

Wulman Ngapa Murrendən Kurrəkal

Old Man Ngapa lived on Country,

Wulman Ngapa murrendən Kurrəkal

(lit. old man 'Ngapa' lived country on)

Wuul-mahn Ngah-pah murr-en-dən Kurr-ə-kal

Eee, I, Eee I, Oh

Ngayi ngayi ngayi

(lit. Oh! Oh! Oh!)

Ngah-yi ngah-yi ngah-yi

And on his country he had a kookaburra

Kurrəkal katimin kepin kurng-kurng

(lit. Country-on had-he one kookaburra)

Kurr-ə-kahl kah-tih-min keh-pin kurng-kurng

Eee, I, Eee I, Oh

Ngayi ngayi ngayi

(lit. Oh! Oh! Oh!)

Ngah-yi ngah-yi ngah-yi

With a 'kook, kook' here, 'kook, kook' there,

'Kook, kook' nyuwa, 'kook, kook' manyu,

(lit. 'kook, kook' here, 'kook, kook' there)

'Kook, kook' nyuu-wah, 'kook, kook' mah-nyuu

Here a 'kook, kook', there a 'kook, kook',

Nyuwa 'kook, kook', manyu 'kook, kook',

(lit. Here 'kook, kook', there 'kook, kook')

Nyuu-wah, kook, kook, mah-nyuu, kook, kook,

Every where a 'kook, kook',

Nyunga-min 'kook, kook.'

(lit. Around here all 'kook, kook')

Nyuu-ngah-miin kook, kook,

Old Man Ngapa lived on Country,

Wulman Ngapa murrendən Kurrəkal

(lit. old man 'Ngapa' lived country on)

Wuul-mahn Ngah-pah murr-en-dən Kurr-ə-kal

Eee, I, Eee I, Oh

Ngayi ngayi ngayi

Ngah-yi ngah-yi ngah-yi

Pronunciation Guide

In the pronunciation guide lines above, the words have been spelt phonetically to encourage English speakers to pronounce the sounds more like Wamba Wamba.

- 'uu' is used instead of 'u' to encourage the long 'u' sound as in 'put'.
- 'ah' is used to encourage the 'a' as in 'car' and
- 'ii' to encourage the 'i' as in 'sit'.

Underlining indicates which syllables to emphasise - usually the first.

Italics indicate sounds that need care - such as 'ty', 'ng', 'ny' and 'rr'.

The hyphen is included to emphasise where the syllable break occurs.

In normal Wamba Wamba speech, we usually place the emphasis on the first and third syllables with the first being strongest. In day to day speech, traditional fluent speakers speak and pronounce sounds quite quickly and don't normally draw out sounds. This can change in songs however.

Standard sounds include:

Vowels

'a' as in 'car'

'e' as in 'pet'

'i' as in 'sit'

'u' as in 'put'

'o' as in 'on'

'ə' - neutral sound like the 'e' in 'the'

Variation - when 'a' follows an initial 'w' and is followed by an 'r', 'ng' or 'n', eg 'waripa', 'warrang' or 'wanap' then it is pronounced as for 'a' in 'water' or 'war' (Note the second 'a' in each of the words above is pronounced 'a' as in 'car')

Consonants

- 'rr' - roll or trill double 'r's (if you can) but not single 'r',

- 'ty' is a palatal stop - say 'ty' with your tongue touching your palate (e.g. pule^{ty}, Koley^{ty}). (If you are having trouble with the 'ty' sound then 'tch' as in 'fetch' is close enough to start with.)

- 'ny' is a palatal and nasal sound. It is made by touching the top of the tongue to the top of the mouth behind your teeth and adding some nasal vibration while saying 'ny'. Eg Nyuwa

- 'th' is a hard sound like the English 'd' eg kuthanganda (say kuud-ahn-gahndah)

- 'ng' is a soft sound as in the English 'song' or 'Ngapa'

- 'ngg' soft 'ng' followed by a hard 'g'

Wamba Wamba is one of over 500 Indigenous Languages spoken through Australia. It is one of the Kulin languages of South West and North West Victoria and South West New South Wales. Like all Indigenous Languages it has different rules of pronunciation and grammar from English. See - <https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/> for more information.

Wulman Ngapa Murrenden Kurrekal can be sung to the tune of the traditional English folk song 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm'. It sounds great with malka-pula (clap sticks). Add lots of actions with animal sounds.

As a teaching aide we suggest that you work with your class to create the next verse. Maybe Wulman Ngapa has two kangaroos - 'puletya kurre' next could be 'pulety pa kepin piyal' 3 gum trees, etc

It has been created by the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre as part of the Wamba Wamba language program. All the Wamba Wamba language words used in this song can be found in the [online dictionary](#) or the [word search](#) at culture.yarkuwa.org.au. Copies can be downloaded and printed out from the [Document](#) section of Wurrekangurr.