

Language Resources for Mount Isa and North-West Queensland

There exists a range of language materials, including recordings on the languages of Mt Isa and Gulf region; however the majority of work was undertaken prior to the 1970's and there is an absence of recent linguistic work in the area. Consequently, there is minimal structured language activity happening in the region in recent times. There has been some language activity in terms of community-based projects; generally these have been small-scale in nature.

Kalkadoon has long been recognised as the main language group of Mt Isa – the region also has several neighbouring groups; some of these regional groups have similar or related languages. This is indicative of their interaction with each other for trading, social and ceremonial activities; it is acknowledged that this interaction transcends the contemporary state borders of Queensland and Northern Territory. There still exists a regular movement from Mt Isa to Doomadgee to Lake Nash (NT) as well as cross-border activity in the Gulf region, notably around Borroloola.

Languages in the region include:

Gulf Region

- Borroloola and NT border region – Binbinga, Yanuwa, Mara, Waanyi (Galanja or Nicholson River), Garrawa, Gunindiri
- Mornington island – Lardil
- Bentinck Island – Gayardilt
- Burketown – Ganggalida, Gananggalinda, Mingin, Kukatj
- Normanton – Kuthant, Kurtijar, Koknar, Takalak, Agwamin, Uanga
- Mount Isa – Kalkatunga/Kalkadoon, Yalarrnga/Yulluna, Yanda, Guwa, Pitta-Pitta, Wakabunga, Nguburinji
- Cloncurry – Mitakoodi
- Richmond – Mbara, Wanamarra
- Julia Creek – Jgawun, Mayi-Kulan

Eyre Region

- Hughenden – Yirandali

Desert Region

- Wambaya, Alawa, Ngandji, Wakaya, Bularnu, Waluwarra

This traditional landscape changed dramatically with the settlement of the Mt Isa/Gulf region in the late 1880-1900's period as the pastoral and mining expansion spread to the north-west. Those Aboriginals that survived the frontier conflict of this time were pushed to the fringe of society in camps and later moved to missions such as Deebing Creek (via Ipswich) and later Yarrabah and Palm Island. There is evidence that many local Aboriginals remained in the area providing the workforce for cattle properties.

Mt Isa today has an active Aboriginal population comprising descendants of local groups as well as groups drawn from the surrounding regions, notably the Gulf communities as well as western centres such as Camooweal, Dajarra and Boulia. Many of these people have moved to Mt Isa for economic reasons as rural centres decline; others have relocated due to health needs; however they still maintain familial and cultural links back to country.

Sources:

There are reference materials for Mt Isa and North West Queensland located at The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Canberra – this material may include sound recordings, as well as vocabulary and word lists. AIATSIS has an on-line catalogue: <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au/>

AIATSIS Language Select Bibliographies

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra has produced PDF versions of *Select Bibliographies* for a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The *Select Bibliographies* provide a list of materials held by AIATSIS relating to specific languages, including those from the Mt Isa and North West Queensland.

A full list of these can be found at the following weblink: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/languagebibs.html the Mt Isa area languages have been grouped under their respective names, e.g.:

- Ganggalida: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Yukulta_Gangalidda_DEC06.pdf
- Guwa: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Guwa_Sept06.pdf
- Kalkadoon: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Kalkatungu_Kalkadoon_Sept_06.pdf
- Mbara: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Mbara_Apr08.pdf
- Pitta Pitta: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Pitta_Pitta_Bittha_Bittha_Jan08.pdf
- Waanyi: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Waanyi_Nov06.pdf
- Yalarnnga: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Yalarnnga_Yalarnnga_Oct06.pdf
- Yanga: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Yanga_May_08.pdf
- Yirandali: www.aiatsis.gov.au/library/docs/langbibs/Yirandali_Yirandhali_Nov08.pdf

Linguistic Resources:

- Aguas, E.F. (1968) 'Gudandji' in Papers in Australian Linguistics 3. Pacific Linguistics A-14 Canberra: 1-20.
- Blake, B.J. (1967) *A brief description of the Kalkatungu language*. Pacific Linguistics Canberra.
- Blake, B.J. (1979a) *A Kalkatungu Grammar* B-58. Pacific Linguistics Canberra.
- Blake, B.J. (1979b) Pitta-Pitta. In R.M.W. Dixon & B.J. Blake (eds), *The handbook of Australian languages* 1, 182-242. Canberra: ANU Press and Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Blake, B.J. (1988) 'Redefining Pama-Nyungan: towards the prehistory of Australian languages' in N Evans and S Johnson (eds) *Aboriginal Linguistics* 1:1-90. UNE Department of Linguistics Armidale, NSW.
- Breen, J.G. (1971) 'Aboriginal languages of western Queensland (preliminary version)', *Linguistic Communications* 5: 1-88.
- Breen, J.G. (1976) 'Warluwara and Bularnu' in R. M. W. Dixon (ed.) *Grammatical Categories in Australian Languages*, Linguistic Series No. 22, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra. pp. 250-257, 331-335, 586-590.
- Breen, J.G. (1981) *The Mayi Languages of the Queensland Gulf Country*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Press.
- Breen, J.G. (1990) *Salvage Studies of Western Queensland Aboriginal Languages*. Australia Pacific Linguistics Canberra.
- Breen, J.G. (2000a) *Grammar and Dictionary of Bularnu*. Ms. Institute for Aboriginal Development Alice Springs NT.
- Breen, J.G. (2000b) *Grammar and Dictionary of Warluwarra*. Ms. Institute for Aboriginal Development Alice Springs NT.
- Breen, J.G. (2000c) *Grammar and Dictionary of Wakaya*. Ms. Institute for Aboriginal Development Alice Springs NT.
- Breen, J.G. (2000d) *Injilanji vocabulary and grammar notes*. Institute for Aboriginal Development Alice Springs NT.
- Breen, J.G. (2003) 'Wanyi and Garrwa comparative data' in N Evans (ed.) *The non-Pama-Nyungan languages of northern Australia* Pacific Linguistics Canberra.
- Carew, M. (1993) 'Proto-Warluwarric Phonology' BA Honours dissertation, The University of Melbourne.
- Chadwick, N. (1971) 'Ngarndji Wordlist and Phonological Key' in *Papers on the Languages of Australian Aboriginals* Australian Aboriginal Studies 38. AIAS Canberra:34-45.
- Curr, E. M. (1887) *The Australian Race: its origins, languages, customs, place of landing in Australia and the routes by which it spread itself over that continent*. John Ferres Government Printer: Melbourne.
- Furby, C.E. (1974) 'Garrawa Phonology' *Papers in Australian Linguistics* 7 Pacific Linguistics A-37 Canberra: 1-11.
- Hansen, K.C. and Hansen, L.E. (1978) *The core of Pintupi grammar* Institute for Aboriginal Development Alice Springs NT.
- Harvey, M., Nordlinger, R. & Green, I. (2003) 'A prehistory of class marking in the Barkly languages' paper presented at the annual conference of the Australian Linguistic Society Newcastle.

Linguistic Resources (continued):

Keen, S. (1983) 'Yukulta', in RMW Dixon and BJ Blake (eds.) *Handbook of Australian Languages* 3:190-304. ANU Press Canberra.

Leeding, V. (1976) 'Garrawa' in RMW Dixon (ed.) *Grammatical Categories in Australian Languages* AIAS Canberra: 382-390.

Marsh, J. (1992) *Martu Wangka-English Dictionary*. SIL Berrimah NT.

McConvell, P. and Laughren, M. (2001) 'The Ngumpin-Yapa group' Paper at Workshop on Subgrouping in Australian languages, International Conference on Historical Linguistics, La Trobe, Melbourne.

Macgillivray, A. (1886) The Flinders and Cloncurry Rivers. In E. M. Curr *The Australian Race: Its Origins, Languages, Customs, Place of Landing in Australia and the Routes by which it Spread Itself over that Continent*, pp.340-5. Melbourne: John Ferres, Government Printer.

Nordlinger, R. (1998) *A Grammar of Wambaya, Northern Territory (Australia)* C-140 Pacific Linguistics Canberra.

Osborne, C. (1965) [wa:nji] Elicitation Material obtained at Doomadgee Mission 26th November-8th December, 1965. Ms 48pages. (Photocopy MS1342 AIATSIS, Canberra)

Osborne, C. (1966) [wa:nji] Elicitation Material obtained at Doomadgee Mission April 1966. Ms. (Photocopy MS1343 AIATSIS, Canberra)

Pensalfini, R. (1997) 'Jingulu grammar, dictionary and texts' Doctoral dissertation Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Yallop, C.L. (1969) 'The Aljawara and their territory', *Oceania* 39(3): 187-197.

General References and Further Reading:

Aird, M. (1996) *I know a few words: Talking about Aboriginal Languages*. Keeaira Publications: Southport.

Australia (1992) *Report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Maintenance*. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Australian Government Printing Service: Canberra.

Board of Studies NSW (2001) *Working with Aboriginal Communities: A Guide to Community Consultation and Protocols*. Board of Studies NSW: Sydney.

Curriculum Corporation (1995) *A Resource Guide for Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies K-12*. Curriculum Corporation: Melbourne.

Curriculum Corporation (1995) *National Principles and Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies*. Curriculum Corporation: Melbourne.

Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET) (1995) *Langwiji comes to School*. Curriculum Corporation: Canberra.

Dixon, R. and Blake, B. (Eds) (1981) *Handbook of Australian Languages*. The Australian National University Press; Canberra.

Dixon, R. and Ramson, W. (1992) *Australian Aboriginal words in English*. Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

Eades, D. (1995) *Aboriginal English*. Board of Studies NSW: Sydney.

Edwards, R. (Ed) (2001) *Dictionary of Torres Strait languages*. Rams Skull Press: Sydney.

Harman, D. & Henderson, J. (Eds) (1994) *Aboriginal Languages in Education*, IAD Press: Alice Springs.

Horton, D. (1994) *Aboriginal Australia*. (Map) Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: Canberra.

McConvell, P. and Thieberger, N. (Department of the Environment and Heritage) (2001) Australia State of the Environment Technical Paper Series (Natural and Cultural Heritage) Series 2: Weblink: www.deh.gov.au/soe/techpapers/languages/main1.html#state

Schmidt, A. (1990) *The Loss of Australia's Aboriginal Language Heritage*. Aboriginal Studies Press: Canberra.

Thieberger, N. and McGregor, W. (Eds) (1994) *Macquarie Aboriginal Words: a dictionary of words from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages*. Macquarie University: North Ryde.