

Aboriginal names for some biota from the Great Victoria Desert, Western Australia

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports 107 Aboriginal names and some uses, most previously unrecorded, of plants and animals from the southern Great Victoria Desert obtained from people currently occupying, and with strong cultural ties to the Desert. Some data on distribution and abundance of threatened fauna and a list of birds are provided.

INTRODUCTION

This project arose from a meeting at Yakatunga in November 1988 to discuss CALM involvement with local Aboriginal people in joint management, particularly of access and roading requirements, in the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve. As a result, there was a series of five field trips into the Reserve and surrounds in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993 which were funded by CALM and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency under the Contract Employment Program For Aboriginals In Cultural Resource Management (CEPANCRM). The purpose of this work was not only to gain ethnobiological data but to spend time with traditional owners of country in which CALM has an interest.

Aboriginal people have occupied the Great Victoria Desert for at least 20 000 years (Cane 1992). The speakers in this study are from the Great Victoria Desert; they were moved with their families from their desert homelands to Cundeelee, 160 km east of Kalgoorlie between the late 1940s and mid 1960s. In spite of this relocation these people still retain very strong cultural ties with Oak Valley, Maralinga and Yalata lands in South

Australia. Traditional affiliation is a complex subject and the reader is referred to Cane (1992) for further treatment of this subject.

In the main the speakers relate more to the Pitjantjajara and Yankunytjatjara than to the Ngaanyatjarra dialects. Over the years their language has been 'blended', particularly more recently with increased opportunity for travel between different desert homelands.

The orthography adopted here is based on the unpublished research of Dawn Hadfield (*nee* Martin), on phonetic/phonemic structure of the language spoken by the people at Cundeelee in 1959. This research found the same structure that Wilf Douglas found among the Ngaanyatjarra speakers at the Warburton Ranges. Therefore we conform to that orthography which differs from the Pitjantjajara orthography of that time only in our choice of subscript dot or bar to indicate the very necessary distinction of the retroflex consonants *l*, *n*, *t*, and *r*. In this paper our use of *rl*, *rn*, *rt* to indicate the retroflex consonants and *rr* to differentiate between the flapped or trilled alveolar fricative and the retroflex alveolar was chosen because it was found to be much more easily recognizable to recent literates.

The climate, geology and more particularly the vegetation of the area covered by this paper are described by Beard (1975). Geologically the Great Victoria Desert occupies most of the Eucla Basin which was formed by the downwarping of the earth's crust in Palaeozoic-Mesozoic time and the subsequent deposition of marine sediments in the Eocene-Miocene. The sand dunes which overlay the sediments in the north of the area are a comparatively recent feature being only of Quaternary age (Williams 1984). Climatically the north of the region has a desert (summer and winter rain) regime and the south a desert (non-seasonal) regime; both classifications include the lowest annual average rainfall, approximately 150 mm, in Western Australia (Beard 1975).

The vegetation of the area covered by this paper includes the transition from the treeless plain of the Nullarbor, north through the belt of Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*) woodlands to the rolling sand dunes and *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* woodlands of the Great Victoria Desert. Interspersed through the two latter sub types are ancient paleo-drainages of Tertiary age with their characteristic vegetation.

METHODS

Twenty Paupiyala Tjarutja members, five CALM staff and one linguist (BH) were involved making a total of 170 person-days contact. Brian Hadfield's participation was enabled by the State Government's 'social advantage' program.

The routes traversed in this work are indicated in Figure 1. The second trip in 1989 traversed a proposed northern access which was later rejected by the community

for an access between Yorkie's Tank in South Australia and Tjuntjunjarra. The trip in 1990 occurred with prescribed burning in Neale Junction Nature Reserve. The trip in 1991 surveyed the final route for the Yorkie's Tank to Tjuntjunjarra road. A final trip in 1993 between Ilkulka and the State border established the correct orthography for the words previously collected.

ANNOTATED LIST OF PLANTS

The Aboriginal name in the second column is the one obtained in the course of this work, wherever possible it is referenced to Douglas (1988). Vernacular names in the third column of each entry are from Bennett (1991).

<i>Amphipogon strictus</i>	kutarnu	Grey-beard Grass
Soft bunch grass growing with Mulga in inter-dune swale east of Ilkulka on Emu Road.		
<i>Acacia aneura</i>	wintalyka (fine phyllodes) wanari (fine phyllodes) minyuru (thick phyllodes)	Mulga
Small tree to 6 m, grows in sandy loams in inter-dune swales. Douglas (1988) indicates ' Minyura ' for 'bushes found along banks of creek' which is consistent as this name was given for Mulga growing along Masons Gully. However, note the different spelling which we attribute to a dialectical difference. Main use: wood for boomerangs, digging sticks, etc.		
<i>Acacia burkittii</i>	murrunpa	Pin bush Sandhill Wattle
Rounded shrub to 4 m, with terete phyllodes, grows on low sandy rises in the vicinity of Forrest Lakes. Main use: Maku (which are highly valued, ede) obtained from roots.		
<i>Acacia dictyophleba</i>	mintju	Ngarkalya Sandhill Wattle
Erect shrub to 4 m growing in sand between dunes east of Ilkulka on the Emu road. We were shown how spears, ' kurlarta ', were obtained from the roots of this plant.		
<i>Acacia grasybi</i>	pirlka pirlka	Minniritchie
Flat-topped, cone-shaped shrub to 1.5 m with characteristic red stripping bark, grows in sandy soil with rocks east of Ilkulka on Emu Road.		
<i>Acacia ligulata</i>	warrtaka	Watarka Dune Wattle Umbrella Bush
Spreading shrub to 3 m which is common in the Great Victoria Desert. Main use: 'Maku' can be obtained from the roots.		
<i>Acacia linophylla</i>	pakurta	Wanyu Bowgada Bush
Shrub to 3 m, flowering in April, with terete phyllodes much longer than those of <i>A. burkitti</i> , and widespread in Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>	no name recorded	Miljee Nelia Umbrella Wattle
Uncommon, rounded shrub to 2 m growing where calcrete is exposed on the surface. No name was offered for this plant but the wood was used to make hitting sticks.		

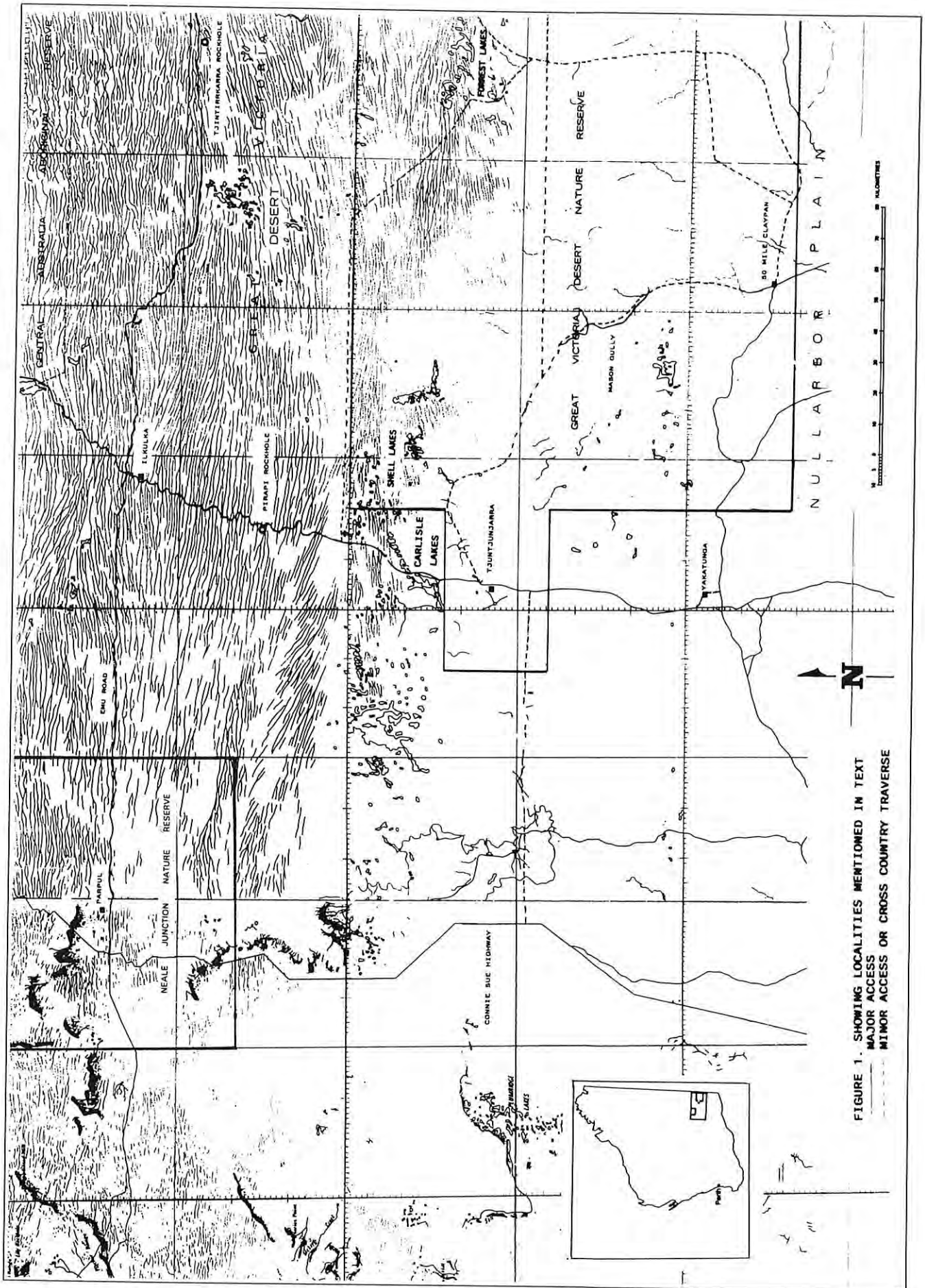


FIGURE 1. SHOWING LOCALITIES MENTIONED IN TEXT
 MAJOR ACCESS
 MINOR ACCESS OR CROSS COUNTRY TRAVERSE

Acacia tetragonophylla

**wakalpuka
kurarra**

Kurara

Straggling shrub to 2 m with sharp, terete phyllodes.

Acacia papyrocarpa

kartaya

Western Myall

Tree to 8 m with rough bark and characteristic rounded canopy. Main use: wood for boomerangs.

Other *Acacia* terminology:

Ikuwara/Ilkuwara/Ilykuwara. Edible galls occurring on numerous *Acacia* species. Note that '**Ilykuwara**' can also refer to a particular plant; in this case *Acacia kempeana*, (Arpad Kalotas *personal communication*).

Atriplex species

puntaru

Saltbush

Low perennial shrubs, uncommon in the Great Victoria Desert except along paleo-drainages and around breakaways but frequent on the Nullarbor Plain.

Bonamia rosea

manimani

Felty Bellflower

White flowering herb to 30 cm probably a disturbance opportunist, growing along Anne Beadell highway (Emu road) at 28° 20' S, 126° 52' E.

Brachychiton gregorii

ngalta

Desert Kurrajong
Ngalta

Small thick-trunked tree with well developed canopy, occurs sporadically throughout Great Victoria Desert. Main use: shade, water may be obtained from the roots.

Casuarina cristata

kurrkara

Belah
Black Oak

Tree to 12 m, occurs sporadically throughout the Great Victoria Desert, particularly in inter-dune swales on calcrete and lake edges with alkaline soils.

Convolvulus erubescens

puurnpa

Australian Bindweed
Pink Bindweed

Creeper-like perennial herb with edible, bean-like seed case growing on low shrubs. Recorded in donga at 128° 26.50' E, 30° 06.00' S. Main use: edible seed and pod.

Codonocarpus cotinifolius

kalurti

Desert Poplar
Native Poplar
Bell-fruit Tree
Mustard Tree
Kanturangu

Tall shrub or small tree which grows rapidly after fire or ground disturbance, particularly along Anne Beadell highway (Emu road).

Dodonaea viscosa

tjininypa

Sticky Hopbush

Tall shrub to 3 m grows in granitic breakaway gullies. This name recorded in breakaways called '**Parpul**' near airstrip 23 km east of Neale Junction. The same name was given for *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima* from Forrest Lakes.

Duboisia hopwoodii

walkalpa

Pituri
Kundugu
Kungungu

Spreading shrub to 2.5 m, growing on low sand-dunes. Douglas (1988) also gives '**Kungkungu**'. We were repeatedly told of the importance of this plant for poisoning emus by placing the leaves in water in rockholes. Human use of this plant was never mentioned to us. The vernacular '**kungungu**' refers to the product, i.e. poisoned water rather than the plant itself.

<i>Eragrostis xerophila</i>	wangurnu	Knottybutt Grass
Grass growing on the Nullarbor and its northern fringe. Main use: the seeds are ground up to make flour.		
<i>Eriachne helmsii</i>	parlta parlta	Buck Wandarrie Woolybutt Wandarrie
Grass growing in sand-dunes in the vicinity of Ilkulka. The name is onomatopoeic for the sound made when the grass is burning.		
<i>Eremophila gilesii</i>	murlirli	Charlieville Turkey Bush
Low shrub, grows in inter-dune swales usually with Mulga, collected at 127°33'E, 28°25'S. Douglas (1988) also gives this name.		
<i>Eremophila latrobei</i>	ngarrankura	Georgina Poison Bush Warty Fuchsia Bush Mintjingka
Low shrub to 1 m usually grows on rocky substrate. Douglas (1988) also gives 'ngarrankura' for this plant. People repeatedly told us of its nectar qualities (tjurratja); including a story that in cases where the women were unexpectedly required to assist in hunting, they would place their babies under this shrub to suck on the flowers until they returned.		
<i>Eremophila punctata</i>	walyuwalyu	
Low shrub to 1.5 m, grows on low dunes, recorded at 127° 34'E, 28° 23'S.		
<i>Eremophila serrulata</i>	tjintatjinta	Serrate-leaved Eremophila
Shrub to 2 m, grows on sand-dunes.		
<i>Eucalyptus concinna</i>	ngapari pulara	Victoria Desert Mallee Desert Gum
Smooth, white-trunked, multi-stemmed mallee, very common in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Eucalyptus glomerosa</i>	kunyalyka	Jinjulu
Tall, spreading mallee to 8 m with rough bark on lower trunks. Recorded near Tjintirrkara Rockhole.		
<i>Eucalyptus gracilis</i>	mirntilpa	Snap and Rattle Yorrel Red Mallee White Mallee
Typically a small mallee to 3 m with smooth bark and white flowers in April, always growing on calcrete ridges. We were also shown another much larger multi-stemmed tree to 10 m growing in incipient drainage lines on the northern Nullarbor which was tentatively identified as <i>E.gracilis</i> . Water could be obtained from the root of this latter plant.		
<i>Eucalyptus kingsmillii</i>	name not recorded	Kingsmill's Mallee
Rough-barked, straggly mallee with yellow flowers. Relatively uncommon in the eastern Great Victoria Desert, only recorded several kilometres east of Ilkulka.		
<i>Eucalyptus pimpiniana</i>	purmirri	Pimpin Mallee
The vernacular name is from Brooker and Kleinig (1990). Low spreading mallee to 1.5 m, grows in wide inter-dune swales. Recorded at 127° 55'E, 28° 59'S and at 128° 25'E, 29° 06'S.		
<i>Eucalyptus rigidula</i>	pirarrpa	Stiff-leaved Mallee
Smooth-barked mallee to 5 m growing on sand sporadically in the Great Victoria Desert.		

Eucalyptus socialis

**ngapari
pulara**

Altarpa
Pulara
Red Mallee

Tall mallee to 7 m, widespread in the Great Victoria Desert, flowering in May 1991.

Eucalyptus youngiana

yarltarrpa

Large-fruited Mallee
Oldea Mallee
Yarldarlba

Usually a rough-barked, multi-stemmed mallee occurring with spinifex except on sand-dunes, occasionally as a tree to 15 m. This species gave occasion for a complicated discourse about other eucalypt terminology:

'**tjartu**' is a generic term for gum resin.

'**tjintjulu**' refers to smaller eucalypt buds, flowers or fruits or particularly to 'beads' or operculums used for decorations or necklaces. Contrast these with '**tjarturtu**' which is a descriptive term for 'in full fruit or laden with fruit'.

'**tjatukurla**' refers to **yarltarrpa** or other large-fruited eucalypt before, during or after flowering.

Exocarpus aphyllus

kurlapi

Leaf-less Ballart

Small tree or shrub to 3-4 m, usually in inter-dune swales. The seeds are eaten by birds.

Grevillea juncifolia

**yultakunpa
tjuntarruntu**

Honey-suckle Grevillea
Ultukunpa

Common, orange-flowering shrub to 4 m, grows in inter-dune swales with spinifex. Main use: the flowers were placed in water to form a sugar solution. The name '**Wama tjurratja**' is evidently a generic name for similar flowering plants from which nectar can be obtained.

Grevillea nematophylla

ilpara

Spreading tree to 10 m with lemon-yellow flowers, grows with Mulga in dongas on the Nullarbor Plain. Unlike Mulga, this tree seems to be regenerating in Nullarbor dongas.

Grevillea pterosperma

tjuntarruntu

White-flowering shrub to 3 m, grows on dunes. Recorded at 127° 24' E, 28° 39' S.

Grevillea stenobotrya

yaranypa

Common, erect shrub to 5 m with cream flowers, otherwise superficially similar to *Grevillea juncifolia*. Grows on dunes and in swales.

Gyrostemon ramulosus

kurumaru

Corkybark

Shrub to 2 m, grows on low dunes. Main use: water may be obtained from the roots of this plant.

Hakea suberea

witjinti

Longleaf Corkwood
Corkwood
Corkbark Tree

Douglas (1988) also gives '**Witjinti**' for this plant. Tree to 6-7 m, grows sporadically in the Great Victoria Desert. Main use: sugar solution '**wama tjuratja**' obtained from the flowers.

Hakea francisiana

purnuwaru

Emu Tree

Tall shrub or small tree to 4-5 m, mainly restricted to the south-west of the Great Victoria Desert (see Discussion).

Heterodendrum oleaefolium

tjarlura

Mingah
Bullock Bush
Rosewood

There are numerous other vernacular names for this plant. Small tree to 3-4 m, main use: 'good only for shade'. Also associated with '**inma**' or story or songlines. '**parrkaparrka**' refers to a mistletoe growing on this plant. We were told a similar word '**tjarlu**' which refers to any tree offering copious shade, which is also drought resistant and not easily knocked over.

Lawrencella davenportii **wirntulyurru** Rose-pink Everlasting
Sticky Everlasting

Herb to 15 cm with pink flowers, grows on dunes.

Maireana sedifolia **puntaru** Pearl Blue-bush
Iwinpa
Mamumarra

Shrub to 1.5 m, grows extensively with Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*) on the northern Nullarbor and less commonly with Belah (*Casuarina cristata*) further north. According to our consultants the vernaculars 'iwinyapa' and 'mamumara' refer to a different plant. Note that the same name was also given for *Atriplex* species.

Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii **irri-irriya** Tangled Lignum

Tangled, vine-like shrub, grows in small claypan-like depressions or on the edge of some salt-lakes.

Murchisonia volubilis **tjungku-tjungku**

Creeper with edible fleshy root, grows on low shrubs in dunes. Main use: edible root.

Myoporum platycarpum **pulkarrpa** False Sandalwood
Sugarwood
Sugar Tree

Small tree to 6 m or shrub, grows on the Nullarbor and sporadically in the Great Victoria Desert. It has a resin, 'kirtitjarra,' used for fixing flints to wooden handles.

Nicotiana rosulata ssp. *ingulba* **tawarl tawarlpa** Rosetted Tobacco

Herb to 20 cm, white-flowering, grows with Mulga in inter-dune swales. Recorded at 127° 26'E, 28° 33'S. Main use: a stimulant, the root is crushed, mixed with ashes and chewed. 'Mingkuripa' is the name of this preparation. Note that the sub-specific name is the anglicized version of this word. Note also that Goddard and Kalotas (1988) attribute **tawarl tawarlpa** to *Solanum ellipticum*, but mention that this latter plant is used as a substitute when *Nicotiana* is not available.

Pittosporum phylliraeoides **tjilpilpa** Weeping Pittosporum

Small tree or shrub to 8 m, grows in Nullarbor dongas and sporadically north to Forrest Lakes.

Portulaca oleracea **wakati** Purslane
Inland Pigweed
Munyeroo
Wakati

Douglas (1988) also give 'Wakati' for this plant. Prostrate, succulent plant, recorded in the vicinity of Forrest Lakes. Main use: this plant has numerous small black seeds which can be ground up and used as flour.

Prostanthera baxteri **warra**

Shrub to 1.5 m, with white flowers, grows on gravelly plain. Recorded at 127° 37'E, 28° 25'S.

Ptilotus obovatus **purarrpurarrpa** Cottonbush
SilverBush
Silvertails
Smokebush
White Foxtail

Low herb to 40 cm, common in the Great Victoria Desert except in spinifex/sand-dune country.

Ptilotus species. The name 'lirrulirru' was given for unidentified, pink flowering plants in this genus. Douglas (1988) indicates this is a generic name for pink-flowering plants.

<i>Salsola kali</i>	tjilka-tjilka	Roly-poly Sea Kale Soft Buck-bush
Douglas (1988) also gives ' tjilka-tjilka ' for this plant. Low shrub to 0.5 m grows in disturbed situations, particularly rabbit warrens and mobile dunes. ' Tjilka ' generally refers to prickles or prickly objects.		
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	wayarnu	Quandong Native Peach Wayanu plus others
Small tree to 3 m, grows sporadically throughout Great Victoria Desert. Main use: the edible fruit and kernel of the nut are well known to Aboriginal people.		
<i>Santalum spicatum</i>	munyunpa	Sandalwood Willarak Wolgol plus others
Small spreading tree to 2.5 m, grows sporadically in the Great Victoria Desert. Witirra refers to Sandalwood nuts and nyarlpi the leaves.		
<i>Sarcostemma australe</i>	ipipi	Caustic Bush/Vine Milk-Bush Ngamul-ngamul
Thick-stemmed, straggling shrub often growing over other shrubs or small shrubs. The milky sap of this shrub is known to be a skin and eye irritant which may even cause blindness.		
<i>Senna artemisioides</i> ssp. <i>artemisioides</i>	pilarnpa	Silver Cassia Puntee, Parka Blue Bush Cassia
Shrub to 1.5 m with yellow flowers. This name was recorded at Ilkulka Rock-hole.		
<i>Senna artemisioides</i> ssp. <i>filifolia</i>	punti	Desert Cassia Punty Bush
Small shrub to 1 m, usually grows in inter-dune swales.		
<i>Senna artemisioides</i> ssp. <i>sturtii</i>	kapilykapilypa	Dense Cassia Grey Cassia Variable Cassia
Small shrub to 1 m, usually grows in <i>Casuarina cristata</i> woodland.		
<i>Solanum orbiculatum</i>	irtunypa	Wild Tomato
Douglas (1988) gives ' kulpurrpa ' and ' tjantu ' for this plant. Low shrub to 0.5 m, grows in the vicinity of Forrest Lakes. Main use: the fruit of this plant is edible and much sought after.		
<i>Swainsona formosa</i>	marlukurukuru	Sturt's Desert Pea
Prostrate, spreading herb flowering in September-October, growing in water-gaining sites on the northern Nullarbor - southern Great Victoria Desert. Douglas (1988) also gives ' Marlukurukuru '. Main use: as a decoration, particularly for behind the ear. A white-flowering variant also grows in this general region.		
<i>Thryptomene elliottii</i>	mirrinytji	
Shrub to 1.5 m, grows in sand-dunes in the vicinity of Forrest Lakes.		

<i>Thryptomene maisonneuvei</i>	pukara	Desert Thryptomene Waputi
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Douglas (1988) also gives '**pukara**' for this plant. Very low, dense shrub less than 1 m, grows more extensively in northern deserts than in the Great Victoria Desert.

In addition, the name '**wintjinara**' was obtained for an unidentified, edible, truffle-like fungus growing in sand-dunes at Forrest Lakes. The name '**kuparu**' was given as a generic term for spinifex.

ANNOTATED LIST OF FAUNA

REPTILES

<i>Aspidites ramsayii</i>	kunakapi murruntu	Ramsay's Python Woma
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A 1.5 m Woma observed on the Trans-continental Railway in open Myall over Bluebush 1 km east of the western boundary of Kanandah Station represents a minor eastern extension of range for this species.

<i>Ctenophorus cristatus</i>	talangarra	Crested Dragon
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Recorded in low dunes with mallee and spinifex approximately 30 km north of Tjuntjunjarra and near Tjintirrkara Rockhole.

<i>Ctenophorus reticulatus</i>	mutukalya	Reticulated Dragon
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Recorded in heavier soils in Black Oak woodland on calcrete ridge.

<i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i>	walalka walalka	
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Recorded at the breakaways 'Parpul' 30 km east of Neale Junction. Douglas (1988) gives '**mitika-mitika**' for this species.

<i>Moloch horridus</i>	ngiyari	Mountain Devil
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Widespread in sandy country with spinifex in the Great Victoria Desert.

<i>Pogona minor</i>	ngaparla	Bearded Dragon
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Widespread in the Great Victoria Desert, recorded in Belah woodland and mallee on sand-dunes.

<i>Ryhnoedura ornata</i>	piilpa	Beaked Gekko
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Recorded in spinifex at Ilkulka.

<i>Varanus giganteus</i>	ngirntaka	Perentie
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Recorded at the breakaways 'Parpul,' 30 km east of Neale Junction.

[Douglas (1988) also gives the names '**ngiyari**', '**ngaparla**' and '**ngirntaka**'.]

BIRDS

A list of birds recorded in the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve is in Appendix 1.

<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	kurrkurrpa	Owlet-nightjar
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Recorded in sand-dunes north of Tjuntjunjarra and heard calling in woodlands.

<i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>	kurtalypa	Pacific Heron
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Recorded perching in Myall tree near Forrest Lakes in 1992.

<i>Ardeotis australis</i>	kiparra parrurnpa	Bustard
Douglas (1988) gives 'nganurti' for this bird which is moderately common in the Great Victoria Desert and is sought after for food.		
<i>Artamus personatus</i>	tjarlpu-tjarlpu	Masked Woodswallow
Nomadic, flocking bird in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i>	kakalyalya	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Douglas (1988) gives 'Kakalyalya' or 'Kakalangu' for white cockatoos including this species and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. We recorded a solitary bird in Mulga in inter-dune swale at 128° 01.607'E, 29° 20.739'S and a pair in <i>Eucalyptus gongylocarpa</i> woodland on the Emu road. We were informed that these birds breed in these trees in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	wilypinypa	Spotted Harrier
Recorded flying over Myall woodland, open dunes and at Ilkulka and Neale Junction.		
<i>Cinlosoma alisteri</i>	tjintjilinyapa	Nullarbor Quail-thrush
Infrequently recorded bird in denser stands of Bluebush on the Nullarbor Plain. The name 'miilyka' was given for another Quail-thrush (either Chestnut or Chestnut-breasted) seen in sand-dunes east of Ilkulka.		
<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>	wartu-wartu	Pied Butcherbird
Common bird in open woodlands in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>	kuunkutakuta	Spotted Nightjar
Recorded in sand-dunes north of Tjuntjunjarra.		
<i>Falco berigora</i>	kirr-kirrrpa	Brown Falcon
Recorded occasionally in most habitats in the Great Victoria Desert. Nesting in August 1989.		
<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	warra-warra	Kestrel
Occasionally recorded in the Great Victoria Desert and on the northern Nullarbor.		
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	ilurrpa	Grey Falcon
A flock of five were recorded in dead Myall over Bluebush on the northern Nullarbor in May 1993.		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	warumarlkuntarri	Peregrine Falcon
Recorded harassing Pied Butcher Birds near Shell Lakes.		
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>		Mallee Fowl
Douglas (1988) gives 'Ngarnamarra' for this bird which was not sighted by us. A disused nest was located in mallee/spinifex near benchmark RW9 on the northern boundary of the reserve. A very old nest was located in degraded northern Nullarbor Bluebush country at 130° 10.40'E, 30° 03.60'S. We were informed that Mallee Fowl are still present near Ilkulka.		
<i>Manorina flavigula</i>	piirlpiripa	Yellow-throated Miner
Common bird in small flocks in most habitats in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Meliphaga plumula</i>	wirtululunypa	Yellow-fronted Honeyeater
Recorded in Mulga at Ilkulka.		
<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	kilykilykarri	Budgerigar
Douglas (1988) gives 'Kilykilykarri' for this species. Recorded in small flocks in the vicinity of Forrest Lakes.		

<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>	wiitjulykutjulyku	Jacky Winter
Infrequently recorded bird in Mulga and Myall woodlands.		
<i>Northiella haemogaster</i>	tjurlily-tjurlilypa	Naretha Blue Bonnet
This parrot was recorded in pairs and groups of four in many localities in the Great Victoria Desert; it was usually in Myall and Mulga woodlands. The same name was consistently given for Mulga Parrot.		
<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	parnparnpalala	Crested Bellbird
Common bird in the Great Victoria Desert, heard in all habitat types.		
<i>Peltohyas australis</i>	kupilkupilpa walatjuritjuri	Australian Dotterel
Common, in flocks to 50 birds on open plain on the northern Nullarbor.		
<i>Platycercus zonarius</i>	purlalypurlalya	Ring-necked Parrot
This woodland inhabiting parrot is only infrequently recorded in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Pomatostomas superciliosus</i>	tjuunytjuunypa	White-browed Babbler
Recorded occasionally in Myall woodlands and mallee vegetation usually with a shrub understorey. 'Tjuntjunjarra' apparently takes its name from the presence of this bird.		
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	tjintirrtjintirra	Willie Wagtail
Common bird in the Great Victoria Desert.		
<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>	ikarkkarrka	Banded Lapwing
Recorded at Lake Carlisle and at Tjuntjunjarra.		

MAMMALS

<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	kurlpirra	Western Grey Kangaroo
Moderately common in spinifex/sand-dune country in the Great Victoria Desert, occurring as far north as Neale Junction and Ilkulka; also on the Nullarbor Plain. This kangaroo is hunted for meat but the Marlu is by far preferred.		
<i>Macropus rufus</i>	marlu	Red Kangaroo
Common on the Nullarbor Plain and in more open parts of the Great Victoria Desert including chenopod lake frontage. Douglas (1988) also gives both these kangaroo names.		
<i>Notomys alexis</i>	tarrkawara	Spinifex Hopping Mouse
Douglas (1988) also gives this name. Tracks and 'pop holes' of this relatively common small rodent were located on a sand-dune at 127° 55' E, 28° 59' S.		
<i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	itjarri-itjarri	Marsupial Mole
We were informed that this infrequently encountered marsupial used to occur in the vicinity of Pirapi Rockhole but that it is now 'finished up' here, i.e. extinct.		
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	nani mitjurnu pintjatarn	Rabbit
Douglas (1988) also gives 'nani' for the rabbit. We were shown a covered burrow with four kittens in it in August 1989 in <i>Casuarina cristata</i> woodland near the northern boundary of the reserve.		

The following generic names were given: 'minga' for ants, 'mingkiri' for small mammals, and 'pikarru' for goannas.

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DISCUSSION

Sixty-five plant and 42 animal names were recorded in the course of this work. Of these, 32 plant and 16 animal names have been previously recorded by either Douglas (1988), Bennett (1991) or more particularly Goddard (1992). Forty words are in common with the latter work. Where there are minor differences in orthography, in particular more frequent use of retroflex sounds in Goddard (1992), we attribute this primarily to linguistic interpretation and secondarily to dialectical differences. In spite of this the value of this work lies in the fact that it establishes that these words are still in use in the Great Victoria Desert at this time and by these people. Of the names not previously recorded, some are based on a single occurrence; this applies to those plants and animals sighted infrequently. On the other hand many are based on species frequently encountered; in these cases consistency of the name provided was a characteristic of this work.

In some cases a name used generically as a group or descriptive name may have been ascribed by us to a particular plant or animal.

This is probably the case for the name we obtained for *Hakea francisiana*; literally 'purnuwara' means tall shrub, (Arpad Kalotas *personal communication*) which is an appropriate description of this plant.

It is clear that there are complications with names of mallee eucalypts; for example, the names 'ngapari' and 'pulara' were both consistently applied to both *Eucalyptus socialis* and *Eucalyptus concinna*. Goddard and Kalotas (1988) also indicate that in Yankunytjatjara the same name can apply to similar eucalypts; for example, 'itara' for

both *Eucalyptus camuldulensis* and *Eucalyptus terminalis*. Furthermore, 'ngapari' can apply to both a tree and the sticky, white secretion which is found on the leaves of eucalypts generally. Similarly, 'tjinjulu' has been recorded as the name for both *Eucalyptus glomerosa* (Bennett 1991) and *Eucalyptus socialis* (Goddard and Kalotas 1988) but in this work the word refers more particularly to the use of certain eucalypt parts.

Some of the plants and animals encountered in the course of this work are of particular interest owing to either their rarity or limited knowledge of their distributions. This applies to Naretha Blue-bonnet which we now know to be moderately common in Nullarbor-fringing Myall woodlands between Double-Pump bore on Gunnadorah Station and Forrest Lakes. *Eucalyptus pimpiniana* was not previously known from Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve, nor were the gazetted rare fauna Scarlet-breasted Parrot and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. Ramsay's Python from the Nullarbor Plain is a minor extension of range and the Grey Falcon is a very infrequently recorded species.

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APPENDIX 1

List of birds recorded from the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve. These data are compiled from the 'Jubilee' and 'Forrest' sites of the Nullarbor biological survey (see Burbidge *et al.* 1987) as well as birds recorded in the course of this work.

Emu	White-winged Fairy Wren
Pacific Heron	Brown Songlark
Grey Teal	Australian Sitella
Black-breasted Kite	White-browed Tree Creeper
Little Eagle	Rufous Tree Creeper
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Striated Pardalote
Spotted Harrier	Singing Honeyeater
Peregrine Falcon	Yellow-fronted Honeyeater
Brown Falcon	White-fronted Honeyeater
Australian Kestrel	Yellow-throated Miner
Little Button Quail	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Australian Bustard	Crimson Chat
Banded Plover	Zebra Finch
Australian Dotterel	Magpie Lark
Ring-necked Parrot	Masked Woodswallow
Blue-Bonnet	Black-faced Woodswallow
Mulga Parrot	Grey Butcherbird
Scarlet-breasted Parrot	Pied Butcherbird
Budgerygah	Australian Magpie
Major Mitchell	Grey Currawong
Pallid Cuckoo	Little Crow
Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo	
Tawny Frogmouth	
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	
Red-backed Kingfisher	
Rainbow Bee-eater	
White-backed Woodswallow	
Richard's Pipit	
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	
White-winged Triller	
Jacky Winter	
Red-capped Robin	
Hooded Robin	
Rufous Whistler	
Grey Shrike-Thrush	
Crested Bellbird	
Willie Wagtail	
White-browed Babbler	
Southern Whiteface	
Weebill	
Broad-tailed Thornbill	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	
Variegated Fairy-Wren	