



Language and Culture Centre

MIRIWOONG LANGUAGE RESCUE

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ABOUT US

The work of the Mirima Dawang Wooralab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) began in the early 1970s when Elders realised the Miriwoong language was under threat of extinction. It is our mission to document, preserve and revitalise Miriwoong, the language of the original inhabitants of the lands in and around Kununurra. MDWg gives Miriwoong people the opportunity to learn and teach their language to ensure its survival.

We are seeking support to achieve our goal of saving Miriwoong, which is why we have created the Miriwoong Language Rescue.

The Miriwoong language has been spoken for thousands of years, however it is now classified as 'critically endangered', with only a handful of fluent speakers remaining.

MDWg delivers a number of programs and initiatives which apply internationally renowned teaching models to revitalise the Miriwoong language and ensure better outcomes for the Miriwoong community.

SAVE A LANGUAGE- AN UNUSUAL INITIATIVE

Thank you for visiting this beautiful country of the Miriwoong people who have been managing these lands since ancient times. The Miriwoong Language Rescue initiative invites you as a visitor to help us maintain our heritage into the future.

The Miriwoong community nowadays is facing significant challenges. Elders strongly believe one of the most effective ways of addressing these challenges is by learning and sharing language. Current research shows that individuals who can speak their heritage language typically have better physical and mental health, are more likely to complete school and gain employment, and are less likely to abuse alcohol or illicit substances. With less than a handful of truly fluent speakers alive today, it is critical that the younger generation of Miriwoong speakers are supported in learning their traditional language.

During your time on Miriwoong country, please consider donating \$5 to support the revitalisation of an endangered Indigenous language. All funds raised will support programs which have been developed to save an irreplaceable language and culture. A small contribution can make a big difference. You can do this through the link below or by using the donation box at reception. Information about our programs to save the Miriwoong language can be found on the other side of this flyer!



DONATE AT WWW.GIVENOW.COM.AU/MIRIMA

WHAT WE DO

MDWg is committed to delivering programs for the Miriwoong community that support the revitalisation of the Miriwoong language and lead to better outcomes for the Miriwoong people.

Miriwoong Language Nest

The Miriwoong Language Nest is currently reaching 400 children a week in primary schools and early learning centres throughout Kununurra. Established in 2014, the committed Language Nest team teach Miriwoong through short, immersion-based sessions that use songs, games and interactive activities to meaningfully engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

Bilingual audio books

MDWg has produced 12 bilingual audio books, written in Miriwoong with English translations. These books are a great tool to assist children and adults learning the Miriwoong language, and showcase the unique culture and vibrant communities of the Miriwoong people.

Radio programs

MDWg Language Workers produce radio programs in Miriwoong that are broadcast across the East Kimberley on 6WR Waringarri Radio. These programs aim to educate and increase people's awareness and understanding of the Miriwoong language.

Cultural activities

MDWg also organises cultural activities, dances and Welcome to Country speeches. Miriwoong Elders play a fundamental role in the process of language revitalisation, and provide crucial assistance to Miriwoong language learners each week to develop their skills and knowledge.



Above: A Miriwoong Language Nest session

Below: Consultation with Elders in weekly workshops

Bottom Left: Mirima Dancers performing at the Kimberley Moon Experience



“
Our Miriwoong identity is similar to a flower - the seed stems out of the country and grows through our language and culture. If our language is lost then that seed cannot grow and we as Miriwoong people won't know who we really are.
”

David Newry, Founding Member of MDWg

Visit www.mirima.org.au to find out more, or call us on (08) 9169 1029.