

# FATSILC INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE NEWS

The Road & Pathway to Communities



**FATSILC**

FEDERATION OF  
ABORIGINAL & TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER  
LANGUAGES AND CULTURE

## Special points of interest:

- Close the Gap Update
- ACARA Update
- What is coming up in Indigenous language forums and events across the nation.

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## Language Worker Course—taking ownership of your language

The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity [www.rnld.org](http://www.rnld.org) recently began piloting its new Documenting and Revitalizing Indigenous Languages (DRIL) Training Program. DRIL is designed for Aboriginal and Islander people who want to develop, implement and manage their own language projects. Participants can take part in the training individually, or with other people in their family, a small group in a community, or in the workplace. The DRIL curriculum offers 29 modules in seven topics: Developing a language project, Recording and archiving, Strategies for language revival and maintenance, Creating language resources, literacy and linguistics, Publishing and presenting, and Training and curriculum development. Participants can choose any of the modules in these topics as a starting point. More information on the curriculum is available on RNLDC's web site at [www.rnld.org/node/71](http://www.rnld.org/node/71)

DRIL is currently being piloted in eight language communities in WA, Queensland and Victoria. In 2011, we will begin working with two communities in NSW and include more languages in WA. If you're interested in taking part, please contact Margaret Florey on [contact.rnld@gmail.com](mailto:contact.rnld@gmail.com).

The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity is also part of the planning group for a new Consortium on Training in Language Documentation and Conservation. The CTLDC fosters networking and collaboration among people and organisations that support training in language documentation and promote the ongoing use of all of the world's languages. Asia-Pacific members of the planning group recently met in Japan to share information about their training activities and to develop the structure and goals of the consortium. Australia was



represented by the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity, Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education, Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre, and the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures. More information about the CTLDC is available on the web at

[www.rnld.org/node/106](http://www.rnld.org/node/106).

Article by Margaret Florey

## FATSILC presents at NSW Aboriginal Languages Meeting

Sone McKendry, acting manager of FATSILC, presented on behalf of FATSILC with Ken Walker and John Atkinson. The FATSILC acting manager and board representatives attended the Aboriginal Languages meeting facilitated by the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc and Aboriginal Affairs NSW for the NSW Aboriginal Languages and how they can further develop this policy and how other states and

aboriginal organisations can assist or how the NSW can assist with this policy etc. Workshops were more specific to the NSW policy, ie curriculum issues, linguists' context.

It was identified through a series of Aboriginal language forums, that FATSILC should be invited to attend the NSW Aboriginal Languages forum, to give community members a better

understanding of FATSILC, its role and its history.

FATSILC received fantastic feedback from the participants at the forum and believe they were of some assistance and look forward to maintaining an effective and successful relationship with AECG.

Article by Sone McKendry



## Sharing Culture Online - Connecting Kids with Culture Education and Communities

Sharing Culture Online is a revolutionary new system to help Aboriginal and other Indigenous communities to record, store and assist with passing on language and knowledge on a wide scale. The easy to use system lets you create digital talking dictionaries, use your own images to produce bi-lingual talking books, facts and jigsaw puzzles.

Sharing Culture Online is community managed and controlled, all you need is an account and you can be recording language instantly. There's no installation or set up, just log in and start adding content. The online nature

means no lost data if your computer fails and information can be accessed anywhere any time, as long as there's a computer with internet connection.

Sharing Culture Online is currently being used by Community Organisations, Language Centres, Schools, Universities and homes across Australia. Interest is growing internationally with requests from Native American tribes to adapt the system for the US. Sharing Culture Pty Ltd is an Indigenous owned and operated Company, Managed by Gadj (Yolngu) and Jodie (Maori) Maymuru. Sharing Culture Online has been

developed by Indigenous people, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of all ages, encouraging the wider community to learn something about Aboriginal people and languages. Kids, even down to kindergarten level, can start to enjoy and learn our languages. For more information and a free 14 day trial of Sharing Culture Online, visit [www.sharingculture.com.au](http://www.sharingculture.com.au)

Article by Jodie Maymuru

## Close the Gap

### Show your support

[Sign the Close the Gap pledge](#)  
[Get involved in National Close the Gap Day](#)

### Take the latest online action

### Learn more

[Australia's Indigenous healthcrisis in-depth](#)  
Read an update on the Close the Gap campaign in the [Close the Gap Shadow Report \(February 2010\)](#)

Read the [Close the Gap Partnership position paper \(June 2010\)](#) - why a real partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is so important.

"Statistics of shortened life expectancy are our mothers and fathers, uncles and aunties who live diminished lives. We die silently under these statistics."

*Professor Mick  
Dodson, 2009  
Australian of the Year  
and Aboriginal activist  
and lawyer*

## ACARA Update

### [The Australian Curriculum: Languages update](#)

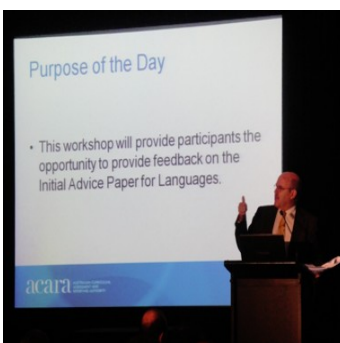
A national forum on the Australian Curriculum: Languages was held on Monday 25 October.

The purpose of the forum was to provide participants with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Initial Advice Paper for Languages.

A wide range of stakeholders/representatives from all states and territories across a wide range of languages, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, attended the forum. There were over 150 participants including teachers across the stages of schooling, principals, academics, government, state and territory education authorities, professional education associations, and

community groups. A revised version of the paper will now be prepared and distributed as the *Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* paper for a 10 week period of national consultation. It is envisaged that this paper will be released in December.

[www.acara.edu.au/acara\\_update\\_11112010.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/acara_update_11112010.html)



## What's coming up

### National Close the Gap Day

**24 March 2011, Everywhere, All States and Territories**

National Close the Gap Day gives Australians the opportunity to come together and show their support for closing the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians. Individuals and local groups can organise a small-scale event to celebrate the gains that have been made, and use the Oxfam website for ideas, resources and to register their event.

[www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/close-the-gap-day](http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/close-the-gap-day)

### Puliima 2011 National Indigenous Languages and Technology Forum 'Old Language - New Voices'

**10 May 2011 to 13 May 2011, Brisbane Queensland**

The aim of the Puliima Forum is to bring together people from all over Australia and overseas who are involved in Indigenous language projects and communities to share skills and information on the use of a wide range of technology to support their work. The event showcases a variety of production tools, models and programs that support content production in a range of mediums (sound, multi-media, image and print) and enables community users to experience them first hand. It incorporates knowledge of linguistics, educational programs and teaching methodologies as well as legal, moral and cultural aspects of community language project development.

[www.acra.org.au/puliima.html](http://www.acra.org.au/puliima.html)

### WIPCE 2011

**Cusco, Peru, South America—August 2011**

The 2011 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education will be held in Cusco, Peru, South America. Package deals with Starstravel will be available before the end of the 2010 year. The Starstravel organiser of the 2011 Wipce tour is Linda Mabey, [linda@starstravel.co.nz](mailto:linda@starstravel.co.nz). Once a date and programme has been received by the Wipce organisers Starstravel will present the tour package. Starstravel have organised tours to Wipce since the 1996

Albuquerque conference. Register with Linda or contact Starstravel, 0800 802929. August appears to be the month for the conference, but this is yet to be confirmed. Information will be posted as it becomes available.

### The Garma Festival

**5 August 2011 to 8 August 2011 Northern Territory**

The Garma Festival of Traditional Culture is a celebration of the cultural inheritance of the Yolngu people, the Indigenous Aboriginal Australians of North East Arnhem land. The Garma ceremony has as its purpose the sharing of knowledge and culture, and the opening of hearts to the message of the land at Gukula. It includes a Key Forum that in 2010 will focus on Indigenous Education. One of the central issues and challenges to be discussed at the Key Forum on the Creative Industries will be the extent and nature of Creative Industries interface with Indigenous Australians, including cultural and commercial rights, and the place of traditional art.

### 6th International Conference on Indigenous Education: Pacific Rim

**18 to 21 December 2010, Cairns Queensland**

The First Nations University of Canada, (formerly Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, SIFC) has as its mission, a mandate to promote and support international Indigenous education and community exchange. Australian Catholic University (McAuley Banyo) is honoured to have been invited to co host this year's 6th International Conference on Indigenous Education: Pacific Rim, together with Charles Darwin University, by the First Nations University of Canada. Hear from Indigenous education leaders on the latest approaches to Indigenous education.

### Yabun 2011: Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures - NSW

**26 January 2011, Sydney New South Wales**

Yabun, the concert celebrating Indigenous Australia's survival is held in Sydney on 26 January, with top entertainers and special tents providing a wide range of information. The annual Yabun concert is presented by Gadigal Information Services, home of Koori Radio.

[www.gadigal.org.au](http://www.gadigal.org.au)

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership: Building leadership capability to Close the Gap on disadvantage

**15 to 16 February 2011, Brisbane Queensland**

Hear insights from Kerrie Tim, Dr Tom Calma, Warren Mundine, Jack Manning-Bancroft, Tania Major, Adjunct Professor Dennis Eggington. Learn how to: empower young people and build leaders of the future; increase the representation of Indigenous people at senior levels in business and the public sector; build effective partnerships to ensure Indigenous people can take leadership on the issues that affect them; strengthen leadership and governance in Indigenous organisations to ensure success.

[www.indigenousleaders.com](http://www.indigenousleaders.com)



**FATSILC**

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*“Old language—*

*New Voices”*



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*The Federation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Languages & Culture is a **non-profit organisation**.  
FATSILC is the national peak body for community based  
indigenous language programs in Australia.*

*The organisation was established in 1991 in response to the  
Australian Language and Literacy Policy, to promote the  
maintenance, retrieval and revival of indigenous languages  
and culture, through the support of community based lan-  
guage and cultural programs.*

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**Australian Government**  
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FATSILC would like to wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year. We are looking forward to working with you throughout 2011.