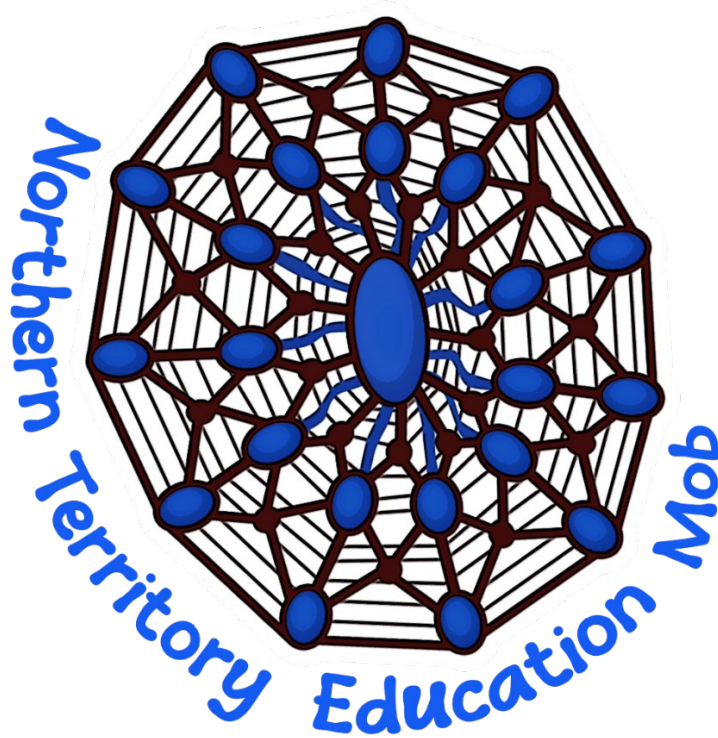


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NEWSLETTER

2024 THE YEAR THAT WAS

The Education Mob achieved significant milestones in 2024. We incorporated under the Associations Act NT, joined the Professional Teachers Association of the NT, created a website, secured a government grant, continued digitising important records for and about Aboriginal Education in the NT, and collaborated on several projects using some of these items.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the Northern Territory Education Mob. Without the contribution of our volunteer effort, and now membership, none of this heritage would be possible.

The Logo

Our logo was designed by former Milingimbi School educator Elizabeth Ganygulpa. *"The design shows the interconnections of generations, as in a ripple on water. People are dots and the lines the tracks where knowledge flows between the waterholes (stores of knowledge) they create."*

The digital version of the logo was created by Logo by Nicole Stark of [Disparity Games](#).

Incorporation

With support and guidance from various sources, we became incorporated in April 2024. Incorporation provides us with a legal entity and enables us, among other things, to apply for grants.

Our volunteers and committee are current and former experienced NT educators, and we are all on a 'learning as we go' journey!

While some governance work remains, becoming incorporated is an important step towards becoming registered as a not for profit organisation.

Special General Meeting

We have set an Special General Meeting for 12 March 2025. Details will be sent separately.

Website

[Branium Labs](#) based in Darwin had kindly sponsored our website. We designed the shell, worked on the content and with input and feedback it is now live.

<https://nteducationmob.org.au/>

The Digital Keeping Place

The Digital Keeping Place is a community-based knowledge management system provided by [Keeping Culture](#). It stores Aboriginal Education-related images, documents, sounds, and movies. Most of the records are from former and current educators.

The link to the website is deliberately not able to be found through using a search engine.

<https://educationmob.keepingculture.com/welcome>

The software design enables it to be modified to fit the purpose of recording Aboriginal Education person by person, community by community, program by program, collection by collection. The structure continues to evolve as it expands.

Where the location is known, records are returned to communities through various means including at times through our two social media channels:

[Northern Territory Education Mob](#) and [Dhupuma College](#)

In over twelve years, we have received only two request to remove an images. They were of recently deceased persons and taken down immediately.

All records we gather are accessible on the Digital Keeping Place except those currently being processed and returned to community. The richness of the Digital Keeping Place depends heavily on the task of adding 'metadata' - tagging the who, what, when, where. There are eighty individuals or organisations who assist with tagging. It is a task that can be performed from any location at any time.

Some people or organisations have an interest in specific collections or communities, while others possess specialised interests such as birds or fish. Some people take the time to manage their own collections. It all helps make the collection richer.

NEW COLLECTIONS

We have digitised thousands of items from many collections this year. A few are notable.

Tony Thorpe (dec)

One of the bigger digitisation tasks we undertook this year is a collection from former teacher, Teacher Linguist and Batchelor Lecturer Tony Thorpe. The 6 500 plus slides, photos and negatives are from Tony's time as a Teacher at Borrooloola and Teacher, Teacher Linguist and Mentor at Milingimbi during the 1980s and early 1990s. Sadly, while Tony has passed away, his memory will live through his images.

The items are being returned to one of his former colleagues at Borrooloola and to the school and the Djalkiri Project at Milingimbi.

David's - Odling Smee and Tunley

Another collection we have managed this year is from David Odling Smee. It is a record of his time as teacher and Principal at Yuendumu in the 1960s, inaugural

Principal at Yirara in the 1970s and Deputy at Batchelor Institute in the 1980s.

David organised his collection meticulously and worked with us on his images from Yuendumu. Incredibly, he remembers the names of most of students from the 1960's! David also worked with us to record a memoir of his time at Yuendumu. We were pleased to be able to share all his Yirara records with the school for their recent celebration and to broker the donation of the physical collection to Library & Archives NT for preservation.

As is often the case, we were able to track down one of David's colleagues from Yuendumu, David Tunley and reconnect the two David's. David Tunley also generously shared his images and memoir. The images and metadata have been provided to the Warlpiri Project and the school at Yuendumu.

Patakijiyali Museum

Another donation we have been digitising for a few years are records from the Patakijiyali Museum at Wurrumiyanga. The digitisation and creation of spreadsheets to describe the photos, slides, negatives and DVDs is being done by former Tiwi and Non-Tiwi staff and other volunteers.

It is a really important collection for Tiwi and we look forward to having many of the records accessible on the Education Mob Digital Keeping Place in 2025.

CURRENT PROJECTS

As part of our digitisation program, we are working on several projects aimed at growing the collection and using some of these as the basis for creating new records. These projects will continue through 2025.

Waruwi Bilingual Books

We are finalising the digitisation and housing of 300 or so books from the former bilingual program at Waruwi. In addition, Library & Archives NT allowed us access to digitise their holdings of *Waruwi Wulatpiyi* the newsletters produced as part of the bilingual program.

A full digital copy will be returned to Waruwi in the new year and handed over to Library & Archives NT early 2025.

Stolen Generation Records-Digital Return

We received a small grant from the Northern Territory Government Truth Telling Grant. The task is to identify and negotiate the digital return of records relating to Northern Territory Stolen Generation people. Auspiced by Nungalinga College and with the support of the Catholic, Church of England and Uniting Churches, we are working in partnership with the Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation and Library & Archives Northern Territory.

We appreciate the support from the places we've contacted. We've learned that records are scattered, often mixed with larger collections, and many are not yet digitised.

It is a slow, complex but important piece of work which needs to be conducted sensitively and respectfully.

Posters

Batchelor Institute and the Association of Teachers as a Second Language NT have generously supported the creation of two series of posters: Aboriginal Language Champions and Deadly Aboriginal Educators. We have six volunteer editors who provide feedback to the texts.

Posters are in various phases of production and feature educators from Lajamanu, Ramingining, Areyonga,

Batchelor Institute, Milngimbi, Wurrumiyanga, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala, Shepherdson College, Gunbalanya, Darwin, Alice Springs, Papunya, Waruwi, and CDU.

The posters are very time consuming to create and require a significant amount of research, networking and collaboration. However, they are a really important record of the Aboriginal educators who have made a significant contribution to the education efforts of their and the wider NT education community and they deserve the recognition.



Tiwi 'Talking Books'

Catholic Education Northern Territory (CENT), with the support of the Tiwi Land Council, Library & Archives NT, and sectors of the Wurrumiyanga community, received a grant from the Commonwealth Indigenous Languages and Arts Program.

The project identifies fluent readers of the Tiwi language and audio records them reading books from the very successful

bilingual program at Murrupurtiyawanuwu which operated from 1974-2009 and makes interactive ebooks.

Most of these books were digitised as part of CDU's Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages and are available on [Territory Stories](#). Others came from Catholic Education Office and Library & Archives and were digitised as part of this project.

We collaborated with CENT to set up a management process for the ebook creation. The first ebook is now preserved on [Trove](#) through national edeposit and available on Library & Archives NT's digital keeping place [Territory Stories](#).

More 'Talking Books' will be available early in the next year. Once finished, all ebooks will be preserved on Trove, available online on the Education Mob Digital Keeping Place, and Territory Stories. A digital copy will also be provided to various locations in the Tiwi community.

Using an epub reader with multi-media capabilities such as Kotobee or Adobe Digital edition will give the best results.

Our learning from establishing processes to manage the project gives us the capability to work with other languages and we are looking forward to the opportunity to do so in the future.

Willowra School Bilingual Records

Willowra School sent us their precious bilingual records. Our task has been to digitise (for preservation purposes) and return the originals with a digital copy. With the help of former Willowra Teacher and Batchelor Lecturer Sean Ryan we have digitised, catalogued and rehoused 170 books and pulled information and images off floppy discs and CDs.

Next year will see us digitising their precious collection of cassettes which as many of us know, was the principal way

to collect stories for bilingual programmes.

2025

In 2025 we will continue to work on the projects above. We have also begun negotiating a process to manage an important Aboriginal tertiary education collection held at Library & Archives NT.

Celebrating 100 years of schooling at Gunbalanya

We will also be busy collaborating with Gunbalanya Independent Public School to celebrate with their 100th anniversary.

