



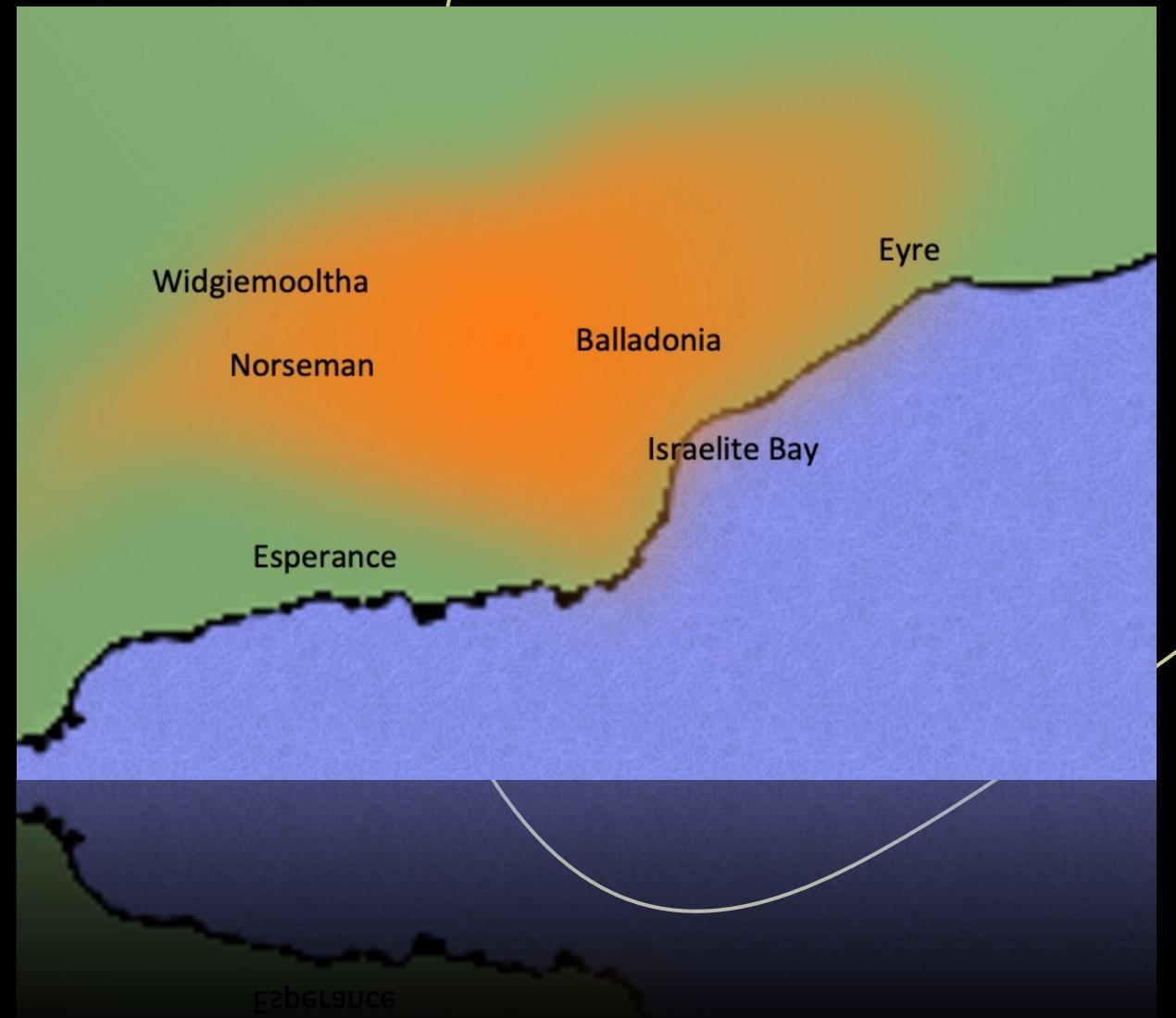
# Ngadju Kakurtu

Ngadju Language:  
History, Present, and Future



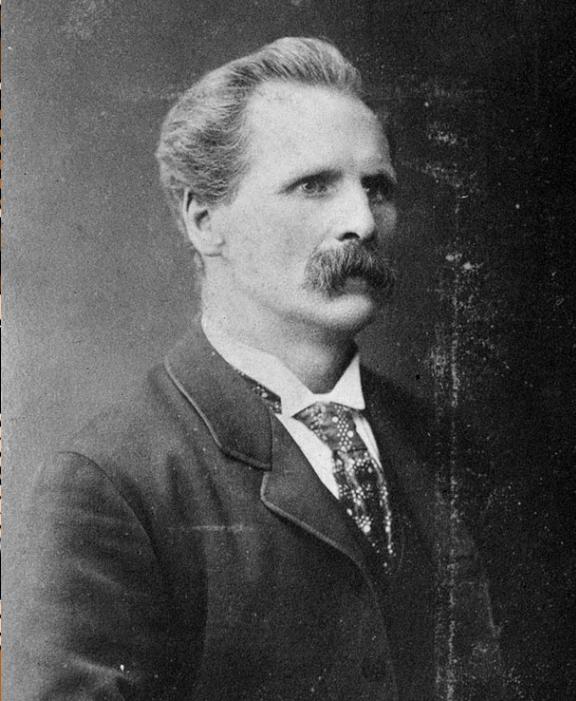
# Ngadju Country

- Language and people of the Southern Goldfields of Western Australia
- From the Mirniny Language Family
- Related to Kaalamaya and Mirniny



# Early Research

- 1896 Richard Helms botanical survey
- Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Daisy Bates wordlists



1896  
Richard Helms

1940  
Norman Tindale

1968  
Wilf Douglas

c.1993  
Steven Roberts

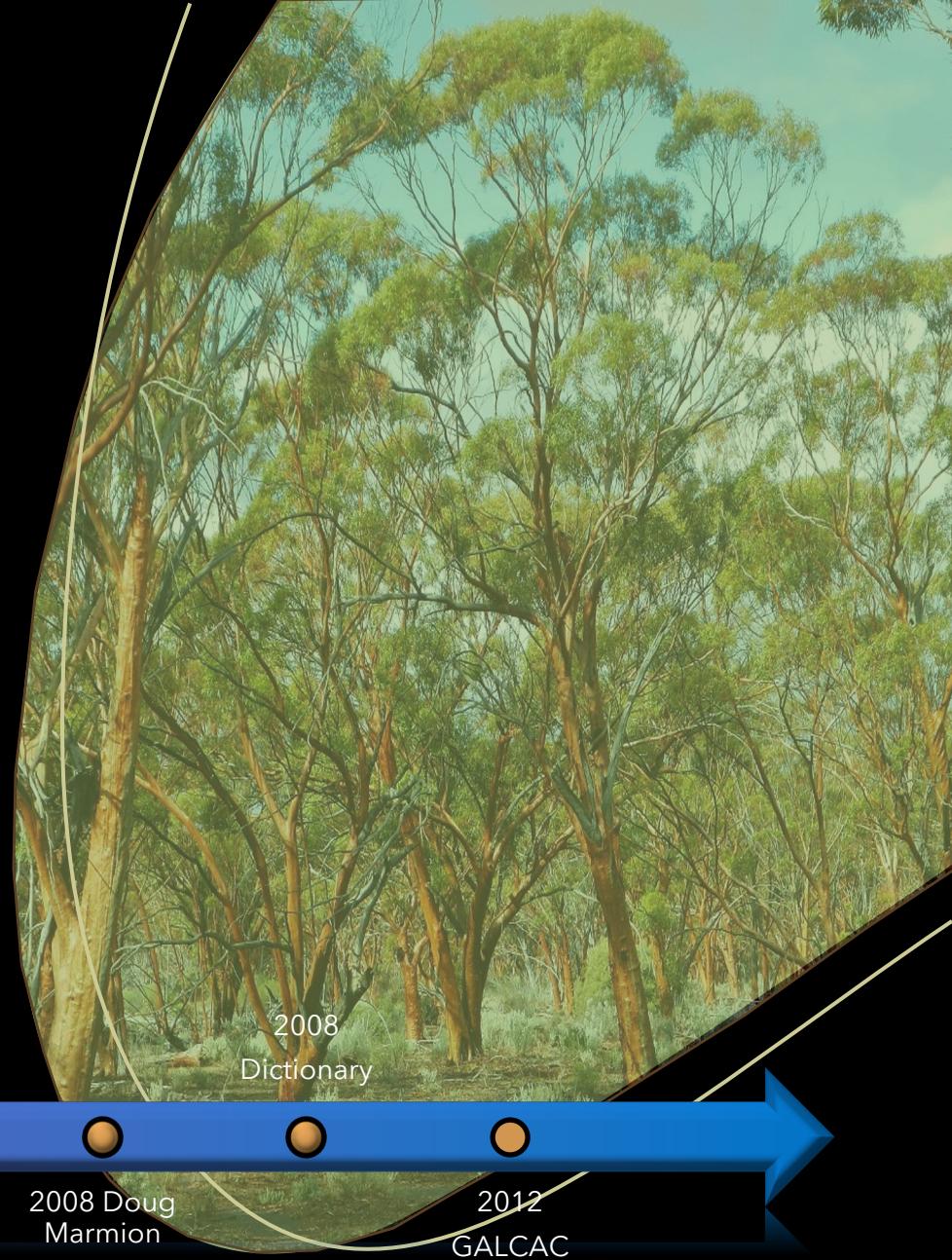
c.1908  
Daisy Bates

1957  
Geoff O'Grady

1980  
Carl von Brandenstein

2008 Doug Marmion

2012 GALCAC



# Early Research

- 1896 Richard Helms botanical survey
- Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Daisy Bates wordlists



Courtesy of Chaz Hansen

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Richard  
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1940  
Norman  
Tindale

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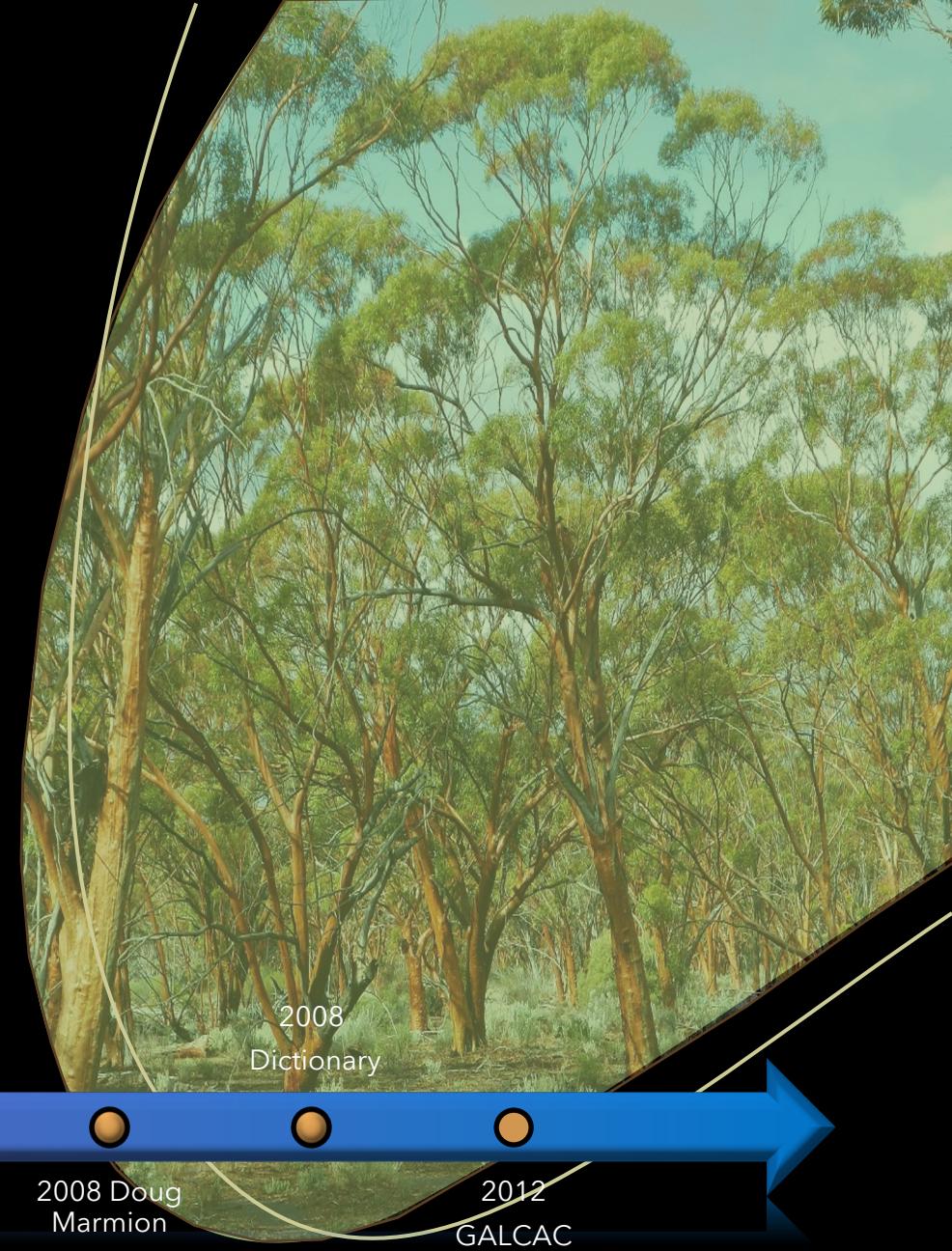
c.1908  
Daisy Bates

1957  
Geoff  
O'Grady

1980  
Carl von  
Brandenstein

2008 Doug  
Marmion

2012  
GALCAC



# Twentieth Century Research

- 1940 Norman Tindale wordlist
- 1957 Geoff O'Grady wordlist
- 1968 Wilf Douglas wordlist

Illustrations by Chas Graham



c.1908  
Daisy Bates

1940  
Norman  
Tindale

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2008 Doug  
Marmion

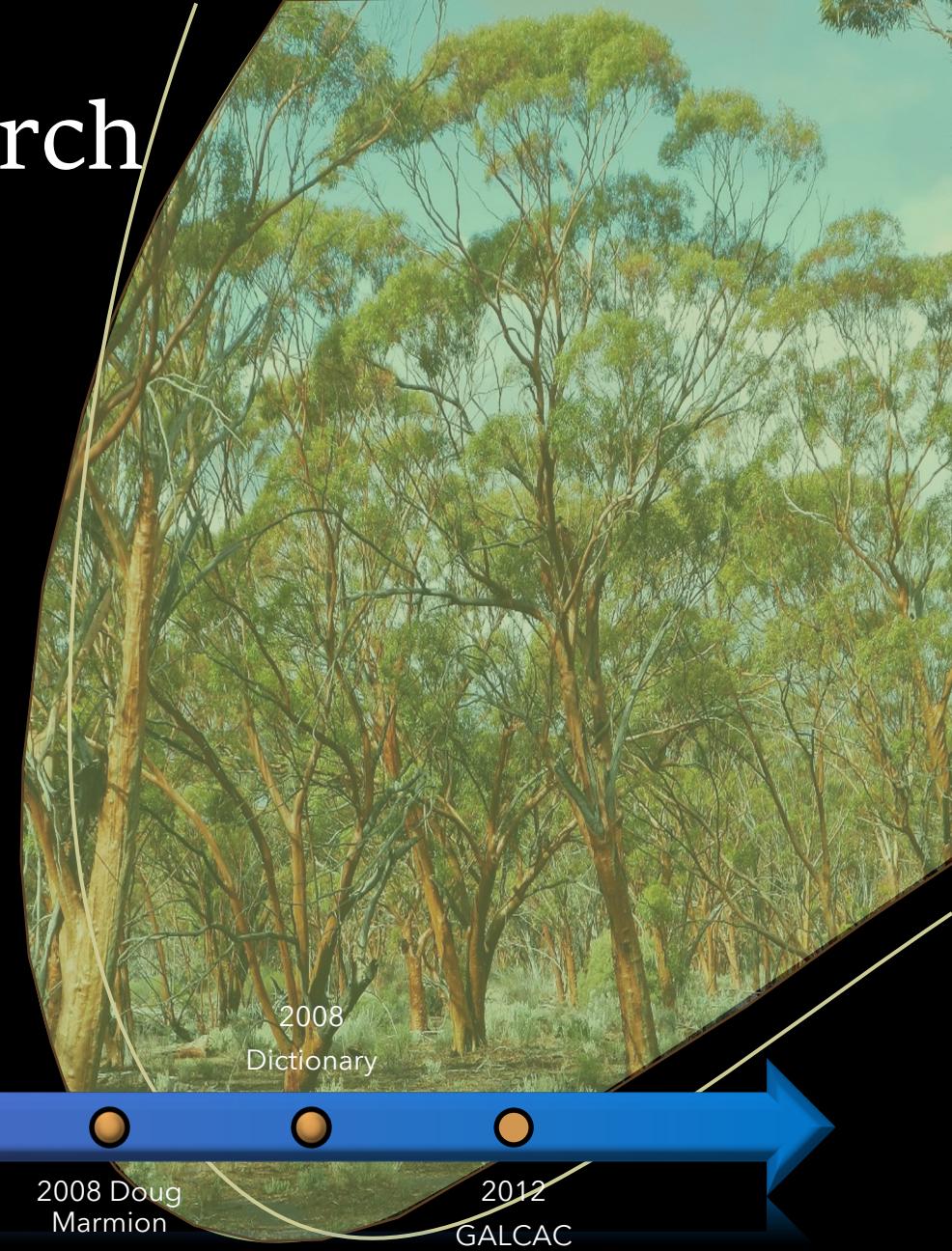
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Dictionary



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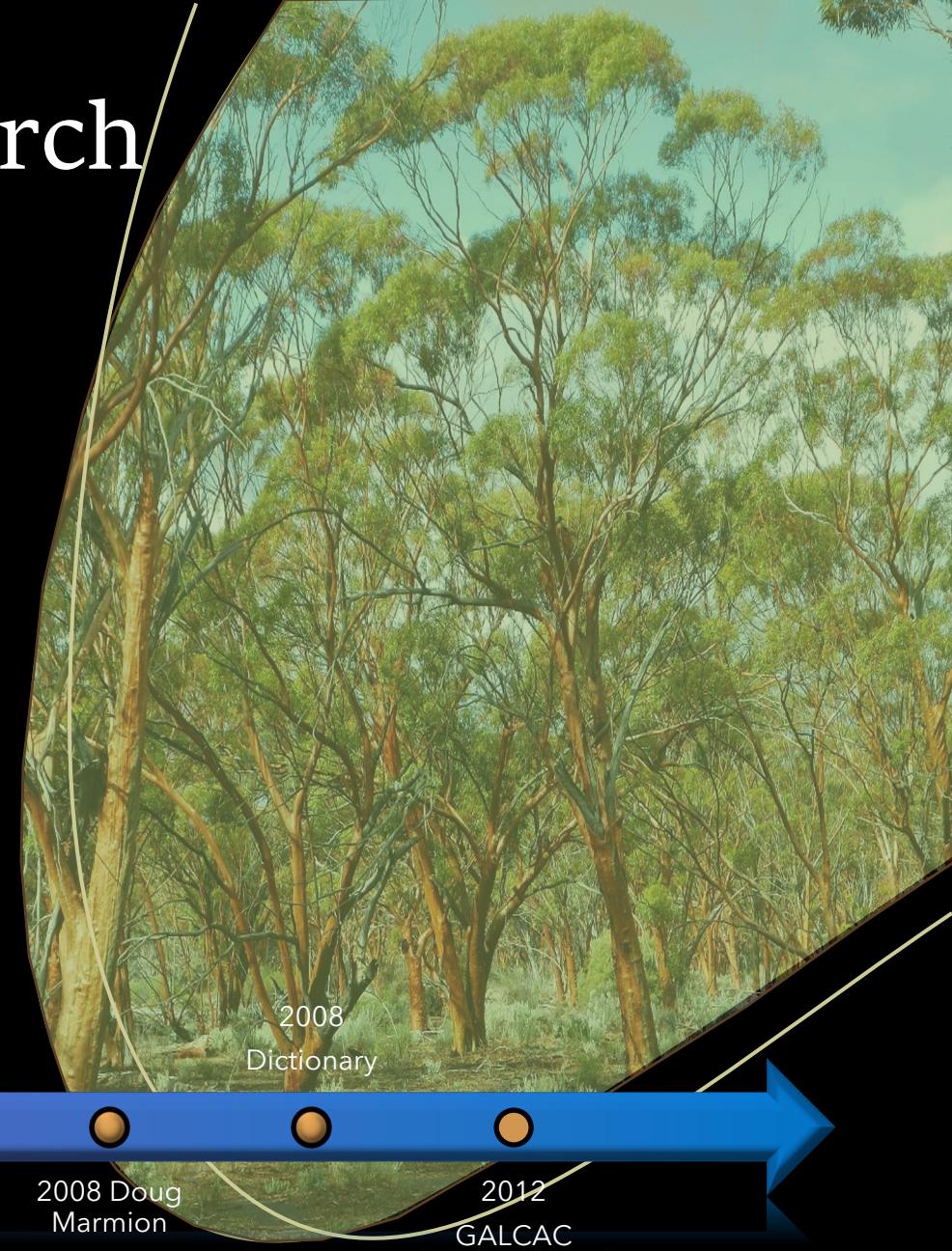
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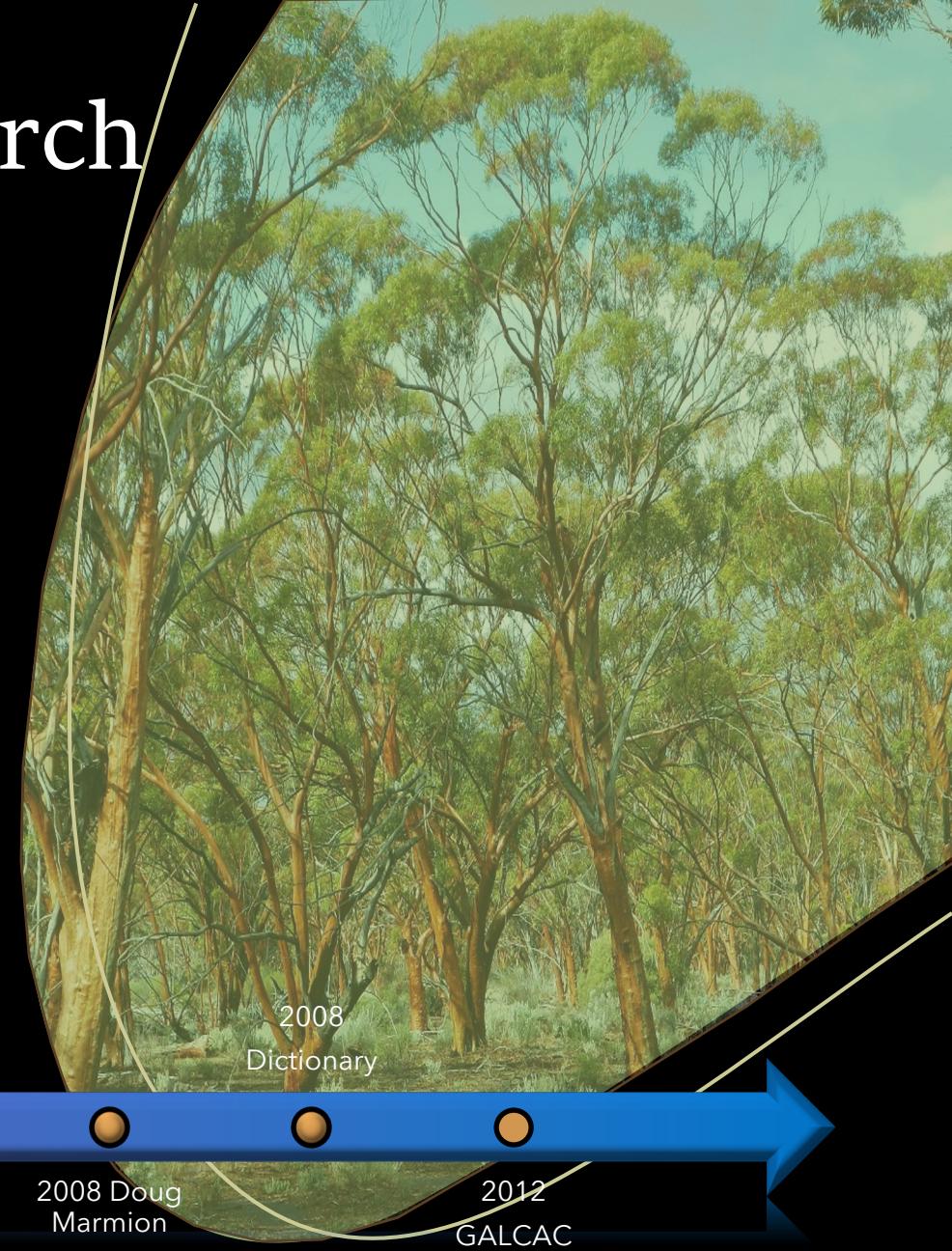
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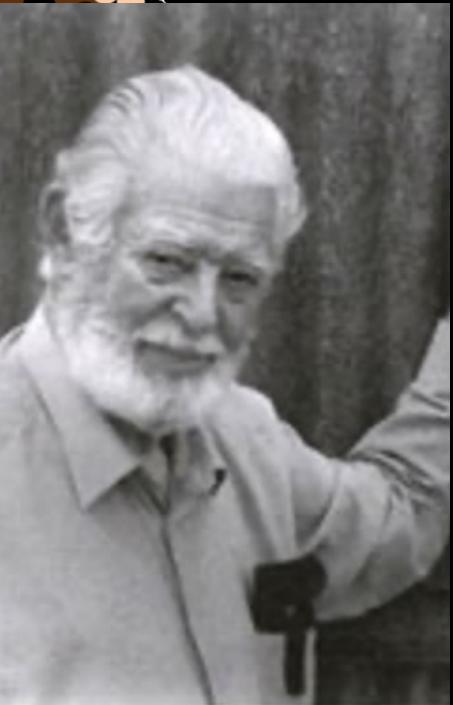
1980  
Carl von  
Brandenstein



# Major Research

- 1980 Carl von Brandenstein grammar and wordlist
- 1982 Carl von Brandenstein 88 Sentences list
- c.1993 Steven Roberts grammar review

*Circles by Chas Graham*



c.1908  
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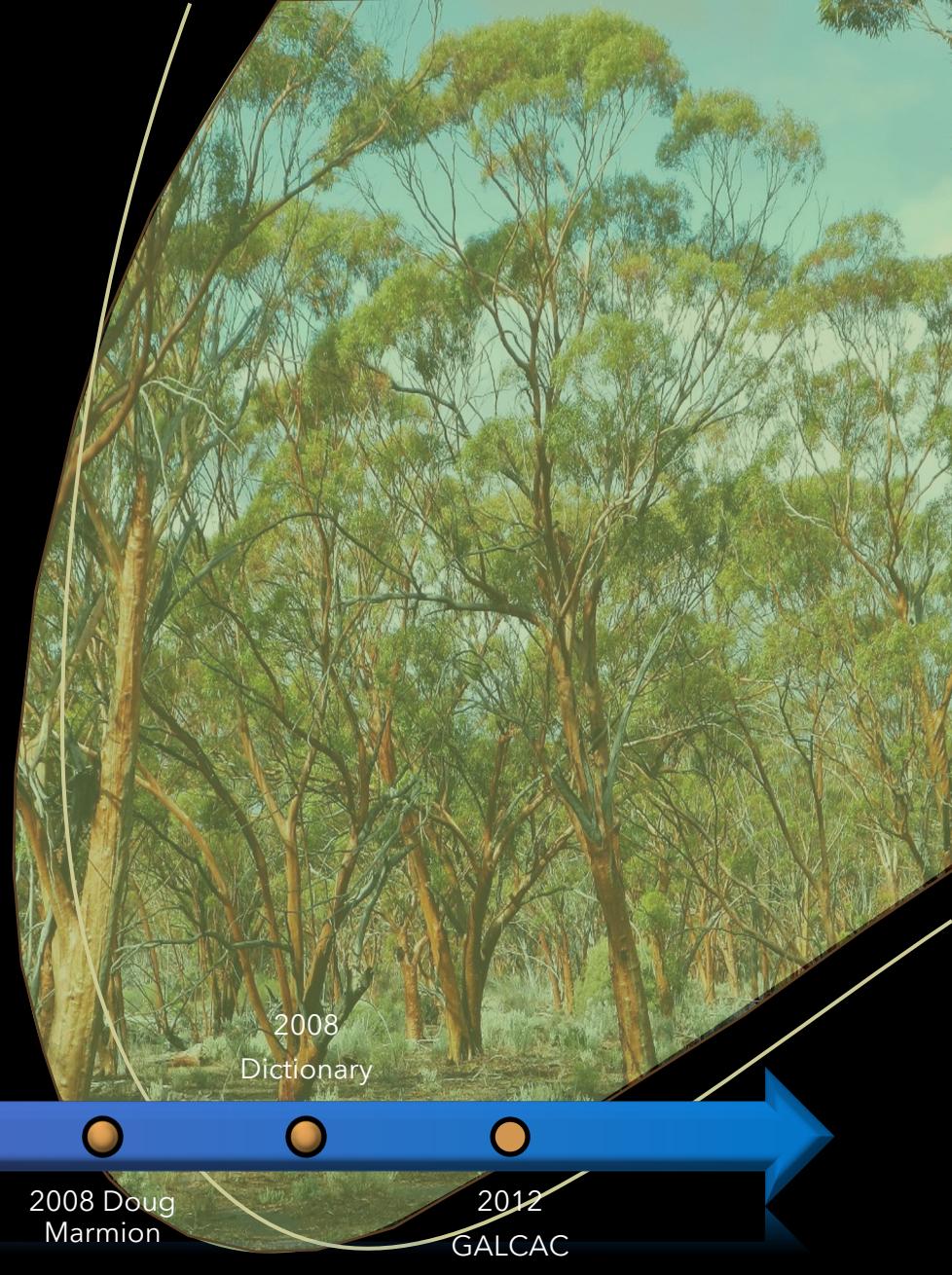
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Dictionary

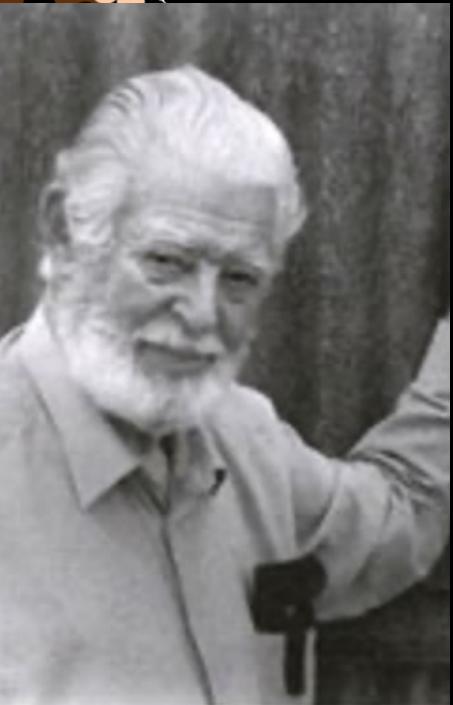
2012  
GALCAC



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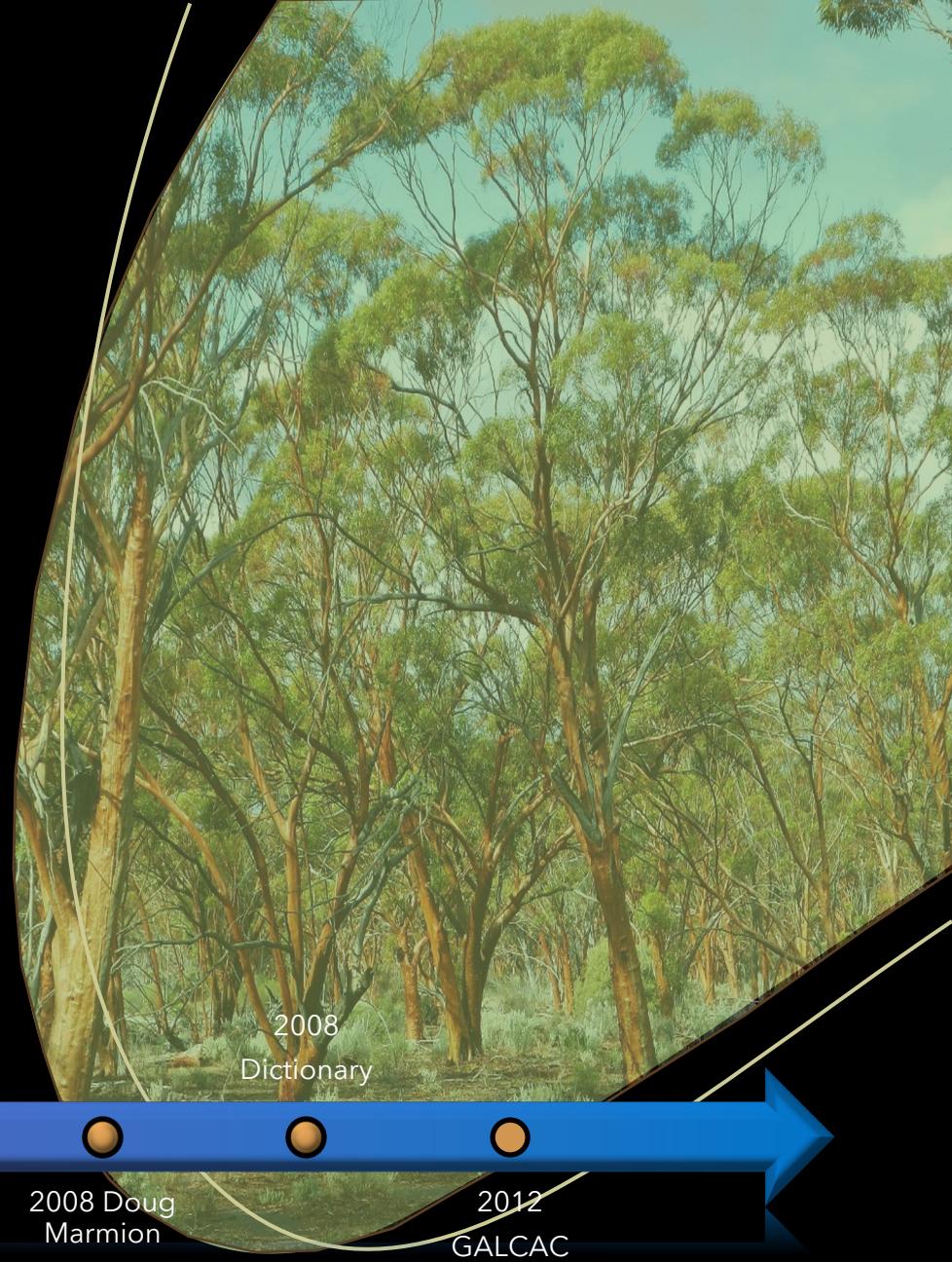
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Carl von Brandenstein

c.1993  
Steven Roberts

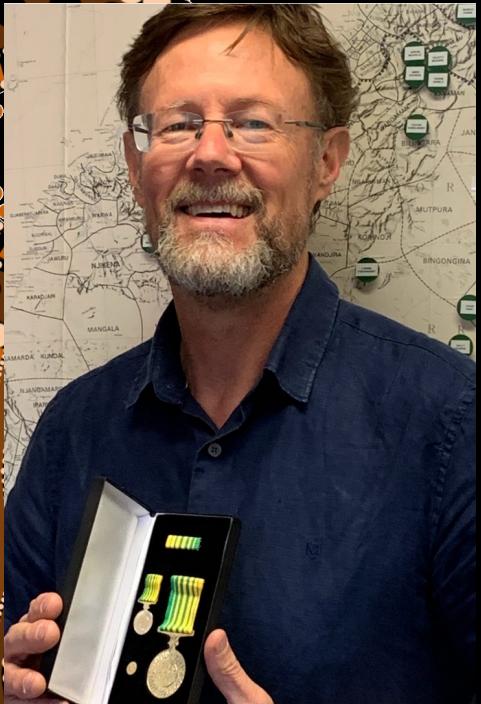
2008 Doug Marmion

2008 Dictionary

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# Twenty-first Century Research



- 2008 Doug Marmion sketch grammar
- 2008 Picture dictionary

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1896  
Richard Helms

c.1908  
Daisy Bates

1940  
Norman Tindale

1968  
Wilf Douglas

c.1993  
Steven Roberts

1957  
Geoff O'Grady

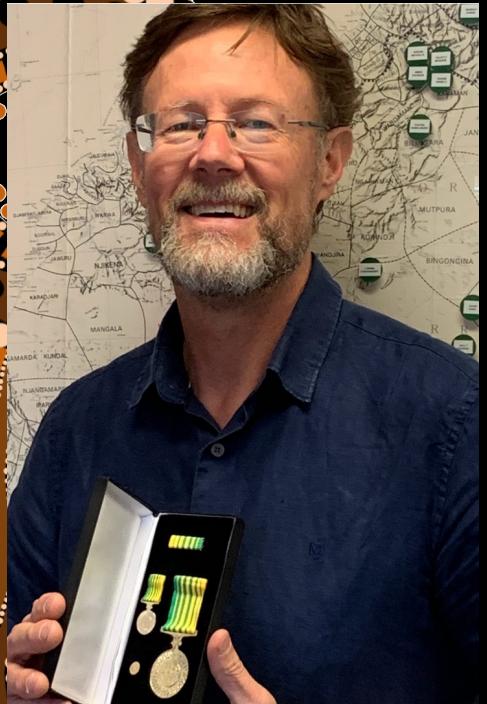
1980  
Carl von Brandenstein

2008  
Doug Marmion

2012  
GALCAC



# Recent Research



- 2008 Doug Marmion sketch grammar
- 2008 Picture dictionary

Illustrations by Chas Hansen

1896  
Richard Helms

c.1908  
Daisy Bates

1940  
Norman Tindale

1968  
Wilf Douglas

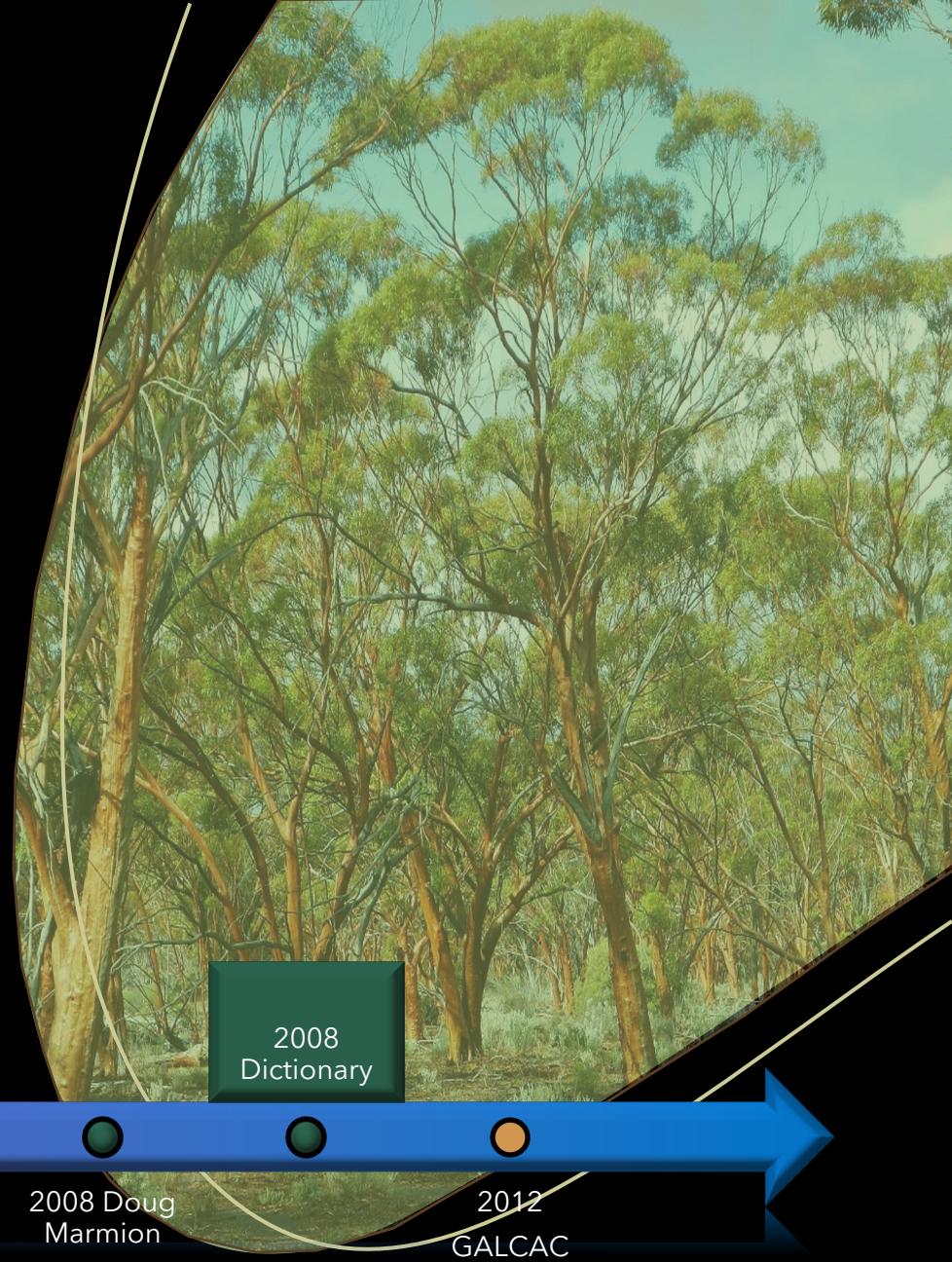
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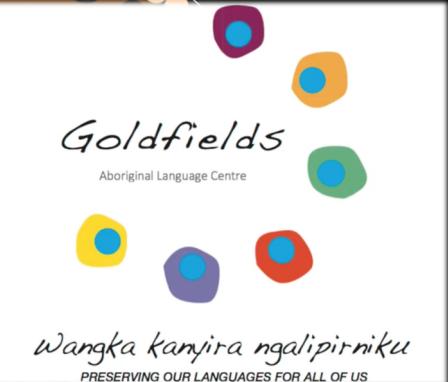
2012 GALCAC



# Current Research

- 2012 Sue Hanson's fieldwork begins
- 2013 Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre picture dictionary
- 2016 Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation officially established

Illustrations by Cherie Hanson



1896

Richard Helms

1940  
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Wilf Douglas

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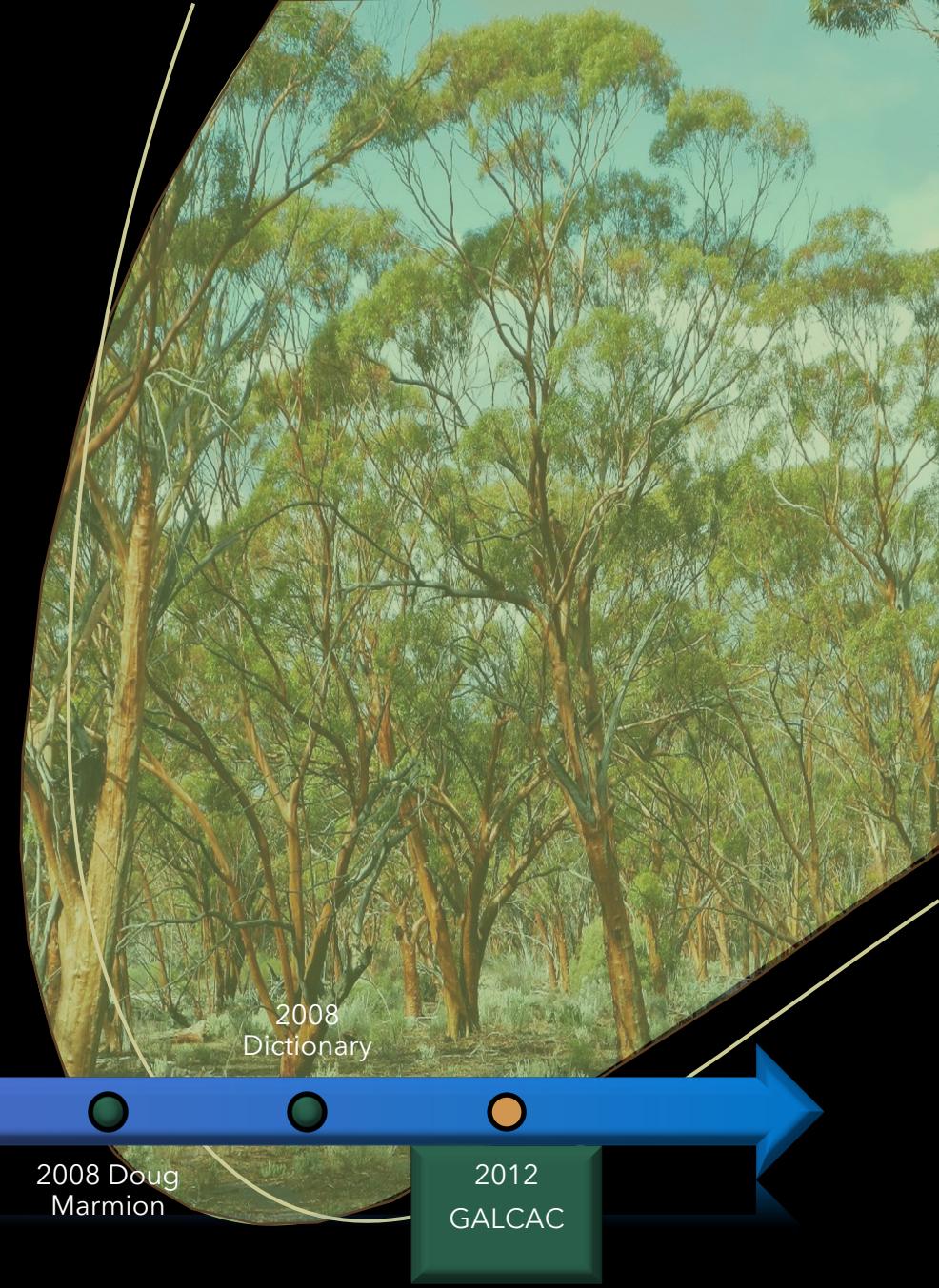
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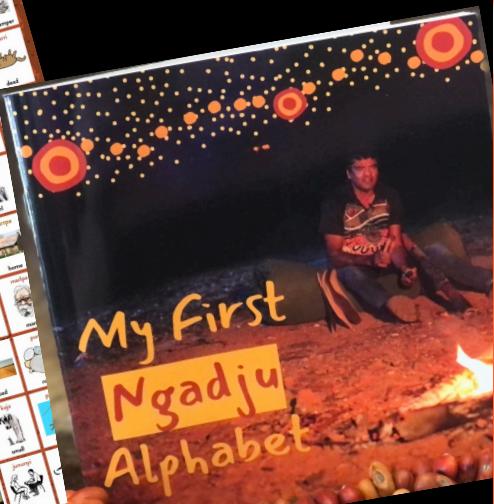
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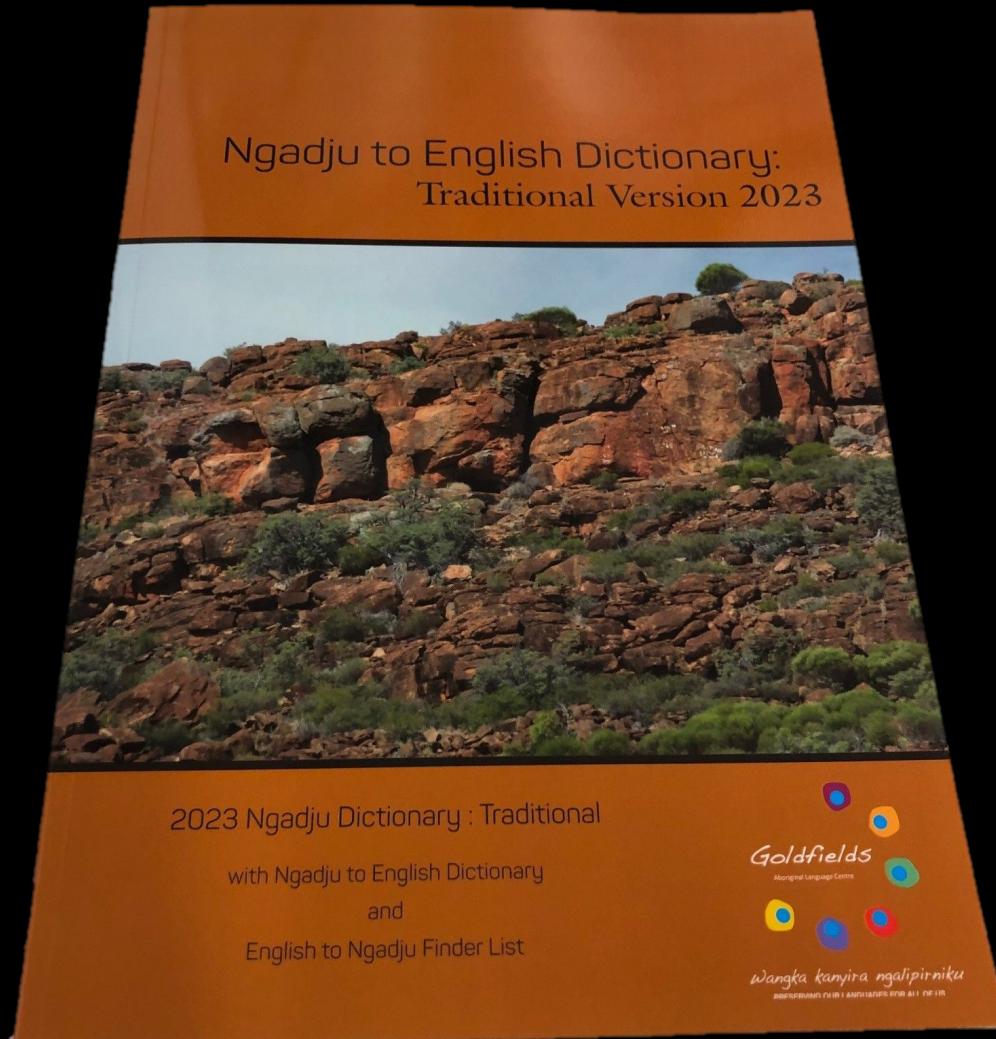


# GALCAC Resources





# Ngadju Dictionary 2023





# The Mysterious Case of the Missing Pronouns

	OBJ	
gajulu	nganya	nganarti to/towards me
I (trans)	me	
ngojukujalu	ngojukujanya, ngojukujana	
we two (trans)	us two	
ngunjungarrilu		
we (trans)		
nguntu-, nguytu		nguntuwarti to/towards you
you (intrans)		
nguntukuto		
you two (intrans)		
nguntungarri, nguntuwari	nguntungarrilu	
you all (intrans)	you all (trans)	
matoyi		
it (intrans)		



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 1: Identification of all pronominal examples in the Ngadju corpus.

e.g.

**ngaju**

/

**nguntuwanya**

*your*



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 2: Functional and distributive analysis of these forms, identifying stems and case endings.

e.g.

**ngaju**

1ST SG (INTR)

*I*

**nguntu+wanya**

2ND SG+GEN

*your,*  
*yours*



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 3: Identification of non-attested forms from the pronominal paradigm.

e.g.

1ST DU Allative? *to you two?*

3RD SG Genitive? *its/her/his?*

	<b>Stem</b>	<b>SUBJ (INTRANS)</b>	<b>SUBJ (TRANS)</b>	<b>OBJ</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>ABL</b>	<b>DAT</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>LOC</b>	<b>GEN+ABL</b>	<b>GEN+COM</b>
<b>1SG</b>	<i>nga-</i>	<i>ngaju</i>	<i>ngajulu</i>	<i>nganya</i>	<i>nganarti</i>		<i>ngajuku</i>	<i>nganawanya, nganawanyu</i>		<i>nganawangu</i>	<i>nganawala</i>
Eng.		I (intrans)	I (trans)	me	to/towards me		for me	my, mine		out of/because of my	we two (respectful form, lit. 'with my')
<b>1DU</b>	<i>ngajukuja-</i>	<i>ngajukuja, ngajukujarra, ngajukuta</i>	<i>ngajukujalu</i>	<i>ngajukujanya, ngajukujana</i>							
Eng.		we two (intrans)	we two (trans)	us two							
<b>1PL</b>	<i>ngajungarri-</i>	<i>ngajungarri, ngajuwarri</i>	<i>ngajungarrilu</i>			<i>ngajungarringu</i>	<i>ngajungarriku</i>	<i>ngajungarriyanya, *ngajungarriwanya</i>			
Eng.		we (intrans)	we (trans)			away from us	for us	our, ours			
<b>2SG</b>	<i>nguntu-</i>	<i>nguntu, ngyuntu</i>		<i>nguntunya</i>	<i>nguntuwarti</i>			<i>nguntuwanya</i>			
Eng.		you (intrans)		you	to/towards you			your, yours			
<b>2DU</b>	<i>nguntukuta-</i>	<i>nguntukuta</i>									
Eng.		you two (intrans)									
<b>2PL</b>	<i>nguntungarri-</i>	<i>nguntungarri, nguntuwarri</i>	<i>nguntungarrilu</i>								
Eng.		you all (intrans)	you all (trans)								
<b>3SG</b>	<i>mata-</i>	<i>matayi</i>		<i>matana</i>	<i>matarwarti</i>				<i>mataka</i>		
Eng.		it (intrans)		it	to/towards it				in/at/on it		
<b>3DU</b>	<i>matawaja-</i>	<i>matawaja, matakua, matarkuja, matawija</i>									
Eng.		they two (intrans)									
<b>3PL</b>	<i>matalu-</i>	<i>matalu, matali</i>		<i>matalunya</i>	<i>mataluwarti</i>			<i>mataluwanya</i>			
Eng.		they (intrans)		them	to/towards them			their, theirs			



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 4: Deeper fieldwork involving elicitation techniques to empirically flesh out the paradigm.

e.g.

1ST DU Allative? *to you two?*

3RD SG Genitive? *its/her/his?*



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5: Reconstruction of missing forms by appending each attested pronominal case-ending onto each attested stem.

e.g.

1ST DU ALL?

*to you two?* **ngajukuja+rti?**

3RD SG GEN?

*its/her/his?* **mata+wanya?**



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 6: In situations in which step 5 results in a breach of general Ngadju phonotactics, or an identical form to another attested pronominal form, another variant might be used to avoid ambiguity.



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5:

e.g.

3RD SG TRNS SUBJ

3RD SG stem: **mata-**

TRNS SUBJ stem: **-lu**

= **\*matalu**



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5:

However...

**matalu** is the attested 3RD PL stem.

So...

The most common nominal SUBJ/ERG suffix  
is **-tu**

**=matatu**



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5:

e.g.

3RD PL TRNS SUBJ

3RD SG stem: **matalu-**

TRNS SUBJ stem: **-lu**

= **\*matalulu**



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5:

However...

Ngadju phonotactics generally forbid  
repeated syllables

So...

A nominal SUBJ/ERG suffix variant is **-ku**  
**=<sup>\*</sup>mataluku**



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 5:

However...

**mataluku** is the reconstructed 3RD SG DAT,  
& there are no observed variants of the DAT  
suffix.

So...

A nominal SUBJ/ERG suffix variant is **-ngku**  
**=matalungku**

	<b>Stem</b>	<b>SUBJ</b>	<b>OBJ</b>	<b>ERG</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>ABL</b>	<b>DAT</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>LOC</b>	<b>GEN+ABL</b>	<b>GEN+COM</b>
<b>1SG</b>	<i>nga-</i>	<i>ngaju</i>	<i>nganya</i>	<i>ngajulu</i>	<i>nganarti</i>	* <i>nganangu</i>	<i>ngajuku</i>	<i>nganawanya, nganawanyu</i>	* <i>ngajuka</i>	<i>nganawangu</i>	<i>nganawala</i>
Eng.		I (intrans)	me	I (trans)	to/towards me	*away from me	for me	my, mine	*in me	out of/because of my	we two (respectful form, lit. 'with my')
<b>1DU</b>	<i>ngajukuja-</i>	<b><i>ngajukuja,</i> <i>ngajukujarra,</i> <i>ngajukujana</i></b>	<i>ngajukujanya, ngajukujara, ngajukujana</i>	<i>ngajukujalu</i>	* <i>ngajukujarti</i>	* <i>ngajukujangu</i>	* <i>ngajukujaku</i>	* <i>ngajukujawanya</i>	* <i>ngajukujaka</i>	* <i>ngajukujawangu</i>	
Eng.		we two (intrans)	us two	we two (trans)	*to/towards us two	*away from us two	*for us two	*both of our/ours	*in both of us	*out of/because of the two of us	
<b>1PL</b>	<i>ngajungarri-</i>	<b><i>ngajungarri,</i> <i>ngajuwarri</i></b>	* <i>ngajungarrinya</i>	<i>ngajungarrilu</i>	* <i>ngajungarrirti</i>	<i>ngajungarringu</i>	<i>ngajungarriku</i>	<i>ngajungarriyanya, *ngajungarriwanya</i>	* <i>ngajungarrika</i>	* <i>ngajungarriwangu</i>	
Eng.		we (intrans)	*us	we (trans)	*to/towards us	away from us	for us	our, ours	*in us	*out of/because of my	
<b>2SG</b>	<i>nguntu-</i>	<b><i>nguntu,</i> <i>ngyuntu</i></b>	<i>nguntunya</i>	* <i>nguntulu</i>	<i>nguntuwarti</i>	* <i>nguntungu</i>	* <i>nguntukuu</i>	<i>nguntuwanya</i>	* <i>nguntuka</i>	* <i>nguntuwangu</i>	
Eng.		you (intrans)	you	*you (trans)	to/towards you	*away from you	*for you	your, yours	*in you	*out of/because of your	
<b>2DU</b>	<i>nguntukuta-</i>	<i>nguntukuta</i>	* <i>nguntukutanya</i>	* <i>nguntukatalu</i>	* <i>nguntukutarti</i>	* <i>nguntukutangu</i>	* <i>nguntukutaku</i>	* <i>nguntukutawanya</i>	* <i>nguntukutaka</i>	* <i>nguntukutawangu</i>	
Eng.		you two (intrans)	*you two	*you two (trans)	*to/towards you two	*away from you two	*for you two	*both of your, yours	*in us two	*out of/because of both of your	
<b>2PL</b>	<i>nguntungarri-</i>	<b><i>nguntungarri,</i> <i>nguntuwarri</i></b>	* <i>nguntungarrinya</i>	<i>nguntungarrilu</i>	* <i>nguntungarriwarti</i>	* <i>nguntungarringu</i>	* <i>nguntungarriku</i>	* <i>nguntungarriwanya</i>	* <i>nguntungarrika</i>	* <i>nguntungarriwangu</i>	
Eng.		you all (intrans)	*you all	you all (trans)	*to/towards you all	*away from you all	*for you all	* all of your, yours	*in you all	*out of/because of all of your	
<b>3SG</b>	<i>mata-</i>	<b><i>matayi</i></b>	<i>matana</i>	* <i>matatu</i>	<i>matarwarti</i>	* <i>matangu</i>	* <i>mataku</i>	* <i>matawanya</i>	<i>mataka</i>	* <i>matawangu</i>	
Eng.		it (intrans)	it	*it (trans)	to/towards it	*away from it	*for it	*its	in it	*out of/because of its	
<b>3DU</b>	<i>matawaja-</i>	<b><i>matawaja,</i> <i>matakuja,</i> <i>matarkuja,</i> <i>matawija</i></b>	* <i>matawajanya</i>	* <i>matawajalu</i>	* <i>matawajarti</i>	* <i>matawajangu</i>	* <i>matawajaku</i>	* <i>matawajawanya</i>	* <i>matawajaka</i>	* <i>matawajawangu</i>	
Eng.		they two (intrans)	*both of them	*they two (trans)	*to/towards both of them	*away from both of them	*for both of them	*both of their, theirs	*in both of them	*out of/because of both of their	
<b>3PL</b>	<i>matalu-</i>	<b><i>matalu,</i> <i>matali</i></b>	<i>matalunya</i>	* <i>matalungku</i>	<i>mataluwarti</i>	* <i>matalungu</i>	* <i>mataluku</i>	<i>mataluwanya</i>	* <i>mataluka</i>	* <i>mataluwangu</i>	
Eng.		they (intrans)	them	*they (trans)	to/towards them	*away from them	*for them	their, theirs	*in them	*out of/because of their	



# The Reconstruction Process

STEP 6:  
Each and every  
reconstructed pronoun  
determined by the Ngadju  
community



# Thank you



**Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Abor.  
Corp.**

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