May 2019 saw our first ever Professional Development Workshop for Youth. In the past, RNLD has had six Professional Development Workshops - none of these ever targeting a specific age group before. For 2019’s PD Workshop, we targeted youth doing any type of language work, from around the country, aged 18-30. All of our participants came from various places and language groups from around Australia, to participate in a four-day workshop in Melbourne. We tailored our training program to the skill needs and wants of the participants that attended. For this workshop, the training focus was in linguistics, language documentation, sound recording and editing, public speaking, language teaching and project planning. Sharon Edgar-Jones, Annalee Pope, Michael Jarrett and Nathan Schreiber were our guest trainers helping the RNLD training team deliver everything over the four days.
One of the training focuses being public speaking, on the Thursday night RNLD hosted an intimate public speaking event for the participants to practice their public speaking. Our participants, Anil, Kaitlyn, Lakota, Robert and Vincent all did a great job sharing with a small audience about their language journeys, passions and visions for their languages.

This year’s PD Workshop was a very momentous workshop - not only because it was our first ever PD workshop for youth, but because we also had three previous PD participants join us as mentors/trainers. Annalee, Sharon and Ebony were all previous participants of the Professional Development training stream, each coming from the past three cohorts of participants. It was great for them to be a part of the new PD workshop, training and mentoring people that were in the same position as they were when they attended RNLD’s PD workshops.
We appreciate all the time and effort of everyone involved in bringing the workshop together. It was a huge jam-packed four days, but made the most of the time we had together. A big thank you to all our participants that attended - it was such a pleasure meeting you all. We are all so excited to see where your language journeys lead you in the future. All the best!
A message from our CEO

We have reached the end of another financial year. A year that has been very busy, positive and productive. I am extremely proud of the RNLD team for making it such a successful year. They all work so very hard with passion and dedication and I know you will all share in a big thank you to them.

And that brings me to the exciting developments for the new financial year. Not least of which is the launch, finally, of our new name and website. Both have been a long time in development and we are very excited with the end results. You can read more about both later in the newsletter.

One of the new projects I would like to highlight is the development of an Indigenous Foods and Language recipe book. Generously funded through our local Country Womens’ Association, this is a project that aims to showcase first languages and raise awareness with the broader community about the importance of first languages, using Indigenous foods and recipes as the link. It is a project we will be seeking lots of input to. More detailed information about how to contribute will be coming out in the near future… so as they say, “watch this space”.

It is also the time we plan the new budget and spend some sleepless nights thinking how to meet the challenges ahead. We are very grateful for the number of donations we have received recently (now possible because of our DGR status and the new “Donate” button on the website), and are happy to report that the funds have gone to support a number of important language projects. So if you’ve been meaning to do so but have not done so as yet, I encourage you to test that button!

Finally I wish you all a productive and positive new financial year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Megan Broome
CEO
Hello from our Training Director

Emma Murphy
DRIL Training Director

Puliima 2019 has just wrapped up: as always, an inspiring week of catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, and sharing ideas and skills. Congratulations to the conference organisers for an incredible program and impressive attendance numbers.

It was particularly special, for me, to attend Puliima on Larrakia land in Darwin - the place I called home for many years before taking on this role at RNLD. Sharon Edgar Jones, Andrew Tanner and I delivered three workshops over the two training days, and I was particularly honoured that my Yolngu family and colleagues from ARDS Aboriginal Corporation attended one of the workshops and shared Yolngu clan languages with the group as part of our morphology discussions. It’s always a joy to watch people from so many different places share their languages with each other with such pride and interest.

Emma with her ARDS family (left-to-right): Hannah Harper, Gawura Wagambil, Joy Bulkanhawuy, Emma Murphy and Yirrinba Dhurrkay.
It was exciting to watch Grant Thompson’s Ngandi film *Lil Bois*: I’m sure Grant has been talking about making that film since I first worked with him around five years ago, and he and his cast deserve all the accolades they are getting for their work (you can check it out on SBS On Demand).

A plenary session called *Indigenous Sign Languages and its revitalisation* was very thought-provoking and timely, with the upcoming second UN International Day of Sign Languages on September 23. Thanks to presenter Rodney Adam for the research reminding us of the role indigenous sign languages have played in facilitating communication across clans and nations for millennia – not just in Australia but across the world.

I know the whole RNLD team loved catching up with the Young Champions, who we hosted at our Professional Development Workshop in May, and hearing what they’ve been up to since. We also met many new people with ideas about how we could support their language work in the future – I do hope we can keep talking and sharing. Well done to my colleague Ebony, Annalee from First Languages Australia, and all the young champions who presented over the conference.

It was timely to meet you all just before we launch our exciting new name: next time we meet, it will be with a fresh new look, and with that, new energy and ideas. The inspiration we get from those of you who share parts of your language journey with us, invite us to work with you, advise and challenge us, remains as strong as ever. Thanks for all that you do.

![The RNLD team with past participants (and long time friends and collaborators!) David Moon, Hiroko Shioji, Kelli Owen, board member Terrie Lowe and Sharon Edgar-Jones.](image-url)
At the end of June, trainers Emma and Amy spent a wonderful week on beautiful Croker Island helping out with the Minjilang Language Project with ARDS Aboriginal Corporation and language teachers at Mamaruni School.

We spent the week brainstorming teaching ideas around key topics the group identified, and making resources and lessons to teach about kinship, birds and literacy in Iwaidja. On our final day on the island, the team put their hard work into practice by leading their first language lesson: teaching kids from all year levels their moieties, skin groups and different kin terms through fun games and activities. We had such a fun and productive week, and can’t wait to go back in October!

Thanks to ARDS Aboriginal Corporation for inviting us.
RNLD trainer Amy kicked off the 2020 financial year in sunny QLD over 17-22 July, running separate training workshops with Aaron (Pitta Pitta) and Sandra (Jandai) in Brisbane, and presenting at the Minjerribah Languages Forum, at Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).

Aaron’s workshop focused on translating a large part of his presentation for the Minjerribah Languages Forum into Pitta Pitta. This was a huge job, which required learning new and complex grammatical constructions like purposives, causatives, and subordinate clauses. Watching Aaron introduce himself and then talk about his language journey in Pitta Pitta at the forum was such a wonderful experience, and his talk touched the hearts of everyone lucky enough to see it.
Sandra’s language expertise was also on show at the forum, not only presenting in her Jandai language on Jandai Country, but having “decolonised” and translated the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross” into a beautiful Jandai version which was sung by Mayor Karen Williams. Sandra organised the language forum on behalf of QYAC (Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation), and the day was a huge success, with speakers from Gidarjil Central Queensland Languages Centre, Yugambeh Museum, First Languages Australia, and the University of Queensland. It was an honour to present about RNLD amongst such a great line-up, and in such a stunning setting on Quandamooka Country.

After a well-deserved post-forum rest, Sandra was back into language the following Monday, with a workshop focusing on filling gaps in Jandai. This involved poring over multiple accounts of the “Brisbane languages” and starting a comparison of all the documented suffixes in neighbouring and related languages to Jandai. Once complete, this will begin to inform Sandra what some of the suffixes missing from the documentation on Jandai might have been, or how she might look at sound change patterns to reconstruct suffixes for Jandai.

Aaron and Sandra first invited RNLD into their language journeys four years ago, and it’s been such a privilege to watch their language skills strengthen so much over this time, and to see the huge impact their work has had on their families and communities. Keep up the amazing work, guys!
Meet a language warrior...

RNLD wants to share some of the great stories we hear from, and work we see being done by, our many training participants around the country! For this newsletter, we have an interview with one of the participants from our Youth Professional Development Workshop, Lakota Gibbons, conducted in Melbourne, May 2019 by Anil Samy, another of the participants.

Can you introduce yourself?


My name’s Lakota, I’m an Arabana woman. I grew up in Adelaide and my people are from Western Lake Eyre region, Kati Thanda. And on my papa’s side, I’m Narungga, and they’re from Point Pearce, although my papa told me the Weetra’s originated up in Northern Territory, around the MacDonnell Ranges.
What inspired you to get involved in language work?

I’ve always known I wanted to be bilingual and I was really good at English and writing stories. So I’ve always had an interest in that sort of thing, in language in general. But when we lost my papa and my uncle Noonga, who were big influences and loves in my life, I decided that I wanted to do something about it and keep culture strong within my family because I didn’t see any of our young ones getting into language. Yeah, then one day I was sitting with my Nana and she gave me the grammar, which was like reading Sanskrit at first. Then I ended up finding this job at the MLT [Mobile Language Team] through my Aunty, and they all provided me with the support and linguistic knowledge to try understand this, um, algorithm. [laughs]

What does your language mean to you?

Similar as to what Ezekiel said, it means everything. It’s a doorway into understanding how your ancestors lived, what relationships they held, what beliefs they had, and what their life was like, you know. We don’t have a time machine so the best way to understand all this is through language, it gives you so much more insight into your culture. There’s certain words, you know, that you just don’t have in English. And yeah… it’s been an incredible journey so far, I still have SO much to learn.

What was your favourite thing about this week?

Meeting everyone and networking. Language can be a very solitary journey so it was really nice to connect with people that are doing the same thing, and struggling with the same issues. They also provide so much insight into the things I could be doing or things they’ve found to have worked. So yeah, just feel really inspired and happy that I’ve chosen this pathway.

After this workshop what’s something you want to do with your language?

Keep learning it, I want to be a fluent speaker, which is going to take a lot of work. And I want to keep inspiring all the younger mob to get involved and to get passionate about it, because I think that once they get through the thought of the hard work they might actually – I know they will – enjoy it. They’ll have the same sort of epiphanies and understandings I had about it. Ultimately I want it to actually be spoken on a daily basis, for all Arabana to know and speak our language. And yeah, that’s it!
The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity will soon become **Living Languages**! After an extended period of consultation and planning, we are finally ready to change our name. While our old one served us well, we’ve grown and changed since our founding, and “Resource Network” doesn’t really capture what has become our core activity: accessible, community-led training. We also think the old name was a bit of a mouthful, and there were too many ways of saying it—to some people we were “the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity”, to others we were “R.N.L.D.”, while to yet others we were “Renald”.

More than that, though, we wanted our new name to reflect what we see in our work—the energy of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who both care for and draw strength from their languages, and the living, growing languages themselves, with all their resilience and richness.

To go with our new name, designer Dan Witton has worked with staff member Andrew Tanner to develop a beautiful new website. You can find it at [www.livinglanguages.org.au](http://www.livinglanguages.org.au)—be sure to check it out.

Besides this, nothing else has changed! We are still working to support communities to manage and make decisions about their own language and language work, and to access the training they need to do that.

Thank you to everyone who provided ideas and support on our journey to a new name. We look forward to travelling into the future with you as Living Languages.

You can read more about the development of our logo on page 13.
I’ve recently had the pleasure of working with the passionate team at Living Languages to design and develop their new logo identity. Having spent two years living on Gurindji Country (Kalkaringi, NT), I was instantly struck by the incredibly important work that they do across so many Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

The entire Living Languages team came together for a productive brainstorming and idea generation workshop within their Carlton office space. We filled up several large sheets of butcher paper with fabulous ideas and managed to get down to the core essence of what needed to be communicated. After eliminating a few options and making some last-minute final tweaks, we were able to settle on the final logo identity that you see before you.

The new look logo breathes life into the organisation, with its colourful visuals and cheerful aesthetic. It is friendly, approachable and spirited – much like the team at Living Languages! Indigenous peoples have used symbology, combined with an oral language to tell their stories for over 60,000+ years. The intention with this logo was to use similar techniques to communicate the Living Languages story. Within the logo you’ll see symbols of deep roots (or river waterways) representing the many long-standing language groups within this land, colourful dots symbolise the seeds of language, a speech bubble communicates an oral language, the many leaves represent the various language groups prospering under the Living Languages guidance (seen by a nurturing hand) and then there’s the yarning circle, a symbol that is so integral when it comes to story-telling and the passing on of knowledge.

It’s been a pleasure working with the Living Languages team and we look forward to following their progress as they continue to strengthen and empower Indigenous communities throughout Australia and keep their languages alive!

David Alenson is the Senior Graphic Designer at Little Rocket, a design and marketing agency based in Collingwood, Melbourne. Little Rocket is 100% Indigenous owned and operated by Gurindji man John Burgess.

www.littlerocket.com.au
Thank you Dan!

We are very grateful to have had Dan Witton working with us on the creation of a new website. Dan is a musician, theatre performer and designer and has worked as a web developer working with individuals and organisations on design, website development and conception. He writes:

I met members of the RNLD team when I came to help talk about web technologies. As an outsider it seemed that the organisation needed to use a platform that could be easily contributed to, and that assisted to focus attention on the people and the skills that they offer. The process has come at a time when the identity of the organisation is being remodelled and looking towards the future. It’s been a pleasure to work alongside such thoughtful and good natured people full of energy and enthusiasm for the life of language!
Welcome David!

David began volunteering with RNLD in June 2019. He is enthusiastic and passionate about pondering the relationship between language and culture.

David is currently assisting with writing posts for Language In The News, updating databases and searching for fundraising opportunities.

He finished a Bachelors of Arts in Linguistics and Art History last year in 2018 and is currently studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Art).

Farewell Haoyi!

This month, we are sad to be farewelling one of our wonderful volunteers, Haoyi, who started volunteering at RNLD all the way back in August 2018. Haoyi began in her position by creating resources for our training materials, researching and compiling news articles on language revitalisation for our ‘Language in the News’ social media feature, and contributing to our ‘Music Monday’ Facebook posts.

Throughout her year with us, she supported us in many other ways, by picking up tasks such as graphic design, newsletter content support, interview transcription, research for training materials, fundraising support, various RNLD YouTube video projects, and event support.

A huge thank you and warm farewell to you Haoyi, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!
In Detail...

Every three months, we want to provide a brief description of one of our units of teaching. **Language, Culture, Meaning** is the unit we are going to talk about in this edition of our newsletter.

Every language is unique in the way it connects words and phrases with meaning, and the way we use language is connected with how we understand the world. RNLD trainers and Bron, one of our volunteers, have been developing a module which encourages participants to investigate the relationships between language and meaning, particularly in topics such as colours, body parts, and kinship.

So far, Amy and Emma have spent time on Groote Eylandt exploring meaning in Anindilyakwa. Andrew and Emma also delivered this module last year in Kununurra, where they looked at colours and body-parts in Miriwoong. During these workshops, in order to consider the depth of language relating to the body, trainers and participants worked with a drawing of a body and added words and phrases to it as they discussed different cultural words and meanings. The groups had great fun thinking about the way different languages use the body as a metaphor (for example, “mouth of the river”, “foot of the mountains”, “gut feeling”). This topic gives a wonderful insight into each language’s unique cultural associations with different words and phrases. As we hope to extend our range of topics in the future, please get in touch with any suggestions.

Upcoming Workshops

Over the next 3 months you will find us in:

- September 2-13 — **Paper & Talk workshop** (in partnership with AIATSIS): Canberra, ACT
- October 1-3 — **Flexible DRIL**: Barunga, NT
- October 23-25 — **Flexible DRIL**: Broome, WA
- October 28-31 — **Flexible DRIL**: Groote Eylandt, NT
- October 29-31 — **Flexible DRIL**: Croker Island, NT
- November 19-21 — **Flexible DRIL**: Maningrida, NT
- December 2-3 — **CoEDL Summer School**: Melbourne, VIC