

# Gubbi Gubbi or Kabi Kabi?

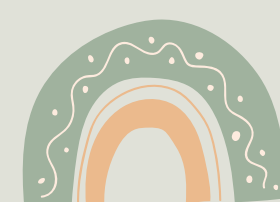
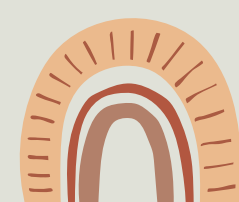
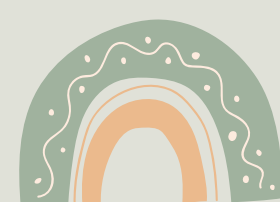
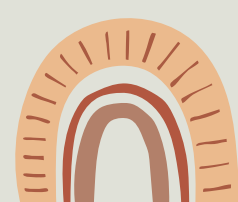
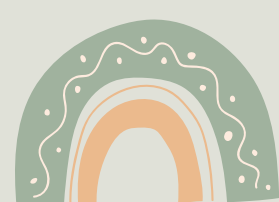
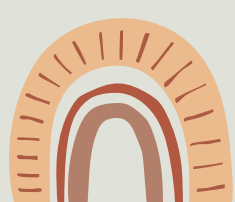
**The correct spelling and pronunciation of the Traditional Custodians of the Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Maryborough and Gympie region is the **Gubbi Gubbi people** (pronunciation: *Gub-bee Gub-bee*).**

'Kabi Kabi' is the incorrect spelling and pronunciation of the Gubbi Gubbi language group name. The Europeans recorded the Indigenous languages in a written form as they heard it. **The spelling 'Kabi Kabi' is the European interpretation of the language name of Gubbi Gubbi.** The Indigenous languages spoken in Australia were mostly an oral language and not recorded in written form until the arrival of the European explorers, historians and surveyors.

**Historically, with no guidelines or consistency, the Gubbi Gubbi language name was written as Kabi, Kgabi or Gabi.** Norman Tindale's book *'Aboriginal Tribes of Australia'* (1974) suggests, "difficulty arises out of early transcribers inability to hear and transcribe Australian languages correctly" (Tindale, 1974).

In 1993, the Gubbi Gubbi Elders representing the families of the Gubbi Gubbi language group got together concerned of the mispronunciation of their written name. It was settled to change the spelling of their historically written name from Kabi Kabi to Gubbi Gubbi so the language would be pronounced as intended.

**To acknowledge and pay respect to the Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Custodians, the correct spelling and pronunciation of Gubbi Gubbi should only be used.**



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Source: N. Tindale (1974), J. Mathew (1910)