

GUMBAYNGGIRR LANGUAGE NAMES

Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal names for animals, plants and places.

(There are many other animals, plants and places known to the Gumbaynggirr people: these are just a few.)

1. ANIMALS

Common name	Gumbaynggirr name	Common name	Gumbaynggirr name
bandi-bandi	wagabirrul	mullet	buluunggal
bearded dragon	guri-guri	mussel	waluurlay
bird	jiibiny	native bee	dungaarr
bird, any large	jiibinygany	octopus	janyaany
black cockatoo, glossy	biliirrgan	oyster	barliin.gurr
black cockatoo, yellow-tailed	gawiyarr	pademelon	guljuu
blackfish	warraagan	pelican	junggaarr
blue-faced honeyeater	gawang	periwinkle	jundi
blue-tongue lizard	wandarrga	piebald cormorant	barrigurrun
boobook owl (mopoke)	guubuny	pipi	garlaany
bream	gaayi	platypus	muluny
brown cuckoo dove	gungbilan	potaroo	gayban
brush turkey	gilgunyjan	prawn	wurrjay
brushtail possum	gurraagay	quoll, eastern (native cat)	baalijin
butcher bird	wulaaran	red-browed finch	bunyun
butterfly or moth	baarany	regent bowerbird	wagaybulun
carpet python	jumbaal	ring-tailed possum	giilung
cockatoo, sulphur-crested	gayaarr	satin bowerbird	jirrgan
cockle	murriyal	sea eagle	ngangaarr
crab	ngaduun	seagull	gaawil
crimson rosella	jambaarriny	shark	yanggaay
crow	waagan	shellfish	damaan
cunjevoi (sea squirt)	waluurlay	snail	bigaa
currawong	dawaalam	snake	dungguuny
death adder	jaambiny	stingray	ngalaany
dingo	marlamgarl	straw-necked ibis	jilawarr
dolphin	yugirr	sugar glider	gambany
duck	warraaday	swan	ngarlagan
eagle	garriirl	tadpole	girrimbirrin
echidna, porcupine	mujaay	tawny frogmouth	jinijinu
eel	buurrga	tiger snake	baagal
feathertail glider	burruurr	turtle, freshwater	ngurlaa
flathead	yaalgirr	turtle, saltwater	ngarlaa
frog	jaraan	wallaby, red-necked	buliin
fruit bat	balawirr	wallaby, swamp	gaabi
fruit dove	baniga	wallaroo	jandungal
green tree snake	giirring	water dragon	magaam
kangaroo	nunguu	whale	gurruuja
kangaroo joey	buyaarr	white-faced heron	garranygay
king parrot	gaangan	whiting	jurruwiny
koala	dunggirr	willie wagtail	ganyjarr-ganyjarr
kookaburra	gaagum	witchetty grub, edible	juubarr, juundany
lace monitor	gumgali	wonga pigeon	galulam
lobster	gulaargan	worm, conch	gugumbal
long-nosed bandicoot	gawuum	yellow robin	madaan
lyrebird	jaawan		
magpie	ngaambul		

Source: Morelli, Steve: *Gumbaynggirr Bijaarr Jandaygam, Ngaawa Gugaarrigam*
Gumbaynggirr Dictionary and Learner's Grammar.

Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Language & Cultural Co-operative, 2008, Nambucca Heads, NSW.

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2. PLANTS

Common name	Gumbaynggirr name	Aboriginal use
bangalow palm	garraanyjiga	The base of the leaf was made into a water carrier. The growing tip and the pith inside the trunk could be eaten.
banksia	wurindaga	Used for nectar and firewood, especially the seed cones which could be carried as glowing coals to a new camp.
beard heath	nyam-nyam	The fresh, lemony tasting white or red berries were eaten.
black apple tree	wiigulga	The juicy ripe fruit (wiigul) of this rainforest tree was eaten.
black bean tree	binyjaalga	The large seeds, though poisonous, were eaten after careful leaching and cooking.
blady grass	windaan	The leaves were used to weave dillies and thatch shelters.
bloodwood, pink	wuuban.ga	Bloodwood trees produce sticky sap which was used medicinally as an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal treatment.
bloodwood, red	wuruuman.ga	
bracken fern	gamiiny	The juice was used medicinally for stings.
bramble (native blackberry)	juliga	A rainforest bramble with delicious but very seedy berries.
bulrush	bunday	The roots, shoots and pollen are edible, while the root fibre can be made into string and the leaf fibre used in weaving.
cabbage palm	wawarrga	The leaf fibre is used for weaving. Both the growing tip (the 'cabbage') and the pith inside the trunk were eaten.
cunjevoi plant	dawguway	The roots were treated to remove toxins to make them edible and leaves treated to make a medicinal poultice.
flame tree	baagambin.ga	The bark was used to make fibre and the roots gave clean water. The seeds and roots were edible when cooked.
grass-tree; grass-tree stick	garraan.gurr	Firesticks were made from the flower spike, glue from the trunk resin, nectar from the flowers and fibre from the leaves.
lilly-pilly	jijimam	The purple fruit was eaten.
long yam	daam	The long tubers are starchy and eaten raw or roasted.
moreton bay fig	guwanggaga	The sap was used medicinally and the sweet figs eaten. The inner bark was used to make string.
pigface	barridamam	The purple fruits were eaten and the leaf juice used for bites, burns and stings.
plum pine	jaambalga	The fruit was eaten.
reed	baranyjin	The fibre was used for weaving bags and the stem for necklaces and spears.
rush	bunduljin	The leaves were used for weaving and some, like mat-rush have edible leaf bases.
sandpaper fig	gaagunyga	The fruit (gaaguny) was eaten, the leaves used as sandpaper, the milky sap for treating ringworm, and the wood for making fire.
silky oak	wirrgilga	The nectar was used to sweeten water.
smart weed	bambil-bambil	The pounded plant material was thrown into a pool to stupefy fish, which could then be easily caught. It also had medicinal use.

Common name	Gumbaynggirr name	Aboriginal use
vine	<i>jugiil</i>	Many vines were useful, for example, native asparagus, whose very slender shoots emerging from the ground were eaten, native sarsaparilla, whose sweet leaves were chewed, and wombat berry which has edible berries and tubers.
waterlily	<i>gundarang</i>	The roots (<i>dugay</i>), stems and seeds of the blue-flowered waterlily were eaten.
waterweed	<i>nulun</i>	The swollen tubers of water-ribbon were baked and eaten.
wattle, green	<i>jaaningga</i>	The sweet gum (<i>jaaning</i>) which seeps from the trunk was eaten.
wild grape vine	<i>giirrgurr</i>	Stems of these climbers were made into loops for climbing trees. The vine contains water and the fruit is edible.
wild raspberry	<i>bagulam</i>	The berries were eaten and the rest of the plant used medicinally for stomach pains.

3. PLACE NAMES

European name	Gumbaynggirr name	Associated meaning if known
Arrawarra	<i>Ya Waarra</i>	here: wait
Bellingen region	<i>Balijin</i>	quoll, native cat
Bellinger River	<i>Bindarray Yurruun</i>	river, long
Bellwood- Nambucca area	<i>Ngambaa Baga-Baga</i>	knee of giant Ngambaa man who formed parts of the Nambucca area
Bonville	<i>Baamgal</i>	clearing
Bostobrick	<i>Dandarrbiin</i>	many stringy barks
Bowraville	<i>Bawrrung, Bawarrung</i>	cabbage palm
Buccarumbi	<i>Bugurrang</i>	deep
Chandlers Creek	<i>Dungguuny</i>	Red-bellied Blacksnake Special Place
Clarence Peak	<i>Juguubayung</i>	
Clouds Creek	<i>Baalgu-Baalgu</i>	to marry, to marry
Coffs Creek	<i>Buluunggal</i>	mullet
Coffs Harbour	<i>Garlambirla</i>	river oak
Copmanhurst	<i>Bujimbay</i>	
Coramba	<i>Garlaamga, Garlambilum</i>	river oak
Coutts Crossing	<i>Daam Miirlarl</i>	Yam Special Place
Dalmorton	<i>Ngandaam</i>	blackbutt
Deep Creek	<i>Miilba</i>	
Dorrigo	<i>Dandarrga</i>	stringy bark tree (eucalypt)
Doughboy	<i>Birun</i>	swift (bird)
Emerald Beach	<i>Ganaygal, Ganarrgin</i>	Yam-stick Special Place
Glen Innes area	<i>Barrigirrbay</i>	plain with many rocks: place where Birrugan killed some emus and their feathers turned into rocks.
Glen Rock	<i>Gadayga</i>	foam-bark tree (lather of bark used to stupefy fish)
Glenmore	<i>Julugan Biin</i>	many stumps

European name	Gumbaynggirr name	Associated meaning if known
Glenreagh	<i>Jungguuy</i>	
Glun Ugie Peak	<i>Gunayjin</i>	fine-leafed wattle
Grafton	<i>Jadalmany</i>	brush box tree
Gumma	<i>Gamang</i>	red ochre
Guyra	<i>Gayaarr</i>	sulphur-crested cockatoo
Halfway Creek	<i>Baany</i>	beetle
Jackadgery	<i>Jaganyji</i>	stand, stand up
Kangaroo River	<i>Dawaalam</i>	currawong
Macauleys Headland	<i>Gumgaliya</i>	giant goanna which formed this headland
Macksville	<i>Gamang</i>	red ochre
Maclean area	<i>Birriin</i>	bread ?recent - given bread there?
Marys Waterhole	<i>Miimiga Gawngganba</i> <i>Miirlarl</i>	Mother Gawngganba Special Place
McGraths Creek	<i>Jaalarrgan</i>	female black lizard
Moonee Moonee	<i>Munim-Munim</i>	rocky; boulders there were made into axe heads
Mt Cunglebung	<i>Guunyjulbang</i>	big valley
Mt George	<i>Munyujun</i>	flea
Muttonbird Island	<i>Giidany Miirlarl</i>	Moon special place
Nambucca Heads	<i>Nyambaga</i>	see Bellwood reference
Newry Island	<i>Barlalimba</i>	
Nth Solitary Island	<i>Ngarunda</i>	
Nymboida	<i>Nyiimbuy</i>	dialect of Gumbaynggirr spoken in this area
Point Lookout	<i>Marlawgay Miirlarl</i>	Lightning Sacred Place
Sherwood	<i>Nilga</i>	
Skinners Swamp	<i>Nyanuumgu</i>	swamp
Smoky Cape	<i>Jumbulbu, Guuwa Miirlarl</i>	juum = smoke, Special Place for Fog
Sth Solitary Island	<i>Bunyun.gudi</i>	bunyun = red-browed finch
Stockyard Creek	<i>Marlamgarl</i>	dingo
Stuart Island	<i>Girr-girr</i>	plover
Taylors Arm	<i>Jaalbarr</i>	arm
Tuckers Island	<i>Miin.garrin</i>	
Tullymorgan	<i>Julimurriganda</i>	
Tyndale	<i>Mindi Miirlarl</i>	Mindi (hero ancestor) Special Place
Ulmarra	<i>Guluugajaw</i>	rat kangaroo country
Urunga	<i>Yurruun.ga,</i> <i>Gilayjal Miirlarl</i>	long island spit?, High-tide Sacred Place
Warrell Creek	<i>Wiraal</i>	black duck
Wirrimbi	<i>Wirriimbi</i>	long hair
Woolgoolga	<i>Wiigulga</i>	black apple tree
Yamba	<i>Yambaa</i>	bay
Yarrahapinni Mtn	<i>Yarriabini</i>	associated with the koala
Yarrowarra	<i>Ya Waarra</i>	here: wait