OUR LANGUAGES STILL SPEAK TO US: AN INDIGENOUS LINGUISTIC BASIS FOR LANGUAGE REBUILDING AND RESTORATION.

AIATSIS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CONFERENCE
BRISBANE, 1 TO 3 JULY.
RESEARCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.
RAYMOND KELLY
'ICT' ↔ KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS ↔ 'CULTURE'
An ear in both camps

- Family & community knowledges
  - listening to old people
  - storytelling
  - traditional education
  - multilingualism

- Academic knowledges
  - historical sources
  - audio recordings
  - linguistic (re)analysis

Revaluuing ↔ revitalising ↔ renewal
LEGAL RECOGNITION OF FIRST LANGUAGES

New South Wales
Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 No 51

Recognises NSW Aboriginal languages -
- Connecting people, culture, land
- Passed down in families
- Reawakening cultural connections
- Part of cultural heritage
- Aboriginal custodianship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSOmL_zPQrI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSOmL_zPQrI
CRITICAL THINKING IN DIGITAL SPACES

...power? benefits? possibilities?

- Access, agency, accountability
- GIGO vs values & principles
- Data sovereignty
- Capturing people’s imagination
ENDANGERED LANGUAGES WORK

- Documenting
- Analysing
- Archiving
- Generating outputs
- Disseminating
Some Coastal Languages of NSW

Muurrbay Aboriginal Language & Cultural Cooperative
http://www.muurrbay.org.au
SOME DHANGGATI DOCUMENTATION

F.A. Archibald
(1884-1975)

Terry Widders
(Hons, Macq. 1980)

AIATSIS audio
collection

Gerhardt Laves 1929-31
(1906-1993)

Amanda Lissarrague
(2007)

W.G. Hoddinott
1963-74

Feb 2013

Nils M. Holmer 1966-7
(1904-1994)

Nganhipa dhiyin!

Wanha nga'ang nganhimakayi!

Dhanggati Language Group

AIATSIS
Living condition for the Armidale Aboriginal community circa 1958

Key handing over ceremony 1960 - 14 x 3 bedroom cottages built on the site of the former Armidale Rubbish Dump.

Mr Frank Archibald outside of his home, holding a photograph of his grandfather Mallawangi aka King Robert (Bobby) of the Gumbuthagang
Vice Regal visit to Armidale. An enthusiastic reception, Evening News, 21st Feb 1893.
The name of a mountain near Bellbrook. Also known as 'Anderson's Sugarloaf'. The name is associated with a Dreaming Story, where a man 'flew away from the daylight'. Radcliffe-Brown wrote that the mountain is a 'nambi' and a home for the scrub turkey 'dhalan'.
This is Mrs Holten at Bellbrook
How do you say...the wallaby has big ears?
BURRIWURRI ARRI DIHRRRA YAY WURRRRAY = (WALLABY+THAT+EARS+ALL+BIG+HIM+HAVING)
The nose of the wallaby is wet?
BURRI WIHRI GURRU ARRI NGAMUL ARRI MIRRRI YAY IRRI = (WALLABY+THROUGH+THAT+NOSE+THAT+WET+THIS+ALL+THIS)
Rights what's that word for of the Wallaby's? Bulgun?
BURRIRA ARRI

BURRI GURRI?
BURRIWURRI GURRU NGAMUL ARRI MIRRRI YAY IRRI = (WALLABY+THROUGH+NOSE+THAT+WET+THIS+ALL+THIS)
The spear hit the Wallaby?
BURRIWURRI NGAMAYIRRI THARRRIYIRRA
We gave some grass to wallaby?
PIRRURA ARRA THAL U WI ARRI UMURRA
YAY IRRI ARRI BURRAARU BURRI GURRU URRI = (ALL+THIS+THAT+GRASS WALLABY+TO+GIVE)
gai? gai?
BURRARA = THATS MEAN GRASS
BULGUN WIYAN?
URRI = (GAVE)
YEAH THATS WHEN WE GAVE
too the wallaby?
We took the little wallaby away from the mother wallaby?
BURRIWURRI ARRI YAYIRRI
Glen Innes Mail leaving Werris Creek

Armidale Train Song
(Dhanggati, c.1883, rec. Frank Archibald 1962)

Pirra ngarru, banggara
Warri galagi’i way irri gala gabman gu
Ngarri irri gupirri yarri
Mi arri may irri gabmanggu
Warri galagi’i way irri gala gabman gu

Bell bell bay irru birri irri layiru
Mi arri may irri gabman gu
Warri gala gi’i wayi irri gala gabman gu
Ngarri irri gupirri yarri
Mi arri may irri gabman gu
REFERENCES

HOODINOTT, W.G. (1964) AUDIO TAPES AND UNPUBLISHED NOTES, GUMBAYNGGIR, N2 BOX FILE, HOODINOTT COLLECTION. ARMIDALE, UNE. [TAPE 6A ‘WONGGALADI’].

HOLMER, N.M. (1966) AN ATTEMPT TOWARD A COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR OF TWO AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES. CANBERRA: AIAS.

HOLMER, N.M. (1967) AN ATTEMPT TOWARD A COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR OF TWO AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES, PART 2 INDICES AND VOCABULARIES OF KATTANG AND THANGATTI. CANBERRA: AIAS.

KELLY, R.F. DREAMING THE KEEPARA NSW: AN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE 1900-2000. PHD THESIS (ABORIGINAL STUDIES), UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE.


LAVES, G. (1929) UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS 2189, 3096. CANBERRA: AIATSIS.


WIDDERS, T. (1979) DHAN-GADI, AN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC SALVAGE STUDY. UNPUBLISHED HONOURS THESIS, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY.