

Jawun Research Centre

# SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social  
and Cultural Well-Being



## Seminar 32 : Linguistic Challenges in Kaurna Language Reclamation

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 **2.26**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus  
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street  
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: **041048**

### Date and Time

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

3:00pm – 5:00pm Qld time

Light refreshments provided

### RSVP

JRC Administration via email: [jrc@cqu.edu.au](mailto:jrc@cqu.edu.au)  
or phone: 07 4923 2672

Further seminars upcoming in 2023 – [watch this space!](#)



### Speaker

Assoc. Prof Rob Amery,  
Linguistics, University  
of Adelaide

### Abstract

Efforts to reclaim and reintroduce Kaurna, the original language of the Adelaide Plains, began in 1989. Kaurna was a 'sleeping' language last spoken on an everyday basis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were no sound recordings, but there were reasonable written records, especially those recorded by German missionaries Clamor Schürmann and Christian Teichelmann. Documentation of 19<sup>th</sup> century Kaurna has provided a firm foundation upon which to rebuild and develop a modern revival language, capable of serving the needs of emerging speakers of Kaurna in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This presentation will explore the many linguistic challenges encountered along the way that manifest themselves in every linguistic subsystem: phonological, lexical, grammatical, semantic and so on.