

# Kimberley Interpreting Service

www.wn.com.au/mirima

NAATI Interpreters for Aboriginal Languages

Tel: 08 9169 3161

Issue 3

August 2001

## KIS supplies interpreters for Native Title Federal Court Hearing in Derby

*KIS supplies interpreters to KLC, Derby*

KLC Derby has booked KIS interpreters for the 26 day Native Title Federal Court Hearing to be held in Derby and the claim area in the North Kimberley.

This is the first time that the KLC has booked interpreters through KIS and both KLC and KIS are pleased about the move.

Vincent Bear is a NAATI accredited paraprofessional interpreter for Kriol and English. He also speaks Ngarinyin, the language of the applicants. Vincent will be interpreting during the entire Court Hearing and female interpreters from Fitzroy Crossing will be engaged for part of the time.

Aboriginal evidence will be given in this native title trial for country in the North Kimberley. The Wanjina Willinggin trial opened in Perth in May this year. Aboriginal evidence will be given in Mowanjum and at sites throughout the applicants traditional country, an area of almost 70 000 square kilometres.

The application area stretches from a point approximately 125 kms to the east of Derby and extends to about 60 kms west of Wyndham and Kununurra.

## Professional Development for NAATI interpreters in the Kimberley

*Refresher Courses for Kimberley Interpreters in May*

### Fitzroy Crossing

The 2001 KIS Refresher Courses held by Ms Eirlys Richards started in Fitzroy Crossing. The 2 day course was held at the Karrayili Adult Education Centre and among participants were NAATI accredited interpreters Gail Smiler, Annette Kogolo and new interpreter candidates Pasty Bedford (Bunuba/Kriol), Gracie Mulligan (Nyikina/Kriol) and Topsy Chestnut (Gooniyandi/Kriol).

### Balgo

The next Course was held at the Wirrumanu Adult Education Centre in Balgo. Among participants were NAATI accredited interpreter Ruth Nagomara and Wirrumano Adult Education Centre workers Bertha Kalion, Lizzie Gordon and Nancy Gill.



### Patsy Mudgetell practising Telephone Interpreting during Refresher Course in Halls Creek

Telephone Interpreting is sometimes a convenient solution when an interpreter is needed and the travel costs for the interpreter are too high.

### Halls Creek

The third course was held at the Kimberley Language Resource Centre in Halls Creek. Kununurra interpreter and AUSIT member Annette Chunama travelled to Halls Creek with Colleen Calwat to join interpreters Musso Taylor, Mona Green and Patsy Mudgetell for the course.

*Continued on page 2*

## HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Professional Development for Interpreters
- 1 KIS supplies interpreter for Native Title Federal Court Hearing
- 2 Aboriginal Interpreters in Broome wanted
- 3 KIS function at Mirima Language and Culture Centre
- 3 New Co-ordinator at KLRC in Halls Creek
- 4 The Australian Language Family

**Kimberley Interpreting Service**

**Tel: 08 9169 3161 Fax: 08 9168 2639 Email: [kis@wn.com.au](mailto:kis@wn.com.au)**

**PO Box 162, Kununurra, WA 6743**

**ABN: 258 583 282 85**

## Professional Development for NAATI interpreters in the Kimberley

The Refresher Courses contained health and telephone interpreting, legal scenarios including procedures from offence to sentence, police interviews, court hearings, witness oaths as well as the Code of Ethics and Interpreter's oath.



Lecturer Eirllys Richards with Ruth Nagomara and Bertha Kallion in Balgo.

The Balgo Workshop worked out well and Sister Cherryl was very helpful with organising participants, lunches and more. Ruth Nagomara reported that the Clinic and Art Centre tend to use Aboriginal people as interpreters. However, much awareness raising still has to be done among the users and further training is required for interpreters. George Lee, who has worked for KIS as an interpreter before and NAATI interpreter Joan Nagomara were unable to attend.



Interpreter Musso Taylor studying legal terminology at the Halls Creek Refresher Course.

The Halls Creek course combined Halls Creek and Kununurra interpreters. After initial difficulties and after the Kununurra women had started to get to know the Halls Creek interpreters, the course got in full swing and according to Ms Richards the team was enthusiastic and put in some good working hours.

### Fitzroy Crossing

**Gail Smiler** seems to be the mostly requested interpreter. She has been working in all areas. Her work is mostly in meetings.

**Annette Kogolo** said that most of her interpreting work has been in her native title claim group meetings. However she works on health and Centrelink affairs in her radio work. She would like to be called on to do more interpreting in any area. She would like organisations in the Fitzroy Crossing area to know that she is available.

**Patsy Bedford** does informal meeting interpreting with Bunuba group quite regularly. Patsy is now doing formal interpreter training at Batchelor Institute.

**Gracie Mulligan** (Nyikina) is finding herself being drafted into assisting with her group's meetings re land tenure. She is also currently being trained at Batchelor.

**Topsy Chestnut** is already doing informal interpreting with her community. She was particularly interested in having some rules/techniques for interpreting at meetings and eagerly discussed and noted them for future reference. She is also doing the Batchelor Course with Doreen Street another Gooniyandi woman.

Unfortunately, Olive Knight was away and Catherine Ridley and Bobby Kogolo didn't appear. Ms Richards noted: "But the time I had with Gail and Annette was quality time. Gracie and Topsy were similarly enthusiastic to learn as much as possible to meet their immediate needs before taking the course. Patsy brought her usual maturity to the questions and discussion."

## Aboriginal Interpreters in Broome Wanted!!!

If you are from the Broome Area, Dampier Peninsula or surrounds and you speak an Aboriginal language, why not become an interpreter?

Find out more and call KIS on 91693161!!

## KIS function at Mirima Language and Culture Centre

*We've come a long way....*

Representatives of government agencies and local community groups gathered at the Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring, Language and Culture Centre on 19 June 2001 to meet Larry Davies, General Manager of the Employment Group at the Department of Employment and Training, and see how far the Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS) has come since its inception in November 2000. KIS received funding from the Department to establish the service and staff were keen to show what they have achieved in the last seven months.

KIS Project Officer, Tea Dietterich, explained how KIS has developed since receiving the funding and displayed promotional material for the service, including brochures, newsletters and the KIS website. Kimberley Interpreting Service provides accredited Aboriginal language interpreters for use in a wide range of contexts, including legal, medical, and welfare. There are over twenty accredited interpreters across the Kimberley and KIS provides a central booking service, matching clients to interpreters. So far, interpreters have worked in Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra and have even been used in a court case in Darwin. Balgo, Broome and Halls Creek interpreters have travelled to Kununurra or Darwin for interpreting jobs.

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring, Language and Culture Centre and Kimberley Language Resource Centre coordinate delivery of the service to ensure local language and culture issues arising from the use of interpreters are dealt with appropriately. KIS Project Officer, Tea Dietterich said, 'Kimberley Interpreting Service is a great example of Aboriginal people working together to ensure fair treatment from government departments. We hope more people start using interpreters if there is any doubt about a person's English language skills. There are interpreters available for Vietnamese, why not Aboriginal people?'

### Health Organisations

The KIS function was a great opportunity to inform representatives of health organisations about the use of Aboriginal interpreters. Whilst KIS interpreters are frequently working in fields such as magistrate's court, native title and other legal areas, there are not many bookings for interpreter services coming from the medical arena. However, research and experience shows that there is a need for Aboriginal interpreters in the health field. KIS is keen to work closely with health organisations to raise awareness about the importance of Aboriginal interpreters and to supply them.

7 - 11 August 2001 is Naidoc Week in Kununurra. KIS together with Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring will have an information stand at White Gum Park in Kununurra on Tuesday 7 August. Come along and check out our Videos about Cross Cultural Awareness and Aboriginal Interpreters or simply meet the KIS staff, get brochures and ask questions.

## New Co-ordinator at Kimberley Language Resource Centre in Halls Creek

The Kimberley Language Resource Centre in Halls Creek has a new Co-ordinator. Edgar Price formerly from the East Kimberley Business Enterprise Centre in Wyndham will start on August 20 at the KLRC in Halls Creek.

Mr Price lived in Halls Creek back in 1988 and has visited Halls Creek many times since then. He has worked in Wyndham at the BEC for almost 4 years. He brings along considerable management experience and an interest in Aboriginal languages.

KIS is looking forward to working with Mr Price and would like to thank the current Co-ordinator Cath Rouse for all her support and hard work. Cath's passion for Aboriginal languages and the Region has been vital for the KLRC and KIS. We wish her all the best for the future.

## New publications at KLRC

The KLRC is proud to announce the following recent publications:

**New Kija Phrasebook "Yuwurriyangen Kijan"**, a Phrasebook of Kija Language  
**New Wangkajunga Phrasebook "Ngaapa Wangka"** with reference to Canning Stock Route, meaning of waterholes etc.

**Kukatja Learning CD Rom**, with emphasis on spelling

**Bunuba Learning CD Rom**, with emphasis on talking

**Nyikina Learning CD Rom**, with emphasis on bushmedicine

All CD Roms contain stories, syllable charts and games and are suitable for school children as well as adults.

**To order your copy, call KRLC on 9168 6005.**

## THE AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE FAMILY

It is estimated that there were 200 languages in Australia prior to European contact and over half of these languages are no longer spoken.

No connection between any Australian language and language families in other continents has been demonstrated, which therefore places Australian languages into their own, distinct family.

Within the Australian language family there are two classifications which divide the country into two regions.

The Pama-Nyungan languages occupy almost nine tenths of the continent and are so named after the words for 'man' at its north-eastern and south-western extremities. All Pama-Nyungan languages share common linguistic features, and examples include Jaru (from the Halls Creek area) and Kukatja (spoken around Balgo).

Most of the Kimberley languages and languages from the Top End of the NT are classified as non Pama-Nyungan.

Within this classification there are more than twenty distinct families: four of these families are from the Kimberley region, with the remainder in the Northern Territory.

### Bunuban family

This family consists of just two fairly closely related languages, Bunuba and Gooniyandi and most speakers of each language – particularly older ones – are bilingual in the other. Most speakers live in Fitzroy Crossing and nearby outstations on pastoral properties.

### Jarrakan family

This is also a relatively small family, consisting of four or five languages traditionally spoken in the east Kimberley.

The main languages in this family are Kija, Miriwoong and Gajirrabeng. Kija has speakers living mainly in the area from Halls Creek to Kununurra. Miriwoong and Gajirrabeng have speakers living mainly in Kununurra and nearby outstations.

### Nyulnyulan family

The ten or so languages of this family were traditionally spoken on the Dampier peninsula and surrounding area. They are Bardi, Jawi, Nyulnyul, Jabirjabirr, Nimanburru, Ngumbarl, Jukun, Nyikina, Warrwa and Yawuru, all of which are quite closely related to one another.

### Worrorran family

This family consists of more than twenty named languages and dialects traditionally spoken throughout the northern Kimberley region. These include, Wunambal, Ngarinyin, and Worla.

### Further reading

Dixon, RMW *The Languages of Australia* (1980) Cambridge University Press  
McGregor, W *Handbook of Kimberley Languages* (1988) Pacific Linguistics

## Networking with Language Centres and Resource Organisations

KIS is interested in networking with Language Centres all over Australia. Often Language Centres co-ordinate interpreter bookings and PD. The Katherine Language Centre, (Diwurrurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation) has been vital in the development of KIS. A recent meeting with Co-ordinator Robyn Hodgson has strengthened this relationship. KIS had learned much from the Katherine Language Centre about raising awareness of interpreters, publicity and general booking procedures. KIS uses the "No Mo Humbug" Videos made by the Katherine Language Centre to teach about Aboriginal interpreters. KIS is grateful for all the support received from Diwurrurru-Jaru, especially from Robyn and linguist Erica.

KIS is now getting in contact with Language Centres in Queensland to strengthen its links.

### New KIS Brochures and Videos

Our new colour brochures have been very popular and we have already ordered a second run. Please let us know if you need brochures and we will send you some straight away. Simply call us on 91693161 or send an email to:

[kis@wn.com.au](mailto:kis@wn.com.au)