

# rnlld

Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity



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## DRIL turns 100 in Kununurra

In October 2010, RNLDD ran the very first pilot DRIL workshop at Mirima Dawang Wooralab-gerring (MDWg) in Kununurra. This year, from 11-13 May 2015, MDWg also hosted RNLDD's 100th DRIL workshop. DRIL Trainer Emma Murphy and Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla returned to Kununurra for the commemorative occasion, with the MDWg team organising a beautiful cake to honour the DRIL Program and all the hard work of the language workers.

During the first two days, language workers at MDWg worked together with the DRIL trainers to brainstorm, develop and practise a range of language-teaching activities using the Master-Apprentice Language Learning method. The team planned their lessons around wordless books that they had made at the previous DRIL workshop, developing their skills in how to effectively use language resources and lesson planning. On the final day of the workshop, language workers put their preparation to the test and delivered their lessons to a handful of eager students.



(left-right) Glennis Galbat-Newry, Gretel McDonald, Rozanne Balminga, Rita Boombi, Paola Fischer, DRIL Trainer Emma Murphy, and Julie Bilminga develop lessons around their wordless books



Rita Boombi and Jimmy Paddy participate in the nonverbal activity, 'Get Somebody to Do Something'

# What's new at RNLD

## *New staff*

In May 2015, Ebony Joachim joined the RNLD staff as a Trainee DRIL Trainer. Ebony has been teaching Yorta Yorta at Gowrie Street Primary School in Shepparton, Victoria, for some time, where she has developed her skills in language teaching and resource making. She was also a participant at the Leadership DRIL Professional Development workshop in November 2014, which strengthened the skills in linguistics and language revitalisation methods that she will be applying to her new role at RNLD. Under the mentorship of DRIL trainers, Ebony will be helping to deliver the DRIL training program in sites across Australia.

Ebony says that the opportunity to take up the job with RNLD and build her skills in language work was one that she couldn't pass up. She is looking forward to building and strengthening networks with other Indigenous communities around Australia, and seeing first-hand the diversity of Australian languages as she travels around the country to different sites. Ebony also hopes that her work with RNLD will enable her to further her language work within her own community.

This new position is supported by the Australian Government's Indigenous Employment Initiative.



## *Language work initiatives*

Wadi Wadi language worker and activist Jason Kirby from Swan Hill has been a DRIL participant since March 2014 and is a member of the Leadership DRIL Professional Development group. At a recent workshop in Swan Hill, Jason wrote and recorded a story in his ancestral tongue. The story is about a lost dog and includes the use of affixes to express tense, possession, location and direction.

Linguist Stephen Morey observed that this is probably the first new story to have been created in Wadi Wadi for about 135 years, since the time of explorers Peter Beveridge and Edward M. Curr who documented parts of the Wadi Wadi language. Wadi Wadi and other related languages in Victoria and NSW are now coming back to life.

Jason Kirby intends to continue his language work with both RNLD and VACL and to build his skills in linguistics so that his kids will grow up with their language and learn to speak it. Jason is currently teaching Wadi Wadi to about ten children.





# DRIL training activities

## Swan Hill, VIC 9 – 10 May 2015

Under the auspices of the DRIL Linking Up program, RNLD facilitated a visit by Dr Luise Hercus of the Australian National University to work with a Madhi Madhi and Wadi Wadi family group in Swan Hill over the weekend of 9-10 May. Dr Hercus documented languages of the region in the 1960s and 1970s. For many community members, this workshop was the first opportunity to meet Luise and to draw on her extensive knowledge of the Wadi Wadi, Madhi Madhi and Wemba Wemba languages to strengthen their language reclamation work. DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey, DRIL Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester, and RNLD President Dr Stephen Morey of La Trobe University were all part of the training team. (Luise and Stephen are co-authors, with Barry J. Blake and Edward Ryan, of *The Mathi Group of Languages* published in 2011).

Amongst the many exciting outcomes from the workshop, participant Jason Kirby wrote and recorded a new Wadi Wadi story (see page 2), while Brendan Kennedy and Vince Kirby strengthened their knowledge of Mathi Mathi and wrote and recorded several new songs. Dr Hercus' visit to Swan Hill offered a precious opportunity for the group to connect with ancestors through stories, and her verve and wealth of knowledge were a real inspiration to those who are dedicated to bringing their languages back.



Dr Luise Hercus works with Vince Kirby (left) and Brendan Kennedy (centre) on Madhi Madhi sentences that she recorded with Jack Long



Jason Kirby works with Dr Luise Hercus, as he records their conversation full of language information

## Modules in Motion

### *Tertiary pathways in Linguistics*

Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla has compiled a new worksheet that lists possible pathways for DRIL participants who are interested in undertaking further training in linguistics at tertiary institutions. Universities such as Charles Darwin University and The University of New England offer flexible Bachelor and Advanced Diploma courses, and many universities across all states have dedicated Indigenous Support Services offering academic and personal support.

Gaining a qualification in linguistics can be a great way to further your technical skills in language work. You can learn in depth about the diversity and wealth of the world's languages and gain valuable skills in analysing and describing your own language.

If you would like help accessing the right linguistic course for you — or if you have any language learning stories and experience that you can share with us — please give us a call on (03) 9041 5474 or email [training@rnld.org](mailto:training@rnld.org)

## Conferences

### *ICLDC 4th International Conference in Hawai'i*

DRIL director Margaret Florey represented RNLD at the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC) in Honolulu, Hawai'i, held February 26-March 1 2015. The theme of the 4th ICLDC was "Enriching Theory, Practice, and Application", which sought to strengthen the links between language documentation, enable a deeper understanding of grammatical structure, and provide discussion for the teaching of endangered languages.

Margaret assembled a team of ICLDC Tweeters during the conference to keep our Twitter members constantly up-to-date with the latest ICLDC news. You can find all ICLDC tweets on the RNLD Twitter page.

<https://twitter.com/RNLDorg>

## Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity

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# DRIL training activities

## Adelaide, SA 22 – 23 May 2015

On 22-23 May, DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey and Training Support Officer Kat Forrester ran a weekend workshop in Adelaide with an Adnyamathanha family group that includes Leadership DRIL Professional Development participant Salote Bovoro together with family members Gillian Bovoro and Andrea Khan. The participants began building a 10-week language learning curriculum program designed around some of the fantastic resources the group has made. During the workshop, the group made plans to publish a series of Adnyamathanha children's storybooks developed by community members. Salote Bovoro also aims to create a set of grammar posters along with YouTube videos for people to learn Adnyamathanha at home with their families.



DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey, Andrea Khan (centre) and Gillian Bovoro (right) plan a 10-week teaching curriculum



Gillian Bovoro reads through her work on the teaching curriculum based on a children's book written by two of her daughters

## Halls Creek, WA 10 – 11 March 2015

DRIL Trainer Emma Murphy and Trainee Trainer Jessica Solla travelled to Halls Creek for a two-day workshop on 10-11 March at the Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC). The group of language teachers from the local school and experienced KLRC language workers planned and created language teaching resources. With a focus on teaching the words for a number of locally made artefacts, the team made audio recordings of the Master-Apprentice sessions in the Jaru and Kija languages. Participants then practised their new skills in editing digital audio files to produce recorded lessons in the two languages. After compiling and binding books to accompany the audio files, the group ended the workshop with three finished resource sets, all of which can be used in language classes in school, the language centre and at home.



Rosemary Rosewood makes a recording about cultural artifacts



Dianne Sambo and Flora Ah Choo present their wordless books to accompany the audio files produced



# DRIL training activities

## Ngukurr, NT 14 – 16 April 2015

DRIL Trainer Emma Murphy and RNLD Operations Manager Tamsin Wagner spent 14-16 April at Ngukurr Language Centre with Rembarrnga, Ngandi, Marra, Ritharrngu and Wagilak speakers. They packed a lot of Master-Apprentice Language Learning training into the three days. Photos of artefacts led to an immersion language session focusing on how the artefacts are made. This activity began on day one in the classroom and continued on day two, when they were out bush and participants were able to use rocks, string and axes to enrich their teaching.

Lunchtime activities on the bush trip produced a selection of fabulous photographs, which were much appreciated on day three, back in the classroom. The different language groups had animated discussions as they arranged the photographs along the floor in chronological order, working out how they could use them in teaching. The activity inspired people to then use other images, based on a song line, to do a similar immersion language learning activity. A great coming together of language, culture and photography!



Cherry Daniels and Grant Thompson create a story in Marra with animal toys



(Left) Roy Natilma participates in a language immersion session based around cultural artifacts

(Right) RNLD trainer Emma Murphy, Salote Harris, Arnold George and Mick Hall take the language immersion session to the beautiful outdoors



## Upcoming DRIL workshops

RNLD staff are busy planning workshops to be held during the second half of 2015. Over the next few months you will find us in the following locations:

June 23-24: Woorabinda, Queensland — wider Woorabinda community (Trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy)

June 26: Brisbane, Queensland — Pitta Pitta language workers (Trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy)

July 7-16: Stage II Professional Development Workshop, Melbourne, Victoria — participants from DRIL Leadership Professional Development group

July 27-28: Shepparton, Victoria — Yorta Yorta teachers and language workers (Trainer Margaret Florey and Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla)

July 28-29: Hobart, TAS – TAC Palawa Kani teachers and language workers (Trainer Emma Murphy and Trainee DRIL Trainer Ebony Joachim)

You can always follow our whereabouts through <http://www.rnld.org/DRILworkshops2015> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RNLDorg/> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/RNLDorg>

## Participant Drop-ins

In late April, Anna Ash from Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative in Nambucca Heads, NSW, visited the RNLD office to bring us up to date with the great projects currently happening there.

Muurrbay works with many languages including Awabakal, Wonnarua, Bundjalung, Darkinyung, Gumbaybggir, Gathang, and Yaygir. They will soon begin delivering a Certificate III in Learning an Endangered Language focusing on Gathang. We wish them all the best in their inspiring language work and look forward to working together with Muurrbay in the near future.

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# DRIL training activities

## Port Hedland, WA 15 – 17 April 2015

DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey and Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla ran a workshop at the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre from 15-17 April. Participants from four different language groups — Nyamal, Nyangumarta, Ngarla and Ngarluma — came together to learn about articulatory phonetics and develop their skills in resource development. Across the three days, language workers studied the sounds of their languages and how they are produced. Participants also worked hard to record example words to demonstrate each sound, and included these sound bites in a PowerPoint presentation. The workshop concluded with four presentations of the sound systems of each participants' language, along with embedded audio and video recordings. The PowerPoint slides can be used as an interactive teaching resource, or just a great way to study phonetics!



Dennis Thomas, Bruce Thomas and Donald Thomas create a video of Nyangumarta sounds



Donald Thomas produces a Powerpoint resource about the Nyangumarta sounds with embedded sound bites and video

## Broome, WA 20 – 11 April 2015

DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey and Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla travelled to beautiful Broome to run a workshop from 20-21 April at Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga language resource centre. The diverse group of language workers, teachers and support staff discussed teaching strategies with DRIL trainers within the context of an expanding Yawuru curriculum in the local schools. We were excited to learn that Yawuru is now being taught to 1500 children from K-7. Using wordless books, the group identified vocabulary that could be taught across year levels and worked to scaffold a number of lessons and activities all based around a common teaching resource. The workshop then provided language teachers and language workers a chance to apply the Master-Apprentice Language Learning method, including the use of non-verbal communication within a language immersion setting.



Dalisa Pigram-Ross and Lola Jones act out the wordless book being read in Yawuru by Michael Mavromatis



Clare Mclean, Lola Jones, Trainee DRIL Trainer Jessica Solla, Judy Edgar, and Michael Mavromatis use toys and pictures to construct a story in Yawuru





## Stage II DRIL Leadership Professional Development Workshop

From 7-16 July RNLD is reuniting the group from the DRIL Leadership Professional Development Workshops held in Melbourne in January and November 2014. Over the course of a 9-day residential workshop at University College, Parkville, the DRIL Leadership group of 10 participants will be extending their knowledge of linguistics and apply their skills in phonetics and morpho-syntax to language teaching methods and resource production. There will also be opportunities for networking and socialising — and a trip to the footy in the Melbourne winter.

## New Volunteer

Kate Charlwood began volunteering with RNLD in March 2015. She is currently undertaking her Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics at Melbourne University and hopes to complete Honours with a focus on Indigenous language advocacy and revitalisation. Kate is excited to be involved with an organisation that works in genuine partnership with Indigenous leaders of language revitalisation and looks forward to meeting and learning from DRIL participants. Kate is volunteering each Friday, helping Katerina to assemble the weekly Languages in the News resource [www.rnld.org/news](http://www.rnld.org/news) and to create a database of social media content.



## RUIL Internship Program

RNLD is pleased to be extending the internship program partnership with the Research Unit for Indigenous Language (RUIL) at the University of Melbourne for a further year. This scheme aims to link up linguistics students with Indigenous participants who are studying linguistics modules through the DRIL program. The program gives interns the chance to learn more about Indigenous languages and have the opportunity to gain some experience in community-based training.

You can read about the experiences of the 2014 interns by visiting our website [www.rnld.org/DRILRUILinternships](http://www.rnld.org/DRILRUILinternships)

## DRIL furthers its training in Queensland

RNLD is excited to return to Queensland and to engage with new participants in several sites, some of who have been on our waiting list for over a year. In June 2015, RNLD trainers will be returning to Woorabinda to run a 3 day workshop, and will commence work with a new family group in Brisbane. Later in the year, training will begin with language workers in new sites- Atherton and Cape York.

The language workers are from these new language groups:

Brisbane - Pitta Pitta, Butchulla

Atherton - Dulguburra Yidinji

Cape York - Kuthant, Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Kala Lagaw Ya, Meriam Mir, Umpila, Kuuku Ya'u

RNLD is funded under the Indigenous Languages and Arts program.



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RNLD would personally like to thank you for your continued support.