Dhangatti Elders with the new dictionary.

Dhanggati covered in new dictionary

NSW

A Dhanggati dictionary with Dhanggati grammar and stories from around the Macleay Valley region of the NSW mid north coast has been launched at Kempsey.

The book, launched by Department of Aboriginal Affairs Director-General Jody Broun, is regarded as a valuable tool for Aboriginal language revitalisation. It is published by Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre.

The heartland of the Dhanggati people is the Macleay Valley and the Dhanggati language is undergoing a revival as growing numbers are learning more of their language and passing it on to children.

This dictionary has grown out of the community's efforts to revive their language.

The Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-op said the book was a valuable language revitalisation tool for Aboriginal people of the Macleay Valley and would appeal to anyone interested in the Aboriginal languages of Australia.

Author Amanda Lissarrague's research is based on the recordings of Dhanggati Elders, written historical records and the knowledge of Dhanggati people. The book includes a guide, grammar with example sentences from Elders, stories, more than 1000 Dhanggati words and a finder list to help locate particular words.