The Dictionary of
Albert Gondiwindi

A work in progress

yuyung – backwards
yuwin – name, a word or sound
yuwarrbin – blossom of yellow box tree
yuwarr – aroma, perfume, odour, smell
yuwambanha – frighten away evil spirits by a hissing noise
yurung, walung, yubaa, galing – rain
yurrumbanhayalinya – care, take care of another’s child
yurrumbamarrā – bring up, rear
yurrubang – big and very tall
yuri – needlebush plant
yurbay – seed
yuran, barra-ma-li-nya – convalescent
yurali – blossom of eucalyptus
yungir – crier
yunggaay – mallee fowl
yumbanidylinya – cry, to be sorry for making one cry
yumarradinya – cry while walking along
yulung, yuwumbawu – thistle, milk thistle
yulun – blackwattle tree
yulubirrngiin – rainbow
yulu – claws of animals or birds
yuliyiin, nanay – lean, thin
yugaway – sleeping place
yugaawirra – recline, like a dog
yirra – lengthen or become longer
yirin – fish, scales
yirimbang – holy
yirigarra – beam or glitter
yirbamanha – leave, to go bush
yirbamagi – to go to
yirayin, yirin – light
yiraydthuray, yirigaa – star, the morning star
yiray – sun
yirawulin – sunset
yirawari – cloud, thunder cloud
yiran – long or far
yiramurrun – boy, a tallish boy
yiramugu – blunt, not sharp
yiramilan – sunrise
yirambin – kangaroo teeth
yiramarang – youth (before having tooth knocked out)
yiramal – river bank
yiradhu – day
yingulbaa – crayfish holes
yingilbang – ill, very ill
yingil giin – consumption
yingil – sick, ill
yingang – locust
yindyamangidyal – careful, respect, gentleness
yindaay – horse, stallion
yinaagang, migay – girl
yiing – happiness or joy
yidharra – hurt, injure
yibiryibir – brush
yibirmanha – paint, decorate
yibirmalidaany – painter
yawarra-ndhu – be careful
yawanhayalinya – care for as a mother a child
yawandyilinya – care, for one’s self
yaryanbuwalaya – everywhere
yarrudhang – dream
yarrayanhanha – go about
yarrawulay – blossom of the yarra, river red gum
yarraman – horse
yarradunha – beat on the boomerang
yarngun – root of tree
yarany – beard
yaradha – fish gills
yara – large, great, high
yanygayangarra – help
yanhanhadhu – goodbye
yanhambilanha – walk
yanhamanha – chase, pursue
yanhamambirra – let go
yangarra – grind seeds, to rub on a stone
yandhul, yaala – now, at the present
yandhayanbarra – eat for the sake of company
yandharra – eat together
yandangarang – false beard, a mask
yambuwan – everything or anything
yama-ndhu gulbarra – do you understand?
yalul, durrur – always
yalmambirra – teach
yalara-nha – hiss like a snake
yalgu, yabung – drought
yaldurinya – confess
yalbilinya – learn
yalay – body part, the soft between ribs and hip
yagay! – pain, an exclamation of pain
yagar – edible lettuce like plant
yadilinya – ready to go
yadhang – because, well
yadhandha – berrigan or emu bush
yaba – carpet snake or diamond python
yaanharra – spear, long fishing spear
yaambuldaany, yaambulgali – liar, bullshit artist
yaala! – go that way! that way!
wuyung, buragurabang, wiibagang – currawong
wuyul – cork-screw spicule of grass
wuurrawin – through
wuurranngilanha – encompass, surround
wuurra – entrance, doorway, opening into
wuuru, nan – neck
wurrumany – son
wurrugan – fastening or tie
wuurawurramarra – pain, feel little pain
wuurangalang – fuzzy box tree
wuuraan – hair
wundayan – niece
wunaagany, waringinali – cousin
wumbay – last, the last
wumba – evening star
wululu – duck, pink-eared
wudhamugu – deaf, ears shut
wudha – ear
wubunginya – enter, dive, go under the water
wuba – hole, a burrow, rat, native
woomera – tool that throws the spear
wiyay – back, part of the back
wirrimbildanha – leave a portion of food
wirridirrangdirrang – redback spider
wirrang, barrbay – brush-tailed rock wallaby
wirramarri – fish, large cod fish
wirralgan – oracle (magic stone)
wirradyl – flat piece of bark on which the dough is spread
wirimbirra, wurimbirra – care, preserve
wirgany – air, in the air
wirgaldhaany – carpenter
wiraydhu marramali – it is not possible
wiragala – eastern ringneck parrot
wir – air, sky, the heavens
winhanga-y-gunha-nha – remember
winhanga-dili-nya – feel, know one’s self
winhanga-bili-nya – believe
winhanga-bilang, winhang-galang – clever, intelligent
winha-nga-rra – listen, hear, think
winha-nga-nha – know, think, remember
wingarra – be sitting down
wingambang – yolk of an egg
wilima – middle
wiinyugamin – bush fire
wiinybangayilinya – fire, make a fire for another
wiiny – fire, fuel, wood
wiilin – lips
wiilban – cave
wiilba – branch, twig
wiilawiila – ornamental feathers for the head
wiila – crest of the cockatoo
wiibadhuray – tea trees or hop bushes
wigay – damper, bread, cake
widyalang – child, not yet walking
widyunggiga? – how?
widyunggiyan? – like what? like which?
widyunggga – to arrive
widyarra – drink
widyali, girrigirri – alcohol, wine, strong drink
widyaling – child, not yet walking
widyagala – cockatoo, major Mitchell
widhin – gap or opening, absent
wi-nhumi-nya – wait, sit down again
waylang – fruit, hard fruit
wayirawi – fancy idea, a dream
wayimaa – cockatoo
wayawayanga-nha – encompassing
wayamiilbuwawanha – look back
wayal – kangaroo skin
way! niiyla! ninggi! – look out! beware!
wawinha – fly, move the wings
wattleddhandha – camp, temporary
warunarrung – grandson
warrul – honey
warru – hornet or wasp
warriyan – brush wallaby, red necked
warri – blackthorn
warralang, dhuwaa, wiinaa – eastern brown snake
warradagang warrygandhuray – orange
warraal – echo
warraa-nha – scream or to shout
warr-bulang – game of handball
wargang – canoe, boat
wanya – shifting ground
wanhanha – throw
wanhangidyilinya – abandon one’s self to despair
wanhamindyarra – care for no longer
wanhamidyarra – be careless
wanhabanha – leave behind, forsake
wanggaydyibangarra – make fire or heat
wanggaay – child, a little
wangadyang – ants, food ants
wangaay – meat, provisions
wangaa – lazy, idle
wanga-dhu-nha – I forget
wanga – cormorant, black
wanduwa – green wattle acacia
wandaang, dyirr, birig, guwindarr – ghost or spirit
wanda-ba-dyuray – fighting
wanbang – star constellation not identified
wambuwuny – kangaroo, grey
wambuwanybang – duck, also the name of constellation
wambunbunmarra – covetous, greedy
wambunyang – male of birds, drake
wamal – weapon
walwaay, waliwigang – young man
walunginya, maranginya – good, to be good
wali-wali – crooked, bent, askew
wali-nya – go alone
walgun – ignorant, confused
walgawalga – cormorant, black shag
walgar – clavicle, collarbone
walga – hawk, sparrow
walar – smooth
walang – hard, stone, money
walan – strong
wala-ma-nha-yali-nya – care until strong, raise a child
wagara – grey butcherbird
waga-dyi – dance
wadhi – stick, used to strike with
wadha-gung – rabbit, a wild
waaya-ma-ra – coiling like a snake
waawing – caverns where bunyip lie
waawii – bunyip
waangarra – cry like a crow
waalurr – earthquake
waalan-gun-ma-la – brave
waagan-waagan – barbs of a spear (like waagan’s beak)
wagunan-galang – crows, many crows (raven)
nurranurra, nurranurra – constantly, always
nundhugadiyara – mimic
nunba – close
nunay – bad
nunarmun – uncle
nulabang – many
nuganirra – beat regularly, the heart
nirin – edge
niigal – kiss
niga – I do not know
nidbul – flax, native for making string
nhila – it, she, he
nguyaguya-mi-lang – beautiful
nguruwi, burriny, binbin – belly, abdomen
ngurumarra – close the eye, a sacred stone
nguru, ngurruruwi, wubaa – bag, other marsupial pouch
nguru-murr, yurung, dhurany – clouds
ngurunggarra – passionate
ngurru-wi-ga-ra – see, new or strange things, to wonder
ngurru-warra – claim as one’s own
ngurru-mirnang – blue, as the sky
ngurrrawang – nest of birds or possum
nguram-bula – bower bird, the spotted bower bird
nguram-birang, ngunhagan – friend
nguny – gift
ngunmal – fence, a fence
ngunhadar-guwr – underneath the earth
ngunha – elbow
ngumbur-ba-rra – howl, like the wind
ngumbaay-marrang – some
ngumbaay-guwal – another
ngumba-rrang – bug
ngumba-dal – union, unity
ngumba-ay – one, alone
ngulung-gayrr – ceremonial crown, brow band
ngulung – face, forehead
ngulumunggu – outside of a thing
ngulangganha – call out, cooee
ngulagambilanha – home, to be returning home
ngubaan – husband and wife
ngu-nha – give
ngu-ng-ga-nha – bring to give
ngu-mambi-la-nha – borrow
ngu-m-ba-ngi-la-nha – hands, hold up the
ngiyindidyu dharraay – I want please
ngiyambalganhanha – converse together
ngiriya-ga-rra – pass through
nginhi-guliya – all these places
ngindhuba nganhalbu – you or me
ngindhu gindaywaruwar – you are always laughing
ngiina-ngiina – lot, a lot, many
ngi-ngi – be
ngi-ngari-ma-giy – all day long
ngayi-ny – mind, the mind, thought
ngawum-bi-rra – show, to show
ngawar – bag, marsupial pouch of kangaroos and possums
ngawaal-ngawaal – faint, giddy
ngarruung – decayed
ngarruriyan – hawk, white hawk
ngarriman – manna from the bush
ngarri-ngarri-ba-l-guya-nha – panting for water, as a dog
ngarrarr-gi-dyili-nya – feel sorry, distress one’s self
ngarrarr – worry
ngarranggarra – bluebells
ngarranga – after
ngarrang, nharrang – lizard, water dragon
ngarrang, bidyiwang, nharrang – eastern water dragon
ngarradharrinya – cry or weep
ngarradan – bat
ngarra-gaya-miil – star seen by the people
ngarin – morning
ngaray-wirr-gi – to sleep
ngaray-m-bang – sharp
ngara – charcoal cinders
nganundhi – about who?
nganhundha – me, with me
nganhiyany, yangiirang – all about, all along
nganhi-gunhung-guwala – time, another time
nganhi-gu – belonging to that, distant in space and time
nganhayung galingabang bur – our children
nganhali – from there
nganhagu – belonging to that, for that
nganhabul – over there
nganha-yung – ourselves, our own
nganha-wal – up above, up there, high in the sky
nganha-ny-garri – here or there
nganha-nguwur – behind there
nganha-guliya-gu – belonging to all of those
ngandhi-guliya-gu – for those all
ngandhi – who?
ngamuwila – desert pea
ngamurr – daughter
ngamung – breast
ngamu-gaang – girls without mothers
ngamu-dyaang – boys without mothers
ngambuny – lizard, big spotted
ngambar-gaa-nha – covet, to be covetous
ngambaa – curious, inquisitive
ngamba-rang, birrany-dyang – boy, a little boy
ngama-ngama-rra – feel about, feel for
ngalgin-gu – ours, yours and mine
ngalguwama – above
ngalgarra – light, to give light, to shine
ngalar – clean, clean
ngalan-y – crystal, white quartz
ngalan-y – flame of a fire
ngalan-bang, nyiil – peak of the mountain
ngalan-bami-rra – kindle
ngalami – to fish
ngadi-galita-bul – time, a long time
ngadhuri-nya – care for, tend
ngadhu wanga-dyung – I am lost
ngadhu minya – I can explain
ngadhu mamalagirri – to visit
ngadhu – I, one person
ngadhi-galila – belonging to me
ngabun – mother’s father
ngagirridhunyal – I will see you
ngaa-nha – behold, see
ngaa-ngidyilinya – see oneself
ngaa-mubang – blind
ngaa-bun-gaa-nha – searching, looking around
nga-ngaa-nha – look after, to care for
narruway – mirage
narrundirra – kick
narru-buwan – bees’ nest
narru – hammock, sling for carrying child
narriyar, wiwin – hot
narrbang – bag, a man or woman’s dillybag
nahnhi – cracks, in the ground
nanhaybirri – eager, be very eager
nanhamalguwany – lost, something lost
nandibang – brown snake, eastern
nanan – fast-running, quick
namunmanha – hand, hold the hand to the mouth
murun.gi-nya – live, to be alive
murun-dhu – I live, I breathe
murun – life, breath
murrung – grey box tree, eucalyptus
murrugarra – read
murrudinayilinya – contempt, treat with
murrudhadhun – duck, spoonbill
murrubir – heaven
murru, murruway, ngubuli, gawala, yabang – road, track or path
murru, murrawaygu – carving on trees, weapons, implements
murrin, wiray – no, not
murrang, waa – mud
murin – canoe, bark
murangarra – alive, to be alive
muraany – cockatoo, white
muny – ant lion
munun – big, much
munirganha – jealous, be jealous
munhilbungarra – dig
munhilbang – hollow tree
mungarr – kidneys
munga – fruit of kurrajong tree
mundu – covered, of a tree and its bark
mundhay, mirring, dhurang – bark of trees
mumbal, nyimirr – blossoms
mumala – grandfather
muma – comet
muliyin – finch, zebra
mulbirrang – parrot, eastern rosella
mulanguwal – part of something
mulaa – night or darkness
muguwar – silent, quiet
mugumnawa – in, internally
mugul – dumb
mugidalurgarra – keep secret, conceal
mugilmugil – wild orange or wild pomegranate
mugilbang – wild lemon
mugii-nya – close the eyes
mugi – eaglehawk
muganha – find, pick up
mugang – grub, of trees
mudyi, maamungun – friend, countryman
mudyi – mates, friends
mudhamudhang – acacia tree
mudhaany – content
mubany – man and wife
modyigaang – elder
miyagan, wayadan – kindred, relations
mirrway – paint, coloured clays
mirrivula, mirriyula – ghost dog
mirrirang – hail
mirrimirri – wicked, like a dog, thievish
mirri – dog
minyang-guwar? – what place, where?
imyali? – about what?
imya-nganha? – what is that?
imya – question (what?)
mimudya – mimosa acacia plant
mimagang – crested bellbird
miimi – sister
miilwarranha – open the eye
miilumarra – glance or wink the eye
miilgany – openly, face to face
miilbi – hole, a well
miilalmiilal – wakeful, awake
miil bulal – both eyes
miil – eye, also the stars
miidyum – wild tomato
migimanhya – flash of lightning
migii – lightning
midyungga-ga – I don’t know when
midhang – alone, single, one
mibar – cocoon, butterfly inside
mayinyguwalgu ngunggirridyu – I will share with other people
mayinyguliya – human-like
mayiny – people
mayanggang – case and bag moths
maya, gulay – fishing net
mawa – sticky gum from trees
marrungbang – justice
marrung – caution, guard, cunning
marrun-gadha-li – sweet tasting
marrubil – fine and pleasant
marru-wa-nha – form or make
marranmarran – unripe, raw
marramurgang, dhan – fist or closed hand
marramarrang, nularri – haste, hurry
marraldirra – frighten
marragir, marragiyirr – naked, a widower
marragarra – hold fast
marrabinya – hands, stretch out the
marra-nung – channels made by receding waters
marra – hand
marbirra – frog
marayarrang – carving on trees, composed writing
marara – carved trees with designs
maranggaal – red gum tree
marang ngurung – goodnight
marang – well, good
marambang ngulung – beauty, handsome face
maram-bul – right, good, correct
maradhala – past, long-distant
manygan – parrot, blue bonnet
mangganha maganha – choke or drown
mangga – baby, chicken or pup
mangalanha – conquer, get the mastery of
mandur – quiet or undisturbed
mandu – besides, else
mandara, binda, maybal, marrady, babang – grass tree
mandaang guwu – thank you
mambuwarra – look
mambanha – cry, mourning
mamaybumarra – hold down, subdue
mama-dya, mambarra – native cherry tree
malungan – female, a young woman
maliyan, baga-daa, yibaay – eagle, wedge tail
maliyan – star, red bright southern star
maldhanha – get, provide
maldhaany – maker, person who makes
malbilinya – obedient
malangun – girl, a little
malang – could, should, would
maladyin – ill, infirm
maguwar – happy
magadala – red soil
magaadhang – clover, wild
madhubul-mugiiny – blind, all are blind
madhu – enemy
madharra – chew or suck
madhanmadhu – forest, the bush
mabinya – stop or wait
mabi, babila, mugiiny-mabi – eastern quoll, wild cat
maarung – circle
maamungun – countryman or friend
guyunganmadilin – myself
guyang – fire
guyal – dry
guyabadhambildhaany – fisherman
guwunggan – flood
guwiiny nganhala – it is over there
guwiiny gandamay – it is difficult
guwaywinya – wait for a short while, sit, stay
guwayuwa – briefly, for a short time
guwayu – time, indefinite time, later
guwarra – fetch, fetch back
guwarriyan, garrang – cockatiel, quarrion
guwanguwan – bloody, much blood
guwang, guwaang – fog, rain, mist
guwandiyala, wandayali – echidna
guwan-ba-ga-ga-rra – bleed
guwala-nha – happen, come to pass
guwabigi – to rest
guwaali – wait for me
guuray – fat
guun, gurril – flint
Guudha – God
gurwarra – save, deliver from danger
gurwaldhaany – Saviour, deliverer
gurulgan – bull frog tadpole
gurudhaany – goanna
gurruwir – news, sad news
gurruluugaan – being that causes thunder
gurrugandyilinya – cover one’s self
gurrugan-balang – cattle, bullock, cow
gurragggarang – frog, to indicate rain
gurra-galang – bitter medicine
gurra-gal-gam-bi-rra, guru-ga-ma-rra, gurra-gal-ga-rra – finish
gurra-ga-ya-rra – finish speaking
gurra-ga-dharra – finish eating, eat all
gurmniyug – cumbungi root
guriin – charcoal or black
guriban – curlew, bush stone-curlew bird
guray-mugu-mugu – in distress, suffering
guray-dyu-ngi-nya – long for, be in love
gurawiny – flowers, not buds
gurawan – fish spear
gurang, gurawung, guyang – bandicoot
gununga – hiding inside
gunhindyang – motherless
gunhinarrung – mother’s mother
gunhimbang, gunhi, ngama, baba – mother
gunhari – belly, paunch of animal
gunhama, badyar – ant, black ant
gunhagunang – cough
gunhabunbinya – sit down
gunguwari – halo, a circle around the moon
gungun – bark, a piece of bark for a dish
gungarra – comb
gungalang, yanangaari guygalang – green tree frog
gundyung – black jay bird or white winged chough
gundhaybiyan – blossom of stringy-bark tree
gundhay – red stringybark tree
gunaru, gudharang, guwiyarrang – wood duck
gunal – female of animals
gunaany – shallow
gunaagunaa – butterfly
gumbang – grave, a grave
gumbadha – metal
guluwin – far off, distant

gulur, ngay – but, however

gulun – burrow of wombat

gulumba, gulibaa – box tree, coolabah

gulu, galgu, dang – millet seed for flour

gulgarr – concave, tray or plate of bark

gulgang – head, top of the

gulgandara – before, time and both place

gulganagaba – bird, the jacky winter

gulgama – gully, valley

gulbirmarra – part, divide, separate

gubir – few, not many

gulbi – mist or smoke in the air

gulbalanha – peace, be at peace, no fighting

gulamirra – seek in vain

gulamilanha – alone, to be alone

gulambali, birriyag – pelican bird

gulamarra – open

gulamalibu nunbabu – to open or close

gulabirra – refuse, reject

gulaay – crossing place, bridge

gulaa – anger

gugubarra – kookaburra

gugi – cup, of bark

guganha – crawl or creep

gugan – caterpillar, a yellow

gugabul – fish, Murray cod

gudyiin – ancient time

gudyi – basin, bucket

gudhingan – composer of songs

gudharang – duck, wood

gudha – baby or child

gudal – flat

gubir – macquarie perch, also called black bream

gubang – hickory tree

gubaldurinya – conquer, drive off the enemy

gubadhang – finch, diamond sparrow

gubaadurinya, durrudurrugarra, gubaymanha, gulbadurinya – follow

guba – cooba wattle acacia

giyira, giira – future, the womb

giyindying – marrow, from inside bones

giyindyarra – lick

giyarinya – frightened, be frightened

giyang – lungs
giyanda-dila-nh – escape
giyan – centipede
giyalang – belonging
giyal, guwiindha – shame, ashamed
giyal-giyal – cowardly, partly ashamed
giyal-gang – field mouse
giyaa-warra – frighten off, drive away
giya-rra – fear, be afraid
giwang wuurrranha – moon setting
giwang bagarra – moon rising
giwang – moon
giwaang-giwaang – mad fellow, fool
giwa-l-dhaany – cook, the person cooking
giri girrigirri – red
girran-girran – ill, poorly
girra-wiiny – quiet place with many pretty flowers
girra-ma-nha – feel hot, to be burnt
girra-m-bi-ya-rra – scold, speak with anger
girra-girra – lively, be well, be alive
girarumarra – blow, as wind
giran-giran, manggaan – broad, spear shield
giralang bundinya – star, a shooting star
giraangang – foliage of trees, leaves
gingari – flint knives
gindyarra – lap or drink water like dogs
gindhaany, bugari – ringtail possum
gindaymanha – to play, to have fun
ginda-y-waruwar – laughing always
ginda-y-ga-la-nha – laugh at each other
ginda-y-awa-nha – smile, laugh
ginda-nha – laugh
ginan – kind, gracious
gimarra – milk
gilaa – galah
gila – so, then
giiny – heart
giimbir – fountain, spring, well
giilang – story
giigandul – wattle with silver flower
gigiy – eaten enough
gigirr – scent or smell
gidyirriga, badyariga – budgerigar bird
gidyang – hair of body, wool, fur
gidyagidyang – egret, little
gidya-wuruwin – afraid, very much, overcome with fear
gidya – broad-level wattle
gibirrgirbaang – star constellation of Orion’s Belt
gibirgin, malanggyang, dindima – star constellation the Seven Sisters (Pleiades)
gibir – man
gibayan – nephew
gibany, darran-dirang – revenge, avenger
giba – magic stone
gaymaan – kangaroo grass
gawuwal – lagoon, lake
gawuraa – feathers
gawunang, giwambang – moonlight
gawimarra – gather or pick up
gawaymbanha – welcome, tell to come
gawaan, gabaa – white men, strangers
garriwang – currawang tree
garrindubalunbil – beetle in wood
garril, wurung – boughs or branches on trees
garraywarra – look for, seek, find
garraygal – palm of the hand
garray – land, sand
garrawi – roe of fish
garrari – net
garryngarra – send
garrandarang – paper, book
garran – hook of any kind, fish hook
garrabari – corroboree, a special dance
garraba, marrin – body, human
garraayigal – hand, grasp
garraawan – light wood for making fish spears
garra – hold, catch, stop, take
gariya wanhamindya nganhanduyan – do not break a promise
gariwang – cold east wind
gariwag – leaf
garingali – dingo
garila – corella bird
garba – fork, fork of a tree
garay – sand
garal – wattled tress
garaan-dharra – eat forbidden food
gany, yingiyan – like, similar
ganhu, buringin, marri – kangaroo, red
ganha-nha, bunha-nha – burn
ganginmarra – lie, tell a lie
ganggang — gang-gang cockatoo
ganggaa — spider
ganggarrimaa — ring or circle
gangan — hawk, fish hawk
gandyar — spirit being, he sees and knows everything
gandaru, gungarung, yambil — crane, blue, white-faced heron
ganda — bend of the leg under the knee
ganang — beeswax, wet
ganaa-ba-nha — ride on horse or any animal
gana-yi-rra — peppermint tree
gambang, dilaang, dirraybang, gumbal — brother
gambal, buragi, yungay, gamidha — bustard, native bush turkey
gamalang — raspberry, native
galiyang, birrgun — fork-tailed swift bird
galing-gaan — bowels
galindulin — eel
galin-gabangbur — children
galin-dhuliny, gibirrngaan — black snake, red-bellied
galin-balgan-balgang — dragonfly
galigal — knife
gali-ngin-banga — desert place without water
galguraa — friar bird, noisy
galgambula — oven, for cooking in the earth
galganga — affliction, wherein is pity
galga — hungry, empty
galanygalany, galan galan — cicada, locust, it’s sound
galang — belonging to a group
galagang — wild onion
galabarra — halve, separate into two
galaabanha — noise, make a noise
gagalin, bidyin — fish, golden perch
gagaamanha — lead astray, seduce
gadyilbalungbil — burrowing black beetle
gadyilbalung — beetles generally
gadyal — hollow
gadyag — nasty, horrible
gadya! — get away!
gadi, dharang — snake
gadangul — lizard, small one
gabur-gabur — rotten or broken
gabuga — brain, eggs
gabudha — reeds and rushes
gabin-gidyal — beginning, a
gabargabar — green, colour
gaban, barrang – white

gaban – foreign, strange, unknown

gaba-rra – fishing, drag-net

gaanha, dharal – shoulder

gaanha-barra gaanha-bu-nha – carry on the shoulder

gaalmaldaany – composer, poet

gaigu-ma-rra – embrace

ga-m-bila-nha – hold a thing

ga-l-marra – compose, songs

ga-darra – erase

ga-ba-rra – carry on the back

ga-rra – be or being

dyirribang – an old man

dyiridyinbuny – diver bird

dyiramiil – charming, winning, eyes-up

dyinmay, guurray – fight or war, tribal

dyinidnego – duck, shoveler

dyindhuli – hunger

dyindharr – lean, barren, bare

dyinang, mundawi, dinhang – foot

dyilwirra – climb, a tree

dyigal – fins of fishes

dyibarra – speak

dyandyamba – medicine, from the core of tree fern

dyagula – lyre bird

dyagang – boys without fathers

dyabaraa – bull dog ants

dyaba – girls without fathers

dyaabiny – flying ant

duyan – fat, meat

duwambia – root of edible pink fingers

durruung-gar-gar – glow-worm

durrur-buwulin – ever, always

durrumbin, giima – caterpillar

durru-l-ga-rra – hide

durru-l-ba-rra – burst

durrarwiyung – duck, grey teal

durrawan – currawong, grey bird

durrany – cloud, long white

duri-mambi-rra – ill, make ill, cause to be ill

duri-duri-nya – ill, to be ill

dundumirinninmal – snail

dumiiny – death adder snake

dumi-rra – carry
dumbi – blush
dulu-dulu – logs of wood, big
dulbun-bun-ma-raa – bow, or to bend
dulbi-bal-ga-nha – hang down the head
duguny-bi-raa, dugu-winy-birra – be generous
dugu-wirra – catch
dugin – shade
duga-yili-nya – fetch for another
duga-nha – fetch water, draw up water
dubu – frog or toad
dubi – chrysalis, pupa butterfly grub
dirriwang – emu feathers
dirrinan – bulbine lily
dirrigdirrig – bee-eater, rainbow bird
dirrang-dirrang – red ochre
dirramaay – edible herb
dirra-dirra-wana – herb
dinggu – wild dog, dingo
dinbuwurin – lark, native
dinawan, gawumaran, nguruwiny – emu
dilga-nha, bunganha-ba-nha – comb the hair
dilan-dilan-garra – shake
dila-dila-bi-rra – cause confusion
dila-birra – scatter, sow
diikawu – emu bush, spotted
digu, mumbil, munbil – blackwood, black-timbered wattle tree
digimdhuna – fig or fig tree
digal – fishbone
dibiya – duck, whistling tree
dibang – nails or spikes
dhuruwurra – cast off, shedding
dhurri-rra – lay eggs, to be born
dhurri-nya, dhurrirra – born, to be born
dhurgang, nguruwinya – owl, tawny frogmouth
dhurragara – follow up, track, pursue
dhurany – news, or message
dhuragun, bunbun – bittern, native
dhungany – greenleek parakeet
dhundhu, ngiyaran, gunyig – black swan
dhundhal – close or near
dhumuny – bardi grubs, used for fishing
dhumba – brittle gum, eucalyptus
dhulubang – soul or spirit
dhulu-ga-raa – guilty, to be found convicted
dhulu-biny – level, even, flat
dhuliiny – goanna, sand monitor
dhulay – fish, the river gar fish
dhul – brown
dhugamang – lobster, white clawed
dhugaaybul – very
dhubul – bore, underground water
dhubi – cicada larva, beetle
dhirril – sparrow hawk
dhirraany, gandiyagulang – mountain
dhiraa-nha – rise like the dough
dhindha – ball, anything rounded
dhin – nut or berry
dhilibul – coot, purple swamphen
dharrang – message stick or letter
dharran – creek
dharrambay, gimang, dirru, galbu – kangaroo rat
dharra-barra – eat, cut with teeth
dharra – eaten, swallow, engulf, absorb
dhara – cast out, away
dhangaang, dhal, dharrabu – food
dhang – seeds, grains
dhandyuri, dhandyurigan – mussel shells or shellfish
dhandhaang – river catfish
dhamiyag, baaliyan – cumbungi, bulrush reeds
dhamaliiny, dharramaliyu, bulbul – bull roarer, whirler
dhalba-nha – bruised
dhalba – rain, the cloud burst
dhala-y-ba-rang – mad frenzy, anger, excitement, sudden
dhala-wa-la – forest country
dhala-rug – wattlebird
dhala-ba-ra – crack, burst, break
dhala-ba-nha – ruin, destroy
dhal-bi-rra – beat time on the boomerang, as the men do singing
dhaganhu ngurambang – where is your country?
dhagamang – crayfish, whitish-blueish claws, not a yingaa
dhagal – cheek, jawbone
dhadhi? – belonging to what place?
dhabugarra – bury
dhabugany – buried
dhabudyang – old woman
dhabal – bone
dhaan yanha – come here
dhaalirr – kingfisher bird
dhaagunmaa – cemetery
dhaagun – land, earth, dirt, soil, grave
dha, -dyà, -la, -ra – on, at, in, by
dha-l-mambi-rra – feed, a child or dog
dawin, bawa-l-ganha – hatchet
darruba-nha – leap over
darriyaldhuray – bedroom
dargin – across
danyga-ma-rra – compete, to vie in throwing
dani – wax, gum or honeycomb
dangarin – shell fish
dangar, dhandhaang – fresh water catfish
dangal – covering or shelter
dangaay – rainwater, oldwater
dang – roots, edible
dalungal – fine fella, excellent person
dalawang, gabu, gabudha – box tree, apple
dabu-ya-ra murun – life, give, bestow life
dabu-wan – leech, small one
daanha – knit, make a net
buyaa – law
buya-marra – beg
buwi-birra-ng – boomerang of bark, a toy
buwawabanhanha, gugabarra – boil
buwanha – grow
buwaa-bang – orderly, tame
buwa-garra – come
buwa-gany – edible root
buwa-ga-nhumi-nya – before, be before
buwa-dharra – fill the mouth
buurri – boree tree, weeping myall
bururr – hop-bush
burrindin, gulridy – magpie-lark, peewee or mudlark bird
burrbang – ceremony of initiating to man
burral, darriyal – bed
burral – birthplace, the spot, the soil
burra-m-bin – eternal
burra-giin – beeswax, dry
burra-di-rra – cut down
burra-dhaany – ball, bouncing
burra-binya – leap, jump
burra-ban-ha-l-bi-rra – fire, light a
burguwiiny-mudil – blacksmith
burbi-rra – beat the time, and sing
burba-ng – circle, a round shape, heap
burany – parrot
buram-ba-bi-rra – share
buralang – black-faced cockatoo
buraandaan – heron, night-heron
bura-mi-nga-nha – cause to be
bunyi-ng-ganha – breathe
bunyi-ng – breath
bunhiya – wild oak tree
bunhi-dyili-nya – beat
bungi-rra – swing
bundi-nya – fall
bundi-mambi-rra – let fall, cause to fall
bundhi, nalanala – club, thick knob on end, war weapon
bundharran – paddle
bundharraan – canoe oar
bundarra – freeze, feel very cold
bunda-nha – draw, a picture
bunda-ng – cicadas, butterfly
bunda-l-ga-nha – hanging, be suspended
bunbiya – grasshopper
bunba-nha – escape, run, moving away, fleeing
bunba-na-nha – run after
bunan, bundhu – dust, rising vapour
bunan – carried by the wind, dust storm
bun-ma-rra, ma-rra – make or do
bumbi – smoke
bumalgalabu wayburrbu – right or left
bumal-bumal – hammer, a stick
bumal – hammer, stone for bruising nuts
buma-ngidyili-nya – beat one’s self
buma-l-gidyal – fight or battle
bumu-bi-rra – blow, with mouth
bulun – egret, white crane
bulan-bulan – parrot, crimson rosella
bulaguy – saltbush
bula-bi-nya – couples, to be in couples
buguwiny, bugaru, gungil – grass
bugurr – climbing plants or vines
bugu-l – fish line
bugiyunbarrul – time, after sunset, twilight
buginybuginy, manygan – blue bonnet parrot
bugarr – carrion
bugarnan – bad smell
bugang – necklace or beads
budya-budya – moths and butterflies
budyaan, dyibiny, dibilany – bats, birds general flying creatures
budulbudul – far off, high, the bluish air at a distance
budhi – corner
budharu – flying fox
budhar-ba-la-nha – kiss each other
budhanbang – duck, black
budhaaynybudhaany – common sneezeweed, old man weed
budha – sandalwood
bubul, dula – backside, buttocks
bubu – air or breath
bubil – wing, feather
bubay-bunha-nha – lessen, get small
bubay – little, small
buba-dyang-marra, garrigaan, banhumiya – fingers of the hand
biyambul – all
biyal-gam-bierra – hang (transitive)
biyal-ga-nha – hang (intransitive)
biyaga – often, many times
birring, birrgan – chest of a man
birrinalay – blossom of white box tree
birri-birri-marr – meet
birri – white box tree, eucalyptus
birranilinya – run away with
birrang-ga – high up
birrang – journey to another place
birrang – blue sky, the horizon
birran-dhi – from
birramal, yirrayirra – bush, the bush
birramal-guyakhaba-aan – gone to the bush
birrabuwawanha – return, come back
birrabunya – cormorant, little pied
birrabirra, malu – lazy, tired
birrabang – outside, up, above, far
birra-nguwpurr – behind
birra-nguwur – back, that which is behind
birra-bina-birra – move gently, whisper
birra – back, the back
birra – fatigued, tired
birinya – scar, make a
birgu – shrubs, thickets
birdgili, birgilibang – scorched by fire
birdyulong – scar an old scar
birdany – blossom of ironbark tree
birbarra – bake
birbaldhaany – baker
biran, birrany – boy
biralbang – duck, musk
bir – birth mark
binydyi – stomach
binhaal – eldest, the
bindyi-l-duri-nya – cut into a tree to get possums out
binaal, wirra – broad, wide
bimirr – end, an end
bimbun, gumarr, mudha – tea tree or paperbark tree
bimbul – bimble box tree
bimbin – brown tree creeper, woodpecker
bimba-rra – fire, set the grass on fire
bilwai – oak tree, river she
biluwaany – red-winged parrot
bilin-nya – go backwards
bili-nga-ya – backwards, going
bilbi, ngundawang, balbu – bilby
bilawir – hoe
bilawii – river she oak tree
bilabang – billabong, the milky way
bila – river
biyiirr, magalang – back bone, spinal column
biilaa, ngany – bull oak tree, forest oak
bidyuri – pituri
bidya – male
bidhi, babir – big
bibidya – fish hawk, osprey
bayu, buyu – leg
bayirgany – leeches
baryugil – eastern blue tongue lizard
barru-wu-ma-nha – gallop, run fast
barru-dang – juice from a tree
barru – rabbit-like rat (probably bilby)
barrinang – blossom of wattle trees
barri-ngo-rra – leave, let it alone, never mind
barri-ma – musket, gun
barrbay, wirrang – rock wallaby
barray! – move quick, quick!
barrage – to fly
barradam-bang – star, a bright
barrabarray – quick!
brarra-y-ali-nya – rise again, resurrection
brarra-wi-nya – camp, hunt
the dictionary of albert gondiwindi

barra-wi-dyany – hunter
barra-manggari-rra – love
barra-dyal – flame robin bird
barra-barra-ma – handle, anything to hold
bargu-mugu – cripple, one limbed
baradhaany – red-necked wallaby
bangal-guwal-bang – belonging to another place
bangal – time, or place
banga-ny – broken
banga-nha – break into rain, begin to rain
banga-ma-rra – break
banga-l – fire sticks, friction
banga-di-rra – chop, cut, split
banga-bil-banga-bil – cutting instrument
banga-bi-lang – broken in pieces
bandya-bandya-birra – cause pain
bandu – march fly
bandhuwang – scrub or mallee trees matted together
bandhung – mallee tree and scrub
bambinya – swim
bambigi – to swim
baluwulinya – be pregnant
balunhuminya – die before another
balunha – die now
balun – dead
baluga – dark, fire has gone out
baludharr – feel cold, be cold
balubuwulin – dead altogether
balubunira – murder, kill
balubaling – almost dead
balubungabilanha – kill each other
balu-bunga-rra – extinguish
balmang – empty
balima – north
bali – baby, a very young baby
balgal – sound, noise
balgagang – barren, desolate
balgabalgar – leader, elder
balanggarang – bud, top bud of flower spray
balang – head
balandalabadin, gubudha – common reed
balan-dha – beginning, of time
baladhu nganhal – I am from
baladhu ngaabunganha – just looking
baladhu – I am
balabalanimra – beat a little, slap
balabalamanha – lift softly or slowly, move
balabala-ya-li-nya – whisper
bagurra – blossom of kurrajong tree
bagir-ngan – cousin or uncle
bagaya-ya-ngang – shell, a small one
bagaya, galuwaa – lizard, shingle back
badyar, gunhama – black ant
badhawal, bargan, balgang – boomerang
badharra – bite
badhang, buwurr – cloak, possum skin
badha, yiramal – bank of the river
babimubang – fatherless
babildhaany – singer
babiin – father
babala – leather-head, noisy friar bird
baaywang – big hill
baayi – footprint
baawan, gargalany – silver or boney perch fish
baalmanha – floating
baala – footstep
baaduman – red spotted gum tree
baabin – nettle plant
baabaa, ngandir, nguramba – deep
Author’s Note

This novel contains the language of the Wiradjuri people. Before colonisation there were two hundred and fifty distinct languages in Australia that subdivided into six hundred dialects. The Wiradjuri language is a Pama–Nyungan language of the Wiradhuric subgroup and has been reclaimed and preserved through the efforts of Dr Uncle Stan Grant Snr AM and linguist Dr John Rudder. The spelling and pronunciation that Uncle Stan and John compiled is within these pages. If there are any errors, they rest solely with my interpretation. Historical spelling of the Wiradjuri language in this book has been sourced from the records of H. Withers, a local landholder from Wagga Wagga (records: 1878), H. Baylis, a police magistrate from Wagga Wagga (records: 1887), J. Baylis, a surveyor landholder from the Riverina (records: 1880s–1927) and C. Richards, a linguist and scholar (records: 1902–1903). Further and updated study of the Wiradjuri language can be found in The new Wiradjuri Dictionary authored by Uncle Stan and John.

The experiences of the fictional Gondiwindi family reflect those experienced by all Indigenous people touched by violence, segregation, abuse and the dehumanising policies and practices of colonialism. As part of these separation policies, the government and churches banned and discouraged the use of the native tongue. They did this by forcibly
removing children from their families, where they were taken into missions and institutions in order to expunge the Indigenous culture. This practice began in 1910 and continued until the 1970’s.

Cultural knowledge, community history, customs, modes of thinking and belonging to the land are carried through languages. In the last two hundred years, Australia has suffered the largest and most rapid loss of languages known to history. Today, despite efforts of revitalisation, Australia's languages are some of the most endangered in the world.

The depictions of violence and intergenerational trauma suffered by Indigenous people affected by separation policies has been documented in various publications including the 1997 Bringing Them Home: report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families. Depictions of mission life from the perspective of Reverend Greenleaf are derived from the writings of Reverend J.B. Gribble including A Plea For Aborigines of New South Wales. Gribble founded and ran the Christian Warangesda Aboriginal Mission in Darlington Point, New South Wales. Prosperous Mission, Station and Home were inspired by Warangesda which ran as an Aboriginal Mission between 1880 and 1884; as Warangesda Aboriginal Station under the Aborigines Protection Association between 1884 and 1897; under government management by the Aborigines Protection Act between 1897 and 1925; under private management between 1925 and 2014.

The girls’ and boys’ homes mentioned are fictional, but have been drawn from the descriptions of the Aboriginal Girls’ Training Home of Cootamundra and the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys’ Training Home. In reality the children's experiences were much harsher in comparison to those depicted. Prior to the opening of the Aboriginal Girls’ Training Home at Cootamundra, children from all over the state
were sent to Warangesda. In *The Stolen Generations – The Removal of Aboriginal Children in NSW 1883 to 1969*, prepared for the New South Wales Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Professor Peter Read estimated that there were ‘300 girls placed at the Warangesda dormitory and subsequently in service before 1916.’ In Beverley Gulambali Elphick, and Don Elphick’s *The Camp of Mercy; an Historical and Biographical record of the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission/Station, Darlington Point, New South Wales*; they wrote that ‘apart from the occasional child mentioned in the Minute Books of the Aborigines Protection and Welfare Boards and the enrolment registers for the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys’ Training Home, no records now exist, if indeed any were ever kept, of the other children removed from Warangesda between 1909 and when the Camp of Mercy closed in 1925. A conservative estimate for this period would be 200, making an overall total of 500 children removed.’

There were many births and marriages held at Warangesda; there were also many deaths at the mission site. As stated in Ray Cristison and Naomi Parry’s *Conservation Management Plan Warangesda Aboriginal Mission and Station*; ‘the main cemetery containing the remains of up to two hundred former residents, remains part of a ploughed field.’

The geography of the fictional town of Massacre Plains was drawn from towns in Wiradjuri country and also the Rock Nature Reserve – Kengal Aboriginal Place. The fictional Murrumby River of this novel was based on the tributaries of the Murray-Darling Basin. The names of places, including Massacre and Poisoned Waterhole Creek, are indeed actual place names in Australia and are a reminder of the atrocities inflicted upon Indigenous people during colonisation.

Many of the native plants and cooking techniques can be explored further in Bruce Pascoe’s *Dark Emu*, and Eric Roll’s *A Million Wild*...
AUTHOR’S NOTE

Acres. Additionally, Yuval Noah Harari’s *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* also explores the history and sophistication of Indigenous Australians.


Further reading about Indigenous culture and history includes *Indigenous Australia for Dummies* by Professor Larissa Behrendt, and John Harris’ *One Blood: 200 Years of Aboriginal Encounter with Christianity: A Story of Hope*, the works by historians Henry Reynolds, Peter Read, and Marcia Langton.

Australia is the only Commonwealth country to not have a treaty with its Indigenous populations.