

THE YOG WHO WOULD NOT SHARE HER FIRE

Away down at Willilambi, there lived an old woman who had fire but would not give any to the mulba (men) to cook their food. She lived by herself and every time they went to her to get some from her, she hid the fire, making big holes by taking the sand out with her hands. Always she hid the fire in this way. Girr-girr and Karrgain (hawk and blue pigeon) asked her for the fire but she hid it and said, "I have no fire," but they could see the smoke coming from under her armpits, and they knew she was telling lies. So they flew up very high, so high that they could not throw their shadow on the ground and watched to see where the old woman put the fire.

They saw her looking all round and about to see if they were watching her, but they had flown so high she could not see their ngwan (shadow) and she stooped down to make a big hole in the sand to hid her fire. She dug down and down, throwing the sand out as she went down, and coming out every now and then to see if Karrgain and Girr-girr were about. They waited and waited high, high up until they could only see the old woman's back sticking out of the hole she had dug, and they flew down quickly and speared her and caught the fire. All the sandhills along Willilambi Coast are the heaps of sand the old woman threw out every time she hid her fire.

Now when a nice blue smoke comes out of the fires, the women make, they sing the following song in memory of the time when Karrgain and Girr-Girr flew high up to watch where the old woman put her fire :

Karrgain goolain bal nambal hambal,  
Eemalalla geen'geen eemalalla geeh'geen,  
Eemalalla geen'geen eemalalla geen'geen,

(See the Karrgain going up and up in the sky where he went to watch and bring the fire to us so that we could cook our meat.)