



Noongar Boodjar Waangkiny News Letter

Noongar Boodjar Language, Cultural Aboriginal Corporation
Keeping Noongar Language Alive

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to the second newsletter for NBLC! In this issue you'll find lots more information about the Centre including the opening event in January.

The last few months have been a flurry of activity as the centre was established and staff settled in to their roles. We welcomed Brodie Ryder to the team in the role of Receptionist and Esther Schipp in the role of Community Engagement Officer- Special Projects. Volunteers Pat, Marjorie and Collin bring very welcome support!



Linguistic staff did a review of the linguistic material available about the Noongar language and realized there is a great deal of work to be done. For a language to be adequately preserved, the words need to be recorded in a dictionary and the way the sentences make meaning described in a grammar. There is no comprehensive dictionary or full descriptive grammar of the Noongar language. This work will take around 10 years to complete.

NBLC staff commenced collection of recordings of Noongar language so that these can be transcribed and analyse the linguistic data studied. Documents with Noongar language in them are also being collected to add to the Noongar Language Archive so they are on hand for study of the language. Linguist, Denise, began visits to every region of the Noongar nation to locate speakers and people interested in recording Noongar words and stories. These stories will be transcribed and the words added to the database that will make the dictionary. Just imagine how wonderful it would be with a thick, comprehensive Noongar dictionary!

It became apparent in our research is that there are two types of Noongar language. We're calling them Traditional Noongar (TN) and Contemporary Noongar (CN). TN is the language found in old documents pre-1900. The earliest written records date back to the 1820s. The Noongar language recorded in these documents was as it would have been spoken pre-European settlement. CN is the version of the language that developed since the 1905 Aborigines Act, which brought about devastation for the language's use. The movement of people to missions, settlements and the Stolen Generations meant that Noongar language was often forbidden and actively stamped out. The ability to keep TN alive during these turbulent times was difficult and therefore English began to influence the way sentences were structured and meaning made. CN appears to have developed as a consequence.

The important thing to remember here is that all languages are valid and valuable means of communication. *Therefore TN and CN are both equally important versions of the Noongar language.*

A great deal of study remains to be done on the Noongar language including the identification of possible dialects. Your support of the NBLC will enable us to continue this critical work and produce resources and programs to ensure all Noongar people have access to the use, learning and enjoyment of the Noongar language.

Sue Hanson - Manager

ROSE WHITEHURST'S TAPES

David Whitehurst has deposited his mother, Rose's, original Noongar tapes with NBLC Noongar Language Archives for use in the analysis of the language and grammar production. These very precious tapes were immediately digitized by EZ Digital and will be deposited with the State Library WA for essential preservation work. The digital copies will be kept at NBLC and a second digital copy deposited with AIATSIS for safe keeping.





George Hayden – Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Associate Lecturer

Centre for Aboriginal Studies Curtin University

George is a Ngadji Ngadji maaman from the eastern wheat belt region on his Mum's family with ties to Balardong from his Dads' family. George is currently Chairperson of the Noongar Boodjar Language Cultural Aboriginal Corporation and has been the Chairperson since its' inception in August 2013. George started his commitment to Noongar language by undertaking LOTE training in the mid-1990s' within the Midland district, travelling to rural and regional towns to support language in schools and at community events. George's journey began with the pleasure of learning Noongar from two of his old Maam Yok (Aunties), in Kathy Yarran and Janet Collard.

Today George works at Curtin University as an Associate Lecturer at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies. He has completed his Bachelor of Applied Science in Indigenous Community Health studies. George is also completing his studies towards a Master of Business in Administration (MBA). George hopes to continue in his pursuit to assist in reviving our Noongar language throughout Noongar Boodjar.

“Well done and congratulations to all involved in the process of the official opening, as a Board we have come a long way to where we are today, and it is because our mob is dedicated and fully committed in reviving our language across this nation of ours.”

George Hayden



Linguistics: Noongar Language Archives and Database

Linguist Denise Smith-Ali has been entering documents into the new NBLC archival database as well as entering language data into the specialist linguistic database called 'Tool box'.

The team at the Noongar Language Centre would like to acknowledge and thank those who have shared and deposited their materials. Your support will provide vital information to enable the team at NBALC to preserve and maintain the Noongar language for all to share.

Linguist Field Work

Linguist, Denise Smith-Ali, visited Cataby to meet Yoowat Elders, Malcolm and Edna Ryder. She invited student Linguist Leah Councillor to share the journey with her and to provide an opportunity for an up and coming linguist to experience and engage with Elders recording and documenting Noongar speakers on country.

Linguistic field trips were also undertaken to Ngadji Ngadji and Pindjarap country in order to engage with Elders and locate people interested in working on recording Noongar language from those areas. This field work has brought exciting prospects for developing strong partnerships across Noongar Country.



Leah Councillor



Malcolm and Edna Ryder

Noongar Learning Resources and Training

Basic Noongar Language workshop Course

The Basic Noongar Language workshops commenced for 2016.

Education officer, Charmaine Councillor, had 8 participants successfully complete the course 'Basic Noongar language training'.

Student Esther Schipp: 'It was good to connect with others wanting to learn more about the Noongar culture and language in a safe and encouraging environment. I enjoyed it and it was a nice group to work with.'



Cultural Competencies workshop

The 9th of February 2016 saw NBLC staff deliver the first monthly workshop in cultural competency training. The first workshop consisted of 8 participants. The workshop was very well received with great feedback from those who attended. If you would like to attend one of these workshops please book online via the NBLCAC events webpage.





Introduction to the Noongar Language for Teachers

The introduction to Noongar Language for teacher’s workshop had a great response by teachers at Mandurah Baptist College. It was an informative and collaborative session for all involved. The aim of the 3 hour course is to provide teachers with an overview of the Noongar language and language learning concepts.

Teacher PD April 2

Noongar Language Stalls

Charmaine has been out and about again taking the Noongar language stall to many events. The first stop was Nannup Music festival that had everyone intrigued about Noongar culture and language. At one point there was a queue of people waiting to speak with staff at the stall.

The next stop was the WAITOC (Western Australia’s Indigenous tourism conference). This was an opportunity to network and share resources and engage with other community members of other languages.

The last stall was the Merriden show. Thank you to Gary Bennell, Phyllis Bennell and Mika who accompanied Charmaine on her journey to Merredin. This was a great opportunity to engage with the community in Ngadji Ngadji country. Charmaine and her family met with Mick Hayden and his wonderful family who made everyone feel welcome. Merredin people enjoyed viewing the material on the stall and taking home free family packs.



Noongar Story

Can you read this short play and translate it to English? Rule four boxes on a piece of paper and draw cartoon of this play.

Narrator: Nidja Sarah baal movies koorliny, baal baalany koorda djinanginy.
Baalany koorda kwerl Amy.

Amy: ‘Kaya koorda. Windja Noonook Koorliny?’

Sarah: ‘Ngany movies koorliny.’

Amy: ‘Nginda?’

Sarah: ‘Kedala!’

Amy: ‘Oh Kaya! Ngany yoowarl koorl ana?’

Sarah: ‘Kaya, kaya.’

Amy: ‘Oh moorditj!’

Sarah: ‘Moordiyap ngalak wort-koorl!’

Narrator: Dandjoo, yoka movies wort-koorl.

The story of the Logo

Artist: Sandra Hill

The shape represents our flag, the Aboriginal flag.

The central image represents ‘vision’; the eye is symbolic for seeing, learning, watching, openness and imagination. The central eye-like image also represents the tree of knowledge. It shelters and protects us and we grow with it.

The figures are symbolic of family, community, togetherness, unity, harmony, equality and most importantly, sharing.

The pathway leads us into the center of the eye, where it spirals around until it reaches the center. The spiral is symbolic of our ancient knowledge and traditions. Two seated figures guard our knowledge into the future



Terry Cornwall

In April, Denise met with Terry Cornwall to discuss recording Noongar stories with him in order to add more material to the Noongar dictionary database. Terry was super keen to work with NBLC on a project with the language that would see stories and activities benefit the younger generations. NBLC staff are excited to develop this project in the near future.



Funding

Funding for NBLCAC for the 2016–17 year was confirmed by the Commonwealth Government. Bunbury MP, Nola Marino, requested a photo with NBLC staff to celebrate the funding for the next year. L-R Charmaine, Nola Marino, Brodie, Denise, Esther.





Noongar Language Centre Opening

The Noongar Boodjar Language Centre was officially opening in Bunbury on Thursday 28th January 2016. The event was a fabulous evening with well over 100 people in attendance.

MC, Troy Dann, wove anecdotes and stories through the evening as he skillfully introduced speakers and entertainers. Chairperson, George Hayden's speech summarised the work being undertaken on the linguistic study and preservation of the Noongar language. Recognition of people who have previously worked on the recording of the Noongar language was made with the presentation of framed certificates of thanks.

Noongar elder, Nora Dann, and the Federal member for Forrest, Hon. Nola Marino, jointly launched the language centre with the unveiling of a beautiful message stick. Nora then symbolically passed on the responsibility for keeping the Noongar language alive by placing the message stick in the hands of young Noongars represented by Brodie Ryder.

The official part of the program ended and the visitors were treated to didgeridoo playing by David Dann and Troy Dann, dances by David and music by the Warangka family band.

Guests were treated to food and drink served by young Noongar people who took great pride in wearing the NBLC shirt and being involved in the auspicious event.

Those attending took a walk through the Noongar Boodjar Language Centre office to view the material on display, books for sale and a slideshow featuring images of all the people who have contributed to the linguistic work on the language's preservation so far.

The evening was the culmination of 11 years work for members of the NBLCAC Board, past and present, to establish a Noongar language centre on Noongar boodjar.

'To attend a well organised event and to see the level of community participation was a real pleasure. It was great to see so many community people there including the key government policy makers, congratulations to everyone involved in putting it together.'

It was also pleasing to witness our traditional Noongar practice of our elders passing knowledge onto our young with Nora passing this knowledge and ongoing responsibility onto young Brodie Ryder. Well done to all as our journey continues.'

Brett Hill



Dr. and Mrs John.



Visitors looked through the NBLC.



From Left to Right Riquel Dann (Volunteer caterer), Page Dann (Volunteer caterer), Brodie Ryder (Receptionist) and Sherry Davis (Volunteer caterer).

NBLC Message Stick

A very big thank you is extended to Karim Khan for making the message stick that was used in the NBLC's opening. The stick now resides in the NBLC office, overseeing the work of the centre and carrying with it the message from Elders to young Noongar people to take the Noongar language into the future.



Noongar Nation and Clans Map

These A4 sized maps are printed on 6mm acrylic and ideal for display on desks and walls. Available through the NBLC website for \$40.



Charmaine, Denise and Coleen address the audience.



Djook! Windja
noonook

Ngany bilya
koorliny!



Naatj noonook
baranginy?

djildkjit!



Maize Western

In March, Denise was invited to give a brief talk about the NBLC to a group of Elders at the Rivervale Moorditj Health And Well Being Program Bentley inWadjak Country, Perth.

There were ten Elders present at the talk from various dialects and clans across the Noongar Nation. Of those ten people, 3 Elders, Maize Western, Doreen Jetta and Barbra Corbett-Councillor, were very keen to work with Denise for the next two days on language recordings. Denise would like to thank those Elders for their knowledge and contribution to the revival of our Noongar language.



NBLC's Receptionist

Former Student Brodie Ryder of Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School is NBLC's new receptionist.

After completing 7 years of Noongar language learning throughout her primary school years, Brodie's experience has provided her the opportunity to work in collaboration with her former language teacher Charmaine (Bennell) Councillor who is now the Education Officer for NBLC.

'To have one of my former Language students working with me, is exciting and inspiring. I can rest

assured our language is in safe hands.' Charmaine Councillor

'Working here at the Noongar Language Centre has definitely bought my language back to me, I now realise, it was never really gone I just needed to be reminded and it instantly came back to me. I do hope to become a linguist one day and study the Noongar language and its history and be able to share and pass down my wonderful language.'

Brodie Ryder





Cultural Competencies Training

NBLC offers monthly CCT sessions for members of the public. Bookings and payment can be made through the NBLC website. These terrific sessions offer your staff an opportunity to engage with Noongar language and culture as well as to provide frameworks and strategies for working in a respectful way.



Visitors for NBLC

NBLC staff recently had the pleasure of meeting with women from the Busselton region to share information about the language work and language centre projects. Linguist, Denise Smith-Ali, explained how linguistic work was undertaken and the need for a comprehensive Noongar dictionary. The visitors were very supportive of the language work and keen to discuss about the Noongar language when home again.



Welcome to Country Addresses and Dance

NBLC makes bookings for two Elders to perform Welcome addresses for businesses, schools and events. NBLC also makes bookings for dance, David Dann for performances, didgeridoo performances and for visits to dance and school groups to teach Noongar dance. Contact NBLC for a quote.



Troy Bennell, David Dann and Mark Dann at NBLC opening

NBLC Opening Visitors

Denis Thomas from Port Hedland made the trek to Bunbury to celebrate the Noongar Boodjar Language Centre opening with everyone. Denis has worked for many years recording and writing his language, Nyangumarta, to ensure the language is well recorded and preserved. It was a tremendous honour to see Denis at the NBLC opening and know that news of the Noongar language work had travelled as far as the Pilbara region.





Word Find Activity

Noongar Waangkiny Wardiny Verbs

(Find the Noongar verbs)



warn- make/do

yira yaak – stand up

djakoorkl - run

wort koorl – go away

koorliny - moving

bardang - jump

warangka - sing

dordon warn – turn around

ward - find

djinang - see

baaminy - hitting

djiba djobaliny - swimming

waangk - talk

ni – listen

daat nyin – sit down

Partnerships and Fee-for-Service Activities

The **Noongar Language Centre (NLC)** welcomes opportunities to work in partnership with organisations and people on activities that use, record or preserve the Noongar language.

The NLC also provides services on a fee-for-service bases such as translating and interpreting, cultural competencies training, Noongar language learning, development of educational and training programs, cultural mapping and cultural heritage. If you have a need, contact the Manager, Sue Hanson, to discuss the ways we can work together.

If you would like to share a story of what's happening in your Clan or community please drop a line to Editor Charmaine Councillor education@nbalc.org

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