

# MALAMIA (Long Ago)

(Neil Murray)

*Some years ago, elder Ted Lovett remarked that he would like to hear some songs in Tjapwurrung. I replied so would I. Tjapwurrung is an indigenous language of the western part of Victoria that we both come from. Sadly, due to colonisation it is no longer spoken and information is scarce. Consequently, in this piece, there are some borrowings from neighbouring languages Kirrae-wurrung and Jaa Jaa wurrung and some grammatical guess work. Also- over ten years- a lot of walking in country to arrive with this in hand. Retrieval work into many indigenous languages is ongoing.*

Malamia, martikuli kankanpa pang-in-naniyn mang purrin  
Malamia, Purrin-angatj tjalkikatjini pa pangun tambin kinga  
Malamia, punyart kerkin-angatj pa kurra pungin  
Tjalku purrin-angatj marti-ni tjaa-ni  
Mang muten tjaa

Nyawiyu, yanga-angurra, yanga-angurra purio kutang tjaa  
Nyawiyu, Martikuli ngurrak, kapa-ang winangurra  
Nyawiyu, murrup angatj pang- in-angurri-ni mang tjaa-ni  
Tjalku purrin-angatj marti-ni tjaa-ni  
Mang muten tjaa

Malamia, martikuli kankanpa pang-in-naniyn mang purrin  
Malamia, Tjaangu wukin panginaniyn yapenya yingilinya  
Nyawiyu, murrup angatj pang- in-angurri-ni mang tjaa-ni  
Nyawiyu, wiran ba werbil paika wuka, yawia tjalku pang- in angurri  
Tjalku purrin-angatj marti-ni tjaa-ni  
Mang muten tjaa

## LONG AGO

Long ago, all the ancestors, they lived here  
Long ago, they lived by fresh water and gathered food there  
Long ago, they caught eels and speared kangaroo  
They lived well in this big land,  
this loved land

Today we are going, walking far overland  
Today, we still follow our Ancestors  
Today, their spirits are with us in this land  
They lived well in this big land,  
this loved land

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