Welcome to the Spring edition of the RNLD newsletter. Spring was a very busy season for us at RNLD. We held nine workshops in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, Donna McLaren joined our staff, RNLD’s Advisory Panel came together in Melbourne for the first time, and we kicked off our Giving Back program.

Introducing our new DRIL Co-Director

Donna McLaren is the new co-director of RNLD’s DRIL training program. Before joining RNLD, Donna was the Development Officer for Aboriginal Languages and Perspectives at the Curriculum and Learning Innovation Centre with the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Donna is an Aboriginal women of Gamilaraay descent. She has been involved in the reclamation of Gamilaraay, and has taught Gamilaraay across pre-school, primary, and secondary years. Donna has gotten straight into the swing of things, recently joining Margaret on workshops in Port Hedland, WA, as well as Minyumai, NSW, and Maroochydore, Qld.
DRIL training activities
Ceduna, SA

In Ceduna, Estelle Miller (West Coast Language Centre) and Leonard Miller (Mobile Language Team) are working to support Wirangu, Kokatha and Mirning. In their first DRIL workshop, Estelle and Leonard began learning how to document language and how to create a dictionary using Miromaa.

Leonard Miller and Estelle Miller listen to a Wirangu story as they digitise a heritage recording

Estelle Miller works on creating a Wirangu dictionary using Miromaa

Adelaide, SA

25 children and adults took part in our first training workshop in Adelaide in September. The workshop was held in partnership with Inhaadi Adnyamathanha Ngawarla. RNLD trainer Margaret Florey was supported by Master-Apprentice graduate trainers Gillian and Ema Bovoro in teaching participants Master-Apprentice methods to use in their language revitalisation work.

Gillian Bovoro creating a puppet

Iteka and Milla displaying their puppet
Gillian Bovoro: We had a Masters Apprentice workshop here in Adelaide in September. We had 4 different Aboriginal language groups: Pitjanjatjarra, Adnyamathanha, Kaurna, and Arabuna. I found this workshop very practical and interesting. The amount of hands-on activities was great and the children participated which was great to see. We applied what we learnt to our classes after the workshop. The adults are trying to be brave and use Yura Ngawarla (Adnyamathanha language) only. The children's class has been brought alive by doing different versions of the activities. I think we will have other people wanting to do this, and the Kaurna elder that participated was most excited and wanted to share this with her community as well. Even the Pitjantjatjara speakers liked the activities and thought they were very helpful. Again, thank you for your time and giving us a wonderful presenter, who was willing to pass on this valuable knowledge to give us the tools to learn our Ngawarla.

Ema Bovoro: I think that the workshop was great. It bought back a lot of memories from Kununurra. I was much more relaxed this time. I think the more we keep doing the Master-Apprentice stuff the better it will be for our class learning. I am doing mentoring for the little kids and now am doing more activities with them to make them want to learn and have fun. Aunty Chris, who is an elder is in my class as well, has really enjoyed learning this. I think we have all benefited thanks to Margaret.
**Wilcannia, NSW**

In September, Margaret Florey from RNLD partnered with Liz Thompson and Gavin Spokes from Sharing Stories and Gareth Jenkins from Save the Children Australia at a Paakantyi Language Resource Development Week organised by Paakantyi language worker Murray Butcher and Wilcannia Central School principal Michelle Nicholson. Over 3 days, the organisations worked together to begin creating online Paakantyi language resources and developing strategies to strengthen Paakantyi revitalisation. Children from Wilcannia Central School and several Paakantyi people from Bourke joined the workshop.

**Minyumai, NSW**

In November, Donna and Margaret ran the first Bandjalang DRIL workshop with Bandjalang language worker Mark Ross at Minyumai Aboriginal Corporation. Mark began learning immersion methods to both learn and teach his language.
Murrin Bridge and Lake Cargelligo, NSW

Regional Community Trainer Brad Steadman and Margaret Florey returned to Murrin Bridge and Lake Cargelligo in September and were joined by linguist Tamsin Donaldson. The team met with Ngiyampaa adults and children who are keen to begin learning Ngiyampaa. Community members were excited to meet Tamsin, who worked with elders in the 1970s and 80s to document their language.
Port Hedland, WA

Donna McLaren co-trained with Margaret Florey in her first workshop in Port Hedland. Donna and Margaret spent a day with Yinhawangka language worker Julie Walker, followed by three days training language workers at Wangka Maya in recording techniques and resource production.

Yinhawangka family language revitalisation team Julie Walker and Roy Tommy

Bli Bli, Qld

Our final DRIL workshop for the year was held with Kabi Kabi language worker Bianca Bond. In her fourth DRIL workshop, Bianca dived into planning a curriculum for family language learning and practised some immersion methods.

Bianca Bond listens to Donna’s instructions during the ‘Alien’ immersion exercise

Donna McLaren works with Bianca Bond to create her curriculum

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Woorabinda, Qld

Thirty people took part in RNLD’s fourth DRIL workshop at Woorabinda in October 2012. The training team expanded to include Regional Community Trainer Michael Jarrett and linguist Gavan Breen, who documented the Bidjara language in the 1970s. In a moving ceremony, Gavan returned recordings in several languages to the community. He provided support with grammar and pronunciation throughout the workshop and Michael trained the participants in immersion language methods. We were all excited to see how much progress Cultural Officer John Waterton has made with teaching Bidjara in the Undoonoo daycare centre.

Gavan Breen and Milton Lawton look at the language materials Gavan returned to the community

Rosa Thaiday and John Waterton take part in the ‘Where are your keys?’ exercise

Michael Jarrett and Sue McLean work with children from the daycare centre

Milton Lawton (left) demonstrates the ASLA method during an in-service session with Indigenous Education Workers
RNLD Giving Back

RNLD has begun a volunteering program to give back to the community. We are currently supporting the Red Cross Blood Service and Melbourne Citymission. We have organised a quarterly blood donation week, and RNLD staff have begun volunteering for Melbourne Citymission once a month.

Recently, Alison and Felicity helped out with their Cherry Auction Breakfast on Tuesday 20 November, where cherry growers entered their biggest and best 5kg box of cherries to be judged. The winner was auctioned for charity, with all proceeds from the event shared equally between Melbourne Citymission and Variety – the Children’s Charity.

Advisory Panel Meeting

RNLD’s Committee of Management and Advisory Panel came together in Melbourne in September for our first face-to-face meeting. The meeting gave members a chance to meet each other and our staff, learn more about RNLD’s work, and discuss accreditation of the DRIL training program.
Advisory Panel Focus - Gary Williams

Gary is a Gumbaynggirr man who became an Advisory Panel member in July 2012.

How did you first become involved with language work?

Where I grew up the older people spoke language, but my generation didn’t which was probably due to the government policy at the time. I spent a bit of time in the Northern Territory where I was exposed to language, before I came back home to Nambucca Heads in the mid-nineties. Muurrbay started holding classes in Gumbaynggirr and I went along to the full-time class. I started working at Muurrbay in ’98.

What work are you currently doing?

I’ve now been working at Muurrbay for fourteen years. I do a bit of research and help out with teaching. I’m also involved with the Many Rivers Language Centre, which covers from the Queensland border to the Hawkesbury River and takes in about eight languages. I visit communities, see what’s happening with these languages and help them out by getting them dictionaries and acting as a general liaison.

Upcoming events

3-6 January — Latin American Contexts for Language Documentation and Revitalization, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

11-15 February — Workshop on the Languages of Papua, Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

28 February - 3 March — International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (3rd ICLDC) on the theme Sharing Worlds of Knowledge, University of Hawai’i Mānoa campus, USA

8-10 March - 12th Australian Languages Workshop, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland, Australia

Participate

If you or your organisation would like to join RNLD’s training program please contact us. Join our email discussion list to ask questions and share information and your expertise. Join our Facebook group for recent articles and links to sites supporting endangered languages. Follow us on Twitter for news items, conference calls, updates on our activities and an online dialogue.

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