Nine language activists from around Australia gathered in Melbourne over July 6-18 for the Stage II DRIL Leadership Professional Development Workshop. John Hobson and Susan Poetsch from The University of Sydney joined the DRIL training team of Margaret Florey, Emma Murphy, Jessica Solla, and Katerina Forrester to deliver intensive sessions focused on phonetics, morpho-syntax, teaching methods, and resource creation.

The intensive workshop was held on the large grounds of University College at The University of Melbourne, and opened by Aunty Dianne Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder, who gave a Welcome to Country.

The workshop built on knowledge and skills that were fostered at the Stage I workshop held in November 2014. Linguistics and teaching methods formed the backbone of the training at the Stage II workshop.

The participants were Ebony Joachim (Yorta-Yorta), Jason Kirby (Wadi-Wadi), Salote Bovoro (Adnyamathanha), Michelle Warren (Dieri), Hiroko Shioji (Yawuru), Nadine Taylor (Wajarri), Roy Tommy (Yinhawangka), AJ Joshua (Marra), and Grant Thompson (Ngandi). Over the two weeks they acquired the linguistic knowledge to determine the sound systems, word forms and sentence structures of their respective languages.
DRIL Professional Development

Melbourne, VIC 6 - 18 July

John Hobson and Susan Poetsch delivered training in immersion teaching methods and language activities that participants could take back to the community. RNLD’s newest staff member and PD participant Ebony Joachim delivered her first DRIL training session that focused on editing digital audio recordings using Audacity. Swan Hill participant Jason Kirby led a discussion on creating new words in language.

Over the weekend, participants developed their own language teaching resources. This creative session saw participants break out of their comfort zones and take very diverse directions. These included learning to produce animations, explaining phonotactics through a PowerPoint presentation, writing poems and stories in language, mapping kin terms and family relationships, and exploring onomatopoeia in bird song. Several participants began digging into grammars to understand complex structures and begin writing learner’s grammars for the community.

Across the two-week workshop, participants and trainers also enjoyed a number of attractions and events in Melbourne, including the NAIDOC Week march, a trip to the footy at the MCG, and a visit to The University of Melbourne to meet the staff at the Research Unit for Indigenous Language.

John Hobson from The University of Sydney leads the PD group in a fun and fast-paced language immersion exercise

Jason Kirby, Wadi-Wadi man from Swan Hill, leads the PD group through a discussion of creating new words in language

Roy Tommy and Salote Bovoro practise making a phone call in Arrente, a useful everyday activity led by Susan Poetsch from The University of Sydney

On the Saturday, RNLD volunteers and interns were invited to the PD to meet DRIL participants. In this photo, RNLD volunteer Kate Charlwood and Michelle Warren discuss language work.
DRIL Professional Development

Melbourne, VIC 6 - 18 July

DRIL participant Grant Thompson suggested a Ngandi name for the DRIL PD training program that means a group of warriors sitting at the fire on country.

Grant describes it this way, “This is for the language warriors - not like soldiers who are commanded to do something, because these warriors know what they are doing. We come to this fireplace and share our knowledge, just like the old days when they shared their feed and told each other stories about how their day went. That’s what’s happening when these warriors come to RNLD and also in other kinds of language activities too that are saving the languages.”

It was an inspiring workshop and RNLD commends all the participants for their courage and hard work. We can’t wait to see what you do next!

Michelle Warren, Grant Thompson, and Nadine Taylor spend an afternoon at the NAIDOC march in Melbourne

On the final day of the workshop, all PD participants gave 30min presentations. Nadine Taylor (left) presents an animation using PowerPoint to explain the importance of linguistics in language work

Roy Tommy pulls out the recording equipment to work on his final presentation

The RNLD executive committee joined the participants for an afternoon tea to learn about their projects. Here RNLD Treasurer Simona Scarparo talks with Grant Thompson about his Ngandi language work

AJ Joshua gave a presentation on the vocabulary and grammatical elements of a story in Marra

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DRIL training activities

Woorabinda, QLD 23 – 24 June 2015

From June 23-24, DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy ran a workshop in Woorabinda alongside Annalee Pope, coordinator at the Central Queensland Language Centre, and their new staff member Patricia Coleman. The workshop focused on supporting language workers John Waterton (Gungabula), Steve Kemp (Gangulu), and Wally Saunders (Wulguru). Annalee introduced the group to the Miromaa program and explained the benefits of making digital dictionaries. The second day was spent recording and editing sentences using Audacity in each of the participant’s languages, strengthening skills in forming simple sentences and pronouncing words.

Hobart, TAS 28 – 29 July 2015

On July 28-29, DRIL trainer Emma Murphy and trainee trainer Ebony Joachim ran a two-day workshop in Hobart with Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre staff. It was RNLD’s second workshop with the group, and the two days were all about building skills in language immersion and the Master Apprentice method.

The workshop focused on a theme of collecting natural materials to make resources. With this theme, the group wrote a simple story which they took turns to narrate and act out. The story was also broken down into parts of speech—nouns and verbs—which became the focus for several immersion activities and revision games. Different workplace teams also wrote songs and made up dances, again using the same theme. It was a very productive and inspiring two days!
DRIL training activities

Port Hedland, WA 17 - 19 August 2015

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Jessica Solla were joined by Leanne Hinton from the University of California at Berkeley for a three-day Master-Apprentice Program workshop from 17-19 August at Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, South Hedland WA. Nyamal, Nyangumarta, Ngarluma and Yinhawangka speakers and learners came together to learn language revitalisation strategies for home and community environments. Leanne Hinton shared some of the insights she has gained through her extensive involvement with language revitalisation work in the United States with the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS).

Over the first two days, the participants practised a range of immersion language-learning techniques under Leanne’s guidance. The workshop moved out on to the grounds of Wangka Maya on the second day, when roo tails and damper were cooked on the fire. Throughout this activity, the Master-Apprentice teams practised self-narration (or ‘speaking to themselves’ in language) to describe all of the steps of preparing and cooking the food. On the final day of the workshop, Wangka Maya staff talked with the trainers about setting up support structures so that the teams could continue on with their Master-Apprentice work successfully.

Leanne Hinton, founder of the Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program, and Nyamal elder Alice Mitchell use figures of Australian animals for a language immersion set in Nyamal.

Using toys can be a great visual aid for speaking language, and helps both the Master and Apprentice stay in language.

Donald Thomas prepares the fire to cook roo tails for lunch; also the focus of the next language immersion task concentrating on ‘self-narration’.

Conferences

Puliima National Indigenous Language and Technology Forum 2015
12 - 15 October 2015

RNLD is returning to Puliima this year! DRIL Trainer Ebony Joachim, and three DRIL PD participants, Michelle Warren, Roko Shioji, and Salote Bovoro will be running taster workshops on the Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program. Come along to learn some skills in language immersion.

The Puliima Forum is a biennial event which aims to bring people together from all over Australia to explore new projects, products and methods in language work to take back to the community. The conference runs for 3-days, following an optional 2-day workshop program.

William Angliss Institute Conference Centre 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne

Modules in Motion

iMovie for language work

RNLD volunteer Kate Charlwood is creating a new worksheet on the video editing freeware iMovie.

Video editing software plays a vital role in language documentation and revitalisation. Software such as iMovie also allows you to post your finished video project straight to Youtube to be shared instantly.

The worksheet will be used at future workshops and can be accessed by all DRIL participants through the online Resource Room, which houses all RNLD worksheets.

http://www.rnld.org/resourceroom

If you would like more information on video editing, contact our friendly RNLD staff and volunteers at training@rnld.org
DRIL training activities

Port Hedland, WA 15 – 17 April 2015

While the roo tails are being cooked on the open fire, Kayleen Arnold (left) records Janet Stewart (right) describing the process of singeing fur off the tail in Nyangumarta.


Alice Mitchell gives Linguist Annie Edwards-Cameron a lesson on preparing a swag in Nyamal.

Describing everyday activities in language is a great way for your Apprentice to learn everyday language. It can be just as easy as ‘making your bed’.


If you wish to find out more about the Master-Apprentice program through RNLD, contact our friendly RNLD staff at training@rnld.org or call us on (03) 9077 9500.

Upcoming DRIL workshops

The staff at RNLD are busy planning workshops to be held over the next six months. Over the next few months you will find us in:

8-10 September Bamaga (Cape York Indigenous Knowledge Centres)
14-15 September Yunguburra
1-3 October Broome
5-7 October Kununurra
23-24 October Adelaide
26-27 October Mt Gambier
26-27 October Shepparton
23-28 November Stage I DRIL Leadership Professional Development workshop Melbourne

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

Want to know the best towns in Australia? Follow the DRIL trainers as they make their way to workshops on Twitter #RNLDontheroad

DRIL training activities

Brisbane, QLD 26 June 2015

DRIL trainers Margaret Florey and Emma Murphy ran a workshop in Brisbane on 26th June with Aaron James (Pitta Pitta) and Sandra Delaney (Jandai), who are highly motivated to bring their languages back. Aaron wrote and recorded his own Welcome to Country in Pitta Pitta by the end of the day, and edited it with Audacity. Aaron and Sandra formed sentences in their languages using tense and location and direction markers, and practiced using them in some simple TPR exercises. They also learned about the sounds in their languages and started to understand how IPA symbols are used.

Both Aaron and Sandra will be participants in our new Stage I DRIL Leadership Professional Development group starting in November 2015. Our most recent volunteer, Amy Parncutt from UQ, will be partnering with Aaron to help him delve into his Pitta-Pitta resources in linguistics.

Volunteers and Internships

New in-office intern

Penelope Schmidt, student in Linguistics and Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne, is undertaking an in-house internship with RNLD. Penelope is creating a catalogue for the DRIL resource library, helping with the newsletter, and helping to organise the DRIL Professional Development program and accreditation processes. She is thrilled to be able to support the service RNLD offers to speakers and learners of Australian Indigenous languages.

RUIL Internship Program

RUIL (Research Unit for Indigenous Language) at the University of Melbourne is extending the internship program partnership with RNLD for this year. This will allow RNLD to take student interns to workshops across the country, and give them an insight into language diversity and the role that linguistics can play in a community context.

The interns participating in DRIL workshops this year are current students Peter Nyhuis (Honours in Linguistics), Prue Grant (Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics 2nd year), and Chau Nyugen (Masters of Linguistics). To read about the experiences of last year’s interns, and to stay up-to-date with our current interns, look through our website at http://www.rnld.org/DRILRUILinternships
New office space!

As RNLD continues to grow and work with more sites, we have moved to a larger office in Carlton. We now have space to provide more in-office training, and expand our volunteer and internship program.

Our new contact is:
ph: +61 (03) 9077-9500 (office)
Postal address
Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity
Box 9
19-21 Argyle Place South
Carlton, Victoria 3053
Australia

The new office layout comprises of a DRIL training area, a boardroom/training room, and an outdoor courtyard. The next November PD, and small in-house training workshops will be held at the new Carlton office space.

Funding

In August, Senator George Brandis announced that the Australian Government is awarding $11.9 million for 2015-16 to support work to revive and maintain Australia’s Indigenous languages. You can read the full press release at this link http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/MediaReleases/Pages/2015/ThirdQuarter/26-August-2015-11-9-million-to-preserve-Indigenous-languages.aspx

RNLD is very pleased to let our members, DRIL participants, and friends know that the DRIL program will continue to be funded under this grant scheme. We look forward to continuing to support the revitalisation and maintenance of Indigenous languages through our training activities and advocacy work.

Partnerships

We are excited to let you know that RNLD is negotiating a partnership with the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre http://ailc.org.au/ for the delivery of our nationally-accredited Certificate III in Aboriginal languages for communities and workplaces (10541NAT). Stay tuned for 2016 training dates.

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