

# Aboriginal Languages 3

Grammar

The people who provided most of the examples in this presentation.

- ▶ The woman is Nora Jacks of Boulia. Her first language was Pitta-Pitta. She also spoke Lhanima.
- ▶ The man is Mick Moonlight. His first language was Kalkutungu. He also spoke Yalarnnga.



# western Queensland

Mt Isa  
Kalkutungu  
Dajarra  
Yalarnnga  
Boulia  
Pitta-Pitta



# Reduplication

## Burnum-Burnum



*Burnum Burnum's Aboriginal Australia, a Traveller's Guide.* (1988:vii)

- **G 'da y , I'm Burnum Burnum of the Wurundjeri people, who married a girl from the Yotta Yottas and had children at Wagga Wagga. My mother grew up close to Nowa Nowa, which is just near Mount Baw Baw. I've travelled to Goonoo Goonoo, Kwork Kwork, Yerri Yerri and Bulu Bulu, and once, at the Bong Bong picnic races, I backed a horse in the Melbourne Cup called Gatum Gatum.**



# Reduplication: having a characteristic

<b>lyeke</b>	thorn, prickle	<b>lyeke-lyeke</b>	thorny, having thorns	Arrernte (NT)
<b>mutji</b>	hole	<b>mutji-mutji</b>	full of holes, 'holey'	Yindjibarndi (WA)
<b>bilim</b>	bitter, salty	<b>bilim-bilim</b>	alcohol	Woiwurrung (Vic)
<b>ngapu</b>	water	<b>ngapu-ngapu</b>	wet	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>mayi</b>	dirt	<b>mayi-mayi</b>	dirty	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>maka</b>	fire	<b>maka-maka</b>	hot	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>kurri</b>	red ochre	<b>kurri-kurri</b>	red	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>yorta</b>	no	<b>Yorta-Yorta</b>	name of language	Yorta-Yorta (Vic)
<b>atnwaye</b>	back of ankle	<b>atnwaye-atnwaye</b>	high heels	Arrernte (NT)





# Reduplication

onomatopoeia

cuckoo	<b>wurrk-wurrk</b>	Eastern Kulin	Central Victoria
magpie lark, mud lark	<b>dit-dit</b>	Eastern Kulin	Central Victoria
spoonbill	<b>pilhi-pilhi</b>	Kalkutungu	Mount Isa
willie wagtail	<b>tjintirri-tjintirri</b>	Yalarnnga	Dajarra
bell bird	<b>yin-yin</b>	Eastern Kulin	Central Victoria

# Reduplication alternation Eastern Kulin examples



butterfly	<b>balam-balam</b>
bat	<b>ngunanh-ngunath</b>
lyre bird	<b>buln-buln</b>
locust	<b>gaal-gaal</b>
bird	<b>guwiyap-guwiyap</b>
boomerang	<b>tatim-tatim</b>

# Compounding

<b>bik</b>	earth, soil	<b>mum</b>	bottom	<b>bik-mum</b>	goose	Woi
<b>nhupu</b>	spouse	<b>parta</b>	take	<b>nhupu-parta</b>	marry	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>wangka</b>	language	<b>manha</b>	bad	<b>Wangkamanha</b>	name of lg	Pitta-Pitta (Q)
<b>milthi</b>	eye(s)	<b>wakini</b>	turn	<b>milthi wakini</b>	intoxicated	Kalkutungu (Q)
<b>thunpulthu</b>	bum	<b>kurri-kurri</b>	red	<b>thunpulthu kurri-kurri</b>	red-back spider	Kalkutungu (Q)
<b>kula</b>	egg	<b>pup</b>	head	<b>kula-pup</b>	brain	Bunganditj sa
<b>mirk</b>	egg	<b>purrrp</b>	head	<b>mirk purrrp</b>	brain	Bunganditj sa

# Compounds with a linking suffix

Gariwerd = gar-i wart 'mountain range' gar 'nose' -i linking suffix wart 'back'

Scenic lookout on Glenelg Highway west of Dunkeld - Mt Sturgeon (foreground) and Mt Abrupt (background)



# Prefixes and suffixes

All Australian languages use suffixes for functions such as:

word-building

case marking inflection on nouns

tense and aspect inflection on verbs

The pattern is base+word-building suffix(es)+inflection as in English

*kind-ness-es*

*alien-ate-s*

# To have and have not

Pitta-Pitta examples of word-building

**Karnta-ya nhu-wa-ka kanga-maru.** He's going along drunk.

go-present he intoxicant-having

**Kanga** was originally *pituri/pitcheri* Duboisia Hopwoodi, an intoxicant & poison.

**Malhu ngantja karnta-ya, thinaputu-yaku ngantja.** I 'm not walking. I have no boots.

not I go-present, boot-less I

**Karnta-linga ngantja mangarni-maru-inu.** I'm going to the doctor.

go-future I bone-having-to

# All Australian languages have a 'having' suffix

It is like *-ed* in *wooded*

root	meaning		meaning	language
<b>putu</b>	stomach	<b>putu-yan</b>	pregnant	Kalkatungu (Q)
<b>watjin</b>	prickle, spine	<b>watjin-aan</b>	echidna	Kalkatungu (Q)
<b>kuna</b>	faeces	<b>kunambil</b>	Coonamble	Kamilaroi (NSW)
<b>warnam</b>	fire	<b>Warrnam-bul</b>	Warrnambool	Gunditjmara (Vic)

# Forming intransitive verbs

**Suffixes to form intransitive verbs from nouns and adjectives are common.**

**Minha-la inpa milya-manha-kana-ya?** Pitta-Pitta (Q)

What-from you face-bad-do-present

What are you screwing your face up for?

Intransitive verbs borrowed from English need to take this suffix.

**Arrakathi iki?** Where's Hickey? Kalkutungu (Q)

**Waka-thati rutu kiakati.** Working, road work.

# Forming transitive verbs

Kalkutungu examples

Suffixes to form transitive verbs from nouns and adjectives are common.

Noun/adjective → transitive verb

<b>pilthi</b>	soft	<b>pilthi-puni</b>	to soften
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A transitive verb in English must take this suffix:

<b>boilim</b> (Pidgin)	boil	<b>boilim-puni</b>	to boil (water)
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# Agents and patients

Yalarnnga examples



**mangurru**



**wamarri**

**Mangurru-yu tatjamu wamarri** The dog bit the snake.

**Mangurru wamarri-yu tatjamu** The snake bit the dog'

# Case marking

Kalkutungu examples		
ergative	-tu, -yu, -thu	Thuku- <b>yu</b> itjai-nha mararri yaun- <b>tu</b> . The big dog bit the river goanna.
instrumental	=ergative	Marapai- <b>thu</b> lhainha thuarr thalimpirri- <b>thu</b> . The woman killed the snake with a stick.
genitive/dative	-ku	Ngathu itintinha ati kalpin- <b>ku</b> . I brought food for the man. I brought the man's food.
locative	-thi	Thakamunta ngartathati pirrinha walipirri- <b>thi</b> . A possum is sitting on top of the hut.
allative	-kunha	Ngai ingkanha Mt Isa- <b>thingu</b> Brisbane- <b>kunha</b> .
ablative	-thingu	I went from Mt Isa to Brisbane.

# Aversive case

What is to be avoided

## Pitta-Pitta examples

Aversive 'what is to be avoided'

**Kulipila thanaka wantjiwantji-ya maka-la.**

The kangaroos are hopping away from the fire.

**Wirla-kana-ya inpa yampi-la.**

'You plant from your mother-in-law.'

# This/here, that/there and yon

Pitta-Pitta examples

Where English has **this** (nearer) and **that** (further), Australian languages usually have a 3-way distinction with a form for 'far' like our old-fashioned **yon**.

In Pitta-Pitta the forms for this, that and yon are suffixed to the pronoun/definite article

- <b>yi</b> 'this', 'near', 'close up'	<b>Tjiranha nhu-lu-yu kupakupa-lu matharrika.</b>	The old man here left a boomerang behind.
- <b>ka</b> 'that', also the default	<b>Tjiranha nhu-lu-ka kupakupa-lu matharrika.</b>	The old man left a boomerang behind.
- <b>aarri</b> 'far', 'yon'	<b>Tjiranha nhu-lu-aarri kupakupa-lu matharrika.</b>	That old man over there left a boomerang behind.

# Walking-along suffix

Pitta-Pitta example

It is common to find in Australian languages a suffix to indicate that an action is done while walking.

Is this a reflection of a nomadic society?

Perhaps a reflection of a society that did a lot of walking to gather or catch food.

**Tjira-nha    nhu-lu-ka    tawika-ya    karnta-yarnta-ka-lu.**

Boomerang-acc he-agent throw.away go-along-subordinate-agent

He throws the boomerang as he walks along.

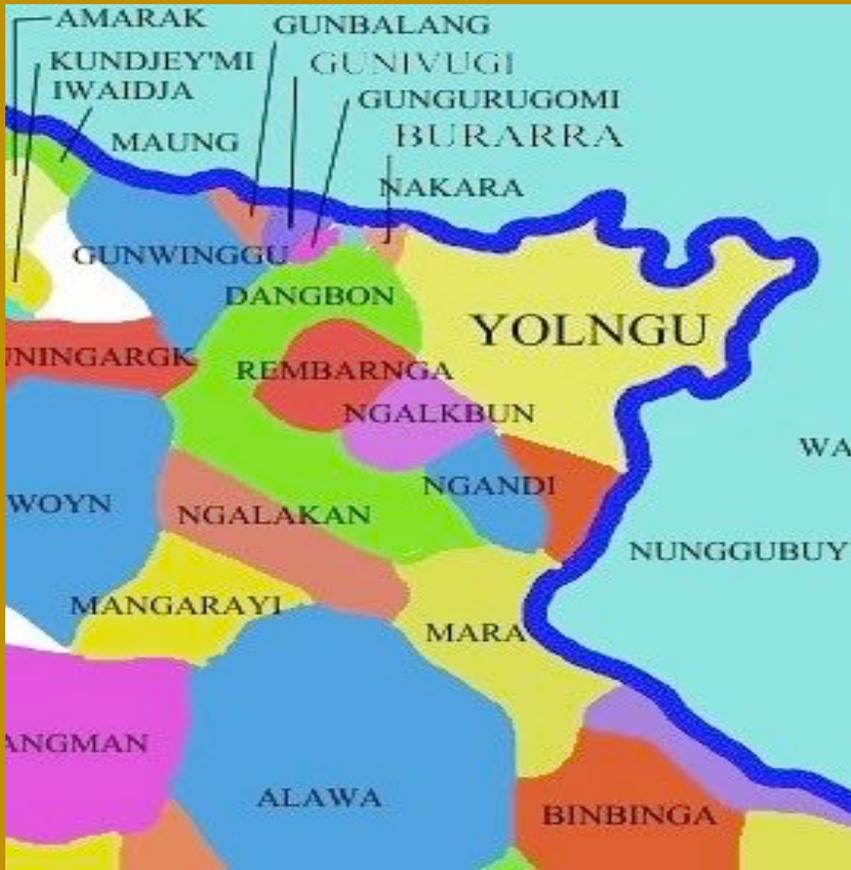
# Pronouns

## Wajarri (Watjarri) examples



	singular	dual	plural
<b>1</b>	ngatja	ngalitja	ngantju
<b>12</b>		ngali	nganyu
<b>2</b>	nyinta	nyupali	nyurra
<b>3</b>	palu	pula	tjana

# Gunwinggu (Kunwinyku) pronouns



	singular	dual	plural
1	<b>Nga-</b>	<b>Ngane-</b>	<b>Ngarri-</b>
1 +2	<b>Ngarr-</b>	<b>Kane-</b>	<b>Karri-</b>
2	<b>Yi-</b>	<b>Ngune-</b>	<b>Ngurri-</b>
3		<b>Bene-</b>	<b>Birri-</b>
<b>Birri-ni</b> 'They sit.'			

# Pidgin and creole

Pidgin is a simplified form of language used by groups who do not have a common language.

Most pidgin we know of are products of the colonial era and are based on Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French or English.

A pidgin developed in the Sydney area shortly after 1788 and spread with the frontier. In some parts of northern Australia the pidgin became the first language of some people.

It has developed into a full language with regular grammar. It is spelt Kriol.

# Examples of Kriol

The lexicon is from English, largely colloquial (*bugger up*), somewhat antiquated (*gammon, cart*). There are a few vernacular words and a few Portuguese words that belong to the pidgin tradition, e.g. *lingo*, and some from the early Sydney pidgin (*kaberra* 'head', *maiya* 'living traditional life').

The grammar is simple and regular

Past time	<b>Sili baga i bin kilim dog.</b> The silly fellow hit the dog.
Future time	<b>Pikinini i go krai.</b> The baby is going to cry.

Transitive verbs take the suffix **-im**, but where there is a clausal complement, the suffix is **-it**.

**“Me been tinkit Billy Cassim been askit gentleman already” .**

I thought Billy Cassim had asked the gentleman already. (had asked it of the gentleman)

# Examples of Kriol 2

Features of vernacular grammar are preserved

No verb 'to be' needed.

**Det olmen i prapa kruk.**

That old man is very ill/sick.

Dual v plural

**Dubala gel** 'two girls' **ola gel** 'girls', 'all the girls'

Inclusive v exclusive pronouns

**Mindubala** 'we', **yunmi** 'you and I'

# Kriol 3

## Gurindji Kriol (a mixed language)

dat	<i>warlaku</i>	im	andanith	<i>jiya-ngka</i>
the	dog	he	underneath	chair-LOC

The dog is underneath the chair.

People can shift between Kriol and English

Many people speak a form of English with Kriol features.

Nogood 'bad', nomo 'no'

# Kriol Bible

Orait, longtaim wen God bin stat meigimbat ebrijing, nomo enijing bin jidan. Imbin jis eniwei, nomo garram/gadim enijing. Oni strongbala woda bin goran goran ebriwei, en imbin brabli dakbala, en det Spirit blanga God bin mubabat ontop langa det woda. 3 Brom deya God bin tok, "Lait!" En streidawei det lait bin kamat. 4 En wen God bin luk det lait bin gudwan, imbin gudbinji. 5 Brom deya God bin kadimat det lait brom det dakbala, en imbin gulum det lait Deitaim, en imbin gulum det dakbala Naitaim.

**1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

**2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

**3** And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

**4** And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

**5** And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night