North West Victoria Murray River Region

Victoria

No. 18/2003
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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.

North West Victoria Murray River Region Report
The North West Victoria Murray River region report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of native title applications in the Murray River region of north west Victoria. It was based on publicly and readily available information relating to the location, movements and interrelation of Aboriginal groups within and through this region with particular attention paid to groups along the Murray River frontage. The circumference of the area surveyed extended roughly from Hattah Kulkyne National Park southwards along the river to Kow Swamp, westward through Kow Swamp and Boort, northward through Towaninny to Lake Tyrrell and Ouyen, returning to Hattah Kulkyne National Park.

Research Method
The research material used for this report is 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:

- Capell 1963, Linguistic Survey of Australia;
- Davidson 1938, A Preliminary Register of Australian Tribes and Hordes;
- Horton 1994, The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia;
- Oates 1970, Revised Linguistic Survey of Australia;
In order to identify Aboriginal groups historically located along the River within the region, and to compile a list of search terms, the following general maps were consulted. The tribes located along the Murray River and within or adjacent to the region are listed on the next page:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source:</th>
<th>Group names found:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Some Tribes of Western New South Wales’ A.L.P. Cameron 1899 [1900]</td>
<td>N’Gerget, Ta Tathi, Muthi Muthi, Wathi Wathi, Buraburaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Native Tribes of South East Australia: Victoria’ A.W. Howitt 1904 (facsimile 1996)</td>
<td>Letchi-letchi, Weki-weki, Wath-wathi, Bura-Bura, Burappa, Wamba-Wamba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Map of South-Eastern Australia Showing the Distribution of some Native tribes’ A.R. Brown 1918.</td>
<td>15: Laitu-laitu, 16: Tati-tati, 17: Waka-waka, 19: (not recorded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Map showing the Distribution of the Aboriginal Tribes of Australia’ N.B. Tindale, 1940</td>
<td>Latji Latji, Kureinji, Tati Tati, Mutimutti, Wati Wati, Wemba Wemba, Berape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Approximate location of particular languages’ Luise Hercus 1969</td>
<td>Ledjiledji, Dadidadi, Madimadi, Wadiwadi, Wembawemba, Berebabereba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Aboriginal Australia’, David Horton, 1994</td>
<td>Latje Latje, Dadi Dadi, Kureinji, Wadi Wadi, Wemba Wemba, Baraba Baraba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From these maps, the names of groups were standardised according to AIATSIS catalogue language group names. As two Tribunal background reports have already been compiled for the Latji Latji and Wergaia (alt. Warka Warka) groups, these terms were not searched. The existing Tribunal research on these groups has been incorporated into this report. Relevant material from these two reports was incorporated into this report. A
search was then made of the print collection of the AIATSIS catalogue\(^1\) using these names in the ‘language group’ category. The results are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group name</th>
<th>No. of sources found:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baraba Baraba</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadi Dadi</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keramin</td>
<td>0 (Word search - 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kureinji</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madi Madi</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngarkat</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadi Wadi</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wemba Wemba</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yari Yari</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinvale</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The searches yielded 316 results. Materials that were subject to access restrictions, obviously duplicated, irrelevant, in a foreign language or overly technical were omitted. The remaining 175 items were requested through the Tribunal Library. Of these, 69 items were not accessible within the time period allowed.

**Bibliography**


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Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, 1862, Second report of the Central Board appointed to watch over the interests of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria, Government Printer, Melbourne.

Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, 1863, Third report of the Central Board appointed to watch over the interests of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria, Government Printer, Melbourne.

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.

Clark, I.D. 1996, Aboriginal Language Areas in Victoria: A Report to the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Victoria.


Hercus, L. 1969, ‘The Languages of Victoria: A Late Survey’, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, no. 17, Linguistics Series No.6, Canberra [Republished in 1986].


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