

Educator Notes – Gamilaraay

Episodes

Dhinawan - Emu

Murabri - Storm Cloud

Mundhuis - Shoes

Overview

Rudi takes us to Gamilaroi Country, where the language is Gamilaraay. Gamilaroi Country is in New South Wales, it's inland and touches the Queensland border. Rudi's mum Kerry takes the kids on a journey through the hot, dry Pilliga scrub. Rudi and Kerry share some words with us in Gamilaraay. You can learn them too!

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

Extension ideas

Where is Gamilaroi Country? Check out the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) to find out more.

Kerry tells us about some of the animals that call Gamilaroi Country home – kangaroo, goanna and **dhinawan** (emu). When Kerry was little, her uncles would take her out to track dhinawan. It was a special way for their family to spend time together on Country.

- Invite children to sit in a yarning circle and share their stories of being together with family in nature. Questions to guide discussion could include; *How do you spend time in nature together with family (Camping? Visits to the beach? Bush walks?) How do you help care for those special places while you are visiting?*
- The dhinawan (emu) has special place on Gamilaroi Country. With its long legs and neck and shaggy feathers, the majestic emu has inspired lots of great children's stories. Here are some titles to check out:
 - *'Silly Birds'* (2014) by Gregg Dreise
 - *'Eagle, Crow and Emu Bird Stories'* (2016) by Gladys Milroy and Jill Milroy.
 - *'Emu'* (2014) by Clare Saxby and Graham Byrne.



Image: flickr.com Hugh Nicholson, Pilliga Forest.

We hear about the big fulla **murabri** (storm cloud) overhead bringing the beautiful smell of rain to Gamilaroi Country. Kerry describes the exciting yet peaceful atmosphere of a big storm approaching.

- In addition to the beautiful soundscapes included throughout *Little Yarns*, there are useful free apps and websites offering relaxing long-play soundtracks inspired by nature. Try a key word search such as 'sounds of nature'. Follow this episode of *Little Yarns* with a gentle thunderstorm soundtrack playing in your room – a peaceful way for young children to unwind or drift off to sleep.



Image: Pixabay

Kerry takes the kids for a walk at sunset through the Pilliga scrub. The colours are beautiful at sunset after a dry, hot day. Kerry shares the importance of taking off her **mundhuis** (shoes) to walk on the earth and feel even more connected to Country.

- At times during the day when **mundhuis** can be taken off, encourage children to be mindful and enjoy the feel of the earth under their feet. Take time to stop, be silent and enjoy the great sensory experience of feeling the cool earth, sand or grass underfoot.

For more Gamilaraay resources, check out the [Winanga-Li](#) website and the free [Ma Gamilaraay](#) app.



Country: Gamilaroi **Language: Gamilaraay**

Focus word	Meaning
dhinawan	emu
murabri	storm cloud
mundhuis	shoes

Additional	Meaning
yaama	hello
yalu	goodbye



Images: Left – Dhinawan (emu) by Brett Sayles, Pexels.
Right - Dhinawan tracks, commons.wikimedia.org.