

QUOTES

Here is part of the Wakuthuni corroboree given to Lola [Young]'s grandfather:

**Ngurra thaningbinha Warrkuthuni
Birndilirri gayi
Warrkuthunila birndilirri
Warrkuthunila ngurra
Thaningbinha**

Here is an explanation of the song: (it is not a word-for-word translation)

**Home.
Chopping home hill down
Blinking lights
Wakuthuni all the time staying on bright
Like the morning star its brightness
Wakuthuni home being cut down**



Why did the Wakuthuni group choose this place? Doris [Limerick] explains that it was because of the hill, which can be seen from the community, the hill for which the community is named. This is the hill which is being mined for iron ore. Its traditional name is Warrkuthuni or sometimes Walkuthuni (pronounced Waarr-koo-thoo-nee).

Doris explains “Our grandfather on our mother’s side (Listen’s Father) – the spirits came to him in a dream and gave him a vision to what was going to happen to his land. He made it into a song and in the song it says that you can hear the blasting noise and up and down noise and see light staying on, constant lights and blinking lights. And the spirits took him up, lifted him up from his bed so he was looking down and he saw that his land was being torn to pieces. Getting cut up”.

“So that’s why we chose this part,” says Lola. The sisters often climb a nearby hill in the afternoons and watch the hill going down level by level.

“The steps are easy to see. We’re watching that hill slowly disappear. At first it caused a lot of stress”, says Doris, “ but now, since being here, the spirits gave us the will to settle down to enjoy the land – what’s around. That’s the way we feel. We can hear the train going by. It’s part of our life now.



Horace Parker: You come in to some other place in the gorges – **marlungu** and he’s a long man, he might be six foot or six foot six or more. If you go with the motor car or **thalingga** (on horseback) he’ll catch you in about four or five yards. You’ll never get away from him. And he’ll grab you. That’s a **marlungu**.

Another one – **bithirri** – he can point his bone at you, you know

Another one – **ngarmarda** – you can get them out of your stomach, load them up, put the name on it, it's gone. He can go for miles, thousand miles he can kill a man. Long as he got the name. **Ngarmarda** that one.

Right through the ranges **yurlu Karijini bunuru yurlu old fellangali**, old people **jinangu** (dangerous places in Karijini country where the old people walked). Don't walk through there. There's a lotta animal in this country. When I finished all that I went into the station.

In my feeling I like to send all the history so all you fella going to carry it out. How we came up in the country.

Reference:

Final Report to Heritage Council of Western Australia: The Aboriginal Heritage of Karijini National Park.
Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre and Karijini Aboriginal Corporation, 1996.