WARRABARNA KAURNA!*  

Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from Written Historical Sources: Kaurna Case Study.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a longitudinal study of the reclamation of the Kaurna language (both as a linguistic and social process) which is taking place within the context of a linguistic and cultural renaissance and re-emergence of a distinctive Kaurna identity over the last few decades.

It addresses the questions:-

1. Is it possible to revive a language that once ceased to be spoken, on the basis of written records?
2. What is the nature of this language revival?
3. What factors support such a revival?
4. What are the limitations?

Taking an ecological perspective, I trace the history of Kaurna drawing on all known sources (mostly from the period 1836-1858) and all known emerging uses for the language in the modern period (1989-1997). In reclaiming Kaurna, key leaders and members of the community are working in collaboration with linguists and educators.

Kaurna language revival began with the writing of six songs in 1990. Since then, the language has developed considerably; Kaurna programs have been established and expanded across several institutions catering for a range of learners; increasingly, the language is being used in public by members of the Kaurna community; the range of functions for which the language is being used continues to expand; and there are early signs that the language is beginning to take root within Nunga households.

We are still in the very early stages of Kaurna language revival. Will the Kaurna language take the "great leap forward" and emerge as an everyday language within the Kaurna community? Experience elsewhere tells us that the prospects for this to happen are slender. However, the programs have already been a success in the eyes of the Kaurna community and within the education sector.

This study is breaking new ground. In the Kaurna case, very little knowledge of the language remained within the Aboriginal community. Yet the Kaurna language is becoming a marker of identity and a means by which Kaurna people can further the struggle for recognition, reconciliation and liberation. This study challenges widely held beliefs as to what is possible in language revival and notions about the very nature of language and its development.
WARRABARNA KAURNA!

Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from written historical sources:
Kaurna Case Study


VOLUME 2: APPENDICES

Introduction
Volume 2 is a compilation of appendices containing a set of papers and miscellaneous materials which are unpublished or not readily available. This volume is designed to be read or referred to in conjunction with the main body of the thesis, volume 1.

Volume 2 consists primarily of the following:
- sections written in conjunction with thesis chapters which provide the reader with background material on issues discussed within the main thesis.
- historical materials
- Kaurna language materials produced in conjunction with the Kaurna language programs (songs, program outlines, written exercises, assessment plans etc.)
- briefing papers.
- data

In addition to material contained in this volume, the reader is referred to material compiled by the author in 1997 for the 'Kaurna Language & Language Ecology' (KL&LE) course taught at the University of Adelaide. Two books of readings are available from The Secretary, Centre For European Studies, 7th Floor, Hughes Building for $10 each. Volume 1 'Kaurna Sources' contains most of the primary source material on the Kaurna language, apart from T&S and TMs. The table of contents for the two sets of readings is found in Appendix A.

WARNING
This volume contains texts, songs and other Kaurna language materials which remain the property of their creators and is protected by the provisions of the Copyright Act. Any reproduction or use of this material, apart from personal research and reference is prohibited by the Act unless permission of the respective copyright owners has been obtained.

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**Appendix L: Indigenous cultural and intellectual property**

KL&LE Submission to the inquiry into the recognition and protection of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property

(see KL&LE Readings Vol.2 for


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