

# *Kumugut*



THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE  
LIZARD

Recorded in MalakMalak at Woolianna, Dyamalagany  
and Kumugutyinnga, NT, Australia in 2012 and 2013



Printed in September 2013



*Kumugutyinnga* (source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

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Modified English summary of the *Kumugut* story edited by Dorothea Hoffmann

### Introduction

This storybook is the result of numerous recording sessions in and around Woolianna, Northern Territory, Australia with some of the last speakers of MalakMalak and Matngala in 2012 and 2013. The story of *Kumugut*, the Blue-Tongue Lizard, is told by five wonderful women who are keeping the spirit and core of MalakMalak alive through intrusions from many outside sources and languages. Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak and Francis Mijat live in Woolianna, Rita McGregor is from Fifteen Mile and Rosie Mary-Magdalene Kabat from Peppimenarti. They all came together at Woolianna to share stories and news and produced the recordings that form the basis for this book.

The story told is the one about the Blue-Tongue Lizard—*Kumugut*— that has found its dreaming resting place near today's small settlement of Woolianna.

The original transcripts' editing has been kept to a minimum to capture the story-telling techniques and original conversational character of the recording sessions. This booklet contains six versions of the story recorded in 2012 and 2013 in MalakMalak, the Daly River variety of Kriol and Matngala. The first version recorded on November 16th 2012 is the most 'artificial' one of all and was recorded only with Biddy Lindsey as a monologue to provide a 'neat' and clear version of the story for this booklet.

All other versions recorded in 2012 and 2013 respectively, have a much more conversational ('true') character in representing narrations of the story with and by a group of up to five speakers. Naturally, these later versions have a more 'oral' character and are harder to follow from an outsider's perspective. However, they capture the unique story-telling techniques and the intricately conversational character of narration which includes interruptions and comments by all speakers present.

To make the story potentially more accessible to readers of all backgrounds, a short English summary of the plot is provided at the end of this booklet. Some additions to the story told 'off-record' are also part of this version.

Finally, a DVD accompanies this booklet providing subtitled audio- and video recordings of all transcripts included.

Throughout this booklet you will find the original transcript on the even pages and a free translation on the odd ones. There are also photographs of relevant places and animals included which are mostly taken by myself or taken from various (acknowledged) web sources. The drawing on the cover was made by Biddy Lindsey in July 2013.

The original transcript is all *italicized* for MalakMalak, *italicized and underlined* for the Daly River variety of Kriol and ***italicized and bold*** for Matngala wherever appropriate.

All versions have been provided with intermediate headings to guide the reader through the plot of the story.

None of this work would have been possible without the financial and academic support of the Endangered Languages Documentation Program in grant number IPF 0189 and the Franklin Research Grant by the American Philosophical Society both awarded in 2012. Thanks go also to the University of Chicago for hosting my postdoc and providing every imaginable academic and administrative support possible. And without Stu and Marni, Nick, Jorja and Jackson, I would not have had a roof over my head at the Daly River as well as the most wonderful second family imaginable while outback.

Lastly, all mistakes in the transcriptions are completely my own and not attributed to the original speakers.

Dorothea Hoffmann, Woolianna in August 2013



*Biddy Lindsey telling the story  
at Woolianna on November  
16<sup>th</sup> 2012*



The Blue Tongue Lizard—*Kumugut* (Source [http://rse.anu.edu.au/~hrvoje/IMAGES/WRA\\_photo2.jpg](http://rse.anu.edu.au/~hrvoje/IMAGES/WRA_photo2.jpg))

*Kumugut hides  
from the King  
Brown Snake*

Tyerriny merrigan ka yida awu?

a Kumugut

imin kam getim woda traiin getim-

warrad yuwaya ka yidake

Tyerriny tity kanggi yidake, dat yiminynu

ah, daenen

nomo Tyerriny wuyu, det difrenwan Tyerriny fo woda

imin kam en askim im

‘wat vu laiin da hiya fo?’

‘nikkita ticalma kiwe’

‘apapaya’

‘wagnen ngurrugma yide dae nende’

nguntytyulwe, tyimiliny imin sei

‘durrk, ngurrugma yuyuarriin’

‘kina ticalma errdueyung’ naman

ka yida, yuyuwa nana

Tyerrinyyu, Tyerriny naman yiminynu

ngunna pi, pi anguduk pak, dek ngana

‘dim enggidini’

The Water Goanna came first, right?

ah the lizard

he came and got water and tried to get ...

he came walking to here

the goanna came out and looked at him

at the animal (Kumugut)

This is not a goanna (for land), but a water one (water goanna)

He (Kumugut) came over and asked (the King Brown Snake)

‘why are you lying here?’

‘why are you lying here?’

‘I’m sick’

He asks him to go for water

the black whip, no, the king brown said

he asks: ‘go get water for me to drink!’

he said (the goanna) ‘we are going to lie down here’

he came and he stood, finished

the goanna stood, he told the other one

he went there, he’s now where I am sitting now

‘I’m sitting in the hole’

yerra, Tyerriny imin sei, 'yina nana kina yide '

dei bin gowei

pi wuta insaid

Kumugut eyiny Tyerrinyje

wutuwa

nana tity wag ka tyurr katy yiminynu

yerra yawug kanggi yidake

elinyirr tyagad pi yida

wag kubuk

yerra ngurra wutuwa tyinang pak

nen elimirrimany darrarryeli wutuwa yerra sik kanggi yida

tyurrurk pak

yawug aldititypida kubuk, yuwayi yida

wilpi

ngunytyul nana yunu

akan nomo Kumugutyinnga hmm

Kumugut, nende wutu wundut, dimna

deknana

'dek ki nga', naman yiminynu Kumugutde

this goanna says: come and sit here

they left

they went inside

That's what Kumugut said to the goanna

they went

Again he is coming out to him for water

the other Kumugut came

That Kumugut ran away frightened

diving into the water

the other ones are sitting still

and then they looked straight out and the other one became sick

they buried themselves

The other Kumugut went past and he went away diving into the water

Swimming (away)

the snake keeps on sitting there

no longer at Kumugut's place

the two - Kumugut and the goanna - are sitting in the hole

At this place

Kumugut says: 'This is my place'

endi nguntyulna, nana nindini

‘warrad purrarnnen nindiyang’, naman yiminynu

en deva dei are, dei in wutu nana wutu

‘dek ngayin’

eyiny, delik nende, turrapam yiminy

dek dunu yundungde

weni nana

en, nana yumuna, finish

ni nende niwad yiminy

and the snake sat where you stayed (with a purpose)

you can walk around by yourself, he says

and so they remain, they are still sitting there

‘This is my place’

Kumugut is planting the seeds for the cane grass

he met at the camp

the grass is always there

and always (sitting there), the end

Kumugut named the place himself

*Biddy Lindsey telling the story  
at Woolianna on November  
16<sup>th</sup> 2012*



The King Brown Snake—*Tytiliny* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*The Goanna  
fights the King  
Brown Snake*

medicin im , pi insaid

la det hol getim medicin maitbi, en gobek ap

tity baibi, ngunna taty

namanma yida nuwa

Tyerrinyu taty yida nuwa

endi taty muda wundutdu nguntyul

Kumugut yerra, apap yiminynu ngunna yi yuyuwa duk puyunduk yuyuwa

diman yunuwa

endi taty, wuta mirryiny ngak, baibi

paua maitbi

tity tyurrurk, tity baigama yide

namanma yida, tarri ngirrkyiminynu

from det sineik

Yininginy

Wirrngak wirrminy wundut

yerra daenen elimirrimany dat wirrminy

yanga daenen wutu wani nana

werenawuna

so the medicine is inside

(he goes) into the hole and gets the medicine out, and he goes back up

he came out there to kill him

he says to hit him

the goanna came out to kill him

they both went to hit each other

Kumugut is sick and lies inside and the goanna fights the snake

he sat in the hole

he turned and ate more medicine, and came back out

(to gain some more) power maybe

he went in and out

he said, he will kill it (make it die)

The snake that is

he's sitting

they both are finished now

when they arrive, they'd seen it before

the two are dreamings now sitting there

the two of them



*Kumugut, Tyerriny*

*en ngurra nende daenen ngunytyulwun tarraty yiminynu*

*apapap wirrminy*

*aniny yundungna laifyide, ngunytyul*

*tyud*

*en, det from bifo, dei deya in det gras na*

the blue tongue and the goanna

the snake kills another blue tongue

they were sick

and then the other one stayed alive, the snake

The king brown

Since then they have been in that cane grass area

*Biddy Lindsey telling the story  
at Woolianna on November  
16<sup>th</sup> 2012*



The Blue Tongue Lizard —*Kumugut* (Source:<http://www.totallyreptiles.net.au/blue%20tongue%20lizard.jpg>)

*Kumugut roasts  
mushrooms  
changing the  
colour of his  
tongue*

tharrei? Kumugut Gulbyurr

detwan im gat

mi, dae yiminy, ngueyatma yida

gulbma yida

walgana karrarra pak

walgnen

Nana karrarra datma yida, dek kinende

dek yawug ngun wuyu, namanma yida

nana karrarra datma yida, dek kinende

‘dek yawug ngun wuyu’, namanma yida

namanma yida, mi gulbama yida

mipanpurrigke

ani imself, ngakma yidaye

im gat gibat la sambadi

laik goena en sneik?

bikos bla im taka

minen yundungnen panpurrigke

ngakma yida

yerra ka yidake

over there? At Kumugut Gulbyurr (the roasting place)

That’s where he got something

he sat there and cooked vegetables and meat

he roasted

he’s sitting up on a stone

On a stone

he’s sitting up always looking towards here, this place

the other place is over there, he says

he’s sitting up always looking towards here, this place

‘the other place is over there’, he says

he says, he is going to continue roasting the food

mushrooms

he ate it all by himself

he should give something to somebody/share it

Maybe with a goanna and a snake

Because it’s food for him

the mushrooms are his favourite food

he ate

then he came

Kumugut, yinyerreknen

yida

traiim yida

bla im

pin yi eyiny puny

pawurrk yunuwa warradma yidake, larrad, tyed yuyuwa

bebema dud yida

yi pakma yida

namanma yida

kalawun nende wa yiminynu

daeyit

yerra ngatallyu yerra ka yida

en bifo, imin wok from detwei im shotwan

yinyerrek nenmanyna yide

dae wurruma nende tapak yida nuwa

arrarrma

yida, dek ngenyinnga baibi

akana baibi yida, agunmalak pi yida

the blue tongue is short sighted

He walked

He tried his best

For him

He got it into his stomach

he's sitting on the ground, after he was walking, he got sore

the underside of the foot is smooth

He remains sitting there for a long time

he says himself

he's picking up a feather (to cover the foot)

and snake skin

then he became strong to walk again

and before he came from there, the short-sighted one

the short-sighted one (Kumugut) from there he came

they can lose the tail all the time and it can come back

(because he was) walking too fast

he went and came out there

he didn't come out, where did he go to?

*mi nenmany yana ngakma yidawe*

*panpurrg manyur*

*mipanpurrg wurrundunen ngak muede*

*Tyerrinymany naman yiminyye, aka*

*‘mi warra gana ngak nuenung ka, ngirrka’*

*‘ngawuna’*

*yuendung mindyidek ngak*

*ngakma tyidyal ada, nana purruma yida tyik yide*

*eigeigda yerra tyidyal yida*

*endi mi yundung*

*Kumugut*

*mipanpurrg ngakma yidakade*

*ngakma yida nana*

*tyid ka*

*yerra nen ngunmany yidake*

*tyagaty, pi yida wag yerra kubuk*

*daenguntyul pana dat yiminynuna*

*wil yuwayi wurruwa*

and there he ate the food

he covers the mushrooms in ashes

he went to eat the vegetables (his favourite food)

he told the goanna, no no

‘if you don't eat the food properly you will die’

‘only me’

Kumugut ate it all by himself

‘I have to eat it’ Kumugut is crawling around while eating, and brings it

back

the food has gotten black

Then his food turns black

The Blue-Tongue

Kumugut eats the mushrooms

he's eating them, and he's finished

he brings it (here)

he's walking from there

The other Kumugut is running and then falling into the water

the snake came looking for him again

he keeps on swimming

yerra werena nende wutu wundut tyinang pak

‘a yewud wani ai don no nukutta’, naman wirrminy

hepili

they both—Kumugut and Tyerriny now sit there forever

‘we turned into dreamings for this place, I don’t really know for you)  
you they say

happily



*Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
Francis Mijat, Rita McGregor  
and Rosie Mary-Magdalene  
Kabat telling the story of  
Kumugut at Woolianna on  
October 27<sup>th</sup> 2012*



The Water Goanna — Tyerriny (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*The Goanna  
asks Kumugut  
to join him in  
his hole hiding  
from King  
Brown*

BL:: delik dil parraggelli wutuwe

BL:: dek aka yub muda, dae wani nanag ngaty numbang

RMc: agun dek?

BL: Kumugutyinngawe

RK: Kumugutyinngawe

RMc: kona kiwe

BL: Tyinkarrang

RMc: ah yeah

BL: nen nuende

RMc: ahhh

BL: en dijan?

BL: daeTyerriny naman yiminynu

FM: daeTyerriny LL

RMc: ya!

BL: Kumugut imin

RMc: aka, bawu?

BL: Kumugut bin askim sneik awu?

RMc: akana

FM: det sineik

BL: that cane grass still grows in the same way

BL: it can't die, because it's a real dreaming, maybe

RMc: where is it?

BL: at K.

RK: At K

RMc: that corner

BL: at Bamboo Creek

RMc: ah yeah

BL: that's the one

RMc: ahhh

BL: what's that?

BL: the Water Goanna tells him

FM: the goanna

RMc: yes

BL: K is asking him (the goanna)

RMc: no, right?

BL: the lizard asked the snake, right?

RMc: no

FM: the snake

BL: endi eig Kumugutwa

RMc: dim del

RMc: dae tyudwan imin askim Kumugut bla go getim woda awu?

FM: yiminynu naman!

BL: 'wagarri'

BL: 'wag pin Tyerriny warri na'

RK: 'wagarri na wag pinmany Tyerriny'

BL: naman yiminynu

RK: naman yiminynu daeKumugutna bawu?

RK: daetyud

BL: ya

BL: daetyudwang naman yiminynu, 'wag arriny pin x wag'

RMc: yeah

FM: dek nende

BL: pi yida ngun

BL: darrdurrarra yida, wag akan darrdurrarra yida

BL: dae ngun dellngendad yiga yidanu, ngenwinen

BL: yerra yuendung dyangarra wayurr daenen Kumugut

RMc: aka daenen titypi yida Kumuguten

BL: why is Kumugut going

RMc: it shuts the door

RMc: the King Brown asked K to get water, right?

FM: he says to him

BL: 'you'

BL: 'you go and get the water, Water Goanna'

RK: 'you go and get the water'

BL: Tyerriny gives a message to Kumugut

RK: he says to K, right?

RK: the King Brown

BL: yes

BL: the snake says to him: you get the water for me

RMc: yes

FM: that place

BL: he goes (to look for something) there

BL: he's looking around, for water, then he is not looking any more

BL: Kumugut recognized the dangerous snake and went back for him

BL: now Kumugut ran away from the snake

RMc: he didn't come back that Kumugut

FM: errdung, tyung agunna

RK: daenen delngendad yiminy ngenwi yide

BL: ya

RK: daetyud dae

BL: arriny

BL: imin luk goena. na. hikos imin askim im fo det hol

RP: im

BL: Tyerriny nyungga

RMc: yeah

BL: 'nikittiman, kina tyurrk pak" naman yiminynu

BL: arrdell wirrminy wundut

BL: dim nende bawu

BL: deydama yida

BL: datbarrama yide wurru winu tharran, bawu

RK: tatybamanue nende enuwa

RMc: Kumugut tatyba nana, LL

BL: ya

BL: Kumugut del bak yiminy Tyerrinyinu

BL: waya

FM: we go, where is the tree?

RK: that one recognises the snake as a cheeky one

BL: yes

RK: that snake

BL: for me

BL: he's looking for the goanna, because he's asking about that hole

RP: he

BL: the Water Goanna is asking

RMc: yeah

BL: 'Why? you come inside (with us)', goanna says to Kumugut

BL: they shut the door together, the two of them

BL: that hole, right

BL: he was waiting (the snake)

BL: snake is looking for them, to kill them, right?

RK: he's trying to kill him – the goanna is trying to kill the snake

RMc: Kumugut tries to kill it, no!

BL: yes

BL: the lizard is sitting locked up, by the goanna

BL: all goes still

*Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
Francis Mijat, Rita McGregor  
and Rosie Mary-Magdalene  
Kabat telling the story at  
Woolianna on October 27<sup>th</sup>  
2012*



*Kumugutyinnga* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*King Brown asks  
Kumugut to get  
water and the  
goanna fights  
the snake with  
special medicine*

RMc: *dae nen*

BL: *Rita na!*

RMc: *aka*

BL: *yeah*

RMc: *dae darrdbarra yidanuwa*

BL: *Kumugutdae mendel*

RMc: *men del xx Tyerrinya wi, tubala bin fait*

BL: *yawayi*

RMc: *yeah*

BL: *Tyerriny kanggi enuwa*

BL: *daenen tyudwang naman yiminynu*

BL: *'warra ngayad nuenuenu', naman*

BL: *ngaj bawu*

RK: *yeah*

BL: *'warra ngayad nuenuenu', ngunytyulmany yiminynu 'akana'*

BL: *'darrdpuurrarra yide dae wagnue' naman niminy bawu*

RMc: *ya*

RK: *yeah*

BL: *naman*

RMc: *that snake*

BL: *Rita (should talk now!)*

RMc: *no*

BL: *yeah*

RMc: *the animal is looking for him*

BL: *the lizard is no longer hungry*

RMc: *the goanna is satisfied, then the two of them fight*

BL: *yes*

RMc: *yeah*

BL: *the goanna comes (to snake)*

BL: *the snake is telling the him (the goanna)*

BL: *'are you hiding him in the hole?' he says*

BL: *I don't know*

RK: *yes*

BL: *'are you hiding him?' 'no' he says to the whip snake*

BL: *'I'm looking for water', the snake says*

RMc: *yes*

RK: *yeah*

BL: *he said:*



BL: yerra maburr dab yiminynu pi (pak)

BL: daetyud pallam tyurrk yide Tyerriny nyungga payunu ki Ngengedenen,  
naman

BL: ah fani wan det ting

DH: ok, so what does he do? I don't think I understood everything!

RK: darrdbarrama yida wurru wunduta, pak katy

BL: det sneik blutang fis imin go, na?

BL: pi yide darrdbarrama bawu

BL: 'wag nyurrug warrang ki muenue daenen tyud wangarri'

RMc: Kumugutdae?

BL: yeah

FM: Kumugutdae

BL: pi dunu Tyerriny wa yide bawu

BL: pani yawug nende

RMc: Tyerriny nu pawurr endi taty wutu wunduta, ngunytyul nende

BL: ah yeah

RMc: Tyerriny tity pi ngunnawe, diman tyurrk numbar katy meicin  
numbang ngak xx baibi

BL: ma yida, na? a!

BL: the snake is looking for Kumugut following him, he goes

BL: the snake is looking for Kumugut and asking for him, and calling  
out for him and he is hiding at this place here Ngengede

BL: ah, this is funny!

DH: ok, so what does he do? I don't think I understood everything!

RK: the two are looking around for (them) Kumugut and Tyerriny

BL: the snake, the blue tongue goes first, right?

BL: maybe the snake is going to look for Kumugut

BL: the snake asks: 'you go and get the water'

RMc: the blue tongue?

BL: yeah

FM: the lizard

BL: you go and meet the goanna now, maybe?

BL: another one now

RMc: the goanna and the snake are both fighting on the ground

BL: ah yeah

RMc: the goanna goes back inside into the hole there, and he eats and  
drinks medicine in there, maybe

BL: coming out or?

RK: yeah yeah

FM: medisin, wag ngakma yide Laughter

RK: dae nendena, dimna yunu

FM: nende

RMc: nana, taty yiminy, awu?

BL: ya dissaid ma yunuwa, Tyerrinywang datyirrg yiminy

RMc: datyirrg

RMc: ya

BL: ah, nade

BL: 'yerra yibarr errguewuerreny'

BL: 'maburr bayirr' naman wirrminy

BL: yinyerreken holot

RMc: LL Kumugutdae

RMc: yeah, det was det pat stori

FM: yeah

RK: yeah yeah

FM: liquid medicine he is drinking

RK: he sat inside the hole then

FM: all right

RMc: no no, goanna beats the snake up

BL: the goanna came out on this side and he killed the snake and it  
died

RMc: he died (the snake)

RMc: yes

BL: ah, no no

BL: we're leaving now

BL: come outside now, they say

BL: a short one ran away and all

RMc: the lizard

RMc: yeah, that was that part of the story

FM: yeah

*Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
Francis Mijat, Rita McGregor  
and Rosie Mary-Magdalene  
Kabat telling the story at  
Woolianna on October 27<sup>th</sup>  
2012*



*Kumugut Gulbyurr* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Kumugut roasts  
mushrooms*

FM: *nikitti nende yunuwe Kumugut Gulbyurr Dyamalagany*

FM: *agun Kumugut Gulbyurr*

BL: *nende nikkitiwe wuta*

FM: *Kumugutde Dyamalagany*

BL: *Kumugut Gulbyurr*

BL: *nende walg dima walg wudyu*

FM: *walg yuyu*

BL: *dek kan wuete*

FM: *karra dad yiminy xxx bawu Laughter*

RK: *ah yeah*

RP: *kuguk*

BL: *na Dyamalagany*

FM: *Dyamalagany las taim*

BL: *Kumugut Gulbyurr naman*

RK: *yaya yida*

FM: *wutangga*

BL: *war ka na karra yeli*

FM: *walyini karra dat tyedali wuyu*

FM and why do we forget about the place where he cooks tucker

(Kumugut Gulbyurr), at Dyamalagany ?

FM where did he cook?

BL where they went

FM to Dyamalagany

BL where Kumugut roasted

BL there are many stones around, flat ones

FM there's a rock

BL they went to this place

FM he climbs up to look around

RK ah yeah

RP wait

BL no at Dyamalagany

FM Dyamalagany (where we went) last time

BL it's called Kumugut Gulbyurr

RK he's shuffling through leaves

FM they're going

BL he climbs up the paperbark tree

FM he climbs up and stands there now looking for the billabong ng

FM: Kumugutna

FM: karra yurelli wuyu

BL: numbang nen nana yide

FM: nende dekke yunuwa

BL: akana nenmany ka yida

RP: kina ngunmany kanggi yida

BL: ya ngunmany ka yida

BL: pundu eigeig

FM: kimany pi, awu

BL: endi yida Kumugut bawu karra yur yuyu wangarri, endina datma

FM: walg ki datman ki na

BL: Kumugut tyed agun

BL: nikki agun, Dyamalagany bilibong nende ngun

RMc: Dyamalagany

FM: nama wirrminy Kumugutyinnga

BL: bawu, Kumugut Gulbyurr nen miwiny nena

RK: Kumugut walg

BL: walgwani kebum

FM this is Kumugut

FM he's lying down on the top (after climbing up)

BL he comes here (after that) maybe?

FM he sits down here now

BL he didn't come from there?

RP he comes from there to here

BL from there he came here maybe

BL with a black head

FM maybe he came from here, or?

BL Kumugut walks, and he goes onto the stone and lies down outside,  
he then looks this way

FM looking from this the same rock,

BL where's the place that Kumugut lives

BL what where? He was staying at Dyamalagany billabong over there

RMc at Dyamalagany

FM they call it Kumugutyinnga

BL right, so the lizard is roasting this thing

RK Kumugut on the rock

BL a stone dreaming with a shallow hole

BL: dat karrk pak

RMc: walg?

FM: mi nana gulbyurr yunuwa Kumugut

FM: daenen na karra yurelli yuyu Kumugut, kanjuk

FM: walg wuyu

BL: labjad dakwan

BL: rok ewriweya en wan fletwan

BL: detwei ani Kumugut imself

RK: keen yide Kumugut

BL: Kumugut Gulbyurr det min imin la hol op de graun?

BL: en siting at ontop

BL: en imin roastim taka

BL: Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL: raunwan det rok evriweya blekwan

BL: blek rok evriweya

RK: roastin taka

FM: nikkiti Tyerriny x

BL: en wan fletwan, det goana, ahem blutang lizard ontop

BL he's sitting on top of the rock looking out

RMc on the rock?

FM he's finished roasting the tucker, that Kumugut

FM that Kumugut slept on top

FM the rock is there

BL it's a dark one

BL there are rocks everywhere, and there is one flat rock

BL over there, it is Kumugut all by himself

RK over there Kumugut goes now, this way

BL Kumugut is Gulbyurr, that means he is out of his hole, the ground?

BL and he is sitting above (on top of the stone)

BL and he's roasting food

BL Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL there are round black stones around everywhere over there

BL there are black fire stones everywhere

RK: so he is roasting food

FM: what about that goanna?

BL: and one is a flat one, and the goanna, ahem I mean the lizard is sitting on top of it



BL: dets de seim stori

BL: from detwan

BL: diswan imin kam tu riva, im got sneik na

RK: nikkitimany yida

BL: Kumugut Gulbyurrnue naman wuete

RMc: xx Kumugutnue

BL: Jigbala baiwad, Kumugut yurr

FM: Kumugut Gulbyurr ngurrukma?

RP: wag pi yell yide ngunna, tyiminyde?

BL: ya

RP: awu

BL: eni wun wuyu, walg yende

RP: walg agun

BL: Kumugut Gulbyurrwe

FM: Dyamalagany

RK: blutana Gulbyurr

FM: Kumugut Gulbyurr, tyiminygun yunuwa agun

BL: yeah daenen awu

BL: that's the same story

BL: from that one

BL: so this one, he comes to the river and he meets the snake now

RK: what for is he doing that?

BL: they all say that is Kumugut Gulbyurr

RMc: (he came) for him

BL: Jigbala (FM), take it off that story!

FM: how many lizards are roasting?

RP: he's (Kumugut) is going to give the water to the snake, over there, right?

BL: yes

RP: maybe?

BL: is the rock over here (where I am) or elsewhere?

RP: where is the rock?

BL: at the Kumugut Gulbyurr place

FM: at Shark Swamp

RK: where bluetongue roasted food

FM: at the roasting place, where did he sit with King Brown?

BL: yes that same one

BL: mi ngunna gulbyurr muede walgna angundu ka yida

FM: yanaknga angundu

RMc: angundu ka yida

BL: ai rekon!

RP: ani ka yida, sineikwan, tatymanue yida

BL: ya tatyma yidanuwa

FM: na ki eniwa Waliwalinen yiminy dae nikkitiwe

BL: endi medicin tityngakma yuwurra

FM: Kumugut yunuwa

BL: 'aim lukin fo woda, aim goinbek tu det, ahem, riva'

FM: 'Waliwali'

BL: 'ai getim woda from deva'

BL: 'en ai kambek'

BL: en wen imin gobek, wal imin mitim det tjiki men

FM: jineik, tjiki men! L

RK: sineik men

RMc: sneik

BL: en imin mitim

BL: he goes to roast tucker over there on that stone, and afterwards

he came here

FM: after

RMc: he came here afterwards

BL: I reckon!

RP: he came here, and the snake that wanted to kill him here

BL: he tried to kill him

FM: he wants to go here to the river, that animal (Kumugut)

BL: Tyerriny went in and out eating the tablets

FM: Kumugut sits down (inside the hole)

BL: 'I'm looking for water, I'm going back to that, river'

FM: at the river

BL: 'I get water from there'

BL: 'and then I come back'

BL: and when he goes back, he meets that cheeky man

FM: the snake, that cheeky man!

RK: the snake man

RMc: the snake

BL: and he's meeting (the snake there)

BL: en goana seid 'no, yunmi lok dor, lokimap doa'

BL: im lukaraun im goawei

BL: en, imin lokap det tu bin lok

BL: en imin wokinaraun

BL: sineik

RMc: daengunytyulwe

BL: seim pleis imin hengiraun

BL: en imin kamat, imin luk wal imin tjeinjimat itim medicine, strong  
paua medicin

FM: wagna yida

BL: 'warri kina pak'

RP: 'warri kina pak'

BL: telim wokaraun na igin imin jikiwan na imin wokaraun bikos imin  
olredi kil brom det goana

BL: tyiminyye, taty yiminy tyud=de

FM: ki

FM: mayurr

BL: and the goanna said, 'no, you and me go and lock the door and  
they lock up the door'

BL: he's looking around and then he goes away (the snake)

BL: and they are both locked up now

BL: and he is walking around (the snake)

BL: the snake

RMc: this whip snake

BL: it hangs around at the same place

BL: and he came out and looks out, and he changed from eating the  
medicine this strong power medicine

FM: he went to the water

BL: you all sit down here

RP: you all sit down

BL: he told him to walk around again, because the dangerous one,  
the snake had already been beaten up by the goanna

BL: the goanna beat up the snake

FM: here

FM: finished now

*Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
Francis Mijat and Rosie Mary-  
Magdalene Kabat telling the  
story at Woolianna on Octo-  
ber 31<sup>st</sup> 2012*



*Kumugutyinnga* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)



Biddy Lindsey telling the story at Woolianna  
(Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Kumugut and the  
Goanna hide  
from the King  
Brown snake and  
another Kumugut  
comes along*

BL Kumugut aman yiminy

BL warrad purrarrma yida wag bawu

BL Kumugut=de

RP hmm

FM wag tyimiliny naman yiminynu

FM agu wag pi nunguny pin nuenung

BL awu

BL tyimilinyyung naman yiminy yarrinye yiminynu

RK ah ya

BL wag warri, pi datma nuendung waga

FM Pundumiri

RK wag kanggi yida

BL wag pi warri pin nyunga

RK naman yiminy

RK ki tyungen nikkiti wuyu

FM yuyu nguntyul

BL ya tyimiliny yunuwa daetyud

RK tyimiliny wangirr

RK pi nuende wag wayurrrayurr xx xx xxx

BL what's Kumugutdoing?

BL he's walking around looking for water maybe

BL the blue tongue lizard

RP hmm

FM King Brown is telling Kumugut to get water

FM go now and get some water (KingBrown says)

BL right

BL Dyimilliny tells Kumugut to get water, he is lying to him

RK ah ya

BL you go to get the water

FM in the dry season

RK he's coming with water

BL you go and get the water and bring it back

RK he says (the snake)

RK what kind of tree is here?

FM the snake stood there

BL King Brown sat there, the king brown

RK a poisonous snake

RK you have to go quickly and take it

FM elinyirr

FM niminy daenguntytyul

BL ya kina dae edini

BL kina eniwa:: miri jalk pak

FM ngun wutu

BL miri purrarr tyed pak nunuwa

RK yeah

BL en, tity kanggi nunda, yida

RK Kumugutde

BL Kumugut

BL tity ka yida ka

BL parrang ngunna taty

BL wat about you?

RP parrang agun na? akana

BL dae, daenguntytyul taty

RP bawu getim

RP melmelma nunuwa, yi pi

RP darrd purrarrma yidanu

FM frightened

FM of that snake

BL I'm waiting here (snake says to Kumugut)

BL the snake says "I want to sit down here until sundown)

FM they sat over there

BL 'he's waiting there until about 3pm'

RK yeah

BL the lizard (a different lizard) is coming out, she is, he is

RK another lizard

BL another lizard

BL he came out, he's coming

BL the poor devil dies now over there (the stray lizard)

BL what about you?

RP where is he now? Not there/I don't know where

BL the whip snake killed it

RP maybe the snake got Kumugut?

RP the snake is talking to Kumugut (the stray one), then the snake is  
going away

RP the snake is looking for (the other) Kumugut

BL endi yunguny nguntyulwang

RP nguntyulwang

RK daetyimiliny

BL teyma nunuwa tyimiliny daetyud wangirr nana

RP endi

FM dae tyagaty wayurr

RP 'dae teyma'

RP woda goena telim na

BL ka yi yunuwa

RP 'ka yi'

BL aka

RP awu?

BL dae purrarr ka munartal tity ka dae naman

BL 'waya'

RP 'kina enduk dim nana Tyerriny

FM dim nana Tyerriny

BL 'dim keen ngana tyurrrk pak ang nunguny'

RP naman

BL yawug nana yinu

BL the snake is looking for Kumugut

RP the snake is

RK the king brown

BL the poisonous snake was waiting for him, and he never came back

RP what?

FM Kumugut is running away now

RP 'I have been waiting for you'

RP the water goanna tells him now

BL 'come here', the goanna yells out to the lizard

RP 'come here'

BL no

RP right? maybe?

BL the animal is looking around, he's coming out, he says

BL 'stay still!'

RP I'm sitting here in that hole, he says (Tyerriny says to Kumugut)

FM the goanna is always in the hole

BL 'come and sit down here with me in my hole, you go!'

RP he says

BL the other one is already inside

BL Tyerrinyye

RP Tyerrinynu wagna wutuwe

BL Tyerrinyne nomo bla len bat det bla riva

BL daenen nikkiti niwad merrir(?)

FM yanyarra olewei! L

BL la riva yu sabi blekwan?

RK Waliwali?

RP dae nikkiti niwad

BL **warrarru** niwad mudawe

RP nikkitiwe

RK nikkiti

RK foget na

BL Tyerriny yaknen

FM Tyerrinyye niwadma nunda

RK Tyerriny

BL daewarrarru, kanggi, naman yiminynu, waya

FM kumotypuluk

BL ai gotim, dim wuyu

BL mai haus deva, aka!

BL goanna says

RP the goanna is inside the water

BL the goanna is no longer on land, but in the water

BL what's the name of that animal

FM (thinking about the name)

BL at the river, you know the black one?

RK the Daly?

RP what's the name?

BL in Matngala they call it Warrarru

RP what?

RK what?

RK I forgot

BL not the Water Goanna

FM she's calling him Tyerriny

RK the goanna

BL the water goanna calls out to Kumugut: here, stand still!

FM sand goanna

BL I got it, in the hole!

BL my house is there! Oh



FM LL wuyu dim

BL L yeah

RK 'ngura nana wutuwa, dimyen nana'

BL 'ya, ngurra nana wutuwe'

BL 'dae ngenwi yuyuwa ngunna dat ayanu yu gon atha wei'

BL 'pi yuenuerrang ki tarr maburrwuna', naman

BL putimin insaid na

FM nen tyadyadelli kubuk yida

BL Kumugut

FM pedpedelli

FM 'dek nga kina'

BL tyid tyurk wat wirrminy, arrdell wirriny

BL bikos Tyerriny tyenma wuete dim dellurum

BL pundu del yiminy

BL gon, binij

BL bawu

RP Tyerriny

FM that hole there

BL L yeah

RK 'there are some others in the hole already' 'Tyerriny says

BL 'yes, there are some others in that hole'

BL 'the cheeky one (the snake) stood over there, I've seen him, go the other way'

BL 'he's coming here fast to kill all of us'

BL putting him inside now

FM where he ran into the water

BL the lizard

FM (there is a) crack (in the ground)

FM 'that's my place/my dreaming' (Kumugut says)

BL they put him inside and shut the door

BL because the goanna had dug the hole and knew how to lock the door

BL he even closed up the breathing holes

BL it's gone and finished

BL maybe

RP the goanna

BL kayu purrarrma yide wurruwa

RP kayu purrarrma tity pi yida=we

RP yawugen yawug tarr

BL pana yerra, tity pi yidake yawug Kumugutde tarr yiminynu

BL nende

BL ngaj akana Tyerriny yidanuwa daenenyinnga nenwi yawugke

RK endi yawug=ge

BL darrd muda, tarrimy

BL tarr yiminynu yur

BL en det

BL ngun elimirri pude tyurrrk pakke

BL hepili dei in det pleis

RK tyurrrk pak wutuwa

BL nathawan imin kilim

RK rongawan

BL rongawan

BL he (the stray lizard) is calling out from the place he is walking  
around in

RP he's calling round and comes out

RP another one is being bitten now

BL now he's going back (the Kumugut), and a different Kumugut is  
being bitten

BL that thing

BL maybe the goanna didn't go and he didn't know that the other ani-  
mal was over there

RK another one? what about the other one?

BL it saw him being bitten

BL he bit him and he lay down

BL and that

BL they've been inside there before, in the front

BL they are now happily in that place

RK they are inside there

BL he killed the other one!

RK the wrong one

BL the wrong one

RK pur ting

BL hmm

BL deva

BL Kumugutyinnga

BL nenmany niwad yiminynu

BL yinnga

BL Matngala nikkiti niwad muda

RK dek nikkiti, nerrinyke?

BL Kumugutde

FM **Pirriryende**

RK **pirrir**

BL **Pirriryende**

BL **Pirriryende**

RK **Pirriryende**, yeah dets de wan na

BL yeah det bla nu Matngala

RK Matngala

RK **pinyu pirrir**

BL det Matngala tharran

BL **puyany gak ?**

RK poor thing

BL hmm

BL there

BL at Kumugut's place

BL from then on, he called out to him

BL at that place

BL what do you call that in Matngala

RK what place, the paperbark place?

BL the lizard's place

FM at the lizard's place

RK the lizard

BL the lizard's place

BL the lizard's place

RK yes. that's the one

BL yes, that's for Matngala

RK Matngala

RK the lizard

BL that's Matngala

BL he's going

BL *darrarr guj puyany gak, tity piya gak*

RP *puyangak, ah*

RP *puyinyi ki wug pin wagagag nam*

BL *nam*

BL *darrarr mayang gak*

BL *ye yawug puyarrwali*

BL *ngunyurr darrarrma nung*

BL *wug ngunma*

RP *hmm*

BL *puyan gakma*

BL *dyidyi mayima karrag yangaknung*

BL *pinya mayima*

BL *nendawuma*

RK *hmm*

BL *karrag yangagnung*

RP *hmm*

BL *,nikkitinyu jalk anyanung darrarrma anya:ng'*

BL *no*

BL he's going and looking around an doesn't find anything

RP *puyangak, ah?*

RP you should go and get the water and come back (snake says to

Pirrirr)

BL he says

BL Pirrirr is walking around look for water

BL Pirrirr says: 'I'm going now'

BL he's looking around that way

BL walking for water

RP *hmm*

BL he's finished walking

BL the man (pirrirr) meets the goanna now

BL the snake is coming

BL cheeky one

RK *hmm*

BL he's coming out to meet him

RP *hmm*

BL what are you looking for

BL no

FM **karrag** o?

BL **‘wugnun darrarrma ayang ngurruma’**

FM *baiga yida*

BL **warra mayurr darrarrma enyi**

BL **dajbarr garr dangangag niny naman**

BL *dyaruwa yide*

BL *pana dyawad pi yidake*

RP *payagang pakali yunu Laughter*

BL *aka*

BL wat yu du?

RK *nikkitimany taty yiminynu*

BL *wagnue darrdma yida*

BL **ye:ngendawu karrag yangagnung**

RK ya

RP *hmm*

BL **mayurr**

BL *dyawad waya yida elinyirr*

BL **yangak niwerrerr**

BL **yawad yuwayi yangak**

FM meet, right?

BL ‘I’m looking for water, me!’

FM he’s gone

BL you can look around for it

BL snake is telling Kumugut ‘I’m gonna kill you

BL Kumugut goes away

BL again, he goes and look for it and goes away

RP Kumugut is turning his back to the goanna

BL no!

BL what did you do?

RK what for is he hitting him? (snake killing that other Kumugut)

BL Kumugut is looking for water

BL the cheeky one is coming out to meet him

RK yes

RP hmm

BL from there

BL from there

BL Kumugut is running away again, frightened

BL he is frightened

BL yawad yuwayi yangak

RP dae bi yida teyma yuyu

RK Kumugut

BL ya

BL tity pi yide wurru wunngunna durd

RK x ngarrik bi yununga pak

BL ‘nginyirr gunyangiyin ngan dawurrma ‘

RK ngan dawurrma

BL ‘a waga dyirrg warrama’

BL ‘nsaid arrarr nayararr, naman’

BL ‘kerrarr del’

FM Tyerriny nu naman yiminy, bawu?

RK yawugke nende

BL yeah yawugke

BL ‘kerrerr dell dakma ‘

RK deknen yunguny Tyerriny nu

BL del

RP hmm

BL he's running away

RP k is going away, and snake is waiting for him

RK the lizard is

BL yes

BL Tyerriny goes back and tells everybody that the snake is there—he  
is warning everyone

RK he's sitting down sideways and runs away

BL ‘the cheeky one is coming this way’

RK the cheeky one

BL Tyerriny says to Kumugut: ‘quickly come inside you’

BL ‘we're siting down inside,’

BL ‘shut the door!’

FM Tyerriny says to Kumugut

RK different one

BL yeah, a different one

BL ‘you close that door, of my place’

RK Tyerriny is in his house, hole

BL door

RP hmm

BL det natha goena imin askim brom andanith

RP kirri

BL **'del paga dinginy'**

BL naman wirrminy

RP nen pak keenen

RK tity ka yida pak yawugna dat yiminynu

BL ya

RK dimna

BL **binya pirrirr ma nembu puyanag ngagnung** taty

BL **binya ngunburru nembu niyu**

RP hmm, dae mujurr

BL **dungud**

BL taty

BL yurr yupi yida

BL wag

BL **wug guna yanggak buyangga, durrng titypirrka**

RP hmm

BL **hmm, mayirr gunet**

BL the other goanna is asking from the underneath

RP not that!

BL Kumugut says: 'we shut the door, we're ok - the two of us'

BL they say

RP the goanna sat here then

RK the snake is going back and finds another one (another Kumugut)

BL yes

RK into the hole

BL the stray one is now found by the snake and it kills the other one,  
the wrong one

BL the snake kills another one

RP there are a lot of snakes in this country

BL king brown

BL (the snake) beat up (the lizard)

BL he beats him up and keeps on going

BL to the water

BL K umugut goes and drinks some water (the other one) by himself

RP hmm

BL what about the hole?

RK ngenyirr, ngurra=we wutuwake

RK dimy xxx akana baiga wutangga x

BL **aj-**

BL **aj, gunen**

RK yina yawug

FM x pude walg, wayurr wag durkma nuenue walg wurru

BL en dei hepili sitdan deva en imin kilim traiwan

RK im kilim, imin mitimap nathawan en kilim nathawan xxxx

BL imin lukin fo woda igin imself

RK piny **pirrir**

BL ya en det tjikiwan bin kilim

RP x

DH tjikiwan wijiwan?

RK king braun

BL bai accident imin kill nathawan

BL yeah en det raitwan imin tjeisim dem imin sitdan in det hol

BL foeva

DH Kumugutyinnga

BL ani dei bin kolim

RK some sit down here

RK they never came out of the hole

BL aj-

BL they're still there

RK another one

FM the rock is lying down there on the right side inside the water

BL and they all sit there happily and the snake beats up the stray one

RK he beats him up, he meets another one and beats up that one

BL he's looking for water again by himself

RK the lizard gets water

BL and the dangerous snake killed it

RP x

BL which one?

RK King Brown

BL he kills another one by accident

BL yes, and the right one it was chasing, that one sits inside that hole

BL forever

DH Kumugutyinnga

BL that's what they call it



RK Kumugutyinnga

BL Kumugutyinnga

BL Matngala Pirriryende

RK **Pirriryende** L

BL tu tu smol

BL nek imin tjeisim

RP hmm

BL imin habum gud idea with det goana

RP Laughter

BL tyurrk yuwarra wuta, kina pak

RK place

BL Kumugutyinnga

BL and in Madngale P

RK Pirriryende

BL too too small!

BL next he chases

RP hmm

BL he had a good idea with that goanna

RP LL

BL they went inside and filled the hole and they are still here

***Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
and Francis Mijat telling the  
story at Woolianna on July  
9th 2013***



*Yinindelik* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Tyerriny fights the  
King Brown and  
the stray Kumugut  
and the other  
Tyerriny escape  
onto the other  
side of the river*

BL: Kumugut medicin wabili yida, awu, nguntyul

BL: nguntyul bin killim wan peson init?

BL: yawug Tyerriny kubuk yuwayi yida, Kumugutte

BL: dekenmany yidake

...

BL: wagne yide

FM: wali ngunna xx, yanak kubuk karrk yida

RP: yanak kubuk karrk yida yanak-

BL: det traiwan imin go nathaseid

FM: im kubuk kagak yidaka, weya im go?

BL: nen waitbalanen Lee namanma yidawe

BL: eyiny naman yiminynu

FM: ngaty nana ka wutu pak?

BL: wen dei bin kam. bat det samthing tu du with det medicin bisnes

BL: en imin. tr- from Tyerriny im helpim im. tu fixap det Kumugut

BL: en afta det. det Kumugut imin go nathasaid

BL: det, Kumugut, det weya imin kilim from King Brown

BL: Tyerriny go getim medicin

FM: givit im trai

BL: the Kumugut has the medicine, or the snake?

BL the snake beat up one person, right?

BL: the other Tyerriny went into the water, and (the other) Kumugut

BL: it came from that place

...

BL for the water

FM: one swims to the other side

RP: one swims over to the other side

BL: the stray one goes to the other side

FM: he goes up into the water, where does he go to?

BL: at that place of Lee over there

BL: what is it called?

FM: where did they come and sit down?

BL: when they came, but it has something to do with the medicine

BL: and then Tyerriny helped to heal Kumugut's wounds

BL: and afterwards, that Kumugut went to the other side

BL: the Kumugut, the one that is being beaten up by King Brown

BL: Tyerriny goes and gets the medicine

FM: gives it to him to try

BL: givitit

BL: *dek kuguk agun?*

BL: imin kam from deya

BL: *mi durrk, mimashrum*

BL: *yundun mi yida ngakma yidaka*

FM: *kulpma yidangga*

BL: detwei im gotim det kala det Kumugut init?

BL: det petten weya im gotim

BL: weya det petten weya im gotim, tumaty imin itim det kukwan taka

BL: im meikim rong

BL: bat det, Kumugut bi smuthwan, nokala, yuno

BL: bat det taka imin itim wal imin tyeiny

BL: *wity waninen, awu?*

BL: *Kumugut Gulbyurr*

BL: wal imin rostim det taka

BL: en imin itim

BL: bat det, fes imin laik, smuthwan no kala

BL: bat weya imin it det taka en imin tyeiny

BL: gives it to him

BL: where was it?

BL: he came from there

BL: he drinks that, he eats the mushrooms

BL: he roasted it and ate it

FM: he went there to roast the mushrooms

BL: that's why he has that colour, right?

BL: the pattern he has

BL: he has that pattern because he ate the food cooked

BL: he does it all wrong

BL: because Kumugut was supposed to be smooth and colourless, you  
know

BL: but the food he ate made him change

BL: that's why it is a dreaming, right?

BL: that Kumugut Gulbyurr place

BL: where he roasted the food

BL: and he ate it

BL: but first he was smooth without any colour

BL: but when he ate the food he changed

BL: maitbi im meikim strong ein im kam diswei den

BL: detwei im shotwan, im kan luk longwei

...

BL: Kumugut bisnes na

FM: Kumugut Gulbyurr

RP: Kumugut naman

BL: nomo yu luk na, Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL: ka yide kina, 'dekngayin'

BL: daenguntyul yuyu elimirrimany

RP: wa nana waniyi x

FM: ngaty nana wagman dekkuna awu?

BL: ya wag akana ngunde

FM: nenmany yika

BL: yika yida

BL: walgnen Kumugut gulbyur datyurr, karrarr

BL: kubuk karrarr dattied yuyu yanak, ka yidake

BL: yerra akana pawurkwna yide tyindang waya

BL: wag akana

BL: maybe this makes him strong enough to come over here then

BL: that's why he is shortsighted, and short, he can't see very far

...

BL: the Kumugut business now

FM: Kumugut Gulbyurr

RP: what does he say?

BL: no, look! Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL: he came here, 'this is my land'

BL: the snake was there first

RP: the dreaming place

FM: there was water on the way

BL: no water there

FM: he came from there

BL: he came here

BL: he climbed up to have a look around lying down

BL: one time he came up and looked for the river. and he came here

BL: there was nothing to climb up on the ground elsewhere and so he

went slowly

BL: he had no water

BL: dek kina, pi yida pak

RP: dek nana waniyen pak yunuwa, awu?

BL: ya wani nana pak kanggi yunuwake

FM: nanena waniyen yunuwake

RP: nen birribma wuyu powurr, awu?

BL: ya

BL: en naman yiminynu

BL: deknen

BL: agun yunu wuyuwu WaliWaliwe

BL: ka yidake, ,warri eyiny' naman yiminynu

BL: a dat yiminy, 'ki yidanu parrkam' naman yiminy

BL: 'wag pi nuenduenarriny pinyu waka' naman yiminynuwe

BL: daetyerriny nende, en

BL: tyagad yuwayi yida

FM: Tyerrinyende imin krosimbat L

BL: yeah mutuna nuende pana

BL: yerra, im neva kambek

BL: en bai accident imin kilimim det Kumugut

FM: deknen agun ngunnanggi Yinindelik

BL he came to this place, sitting down

RP: he turns into a dreaming now, right?

BL: he is turning into a dreaming sitting down

FM: turning into dreaming

RP: it is dark and red, right? - the riverbank

BL: yes

BL: and he says

BL: to this place

BL: how far is the river?

BL: he came, and he asked 'who are you?'

BL: Kumugut looked and said, 'this is a cheeky snake'

BL: 'you go and get that water for me and give it to me', the snake said

BL: to the Tyerriny

BL: and Tyerriny ran away

FM: so Tyerriny crossed the river

BL: she says that

BL: so, he never came back

BL: and by accident the Kumugut was beat up

FM: to that place over there called Yinindelik

BL: en de straiwan imin kilim from det sneik

BL: detwei, imin sitdan langa hol na

BL: treiwan kilim from sneik fo woda

BL: en dei bin sitdan na, yuno?

FM: 'nga kin eniwa Waliwali', naman

BL: 'eniwa::, kina WaliWali eniyungga', yerra naman

BL: 'dek ki nga'

BL: and the stray one was beat up by the snake

BL: that's why he sits down in the hole now

BL: the stray one was beat up by the snake for (not getting) the water

BL: and they are still there now, you know?

FM: 'this is my place, at the river here', Kumugut says

BL: 'I sit down forever, I want to sit down here at the river', he says

BL: 'this is my place'

*Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak,  
and Francis Mijat telling the  
story on August 17th 2013  
at Dyamalagany Billabong*



*Dyamalagany* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)



Biddy Lindsey and Rita Pirak telling the story at Dyamalagany  
(Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Kumugut travels  
from the place  
where he roasted  
mushrooms to the  
river*



BL Kumugut keen weya wi bin luk tudei?

BL: dek parra taty, dek waninen dat ayana, dat arragun enikenna

BL: warri paragud enikenna datna

BL: daewani nende

BL nenmany dattyed yuwake

BL yanakna

BL parrat dattyed yuyuwa

BL dat yiminy, nga deknana wuyu

FM wangarri fes?, awu?

BL duenunen, wag, WaliWali dat yiminy

BL yinyerrik bawu

RP dek wangarrnen wuyu, awu?

BL dat yiminy

BL kayi wuta, kayiwurru kina wag dat yiminy, durrk yiminy

BL 'a, karrk yidak akana madyan nga'

BL 'madyan duk na yinerret'

BL 'mulmulma aman enmawa' naman

BL 'a, hu, wagwuna enggunggawa', naman

BL That place of Kumugut where we went today?

BL: I saw the dreaming place, we saw it for the first time today

BL: the white one also saw it for the first time

BL: the dreaming

BL he looked from there

BL one time

BL he got up and looked

BL he looked from that place only once

FM you first

BL he saw the treeline and the water of the river

BL he's short-sighted, right?

RP the place was a swamp, right?

BL he looked for the river

BL he called out, he called out to them and he saw water here, and he drank

BL 'I can't go up (on rough ground), my foot!'

BL 'the underside of my foot is bad!'

BL 'what am I going to do with my soft foot?', he says

BL 'ah I walk on wet ground', he said

BL ,errdungga' naman

BL yerra, det seim krik dei bin wapi wutake::, ngaty ngunnawuna karrk

BL Tedperrety

RP pimanye, Tedperrety

RP la Ngawurrun

RP karrakpi?

BL en yerra karrk yidake, yinin Tyullukyinnga

BL nenmany teytyed yuwake, Kumugut

BL karrarr yida walgnen jalala dat yiminye, a, ki wuyu dekke, endiwen

BL madyan ngerrunen nenmanen yinyerrik yidawe

BL Kumugutte

RP Kumugut Gulbyurmany

BL warr, warradmayimany yida

BL en im yidanggawa

RP kubukna yida ngunna, awu? L

BL yerra pi yida pakke

BL Tyerrinying kayi yunuwa

BL 'dae ngenwi nana yuyu!'

BL we are walking, he said

BL they went over there, to this place and maybe went up there (to  
Tyullukyinnga)

BL Tedberrety billabong

RP from Tedberrety he went

BL to Ngawurrun

RP he goes up?

BL he went up to the point of the Tyullukyinnga hill

BL from there he took a shortcut

BL he walks up the long hill , looks, and here it is, closeby, the river

BL his nails/toes are too short/not good

BL Kumugut

RP from Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL he walks from there

BL he goes there

RP he goes into the water there

BL he goes and sits down

BL the Tyerriny sings out!

BL 'a poison animal is there!'

BL dek nende warra dewerr, naman

BL akana

BL manya, tyendak yidanuwa, eni kanggi yidenuwa wurrunu wa

BL be

BL 'daenen perrkam yuyunana' naman

BL 'nguntyulle'

BL 'eyiny ngunyulnen tyud'

BL yipi wuta pak

BL yerra, wapide tyedtyi, Tyerriny yawug tyagadda wa yida, na yanaka

yidanuwa, Kumugutnuwe

BL 'dim nga ki wuyuna tyurrrpak enggidiny' naman

BL det im, im gon tulots na

BL det Kumugut insaid

RP na awu?

BL yeah

BL dae ngunwuna, wapi yida kina tyedtyi

BL ngunde wuntyang L

RP naman ngununmany, pi yidake::, ngun

BL stay away from him

BL no

BL then he listens, Tyerriny comes and gets Kumugut with his arm

BL goon

BL 'he is a cheeky animal', he said

BL 'the snake'

BL 'King brown'

BL he goes back and sits down

BL one goes and gets him, puts him down, then the other Tyerriny runs

away and gets the other Kunugut

BL 'we go into my hole inside', he says

BL one Tyerriny is in the water, and the other one is in the hole with

Kumugut

BL one Kumugut is inside the hole

RP no, right?

BL yeah

BL another one goes and gets him and puts him down here

BL he leaves him there

RP he goes from there to there

RP *nende, ngaty ngunna Wali*

RP *wagyingga tyurrkpi yida*

BL *WaliWali tyurrk yidake*

RP *hmm, Tyerrinymany tyurrkwat yiminy*

BL *yerra ki yunu tyinangpak?*

RP *yunu tyinnang pak*

RP *agunde*

BL *ki yidawe*

RP *aka dek kimany yana pi yida*

BL *ya*

BL *yerra wurru kiwuna maburra yida, bawu*

RP *ngun pi yida:: ngun baibi*

BL *WaliWaliwe*

BL *ki*

RP *Tyerrinyue naman yiminynu*

BL *sainlenguji wangga yunuwa*

BL *'parrakam naniyu'*

RP *yunu warriyet, tyimiliny*

RP *'wag piny wanggarriny', naman*

RP he goes to the river

RP he goes inside the water (Tyerriny being frightened of the snake)

BL goes inside the water

RP Tyerriny puts him inside the hole

BL they sit down here now and stay

RP they sit down there forever

RP where

BL here

RP from here he goes there

BL yes

BL he follows this creek, right?

RP he goes there, and he comes out

BL at the river

BL here

RP Tyerriny says to Kumugut

BL he says in sign language

BL 'the cheeky one is there'

BL he meets Tyimiliny

RP 'you go and get my water!', Tyimiliny says to Kumugut

RP ngunnaggi pi yida

BL turr nyurrk yiminy, Kumugutna

BL yeah

RP yerra yidanggi watna, Tyerrinyung naman yiminynu

RP 'awat, pinyu, ngewi yuyu', naman

BL 'palam pak engginini', naman

RP 'warri dim kina tyurrk ngayingga yirrminy', naman

BL dim yuenduen nende tyurrk yida

RP dim tyurrk yidake, ngatynana pak yunu

BL eni yunuwa tyinangpak

RP nen yunu eniken

BL en Kumugutyinnga naman wutawe

BL yerra

BL dek yuenduenna nende, Kumugutnue

BL nana

BL he asks him to get water quickly from Kumugut

RP he went to the other side? That other Kumugut?

BL yeah

RP he comes here and Tyerriny says

RP 'don't get it, that one is cheeky' Tyerriny says to Kumugut

BL 'we should go and hide', he said

RP 'you come inside my house,' he says

BL he goes into his house

RP he goes inside the hole, and he sits down here

BL he stays there all the time

RP they sit down there today

BL they call it Kumugutyinnga

BL so!

BL this is now Kumugut's place

BL finished

***Biddy Lindsey and Rita Pirak  
telling the story on August  
19th 2013 at Kumugutyinnga***



*Tyullukyinninga* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Kumugut travels  
from  
Tyullukyinninga to  
Kumugutyinnga  
and meets the  
snake and Tyerriny*

BL Kumugutyinnga

BL hmm hmm errdue

RP ka yida ngunmanyie kina tyed

BL yinin Tyullukyinnamany tyed, degat tyed yuyuwake agunmanyie

RP kina yurr

BL deknana yunu, titykanggi yida

RP yiminy tyullumurru yida tyurrk kanggi yidake::

BL ke::, kina

RP kina nga yurr

BL wag akana yida

RP nguntyul yunuwa

RP 'wagnennue toktok yidanuwa', naman

BL ngutyulwang durrkdurk yida akana, ake!

RP 'ngunnanggi enunngga'

BL 'wag piny waka', naman yiminynu

RP 'a wag piny wangarriny', naman

BL naman

RP ya

BL at Kumugutyinnga

BL where we sit down

RP he came from there and to here

BL it is at Tyullukyinnnga, we showed that place, what is it?

(Dyamalagany)

RP here he lay down

BL he sits here, he came this way

RP he goes down and comes here inside

BL here

RP this place here

BL he had no water

RP the snake is sitting down

RP 'they talk at the water', he says

BL the snake did not have any water to drink

RP Tyerriny says: 'I'm going to the other side'

BL he said, 'you go and get me water!'

RP 'you get water', he said

BL he said

RP yes

RP pi yidake, ngulung, x wag durrk

BL wag durrk yiminy

RP kurruk, namanyu

BL sainlenguji a kurrk yiminy akana daenen pawirrkam naman

RP dae taty yiminy, awat wa titykanen naman

BL nen titywapinununang wa, warr taty yunuwa naman

RP kina penggudung, naman

BL kina tyurruk, pak wutuwn, kina wutu wundut

BL yawug alditditypi yida elinyirr

RP yanak, klosapklosap

BL aldidity yide

BL wag durrk yiminy, dim yuwayi yurr

BL en im kiwe

BL det dae tyimiliny tyud tyityal wutu kiwe

BL endi keenen wutu wundutta

BL yanakna, imin tarradma yide bla medicin

BL go atsaid, gobek insaid, ma yide, tyurruk pak

BL tyagad purrarrpurrarrma

RP Kumugut goes drinking by himself

BL he drinks water (Kumugut)

RP he says in sign language

BL he says in sign language so that the cheeky one can't hear him

RP don't bring him back or he will kill us

BL if you come back up, he will kill us all

RP go here, he says

BL here he went inside and they both sit down

BL the other one (Kumugut) goes past frightened

RP he is close up

BL he goes past

BL he drinks water and then he goes inside the hole and lies down

BL and he is here now

BL the snake was there

BL the two inside the hole there are there

BL one goes and looks for medicine

BL he goes inside and outside, and sits down

BL he runs around



BL xx Kumugut tarra yida? Q Tyerriny?

BL nana Tyerriny imselp, dokto

BL titytyagadma yunuwa

RP dek ngunmany ka yida nanana tyurrukpak yida

BL ngaty kanggi yida pak

RP x 'dek nga kiwe'

BL 'dek nga nende, Kumugutyinngawe'

BL nenyilk yinmety, nen, ki mowandi

BL en imin finishap den

BL yunu wagna yerra kiwe, yunu tyinang pakma yide

BL en parragud ki perret yiminynnu

BL dek ngunde, yeriwe

BL nana, ka wute kina yerra pak wutu ngaty wutu

BL a im sei, 'nga wani ngana yerra 'naman yiminy Kumugutte

BL laik im, yundun mindjidek lamlamma yidena

BL 'wani nga ede na Kumugutte' naman

BL 'kan sitdan'

BL 'ya', naman yiminynnu, 'eyiny wake'

BL he bites Kumugut or Tyerriny?

BL T is the doctor

BL go back running in and out he does

RP from there he came and he ran back inside sitting down

BL he came and sat down

RP 'this place is mine'

BL 'this is my land Kumugutyinnga'

BL he has small hands now, the poor bugger

BL and he finished it then

BL he is in the water, he sits there all the time

BL and the white people dug here

BL here on the road

BL they were there all the time, they are there now

BL he says 'this is my dreaming'

BL he names it himself

BL 'this is my place and dreaming now'

BL 'I am here'

BL 'who brought this one', he says to him

RP Tyerriny?

BL from Tyerriny

BL 'dek warri kina'

RP 'dek yenggi kina'

BL 'kina yengginiwa' lamlam

BL dae nende wagna nyurrk watma yin errgununungguwa naman

BL sineik laik tyimiliny, lezibaga im laif

BL nomo sabi go itim woda bringimbek, akana

BL nenmanyde tyikiwan yide

BL det gat no woda det thing

BL detwei dei tyiki

BL nana

BL delik kiwe, akana yupudde

BL ngaty wudyu tyindang yerratma

RP Tyerriny

BL from Tyerriny

BL 'your place'

RP 'our home here'

BL 'this is our place' he says

BL he had asked to get the water from all of them

BL And the snake, he is lazy, and he is alive

BL: he doesn't know that he won't bring him back water to drink

BL this is a cheeky snake

BL he didn't get any water

BL that is why they are cheeky

BL finished

BL the cane grass is there, it never dies

BL they are always there, the cane grass roots

***Biddy Lindsey and Rita Pirak  
telling the story on August  
19th 2013 at Kumugutyinnga***



Saltwater Crocodile— *Yinggi*—near *Yinindelik* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)



Biddy Lindsey and Rita Pirak telling the story at  
Kumugutyinnga (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*A second Tyerriny  
and another  
Kumugut escape  
from the Snake to  
the other side of  
the river*

BL kina wutu wundutta

BL yawug tyagad alditity yida

BL daenenman dat yiminywurruna

BL tyudman en tyimiliny

BL kubuk baibi yide yawug awu?

RP Kumugut krasova na

BL Kumugut nende, imin go

BL Tyerriny Kumugut ki elimirrimany wutaka kina wutu

BL en nende, traiwau

BL naman yiminynu

BL 'dek dae nende warrad tatyma wurrunma nunuwa wagnen agun yide

yunuwa' naman yiminynu

BL 'en naman enmanuwa, nga nidenma nunuwa wag penungga durk'

BL 'nga tyagad pi enungga' L

BL yerra wag durkmanuwe

BL wag durk yiminy, bikos, nomo len wan det

BL endi, dae, wagnunen Tyerriny nende

BL ki melmelmel yidanuwe

BL they both sit down here

BL the other one ran past

BL the animal looked at them

BL the snake

BL the other Kumugut went diving

RP Kumugut crosses over then

BL Kumugut leaves

BL that Tyerriny and the K are still there first in the hole at Ku-

mugutyyingga

BL and the stray one

BL he says

BL 'the snake walked and wanted to kill us, and he asked us for water',

he said to him

BL 'and I say I will tell the snake a lie and say I'll get the water'

BL 'I will run away'

BL they drink the water

BL he goes and drinks water, he's no land any more but a water one

BL it's a water goanna then

BL he talks about that

BL ngaty kiman kubuk yidake ngunnanggi pawurrk dab yiminy

BL ngaty shotkat yuwayi yida

BL kiwe wutu wundutte, endi mutu

BL imin trai nokimaraun Tyerriny from sneik bat nathing

BL nen tityka yida njabana

BL Yinidelik naman mutawe, nikkitenue?

BL a delik ki wudyuwu, yeah

BL Kumugutyinnga Yinidelik

BL ey, dek ki ngunnanggi

BL Yinidelik

BL naman wunduwun

BL Kumugut, Yinidelik, Tyurrukka

RP tyimilinye atsaidna ngenged yida, kina

BL dek kina pawurrk ki atsaid kina yida

BL wurrundynnu keenen elinyirr wutu wundut

BL tyurrrk paknana wutuwa

BL Kumugut ki niwad yiminynuwe daenenmany

BL endi dekke Yinidelik init?

BL deknanake

BL he goes into the water to the other side without rest and goes up

BL he takes a shortcut

BL they are still there

BL the snake tries to beat up Tyerriny, unsuccessfully

BL maybe he went inside

BL this is names Yinidelik

BL so cane grass is here

BL Kumugutyinnga Yinidelik

BL this place here on the other side

BL Yinidelik

BL they call it that

BL Kumugut, Yinidelik, Tyurrukka

RP the Tyimiliny sits on top

BL he is outside on the ground

BL they sit down there because they are frightenend

BL they go inside and sitdown

BL Kumugut named it himself

BL and the other place is Yinidelik, right?

BL this place

BL yawug ngunnanggiden wuyu

BL en Kumugutyinnga naman yiminyya Kumugut yuenduen mindyidek

RP nen Kumugut Gulbyurmany ka yida

BL weya im go?

RP x dek ngun nuende?

BL Kumugutnenwang yuenduen dat arrgunnue ngun wangarre

BL mi kulpma yida ka yida

BL wagnenmany yuenduen durk yiminyna ka yidaka dek kinawuna

BL wag durk yiminy

BL kagak tu yuno!

BL en imin sei

BL 'mai fut no gud finqa im rekon'

BL tu shot no neil na

BL ngaty kina yida

BL this one is on the other side of the river

BL he named it Kumugutyunnga himself that Kumugut

RP he came from Kumugut Gulbyurr

BL where did he go?

RP you went to that place?

BL that place where we saw there in the clear place

BL he roasted it and came here

BL he comes to the water and from the eater to drink and came here

BL he drank

BL that's a long way!

BL and he says

BL 'my feet and fingers are sore'

BL he is too short and has no tail now!

BL and then he goes here

*A short English summary  
written by Dorothea Hoff-  
mann*



*Kumugutyinnga* (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

*Kumugut—the  
Blue-Tongue Liz-  
ard*

# -1-

## ***Kumugut roasts mushrooms and finds water***

*Kumugut, the Blue-Tongue Lizard is walking around the land. He is looking for water, but before he finds a billabong to drink at, he comes to a small black stone on an open field. He climbs on top of the stone to have a look around since he is just a small animal. He has walked for so long and far that his tail and his legs have become very sore. His tail is so sore that the skin comes off and he eventually loses part of his tail. This is why today he only has a short tail.*

*Because he is without water for a long time, he remains a small and low animal to this day.*

*On top of the black rock (right) Kumugut starts roasting his favourite food— panpurrg mushrooms—to eat them and to regain his strength.*



*These mushrooms make his skin smooth again which was sore and cracked before and they also turn his tongue blue. The place where he roasted the mushrooms can also still be recognized today, because the stones have turned black from the fire. The rock is called Kumugut Gulbyurr – 'Where the Blue-Tongue Lizard roasted mushrooms'.*

*From Kumugut Gulbyurr he walks a short way onwards to the billabong Dyamallagany (right) and finally finds water there.*



*While he travels closer to the river, he also stops at a small waterhole called Tedberrety to drink again and then at a billabong called Ngawurrun. Finally, he climbs up a hill called Tyullukyinnga (as seen below) from where he spots the tree line of the riverbank. Now he knows where to go and makes his way to the river.*



*From all the walking over rough ground and without water, Kumugut has gotten very sick. His toe nails have fallen off and his tail is missing in parts too. This is why today his toes and tail are so short.*



## --2-

### ***Kumugut meets the King Brown Snake***

*On his way to the river, Kumugut is followed by the King Brown Snake—Tyimiliny (below).*

*That snake is very cunning and wants to eat him. So he lies on the ground pretending to be sick. Kumugut goes and asks him what is wrong. The snake replies that he is sick and asks Kumugut to go and fetch some water for him in the river, because he is thirsty. Kumugut agrees to this, but he is lying to Tyimiliny, because he has recognized the snake as a dangerous one. On his way to the river, he meets a goanna—Tyerriny— who has witnessed how King Brown met Kumugut. Tyerriny is the story-teller for the Kumugut Dreaming. He tells Kumugut, that the snake was only trying to trick him and that he wants to eat him. So he offers Kumugut to hide him in his hole. All of this is done in sign language since the snake is not supposed to hear and understand any of this. Kumugut and Tyerriny hide in Tyerriny's hole. They shut the doors tight and even fill up the breathing holes so that they cannot be found.*



*Tyimiliny* (Source: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/assets/images/article/journal/11900/king-brown-snake-australia.jpg>)

## -3-

### ***Another unlucky Kumugut falls into King Brown's trap***

*From inside the hole, Kumugut watches another Blue-Tongue Lizard arriving at the river. King Brown meets him and thinks this is the same Lizard as before. He gets very angry since he thought that this Kumugut had betrayed him and only pretended to get water and had run away instead.*



*The stray Kumugut is very frightened and together with another very frightened Tyerriny that he meets on the way, they run away from King Brown, running past the Kumugut and Tyerriny in the hole and diving into the water.*

*Here the goanna changes from a land into a water goanna.*

*The Kumugut in the hole calls out for them and tries to tell them to come into the hole as well. But this Lizard and Goanna do not know the story and so they do not hear him. The other Tyerriny and the other Kumugut do not stop in the water and swim quickly across to the other side of the river where they form a dreaming called Yinindelik (above) where a large white-bush-apple tree used to stand until it was washed into the river by a flood.*

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***Tyerriny fights the King Brown Snake***

*After the King Brown has been unable to catch the stray Kumugut, the Tyerriny in the hole decides to fight King Brown and get rid of him once and for all. During this time, Kumugut lies in the hole. He is very sick from being without water for a long time and from his long walk from Kumugut Gulbyurr to the river. He might have even suffered a snake bite from Tyimiliny when he met him earlier. So he cannot help Tyerriny to fight. Tyerriny is not only the story teller; he is also a witch doctor and cures Kumugut like the mushrooms did before.*

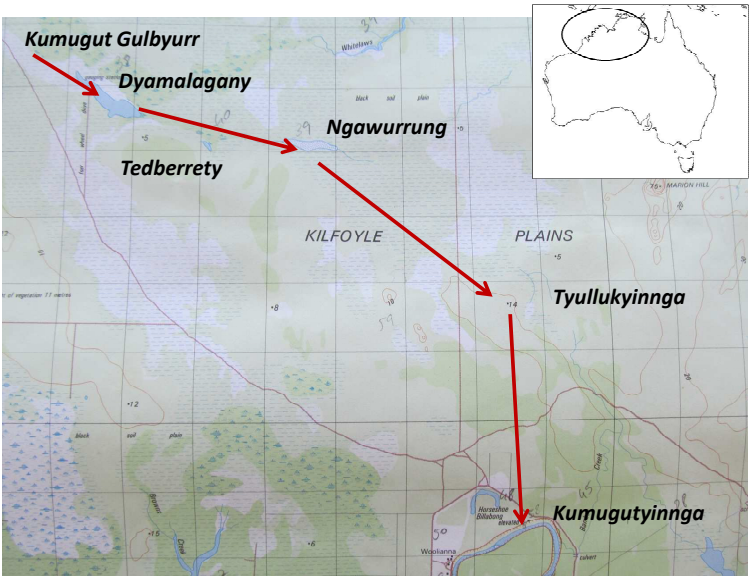
*Tyerriny takes some special power potion to make him strong. Then he goes out to fight the King Brown. They fight for a long time with Tyerriny running in and out of the hole all the time to take more of his special power potion. Finally, he defeats King Brown and chases him away. King Brown now leaves into another country.*

*When all is finished, Tyerriny and Kumugut stay in the hole and Kumugut names the place Kumugutyinnga. They remain there to this day.*

*The place is called Kumugutyinnga (right) and the cane grass that grows here comes back every year and after every flood. Even when elsewhere the grass cannot grow anymore, Kumugutyinnga is always a good growing place.*



# Kumugut's Travels



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