

**Makéddja barrúra
barra-ngódjbara-nja**

Makéddja barrúra barra-ngódjbara-nja

Life cycle of the sea turtle

A text in the Ndjébbana language of central coastal Arnhem Land, for use in the bilingual program at Maningrida Community Education Centre.

Ndjébbana text by Lena Djabíbbá, Monica Wilton and Carol Galawidja, Heather Giese, Mavis Mawarrídja, Rachel Djibbáma, Melanie Mamariyi, Henry Wilton, Alistair James

Information from Kamárrang of the Rdukúrrdji clan (dec. Jan. 1995), Mr Jockey Búndubundu, Mr Johnny Nalíba, and Búlanj of the Karddúrra clan (dec. Jan. 1995)

Checking supervised by Tommy Wokburra, Kate Miwúlkku, Daisy Naddjundánga and Millie Djamúddjana, Rita Djitmu, Betty Mirrilwanga, Elizabeth Warrangamba, Peter marralwanga, Willie ?, Claire ?, Susan ?, Esther ?

English translation by Carolyn Coleman and Rebecca Green

Illustrations by Anne Taylor and Greenpeace Australia

The information used in this text was initially collected during the 1994 Aboriginal Language Fortnight workshop by Monica Wilton and Carol Galawidja, Remote Area Teacher Education students at Batchelor College. Further work was done during 1994 by language workers in the Ndjébbana Bilingual Unit (Literacy Worker Lena Djabíbbá and classroom teachers Heather Giese, Mavis Mawarrídja), and during Seasons workshops during 2005–08. We thank the older members of the Kunibidji community who were the source of our information: Kamárrang of the Rdukúrrdji clan (dec. Jan. 1995), Mr Jockey Búndubundu, Mr Johnny Nalíba, and Búlanj of the Karddúrra clan (dec. Jan. 1995).

© NT Government, Department of Employment, Education and Training, Maningrida Community Education Centre

Printed ??

Produced at Maningrida Literature Production Centre
Maningrida CEC
Private Mail Bag 67
Winnellie NT 0822

ISBN 1 74087 128 6

Nga-rakáya kénkala djámbarra malóya
ká-rama ka-rénjdjeya. Makéddja bóلكkarda
wíba-ngáya, marládja, ka-nádja ka-nádja,
yaláwa búkkurlurl lárta-na ka-wála yángaya,
barrábarra yá-rama barra-yirríya-nja.

Balarrírra ya-nangarddjína yaláwa
yaka-yíya. Ngayámala nakémala
barra-marlakkarlayína-nja. Nakémala
ki-yirríya, ngayámala yi-yirríya.

Karlómerr ká-ba yi-yirríya yaláwa
dírrngdírrng ká-rama, barrúra
ka-ngódjbara.

Kénkala yáka-bbo, yabarra-ngabbabó-nja,
makéddja barrúra barra-ngódjbara-nja.
Dítkarra ka-nádja ka-nádja naké-keyakka
rénjmarla ka-yóra. Kábba nga-néyabba
ka-nmarrabarlúyara. Nga-néyabba yaláwa
marládja yaka-wála, barrúra ya-kkúndja.

Yi-yirríya, rénjmarla ka-yóra,
yaka-wála ránba. Djakóra ka-rénjdjeya
ká-rakarawo, nga-néyabba yá-bakabanja
yaka-nóra. Njarra-yirríya njarra-nádja
njá-marnabba ya-wála yi-yirríya mándarla
ká-raya, yi-yirríya nga-náwarla, ya-lakaláya
njárkkidj yaláwa ka-bbánjdja.

Barrúra ya-kkúndja yaka-nóra. Ka-bbúra
ka-nmarabúya, yaláwa barakángka ya-nóra
ka-mánga ya-renjdjína, yaláwa ya-kkamiya
walákka yaka-wákka yaka-rlábaya
bana-kkábbá.

Marládja nja-barrábarra barrúra
ya-kkúndja n-karrówa, njána nja-wálirrng
warábba-ngaya, karrówa kóma.
Nja-wálirrng wórrbbom ya-kkúndja.

Barrúra ka-yóra. Kurlúmburrk-kurlúmburrk
ka-yóra yaláwa, kárlbbambam. Dírrngdirrng
ká-rama yaláwa karókadja ka-ngódjbara.

Barrúra n-marládja na-kkáyala ka-yóra
n-karrówa, njána na-wórrbbom ka-yarrárlma.
Barra-karrówa bárra-yana baka-móya
barra-ngúddja.

Kárlbbambam na-kkáyala ka-yóra. Nganéya
yaláwa na-bbarlángkareya ká-bakabanja,
ka-mángka, ká-ba.

Karrabba n-kálakarra ka-nádja ka-nádja
kádjbarl díla-na ká-rama, kénkala wára,
yaláwa ránba ki-yirriya barrúra káya-na.
Ka-bala-yirriya ka-nádja n-kódda
na-bbarlángkaraya ká-ba ká-rawo,
ká-bakabanja ká-yana n-djídjabba wébba.

Nganéyabba njarra-karláraya
mandarlangúrrnga, njarra-mankawákkaya,
njarra-karláraya kúrla ka-rníbaya,
njarra-ráya warábba-ngáya marddól
ya-yéngka. Njarra-wárrbba, n-kárla
njarra-nádja, yaláwa njár-ra-bakabanja
káyala njár-ra-rawo. Njarra-ddjórrbara
nja-mardárda njár-ra-rawo, njarra-nádja
yaláwa barrúra, dírrngdirrng. Dírrngdirrng
njár-ra-ba, barrúra njár-ra-ba, nja-rnamíddja.

Ka-bábba ki-yirríya
nga-rnamíddja ka-ngódjbara.

Barrábarra ka-nabíya yaláwa ki-yírriya.

Yaláwa ngárda ka-bbúra; marládja
nga-namánda ka-rnawárrbara barrúra
n-kódáda, ka-míba ka-yóra yaláwa.

Barra-nabélibiliba barra-rríkkaya
ránba. Barra-warayémaya
nganjónganjiba-ká-rawo nakébbba
búna-ba. Barra-bíwanga kábba warríwarra,
barra-rlábaya kómabba barra-yirríya
yaláwa bólkkarda. Bárreya kómabba.

Marládja barra-nabélibiliba ka-míba
mardárda ka-rlawíya, ka-rríkkaya ki-yirríya,
yaláwa djambalówa málaya ka-bala-yirríya,
ka-nádja, ka-karlábaya ka-ráya, ka-mángka.

Yaláwa barra-yirríya ngána bókkarda,
bana-kkábbá, kábbá kánkarra bana-ngádja.
Yárrkyarrk barra-bbúra, barrémala
barra-bbéngka. Barra-yarrárlma yaláwa.

Bakkándja yaláwa marládja njárlkkidj
bana-kkábbba ki-yirríya; nganéya yaláwa
djabbarnbókka kaya-móya. Karrabba
n-kálakarra ki-yirríya ká-yana kayáka-ra
kaya-móya.

Yaláwa barra-yirríya barra-yarrárlmanga,
yaláwa lárta-na, ngarráma barra-nabíya-nja.

Yaláwa nga-rakáya kénkala ká-rama,
djámbarra malóya, yaláwa lárta-na ka-wála
yángaya yá-rama barra-yirríya-nja.

Yá-nmarramarlo yi-yirríya yaláwa barrúra
ka-ngódjbara. Yúrnska-ngaya ka-rlawíya,
“Ngaya-wákka n-barrúra ngaya-bbánjdja.”
Yaka-wákka yi-yirríya wíbbara n-djídjabba,
ngayábba ngárda ka-bbóna barrúra.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Life cycle of the sea turtle

2. Pandanus gets fruit in the wet season, the showery season. Turtles that live in the sea watch for it, then the male climbs on her and stays holding her. At full moon time, the male mounts her, he holds her back as they go along.
4. When speargrass breaks, he leaves her. They split up; he goes off on his own, she goes off on her own.
6. She goes along eating seagrass, and she is fertile, she develops her eggs.
8. When the pandanus nuts fall, and are harvested, turtles produce their eggs. She watches for the new moon. That's when the tide comes up high. At that time the female turtle comes up to lay her eggs.
10. She goes until new moon, then she goes up the beach. Where the spinifex grows along the foredune, there she digs. We go and see the turtle's tracks climbing up; she finds it's too hard and goes on to another place and feels that it's soft so she digs.
12. She lays her eggs. She covers them over, then she heads back to the water.
14. Large turtles lay many eggs, but immature females lay only one, never many. Immature females lay just a few.
16. The eggs lie there. They lie there in a clutch with developing yolks. They have embryos inside, making babies.
18. Many turtle eggs lie in the sand, but few grow up. Many animals hunt them.
20. The eggs lie in the sand. That's when a goanna digs, gets them (and) eats them.
22. Similarly a man waits for the acacias to flower, or for the pandanus fruits, then goes to the beach to look for eggs. He comes along (and) sees the skins which the goanna has discarded, (then) he digs in search of them in just the same way.
24. We prod the sand—it's hard, so we move on, when we prod the stick sinks in, we stab an egg and it bursts, when we pull the stick out we see that it's wet, so we dig and remove the sand. We cook them and discard the shells, then we see eggs, embryos. We eat the embryos, we eat the eggs, and the meat.
26. They eat and eat and gradually they form their bodies.
28. At last they have finished growing.
30. Then they hatch; the little turtles crack the egg shell, and emerge.
32. The little ones wriggle across the beach. They are afraid that a sand goanna might eat them. They smell the salt water, and go down to it. They all go into the water and head for deep water. All of them.

34. Once the baby turtles come out of their shells, and stop, then crawl along, the brahminny kite flies over, sees them, goes down into the water (and) spears them (in its talons), (and) gets them.
36. At last they are all in the deep water, the water saves their skins (literally, 'the water saves their flesh'). Then they go their separate ways, each swims off separately. They grow.
38. After that, when the baby turtles are swimming about in the water, that's when a shark might eat one. Also men hunt them to harpoon (and) eat.
40. At last they grow up, they become male and female (turtles).
42. When the pandanus gets fruit in the wet season, the showery? season, then the male climbs on her and they go along with him holding her.
44. She swims along, developing her eggs. She thinks, "I'll go back and lay my eggs." She returns to the same place where she hatched as an egg.



Printed by Maningrida CEC's Literature Production Centre



This work is from the **Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages** www.cdu.edu.au/laal.

If you have any questions or wish to access information concerning this work, please contact us at livingarchive@cdu.edu.au.

Use of this work is subject to the User License Agreement available at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/laal/permissions/>

This work is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivs 3.0 Licence Australia** which appears as follows:



This licence allows users to share, copy and redistribute the work in any medium or format provided they:

- (i) give appropriate credit, provide a link to the licence, and indicate if any changes were made to the work. Users may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests that we endorse the user or their use;
- (ii) do not use the work for commercial purposes;
- (iii) do not distribute the modified work if they remix, transform or build upon the work, and
- (iv) do not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything that the licence permits.

The full terms of the licence can be found at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/legalcode>.

The creators of this work assert their **moral rights** to:

- be identified and named as the creators of this work. This means that if you reproduce the work, you must identify these creators;
- take action if this work is falsely attributed as being someone else's work; and
- take action if this work is distorted or treated in a way that is harmful to their honour or reputation. This means that the creators of this work have the right to object to distortion, mutilation or other modification of, or derogatory action in relation to the work.

If you share this work, you must identify the creators named in this work and on the Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages website and abide with all other attribution requirements under the Creative Commons licence.

Note that any action that is in breach of the moral rights of the author will give rise to a right of the creators to take legal action under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth).

Do not remove this notice