

Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre

Muurrbay auspices Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre, a regional language activity that provides language revitalisation support to Aboriginal communities of coastal NSW.

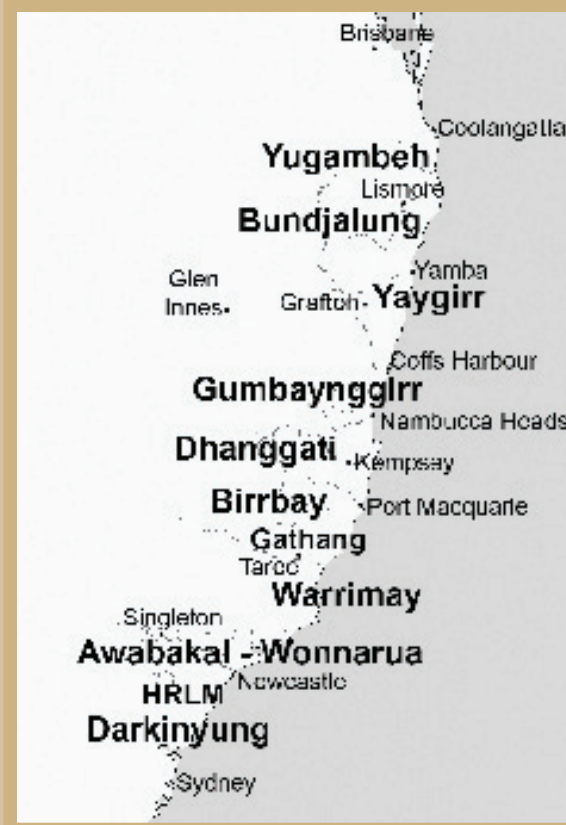
Seven languages are supported, from the Queensland border to the Hawkesbury River: Bundjalung – Yugambah dialect chain; Yaygirr; Gumbaynggirr; Dhanggati; Gathang (Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay); Hunter River & Lake Macquarie Language (Awabakal/Wonnarua); and Darkinyung.

We work closely with Elders and local language, culture and educational organisations to conduct research, publish accessible grammars and dictionaries and develop engaging educational courses and resources. Recent projects include:

- publishing the Yaygirr dictionary and grammar
- developing Certificate I and II courses in several languages
- creating an online dictionary resources in partnership with First Voices, Canada
- supporting language use in new domains including radio, songs, plays, festivals, and education and government departments
- publishing Dhanggati and Gathang language learning resources with CDs
- videoing language, culture and stories of Bundjalung Elders
- translating songs, prayers, speeches and signage projects.



Mandy Davis teaching the 2011 Great Lakes TAFE students. MRALC staff, with the Gathang Language Group, are developing Certificates I and II in Aboriginal Languages - Gathang, they then support Gathang language teachers to deliver the course.



Languages supported by Muurrbay - Many Rivers

Muurrbay Aboriginal Language
and Culture Co-operative

Many Rivers Aboriginal
Language Centre

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Muurrbay

Aboriginal Language
and Culture Co-operative
Nambucca Heads



Muurrbay Tree by Gumbaynggirr-Bundjalung
artist Sharon Smith

Muurrbay aims to support Aboriginal people, particularly Gumbaynggirr, in the revival and maintenance of their language and culture, and so strengthen their sense of identity, self-esteem and links to country.

Muurrbay

Publications

Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative is a leading Aboriginal language centre and publisher of quality research. The Co-op began in 1986, when Gumbaynggirr Elders joined together to revive their language. Muurrbay means 'white fig tree' in the Gumbaynggirr language, the white fig playing an important role in the Dreamtime.

Muurrbay is a registered training organisation and is based in the old church on Bellwood Road where Gumbaynggirr language classes began in 1997. We continue to grow as a centre for Aboriginal language and cultural activities, including teaching Gumbaynggirr language to adults and supporting Gumbaynggirr language teachers in schools; working with local artists and musicians; and encouraging the use of Gumbaynggirr in all areas of life.



2012 Gumbaynggirr language class at Muurrbay

We also have an Information Technology

hub providing Aboriginal people with computers, internet access and administrative support in studying, developing projects and applying for work.

Muurrbay works with State and National bodies including government, education departments and Aboriginal languages and cultural organisations, advising on policy development and practice in Aboriginal language revival and teaching.



Muurrbay Staff

L-R: Dallas Walker, Pauline Hooler, Ken Walker (Chairperson), Gary Williams and Sue Tomkins

Muurrbay has published widely in the area of Aboriginal language and culture including six grammar-dictionaries of NSW Aboriginal languages, teaching resources and short stories. In-depth research, community consultation and peer review ensure good quality grammar-dictionaries which provide a strong foundation for community language revitalisation and reinforce the important status of these languages.

Muurrbay was proud to publish the ground-breaking survey by Jim Wafer and Amanda Lissarrague *A Handbook of Aboriginal Languages of NSW and the ACT*. This is a valuable reference and educational resource, useful to Aboriginal people who want to revitalise their languages and to those in the broader community who want to know more about our rich linguistic heritage.

Educational resources include *Barriyala: Let's Work Gumbaynggirr Language Student Workbooks* and *Mayalambala-Let's Move It* a poster-based teaching resource with over 200 pictures of people and things that learners can manipulate. These resources can be adapted to support different languages.

Muurrbay also markets the autobiography *Nganyundiya Miimingundiya Jagunda (Into My Mother's Country)* by Gumbaynggirr Elder, Aunty Jessie Williams. Aunty Jessie was born in Nambucca Heads in 1924, her fascinating life story gives insight into Aboriginal ways of healing.



Creator Beings Birrugan and Gawnggan
by Gumbaynggirr-Bundjalung artist Sharon Smith

Booklist

- A handbook of Aboriginal languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
- A salvage grammar and word list of the language from the Hunter River & Lake Macquarie.
- Dhanggati grammar and dictionary with Dhanggati stories.
- Gumbaynggirr bijaarr jandaygam, ngaawa gugaarrigam: Gumbaynggirr dictionary and learner's grammar.
- Darkinyung grammar and dictionary: revitalising a language from historical sources.
- Gathang grammar and dictionary with Gathang stories.
- Yaygirr dictionary and grammar.
- Barriyala: let's work Gumbaynggirr language student workbook 1, 2 & 3.
- Mayalambala - Let's move it.
- Bamay possum's party (book & CD).
- Dulaybam dunggiirr grey-faced wallaby and koala, A Gumbaynggirr dreaming story.

For more information, and to place an order, go to www.muurrbay.org.au or email your order to mralcadmin@westnet.com.au



Our range of publications