

**dalang dinguw mudyil**

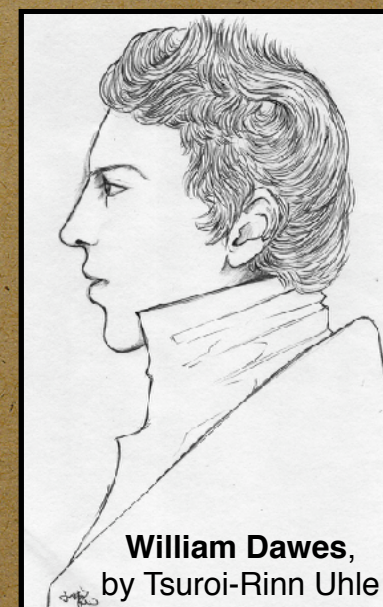
*Lingo Redfern*



???



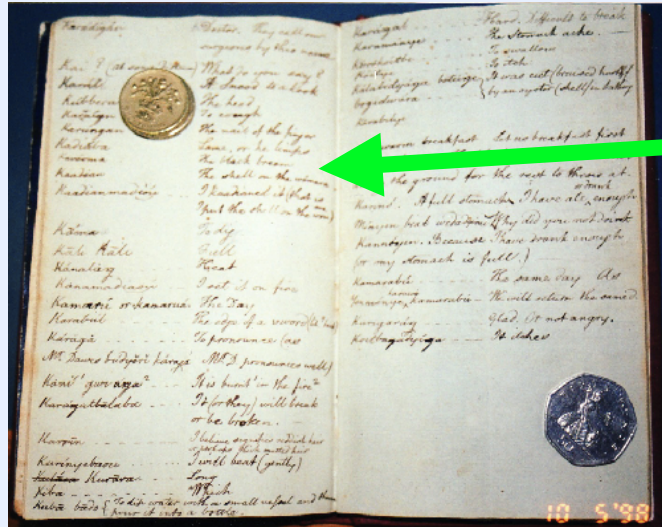
**Linguist**



William Dawes,  
by Tsurui-Rinn Uhle

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





Notebook 'b'  
has sentences

Anon

# Notebooks

Dawes'

two notebooks  
'a' & 'b'

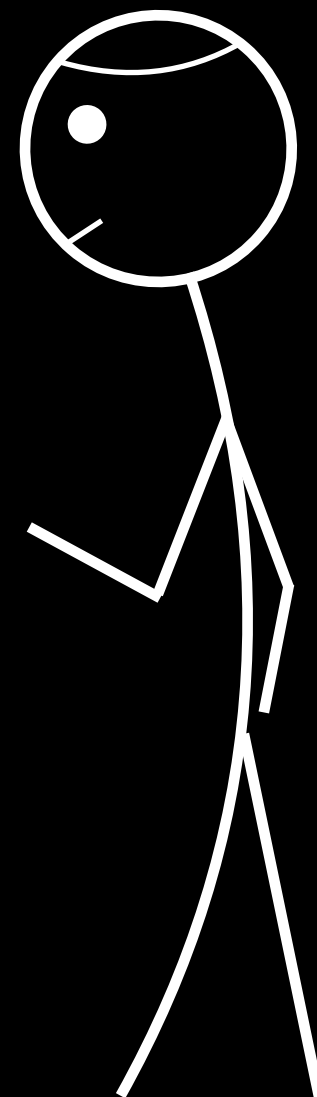




# Welcome to country guwi ngura-gu

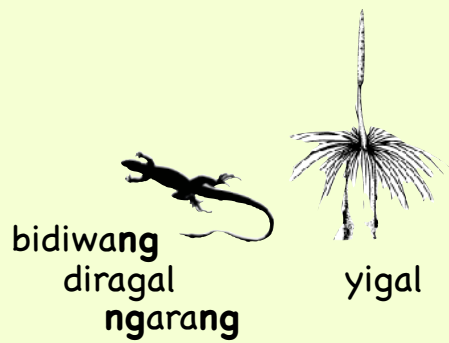
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minyin  
biyal  
nanga-dyi-mi?



what

what this  
what this name



mi diyi  
mi diyi giyara



mi

what

'stare' is a guess

Australian	respelt	English	EngJSM	source
"Me-de"	mi <u>diyi</u>	"what is this"	what this	Anon (c) [c:12:14.1] [BB]
"Mee <u>diée mee</u> "	mi <u>diyi</u> mi	"What's this, what?"	what this, what	Dawes (b) [b:13:6] [BB]
"Mee. Mee <u>diée</u> "	mi. mi <u>diyi</u>	"What? What's this?"	what this	Dawes (b) [b:13:5] [BB]
"Mitieé <u>waránga</u> "	mi <u>diyi</u> <u>waranga</u>	"Stop a little stop"	what this stare IMP!	Dawes (b) [b:13:12.1] [BB]
"Mi mi <u>wáranára</u> "	mi mi <u>waranara</u>	"What are you looking for."	what what stare	Dawes (b) [b:17:13] [BB]
"{Mi mi <u>ga</u> . Mīm <u>bowanára</u> mi <u>ga</u> }"	mi <u>miga</u> . mim <u>bawanara</u> <u>miga</u>	"{What are you looking for, what}"	what eye! why stare eye	Dawes (b) [b:17:11.01] [BB]
"Mee <u>kíara</u> "	mi <u>giyara</u>	"What's the name?"	what name	Dawes (b) [b:13:11] [BB]
"Me-baw- <u>chiara</u> "	mi ba <u>giyara</u>	"What is the name"	what indeed name	Anon (c) [c:6:7] [BB]
"° Mee Murry °"	mi <u>mari</u>	"How many"	how big	Dawes (b) [b:13:13] [BB]
"Mi <u>ngyíni</u> Poulden?"	mi <u>ngyini</u> POULDEN?	"What relation are you to Poulden?"	what thou POULDEN	Dawes (b) [b:17:5] [BB]

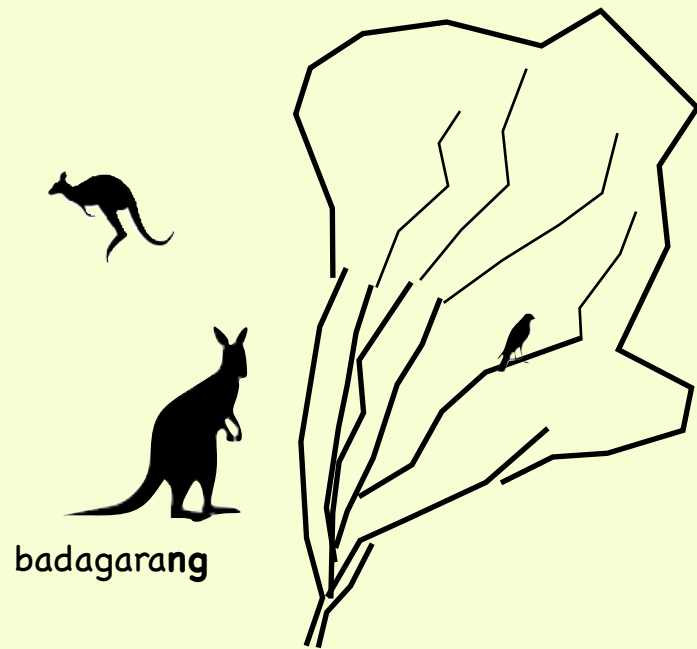
migu: 'eye' is a guess

"Mi, or Me, <u>Mego</u> "	<u>mayi</u> / mi / <u>migu</u>	"Eye"	eye	King PP Syd [Il:633:1] [Syd]
" <u>Mego</u> "	<u>migu</u>	"Eye"	eye	Cunningham, Allan [:2:21] [DG]

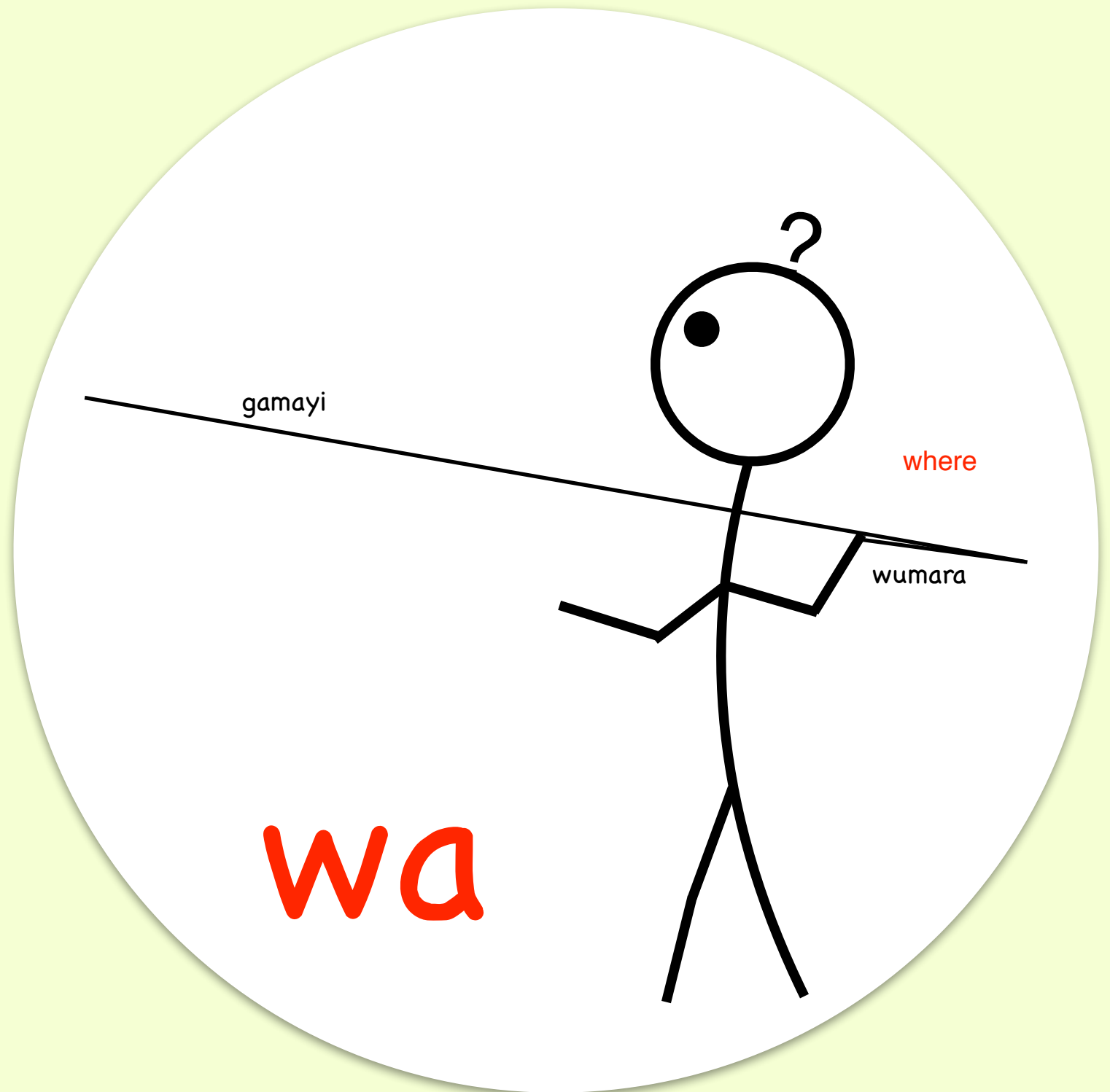


where

where (is the)  
kangaroo  
now



wa  
badagarang  
yagu





wa

where

“ <u>Wau</u> ”	<u>wa</u>	“Where”	where	Anon (c) [c:29:19] [BB]”
“ <u>Diam o waw?</u> ”	<u>dyamu wa</u>	“Where are you?”	here thou where	Collins 1 [:510.1:25] [BB]
“ <u>Waw, baw</u> ”	<u>wa ba</u>	“...Where, indeed! ...”	where indeed	Tench [:293:23.2] [BB]
“ <u>Wau-burwau</u> ”	<u>wa ba wa</u>	“I don’t know where”	where indeed where	Anon (c) [c:7:12] [BB]
“ <u>Whal-loo</u> ”	<u>wa-lu</u>	“where are you going”	where to	Anon (c) [c:17:7] [BB]
“ <u>Waré</u> ”	<u>wa-ri</u>	“Where”	where from	King in Hunter [:410.2:20] [BB]
“ <u>Wå’rim</u> ”	<u>wa-ra-yim</u>	“Where have you been”	where from thou	Dawes (b) [b:21:1] [BB]

wa-lu: ‘where-to’

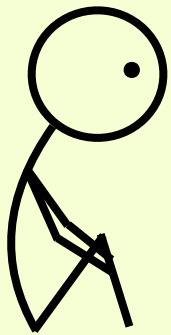
“ <u>Waw Collbee yagoono</u> ”	<u>wa Gulbi yaguna</u>	“... Where is <u>Colbee</u> to-day? ”	where <u>Colbee</u> now	Tench [: 293:23.1] [BB]
“ <u>Kurubín. Wå dyin taringál?</u> ”	<u>Guruban. Wa dyin daringal</u>	“Where’s his Wife?”	<u>Gurubin.</u> Where him-of woman	Dawes (b) [b: 32:12] [BB]
“ <u>warr be-rong orah</u> ”	<u>wa birang ngura</u>	“where is a better country”	where deriving from camp	Anon (c) [c: 21:8] [BB]
“ <u>Waulomi</u> (contr. <u>Waulomyen</u> )”	<u>wa-lu-mi</u>	“Where are you going?”	where to thou	Dawes (b) [b: 22:13] [BB]
“ <u>Wal-loo-me-yen-wal-loo?</u> ”	<u>wa-lu-mi yan walu</u>	“Where are you going?”	where to thou go where to	Collins 1 [: 511.1:16] [BB]
“ <u>Wårími mānyémi buk?</u> ”	<u>wa-ri-mi man-yi-mi BOOK</u>	“Where did you find the book?”	where from thou take did thou BOOK	Dawes (b) [b: 26:13] [BB]
“ <u>Wårími wéllamabámi?</u> ”	<u>wa-ri-mi wila-ma-ba-mi</u>	“From whence will you return?”	where from thou return will thou	Dawes (b) [b: 26:15.1] [BB]

wa-ri: ‘where-away (from)’

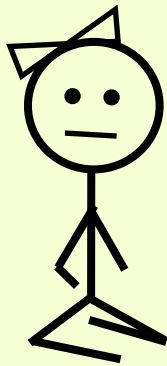


who

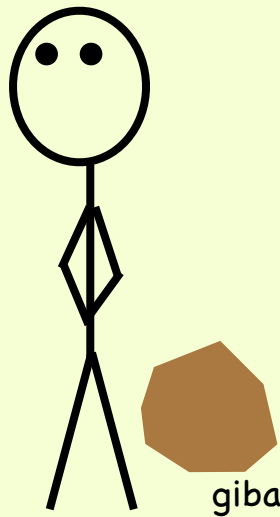
who  
did (it)



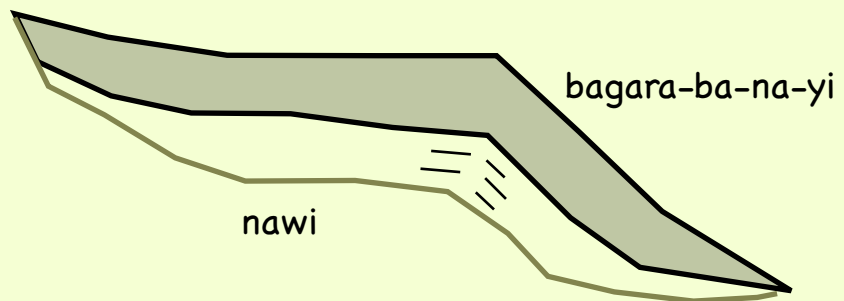
wungara



wirawi



giba



nawi

bagara-ba-na-yi



ngan

who

mala

ngan-a  
banga-yi



ngan

who

“Ngān <sup>1</sup> búla <sup>2</sup> ngalawi <sup>3</sup> inyám <sup>4</sup> brāni <sup>5</sup> ”	ngan bula ngalawa- yi nyam barani	“What <sup>1</sup> other <sup>2</sup> here at your house <sup>3</sup> yesterday <sup>5</sup> ”	who two sit did here yesterday	Dawes (b) [b: 26:1] [BB]
“Ngān widályi teara wü’ra würá”	ngan wida-lyi TEAra wara wara	“Who was that drinking tea with you?”	who drinking TEAs recently	Dawes (b) [b: 15:2] [BB]
“Ngāna meranába?”	ngan-a mirana-ba	“Which shall be first? (to drink sulphur water.)”	who-ERG first will	Dawes (b) [b: 33:11] [BB]
“Ngāna <sup>1</sup> ngwiyi <sup>2</sup> ”	ngan-a ngwiya-yi	“Who <sup>1</sup> gave <sup>2</sup> it (to you)”	who-ERG give did	Dawes (b) [b: 26:2] [BB]
“ngānáma ngwiyi”	ngan-a-ma ngwiya-yi	“To whom didst thou give it”	who-ERG-make give did	Dawes (b) [b: 27:4] [BB]
“Ngāna wūrri dianá”	ngan-a wari-dya na	“Who did it?”	who-ERG stare [?] that	Dawes (b) [b: 14:20] [BB]
“Gnā-ni”	ngan-ayi	“Whose”	who-of	Collins 1 [: 510.1:21] [BB]
“D. Ngānawá?”	ngan-a-wa	“To whom?”	who ERG at	Dawes (b) [b: 29:5] [BB]

SPECULATIVE

ngan: ‘who’

ngan-a: SUBJECT (ERGative / NOMinative)  
 ngan-ayi: ‘of’ (POSSessive / GENitive)  
 ngan-a-wa: ‘at’ (ERGative + LOctive)



why

why  
cry



minyin  
dunga



*minyin* may actually be  
*min-yin*: ‘why-from’

# minyin

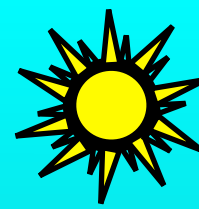
## why

“ <u>M̄in</u> ”	<u>min</u>	“Why, what for”	why	Dawes (b) [b: 13:19.1] [BB]
“ <u>M̄inyin</u> ”	<u>minyin</u>	“Why, what for”	why	Dawes (b) [b: 13:19.2] [BB]
“ <u>D. M̄inyin b̄arakūt Tugéar, m̄inyin?</u> ”	<u>minyin baraga-d Dugiya, minyin</u>	“Why are you afraid <u>Tugéar</u> , why?”	why rise, <u>Dugiya</u> , why	Dawes (b) [b: 32:10] [BB]
“ <u>P. Mr D. M̄inyin bial kanga</u> ”	<u>minyin biyal ganga</u>	“Mr D., why don’t you wash (this part)”	why not wash	Dawes (b) [b: 26:11] [BB]
“ <u>D. M̄inyin bial nangadyími?</u> ”	<u>minyin biyal nanga-dyi-mi</u>	“Why don’t you sleep?”	why not sleep did thou	Dawes (b) [b: 35:7] [BB]
“ <u>M̄inyin bial widadyémi</u> ”	<u>minyin biyal wida-dyi-mi</u>	“Why did you not drink”	why not drink did thou	Dawes (b) [b: 12:10] [BB]
“ <u>M̄inyin bunilbüngadyími jacket</u> ”	<u>minyin buni-l-banga-dyi-mi JACKET</u>	“Why do you take off your jacket?”	why lacking-make did thou JACKET	Dawes (b) [b: 4:11] [BB]
“ <u>M̄inyin túnga</u> ”	<u>minyin dunga</u>	“Why does she cry?”	why cry	Dawes (b) [b: 26:3] [BB]
“ <u>D. M̄inyin gū́lara Ngalgear</u> ”	<u>minyin gulara Ngalgiya</u>	“Why is <u>Ngalgear</u> angry?”	why anger <u>Ngalgiya</u>	Dawes (b) [b: 28:8] [BB]
“ <u>D. M̄inyin gū́lara eóra?</u> ”	<u>minyin gulara yura</u>	“Why are the b.m angry?”	why anger man	Dawes (b) [b: 33:6] [BB]
“ <u>D. M̄inyin Kolbi píyi Pünangā́n</u> ”	<u>minyin Gulbi biyi Banangan</u>	“Why did <u>Kolby</u> beat <u>Punangā́n</u> ”	why Coleby beat Banangan	Dawes (b) [b: 31:1] [BB]
“ <u>M̄inyin m̄iwá́na?</u> ”	<u>minyin mi-wana</u>	“Why won’t you have it?”	why not want	Dawes (b) [b: 17:9] [BB]
“ <u>D. W̄ariwear, m̄inyin ngwiadyanye Bull petticoat</u> ”	<u>Wariwiya, minyin ngwiya-dya-nyi BULL PETTYCOAT</u>	“ <u>W̄ariwear</u> , why did Bull give you the <u>pettycoat</u> ”	<u>Wariwiya</u> why give-did thee Bull pettycoat	Dawes (b) [b: 31:5] [BB]



when

gamara



guwing

when  
will you fall  
from the tree

bariyang

bariyang



mulnawal



nguwing

nguwing

warunga  
yini-ba-mi  
diramu-win

malung

yanada



malung

# waranga

when

IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT  
DAWES GOT THIS WRONG

‘when’ IS NOT AN EASY IDEA ,  
AND IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TREATED AS ‘where’

“... <u>Wàrù</u> ’nga”	<u>waranga</u>	“When”	when	Dawes (b) [b: 22:15] [BB]
“ <u>Wàrù</u> ’nga <u>píaba</u> <sup>2</sup> <u>warù</u> ’nga <sup>1</sup> <u>domine</u> <sup>3</sup> buk”	<u>waranga</u> baya-ba <u>waranga</u> DOMINE BOOK	“When <sup>1</sup> will <sup>2</sup> <u>domine</u> <sup>3</sup> (that is, Mr. Johnson) read <sup>2</sup> in the book”	when speak will when, DOMINE BOOK	Dawes (b) [b: 21:5] [BB]
“ <u>Wal-lu-meron</u> wea”	<u>wa-lu-mi-ra</u> <u>ngwiya</u>	“Will you have any more”	when thou give	Anon (c) [c: 31:10] [BB]
“ <u>Wålūmibámi</u> góre <u>badyū</u> ’lgo”	<u>wa-lu-mi-ba-mi</u> <u>guri</u> <u>badyal-gu</u>	“When will you be sick again”	when thou will thou more ill towards	Dawes (b) [b: 26:5] [BB]
“ <u>wàrù</u> ’ngabámi”	<u>waranga-ba-mi</u>	“A mistake I think in saying <u>Wålūmibámi</u> for <u>wàrù</u> ’ngabámi”	when will thou	Dawes (b) [b: 26:5.2] [BB]

‘when’ MIGHT THEN HAVE BEEN:  
wa + lu :when-to or ahead (future)  
wa + ri/ra :when-from or away (past)

DAWES CAN SEE SOMETHING ODD  
HERE, BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT IT IS HE  
WHO IS WRONG, NOT HIS INFORMANT



how

There are NO reliable Biyal Biyal records for ‘how’

R.H. Mathews has only ONE, from 120 years later:

“Yelluñ”	yilany	“how?”	how	Mathews DG 1901 [:157:11.1] [DG]
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NO BB words are recorded as ending in -ny

which

There are NO Biyal Biyal records for ‘which’



**dalang** **dinguwa** **mudyil**

Link the words



83





**-buni** lacking

**-a** ERGative  
using / with

**-ba** will

**-wu** I

**-muni** lacking

**-gu** to  
for

**-ma** will

**-mi** thou

JMS reconstruction  
**-arrayi** having

**-wa** at  
in  
on

**-dyi** was  
doing

**-ngun** we-  
two

JMS reconstruction  
**-rayi** having

**-ngayi** of

**-dya** was  
doing

**-nyi** we-  
all

**-gulang** appertaining to

**-in** from  
because of

**-yi** did

**-wi** they-  
all

**-birang** deriving from

**-yin** from  
because of

**SUFFIXES**

**-nga** me

**-wi** in company with

Analysis

**-nya** thee

From  
Session 47  
Bound  
pronouns

-bi

act, do

-di

operative [?]

-gi

be

-li

continuous  
reflexive  
reciprocal

-mi

verbaliser  
make

-ni

-ri

inert

-wi

movement

-yi

declare  
manner

-ba

act, do

## MORE SUFFIXES

-ga

be

-la

reciprocal

-ma

verbaliser  
make

-na

-ra

urgent

-wa

movement

-ya

declare  
manner

inert, just  
happening

-i

Analysis

URGent,  
vigorous,  
active

-a

Much of this is  
uncertain. All of these  
suffixes (and more)  
were used, but the  
role of many is unclear

-l

transitiviser

-nga

transitiviser

-nga

human agency

-d

complete

From  
Session 47  
Bound  
pronouns



# 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 website:  
[aboriginallanguages.com](http://aboriginallanguages.com)

## **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

**Jeremy Macdonald Steele**  
**BA Keele 1962**

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the  
degree of Master of Arts (Research)

Thesis submitted : December 2005

Warawara Department of Indigenous Studies  
Division of Society, Culture, Media and Philosophy  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
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