



# Building a skills base for Aboriginal Languages in Victoria

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Languages



## Language landscapes in Victoria



## Language landscapes in Victoria

- revival languages
- archives, Elders



A Coroboree song of the Wuddi-uddi tribe is under:

Bunnima nellaiama, Bugaru bai-wan  
Murrer nguna quddagada billin  
Ngadye nguna ngunda millingama

Sonoboree of Wuddi-uddi

Bun-mi-ma... Nel li - a naa Ba-ga-oo ba-se wan-mit 2000 2100  
1100 2200 da-qa-da-qa da bil-leea 2300 2400 2500 2600 2700 da 2800 2900 3000

3. When the old men and other initiated men were in

## 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.



## Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

### STATE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Program Objective: To assist Victorian Aboriginal communities in the establishment of Community Language Programs and local language reference groups.

Strategy	Responsibility	Priority	Measures & Milestones	Key Activities
To assist Aboriginal people to work on their own languages and provide formal training in language work.	VACL Manager	High	3 Workshops per year	Community Workshops TAFE Course VCE Course KHT Partnership
To provide and maintain a library and				

### 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.

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## Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages

***“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

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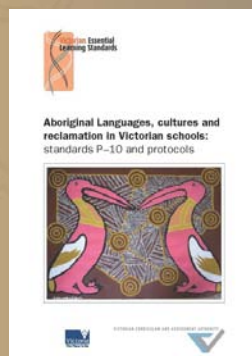


## Pathways for empowerment

Community



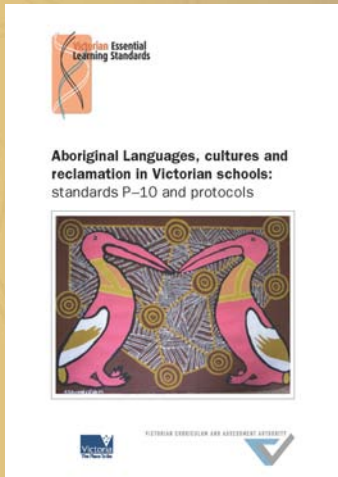
Education



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# 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"



source translation	19th century spellings	Lee STEMs	ch notes	finished word	LEE notes	SUFFIX TYPE
get up	kommargewat (TH)	GUMA(DJI)	DONE	guma-dji-ngat	spell all these NGAT pronoun suffixes the same	DJI (imperative), (PRO NGAT 'you plural')
go away	yana-dhuwi (Td, Blake), yanna-toa (TH)	YAN	what do you think, these 2 possibly the same suffix?	yana-dui	yes it's plain as day	DUI (place)
groan	gorangeit, goagorankeit, goagoranheit, goa goagor-on-eit (TH)	?GO-AGORAN	which in-between sound? go-agoran-lyt matches stem...	see comment next col	I wonder if this could be reduplication? Goran goran-iyt? Spoken fast may have missed the 'r' in some spellings?	IYT (verb suffix)

## Community - Types of training

- Staff
  - Language Workers' workshops

- PEOPLE & PLANNING
- RESEARCH & ANALYSES
- TRAINING & SUPPORT
- EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS & ACTIVITIES
- COMMUNITY LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITIES

**Detailed meanings:**  
Kinship words in Gunnai/Kümai

'Grandmother'	kukan	naling
'Grandfather'	nakun	wehntwin
'Brother'	thundung	bramung
'Sister'	braung	lunduk

Why is there more than one word for each English word?

### Comparing collectors' spellings

'Fly' (example from Gamilaraay, in 'Paper and Talk')

b u r u l u  
b u d u l u  
b o o r o o l o o  
p o o d e l o o  
b u r i l o o



## Community - Types of training

- Community Language workshops



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## Types of training – SUMMER SCHOOL

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



## 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

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# Summary



VACL Linguistics Summer School 2011

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

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# Kanitba

(thank you)

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