

# NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

---

**Barry Alpher** has published a dictionary of Yir-Yoront and is currently working on problems of comparative Pama-Nyungan and writing up field materials on Yir-Yoront, Yirrk-Mel, Ogunyjan, Pakanh and Olgol in Cape York Peninsula. He has taught anthropology and linguistics at Arizona State University and at the University of Sydney, taught at and headed the School of Australian Linguistics in Batchelor, Northern Territory, and worked in applied linguistics and anthropology with Native Americans, with Spanish-speaking migrant workers in the United States of America, and with Aboriginal Australians.

**Rob Amery**, Senior Lecturer, Unaipon School, University of South Australia. Rob completed a PhD in 1998 (published in August 2000) on Kurna language reclamation. He serves as consultant linguist to the Kurna language programs in schools and various community projects that incorporate the Kurna language and has been consulted about numerous placenaming initiatives and other Kurna naming activity. He works closely with members of the Kurna community to reclaim the language from historical materials and to develop the language for use in a range of contemporary contexts.

**Anna Ash** has been working in the area of Aboriginal language maintenance for several years. She worked with *Ngakulmungan Kangka Leman* (the Language Committee of Mornington Island) on the production of the *Lardil Dictionary* and *A Learner's Guide to Lardil*. Anna is currently a Research Associate with the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at the University of New England, Armidale; she is developing a Yuwaalaraay–Yuwaaliyaay–Gamilaraay dictionary database and co-ordinating the production of a poster 'Aboriginal Languages of Northern New South Wales'.

**Brett J. Baker** is a Lecturer at the Department of Linguistics at New England. Brett completed his PhD thesis 'Word Structure in Ngalakan' in 1999. The thesis was based on ongoing fieldwork in the Roper River region of the Northern Territory since 1994. Brett's current project — in partnership with Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (the Katherine Language Centre) — focuses on spoken interaction in traditional Aboriginal languages of the area, particularly the prosodic and referential aspects thereof. The project also has a practical application: to make natural interactive language the basis of teaching methodology and materials production for school language programs, through an electronic database archive.

**The Committee for Geographical Names in Australia** (CGNA) was formed in 1984 to provide a coordinating role in Australian placenaming activities. CGNA was established within the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) in 1993 with the support of the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG). Representation on the CGNA comes from the Australian State and Territory naming authorities and other bodies with an interest in nomenclature. In 1998 New Zealand was formally welcomed as a full participating member and the group became the Committee for Geographical Names in

Australasia. Macquarie University also joined CGNA in 1999 to help foster a strong working relationship during the development of the Australian National Placenames Survey (ANPS).

**Tamsin Donaldson** is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at The Australian National University. Since publishing a Ngiyampaa (Wangaaypuwan) grammar (1980) she has focused mainly on Australian languages and language-related projects, working with Indigenous people all over Australia through appointments at the former School of Australian Linguistics, Batchelor, Northern Territory, and at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and also as an independent consultant. She has taught in the Anthropology and Music departments at the University of Sydney, and as a fellow in 'Race and the Humanities' at Cornell, USA. Her publications concentrate on New South Wales languages, and on social, historical and other topics where linguistics helps, especially songs.

**Luise Hercus** was a Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford, having studied both Modern Languages and Oriental Studies. In 1962 she began working independently on salvage work in Aboriginal Languages, studying languages that were on the brink of extinction. She has continued this work ever since. She was Reader in Sanskrit at The Australian National University from 1969 to 1991. Since then she has been Visiting Fellow in the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Australian National University, writing up grammars, dictionaries and traditional texts, and continuing fieldwork mainly in the north of South Australia and adjacent areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

**Philip Jones** has worked as a curator in the Anthropology Department at the South Australian Museum since 1982. His doctoral thesis concerns the history of collecting Australian ethnographic material, against the background of anthropological history. He has produced a number of museum exhibitions, concentrating upon the classical past of Aboriginal societies and their frontier interactions with Europeans. He has undertaken historical research in the eastern Lake Eyre region since 1984, and has a particular interest in the ethnographic collections and records gathered by the Lutherans at Killalpaninna Mission on the Cooper Creek.

**Patrick McConvell** has a BA(Hons) and PhD in African Studies and linguistics from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and first worked with the Gurindji people when employed as a Research Fellow by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in 1974–77. As well as working on several languages he also wrote several land claim books. Later he worked in the Manjiljarra program at Strelley School in the Pilbara before lecturing at the School of Australian Linguistics at Batchelor. Together with Joyce Hudson, he helped establish the Kimberley Language Resource Centre in 1984, and after a couple of years at Ngalangangpum School, Turkey Creek, as a linguist, he joined the Anthropology Department at the Northern Territory University. Most recently he also taught Anthropology at Griffith University, worked on Native Title in North Queensland, and is currently Research Fellow, Language and Society, at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra. He is editor (with Nick Evans) of *Archaeology and Linguistics: Aboriginal Australia in global perspective*.

**Paul Monaghan** is researching a PhD in linguistics at the University of Adelaide focusing on land–language issues in the north-west of South Australia. Other research interests include early forms of Aboriginal English in South Australia. He has worked as a researcher for the De Rose Hill native title claim in the north-west of South Australia.

**Nicholas Reid** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of New England, where he teaches a range of units including Aboriginal Linguistics, Aboriginal Languages Today, and a new unit on Race and Racism. He has developed extensive multimedia resources, including award-winning online units and CD-ROMs. Nick's main research interests involve Aboriginal languages and linguistic typology. He also enjoys involvement in applied community linguistics projects, such as dictionary and curriculum development with the Nauiyu Nambiyu School in the Northern Territory, and placenames work with the Armidale City Council. Nick welcomes feedback on his paper and can be contacted on <nreid@metz.une.edu.au>.

**Edward Ryan** is a postgraduate student in the History Department of Latrobe University and is currently researching the history of the Wergaia and neighbouring peoples of north-west Victoria and south-west New South Wales. Besides placenames, his other research interests include landscape and environment change in the greater Mallee region. In a broader context he pursues similar research interests in Irish and Scottish Gaelic history, language and literature.

**Bernhard Schebeck** studied ancient Semitic languages and anthropology at Vienna University, general linguistics at the Sorbonne, and Kurdish and north-west Caucasian languages in Paris. On his first visit to Australia, 1964–67, he did a linguistic survey of the northern part of South Australia, began a study of the Yolngu dialects of north-east Arnhem Land, and a study of the Adnyamathanha language of the northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia. After defending his doctoral thesis on the phonological systems of Australian languages in Paris in 1972, he returned to Australia in 1973 to continue his study of Yolngu, and has since worked as a computer programmer as well as a consultant on various language and sociolinguistic projects.

**Jane Simpson** has worked for many years with Warumungu and Warlpiri people, and has written on both languages. She has a long-standing interest in the languages and societies of southern South Australia, and has collaborated with Luise Hercus on several projects relating to this. She teaches linguistics in the Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney.

**Peter Sutton** is an independent scholar and consultant in anthropology and linguistics. He has worked with Aboriginal people in a number of different regions since 1969. He has worked on over 50 land claim cases since 1979. His books include *Dreamings: the art of Aboriginal Australia* (ed., 1988), *Wik-Ngathan Dictionary* (1985), *Country: Aboriginal boundaries and land ownership in Australia* (1995), and *Native Title and the Descent of Rights* (1998).

**Franca Tamisari** trained in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences where she obtained a PhD in 1995. Based in Milingimbi, a community in the Crocodile Islands, she has been conducting intensive fieldwork research with Yolngu people in north-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, since 1990. She now lectures in Anthropology at the School of Social Science, University of Queensland. Her research focuses on Australian Indigenous cosmology and epistemology, language, ceremonial dance and song performances.

**Michael Walsh** has carried out research on Australian Aboriginal languages since the early 1970s, mostly in northern Australia in the coastal strip from Darwin to the Western Australian border. One part of this research has focused on Indigenous placenames, especially in

connection with land claim and native title work. He is based in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sydney.

**David Wilkins** began his fieldwork in Aboriginal Australia in 1982, and has spent approximately 60 months in the field, working mainly in Central Australia on Eastern and Central (Mparntwe) Arrernte and other languages of the Arandic family. He has worked with a number of Aboriginal educational organisations helping to develop and evaluate culturally appropriate language and curriculum materials. These organisations include the Yipirinya School, Intelyape-lyape Akaltye, and the Institute of Aboriginal Development. Wilkins has published over 40 articles and chapters dealing with a wide range of issues in semantics, pragmatics, anthropological linguistics, cognitive linguistics, child language acquisition, gesture and neurolinguistics. He has been a faculty member in Linguistics at UC Davis and SUNY Buffalo. He also worked for seven years as a senior scientific research in the Language and Cognition group (formerly the Cognitive Anthropology Research Group) of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. While there his focus of research was the relation between language, culture and spatial cognition. He is currently a Scientific Researcher at the Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders, VA Northern California Health Care System, Martinez, California.

**Georgina Yambo Williams**, Kurna senior woman, was the first to call for the revival of the Kurna language as a spoken language in the mid-1980s. In the early 1980s she worked with the South Australian Museum to document and promote the Tjirbruki Dreaming track running from Warriparinga (Sturt River) in Adelaide, down to Cape Jervis in the south. Since then she has worked tirelessly to protect Kurna heritage and the Tjirbruki story along the coast in connection with the Onkaparinga, Holdfast Bay and Yankalilla councils, and especially at Warriparinga with the Marion Council.