



MUUYA BANGGI FLYING BREATHE



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

THE
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INSTITUTE



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Muuya Banggi Language Symposium

Dedicated to the reawakening and renewal of First People's Languages within Australia, the Wollotuka Institute and the University of Newcastle are hosting a Language symposium this Saturday!

The Muuya Banggi – Language Symposium is a virtual conference that delivers on the opportunity to pursue and implement First Peoples principles and practices of exchanging ideas and experiences.

We welcome your participation and/or dialogue in ways that help to cultivate and establish relations, advance scholarship, and strengthen or create collaborative engagements for our Language communities based on finding common ground.

“Language classes give our people a sense of identity, connection and belonging, it provides us with a new profound purpose, while reinforcing our own personal and cultural values” - Dr. Raymond Kelly

Our Muuya Banggi Language group, who meet weekly, bring together a group of Language enthusiasts, who share their thoughts,

values and beliefs within an inclusive, supportive and safe environment, which allows our members the freedom to create for each other.

One of our major goals is to ensure that communities have a safe place to explore Language renewal initiatives that best suit their communities. We welcome healthy dialogue and participation by all, in seeking ways to help cultivate and establish good working relationships for the benefit and future of our cultural landscapes.

Another goal is to share and expand our conversations about the efforts currently being carried out within the myriad of communities and within our University of Newcastle footprints.

We act as a bridge, connecting and bringing together our different groups, including those groups with traditional links, members of the public and members of our academic community.

With our Muuya Banggi – Language Symposium, we will highlight and showcase the great work being carried out by local Language champions.



David Parson, Student - University of Newcastle

Giinagay Ngujawiny - David Parsons is a proud Worimi and Biripai man who has grown up in Port Stephens. Although he has grown up disconnected to his culture, heritage, Language and identity, he knows he is a Ward, descending from the Buggs of Gloucester.

David is a current student at the University of Newcastle studying a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine. Throughout his time at the University and the Wollotuka Institute, David has been able to reconnect to his culture and heritage, as well as discover more about his family and his identity.

“My great-grandma was part of the stolen generation and was relocated to Penrith/Blue Mountains region.”

With an interest in the sciences, David looks at Language with a determination to help incorporate and implement our First Nation's Language into everyday life, similar to how we use Latin, Greek, and other ancient Languages, particularly within the medicine industry.

In the last year, David has undertaken Language classes, learning Dunghatti with Uncle Raymond Kelly, which has provided him with an understanding what happened to our Language groups in the past and how we can look forward to allowing the next generations to learn and develop their Language into something that is used in everyday life.

Nathan Towney, Pro Vice-Chancellor – Indigenous Strategy and Leadership, University of Newcastle

Nathan is a proud Wiradjuri man from Wellington in NSW and an education leader. He holds a Bachelor of Teaching and a Bachelor of Health and Physical Education from The University of Newcastle.

Nathan's appointment as the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous, Strategy and Leadership role follows a four-year tenure as the Principal of Newcastle High School.

Nathan will lead the University's Indigenous Education Framework and connect with community groups outside the organisation.

Nathan's personal and authentic approach fosters strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders at all levels. Nathan has a passion for innovation and change and has actively encouraged student-directed, passion-based and entrepreneurial learning. His approach to engaging and working with communities will be particularly valuable as the University looks to find ways for the institution to better connect with our regions.



Kua Swan, Project Officer – University of Newcastle

Kua Swan is a proud Gomerioi man from the Terri Hie Hie clan, located just outside Moree and the Wiradjuri tribe from Cowra Erambi Mission (32 acres), but was born on Anaiwan land. Kua has been fortunate to experience Language from an extensive number of Aboriginal Language groups from across Australia and has been able to identify words from his travels.

Kua begun his journey at the University of Newcastle working within the Wollotuka Institute as a Project Officer with a focus on the Indigenous Language program, which has since given him an in-depth understanding and appreciation in Language history.

Kua's work has allowed him to bring together a group of Language enthusiast, who share their thoughts, values and beliefs within an inclusive, supportive and safe environment, where they are able to have constructive discussions and looks at how Language was formed and how it has evolved.

Jesse Hope-Hodgett, Associate Lecturer – University of Newcastle

Jesse Hodgetts is a singer and educator and is a descendant of the Ngiyambaa and Wiradjuri people of Western New South Wales and was born and raised on Darkinung country on the Central Coast.

Jesse is a part of the academic team at University of Newcastle – Wollotuka Institute, as an educator for Aboriginal Education, Policies and Issues, guiding undergraduate teachers in embedding Aboriginal perspectives in their curriculum and connecting with their local Aboriginal community.

Jesse is currently completing a PhD in songs and Language of Ngiyambaa and Wiradjuri speakers. He is exploring historic cultural songs and how they can inform Aboriginal song and Language revitalisation in New South Wales today.



Rodney Adams

Rodney Adams is a deaf Ngiyampaa man from Western-New South Wales, living on Darkinjung country on the Central Coast.

As an Adjunct Lecturer in Auslan and Deaf Studies at the University of Newcastle, his interest is the revitalisation of Indigenous Sign Languages (ISL).

A keynote speaker at the 2019 Puliima Conference on Language and Technology Adam believes that ISL and their revitalisation can have positive impacts on deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in much the same way as Indigenous Spoken Languages.

Dr Raymond (Ray) Kelly

Dr Ray Kelly has been a prominent figure in the area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Protection in New South Wales (NSW) for the past 35 years.

In 2012 he was appointed to the NSW Heritage Council where he served two terms. Dr Kelly is a former member of both the NSW Heritage Council and the NSW Aboriginal Community Heritage Advisory Committee and is a current member of the NSW Aboriginal Languages.

Dr Kelly is also a playwright, actor and singer with a special interest in historical recordings of First Peoples Language and cultural material.

In 2015, Dr Kelly was awarded an honorary PhD from the University of Newcastle for his thesis entitled: 'Dreaming the Keepara: New South Wales Indigenous Cultural Perspectives, 1808—2007'.

The NSW Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 was the first legislation in Australia to acknowledge the significance of First Nations languages and as a result, Dr Kelly was granted permission to speak on the floor of the NSW Parliament during the passage of this legislation on 24 October 2017.



Mrs Sharon Edgar-Jones

Sharon Edgar-Jones has spent the last 10 years unpacking a salvage grammar which has involved researching and analysing historical Language data related to the Hunter River/ Lake Macquarie region with a particular focus on the in-land dialect: Wanarruwa/ Wommarua.

Of the 10 years of research, 6-years were dedicated to developing a community friendly beginner's guide, alongside Dr Jim Wafer and Albert Burgman, which was published and launched by Muurrbay in November 2020.

In addition to her recent publication, Sharon has undertaken professional development via Living Language / RNLD and Muurrbay as well as further study, having completed a Certificate I and II in Aboriginal Languages, Certificate III in Learning an Endangered Language and most recently completed a Diploma in Aboriginal Language Work at Charles Darwin University.

An aspiration of Sharon's is to continue with further study by undertaking a bachelor's degree within her area of expertise.

Catherine Trindall, Deputy Chair – NSW Aboriginal Language Trust

Catherine Trindall is a proud Gomerioi Murri Yinnar woman, whose family are recognised as Traditional Owners from Narrabri North Western New South Wales (NSW). Catherine currently work for TAFE NSW but have been involved with formal Education over the past 33 years. Her current role is Product Manager for Aboriginal Languages based in Tamworth, where she lives and works on Country.

Catherine is a board member of the newly formed NSW Aboriginal Languages Trust Board, through a Ministerial appointment. In 2019, Catherine was very humbled and pleasantly surprised to be awarded Life Membership of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

