Building a skills base for Aboriginal Languages in Victoria

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Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

Language landscapes in Victoria
Language landscapes in Victoria

• revival languages
• archives, Elders

Language landscapes in Victoria

• community-driven education, research, development, resources
Our Objectives

- Acting as the peak body for Victorian Aboriginal Languages to develop partnerships with, and provide resources and information to, government and non-government and community organisations.

- Promoting VACL and the use of Aboriginal languages in a range of domains and media, so as to advance their retrieval, revival and maintenance.

- Assisting Aboriginal communities to coordinate resources and Employment and training through local language programs and committees.

- Providing and maintaining a centre for resources for, and documentation of languages for the benefit of Victorian Aboriginal people.

Our Philosophy

- Aboriginal People are the owners of their own cultural material & knowledge.

Our Response

- To provide Aboriginal People with the skills, knowledge & confidence to be able to share their culture through language.
Increasingly, Indigenous people are emerging from within communities and are researching and teaching their languages and acting as a ‘connector’ between the linguist and the community. These people have a very important role to play on behalf of their communities. While communities consider non-Indigenous consultants to be important supporters and collaborators in language work, there is nothing more important and powerful than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working on their own languages.”

FATSIL "Guide to Community Protocols for Indigenous Language Projects 2004"
Languages in Education

• Government & Non-Government Partnerships
• Curriculum & Resource Development
• Professional Development
• Pilot Schools

Community - Types of training

• Staff
  – One-to-one
  – Lee Healy is nearing completion of her 3-year reconstruction of her language words
  – "For me, to learn linguistics is to understand language"
Community - Types of training

• Staff
  – Language Workers' workshops

Community - Types of training

• Community Language workshops
## Types of training – SUMMER SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1 SATURDAY SOURCES</th>
<th>DAY 2 SUNDAY LEVEL WORDS</th>
<th>DAY 3 MONDAY LEVELS LANGUAGE PATTERNS</th>
<th>DAY 4 TUESDAY LEVEL PARTS OF WORDS</th>
<th>DAY 5 WEDNESDAY LANGUAGE PLANNING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics pathways to language and culture reclamation</td>
<td>Culture in language</td>
<td>Your language is... More than Words! Finding and using language patterns</td>
<td>Making sense Language way – word endings</td>
<td>Puutawaw Wewyn 1 Language Planning Model presentation &amp; activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources Where can you find your language knowledge?</td>
<td>Words and the meaning systems of the language</td>
<td>Translation Language Way: Language patterns – meaning-based translation</td>
<td>Linguistics pathways to cultural reclamation: old ways to new words</td>
<td>Language change &amp; development Puutawaw Wewyn 2 Goal setting Project displays (extend through levels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with historical and linguists’ sources – Spelling and sounds</td>
<td>Translation Choosing words Language way</td>
<td>Project Language patterns</td>
<td>Project parts of words OR new words in old ways Finalising for this stage</td>
<td>Workbook and finish up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student Linguists

- LaTrobe University
- Melbourne University
- Monash University

- Community Language situations & contexts
- Protocols
- Intellectual Property
- Language Planning
Language Planning

- Language Planning is paramount to success
- Applicable Model to any language group
- Protocols considered
- Workshop delivery

Summary

- Success through Sustainability
- Recognising our strengths & weaknesses
- Knowledge Base
- Image Shift
- Viable Career Opportunities