



# "YUGGERA DJARRA-NA"

(On Yuggera Country)

**A song for people on Country.**



## Elders' Welcome message by Gaja Kerry Charlton

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Maromba bayon nga yo-wah yuungan. Good day and friendly greeting. We are delighted to share the outcome of this RQIS song project and acknowledge the Benarrawa Educators' Learning Circle, Oxley State School and everyone's respectful participation. The Moreton Goo'enpul – Yuggera Elders give permission for the use of our language and cultural intellectual property in the project. This song reflects the unique gifts of each student and adult as their creative spirit ignited with our cultural sharing into a joyful reflection about our combined love of country. Reconciliation activities like these grow cross cultural understandings and respectful relationships between everyone.

*Caroomba yagga ngambilli – great work all!*

*Please enjoy singing Yuggera djarra-na.*

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The Queensland Government, through the Embracing 2018 Legacy Program for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018), provided funding to Oxley State School for the "On Yuggera Country" Song Writing project. This project is part of the Reconciliation In Queensland Schools program, an initiative of the GC2018 Reconciliation Action Plan.

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# "YUGGERA DJARRA-NA"

## (On Yuggera Country)

A personal interest to learn the language of the country upon which she lives and works inspired music teacher Megan Thomson to apply for a RQIS grant to work in partnership with local Aboriginal Elders, music teachers and students to write and record a song. Four local State schools participated (Oxley, Graceville, Grand Avenue, Forest Lake). Great support came from wonderfully patient parents, Oxley (grant auspice, workshop venue) and John Maume from Benarra-wa. The Elders' shared stories, songs and project guidance led to a draft song for music producer Chris White to refine and add his amazing music to. Megan coordinated the project, kept us all on track and wrote the music sheets.

Our vision is that "Yuggera Djarra-na" be used widely in schools, (classrooms, assemblies) and community gatherings as a way for groups to respectfully acknowledge the First Peoples of the land and their ongoing connections, our shared histories and to embrace working with Aboriginal groups and hear the stories and languages of that country. We invite the use of languages from other areas to be used in the song with the permission of the local custodians.



### Guide to saying Yuggera language:

Our language retrieval work is ongoing and the words used in the song are as accurate as possible. Our languages are not like the English alphabet of 26 letters so don't use as such. Ours is a sound system as explained below. Suffixes at the end of words and combinations of syllables give further word meanings.

### Brief intro to Yuggera sound system:

**3 short and long vowels:** *a* (as in cut - spelt *Yagara* or *Jagera* but said *Yuggera*); *aa/ah* (as in jah); *e* (as in pet); *ee* (as in meet - dandiiri); *i* (as in it or in eg ngambili); *oo/u* (as in put)

**12 consonants:** *b, d, dj, g, l, m, n, ny, ng, r, w, y*

**Double letters one sound:** *ny:* say as in onion; *dj:* say 'j' sharper and 'd' silent (same as tj); *dy:* say 'y' sharper and 'd' more silent; *ng:* as in sing

This song introduces basic *Yuggera* language structure and sounds. Our sounds can be soft or hard so spelling our sounds often interchanges in writing systems. Early Europeans recorded using their written phonetic system, some with no linguistic skills and or spelt sounds as heard by foreign ears. Examples of sounds and suffixes spelt differently but with the same meaning include country, earth eg *djarra, darra, tarra, dar*; suffixes *pul/pal/bul//bal/val/wa/wul etc* meaning 'is of' eg *Jandairval / Djendewal* as for 'is of' *Jandai/Janderr* and *Yuggerapul, Ugarapul, Yagarabal* mean 'is of *Yuggera*' while '*pa, ba, da, ta*' for 'place of' eg *Tingalpa, Capalaba*. Remember the sound is predominant not alphabetical spelling.

The 'ng' sound made as in the word 'sing'. Note how your tongue sits on the roof your mouth toward the back. Practice by saying 'sing' a few times, then just the 'ng' sound a lot, then practice words beginning with 'ng'. It sounds strange at first but gets easier with practice. *Yagara* is usually said *Yuggera* as we spelt it.

### Song Words

*Nginda, ngari, nga ngambili, Yuggera djarra-na* – You, me and everyone on *Yuggera* country.

Nginda	you	first vowel sounds like	'i' as with in
Ngari	me	" " " "	'u' in cup
Nga	and	" " " "	'a' in ta
Ngahmbili	everyone, all	" " " "	'a' in 'nah'
Yuggera	a negator word	" " " "	'u' in cup
Djarra	country, land, soil	" " " "	'u' in cup
-na	suffix 'on'	" " " "	'a' in ta



# "YUGGERA DJARRA-NA"

## (Lyrics & Chords)

*Chorus: (NC) Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.  
Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.*

**(Am) (C) (Em7) (G) (F) (C)**

1. **(Am)** Sounds in nature, sounds in life, **(C)** all awaken our spirits tonight.  
**(Em7)** Water rushing **(G)** through the reeds **(F)** giving life to **(C)** all it feeds.  
**(Am)** Listen to the land as it **(C)** whispers in the trees,  
**(Em7)** Hear the whistling **(G)** wind as it **(F)** sings its song to **(C)** me

*Chorus: (Dm) Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, (Am) Yuggera djarra-na.  
(G) Nginda, ngari (F) nga ngahmbili, (C) Yuggera djarra-na.*

2. **(Am)** River, forest, waterfall, the **(C)** colours of country inspire us all –  
**(Em7)** Green trees and blue **(G)** skies up high, **(F)** ochre sunset, **(C)** starry sky.  
The **(Am)** colours of Yuggera country **(C)** fill us all with joy,  
**(Em7)** Shared with all the **(G)** people, to be **(F)** shared with girl and **(C)** boy.

*Chorus: (Dm) Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, (Am) Yuggera djarra-na.  
(G) Nginda, ngari (F) nga ngahmbili, (C) Yuggera djarra-na. x2*

### **Bridge**

**(F)** Yuggera (Yuggera) sounds of djarra.  
**(Am/E)** Yuggera (Yuggera) colours of djarra.  
**(Dm)** Yuggera (Yuggera) people of djarra.  
**(G/B)** Yuggera (Yuggera) spirit of djarra.  
The **(F)** kookaburra laugh, the **(Am/E)** dingo howl,  
The **(Dm)** crickets' trill, is **(G/B)** all around;  
it's all around, it's **(G)** all around, it's all a-**(Am)** round.

*Instrumental: (C) (Em7) (G) (F) (C)*

3. **(Am)** Listen deep to the Earth **(C)** and the people of the land,  
U-**(Em7)**ning under **(G)** one sun, all to-**(F)**gether holding **(C)** hands.  
You will **(Am)** feel it in your heart, if you **(C)** listen to the land.  
**(Em7)** Listen to the **(G)** Ancestors to **(F)** learn and under-**(C)**stand.

*Chorus: (Dm) Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, (Am) Yuggera djarra-na.  
(G) Nginda, ngari (F) nga ngahmbili, (C) Yuggera djarra-na. x3*



# "Yuggera Djarra-na"

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## Chorus NC

Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm-bi - li

Yug-ger - a djar - ra - na.

3

Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm-bi - li

Yug-ger - a djar - ra - na.

5

Am C Em7 G F C

## Verse

9

1. Sounds in nature, sounds in life, all a-wak-en our spir-its to-night.

2. Riv - er, for - est, wat - er - fall, the colours of coun-try in - spi-re us all -

11

Wa - ter rush - ing through the reeds, giv - ing life to all it feeds.

Green trees and blue skies up high, o - chre sun - set, star - ry sky. The

13

Lis - ten to the land as it whis - pers in the trees,

colours of Yugger - a country fill us all with joy,

15

Hear the whist - ling wind as it sings its song to me.

Shared with all the people, to be shared with girl and boy.

## Chorus

17

Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm-bi - li

Yug-ger - a djar - ra - na.

19

Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm-be - li

Yug-ger - a djar - ra - na.

21

Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm-bi - li

Yug-ger - a djar - ra - na.

23 G F C  
 Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm - bi - li \_\_\_\_\_ Yug - ger - a djar - ra - na.

**Bridge**

25 F Am/E  
 Yug - ger - ra, (Yug - ger - a) sounds of djar - ra, Yug - ger - ra, (Yug - ger - ra) col - ours of djar - ra,

27 Dm G/B  
 Yug - ger - ra, (Yug - ger - ra) peo - ple of djar - ra, Yu - ger - ra, (Yug - ger - ra) spir - it of djar - ra. The

29 F Am/E Dm G/B  
 kook - a - bur - ra laugh, the din - go howl, the crick - et's trill, is all a - round, it's all a - round, it's

**Instrumental**

33 G Am  
 all a - round, it's all a - round.

**Verse**

35 C Em7 G F C Am C  
 3. Lis - ten deep to the earth and the peo - ple of the land, U -

40 Em7 G F C Am  
 nit - ing un - der one sun, all to - geth - er hold - ing hands. You will feel it in your heart, if you

43 C Em7 G F C  
 lis - ten to the land. List - en to the An - ces - tors to learn and un - der - stand.

**Chorus**

46 Dm Am  
 Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm - bi - li \_\_\_\_\_ Yug - ger - a djar - ra - na.

48 G F C x3  
 Ngin - da, nga - ri nga nahm - bi - li \_\_\_\_\_ Yug - ger - a djar - ra - na.

# "YUGGERA DJARRA-NA"

## Lyrics

**Chorus:** Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.  
Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.

1. Sounds in nature, sounds in life, all awaken our spirits tonight.  
Water rushing through the reeds giving life to all it feeds.  
Listen to the land as it whispers in the trees,  
Hear the whistling wind as it sings its song to me

**Chorus:** Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.  
Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.

2. River, forest, waterfall, the colours of country inspire us all –  
Green trees and blue skies up high, ochre sunset, starry sky.  
The colours of Yuggera country fill us all with joy,  
Shared with all the people, to be shared with girl and boy.

**Chorus:** Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.  
Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na. x2

### **Bridge**

Yuggera (Yuggera) sounds of djarra.  
Yuggera (Yuggera) colours of djarra.  
Yuggera (Yuggera) people of djarra.  
Yuggera (Yuggera) spirit of djarra.  
The kookaburra laugh, the dingo howl,  
The crickets' trill, Is all around;  
it's all around, it's all around, it's all around.

### **Instrumental**

3. Listen deep to the Earth and the people of the land,  
Uniting under one sun, all together holding hands.  
You will feel it in your heart, if you listen to the land.  
Listen to the Ancestors to learn and understand.

**Chorus:** Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na.  
Nginda, ngari nga ngahmbili, Yuggera djarra-na. x3

### **About the Artwork**

#### **"Walking on Country"**

This artwork represents the footprints being left on Country.  
The inner artwork represents the water that flows through Country to  
nurture our trees, our animals and our spirits.

**Artist / Designer:** Casey Coolwell

*Casey is a Quandamooka woman with traditional ties to  
North Strabroke Island, with links to Eulo and the  
Biri people of Bowen.*

*Owner, artist and designer behind CHABOO,  
where they tell their stories through  
Graphic Design and hand painted  
Aboriginal art.*

