RESEARCH REPORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region

South Australia

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Introduction

The Tribunal’s Research Unit prepares bibliographies as a ready reference for anyone wanting to locate readily available, published material about Indigenous Australian people within a particular region or locality. The bibliographies are produced for general library use from reports prepared by the Tribunal for parties to native title mediations. The bibliographies are not exhaustive reference lists about any particular Indigenous group, nor is the published material necessarily an accurate or insightful report of Indigenous society. The Research Unit may update bibliographies from time to time, usually because a new research report has been reproduced for parties to mediation.

It should be noted that the contents and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are often prepared in four to eight weeks by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and Tribunal librarian. Generally most of the references sought for these reports are available only from the AIATSIS library, which in turn has limited resources available to supply material. Therefore care is taken to request only that material which appears relevant to the scope of a particular report.

Disclaimer: The bibliographies are a list of materials that have been used by the Research Unit of the Tribunal to provide background information for native title mediations. The Tribunal forms no view on the accuracy, completeness, or relevance of the reference material cited in these bibliographies. Most of this material is held at libraries and is available to the public. The Tribunal library may be able to assist in locating items.
First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee Region Report

This report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation process involving the First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee Region Native Title Claim (SC98/003) in South Australia. The circumference of the claim area extends from the western boundary of Chowilla Regional Reserve to the north of Renmark, south along the border of South Australia and New South Wales, and South Australia and Victoria to the town of Peebinga. From there it runs west across the northern border of Billiatt Conservation Park and then south to include the northern portion of Carcuma Conservation Park. It then travels generally north passing on the western side of the town of Nildottie, Murbpook and Morgan.

Maps produced by linguists and anthropologists show a number of language or tribal names overlapping or within the claim area: Yirawirung, Ngayawung, Ngarkat, Ngawait, Ngangurugu, Ngintait, Danggali, Maraura and Barkindji. This report, then, is based on publicly and readily available information relevant to the location of these groups.

Research Method

The research material used for this report is based largely on a search of the AIATSIS on-line catalogue supplemented by relevant references found in Tindale's (1974) *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*. The following general references were also used:

- Capell 1963, *Linguistic Survey of Australia*;
- Davidson 1938, *A Preliminary Register of Australian Tribes and Hordes*;
- Horton 1994, *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*;
- O'Grady, Wurm and Hale 1966, *Aboriginal Languages of Australia: A Preliminary Classification*;
• Tindale 1940, 'Distribution of Australian Aboriginal tribes: a field survey';
• Tindale 1974, Aboriginal Tribes of Australia; and

A search was then made of the print collection of the AIATSIS catalogue\(^1\) using the following names in the 'language group' field: Danggali, Yirawirung, Ngayawung, Ngarkat, Ngawait, Ngangurugu, Marawara, Meru and Ngintait. Additionally, a search was completed using the language group name Meru: The results are outlined below:

Danggali — 25  
Yirawirung — 9  
Ngayawung — 34  
Ngawait — 6  
Ngarkat — 12  
Ngangurugu — 6  
Ngintait — 4  
Marawara — 79  
Meru — 6

The searches yielded 181 results. Materials that were subject to access restrictions, obviously duplicated, irrelevant, in a foreign language or overly technical were omitted.

Bibliography


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