (b) [b: 29:14.1] [BB]

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