This dictionary is one of the major products of an interdisciplinary research project among the Kalam people of Papua New Guinea begun in 1960, under the leadership of Ralph Bulmer. A central objective was to record Kalam knowledge and use of the natural environment. This involved collaboration between native speakers of Kalam, linguists, anthropologists and specialists from various biological disciplines.

The dictionary is designed to be a form of ethnographic description, a kind of encyclopedia of those elements of Kalam culture and society that are codified in the language. Three major varieties of Kalam are represented. Two are regional dialects, Etp mm and Ti mm, as spoken in the Upper Kaironk Valley. The third is Pandanus language, used in the high mountain forest when people are harvesting alŋaw pandanus nuts and in certain other special contexts.

The central part, the Kalam–English dictionary, provides definitions for about 14,000 distinct lexical units, grouped under about 6000 primary headwords. Entries attempt to provide a systematic description of Kalam semantic categories and relations, so that the structure of terminologies, such as terms for kinship and colour, taxonomies of the animal and plant world, or the parts of complex objects, are recoverable from the information given in dictionary entries. The English–Kalam finder list is a detailed index, designed to enable the reader to find entries in the Kalam–English part, where fuller information is provided.

This is a very special kind of animal book. The first author, Ian Saem Majnep, is a Papua New Guinean who was born among the Kalam people of the Upper Kaironk Valley, Schrader Range, Madang Province, some years before the Australian administration first entered the area in the 1950s. He grew up on the edge of the cool high mountain forest, hunting, foraging and gardening and absorbing an immense body of traditional knowledge and belief about animals and the wider natural history of the area.

Some 53 species of wild terrestrial mammals (28 marsupials, 24 rodents and the wild New Guinea singing dog) are present in the Kaironk Valley and contiguous parts of the Schrader Ranges. In more than twenty chapters, Majnep describes these animals, grouping them in terms of their appearance, habitat and behaviour. He shows how Kalam animal lore is woven into the life of his people, and how it is related to their cooking practices, taboos, magic and mythology, dance festivals, and initiation rites as well to gardening and hunting. The original text was written in the Kalam language. Ralph Bulmer then produced an English translation and added extensive commentary. This book is the second by Majnep and Bulmer, the first being their highly acclaimed Birds of My Kalam Country (1977).

Over the past 50 years the Kalam have gone from stone age isolation to participation in the modern world. This shift has come at a price - much of the natural history knowledge that Saem records is in danger of being lost to both to the Kalam people themselves, and to the scientific world.

Hard copies of the books will be available for sale at the event.
A Dictionary of Kalam (810 pages): 100 kina
Animals the Ancestors Hunted (452 pages): 80 kina
You are cordially invited to attend the launch of two books about traditional knowledge and language in a Madang Province community.

**When:** 5 pm to 6.30 pm, Wednesday, 7 November 2012

**Where:** Sir Peter Barter Auditorium, Divine Word University, Madang

**Enquiries:** Stephanie Susame, Events Coordinator, DWU

ph. 422 1844
email: ssusame@dwu.ac.pg

John Kias (b. 1948) and Simon Peter Gi (1946-2009) assisted Bulmer and Pawley's research on Kalam culture and language from 1963 onwards and co-authored a number of publications with them.

Ralph Bulmer (1928-1988) was Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Auckland and Foundation Professor of Anthropology at the University of Papua New Guinea. He did extended field research in the Kaironk Valley and later wrote two books and a number of articles with Ian Sam Majnep on Kalam culture and use of plants, and then among the people of Papua New Guinea between 1963 and his death in 1988. He was a pioneering and influential scholar in ethnobiological research.

Andrew Pawley (b. 1941) is Emeritus Professor in Linguistics, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University. He studies Austronesian and Papuan languages and has worked on the Kalam language since 1963.