

Milingimbi Gapu



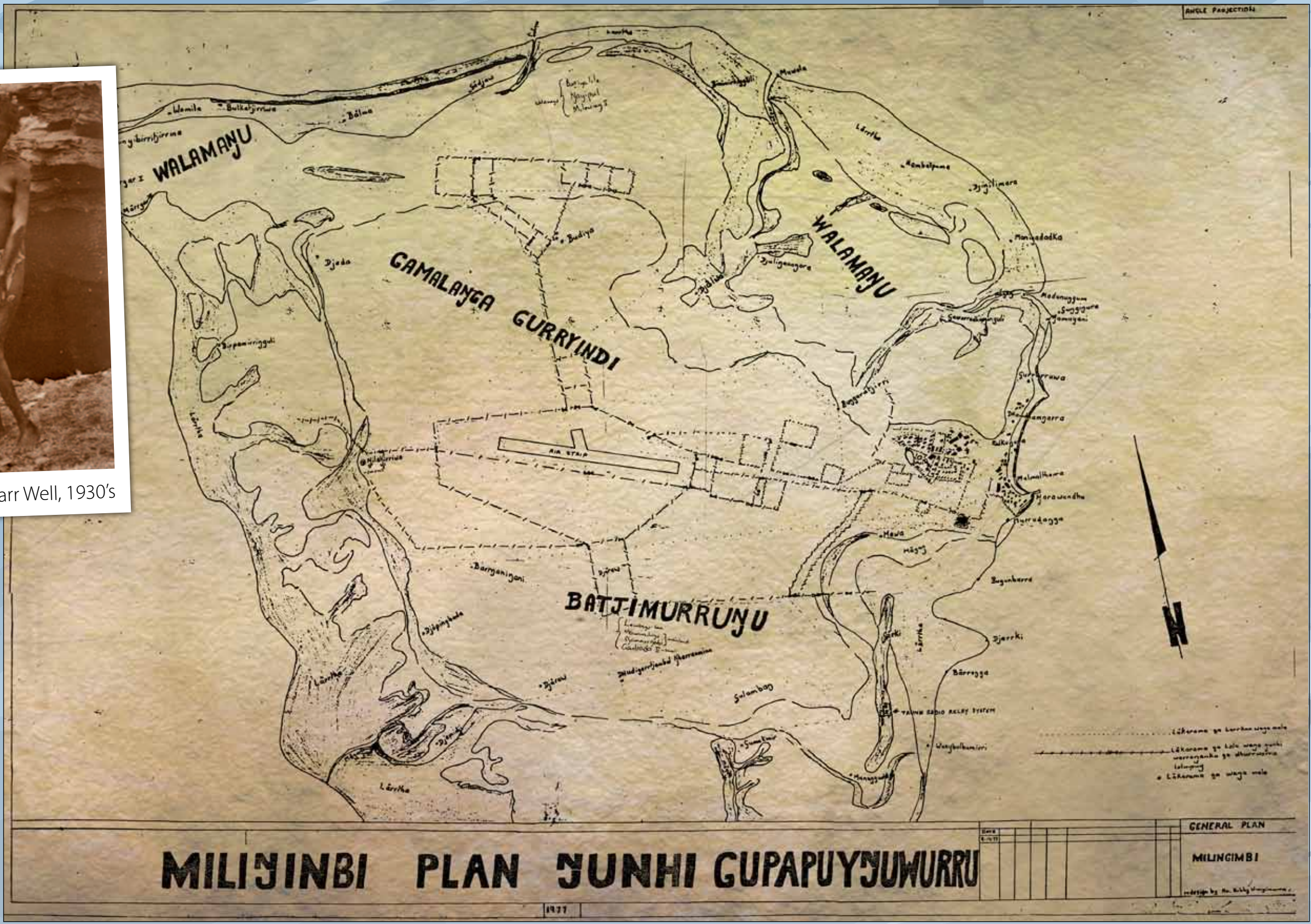
Preparing Cycad bread at the Macassar Well around 1930's



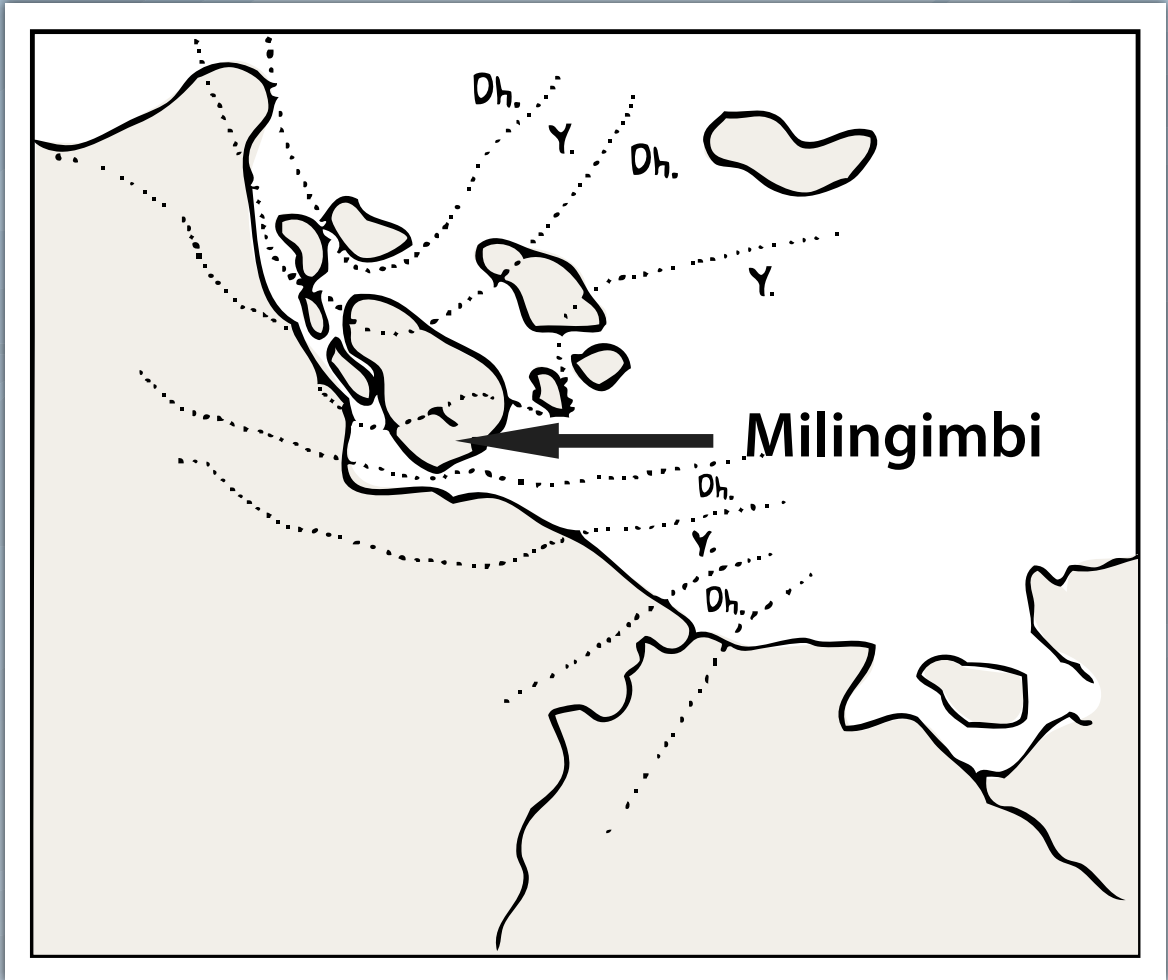
Soaking cycad nuts in Macassar Well, 1930's



Community activities at the Macassar Well around 1950



1976 Milingimbi map by Wunyimarra showing clan ownership using Gupapuyŋu language



An old Milingimbi map from a story by Djawa showing borderlines between Dhuwa (Dh.) and Yirritja (Y.) land and water.



Old pump at Macassar Well, the water flow at the garden, carting water by hand

Milingimbi Elders talking about water



Lily

Raypiny narkula mala ringitj, ringitjithirr njali njali bitjan burrurrun, wiripu njali li ga giritjirr.

We have sacred fresh water, which we call for when we are mourning, and which we also dance.



Djirarrwuy

Gapu dhuwali important limurrun, lifegiver nanyi dhuwali gapu, to help natha, ga anybody limurr yolŋuy, please limurr dhiyan bala look after narkulaw.

Water is an important life-giver for us, for our nourishment, and everybody, please let's look after the water.



Wurrulŋa

Nhawi nanyi dhuwal wanganydja gapu limurrun gurrutumirr. Dhuwa dhuwal gapu ga Yirritja. Limurr dhu namatham dharay.

Water is actually related to us, as kin, here we have both Dhuwa and Yirritja water. We look after our water properly.



Yiniya

Yaka nanya dhu warku'yun, bili nanyi gurrutumirr. Ga yaka nanya dhu djandhirr gapu, bitjan djalkthun bawalamirr, warku'yun nanya.

We must not mistreat water, because water is our kin. We won't throw it about or treat it disrespectfully.



Bilanya

Yuw, ga gapu ga nayatham romdhu yolŋuy nayanumirr nanyi, nayanumirr nanyi. Yaka dhu mananjirr gapu wo wasting dhu gapu

Yes, Yolŋu have water by means of ancestral law, it has spiritual power. Don't steal it or waste it.

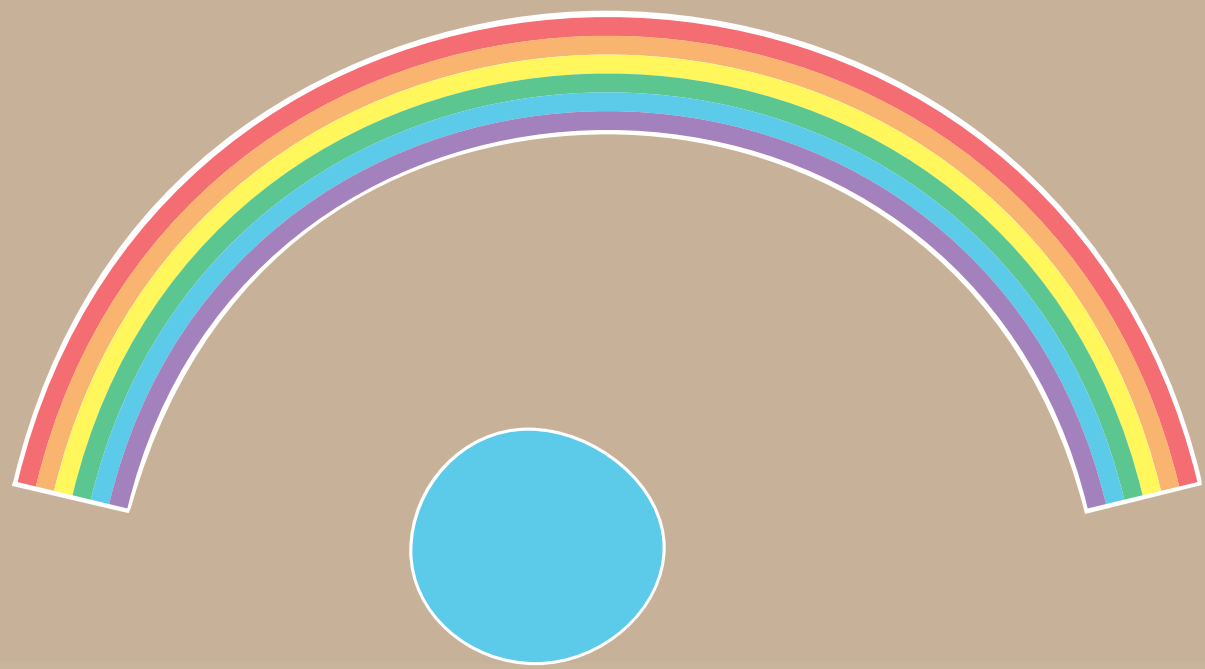


Marpiyawuy

Experience nhakun limurr ga nayatham djakaw gapuw, ga dhiyan bala nhakun limurr nunhi bili ga baki rom.

We have experience of looking after water, and nowadays we still have the same law.

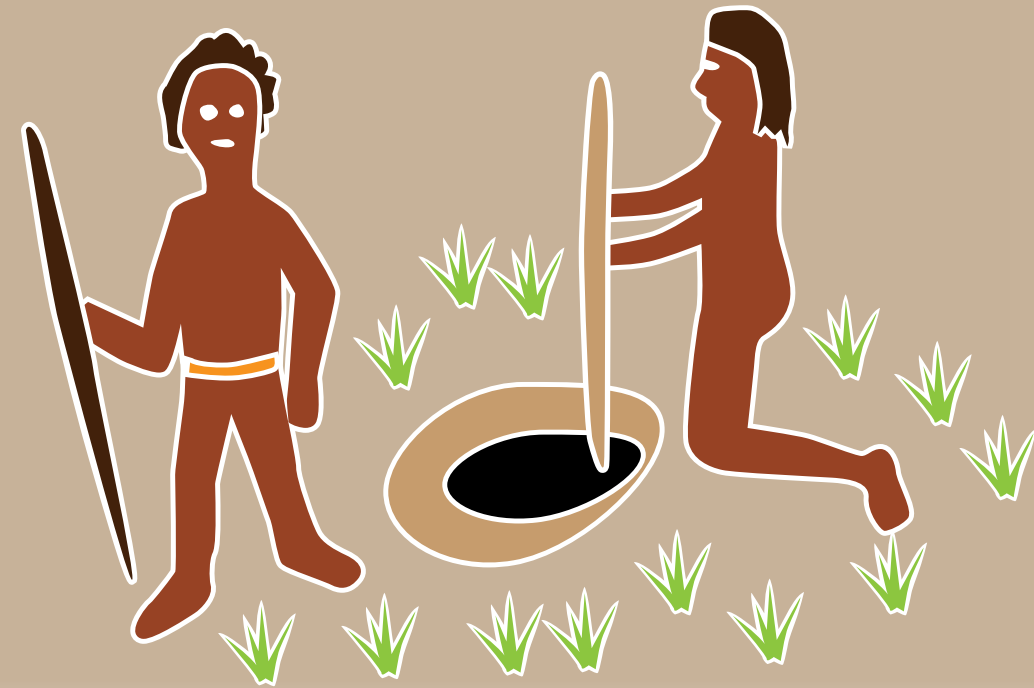
These designs represent three traditional stories about Milingimbi water. They have been adapted from drawings produced by the artists (elders and custodians) during the a visit to Milingimbi.



Dhuwala yaku Gulungulun dhuwalanuwuy wargapuy Milingimbiyup
This is Gulungulun, the ancestral python and the Macassar Well .
by Balarrkpalarrk



Barramundi and Tamarind tree at Rulku, on the beach
by Bulumbula



Walamaru manda yolŋu djarrany'tjun gapuwu
Two Walamaru people digging for water
by Walpay

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Trevor van Weeren from Merri Creek Productions.

This poster is one of three produced as part of a Water Conservation Project by the Power and Water Corporation. Power and Water engaged the Charles Darwin University Yolŋu Aboriginal Consultancy Initiative to visit the Milingimbi community to talk with people about the Power and Water story of water, the Milingimbi Yolŋu story of water, and about ways of working together to manage water. This poster represents some aspects of the Milingimbi Yolŋu story of water. For more information visit www.cdu.edu.au/gapu and www.powerwater.com.au