

Notebook 9

Sundry notes from
Camp No. 5, Meekatharra.

(The remainder have been classified -
see index numbers.)

Early MSS.

TABLE OF DESCENT

NORTHERN TRIBES

(Verified by W.H. and Mrs. Cusack, and
5 natives, doubtful)

Also Walbarring's information

A few items in this that may be added
to marriage and other sections.

De Grey district

Karrada-karrada is the name given by the De Grey and Turner River natives to the mythical snake that inhabits all deep waterholes. The animal does not injure the natives that live near its home, but strange natives are always killed and eaten. The karrada-karrada is not confined to the waterholes, but can wander over the country at will. The natives are compelled at times to supply it with food. If it smells freshly cooked kangaroo or turkey it seizes the food and devours it, leaving the native supperless. It is the karrada-karrada that makes the whirlwind.

Northwest

The Nor'West native women made gum rings for their babies. They obtained some spinifex gum, worked and softened it and rolled it, joining the two ends together and thus forming a rough gum ring. "Pooltha", spinifex gum.

W.H. Cusack states that the long flat carved boards are used in the rainmaking ceremonies. (W.D. Campbell called these "dancing boards").

The natives frequently take the (core?) fat from near the heart of an enemy, and binding it up into a little ball, attach it to their beards.

WALBARRING'S INFORMATION

DE GREY

The natives round Karratha Station belong to the Nyamel, Karreearra and Yabaroo tribes, and are not a "Paljeri" tribe, as J.G. Withnell states. There is no such tribe as Paljeri, or Boorong, etc., for these are the class names of all tribes. (also see Forrest on this point.)

Forbidden Foods for boys and girls from Roebourne to De Grey. Emu, eaglehawk, boorongarra (iguana) and balgoomarra (carpet snake ?).

A Deity

J.G. Withnell states that gnurku is the name of the creator. Walbarring and Willambung say that ngoogoo or ngookoo is a star, ngoorkee is also "anything nasty" (?)

Tarlo

To cause an increase of the animal or bird that certain tribes are responsible for, Boorong and Kymera men can cause the increase of the eaglehawk, long iguana, little hawk, weerdun (?) and wilbarroo (?) and the Paljeri and Banaka men are responsible for the increase of emu, kangaroo, wagoorda (crow), little iguana and koorda koorda (quail ?).

These two, fathers and sons (the Kymera being the son of the Boorong father) journey to some distance and hold corroborees and perform ceremonies in connection with the increase, remaining away from their people during the ceremonies, and also strictly abstaining during this period from eating the food they are arranging to increase. So with the Banaka and Paljeri men (the Paljeri men being the sons of their Banaka fathers). (Description of ceremonies not yet obtainable.)

Beliefs

According to Walbarring, two fishes - bilbara - brought the first water to the Nor'West. It was good water, until ngal-laburda, a Banaka, made it salt. All the water that is now salt was made so by Ngallaburda.

Maralga, a big blackfellow, made all the other blackfellows and divided them into their respective marrying classes.

The wooraroo (totem) of the Boorong are :-

Little hawk, weerdun (?) and long iguana.

The wooraroo of the Kymera are :-

Eaglehawk, wilbarroo

The wooraroo of the Paljeri are :-

Weeloomarra (?) and beeliga (?) (kangaroo)

The wooraroo of the Banaka are :-

Wagoorda (crow), little iguana, koorda-koorda (quail), emu.

Unguran Boorong	=	Thamarang Banaka
	WALBARRING	
	Kymera	

Walbarring belongs Karriarra tribe (De Grey).

Willambong, his wife, is a Ngalouma (Roebourne-Sherlock).

Karreearra Tribe

Walberring states that the "Win'by'ardee konango" comes down from the Fitzroy "Ngee-laka", Karra-koor'dy."

The Karreearra natives have for neighbours north of them, the Ngalla and Nyamel. They call the South and Southern natives "Tchin'gy", Balgoo, Ee'bar'aga, Warramurla, Ngatherree, Powera, Moonyoogoota and Peedunga, all these are South, southeast and east. Again to the north of the Karreearra are the Koolarrabuloo, next, the Wy'ung'arree near Beagle Bay, then Mur'draboo on the border. Westward are the Mardajoonera, Woolijoo, Kowerintherree and Southwest Karboora (near Sharks Bay). They call the Northern people collectively Ya'boo'rur, The Injibandees are on the Tableland.

They call the sea Poo-reea (so also do Murchison natives), Wangooroo, and Pindoora respectively. Those who live by the sea are Yaboourra. All the western people are "Meenung".

According to Walbarring, the Powera ngatherri and Warramulla tribes are the only ones in which the operation on women is carried out. This, however, needs confirming. The Ngatherri tribe is somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Coongan River ?

Mund-yeo = circumcision

Murryong = subincision

Curiously enough, Balbuk, a Swan native, used the word "mabburn" as bulya. Up north, bulya is mabburn. This mabburn is something "inside" the native which he draws out of his stomach to cure, kill or make rain, etc. The same is done in the North. Walbarring could bring mabburn from his stomach.

Are there two karreearras? Karreearra Peewa and Karreearra Mucky?

(Very scanty)

Walbarring states that a man cannot marry his half sister. Walbarring is my thooa, that is, he could marry my daughter, his wife Willanbong is my koondal or daughter. I am a Boorong woman. Walbarring is a Kymera and Willanbong is Paljeri. Walbarring is not supposed to look at, or speak to, me.

Walbarring went with his Boorong fathers to cause the increase of the eaglehawk or certain other birds or animals.

Waraka and pyree are the names bestowed on the spirits of dead natives who visit the earth at night.

Winda or wylga was the name given to a bad woman.

Mulgarra was a native doctor, also mabburn.

Nyooba is either wife or husband.

The Nor'West have totems, tribal and personal.

They bury their dead in trees. The doctors are always buried in trees.

The core fat is taken away from an enemy and roasted and eaten.