Latji Latji and Wergaia Peoples

Victoria

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TITLE: National Native Title Tribunal Research Report Bibliographies
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.

Latji Latji and Wergaia Peoples’ Report

This report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Latji Latji and Wergaia Peoples’ native title application (VC00/002). As a background report has already been completed for the Latji Latji group (Latji Latji Victoria Report), the report will not focus upon Latji Latji specifically. This background report has two focuses: to provide publicly and readily available information relating to the location of the Wergaia group and to the location and movements of other Aboriginal groups within and through the claim application area.

Research Method

The research material used for this report was based largely on a search of the AIATSIS online catalogue, Mura, supplemented by relevant references found in Tindale’s (1974) *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*.

The following general references were also used:

- Davidson, 1938, *A Preliminary Register of Australian Tribes and Hordes*;
- Horton, 1994, *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*;

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• O’Grady, Wurm & 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 made of the print collection of the AIATSIS catalogue¹, using the term ‘Wergaia’ in the ‘Language/Group’ category. The search yielded 86 records. The printout for each record was examined to determine its likely relevance or usefulness. Materials that were subject to access restrictions, obviously duplicated, irrelevant, in a foreign language or overly technical were omitted. The remaining 50 items were requested through the Tribunal Library. The library was unable to access 5 of these items.

In addition, following a discussion with the Case Manager for the area, it was agreed that material relating to other groups within the claimant application area should also be reviewed (excluding Latji Latji, since a research report has already been done for this group).

In order to identify these additional groups, and to compile a list of search terms, the following general maps were consulted. The tribes contained within the claim area are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources:</th>
<th>Groups located:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘The Australian Race: map’ E.M. Curr 1887</td>
<td>203 – Kulkine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Native Tribes of South East Australia: Victoria’ A.W. Howitt 1904 (facsimile 1996)</td>
<td>Kerinma, Wimbaio, Baluk-mernen²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Map of South-Eastern Australia showing the distribution of some native tribes’ J.G. Frazer 1910</td>
<td>Kerinman, Wimbaio, Baluk-mernen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Map of South-Eastern Australia Showing the Distribution of some Native tribes’ A.R. Brown 1918.</td>
<td>12 – Ngintait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Tribal Map of Australia’ D.S. Davidson 1938</td>
<td>Lail-buil, Darty, Mernen, Yari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Map showing the Distribution of the Aboriginal Tribes of Australia’ N.B. Tindale, 1940</td>
<td>Ngintait, Latji Latji, Ngarket (on western edge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Approximate location of particular languages’ Luise Hercus 1969</td>
<td>Ledjiledji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² Tindale (1974, page 206) noted that this was an alternative name for Latji Latji, applied by the Wotjobaluk, meaning “people of the sandhills”.

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- 2 -
From these maps, a list of search terms was compiled. Firstly, keyword searches of the following terms were conducted and the full abstracts were viewed on screen. For those searches in which an AIATSIS language group listing was included in the abstract, the search term was re-entered as a language group search and the results printed. For those successful searches in which no language group was listed, the results from the word search were printed. The terms used and the results are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names used:</th>
<th>No. of sources found:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baluk</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keramin</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulkine</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linlait</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mernan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mernen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngarg</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngarget</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngarkat</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngarket</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngin</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngindadj</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngintait</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The search yielded 61 results. Materials that were subject to access restrictions, obviously duplicated, irrelevant, in a foreign language or overly technical were omitted. The remaining 26 items were requested through the Tribunal library.

**Bibliography**


Clark, I.D. 1990, *Aboriginal Languages and Clans: an historical atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800-1900*, Monash Publications in Geography, No. 37, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, Melbourne.


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Horton, D. ed. 1994, Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies, Canberra.


Wurm S. A. & Hattori S. 1981, Language Atlas of the Pacific Area, Australian Academy of the Humanities in collaboration with the Japan Academy, Canberra.