

Physical Qualities

badjal	sick
bali	thirsty
binya	pregnant
bulgaga	green
daidyai	painful
djirra	white
gangat	bald
ganunigang	old
garungarung	pretty
gungun	dead
marrai	wet
mudai	soft
mudung	alive

Colours of the Aboriginal Flag

ngana	black
yarragal	yellow
mudjil	red



Placenames

Banarung	Rose Bay
Baramada	Parramatta
Daralbi	South Head
Daruwiya	Sydney Cove (west point)
Dubuwagali	Sydney Cove (east point)
Gamai	Botany bay
Garangal	North Head
Gayimai	Manly Bay
Madala	Camp Cove
Warran	Sydney Cove

More Information

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Reference for Language/Information:
Thieberger, N., and McGregor W., (eds.)
Macquarie Aboriginal Words, The Macquarie
Library Pty Ltd, 1994.



LANGUAGES

The Voice of the Aboriginal People



500 different nations
500 different languages

The great richness of Aboriginal culture is manifested in its sheer diversity of languages. The preservation of these languages will ensure preservation of cultural identity and belonging.

Voices of the Past

Merely half a decade has passed since draconian laws existed preventing Aboriginal people from speaking their native tongue. Fortunately, attitudes have changed and we have entered a new era of understanding. The voices from the past are able to speak clearly once more without fear of punishment. There is a dream that in the future these voices of the past can be heard loudly and understood by all.

Languages of New South Wales

In New South Wales alone there are too many language groups to mention them all here. Just to name a few:-

Bundjalung
Dunghutti
Darkinjang
Dharuk
Karenggapa
Ngiyampaa
Paakantyi
Wiradjuri
Wodiwodi
Worimi

and many, many more.

The Sydney Language

It is a great shame that there is no name recorded or remembered for the language once spoken by Aboriginal people in the Sydney Basin. The reason for this may be that this region was the first, and possibly the hardest hit by the effects of colonisation. It is often mistakenly believed that the language name for the Sydney area was 'Eora' or 'Iyora', however, this is merely a term in the Sydney Language meaning 'person' and was adopted for use as the language name in the mid-twentieth century. Despite the language being regarded as functionally extinct there were many words borrowed by the colonists which are still recognised in English today (e.g *warada* is *waratah*). A great number of words from the Sydney Language have managed to survive against all odds by wordlists compiled from old documents written by colonists who had direct contact with the language and people who once spoke it. The following words listed in this brochure are from this language.



Natural Elements

badu	water
bamal	earth
birrung	star
burra	sky
duruga	falling star
garaguru	cloud
giba	stone
gura	wind
guwing	sun
mungi	lightning
murungal	thunder
walan	rain
yanada	moon

Location, Direction and Time

barani	yesterday
barawul	far (distance)
barrabugu	tomorrow
baruwa	near
duriyumi	left
gamarruwa	day
guwagu	presently
nguwing	night
nung	now
warrangi	right