

Right: Dhanggati elders who helped put the book together: Betty Cohen, Ellen Atkinson, Dorothy Shepherd, Esther Quinlan and Gladys Quinlan.

Below right: Harold Smith, Mavalene Vale-Smith and Dianne Roberts-Quinlan with a copy of the new Dhanggati grammar and dictionary.



Book launch success

By Jarrod Lipscombe

MORE than 120 people packed the Kempsey RSL function room yesterday for the official launch of the Dhanggati book.

The Director-General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Jody Broun, launched the Dhanggati grammar and dictionary with Dhanggati stories.

The book was written by Amanda Lissarrague for the Dhanggati elders so they can pass down the language and stories to future generations.

Two Dhanggati elders, Betty Cohen and Dorothy Shepherd, told of the importance of the grammar and dictionary book.

"It is a great day for the Dhanggati tribe. My mother was the last female to speak the Dhanggati language in the 1990s," Dorothy said.

"It was all made possible by the collaboration of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together towards a common outcome," Dhanggati Elder Betty Cohen said.

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

