

# **Tulu Pirndety Kolety-kal**

(Tulu and Pirndety at the Edward River)

Nyakili Pirndety. Wirrakang ngare Koletykal.

("Look Pirndety! The black duck is swimming on the river.")

Quack, quack, quack! Karndin Pirndety.

("Quack, quack, quack!" shouted Pirndety.)

Ngare pambin payikin wariwin

(The Black Duck got a fright and flew away.)

Yalang-yalang! Tyarrmbinarr Pirndety! Wurrekin Tulu.

("Idiot! You scared it off Pirndety!" said Tulu.)

Kuthanganda. Wurrekin Pirndety.

("I'm sorry," said Pirndety.)

Nyarninyangurr wemba. Withəwiny. Wurrekin Tulu.

("No worries. It'll come back," said Tulu.)

Nyerninbula ngakata piyal nyakilabula.

(They both sat down in the shade of the Red Gums to watch and listen.)

Nyernənbula wilək-wilək-para payikang piyalka.

(They heard galahs flying towards the trees.)

Tyilperlən yawirr Koletykata.

(A fish splashed in the river.)

Wirengən wathipuk nyetenyin puyəkilin tyinatyanak-pula.

(A puppy ran around and licked their feet.)

Kalinanda nyengginang Koletykata wurrekin Pirndety.

("I love sitting around at the Kolety," said Pirndety.)

Nongwe wurrekin Tulu. Telkuk-min. Wariwinyangurr nyarri Rocket Park-a

("Yes," said Tulu, "It's deadly. Now let's go to the Rocket Park.")

**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.

## Pronunciation Guide

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.

**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. Pirndety, Kolety.) (If you are having trouble with the 'ty' sound then 'tch' as in 'fetch' is close.)
- '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 Nyakili
- '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'
- 'ngg' soft 'ng' followed by a hard 'g'

In the pronunciation guide below the words have been spelt phonetically to encourage English speakers to pronounce the sounds more like Wamba Wamba. Eg '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.

## Wamba Wamba words and sentences

Words and sentences are constructed differently in Wamba Wamba to English. You will notice that many sentences start with a 'verb' or 'action word'.

For example, the first word of our story is 'Nyakili'. You can tell it's a 'command' or 'order' because the standard verb 'to look' - 'nyakila' has been changed by replacing the 'a' at the end with an 'i'. This is used to show an order to one person. If there was a whole class of kids down at the Kolety is would have been 'nyakiladiyaty' (look everyone) or (look you mob).

If we had wanted to say 'Pirndety saw a black duck.' We would use the same verb but add the past tense ending 'in'. Nyaka (to look or watch) becomes 'nyakin'. Our sentence starts with the verb 'Nyakin Perndity-ku ngarre.' Notice we also add a 'ku' to Perndity this time because we need to show he did the looking not the black duck.

All languages take time and practice to learn. You can get some help at '[Wamba Wamba Verbs and Sentences](#)' and the '[Plain English Version of the List of Bound Forms](#)'. Don't forget to use the [Word Search](#) on Wurrekangurr - Wamba Wamba website. See over for pronunciation guide.

## Story with Pronunciation Guide.

**Tulu Pirndety Kolety-kal** (Tulu and Pirndety at the Edward River)

Tuu-luu Piirn-dety Kol-ety-kahl

Nyakili Pirndety. Wirrakang ngare Koletykal.

Nyah-kili Piirn-dety. Wiirrah-kahng ngahr-eh Kohl-ety-kahl

("Look Pirndety! The black duck is swimming on the river.")

Quack, quack, quack! Karndin Pirndety.

Kwahk, kwahk, kwahk! Kahrn-diin Piirn-dety

("Quack, quack, quack!" shouted Pirndety.)

Ngare pambin payikin wariwin

Ngahr-eh pahm-biin pah-yiik-iin war-ii-wiin

(The Black Duck got a fright and flew away.)

Yalang-yalang! Tyarrmbinarr Pirndety! Wurrekin Tulu.

Yah-lahng-yah-lahng Tyarrm-biin-arr Piirn-dety! Wurreh-kiin Tuu-luu.

("Idiot! You scared it off Pirndety!" said Tulu.)

Kuthanganda. Wurrekin Pirndety.

Kuudahn-gahndah Wurreh-kihn Piirn-dety

("I'm sorry," said Pirndety.)

Nyarninyangurr wemba. Withawiny. Wurrekin Tulu.

Nyahrn-iny-ahngurr wehm-bah. Widh-'wiiny. Wurreh-kiin Tuu-luu.

("No worries. It'll come back," said Tulu.)

Nyerninbula ngakata piyal nyakilabula.

Nyern-iin-puulah ngah-kah-tah pji-yahl nyah-kiilah-puula

(They both sat down in the shade of the Red Gums to watch and listen.)

Nyernənbula wilək-wilək-para payikang piyalka.

Nyern'n-puulah wiil'k-wiil'k-pahrah pah-yiik-kahng pji-yahl-kah

(They heard galahs flying towards the trees.)

Tyilperlən yawirr Koletykata.

Tyil-per-l'n yah-wiirr Kohl-ety-kah-dah

(A fish splashed in the river.)

Wirengən wathipuk nyetenyin puyəkilin tyinatyanak-pula.

Wiir-ehng-'n wahdi-puuk nyet-eny-in puy-'kiil-iin tyiin-ahty-ahn-ahk-puul-ah

(A puppy ran around and licked their feet.)

Kalinanda nyengginang Koletykata wurrekin Pirndety.

Kah-lin-ahn-dah nyeng-giin-ahng Kol-ety-kahtah wurreh-kiin Piirn-dety

("I love sitting around at the Kolety," said Pirndety.)

Nongwe wurrekin Tulu. Telkuk-min. Wariwinyangurr nyarri Rocket Park-a

Nong-weh wurr-eh-kiin Tuu-luu. Tel-kuuk-miin. War-ii-wiiny-ahng-urr nyarr-ii RP-ah

("Yes," said Tulu, "It's deadly. Now let's go to the Rocket Park.")

## Story with English, Wamba Wamba, Literal meanings & Explanation of endings Tulu and Pirndety at the Edward River - Tulu Pirndety Kolety-kal

“Look Pirndety! The black duck is swimming on the river.”  
 Nyakil<sub>i</sub> Pirndety! Wirrak<sub>ang</sub> ngare Kolety<sub>kal</sub>.  
 lit. look-order1person Pirndety! Swim-ing black duck Edward River-on

“Quack, quack, quack!” shouted Pirndety.  
 Quack, quack, quack! Karnd<sub>in</sub> Pirndety.  
 lit. shout-ed Pirndety

The Black Duck got a fright and flew away.  
 Ngare pamb<sub>in</sub> payik<sub>in</sub> wariw<sub>in</sub>  
 lit. black duck frightened-was fly-flew away-went

“Idiot! You scared it off Pirndety!” said Tulu.  
 Yalang-yalang! Tyarrmb<sub>inarr</sub> Pirndety! Wurrek<sub>in</sub> Tulu.  
 lit. idiot scare-ed-you Pirndety! Say-said Tulu.

“I’m sorry,” said Pirndety.  
 Kuth<sub>anganda</sub>. Wurrek<sub>in</sub> Pirndety.  
 lit. sorry-being-I say-said Pirndety

“No worries. It will come back,” said Tulu.  
 Nyarn<sub>inyangurr</sub> wemba. Withəw<sub>iny</sub>. Wurrekin Tulu.  
 lit. worry-will-we no. return-will Say-said Tulu.

They both sat down in the shade of the Red Gums to watch and listen.  
 Nyern<sub>inbula</sub> ngak<sub>ata</sub> piyal nyakil<sub>abula</sub>  
 (lit. sit&listen-sat-both shade-in Red Gums watch-both

They heard galahs flying towards the trees.  
 Nyern<sub>enbula</sub> wilək-wilək-para payik<sub>ang</sub> piyal<sub>ka</sub>.  
 lit. hear-heard-both galah-s fligh-ing trees-toward

A fish splashed in the river.  
 Tyilperl<sub>en</sub> yawirr Koletykata.  
 lit. splash-ed fish Kolety-in

A puppy ran around and licked their feet.  
 Wirengən wathipuk nyeteny<sub>in</sub> puyəkil<sub>in</sub> tyinaty<sub>anak</sub>-pula.  
 lit. dog young run around-ran lick-licked feet-theirs-both

“I love sitting around at the Kolety,” said Pirndety.  
 Kalin<sub>anda</sub> nyenggin<sub>ang</sub> Koletyk<sub>ata</sub> wurrek<sub>in</sub> Pirndety.  
 lit. love-L sitt<sub>ing</sub> around Edward-River-at say-said Pirndety.

“Yes,” said Tulu, “It’s deadly. Now let’s go to the Rocket Park.”  
 Nongwe wurrek<sub>in</sub> Tulu. Telkuk-<sub>min</sub>. Wariw<sub>inyangurr</sub> nyarri Rocket Park-<sub>a</sub>  
 lit. yes say-said Tulu good-great Go-away-future-us now Rocket-Park-towards

**Word Bank** - Words in story order, display form that can be found in the Word Search at [https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/words/word\\_search](https://culture.yarkuwa.org.au/words/word_search) first and then with word endings used in the story. Underlining and italics used to indicate which part of the word is being explained. See also the 'Bound Forms' doc.

**Tulu** - tree stump, a small stumpy person, little  
- name of one of our characters

**Pirndety** - a noisy miner bird  
- name of one of our characters

**Kolety** - Edward River  
- koletyka - on or at the Kolety

**Nyakila** - to look  
- nyakil*i* - telling one person to look

**Wirraka** - to swim  
- wirrakang - swiming

**Ngare** - black duck

**Pamba** - to be frightened  
- pambin - was frightened, got a fright

**Karnda** - to shout, to yell  
- karndin - shouted

**Payika** - to fly  
- payikin - flew

**Wariwa** - to go away  
- wariwin - went away

**Yalang-yalang** - idiot

**Tyarrmba** - to yell at, to scare off  
- tyarrmbin - scareded off  
- tyarrmbinarr - you scared it off

**Wurreka** - to speak  
- wurrekin - spoke or said

**Kutha** - to be sorry  
- kuthang - being sorry  
- kuthanganda - I'm sorry.

**Nyarna** - to worry over  
- nyarniny - will worry  
- nyarninyangurr - will worry - we  
- nyarninyangurr wemba - we will worry - not

**Wemba** - no, not

**Withəwa** - to return (he, she, it returns)  
- withəwiny - it will return

**Nyerna** - to sit, to listen, hear, remember  
- nyernin - sat  
- nyerninbula - both sat

**Ngak** - shade  
- ngakata - in the shade

**Piyal** - red gums

**Nyerna** - to hear  
- nyernən - heard  
- nyernənbula - both heard, they heard

**Wilək-wilək** - galah (-para - plural)

**Payika** - to fly  
- payikang - flying

**Piyalka** - towards the Red Gums

**Tyilperla** - to splash  
Tyilperlən - splashed

**Yawirr** - fish

**Koletykata** - in or at the Kolety

**Wirengən** - dog  
- wirengən wathipuk - dog young - puppy

**Nyentenya** - to play, to run around  
- nyentenyin - ran around

**Puyəkila** - to lick  
- puyəkilin - licked

**Tyina** - foot  
- tyinatyanak - their foot  
- tyinatyanak-pula - their feet (two)

**Kalina** - to love  
- kalinanda - I love

**Nyenggina** - to sit around  
- nyengginang - sitting around

**Nongwe** - yes

**Telkuk-min** - very good, deadly

**Wariwinyangurr** - we will go away

**Nyarri** - now

**Rocket Park-a** - towards the Rocket Park