



Asia-Pacific
Linguistics

Recirculating Songs

Revitalising the singing practices
of Indigenous Australia



Edited by Jim Wafer and Myfany Turpin

Revitalising the singing practices of Indigenous Australia

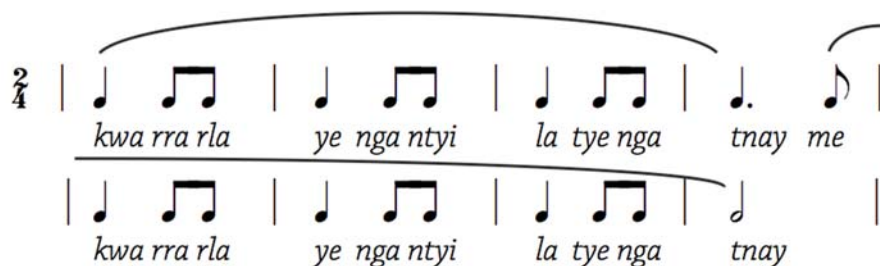
Jim Wafer and Myfany Turpin (editors)

Although song has been recognised as the ‘central repository of Aboriginal knowledge’, this is the first volume to be devoted specifically to the revitalisation of ancestral Indigenous singing practices. These traditions are at severe risk of attrition or loss in many parts of Australia, and the 17 chapters of the present work provide broad coverage – geographically, theoretically and methodologically – of the various strategies that are currently being implemented or proposed to reverse this damage to the Indigenous knowledge base. In some communities the ancestral musical culture is still being transmitted across generations; in others it is partially remembered, and being revitalised with the assistance of heritage recordings and written documentation; but in many parts of Australia, intergenerational transmission has been interrupted, and in these cases, revitalisation depends on research and restoration. This book provides insights that may be helpful for Indigenous people and communities, and the researchers and educators who work with them, across this range of contexts.

Cover photograph *ulpare-ulpare* (Arrernte) ‘Perennial Yellowtop’ (*Senecio magnificus*)

© Lisa Stefanoff

Cover song by M. K. Turner. Transcriptions (text and music) by Myfany Turpin.



Kwarre-arle *ayenge* *anteye-le* *atyenge-ange* *tne-me*
girl-REL 1SG.NOM alongside-LOC 1sg.ACC-CNTR stand-PRS
‘The girl who I am is standing with me.’

Front cover: an Arrernte women’s song received, sung and translated by M. K. Turner (‘MK’) in 2017. The song conveys two images for MK: a group of girls standing in a line proudly adorned for ceremony; and a girl walking through the grass where *ankerte-ankerte* ‘yellow daisies’ and *arlatyeye* ‘white pencil yam flowers’ bloom. MK describes this as a song of *antethe* ‘blossom, or small soft feathers’ which are used as ceremonial adornment.



Asia-Pacific Linguistics

College of Asia and the Pacific
The Australian National University

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Jim Wafer and Myfany Turpin



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Published by Asia-Pacific Linguistics
College of Asia and the Pacific
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

This collection © 2017 by Jim Wafer and Myfany Turpin
Individual chapters © 2017 by the respective authors

First published: 2017

ISBN (e-book): 978-1-922185-40-2
ISBN (print): 978-0-9945863-1-5

URL (e-book): <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/132161>
URL (print): <http://hunterpress.bigcartel.com/product/recirculating-songs-revitalising-the-singing-practices-of-indigenous-australia>

A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia



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Contents

Contents.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	ix
Notes on contributors	x
List of figures	xiv
List of maps	xv
List of tables	xvi
List of musical examples.....	xvii
List of audio examples	xviii
List of video examples	xviii
Abbreviations	xix

Introduction: everything got a song

Jim Wafer.....	1
 1 <i>Maaya waab</i> (play with sound): song language and spoken language in the south-west of Western Australia	
Clint Bracknell	45
 2 <i>Thabi</i> returns: the use of digital resources to recirculate and revitalise Thabi songs in the west Pilbara	
Sally Treloyn and Andrew Morumburri Dowding	58
 3 <i>Ngadiji</i>: for women and men also. A song and dance continuing to be performed by the Yanyuwa of the Gulf area of the Northern Territory	
Margaret Sharpe.....	69
 4 Finding Arrernte songs	
Myfany Turpin	90
 5 Lone Singers: the others have all gone	
Luise Hercus and Grace Koch	103

6 Songs performed by Willie Rookwood at Woorabinda in 1965	
Mary Laughren, Myfany Turpin and Gemma Turner	122
7 A survey of traditional south-eastern Australian Indigenous music	
Barry McDonald	146
8 Applying multilingual knowledge to decipher an historical song of change	
Raymond Kelly and Jean Harkins	178
9 Ghost-writing for Wulatji: incubation and ‘re-dreaming’ as song revitalisation practices	
Jim Wafer	193
10 Finding <i>laka</i> for <i>burdal</i>: song revitalisation at Mornington Island over the past 40 years	
Cassy Nancarrow and Peter Cleary	257
11 Maintaining song traditions and languages together at Warruwi (western Arnhem Land)	
Reuben Brown, David Manmurulu, Jenny Manmurulu, Isabel O’Keeffe and Ruth Singer	268
12 Songs that keep ancestral languages alive: a Marrku songset from western Arnhem Land	
Reuben Brown and Nicholas Evans	287
13 Singing with the ancestors: musical conversations with archived ethnographic recordings	
Genevieve Campbell	301
14 Children, knowledge, Country: child and youth-based approaches to revitalising musical traditions in the Kimberley	
Andrea Emberly, Sally Treloyn and Rona Googninda Charles	318
15 Revitalising Meriam Mir through sacred song	
Helen Fairweather and Philip Matthias with Toby Whaleboat	331

**16 Recovering musical data from colonial era transcriptions of Indigenous songs:
some practical considerations**

Graeme Skinner..... 349

17 A checklist of colonial era musical transcriptions of Australian Indigenous songs

Graeme Skinner and Jim Wafer 375

Acknowledgements

The editors thank each of the contributors for their splendid collaboration. Our gratitude goes as well to the general editor (Bethwyn Evans) and board of Asia-Pacific Linguistics for their support and encouragement throughout the project, in particular to our designated ‘shepherd’, David Nash.

The book had its origins in a workshop held at the Australian National University (ANU), as part of the 14th annual Aboriginal Languages Workshop (ALW), on 6 March 2015. In the planning stage, the workshop had as its title ‘Revitalising ancestral song traditions in south-eastern Australia’, but the call for papers elicited responses from a number of people working outside the south-east, so the focus was broadened to cover the whole of the continent. The workshop was facilitated by Jim Wafer, who acknowledges gratefully the support received from the organisers of ALW, in particular Jane Simpson and the Centre for Excellence in the Dynamics of Language at ANU. Special credit to David Nash for technical assistance; to session chairs Jane Simpson and Harold Koch; and to the participants in the final panel discussion: Clint Bracknell (chair), Linda Barwick, Sharon Edgar-Jones, Nardi Simpson, and Michael Walsh.

Six of the nine papers presented at that event (those by Bracknell; Brown and Evans; Hercus and Koch; Laughren and Turpin; Wafer; Whaleboat and Matthias) provided the basis for chapters in the present book. Discussions on that and subsequent occasions led Wafer and Turpin to approach Asia-Pacific Linguistics about the possibility of co-editing an e-book based on the workshop, with additional contributions from interested parties. Potential contributors were contacted in the months following ALW, and a general call for papers was sent out in June 2015. This resulted in offers of additional papers, to give a total of 17 chapters in the work you have before you. Negotiations for a print version of the book began in March of 2017, and we are very grateful to Hunter Press for taking on such a large, complex and challenging job.

Although our peer reviewers must remain unnamed, we acknowledge our deep indebtedness to them for their thorough reading of the chapters and helpful feedback to the authors.

We recognise also that this book depends for its very existence on the many Indigenous songmen and songwomen, past and present, whose compositions and performances it presents and interprets. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to them for their contributions, and we hope this book will be able to support their indispensable role in keeping the ancestral song traditions in circulation.

We thank as well the following people for their contributions:

Cover song: Margaret Kemarre Turner

Cover photo: Lisa Stefanoff

Cover design: Christine Bruderlin

Design for print version: Christine Bruderlin

Proof-reading: Mark MacLean

Maps for the introduction: Brenda Thornley

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List of figures

Figure 3.1: <i>Ngadiji</i> performance layout	80
Figure 4.1: The Laughton family.....	96
Figure 5.1: George McDermott on the veranda of Bourke Hospital in 1970.....	105
Figure 5.2: Arthur ‘Igor’ Reid and his wife, Margaret, with her sister’s grandchild, at Dareton in 1972	109
Figure 5.3: Butoba tape recorder, model MT5	111
Figure 6.1: Willie Rookwood, aged 48	125
Figure 6.2: CD cover of Willie Rookwood’s songs from the Flint recordings	136
Figure 9.1: Sunset over Mount Yango, vernal equinox, 2017.....	229
Figure 11.1: Inyjalarrku dance actions, performed by Jenny Manmurulu at Marriny marriny	277
Figure 11.2: Rupert Manmurulu and David Manmurulu dancing the giant dance	278
Figure 11.3: Jenny Manmurulu demonstrating the <i>amurl</i> dance action	279
Figure 11.4: David Manmurulu and his sons (including Rupert on didjeridu) and grandsons perform and record Inyjalarrku at Warruwi	281
Figure 12.1: Johnny Namayiwa and Henry Guwiyul singing Milyarryarr	293
Figure 12.2: Toby Cooper executes a spectacular leap while dancing to uneven clapstick pattern in MR04, Stone Country Festival, Gunbalanya 2011	298
Figure 13.1: Clementine Puruntatameri† with Leonie Tipiloura and Stephanie Tipuamantimeri† listening to the old recordings, 2010	306
Figure 13.2: Recording, Bathurst Island 2015.....	308
Figure 13.3: Sydney musicians in the recording studio, January 2016	312
Figure 13.4: Eustace Tipiloura, Nelsina Portaminni and Karen Tipiloura in the recording studio, Sydney, October 2015	313
Figure 14.1: The importance of Junba (word collage created by youth participants, 28-30 September 2015)	325
Figure 14.2: Drawings by Laurenzia Divilli illustrating Junba dancing ground and healthy Country, September 28-30, 2015	325
Figure 14.3: Drawing by Clintisha Bangmorra, September 29, 2015	326
Figure 14.4: Drawings of Junba dancing by Selwyn Wungundin, September 29, 2015....	326
Figure 14.5: Laurenzia Divilli leading the song writing session, September 29, 2015.....	328
Figure 15.1: Toby Whaleboat.....	339
Figure 15.2: Toby Whaleboat, with members of the Torres Strait Islander community, the University of Newcastle chamber choir ‘Echology’, and members of the Torres Strait Islander Sacred Music Network, with Canon Rod MacDonald, St James Cathedral, Townsville, 2015	342

List of maps

Map 0.1: Hypothetical musical regions of Indigenous Australia	10
Map 0.2: Musical regions and language regions of Indigenous Australia	12
Map 0.3: Study sites represented in the present work	14
Map 1.1: The Nyungar language region	46
Map 3.1: Portion of the Northern Territory, showing Borroloola and the surrounding area	71
Map 6.1: The Upper Warrego-Maranoa region of Queensland.....	124
Map 10.1: Geographical location of Mornington Island	258
Map 11.1: A reconstruction of pre-contact language-land associations in western Arnhem Land, Northern Territory	269

List of tables

Table 0.1: Overview of chapters and their geographical sequence, correlated with musical and linguistic regions.....	13
Table 0.2: Proposed schema for Aboriginal song classification (examples from Bardi)	16
Table 1.1: Comparison of sung phrase with spoken equivalent	47
Table 1.2: Nyungar song text sources for this study	47-48
Table 1.3: A list of Nyungar suffixes found in song, illustrating some of their functions ...	50
Table 1.4: Five Nyungar song texts and comparable spoken text	51
Table 1.5: Poetic alterations in song texts A, B, C, D and E.....	51
Table 3.1: Correlation of texts, beats and dance movements in <i>Ngadiji</i> performance ...	85-86
Table 3.2: Key to the videoed illustrations	87
Table 4.1: The Ada Sylvia Laughton collection of Arrernte women's songs	100
Table 5.1: Kuyani <i>Malkara</i> song, basic sections	107
Table 6.1: Text-melody setting 'Red kangaroo' (song 3).....	129
Table 6.2: Text-melody setting in 'Two men fighting' (song 4).....	132
Table 6.3: Verse structure of 'Farewell' (song 1)	133
Table 6.4: Text-melody setting in 'Farewell' (song 1)	134
Table 6.5: Details of recordings analysed in this chapter.....	136
Table 9.1: Reconstitution of 'Nung-Ngnun' ('Song'), based on Dunlop's 'Native poetry' (1848a)	204-206
Table 9.2: Reports of the musical dream in Indigenous Australia, by date.....	220
Table 9.3: Reports of the musical dream outside Australia, by region, then date	221
Table 9.4: Vocabulary items from E. H. Dunlop's glossaries	223-225
Table 9.5: Sketch genealogy of E. H. Dunlop's descendants and affines	226
Table 11.1: <i>Manyardi/kun-borrk</i> and <i>manikay</i> recorded at Waruwi from 1940s to 2013	270-271
Table 11.2: Idiomatic expressions that involve the word <i>wirrngak</i> 'breath, life force'	275
Table 12.1: Distinct rhythmic modes featured in Milyarryarr songs performed by Johnny Namayiwa and Henry Guwiyul.....	294
Table 12.2: Events involving the performance of Milyarryarr, recorded by musicologists and linguists in western Arnhem Land.....	295
Table 13.1: List of ethnographic field recordings used in Ngiya Awungarra CD, showing song-type and subject, performers (living and deceased), AIATSIS catalogue references and dates of recording	309-310
Table 16.1: Textual comparison of three versions of 'Popela'	358

List of musical examples

Musical example 3.1: The three-descent melodic contour and its clapped beat.....	74
Musical example 3.2: The four-descent melodic contour and its rattled and clapped beat .	75
Musical example 3.3: Sample transcription of sung Text 1 (‘Yirrinju’)	76
Musical example 5.1: Laurie Moffat’s song, sung by Laurie Moffat at Lake Tyers in 1963	114
Musical example 5.2: Kuyani <i>Malkara</i> song, sung by Stuart Patterson and Percy Patterson near Copley (SA) in 1966.....	115
Musical example 5.3: Tim and Mick’s song (Seven Sisters verse 5, ‘Karilya’), sung by Tim Strangways and Mick McLean at Port Augusta in 1968.....	116
Musical example 5.4: <i>Urumbula</i> , sung by Mick McLean, Yumpi Jack and Archie Allen, at Finke (NT) in 1974.....	117-118
Musical example 5.5: Igor Reid’s song, sung by Igor Reid at Dareton (NSW), 1972	119
Musical example 5.6: Owlet nightjar, <i>Yerrateth-kurrk</i> , sung by Stan Day at Echuca in 1965	120
Musical example 6.1: <i>Dyindidyindi</i> – the Willy-wagtail song.....	137-138
Musical example 6.2: <i>Bawurra</i> – the Red Kangaroo song	139-140
Musical example 6.3: <i>Unimila</i> – Two men fighting song.....	141-142
Musical example 6.4: Farewell song.....	143-144
Musical example 11.1: Musical transcription of line D (50) of Inyjalarrku song IL18 and associated dance actions	276
Musical example 12.1: Transcription of verse of Milyarryarr song MR07 (0:00-01:28 of Audio example 1)	291-292
Musical example 12.2: Transcription of Milyarryarr song MR13	296-297
Musical example 16.1: Yam II [‘Yamaz Sibarud’], musical transcription by Charles Myers (1912)	351
Musical example 16.2: Tjitjingalla Corroboree song, as transcribed by Percy Grainger, 1909	352
Musical example 16.3: Transcription of first of two ‘corrobboree songs’ (published version) by Percy Grainger; in Spencer and Gillen (1912)	352
Musical example 16.4: Musical transcription of first recorded version of Fanny Cochrane Smith’s song ‘Popela’	355
Musical example 16.5: Edited transcription of the melody and words only, from the two manuscript copies of ‘Song of the Aborigines of Van Diemen’s Land arranged by Mrs Logan’	357
Musical example 16.6: ‘Song of the Aborigines of Van Diemans Land [sic] arranged by Mrs. Logan’	361
Musical example 16.7: Edouard Garnier, ‘Observations musicales sur les chants de Narcisse Pelletier’ (1876)	364

List of audio examples

Audio example 5.1: Laurie Moffat's song	106
Audio example 5.2: Kuyani <i>Malkara</i> song	107
Audio example 5.3: Tim and Mick's song	108
Audio example 5.4: <i>Urumbula</i>	108
Audio example 5.5: Igor Reid's song	109
Audio example 5.6: Owlet nightjar, <i>Yerrateth-kurk</i>	110
Audio example 8.1: 'Tiny man', sung by Raymond Kelly	182
Audio example 11.1: <i>Inyjalarrku</i> song IL18	276
Audio example 12.1: Verse of <i>Milyarryarr</i> song MR07	292
Audio example 12.2: <i>Milyarryarr</i> song MR13	297
Audio example 13.1: <i>Amparruwu</i> , 'Snake'	311
Audio example 13.2: 'Going to Canberra'	314
Audio example 15.1: Language hymn: Eastern Islands hymn no. 199 <i>Peirdi esoao meriba Ad</i> , composer unknown, performed by St Stephen's Torres Strait Islands Ministry Choir, Townsville, North Queensland	335
Audio example 15.2: <i>Kores: Debe lamar e zogo</i> , composed by Weser Whaleboat, performed by Toby Whaleboat and Elise Whaleboat	341
Audio example 15.3: <i>Kores: Omar, omar, omar</i> , composed by Jimmy [?] Wailu; all vocal parts (unaccompanied) performed and recorded by Toby Whaleboat	343
Audio example 15.4: <i>Kores: Debe ki wabim gaire le</i> , composed by Harry Whaleboat, performed by Gai Bero, Wya Sailor, May Simbolo, Merwez Whaleboat, Toby Whaleboat, Lelay Wailu and Victor Wailu	344
Audio example 16.1: 'Yamaz Sibarud, sung by Maino of Yam', recorded by Sidney Ray, Torres Strait, 1898	351
Audio example 16.2: 'Tjitjingalla Corroboree song', recorded by Spencer and Gillen at Stevenson's Creek, 1901	352
Audio example 16.3: Fanny Cochrane Smith singing 'Popela', recorded by Horace Watson, Hobart, 5 August 1899	354

List of video examples

Video example 3.1: 'Ngadiji. It's for women and men too.' Videoed at Wandangula by Megan Morais, 30 August 1994	72
Video example 16.1: Ethel Munn and friends from south-east Queensland singing the 'Maranoa lullaby', 2014	362

Abbreviations

A. General abbreviations and acronyms

AIAS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (earlier name of AIATSIS)	n.p.	no page number(s)
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies	NAC	Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation
AIDT	Aboriginal/Islander Dance Theatre	NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
ANU	Australian National University	NE	North-east (region)
ANZAAS	Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science	NFSA	National Film and Sound Archive
ARC	Australian Research Council	NLA	National Library of Australia
ASO	Australian Screen Online	NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
BMI	Bathurst and Melville Islands (region)	NPN	Non-Pama-Nyungan
BMN	Benesh Movement Notation	NSW	New South Wales
CA	Central Arid (region)	NT	Northern Territory
CAAMA	Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association	NW	North-west (region)
CLC	Central Land Council	NWCA	North-west Central Arid (region)
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PARADISEC	Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures
DCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
DECRA	Discovery Early Career Research Award	PN	Pama-Nyungan [language family]
diss.	dissertation	QILAC	Queensland Indigenous Languages Advisory Committee
DoBeS	Dokumentation bedrohter Sprachen (Documentation of Endangered Languages), Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics	QLD	Queensland
E&CA	Eastern & Central Arrernte	QSS	Queensland Speech Survey
ECA	East Central Arid (region)	RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
ELAR	Endangered Languages Archive	RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
ELCat	Catalogue of Endangered Languages	SA	South Australia
FATSIL	Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Languages	SRNSW	State Records NSW
FEL	Foundation for Endangered Languages	SWALSC	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.
HRLM	Hunter River-Lake Macquarie language	TAS	Tasmania
IAD	Institute for Aboriginal Development (Alice Springs)	trans.	translator(s)
IASPM	International Association for the Study of Popular Music	transc.	transcriber(s)
IPA	International Phonetic Alphabet	TSI	Torres Strait Islands
KLRC	Kimberley Language Resource Centre	UMI	University Microfilms International
LMS	London Missionary Society	UNE	University of New England
MK	Margaret Kemarre Turner	unpag.	unpaginated
ML	Mitchell Library (State Library of NSW)	V.D. Land	Van Diemen's Land (i.e. Tasmania)
MS	manuscript	VCV	vowel-consonant-vowel
MSA	Musicological Society of Australia	VIC	Victoria
n.d.	no date	WA	Western Australia
		WALSP	Western Arnhem Land Song Project.
		YCA	Cape York Central Arid (region)

B. Grammatical abbreviations used in the glosses

1	First person	IMPF	Imperfective
1PL	First person plural	in	Inclusive pronominal category
1SG	First person singular	INST	Instrumental
2	Second person	KIN	Kin term suffix
3	Third person	KRDP	Kreduplication suffix: encodes iterative or durative tenseaspectmood
3DU	Third person dual	LL	Land gender
3PL	Third person plural	LOC	Locative
3PL.NOM	Third person plural nominative	MA	Masculine gender
ABL	Ablative case	MT	Metrical element
ABS	Abstract (i.e. discourse demonstrative)	NEG	Negative preverbal particle or prefix
ASS	Associative	NEG	Negative
COM	Comitative	NP	Nonpast tenseaspectmood suffix
CONJ	Conjunction	OBL	Oblique pronoun
CONT	Continuous	P	Proximal
CT	Continuous	pl	Nonsingular number (restricted mainly to humans)
D	Distant	PL	Plural
DAT	Dative case	PP	Past punctual tenseaspectmood suffix
DC	Daughter's child	PROG	Progressive
DEM	Demonstrative	PRS	Present tense
DVB	Deverbaliser	PST	Past
ED	Edible gender	PURP	Purposive
EMPH2	Emphatic postverbal particle	REC	Reciprocal
ERG	Ergative case	REF	Reflexive
FE	Feminine gender	SEMB	Semblative suffix
GEN	NonMasculine gender (i.e. any gender but Masculine)	sg	Singular number (restricted mainly to humans)
GEN	Genitive case	VOC	Vocable
i1	Irrealis 1 tenseaspectmood suffix		
i2	Irrealis 2 tenseaspectmood suffix		