



Participants in the Professional Development Workshop showing off their certificates after a busy week of training: (back left to right) Grant Thompson, Ebony Joachim, Salote Bovoro, AJ Joshua, Nadine Taylor with Leeann Merritt's certificate, (front) Jason Kirby, Melinda Solomon, Hiroko Shioji, and Michelle Warren with Cody Millard's certificate

Professional Development Workshop Melbourne (18–25 November 2014)

Eleven DRIL participants from around Australia came together in Melbourne from 18–25 November for an intensive professional development workshop led by DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy, and supported by DRIL staff, Katerina Forrester, Tamsin Wagner, and Jessica Solla.

All passionate language workers and teachers in their own right, the participants — Ebony Joachim, Melinda Solomon, Jason Kirby, Salote Bovoro, Cody Millard, Michelle Warren, Hiroko Shioji, Nadine Taylor, Leeann Merritt, Grant Thompson and AJ Joshua — represented nine different languages: Yorta Yorta and Wadi Wadi from Victoria, Adnyamathanha, Ngarrindjeri and Dieri from South Australia, Yawuru and Wajarri from Western Australia, and Ngandi and Marra from the Northern Territory.

The DRIL Professional Development Workshop allowed people to share their experiences and further their skills in language documentation and revitalisation. The workshop covered areas such as the Master-Apprentice teaching method, training in linguistics and language hunting, technical training in how to make and edit sound recordings, as well as how to develop a language project and team.

There was time for social activities, too. Participants and staff had the opportunity to visit the Koorie Heritage Trust and the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at the Melbourne Museum, and participants enjoyed exploring Melbourne over the weekend.

The workshop was supported by a Professional Development grant from the Australian Governments' Indigenous Languages Support (ILS) grant scheme (Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department). ILS grant program officers Jason Lyons and Suzanne Lawrence met with RNLD staff and attended the final day of the workshop in which the participants each gave a wonderful presentation on their own journey in language work, including linguistic examples, photos and songs.

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Jason Kirby (left) and Grant Thompson learn to create digital recordings



Cody Millard (left) and Melinda Solomon practise recording their permission statements

A big thanks to the energetic team of RNLD volunteers who helped the workshop to run smoothly. Our thanks also extend to RNLD Executive Committee members Alice Gaby and Stephen Morey who met with participants during workshop breaks.

Participants returned to their communities and workplaces with new skills, plans and enthusiasm to share with colleagues, students and families. To quote Hiroko Shioji, a Yawuru woman from Broome: "As a passionate Yawuru language teacher, the training has been inspiring, educational and powerful. I'm looking forward to returning home to network and share the invaluable knowledge and skills with other Yawuru speakers, and anyone who is genuinely interested in learning or teaching Yawuru."

Grant Thompson, a Ngandi language worker from Ngukurr Language Centre in the NT, added: "I'm very proud to be part of this workshop because my languages are slowly going and I've got a big responsibility to maintain Ngandi. Seeing others like me from around the country, being in the same boat, it's a great feeling to (be) ... surrounded by people who are very passionate about their language."



Grant Thompson (left), trainee DRIL trainer Jessica Solla, and AJ Joshua discuss language vitality



Leeann Merritt (left), trainer Emma Murphy, Jason Kirby, and Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester edit recordings

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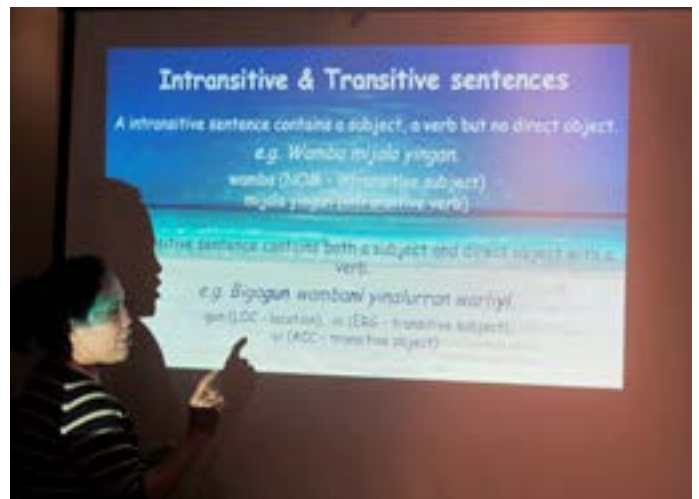
Salote Bovoro language hunts with DRIL director Margaret Florey



Leeann Merritt (left) and Nadine Taylor hunt for language examples in a Wajarri dictionary



Operations manager Tamsin Wagner (left) and Cody Millard looking at sentence construction



Hiroko Shioji giving her presentation on the language work and language goals of Yawuru



Jason Kirby (left), Leeann Merritt, Hiroko Shioji, Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester, AJ Joshua, Cody Millard, Salote Bovoro, and Michelle Warren using Master-Apprentice methods



Salote Bovoro (left), RUIL intern Karen Mezentsef, Grant Thompson, and Jason Kirby, listen to Ebony Joachim speak about grammars and dictionaries

DRIL training activities

Killalea State Park, New South Wales (23-24 August 14)

DRIL trainer Emma Murphy joined a small but passionate group of Dharawal language teachers and learners for a two-day Master-Apprentice workshop in the stunning Killalea State Park, south of Wollongong in NSW.

Teenage children of some of the teachers present proved to be integral participants in the workshop, allowing them to practise language-teaching methods as they learnt them. On the first day, Master-Apprentice basics were covered: the importance of not using English, using non-verbal communication to aid understanding, and the four stages of language learning.

On the second day, the adults put together what they'd learned and planned a language immersion lesson in which the young people made johnny cakes, following Dharawal instructions from the adults. The instructions worked: we enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked by the young language learners!



Trainer Emma Murphy (left) watches Hamani Tanginoa (centre) make johnny cakes following instructions by Anne-Maree Fohrman



Anne-Maree Fohrman, Jacob Morris and Joel Deaves (right) participating in a Master-Apprentice language exercise



Jodi Edwards (left), Jacob Morris and Joel Deaves practice teaching using the Master-Apprentice method



Joeann Tanginoa (right) uses the Master-Apprentice method to direct Toumanda Fohrman in how to make johnny cakes

Ngukurr and Numbulwar, Northern Territory (9-11 September 14/4-6 November 14)

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy went to Ngukurr at the start of September to run a workshop with staff from the Ngukurr Language Centre and the Numbulwar Community Education Centre. Ngalakan, Wubuy, Nunggubuyu, Marra, Rembarrnga and Ritharrngu/Wagilak language teams took part. The first day saw the groups diving into language work in the peaceful setting by the river at Mission Gorge.

The workshop was based on using the Master-Apprentice method and teaching the four stages of language learning, approaching language from a non-English perspective and Total Physical Response (TPR) to reinforce language learning. Participants worked with the environment around them, talked about animals and people, made a fire in language, as well as many other activities.

DRIL trainer Emma Murphy and trainee trainer Jessica Solla returned to Ngukurr in early November with five different language teams: Ritharrngu/Wagilak, Ngandi, Marra, Rembarrnga and Wubuy. It was an active three-day workshop with the first day at the beautiful Yellow Water billabong. As the heat intensified, everyone was driven indoors to work on immersion language sets about body parts, counting and habitats just to name a few.



Leonie Murrungan showing trainer Emma Murphy a language app on an iPad



David Wilfred (left), Grant Thompson, trainer Emma Murphy, Daniel Wilfred, Malingu Hilda Ngalmi, and Leonie Murrungan in an immersion set with a billy can



Bernadette Hall (left), Topsy Numamurdirdi and AJ Joshua work through an immersion set



AJ Joshua, Fannie Gathawuy Harrison Numamurdirdi, Anthony Daniels and Topsy Numamurdirdi (bottom right)

Geraldton, Western Australia (24-26 September 14)

Late September, DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy flew to the other side of the country to work with Irra Wangga Language Centre in Geraldton and their Wajarri language team. The team were led through linguistic noun and verb morphology exercises, as well as Master-Apprentice techniques. Some activities involved working on a photo immersion set of resources using locative suffixes and placing animals in different environments.

There was also some media interest in Wajarri language, and DRIL staff and the Irra Wangga language team were interviewed on radio by ABC Mid West and Wheat Belt for the Geraldton area.



Trainer Margaret Florey (left) and Leeann Merritt watch as Rosie Sitorus refers to an immersion set of native animals



Danielle McDonald (left) and Nadine Taylor using an immersion set to practice words



Danielle McDonald (left) and Leeann Merritt in an immersion set activity outdoors



Nadine Taylor (left) listens to Leeann Merritt talk through the words included in the chosen immersion set

Port Hedland, Western Australia (30 September – 2 October 14)

A team of three headed out to the Port Hedland workshop at Wangka Maya language centre with DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy accompanied by RNLD/RUIL intern Chloe Dallas. The workshop focused on providing skills in technology and documenting language. The teams worked hard on producing good quality recordings, and also importantly how to edit them. The next step was to establish how these recordings could best be used as resources for the language centre.

Chloe Dallas attended the workshop under the University of Melbourne's Research Unit for Indigenous Languages (RUIL) internship program which gives students the opportunity to observe and work with the DRIL training program in action in a community setting.



Eileen Charles practises making good quality digital recordings



Jason Gardiner edits the sound recording in Audacity



Roseanne Marney (left) and Eileen Charles language hunt together and create language lessons



Donald Thomas with the WALs map of surrounding languages to the Pilbara

Mt Gambier, South Australia (13-14 October 14)

Emma Murphy delivered a two-day workshop in Mount Gambier, South Australia, with people working on the Boandik language. This was the fourth Boandik workshop, but as the group was largely new participants, the focus was on covering the basics of Master-Apprentice. We used a lot of the Total Physical Response (TPR) method, and practised building sentences using locative and allative suffixes.

The team also learnt how to make digital recordings and edit them using Audacity. Given the participants are spread throughout South Australia and Victoria, the group decided that making digital recordings whenever they come together would greatly enhance their ability to work on their language separately in between meetings.



Ken Jones and Penny Bonney listen to language discussion



Ken Jones and Penny Bonney engage with the Master-Apprentice method



Janine Williams (left) and Des Hartman lead a Master-Apprentice language immersion set based on people



David Moon leads a language immersion exercise based on people and locations

Swan Hill, Victoria (25-26 October 14)

Just as Victoria was starting to heat up, DRIL trainer Margaret Florey and Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester took the four-hour car journey to Swan Hill along with guest linguist Dr Stephen Morey of La Trobe University, co-author of *The Mati Group of Languages*. The team spent two full days with the wonderful Wadi Wadi family group working on Master-Apprentice methods, which included beautiful hand drawn artistic resources. The group also focused on pronoun markers and on morphology including going to and coming from places, which could be used in the natural language environment, outdoors along the majestic Murray River.



Vince Kirby discusses Wadi Wadi words with Jason Kirby (centre) and Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester



Trainer Margaret Florey, Ricky Kirby, and Brendan Kennedy hunt for Wadi Wadi words to use in an immersion set



A beautiful Master-Apprentice resource drawn up quickly by Jason Kirby for a language immersion exercise



Jason Kirby (left), Linguist Stephen Morey, and Ricky Kirby discuss directional morphemes

Borroloola, Northern Territory (29-31 October 14)

DRIL trainer Emma Murphy and trainee DRIL trainer Jessica Solla spent three days in Borroloola with a diverse language team of Yanyuwa, Gudanji, Garrwa and Marra speakers. Working in and around the Waralungku Arts centre, the team focussed their attention on the Master-Apprentice method, and practising teaching using Total Physical Response and non-verbal gestures to make sure no English was being used. Immersion sessions focussed on teaching cardinal directions, habitats and how to make excellent damper.



Peggy Mawson (left), Luka Haralampou, Marjorie Keighran Managiri, Jemima Miller, Trainer Emma Murphy, Elizabeth Larsen, and Dinah Norman discussing language resources



Marjorie Keighran Managiri and Trainer Emma Murphy working on a Master-Apprentice immersion set



Trainee trainer Jessica Solla (left) learns to make damper by following Maureen Timothy's directions using Total Physical Response



Luka Haralampou (left) and Jemima Miller (right) engage in Master-Apprentice exercises as Marjorie Keighran Managiri looks on

Adelaide, South Australia (1 November 14)

The first day of November saw an intense session of cataloguing and metadata entries with the Inhaadi Adnyamathanha Ngawarla family group in Adelaide. Both DRIL trainer Margaret Florey and Training Support Officer/RUIL intern Katerina Forrester had the pleasure to work with the talented resource-making group, including a terrific collection of storybooks, wordlists, grammar lessons and games. RNLD passed on systematic methods of cataloguing such important language resources to facilitate sharing and easy retrieval. The next stage will be planning a series of sessions for different levels of learner in the language group.



Salote Bovoro creates a cataloguing technique for organising their language resources



Sisters Emma (left) and Salote Bovoro work together on the task



Trainer Margaret Florey (right) discusses how to best use existing language resources with Emma Bovoro (left), Salote Bovoro, and Gillian Bovoro



A spread of Adnyamathanha language resources

Port Augusta, South Australia (3-5 November 14)

DRIL trainer Margaret Florey and Training Support Officer/RUIL intern Katerina Forrester ran a 3-day workshop in Port Augusta. Four generations of Dieri community members took part in our Master-Apprentice and technology focused sessions. The group planned immersion sets around making a cup of tea, hunting kangaroo, and using everyday greetings. They recorded their sessions with audio and video recorders and a camera as the first stage of creating language learning resources. The next stage was editing the resources with programs such as Audacity, Movie Maker and Powerpoint. They later reinforced those same learnt skills by working on a second set of resources for more advanced learners.

The group included three elders of the Dieri community which presented a wonderful opportunity for language documentation and recording with the young participants, as well as providing language support for the whole group.



Trainer Margaret Florey (right) showing Latoia Mercieca how to use the Flip video recorder



Elder Aunty Alice Lander taking a sip of tea for the production of a wordless book



Master Michelle Warren (top left) teaches Apprentices Latoia Mercieca and Melissa Lander using the Master-Apprentice teaching method



Alice Lander (left), Barbara Vale, Sylvia Stuart, and Renee Warren learn to plan and make digital recordings

End of year party + 'giving back'

To celebrate the approaching end to a fabulous 2014, RNLD invited members to join in an afternoon gathering. Thank you to RNLD President Stephen Morey, Secretary Jenny Green, LIP coordinator Ruth Singer, and RNLD volunteers and interns for attending and sharing the joy.

As part of an annual 'giving back' event, we asked for people to donate a Christmas gift to the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency for children in their out-of-home care programs. We collected 11 gifts to donate to VACCA, which were well received. You can discover more about the wonderful work of VACCA through their website: www.vacca.org

AGM

RNLD's AGM was held in Melbourne on 19 September. We farewelled three members of the Executive Committee: President Nick Thieberger, Treasurer Imogen Corrie and Ordinary Member Sarah Dyer. Stephen Morey was appointed President, Jenny Green was appointed Secretary and Public Officer, and Paul Paton continues as Vice President. We welcomed new members Bikram Chatterjee as Treasurer and Alice Gaby, Julie Warren and Knut Olawsky as Ordinary Members.

Linguistics in the Pub (From Ruth Singer)

LIP Melbourne included a range of discussion topics, both old and new. We returned to the eternal questions of archiving, access and working with children. Lauren Gawne in a farewell to LIP led a discussion about the use of crowd-funding to fund language documentation, before heading off for her new life in Singapore.

We ended the year with a packed LIP about documenting new language varieties that speakers may not really value led by Felicity Meakins (University of Queensland). At that LIP we had our first ever interstate participant who travelled to Melbourne from Adelaide for the sole reason of attending the LIP. This LIP was the 5th anniversary of LIP, which we celebrated by moving on to a more elegant drinking hole after the official discussion. The year ended on a high point with a four-strong Monash PhD student team promising to fill the gap Lauren has left. And to cap it off, it looks like LIP has spread to Canberra. We always like interstate and international visitors at LIP, so if you plan to visit Melbourne please get in touch ahead of time and we can choose a topic that will interest you.

Stay in touch

We remain grateful to all our members and supporters. We are reaching out to the wider community through social media — RNLD now has more than 2,000 followers on Facebook, nearing 1,000 followers on Twitter, and 453 subscribers to our Email Discussion List. We love to hear your language news and stories, so stay connected:



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