Indigenous Language Resources Longreach and Central-West Qld

all yours

This Information Guide has been developed to support individuals and communities in their research into the Aboriginal languages of Longreach and Central-West Queensland. It complements a State Library community language workshop held in Longreach in June 2010 and Barcaldine in August 2018

There exist minimal language materials relating to the Longreach region; however there has been work undertaken during the 1970-80's in surrounding areas of the Central West, notably by Breen. In terms of recent linguistic work in the area, there has been an absence of any definitive studies. Despite this limited research base, there has been some ongoing language activity in terms of community-based projects to revive or reclaim languages of the region.

Iningai has long been recognised as the main language group of Longreach, however the forced removals has impacted on language and cultural revival. The region also has several neighbouring language groups which have similar or related languages. This is characteristic of their interaction with each other for trading, social and ceremonial activities.

There is enormous diversity across languages in the Central-West and North-West regions, which is based on the Eyre Basin. In addition to the Dieri trading markets, regional groups also interacted with each other along the river/drainage systems of the Cooper, Thomson and Diamantina crossing the contemporary state boundaries.

Language Groups of the Central West, include the following groups:

Mt Isa Region

- Mount Isa – Kalkatunga/Kalkadoon, Yalarrnga, Yanda

- Cloncurry – Mitakoodi

- Richmond – Mbara, Wunumara

- Julia Creek – Jgawun, Mayi-Kulan

- Hughenden - Yirandali

Winton: Guwa

Boulia: Pitta-Pitta, Wangkamana

Longreach: Iningai and Kuungkari

Desert Region [Birdsville, Windorah, Innamincka]

- Wambaya, Alawa, Ngandji, Wakaya, Bularnu, Waluwarra, Wangkangurru, Birria, Maiawali, Karuwali, Wangkumara, Mithaka

Aramac: Dalleburra

South-West Queensland

- Bidjara

- Margany

- Kulilla

Languages Today

This traditional landscape changed dramatically with the settlement of the Longreach region in the late 1870-1900's period as the pastoral expansion spread to the Central West. Those Aboriginals that survived the frontier conflict of this time were pushed to the fringe of towns in camps and later moved to missions such as Deebing Creek (via Ipswich), Taroom and later Woorabinda and Palm Island. There is evidence that many local Aboriginals remained in the area providing the workforce for cattle properties.

The Longreach region today has a small but active Aboriginal population comprising descendants of local groups as well as groups drawn from the surrounding regions, notably South-West Queensland communities as well as western centres such as Winton, Windorah and Boulia. Many of these people have moved to Longreach for economic reasons as rural centres decline; however they still maintain familial and cultural links back to country.

Despite this fragmentation of Aboriginal culture, there are some language materials/resources, including recordings of speakers for the Central-West language groups – linguists such as Blake and Breen undertook linguistic surveys in the 1970-80's; however these tended to be on surrounding languages and not Iningai. In addition, there have been ongoing community-based initiatives to revive languages and culture in the Longreach and Central-West region.

Desert Channels Queensland, Longreach has been actively involved with Traditional Owners in the Lake Eyre Basin to create a selection of Picture Dictionaries. Central Queensland Language Centre, based at Gidarjil in Bundaberg supports language communities in this region.

Sources

There are additional reference materials for Longreach and Central 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://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/using-collection/search-collection

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. AIATSIS has a community access policy to provide copies of materials back to communities. The *Select Bibliographies* provide a list of materials held by AIATSIS relating to specific languages, including those from Longreach and Central West Queensland.

A full list of these can be found at: http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/language-and-people-bibliographies

The Longreach area languages have been grouped under their respective names, e.g.:

- Iningai: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/iningai_yiningay.pdf
- Kalkadoon: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/kalkatungu_kalkadoon.pdf
- Maruwali: https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/majuli_maiwali.pdf
- Mithaka: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/midhaga_mithaka.pdf
- PittaPitta: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/pitta_pitta_bittha_bittha.pdf
- Wangkumara: http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/wangkumara_wanggumara.pdf

Language Resources – Longreach and Central-West Queensland

The following list of print resources and other materials are useful starting points for language activities in schools, communities or public libraries – these items are held at the State Library of Queensland, while further reference materials may be found in local/regional collections, including public libraries. Out-of-print materials may not be readily available and held in collecting institutions such as the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (Canberra).

Linguistic/Language Resources in State Library Collections:

Aguas, E.F. (1968) 'Gudandji' in *Papers in Australian Linguistics 3*. Pacific Linguistics A-14 Canberra: 1-20. **Q 499.15 kin**

Blake, B. and Breen, J. G. (2007) *An illustrated dictionary of Yulluna by domains.* **J 499.51 ILL**

Blake, B.J. (1967) *A brief description of the Kalkatungu language.* **GSC 499.15 1967**

Blake, B.J. (1979b) "Pitta-Pitta". In Dixon, R. M. W. & Blake, B. (Eds), *The handbook of Australian languages* 1, 182-242. **G 499.15 1979**

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. **J 499.15 ABO**

Breen, J. G. and Blake, B. (2007) *The grammar of Yalarnnga: a language of western Queensland.* **J 499.152 BRE**

Breen, J.G. (1976) 'Warluwara and Bularnu' in R. M. W. Dixon (ed.) *Grammatical Categories in Australian Languages,* Linguistic Series No. 22. **G 499.15 1976**

Breen, J.G. (1981) *The Mayi Languages of the Queensland Gulf Country*. **J 499.15 bre**

Breen, J.G. (1990) *Salvage Studies of Western Queensland Aboriginal Lang*uages. **J 499.15 bre**

Breen, J.G. (2003) 'Wanyi and Garrwa comparative data' in N Evans (ed.) *The non-Pama-Nyungan languages of northern Australia*. **J 499.15 NON**

Breen, J. G. (2004) *Innamincka talk: a grammar of the Innamincka dialect of Yandruwandha with notes on other dialects*. **J 499.15 BRE**

Breen, J. G. (2004) *Innamincka words: Yandruwandha dictionary and stories*. **J 499.15 INN**

Chadwick, N. (1971) 'Ngarndji Wordlist and Phonological Key' in *Papers on the Languages of Australian Aboriginals*. Australian Aboriginal Studies 38. AIAS Canberra: 34-45. **SER 499.15**

Conrick, P. (1988) *Dictionary of Dieri-Yantrawantra-Wangkumara tribes of the Cooper-Tibooburra-Innamincka areas*. **Q 499.15 con**

Crombie, J. (2014) Children's Talking Book. Arluwa Wangka-Thimpa-Rda. **21203914340002061**.

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*. **RBF 572.994 cur**

Desert Channels Queensland (2013) *Kalkadoon Pictorial Dictionary*. **JUVQ 499.9915 KAL**

Desert Channels Queensland (2013) *Pitta Pitta Pictorial Dictionary*. **JUVQ 499.9915 PIT**

Desert Channels Queensland (2013) *Waluwarra Pictorial Dictionary*. **JUVQ 499.9915 WAL**

Desert Channels Queensland (2013) *Koa Pictorial Dictionary*. **JUVQ 499.9915 KOA**

Desert Channels Queensland (2013) *Yulluna Pictorial Dictionary*. **JUVQ 499.9915 YUL**

Linguistic/Language Resources in State Library Collections (continued):

Evans, N. (2003) (Ed.) *The non-Pama-Nyungan languages of northern Australia*. **J 499.15 NON**

Hercus, L. and Sutton, P. (1986) *This is what happened: historical narratives by Aborigines*. **J 994.0049915 thi**

Holmer, N. (1988) *Notes on Some Queensland Languages*. **J 499.15 HOL**

Howitt, A.W. (reprint) (1996) *The Native Tribes of South-East Australia*. [**Online access through State Library Membership**]

Keen, S. (1983) 'Yukulta', in RMW Dixon and BJ Blake (eds.) *Handbook of Australian Languages* 3:190-304. **G 499.15 1979**

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. **RBF 572.994 cur**

Meston, A. (undated) Archibald Meston Papers Undated. **OM64-17**

Nekes, H., Wurms, E. and McGregor, W. (2006) *Australian Languages*. **J 499.15 NEK**

Nordlinger, R. (1998) *A Grammar of Wambaya, Northern Territory (Australia)* C-140 Pacific Linguistics.. **G 499.15 1998**

Pensalfini, R. (2003) *A grammar of Jingulu grammar: an Aboriginal language of the Northern Territory*. **J 499.15 PEN**

Pittman, R. and Kerr, H. (Eds) (1964) *Papers on the Languages of the Australian Aborigines*. **Q 499.15 pap**

Prowse, D. (1994) *English, Kalkadoon illustrated language book*. **P 499.15 pro**

Yallop, C. (1969) 'The Aljawara and their territory', *Oceania* 39(3): 187-197. [**Online access via State Library Databases**]

Yallop, C. (1977) *Alyawarra: an aboriginal language of Central Australia*. **G 499.15 1977**

General References and Further Reading in State Library Collections:

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. **G 499.15 1992**

Dixon, R. and Blake, B. (Eds) (1981) *Handbook of Australian Languages*. **G 499.15 1979**

Dixon, R. and Ramson, W. (1992) *Australian Aboriginal words in English*. **J 499.15 AUS**

Gason, S. (1874) *The Dieyerie tribe of Australian Aborigines*. **RBJ 305.8 gas**

Hercus, L.; Hodges, F and Simpson, J. (2002) *The land is a map: placenames of Indigenous origin in Australia*. **Q 919.4003 LAN**

Horton, D. (1994) *Aboriginal Australia*. (Map) **M 804 1999 04700 E**

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

Roth, W. (1897) *Ethnological studies among the North-West-Central Queensland Aborigines*. **NAT 572.9943 rot**

Thieberger, N. and McGregor, W. (Eds) (1994) *Macquarie Aboriginal Words: a dictionary of words from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages*. **J 499.15 m'qu**

Further Details

For further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland

Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

PO Box 3488, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.

Telephone: (07) 3842 9836   Fax: (07) 3842 9893

State Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Webpages:
www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages

State Library Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Blog:
http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/