## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN THE STEFANO MANUSCRIPT

## **EDITORIAL PROLOGUE**

## Josko Petkovic

It is only quite recently that the Yinikurtira community of the North West Cape of Australia has begun to regroup itself in Exmouth, after more than one hundred years of cultural dispersion. The group at the centre of this revival is the North West Cape Exmouth Aboriginal Corporation (NWCEAC), which was formed in 2003. One aim of the Corporation is to gather all available information on the Yinikurtira culture, language, history and pre-history. Not surprisingly, they are very interested in the *Stefano* manuscript, which provides a valuable documentation of the Yinikurtira culture as it was in 1875 when the *Stefano* shipwreck took place. My own writing on the *Stefano* shipwreck has been inspired by the NWCEAC group and was written, in part, with their assistance and guidance.

The work that follows looks at a number of Aboriginal wordlists compiled from the North West region following the *Stefano* shipwreck. The aim is to collect all that is known of the Yinikurtira language, in the first instance, and then begin its reconstruction from the available wordlists, including the one found in the *Stefano* manuscript.

This work also marks the next stage of *IM* e-journal's development by inviting contributions on a specific topic to a specific journal issue. Anyone with additional information on the Yinikurtira language, culture or the *Stefano* shipwreck can now make a contribution to this journal issue, as foreshadowed in the original *IM* manifesto and in the Editorial of this *IM* issue. The Editors will then consider if the contribution (writing, photos, moving images) should be added to the refereed section of the journal or if it should be simply added to the *Stefano* archival repository, which is accessible to all readers.

If you would like to contribute to this project please contact me by e-mail at: J.Petkovic@murdoch.edu.au

Alternatively you can send your contribution by slow mail to:

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