



# BUKU-LARRNGGAY MULKA

A Division of Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association Incorporated

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## Mununggurr, Milkaynu

### Other Names

<b>Born</b>	21.11.66	<b>Died</b>
<b>Moiety</b>	Dhuwa	
<b>Homeland</b>	Wandawuy	
<b>Clan</b>	Djapu - Djarranguykuy Marrathangimirr	



### Selected Details of Artist's Working Life

#### Medium and Theme

Yidaki

Performing arts

#### Biography

Milkaynu Mununggurr is a Djapu man from Wandawuy in Northeast Arnhem Land, child of Mutitjpu Mununggurr, one of the painters of the Yirrkala church panels, and Gulumbu Yunupingu, an artist with a growing reputation as "the star lady" because of her impressive paintings of the heavens. Milkay first came to the attention of the worldwide music scene as one of the original members of the band Yothu Yindi, along with his uncle, Mandawuy Yunupingu (hence the name "Yothu Yindi," referring to the relationship between the two men and their clans). Milkay's amazing Yidaki playing wowed audiences around the world and continues to be an inspiration (or sometimes discouragement!) to non-Yolngu didjeridu players attempting to learn Yolngu styles of play. He is staying closer to home these days, but on occasion has travelled to perform and teach Yidaki overseas, and has begun co-teaching the Yidaki Master Class with Djal Gurruwiwi at the annual Garma Festival in Northeast Arnhem Land. Following are excerpts from a recent interview with Milkay at Buku-Larrnggay.

I think I started playing Yidaki when I was about 6 or 7 but my mum always tells me that I was about 5. Maybe she's right, because she's older than me. Yeah. But I didn't actually start playing Yidaki with a dharpa (wooden stick), with a proper Yidaki, I started off playing with a pipe, just a waterpipe, what do you call it - PVC. That's how I started. It was actually, by looking at people, Yidaki players, people like Galarrwuy, my uncle, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, now the chairman of the Northern Land Council, and his other brother, Muluj. I can only name a handful, not many. The ones that I know that were inspiration for me. Then after that I heard Burruburrngu and Djalawu play.

After my dhapi (initiation). Yow, went to Gangan. That's where I got that proper Yidaki. My old man made it for me. And he called that Yidaki Gudurrku (Brolga). It was my first Yidaki, proper one. Playing Yidaki all the time. When I was at Gangan, I was playing everyday. When I was going out hunting, I was playing... just making mouth sounds. "Dhit-dhirrl dhit-dhirrl," following

my old man hunting. Before bedtime, playing. Then ŋorra (lie down to sleep). Next day, before breakfast, Yidaki first. Yuwalk (true).

I just want to say that people should respect Yidaki. Because of where it comes from, where it originated. Don't make it or use it for bad reasons. Respect it. Don't make fun of it. Play for fun, to entertain. Use it, and keep it, and respect it always.

### ***Exhibitions***

### ***Collections***

### ***Bibliography***

'Hard Tongue Didgeridoo' CD. Buku-Larrŋgay Mulka Centre 2005.

### ***Awards***

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