

About Native Language

“Yah-hode-ee, Minargo?” (Hello – where are you going?). That was the way you greeted the Yeppin Creek tribe when you passed between the two Yeppin Creeks...and you yelled it out at the top of your voice and the tribe there loved it.

In general terms we are told that the Hastings tribes were known to others by the name of Ngamba. The Hastings River was called ‘Doongang’ and Birpai was supposedly the dialect most commonly used. When the mid north coast was referred to, it was as a spiritual home and known as Ulitarra, and meant ‘good spirit’. The word ‘Touris’ meant the spiritual territory, for each tribe in the location.

The following words have been recorded;

Wattan ...water	Bulli ...white grubs
Bittay ...creek	Condannuan ...flying fox
Jakka-bulga ...seaside or waterfall	Wapporah ...old man roo
Cunjaun ...lake	Winmurra ...blacks from the tablelands
Batoo ...saltwater	Comboin ...a female roo
Cowar ...staghorn	Bandwarra ...wallaby
Pamboo ...eel	Coola ...Koala
Markoo ...fish	Whatoo ...possum
Koototigee ...Perch fish	Burruga ...bandicoot
Currikee ...turtle	Mirree ...dingo
Karn ...shark	Beechwood ...flying squirrel
Warlinbanh ...grey gum tree	Yellowman ...lamb
Chickerabanh ...Ironbark tree	Bundee-bandee ...snake
Woombe-bang ...Tallowood tree	Gum-man ...lizards generally
Bappen ...stinging tree	Taroke ...black goanna
Kipang ...wild raspberry bush	Wilpring ...red-bill bird
Kookamerica ...wild fig tree	Maroonghe ...black duck
Micke ...a tree struck by lightning	Waring ...pidgeon
Gerring ...the dawn	Kerrictong ...magpie
Euroka ...a patch of sunlight	Kerripie ...cockatoo
Merring ...stars	Mun-doe ...foot
Iggin ...a cold place	Barrikum ...boomerang
Kuppine ...native bees	Null-nulla ...club
Fey ...honey	Heliman ...shield
Mungu ...white ants	Kooyah ...fire
Nabbe Doongang ...good spirit of river	Bulkara ...a mountain
Kerri ...place	Bucka wauka ...lie down with knees up
Bingi ...stomach	Bora-pung ...ring of sacred earth
Yahu ...hairy man	Kookum ...pig
Bang ...tree	Bongar ...to shoot
Ko-ore ...bloodwood tree	Bongalar ...to fight
Coorie-coori ...blackfellow	Korang ...no
Warcol ...one	Gun-amb aleung ...‘Now don’t be frightened’
Blarvo ...two	Arriendo ...little girl
Warcol-blarvo ...three	Muubirbirri ...Initiation scars and cuts
Tuckenay ...to eat	Kippara ...Initiation ceremony for boys

¹ Original source unknown