

# ABORIGINAL NAMES

By

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I am always interested in aboriginal names when I see them in print.

Sad to say, many hundreds of these names are spelt and pronounced wrongly, and if you ask an aborigine what is the meaning of so-and-so, he can't tell you because it is not pronounced as they do.

Narrab-bri—many lizards, with all due respect to Authors and high authorities, this meaning is absolutely correct.

I wish to say something about this name. The Government records say the meaning is a fork, caused by the creek coming out of the river, so causing the shape of a fork. Another name—a big creek, is misleading. Narrabri means many lizards.

Old aborigines often informed me, in my boyhood that a long long time ago, long before any white men set foot into this country, Narrabri was infested with countless millions of little grey lizards, two to two and a half inches long. They inhabited the ground east of Narrabri from the present cemetery right to the hills, and burrowed in the ground in a similar way to the red meat ants.

There came a day, hundreds of years ago, when these little lizards suddenly disappeared from their burrows and the old abos. don't know why or where they went. It was a mystery to them. (Possibly a bush fire may have destroyed them). Often you will see one of the little fellows about the house catching flies.

Merah, means the little wax funnel built into the nest of the native bee, through which they pass in or out.

Drildool, properly pronounced Deriel-dool. Dool means little, deriel means little reeds that grow in swamps.

Yarraldool, meaning stony ridges. Yarral means stones, dool little ; many little stony ridges are found there.

Any name with bri at the end means plenty of something, and a name with dool means something little.

Collarene-bri ; bri, plenty, collaren, pretty wild flowers ; Collymungle ; colly means water, mungle a bag. They were supposed to have picked up a water bag with water in it, hence the name.

Kian-bri, plenty cattle.

Queer-bri, plenty of bream fish.

Mercadool, plenty little rosewood trees.

Moree, plenty mud.

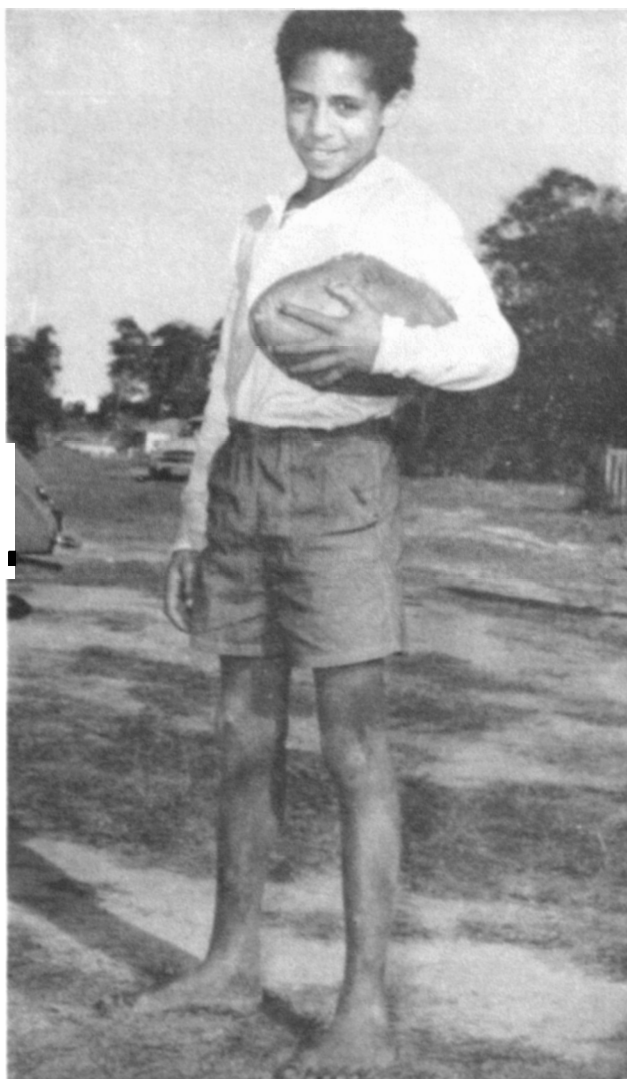
Kiandool, poor little thing.

Goona Goona means horse dung on top of dung. The natural instinct of brumby stallions was to return

to the same place. In some heaps you would find a lorry load. It is said the name means wide water, but this is not correct.

In my boyhood I understood the aborigines language perfectly, but have forgotten much of it in late years, not being in touch with them now, but if I hear them conversing I can understand them. My mother and father could speak their language fluently.

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Dallas Thompson, captain of the four stone seven pounds football team at Burnt Bridge