

Aboriginal Groups of the Cairns Area

INFOGRAPH EXPLAINER

Prepared for Correcting the Records Project 2020 - 2030
history@kurandaregion.org REF: CRP-IG-2819-1A

A

1987-2024



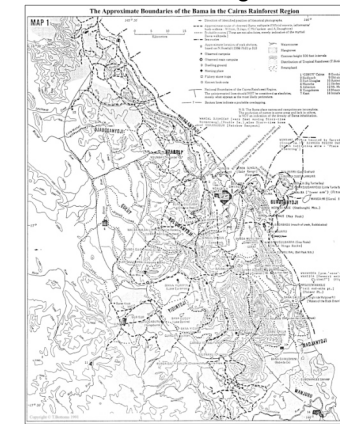
cairnshistory.com.au/
biography-publications/

Timothy David Reis Bottoms

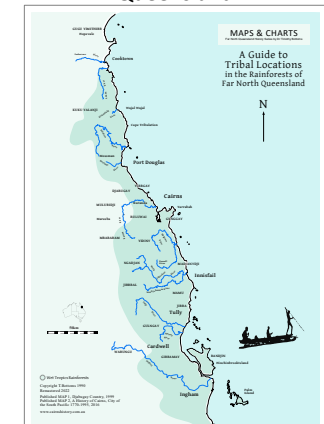
(born December 1954 in Bromley, Kent, England)

Historian, Author, Primary & Secondary School Teacher. Attended UNE, JCU & CQU for his PhD (Cairns History). Taught adult TAFE Rangers for the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA). Consultant for Education Department & wrote Conspiracy of Silence, Queensland's frontier killing times.

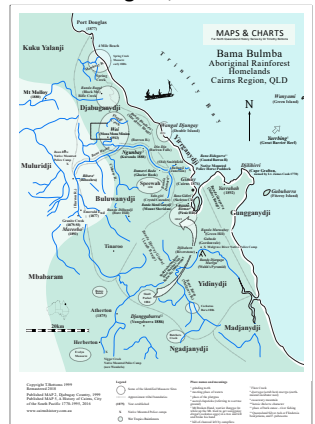
MAP 1989
The Approximate Boundaries of
the Bama in the Cairns
Rainforest Region



MAP 1990, 1999, 2016, 2022
A Guide to Tribal Locations in
the Rainforests of Far North
Queensland



MAP 1990, 1999, 2016, 2022
Bama Bulumba Aboriginal
Rainforest Homelands Cairns
Region, QLD



1977

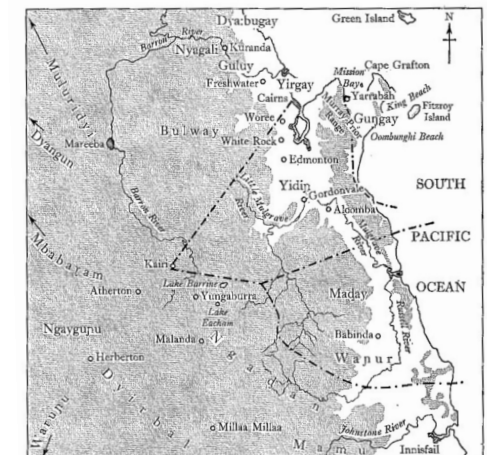


www.thefamouspeople.com/
british-linguists.php

Robert Malcolm Ward "Bob" Dixon (R.M.W. Dixon)

(born 25 January 1939, in
Gloucester, England)

Professor of Linguistics in
the College of Arts, Society,
and Education and The
Cairns Institute, James Cook
University, Queensland.



MAP NOTATIONS • MAP 1. Yidinj and surrounding dialects. (Based on Roth 1910b, McConnel 1939-40; Tindale 1940; and writer's field work. The broken line indicates approximate tribal boundaries for the peoples speaking dialects of Yininj; it is not known whether the Madayndji and Wanuru were distinct tribes, or two names for the same group. The locations for the groups speaking Dya:bugay language: Dya:bugay, Guluy, Yirgay, Bulway and Nyagali – are each based on a single source and have not been checked; it is possible that some of these terms may be alternate names for a single dialect/local group/tribe.)

SOURCE: BOOK
A Grammar of Yidiny
By R.M.W. DIXON
1977 Melbourne University Press

This page (A) shows the map, top left, of 3 groups in the Cairns area as documented by the pictured academics over the last 115 years.

The table left are the different spellings used in their documents to describe the groups (tribes).

1921-74



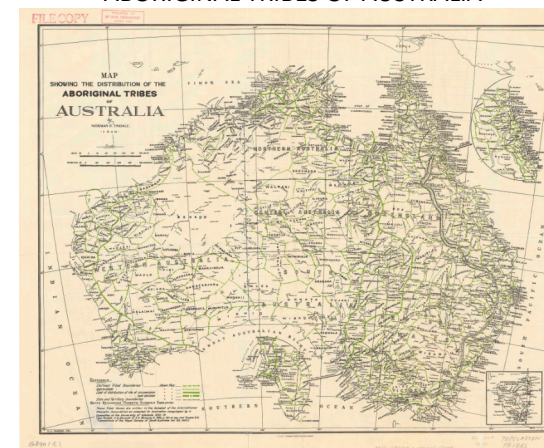
alchetron.com/cdn/norman-tindale-f0e6e230-a536-45af-87c9-546484eca28-resize-750.jpeg

Norman Barnett Tindale AO (12 Oct 1900 – 19 Nov 1993)

Australian anthropologist,
archaeologist, entomologist and
ethnologist.

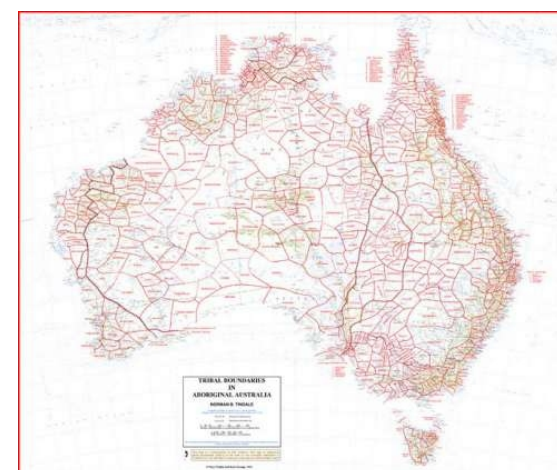
He is best remembered for his
work mapping the various tribal
groupings of Aboriginal Australians
at the time of European settlement,
shown in his map published in
1940. Tindale's major work was
Aboriginal Tribes of Australia:
Their terrain, Environmental
Controls, Distribution, Limits and
Proper Names (1974).

1940 MAP SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF
ABORIGINAL TRIBES OF AUSTRALIA



Norman Tindale's map of Aboriginal group boundaries at the time of European contact, published in 1974. Tindale worked on this map for fifty years. When he began that project during the 1920s the popular view was that Aboriginal groups roamed across the landscape, with no fixed territories. This map is therefore a crucial document in Australian cultural history; graphic evidence that no part of Australia was *terra nullius*, empty land.

1974 TRIBAL BOUNDARIES IN ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA



<https://ourlanguages.org.au/tribal-boundaries-tindale-sa-museum/>

1974 AUSTRALIA N.E. SHEET TRIBAL BOUNDARIES MAP



3 Aboriginal Tribes of Australia

(Tindale spelling, Alphabetical order)

Buluwai
Bulway
Bulwai
Buluwandji
Buluwanydji

Irukandji
Yirrgay
Yirkandji
Yirrganydji

Tja:pukai
Tjapukai
Tjabogai-tjandji
Djabugai
Djabugay
Djabuganydji
Djabuganjdi

Q. Is it fair, just or reasonable
to extinguish 2 Traditional
Aboriginal tribes from the
record (Buluwai and Yirrgay)
based on a **provably flawed**
naming convention used by
linguists ie. **arbitrarily** coined?

1939

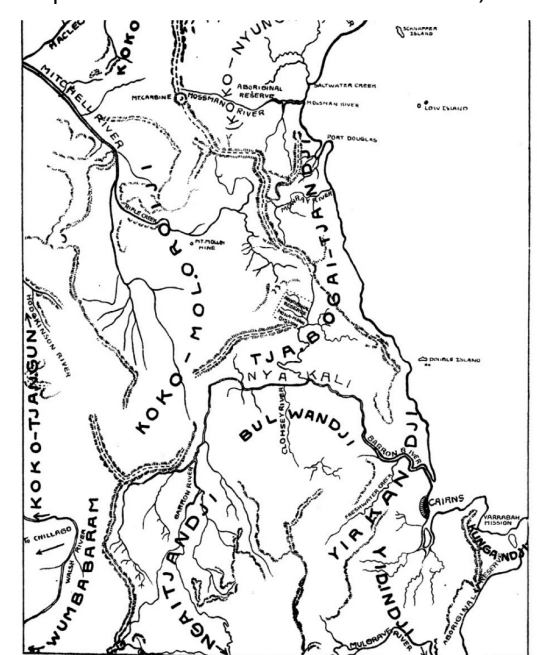


Ursula Hope McConnel

(1888–1957)

Queensland anthropologist and
ethnographer best remembered for her
work with, and the records she made of,
the Wik Mungkan people of Cape York
Peninsula.

Map of coastal area from Cooktown to Cairns, C.Y.P



SOURCE: BOOK
SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE TRIBES OF CAPE
YORK PENINSULA, NORTH QUEENSLAND
Ursula H. McConnel
1939 Wiley on behalf of Oceania Publications,
University of Sydney

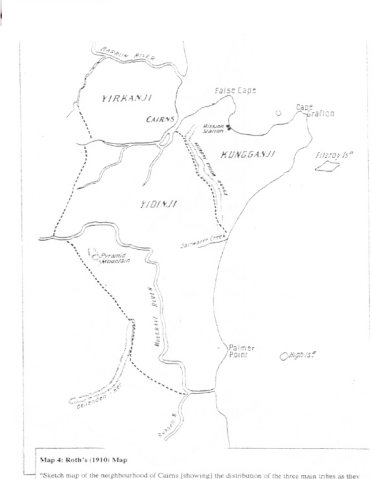
1910

Walter Edmund Roth

(2 April 1861 – 5 April 1933)

British colonial administrator
(Northern Protector of
Aboriginals 1898), anthropologist
and medical practitioner.

Map A. Roth (1910)



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Walter_Roth

Map 4: Roth's (1910) Map
"Sketch map of the neighbourhood of Cairns [showing] the distribution of the three main tribes as they were in August 1898, but what with the progress of the mission work at Yarrabah on the further side of False Cape, and the increase of the area under the settlement on the Cairns side, the arrangements may not possibly hold good at the present [1910] day."

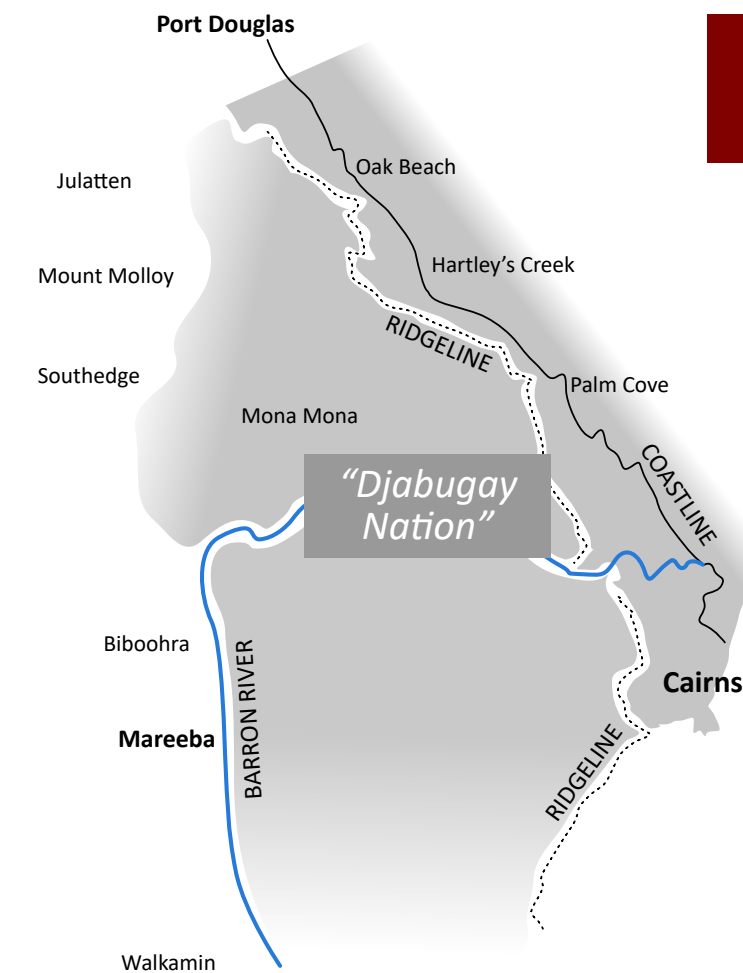
SOURCE: Roth 1910b :Plate XXVIII.

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B



Umbrella "Language Nation"
coined by Elisabeth Patz

"Djabugay Nation"
Sub-groups/ Clans/ Dialects:
Djabugay, Bulway, Nyagali, Guluy, Yirrgay

Q. Is it fair, just or reasonable
to extinguish 2 Traditional
Aboriginal tribes from the
record (Buluwai and Yirrgay)
based on a **provably flawed**
naming convention used by
linguists ie. **arbitrarily** coined?

This page (B) shows the map with "Djabugay Nation" over the entire area. "Djabugay Nation" is deliberately inside quote marks because it is *misinformation* (an invented term).

PATZ proposed in 1980 that these neighbouring tribes were dialects of Djabugay. PATZ 2002 publication she quotes DIXON to explain (see **RED text** below) "It is necessary...". That is, PATZ **arbitrarily** chose 'Djabugay' however, she could have equally chosen 'Buluwai' or 'Yirrgay' to *coin the term* to describe language similarities between these neighbouring tribes.

PATZ also describes that pre-colonisation these tribes saw themselves with their own languages and did not group themselves according to linguistic dialect theory. The idea of a 'language nation' is invented.

Arbitrarily

Adverb (BY CHANCE)

in a way that is based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason:

- We made the decision to go to Italy quite **arbitrarily**.
- He **arbitrarily** decided to take the part.

dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/arbitrarily

1995

2012



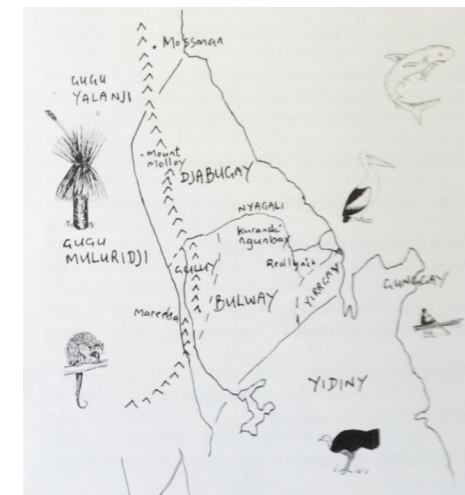
Michael Quinn

Anthropologist, Author

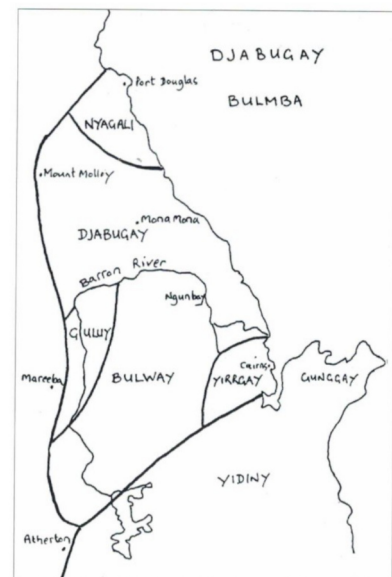
It was 1986 when he arrived in the Far North Queensland town of Kuranda with his young family. Before this he had been living in Sydney where he studied a four year Anthropology degree at the University of Sydney, while teaching English. ictv.com.au/video/7465-keeping-an-ancient-language-alive

ourlanguages.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/3102e507c3049db2daf135e36367dea6.jpg

MAP © Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation



SOURCE: BOOK
BAMA NGANYDJIN
Our People
By Michael Quinn
1995



SOURCE: BOOK
NGIRRMA DJABUGAY
A DJABUGAY LANGUAGE DICTIONARY
By Michael Quinn, Cassy Nancarrow,
Buda:Jji Aboriginal Development
Association Aboriginal Corporation,
2012

Bulway, Nyagali, Guluy, Yirrgay are all **dialects of Djabugay** and so their speakers could understand each other. Today, however, **knowledge of these dialects has been lost**.*

"The groups speaking these dialects inhabited a triangle from just south of Cairns to just north of Atherton, then northward along the Barron River and on to Mount Molloy, then meeting the coast again between Port Douglas and Mossman... The **Djabugay-speaking group** the Djabuganydji, **apparently occupied** the largest territory, including a long stretch along the Barron River." (Elisabeth Patz, 1991)

* Referencing PATZ 2002, Michael Quinn writes a fabrication (lie) here.

1993



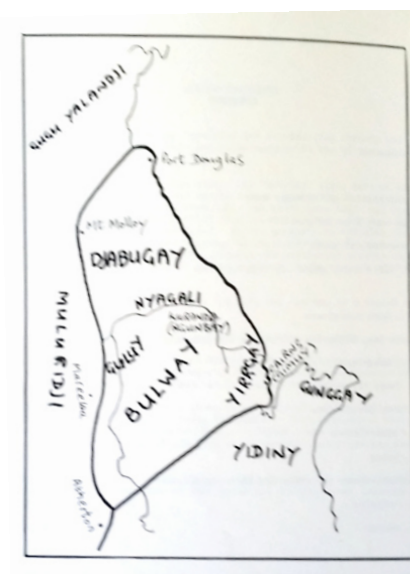
djabugay.org.au/images/rhondaduffin-1-118.jpg

Rhonda Duffin

- 1992 incorporated
Djabugay Tribal
Aboriginal Corporation.
- 1995 incorporated
Buda Dji Aboriginal
Development
Association Aboriginal
Corporation

- 2025 Director and Secretary of 1.Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (DTAC), 2.Djabugay Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (DNTAC), 3. Buda Dji Aboriginal Development Association Aboriginal Corporation

MAP DESCRIPTION OF DJABUGAY AREA



SOURCE: BOOK
Ngapi Garrang Bulurru-m:
All Things Come from Bulurru
By Rhonda Duffin
1993

2002

1.1.2 Kuku Yalanji and its dialects
The concept of "own language" as distinct from "other languages" is an important aspect of tribal identity in Australia (as indeed it is for any nation in the world). Thus Aborigines distinguish their own language from that of another tribal group, even if the differences are only slight, sometimes represented by just a few different lexical items. Accordingly, a tribal name is often derived from the language name in Australia, whereas the reverse is seldom encountered (cf. Dixon 1980:33-43).

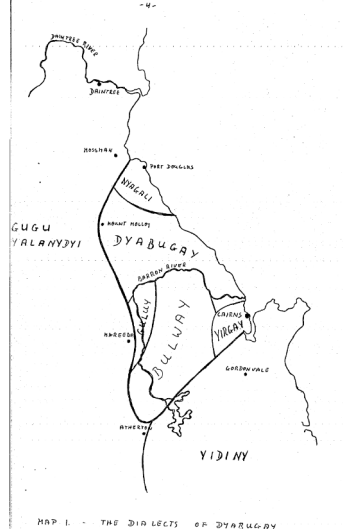
Where the self-termed "languages" of several tribes are mutually understandable, **the linguist may recognise these as dialects of one superordinate language**. But "there was not usually any name for a group of tribes whose speech was mutually intelligible, nor for the language^ [the superordinate language] that we can - on linguistic criteria - assign to them. **It is necessary to choose some label for each language^, and this usually has to be done fairly arbitrarily by the linguist**" (Dixon 1980:43).

SOURCE: BOOK

A grammar of the Kuku Yalanji language of North Queensland
By Elisabeth Patz · 2002
Pacific Linguistics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University
[1library.net/document/dzx69vnx-grammar-kuku-yalanji-language-north-queensland.html](https://library.net/document/dzx69vnx-grammar-kuku-yalanji-language-north-queensland.html)

1980

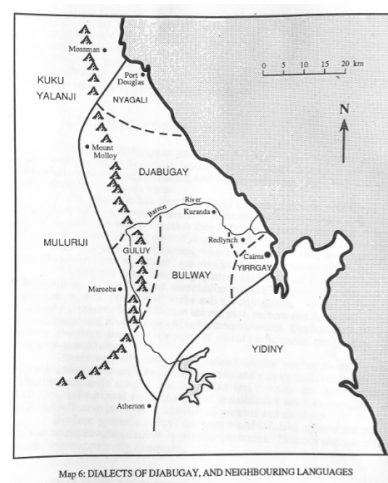
MAP 1 - THE DIALECTS OF DYABUGAY



SOURCE: PAPER
A SKETCH GRAMMAR OF DYABUGAY
ELISABETH PATZ
20 May 1980 Australian National University
openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/items/15b4e08e-2fc5-428a-8b9f-1d764bfb1787

1992

Map 6: DIALECTS OF DJABUGAY, AND NEIGHBOURING LANGUAGES



SOURCE: BOOK
The Handbook of Australian Languages. Volume 4 : The Aboriginal language of Melbourne and other grammatical sketches.
[Compilation] by Robert M. W. Dixon, Barry J. Blake, R. M. W. Dixon, and Barry J. Blake
1992 Oxford University Press, USA

Elisabeth Patz

(DOB -)

Note: There is no information about this Linguist / Author on the Internet.