



Engaging community language researchers with Indigenous languages collections.

**AIATSIS National Indigenous Research
Conference**

Thursday 23 March 2017

State Library of Queensland

*Snapshot of Indigenous
Languages Project*

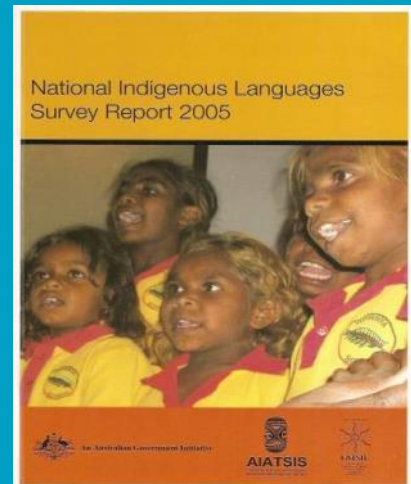
Background

National Indigenous Languages Survey Report 2005 (NILS 1) –
catalyst for SLQ's commitment to supporting Indigenous
Language Centres and communities

SLQ has been delivering language activities since 2006

Indigenous Languages Strategy developed 2007

Indigenous Languages Project funded through Australian
Government – Department of Communications and the Arts:
Indigenous Languages and Arts program



Team

Des Crump, Indigenous Languages Coordinator

Rose Warsow, Project Officer, Indigenous Languages Project

Pitta-Pitta
Mingin Bidjara Umpila Nguri
Wuli-wuli Yidindji Malintji
Kutjala Gangulu Djirrbal Irukandji Yugambah Minjungbal Migunburri Dalleburra Wangan
Jarowair Goenpul Yalarrnga Injinoo-Ikya Yuggerabul Guugu-Yimithirr Mamu Guugu-Yalanji Dharawala
Girramay Wik-Mungkan Warluwarra Kalaw-Lagaw-Ya Goreng-Goreng Mootaburra
Kuu-mu-inh Kuuk-Thaayorre Yuwaalaraay Duungidjau Wangerriburra Barrunggam
Ngugi Bollongin Mununjali Kuku-Nyungkul Yangga Woppaburra Miyan Ganggalida Kalaw-Kala-Ya Warrgamay Uutaalnganu Birra Waka-Waka Yinwun
Mbara Koochulbura Kombumerri Garumngar Gunggari Jagera Gamilaraay Lamalama Meriam-Mir
Garrawa Terreburra Bigambul Djabugay Ngadjon Dharumbal Kalkatunga Kunngkari Gidabal Kunjen
Maiawali Kabi-Kabi Wadjigu Gudjal Turrubul Iningai Birinburr Jandawal Giabal Guwa
Karuwali Gubba Uradhi Mithaka

100 (approx.)
languages in
Queensland

50% are
spoken in
some
form

< 20 are strong
2 are living/thriving

5 Indigenous Language Centres support community language revival and maintenance



Language Research at SLQ

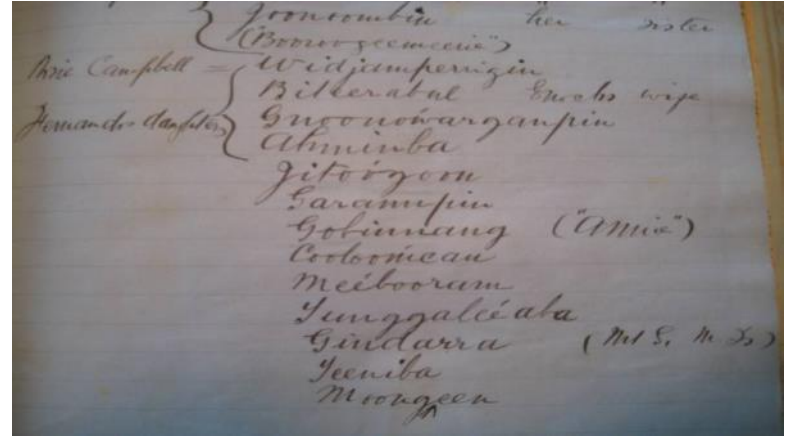
A snapshot of researching languages
at the State Library of Queensland.

Language Materials at SLQ

- The State Library collections include a diverse/extensive range of language materials, particularly relating to Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
 - Web-based Materials
 - Original Materials
 - Published Materials
 - Audio/Visual Materials

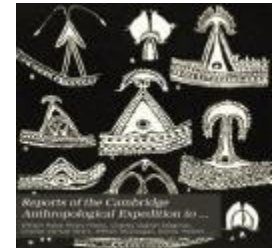
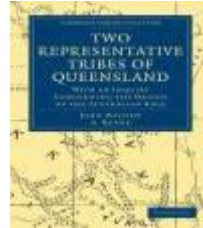
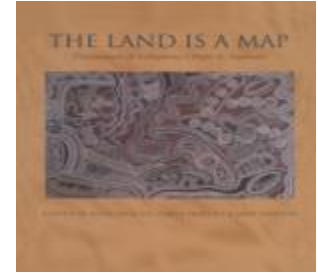
Original Materials

- **Archibald Meston Notebooks:**
OM64-17 – A collection of press cuttings, notes, correspondence relating mainly to Aborigines in Queensland, in particular, to language.
- **Margaret Lawrie Collection of Torres Strait Islands Material:**
TR1791 – Material collected by Margaret Lawrie from 1964-73 relating to Torres Strait Islander languages, histories, genealogies, cultures, customs, art, etc.



Published Materials

- Haddon, A. (1898) *Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Strait*. Vols. 1-6. [Q994.38 cam](#)
- Holmer, N. (1983) *Linguistic Survey of South-Eastern Queensland*. [J499.15 hol](#)
- Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation (2004) *Dictionary of the Butchulla Language*. [499.15 2004](#)
- Mathew, J. and Keane, A. (2010) *Two Representative Tribes of Queensland*. [J306.089991](#)
- Steele, J. G. (1984) *Aboriginal Pathways in Southeast Queensland and the Richmond River*. [Q994.3102 ste](#)
- Thieberger, N. (1995) *Paper and Talk: a manual for reconstituting material in Australian Indigenous languages from historical sources*. [J499.15 pap](#)
- Watson, F. J. (1944) *Vocabularies of Four Representative Tribes of South Eastern Queensland*. [REFJ 499.15 wat](#)



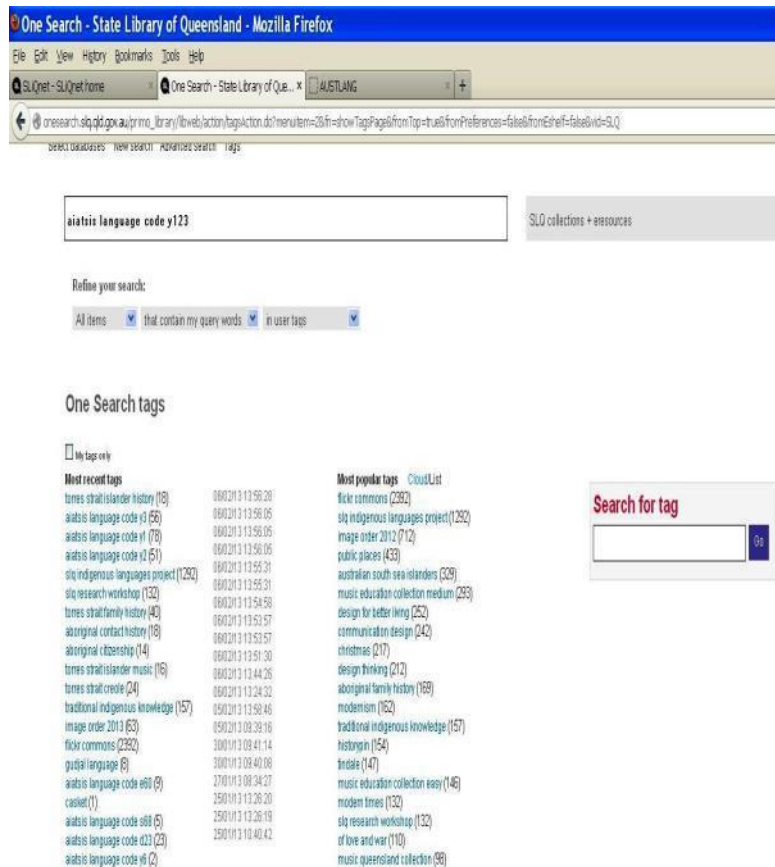
Audio-Visual Materials

- Sound Recordings, Tapes, CDs, etc. of language, including songs, stories and linguistic recordings. For example, ***Gunggari Language Audio Cassettes*** is a collection of five cassette recordings that were made in 1974 with several Gunggari language speakers from the Mitchell area.
- DVDs, Films, etc. on cultural topics either speaking in language or speaking about language in communities. For example, [***Retold: A retelling of stories and songs from Myths and Legends of the Torres Strait by Margaret Lawrie***](#) (2010) is a SLQ project that involved Torres Strait Islander community members retelling the stories that were collected during 1964-1973 and providing additional cultural information to complement the original stories.

State Library of Queensland

Discoverability

OneSearch – ‘tags’



- ~2,600 items ‘tagged’ for language content
- ~350 languages/dialects [AIATSIS Codes]

InfoGuides

- These InfoGuides support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and the general public in identifying materials within State Library collections related to their community or region.
- The InfoGuides relate specifically to State Library collections and are also located on the [SLQ Indigenous Languages webpages](#).



Queensland Indigenous Language Centres

There are several Indigenous Language Centres in Queensland that support the revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Activities may include language research, exhibitions and community training as well as the recording and/or documentation of Indigenous languages in Queensland. Other groups such as Aboriginal Land Councils, Cultural Organisations, Elders' Groups, etc. may also be undertaking activities involving languages.

Cape York Bama Languages Aboriginal Corporation (Cairns): This centre supports language activities in Far North Queensland from Cairns to Cape York. Address: 69 Little Street Cairns 4870. Phone: (07) 4032 0254

Central Queensland Language Centre (Bundaberg): This centre supports language activities in Central Queensland from Rockhampton to Maryborough and west to Longreach and the NT border. Address: Central Queensland Language Centre, Gidjanji Aboriginal Development Corporation Ltd, 36 Quay Street [PO Box 27723], Bundaberg, Q. 4670. Phone: (07) 4153 6700 Email: colanguagecentre@gidjanji.com.au

Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation (Hervey Bay): This organisation supports Aboriginal language and cultural revival in the Hervey Bay/Wide Bay area. Address: 352 The Esplanade Scamess 4655. Phone: (07) 4124 4814 Email: korra@biopond.net.au

North Queensland Regional Aboriginal Corporation Language Centre (Cairns): A partnership between Cairns and Townsville language workers, this centre supports language activities in North Queensland from Sarina to Cairns and west to Mt Isa. Address: PO Box 266 North Cairns Queensland 4870. Phone: (07) 4053 4698 or (07) 4053 6018 Fax: (07) 4032 3017 Email: poracle@biopond.com

Yugambah Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre (Beeleigh): Yugambah Museum is based at Beeleigh and serves as a language and research centre for Southern Queensland. Address: Cnr Martens Street and Plantation Road Beeleigh Queensland 4207. Phone: (07) 3807 6155 or (07) 3807 6229 Fax: (07) 3807 6144 Email: info@yugambah.com Website: www.yugambah.com

Further Information

Should you require further information relating to Indigenous languages at the State Library of Queensland, please contact:

Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland
Stanley Place, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.
PO Box 3488, South Brisbane Qld. 4101.
Telephone: (07) 3840 7666 Fax: (07) 3842 9126

SLQ Indigenous Languages Webpages: www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/ind/languages

The Indigenous Languages Strategy and associated activities at the State Library of Queensland are supported through funding from the Indigenous Languages Support Program (ILS) from the Australian Government Office for The Arts, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.



Wordlists

- Wordlists have been extracted from State Library collections.
- Collated and compiled using Miromaa software program.
- Longreach example – workshop in 2010; view in Longreach was ‘there’s no language left or recorded’.
- Presented community with ~300 words from Iningai language plus 500+ words from neighbouring languages.

English	Longreach District				
Extra Info:	Linguistic Comment:				
Orig. Rec. Translation	Original Recorded Spelling	Source:	Page:	Word ID	
children		wobinyella			
children	- wobinyella	CLRR2	8	230	
children		woorna			
children	- woorna	CLRR	10	37	
cold		medurra			
cold	- medurra	CLRR2	9	257	
cold		mittara			
cold	- mittara	CLRR3	71	161	
come on		kower			
'Kowal' also listed for come on. come on	- kower	CLRR2	9	290	
come on		oakoo			
come on	- oakoo	CLRR3	71	194	
come on		woori			
come on	- woori	CLRR	11	104	
crayfish		boogal			
Cf. 'boogal'					
crayfish	- boogal	CLRR2	8	209	
crayfish		munya			
See also: 'kankoorra' = lobster					
crayfish	- munya	CLRR	10	16	
crow		worder			
crow	- worder	CLRR2	8	205	

State Library of Queensland

Accessibility

9

Research
Discovery
Workshops
since 2009

225 Participants from
Torres Strait, Northern
Peninsula Area, Cape York,
Gulf, North Queensland,
Central Queensland,
Fraser Coast, and
Southern Queensland

85+ Queensland languages researched

15

Regional
workshops
offered
since 2011

300+ Participants from
NPA, North Queensland,
Central Queensland and
Southern Queensland

50+ Queensland languages supported

4

Language
Residencies
offered
since 2013

13 Participants from
Torres Strait, North
Queensland, Central
Queensland, Fraser Coast,
and Southern Queensland

20+ Queensland languages researched

State Library of Queensland

New Knowledge

Range of activities, etc.

- SLQ in partnership with community to produce new knowledge:
 - “Say g’day” in an Indigenous language
 - Yuwibara Welcome & tribute to National Anthem
 - Translate 11th Century Turkish Text into Yuggera language for Art Exhibition
 - ‘Retold’ Margaret Lawrie ‘Myths & Legends’
 - New Media Toolkit
 - Digitisation of collection items
 - RNLD DRIL Training
 - SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog

Say G'day wordlists

- List of words for 'Good day' in over 50 Queensland Indigenous languages, including South-East Queensland.
- www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages/word-lists/say-gday-in-an-indigenous-language
- Included on Yugambah Language [App](#)

Yuwibara Welcome

- *Binbee kurri.* [Good day]
- *Nhagani binbee yindu Mackayga.* [It is good to see you here in Mackay]
- *Yinhami nhandigu Yuwibara* [This is the land of the Yuwibara.]
- *Guwinygan nhandigu nagalinhi yindugu.* [The spirits will be watching over you.]

Rise up Country! *Yindalba nhandigu*

Australians all let us rejoice

Binbee wara wanggarany

(All of us are/be glad/good)

For we are young and free

Binbee wara ngana

(We are good and proper)

We've golden soils and wealth for toils

Binbee nhandi woorwaya

(Very good country)

Our home is girt by sea

Yamba gudyirringa

([Our] home by the sea)

Our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare

Nhandigu gubal gambala

Bunggubarri ngana

(Beauty covers our country, we are rich)

In history's page let every stage

Gubunna ngali narra

(Our song/story (is) forever/always)

Advance Australia fair

Yindalba nhandigu

(Rise up country!)

In joyful strains then let us sing

Bandayuribara ngalingga

(Let us sing loud/strong)

Advance Australia Fair

Yindalba nhandigu

(Rise up country!)

Slavs and Tatars

It is the tongue that brings a man esteem, so that he finds fortune,
Jurgung yagar malerra nanga budgeri [tongue makes man to-see money]
and it is the tongue that brings a man dishonour, so that he loses his
head.

Jurgung yagar malerra wahli baludirryarri gahm wanahla [(the) tongue
makes man bad will lose head belonging to-him]



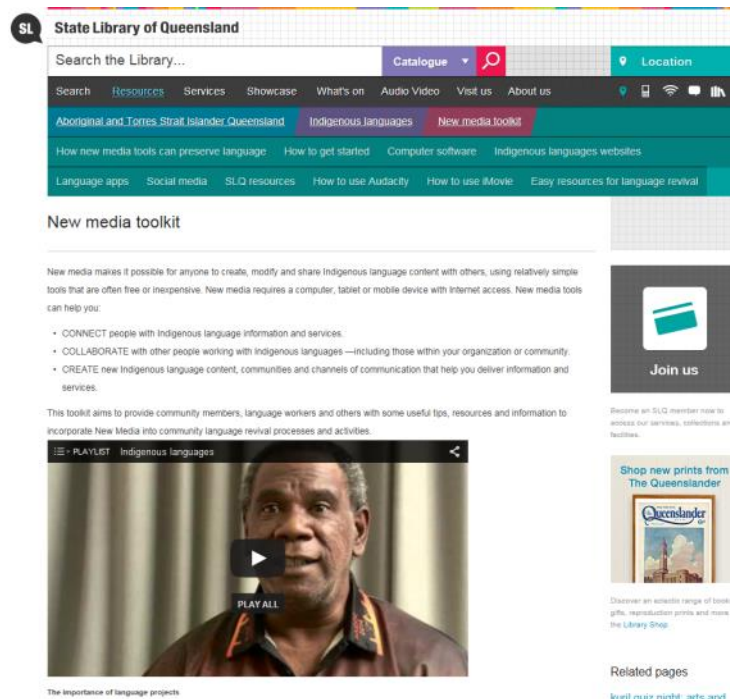
‘Retold’

- A retelling of stories and songs from Myths and Legends of the Torres Strait by Margaret Lawrie (2010):
www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/contemporary-stories/retold
- Gelam:
www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/contemporary-stories/retold/gelam



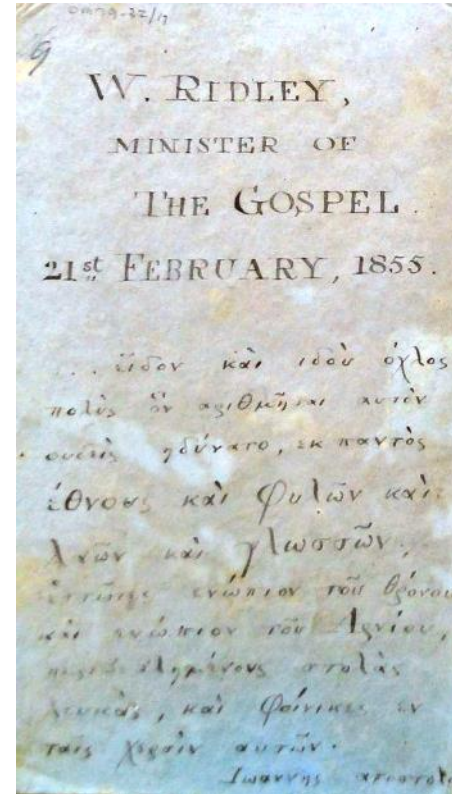
New Media Toolkit

- The toolkit aims to provide community members, language workers and others with some useful tips, resources and information to incorporate New Media into community language revival processes and activities.
- Available [online](#) via SLQ website



Digitisation

- SLQ digitises collection items for community access and preservation.
- **Key items:** Margaret Lawrie; Tindale; Meston Notebooks; Ridley Notebook; Watson Four Vocabularies; etc..



RNLD Training Workshop

- Partnership with RNLD to build capacity of community language workers.
- 15 participants undertook flex-mode Documenting and Recording Indigenous Languages [DRIL] training
- Further workshops at Aurukun [Western Cape York] and Cairns
- Potential to expand training in 2016-2017-2018, including Certificate III/IV level courses



State Library of Queensland

*Promotion of
Indigenous languages*

Social Media

- State Library has conducted community training and skills sessions in social media
- SLQ also uses social media to raise awareness and promote Queensland's Indigenous languages.
 - Facebook, Twitter
 - Blogs
 - Pin Interest, History Pin, Flickr
 - SLQ YouTube
 - SLQ Vimeo



Indigenous Languages Blog

- Use of Blog to increase community awareness and promote Queensland Indigenous languages.
- Portal for State Library, IKCs, Indigenous Language Centres, Community Language Workers and others to share and network about Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- Indigenous Languages Blog launched in June 2014: >10,000 visits with average ~500 hits per month; average 3:25 mins on page.
- <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>



IKC Blog

- IKC Blog to increase awareness and promote the work of Queensland's Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKC)
- Local collections - histories, stories, languages.
- <http://ikc.org.au>



Language in the News

- Email distribution list to share news items, research articles, etc. relating to Indigenous languages
- 150+ recipients, including language centres, IKCs, language workers, etc.

Dear Colleagues

Selection of stories/news items from across a range of media/websites relating to Indigenous Languages:



Teaching kids to 'code-switch' in remote Pilbara communities

"But really they want the kids to learn 'whitefella ways', so they can code switch [between cultures] when they're in a Originally established as a bilingual school, language still plays an important role in Strelley students' education.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-10/teaching-kids-in-remote-pilbara-communities/6600564>



Malthouse Theatre's The Shadow King, 2013. Photo by Jeff Bailey.

Malthouse Theatre casts a long shadow

State Library of Queensland

SLQ Contact Details

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- SLQ Indigenous Languages Blog: <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ilq/>
- SLQ New Media Toolkit:
www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/languages/toolkit



all yours