

What's in the kit?

Historical document The 1980 Nyikina Wordlist This is the foundation of the program and is included in the kit component *Mandajarra Nyikina*. It is the first comprehensive written list of Nyikina vocabulary. It was collected and documented by Bronwyn Stokes during 1978-79 as part of her PhD thesis studies and edited by her in 2004 for public access. There are still some queries in the list and it is hoped that these may be answered as Nyikina speakers become familiar with the processes involved in language documentation and preservation. It is intended that this list will form the basis of an eventual Nyikina Dictionary which will also incorporate entries offered by course participants.

Learn Nyikina Written by Dr Bronwyn Stokes in 1989 as a non-technical introduction to a method of writing the Nyikina language. It contains pronunciation and spelling guidance and 25 segments of notes about particular grammatical features. Vocabulary samples recorded in 1998 by two Nyikina speakers, Lucy Marshall and Jeanni Warby are included on two audio tapes. The set indicates that it was published by the Kimberley Language Resource Centre in 1999.

Jayida Nganka Nyikina Jarlmadankayi Extracted from the 1980 Wordlist as an introductory vocabulary reference for the Nyikina Mangala School at Jarlmadangah-Burru Community. Vocabulary is organized in themes such as Animals, Colours, Action Words, Describing Words, People, Plants and other topics. The sections are colour coded by means of a stripe on the outside edge of section pages and the matching colour next to the entry in the Contents page. Each entry is also retrievable from a Nyikina-English as well as an English-Nyikina finder list. Complex verbs and sensitive cultural information have been omitted from this introductory list.

Student Workbook Contains outlines of modules 1, 2 and 3 for both Nyikina Language and Nyikina Culture. The Nyikina Language component consists of worksheets and activities based on the original lessons written by Dr Stokes and published in Learn Nyikina described above. Lessons 1-10 are represented here. 11-25 are in production.

Mandajarra Nyikina Contains essential cultural information on practices and protocols as well as much of the associated language as recorded in The 1980 Nyikina Wordlist. Main topics cover Greetings, Protocols and Procedures, Kin System, Maps and Place Names. Dr Stokes' original research formed the basis of several workshops held in 2004 with senior Nyikina speakers. The information in this book represents the consensus obtained at those workshops.

LOTE Guide (Languages other than English) Contains guidance for teachers on LOTE curriculum outcomes, teaching and learning strategies, assessment of the LOTE and information about available resources. It also contains teaching instructions for using the stories on CD-ROM that are included in the kit and ideas about teaching songs – some samples of which are on the CD-ROM *Maboonkaya*.

Nyikina Stories Consists of a book and CD-ROM containing five well-known traditional stories. The text is modified from that collected in the original research by Dr Stokes. These are the same stories used in the grammar lessons and discussed in the LOTE Guide. Essential information about the creation of the Fitzroy River, food acquisition and use, and manifestation of geographical features is imparted by these stories.

Presenting the stories in CD-ROM interactive format provides pronunciation models and the opportunity for students to write their own version of the stories in Nyikina or English. These attempts can be saved to computer and reviewed as part of lesson activities.

Yajarra Nyikina An interactive CD-Rom developed during a series of workshops in 2000/1 by the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and senior Nyikina women (most of whom had never touched a computer before the first workshop). The theme, bush medicine, imparts cultural information while giving insight into the sounds and structure of the language. It contains a variety of graded activities with encouraging feedback and culminates in an enjoyable game.

Maboonkaya A CD-ROM containing segments of traditional songs recorded by senior lawman Darby Narnгарin. These songs need immediate follow-up with Darby to explain their content and application. If such follow-up is not carried out in the near future the songs will become archival curios. The last song, *kojarra marnin* is a contemporary song presented in a traditional format. It is hoped this song will form the genesis of a collection of such songs yet to be written by Nyikina students as they become more familiar with their language.

The CD also contains samples of two other languages for use with the Nyikina Language 1 module assessment task 1.1 where students are required to recognize spoken Nyikina among a number of oral samples.

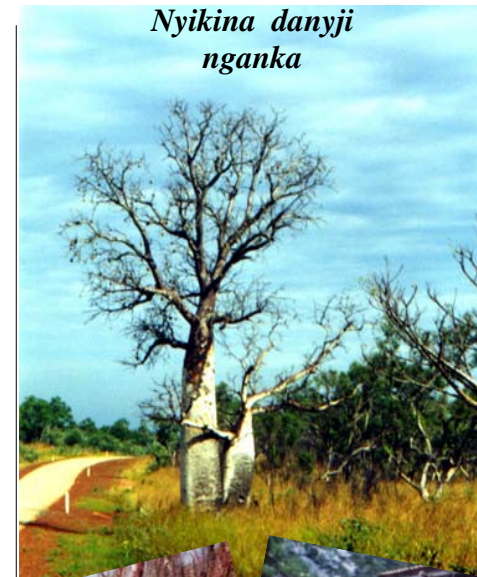
Nyikina Resources Additional resources for teachers composed of a useful database of plants including photographs and cultural information, The 1980 Wordlist (so that it may be loaded onto computers), the Nyikina songs as separate documents, maps of Nyikina country, language samples for assessment tasks and worksheets.

Reflections of a Kimberley Woman By one of the original language consultants, Lucy Marshall, this book tells of the transition time from station living where traditional culture could still be practiced, to town existence where cultural practices became modified but still exist. It puts Nyikina culture into the contemporary framework and shows that *nyikina danyji nganka* (strong Nyikina language) is indeed possible.

Nyikina Cultural Activities A VHS video which shows various protocols and practices, some of which are included in *Mandajarra Nyikina* and discussed in the LOTE Guide. Segments include sign language, protocols for visiting the billabong, spinning hair, overlanding (getting a killer) and how to cook kangaroo tails in the ground.

Nyikina Language and Culture Resource Kit

Nyikina danyji nganka



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Nyikina Language and Culture Resource Kit

The Nyikina Language and Culture Resource Kit was launched on Wednesday 29th October at the Derby Civic Centre. The Kit draws together twenty five years of collaboration between Nyikina people and linguists, curriculum development and information technology specialists. Nyikina elder Lucy Marshall with support from Anne Poelina received funding from ATSIC/ATSIS Endangered Language Program to help keep Nyikina alive.

Lucy is one of the few surviving Nyikina speakers who worked with Dr Bronwyn Stokes when she documented Nyikina 25 years ago. Since that time the Kimberley Aboriginal Language Resource Centre, Jarlmaidangah Burru Community and some local schools have developed programs and resources. Nyikina people traditionally occupied the lower Fitzroy River including Derby. The original word list, orthography and lessons have been available to the public through the Derby library however the material has been mostly studied by academics.

“We need to make our language more strong by using this modern technology” Lucy told Anne late last year. “We need our own money to do our own language work, now while we still have our old people to help us,” said Lucy acknowledging her Aunty Daisy Loongkoonan from Mt Anderson Station. “...it needs to be in a way so Nyikina people can use it to teach our young people our language. If other people want to learn it, well that’s good too, but they must have respect for our language, our culture and our river.”

nyikina booroo



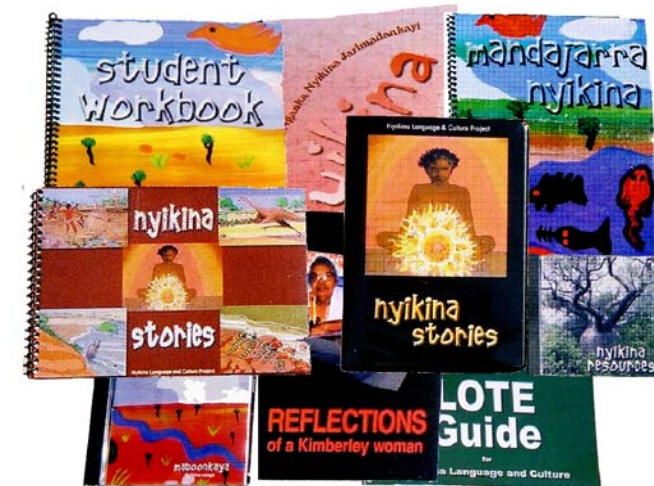
Nyikina country

Anne and linguist Colleen Hattersley were able to draw Dr Stokes back to the Kimberley to work with Nyikina speakers Lucy, Daisy, Leena Fraser-Buckle, Willy Lennard, Jeanie Warby, Mick Michael and Paddy Watson to clarify and further develop information about the Nyikina language and culture. In March Lucy’s daughter Tina McMahon facilitated a series of workshops in Derby.

IT publisher Bruce Mitchell and curriculum writer Rosie McHenry drew on their local knowledge, having worked in community schools along the Fitzroy River, to produce state-of-the-art teaching resources in printed and interactive CD ROM formats. Darby Narngarin contributed a series of songs in Nyikina and gave permission for stories recorded during Dr Stokes original research to be made into books. Local film maker Gwen Sputore worked with Lucy, Robert Watson, Nora Nugaway, Patsy Yambo, and the Derby Enterprise Class students to create a set of teaching videos about Nyikina culture.

Local Indigenous cultural education, research and training agency, Madjulla Inc., managed to pull together a unique mix of skilled and dedicated people to complete the project in only eighth months.

The project also developed a three stage training course for beginner through to instructors. The Resource Kit has been developed to support the Nyikina Language and Culture Course which is being reviewed for accreditation. Madjulla is seeking funds to start training Nyikina people next year to become teachers for adult education and school programs.



Nyikina Language and Culture Resource Kit 2004