

Jawun Research Centre

SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social
and Cultural Well-Being



Seminar 24: Sequential number word formation and language games in the New Ireland

This multidisciplinary seminar series aims to create a forum centered in Jawun. It is for researchers at CQUniversity, across Queensland and all over the world, as a forum to share their research findings and establish potential synergies, leading to joint grant applications, and partnerships that endeavour to advance knowledge in various disciplines.

Location

Room **3.27**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: **253748**

Date and Time

Wednesday 7 December 2022

3:00pm – 5:00pm Qld time

Light refreshments provided

RSVP

JRC Administration via email: jrc@cqu.edu.au
or phone: 07 4923 2672

Further seminars upcoming in 2022 – [watch this space!](#)



Speaker

Christoph Holz, RHD
student CQUniversity
Australia

Abstract

This talk covers two linguistic phenomena found in New Ireland Province of Papua

New Guinea. Number words in several New Ireland languages are morphologically complex. This kind of complexity is not the result of arithmetic operations but has its origin in the sequence of successive Proto Oceanic number words. This newly discovered pattern is called *sequential number word formation*. The second half of the presentation deals with language games in New Ireland. These games are played in many local languages, in Tok Pisin, and in English, primarily by school girls. Schools, often accommodating children from various linguistic backgrounds, harbour a creative environment for the development and spread of language games within the province, and apparently further in Papua New Guinea.