



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

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INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FACT SHEET



Modern Tiwi

General Language Information

There are approximately 2,000 Tiwi speakers located on the Tiwi Islands 80kms north of Darwin in the Arafura Sea. The Tiwi Islands consist of Bathurst and Melville Island and five smaller islands totalling 8,320 square kilometres and include a coastline of 1,016kms. Bathurst Island is the fifth largest island of Australia and Melville Island is Australia's second largest (after Tasmania).

The Tiwi people are culturally and linguistically distinct from Indigenous people on the mainland of Australia. There is unique vegetation and wildlife, some of which is found nowhere else in the world. The traditional Tiwi language is only spoken by people above the age of 30 while Modern Tiwi (which is influenced by English) is commonly spoken by the young people.

Historically there is a strong connection between the Tiwi people and the Catholic church, having established a mission in 1911 and the construction of a timber church, a prominent landmark, in the 1930's. With self-determination in 1972 the mission ceased however there has been a constant presence of the church at the request of the Tiwi people of Nguui to assist with education and health care.

Useful Links....

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

[Tiwi Land Council website](http://www.tiwi-land-council.com.au)

Church on Bathurst Island (pictured right)



Below is John 3:16 as it appears in Modern Tiwi:

"Awarra ngawa-rringani ngarra warntirrana puranji yimuwu ngingngaji ngawula arikutumunuwi kapi ngarimuwu kapi ngingngaji ngatawa murrakupuni api awarra ngarra-mirani ngini ngarra yatilani api awarra ngawa-rringani yini-pangirri ngarra awungarra kapi naki murrakupuni api awuta arikutumunuwi kapi wuta kuwa wurimi ngarra amintiya kapi wuni ngarra kapi wuta ruwuti api ngawa-yuwuni Jesus ngarra-rringani wiya arnuka yimata-ngirri awuta arikutumunuwi kapi awarra maputiti jajuja arimi. Wuta awuta arikutumunuwi wiya wurumuwu yiloti kapi kuriyuwu kapi ngawa-rringani jajuja."



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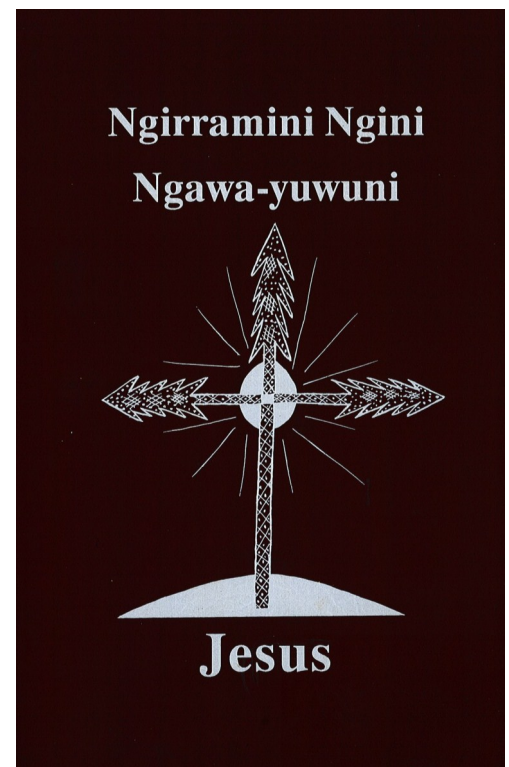
SCRIPTURE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Print

- **Ngirramini Ngini Ngawa-yuwuni Jesus** (*The Words about our Older Brother Jesus*) is a translation of Gospel portions concerning the life of Jesus Christ from his birth to his return to heaven. The portions are from all four Gospels and are arranged in the order the events occurred. (pictured right)

BIBLE STATISTICS

- ◇ NT (Gospel portions)



Audio

- There are various audio recordings available through the **Global Recordings Network** (<http://globalrecordings.net/en/country/AS>)

Video

- There are currently no Audio-Visual resources for this specific language.

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