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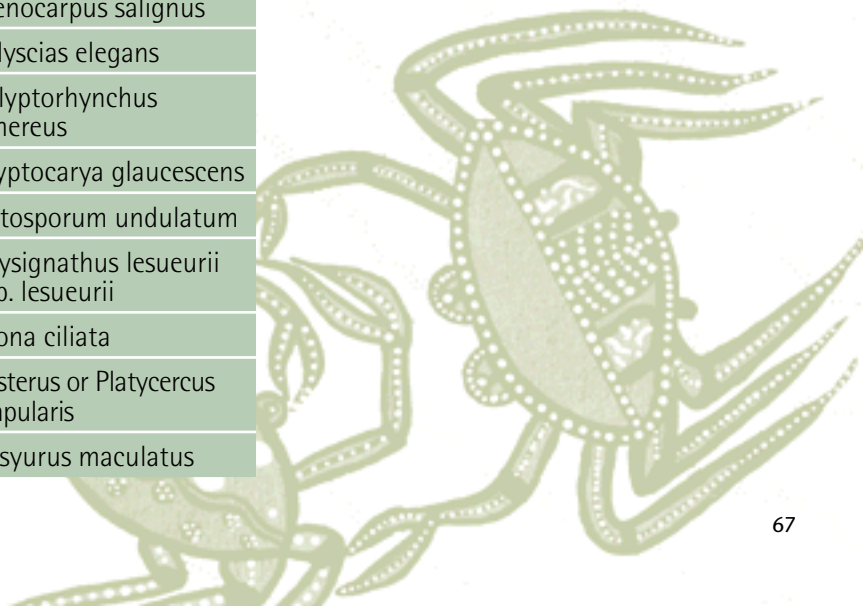
## Escarpment habitat

The Illawarra escarpment is an impressive line of cliffs formed by Hawkesbury Sandstone with two prominent benches formed on claystone. The escarpment reaches the height of 450 metres at mounts Keira and Kembla. The vegetation of the escarpment consists of rainforest and sclerophyll forest with a third type intermediate between the two. The rainforest occurs in deep gullies between foothill spurs, at the rear of the benches and on the scree slopes at the base of steep cliffs.

### Some plants and animals of the escarpment

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Balwarra	Native guava	<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>
Bao-maa	Emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Boola, murrung	Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Booolowaa	Red-necked pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
Booreerra	Black plum	<i>Diospyros australis</i>
Burdula	Long-nosed bandicoot	<i>Parmeleles nasuta</i>

Dharawal Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Burrunderra	Native tamarind	<i>Diploglottis australis</i>
Caalang	Sassafras	<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>
Coo-in-new, Yeralla, Wallung-unda	Featherwood	<i>Pennantia cunninghamii</i>
Couraiuo	Red olive plum	<i>Cassine australis</i>
Djera	Brush turkey	<i>Alectura lathauri</i>
Dtharandah	Buff hazelwood	<i>Symplocos thwaitzii</i>
Dunga runga	Veined mock-olive	<i>Notelaea venosa</i>
Gnooroo-warra	Coast white box	<i>Eucalyptus quadrangulata</i>
Goo mao mah	Giant stinging tree	<i>Dendrochride excelsa</i>
Gooralga	Topknot pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>
Jinda yinda	Koda	<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>
Meleyn	Scrub beefwood	<i>Stenocarpus salignus</i>
Merring arra	Celery wood	<i>Polyscias elegans</i>
Ngaoaraa	Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Oorawang	Native laurel	<i>Cryptocarya glaucescens</i>
Wallandundeyren	Sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
Waruga	Eastern water dragon	<i>Physignathus lesueurii</i> spp. <i>lesueurii</i>
Winderong	Red cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>
Wullungurrit	King parrot or Crimson rosella	<i>Alisterus</i> or <i>Platycercus scapularis</i>
Wungar	Spotted-tailed quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>



# Lillipilly

Dharawal Name

**Tdjerail**

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

***Acmena smithii***

Broad Landscape Zone



*Isaacs 1984: 217, Mason 2001, Macarthur 1861, Moran 1987, Renwick 2000*

## Part used

bark, fruit, flower, fibre

## Seasonal Availability

flowers in summer, fruit in autumn

## Broad Landscape Zone

escarpment, plateau, coastal plain

## Uses/Notes

food, rope, string, bags, eel traps, binding for shelter frames and canoes, medicine, indicator (flower) for insects and reptiles, indicator for sea animals

'The' fibrous inner bark of the lillipilly supplied Aboriginal people with rope and string to make carrying bags, eel traps and also to bind shelter frames and canoes. The ripe fruit was eaten as food. The green fruit was used as medicine for gastric complaints (careful preparation required). (Most species of Lillipilly plants have similar, if not the same uses.)

The flowers indicated the arrival of certain insects and reptiles to an area. The ripe fruit indicated the seasonal arrival of certain sea animals to hunt along the coast. This was an indicator to inland Aboriginal people as well as coastal.

*(Mason 2001).*



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# Bangalow Palm

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Archontophoenix  
cunninghamiana**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, McLeod 2004, Macarthur 1861, Organ 1990: 143, Organ 1993: 143, Peck 1925: 113-6, The Telegraph 1879 in

## Part used

leaf base, seed, leaf, leaf shaft

## Seasonal Availability

All year, seeds

## Broad Landscape Zone

Escarpment

## Uses/Notes

water carrier, food, baskets, thatching for shelter, indicator for swamp wallaby, bushrat and bandicoot,

'.. sheets of the banglow [sic] palm, out of which the natives manufacture their carrying utensils.' (*Organ 1993: 143*). 'Seeds eaten after crushing, washing, soaking (1 week), and baking. Strong barbed leaf shafts once used to make tools. The seeds from this plant are squashed then soaked in water to leach out toxins. The seeds were then ground into a paste, prepared and eaten as a whole meal. Highly experienced Aboriginal women gathered fallen seeds from around this plant which do not need leaching to remove toxins. Baskets are made from the leaves after careful preparation and curing.

'The fleshy part of the young leaves can also be eaten. Large communities of this species indicated to Aboriginal people that the area is a good spot to catch swamp wallaby, bushrat and bandicoot.' (*Mason 2001*) 'The Bangalow Palm is cut green and the base used to make a number of utensils. A baby carrier was lined with paperbark. A water carrier was cut and shaped with sticks (to hold the shape out) and the ends sewn together with cabbage tree palm string' (*McLeod 2004*).



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# Lightwood

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name  
**Wee-tjellan**

Scientific Name  
**Acacia implexa**

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mason 2001, Macargtur 1861*

**Part used**  
wood, bark, flower

**Seasonal Availability**  
all year

**Broad Landscape Zone**  
escarpment, plateau

**Uses/Notes**

fish poison, weapons, impelements, fibre, food, fire, shelter and medicine. Indicator (flower) for harvesting insects and ants

'Pretty small tree, wood hard, close tough bark containing much tannin, use by the Aborigines to oison fish, and to make embroations for the cure of cutinous diseases'. This plant has similar uses to the those of most acarcias, for example, for weapons, tools, fibre, food, shelter, fire and medicine'. (carefull preparation needed) 'For most Aboriginal groups the flowers on this plant indicate the seasonal arrival of a certain insect or animal species to an area either local or distant'. *Mason 2001*



© Alan Fairley



© Alan Fairley

# Native Grape, Water Vine, Kangaroo Vine

Dharawal Name

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Gundangurra Name

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Scientific Name

**Cissus antarctica and hypoglauca**

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Broad Landscape Zone



DEC 2003, French-Angas 1850,  
Mason 2001

**Part used**

fruit, stem

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**Seasonal Availability**

fruits summer to winter

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**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, coastal plain, plateau

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**Uses/Notes**

water, food, climbing hoops, medicine, indicator for bandicoot, ground-feeding birds, black snake and swamp wallaby.

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'The ripe, sour fruits are picked from the vine and mixed with water and nectar. The old fruits which fall to the ground later become slightly sweeter. These are then gathered for food. The unripe fruit is used for stomach complaints. The ripe fruit season for this plant, indicates bandicoot, ground-feeding birds, black snake and swamp wallaby can be caught in the area feeding.' (Mason 2001) Stems were used by the Bundjalung as waist bands for climbing tall trees (DEC 2003). Cissus sp. is possibly the vine mentioned as 'supplejack' by French-Angas (1850) for climbing cabbage tree palms.



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# King Orchid, Rock Lily and Dagger Orchid

Dharawal Name

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Gundangurra Name

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Scientific Name

**Dendrobium speciosum  
and pugioforme**

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Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

**Part used**

stem, sap, flower

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**Seasonal Availability**

flowers August to October

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**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, plateau

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**Uses/Notes**

food, medicine, indicator for bearded dragon  
and blue tongue lizard

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The leaf stems of this plant can be roasted and the centre eaten as food. The raw sap is used for burns and scratches. The flowers can be eaten raw or mixed with other food ingredients. The flower season indicates reptile food such as bearded dragon and blue tongue lizard can be caught in the area feeding' (Mason 2001).



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# Bangalay, Mahogany, Stringybark

Dharawal Name

**Bangalay**

Gundangurra Name

**Booreen**

Scientific Name

**Eucalyptus botryoides**

Broad Landscape Zone



*Mason 2001, Renwick 2000.*

**Part used**

bark, sap, flower

**Seasonal Availability**

flowers December to February

**Broad Landscape Zone**

coastal plain, escarpment, plateau

**Uses/Notes**

fire, medicine, washing substance, shelter, painting surface, indicator for bees

The hard outer bark of the tree can be used to start fire. The sap can make a good medicinal body wash. Native bees are usually found building hives in this tree. Strips of bark from this tree supplied Aboriginal people with shelter for huts, and also as a surface for painting stories. The flowers attract native bees. This tree indicates a bee hive not far away' (*Mason 2001*).



*I. Booker © Australian National Botanic Gardens*



# Sandpaper Fig, Creek Sandpaper Fig

Dharawal Name

**Marrulang, Ulowang**

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Ficus coronata**

Broad Landscape Zone



Low 1991, Mason 2001,  
Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004

**Part used**

fruit, leaf

**Seasonal Availability**

fruits October to December

**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, coastal plain

**Uses/Notes**

food, artefact manufacture, medicine, indicator for bat, possum and birds.

'The leaves from this plant can be used as sandpaper for sanding tools and weapons. The leaves are also used for rubbing medicine into sores or infections such as ringworm. The ripe fruit from this plant indicates bat, possum and birds can be caught in the area.' (Mason 2001). Sandpaper fig fruit was mashed into a pulp and used to make a jam. The leaves were used as sandpaper to sharpen weapons. There are some really big trees at Depot Beach (McLeod 2004).



D. Greig, © Australian National Botanic Gardens

# Lance Beard-heath

Dharawal Name

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Leucopogon lanceolatus**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001

**Part used**

berry, flower

**Seasonal Availability**

mainly summer

**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, plateau

**Uses/Notes**

medicine, indicator (flower) for bearded dragon and python.

'The unripe berries are crushed and mixed with water for a refreshing medicinal drink. This drink is a good tonic for the liver. The flower season of this plant indicates to Aboriginal people that a bearded dragon and python can be caught at this plant catching insects and small birds.' (Mason 2001)



© Greg Steenbeeke, *Orkology*



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# Turpentine

Dharawal Name

**Booreeah**

Gundangurra Name

Scientific Name

**Syncarpia glomulifera**  
**subsp. glomulifera**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Maiden 1893,  
Macarthur 1861, McLeod 2004

**Part used**

flower, seed, wood, sap, resin

**Seasonal Availability**

flowers spring and summer

**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, plateau

**Uses/Notes**

food, weapons

Flowers and seeds eaten. 'Aboriginal men made weapons and tools from the very hard wood of this tree. The sap was used to colour and stain tools and weapons. The resin was used to patch cracked or broken items.' (Mason 2001)

*"The piers at Circular Quay are made of turpentine because it is borer resistant. If you peel off the bark you can smell the turps. Its really good for lighting fires, especially when the wood is wet. You ball up the inner bark and place it among the unburnt wood of your fire." (McLeod 2004).*



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# Superb Lyrebird

Dharawal Name

**Calboonya**

Gundangurra Name

**Jakular**

Scientific Name

**Menura novaehollandiae**

Broad Landscape Zone



Langloh Parker 1930, Peck 1925: 110-6, Peck 1933: 197-8, Timbery 2003, [rbgsyd.gov.au](http://rbgsyd.gov.au)

**Part used**

**Seasonal Availability**

all year

**Broad Landscape Zone**

escarpment, coastal plain, plateau

**Uses/Notes**

traditional story

'The lyrebird is sacred to the Timbery family. He is known as a mountain bird. He was evil or nasty to his wives and the family of his wife chased him to the mountains and over the cliff's edge where he remained.' (*Timbery 2003*) Totem animal of the Cammaray Dharawal of Botany Bay (*Peck 1933: 197-8*). 'The lyrebird is the totem of the D'harawal people and even today is a symbol of peace and conciliation' (*Bodling n.d.*).

Two traditional Dharawal stories are associated with the lyrebird, 'The lyrebird' (*Langloh Parker 1930*) and 'The lyrebird and the kookaburra' which tells the story of a Shoalhaven man whose totem was the lyrebird. He challenged all the other birds that the lyrebird could imitate and excel in their songs. The only bird whose call the lyrebird could not accurately imitate was the kookaburra (*Peck 1925: 110-6*).



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# Wonga Pigeon

Dharawal Name  
**Wonga wonga**

Gundangurra Name  
**Telaaraweera**

Scientific Name  
**Leucosaraia melanoleuca**

Broad Landscape Zone



Mason 2001, Peck 1925: 80,  
[www.inyafacebalckarts.com.au](http://www.inyafacebalckarts.com.au)

**Part used**  
flesh

**Seasonal Availability**  
September to November

**Broad Landscape Zone**  
escarpment, coastal plain

**Uses/Notes**  
Food, traditional story



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*'Our story begins with Wonga the Pigeon who used to live in the bushland with her mate. They would spend their time on the floor of the forest gathering food and had a rule never to get out of one another's sight. They had to stay below the trees because they knew that in the land of the sky lived the Hawk - their deadly enemy.*

*One day when Wonga and her mate were out looking for food they got separated. Wonga called out to her mate but there was no reply. After searching around the lower branches of the forest Wonga decided that the only hope of finding her mate before dark would be to fly above the trees. She flew towards the*

*tree-tops and into the clear blue sky and started calling for her mate.*

*Eventually Wonga found her mate way down beneath her but not before the Hawk had spotted her. He had seen Wonga and was hurtling towards her with his strong beak piercing the air. Hawk caught Wonga with a crushing grip from his great brown talons tearing her breast open as he hauled her upwards. Wonga desperately tore herself free from Hawk and plunged downwards towards the forest below. Unable to fly, she landed bleeding and broken in a patch of waratah bushes. Her blood trickled down onto one of the white waratah flowers.*

*She tried desperately to reach her mate by dragging herself from flower to flower staining each of them a deep red with her blood as she went. Eventually Wonga lost her battle with life and died as she laid upon the waratah bushes.*

*'This is why today most waratah flowers are red, coloured by the blood of Wonga the Pigeon as long ago she flew from flower to flower in search of her mate. Sometimes, although it is very rare, it is still possible to find a white waratah just as they were back in the Dreamtime'*

*([www.inyafaceblackarts.com.au](http://www.inyafaceblackarts.com.au)).*



White Waratah © J.Plaza, Botanic Gardens Trust



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