



Language and Culture Archives

Jilba dunganya

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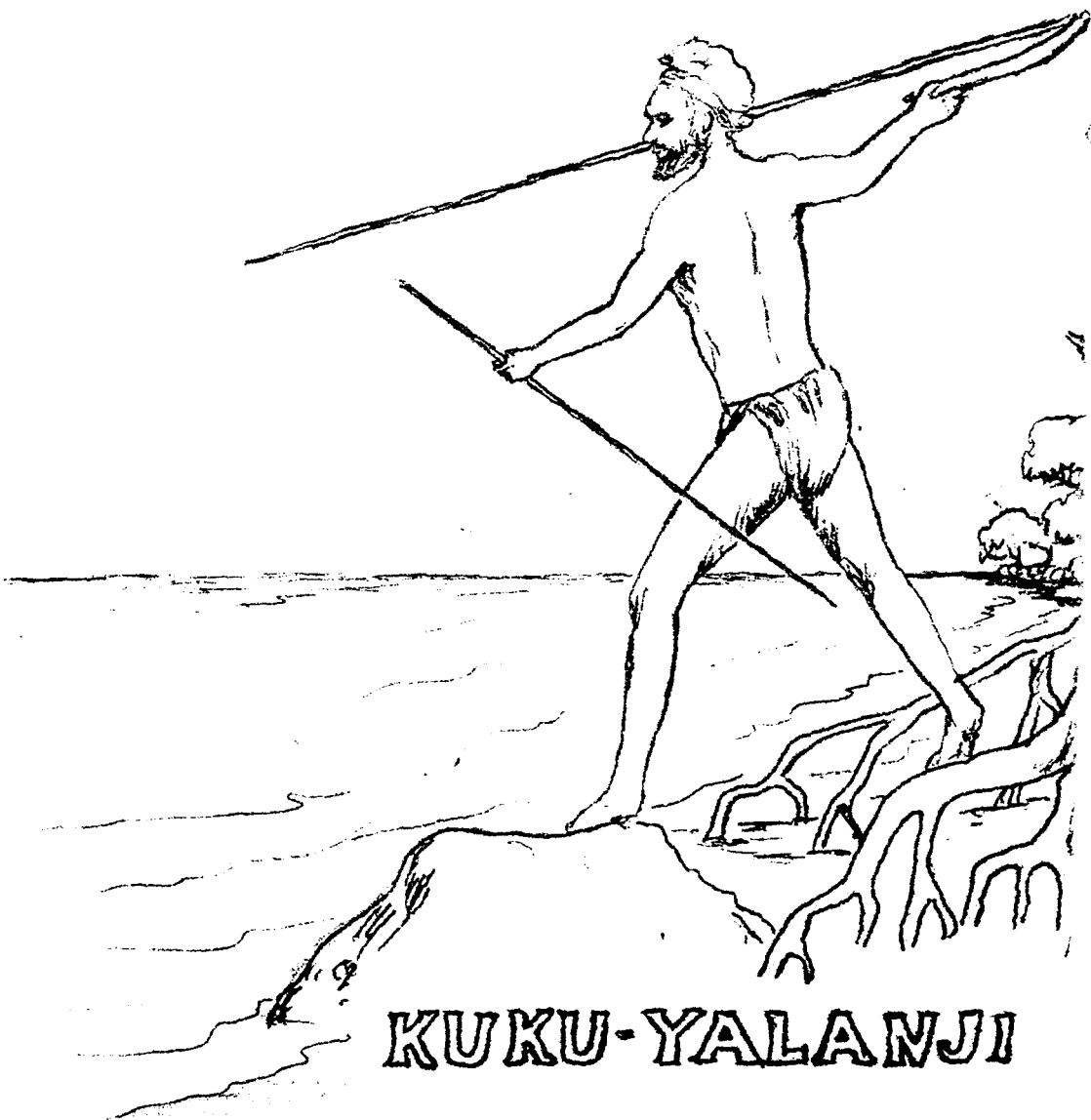
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JILBA DUNGANYA



KUKU-YALANJI

JILBA DUNGANYA

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KUKU-YALANJI

Summer Institute of Linguistics

1978

PREFACE

Jilba Dunganya (Walkabout) is a collection of Kuku-Yalanji (Gugu-Yalanji) stories. These stories by Lizzie Olbar, Eddie Bloomfield, Norah Doboy and Queenie Dick were written at a Creative Writers' Workshop held at Lake Tinaroo, Queensland in February, 1978, under the direction of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

The art work was prepared by Eddie Bloomfield.

This book has been written for the reading enjoyment of the people of Cocktown, Bloomfield River and Mossman where there are approximately 500 speakers of Kuku-Yalanji.

Jilba Dunganya was prepared with an English translation so Aborigines of other communities as well as Europeans can enjoy the stories. Members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics prepared the translation in conjunction with the authors.



BUBU KARI YINIYINI

Norah Doboy

Nyulu nyubun dingkar jilba dungan
bikibikinga. Nyulu dungan, dungan, marrjanga
nguwul-nguwulbu kaden. Nyulu bubanku yinyilman,
marrja nyungundu yiniyini nyajijin. Nyulu

THE DANGEROUS PLACE

Norah Doboy

A man went hunting for pigs. As
he was going he came to some deep dark
scrub. He was a little afraid, the
scrub looked dangerous to him. The man

dingkarangka bama jalbu nyajin ngirray
banbadinya nyulu. Nyulurru balkawan, yalaman,
"Ya? Wanyu yinya ngirray?" Nyulu dungan,
jalbu nyajinka wanjabu banbadi. Kari, jalbu
nguymal kari. Yinya wanyu baja junjuy? Nyulu
yinyiljida nyungu kaya-kaya kunjan, dunganda
bayanbaku.

saw a woman crying. He said to himself,
"Hey, who's that crying?" He went to
see the woman where she was crying.
But the woman disappeared. What was
this? Afraid, he called his dogs and
went back home.

BILNGKUMUNKU YINYILMAN

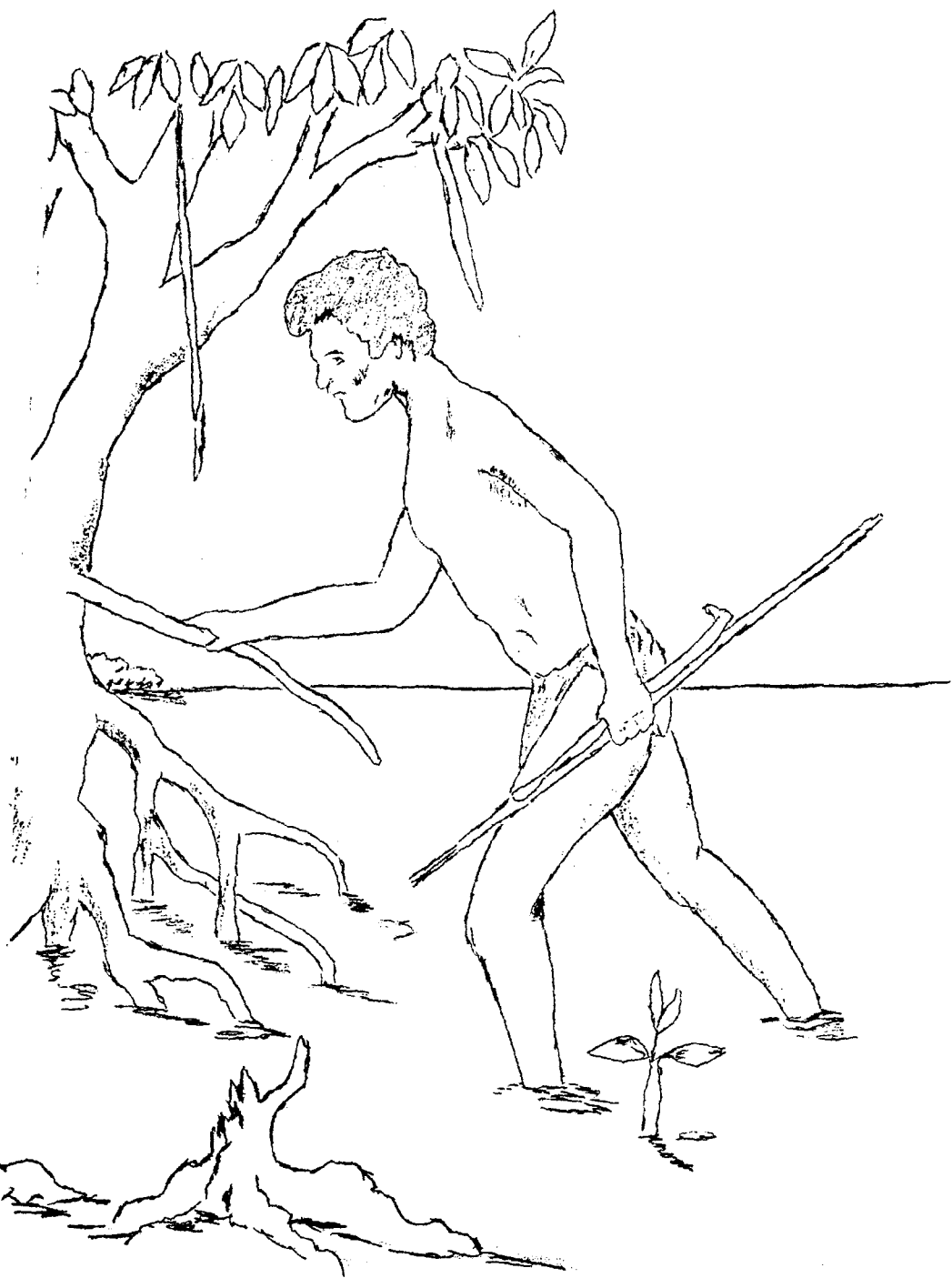
Eddie Bloomfield

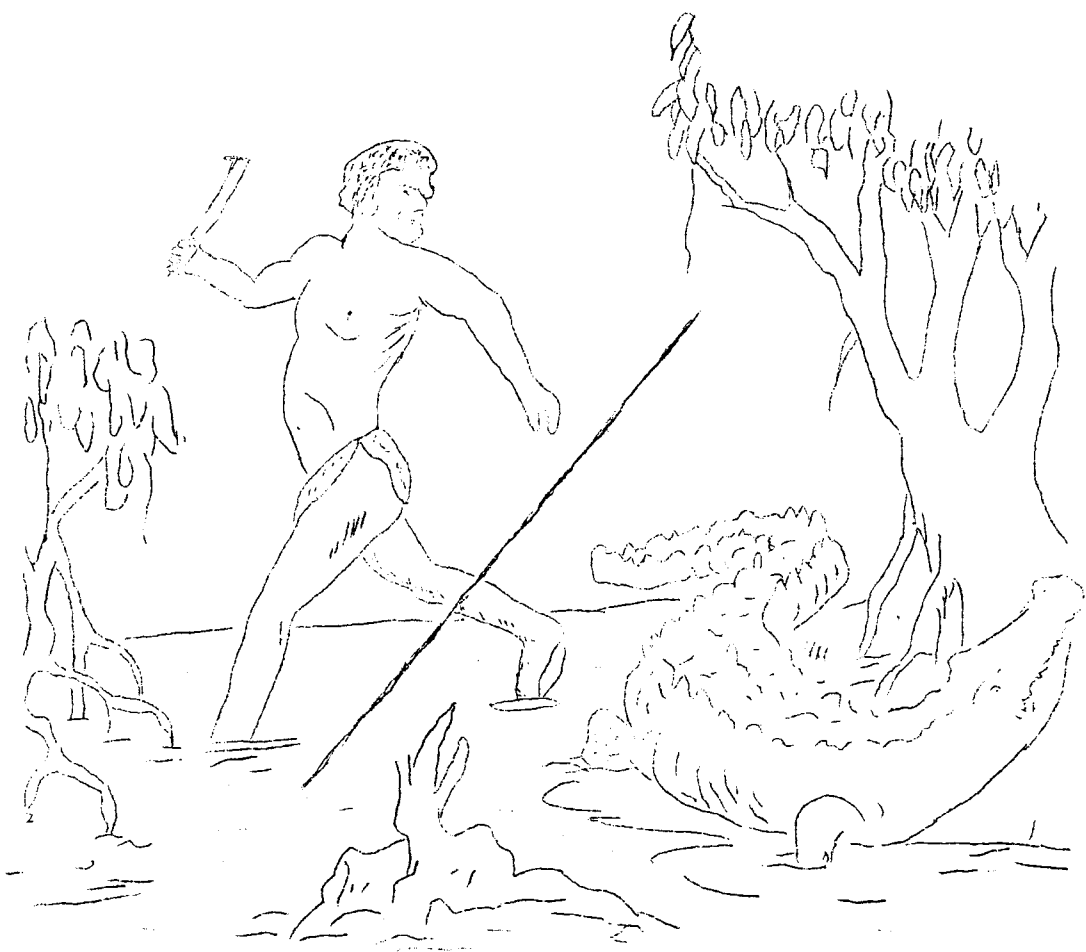
Nyubun bama kuyungu jalunbu dungan.
Nyulu mangkumunbu dungan. Nyulu balu juku
nyajin. Nyulu bilngkumundu mukungu jalaman.
Nyulu nyungundu kima nyarrijin. Bilngkumu
jurrkijin. Nyulu bamangka nyajin, warrin
yinyilji, yirrka-yirrkaajinda, "Bilngkumu,
bilngkumu, bilngkumu!" Bama wubulku
yinyilmaynda.

SCARED BY THE CROCODILE

by Eddie Bloomfield

A man went fishing at the beach
and went into the mangroves. He thought
he saw a log lying on the ground and
stepped on it. But he stepped on the
back of a crocodile. He felt its
softness. The crocodile turned around.
The man saw it and was afraid. He
ran and sang out, "Crocodile, crocodile,
crocodile!" The people were all afraid.





Kanbal bama kalkajiku warrin, nubijinka.
Bilngkumu nyulu bananga dajalimunbu janjin.
Jana bama kanbal yinyiljida. Karirrkun nubijin.
Dungan baja bayanbaku.

Kaykay-kaykay kari yunga mangkumunbu.
Bilngkumu yinyakubi.

Some people with spears ran to look for the crocodile. But the crocodile dived into deep water. Some of the people were afraid. They didn't look for it any more. Then they went back to their camp.

People shouldn't send their children in those mangroves. That crocodile is still there.

JILBA DUNGAN

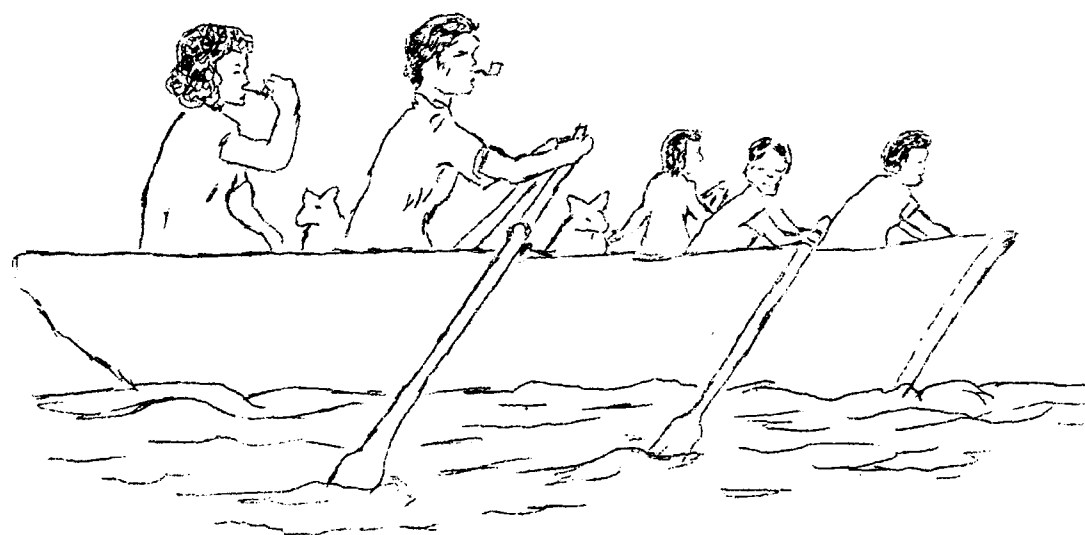
Lizzie Olbar

Ngadiku ngayu, ngayku Ngamu, Nganjan,
ngayku yabaju-karra, jinkurr, kanbanmu-karra,
nganjin mayi minya kari bajaku nukal-nukan.
Nganjin minyeka nyumba-buyunman bajaku.
Nganjanangka bula Ngamungku nganjinanda
yarrka-yarrkanda balkan, "Yurra kambi mukul
dida. Ngana jilba minyaburr dungay bada
jukaranga." Wawu yinyamun nganjin yamba-

WALKABOUT

Lizzie Olbar

Long ago I, my mother, father, my
younger brothers, younger sisters and
my cousins were without food or meat;
we had nothing. We were craving meat.
Father and mother told us children,
"You all, put on old clothes. We all
will go for meat down on the beach."



yamba kurmunbu yijarrin, buwunbu didan..
Ngamu Nganjan bula dingkiji dun an, nganjin
yarrka-yarrka jinabu bada jukara bujilba
dungan, kayanji. Bula yamba-yamba ngubar
wundin, jukara bawan. Wawu yinyamun bula
nganjinanda dingkiji warrin, yarrka-yarrkanda.

Ngubar dungan, jalaman dingkimun, yamba-
yamba wabarrba bawan. Ngamungku jungkalu

So we put the things in the bag and put
it in the boat. Mother and father went
with the boat and we children walked
down to the mouth of the river with
the dogs. They took the things across
and left them on the sand. Then they
came for us with the boat.

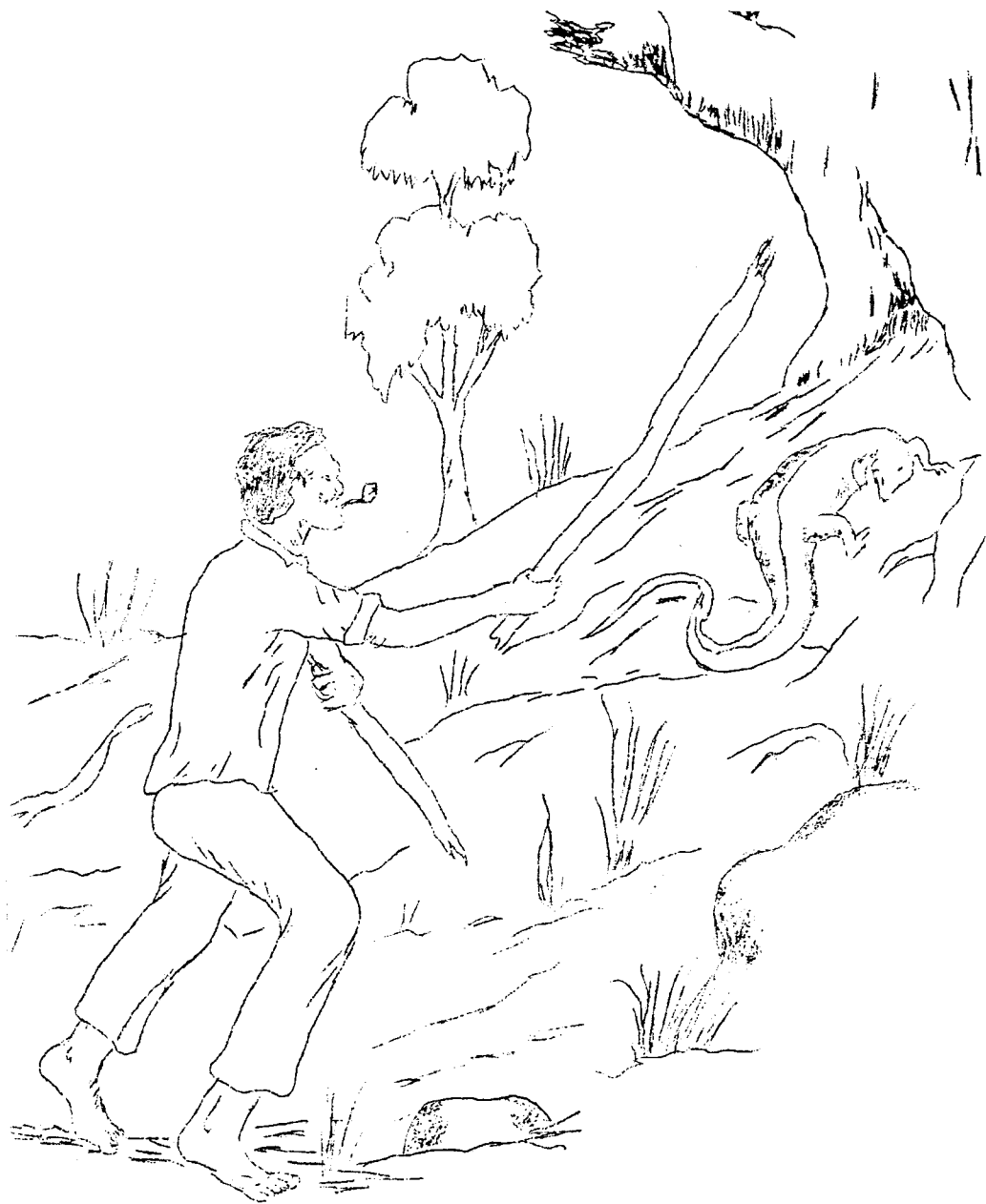
We went across the river, jumped
out of the boat and left our things.
Mother got the billycan,

manin, Nganjanangka kalka manin, maku marrjaburr
nganjin dungan. Yinya bubu ngankabu jila
minimini-bungan. Yinyamun nganjin bulkanga
jarrukamunbu kadan. Nganjin bakan, wawu-
balawajin baja. Nyulu yinya bubu wumbul
bajaku, nganjin jila warrinkuda. Wawu
yinyamun kanbanmu wawurr-wawurrku yirrkan,
"Ya, yurra, ngayu nyubun menin." Kanbanmu
dingkar, yabaju, jana kuyuburr wawubajaburr
dungan Nanjananji.

and Father got a spear. We were going through
the scrub. The flowers smelled so
good. Then we came to a scrub hen
nest. We dug and then had a rest.
That place was very hot, we were really
sweating. Then Cousin happily shouted,
"Hey, you all, I got one." The boy
cousin and my younger brothers went
fishing in the river with Father.

Wawu yinyamun ngayu nyubun manin, diburr.
Nyulu jinkurrungku jambul manin, Ngamungku
nyubun. Nganjin yinyamun jungkalumunbu
yijarrin, maku bulkaburr yinduynjurr dungan.
Nganjin buban dungan, wolkarr minya yalbay
bajaku nyajin. Nyulu minya ngambaku wunanan
warngku, nganjinan nyurra kari nyajin.
Kanbanmungku nyulu juku manin, kunin minya
yarkinkaku. Nganjin minyaka wawurr-wawurrman.
Ngamungku kurmunbu yijarrin. Nganjin yinyamun
bundan wabarrba, jananin nyajin, yabaju,
kanbanmu kujin. Nganjin buban bundan, jana

After that I got one egg. My
younger sister got two and Mother one.
We put them in the billycan and walked
along other nests. We went a short way
and saw a very big goanna. He was lying
asleep, not noticing us. He didn't
hear us coming. My cousin got a stick
and killed it. We were glad for the
meat. Mother put it in a bag. Then
we sat in the shade, saw the others
coming and waited for them. We sat a
little while they noisily played around



yurra wunan. Jana yirrkan, "Yurra wanjabu?"
Ngamu yirrkan, "Nganjin yanyu." Jana yirrkan
baja, yalaman, "Nganjin ngalkun, jirrjirr
wubul daman." Wunu yinyamun jana buba wawu-
balawajin wabarrba. Nganjin dakwuy bajaku,
jiba burdalman, walu yararrin. Nganjanang
yalaman yabajundu, kanbanmundo, "Yurra jakalba
dungay, baya waju." Yinyamun jana dungan.
Nganjin, Ngamu, Nganjan, Kanbanmu, ngayu,
jinkurr kudamundu dungan. Nganjin bangkarr
kakaman bajaku. Jana kakaman dumbilba jikanba

They shouted, "Where are you?" Mother
shouted, "We're here." They shouted
again, "We speared lots of mullet and
red bream." After that they rested
a little in the shade. We were very
hungry. Our stomachs became weak and
we were dizzy. Father said to my
younger brothers and cousin, "You go
first and light the fire." Then they
went. We, my mother, father, cousin,
my younger sister and I went after. Our
bodies were very sore, our feet were sore,

bakajin. Nganjin murrui dungan, duray-
durayku. Wawu yinyamun nganjin jukar juru-
manin. Jana yabajungku mayi jakalamban.
Nganjin kadan, mayi wajujinkuda. Nganjin
wubulku bundan bubungu, mayi minyajiku nuken.
Yinyamun nganjin wawurr-wawurrmankuda,
yanjimankuda, minyamun. Nganjan, Ngamu, bula
bilangkurr ngaran, wabarrba buban warngku
wunan. Nganjin yarrka-yarrka dungan baja
maku duduynjurr kayanji. Nyulu kayangka
jarba nyajin. Kanbanmungku bula yabajungku
bula nyajin wunananya jikanba. Bula yirrkan,

they had gotten pricked by thorns in
the grass. We couldn't go, it was too
hard. Then we reached the beach. My
younger brothers had started cooking
the food. When we came, the food was
already cooked. We all sat on the ground
and ate food with meat. Then we were
really satisfied, really full. Father
and Mother spread out a blanket and
slept a little in the shade. We children
went again to the bush with the dogs.
The dog saw a snake. My cousins and
younger brother saw it lying in the
grass. They shouted;

"Yurra yanyu wanyu jarba kurriyala!" Yinyamun
jinkurr Ngamundu Nganjananda warrin. "Yubal
kaday yanyu nyajinka! Kurriyala yalbay bajaku!"
Nganjanangka jukubu yalbaynja kunin. Yinyamun
yabajungku kanbanmungku naybubu yekan. Nganjin
kadar nvajin waralba kurriyalanda. Nyulu
minya kadar yilay-yinduku nukan, kurriyalangka.
Nganjin wundin, bananga yilban, kalkilba.
Wawu yinyamun nganjin yamba-yamba muru-bungan.

"You all, a carpet snake!" Then my
younger sister ran to Mother and Father,
"You two come and see this very big
carpet snake." Then Father killed it
with a big stick. Then my younger
brother and cousin cut it with a knife.
We saw a wallaby in the carpet snake's
stomach. The carpet snake had eaten
the wallaby two days before. We took
it and threw it in the salt water.
Then we gathered up our things.



Ngurrrban yalbay kadan, kabakuda yalbay
daran. Nganjin dingkinga walan, bayanbakuda
dungan. Minya kuyu diburr kanbal Mukayamu
Kanimu wandin. Nganjin miyil wujurrbukuda
bayan juru-manin. Yalakubada.

Lots of clouds came, a big rain
fell. We went in the boat and came
back home. We brought some fish and
eggs to Auntie and Grandmother. We
reached the house at night. That's
all.

KURRAYNJI

Queenie Dick

Ngadiku jana jilba dungan minvanga,
Peter Doboy, Frankie Yougie, Leslie Walker.
Jana Billygoat Creek dungan. Jana kaya-
kaya wundin, kulur, mala minyaku. Jana
kadan, marrjanga walan. Jana dungan,
dungan, kaya-kayangka minya jila nyuman,
wukurrinkuda. Jana warru-warrungku kaya
ngangkurr nyajin wawubajanga. Jana yaloman,
"Ya, nguba kayangka minyakuda jajirrin.

THE CASSOWARY

Queenie Dick

Long ago Peter Doboy, Frankie Yougie
and Leslie Walker went to Billygoat Creek
to hunt. They took three dogs, good
hunters. They had entered the scrub and
walked for awhile when the dogs smelled
the animals and followed them. The boys
heard the dogs bark down by the river.
They said, "Hey, maybe the dogs bailed

Ngana nyajil." "Yuwu." Jana dungan-dungan,
kadan junkayku, minya kuninda. Kayangka
jambul minya jajirrin, nyubun kurraynji,
nyubun bikibiki. Jana marrkinda kunin.

Yinyamun jana kadan, wawubalawajin
beralba. Jana minya murruji jarra-kulban,
kulngkul bajaku. Bula jambul bawajin kudamundu,
Frankie Yougie and Leslie Walker, while

up a pig. We'll go and see." "Alright."
They went for awhile, went straight to
the dogs and killed the animals. The
dogs had bailed up two animals, one was
a cassowary, the other a pig. They
killed them with a gun.

Then they rested awhile on the trail.
They couldn't carry the meat, it was too
heavy. Two of them stayed behind,
Frankie Yougie and Leslie Walker, while



nyulu Peter Doboy warrin wangkar bayanba.
Kadan kukuji, balkan, bamanda yalaman, "Yurra,
nganjin minya kuninda. Ngayu Jawunyundu
kadan, warrinka minyanga luriji." "Yuwu."
Bula Peter and Jawun Chris dungan luruji,
jambul dingkar bulal manin badamun. Jana
kadanda.

Peter Doboy ran up to camp with the news.
He told the people, "Hey you all, we
killed some meat. I've come for Chris
to run after it with the lorry." "Alright."
Peter and Chris went with the lorry
and got the other two boys from down there.

Bayanba kadan, minya bikibiki wajun.
Yamba kurraynji kariku wajun. Jana waybal-
waybal kadan, ngurma maninka. Yala, kaykay-
kaykay kadan too, wubul bajaku. Jana kurraynji
kari nyajin ngadiku, binal kari. Jana kunkun-
bungan wuljaljiku. Wawu yinyamun wajunda.
Minya wandul bajaku too. Kanbal minya dajin
jawun-karrangakuda. Yola-yala bama minya kari
bundandan too. Yalakubada.

They came back to the house and cooked
the pig. But we didn't cook the cassowary
yet. The white folks came to get pictures.
Also the children came too, all of them.
They hadn't seen a cassowary for a long
time, some didn't know about them. They
were really staring for a long time.
Then we cooked it, it was very fat too,
and gave some of the meat to the relatives,
for it was at a time when everyone had
no meat.



JARBA JARRUKAMUNBU

Norah Doboy

Ngadiku, ngayu jarra karrkayku, nganjin,
ngayu, ngayku nganjan, ngamu, yabaju nyubun,
jinkurr jambul, nganjin Wujalwujal jilba
dungan, jarrukamunbu. Nganjin jarruka bulka
nyubun bakan. Ngayu ngambabuku bakan. Kari,
ngaykundu jarba dingkulku karrbajin. Ngayu
balu nyajin karrkay chicken jarrukanguy,
ngayu bubanku wawurr-wawurrmanijin. Yinyamun
ngayu nyajin baja. Yanyu jarba! Ngayku

THE SNAKE IN THE NEST

Norah Doboy

Long ago, when I was still a child,
my father and mother, one younger brother,
two younger sisters and I went to the
waterfall to look for scrub hen eggs.
We dug out one nest. I wasn't paying
attention while I was digging. Then a
snake half-way grabbed on to my hand.
I thought it was a scrub hen chick, so
I was glad. Then I saw it! A snake!



wawu walu-yindumenijinvarriku. Ngavu balu
vinyayku bulkangaku daran baja. Nyulu jarba
dukul wandil-wandinda. Ngayku mula kiway-
kiwaymanijin, mungka dakarin. Ngayu yirrkan,
nganjan kadan, babajin, "Yundu wanyurrinku
yirrkan?" "Jarba bulkanga wunanya!" Nyulu
nganjanangka marrkin manin, jarba kuninda.
Yinya jarba burri banamu. Jana yinyay jarba
banamu jarruka-baka bulka-baka. Yalokubada.

I caught my breath and almost fell off
the nest. The snake put its head out.
My blood became cold, my hair stood up.
I yelled out and my father came and asked,
"Why did you call out?" "A snake is in
the nest!" He got his gun and killed
it. The snake was a rock python. That
kind of snake likes to go into scrub hen
nests. That's all.