



Educator Notes – Yawuru

Episodes

Wanggarrangarra – Spider, Spiderweb, Throw Net

Babagarra – Children

Nagula – Saltwater

Overview

Dalisa takes Rudi and the kids on a journey to Yawuru Country, by the sea, up in the Kimberley on the Western side of Australia. Dalisa shares some words with us in Yawuru. You can learn them too!

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

Extension ideas

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

The [Nyamba Buru Yawuru](#) website is a helpful resource for educators looking to extend their knowledge of Yawuru Country and culture.

Dalisa explains how **Marrul** (the changing season) brings migrating birds to the mudflats of Yawuru Country. The birds are on their way north, heading all the way to China!

- Find out more about the [beautiful birds of Yawuru Country](#). Go on an excursion to your local library and investigate why some birds migrate each year.
- The diverse and unique creatures of Yawuru Country are wonderful inspiration for visual arts projects. Check out the vast image collections found online together with children (try a key word search such as 'animals of Broome'). Display some printed images around your drawing or painting area. Encourage children to represent Yawuru Country in their art.

Nagula (saltwater) is significant to Yawuru people. They are saltwater people. Dalisa says it is "part of us" just like the land, animals and plants of Yawuru Country.

- Share thoughts in your own yarning circle about ways we can all show respect and take responsibility for our oceans and waterways.



Image: Yawuru Nagulagun, Western Australia
Commons.wikimedia.org

Dalisa teaches us the word **babagarra**, which means children in Yawuru. The babagarra in Dalisa's classroom learn about the significance of **mirdanya** (Elders) at the start of each year. **Mirdanya** hold and share important knowledge, songs, stories and language of Yawuru Country and its people.

- Who are the important **mirdanya** in children's lives? What are some of the special stories they share? Ask families to bring in photos or ask children to draw pictures of their important elders. Paste into a scrapbook, then annotate pages with children's comments reflecting on what they have learnt from their special elders or what they love doing together.

The word **wanggarrangarra** means spider and spiderweb, but also throw net. It is interesting to reflect on how wanggarrangarra means different, yet associated things. Dalisa explains how words in Yawuru language have taken on more than one meaning over time to reflect modern life.

- **Wanggarrangarra weaving project:** Make frames out of sticks secured at each corner with twine. Criss-cross jute or wool across frames until children have made a web. Invite children to select some interesting natural materials collected from the ground outside. Children can weave these into their wanggarrangarra (leaves, bark and twigs). When finished displaying children's work, dismantle and put all natural materials back where they were found. Link back to this *Little Yarns* provocation and EYLF Outcomes 2.4 and 4.4 in your documentation.





Country: Yawuru

Language: Yawuru

Focus word	Meaning
nagula	saltwater
babagarra	children
wanggarrangarra	Spider/spider web/throw net

Additional words	Meaning
Man-gala	Wet season
Wirralburu	Cooling season
Barrgana	Cold/Dry season
Jamuny	Grandmother or grandfather
Mirdanya	Elders
Bugarrigarra	Creation time
Ngaji mingan?	How are you?
Ngaji gurrjin?	How are you all?
Galiya	Goodbye



For additional resources, visit; Nyamba Buru Yawuru
<http://www.yawuru.org.au/>

To learn more Yawuru language, download the free
Nyamba Buru Yawuru app, *Yawuru Ngang-ga!*

Images: Top – fisherman with wanggarrangarra
(throw net) Unsplash, David Clode.

Bottom: wanggarrangarra (spider),
wikimedia.org