

Mirima Linguistic Forum

Thursday, 29th August 2019

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 23rd Linguistic Forum to take place on Thursday, 29th of August 2019, starting at 2pm. The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra.

For this meeting we warmly welcome Frances Kofod (MDWg) who will provide an update on her Gajirrabeng research project with the following title:

**Gajirrabeng - Boorrb-goo jemang joodi-joodib
ngalamberrmi? 'Have you finished writing quickly on the
paper?' - Daisy Jandoony, Gajirrabeng speaker, 1989**

Frances Kofod, Project Linguist, Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring
Language and Culture Centre

FRANCES KOFOD has been involved in many projects to do with language and culture in the East Kimberley for close to fifty years, including extensive work with all Jarragan languages (Miriwoong, Gajirrabeng, and Gija). She came to Kununurra in the 1970s to record Miriwoong language for the University of New England and completed a description of Miriwoong grammar as an MA Honours thesis in 1978. She also recorded Gajirrabeng at the request of senior speakers. In 1989 she assisted the Mirima Council in setting up the *Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre* (MDWg) which keeps functioning as a hub for Miriwoong language and cultural maintenance. One of Frances' main focus areas at the moment is the transcription and analysis of historical Gajirrabeng records and this presentation will look into some of the differences between Miriwoong and Gajirrabeng.

ABSTRACT

Gajirrabeng - Boorrb-goo jemang joodi-joodib ngalamberrmi? 'Have you finished writing quickly on the paper?' - Daisy Jandoony, Gajirrabeng speaker, 1989

Frances Kofod, MDWg

You may have wondered “What is the ‘G’ in ‘M & G’?” We know that Kununurra is in Miriwoong country but what does the ‘G’ stand for? The language spoken in the country to the north of Miriwoong was known as Gajirrang or Gajirrawoong by the Miriwoong, but was known as Gajirrabeng by the speakers themselves. They called the Miriwoong the Miribeng.

One of the people most instrumental in setting up Mirima Dawang Woortlab-gerring in 1989 was Gajirrabeng speaker Daisy Jandoony. She was very determined that her language should be recorded. Many recordings were made but not all were not written down and translated. Last year a grant was given by the Endangered Documentation Programme at SOAS at the University of London to Mirima Dawang Woortlab-gerring for Frances Kofod to do some of this work

This presentation is about this Gajirrabeng digitisation, transcription and analysis project. Gajirrabeng language is a close relation of Miriwoong. The presentation will show some of the things Gajirrabeng shares with Miriwoong and also some of the significant differences. It is intended that this talk should pay tribute to the memory of Jandoony and other past elders who recorded the language at Mirima Dawang Woortlab-gerring, Mignonette Jamin and Paddy Carlton.