



Clockwise from top left: tiny shells form the church floor at Warruwi, Goulburn Island; Mally, Elizabeth & Berribob draft Mark's Gospel in Manmoyi Kunwinjku; Yurranydjil and Djawut prepare to check Mark's Gospel in Dhuwa Dharju; church window in Pukatja; Music workshop in Yirrkala; Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible launch, Pukatja; 'The Good Samaritan' booklet in Worrorra.

## A new year, and a new series

By Dr Marilyn McLellan, Dr Chuck Grimes, Hannah Harper

The process of translating the Bible, or even one book of the Bible, is HUGE. We all know that. There are many steps to that process, and in the next few issues of CoordN8, we will introduce these steps and give you an insight into what our translators and advisors are actually doing.

In this issue, we will give you the "Big Picture". As you read about Scripture projects around the regions, you can picture where the workers are up to in this process. Here, we expand a little on Steps 1 & 2, as preface to the translation task, which begins with drafting.

- Step 1:** Dreams: A language group, or some within the group, dream of having the Bible in their own language.
- Step 2:** Choosing a front translation: A front translation is the version of the Bible that is used to translate from. Originally, most of the New Testament was written in Greek, the lingua franca of New Testament times. Very few, if any, Indigenous people know Greek, so they wouldn't be able to translate from it. So what can we use instead? There are careful criteria for choosing a front translation. First, it must be a language that the translator knows well. Secondly, it must be a translation that is true to the meaning of the original Greek. That means the translation needs to have been thoroughly checked for accuracy, by an internationally recognised consultant. In other words, the Front Translation must have gone through all the steps listed below.
- Step 3:** Drafting and keyboarding the translation
- Step 4:** Team revision
- Step 5:** Advisor check
- Step 6:** 1 or more community checks
- Step 7:** Back translation
- Step 8:** Consultant check
- Step 9:** Revision resulting from consultant check plus details check (spelling, punctuation, etc.)
- Step 10:** Layout and limited distribution for community feedback
- Step 11:** Full publication
- Step 12:** Celebrations

Throughout this translation process, and beyond, the church community is often keen to put the Bible into use. Sometimes, Indigenous Scripture workers focus specially on these important tasks: encouraging own language literacy, leading Bible studies, developing and promoting resources like music and song books, booklets, banners, recordings, and so on. Often, draft Bible passages are used for special occasions like baptisms or ordinations, and translators use these times to share their work, and hear feedback.

Though the process of translation is methodical, it is not clinical. We hope that this series sheds light on the processes, but it should also reflect some of the relationships and experiences of communities involved in Scripture work – most of all, the transforming power of God's Word as it becomes accessible to more people.



# PITJANTJATJARA OLD TESTAMENT PROJECT



The Official Logo

AMATA



Wirkima, Nyunmiti & Lillian

PUKATJA  
(Ernabella)



Yurpiya, Ann & Katrina

## Two weeks in the life of a Translation Advisor

by Wirkima [Paul Eckert]

I'm writing this on the Bush Bee bus as we travel from Pukatja to Alice Springs. Two weeks ago I set out from Crystal Brook (near Port Pirie) in a little aeroplane. My friend, Roger Crouch, had offered to fly me up to the APY Lands in his own two seater sports aircraft. We left early Monday morning and flew straight to Amata - way to go!

We arrived after lunch and Reuben Burton picked us up at the airport and took us into Amata. One of the school teachers, Yaritji (Tanya Pell), allowed us to stay at her place and so, after putting our things inside, we went down to the store to get some food and to tell the Pitjantjatjara translators that the workshop would be starting in the morning.

Sure enough, the next day several arrived at our house to start translating God's word - Nyunmiti Burton, Tjikatu Burton, Stanley Douglas and Alan Wilson.

We continued working on the book of Daniel, which we had started editing when we were at the June workshop. Kanytjupai Armstrong, who lives in Alice Springs (a dialysis patient), had translated the first draft, and we looked at her draft making corrections so that the story was accurate and good natural Pitjantjatjara. After working for several days the translators said, "We really like this story of Daniel. We've learnt a lot of good things which we are passing onto our family."

On Friday there was a funeral, but late in the afternoon Nyunmiti and Lillian came and worked on chapter 4. They were enjoying the story so much that they wouldn't stop working until they'd finished the whole chapter - by then it was 10:30pm.

Next morning Roger flew me to Pukatja & then flew on home to Crystal Brook. What a wonderful help he was.



Pilot, Roger Crouch, delivers Paul safely to the APY Lands in his little TECNAM aircraft



Pukatja (Ernabella) from above.

Gary Lewis picked me up from the airport and took me to the Bible House in Pukatja. I put my things there and went over to my "daughter's" house to watch the AFL grand final. I sat with my "grandson", Thomas Tjilya, barracking for Hawthorne and was subsequently disappointed.

For the next week I worked with Katrina Tjitayi and her team, including Umatji Tjitayi, Yurpiya Lionel and Ann Jack. Katrina had been first drafting a number of chapters in the book of Numbers and so we worked on the story about Balaam and his donkey. During the week we also checked Psalm 3.

One night I was delighted when two younger men came along and did some translation work - Cyril McKenzie and his friend Daniel. We looked at Daniel, the translation that the Amata team had been working on and Cyril was able to make some valuable changes to the text.

We worked for several days in Ernabella, and then on Friday evening the team celebrated my 60th birthday. Ann Jack made one of her famous dampers complete with lots of candles. It was fairly blazing when she presented it to me to blow out the candles. It was very special and I was delighted.

On Sunday morning I climbed aboard the Bush Bee bus and headed for Alice Springs via Fregon, Mimili & Indulkana - a 9 hour drive in an old 1991 Coaster bus.

Monday I got together with Kanytjupai at Topsy Smith hostel and we had look at Daniel. She gave me the draft she'd just completed of chapters 7-12 to be

keyboarded. I asked her what she thought of Daniel, and I have translated her reply below.

Kanytjupai and I reviewed the translation progress and we were quite amazed at what has been done since July 2011:

**Numbers** *Katrina Tjitayi* has drafted 7 chapters and her team has now edited 22:21-41 to draft 2.

**Joshua** *Makinti Minutjukur* has drafted ch 1-5 and her team has edited ch 1-2 to draft 2.

**1 Samuel** *Kanytjupai* has drafted 4 chapters.

**Psalms** Various different people have drafted 12 Psalms and several have had team checks.

**Proverbs** *Kanytjupai* has drafted chapters 1-31.

**Isaiah** *Margaret Dagg* has drafted chapters 2-7.

**Daniel** *Nyunmiti Burton & Nyurpaya* drafted ch 1-2 and *Kanytjupai* drafted 3-12. The *Amata team* has edited ch 1-3 to draft 3 and *Inawinytji Williamson* (in Adelaide) with Paul has edited 2 chpts to draft 4. *Cyril McKenzie & Gary Watson* have also reviewed 1:1-7.

**Leviticus** In the 1990s *Margaret* and *Ann Eckert* drafted 15 chapters and now *Yanyi Bandicha* is editing that.

Thank you, Lord!



**Kanytjupai (right) with her good friend Daisy at Topsy Smith Hostel in Alice Springs**

"The story of Daniel is really really good. You know sometimes some of us get into this work and we think, "Boy, this is really difficult." But this word of God's that he spoke long ago, is really wonderful. I have just finished working on this and there's lots that I understood clearly but there were some parts that were, well, rather difficult. But it became clear - it was hard to understand at first because I didn't know this story as it was the first time I had read it. But the Holy Spirit would show me. That's why I so enjoyed working on this book of Daniel.

You know there were some really hard parts with all sorts of different characters like a ram and a goat, stuff that I couldn't understand you know horns and stuff. But I carefully looked at it all and I began to understand. I came to see it was about what was going to happen in the future - that's what it was showing through dreams - showing the way to life. Daniel saw these dreams and couldn't understand the meaning - it was difficult, and he wanted to understand.

Likewise, we really want to understand correctly. Sometimes we just don't get it, but when we don't understand the Holy Spirit shows us. I really enjoyed doing this work and when I got to the end I was elated at having finished it. It's a fantastic story, though there are some very troubling parts - it's about the last days. Yes, I'm very happy doing this work."



**Margaret Dagg delivering chapters of Isaiah**



**Katrina Tjitayi at the keyboard using Paratext**



**Cyril McKenzie doing some checking at Ernabella**

**YES...**

**I want to support  
Indigenous Scriptures**

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☐ For \$20, I would like to become a CSIS **Partner**, (12 months)

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☐ general funds

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☐ West Arnhem

☐ West Kimberley

☐ Central Australia

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## Working with Mary Skidmore

by Wängarr Dhamarrandji



**Working and training and learning with Mary Skidmore (AuSIL) at the Translation Centre, doing Powerpoint (PPT) with transitions and animations, Publisher, Booklets, Bookmarks and pages.**

**Teaching Nature and Character of God at the Church with Fiona with Bible study on 'Praise' and how I explain when all of creation sings praises to God, the maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 148: 1-7**



**Family fellowship with Bible study at bottom camp with Margaret and Mary on Nature of God. Where there is a space between the windows that's when I put the plain white sheet up, for the Bible study.**



*Working with Mary was very interesting and very hard with families' interruption during the work hours especially with my son ending up in the mental Hospital in Darwin. But it was worthwhile when I put every effort into it making it active and alive. I just want to say 'thank you' to Märi Mary for the valuable and precious time. Prayer points- Pray for my sons Terence and Hayden and my sister's sons Joshua, Eugene, Ezra, Nathan my brother's son Matthew and Winston.*

## Coming up in 2013...

[www.coordinate.org.au](http://www.coordinate.org.au)

As we're moving into a new year, we're moving into a new name and a new website. Some people were having trouble with the acronym CSIS: pronouncing it, remembering it, and explaining what it really means. To make things easier, we're using the first word in the acronym. We're calling ourselves 'Coordinate', because we try to support Indigenous Scriptures in coordinated partnerships. Check out [www.coordinate.org.au](http://www.coordinate.org.au), with regular weblog entries from the 4 areas. You can subscribe to receive news from one or all areas in your e-mail by RSS, and download back issues of CoordN8. Please consider the \$20 partnership towards the cost of our print newsletter. In Issue #10, you can read about translation in Waruwi (West Arnhem), the December 'OurWord' workshop, a Yolŋu tour of Timor, and the next instalment of 'Steps in Translation'. Thanks for your prayer & support!

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