

“EVOCATIVE GLOTTAL GURGLES”

One of the reasons there have been so many misconceptions about the function of the boomerang is that the early colonists applied the word *bumerang*, which they took from the now-vanished Tharawal and Daruk tribes of New South Wales, to both the returning and non-returning throw-sticks. Both devices, the true boomerang and the killer-stick, still carry the “boomerang” designation and this has caused confusion about what each does and how it looks.

Within the Aboriginal culture they were known by more than 300 names, from *ullagunga* to *warrayagga*, *munkarara* to *baranganj*—“all evocative glottal gurgles,” an English humorist has remarked. Evocative of what? “Possibly of the noise you make when they come back unexpectedly and hit you in the throat,” he suggests.

Other titles include:

<i>Tootgundy</i>	<i>Duludurili</i>
<i>Kadimaka</i>	<i>Parabawitua</i>
<i>Nanjal</i>	<i>Ketketum</i>
<i>Barngeet</i>	<i>Ileila</i>
<i>Kilie</i>	<i>Aribina</i>
<i>Jalkabari</i>	<i>Tutukera</i>
<i>Gatingatin</i>	<i>Warazaing</i>