

Burra Amurru 'Pelican's Egg' by Robert Daly

(Reid text 3 tape 10 1986)

Robert recounts the story of taking Nick to see Ancestral Pelican's egg at Malfiyin.

- 1 Ngagantyi tye nem kinyi Nick, Meli, Pkinduwung pefi. Ngannigi dirrket tye ngadde, I was taking this bloke Nick, (aka) Meli, towards Pkinduwung. We were going along the bank and
- 2 gagu pigipigi dagum felfil kuderrri nimbi pagu nginnyirrigu. 'Kinyi pefi ngambani pe!' we saw this wild pig race out from the billabong. 'Let's go around this way!'
- 3 ngiminyne. Ngadde tye, nganniny karrbu bawedi, ngadde tye Malfiyin, nganninygu dirr I told you. So we kept going, crossed a little creek, and on to Malfiyin along the bank.
- 4 tye. 'Malfiyin kinne' ngiminyne, 'dede ngayi kinne'. 'Kuru nuwurr ngimbi kuduk'. 'This place is Malfiyin' I explained to you, 'this here is my country'. 'Let's have a quick drink of water'.
- 5 Wanninngirrki minyirr, kuru nginne kukuduk tye wakay. 'Ngambani pe wunu pefi' We were both thirsty, so we gulped water down. 'Let's go that way'
- 6 ngiminyne. 'Gagu amurru nganbi du pe burra. Mudiga ngambani pe ngambi fityat pe I told you. 'I'll show you the egg of Ancestral Pelican. Let's move the car over there first
- 7 wunambirri, mimenem girribem meringgi nide wirrim pe'. Nganninygi madiwap ngadde and leave it in the shade of that Billygoat Plum tree'. So we jumped back in and moved the car
- 8 tye meringgi nide. 'Kinne mudiga wirrim pe, minbe ngatypirr - ngambani pe nganbi du pe'. into the shade. 'Leave the car here, it's not far - so let's go and I'll show it to you'.
- 9 Nganninygi fili wamembirr ngayi ngiminyburr 'Kinne yirri nganmadi'. Ngarrgumbirri We set off and I said to my kids 'You lot stop here'. So us two first, we went on
- 10 ngadde tye fangu ngadde tye. 'Kinne gagu burra girim' ngiminyne. 'Yi?' menyngiti, ahead. 'This place here is the site for Ancestral Pelican' I told him. 'Is that right?' he said,
- 11 nem pagu Nick Meli. 'Gagu kinyi yinyinggin?' ngiminyne. 'fepi wunu yinyinggin? he did Nick, Meli. 'See this egg?' I asked him, 'and see that hill over there?
- 12 Nyin pagu nimbi yedi tye darrwa werre wandirrk ninggi darani titidi pagu tye yedi.

Well she came from there on a raft, poling herself along in this direction.

- 13 Yedi tye wunu, Yambiyng yenin palat pagu' ngiminyne, 'yedi tye kinyi putput yedi tye'
She came down there, past Yambiyng' I explained to him, 'and when she got to here she
- 10 ngiminyne. 'Kuderra wunne tye wiri palak Pikinduwung' ngiminyne, 'epe amurru was heavily pregnant' I told him. 'She'd intended to lay her egg at Pikinduwung' I told him,
- 11 nyinninggi damnge di. Gagu wurmalifirr nyin burra tyepe dede kinyi diniyirri miyubu',
'but that egg was coming too fast. That mother Pelican only just had time to see that this
- 12 ngiminyne. 'Kinne ngani wap, ngi palak pe amurru' meny - wakay.
spot was a good camp' I told him. 'I'll stop here and lay my egg' she said – that's it.