



Acknowledging Elders - past, present, future

Wayamaa ngiyani winanga-y-la-nha

yana-wayi-y-la-ndaay

yana-y-la-ndaay

yana-mayaa-y-la-ndaay

We acknowledge the Elders

who lived long ago

who are living now

and who are to come

Wayamaa ngiyani winanga-y-la-nha

[Elder we(3+) acknowledge-y class-continuous-now]

yana-wayi-y-la-ndaay

[walk-long time past-y class-continuous-who]

yana-y-la-ndaay

[walk-y class-continuous-who]

yana-mayaa-y-la-ndaay

[walk-little time (future)- y class- continuous-who]

yana-y

There are no simple Gamilaraay words for 'past, present, future'. We can use forms of the verb **yana-y** '(will) walk, go'. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages often translate 'live' with verbs such as 'sit' (**wa-y**) or 'walk' (**yana-y**).

-wayi (-ay-)

Means 'long ago'. Add *w* with a *y*-class class verb.

-mayaa-y

Means 'a while ago' (sometimes used for 'yesterday'), but also has been used for the future.

-galgaa

Corresponds to English plural 's'. It is commonly used on words referring to people, but not a lot on other words. Use either **wayamaa-galgaa** or **wayamaa** for Elders.