Kumugut

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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

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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 'official' 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.
Biddy Lindsey telling the story at Woolianna on November 16th 2012

The Blue Tongue Lizard—Kumugut (Source: http://rres.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 train getim;
warrad yuwaya ka yidade
Tyerriny tity kanyji yidade, dat yiminynu
ah, daenen

nam. Tyerriny wayu, dat difrenwan Tyerriny fo woda.
imin kam en askim im
‘wat yu laiin da biya fo?’
‘nikkita tigalma kiwe’
‘apapaya’
‘wagwen ngurrugma yide dae nende’
ngunytshwe, tymiliny imin sei
‘durrrk, ngurrugma yuuyarriny’
‘kina tigalma errdueyung’ naman
ka yida, yuwaya nana
Tyerrinyu, 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...

be 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** we, 'yina nana bina yide'

dei bin powei

pi wuta **insaid**

**Kumugut eiyiny Tyerrinyje**

wutuwa

_nana tity wag ka tyurr katty yiminyu_

_yerra yawag kanggi yidoke_

_elinyirr tyagad pi yida_

_wag cubuk_

_yerra ngurru wutuwa tynang pak_

_nen elimirrimany darrarrayeli wutuwa yerra pik kanggi yida_

_ **tyurrurk** pak_

_yawag aldittiyida cubuk, yswayi yida_

_wilpi_

_ngunytysal nana yunu_

_akan nana Kumugutyinnga hmmm_

_Kumugut, nende wutu wundut, dimna_

_deknana_

' **dek ki nga**, naman yiminyu Kumugutde

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**THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD**

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'
andi ngunytyulna, nana nindini
'warrad purrarrnen nindiyang', naman yiminyu
en deya dey ur, dey im watu nana watu
'dek ngayin'
eyiny, delik nende, turpam yiminy
dek duna yundungde
weni nana
en, nana yununa, 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 16th 2012

The King Brown Snake—Tyimiliny (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

The Goanna fights the King Brown Snake
so the medicine is inside
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

medicin (m), pi insaid
la det hol getim medicin maithi, en gobek ap
tity baibi, ngunna taty
namamna yida nuwa
Tyerrinyu taty tita yida nuwa
endi taty muda wundutu nguntyul
Kumugut yerra, apap yiminynu ngunna yi yuyuwa dahu payandak yuyuwa
diman yanuwa
endi taty, wuta mirriny ngak, baibi
paua maithi
tity tyurrurk, tity baigama yide
namamna yida, tarri ngurrk yiminynu
from det sineik
Yininginy
Wirrngak wirrminy wundut
yerra daenen elimirrimany dat wirrminy
yanga daenen wuta wani nana
werenawuna
Kumugut, Tyerriny

en ngurra nende daenen nguntyuhwun tarraty yiminynu
apapap wirrminy
amin yundungna laif yide, nguntyul
tyud
en, det from biifo, 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 16th 2012

Kumugut roasts mushrooms changing the colour of his tongue

The Blue Tongue Lizard — Kumugut (Source: http://www.totallyreptiles.net.au/blue%20tongue%20lizard.jpg)
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, yinyaerreken
yida

trajim yida
bla im

pin yi eyny puny
pawurrk yunuwa warradma yidake, lurrad, tyed yuyuwa

bebema dud yida
yi pakma yida
namanma yida

kalawun nende wa yiminynu
daeyit

yerra ngatallyu yerra ka yida
en bilo, imin wak from daweim shotwan

yinyaerre nenmunyuna yide
dae wurruma nende tapak yida nuwa
arrarrrma
yida, dek ngenyionga 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
Tyerrinmany naman yiminyye, aka
‘mi warru gana ngak nuenung ka, ngirrka’
‘ngawuna’
yuendung mindyidek ngak
ngakma tyidyal ada, nana purruma yida tyik yide
egeigda yerra tyidyal yida
endi mi yundung
Kumugut
mipanpurrg ngakma yidakade
ngakma yida nana
tyid ka
yerra nen ngunnmany yidake
tyagaty, pi yida wag yerra hubuk
daengunytyul pana dat yiminynuna
wil yuwayi wurrura

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 wundat tyinang pak  
'a yewud wani ai don no nukutta', naman wirminy

happily

ey 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 27th 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 watuwe
BL: dek aka yub muda, dae woni nanag ngaty numbang
RMc: agun dek?
BL: Kumugutyinngawe
RK: Kumugutyinngawe
RMc: kana kiwe
BL: Tyinharrang
RMc: ah yeah
BL: nen nuende
RMc: ahhh
BL: en diian?
BL: daeTyerriny naman yiminynu
FM: daeTyerriny LL
RMc: ya!
BL: Kumugut imin
RMc: aka, bawu?
BL: Kumugut bin ockim sneik, awu?
RMc: akana
FM: det sneik

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 bila go getim woda awu?
FM: yiminynu naman!
BL: ‘wangarri’
BL: ‘wag pin Tyerriny warri na’
RK: ‘wangarri 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: darrdpurrarma yida, wag akan darrdpurrarma yida
BL: dae ngun delingendad yiga yidanu, ngenwinen
BL: yerra yuendung dyangarra wayurr daenen Kumugut
RMc: aha 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
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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 27th 2012

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

Kumugutynnga (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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?' 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: yeah

RK: yeah

BL: he said:
**THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD**

BL: the snake is looking for Kumugut following him, he goes
BL: the snake is looking for Kumugut and asking for him, and calling
BL: 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?

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**NGULUK KUMUGUT**

BL: yerra mahurr dayiminnyu 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 warru wunduta, pak katy
BL: det sneik blutang fis imin go, na?
BL: pi yide darrdbarrama bawu
BL: ‘wag nyurrwarrang ki muenua daenen tyud warrangki‘
RMc: Kumugutdae?
BL: yeah
FM: Kumugutdae
BL: pi dunu Tyerriny wa yide bawu
BL: pani yawug nende
RMc: Tyerrinyu pawuer endi taty wutu wunduta, ngauntiyul nende
BL: ah yeah
RMc: Tyerriny tity pi ngaunmawe, diman tyurrk numbar katy neicin
numbang ngak xx haibi
BL: ma yido, ng? a!
NGULUK KUMUGUT

RK: yeah yeah
FM: medisin, wag ngakma yide Laughter
RK: dae nendena, dimna yunu
FM: nende
RMc: nana, taty yiminy, awu?
BL: ya disaid ma yunuwa, Tyerrinywang datyirrg yiminy

RMc: datyirrg
RMc: ya
BL: ah, nade
BL: 'yerra yibarr errguewwereppen/
BL: 'mahurr bayirr' naman wirrminy
BL: yinerrerken holot
RMc: LL Kumugutdae
RMc: yeah, det was det pat stori
FM: yeah

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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 27th 2012

Kumugut roasts mushrooms

Kumugut Gulbyurr (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)
FM and why do we forget about the place where he cooks tucker (Kumugut Gulbyurr), at Dymalagany?

FM where did he cook?

BL where they went

FM to Dymalagany

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 Dymalagany

FM Dymalagany (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
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

FM: this is Kumugut
BL: he's lying down on the top (after climbing up)
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
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

BL: he’s sitting on top of the rock looking out
RM: 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, 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
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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: 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!
RMc: the snake
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
RMc: the snake
BL: Kumugut sits down (inside the hole)
FM: 'I'm looking for water, I'm going back to that, river'
BL: 'at the river
RMc: the snake man
BL: 'and then I come back'
BL: and when he goes back, he meets that cheeky man
RMc: the snake
BL: and he's meeting (the snake there)

BL: mi ngunna gulbyurr muede walgna angundu ka yida
FM: yanaknga angundu
RMc: angundu ka yida
BL: ai rekon!
RMc: the snake
BL: ya tatyma yidanuwa
FM: na ki eniwa Waliwilin yiminy dae nikkitiwe
BL: endi medicin tityngakma yuwarra
FM: Kumugut yunanwa
BL: 'aim lakin fo woda, aim goinbek tu det, ahem, rivu'
RMc: the snake
FM: 'Waliwali'
BL: 'ai getim woda from degu'
RMc: "en ai kombek"
RMc: the snake
BL: en wen imin gobek, wol imin nitim det tiki men
FM: sineik, tiki men! L.
RMc: sinek
BL: en imin nitim
BL: en 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: 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 October 31st 2012

Kumugutyinnga (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)

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

Biddy Lindsey telling the story at Woolianna (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)
BL  Kumugut aman yiminy
BL  warrad purarrma yida wag bawu
BL  Kumugut=de
RP  hmm
FM  wag tyimiliny naman yiminynu
FM  agu wag pi nungunpi nuenung
BL  awu
BL  tyimilinyung naman yiminy yarrinye yiminynu
RK  ah ya
BL  wag warri, pi dutma nuendung waga
FM  Pundumiri
RK  wag hanggi yida
BL  wag pi warri pin nyunga
RK  naman yiminy
RK  ki tyungu nikkiti wayu
FM  yuuyu ngunpyud
BL  ya tyimiliny yunuwda daetyud
RK  tyimiliny wangirr
RK  pi nuendu wag wayurrawurr xx xx xxx

BL  what's Kumugut doing?
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 (King Brown 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 nminga daenguntyul
BL ya kina dae edini
BL kina eniwa: miri jalk pak
FM nyun watu
BL miri purrarr tyed pak nunuwa
RK yeah
BL en, tity kanggi dunda, yida
RK Kumutde
BL Kumugut
BL tity ka yida ya
BL parrang ngunna taty
BL wat about you?
RP parrang agun na? akana
BL dae, daenguntyul 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
the snake is looking for Kumugut
the snake is
the king brown

the poisonous snake was waiting for him, and he never came back
what?
Kumugut is running away now
'I have been waiting for you'
the water goanna tells him now
'come here', the goanna yells out to the lizard
'come here'
no
right? maybe?

the animal is looking around, he’s coming out, he says
'stay still!'
I’m sitting here in that hole, he says (Tyerriny says to Kumugut)
the goanna is always in the hole
‘come and sit down here with me in my hole, you go!’
he says

the other one is already inside
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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 wayu dim
BL  I yeah
RK 'ngura nana wutuwa, dimyen nana'
BL 'ya, ngurra nana wutuwe'
BL 'dse ngenwi yuyuwa nganna dat ayunu nu go arba wej'

BL 'pi yuenwarrang ki tarr maburrwuna', naman
BL putimin impid na
FM nen tyadyadelli kubuk yida
BL Kumugut
FM pedpedelli
FM 'dek nga kina'
BL tyid tyurrk wat wirriny, arrdell wirriny
BL bikas Tyerriny tyenma waute dim dellurum

BL pundu del yiminy
BL gen bini
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
The Story of the Blue-Tongue Lizard

he (the stray lizard) is calling out from the place he is walking around in
he’s calling round and comes out
another one is being bitten now
now he’s going back (the Kumugut), and a different Kumugut is being bitten
that thing
maybe the goanna didn’t go and he didn’t know that the other animal was over there
another one? what about the other one?
it saw him being bitten
he hit him and he lay down
and that
they’ve been inside there before, in the front
they are now happily in that place
they are inside there
he killed the other one!
the wrong one
the wrong one
'our ting
hmm
deyi
Kumugutyinnga
nenmany niwad yiminyu
yinnga
Matngala nikkiti niwad muda
dek nikkiti, nerrinyke?
Kumugutde
Pirriryende
pirrir
Pirriryende
Pirriryende
Pirriryende, yonh dets de won na
yonh det bu Matngala
Matngala
piyu pirrir
det Matngala tharran
payany gak?

poor thing
hmm
there
at Kumugut’s place
from then on, he called out to him
at that place
what do you call that in Matngala
what place, the paperbark place?
the lizard’s place
at the lizard’s place
the lizard
the lizard’s place
the lizard’s place
yes, that’s the one
yes, that’s for Matngala
Matngala
the lizard
that’s Matngala
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 ngunyarr darrarrma nung
BL wag ngunma
RP hmm
BL payan gakma
BL dyidyi mayima karrag yangaknunng
BL pinya mayima
BL nendawuma
RK hmm
BL karrag yangagnnunng
RP hmm
BL ‘nikkitinynu jalk anyanung darrarrma anyang’
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 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
The Story of the Blue-Tongue Lizard

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 sitting 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
the other goanna is asking from the underneath

not that!

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

they say

the goanna sat here then

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

yes

into the hole

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

the snake kills another one

there are a lot of snakes in this country

king brown

(the snake) beat up (the lizard)

he beats him up and keeps on going

to the water

Kumugut goes and drinks some water (the other one) by himself

what about the hole?
THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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  ngenyirr, ngurraz=we wutuwake
RK  dimy x x akana baiga wutangga
BL  aj-
BL  aj, gunen
RK  yina yawug
FM  x  pade walg, wayurr wag durhma nuwenu walg wurru
BL  en dei hedil sitdan deya en imin kilim traivan
RK  im kilim, imin mitmap nathawan en kilim nathawan
BL  imin lukin fo wode iain insela
RK  piny  ppirir
BL  va en det tjiikwan bin kilim
RP  x
DH  tjiikwan witwan?
RK  king braun
BL  bai accident imin kill nathawan
BL  yoox en det ruitwan imin tjeisim dem imin sitdan in det hol
BL  foreva
DH  Kumugutyinnga
BL  ani dei bin kilim
RK Kumugutyinnga
BL Kumugutyinnga
BL Matngala Pirriryende
RK Pirriryende
BL tu tu smol
BL nek imin ti tsiim
RP hmm
BL imin habum gud idea with det goanna
RP Laughter
BL tyurrk yuwarra wuta, kina pak
Biddy Lindsey, Rita Pirak, and Francis Mijat telling the story at Woolianna on July 9th 2013

Tyerriny fights the King Brown and the stray Kumugut and the other Tyerriny escape onto the other side of the river
The Story of the Blue-Tongue Lizard

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

Nguluk Kumugut

BL: Kumugut medicine wabili yida, awu, nguntysul
BL: nguntysul hin kilim wao peson ini?
BL: yawag Tyerriny kabuk yuwayi yida, Kumugutte
BL: dekenmany yidade
...
BL: wagne yide
FM: wali ngunna xx, yanak kabuk karrk yida
RP: yanak kabuk karrk yida yanak-
BL: det traivan imin go nathaseid
FM: im kabuk kagak yidade, weya im go?
BL: nen waitbeignon Lee namanma yidawe
BL: eyiny naman yiminyu
FM: ngaty nana ka watu pak?
BL: wen dei bin kom, bat det samthing tu du with det medicin bineer
BL: en imin, tr- from Tyerriny im helpim im, tu fixap det Kumugut
BL: en ala det, det Kumugut imin go nathaseid
BL: det, Kumugut, det weya imin kilim from King Brown
BL: Tyerriny go getim medicin
FM: aivit im trai
NGULUK KUMUGUT

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

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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: 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: 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: 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'
Kumugut travels from the place where he roasted mushrooms to the river
The Story of the Blue-Tongue Lizard

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. 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. Kumugut keen wuya wi bin luk tudei?

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

BL: Warri paragud enikenna datna

BL: Daewani nende

BL: Nenmay dattyed yuwa

BL: Yanakna

BL: Parrat dattyed yuwa

BL: Dat yiminy, nga deknana wayu

FM. Wangarri faa, awwa?

BL: Duununen, wag, WaliWali dat yiminy

BL: Yinverrik bawu

RP. Dek wangarren wayu, awwa?

BL: Dat yiminy

BL: Kayi wata, hayiwarru kina wag dat yiminy, derk yiminy

BL. ‘A, harrk yidak akana madyan nga’

BL. ‘Madyan duk na yinerret’

BL. ‘Mulmulma aman enmawa’ naman

BL. ‘A, ha, wagwana enggunggawa’, naman
NGULUK KUMUGUT

BL 'cerrungga' naman
BL yerra, det sein krik dei bin wapi wutake:, ngaty ngunnawuna karrk

BL Tedperrety
RP pimanye, Tedperrety
RP la Ngawurrrun
RP karrakpi?
BL en yerra karrk yidake, yinin Tyullukyinga
BL nenmany teuyyyed yuwwake, Kumugut
BL karrarr yida walgna jahala dat yiminyye, a, ki wayu dekke, endiwen
BL madyan ngerruren nenmanen yinyyerrit yidawe
BL Kumugutte
RP Kumugut Gulbyurrmany
BL warr, warradmayimany yida
BL en im yidanggawa
RP kubakna yida ngunna, awu? L
BL yerra pi yida pakke
BL Tyerrinying kayi yunawa
BL 'dane yengwi nana yuyu!'
BL dek nende warra dewerr, naman
BL akana
BL manya, tyendak yidanuwa, eni kanggi yidenuwa wurrnu wa
BL be
BL 'daenen perrkam yuyunana' naman
BL 'nguntyulle'
BL 'eyin ngunyulnen tyud'
BL yipi wuta pak
BL yerru, wapide tyedtyi, Tyerriny yewug tyagadda wa yida, na yanaka yidanuwa, Kumugutnuwe
BL 'dim nga ki wuyuna tyurrapak enggidiy' naman
BL det im, im gaa tuuts 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 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
The Story of the Blue-Tongue Lizard

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 Kumugutyiingga
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

Kumugut travels from Tyullukyinnga to Kumugutyinnga and meets the snake and Tyerriny
BL. Kumugutyinnga
BL. hnn hnn errdue
RP. ka yida ngunmanye kina tyed
BL. yinin Tyullukyinngamany tyed, degat tyed yuyuwake ngunmanye

RP. kina yurr
BL. deknana yunu, tityanggi yida
RP. yiminy tiyullumurrru yida tyurrk hanggi yidahe:::
BL. kce::; kina
RP. kina nga yurr
BL. wag akana yida
RP. nguntuyununwa
RP. wagennue takotk yidanuwa', naman
BL. ngutuwhang durrhakurr yida akana, ake!
RP. ngunnanggi enunngga'
BL. 'wag piny waka', naman yiminnyu
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 Tyullukyinnga, 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
NGULUK KUMUGUT

RP pi yidake, ngulung, x wag durrk
BL wag durrk yiminy
RP kurruk, namanyu
BL sainlanguj a kurrk yiminy akana daenen pawirrkam naman
RP dae taty yiminy, awat wa titykanen naman
BL nen titywapijununang wa, warr taty yununwa naman
RP kina penggadung, naman
BL kina tyurrk, pak wutuwun, kina wutu wundut
BL yewug aldidiyipi yida elniyirr
RP yanak, kinyamphetamine
BL aldidiy yide
BL wag durrk yiminy, dim yuwayi yurr

BL en im kiwe
BL det dae tyimily tiyd tiyiyal wutu kiwe
BL endi keenen wutu wundutta
BL yanakna, imia tarrudma yide bia medicine
BL go atraid, gobek insaid, ma yide, tyurrk pak
BL tyagad purrarparwarra
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
NGULUK KUMUGUT

RP Tyerriny?
BL from Tyerriny
BL ‘dek warri kina’
RP ‘dek yenggi kina’
BL ‘kina yengginiwa’ lamlam
BL dae nende wagna nyerrk watma yin errgunununggawa naman
BL sinik, biki tyimiliny, lezibaga, im laif
BL nomo sadi go itim woda bringimhek, akana
BL nenmanyde tyikiwan yide
BL ‘det gat no woda det thing’
BL ‘detwei det tyihi’
BL nana
BL delik kiwe, akana yupudde
BL ngaty wudya tyindang yerratma

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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)

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

BL. kina wutu wundutta
BL. yawug tyagad alditity yida
BL. daenenman dat yiminywarruna
BL. tyudman en tyiminy
BL. kubuk baith yiye yawug awu?
RP. Kumugut brosuy na
BL. Kumugut nende, imin go
BL. Tyerriny Kumugut ki elimirrimany wutaka kina wutu

BL. en nende, tranwan
BL. naman yiminynu
BL. 'dek dae nende warrad tatyma wurrunna nunuwa wagnen agun yida
yunuwa' naman yiminynu
BL. 'en naman emmanuwa, nga nidenma nunuwa wag penunga durk'
BL. 'nga tyagad pi enungga' L.
BL. yerra wag darkmanuwe
BL. wag dark yiminy, bikaa, noma len wan det
BL. endi, dae, wagnunen Tyerriny nende
BL. ki melmeimel yidanuwe

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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-
magtyyingga
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
NGULUK KUMUGUT

BL. ngaty kiman kabuk yidake ngunnanggi pawurrk dab yiminy
BL. ngaty shotkat yowayi yida
BL. kiwe wu tu wundutte, endi mutu
BL. imin trai nokimaraun Tyerriny from sneik bat nothing
BL. nen tityku yida njabana
BL. Yinindelik naman mutawe, nikkitenue?
BL. a delik ki wudyuwu, yeah
BL. Kumugutyinnga Yinindelik
BL. ey, dek ki ngunnanggi
BL. Yinindelik
BL. naman wunduwun
BL. Kumugut, Yinindelik, Tyurrrukka
RP. tyimilinye atta idna ngenged yida, kina
BL. dek kina pawurrk ki atta id kina yida
BL. wurrundunyu keenen elinjirr wu tu wundut
BL. tyurrk pahnana wutuwa
BL. Kumugut ki niwad yiminyuwe daenenmany
BL. endi dekke Yinindelik init?
BL. dek nanake

THE STORY OF THE BLUE-TONGUE LIZARD

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 Yinindelik
BL. so cane grass is here
BL. Kumugutyinnga Yinindelik
BL. this place here on the other side
BL. Yinindelik
BL. they call it that
BL. Kumugut, Yinindelik, Tyurrrukka
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 sit down
BL. Kumugut named it himself
BL. and the other place is Yinindelik, right?
BL. this place
BL yawug ngunnanggiden wayu
BL en Kumugutyinnga naman yiminya Kumugut yuenduen mindyidek
RP nen Kumugut Gulbyurmany ka yida
BL wuya im go?
RP x dek ngan ruende?
BL Kumugutmenwang yuenduen dat argunnue ngun wangarre
BL mi kalpma yida ka yida
BL wagenmany yuenduen dark yiminyoa ka yidaka dek kinawana
BL wag dark yiminy
BL kagak tu yump!
BL en imin upi
BL 'mai fut no gud finga im rekon'
BL tu shot na 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 Hoffmann

Kumugut—the Blue-Tongue Lizard

Kumugutyinnga (Source: Dorothea Hoffmann)
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 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 Dymallagany (right) and finally finds water there.

While he travels closer to the river, he also stops at a small waterhole called Tedberretty 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.
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.

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.
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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