

About the authors

Rob Amery completed a PhD at the University of Adelaide in 1998 (published in August 2000) on Kurna language reclamation. He serves as consultant linguist to Kurna language programs in schools and community projects and has advised on numerous place-naming initiatives and other Kurna naming activity. He works closely with members of the Kurna community to reclaim the language from historical materials and to develop it for use in a range of contemporary contexts. He convenes the Kurna Warra Pintyandi group which meets monthly to address requests for names and translations, and to work on Kurna language projects.

Geoff Anderson *Garrama Ngarru Ngarru* (Hunter of Sweet Things) is a Wiradjuri man from Parkes, a proud member of the Wiradjuri Council of Elders, the Eastern States Indigenous Languages Working Group and current president of the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. He is not a qualified teacher but teaches Wiradjuri to people of all ages in a voluntary capacity to the best of his ability. His language work has been a healing process for him and he has seen many people finding themselves by learning it. Geoff aims to get the language to as many people as possible, especially young ones, so they can get in touch with their identity and culture.

Anna Ash has worked in Aboriginal language revitalisation in Queensland, the Northern Territory and New South Wales (NSW). She has contributed to the *Lardil dictionary*, *A Lardil learner's guide* and the *Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Yuwaalayaay dictionary*. Since 2004 she has been coordinator-linguist with Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre under the auspices of Murrumbidgee in Nambucca Heads, supporting Aboriginal communities in the revitalisation of seven languages through analysing and documenting, publishing resources such as dictionaries, grammars, memoirs, stories and student workbooks, and supporting educational programs. Anna is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing.

Faith Baisden has had many years experience working with communities around Australia as they explore project development aimed at the reclamation and preservation of languages. This has included work with her own Yugambah community, whose country is to the south of Brisbane in south-east Queensland. Faith has maintained a special interest in promoting the work produced by the various communities to ensure that new initiatives and resource concepts are shared to best advantage by all in the national network of committed language supporters. She is a member of the Queensland Indigenous Languages Advisory Committee and the Eastern States Indigenous Languages Working Group.

Heather Bowe is a senior lecturer in linguistics at Monash University and holds a PhD from the University of Southern California. Heather's interest in Aboriginal languages began when she was an advisory teacher for bilingual education in the Pitjantjatjara lands of South Australia. Since 1993 Heather's research has focused on Aboriginal languages of Victoria. She was instrumental, alongside those at Worawa Aboriginal College, in the development of the *Indigenous languages of Victoria, revival and reclamation: Victorian Certificate of Education study design*. Heather leads the Australian Research Council linkage project, 'Reclamation of Victorian Indigenous languages: using ICT to enable effective exchange among academics, educators and the Indigenous community', which is reported on in this volume.

Claire Bower is assistant professor of linguistics at Yale University. She attended the Australian National University and Harvard, where her PhD was on the verb system of the Bardi language and how it has changed over time. She has been involved in language documentation, description and revitalisation in northern Australia for the last ten years. This has included volunteer work with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. For the last five years she has been working with Yan-nhanju people from Milingimbi on language documentation.

Ursula Brown started working at a school through her local Community Development Employment Projects program in 1996. From 1997 to 2008 she completed 13 courses, from Certificate of Attainment up to Master of Indigenous Languages Education. Ursula has received several awards for dedication to study, and to her community. She has worked with the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) on a casual basis since 1996 as an Aboriginal education assistant, teacher's aide (special) and a teacher's aide. Since completing her Bachelor of Education Ursula has worked as a casual classroom teacher, a support teacher learning assistance, a librarian and a release from face-to-face teacher.

Paul Chandler started his education career in 1987 teaching science and mathematics in his local community at Matraville High School. After completing a MSc in psychology and a PhD in cognition and learning at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), in 1992 he became the first academic from education to receive an Australian Research Council post-doctoral research fellowship. Paul completed two terms as head of the School of Education at UNSW before being appointed dean of education at the University of Wollongong. In 2008, at a National Press Club event, Paul was awarded as one of Australia's ten most pre-eminent researchers. Paul's real passion is working with young people and, for 25 years, he has been heavily involved in improving Indigenous outcomes in education and health through an array of community-driven projects and initiatives.

Jackie Cipollone is a language educator with 30 years of experience in the secondary school and vocational education and training sectors. Her current role as education programs manager in the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) NSW Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Unit includes collaborating with the Aboriginal Education and Training Directorate in the NSW DET on the implementation of the

TAFE NSW Aboriginal languages qualifications. She would like to acknowledge the many generous contributions of her Aboriginal colleagues in this work.

Eleonora Deak has been a linguist with Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre since 2004. She is working with Banyjima and Jurruru speakers and custodians to update the database and dictionary resources for these languages. Eleonora and Wangka Maya language workers updated the resources for Thalanyji, Bayungu, Burduna and Binigura. Eleonora also worked at Diwurruwurru-jaru Katherine Regional Language Centre from 1999 to 2002 as the south-east linguist. She worked with the language teams to continue school programs at Urapunga, Ngukurr and Minyerri and supported other language work in Ngukurr. She finished her honours in linguistics at the University of Queensland.

Sally Dixon worked at Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre from 2006 to 2009. In her role as community linguist she helped develop community language resources as well as language documentation and description work. Prior to that she worked in the Philippines in an indigenous education non-government organisation, helping to structure the multilingual curriculum and create resources for schools. She completed undergraduate studies at UNSW and a Graduate Certificate in Language Endangerment Studies at Monash University. She is currently completing her PhD at the University of Sydney, looking at how Aboriginal children acquire code-switching behaviour as part of their multilingual development.

Christina Eira is the community linguist for Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages. This role is focused on Aboriginal communities reviving their languages, based on principles of the reclamation of authority in language. Christina works alongside Koorie people as they develop skills and confidence in language work, and within academic linguistics exploring the ramifications of this work for epistemological, methodological and theoretical concerns. Previously she worked with immigrant communities on language maintenance. For her PhD Christina explored social and political discourses underlying standardisation processes and orthographic development. Christina has co-produced dictionaries in four languages, and a contemporary grammar of Narungga from South Australia.

George Fisher, Wiradjuri and Gadigal Elder, passed away during the writing of this paper. We would like to acknowledge the contribution he made in Sydney to the growth of not only his own language, Wiradjuri, but also language teaching in general. George was one of the first Aboriginal musicians recorded in Australia, playing in The Opals then Mr George, and touring Australia as support for both David Cassidy and the Bee Gees. He used these musical and recording skills in his teaching of language. It is reported that when he found his language, he said that no-one was ever going to take it from him again, and that he now realised why people said he spoke English back to front, as he could now speak in the language in which he was thinking.

Mary-Anne Gale is a research fellow at the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. Being a linguist and teacher, she currently works with the Ngarrindjeri community and schools in the revival of the Ngarrindjeri language.

Much of her career has been in Aboriginal teacher training, working with Warlpiri, Yolŋu, Pitjantjatjara and now Ngarrindjeri adults. She has recently written a course for TAFE South Australia to train adults to teach endangered Aboriginal languages. In her spare time she collaborates with Aboriginal Elders in writing and publishing their life stories, and is presently writing the life story of David Unaipon, the man represented on the Australian 50-dollar note.

John Giacon was born in Italy and grew up in Wollongong. He worked in schools in NSW and the Australian Capital Territory, mainly in maths, science, religion and administration. In 1994 he moved to Walgett and shortly after began working on the Yuwaalaraay language, and later Gamilaraay. John has worked in a number of language programs including in Walgett, has been involved in producing language resources, including the *Gamilaraay, Yuwaalayaay and Yuwaalayaay dictionary* and the yuwaalaraay.org website and worked on the *NSW K-10 Aboriginal Language Syllabus*. He is currently doing a PhD on Gamilaraay-Yuwaalaraay at the Australian National University, teaches the languages, and is working on more resources for them.

Richard Green has been involved in learning the Dharug *dalang* (language) since his youth. He has been acknowledged in his community as a songman and a teacher of language. It has been a long road for him to improve his language knowledge, study his language then learn how to teach it. He has been teaching in schools for years, and his program has been acknowledged as having improved school attendance among Aboriginal students.

Clair Hill has worked on north-eastern Cape York languages for seven years, in particular the Umpila-Kuuku Ya'u-Kaanju dialect group. This work has included coordinating and participating in documentation projects funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records program, and a three-year major documentation project funded by the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project. She is currently undertaking a PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and the University of Leuven. Her current projects include: Language of Perception project, Categories group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics; AIATSIS Online Language Community Access Pilot project; and Optional ergative marking and the architecture of case systems, University of Leuven.

John Hobson has over 20 years of experience in Indigenous Australian languages and linguistics, ten of those spent in Central Australia. He has worked on various dictionary projects, trained translators and interpreters, and delivered Aboriginal language and literacy courses at the Institute for Aboriginal Development. He has worked as a linguist and literature production supervisor in four concurrent bilingual programs at Yipirinya School, and trained Indigenous linguists and language workers at Batchelor Institute's Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics in Alice Springs. Currently he lectures at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney, where he coordinates and teaches in the graduate programs in Indigenous languages education.

Pauline Hooler *ngarri Gumbaynggirr nyami*. Pauline works at the Muurrbay Language Centre as an administration officer and part-time language teacher. She considers language as synonymous with identity, as the language belongs to and connects the people to the land. She feels that learning language is a healing process; it makes you realise that someone is not whole until they know their language. For her, language filled a gap in her life that she did not know she had. She believes that language is also a healing process for Mother Earth as she has not heard the voices of her first children for over a hundred years and all of a sudden she is hearing and recognising them. Pauline says to her students that Mother Earth is hearing the native tongue of her country and all the rain that falls on Australia's north coast is Mother Earth crying tears of happiness and cleansing.

Peter Howard is associate professor at the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement at the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield campus in NSW. He has been involved in academic programs and community development for Aboriginal communities since the 1980s. Peter has a background in engaging with Aboriginal peoples to bring about authentic change within educational programs and in enhancing community capacity.

Bentley James holds a PhD in anthropology from the Australian National University titled 'Time and tide in the Crocodile Islands: change and continuity in Yan-nhangu marine identity'. A social and cultural anthropologist, linguist and educator he has lived and worked with the people of the Crocodile Islands for the past seventeen years recording their history, languages, ritual, social organisation and recent pre-history. In 2003 he published the Yan-nhanju dictionary. He presently leads a number of multidisciplinary projects in collaboration with the Yan-nhanju people (and institutional partners) linking traditional ecological knowledge, satellite mapping and online (talking) pictorial dictionary technology on the Crocodile Islands.

Caroline Jones has worked in research and education in Aboriginal languages with communities west of Katherine in the Northern Territory since 1993 and in NSW since 2004. She completed a PhD in linguistics in 2003 at the University of Massachusetts on young children's receptive language development in the area of speech sounds. She worked in research at the Macarthur Auditory Research Centre, Sydney laboratories at the University of Western Sydney, then as a lecturer in the School of Education at UNSW, and is currently a senior lecturer in education at the University of Wollongong.

Alex Kelly is a media arts practitioner and producer who has worked on magazines, film installations, documentaries, theatre, large community projects and online media. In 2004 Alex moved to Coober Pedy to support the Irati Wanti (The Poison, Leave It) campaign of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta (Senior Aboriginal Women of Coober Pedy). From Coober Pedy she moved to Alice Springs to produce the acclaimed Ngapartji Ngapartji project from 2005 to 2010, which she conceptualised with Trevor Jamieson and Scott Rankin. She was the 2007 recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts Kirk Robson award and a 2008 YouthActionNet fellow.

The **Kimberley Language and Resource Centre (KLRC)** was the first regional language centre in Australia. Established in 1984, it is the peak representative body for Aboriginal language groups in the Kimberley, Western Australia (WA). The KLRC is a grass-roots organisation informed directly of the needs of the Aboriginal language groups through its community work. For directors, Elders, language speakers and community members – past and present – the organisation stands for the survival of their languages, as represented in its mission statement ‘Keeping language strong’.

Cat Kutay has been working with George Fisher and other Wiradjuri people in Sydney for many years setting up computing applications for use in language teaching in schools and with adults. The process has been two-way, studying the culture of the language and its mode of transmission, and exploring open source software to assist the limited tutors available in Sydney for school teaching and adult training. In the last year Cat Kutay has also assisted Richard Green in using IT for song writing in language for school students.

Karen Lane has been teaching Indonesian and French for the past 16 years at Vincentia High School. Since 2004 she has been involved in the planning, program writing, teaching and resource development for the Dhurga language program. She works on the program closely with community member and Dhurga teacher Mitch Martin. Together they have worked with the local community and a linguist to prepare a program suitable for Year 8 Stage 4 students. They are enthusiastic about taking this to the next level and implementing a Stage 5 course.

Kevin Lowe, a Gubbi Gubbi man from south-east Queensland, is Inspector, Aboriginal Education in the NSW Office of the Board of Studies, a key position in the development of Aboriginal syllabuses and curriculum perspectives in NSW. He had extensive experience in schools, TAFE and universities before taking up this position in 2001. He has also been the deputy chairperson of the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages. For many years he has been actively involved in the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. He is currently working with Aboriginal communities, schools and education systems in establishing programs that centre on the development of school–community learning partnerships.

Kathy Lynch is an associate professor in ICT research and development at the University of the Sunshine Coast and obtained her PhD in education in 2005 from Monash University. She is an honorary research associate at the Faculty of IT at the University of Technology Sydney, the Faculty of Computing and IT at Makerere University (Uganda), and the University of Cape Town. Kathy has been an editor and reviewer for international journals and conferences in the fields of IT and education, published and presented at international and national conferences, received national competitive grants, university grants and industry funding, and is the author of two textbooks.

Diane McNaboe is a Wiradjuri woman from central-western NSW. Her passion for languages began 19 years ago when she was coordinator of the Janggara Dance and

Cultural Group. Diane is currently employed as an Aboriginal education resource teacher at Dubbo West Public School and teaches Wiradjuri at primary and high school levels, as well as adults in the community and the annual languages summer school at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney. She researches the language with Wiradjuri experts in the community and is often called upon to proofread texts that are being created in the language.

Steve Maier completed a Bachelor of Education at Sydney College of Advanced Education and began teaching at Dunheved High School, St Marys in 1990. In 1996 he moved to Parkes in central-west NSW and has been teaching at Parkes High School ever since. He has a particular interest in Aboriginal education, issues and culture, stemming from his training and work in geography, legal studies and Aboriginal studies. Becoming good friends with a number of local Indigenous people from Parkes and Forbes, Steve's interest and appreciation of Aboriginal culture grew and led to his involvement in learning and promoting the Wiradjuri language.

Ian G Malcolm is emeritus professor and honorary professor in the Faculty of Education and Arts at Edith Cowan University where he was, until his retirement in 2003, professor of applied linguistics and co-director of the Centre for Applied Language and Literacy Research. He has carried out research in such areas as classroom discourse analysis, tertiary languages education, cross-cultural communication and Aboriginal English, and has published widely in applied linguistics with international publishers. He has lectured by invitation in the UK, USA, Singapore, China, Thailand, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Germany and Norway, as well as Australia.

Patrick McConvell holds a PhD in African studies and linguistics from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and has worked on languages in the western Northern Territory, the Kimberleys and Pilbara of Western Australia for over 30 years. Apart from grammar and dictionary work, he is interested in language maintenance, the shift to Kriol, code-switching and language mixing. He has been involved with the setting up of the KLRC, working in bilingual schools, and Indigenous language worker training at Batchelor College. He has held a number of positions including lecturer at the Northern Territory and Griffith Universities, linguistic research fellow at AIATSIS, and principal anthropologist in land and native title claims in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Felicity Meakins worked as a community linguist at Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) in Katherine from 2001 to 2004, producing language resources and facilitating revitalisation programs with Gurindji, Bilinarra and Ngarinyman people. Felicity joined the Aboriginal Child Language project at the University of Melbourne in 2004 as a PhD student. From 2007 she continued documenting Gurindji, Bilinarra and Gurindji Kriol with a DOBES (*Dokumentation Bedrohter Sprachen*) project at the University of Manchester while she was again based at DAC in Katherine. Felicity created dual-language DVDs and books, and collaborated on two dictionaries. She currently holds a Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Program grant to produce a Gurindji Kriol grammar and dictionary.

Knut J. Olawsky is a specialist in language documentation, field linguistics and endangered languages and has published grammars of Dagbani (Ghana) and Urarina (Peru). In his role as senior linguist and coordinator of the Mirima Language Centre he is engaged in the revitalisation of the Miriwoong language of the east Kimberley region (north-western Australia). His academic background includes a PhD from Dusseldorf (Germany) as well as postdoctoral positions at the University of California, Berkeley (1999–2000) and at La Trobe University, Melbourne (2000–05), where he was a Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Program fellow (2003–05). While his commitment to the Miriwoong people involves a range of non-academic tasks, he stays connected to the academic world through casual teaching and presentations on an international level.

Susan Poetsch is currently working as a curriculum officer at the Board of Studies NSW. Her role involves working with Aboriginal community members, linguists and school staff to implement the NSW *Aboriginal Languages K–10 Syllabus* and develop local programs in various locations in the state. She has also worked as a teacher–linguist for the Katherine Regional Language Centre in the Northern Territory, as a research assistant on the Australian National Placenames Survey at Macquarie University and as an English language teacher in China, Korea, Sydney and on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait.

Julie Reid was awarded her PhD in linguistics from La Trobe University in 1998. She began working on Victorian Aboriginal languages with Professor Barry Blake in the early 1990s, and is currently a research fellow at Monash University, where she is developing materials for the Aboriginal Languages of Victoria Web Resource Portal Project, alongside Heather Bowe and Kathy Lynch. Julie has also taught the *Indigenous languages of Victoria, revival and reclamation: Victorian Certificate of Education study design* at the Victorian School of Languages, and is a member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s Implementation Committee for this study design.

Nicholas Reid holds a PhD from the Australian National University and teaches linguistics within the School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences at the University of New England, Australia. He has written a grammar and dictionary of the Northern Territory language Ngan’gi. Nicholas is strongly committed to the preservation of linguistic diversity. He is actively involved in various language maintenance initiatives in the Daly River region, including heritage work on endangered song language traditions in the community of Wadeye. He has run workshops for the NSW Board of Studies on developing orthographies for and writing NSW languages, and acts in an advisory capacity for various local language re-awakening projects.

Mari Rhydwen is currently Aboriginal languages consultant with the NSW DET. Following undergraduate studies in linguistics and education in London and Cambridge, Mari undertook a PhD at Sydney University on Kriol, literacy and language change in the Northern Territory. She has held research and teaching posts at a number of

Australian universities, as well as at the School of Australian Linguistics and Batchelor College. She has also coordinated a community language centre.

Lynnette Solomon-Dent is a Monero/Ngarigu woman. She has a Bachelor degree in Education (Monash University) and a Graduate Certificate in LOTE methodologies. She has been teaching Aboriginal languages for over 20 years at university, TAFE, primary and early childhood levels. Lynnette has published books in the Koorie education area to encourage teachers to start teaching Aboriginal studies. Lynnette is also the community linguist and language consultant to the *Yirruk-Tinnor* Gunnai Language program in Gippsland. This work has included major projects such as the development of an extensive storyboard Dreaming trail in Gunnai, and a series of six illustrated books. She is currently developing an encyclopaedic dictionary of Gunnai. Lynnette is also an artist with a number of publicly sold paintings and photographs to her credit.

Beth Sometimes is an artist, musician and writer based in Alice Springs. She has had a six-year collaborative creative relationship with the Pitjantjatjara community at Pukatja in South Australia and has worked with the *Ngapartji Ngapartji* project and theatre show since 2006. She is a semi-fluent Pitjantjatjara speaker. Beth is currently working as musical director for a new theatre work in development by Big hART and Windmill Performing Arts: *Nyuntu Ngali* and preparing her first major publication *'from sometimes love beth'* – a compendium of postcards sent in 2008.

Syd Sparrow is a member of the Ngarrindjeri community and a qualified lawyer, as well as an academic at the University of South Australia. After a long career with legal aid, Syd now lectures in the David Unaipon Centre for Indigenous Education and Research.

Trevor Stockley speaks Gumatj and worked from 1979 to 1992 at Yirrkala and Laynhapuy Homeland Schools, Northern Territory, focusing on Yolŋu control, the inclusion of Yolŋu knowledge in a balanced curriculum, implementing Yolŋu ways of working and community-based teacher training. His work at Cairns TAFE as a curriculum writer and teacher for the Diploma of Indigenous Australian Language Studies, led to his work in north Queensland as a specialist Aboriginal languages teacher and program writer for the Warrgamay and Gudjal language revival programs. Trevor has delivered community-based language awareness workshops for the Warrgamay, Djirrbal, Ngadjan, Girramay, Nyawaygi and Gudjal language groups. He is currently involved in the continuing struggle for language rights and bilingual/multilingual education in the Northern Territory.

Adriano Truscott is an English as a second language teacher-linguist and has been working on language advocacy, revival and community language projects in the mid-west of WA. He has been involved in the development of a range of language projects including multimedia products (online, TV, radio, press, exhibitions), an accredited Aboriginal language course (Wajarri) and training for teachers in linguistics and language teaching. He currently works with the ABC Two-Way Literacy and Learning

project for the Department of Education and Training WA in training, the two-way philosophy, and resource development in the classroom, as well as researching Aboriginal English.

Ken Walker is a Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung man from Nambucca Heads on the north coast of NSW. Ken has worked with the Gumbaynggirr language since joining a language class at Sherwood, west of Kempsey in 1990. Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative became incorporated in 1992 and was established in the old church in Bellwood, Nambucca Heads. Ken is now Chairperson of Muurrbay, which in the last five years has grown to include the Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre, supporting seven languages of coastal NSW. Ken also runs the Aboriginal languages summer school at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney and liaises with government and education departments and community organisations about language and cultural issues.

Michael Walsh has carried out fieldwork in the top end of the Northern Territory since 1972, mainly in the Darwin-Daly region. This has been a mixture of academic endeavours as well as consultancies since 1979, mainly relating to Aboriginal land issues. From 1999 he has been involved in the revitalisation of Aboriginal languages in NSW. From 1982 up until the end of 2005 he was part of the teaching staff of the Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney. Since then, as an honorary associate, he has continued his research – especially through a large Australian Research Council grant running from 2004 to 2010 and involving a team of linguists and musicologists.

Gary Williams is a Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung man from Nambucca Heads on the north coast of NSW. Having grown up around language speakers but, for various reasons, not learning how to speak it, he jumped at the chance when Muurrbay Language Centre offered a full-time Gumbaynggirr language course. He has taught language at Muurrbay, in Years 11 and 12 at Nambucca Heads High School and at the annual languages summer school at the Koori Centre, University of Sydney. He now divides his time between Muurrbay and the Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre. He finds it very rewarding to talk to other language groups and see how they approach language reclamation.

Aidan Wilson is a PhD candidate in linguistics at the University of Melbourne and an audio engineer at the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures. He began working with the Wagiman people in 2005 in preparation for an honours project for his bachelor degree at the University of Sydney. Aidan has continued working with the Wagiman people since completing his Honours degree – most recently to update the Wagiman dictionary.

Tyson Kaawoppa Yunkaporta has ancestral ties to Nungar people in South Australia, but, as he grew up in Queensland, his name comes from his mob on Cape York. He holds a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education, and worked in Queensland as a teacher for ten years before moving to western NSW in 2006. Tyson is a carver of traditional weapons and instruments and uses this traditional knowledge to inform his

work and research in Aboriginal education. He is currently studying for his doctorate in education and working as an Aboriginal education consultant for western NSW, where he has helped to develop school programs for five Aboriginal languages.