



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

# wallee ngan weerrup

'wal-le nan weerr-up'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
K-3

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

## Background

In the west Kimberley area of Western Australia the young men were fond of playing a version of hide and seek called 'the hunting or bush game' (*wallee ngan weerrup*).

## Language

A few sentences used by the players:

**Pindan yangarrama**

*We will play the bush game.*

**Joon wanjoolboo**

*You drive him.*

**Nowloo goon weerrup**

*Hit with club.*

**Joona joodoo joodoo wongoola**

*You throw him down there.*

**Booroo ngan dammajinna**

*I missed him.*

**Kai! kala! ngan barrin**

*Hurrah! I've got him.*

In the Gooniyandi language of the Kimberley area a male kangaroo was called *jamarra*.

## Short description

This is an imitation and acting game that is also a form of hide and seek. Younger players pretend to be on a kangaroo or emu hunt.

## Players

- A group of four or more players

## Playing area

- A suitable indoor or outdoor area (a tree area is recommended)

## Game play and basic rules

- The game is based on kangaroo and emu hunting. One or two players represent a kangaroo (*jamarra*) or emu and the other players are the hunters.
- The kangaroo is given a short time to 'disappear' into the bush (somewhere in the playing area). The other players pretend to hunt the kangaroo.
- When the hunters find the kangaroo they imagine they have 'captured' the kangaroo and return with this player back to the camp.
- The game is then restarted.

## Suggestion

This could be used as an acting game for younger children.

## Teaching points

- Find a good hiding spot. Make it good.
- Finders ready. Go.
- Bring them home.
- Next turn.