Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara Peoples

Western Australia

August 2001
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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.
Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara People Report

The Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara Peoples’ report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara Peoples’ native title applications (WC96/89 and WC99/12). The report included material relating to accounts on location. It was based on publicly and readily available information relevant to the location of the Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara people.

Research Method

The research material reviewed in this report was based initially on a search of the AIATSIS online catalogue, Mura, using the key words ‘Mardudhunera’ and ‘Kurrama’. ‘Yaburara’ does not appear as a key word in the AIATSIS catalogue because AIATSIS regard Yaburara as a dialect of Ngaluma. An additional search was then conducted on location, using the key words ‘Burrup Peninsula’ and ‘Nickol Bay’. A further search was conducted on ‘Ngaluma’ although only those materials which appeared to be relevant to Yaburara were requested. A search was also conducted through the Library and Information System of Western Australia (LISWA) using the key words ‘Aborigines, Australian’ and ‘Pilbara’. These library searches were restricted to printed material as sound tapes and film would be difficult to process within the time constraints. Foreign language material and repetitions of the same material (for example, different editions of the same work) were similarly excluded.

The material generated by these library searches was supplemented by relevant material and further references found in Tindale’s 1974 text Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environmental Controls, Distribution, Limits, and Proper Names, although not all references were obtainable at the time of writing.
Additional material concerning the location of the Mardudhunera, Kurrama and Yaburara peoples was found in the following general references and was included in this report:

- Davidson, D.S. 1938, *A Preliminary Register of Australian Tribes and Hordes*;
- Davis, S.L., Resources Managers Pty Ltd and Australian Mining Industry Council 1993, *Australia’s Extant and Imputed Traditional Aboriginal Territories*;
- Donohue, M. 1991, ‘AIATSIS Library Language Names and Community/Established Language Names’;
- Tindale, N.B. 1940, ‘Distribution of Australian Aboriginal Tribes: A Field Survey’; and
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Brandenstein, C.G. von, 1970, ‘Narratives from the north-west of Western Australia in the Ngarluma and Jindjiparndi languages’, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.


Clement, E. 1903, Ethnographical notes on the Western-Australia Aborigines, E.J. Brill, Leyden, Netherlands.

Connelly, J.F. 1932 ‘Distribution of Tribes of Western Australia’, *Mankind*, vol. 1, no. 5.


Dench, A. 1983, ‘Pilbara Pronoun Reconstructions’, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies PMS 4737.


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Sales, K. 1992, ‘Ascent to the sky. A shamanic initiatory engraving from the Burrup Peninsula, northwest Western Australia’, *Archaeology in Oceania*, vol. 27, no. 1.


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