



**BIBLE  
SOCIETY**  
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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FACT SHEET



# Burarra



### General Language Information

The Burarra language is spoken by approximately 600 speakers in the Blyth & Cadell River regions and in the town of Maningrida in North-Central Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory, some 400km east of Darwin.

The town of Maningrida was established just after World War 2 as a Welfare Department settlement with aboriginal groups from outlying regions moving into the town. Per capita, Maningrida is perhaps the most multilingual community in the world with as many as 15 distinct language groups living there. Most people have command of at least 3 of these languages.

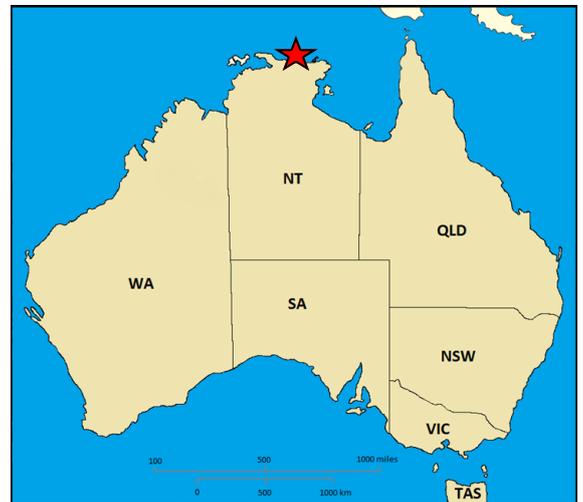
The Burarra language consists of three dialects; Gun-narta (also referred to as Anbarra), Gun-narda (also known as Martay) and Gun-nartpa. Burarra has 21 consonants and 5 vowels.

### Useful Links....

Some of the information contained in this 'Indigenous Language Fact Sheet' is from:

**Australian Summer Institute of Linguistics**

(AuSIL [www.ausil.org.au](http://www.ausil.org.au)). There is also a Burarra Online Dictionary available at their website.



**Some examples of Burarra Words are:**

God—'*wangarr*'

no—'*ngika*'

goodbye—'*bobo*'

Lord Jesus—'*Garray*'

yes, that's right—'*i-i*'



Aerial photo of Maningrida

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## SCRIPTURE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### Print

- **Nyanyapa Arrku Gun-nika Gun-molamola Janguny** (*'Our Father's Good Story'*) (the Burarra New Testament) was completed in 1991 and then was revised and reprinted in 2008 (*pictured below*). After Bible Translators David and Kathy Glasgow spent 29 years working with the local people to translate and write the Burarra language.
- The **Mark A-Wukurrjinga** (Gospel of Mark) is available in booklet form (*as well as audio CD see below*).



- **Wangarr Gun-nika Janguny Arrburrwa Gu-murna Rrawa Rrapa Gu-mugarla**, a translation of *God's Story for the Outback* - a simple Bible overview in the form of a colouring booklet with 48 Bible Stories. Available free to indigenous children as part of a children's pack. (*pictured left*)
- There were several stories from the Old Testament translated by the Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Translators between 1980 and 1982, these included: 'Jonah', 'Joseph, son of Jacob', 'Moses', 'Noah's Story', 'The Story of Abraham' and 'The Creation Story'.

### BIBLE STATISTICS

✓ Complete NT

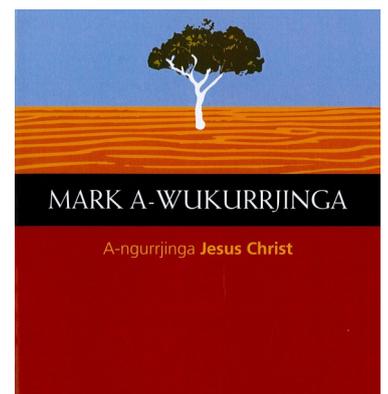


### Audio

The **Mark A-Wukurrjinga** (Gospel of Mark) is available from the Bible Society as a 4 CD disc set with an accompanying booklet and has been recorded using local indigenous people. There are various audio recordings available through the **Global Recordings Network** (<http://globalrecordings.net/en/country/AS>)

### Video

There is also **'Mu-ngoyurra Gu-ni'** (*'It was the beginning'*) 2009, an AuSIL resource not yet published which consists of 16 Burarra Bible Studies and Literacy Modules based on Genesis 1-3 which comes as an A4 stapled booklet (booklet is free to Burarra people –with an accompanying video, available from [www.ausil.org.au/](http://www.ausil.org.au/)).



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

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**Phone: (08) 8292 4888**

**Email: [translation@biblesociety.org.au](mailto:translation@biblesociety.org.au)**

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