

# Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Newsletter

Wangka Kanyira Ngali Pirniku  
Preserving Your Language for All of US

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## AT MY DESK

### Senior Linguist's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017!

#### 1967 Referendum's 50th Anniversary Event

This year is the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. This was an historic event which saw the Australian constitution's wording changed so that the Australian Government could make laws for all people, including Aboriginal people who had previously not been included, and to include Aboriginal people in the census counts. Symbolically, many people view this event as recognition of Aboriginal people's citizenship as Australians.

GALC is working in partnership with the National Trust (WA) on a project designed to give Goldfields Aboriginal people a chance to voice their opinion about the event. A variety of people were invited to have their portrait taken and then to add a statement which will appear as large as the portrait. These portraits will form part of an exhibition to be held in Perth on 8th July 2017. The portraits will then travel back to Kalgoorlie for an exhibition to be held in August 2017. Further information on the exhibition and 1967 Referendum can be found inside this newsletter.



Tobias taking Brian Champion's photo

#### Language Speakers

GALC linguists are very keen to hear from speakers who would like to work on the recording of their language. Currently we're working on Ngaju, Kaalamaya, Kuwarra, Tjupan, Madduwongga and Manyjilyjar. We're very keen to hear from people who speak or have information about the Madduwongga and Manyjilyjar languages. GALC pays \$35 an hour to speakers for their contribution. If you're keen to work on your language's recording, have a story or an idea for a book in your language, give us a call or drop in and see the linguists!

Sue Hanson

Senior Linguist



### SPOTTED GALC CAR STICKER!

The first of GALC's bumper stickers was spotted in Norseman last month! Don't forget that if you spot our car sticker on a car, take a photo, upload it to Facebook and tag it with the hashtags #goldfieldslanguagecentre and #aboriginallanguagesrock Congrats to Mike Griffiths of Norseman for being our first winner!



April 24, 2017

**THE GOLDFIELDS ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE CENTRE CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT FUNDS FOR A GOLDFIELDS ABORIGINAL INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING SERVICE**

*Qualified Interpreting: Creating equity and ensuring human rights are being met*

Kalgoorlie, April 24 2017 – The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre calls on the State Government to provide funding for the establishment of a 24-hour Aboriginal Interpreting and translating Service for the Goldfields region.

*'The provision of qualified Interpreters for Aboriginal people is a matter of social justice and equity' states GALC Senior Linguist, Sue Hanson. 'People who speak an Aboriginal language as a first language need access to a 24-hour service to assist in understanding and speaking with health, legal and educational systems'*

Estimates are that more than 500 people in the Goldfields region speak an Aboriginal language as a first language or mother tongue. Many of these people are elderly and consequently are becoming frequent users of health services. Many more people speak English as a second language and have a functional understanding of everyday English. A greater number of people speak Aboriginal English.

Experts in the field of Aboriginal language preservation, linguistic analysis and use jointly called on the WA State Government in 2016 to recognize and support the establishment of a Goldfields interpreting and translating service at the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre.

Hanson continued, *'Aboriginal English brings with it particular interpretation needs. Aboriginal English is a dialect of English that has it's own grammar and word meanings. Whilst it may sound similar to English, the literal, social or cultural meaning often differs from English. This difference brings about misinterpretation, the feeling that two people are speaking the same language but not communicating. The fact is they are not speaking the same dialect of the language'*

The importance of Indigenous interpreting services has been well documented in several national reports including *The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Recommendation 100)*, *The Recognition, Rights and Reform Social Justice Report (2000)* and the *Bringing Them Home Report: National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families 1997*.

The State Government needs to recognize the states 85 Aboriginal Languages and the need for localized Aboriginal Interpreting and Translating services in key locations throughout the State. It also needs to recognize the social and cultural interpretations that are associated with Aboriginal language and culture.

*'These critical components of interpretation have lead to the lack of appropriate communication and cost Aboriginal lives and trauma for their families and communities. The Ward and Dhu cases are examples of a clear need for localized interpreting and translating services with Aboriginal people afforded the basic human right of being culturally understood and supported within the justice and health systems. The most recent miscarriage of justice is the Gene Gibson case in which a Pintupi man was wrongly sentenced for manslaughter. This was a clear case of miscommunication and assumptions that all Aboriginal people can speak and understand standard Australian English'. Hanson said*

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre  
264 Hannan Street  
Kalgoorlie WA

If you would like more information about this topic contact the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre

Contact Pamela Thorley  
Telephone (08) 9021 3788  
Mobile 0448917437  
Email office@wangka.com.au  
Website wangka.com.au

**1967 Referendum 50th Anniversary Project**

A short ABC film about the 1967 Referendum photographic exhibition:

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCGoldfieldsEsperance/videos/10154412146941712/?fref=mentions&pref=story>



**Coming Soon!**

**Referendum 50th Anniversary Project in Perth**

The exhibition in Perth for the Goldfields event will be on 8th July at 1pm, 57 Murray St, Perth. Members of the public are invited to attend. RSVP: [info@wangka.com.au](mailto:info@wangka.com.au) or by phoning GALC on 9021 3788.

**Referendum 50th Anniversary Project in Kalgoorlie**

The exhibition being held in Perth on 8th July will travel to Kalgoorlie where it will be held on a date in August and at a place to be advised. Watch out for this exhibition!

**More Photos from the 2016 Aboriginal Languages Conference hosted by GALC**



Pictures (L-R) '2016 language centre conference dinner in Coolgardie,' 'Mathew Patterson, Mary G and Clifton Girgibah at the conference in Kalgoorlie,' 'Mary G getting fresh with attendees', 'Mary Gi with the Desert Stars Band'.





## New Staff



### Carmel Smiler

Carmel commenced work as Reception and Administration Assistant with the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre in May 2017. Carmel is a Walmajarri woman from Fitzroy Crossing and has worked in administration at the Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency in Fitzroy and completed the Interpreting Walmajarri and Kriol courses at the Kimberley TAFE in 2016.

Carmel is keen to learn more about Goldfields Aboriginal languages, heritage and culture. She hopes to meet a range of Aboriginal people from different cultural backgrounds and assist in supporting them in preserving and speaking languages of the Goldfields.

GALC is very pleased to have Carmel working on the front desk to provide Elders and visitors with a friendly face and support.



### Dr. Marion Mullin

Dr. Marion Mullin (Marion Ní Mhaoláin) first arrived in the Goldfields in 2003 and has been living in the area permanently since 2010. Originally from Ireland, Marion is a qualified linguistic anthropologist with a Bachelor's Degree and a PhD in the Irish language and in Anthropology.

Marion commenced work as a linguist with the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre in January 2017. She is currently engaged in research on the Ngaju language of the Norseman region, with the aim to produce a dictionary, a sketch grammar and educational resources for the Ngaju community.

The dictionary will be ready for publication by December 2017. Marion is also working on various special projects with other Goldfield languages.



## Staff Farewells

### Pam Thorley, Office Manager

I am sad to say that I am leaving the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre to move back to Perth and take up a position with Life Without Barriers as the State Lead, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Initiatives.

I have enjoyed working with the team at GALC and have met so many wonderful people. Learning so much about the work of linguistics and working with Goldfields Aboriginal languages speakers has been an honor and a privilege.

I wish everyone involved in the Goldfields Aboriginal languages project the very best and look forward to hearing about all the success this project has to preserve and maintain Goldfields Aboriginal languages for everyone in the Goldfields and the State.



Pam, Maureeka, Marion, Zoe and Amy at Zoe's farewell lunch

### Zoe Thomas: Maternity Leave

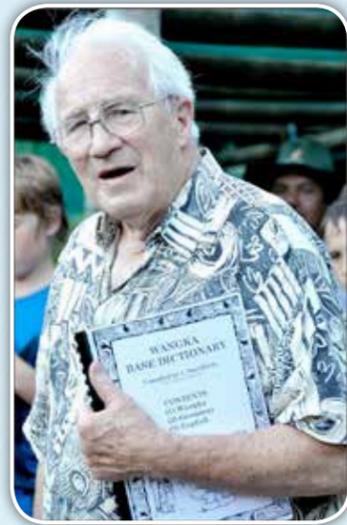
GALC staff wish Zoe Thomas all the best whilst on maternity leave! Zoe has done a fabulous job working as the GALC Education Officer producing a variety of educational materials in languages.





**Vale: Noel Blyth**

It was with great sadness the GALC staff learnt of the recent passing of Pastor Noel Blyth. Mr. Blyth was a true champion of the Goldfields languages and created a great deal of written material in order to preserve the languages. He was one of the first people to organise a dictionary in the region. His work continues to inspire linguists who have come along more recently. Vale, Pastor Blyth.



**Tjupan**

Three new folding-your-own books are under production in the Tjupan language along with a 'Learn some Tjupan' book. The database of words in the language continues to be added to as linguists work with speakers.

**Ngalia**

No new work has been undertaken on this language in the last few months.

**Ngaju**

GALC was very lucky to secure the services of linguist, Dr. Marion Mullin. Marion has been working on the development of the Ngaju language database with Ngaju speakers. A very important part of Marion's work is also the comparison of old documents of the Ngaju language, checking the words with speakers and then entering them into the database. There are now over 1000 words in the database and GALC aims to have the first version of the Ngaju dictionary produced by December 2017.

**Cundeelee Wangka**

Sue Hanson will be travelling to Tjuntjuntjarra Community in early June to do final checks and get permissions from speakers for the printing of the Cundeelee Wangka dictionary produced by linguist Dawn Hadfield.

**Kuwarra**

Two fold-your-own Kuwarra stories were recorded and are now being made up. Several more recording sessions were held with speakers and the database now has around 1500 words of Kuwarra in it.

**Kaalamaya**

GALC linguists continue to work on the analysis of the material available in the Kaalamaya language. There are over 1000 words in the database but very few sentences. We're very keen to hear from any speakers or part speakers who would like to do language recordings.

**Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjatjantjarra and Yankunytjatjarra**

GALC linguists have begun working with some speakers in the prison to develop small stories in these languages. All 3 languages have been well researched and documented so GALC staff can move on to making resources.

**Manyjilyjar**

No new work has been undertaken on looking into this language. We'd love to hear from anyone with information or material or from a speaker of this language!

**Maduwongga**

Volunteer linguist, Hannah Vinicombe, has taken over this language's work for the next few months before she departs for New Guinea in July to begin her role as a linguist there. Hannah is working with a speaker and also searching for old records of the language in archives and libraries.

**Mirning**

GALC linguists have liaised with the Far West Language Centre in Ceduna, South Australia as they also have responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Mirning language. Mirning will be the focus language for work in 2018.

**JungkaJungka Great Western Woodland Festival April 2017**

GALC held a stall at the wonderful JungkaJungka Festival in Norseman on Saturday 15th April. Loads of interest was shown in the work of the language centre and lots of support was shown for the language preservation work! The festival was a terrific opportunity for linguistic staff to provide Norseman people with information and chat. Thanks to the Wilderness Society for inviting us to the festival.



JungkaJungka yams



Bush onion

**Student Linguist at GALC: Amy Budrikis**

GALC recently hosted a linguistic student at the language centre. Amy Budrikis is studying a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Western Australia, and is being supervised by John Henderson, Marie-Eve Rita and Len Collard. She's conducting research on how parents and grandparents, who didn't have the opportunity to learn language fully as a child, can still learn language as an adult and give language to their own children. Amy spent three weeks at the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre in April, and is thankful for the generosity of everyone who sat with her and shared their perspectives on questions like:

1. How did you learn language as a kid?
2. What motivates you to learn and speak language?
3. What would make it easier for people to learn more language?
4. What would help families give language to their children and grandchildren?

GALC will receive the results from Amy's study in a couple of years when it is complete. These kinds of research documents provide GALC staff with important information on how best to cater for language learner's needs.



Amy Budrikis



## Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Awards

The second Goldfields Aboriginal Language Awards is now open for nominations. Nominate someone who has been a language champion or who supports the use of the languages! The Awards will be held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at the Railway Motel, Kalgoorlie.

### The award categories are:

1. Hall of Fame: Long term commitment by an individual towards the use and preservation of Aboriginal languages.
2. Outstanding educational body promoting Aboriginal language learning.
3. Outstanding business promoting use of Aboriginal languages.
4. Outstanding individual promoting use of Aboriginal languages.
5. Outstanding under 21 year old using or promoting Aboriginal languages.
6. Outstanding individual contribution towards Aboriginal language use and preservation.
7. Outstanding individual, organisation or business promoting interpretation and translating of Aboriginal languages.
8. Outstanding government department or agency promoting use of Aboriginal languages.



Sonny Graham receiving a Certificate of Appreciation.

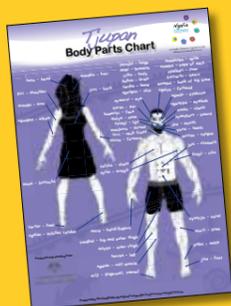


Dawn and Brian Hadfield receiving a Certificate of Appreciation.

Nominations need to be made by **4pm Friday 9th of June 2017** via email, mail or hand delivered to the GALC office on the nomination form. The form can be photocopied from this newsletter or can be obtained at [www.wangka.com.au](http://www.wangka.com.au) or via email [susanhanson@y7mail.com](mailto:susanhanson@y7mail.com)



## Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Resources



Tjupan Body Parts Poster  
**\$40 each**



Language Conversation Charts  
**\$40 for the set**



### Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Centre Aboriginal Languages Award NOMINATION FORM Nominations close **4pm Friday 9th of June 2017**

**Person making the nomination:** *(your name)*

**Your address:**

**Your phone number:**

**Your email address:**

**Person, institution or business you are nominating:**

**Nominee's postal address:**

**Nominee's phone number:**

**Nominee's email address:** *(if known)*

**Category of nomination: Please circle the category you nominate (one only)**

1. Hall of Fame: Long term commitment by an individual towards the use and preservation of Aboriginal languages.
2. Outstanding educational body promoting Aboriginal language learning.
3. Outstanding business promoting use of Aboriginal languages.
4. Outstanding individual promoting use of Aboriginal languages.
5. Outstanding under 21 year old using or promoting Aboriginal languages.
6. Outstanding individual contribution towards Aboriginal language use and preservation.
7. Outstanding individual, organisation or business promoting interpretation and translating of Aboriginal languages.
8. Outstanding government department or agency promoting use of Aboriginal languages.

**The reasons you believe this person, institution or business deserves the award:**  
*(write on the back if you need more room)*

Thank you for your nomination!  
Email this form to Sue Hanson at [susanhanson@y7mail.com](mailto:susanhanson@y7mail.com)  
or drop in or post to GALC 264 Hannan St, Kalgoorlie 6430

## Baked Karlkurla

### You will need:

Fresh karlkurla—at this time of year the skin is getting tough but they're still edible when baked

Hot ashes

### Instructions

Make a hot fire and when it has burnt down, push the coals aside so you have soft hot ashes.

Put the fresh karlkurla into the hot ashes and cover them with ashes.

Allow to bake for a few minutes.

Pull the karlkurla out of the ashes and enjoy!



## Sandalwood nuts

### You will need:

A handful of sandalwood nuts

Cooking oil

Salt or chicken salt or other seasoned flavouring of your choice

Roasting pan

### Instructions

Break open the sandalwood nuts being careful not to smash the inside kernel.

Put the kernels in a bowl and sprinkle with cooking oil.

Sprinkle salt or your choice of seasoning mix over the nuts.

Turn the oven onto 180C to heat up.

Tip the sandalwood nuts into the roasting pan and pop into the oven.

Shake the nuts around in the pan every five minutes and return to the heat

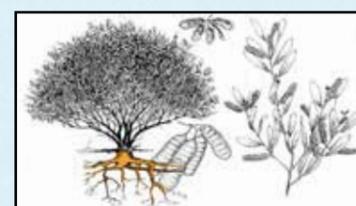
When the nuts are roasted, remove from the heat, cool and enjoy!



## Kuwarra Witchetty Grub Story



### Lunki – Witchetty Grubs - A Kuwarra language story



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

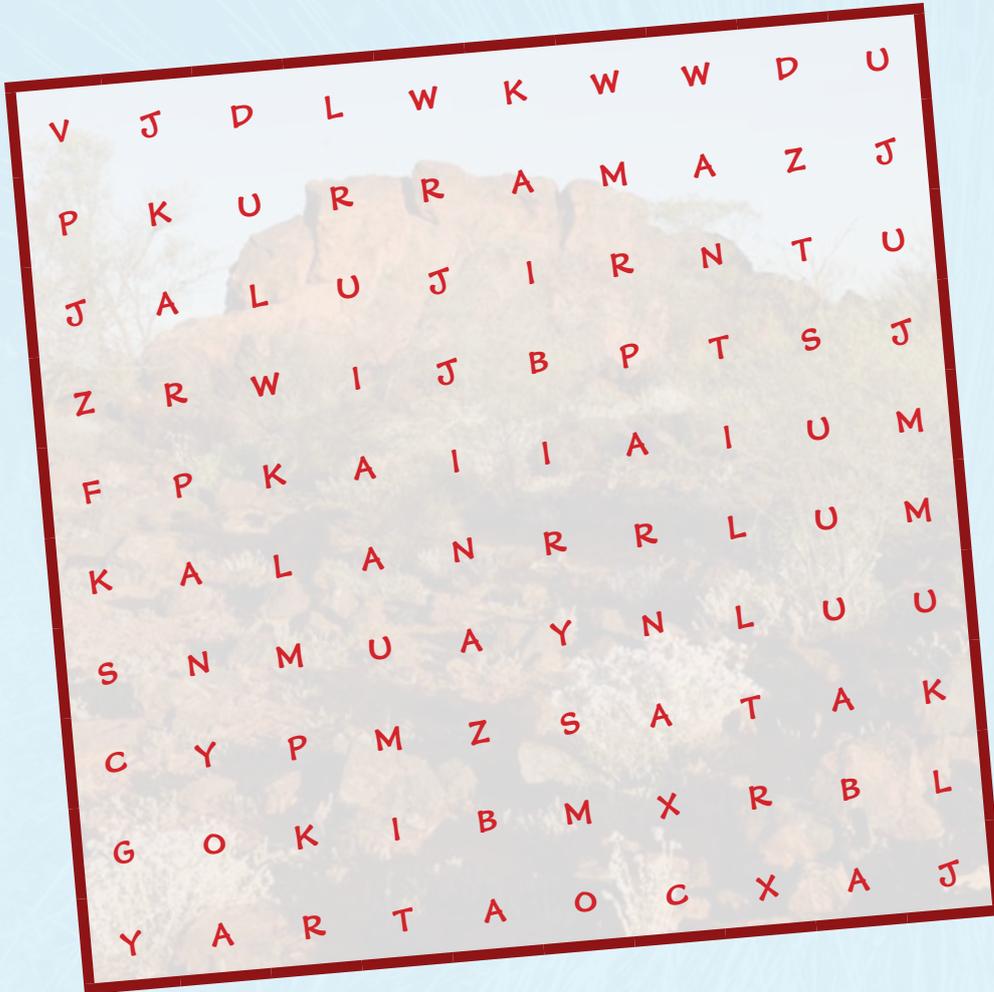


8

1. **Lunki manku warta pilkayurru, karriya, marnan, murturn, kuurarta, kantarran, parra, yilkari.**  
Get the witchetty grubs from these types of bushes and trees.
2. **Ngurriny warta pilkayurru wartarta. Nyangu wartarta.**  
Look at the ground and see where the tree root has made a crack in the dry earth.
3. **Wartarta wanarnu thamanu maku manu.**  
Follow the cracked earth down and dig the root out.
4. **Lunki kanintharra wartangka. Lunkiku kuna nyangu palu kanintharra wartangka.**  
You will see the grub's poo around the outside of the root.
5. **Warta kartanu lunki manu.**  
Break the stick and get the grub out.
6. **Mankurrpa lunki marangka.**  
Here are three grubs in the hand.
7. **Lunki wuriyanu likuthanu.**  
The grub will wriggle out of this chrysalis.
8. **Palu pakanu wampararringu.**  
The moth will come out of the chrysalis and fly away.



# Word Sleuth - Ngaju Language



- WARTU** eyes
- MIJAL** water
- MULA** nose
- WANYA** girl
- KATA** head
- WANTI** boy
- JINA** foot
- PUNI** horse
- KURRA** leg
- JIRLA** snake
- KULA** ear
- YARTA** eagle
- MARA** hand
- KALA** fire
- JUJU** dog
- WAJIKI** crow
- PARNA** ground
- JULA** emu
- KARPANY** body

## Did you know?

GALC office has a variety of books and resources for sale. Drop in and see them!

Editor: Sue Hanson

**For further information**

Senior Linguist: Sue Hanson [susanhanson@y7mail.com](mailto:susanhanson@y7mail.com)

Linguist: Dr. Marion Mullin [linguist@wangka.com.au](mailto:linguist@wangka.com.au)

Linguist: Gizem Milonas [linguist2@wangka.com.au](mailto:linguist2@wangka.com.au)

Reception: Carmel Smiler [reception@wangka.com.au](mailto:reception@wangka.com.au)

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre

264 Hannan St, Kalgoorlie, WA 6430

Phone: (08)9021 3788 email: [info@wangka.com.au](mailto:info@wangka.com.au)

Web: [www.wangka.org.au](http://www.wangka.org.au)



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