ANU well-represented in Singapore

ANU was well-represented at the 45th International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics in Singapore which includes two one-day long workshops on Austronesian and Hmong-Mien languages the day before the conference. Paul Sidwell and MA Student Keren Baker both presented at the pre-conference workshop on Austronesian languages. Paul's talk was a grammar sketch of Sedang and Keren presented on phonetics and phonology of Lyngngam.

PhD student Lisa Ginsburg presented her work on White Hmong aspect in the pre-conference workshop on Miao-Yao languages. At the ICTSLL itself, Mark Donohue presented "contact across the Himalayas: Tamangic and Tibetan" (co-authored with Tom Owens-Smith) and Honours student Virginia Dawson presented "Complex predicates in Tiwa". Gwen Hyslop presented on differential object-marking in Kurtöp and chaired the session on Himalayish morphosyntax.

Conference details are available by following the link.

Ralph’s record breaking PhD submitted

July 18 was a record-breaking day in the Department. Record-breaking because on that day Ralph Lawton submitted his PhD thesis, On the Making of the Kiriwina Dictionary.

Ralph is in his 85th year, which makes him the most venerable of all the Department's PhD scholars since the first thesis was submitted 50 years ago (Don Laycock's, on the Ndu languages of the Sepik).

Ralph’s thesis describes the major challenges he encountered in compiling his massive Kiriwina-English dictionary, which contains over 12,000 main entries. He began his PhD research nine years ago -- not quite a record and anyway, he pursued it mainly part-time because of health niggles and because he was busy completing another large project, coordinating a team that translated the Old Testament into Kiriwina and (with his wife Margaret) preparing the volume for the press. In February they went to the Trobriands for a grand launch of the translation. Congratulations to Ralph but he can't rest on his laurels for long -- he has to knuckle down and get the Kiriwina dictionary out.
Accolades

The reputation of linguistics and languages at ANU got a further boost with the release of the QS rankings. Linguistics moved from 10th place worldwide last year to 9th this year – and on top of this it scored 100% for Employer Reputation and outranked every other university in the top 20 on the citations measure (97.8%). Modern Languages likewise did extremely well – this was the first year it was disaggregated from all other subjects – coming in at #18.

Nick Evans traveled to Heidelberg in mid-September to receive his Anneliese Maier Forschungspreis, along with three other prizewinners. He gave the introductory talk, on the topic ‘Sprachenvielfalt und die viele Gesichter Sozialer Kognition’ (Language Diversity and the Shaping of Social Cognition). While there he met up with academic host and former Coombs linguist Niko- laus Himmelmann as well as a number of other friends (Nick Thieberger, Volker Gast) who attended the ceremony.

A fabulous accolade for Paul Sidwell and his work on Austroasiatic came with the announcement of his Future Fellowship to work on mainland Southeast Asian linguistics and its correlations with archaeology, with the title ‘Unlocking the missing Millen- nia of mainland Southeast Asia’. This is a fantastic boost for studies of historical linguistics in SE Asia, particularly of the Austroasiatic family.

Grant announcements

Several members of the department succeeded in obtaining RSAP research grants for a range of projects: Bethwyn Evans and Rachel Hendery received incentive funding for a project on grammatical change in the pacific. Nick Evans and Aung Si got a grant to develop a collaborative project on linguistic and biological diversity with Chi- kyukon (the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature) in Kyoto. Nick Evans got a grant to help develop a book manuscript on Coevolutionary Linguistics growing out of his January Nijmegen lectures, and Mark Donohue was awarded funds for an exploratory Himalayan lexicography project.

Rob Mailhammer, together with Jason Shaw (University of Western Sydney), has been awarded a Research Event Award by the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association worth $5000 to hold a workshop on the phonetics and phonology of Australian languages, which will take place in June 2013 (to pencil into your diaries). Further news about this will be circulated at a later date.

A team of Australia-based researchers (including Wayan Arka, Jane Simpson and Shunichi Ishihara from the ANU) succeeded in the $1.4M bid to NeCTAR for a grant for the project: Above and Beyond Speech, Language and Music: A Virtual Lab for Human Communication Science (HCS vLab).

Newsletter editor returns

Your faithful CAP Linguistics newsletter editor Greg Dick- son took three months leave from his PhD program to un- dertake volunteer work with the Ngukurr Language Cen- tre - a community organisation in his fieldsite in the Northern Territory. The centre recently received government funding for the first time allowing it to employ staff and commence programs to document and revitalise the community’s languages. Greg’s volunteer role was to work with the organisation’s committee to recruit a coordinator and language worker. All went swim- mingly and the Centre is now operating in full swing so your newsletter editor has returned to continue bringing you the department’s news! (And work on his PhD occasionally too.)

While on leave, Greg also reported on the Federal Gov- ernments Our Land, Our Languages report from an inquiry into Indigenous lan- guages. His article on Crikey led to radio interviews with ABC Alice Springs, Sydney, Perth and Torres Strait Radio.
Southern New Guinea project updates

The DoBeS-funded Southern New Guinea project mounted its most ambitious expedition yet from the end of July, working on a number of languages – Nen, Kömnzo, Warta Thundai, Nenme and Nambu. Six project members – Nick Evans, Christian Döhler, Julia Miller, ethnoornithologist Chris Healey, honours student Kyla Quinn and anthropologist Penny Johnson – attended the Annual DoBeS workshop, giving a first report on their project entitled 'Double yield: Reduplicated Plant and Bird Names in Nen and Kömnzo'. Julia also presented results of her work from the Iwaidja project giving a demo, very positively received, of his mobile phone app including an Iwaidja dictionary and 'conjugator'.

Back in Canberra, the linked ARC and DoBeS projects held their annual meeting from July 16-18, featuring half a dozen presentations on everything from ethnobiology to Marori nominal tense via Nen imperatives and Kömnzo texts, culminating in Matthew Carroll’s PhD confirmation presentation focusing on the thorny problem of how to model Kanum verbal morphology. The same week also saw two presentations by visitor Don Daniels on different Papuan topics (proto-Sogeram kinship, and morphosyntactic change and verb chaining in the Sogeram languages), concluding with an inspiring public lecture by Kirsty Sword Gusmão on policy changes in Timor Leste aimed at increasing the success of early school literacy by getting local languages into primary schools. With thirteen presentations on Papuan languages in a week this may have set a departmental record.

Project workshops in Nijmegen and ANU

Prior to fieldwork the project saw two big events spread between Nijmegen and Canberra. In Nijmegen, Nick Evans, Christian Döhler and Julia Miller attended the annual DoBeS workshop, giving a first report on their project entitled ‘Double yield: Reduplicated Plant and Bird Names in Nen and Kömnzo’. Julia also presented results of her work from her project on Beaver tonogenesis, and Bruce Birch from the Iwaidja project gave a demo, very positively received, of his mobile phone app including an Iwaidja dictionary and ‘conjugator’.

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Wayan’s World

Wayan Arka was the chief organiser of a series of linguistic events in June/July held in Bali, starting with the ParGram (Parallel Grammar) Meeting, followed by two international conferences, LFG12 and 12ICAL, and closed off with a one week Master Classes on Anthropological Linguistics and Lexical-Functional Grammar. These events were co-organised by the ANU, Udayana University and the MPI Jakarta Field Station. The events were a great success, receiving very positive evaluations from participants. With the help from the Wurm fund and donations from conference participants, organisers offered 14 scholarships to local students from across Indonesia to enable them to participate in the conferences and Master Classes. While very busy as the chief organiser, Wayan also presented his papers on ‘Crossed control in Indonesian and its implementation’ at the ParGram meeting and on ‘Verbal number and plural events in Maron’ at the LFG2012 conference. He also taught LFG, together with Mary Dalrymple (Oxford University) and Paul Kroeger (Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Texas), for the Master Classes.

In September, Wayan was in Merauke, West Papua, Indonesia doing fieldwork as part of the SNG project. Apart from doing his own fieldwork, he did groundwork for future collaboration with the local institutions and local communities in Merauke. He accompanied Matthew Carroll, who is working on Kanum, to the field to help with his surat jalan (travel permit) from the Police. Getting a travel permit to West Papua by a foreigner is problematic and there was a bit of drama at the police station in Merauke but finally Matt got his permit. Wayan also took him to Yanggandur to meet his host in the village. Wayan also met with the Rector of the local state-owned Musamus University and gave a talk at the university.

Staff movements

Malcolm Ross returned to Canberra on 19th October after 4 months overseas, two of them in Leipzig, where he delivered a talk and revised various papers in historical Austronesian linguistics for publication.

The School of Language Studies (CASS) has farewell Dr Gudrun Ziegler, and welcomes Dr Rena Torres Cacoullos who will spend October-November working on projects with Professor Catherine Travis, and running a master class in sociolinguistics.

Nick Evans will be away on sabbatical from the end of July until February 1; during this time Wayan Arka will head the department and Gwen Hyslop will convene the postgrad area.

Dying Words translations launched

Nick Evans’ book Dying Words has just appeared in Korean translation, with the title 아무도 모르는 사이에 죽다 (Dying with noone knowing - link). The French translation has also just come out with La Decouverte under the title Ces Mots Qui Meurent (link). While in Europe in September, Nick spent a few days in Paris promoting the French translation and doing a number of radio interviews on Radio France Internationale (RFI) the book. A series of podcasts are available for download here, here and here.
Fieldwork and community linguistics in Indonesia

The two-week language documentation workshop in Kupang (West Timor), *Preserving and Documenting local languages through recording and writing (Melestarikan pengetahuan melalui merekam dan menulis bahasa-bahasa daerah)*, went well, with much recorded and transcribed, and analysed from the languages Amarasi, Baikeno, Dhaqap, Galolen, Hawu, Helong, Mambae, Rikou, Ti, Uab Meto. The workshop, held in July, was coordinated by Chuck Grimes, Mark Donohue and Daniel Kaufman (ELA).

Dramatically, for these ten languages we recorded, transcribed, translated and glossed 20 hours of recordings (some audio, some video)! This almost certainly sets a new standard for documentary desirability, and demonstrates the value of collaboration with communities, rather than treating locals as objects of study. All materials will be uploaded to the internet, where they will be accessible via YouTube, the Endangered Language Alliance site, and the *Endangered Languages Project*.

Meanwhile, Matt Carroll just got back from his first visit to his field-site the village of Yanggandur in Papua, Indonesia, where he was working on the Ngkrina variety of Kanum. Things were very successful and people were very receptive to having him return. His field trip was about 5 weeks in the village and 2 months before that spent in Bali learning Indonesian.

PhD students closing in on completion

Some of our PhD students are edging closer to completion as well as taking up interesting work opportunities.

Piers Kelly has recently completed a short contract at AIATSIS on a website development project to introduce the public to essential information about Australian languages. He was also involved in a workshop to analyse the early results from the recent Second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2) carried out by AIATSIS. The survey will report on, among other things, Indigenous languages programs in Australia, the state of Indigenous languages as well as attitudes towards Indigenous languages.

Chikako Senge returned to Halls Creek for a two week fieldtrip in July. She did some follow-up grammar checking to help her finalise her thesis on Wanyirra. This semester she has also been tutoring the course, Spoken Japanese 4, convened by Carol Hayes.

PhD student news: publications and fieldwork

Maïa Ponsonnet, Loan Dao (CASS) and Margit Bowler (ex-CASS full-bright scholar) have just finished editing the *Proceedings of the 42nd Australian Linguistic Society Conference* – 2011 (held last December at ANU as part of the LangFest). The volume is published online, hosted by the ANU Research Repository. ANU linguistics is well represented in the volume, with papers by PhD students Piers Kelly, Sébastien Lacrampe, Maïa Ponsonnet plus Shunichi Ishihara, Carol Priestley and from CASS Loan Dao and Jennifer Hendriks.

In addition to his publication in the aforementioned volume entitled, *Simplifying a system: a story of language change in Lelepa, Vanuatu*, Sébastien Lacrampe has also just returned from two and a half months of fieldwork in Lelepa. His trip was very successful and lots of (grammatical) questions were answered. As well as solving old problems he discovered new things, and particularly had a lot of fun with the system of spatial reference found in Lelepa. Another highlight was handing out literacy materials to the community and working on new materials with the local school teachers. When momentarily leaving his linguist’s hat, he sometimes acted as a canoe making apprentice or sometimes as a political observer, as ‘election fever’ was in full swing and candidates to the Vanuatu Parliament visited the island most weekends to hold political rallies.

Sebastien’s canoe-building apprenticeship on Lelepa, Vanuatu.
...linguistic evidence suggests ancient connections between the languages of Australia and New Caledonia.

Recent presentations and workshops

On 27 and 28 October Beth Evans and Rachel Hendery ran a workshop on Continuity and Change: Grammars of the Pacific. This was a successful event attended by a wide variety of linguists from around Australia and New Zealand. The keynote speakers were Frank Lichtenberk from the University of Auckland and Jeff Siegel from the University of New England. Beth and Rachel are grateful to Linguistics, CHL and RSAP for providing financial support.

Tim Hassall presented a paper on L2 acquisition of Indonesian address terms at the biennial meeting of the Australian Society of Indonesian Language Educators, held 1-2 October in Salatiga, Indonesia.

Dr Zhengado Ye, Professor Anna Wierzbicka and Professor Cliff Goddard organised a well-attended Symposium in CASS on “Happiness and Pain: cross-cultural and cross-linguistic perspectives” on September 28 and 29. Among the presenters were Carol Priestley who gave a talk: “Talking about ‘hurt’ and ‘pain’: Tare and related Koromu sensations”.

Carol is currently in Papua New Guinea where she will be in Koromu and at the University of Goroka and will give the talk, “Language-based perspectives on environmental knowledge: examples from Koromu” at the Saem Majnep Memorial Symposium on Traditional Environmental Knowledge. (Panel Presentation in Keynote session with local knowledge holders, Sairam Tomas and Winis Mutu).

Mark Donohue delivered the plenary talk in Tokyo at the “International Workshop on Clause Combining in Languages in/around Indonesia” (link). The workshop, organised at the Tokyo University for Foreign Studies, saw two days of talks and extensive time for discussions between participants.

Nick Evans co-organised an international symposium in Tokyo from Oct 25-28 on one of his long-term linguistic interests, insubordination, with colleague Honoré Watanabe at ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, as part of the LingDy project on Clause Combining (details here).
Travelling the world but fieldwork in Canberra: Gwen’s recent adventures

Gwendolyn Hyslop and Karma Tshering’s Bhutan Oral Literature and Language Documentation Projects moved ahead two large steps with the launch of a website and a visit from the Bhutan-based project manager, Ratu. Ratu was in Canberra from July-September, receiving training from Karma and Gwen on phonemic orthographies, written representation of Dzongkha and other languages in Bhutan, and how to use Elan as a tool for transcription and translation. He was sent back to Bhutan with a computer and books for the newest team member (Tashi Dakpa speaker), and cameras and hard drives for other team members.

Gwen enjoyed a whirlwind tour of Europe in late September, with a visit to Stockholm for the 45th annual meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea where she presented “Epistemic perspective in Kurtöp” as part of an invited workshop on epistemic perspective and intersubjectivity. Immediately after the conference she traveled to Bonn for good conversation with archaeologists for a few days before jetting off to the U.K. In Oxford she presented “The synchronic typology and diachronic development of consonantal tone” at the 5th Tone and Intonation – Europe conference. Before coming home, Gwen spent a few days in London, helping out with the ELDP training, where she offered a course on the program FLEx and met with recent ELDP grantees.

Canberra-based Bhutanese linguistics research continues with Mark Donoghue and Gwen making progress on Chocangaca.

Wayan Arka was invited as a keynote speaker at PACLIC26 (Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation), held in Kuta Bali-Indonesia in November (website). This conference emphasises the synergy of theoretical analysis and processing of language, and provides a forum for researchers in different fields of language study in the Pacific-Asia region to share their findings and interests in the formal and empirical study of languages. Wayan’s keynote talk is “Developing a Deep Grammar of Indonesian within the ParGram Framework: theoretical and implementational challenges”.

In early November, Rachel Hendery travels to give an invited talk at a conference on Norfolk Island comparing Palmerston Island English and the Norf’k language.

Mark Donohue was invited to speak at the Linguistic Society of Nepal’s annual meeting in Kathmandu in November. He will talk about the differences in language materials obtained via direct elicitation and personal narrative texts. In Kusunda the categories of evidentiality and associated motion emerged only in the textual materials.

Mark has also been invited to talk at two conferences in the Netherlands, Patterns of Diversification and Contact: a Global Perspective Conference to be held at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, from 11-12 December (website), and Quantitative Approaches to Areal Linguistic Typology, 13-14 December (same venue).

Paul Sidwell is invited to the Max Planck Institute (Leipzig) to present a talk for a symposium on the state of the art in Mainland Southeast Asian Linguistics in first week of December.

The Australian Linguistic Society’s annual conference in Perth will see a migration of ANU linguists, and talks on Differential Object Marking (Virginia Dawson), Phonotactics (Rebecca Hetherington and Mark Donohue), Meghalayan dialectology (Keren Baker), among others.

Shunichi Ishihara (with Yuko Kinoshita) has had the following paper accepted to be presented at the 14th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology, 3-6 December 2012, Sydney: ‘The effect of sample size on the performance of likelihood ratio-based forensic voice comparison’.
**Linguistics**
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College of Asia & the Pacific  
ANU

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To be added to the CAP Linguistics newsletter mailing list or for newsletter enquiries and contributions, email: greg.dickson@anu.edu.au


The Asia-Pacific is the most complex and varied linguistic landscape in the world, with three thousand of the world's 7,000 languages. Many are endangered and in coming decades the region is confronting an epochal narrowing of the human knowledge base through language loss.

Linguistics in the College of Asia and the Pacific promotes the study of this linguistic diversity in its fullest sense, including documentation and description - producing grammars, dictionaries and collections of textual materials, usually from on-site fieldwork – work that is equally important for small speech communities themselves.

Minority languages researched in the department cover sites ranging from Vanuatu, New Caledonia, PNG, Australia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Taiwan, India and Japan. Other research focuses on national languages of the region, such as Japanese and Indonesian.

Our postgraduate training aims to produce descriptive linguists of the highest quality. We teach into all levels, including undergraduate courses in Japanese, Indonesian, Linguistics and Pacific Studies, Master's Courses in Linguistics and Applied Japanese Linguistics, and advanced doctoral training. We co-host Paradisec, a digital archive dedicated to recordings of languages and cultures of the Pacific. We also publish the monograph series *Pacific Linguistics*, which has produced over 600 publications.

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**Coming up...**

**Seminar:** *Valency in Kómnzo (a language of southern New Guinea)*  
- Christian Döhler (PhD midterm review) ([link](http://))  
**November 5**  
3:30pm - 5:00pm  
Seminar Room B (Arndt Room)  
HC Coombs Building

**Seminar:** *Linguistics Seminar - Midterm Review* - Niko Kopeba  
**November 14**  
11:00am - 12:30pm

**Seminar:** *The Language is a Map - Frames of Reference in MalakMalak*  
- Dorothea Hoffmann (University of Chicago)  
**November 23**  
11:00am - 12:30pm

**3-week language course:** Mongolian Intensive  
- Ms Batzaya Gerelt-Od (Ulaanbaatar University) ([link](http://))  
**Enquiries:** ll.narangoa@anu.edu.au  
**January 10-31, 9:00am - 5:00pm**

**Graduate Summer School:** 2013 Japanese Studies Graduate Summer School ([link](http://))  
**January 28-31**  
9:00am - 5:00pm

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Morning mist in Rouku. Photo: Christian Döhler