



YUINGAN DHILLA YARI

Queensland Indigenous
Languages Symposium

Wednesday 28 August 2024
State Library of Queensland

PROGRAM

TIME	EVENT		
8 am	Registration - Arrival tea and coffee on the Queensland Terrace, level 2		
9 am	Welcome to Country Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Introduction - Vicki McDonald AM FALIA, State Librarian and CEO		
9:15 am	Welcome - MC, Cheryl Leavy		
9:25 am	Keynote speaker: Ben Bowen, CEO Indigenous Literacy Foundation Being a voice for Country: Indigenous languages and literacy Ben discusses how the Indigenous Literacy Foundation supports remote communities by developing culturally relevant literacy materials in First Languages through a community-led approach.		
10:30 am	Morning Tea on the Queensland Terrace, level 2		
CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT			
11 am	SESSION 1 Gamifying Indigenous language learning for the next generation - tips and traps Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Facilitators: Rory O'Connor and Shaun Davies The South East Queensland Indigenous Language Centre (SEQILC) attracts 800 weekly visitors to their website, with over 80% of these users engaging in interactive word games, enabling them to gain new language knowledge in an innovative, enjoyable way. In this session, Rory and Shaun share an overview of how SEQILC developed this language learning model, the benefits to community, and elements to consider in adopting this model for your language.	SESSION 2 Preserving culture and memory for tomorrow Venue: The Studio, level 1 Facilitator: Melanie Sorenson Join conservator Melanie Sorenson for a demo on preserving photos, documents, and items that connect us to our identity. Learn simple, effective techniques to safeguard your collections.	SESSION 3 Black gloves experience Venue: White Gloves Room, level 4 Facilitator: Tania Schafer Explore State Library's extensive materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in a hands-on collections experience.
11:45 am	SESSION 1 Zenadth Kes language initiatives Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Facilitator: John Morseau Torres Strait Regional Authority, through the Culture Arts and Heritage Program and Gab Titui Cultural Centre, share Language Initiatives in the Torres Strait Region.	SESSION 2 Uncovering treasures: Collections within cultural institutions Venue: The Studio, level 1 Facilitators: Des Crump and Nova Watson Navigating archival collections can be a challenge for community language researchers - this panel will explore how to find the hidden gems and repurpose these for community language revival.	SESSION 3 Black gloves experience Venue: White Gloves Room, level 4 Facilitator: Tania Schafer Explore State Library's extensive materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in a hands-on collections experience.
12:30 pm	Lunch on the Queensland Terrace, level 2		

TIME	EVENT		
CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT			
1:30 pm	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>Voices in print: navigating the publishing landscape for Indigenous languages</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2</p> <p>Chair: Cheryl Leavy Panel: Dr Debra Dank, Cheryl Buchanan and Bebe Oliver</p> <p>Explore publishing's role in Indigenous languages, addressing challenges and opportunities in preserving traditional knowledge and creating impactful resources.</p>	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Revitalising language</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 2, level 2</p> <p>Facilitator: Robert Congo</p> <p>Explore how Yooribaya Cultural Experiences integrate traditional language in tours, storytelling, and education to enhance visitor experiences and honour Ngaro heritage, showcasing how language preserves cultural identity and deepens connections to Indigenous culture.</p>	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Who's Your Mob?</p> <p>Venue: The Studio, level 1</p> <p>Tracing your First Nations family history and don't know where to start? Discover key resources for family history research.</p>
2:30 pm	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>When writing <i>Wurrtoo</i>: challenging colonial discourses through children's literature</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2</p> <p>Facilitator: Tylissa Elisara</p> <p>Tylissa will discuss how children's books can challenge colonial narratives and foster inclusivity, reshaping historical perspectives through storytelling.</p>	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Community conversations</p> <p>Venue: Talking Circle, level 1</p> <p>Guest: TBC</p> <p>Community Conversations are informal yarns with community-based movers and shakers in the language space.</p>	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Black gloves experience</p> <p>Venue: White Gloves Room, level 4</p> <p>Facilitator: Tania Schafer</p> <p>Explore State Library's extensive materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in a hands-on collections experience.</p>
3 pm	Afternoon Tea on the Queensland Terrace, level 2		
CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT			
3:30 pm	<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>Story strings</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Debra Dank</p> <p>This workshop will have participants weave story strings. These prompts can be used to spark storytelling and help increase language learning.</p>	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Southern Kaantju, Coen, Cape York</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 2, level 2</p> <p>Facilitator: Lucretia Huen and Aunty Jennifer Creek Senior</p> <p>Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation represents Indigenous people in the Coen region. Discover how their services integrate cultural protocols and customs from the six clan.</p>	<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Community conversations</p> <p>Venue: Talking Circle, level 1</p> <p>Guest: Cheryl Buchanan</p> <p>Community Conversations are informal yarns with community-based movers and shakers in the language space.</p>
4:20 pm	<p>Next steps: protocols for using Indigenous languages</p> <p>Venue: slq Auditorium 1, level 2</p> <p>Chair: Cheryl Leavy Panel: Bebe Oliver, Patricia Adjei and John Morseau</p> <p>An insightful discussion on evolving protocols for using Indigenous languages. This panel explores ethical considerations, cultural responsibilities, and practical steps for the respectful and sustainable use of Indigenous languages in publications, media, as well as community and corporate initiatives. Whether you're involved in language programs or simply interested in supporting Indigenous languages, this conversation will provide valuable perspectives and guidance on the path forward.</p>		
5 pm	Symposium close		

SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND FACILITATORS

Patricia Adjei a Wuthathi and Mabuia Islander from Ghana is a former Head of First Nations Arts at Creative Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Law from UNSW and has studied Indigenous cultural rights internationally.

Ben Bowen, a Wiradjuri man with ties to the Gandangara, Dharrawal, and Yuin Nations, is CEO of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Ben brings extensive experience in education, health, and economic development from his work with Indigenous communities and governments.

Cheryl Buchanan is a Kooma (Gwama) woman from Cunnamulla, Queensland, acclaimed playwright, and is the first Aboriginal woman publisher in Australia. Cheryl published Lionel Fogarty's *Kargun* in 1980 and founded Murrice Co-operative publishing firm.

Robert Congoo, known traditionally as Girudhala Japanangka Bannari with the Girudhala (Eagle) totem, is Director of Yooribaya Cultural Experiences in Ngaro Country in the Whitsundays region.

Aunty Jennifer Creek is a Southern Kaantju elder of Far North Queensland. Born in Coen, Cape York, Aunty Jen is dedicated to revitalising the Kaantju language and has developed a Kaantju dictionary.

Desmond Crump of the Gamilaroi Nation in South-West Queensland is dedicated to reviving languages through education. He supports school language programs and is currently an Industry Fellow at the University of Queensland. He also serves on the Office of the Arts National Directions Group and the AIATSIS Languages Advisory Committee.

Dr Debra Dank is a Gudanji and Wakaja woman from the Barkly Tablelands and is an accomplished author and scholar. Her debut book, *We Come with This Place*, is based on her PhD research on polyphony in Aboriginal narratives.

Shaun Davies is a Yugambah man and passionate advocate for ensuring that Yugambah language and culture are preserved. Shaun's work is led by Yugambah people and ways of doing things.

Tylissa Elisara is a children's social worker from the Narungga, Kurna, and Adnyamathanha people of South Australia, raised on Mamu Country in Innisfail, Queensland. *Wurrtoo* is her first novel.

Lucretia Huen (nee Creek) is a Southern Kaantju and Ayapathu woman from Coen, Cape York. Lucretia is the General Manager at Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation in Cape York.

Cheryl Leavy is a Kooma and Nguri writer whose poem *Ngali - We two* won the 2022 Oodgeroo Noonuccal Poetry Prize. Cheryl's first children's book, *Yanga Mother*, written in both Kooma and English was published by UQP in 2024. Passionate about language revitalisation, Cheryl often writes in her Kooma language.

John Morseau is a Senior Project Officer for the Torres Strait Regional Authority's Culture, Art and Heritage Program. A Torres Strait Islander with family connections to Badu, Erub, Masig, Mabuyag and Mer Islands.

Rory O'Connor is a descendant of Jacky-Jacky (c. 1815-1900), King of Logan-Pimpama and Jenny Graham (c. 1859-1943). As Director of SEQ Indigenous Language Centre and formerly CEO of Yugambah Museum, Rory is the driving force behind

many positive initiatives keeping Aboriginal heritage alive in the South East region.

Bebe Oliver a Bardi Jawi descendant from the Kimberley and award-winning writer based in Naarm (Melbourne), has held senior roles in major organisations. He has championed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives and promoted Traditional Culture. His writing, poetry, illustration, and facilitation delve into identity, love, loss, and connection to Country.

Tania Schafer (née Bostock) is a Mununjali and Bundjalung woman who has worked at the State Library of Queensland since 1992. She specialises in family history, languages, and community connections, focusing on researching, preserving, and sharing First Nations heritage.

Melanie Sorenson is an experienced conservator with a background in government institutions, as well as freelance work. Melanie now works for State Library of Queensland and is passionate about caring for First Nations objects and their connections to memory and storylines.

Nova Watson is a Collection Management Archivist at Queensland State Archives. She specialises in enhancing descriptions of records related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and supports the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry.

GRAPHIC RECORDER AND ILLUSTRATOR

Glenn Stephenson is a Graphic Recorder and Illustrator with 15+ years of experience. He specializes in visualizing the intersection of First Nations Peoples and corporate Australia.

Yuuingan Dhillia Yari Friends, basket, talk in Yuggera Language [YOO-IN-gan DIL-ah YAR-ee]

Supported through the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts program.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to land and as custodians of stories for millennia. We are inspired by this tradition in our work to share and preserve Queensland's memory for future generations.



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts



State Library
of Queensland



Queensland
Government