

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Newsletter

Wangka Kanyira Ngali Pirniku
Preserving Your Language for All of US

In this issue

Meet New Members

The Aboriginal Languages Conference 2016

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Official Opening

Languages Roundup

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre

Language Project in the News

Upcoming Events

Kids Corner

AT MY DESK

Senior Linguist's Report

Welcome to the first issue of the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre's (GALC) newsletter for 2016. This year has been hectic and the newsletters weren't produced while everything was so busy. This is a bumper issue to catch up on the news of the centre.

This year saw the establishment of a GALC office on Hannan St, Kalgoorlie in March 2016. Thanks is given to Danny Ulrich for his assistance in setting up the office with furniture, phones and a wonderful window display. The appointment of an Office Manager, Pam Thorley, saw our first permanently based staff member in the office. The subsequent appointment of linguist, Rachel-Anne Sambel, has expanded the staff and provided us with a good base.

The 2016 Aboriginal Languages Conference was hosted by us from the 16th to 18th of June. This conference was a gathering of all the people from language centres and programs across WA and the NT. Over 160 people attended and the conference provided much support, information sharing and encouragement for the vital work we are all doing on the recording, analysis and preservation of the Aboriginal languages of Australia. There are many more photos and info from the conference in this newsletter.

With a second linguist now on the team, GALC can expand the scope of the language work to provide support for all languages of the Goldfields region. The second linguist's position focuses on the languages of the eastern Goldfields region between Laverton and the NT and SA borders. Lots of research needs to be undertaken on the unstudied languages such as Manyjiljarr and Maduwongga as well as providing linguistic support for Mirning, Pitjantjatjara, Nyanatjarra, Yankunytjatjara, Wangkatha and Ngaanyatjarra. We are very keen to hear from anyone who speaks these languages and would like to work on the recording of the languages.

Sue Hanson
Senior Linguist

MEET NEW MEMBERS OF THE GALC TEAM - Pam Thorley

Pam Thorley is the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre's Office Manager. Pam is a Noongar woman from a large extended family of the Great Southern Region of WA. Pam holds a Teaching Degree and has over twenty years' experience working in Aboriginal Affairs portfolios in a range of State Government Agencies. With an Education background and years of experience working in the Aboriginal heritage and culture areas she hopes to assist in this Language Project and the preservation and continued use of languages throughout the Goldfields.



A/Prof Claire Bowern and her students at Yale who worked on Tjupan grammar in 2016.



'Building Resilience: Identity, Intellect and the Role of Languages'

The 2016 Aboriginal Languages Conference was held in Kalgoorlie Western Australia from 16 – 19 June, organised and hosted by GALC. The focus of the conferences was 'Building Resilience: Identity, intellect and the role of Languages'.

The conference hosted by the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre, brought together Aboriginal language speakers, linguists, Elders and a wide variety of people working on the preservation and use of Aboriginal languages from across WA and the NT.

The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre has a very strong commitment to the preservation and study of languages in the region, with ongoing obligations to record story and song of the area. By gathering the diverse stories and historical moments, the language is gathered in the form of natural speech and this is of critical importance to the study of languages.

'This conference's theme is very close to our hearts in the Goldfields. Many people have struggled to keep their language alive and for opportunities to use and enjoy them. Some people have lost their language due to the impact of colonisation and are looking for ways to regain their linguistic heritage. The role that heritage language plays, especially for young Aboriginal people, is critical for a sense of place, connection, expression and family. Engaging with one's heritage language is every person's right. This conference presented an outstanding program of keynote speakers and delegates not just from the NT and WA but from across Australia. We join together to challenge, support, inform and inspire each other in the critical work we undertake'. said Sue Hanson

The conference called on the Western Australian State Government to commit and support the development and implementation of a State Aboriginal Languages Policy.

Photos Top to bottom:

Recommendation panel Beverly Rebbeck, Kado Muir, Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Dee Lightfoot.

Tjupan singers with Richard Hookway perform at the opening.

Kalgoorlie School Choir at the opening.



Press Release

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

THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE ALLIANCE (WANALA) 2016 CALLS FOR A STATE ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES POLICY

*The focus of the conference is
'Building Resilience: Identity, intellect and the role of languages''*

Kalgoorlie, July 12, 2016– The WANALA Aboriginal Languages Conference held in Kalgoorlie Western Australia calls for a State Aboriginal Languages Policy. The conference has brought together Aboriginal language speakers, linguists, Elders and a wide variety of people working on the preservation and use of Aboriginal languages from across WA and the NT.

'This conference calls on the State Government to develop and implement a State Aboriginal Languages Policy to support Aboriginal Language speakers and our future generations in the recording, analysing and preservation of Australia's wealth,' said Leading Academic Dr Richard Walley AOM.

More than 160 delegates at the conference attended three days of workshops, panel discussions and keynote addresses hosted by the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre.

Experts in the field of Aboriginal language preservation, linguistic analysis and use jointly called on the WA State Government to recognize and support the use of the 85 languages of the state.

Walley continued, *'Our language is our responsibility, our heritage and our identity, but it is Australia's treasure and needs to be recognized, espoused and enabled through recognition, practice and funding.'* In Western Australia the State Government does not recognise the Aboriginal cultural wealth of this State which includes our languages the first languages of Australia.

'Australia's true history is hidden in our Aboriginal languages. A State Languages Policy will assist in Australia's true history being told. The policy needs to be a bottom up approach, inclusive and localized. This will enable social and economic returns for all Aboriginal people and the State' said Lez Schultz, Ngadju Conservation Coordinator.



Keynote Speakers at the Conference

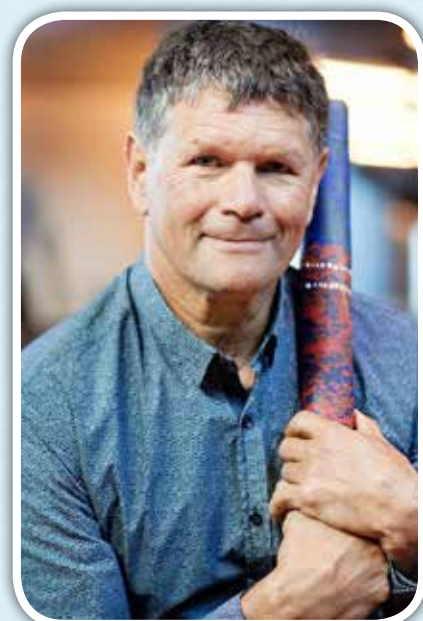
Films of the keynote addresses, the opening ceremony and the closing address can be found on the wangka.com.au website at <http://wangka.com.au/index.php/conference/goldfields-conference-videos>



Kado Muir

Kado Muir is an Australian Aboriginal artist, anthropologist and Indigenous Rights activist. He is a leader of the Ngalia Tribe and an applicant for the Mantintjarra Ngalia Peoples Native Title Claim.

Kado has researched and published on Australian Aboriginal Heritage and native titles. He is an accomplished artist specialising in printmaking and works on canvas. He is a fierce advocate for the rights of Indigenous Australians in land rights, protecting heritage and recognising the value of traditional knowledge and cultural expression.



Dr Richard Walley

Dr Richard Walley OAM is a Nyoongar man of the South West regions of Western Australia within Nyoongar country. Musician, artists, actor, writer, linguist, activist, educator – the extraordinary versatility of Richard Wally has seen him wear many hats over his long and illustrious career.

Richard has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal and two honorary doctorates for his contribution to the promotion of Nyoongar Culture and the Arts. In 2010, Richard received the 'Citizen of the Year' Award in the 'Indigenous Leadership' category of the WA Awards.

As a renowned and highly respected exponent of the didgeridoo, Richard Walley has produced a 7 CD collection of didgeridoo music.

Over the past thirteen years, Richard has been working with Australian, European and American companies as a cultural consultant and presenter and has participated at the perfume industry 'Centrefolia Conferences' in France over the past five years presenting Cultural and Indigenous business opportunities.

A fluent speaker of Nyoongar language, a role model for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike, Richard continues to push boundaries, continually developing personally whilst always focussed on the bigger 'community' picture of Culture, Arts and Environment.



Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (DPhil Oxford; PhD Cambridge, titular; MA Tel Aviv, summa cum laude) is Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide. He is also Distinguished Visiting Professor at Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Weizmann Institute of Science. He is the author of many books about language revitalisation. He has launched, with the Barngarla Aboriginal communities of Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta, the reclamation of the Barngarla language of Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. Professor Zuckermann is elected member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL). His 2015 MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), Language Revival: Securing the Future of Endangered Languages, has attracted 5,400 students from 145 countries.



Julian Donaldson BA Dip Ed MAICD

photo

Julian is the CEO of the National Trust of Western Australia. Julian's particular interest is in the preservation and interpretation of built and place heritage in WA. His closing address at the conference ties the theme of the conference with current studies and documentation. Julian has a newly developed understanding and appreciation of the role language plays in the preservation of Aboriginal heritage through involvement in the Aboriginal Foundations of the National Trust (WA) and the Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Conference.



The official opening of the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre took place as a part of the 2016 WANALA Aboriginal Languages Conference on Friday 17th June 2016.

The Centre was proudly opened by the City of Kalgoorlie – Boulder Mayor, Mr John Bowler and attended by Conference delegates, Language Speakers, Aboriginal community members of the Goldfields and officials from the National Trust, Western Australia.

The language centre is a resource for the language speakers of the Goldfields region to use to ensure that each language is recorded, linguistically analysed, databased and resources produced such as dictionaries and grammar, according to linguistic best practises. Qualified linguists conduct this work with language speakers and ensure that everyone is fully involved in their language's work.



Linguistic Pop-Up Museum at the Goldfields Language Centre



A re-created desk of a linguist from the 1950's

Since 2011 the Goldfields Languages Project has worked on the preservation of six languages of the region, those being Tjupan, Ngalia, Kaalamaya, Ngaju, Kuwarra and Cundeelee Wangka. A further eight more languages are under investigation as of 2016.

This work will assist in ensuring that the first languages of Australia are used and taught in schools and other Institutions. It will also assist in recognising and enabling the recognition, practice and ultimately funding to support Aboriginal language speakers and future generations.

Tjupan

An electronic database now hold over 1600 Tjupan words. Many hours of recordings of speakers have been made and a sketch grammar of the language written. Alphabet, syllables and body parts charts have been made.

Ngalia

An electronic database contains over 2500 Ngalia words. A comprehensive grammar has been written and a draft dictionary constructed. This work is unpublished as yet but the grammar will be published through Pacific Linguistics. Alphabet and syllables charts have been made.

Ngaju

The Senior Linguist has amassed a great deal of documented language. She's awaiting a meeting with Ngaju people to begin the task of analysing this material and entering it onto an electronic linguistic database.

Cundeelee Wangka

Dawn and Brian Hadfield have worked for 10 years to enter linguistic data for the language onto an electronic database. Over 3500 words in the database have been transferred into a dictionary format, ready for publishing. The dictionary is due for release very soon. Alphabet and syllables charts have been made.

Kuwarra

Many hours of recording with speakers have now been made with over 1500 words entered in the electronic database. Currently, a sketch grammar is being developed through a partnership with Yale University and a group of linguistic students there. It is planned to release a Kuwarra dictionary and sketch grammar in 2017. Alphabet, syllables and body parts charts have been made.

Kaalamaya

A database of over 1000 words has been developed and the work continues to expand this database. Speaker, Brian Champion, has provided many hours of recordings and video recordings during field trips to ensure the language is preserved. A very sketchy grammar of the language has been written and it is hoped that a dictionary will be published when the database reaches 1500 items. Alphabet and syllables charts have been made and a body parts chart is in production.

Goldfields Language Speaker Profiles

Ms Edie Ulrich

Edie, along with her mother Edna, Uncle Keith and Lorraine Barnard, have worked over the past 5 years on the recording and analysis of the Tjupan language. This family has made tremendous headway towards the development of a dictionary through the hours and hours of language recordings and discussions about the finer points of words and how they work.

Edie recently assisted the Tjupan children to write and perform their own song in Tjupan at the Aboriginal Languages Conference. The children were delighted and very proud to sing this song for the conference delegates and it has inspired a new generation to learn and use the language.



Edie Ulrich

Stories

Geraldine Hogarth

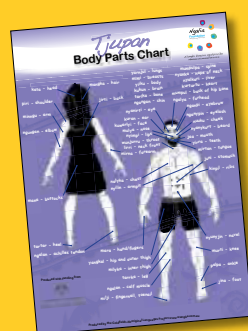
Geraldine was awarded a Queen's birthday medal in 2016 for her health and language work. GALC is very proud of this achievement, that a speaker has received recognition for the time and effort made to ensure the language is recorded and preserved for the next generations.



Geraldine Hogarth receiving a medal.



Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Resources



Tjupan Body Parts Poster
\$40 each



Language Conversation Charts
\$40 for the set



The Perth Royal Show

GALC has been invited to display our resources at the upcoming Perth Royal Show 22nd – 30th September 2016. We will be located in the District Display Pavilion.

It is estimated that over 300,000 people will visit the exhibitions in and around the Pavilion. GALC will be highlighting its resources and have interactive activities for everyone that visits our exhibition. If you are coming to the Show, please visit our exhibition and learn more about the Language Centre and meet the staff and some of the language speakers of the Goldfields region. Oh, and don't forget to pick up your Aboriginal languages showbag!

Language Conference Dinner at Coolgardie



Photos Clockwise from top left:

Tjuntjuntjarra Band.

Mary G takes a fancy to Prof. Ghil'ad Zuckermann.

Esther Schipp and Mary G at the conference dinner.

People at the Kalgoorlie Conference



Photos Clockwise from top left:

Bonadventure Ngari and Damien Tunmuck from Wadeye NT.

Ghil'ad with Kimberley ladies Rosemary Boomba, Madeleine Jadei, Rosie Munro, Maureen Yanawana.

Glennis Galbanewry, Ingrid Ningarmara and Sylvia Simon from Mirima, Kununurra.

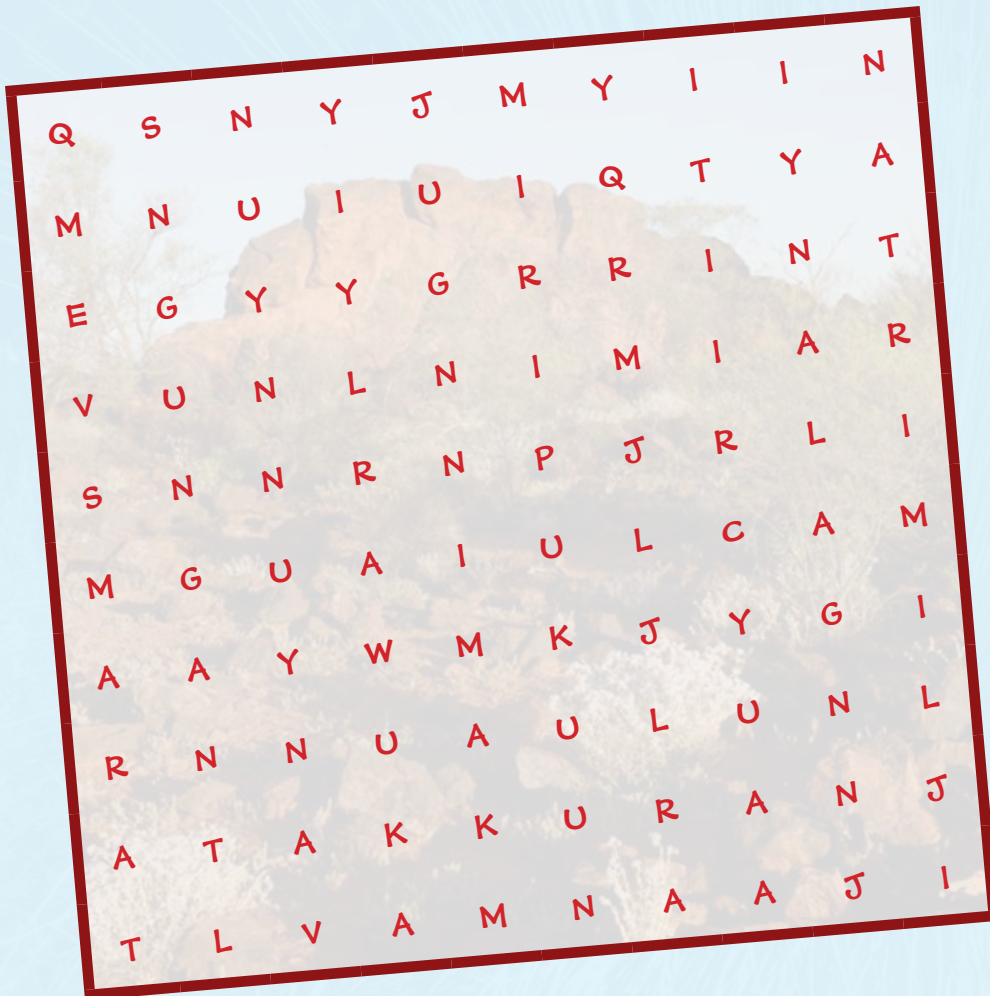
David Dann from Noongar Boodjar Language Centre.

Ghil'ad Zuckermann and Desmond Taylor.

Gloria and Desmond Dann from Noongar Boodjar Language Centre.



Word Sleuth - Tjupan Body Parts



JAA	mouth
MIRTAN	tongue
JINA	foot
MULYA	nose
JUNI	stomach
NGALAN	calf muscle
NGUNGAN	elbow
NUUKU	cheek
KATA	head
NYANIRTI	eye
NYIMPI	lips
NYUNNYUN	brain
KURAN	ear
PIRI	shoulder
KUWARLYI	face
TARLKA	bone
MARA	hand/fingers
MINNGU	arm
MILJI	finger nails/toe nails

Honeyants Did you know?

Honey Ants are found in the Western Desert of Australia. Aboriginal groups of the Western Desert dig into the ant colony's to find and eat their honey, which is considered a delicacy. The Tjupan word for honeyants is **nyamanka**.

Editor Pam Thorley office@wangka.com.au

For further information:

Office Manager: Pam Thorley
office@wangka.com.au

Senior Linguist and Manager
Sue Hanson susanhanson@y7mail.com

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre
264 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Phone: (08) 9091 3788
Web: www.wangka.org.au

