

## *Ngalakgan*

**Alternative spellings:** Ngalakan

**Main Communities:** Urapunga, Ngukurr

### **Consonants**

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Stops (short)	b / p	d / t	rd / rt	j / tj	g / k
Stops (long)	pb	td	rtd	tjj	kg
Nasals	m	n	rn	ny	ng
Laterals		l	rl		
Rhotics		rr	r		
Glides	w			y	

also:

Glottal stop      h

### **Vowels**

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid		e	o
Low		a	

### **Note on 'n's and 'g's:**

- ng*    Velar nasal as in *Ngalakgan* or English *sing*.
- nk*    Two sounds- 'n'+ 'k' as in *gunku* 'the' (GU-gender).
- ngg*    Two sounds- 'ng'+ 'g' as in *rlangga* 'billabong' or English sound in *finger*

### **Note on 'short' stops:**

'Short' stops are written differently, depending on whether they are at the start or end of a word or syllable. At the start of a word or syllable, we use **b, d, rd, j** and **g**. At the end of a word or syllable, we use **p, t, rt, tj** and **k**.

### **Previous spellings**

*Ngalakan Grammar, Texts and Vocabulary* by Francesca Merlan uses an old spelling system that isn't used anymore.

### **Ngalakgan Resources**

- Merlan, F. (1983) *Ngalakan Grammar, Texts and Vocabulary*, Pacific Linguistics.
- Teaching and cultural resources - Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation.

### **Linguists who have worked on Ngalakgan**

Francesca Merlan

Brett Baker