



8 Language Profile

Bardi

About the Community

Many people in the Bardi community have been active with language and culture. Starting in 1990, some Bardi speakers began working with linguists to establish a school and to work on a dictionary. Four Bardi women in particular, Nancy Isaac, Lena Stumpagee, Jessie Sampi, and Bessie Ejai, have done a lot of work with linguists, including most of the work for the Bardi dictionary and grammar. These four women grew up on Sunday Island and spent a lot of time with the older people there, learning about Bardi land and culture. They moved to One Arm Point after the community was founded in 1974. These women, together with the linguist Gedda Aklif, started a school program to teach Bardi children about language and culture. Lena passed away in 2000 and Nancy passed away in 2004; Bessie is still active in teaching at the school.