



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

gunane

'gun-ane'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
7-9

### Background

Skipping with a vine was an amusement for the Jagara (or Jagera) people in the Brisbane area. Some of the people were excellent skippers. A popular place to skip was on the hard sand near the water at the beach.

The kind of vine used was the one that was handiest at the time — either those of the scrub or a creeper that grew on the seashore. The skipping was done amid great interest and amusement from the onlookers.

An extra-determined attempt by the 'rope-turners' to put the skipper out always caused roars of laughter, for a good skipper was sure to be ready for this.

### Language

The game is named after the word for 'jump' (*gunane*) in the Wakka Wakka language used in southeast Queensland.

### Short description

A simple skipping game

### Players

- A group of up to ten or more players

### Playing area

- A designated area suitable for the activity

### Equipment

- A skipping rope up to 6 metres long

### Game play and basic rules

- This is a skipping game that is familiar to most people. The rope (vine) is circled round and round and either one or two players skip at a time.
- The players skip away and attempt to keep going for as long as they can. The players turning the rope try to put the skipper/s out by varying the speed of the turning.
- To stay in for as long as possible the player/s skipping must watch every movement of the hands of those who turn the rope.

### Comment

In central Australia camel fur and long-stemmed paddy-melon vines were observed being used for skipping ropes.

### Teaching points

- Rope turners ready. Skippers ready. Off we go.
- Keep skipping.
- Change the speed.
- Watch the rope.
- Next group.