

## Educator Notes – Wirlomin Noongar

### Episodes

**Ngoolboongoor - Honey possum**

**Maambakoort - Shore | Bilya - River**

**Mamang - Whale**

### Overview

Rudi and the kids join Cassie on a journey to the south coast of Noongar Country in Western Australia, where the air smells salty and fresh. The sea is a clear turquoise colour, with waves rolling into a sandy white shore. Cassie shares some words with us in the Wirlomin dialect of the Noongar language. You can learn them too!

Consider how Cassie's episodes of *Little Yarns* can extend children's knowledge of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander language and culture. How can provocations from Noongar language learning enrich your program for children and families?

### Extension ideas

Where is Noongar Country? Check out the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) to find out more. The [Noongar Boodjar Language Cultural Aboriginal Corporation and Noongar Language Centre](#) is a helpful resource for educators looking to extend their knowledge of Noongar Country and culture.

### How do animals help with pollination?

Beautiful little ngoolboongoor (honey possum) call the scrubby bushlands of Noongar Country home. Cassie shares fascinating facts about how these tiny, yet very important marsupials help to pollinate banksia plants. They share pollen from tree to tree as they drink nectar from slender banksia flowers. It is important to [protect nectar producing plants](#) like banksia so ngoolboongoor can survive.



Image: Ngoolboongoor on banksia flower - South Coast NRM



Image: Maambakoort (shore), Esperance - Flickr.com

Investigate how other animals such as birds and insects help to pollinate plants. More information about this amazing process can be found online via [The Australian Museum](#). Go on a botanical adventure outdoors to find flowering plants in playgrounds and parks. Take your magnifying glasses and look out for tiny insects feeding on pollen. Encourage children to draw or photograph the insects they find. Consider a couple of important safety checks when planning and implementing this experience:

- Visit [Kidsafe Grow me Safely](#) to make sure flowers you approach are not dangerous.
- Watch out for bees and other insects that may sting.
- Keep a safe distance so insects are not disturbed. Look, but don't touch is a good rule of thumb.

When caring for Country around your place, consider planting banksias and other native flowering flora. Native plants are resilient, water efficient and attract many different species of native insects, birds and small marsupials. You may also find the Narragunnawali [Care For Country](#) page useful.

Link this experience to EYLF Outcome 2.4, 4.1, 4.3

### How do mamang (whales) communicate?

Majestic Southern Right whales have their babies in the warm shallow bays of Noongar Country. Cassie tells us about some interesting mamang behaviours, like the way they hold up their flukes and tail-sail. They also like kep-birbininy (spouting water) from their blowholes! Mamang communicate with each other using their own special language. Listen to relaxing mamang calls and find out what some of their different sounds mean by visiting [Ocean Mammal Institute](#) and [Whale Sounds](#).

To learn more about the seasonal patterns of the Noongar Nation, check out the [Noongar calendar](#) on the Bureau of Meteorology's Indigenous Weather Knowledge map.



**Country: South Coast Noongar**

**Language: Noongar (Wirlomin dialect)**

<b>Focus Word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
kaya	hello
ngoolboongoor	honey possum
maambakoort	shore / shallow ocean
bilya	river
mamang	whale

<b>Additional</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
boodja	land/Country
kaarda	goanna
weitj	emu
nyingarn	echidna
ngoorlark	black cockatoos
aliwa	look out!
wardan	the ocean
maabart	father
koort	heart
kep-birbininy	water-spouting
bindjel	bubbles

The [Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project](#) has story and language resources specific to the south coast of Western Australia.