

February 2005



Heather Umbagai, Lesley Baxter, Wendy Rogers and Janet Oobagooma

## **Recruiting Interpreters on the Gibb River Road**

In September 2004 interpreters Heather Umbagai, Wendy Rogers and Janet Oobagooma and the coordinator of KIS Lesley Baxter went to Mowanjum, Imintji, Dodnum, Kuparngarri and Gibb River to tell community members about the work of the Kimberley Interpreting Service. They talked to community members about the work that interpreters do and how community members can become interpreters. They also asked community members to try to find people in their communities who could train and work as interpreters for the people in their region.



**Ronnie Jimbidie and Anne Lennard in Fitzroy Crossing during a role play at the Batchelor Course workshop**

After one and a half years of waiting for one of the tertiary institutions to teach the Diploma of Interpreting to new interpreters in the Kimberley, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education have made the leap and started delivering the Diploma of Interpreting in May of this year. Eighteen students from Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Mowanjum, Derby and Broome enrolled in the Batchelor Course and have attended four one week blocks at Karrayili Adult Education Centre in Fitzroy Crossing. They are studying communication with professionals, clients and colleagues, management practices and how to interpret dialogues.

Sumati Chakravarti is the lecturer for the Interpreting course. She is an interpreter herself and speaks English, Bengali, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), Tok Pisin and French. Sumati comes from Darwin every 6 weeks to teach the Kimberley Students and says “the students are an incredibly dedicated group who are committed to making a difference in their communities.”

The training is continuing this year. The students who are studying now will finish off the course in June.

After talking to many people in government about getting money to keep the Kimberley Interpreting Service going, we now have a budget from eight departments in the WA Government.

The Director General of the Department of Indigenous Affairs Richard Curry was very strong in his support of KIS.

With the Director Generals of seven other State Government departments all involved in social policy, (Department for Community Development, Department of Education and Training, Department of Health, Department of Housing and Works, Department of Justice, Disability Services Commission and WA Police Service) a commitment has been given to KIS for an operational budget for the next three years.

We are very pleased that our funding is secure and we would like to thank them all for their support.

KIS would also like to thank the Kimberley Development Commission for funding the Interpreters Refresher Course in 2004.

The Department of Transport and Regional Services Regional Partnerships Program supported the “Interpreter Recruitment Project” in the desert and North Kimberley. Sustainable Regions Program will fund business planning, mentoring and development.

All of the funding will help to provide better communication, services and understanding between Government and Kimberley Aboriginal people.

This means we can concentrate on further development of the business, getting more training and work for the interpreters and working with the people who use interpreters.

# KIS OFFICE



**Lesley Baxter, KIS Coordinator outside the KIS office in the Kennedy's store building in Chinatown**

In March 2004, the Kimberley Interpreting Service moved into a new office in Chinatown, Broome. The office is at the back of the old Kennedy's Store Building at 9 Napier Terrace.

It's easy to find. If you walk down the corridor next the Department of Planning and Infrastructure you will see the KIS office.

It's the last one on your left hand side looking back out over the Kennedy Hill community.

It's good to have our own office where the interpreters can visit when they are in Broome.



**Dee Lightfoot in the KIS office Chinatown KIS office**

# Development of Operational and Strategic Plan

The KIS Strategic and Operational Business Plan has now been finished and is being used to guide the development of the interpreting business.

The plan was developed following a meeting in Halls Creek last March with Steering Committee members, staff from Mirima Language and Culture Centre and Kimberley Language Resource Centre and the mentor/consultants.

Every three months there is a meeting between the business mentor and the Coordinator of KIS to make sure that KIS is moving in the right direction and that the work is being done well.

We now have a list of goals and suggested ways of how we can reach those goals with a timeline of when jobs have to be done by.

Following a meeting of the Steering



**Peter Mc Entee the KIS business Mentor and Lesley Baxter meeting in the KIS office**

Committee in December we are now ready to move onto the next stage of development and become independently incorporated.

Peter Mc Entee is leaving the Kimberley so KIS will be looking for a new business mentor to help the Steering Committee and staff to guide the business.



# INTERPRETER REFRESHER COURSE



## BROOME

### 2004

Ronnie Jimbidie, Gabriel Nodea, George Lee and Donovan Jen-

Olive Knight, Topsy Chestnut and Bernadette Williams

In June last year a refresher course, funded by Kimberley Development Commission, was held in Broome at the Kimberley Camp School. It was a chance for all of the accredited interpreters to meet up and be reminded of different interpreting issues.

Siobhan Casson from Halls Creek KLRC and Eirlys Richards presented sessions covering the code of ethics, interpreting techniques different interpreting situations and interpreting within the medical and Native Title fields.

It was an important meeting for the interpreters in reminding them of the standard of skills, presentation and professional conduct required of accredited interpreters. The interpreters all worked very hard and had a good time through out the week.



Bonnie Edwards, Patsy Bedford, Josie Farrer and June Oscar taking a break.



Morris Melpi, Philip Green (95) and David Newry at morning tea.

#### .....ATSIS PAPER.....

A team of people from KIS, Mirima Daawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre and Kimberley Language Resource Centre researched and wrote a paper for ATSIS about interpreting for indigenous languages around Australia.

It discussed all of the different services working with Aboriginal language interpreters and the diverse types of interpreting done in different parts of Australia. The paper also talked about interpreter training and different ways that this training can happen.

## TAFE

KIS, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Kimberley College of TAFE together are working out how training for interpreters can happen all of the time.

There have been many meetings over the past few months to talk about interpreter training. The Managing Director of Kimberley College of TAFE, Adrian Mitchell has been to Perth looking for funding to engage Batchelor to run the Diploma every year in the Kimberley.

We are also talking to TAFE about running specialist courses in the fields of health, justice and community services. They have committed to developing specialization courses with KIS for interpreters.

# Argyle Agreement Signing



Bonnie Edwards interpreting for Simon Nish at an Argyle Diamonds Meeting.

## 'THE WAY TO DO BUSINESS WITH ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE SPEAKERS'

KIS been instrumental in the development of an agreement between Argyle Diamonds and Daa'wam Dawawang, the Traditional Owners of the Argyle mine site.

Together, KIS Interpreters, Argyle, Kimberley Land Council and Traditional Owners developed a strong agreement. This was called the Argyle Participation Agreement and was signed last year in September.

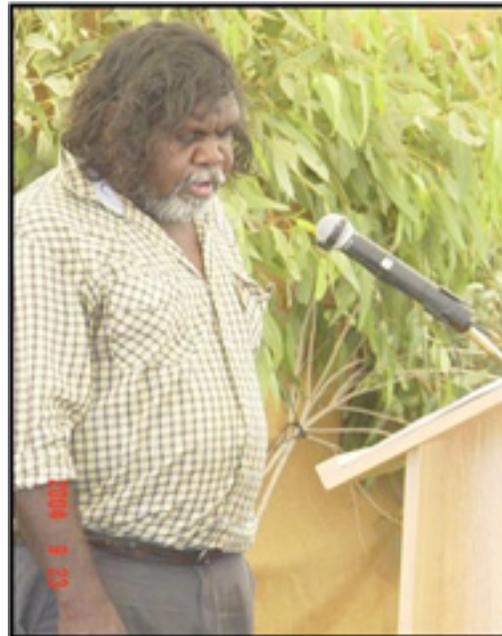
David Newry, the chairman of Mirrima Dawang Woorlab - Gerring Language and Culture Centre, Bonnie Edwards a senior Interpreter from Halls Creek and Frances Kofod, a linguist from Kununurra worked as a team during the development of the agreement. David and Bonnie interpreted between English and Kriol for the Traditional Owner meetings. Francis supported the interpreters

with language and conceptual complexities for the first year of the two year project.

Argyle Diamonds and the Kimberley Land Council have commended the work of the interpreters throughout the negotiations.

At the signing ceremony of the Participation Agreement Alan Tietzel, General Manager of Regional Strategies of Argyle Diamond Mine spoke of the business's relations with KIS.

"To the interpreters and KIS, Argyle says thankyou for a great job. We hope that everyone who does business in the Kimberley looks at this agreement process, and how the interpreting service and the interpreters have helped us understand each other better. We hope that everybody looks at this and says that's the way to do business in the East Kimberley."



David Newry interpreting a speech for Argyle Diamonds.



Heather Umbagai, Janet Oobagooma, Jen Munro and Wendy Rogers at Mt Elizabeth Station

### **Kimberley Language Resource Centre Language Survey**

The Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC) carried out the West Kimberley Language Survey between August-November 2004.

The job of this survey was to provide updated language information for KLRC, its committee members and Aboriginal people throughout the West Kimberley. This will help everyone understand the language situation, so that we can all find out the best way to do language work for the West Kimberley region.

Jen Munro was employed by KLRC to do this survey and visited communities to hold group meetings and find out about language in communities. While visiting communities on the Gibb River Rd interpreters were employed to help facilitate the meetings.

Linguist, Margaret Sefton, was also working on the language survey, recording information in Kalumburu .

### **Grog Summit Meeting at Mulan**

In late September 2004 there was a large meeting for community people and government agencies to talk about grog issues in their communities.

Bonnie Edwards and Clifton Bieundurry worked as interpreters and facilitators for the meeting and made sure that real communication was happening between all of the people present.

The meeting was held at Mulan with people from Ringers Soak, Lake Gregory, Billiluna, Yagga Yagga, Mulan and Balgo. Government representatives from Department of Indigenous Affairs, Department of Community Development, Department of Justice, Council of Australian Governments and Premier and Cabinet attended the meeting.

Both community people and government agency workers reported that the meeting was a great success and that the work of the interpreters ensured that all parties were able to express their point of view and communicate well.

# TESTING A NEW WAY TO WRITE KIMBERLEY KRIOL

A group of Kriol speakers in the Kimberley requested help in writing Kriol, particularly for use in stories for young children. The Kimberley Language Resource Centre and Department of Education and Training Kimberley District Education Office responded by organising two workshops, in September 2003 and June 2004.

Speakers of Kimberley Kriol raised the following issues:

- the difference between Northern Territory and Kimberley dialects of Kriol
- the desire to have an identifiable writing system for Kimberley Kriol
- the need to write Kriol in such a way that it will support the teaching of English literacy.

By the end of the first workshop, an initial orthography was agreed on. Between workshops, many practised using this orthography in order to provide feedback for the next workshop.

In June, minor changes were made and a trial orthography was agreed on for wider use. It was decided to call it Kimberley Kriol Orthography.

The letters being used in the Kimberley Kriol Orthography are:

**a** as in apple

**ai** as in rain

**ar** as in Australian English card

**b** as in bullock

**d** as in doll

**dd** as in Kriol *moodddigar* Like the rolled Scottish  
-r'or the *tt* in *butter* when spoken very fast.

**e** as in egg

**ee** as in keep

**eye** as in hair

**f** as in family

**g** as in goanna

**h** as in hand

**i** as in igloo

**ie** as in pie

**ir** as in Australian English bird

**j** as in jelly

**k** as in kind

**l** as in lolly

**m** as in man

**n** as in nest

**ng** as in sing

**ngg** as in mango

**ny** as in Australian English new

**o** as in orange

**oa** as in road

**oi** as in oil

**oo** as in book or boot

**or** as in port

**ou** as in round

**p** as in popcorn

**r** as in river

**s** as in snake

**sh** as in shoot

**t** as in tyre

**th** as in thirsty

**tj** as in choose

**u** as in underneath

**w** as in windmill

**y** as in yard



**Tom Vigilante (KLC Land &Sea Unit Research Officer) and Dolores Cheinmora, working on the beach at Kalumburu**



**Fatima Nyalerin and Margaret Sefton (KLRC Contract Linguist) working on language at Kalumburu School**

## **KIS VISIT TO KALUMBURU**

In November 2004 the coordinator of KIS traveled to Kalumburu as a part of a project looking into the need for interpreters in the far North West Kimberley. There are a number of languages spoken at Kalumburu- Kwini/Belaa, Wunambal, Gaambera, Ngarinyin, Worrorra, Bardi and English. The community at Kalumburu are very keen to revive the Kwini/Belaa language and Wunambal and Gaambera languages. There was encouragement for the old people who still speak language to use it as much as possible and for the younger people who understand language to interpret into English.

Kwini Elder Dolores Cheinmora talked about the importance of the interpreting and translating work that her daughters Theresa, Fatima, Agnes and Bernadette do in Kalumburu to help keep language strong.

“ They are the ones to put it in English. I am talking in Belaa Language and they have to put it in English for the people to understand what we are working on, together. Then the kids will understand language in the school. My daughters help me to put it in English and later Margaret writes it down.” (Margaret Sefton, KLRC Contract Linguist.)

The Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC) has been funding work on the Kwini/Belaa language which began in 1995 and is still continuing, ten years later.

A group of adults in Kalumburu filled in a KIS form to say they are interested in doing interpreter training when it becomes available. We all talked about the possibility of adults who understand their language training as Interpreters so that they can interpret from language into English for Elders. In this way, Elders who speak language can use their own language in every situation- in meetings and community events, when opening new buildings, working with researchers, teaching Language in the school, taking tourists out. Interpreters can help keep languages strong.

Margaret Sefton  
KLRC Contract Linguist

**Congratulations** to all of the interpreters who have been working hard. If anyone with good English and a Kimberley Aboriginal language is interested in becoming an interpreter they can call KIS anytime on our freecall number **1800 330 331**.

We would also like to hear any new stories from you for the next newsletter.

**KIS would like to wish everybody all the best for 2005!**