

Kakaji (goannas) hibernate during Makurra, cold weather time, if they are fat or carrying eggs.

Murlurr (*Santalum lanceolatum*) can be used to create an antiseptic solution. Young branches are boiled up, and the purple-coloured liquid is most commonly used to treat the sore ears of children.

Mangu (spangled perch), Jarrampa (cherabin) and Marrpawurl (archerfish) are good bait for fishing once the river has slowed during Yitlital.

The **Karntipal** tree (*Erythrina vesperitilo*) has soft wood which is good for making coolamons.

Walmajarri words from the river side FITZROY VALLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Makurra – cold weather time

Some Kakaji (goannas) start hibernating now, including mothers carrying eggs. Some will stay in their burrows until the first storms. If the mouth of the Purri (burrow mound) is open, then Kakaji has left its hole.

Marnuwiji, the conkerberry (*Carissa lanceolata*), is flowering now. Karmanganyja (emu) will come with their young to eat the small black fruit at the end of the season. Once the fruit forms a thick shell it is 'overcooked' and only good for the birds.

Martukuru, the kapok bust (*Acracia jaramilla*), is flowering now. The flowers dry out as the weather becomes warmer. Once dry the flowers are easily pulled from their stems and were once used to stuff pillows and mattresses when Walmajarri people were living on pastoral stations.

Markkurta (*Nauclaea orientalis*) is flowering. Marrpawurl (archer fish) can be caught in small pools. Kumpuparja (*Solanum echinatum*) is flowering now. The fruits will ripen during Parranga.

Wiliny, the caustic bush (*Grevillea pyramidalis*), is flowering now. Warraral (long-necked turtle) and Jangkurr (short-necked turtle) while fishing. Even if you see one poke its head out of the water, you will expect to catch no more fish on that trip.

The yellow bulbs or 'water chestnuts' of Lukarri (lily) are cooked in the coals. Jampungany produce small sweet bulbs with white flesh like a potato. These can be roasted in the coals or eaten raw after peeling. During Parranga, when the water is low, the lily bulbs are easier to collect.

The bloodwood trees known as Kurntupungany (flower gum) and Kurntupungany (flower gum) are seen floating on top of the water. The smaller ones go and hide away. Kurrurru (bony bream) and Jarrampa (cherabin) are good bait for Kurumajarti (catfish).

Look for Minaji (echidna) on a full moon at this time of year. Marrpawurl (archer fish) can be found in the trunk of the Karntipal tree. The wood is soft and used to make coolamons.

During Makurra you won't get Jarrampa carrying eggs during Makurra. A large meat bone thrown in the bilabong will attract Jarrampa. (cherabin) during the day. Try in the afternoons and evenings with a combination of chicken pellets, throw net and baited line.

The larger desert black-headed python, whose pale colour gives it jilpirtarti as two males now. It is a good hunting time for Lakarti (witchetty grub) can be found in the red seeds of fat from the pods and used to make coolamons.

Karntipal (*Erythrina vesperitilo*) is flowering now during Parranga. The wood is soft and used to make coolamons. Focus of fishing now. Fish come to the surface when they are hungry, look out in the river channel, as well as creeks and bilabongs, are in the water.

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Parranga – hot weather time

Parranga is the name for 'summer time'. Partiri (flowers) are blooming, particularly the honey- and nectar-producing flowers. Jirrpiliny is the name given to nectar-producing flowers.

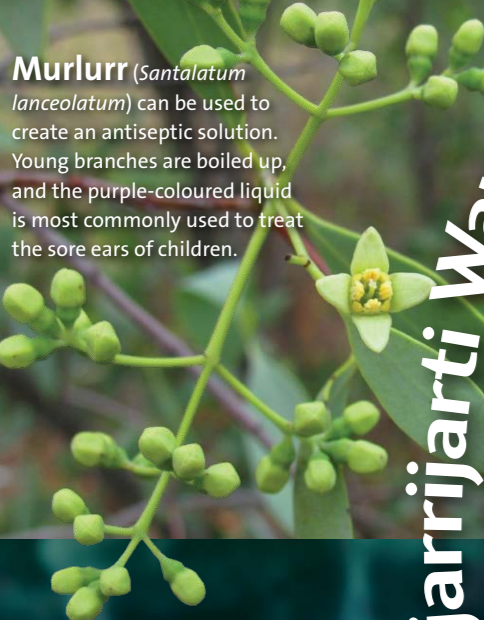
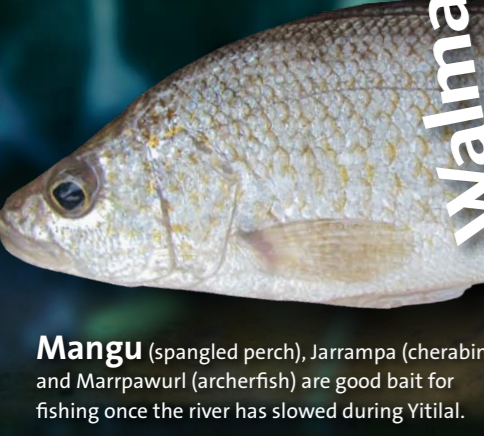
Parranga is the best time to catch Parrarka (barramundi), Jaminparu (black bream) and Jarrampa (cherabin). Small Mangu (spangled perch), Lakarr (bony bream) and Marrpawurl (archer fish) are used as bait once caught. Kangaroo, goanna, turkey and freshwater mussels can be used for bait if you don't have shop-bought meat. Some people salt their meat before fishing and this is especially good for catching Jaminparu. People don't eat much Kurlumajarti (catfish) now as they are carrying eggs and losing their fat.

When Kurrumpa, the paperbark tree (*Melaleuca* sp.) flowers, it's a sign to start collecting Kakaru (freshwater mussels). The nectar from the flowers, and the droppings of Papaku, the flying fox, who feeds on the nectar, falls into the water feeding Kakaru.

Toward the end of Parranga the white flowers of Purluru, the crocodile tree (*Atalaya hemiglauca*), tell you that Kuwarniya (freshwater crocodiles) are laying their eggs.

Yupina, the wild orange (*Capparis umbonata*), ripens during Yitlital. The long and skinny yellow-footholde at Fitzroy Crossing. They will first fish for bait. Meat on a hook will attract Kakaparku (freshwater crab) which can be used as catfish bait. People jilpirtarti (make berry) with bony bream and crabs. The small animals are crushed and put on the side of the bank – slowly washing away and attracting other fish.

During Yitlital, when the river is high, people will fish the bilabongs, creeks and from the footholde at Fitzroy Crossing. They will first fish for bait. Meat on a hook will attract Kakaparku (freshwater crab) which can be used as catfish bait. People jilpirtarti (make berry) with bony bream and crabs. The small animals are crushed and put on the side of the bank – slowly washing away and attracting other fish.



Compilation and production: Emma Woodward (CSIRO) 2012.
 Images: Kym Brennan (*Carissa lanceolata*), Gerry Pearce/Alamy (echidna), Jacinda Brown (*Nauclaea orientalis*), David Morgan (sawfish), Emma Woodward.
 Design and layout: First Class in Graphic Design
 Walmajarri knowledge: Joy Nuggett, Amy Nuggett and Nancy Bangu with Marmingee Hand and Annette Kogola.

Walmajarri words from the river side FITZROY VALLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Two figs, Jurlupi (*Ficus copulata*) and Jamaraj (*Ficus racemosa*) grow along the banks of creeks and rivers. Heavy rain washes the ripe figs into the water, feeding the fish and making them fat. If there is a poor wet season the fruit don't wash into the river and the fish are skinny as they only have weed to eat.

Yupina, the wild orange (*Capparis umbonata*), ripens during Yitlital. The long and skinny yellow-footholde at Fitzroy Crossing. They will first fish for bait. Meat on a hook will attract Kakaparku (freshwater crab) which can be used as catfish bait. People jilpirtarti (make berry) with bony bream and crabs. The small animals are crushed and put on the side of the bank – slowly washing away and attracting other fish.

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The park of Majala, the freshwater mangrove. Barring tonia (small pools) where fish are trapped, stunning them and making them easy to collect. Karamanganyja (emu), Pinkirjarti (turkey) and Kurrurru (bony bream) are good bait for Kurumajarti (catfish).

Used as a fish poison. The bark is chopped and crushed into small pieces where fish pain when chewed up and applied to a catfish spike injury. The new green stems of Majala also act as an anaesthetic, numbing the fish.

Heavy rain washes Jamaraj figs (*Ficus racemosa*) into the creeks and rivers, feeding the fish and making them fat.

During Warrampa (floodwater time) only very large Kuwarniya (freshwater crocodiles) are seen floating on top of the water. The smaller ones go and hide away. Kurrurru (bony bream) and Jarrampa (cherabin) are good bait for Kurumajarti (catfish).

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Jarrampa (bony bream) and Jarrampa (cherabin) are good bait for Kurumajarti (catfish). Marrpawurl (archer fish) can be used as bait to catch Parrarka (barramundi) and Ryjarpalpa (sawfish). Kurrurru (bony bream) and Jarrampa (cherabin) are good bait for Kurumajarti (catfish).

Grasshopper season: Kurlumanganyja (black-headed python) and Nagananyja (black-headed python) are mating. Jilpirtarti (witchetty grub) can be found in the red seeds of fat from the pods and used to make coolamons.

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A Walmajarri dream time story tells of the nature of Minaji (the echidna). It is said that if Minaji tries to climb a rock or hill and fails, he won't try again, and will take off to the flat country where he will sulk.