

**WARRABARNA KAURNA!\***

**Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from Written Historical  
Sources: Kurna Case Study.**

**Rob AMERY**

**Submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy**

**Linguistics  
Faculty of Arts  
University of Adelaide**

**June 1998**

Supervisors: Professor Peter Mühlhäusler, Linguistics, University of Adelaide  
Dr Jane Simpson, Linguistics, University of Sydney

\* *Warrabarna Kurna!* 'Let Kurna be spoken!', the title of Snooky Varcoe's poem  
written in 1994.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	i
<b>Abstract</b> .....	iv
<b>Signed Statement</b> .....	v
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	vi
<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	viii
<b>Spelling Conventions and Terminology</b> .....	x
<b>Index of Maps, Plates and Figures</b> .....	xii
<b>Index of Tables and Graphs</b> .....	xiii
<b>Chapter 1: Locating the Study</b> .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
1.1 The Scope of the Study .....	2
1.2 Who are the Kaurna? .....	4
1.3 A Kaurna Linguistic and Cultural Renaissance .....	9
1.4 The Relationship Between Kaurna and Nunga English .....	13
1.5 Prospects for the Revival of Kaurna.....	15
<b>Chapter 2: Review of Literature and Terminological Matters</b> .....	21
2.0 Introduction .....	21
2.1 Endangered Languages: The World Scene .....	22
2.2 Defining 'Dead' or 'Extinct' Languages .....	25
2.3 Ethnic Revival .....	29
2.4 Language and Identity .....	43
2.5 Cultural Pluralism or Multiculturalism .....	48
2.6 Language Ecology .....	50
2.7 On the Nature of Language .....	52
2.8 What is Being Revived? .....	66
2.9 Summary and Conclusions .....	69
<b>Chapter 3: Comparative Case Studies</b> .....	71
3.0 Introduction .....	71
3.1 Hebrew .....	71
3.2 Irish.....	74
3.3 Cornish .....	77
3.4 Maori and Hawai'ian .....	80
3.5 Ainu .....	83
3.6 Indigenous Languages of North America .....	85
3.7 The Languages of Australia .....	93
3.8 Summary and Conclusions.....	104

<b>Chapter 4: Methodology</b> .....	107
4.0 Background .....	107
4.1 Ethical Issues .....	108
4.2 Kurna Language Reclamation: The Linguistic Exercise .....	110
4.3 Kurna Language Revival: The Sociolinguistic Study .....	115
4.4 The Writing Process .....	125
4.5 Conclusion.....	127
<b>Chapter 5: A Sociolinguistic History of Kurna</b> .....	129
5.0 Introduction .....	129
5.1 The Kurna Prior to the Invasion: Relevance for the Present .....	130
5.2 First Contacts.....	132
5.3 Full-Scale Invasion of Kurna Lands: Colonisation, 1836. ....	139
5.4 Christianising and Civilising .....	143
5.5 The Decline of the Kurna and Loss of the Kurna Language .....	156
5.6 Surviving the 'Dark Ages'.....	163
5.7 Summary and Conclusions .....	169
<b>Chapter 6: Kurna Sources</b> .....	171
6.0 Introduction .....	171
6.1 The Sources .....	172
6.2 Grammar.....	210
6.3 Kurna Texts .....	215
6.4 Kurna Dreaming Stories .....	219
6.5 Kurna Songs .....	226
6.7 Summary .....	232
<b>Chapter 7 Restoring and Transforming the Kurna Language</b> .....	233
7.0 Introduction .....	233
7.1 The Reclamation of Kurna: Main Principles .....	233
7.2 Phonology.....	234
7.3 Restoring the Lexicon .....	249
7.4 Grammar and Syntax.....	264
7.5 Variation .....	272
7.6 Recapturing the Genius of the Language .....	274
7.7 The Reintroduction of Aspects of Traditional Culture.....	276
7.8 Adapting Kurna to the 1990s.....	279
7.9 Authenticity and Integrity .....	289
7.10 Development of Kurna Language Materials .....	294
7.11 Summary and Conclusions .....	303

<b>Chapter 8 Kaurna Language Programs</b> .....	305
8.1 Precursors of Kaurna Programs in the Education Sector .....	305
8.2 Language Ecology in the Education Sector .....	308
8.3 Kaurna Language Programs .....	315
8.4 Teacher Training and Inservice .....	318
8.5 Curriculum Development .....	319
8.6 Approaches and Methods .....	324
8.7 Evaluation.....	335
8.8 Final Remarks.....	345
<b>Chapter 9: Kaurna in Society</b> .....	347
9.0 Introduction .....	347
9.1 Names and Naming .....	347
9.2 The Public Function of Kaurna .....	359
9.3 Cultural Tourism .....	373
9.4 Language Use Within the Kaurna Community .....	384
9.5 A Revival of Kaurna as a Spoken Language? .....	388
9.6 Summary and Discussion .....	397
<b>Chapter 10: Socio-political Dimensions of Kaurna Language Revival.</b> .....	401
10.0 Introduction .....	401
10.1 What Motivates People to Engage in Kaurna Language Revival? .....	401
10.2 Identity Politics.....	406
10.3 The Struggle for Recognition, Empowerment and Reconciliation .....	413
10.4 The Sociopolitical Backdrop for Kaurna Language Revival .....	415
10.5 Whose Language Is It? Ownership and Copyright Issues.....	420
10.6 The Role of Linguistics .....	427
10.7 Linguistic Rivalries .....	429
10.8 Concluding Remarks .....	432
<b>Chapter 11: Summary and Conclusions.</b> .....	433
11.0 Synopsis.....	433
11.1 Lessons From the Literature .....	435
11.2 Factors Contributing to the Success of Kaurna Revival.....	439
11.3 Future Prospects for the Kaurna Language .....	441
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	443

## ABSTRACT

This thesis is a longitudinal study of the reclamation of the Kaurna language (both as a linguistic and social process) which is taking place within the context of a linguistic and cultural renaissance and re-emergence of a distinctive Kaurna identity over the last few decades.

It addresses the questions:-

1. Is it possible to revive a language that once ceased to be spoken, on the basis of written records?
2. What is the nature of this language revival?
3. What factors support such a revival?
4. What are the limitations?

Taking an ecological perspective, I trace the history of Kaurna drawing on all known sources (mostly from the period 1836-1858) and all known emerging uses for the language in the modern period (1989-1997). In reclaiming Kaurna, key leaders and members of the community are working in collaboration with linguists and educators.

Kaurna language revival began with the writing of six songs in 1990. Since then, the language has developed considerably; Kaurna programs have been established and expanded across several institutions catering for a range of learners; increasingly, the language is being used in public by members of the Kaurna community; the range of functions for which the language is being used continues to expand; and there are early signs that the language is beginning to take root within Nunga households.

We are still in the very early stages of Kaurna language revival. Will the Kaurna language take the "great leap forward" and emerge as an everyday language within the Kaurna community? Experience elsewhere tells us that the prospects for this to happen are slender. However, the programs have already been a success in the eyes of the Kaurna community and within the education sector.

This study is breaking new ground. In the Kaurna case, very little knowledge of the language remained within the Aboriginal community. Yet the Kaurna language is becoming a marker of identity and a means by which Kaurna people can further the struggle for recognition, reconciliation and liberation. This study challenges widely held beliefs as to what is possible in language revival and notions about the very nature of language and its development.

# WARRABARNA KAURNA!

## Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from written historical sources: Kaurna Case Study

PhD Thesis by Rob Amery, June 1998

### VOLUME 2: APPENDICES

#### Introduction

Volume 2 is a compilation of appendices containing a set of papers and miscellaneous materials which are unpublished or not readily available. This volume is designed to be read or referred to in conjunction with the main body of the thesis, volume 1.

Volume 2 consists primarily of the following:

- sections written in conjunction with thesis chapters which provide the reader with background material on issues discussed within the main thesis.
- historical materials
- Kaurna language materials produced in conjunction with the Kaurna language programs (songs, program outlines, written exercises, assessment plans etc.)
- briefing papers.
- data

In addition to material contained in this volume, the reader is referred to material compiled by the author in 1997 for the 'Kaurna Language & Language Ecology' (KL&LE) course taught at the University of Adelaide. Two books of readings are available from The Secretary, Centre For European Studies, 7th Floor, Hughes Building for \$10 each. Volume 1 'Kaurna Sources' contains most of the primary source material on the Kaurna language, apart from T&S and TMs. The table of contents for the two sets of readings is found in Appendix A.

#### WARNING

This volume contains texts, songs and other Kaurna language materials which remain the property of their creators and is protected by the provisions of the Copyright Act. Any reproduction or use of this material, apart from personal research and reference is prohibited by the Act unless permission of the respective copyright owners has been obtained.

## Warrabarna Kurna! Volume 2: Appendices

### Directory

#### Appendix A: KL&LE course materials

A1: Table of Contents from Readings Volume 1, Kurna Sources .....	1
A2: Table of Contents from Readings Volume 2, Articles .....	4

Appendix B: On the name 'Kurna' .....	7
---------------------------------------	---

Appendix C: Questionnaires .....	9
----------------------------------	---

#### Appendix D: Kurna Sources (see also KL&LE Readings Vol.1)

D1: Primary Kurna Sources .....	19
D1.1: Excerpts from T&S .....	19
D1.2: Excerpts from TMs .....	26
D2: Early Kurna Translations .....	
D2.1: Wyatt's Translation of Gawler's Speech, October 1838 .....	29
D2.2: Schürmann's Translation of Gawler's Speech, May 1840 and Translation of the Ten Commandments .....	31
D3: Kurna letters and texts written by Indigenous authors .....	
D3.1: Excerpt from Kartanya's Copybook (1840) .....	32
D3.2: Letter to Governor Gawler (Itya Maii et al, 1841) .....	33
D3.3: Letter Written by Pitpauwe c1843 .....	36
D3.4: Letter Written by Wailtyi c1843 .....	38
D3.5: Itya Maii's Letter to Governor Grey, 1845 .....	40
D4 German Hymns Translated into Kurna, 1839-1843 .....	41

#### Appendix E: Reclaimed Kurna

E1 Kurna-Nukunu Cognates .....	51
E2 HyperCard Stack - Kurna Sounds & Spellings .....	55
E3 Marine Terminology in Neighbouring Languages .....	
E3.1: Fish Terms in Closely Related Languages .....	57
E3.2: Marine Terminology in Ngarrindjeri (from Berndt & Berndt) .....	59
E4 'Reviving the Dreaming' Project (Kurna Dreamings) .....	62
E5 Kurna Numbers, Maths and the Quantification of Time .....	64
E6 Kurna Sports Terminology .....	78
E7 KACHA Useful Expressions .....	81

#### Appendix F: Modern Kurna Texts

F1 Texts by Indigenous Authors .....	
F1.1 <i>Wai Yerlitta</i> (Varcoe, 1990) .....	83
F1.2 <i>Freddy Kanto</i> (Wanganeen, 1990) .....	86
F1.3 <i>Wai Ngarpadla</i> (Agius, 1990) .....	87
F1.4 <i>Mukabando Itto!</i> (Walker, 1990) .....	88
F1.5 <i>Yerthoappendi Kurangkngga</i> (Jackson, 1996) .....	89
F1.6 Presentation at Tauondi Graduation (Abdulla, 1997) .....	93
F1.7 <i>Kuinyo Wodli</i> (Wanganeen, 1997) .....	94
F2 Excerpts from <i>Maikoko Birko</i> (Amery, 1992a) .....	99
F3 HyperCard Stack <i>Kurna Sentences</i> (Amery & Varcoe 1994) .....	103
F4 <i>Warranna Purruna- Living Languages - Pa:mpi Tungarar</i> video script, 1996. ....	104
F5 Article my Moona Nookenba (non-Indigenous), 1997 .....	114
F6 Letter to Prime Minister John Howard from PWAC students, 1997. ....	115

#### Appendix G: Kurna Songs

G1: Kurna Songs in Ng, N & K Songs (1990) .....	116
• Ngai Mutandi .....	117
• Show Me Where The Names Go .....	118

• Kammammi's Lullaby .....	119
• Wanti Ninna Padnendi .....	120
• In the Morning .....	121
• He Sends the Rainbow .....	122
G2: Nursery Rhymes (1991)	
• Tikkapi Tikkapi Tuka (Hickory Dickory Dock) .....	124
• Yokomattanya Yerloanna Padni (A Sailor Went to Sea) .....	124
• Tappingyando (Open, Shut Them) .....	124
• Bandi Bandi Wilto Tukcutya (Twinkle Twinkle Little Star) .....	124
• Baa Baa Nyaani (Baa Baa Black Sheep) .....	125
• Ngatto Wampendi Marra (I Wiggle My Fingers) .....	125
G3: Kurna Songs Recorded in 1995 (selected pieces) .....	126
• Taikurtinna (We're All Family) .....	127
• Yarna Tappa (Yarna Track) - Mullawirraburka's Song .....	128
• Ngadluko Palti (Our Song and Dance) .....	129
• Palti Tjilbruke (Tjilbruke's Song) .....	134
• Warratinna (Silent Night) .....	135
• Ipila Wirra (Song of the Bush) .....	136
G4: Kurna Songs 1995-1997 (selected pieces) .....	137
• Warranna Munaintya (Voices of Our Dreaming) .....	137
• Ngaityo Purnki-Purnki Ngarto (My Brown Skin Baby) .....	138
• Kumirka Purla Tindunna Yeowa Wornindoanna (12 Days of Christmas) .....	139
• Pingko Yiitya Bulto (Easter Bilby Song) .....	141
• Pepawodli Palti (Kurna Plains School Song) .....	142
• Nguyanguya Murradlu (Reconciliation) .....	143
• Yertabulti (Port Adelaide) .....	144
 <b>Appendix H: Kurna Programs</b>	
H1 Warra Kurna Workshops, 1989-1996 .....	145
H1.1 1990 Workshop Report .....	149
H1.1.1 1990 Workshop Exercises .....	153
H1.2 1991 Workshop Program .....	158
H1.2.1 Useful Expressions in Kurna (pp.1-7). .....	160
(Booklet & tape produced at 1991 Kurna Language Workshop)	
H1.3 1992 Workshop program .....	169
H1.3.1 1992 Workshop exercises and resources .....	170
H1.4 1993 Workshop program .....	172
H1.5 1996 KPECC Warra Kurna Workshop program .....	174
H2 KPECC Warra Kurna program .....	175
H3 KPS Kurna LOTE program .....	176
H3.1 Kurna - Band A: Oral Interaction - Sociocultural Understanding .....	177
H3.2 Kurna - Band A: Oral Interaction -Linguistic Dimensions .....	178
H3.3 Work samples from KPS students .....	180
H4 Salisbury North PS, Warra Kurna program .....	232
H5 EWAC -> PWAC Year 11 Warra Kurna program .....	233
H5.1 Weekly Planner .....	188
H5.2 Assessment Plan .....	189
H5.3 Selected worksheets .....	190
H5.4 Report .....	201
H5.5 Warra Kurna Sample Program (developed in 1993 under AILF) .....	217
H5.6 Tjilbruke Trail Excursion Report, Semester 1 1995 .....	221
H6 ECHS Year 11 Warra Kurna program .....	232
H7 Fremont-ECHS Year 8 Warra Kurna Program .....	233
H7.1 Teaching Program 1997 .....	234
H7.2 A List of Possible Kurna Personal Names to choose from .....	240
H7.3 Classroom Language .....	242
H7.4 Socializing Words and Expressions for Students to Use .....	243
H7.5 Feelings/States .....	244



H7.6 Taikurtinna - Family .....	245
H7.7 Dialogues .....	246
H7.8 Sample Text (Mullawirraburka, Kadlitpinna) .....	248
H7.9 Language Renewal and Reclamation Unit Programmer .....	250
H8 Tauondi program, TAUA002 'Aboriginal Language' (Warra Kurna), 1994-.....	253
H8.1 Learning Outcomes .....	254
H9 Warriparinga Program.....	255
H10 KL&LE .....	256
H10.1 Course Outline .....	257
H10.2 Lecture Outline .....	259
H10.3 Assessment Schema	
H10.3.1 Linguistic Practicals.....	260
H10.3.2 Essay Topics .....	264
H10.4 Evaluation.....	265
H10.5 Introduction and Lesson 1 from Tape Transcripts .....	270

### Appendix I: Names and Naming

I 1 Selected Requests for Kurna Names .....	276
I 2 Kurna Names in the Public Sector .....	279
I 3 Adelaide City Council Place Naming Proposal.....	280
I 3.1 The proposal.....	284
I 3.2 Press coverage.....	289
I 4 Kurna Names in the Education Sector .....	293
I 5 Aboriginal Organisations & Administrative Entities with Kurna Names .....	297
I 6 Aboriginal Language and Cultural Bodies with Kurna Names .....	299
I 7 Sporting Clubs and Youth Groups with Kurna Names.....	300
I 8 Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Agencies and Tours with Kurna Names .....	301
I 9 Newsletters with Kurna Names .....	302

### Appendix J: Public Domain

J1 Kurna Speeches (1991-1997) .....	303
J2 Sample Kurna Speeches	
J2.1 Rob Amery: Warra Kurna Workshop, 22-26 June, KPS. ....	316
J2.2 Snooky Varcoe: Opening of Yaitya Warra Wodli, 26 Feb. 1993. ....	317
J2.3 Trisha Agius: LOTE Promotion, 22 Nov. 1995.....	318
J2.4 Cherie Watkins: <i>National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Islander Children from their Families</i> in Adelaide, 4 March 1996. ....	319
J2.5 Lewis O'Brien: <i>Federation Centenary Convention</i> , April 1997.....	321
J2.6 Georgina Williams: Launch of KL&LE, 31 July 1997. ....	322
J2.7 Karl Telfer: Launch of UANTaR, 18 Sept. 1997. ....	323
J2.8 Georgina Williams, Friends of Warriparinga Rally, 22 Nov. 1997.....	324
J2.9 Georgina Williams, <i>Flamma Flamma</i> , 1998 Adelaide Festival .....	325
J3 Kurna Songs Performed in Public (1992-1997) .....	326
J4 Kurna Signage .....	331

### Appendix K: Cultural Tourism

K1 Yerrakartarta, A Kurna Mural .....	333
K2: Opening of Tjirbruki Gateway, Warriparinga.....	335
Piradli Trail Proposal, Belair National Park (see KL&LE Vol.2)	

### Appendix L: Indigenous cultural and intellectual property

KL&LE Submission to the inquiry into the recognition and protection of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property .....	336
--	-----

(see KL&LE Readings Vol.2 for

- United Nations (1996) *Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- Eggington, Robert (1996) 'Intellectual Property Rights: The Question of Cultural Ownership')