



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

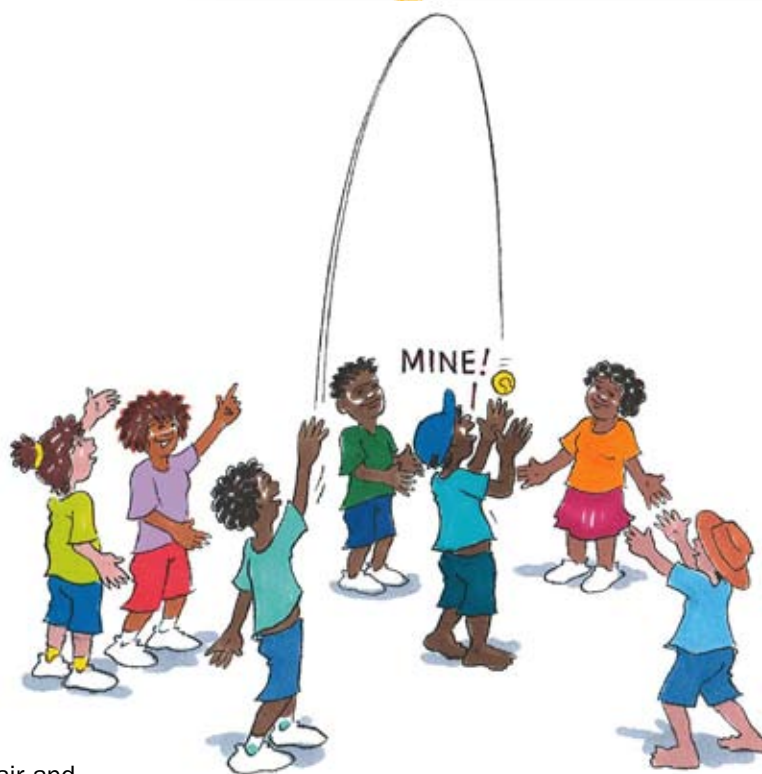
# barambah gimbe

'bar-ram-bah gim-be'

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
7-9

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
10-12



## Background

Throwing a ball or object high into the air and attempting to catch it was an activity observed in various parts of Australia.

This proved to be a particularly popular activity at Barambah (now Cherbourg) after an Aboriginal settlement was established by the Queensland government on the lands of the Wakka Wakka people in the early twentieth century.

The game was often played by children and men in the afternoons after work, using a tennis ball. The game provided some social contact, a diversion from daily life, and fun.

## Language

*Gimbe* means 'play' in the language of the Wakka Wakka people of south Queensland. *Barambah* was the name of the waterhole that was near the site of the Aboriginal settlement.

## Short description

Players aim to throw a ball as high as possible into the air and catch it.

## Players

- Groups of four to ten players

## Equipment

- A tennis ball or soft ball of some description is used. The ball should be one that the players can easily throw straight up in the air in an attempt to catch it.

## Playing area

- An outdoor area suitable for the activity

### Game play and basic rules

- One player begins by throwing the ball as high and as straight as possible. The other players try to catch the ball before it touches the ground, and the player who catches it or gains control of it throws it up again.
- Every so often a thrower is able to nominate a player who must attempt to catch the ball.
- If no one catches the ball the thrower must pick up the ball and then tag another player (by touching or by gentle underarm throwing). The tagged player either becomes the new thrower or has to attempt the next catch.

### Variations

- Use a bat to hit the ball high in the air.
- For younger players throw a light ball (such as a gator skin or beach ball) high in the air and let them chase and retrieve it. Several balls could be thrown up, with players chasing and retrieving balls that are immediately thrown up as part of a continuous activity.
- Allow a one-hand catch of the ball if it contacts the ground (one hand, one bounce rule) after being dropped or without being touched.

### Comment

Games similar to this one are to be found in cultures in various parts of the world.

### Teaching points

- Spread out in the area. Ready. Go.
- Throw the ball up high. Throw and move out of the way.
- Chase the ball. Call for the ball.
- Hands ready. Reach for the ball. 'Soft' hands to catch.
- Watch the contacts.
- Nominate a player this turn.
- No catch. Tag a player.
- Next turn.