



# WAANYI

# Wire

May 2015

<http://www.waanyi.org.au>

More Show Me Your World pics inside!  
+ Updates on the Land Rights and Language projects



*Our kids  
Our future*

## Empowering Indigenous Ventures

Since NPC (Northern Project Contracting) started as a joint venture with WAC and others more than 10 years ago, we have enjoyed success and growth. Recently, we began to reflect on how NPC had evolved.

We do more. We deliver more. We are more.

We don't just provide contract services to the mining industry anymore. We have grown into a national business with international reach and markets.

That's why we are proud to announce that we have been undertaking a positive transformation and are proud to introduce you to our new identity... eNPC.

Our focus is about enabling partnership communities. This is a process of identifying opportunities in Indigenous communities and then empowering those communities to realise their potential and capitalise on these opportunities.

Our new brand promise, Empowering Indigenous Ventures, is significant in making this possible.

We fulfil our brand promise by establishing partnerships that ensure ventures have sustainable growth.

We are committed to achieving successful outcomes and valuable returns for all stakeholders including continuing to invest in worthwhile projects in the Gulf region.



Cyantha will be working from Townsville and Brisbane as Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation's new Sub-Committee Coordinator. She hopes to go out to Doomadgee soon.

Tribe: Waanyi

Favourite Food: Turtle and fish

Favourite Band: Anything and everything

Spare time: walking, going out to dinner, movies and spending time with my kids who are Javan and Keelin.

Keelin Hookey spends all his holidays in Doomadgee and loves fishing and playing footy.

Tribe: Waanyi

Favourite Food: fish

Favourite Fruit: apples

Best Friends are Daniel and Phoenix

When not at school: I play football for Central Tigers

White in Townsville

The Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation was established in June 2001 to represent the interests of descendants of the Waanyi people in and around the Lower Gulf Area of Northern Queensland.

The Corporation is wholly owned and operated by Waanyi people and was strengthened in 2004 by a joint venture with Exact Mining to form Northern Project Contracting (NPC) which provides vocation training and opportunities for indigenous locals in the successful mining operations in the region. The WAC is committed to improving the lives and developing the communities of Waanyi people

today and long into the future.

The WAC adheres to the following charter in conducting its activities:

- To assist in the relief of poverty, misfortune, destruction, disadvantage, distress, dispossession and suffering amongst the Waanyi Aboriginal people of the lower Gulf, including the provision of housing, education, health care services and facilities, transportation and communication services, and land under secure title for dispossessed Waanyi Aboriginal people;
- To hold land, and to develop and manage land and resources;

- To undertake training and employment activities;
- To carry out cultural activities including customs; and,
- To take advantage of investment opportunities that will assist the funding of the charitable objectives of the corporation.

Waanyi Wire is published by the Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation and edited by Christine Howes.

The text font is Dyslexie, for more information see <http://www.dyslexiefont.com>

This newsletter may contain images of deceased persons.

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# Land Rights Project looking to expand...



More than 60 interviews have been completed for the Land Rights Project, Griffith University researcher Dr Kerrie Foxwell-Norton says.

“This Project is about gathering the memories, pictures, voices and stories of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ community experience of the Land Rights movement and political struggle,” Dr Foxwell-Norton said.

“So it involves speaking to some of the louder voices, people who are on the front page and out front, and also some of the quieter voices from people who were either there or have experience of living in Queensland throughout this ongoing struggle for land and justice.

“It has become something quite bigger than what it was going to be.

“As soon as we started doing it, and as soon as we started looking at the international literature, we realised we needed to give people



Top: Kerrie Foxwell-Norton with Len Watson & Above: Elverina Johnson

an opportunity to talk about what they remembered and what they wanted to talk about.

“We also realised that for most people, being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island person in this nation means you have necessarily been involved in that Land Rights Movement and political struggle.”

She said the expansion of the project was a work in progress.

“We’re looking to develop a website where these stories and all the resources and materials, the photos, the bumper stickers, the posters, the videos, whatever, are available to the public with the interviewees consent,” she said.

“We’re also in early discussions with organisations such as the State Library where we hope to be able to exhibit some of what we’ve collected, and we hope that will be able to travel as well.

“And the other thing that’s happening is the development of teaching resources because we need to be telling our kids, Australian children need to be learning this as part of their history.

“The plan is, for example, to develop teaching resources for Doomadgee students to understand the history of their own community in the wider context of the land rights struggle generally.

“I think it’s critical that this history is remembered for Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people.”

Waanyi and NPC board member Dawn Aplin says she is hoping to hold some cultural camps over the June/July holidays.

“What I was going to do was have the first week with the girls and the second week with the boys, but we need to get some camping stuff first like tents and whatever else,” she said.

“The elders are waiting to get this all together, and they’re willing to go for a week.

“We’ve got a group of girls we’re going to take, teach them language and just sit around and tell them stories at night.”

Any kids who are keen should go and see Dawn for more information.



# Show me your world!





# Language project more than words

For quite a few years now, I have been compiling a dictionary of Waanyi words with their meanings and translations in English, along with sentences containing each word, showing how it is used, Mary Laughren writes...

Unlike English, most Waanyi words when used in a sentence must have a special suffix or ending, and some words have different forms depending on how they are used in a sentence.

Here are some examples.

If I want to say that a man saw a woman in Waanyi, I could say *Najba kirriya burrurrii* or I could put these words in a different order depending on what word I wanted to focus on.

If I want to say that a woman saw a man, I could say *Najba burrurri kirriyaa* (or I could put these words in a different order).

Notice that these sentences have the same basic words (as in the English sentences) but that a different word ends in a long vowel (doubled letter) in each.

Can you guess what this long vowel is telling us?

Before you try to guess, see if comparing these two sentences lets you work out the answer to that question.

If I want to say "This man saw a woman" I could say, *Najba nyulu nangkani burrurrii kirriya*.

If I want to say "This woman saw a man" I could say *Najba nyulu burrurri nangkani kirriyaa*.

So what is the long vowel telling us?

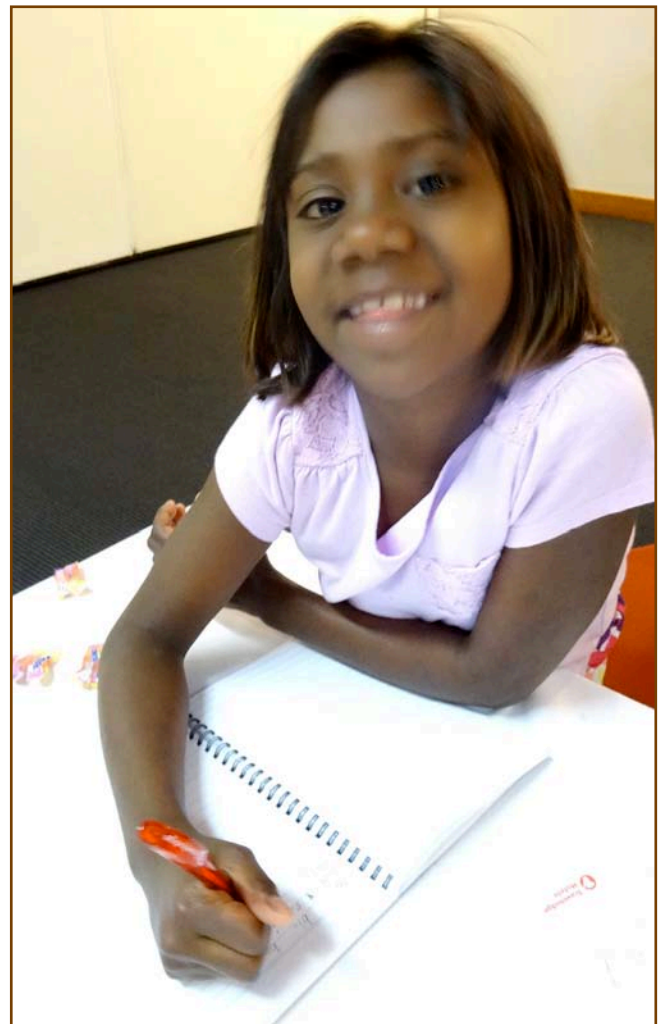
Here's some more sentences to help you answer that question: *Najba ngawu nana burrurri* "I saw that man", *Najba nyulu ngaan nanangkani burrurrii* "That man saw me".

If you want to say "This man saw that woman" you could say, *Najba nyulu nana kirriya nangkani burrurrii*.

How would you say "This woman saw that man"?

Write your Waanyi translation here: \_\_\_\_\_





In the dictionary there will also be some explanation about how words are put together to make a Waanyi sentence and how different forms of a word are used. All the Waanyi words and sentences that I am writing down in the dictionary were spoken by Waanyi people who have now passed away.

I recorded Waanyi language speakers starting in 2000, but other linguists such as Gavan Breen, Elwyn Flint, Sandra Keen and Charles Osborne recorded older Waanyi people starting back in the 1960s.

I am linking the recorded sound files to the written words and the sentences, so that you will be able to hear the voices of real Waanyi speakers and learn to say the words like them, by clicking on the links.

There will be two forms of the dictionary.

One is in the form of a book, while the other will be accessed on the computer, with both photos and sound attached to each entry.

This form of the dictionary will also be available via your mobile phone.

So far I have written an entry for 1,274 words, but there are still more to add.

Many words have more than one meaning, so it's important to put that in with example sentences. One needs to do this carefully, so that the information about each word is correct.

The dictionary will also have a list of English words with their Waanyi equivalent, so that you can find a Waanyi word by looking up an English one.

Mary Laughren  
Palmerston, NT  
23 June 2015

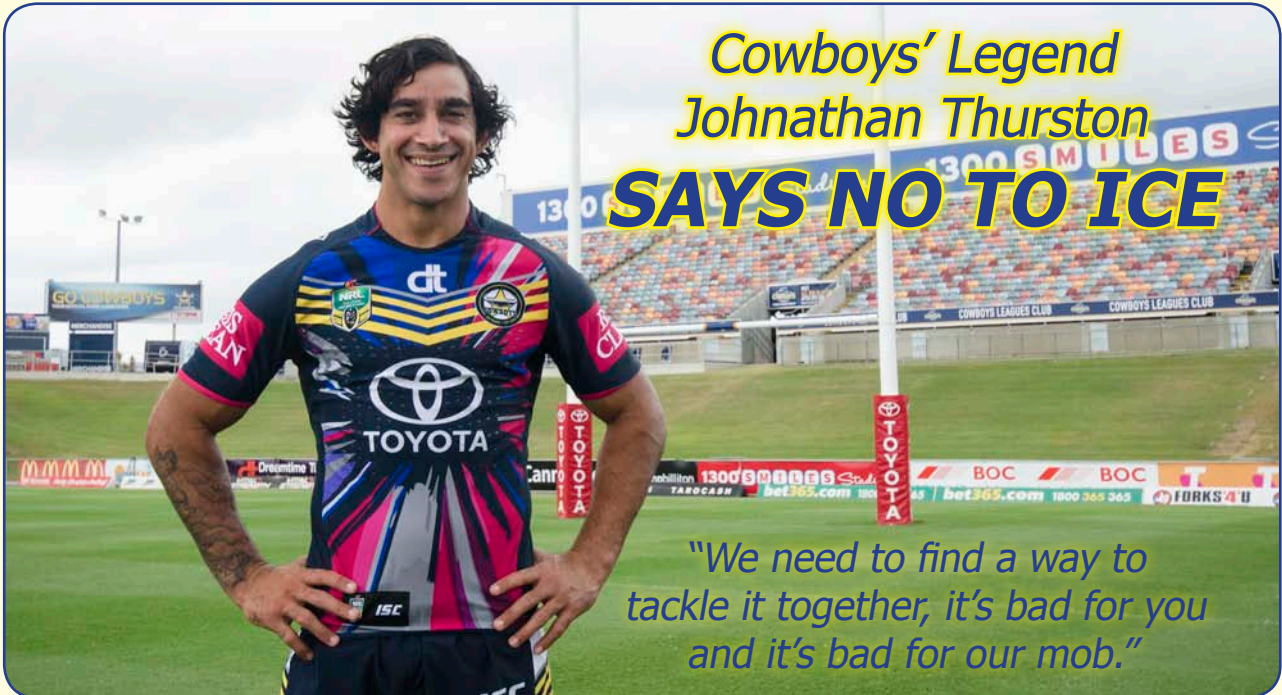
**Answers:**

1. The long vowel marks the word referring to the one who is seeing or looking.
2. *Najba nyulu nana burruuri nangkani kirriyaa* or *Najba nyulu nangkani kirriyaa nana burruuri* or *Nana burruuri nyulu najba nangkani kirriyaa* or *Nangkani kirriyaa nyulu najba nana burruuri*.

*Pictured are some of the participants in the language workshop held in Darwin last year and above is Mary at a Language Camp in Adels Grove.*



# A letter from JT...



Pic courtesy North QLD Toyota Cowboys

**G'day to the Doomadgee mob up there and to all the readers of the *Waanyi Wire*,**

JT from the North Queensland Cowboys here.

Well, we managed to get another great win on the weekend in Canberra. It was a close game, but we snuck home 21-20 over the Raiders on a chilly afternoon at the stadium.

I hope everyone is looking after themselves and each other up in Doomadgee. Whatever you're all going through, there's always positive things you can do to help your brothers and sisters.

Ask each other how they are going and if you see someone heading down a path that might end in trouble or sadness.

Take them aside and ask if you can help.

Or simply just have a yarn to them.

Doing stuff like kicking the footy around or having a game of touch is always a good way of connecting and staying solid with each other.

Mates help mates out no matter what.

We at the Cowboys really appreciate all your support throughout the season and we looking forward to sharing some more wins with you down the track.

Take care Doomadgee and all the best.

*Johnathan Thurston*

Co-captain,  
North Queensland Cowboys