



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 our second newsletter for 2016!

This will be the last newsletter for 2016. What a busy year it has been! The language centre has been successfully opened in the Goldfields in the town of Kalgoorlie, GALC held a national language centre conference and preservation work has been undertaken on 8 of the Goldfields languages. Wonderful achievements!

With the opening of the GALC office, several more staff members were employed via a small grant and various schemes. The office is now staffed from 8.30am to 4.30pm daily.

Essential language preservation work is being undertaken on 8 of the Goldfields languages. This work entails linguists recording natural speech with language speakers. Natural speech is essential as when people speak in a relaxed and natural way, all the little bits of the language, the nuances, fine details and shades of meaning flow out and are captured in the recordings. Linguists then transcribe the speech and analyse it. Natural speech enables us to capture the correct grammar for each language.

One of the things we are constantly asked to provide at the language centre is translating and interpreting. Many people in the Goldfields speak an Aboriginal language as a first language. When these people use medical services, social services, legal services, education or the justice system, they are unable to access interpreting as there is no Goldfields Aboriginal interpreting service. Imagine being ill in hospital but not understanding what the doctors are saying! How frightening would it be to take medication or have an operation when you don't understand the reasons and consequences? It is a basic human right to understand what is happening to you and why.

I have campaigned for many years for the funds to establish a 24-hour interpreting service for the region. I've written many grant applications and approached many funding bodies, without success to date. However, it is an essential service that will improve the life of so many people and make access to essential services more cost effective for the services as well.

The State Government does not provide funding for interpreting services as that is seen as a Commonwealth responsibility. However, the Commonwealth doesn't provide funds for interpreting services for Aboriginal language as they see it as a State responsibility. Given that the WA State Government doesn't recognise the 85 Aboriginal languages of WA, we continue to be in limbo with regards to the provision of essential interpreting services.

It is estimated that the provision of qualified interpreters at the first point of contact can save an organisation 60% of the cost of continued or complex client contact due to misunderstandings and misinterpretations. GALC will keep looking for ways to establish the service for the region.

Sue Hanson
Senior Linguist



SPOT THE GALC BUMPER STICKER

If you see a GALC Bumper Sticker on a car in your town, let us know. Tag your photo with one or both of GALC's hashtags and we will print the pic in the newsletter.

#goldfieldslanguagecentre
#aboriginalallanguagesrock

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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, November 6, 2016 – 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 call on the WA State Government 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 quite 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.'

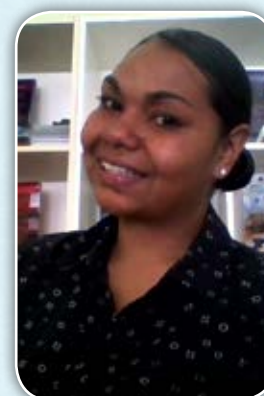


Rachel-Anne Sampbell

Rachel Anne is originally from Perth and studied linguistics at the University of Western Australia, with Dr Alan Dench and Dr John Henderson. Rachel also holds a degree in Primary Education.

Rachel has worked as a linguist in Fitzroy Crossing with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre and worked as a linguist for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, archiving some Noongar language resources and developed a Noongar Oral History Project.

Rachel was teaching in Leonora when she heard out about the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre and commenced working at the GALC as a linguist in June 2016.



Zoe Thomas

Zoe Thomas is a Wangatja woman and was born and has lived in Kalgoorlie all her life. Zoe commenced working at 16 years of age and has worked in a number of Aboriginal organisations in Kalgoorlie. She commenced working at the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre as an Education Officer in August 2016. Her Grandfather is a highly respected Elder of the Goldfields who speaks language and she hopes to support and assist in the development of Aboriginal language education resources for the Goldfields region.



Peta Simpson

Peta Simpson, is a Badimaya woman from the Murchison. She has one year left to complete a Bachelor of Teaching (Remote and Regional Primary Teaching). Peta has 6 years of experience working with indigenous and non-indigenous people bringing them together for community and social events. Peta would like to develop knowledge and understanding of Goldfields Aboriginal Languages and Culture and develop educational resources to assist in the recording and preservation of Goldfields Aboriginal languages.



Jade Cooper

Jade Cooper is a Wangkatja woman from the Kalgoorlie region. Jade completed Year 12 at C.A.P.S, Coolgardie in 2010. Jade is the Administrative Assistant for the Goldfields Aboriginal Centre and hopes to contribute to the preservation of Goldfields Aboriginal Languages for current and future generations of the Goldfields region.



The Perth Royal Show is an annual agricultural show held in Perth, Western Australia at the Claremont Showgrounds. It features informational exhibits, agricultural competitions and display animals, a fairground and rides, and showbags. It has been held for over 100 years and is organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia. It currently occurs during the spring school holidays (either the last week of September or the first week of October) and attracts around 500,000 people a year.

The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre was invited by the Noongar Boodjar Language Centre to join their exhibit for two days of the Royal Show. The exhibit provided us with a great opportunity to promote the languages of the Goldfields region and the services provided by GALC. It is estimated that over 30,000 people visited the language exhibition and took part in the activities which included free face painting, creating animal tracks and learning about the services offered by GALC. The star of the exhibit was 50 live Goldfields honey ants who delighted the curiosity of visitors to the exhibit. Some people commented that they had never seen live honey ants before and thanked GALC staff for having them on display. Participants learnt about their life cycle and importance to Goldfields Aboriginal people as source of bush food!

GALC had a showbag for sale for \$5 and these were very popular. The showbags will now be available at GALC events in the Goldfields wherever a display is held.



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. Linguistic investigation work commenced in 2016 on Maduwongga and Manyjilyjar languages.

The language work is undertaken with speakers of the languages in order to record and preserve speech through audio recordings, transcriptions and linguistic analysis. Then dictionaries, grammars and learning resources are produced to keep the languages alive and learnt.

Tjupan

Ten days of recording over the last 3 months with Tjupan Elders resulted in many more words and sentences to add to the database and clarification of a number of questionable items. The recording sessions held late August were the last days of work with Mrs. Sceghi who very sadly passed away 3 weeks later. The recordings made over the last 5 years with Mrs. Sceghi are now very precious and copies have been made to ensure their security and preservation.

Ngalia

A Ngalia educational kit was completed and is ready for printing, subject to an agreement with the Ngalia people. The printing of the kit was funded by the Wyemando Foundation and took 3 years to develop.

Ngaju

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

Cundeelee Wangka

The Cundeelee Wangka dictionary has been completed and is being edited to make it ready for printing.

Kuwarra

The Kuwarra body parts chart was completed and an educational kit is being developed to go with the chart. The educational kit will be put on the Wangka website so families can download it for free and do a variety of fun activities designed to teach people the body part words.

Kaalamaya

A short video of Brian Champion out on country was produced to record his stories and recollections. These types of activities enable linguists to record natural speech as well as an opportunity for speakers to record words and sentences out on country. The video will be uploaded to the Wangka website very soon. Lots more Kaalamaya language was added to the database from these activities.

Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjatjantjarra and Yankunytjatjarra

GALC has partnered with the Ara Irititja Project to provide NPY speakers with access to the extensive Ara Irititja database of NPY language material at the Goldfields Language Centre office. GALC has also partnered with the AI project on the development of a phone app that will provide young people with a tool for the use, access and preservation of contemporary versions of the languages.

Manyjilyjar

Investigation into a variety of Western Desert language people has identified a possible new language - Mantjintja or Mantjintjarra. Some people have said that this variety is different from the Manyjilytjarra language from the Punmu area and spoken in Punmu, Parnngurr and Jigalong. Mantjintja was apparently spoken around the Goldfields. Mrs Janice McNulty has started working with the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre on her language, which is Manyjilytjarra or possibly Mantjintjarra.

Maduwongga

Mrs. Joyce Nudding, Mrs. Marjorie Strickland and Ms. Jacqui Spurling have begun work with linguist, Rachel Sambell, on their father and grandfather's language, respectively. The language is Maduwongga. Maduwongga is different from the language that some people call Martu Wangka, which is spoken further north, around Jigalong. Recording has begun and some old word lists have also been found. Rachel has been researching old records and information on the language from a number of archives across Australia.

Goldfields Language Speaker Profiles



Luxie Hogarth-Redmont – Kuwarra Speaker

Luxie has worked for 5 years on the recording of her language with GALC linguist, Sue Hanson. Along with her daughter, Geraldine, and with Gay Harris, Luxie has recorded more than 100 hours of language and speech to ensure the language is preserved. The Kuwarra database now has around 1300 words in it. Luxie, along with Gay and Geraldine, recently worked with Yale University Students to write a sketch grammar of the language. This involved Skyping with the students to discuss linguistic questions and provide example sentences. Luxie's work has been invaluable and her commitment to recording her language has led to the development of learning resources for children.



Brian Champion – Kaalamaya Speaker

Brian has worked with the Goldfields Aboriginal Language project for 5 years in order to record his language. There are now 1100 words in the Kaalamaya database. GALC has worked with Brian to record his life story and to record out on country in order to gather more language material. The work will continue until there are at least 3,000 words in the database. Brian has a great deal of devotion to ensuring his language is recorded for future generations and continues to work towards this well into his retirement years.



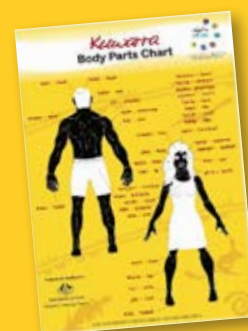
Vale Mrs. Sceghi – Tjupan Speaker

Left to Right— Mrs. Lorna Willis, Mrs. Sceghi and Mrs. Edi Ulrich, permission given by the family for photo use.

It was with great sadness that GALC staff learnt of the passing of Mrs. Sceghi in August, after a short illness. Mrs. Sceghi had worked for 5 years on the recording and analysis of her language, Tjupan. As one of the last fluent first language speakers, Mrs. Sceghi provided a great many hours of stories, recollections and discussion about her language in order to ensure it was preserved for future generations. She worked on her language's recording just 3 weeks before passing, showing her incredible devotion and commitment. She found a new lease of life in the language work. Mrs. Sceghi will be very sorely missed not just for her incredible language knowledge, songs and stories but also for her wonderful sense of humour and kindness. It was a tremendous privilege to work with and get to know you, Mrs. Sceghi.



Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Resources



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



Bush Food Acrylic Discussion kit available on loan now!



Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre (GALC) is very excited to announce that it has partnered with the Ara Irititja project team for the development of a phone app to engage Aboriginal youth with their heritage language and culture.

Recent studies have shown a direct correlation between youth learning and using their language and finding meaning in their heritage and culture and a very significant reduction in youth suicide rates and improvement in quality of life.

GALC will provide in-kind support valued at \$15 000 over the next two years for the project to promote the use, access and preservation of the NYP languages through phone apps that engage youth in language use. This project meets the outcomes of GALC as it is funded to provide support for the use of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjatjantjarra and Yankunytjatjarra languages.

John Dallwitz, Coordinator of the Ara Irititja Project stated that the project will engage youth to, '... record stories from the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjatjantjarra and Yankunytjatjarra languages to create a rich App combining historical material from the Ara Irititja digital archive. Personal stories about landrights, people's lives, their country, bush foods and art will illuminate archival material in a contemporary way to reach a whole new generation of Anangu.'

As part of the partnership agreement, the Ara Irititja project will make the original NYP database available at GALC. The University of Melbourne is another partner in the app project.

The Ara Irititja project website can be found at www.irititja.com



Coming Soon



Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Reference Group

The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre is establishing an Aboriginal Reference Group. (GALC ARG)

The Aboriginal Reference Group will provide advice to the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre (GALC) to determine direction of language work and policy development and provide the Aboriginal community with capacity to engage and participate in GALC's decision-making processes.

The Aboriginal Reference Group will also provide a point of contact for GALC's consultation with the Aboriginal community and promote Aboriginal initiatives and celebrations auspiced by GALC.

Membership of the Aboriginal Reference Group will be by way of invitation of key Aboriginal community members from each language group.

What's in Season Now!

WAMA (Grevillea) Cordial

You will need:

- Bucket
- 2 cups of water
- WAMA (grevillea flowers)

Instructions

- Place lots of grevillea flowers dripping with nectar into a bucket
- Pour 2 cups of water over the flowers
- Sloosh the flowers around in the water
- Pour the water and nectar into a cup and skim off the bits and pieces

ENJOY A DELICIOUS SWEET NECTAR CORDIAL



QUANDONG Jam

You will Need

- Quandong flesh
- Sugar – same weight as the flesh e.g. 500 grams of quandong flesh and 500 grams of sugar
- Packet of Jamsetta
- Saucepan

Instructions

- Peel the quandong flesh from the seeds, wash well, place in a saucepan, discard the seeds
- Pour 1 cup of water over the quandong flesh in the saucepan
- Bring the quandong flesh and water to the boil and cook for 5 minutes till softened
- Add equal weight of sugar to the mix, stir in, turn down to a simmer
- Gently simmer for 20-40 minutes, watch until it is thickening, stir often to prevent it sticking
- Sprinkle jamsetta over the jam and stir in, turn up the heat and boil for 5 minutes, stirring all the time so it doesn't catch on the bottom, remove from heat when it is thick

JAM WILL KEEP FOR MONTHS – ENJOY ON YOUR TOAST OR DAMPER!



Nurrilkula walkajarra pingaku.

Search around for the ants.



Wiiyanpala nyaku.

We found a hole to the honeyant's nest.



Pilalkula wiintakula warta.

We will dig close to the anthole.



Jawalkula katilyka nyaku.

Dig in the sand until you see the ant's larvae.



Nyakula jiwalanjangka wiltijinjangkaya yultungka.

See the shiny honey ants hanging in the chamber.



Milykunku nyamanka kantinjangka yultujanu waninku kantila.

Waninku kantila jarnmajakun.

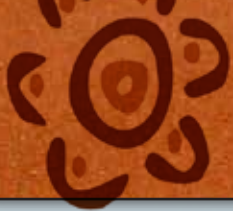
Flick the honeyants out of the hole with a stick. Do this slowly so you don't squish them.



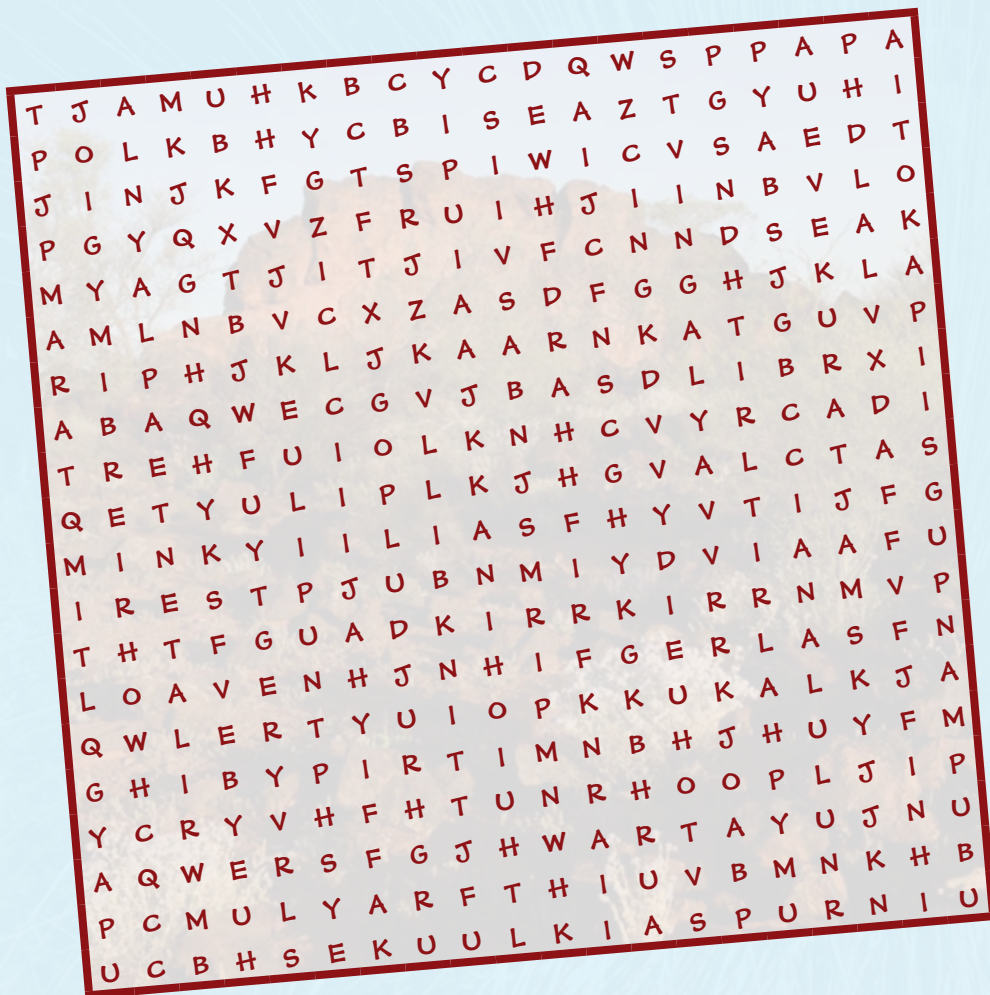
Nyakan nyamanka lulyululyu jiwarlanjala. Wangara!

See lots and lots of shiny honeyants. Sweet!





Word Sleuth - Ngalia Language



TJAMU	grandpa
PAPA	dog
KAARNKA	crow
RATJA	moon
PIWI	tawny frog mouth
TALI	sandhill
YIILI	fig
WARTA	stick
KUKA	meat
YAPU	rock
KUULKI	nest
TJITJI	child
KAPI	water
NGALYA	forehead
LIPUN	mushrooms
NYALPA	old person
MARA	hand
KIIRKIIR	grit
NAMPU	skink
TIRLTIRL	hawk
PIRTI	hole in the ground
PURNI	horse

Did you know?

GALC has 2 #hashtags

Tag your language photos with the GALC hashtags:

#goldfieldslanguagecentre

#aboriginallanguagesrock

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