



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**
Live light

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FACT SHEET



Kunwinjku

General Language Information:

There are approximately 2,500 Kunwinjku speakers primarily located in western Arnhem Land, including the township of Oenpelli, 320Kms east of Darwin.

Oenpelli (also called ‘Kunbarllanjnja’ or ‘Gunbalanya’) is located on the eastern border of Kakadu National Park at the base of the Arnhem Land escarpment. Kunwinjku people are part of a small minority among Australia’s indigenous peoples who still use their own languages and retain significant elements of their traditional lifestyles. These include an intense loyalty to family and clan groups and traditional kinship and marriage systems. Kunwinjku people continue to speak their own language in almost every area of their life—despite nearly a century of contact with English-speakers and only a few adults claim to speak competent English.

However the influence of ‘Balanda’ (Non-Kunwinjku) culture has lead to changes at a rate the Kunwinjku identify as too much and too fast, resulting in feelings of helplessness.

Useful Links....

Some of the information contained in this Fact sheet is from the following websites:

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

Steve Etherington’s Thesis “Learning to be Kunwinjku’

<http://espace.cdu.edu.au/eserv/cdu:6517/>

[Thesis CDU 6517 Etherington S.pdf](#)



Below is John 3:16 in Kunwinjku:

“Wanjh Jesus biyawoyhmarneyimeng Nicodemus, bu yawoyhmulewarreni, wanjh yimeng, “God nawu benmarnedjareminj bininj birriwarlahkenh rowk wanjh kunmekbekenh kunu benwong bedberre nawu nuye beywurd nadjalkudji, ba bu bininj nawu kabirrihwoybukwon, wanjh minj mak kabirrimalngdownen dja kabirridjalmalngmimbi munguyhmunguyh.”



Aerial view of Oenpelli

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FACT SHEET

SCRIPTURE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

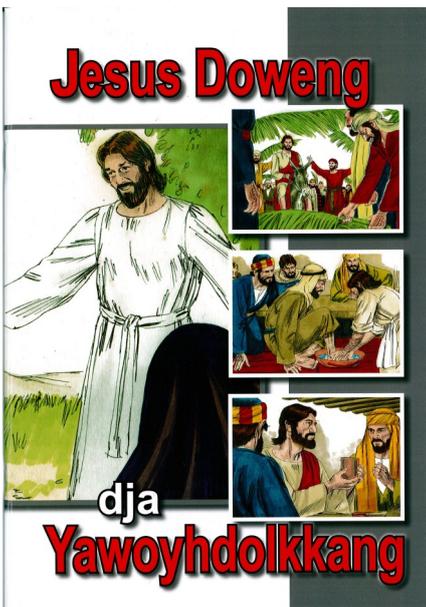
Print

- **'God Kanbengdayhke Kadberre' (Kunwinjku MiniBible)** was printed in 1992 which contained Genesis, Exodus 1– 14 and 20, Ruth from the Old Testament as well as Luke, John, Acts and Ephesians from the New Testament. There is currently work on a complete New Testament through the work of Bible Translator Steve Etherington (*pictured right*) with plans to launch it in the near future.

BIBLE STATISTICS

MiniBible with:

- ◇ OT Selections (Genesis, Exodus & Ruth)
- ◇ NT (2 Gospels; Acts & Ephesians)



- **Jesus Doweng dja Yawoyhdolk kang, Jesus Died and Rose Again** —a 46 page Colouring/Activity Book telling the Easter Story using selections of Scripture from the four gospels (*pictured left*).



Audio

- There are various audio recordings available through the **Global Recordings Network** globalrecordings.net/program/c75235 and also at the World Bibles website worldbibles.org/language_detail/eng/gup/Kunwinjku

Video

- **Good News Kunwinjku People/Language Movie Trailer** available on line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvot4Bwi4Jg

For further information about this resource or to order copies please contact:

Remote & Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS)

770 South Road, Glandore, SA 5037

Phone: (08) 8 8292 4888

Email: translation@biblesociety.org.au

Web: www.biblesociety.org.au