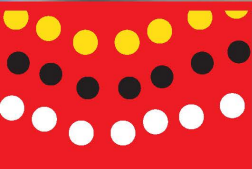


# Program

# 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages Symposium

Friday 31 May 2019



9:00am

# WELCOME

## **Welcome to Country, Housekeeping & Overview of the Day**

Dr Curtis Roman - Senior Director, Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) & Larrakia representative

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9:10am

Session 1

## **Moving Towards AIS becoming AITS, The Aboriginal Interpreter and Translation Service**

Presenter: Steve Swartz – Trainer, Aboriginal Interpreter Service

Since its inception at the turn of the 21st century, AIS has been solely an oral interpreting service between English and over twenty distinct Aboriginal languages. There are historical, philosophical and practical reasons why this has always been its policy and practice.

In this presentation, I argue that it is time that AIS change its 'leopard spots' and add translation services. The symbolic, philosophical, social and practical reasons within the Aboriginal language groups as well as the wider Australian community will be discussed, along with challenges to be overcome as well as a possible implementation strategy.

9:30am

Session 2

## **Working with Interpreters Training Session**

Presenter: Nadyezhda Pozzana – Trainer, Aboriginal Interpreter Service

Nadyezhda Pozzana will be conducting a mini Working with Interpreters Training (WWIT) Session covering: Communication context, Benchmark for communication, Major Aboriginal languages in the NT, Interpreter training and support, Facilitating accurate interpreting, What work the AIS conducts, AIS's achievements, Snapshot of the AIS, How to contact AIS.

10:00am

Session 3

## **Exploring communication challenges in Indigenous health care**

Presenters: Galathi Dhurrkay, Dr Elaine Lawurpa Maypilama & Dr Anne Lowell

Achieving effective communication in health care is particularly challenging when staff and patients do not share the same language and cultural background. The majority of Aboriginal patients accessing many health services in the Northern Territory do not speak English as their primary language, uptake of interpreter services is extremely low and health staff turnover is high. Ineffective communication is pervasive and seriously compromises the safety and quality of health care as well as equity of access to health services. Consequences include: discharge against medical advice; death; absence of informed consent; confusion and frustration; unnecessarily prolonged admission and distrust of healthcare providers. We will share the findings of research exploring communication in health care in the NT as well as the experiences of Yolŋu presenters in working towards improving communication between health staff and Aboriginal patients and their families. Co-ordinated interventions across systems of governance, patient information, interpreter employment and engagement as well as strategies to increase intercultural health communication competence are needed. Urgent action is essential to achieve equity, safety and quality in health care for Aboriginal people who do not speak English as their primary language.

10:30am Session 4

### **Resource allocation for Bilingual Education: From Cyclone to Drought!**

Presenters: Dr Janine Oldfield and Dr Michele Willsher

Access for children to learn in a language they understand is one of the key human rights (UNESCO 1953). The announcement of official Bilingual Education programs by the Commonwealth Government in 1972 laid a road map for the Territory to fulfil its commitment to Aboriginal children. However, the climate has been consistently undermined by a lack of appropriate resource allocation. This short presentation outlines the cognitive as well as well-being advantages of bilingual education. It also tracks the resources required for successful bilingual education in the Territory context and poses the question – *“Are we kidding ourselves - is bilingual education really possible in the NT given the current state of allocated resources?”*

11:00am **MORNING TEA**

11:30am Session 5

### **Talking, singing and writing about it together**

Presenters: Dr. Waymamba Gaykamaŋu and Yasunori Hayashi

My father Djäwa was a peace maker for all Yolŋu in the Gattjirrik region and stopped conflicts between Yolŋu groups through the peace-making practice called makarraṯa. Not only committed to help his own people live with harmony, did he support Beaulah Lowe, a missionary linguist and other missionaries to understand his language; Gupapuyŋu Dhuwala'mirri and also translate chapters of the Bible and hymns in the language. This happened during the 50's and 60's. More than half a century later, we are still embraced by their profound language work - the standardised orthography of Yolŋu languages across east Arnhemland.

Beginning with my personal account of my father, I would like to celebrate the languages of our lands and also the Yolŋu Studies program holding up vigorously twenty-five years after its birth at Charles Darwin University (CDU). And my nephew through Yolŋu kinship adoption, Yasunori Hayashi will share a vision of CDU InSPIRElab pursuing ways in which Yolŋu make and practise their knowledge collectively inside/outside of tertiary education.

12:00pm Session 6

### **Digital technologies for supporting Indigenous language work**

Presenter: Cathy Bow

Digital technologies are often employed in the service of transmitting, maintaining, preserving, revitalising and sharing Indigenous language materials and practices. This presentation will share three projects based at CDU which are using a range of digital tools to support Indigenous language work.

The **Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages** <http://laal.cdu.edu.au> began as a repository of materials created during the bilingual education era in the Northern Territory. It now contains over 5000 digitised items in 50 languages for preservation and sharing, with permission from the owners and copyright holders, on an open access website.

The **Digital Language Shell** <https://language-shell.cdu.edu.au/> was developed as an online template to collect and curate language materials under Indigenous authority. Using free and open source tools, this shell can be configured in various ways to support various kinds of language work at low cost and without requiring high level technical skills.

(contd...)

The **Bininj Kunwok online language course** <https://www.cdu.edu.au/bininj-kunwok> was developed in collaboration with the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language Centre. Beginning with a small pilot course built on Digital Language Shell, it has since been expanded to a fully accredited semester unit on Kunwinjku language and culture. It was offered for the first time this semester, with participation of students from CDU and ANU, and people working on country in West Arnhem Land.

Each of these projects supports the promotion and development of Indigenous language work, assembling a range of resources in various ways for different purposes, creating opportunities for collaborative language work.

12:30pm

## LUNCH

1:15pm

Session 7 & 8

### **Reverse Role play / Mock Courtroom Session by AIS**

This reverse role play will provide the audience with an insight into what it is like to be an Aboriginal person who speaks English a third, fourth or even fifth language in a court room situation. It is intended that people will develop more awareness of this situation and how easily confusion can arise in such situations.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service has been providing interpreting services for over twenty years in the Northern Territory. It makes every effort to provide interpreting services for all Aboriginal languages including creoles in the NT and in areas in South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia that are close to the NT border. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service is a unique service provider in the NT as the provision of Aboriginal languages is its focus. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service is the only government provider of interpreting services in Australia. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service has offices in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Wadeye, Nhulunbuy and the Tiwi Islands.

2:30pm

Session 9

### **The importance of linguistic analysis for language workers**

Presenters: Dr Nicoletta Romeo and Paola Fischer

In the International Year of Indigenous Languages, we come together to raise awareness of the necessity to maintain and revitalise Indigenous languages as tools for their speakers to express their knowledge systems and promote their local cultures and values.

In our presentation, we outline the structure of the CDU courses taught and coordinated by Batchelor Institute staff, which aim at introducing Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to the discipline of linguistics. They are designed to equip students with the necessary tools to allow them to work in the context of Australian Indigenous languages.

We address the importance of the acquisition of practical language analysis skills, especially useful for language workers, language teachers, and interpreters. We do so by providing a few examples of language analysis from the field of general linguistics and sociolinguistics.

3:00pm

## AFTERNOON TEA

3:30pm

Session 10

### **Language revival: on the run**

Presenter: Maree Klesch

It doesn't matter where we live, we all have busy and complex lives. This short presentation looks at case studies of how full-time and part-time employees of art centres and Ranger programs engage in language revival that strengthens their work practices, makes a significant contribution to successfully increasing engagement in tourism and demonstrates the simplicity of moving both-ways philosophy to meaningful practices in creating common ground. The case studies will include languages where there are no remaining full speakers and languages that have a few remaining full speakers.

4:00pm

Session 11

### **ARDS Aboriginal Corporation**

Presenters: Joy Bulkanhawuy, Hannah Harper, Gawura Wanambi, Yirriṅinba Dhurrkay

ARDS Aboriginal Corporation has a strong history of resource and development work in the Top End of Australia, especially in northeast Arnhem Land. Over 40 years, Yolŋu elders and many employees have articulated expectations and methods which continue to inform current work, and developed that work through ongoing relationships in northeast Arnhem Land. This presentation explores approaches in translation, community engagement, communication resource production and consulting that have characterised ARDS' work on the ground in Aboriginal communities, and on air via Yolŋu Radio. We draw on language and culture expertise to inform community development work, and we rely on our experience of community engagement to frame and contextualise translation and communication production. Using examples and case studies, we describe the real strengths and ongoing challenges in resource and development projects. A key challenge for further developing this work is obtaining real and representative feedback from users and audiences about how and when ARDS work is used, what works, and what needs are unmet. So this presentation promotes understanding and communication between neighbouring organisations.

4:30pm

## **SUMMARY OF SYMPOSIUM**



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# BIOS OF SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

**Dr Curtis Roman** a Larrakia man born and raised on Larrakia country. He is currently the Senior Director at the Aboriginal Interpreter Service. He is previously a senior lecturer and Head of School at CDU. He is the first Indigenous man to be awarded a PhD from CDU. He has taught at university level in Indigenous Studies, education, anthropology and human resource management. He continues to supervise PhD students conducting research on Indigenous topics.

**Steve Swartz** works as a Trainer with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service. Coming to Australia in 1977 with his wife Bev and infant son, Steve worked for 25 years for the Summer Institute of Linguistics as translator in the Warlpiri language. Resulting from the collaborative efforts with over two dozen Warlpiri co-translators, the Warlpiri Bible was published in 2001, consisting of a full New Testament and 12% of the Old Testament. As well as a dozen technical linguistics paper, Steve also served as a Branch and International Translation Consultant with SIL and had the privilege of quality-checking Bible translation in upward of twenty Aboriginal languages as well as in Torres Strait Islands Creole, Hawaii Pidgin and 'Are'are from the Solomon Islands. With AIS, Steve specialises in producing (rescripting) simplified, plain-English rewrites of various government and other documents so that they can be readily recorded by AIS interpreters.

**Nadyezhda Dilipuma Pozzana** is a Djambarrpuyngu Yolngu woman from Galiwin'ku Community in North East Arnhem Land. She became an Interpreter five years ago, because she wants Aboriginal People to access services in their own languages. Currently she is a level 4 NAATI accredited Yolngu Matha Interpreter and Trainer at Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) in Darwin. She loves her job because it empowers her. She has the ability to build a communication bridge, so both the professional and client can obtain the outcome they are both looking for. She hopes the service will continue and professionals will continue to use AIS into the future.

**Galathi Dhurrkay** is a highly experienced Yolngu interpreter. She is originally from Galiwin'ku but has lived for many years in Darwin working with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and other organisations. Galathi has worked as an interpreter across a wide range of health, legal and other services. She has also worked as a researcher with Menzies School of Health Research and CDU, and has provided expert support to many other projects such as development of health resources and cultural education for health staff. Galathi has a particular interest, as well as extensive experience, in intercultural communication between health staff and Aboriginal patients and their families.

**Dr Elaine Lawurrpa Maypilama** is a Principal Research Fellow with the Northern Institute. Dr. Maypilama is a senior Yolngu educator and researcher with a wide range of research experience related to nutrition, child and maternal health, hearing loss, sign language, chronic disease, intercultural communication, child development and program evaluation. Lawurrpa is widely respected for her high level of expertise in developing and conducting culturally responsive and high quality research. Her advice and participation is frequently sought, not only by researchers and others working with Yolngu, but from across Australia. Dr. Maypilama was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from CDU in 2013 and also has an Associate Diploma in Teaching from Bachelor Institute. Lawurrpa's early career was as a teacher at Shepherdson College at Galiwin'ku and she has worked extensively in research with Charles Darwin University as well as Menzies School of Health for over twenty years.

**Dr Anne Lowell** is a Principal Research Fellow in the Northern Institute, College of Indigenous Futures, Arts and Society, specialising in collaborative qualitative research and community education with remote Aboriginal communities. Anne's primary areas of interest include intercultural communication, particularly related to Indigenous health and early childhood, as well as culturally responsive policy and practice, in both research and provision of health services. Improving recognition of the critical importance of Indigenous cultural and linguistic expertise in research and service delivery is an ongoing priority.

**Dr Janine Oldfield** is an early career researcher whose work has focused on English literacy education for Indigenous students in addition to bilingual education and language education policy in Indigenous contexts. She is also involved in pedagogical theory in relation to Indigenous students. She has worked in higher education since 1995 as an ESL, academic English instructor/lecturer and higher education lecturer and has a PhD in education/socio- and applied linguistics. She was a development consultant and project manager in Cambodia for Care and in Batchelor for remote workplace English. She has worked for Batchelor since 2001 in Central Australia and more recently in the top end.

**Dr Michele Willsher** commenced working in 1982 in a bilingual school in the Tanami. In 1986 she furthered her interest in language teaching by working in north-west China. Michele returned to Australia and continued her work in teacher education in the NT. From 2001 to 2008 Michele worked overseas again, this time mainly in Laos, on large-scale teacher education projects. Michele then undertook ethnographic fieldwork in village schools in Laos, culminating in a PhD from RMIT University for her study of beginning teachers. Since 2014, she has taught Indigenous students enrolled in undergraduate programs at CDU. Dr Willsher has undertaken research projects both locally and internationally in the areas of language and literacy education.

**Dr Waymamba Gaykamaŋu** is a senior Gupapuyŋu woman from Milingimbi in east Arnhemland. In 1994 she was chosen by a group of Yolŋu advisers at CDU to become the inaugural lecturer in Yolŋu Studies program. The teaching program began with students learning Dhuwala'mirri Gupapuyŋu, Waymamba's language. She has taught many hundreds of students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Waymamba continues consulting work as a Yolŋu bilingual and bicultural consultant to CDU on the Yolŋu Studies program, governance and leadership programs and Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages.

**Yasunori Hayashi** is a Japanese man and first came to Milingimbi in 2004 and met with Waymamba's family. After completing Masters by Research at CDU on Gupapuyŋu knowledge practice, he worked as a community educator in east Arnhemland and Darwin region. In 2014 he was assigned to a coordinator of Yolŋu Studies program at CDU. His collaborative research with Yolŋu knowledge authorities involves Yolŋu governance and decision-making process, which he believes embedded in Yolŋu epistemic practice, particularly the use of Yolŋu languages.

**Cathy Bow** is a linguist with research experience in both descriptive and applied linguistics. She currently works as project manager for the Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages, and coordinator of an online course teaching the Bininj Kunwok language of West Arnhem Land. She is completing her PhD through both CDU and ANU, exploring the use of digital technologies to support Aboriginal language work.

**Dr Nicoletta Romeo** lectures in the Bachelor of Indigenous Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute. She has wide ranging interests in languages and linguistics, including linguistic studies in Australian Indigenous languages, English, Italian and Burmese. After completing her undergraduate studies in English Linguistics at the University of Florence (Italy), she worked as a lexicographer at the same university and compiled a bilingual English-Italian dictionary. She holds a post-graduate degree in Interpreting and Translation, and she worked for many years as a simultaneous interpreter and translator. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from Sydney University. Her dissertation focuses on the temporal system of Burmese, and other aspects of the interaction between meaning and structure.

**Paola Fischer** is a lecturer for the Bachelor of Indigenous Languages and Linguistics at Batchelor Institute. She was awarded a Masters Degree in Romance Languages and Cultural Anthropology in Germany in 2007. Since moving to Australia, her attention has been focused on Indigenous languages and culture. As an anthropologist and linguist, she has been working with custodians and language workers pursuing her passion for cultural and language maintenance. As a lecturer in linguistics, she trains Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to acquire the right tools to maintain and revitalise their languages whilst achieving a formal qualification in linguistics that will allow them to engage with the work of others in this field and take part in current debates in linguistics.

**Maree Klesch** has worked in Aboriginal education for 40+ years with much of this time being spent working with people from rural and remote communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Her experiences include, primary teaching, higher education in both-ways Aboriginal remote teacher education, bilingual education, ESL, information technology in education and publishing Aboriginal languages teaching and learning resources. Maree is currently the Director of the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics and the Publisher for Batchelor Press.

**Joy Bulkanhawuy** is a senior Djambarrpuyŋu person and a highly skilled cross-cultural facilitator and educator. Bulkanhawuy has worked with ARDS for many years to support two-way learning and cross-cultural communication, particularly in the area of health. Bulkanhawuy also follows her passion to pass on traditional knowledge to younger generations face-to-face and on radio.

**Hannah Harper** has lived and worked in the Northern Territory for 10 years with her young family, including 5 years in Arnhem Land. Hannah studied a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Linguistics (honours) and she enjoys working closely with Yolŋu experts on a wide range of ARDS projects including language documentation, film, translation and radio.

**Gawura Wanambi** is a Marranŋu leader from Raymanŋirr, near Gapuwiyak. Since his education at Dhupuma College and Batchelor Institute, Gawura has worked in many roles including community and homelands services. Since moving to Darwin, Gawura has worked for the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and ARDS. He is a member of the ARDS Board and has served in several governance roles throughout his career. In his ARDS project work, Gawura is passionate about genuine communication, cooperation and excellence in learning together.

**Yirriŋinba Dhurrkay** is a very experienced language worker, specialising in her own Dhanu languages but also bringing her extensive knowledge into work alongside other Yolŋu workers and clan languages. During her years in ARDS, Yirriŋinba has worked on a range of projects including the Legal Dictionary (Djambarrpuyŋu), translation and radio.

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