Launching Certificates II & III in 2016!

In April and May RNLD launched our Certificate III in Aboriginal Languages for Communities and Workplaces. The first of three 5-day blocks was delivered in South Hedland and Kununurra, Western Australia. Across the two sites, 21 students enrolled in the nationally accredited certificate course, representing a total of nine Indigenous languages. Participants worked hard to complete three units, and started a further three units which will be completed in Blocks 2 and 3 of the course.

Summary of pilot year

Delivery sites:

**Wangka Maya**
Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, South Hedland WA:

11 participants
7 languages
- Banyjima,
Guruma, Kariyarra,
Ngarla, Ngarluma,
Nyangumarta,
Yinhawangka

**Mirima Dawang**
Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre, Kununurra WA:

10 participants
2 languages
- Kwini, Miriwoong

Units covered in Block 1:

- Operate a personal computer
- Develop basic understanding of linguistics
- Develop an understanding of Aboriginal languages
- Identify language needs in the community or workplace
- Raise awareness about Aboriginal languages
- Conduct basic oral communication in a language other than English (Indigenous languages)

Block 2: will be held in July and August
Block 3: will be held in October
April and May were exciting months for RNLD and the DRIL training team with the launch of our Certificate III in Aboriginal Languages for Communities and Workplaces. Wangka Maya and Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring have been part of the DRIL program since our pilot workshops began in 2010, so it feels very appropriate that these are the places where people will attain the first certificates. Participants travelled to South Hedland and Kununurra from across WA to take part, including from Fremantle, Tom Price, Karratha, and Kalumburu. It has been very moving to see the pride and enthusiasm that the participants feel in working towards this nationally accredited qualification. Their energy and excitement was contagious, and kept us all going through the long training days. We’re looking forward to returning to both sites in July and August for the second block of the Certificate.

As I write this note, we are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of the participants for our fifth Professional Development workshop. Nine of the people who joined us for PD4 in November will be returning for this workshop to dive into more intensive study of linguistics. It’ll be great to welcome old friends back again!

Greetings from our Director

Margaret Florey
Director, DRIL Training Program
On the 4 - 6th April, DRIL trainers Margaret Florey, Jessica Solla and Ebony Joachim delivered the RNLD’s Certificate III in Aboriginal languages for communities and workplaces at Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre in South Hedland WA.

The cohort was a great mix of both local language workers and people from further afield, with seven different languages being represented, including Kariyarra, Banyjima, Guruma, Ngarla, Ngarluma, Nyangumarta and Yinhawangka. The week marked the start of an exciting new venture for the RNLD training program, and the dedication and positive feedback from participants helped it kick it off with a real bang!
On 2-6 May 2016 DRIL trainers Margaret Florey, Jessica Solla and Ebony Joachim delivered the RNLD’s Certificate at Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring in Kununurra WA. Amongst the cohort of Cert III participants were nine language workers from the language centre, and one language teacher from Kalumburu in WA, representing the Miriwoong and Kwini languages respectively.
Throughout the week, the cohort worked incredibly hard to cover the six units that make up Block 1. Participants showed great commitment in grappling with new ideas and an enthusiasm for applying their knowledge to better understand their language environment. All in all it was another great Block 1 of the Certificate III course!
In May DRIL trainers Jessica Solla and Amy Parncutt were at the Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga language centre in Broome, WA.

On the first day of the 2-day workshop, the team covered a range of linguistic concepts that help in making sentences in Yawuru. The team started with the difference between prefixes and suffixes as well as verbs and nouns, before moving on to learn about transitive and intransitive sentences.

In the afternoon, the group wrote a story in Yawuru, identifying each of the prefixes and suffixes as they went along.
On the second day, the team got stuck into recording skills, learning about the different functions of their Zoom audio recorder, before heading into a quiet room to record their story from the day before. The team then learnt about how to import the recording to their computer and edit it using Audacity. At lunchtime on the final day, the language members of the community were invited to come in and learn about the work that the Yawuru language team are doing.
On March the 18th DRIL trainer Jessica Solla visited Murray Bridge North School to hold meetings and run workshops with teachers and administrators of the Ngarrindjeri language program.

Kelli Owen, who attended the DRIL Professional Development workshop in November 2015, is the coordinator of the language program in the school. Kelli and Jess were able to sit down with the principal to plan out strategies to support the Ngarrindjeri program.

Classroom teachers also had the chance to discuss with Jess the ways in which the Ngarrindjeri program can continue to grow and improve.

In the afternoon, Kelli and Jess did further training to develop the computer skills necessary to create dynamic and versatile Ngarrindjeri language smart-board resources for term 2.
From the 17th to the 18th of March, Emma Murphy ran a DRIL workshop at Groote Eylandt Linguistics, Northern Territory. On the first day, the group started with phonetics, learning about how the sounds of Anindilyakwa are made and written down before moving on to looking at morphology and how different words are put together. On the second day of the workshop, the group discussed the difference between verbs, nouns and adjectives. Applying this knowledge, they then worked to translate example sentences from the dictionary, identifying the suffixes and parts of speech.
DRIL trainer Amy Parncutt held a two-day workshop in Gladstone with Professional Development participant Tricia Coleman (Byellee). The pair spent the first day exploring language families and possible relatives of the very under-described language of Byellee. They also looked at different methods of finding information and resources on the language. They spent the second day using the grammar of Dharumbal, a neighbouring and possibly related language to Byellee, to learn some complex linguistic concepts. Tricia learnt about morphemes, transitivity, and the rules of the Dharumbal sound system. She created complex sentences using location, subject and object suffixes on Dharumbal nouns. She also mastered the very complex pronoun system of Dharumbal. Tricia will come to Melbourne next week to take part in Stage II of our Professional Development Program.

On the 29th April Amy Parncutt held a one-day workshop in Brisbane with Professional Development participants Aaron James (Pitta Pitta) and Sandra Delaney (Jandai). The pair looked at the sounds and writing systems of their languages, with Aaron developing a writing system for Pitta Pitta that is suitable for typing. They also looked at the different suffixes that go on nouns and verbs in their languages, and revised the difference between intransitive and transitive verbs. They finished the day by forming some complex sentences in their languages. Aaron and Sandra will join us in Melbourne next week for Stage II of our Professional Development Workshop.
We are very excited for DRIL trainers Ebony and Amy to be heading to the WA and NT Aboriginal Languages Conference 2016. The conference will be held in Kalgoorlie from the 16th -18th June. The 6th biennial conference is presented by the Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Project under the Ngalia Foundation and is for people involved in the preservation and use of the first languages of Australia. The conference aims to unite people involved in the recording, preservation and use of Aboriginal languages in WA and the NT, to encourage the sharing of information and skills.

At the WANALA conference our trainer Ebony Joachim will be presenting on behalf of RNLD. She will be talking about how RNLD can offer support with skill building of language workers and community members around the nation who are working on reviving and sustaining their languages.
Margaret and Jess are heading off to the The Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang) Conference in Alaska! The conference sees community language activists and linguists come together to receive training in community-based language documentation and revitalisation. The Institute has previously been convened in California, Oregon, Kansas, and Texas, and attracts a diverse range of participants from across the globe. Instructors include some of the world’s leading experts in language documentation. The Institute is divided into two parts: two weeks of intensive workshops followed by a three-week Practicum in field linguistics in which students work hands-on with speakers of an endangered language.

Her fourth time at the Institute, Margaret will be teaching two workshops on grant writing and project planning. Jess will have the opportunity to partake in several of the workshops throughout the conference.

Everyone in the RNLD office is very busy preparing for the upcoming PD workshop which will run from the 30th May - 4th June at our Melbourne site. Our Creative Communications officer Ali is designing brand new certificates to give to our participants upon completion of the workshop. Looking forward to a big week ahead next week!
Every 3 months, we want to provide a brief description of one of our units of teaching. The aim is to unpack the units, giving you a greater insight and understanding of what we are teaching and aiming to achieve. This edition’s unit is **Develop an Understanding of Aboriginal Languages**.

The goal of this unit is to give participants a better understanding about the many different Indigenous languages of Australia. Here is the unit in action!

This unit helps participants begin to research Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages. Participants compare features of languages to learn how to identify differences and similarities between them. This unit also assists participants in understanding the relationships between languages. Participants investigate the concept of language families and how languages are grouped and classified. Participants learn about different types of language, including dialects, newer languages like creoles, and sign languages.
Upcoming Workshops

Over the next 3 months you will find us in:

June 20 - 21 — **Flexible DRIL**: Wiluna, WA
July 25 - 29 — **Certificate III Block 2**: Mirima Dawang
Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre, Kununurra, WA
August 8 - 12 — **Certificate III Block 2**: Wangka Maya Pilbara
Aboriginal Language Centre, South Hedland, WA
August 19 — **Flexible DRIL**: Murray Bridge
North School, Murray Bridge, SA

Welcome New Staff

Amy Parncutt is a DRIL trainer, and also provides managerial support to our Accounts Manager and the DRIL Director.

Amy completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Linguistics from The University of QLD in July 2015, and is also completing a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Previously, Amy worked at The University of QLD as a Linguistics Tutor and as a Research Assistant on Australian Indigenous language projects.

Amy Parncutt
Trainer

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RNLD would personally like to thank you for your continued support

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