



Staff from Miromaa, RNLD and VACL at Puliima 2013 (Photo courtesy Katherine Soutar)

Puliima 2013

From the 26th to the 29th of August, RNLD attended this year's Puliima National Indigenous Language and Technology Forum which was a huge success. This was the first year that training workshops were offered for the two days before the conference. RNLD ran two workshops - a Master-Apprentice workshop in collaboration with Fay Stewart-Muir and Mandy Nicholson from VACL, and an Understanding Your Language Sources workshop, in collaboration with Christina Eira from VACL, and Leonard Miller and Estelle Miller from the Far West Languages Centre.

The next two days were spent attending a variety of interesting presentations. Margaret Florey and Donna McLaren presented a paper on 'New Directions in Training to Support Aboriginal Languages' about RNLD's DRIL training program.

This was also the inaugural year of the Australia's Got Language contest. Kutcha Edwards was a great host, and all the performers were fantastic. As usual, the Miromaa team did an impressive job of organising the conference and the RNLD team thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



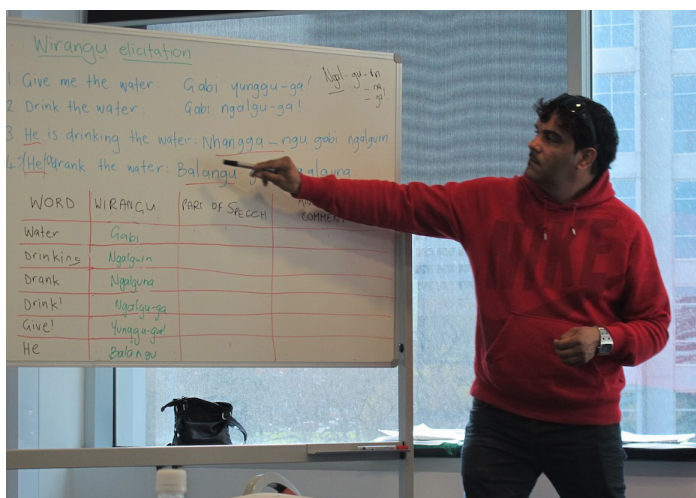
Donna leads the group in a Total Physical Response (TPR) exercise during the Master-Apprentice workshop



Fay Stewart-Muir and Mandy Nicholson demonstrate a tea-making immersion exercise

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Leonard Miller from the Far West Languages Centre in Ceduna, SA leads an elicitation workshop



Arnold George, Anthony Daniels, David Wilfred, Salome Harris and Andy Peters from the Ngukurr Language Centre learn to find language materials in online databases



Ruth Singer and Daryn McKenny thank everyone for coming to the LIP/Puliima crossover event



Kutcha Edwards hosting Australia's Got Language Talent Contest



Margaret Florey during the presentation on the DRIL training program



The fantastic conference group (Photo courtesy Katherine Soutar)

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DRIL training activities

Kempsey, New South Wales

In June, Donna McLaren ran the second Dhanggati language workshop in Kempsey. Uncle Grahame Quinlan talked to us about the workshop.

What skills did you learn?

We learnt to use Audacity. I didn't know what it was about when we started but now I can see it is going to help me. I'm doing a lot of stories at the moment. We taped ourselves and told our stories and hopefully later we will be writing books. This was the first time I've used Audacity and I can see it will help me with the taping and recording of stories to get them clear. And that will help me with my language classes at schools. I teach Dhanggati in the schools to primary and high school kids.

What are your future language plans?

We want to do more stories. Donna is going to get us to write a book. We have an artist here, Stephen Mcleod, and he used to do the drawings for Street Wise comics. We have lined him up to do the pictures for the book. The book is about a myth that was told to us by our Elders. It is about the Yarrahapinni Mountain which was named after a bear (yarri) rolling down the hill with a wild dog running after it. It's going to be a kids book in English, with a bit of Dhanggati.

The workshop has been really helpful because we've been trying to get our language back, and our culture, and this is just the start of it.



Stephen McLeod creating sketches for his storyboard



Caroline Bradshaw, Roxann Jarrett, and Uncle Grahame Quinlan play a language bingo game

Jabiru, Northern Territory

In June, Margaret Florey and Donna McLaren travelled to Jabiru to run the first Gundjeihmi and Kunwinjku workshop with support from linguist Murray Garde.



Linguist Murray Garde demonstrates a TPR exercise



Jack Naminyulk reading a wordless book with his mum
Kaylene Djandjomerr



DRIL co-director Donna McLaren working with Jack Naminyulk
as she introduces a bed-making immersion exercise



Bestianna Nabarlambarl, Melanie Elgregbud, Bessie Ann
Cameron, Malcolm Jnr Nango, and Sonya Nango draw their
aliens during the 'Alien' non-verbal exercise



Julie Djandjul and Roxanne Naborlhborlh
read a wordless book together

Ngukurr, Northern Territory

In July we held our first DRIL workshop at the Ngukurr Language Centre. Twelve speakers and learners of Ritharrngu, Rembarrnga, Marra and Ngandi joined in over the three days, along with coordinator Salome Harris.



David Wilfred leads a sequencing exercise in Ritharrngu



Robin Rogers, David Wilfred, Arnold George, Peter Wilfred and Reberta George during a colours immersion exercise



Arnold George uses puppets to teach Rembarrnga to Anthony Daniels



Reberta George, Ruth George and Martha Albert show their drawings from the 'Alien' exercise



Betty Roberts with her drawing from the 'Alien' non-verbal exercise

Twin Hills Station, Northern Territory

In the Finnis River area of the Northern Territory, members of the Daiyi and Deveraux families began learning Master-Apprentice methods to keep the Mak Mak Marranunggu and Marithiel languages strong.



Margaret Daiyi and Kathy Deveraux during a sequencing exercise



Sisters Kathy Deveraux, Margaret Daiyi and Payi Linda Ford working with wordless books

Borroloola, Northern Territory

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Donna McLaren continued their long drive through the Northern Territory to deliver a workshop at Borroloola. The participants learnt to make and edit digital recordings and practised Master-Apprentice methods to strengthen Yanyuwa, Garrwa and Wambaya.



Marlene Karkadoo (R) interviewing Dinah Norman (L) about her early life



Karin Riederer helps Marjorie Keighran prepare for a non-verbal exercise while Lynette Lewis-Hubbard makes sure she can't hear

August workshops

In August, Donna McLaren ran DRIL workshops in Toomelah, New South Wales, and Woorabinda, Queensland, which focused on linguistics as well as on developing language learning projects and resources. Participants quickly picked up linguistic concepts and were soon constructing their own sentences.

At Toomelah they also learnt to use a personal computer before building on that knowledge to make and edit digital recordings.

At Woorabinda, Donna worked with John Waterton, local community language teacher, on scaffolding language learning and on developing language learning programs. John had the opportunity to practice his community language teaching skills with a Year 6/7 class.



Auntie Colleen McGrady, Sue Swan, and Sharlene Deamer learn to edit their digital recordings



Charmaine McIntosh, Sue Swan, and Beatrice Torrens construct sentences in Gamilaraay



John Waterton teaches Bidjara to primary school children using immersion techniques



Anthony Henry practices constructing simple sentences in Barada

Advisory Panel focus - Clair Hill

Clair Hill is a linguist who holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from the University of Sydney and is currently a PhD candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and the University of Leuven.

How did you first become involved with language work?

I took linguistics at university which was a fluke, a series of coincidences. I tried it out and loved it. Australian linguistics in particular came about because I took some classes with great Aussie linguists like Jane Simpson and Michael Walsh who inspired me. The idea of going out and collaborating with speakers seemed like a fabulous, valuable and interesting exercise to do. Through those people I got opportunities to start doing a little bit of fieldwork in central Australia and following that it was suggested I work in Cape York because those languages were lacking in recent attention.

What work are you currently doing?

My work at all times is a mix of community and academia. On the community side, I have just finished a three year ILS project producing a set of language learner guides based on everyday interactions. The sort of language people might need to know to talk language at the shop, or in school, or going fishing. We produced ten guides as well as a compilation that goes from word structure through to morphology and so on. The project was about creating resources for the community and the next stage is to support people using these resources by having home based lessons and workshops and the like.

On the academic side is the PhD on Umpila and Kuuku Ya'u which I'm trying to complete at the moment. It looks at the way people tell stories, the structure of narrative and how people might formulate references, as well as what function those references might have in the organisation of the story.



Upcoming DRIL workshops

October 15-17 — Banyjima, Yinhawangka, Ngarla, Kariyarra, Nyangumarta, Noongar and Gamilaraay languages Workshop 4, Port Hedland, Western Australia (trainers Donna McLaren and Margaret Florey)

October 29-31 — Kija and Jaru Workshop 1, Halls Creek, Western Australia (trainers Margaret Florey and Roy Tommy)

November 4-6 — Miriwoong Workshop 5, Kununurra, Western Australia (trainers Donna McLaren and Margaret Florey)

November 18-20 — Gundjeihmi, Kunwinjku and Wägilak/Ritharrngu languages Workshop 2, Jabiru, Northern Territory (trainers Donna McLaren and Margaret Florey)

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