On November 23, 13 language activists from around Australia came together in the Melbourne RNLD office for a 6-day intensive professional development workshop. They had travelled from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, representing 15 different Aboriginal languages.

The diverse participants were Anansa Birrell (Jaru, Alyawarr), Caroline Bradshaw (Dhanggati), Patricia Coleman (Byellee), Sandra Delaney (Jandai), Lorice Douglas (Ngarluma), Sharon Edgar Jones (Wonnarua, Gathang), Aaron James (Pitta Pitta), Terrie Lowe (Bundjalung), Edith Maher (Wajarri), David Moon (Bunganditj), Kelli Owen (Ngarrindjeri), Godfrey Simpson (Wajarri, Badimaya), Donald Thomas (Nyangumarta).

The workshop focused on developing skills and a concrete understanding in linguistics to empower participants to work on their own languages with greater knowledge and autonomy. The new skills meant people could navigate and understand - sometimes for the first time - the documentation of their languages, written mostly by non-Indigenous linguists.
DRIL Stage I Professional Development

Melbourne, VIC 23 - 28 November

The application of linguistic knowledge ensured that “language hunting” formed a big part of the PD: hands-on practice using grammars and other language materials to find words and grammatical information to make sentences.

By the end of the week, participants were creating transitive and intransitive sentences, and several people wrote stories in their language. Sessions in language teaching methods, pronouncing sounds, making and editing digital audio recordings and creative writing rounded off the training. All in all the PD workshop provided a broad set of skills to enable the participants to work towards their respective language goals.

On the final day of the PD workshop, everyone made a 20-minute presentation to the rest of group, trainers and members of RNLD’s Executive Committee. The presentations reflected the diversity within the cohort: some people emphasised the connection between language, family, culture and country, while others focused on their personal language journey or linguistic features in their language. All of the presentations showcased the skills that participants had gained from the 6-day PD, and highlighted the dedication and enthusiasm everyone has for continuing to strengthen their languages.

Thank you to our volunteers Penelope Schmidt and Chau Nguyen for their help during the PD.
DRIL Professional Development

Melbourne, VIC 23 - 28 November

DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey runs a session on word classes

Terrie Lowe, Kelli Ryan and Lorice Douglas busy working together as a team in the practical session

Lorice Douglas and Donald Thomas gift a CD of songs of the Pilbara to every PD participant

DRIL Trainee Trainer Jessica Solla runs a session in transitivity in order for participants to start forming simple sentences in their languages

Sandra Delaney introduces herself and her language with the use of the AIATSIS language map

Caroline Bradshaw practises writing transitive sentences in Dhanggati
DRIL training activities

**Geraldton, WA 24 – 26 August 2015**

DRIL trainers Emma Murphy and Ebony Joachim visited Geraldton, WA to run a 3-day workshop at the Irra Wangga Language Centre. The stories that participants wrote on the first day went on to become the focus of the training. Selecting a set of words from the stories, trainers and participants designed and practised immersion language learning activities that involved physical movement as well as speaking and listening. During the workshop, participants also trained in introductory phonetics and morphology so that on the final day of the workshop they could apply their new linguistics skills to their stories, identifying transitive sentences and choosing which suffixes were needed on which words.

**New Mapoon, QLD 8 – 10 September 2015**

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey, Emma Murphy and Ebony Joachim spent three days in far north Queensland running a workshop at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre in New Mapoon. Participants from four different language groups were present at the workshop, including representatives from Mpakwithi, Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Gudang and Angkumathi. Throughout the workshop, participants were introduced to the Master-Apprentice method for language learning and teaching. Each participant took part in various immersion activities designed to be used in their daily lives. Participants also learned how to search for language resources in the AIATSIS Mura Collections Catalogue. On the final day an Mpakwithi family group learned how to build and pronounce simple sentences, as well as how to make and edit audio recordings using a Zoom H1 recorder and Audacity editing freeware.
**DRIL training activities**

**Yungaburra, QLD 14 - 15 September 2015**

DRIL trainers Emma Murphy, Margaret Florey, and Ebony Joachim delivered a workshop to a Yidinji family group in Yungaburra, QLD. Across the two-day workshop, the group was introduced to immersion language learning methods. They practised a range of immersion activities that incorporated questions in language with learning words for body parts and other nouns. Participants also learned about and practised Total Physical Response (TPR) during their immersion activities, which involved moving between different locations, and prompting participants to practise asking questions like “Where are you going?” The RNLD Master-Apprentice kit offered yet more ideas to the group about different ways to run an immersion session, with trainers talking through how even the simplest of board games or toys can be made into a language learning activity.

![Kathleen Stewart and Laurie Padmore practise a Total Physical Response (TPR) language exercise](image)

**Racism it stop with me campaign**

RNLD is proud to have joined forces with some of Australia’s leading businesses, sporting bodies and NGOs to support the "Racism. It Stops With Me" campaign.

Research from 2011 shows that one in seven Australians say they have experienced discrimination because of their colour or background. We know that racism affects many of the people we work with, and we pledge to do what we can to raise awareness and challenge damaging attitudes and behaviours.

At our AGM and Office-Warming on 25th September, we asked staff and members to make a written pledge. Stay tuned for updates from us about how we will continue to contribute to this important campaign, and please consider signing on.


**Modules in Motion**

**Resource cataloguing**

For the last four months, RNLD intern Penelope Schmidt has been working to develop a comprehensive catalogue of all of RNLD’s language resources and teaching materials. Taking on the huge task, Penelope has meticulously sorted through our bookshelves to note the details of each item. She has included in her scope the large body of digital resources that have been generously made available to us by Dr Claire Bowern of Yale University. Though unfinished, Penelope’s work has already proved valuable to DRIL trainers as they prepared for the DRIL Stage I PD workshop in November.

Over the recent months, we have received many resource donations from linguists, language workers and language centres. We thank Anna Ash, Felicity Meakins, Rachel Nordlinger, Anne Poelina, Claire Bowern, Sharon Edgar-Jones and John Giacon for sharing and donating their materials.

You can view these donations through the link: http://www.rnld.org/donate

Please contact us if you would like to donate or financially support RNLD’s work.

**Conferences**

Australian Languages Workshop (ALW)
4 - 6 March 2016
Australian National University (ANU)

The ALW gives community members, language workers and linguists alike the opportunity to come together in one space to discuss current issues in the Australian Indigenous language context, including approaches to research and the use of language.

More information and registration can be found through the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language: http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/whats-on/australian-languages-workshop-2016/
DRIL training activities

Broome, WA 1 - 2 October 2015

DRIL trainers Jessica Solla and Emma Murphy ran a DRIL workshop at Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga in Broome, WA. The goal of the workshop was to provide training in linguistics to language workers at the Centre so that they could better understand the linguistic documentation that had been carried out on their language. Starting with an introduction to morphology, the group of language workers and teachers learned to identify bound and free morphemes in Yawuru. During the workshop, trainers worked through transitivity and case marking, which helped participants make sense of many of the linguistic terms they had seen throughout their work at the language centre. PD participant Hiroko Shioji trained the group in interlinear glossing to break down each word into its morphemes. Language workers then wrote and glossed a short story in Yawuru. The group also had a chance to apply their teaching skills to design and practise activities to teach intransitive and transitive sentences within a classroom.

Kununurra, WA 5 - 7 October 2015

DRIL trainers Emma Murphy and Jessica Solla returned to Kununurra, WA for a workshop on phonetics. The group of experienced language workers learned how linguists describe and write sounds, becoming familiar with concepts such as place and manner of articulation, as well as the International Phonetic Alphabet. Alongside the theoretical discussion, language workers applied their knowledge of phonetics to identify the different sounds in Miriwoong and to write them into a phonemic inventory. Participants then made audio and video recordings of example words for each Miriwoong sound, while others created a PowerPoint presentation to showcase their sounds and the recordings. Finally, the team listened to archival recordings, identifying the different sounds and words in order to start transcribing them.
DRIL training activities

Mount Gambier, SA 26 – 27 October 2015

DRIL trainer Emma Murphy and RUIL intern Peter Nyhuis ran a two-day workshop with a Bunganditj language group in Mt Gambier, SA. The workshop focused on finding ways to get language spoken in and around the home on a daily basis. On the first day, the group brainstormed how they might use Bunganditj terms for different rooms in a house, before taking a walk through the training space describing the different areas. Using the same language, the team then built sentences to describe a range of home environments pictured in magazines. The group also looked at words they could use for cutlery, which they practised putting into transitive sentences. On the second day of the workshop, the language team revised the words from the previous day learning about affixes that mark location and movement, as well as tense. The team practised using these new forms through self-narration activities in and around the building.

Shepparton, VIC 26 – 27 October 2015

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Katerina Forrester with RUIL intern Chau Nguyen ran a workshop in Shepparton, VIC with a group from YortaYorta Nations and the Academy of Sport Health and Education (ASHE). On the first day, participants learned about and practised non-verbal communication activities. The group then practised running immersion language activities using animal puppets, before extending the activities to include locative suffixes. Throughout these activities, the groups also recorded themselves speaking in Yorta Yorta. On the second day of the workshop, the group discussed how to pronounce sounds in their language before breaking off into women's and men's groups to create simple sentences and record them for practice sessions at home.
RNLD news

Events
Special General Meeting of RNLD Inc. will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, 18th December 2015
Location: Suite 3, Level 1, 19-21 Argyle Place South
Carlton, Victoria 3053
Please join the RNLD staff and executive members at the RNLD Carlton office after the SGM for Christmas drinks and nibbles to wind down after a busy year. Happy holidays to all!

Volunteers
RNLD is indebted to our volunteers and interns who have come into the office each week to make valued contributions to the organisation. This year, we have been lucky to have had Kate Charlwood and Penelope Schmidt volunteer their time and efforts to keep our Languages in the News page updated on our website (take a look at www.rnld.org/news), creating resource catalogues, developing worksheets, helping with preparations for the DRIL Stage I PD workshop in November, and more. We feel very fortunate to have such dedicated and committed volunteers as part of the RNLD team.

Call for volunteers
We are now opening calls for volunteers to join the RNLD team in 2016. We are looking for volunteers in the Melbourne area who have a particular interest in Australian Indigenous languages. We are primarily searching for a volunteer team who can provide a diverse set of skills and are happy to work within the expanding needs of the organisation. Some skill areas might include administration, event planning, resource creation, and networking.

If you are interested in volunteering at RNLD in 2016, please send:
- A short expression of interest, and
- Your CV outlining relevant skills, interests, and experience.

To,
Katerina Forrester
Training Support Officer
training@rnld.org

Internship program
The Research Unit for Indigenous Language (The University of Melbourne) and RNLD teamed up once again this year to give university students the opportunity to participate in DRIL workshops and to provide further tutoring to DRIL participants with a keen interest in linguistics. Peter Nyhuis was accepted to take part in the Bunganditj workshop in Mt Gambier with DRIL Trainer Emma Murphy, and Chau Nguyen participated in the Yorta Yorta workshop at Yorta Yorta Nations in Shepparton with DRIL Trainer Margaret Florey and Training Support Officer Katerina Forrester. Prue Grant who is just completing her second year of undergraduate studies in linguistics will be joining a RNLD workshop in 2016.
To read the reports of this years interns and past interns, head to the following link:
http://www.rnld.org/DRILRUILinternships

RNLD is funded under the Indigenous Languages and Arts program

Join our online communities on Facebook and Twitter
RNLD would personally like to thank you for your continued support