

Muurrbay is an important centre for many community cultural activities, providing:

- office support for Aboriginal people who are applying for work or study, dealing with various government and health departments.
- access to computers, internet and printers
- a venue for courses, and meetings of cultural, educational, health and legal groups, as well as important ceremonies, including celebrations and wakes.

Can we help you?

Muurrbay regularly assists people in a wide range of community activities:

- delivering accredited language courses for adults; there is a great need for this as more and more schools need Aboriginal teachers to deliver language classes
- supporting language use in new domains including radio, film, plays, festivals, and educational and government departments
- translating songs, prayers, speeches and signage projects
- naming people, places, organisations and events
- incorporating Aboriginal languages into community-based projects involving Elders, youth, art, dance, song, and story books
- developing new words for modern things or to fill in gaps in recorded knowledge.

Please contact us via phone or email with any enquiries!



Ngarraanga nginundi Yuludarla.
Remember your dreaming.

Muurrbay is governed by a Board of seven Aboriginal people, including Elders and people with knowledge and experience of language and culture. We would like to acknowledge the crucial role played by Elders who have sadly passed on: founding member Aunty Maggie Morris, Board member Aunty Amy Jarrett and Uncle Ken Walker who was CEO for many years.

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You can follow our activities via our website www.muurrbay.org.au or on Facebook.



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages Support



Education & Communities
Aboriginal Affairs

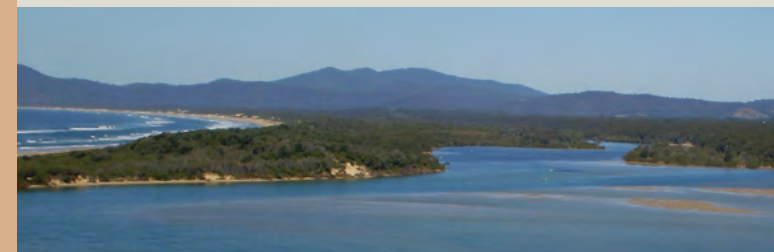


Muurrbay is funded primarily by the Indigenous Languages Support grants administered by the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department.

Specific projects are also supported by NSW DAA.

Muurrbay

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE & CULTURE CO-OPERATIVE



Muurrbay supports Aboriginal people in revitalising our language and culture, so strengthening our sense of identity, self-esteem, links to country and life opportunities.



Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative is a leading regional language centre that provides strategic support to revitalise the languages of seven Aboriginal communities of central to north coast NSW. We work closely with Elders and local language, culture and educational organisations to conduct research, publish accessible grammar-dictionaries and develop engaging educational courses and resources.

Our vision

- Muurrbay supports Aboriginal people to revitalise our language and culture by leading the way in recording, publishing and teaching languages, on the ground and online.
- The leadership of Elders and expertise of linguists, teachers and information technology experts allow us to empower Aboriginal people by strengthening sense of identity, self-esteem, links to country and life opportunities.
- Informing non-Aboriginal people of the significance of our language and culture contributes to a more equitable society.



Muurrbay means 'white fig tree' in the Gumbaynggirr language. In the Dreamtime, the Muurrbay tree is the tree of life, being the source of food for the whole Gumbaynggirr tribe. This same giant fig tree, was taken up by Yuludarla the Creator, because two clans were quarrelling over it. The theme of the story is caring and sharing. Painting by Gumbaynggirr-Bundjalung artist Shaa Smith.

The Muurrbay story



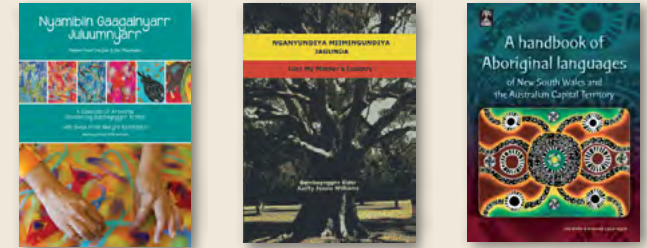
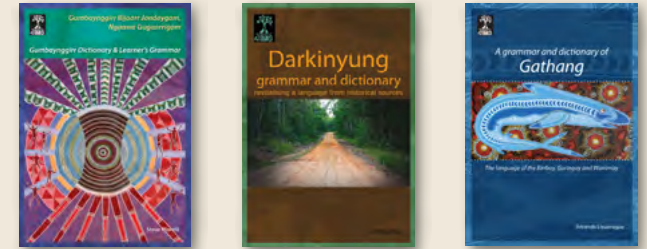
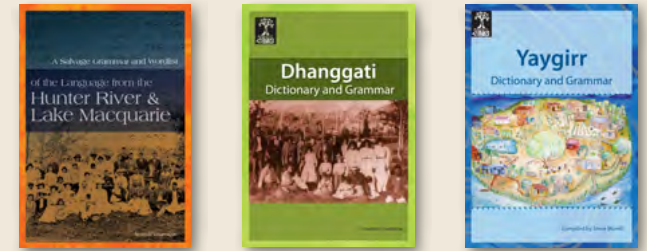
Muurrbay began in 1986, when Gumbaynggirr Elders, particularly Aunty Maggie Morris, joined together to revive their language with the support of linguist, Brother Steve Morelli. They accessed old recordings of the language, analysed its grammar and produced the first Gumbaynggirr dictionary-grammar. Gumbaynggirr language classes began in 1997 and many graduates have gone on to teach Gumbaynggirr in schools and community groups.

In 2004 Muurrbay expanded to become a regional language

centre, supporting a further six languages. Strategic support in project planning, linguistics, IT and teaching expertise, has assisted language revival in several communities by publishing dictionary-grammars, developing teaching resources, employing language workers and delivering community based language workshops and accredited courses.

Muurrbay publishes a wide range of resources on Aboriginal language and culture. In-depth research, community consultation and peer review ensure high standards are maintained:

- Dictionary-grammars for seven languages provide a strong foundation for language revitalisation and make linguistic research more accessible.
- A handbook of Aboriginal languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, a groundbreaking reference work.
- Language teaching resources, Elders' stories in books, DVDs and CDs, and comparative linguistic research on the Gumbaynggirr dialects.
- Online language resources, such as dictionaries and websites to support language learning.
- To be published in 2015: Gumbaynggirr Collected Stories and A comparative linguistic analysis of Gumbaynggirr Dreaming stories in three dialects: Nymboidan, Northern and Southern.



For more information and to place an order, go to www.muurrbay.org.au/muurrbay-resources/ or email admin@muurrbay.org.au.