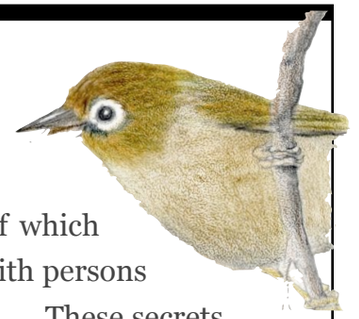
Bundalook

How the Birds got their Colours

www.dharawalstories.com

Frances Bodkin
Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews
Illustrations By Lorraine Robertson

Foreword



Throughout the past two hundred years, society has come to regard the Koori Dreaming stories as something akin to the fairy stories they were told as children.

However, for thousands upon thousands of years, the stories in this book were used as a teaching tool to impart to the youngest members of the clans the laws which governed the cultural behaviour of clan members. The successive attempts to destroy the Koori culture and assimilate The People into the Euro-centric population were unsuccessful, and the Dreaming Stories were able to continue in their disguise as charming legends where animals became the heroes and the heroines.

Historians and anthropologists have studied the Koori culture since they first arrived on this continent, and have come to the conclusion that the D'harawal culture is dead. Of, course, this has been done without reference to the descendants of that culture, and without even asking the proper questions. The D'harawal culture is not dead, it is a strong, living, vital culture of the Sydney and South Coast regions that just had to go underground for a while to be able to survive. Now that the right questions have been asked, we have the key to unlock a vast wealth of knowledge of this part of the country in which we live.

It is difficult to explain to a society based on commerce fuelled by the profit motive, that D'harawal culture is not based on the ownership of tangible things like land and dwellings and possessions, but it does have a very strong sense of ownership of information. That information, particularly in story form, was not traded, but could be given, and given freely, but its ownership was respected, those stories were not told or passed on by those to whom they had been given, but the knowledge in them was used by the receiver whilst ever they walked in the Land of the D'harawals, This Land.

It is hoped that our present society is now mature enough to be able to accept the Koori Dreaming stories as they were, as they are, and as they were always destined to be; tools to teach the Children of The People about living with Earth, the Mother, in peace and harmony.

Each story contains several layers of knowledge, the first of which are the secrets. Which can only be passed on or discussed with persons of the same level of knowledge or higher than the story teller. These secrets are never told within a legend, but are remembered separately from the legend itself. These are very important components of any legend, and it is the knowledge of the secrets which determines the level of the person's worthiness to ownership of that story.

The next layer of knowledge within the stories was the law, or laws, to be obeyed. The laws of the stories were told and often repeated after the telling of each story, after which the laws were discussed and their application in life demonstrated in a variety of ways.

The third layer of knowledge contained in each story was the lessons which could be learned from the story and the lessons were taught to all members of the group as well as visitors. These lessons introduced Peoples to the means to live in harmony with each other, and the land and its resources.

In this series of D'harawal Law Legends, there are many lessons to be learned. The D'harawals believed that children learned better and more quickly when they were encouraged to work through a problem, rather than be told the answer. By sharing the stories of our ancestors with you, it is hoped that not only will you recognise and learn the lessons and laws of the Peoples of This Land, but you will also come to understand and respect the culture of The People and our feelings and relationship with the land.

The stories do not in themselves act as an instruction manual - rather they point the way and encourage The People to think, to learn and to live. It is hoped that by sharing our stories, you too may be able to think, to learn and to live in This Land.

With understanding and respect for each other we can learn to more easily share This Land and live together in peace and harmony.

Frances Bodkin

HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR COLOURS

Bundelook

A very long time ago, all the birds were of one colour - black.

For the birds, this was not a difficult matter to deal with, however, but for the People of the Parrot Clans, the difficulty came when their numbers grew so many that they could not tell friend from foe, or relative from friend.

Now, the Knowledgeholders of the Parrot Clans called a great meeting to discuss what could be done.

Because of their laws they could only wear feather cloaks, and the only feathers they could find were black.

At the meeting, they considered such suggestions as weaving their cloaks out of the leaves of certain trees, or even using the fur of some of the animals that wandered throughout this land. But in either case, this would mean the breaking of law.

Then, one of the knowledgeholders, Guma'maari, stood up to speak. In her hand she held a pretty blue flower. "A long time ago, all the flowers were white," she said, "Perhaps we should ask the flowers how they received their colours."

Guma'maari went to the Warra'birra, growing near to her gunya, and bent down beside it. "Tell me, little friend," she asked, "how the flowers got their colour."

Warra'birra looked up at Guma'maari, and smiled. "I do not remember, dear Guma'maari, perhaps you might like to ask Guda'yari, the Christmas Bell."

Guma'maari went down to the river and carefully walked along it until she found the shy Guda'yari growing in the shade of the Mitjinburi.

"My friend, Warra'birra, the Native Sarsaparilla, told me that you may know how the flowers got their colour." Guma'maari said.

Guda'yari thought for a little while, then shook her head. "It happened so long ago." She replied with a sigh. "Perhaps you might like to ask Pokulbi."

Guma'maari sought out the beautiful Dianella, and asked her how the flowers got their colour.

Pokulbi shook her head. "I know only how I came to be." She said, and with tears running down her petals, she told Guma'maari her own very sad story. "Perhaps each of the flowers have their own stories, and some may have happier endings."

Guma'maari then went to the Waratah. "Tell me, Waratah, how did you get your beautiful colour?"

The Waratah sighed sadly. "My colour came from the blood of the beautiful woman after whom I am named." Said Waratah. "It hurts me to think of that dreadful time. Have you asked Boo'kerrikin? Her story should be much happier."

Guma'maari then visited the Boo-kerrikin, and asked her how she was able to acquire her beautiful golden blossoms.

Boo'kerrikin thought for a while, then scratched her head. Then, she looked up at the sky, and down at the ground, then, she shrugged her shoulders, "I can't remember, dear Guma'maari." She said finally. "I just can't remember.. I am so sorry."

Guma'maari went from flower to flower, some could remember the story of how they got their colour, others couldn't remember, or simply did not know. But almost always the story was a sad one, and Guma'maari was not sure that she wanted such a terrible tragedy to happen to her just so she could get some colour.

She did not want to return to the meeting and tell them that she had failed, but, as she walked along with heavy feet, she heard a little squeal, and she looked down to see the Little Pink Sun Orchid ruefully rubbing her leaf, where Guma'maari's foot had bruised it.

"You should watch where you put your feet, Guma'maari." Said the orchid.

Guma'maari kneeled down beside the orchid. "Please accept my apologies." She said. "But I am so worried, I did not see you sitting there."

Wargal'darra nodded. "I should not camp so close to the pathway." She sighed. "Tell me, what troubles you?"

"I am trying to find out how the flowers got their colour. I am tired of looking the same as everyone else."

Wargal'darra laughed. "Most flowers have their own stories, but I know how we got our colours." She patted Guma'maari's hand with her leaf blade.

"We were once only white, you know, then, one day, the rainbow came along and dropped all its colours on us. That is why we have so many different colours."

Guma'maari was overjoyed. "Thank you, sweet Wargal'darra,
I shall never forget you."

Guma'maari returned to the meeting and sat down in the circle waiting to be called upon to speak. She was very excited, but she sat calmly.

Finally, the discussion came around to her, and she leaned forward to speak. "All the flowers have their own stories of how they got their colours." She explained. "The Waratah's colour came from the blood of her carer. The colour of Pokulbi's flowers and berries came from the colour of the eyes of the kindly woman from whom they also got their name."

The other knowledgeholders looked at each other. They did not want such tragedy to befall them just so they could get some colour.

"But, the orchids got their beautiful and many colours from the rainbow."" She said. "Perhaps we should try to catch the rainbow."

The knowledgeholders of the Parrot clans were delighted, and eagerly awaited the appearance of the rainbow.

Beela, the tallest man of the cockatoo clans stood up and spoke, "Since I am the tallest, I will go to the top of the highest tree on top of the highest mountain, and I will keep watch and warn you when the rainbow is coming so that you will have plenty of time to prepare."

And Beela, the Black Cockatoo Man travelled to the highest mountain, where he found the highest tree, and climbed up into the highest branches where he could sit and watch.

Beela waited, and waited and waited.

And then he fell asleep.

Suddenly he was awakened by a drop of rain falling on his nose. He sat up, and looked around him. Then he saw it.

"Rainbow!" Beela yelled out. "Rainbow!" as he jumped up and down with excitement on the highest branch of the highest tree.

And then the branch broke, and poor Beela tumbled all the way down, to the bottom of the tree. But as he tried to sit up he began to slide down the steep slope of the mountain.

Poor Beela, he slid on his bottom all the way down the highest mountain until he landed in a creek, and lay there unconscious.

But The People had heard his cry, and they all gathered together, dancing with joy towards the rainbow.

The rainbow spirit saw them coming and almost fled with surprise, but, in front of them all, was the beautiful Guma'maari, waving to him, a bright, lovely smile on her face. He knew, then, that they came in peace.

Beside her was Bundelook, a young man of the Lorikeet clan, for a long time he had wanted Guma'maari to look at him, but she was always too busy.

Bundelook leapt as high as he could and collected all the beautiful colours that the rainbow had to offer.

One by one the clans followed her, delighted with their new cloaks. Everyone was so happy that they had forgotten about poor Beela.

But the playful Sulphur Crested Cockatoos became so excited that they flew too high, and all the beautiful colours they had got from the rainbow were changed to white as they flew through the clouds.

When they returned to the Earth once again, they found that the only colour remained was a little tinge of yellow inside the crest on top of their heads, and some more yellow underneath their arms. And that is another story.

But, beneath those white feathers, their skin is still black.

After all the colours of the rainbow had been collected, and the rainbow spirit departed to collect more colours, Beela regained consciousness. He sat up, shaking his head, and feeling very woozy.

Weakly he got to his feet and leaned against a tree, his face was stinging where the branches of the tree has scraped the skin off his face as he fell out of the tree.

The skin had scraped off his bottom as he slid down the mountain, and all over his body there were scratches and cuts.

He staggered back to The People who greeted him gratefully, but all were disappointed that he had been unable to get any colours.

Eventually, as the members of the Parrot clans grew old and died, they became the brightly coloured parrots that we see in the skies today.

Guma'maari and Bundelook married, and their children became the many kinds of Rosellas that chatter away in the trees, amusing The People with their wonderful colours, and their playful antics.

And the black cockatoo can be seen in the skies before it rains, searching for the rainbow so that it can be as colourful as the Rosellas, and the Lorikeets.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRDS IN THE STORY

Parrots

Suburban areas of Australia have a striking abundance of large, brightly-coloured birds. Most of these birds belong to the Order Psittaciformes (commonly known as 'parrots'), which contains the cockatoos, parrots, rosellas and lorikeets. These species have short, powerful bills that they use for cracking seeds, but some of them also feed on fruit, nectar, underground plant stems, and wood-boring insect larvae.

Feet and toes: Parrots have very different feet to songbirds (Order Passeriformes). Parrots have two toes pointing forwards, and two toes pointing backwards; songbirds have three toes forward and one toe at the back. Many parrot species are highly dexterous with their feet, and will hold hard seed capsules in one foot while they extract the seeds with their bills.

Nest hollows and nest boxes: Almost all parrots need old trees that have developed hollows that they can nest in. Good hollow-bearing trees are usually more than 100 years old, and are normally only found in 'old-growth' forests. Some parrot species (e.g. Glossy-black Cockatoo) are in decline, because these old-growth forests are being lost to agricultural and forestry activities. However, other parrot species can nest in isolated old trees that remain in suburban areas and these species are surviving well in cities. A few of these species (e.g. Crimson Rosella) have even taken to artificial nest boxes. Unfortunately, some introduced species such as Honeybees, Common (Indian) Mynas and Common Starlings frequently out-compete parrots at both natural and artificial hollows.

The problem with feeding parrots…Parrots are easily attracted to bird feeding stations because they eat seed and/or nectar. This ready availability of artificial foods has increased the numbers of some species in urban areas (e.g. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet). However, bird-feeding has resulted in some birds becoming pests. For example, over-abundant Sulphur-crested Cockatoos demanding a feed can damage the timberwork of houses with their beaks. Birds can also become too dependent on artificial foods and even develop diseases or conditions caused by poor nutrition. Many parrots are susceptible to a viral disease, often spread at feeding stations, known as Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD), which causes the birds to lose their feathers and grow grotesquely shaped beaks.

EASTERN ROSELLA

Scientific Name: *Platycercus eximius*

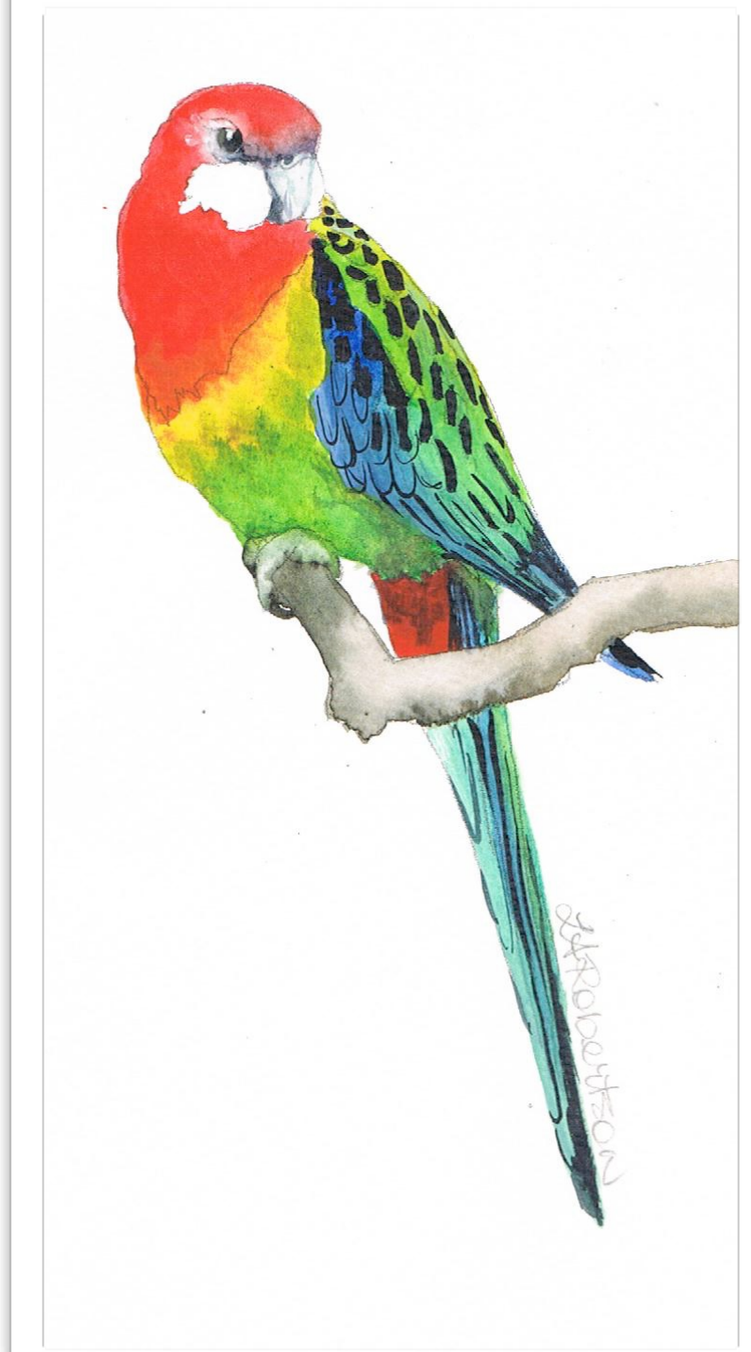
Eastern Rosellas are medium-sized colourful parrots with a red head, neck and breast, with yellowish to greenish upper parts, a yellow underbody and a yellow-green to blue-green rump, with a red undertail. They have distinctive white cheek patches and the shoulders are bright blue. Females are sometimes duller than males and young birds are even duller and can be aged by their bill colour, which is yellow or orange, changing to off-white when mature.

They are found throughout south-eastern Australia and in eastern Tasmania and has been introduced to New Zealand.

Eastern Rosellas inhabit woodlands, grasslands, farmlands and remnant bushland and are often found in urban habitats such as parks, gardens and golf courses. They do not move from their home territory.

They mainly feed on the ground, eating seeds, fruits, buds, flowers, nectar and insects amongst grasses in lawns, pastures and other clearings and will also feeds in trees and bushes.

They mate for life. The female chooses and prepares a hollow in a eucalypt tree as a nesting site (but will sometimes use a nest-box or other artificial site). Eggs are laid on a decayed wood bed and the female sits on the eggs while the male regularly feeds her. The young remain with them for a while after they fledge.



http://www.birdsinbackyards.net

RAINBOW LORIKEET

Scientific Name:

Trichoglossus haematodus

The Rainbow Lorikeet has a bright red beak and colourful plumage - blue head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange/yellow breast. Both sexes look alike and they are often seen in communal roosts at dusk or flying in loud and fast-moving flocks. The related Scaly-breasted Lorikeet is similar in size and shape, but can be distinguished by its all-green head and body.

The y are found in coastal regions across northern and eastern Australia.

The Rainbow Lorikeet inhabits rainforest, woodlands and well-treed urban areas. They are largely sedentary with some nomadic movements in response to seasonal flowering or fruiting of plants.

They feed on nectar and pollen from flowers of shrubs or trees, but also eat fruits, seeds and some insects.

The Rainbow Lorikeet nests usually in a hollow limb of a eucalypt tree and the eggs are laid on chewed, decayed wood. Both sexes prepare the nest cavity and feed the young, but only the female sits on the eggs.

http://www.birdsinbackyards.net

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRDS IN THE STORY

Parrots

Suburban areas of Australia have a striking abundance of large, brightly-coloured birds. Most of these birds belong to the Order Psittaciformes (commonly known as 'parrots'), which contains the cockatoos, parrots, rosellas and lorikeets. These species have short, powerful bills that they use for cracking seeds, but some of them also feed on fruit, nectar, underground plant stems, and wood-boring insect larvae.

Feet and toes: Parrots have very different feet to songbirds (Order Passeriformes). Parrots have two toes pointing forwards, and two toes pointing backwards; songbirds have three toes forward and one toe at the back. Many parrot species are highly dexterous with their feet, and will hold hard seed capsules in one foot while they extract the seeds with their bills.

Nest hollows and nest boxes: Almost all parrots need old trees that have developed hollows that they can nest in. Good hollow-bearing trees are usually more than 100 years old, and are normally only found in 'old-growth' forests. Some parrot species (e.g. Glossy-black Cockatoo) are in decline, because these old-growth forests are being lost to agricultural and forestry activities. However, other parrot species can nest in isolated old trees that remain in suburban areas and these species are surviving well in cities. A few of these species (e.g. Crimson Rosella) have even taken to artificial nest boxes. Unfortunately, some introduced species such as Honeybees, Common (Indian) Mynas and Common Starlings frequently out-compete parrots at both natural and artificial hollows.

The problem with feeding parrots…Parrots are easily attracted to bird feeding stations because they eat seed and/or nectar. This ready availability of artificial foods has increased the numbers of some species in urban areas (e.g. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet). However, bird-feeding has resulted in some birds becoming pests. For example, over-abundant Sulphur-crested Cockatoos demanding a feed can damage the timberwork of houses with their beaks. Birds can also become too dependent on artificial foods and even develop diseases or conditions caused by poor nutrition. Many parrots are susceptible to a viral disease, often spread at feeding stations, known as Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD), which causes the birds to lose their feathers and grow grotesquely shaped beaks.

Beela

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

Identification: The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a large cockatoo. It is easily identified by its mostly black plumage, with most body feathers edged with yellow, not visible at a distance. It has a yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on the tail. The female has a larger yellow cheek patch, pale grey eye-ring (pink in males), white upper bill (grey-black in males) and black marks in the yellow tail panels. Young birds resemble the adult female, but young males have a smaller cheek patch.
Size range: 55 cm to 65 cm

Distribution: The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is found in south-eastern Australia, from Eyre Peninsula, South Australia to south and central eastern Queensland.

Habitat: The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo inhabits a variety of habitat types, but favours eucalypt woodland and pine plantations. Small to large flocks can be seen in these areas, either perched or flying on slowly flapping wings.

Feeding and Diet: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos feed in small to large flocks. Their favoured foods are wood-boring larvae and seeds of native and introduced trees and ground plants.

Communication: The contact call is a drawn-out, distinctive "kee-ow". They may screech if alarmed.

Mating and reproduction: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos have a long breeding season, which varies throughout their range. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a large tree hollow, lined with wood chips. The female alone incubates the eggs, while the male supplies her with food. Usually only one chick survives, and this will stay in the care of its parents for about six months.

Breeding season: Variable
Clutch size: 2
Time in nest: 168 days

http://australianmuseum.net.au/yellow-tailed-black-cockatoo#sthash.XldqTqw7.dpuf

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

One of Australia's most popular and iconic birds, the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, has been known to live up to eighty years of age in captivity.

Identification: The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a large white parrot. It has a dark grey-black bill, a distinctive sulphur-yellow crest and a yellow wash on the underside of the wings. Sexes are similar, although the female can be separated at close range by its red-brown eye (darker brown in the male). This is a noisy and conspicuous cockatoo, both at rest and in flight. Young Sulphur-crested Cockatoos resemble the adults.

Size range: 45 cm to 50 cm

Distribution: The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo's range extends throughout the northern and eastern mainland, and Tasmania. A small population has become established around Perth, Western Australia. The species also occurs in New Guinea and the Aru Islands, and has been introduced into New Zealand and Indonesia.

Habitat: Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are found in a variety of timbered habitats and are common around human settlements. The birds stay in the same area all year round.

Feeding and Diet: The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo's normal diet consists of berries, seeds, nuts and roots. It also takes handouts from humans. Feeding normally takes place in small to large groups, with one or more members of the group watching for danger from a nearby perch. When not feeding, birds will bite off smaller branches and leaves from trees. These items are not eaten, however. The activity may help to keep the bill trimmed and from growing too large.

Communication: The most common call is a distinctive loud screech, ending with a slight upward inflection.

Mating and reproduction: The eggs are laid in a suitable tree hollow, which is prepared by both sexes. Both birds also incubate and care for the chicks. The chicks remain with the parents all year round and family groups will stay together indefinitely.

Breeding Season: August to January in the south; May to September in the north
Clutch size: 1 to 3
Incubation: 30 days
Time in nest: 65 days

Conservation Status: The popularity of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo as a cage bird has increased its range, as these birds either escape or are released deliberately in areas where they do not already occur. The species has become a pest around urban areas, where it uses its powerful bill to destroy timber decking and panelling on houses.

http://australianmuseum.net.au/sulphur-crested-cockatoo#sthash.RyE0ObCK.dpuf

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLOWERS IN THE STORY

Boo'kerrikin:

Acacia decurrens	
Family	Fabaceae/Mimosoideae
Previous names	**Bookerrikin** Racosperma decurrens Acacia decurrrens var. angulata
Common Names	Black Wattle; Green Wattle, Queen Wattle, Early Black Wattle, Sydney Green Wattle;
Distribution	Sydney Western Sydney Blue Mountains
Niche	Absent from Hawkesbury Sandstone area. Mainly on well-drained clay soils derived from Wianamatta Shales
Description	An evergreen tree which grows to a height of 15m. ***Stem;*** Solitary, erect, sturdy, with widely spreading branches, young branches winged and smooth grey or green young bark, black and crumbly when old. ***Phyllodes;*** Dark green, with paler undersurface, bipinnate, with 5-12 pairs pinnae to 7cm long, and 15-40 pairs pinnules, to 1.5cm long. ***Flowers;*** Bright yellow to deep golden yellow balls, occurring in axillary or terminal clusters of 6-15 balls, and appearing late winter to early spring. Fragrant. ***Fruit;*** reddish brown, flat, straight pods, to 10cm long and 0.8cm wide, containing black, glossy, oval seeds to 0.45cm long and 0.2cm wide.
Uses	*Food source·* *On trees younger than seven years, the bark was used as a fish poison.* *Medicinal* *The hardened gum was ground to a powder, mixed with warm water* *and white ash, then used as a substitute for white ochre for decorating rock shelters.* *The hardened gum was ground to a powder, mixed with warm water and the ash of fresh water mussel shells, then used as a waterproof sealant for canoes and containers.* *The gum, mixed with warm water was smoothed over boomerangs, spears, woomeras and coolamons to enhance their water resistance.* *Beverage* *The ash was mixed with water and applied to the body for decoration in the absence of ochre.* *The ash was mixed with acacia gum and used as paint for rock art, in the absence of ochre*
Associations with other organisms	**WARNING** **Inhalation of vapour from burning leaves may cause breathing difficulties.** Immature seed eaten by White Cockatoo – *Cacatu galerita*

Guda'yari:

Blandfordia grandiflora	
Family	Blandfordiaceae
Previous names	**Bud'yari**
Common Names	Christmas Bell
Distribution	Coast and Ranges
Niche	On moist, peaty, but well-drained soils in protected places.
Description	A perennial plant which grows to a height of 0.8m. ***Stem;*** Sturdy, erect, flowering. ***Leaves;*** Green, narrowly linear, to 0.8m long, and 0.4cm wide, basal, tuft forming, rough. ***Flowers;*** Red or orange red, with yellow margins, occurring in clusters of up to 10 blooms and appearing summer. ***Fruit;*** Three celled, three angled capsules, containing velvety brown seeds.
Uses	*Medicinal*
Associations with other organisms	
Associations with other plants	
Comments	Resprouts after fire

Dianella:

Dianella longifolia	
Family	Phormiaceae
Other names	**Pokulbi**
Common Names	Blue Flax Lily Smooth Flax Lily
Distribution	Widespread
Niche	In clay soils over sandstone.
Description	A perennial plant which grows to a height of 0.8m ***Stem;*** Erect, flowering, ***Leaves;*** Greyish green, to 0.6m long, keeled. ***Floswers;*** Pale blue, six petalled, with yellow anthers, occurring in loose, terminal racemes and appearing spring. ***Fruit;*** Bright blue berry, to 1cm across.
Uses	*Food source*
Associations with other organisms	
Associations with other plants	**Open Forest, Woodland** Eucalyptus moluccana Eucalyptus tereticornis Eucalyptis dives Eucalyptus fastigata
Comments	Resprouts after fire.

Waratah:

Telopea speciosissima	
Family	Proteaceae
Other names	**Miwa Gawaian**
Common Names	Waratah
Distribution	Coast and Blue Mountains
Niche	On sandy, rocky soils overlaying brown or yellow clay over sandstone.
Description	An evergreen shrub which grows to a height of 3m. ***Stems;*** erect, slender, sparsely branching, flowering. ***Leaves;*** narrowly obovate to narrowly spathulate, to 28cm long, and 6.5cm wide, with sparsely toothed margins, leathery. ***Flowers;*** Bright red, rarely white, occurring in dense, terminal heads to 15cm across, and appearing spring. ***Fruit;*** Recurved woody follicle, to 15cm long, containing winged seeds.
Uses	*Food source.* *Medicinal* *Ceremonial Ritual* *Mythological values*
Associations with other organisms	
Associations with other plants	**Woodland, Open Forest** Eucalyptus sieberi Eucalyptus piperita Eucalyptus sclerophylla Lambertia formosa Leptospermum trinervium Persoonia levis Banksia spinulosum
Comments	Resprouts from lignotuber after fire.

Warra'birra

Hardenbergia violaceae	
Family	Fabaceae
Other names	
Common Names	Purple Coral Pea Fasla Sarsaparilla Warrabirra Purple Twining Pea
Distribution	Widespread Coast and Ranges
Niche	Occurs on a wide variety of soils and habitats
Description	An evergreen vine which grows to a height of 2m. ***Stem;*** Slender, branching, twining. ***Leaves;*** Deep green, narrowly oblong to ovate with heart shaped base, to 12cm long. ***Flowers;*** Purple, violet, pink or white, pea-shaped, to 1cm across, occurring in terminal panicles, and appearing winter and spring. ***Fruit;*** Greyish brown pods, to 4.5cm long.
Uses	*Medicinal* *Beverage*
Associations with other organisms	Foodplant of moth caterpillar *Teia anartoides*
Associations with other plants	**Open Forest, Woodland** Eucalyptus crebra Eucalyptus maculata Eucalyptus fibrosa Eucalyptus eugenioides Eucalyptus longifolia Eucalyptus tereticornis Eucalyptus rossii **Heath** Melaleuca nodosa **Coastal Scrub** Westringia fruticosa Pultenea daphnoides
Comments	Resprouts, but also re-establishes from ant stored seed.

Wargal'darra

Thelymitra media var media	
Family	Orchidaceae
Other names	**Wahgall'darra**
Common Names	Tall Sun Orchid
Distribution	Southern Highlands
Niche	In damp soils over sandstone in protected positions.
Description	A perennial orchid which grows to a height of 0.9m ***Stem;*** Erect and flowering ***Leaves;*** green, solitary, channelled, ribbed, lanceolate, to 30cm long, ***Flowers;*** Deep blue, with darker markings, to 2cm across, 5-25 occurring in terminal spikes, and appearing spring and summer. ***Fruit;*** Capsules.
Uses	*Food source.* *Mythological value.*
Associations with other organisms	
Associations with other plants	**Swamp margins**
Comments	

Mitjinburi

Austromyrtus tenuifolia	
Family	Myrtaceae
Previous names	
Common Names	Midjinberry
Distribution	Coast and Adjacent Plateaux
Niche	On the vicinity of water courses, on rich, moist, but well-drained soils
Description	An evergreen shrub which grows to a height of 2m ***Stem;*** erect, stiff and branching, with finely flaky bark. ***Leaves;*** Dark green, linear to lanceolate, with recurved margins, to 4cm long. ***Flowers;*** White, five petalled, solitary, occurring in axillary clusters, and appearing late spring. ***Fruit;*** White with dark purple spots, to 0.5cm across.
Uses	*Edible fruit.*
Associations with other organisms	
Associations with other plants	**Riparian Vegetation** Tristaniopsis laurina Lomatia myricoides Tristania neriifolia Trococarpa laurina Ceratopetalum apetalum Gleichenia dicarpa **Rainforest Margins.**
Comments	Resprouts from base after high intensity fire.