

December 2005

KALACC MAJARRAKA FESTIVAL AT NGUMPAN



More than 1000 people travelled to Ngumpun community to celebrate the 2005 Majarrka cultural festival. It brought together people from all over the Kimberley and also visitors from Darwin and the Tiwi Islands. Many of the KIS interpreters attended and enjoyed the the 4 days of celebration.

Ronnie Jimbidie, Olive Knight, Annette Kogolo, Gail Smiler and Gabriel Nodea were engaged by the Kimberley Land Council to interpret for their AGM.

Ronnie spoke of the festival "It was very important for all those old people..to have us there because they are always looking around for interpreters.

Its good to see that interpreting is being recognised and is really happening. The old people know now that they can ask for us. Sometimes the people get confused (without interpreters).

Training really helped us to get the right words to get a clear understanding and to pass the message on. It was also good to meet up with other interpreters and for the groups to feel happy that they could have a man or woman to interpret for them. It means everyone is respecting our culture with man and womans business..The leaders have been telling me that they are really understanding the word coming from me. It gives us a good feeling."

Annie interpreted for Anna Mardling at the KLC AGM. She thought it was really important to be interpreting for the meeting.

"Interpreting is very very important because most of the people don't have English as their first or second language. They need to know about what is happening. It's really important for them to know about every little detail and especially the financial side of things. All the issues surrounding aboriginal people, Native Title claims, where their native title claim is..and also putting their information across, and making a statement in the end. The most important thing with the Kimberley people is unity and we all need to understand whats going on to get that .

Walmajarri is a language being used, but I think it would be really good to listen to all the other languages too. People feel proud to hear their own language. It really empowers people to let them know that their language is recognised and being used.

It was good to have the local radio broadcasting across the country the to get the message across about the festival to let people know that we are still practising law and culture, and to let them know whats happening in WA, in English Kriol and other languages too."



New Graduates

In June this year new KIS students from Derby, Mowanjum Community, Fitzroy Crossing, Bayulu Community, and Kununurra graduated with the Diploma of Interpreting. The students attended workshops with Batchelor lecturer Sumati Chakravarti over a 12 month period, learning the skills of interpreting in Broome and Fitzroy Crossing. They gained NAATI accreditation and have been interpreting in the courts and various community meetings with the Indigenous Coordination Centre and Argyle Diamonds through out the year. During the training time the students visited a number of government departments and service providers discussing the use and importance of interpreting.



Aboriginal Interpreter Service Interpreter Conference

In June Lenka Vanderboom, interpreters May Melpi, Kim Aldus and Ronnie Jimbidie attended the AIS Interpreter Conference held at Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education.

The interpreters said it was a very important meeting. "Government people were actually there listening to the interpreters, trying to see how the two cultures can work together and how they can make it better. We also learnt about how other interpreters do their job and how their organisations operate. Alice Springs mob invited us to go over and see how they work in their courthouse over there."



In October, KLC, Australian Conservation Foundation and Environs Kimberley held a two and a half day Appropriate Economies Roundtable in Fitzroy Crossing.

The sustainable development forum explored existing and potential economic activities looking at improving the cultural and environmental conditions of the Fitzroy and Canning basins.

The Roundtable brought together representatives of Traditional Owner groups, Aboriginal organisations and a range of people with expertise across the environmental, business and government sectors

There were many presenters including two international people, one being a woman from Eco trust Canada, sharing their experiences about sustainable development in their country.

Annie Kogolo and Ronnie Jimbidie were the interpreters for the forum. They played an important role in communication throughout the presentations and workshops. They were ready to clearly explain anything that wasn't understood by the participants or presenters. The workshops focused on land management, art & culture, pastoralism & agriculture, agriculture on the Ord, tourism and partnerships in conservation. ABC radio interviewed Annie Kogolo and KIS interpreters were thanked for their support and valuable contribution to the forum.



Training with TAFE and Batchelor

For over twelve months negotiations have been underway between KIS, Kimberley College of TAFE and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to get interpreter training happening regularly in the Kimberley.

The training which is being discussed is the Diploma of Interpreting for new interpreters and specialist training in the health and justice areas and interpreting in large meetings for the both interpreters who have been trained and are working and new interpreters.

It's a long process to get these courses organised and ready to run. We are hoping that the training will happen in TAFE campuses all around the Kimberley at the beginning of 2006.

The interpreting lecturer from Batchelor will be visiting the Broome TAFE in January 2006 when meetings will be held and the paperwork can be finished so that TAFE can start delivering the training.

ARGYLE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT CELEBRATION



At the beginning of June 2005 hundreds of people from around the Kimberley and the rest of Australia came together to celebrate the signing of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the local East Kimberley Traditional Owners of the mining lease area and Argyle Diamonds.

Throughout the negotiations David Newry and Bonnie Edwards worked as interpreters with Frances Kofod as their mentor. They also looked at posters, drawings and read explanations of what Argyle is doing and planning to do at the mine site, and to check that the people at the meetings will understand the information presented to them.

David and Bonnie did a great job interpreting at the celebrations. Bonnie and Kim Doohan spent a long time reading speeches and translating them into Kriol. The speeches were interpreted in Kriol before Premier of WA Geoff Gallop, the Governor General Michael Jeffery, Sir William Dean, Brendan Hammond the Managing Director of the Argyle operations and Carol Martin gave their speeches in English.



Interpreter training at Ringers Soak, Billiluna, Balgo and Mulan

The Coordinator Lesley Baxter and interpreter Bonnie Edwards went to the desert communities in June to talk to people about interpreting and to get names of people who want to do training to become interpreters.

There are many people at Ringers Soak, Billiluna, Mulan and Balgo who want to do training and become interpreters.

We are still looking for money to run this training and have talked to a lot of government people about where we can get funding from. We have written a new submission to the Department of Family and Community Services and will know at the beginning of 2006 if we have the money for this training.



In March 2005 the KIS Steering Committee and staff from KIS and the language centres met with Matthew Wrigley from Rockpool Communications for two days to discuss and plan possible Cross Cultural training sessions that KIS could run throughout the region. At this meeting eight different cross cultural training sessions were worked with and the meeting decided which workshops that KIS should start with. This idea came out of the KIS Business Plan which is a plan made to look for ways that KIS could become a self supporting business.

KIS would work closely with interpreters, other interested people and organisations from different towns and communities around the region. KIS would also manage development of the sessions, do the marketing, advertising, booking, finances and all of the other jobs that need to be done to for the Cross Cultural training sessions to happen.

When the KIS business plan was being developed lots of people from around the Kimberley were spoken to and many of those people asked for cross cultural training. We were told that non Aboriginal wanted to learn about how to work with Aboriginal people better and about Aboriginal culture and that Aboriginal people wanted to understand non Aboriginal people better.

In August 2005 KIS got a grant from the Kimberley Development Commission to develop and deliver six Cross Cultural Training sessions around the Kimberley.

The Kimberley Development Commission has been a great supporter of KIS since KIS began. They funded the first computer and office equipment, the interpreter refresher course held in 2004 and now the cross cultural training. They are committed to KIS becoming an independent business

Training for Users of Interpreters

Next year KIS will be doing training with people who use interpreters.

We have had requests from Kerry Nelson who is in the Director of Training and Publications for the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations, David Shepherd Senior Medical Officer from Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Services (BRAMS) and Carmel Fitzgerald who is a Quality Assessor for the Aged Care Standard & Accreditation Agency.

Training for users of interpreters brings in a lot of work for interpreters. People often don't know why or how to use interpreters and once people start they want to use them all of the time.

Now that we have more interpreters working for KIS and we have more training about to happen we will be able to do more interpreting

The Coordinator is leaving



After three years of managing the Kimberley Interpreting Service, Lesley Baxter the Coordinator has resigned and at the end of February will be leaving the position. The KIS Board is reviewing positions at KIS and will recruit new staff according to this review. In the time Lesley has worked for KIS the organisation has grown and had many successes. After a year of talking with people from the WA Government, in 2004 KIS received an operational budget for three years.

The number of interpreters registered with KIS has grown from 25 to 81 and the numbers of interpreting assignments has constantly grown. The knowledge of interpreting in Aboriginal communities has increased and will continue to do so as community people see interpreters working and attend more training courses. KIS is now approached by community people wanting to do training.

KIS now has its own small office in Chinatown Broome which is set up with two computers, a colour printer, a fax/ laser printer and a vehicle.

A policy and procedures manual has been written and a filing system is in place for the computers and the paper files. The workers in the KIS office has grown from one half time position, to one full time and one half time position.

A business plan was written in 2004 and most of the goals, strategies and performance indicators identified in the business plan have been reached. A new business plan will need to be written in 2006.

As a part of the development of KIS business the Board developed and agreed to a model for cross cultural sessions and money has been found to run the first sessions.

A refresher course was put on in Broome, for all of the interpreters and the Diploma of Interpreting was delivered in 2004-2005 by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Education in Fitzroy Crossing and Broome.

After many meetings and negotiations TAFE in partnership with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and KIS has taken on the responsibility of developing and delivering interpreter training throughout the Kimberley.

“It has been a great pleasure working with the interpreters and the people who employ the interpreters, the many people who have brought in knowledge and expertise from different backgrounds, funding bodies who have given us their support and confidence.

I hope that the Kimberley Interpreting Service keeps growing and becomes a strong business which continues to employ more Aboriginal people and raises levels of communication and understanding for everyone working in the Kimberley.”

New Derby Interpreters

Over the past few months we have had a lot of new work come up in the Derby region. Due to the high demand we have recruited some new interpreters from the West Kimberley. New interpreters Paddy Neowarra, Erica Watson, Tessa Green and Paddy Watson are eager to work with KIS and do training with TAFE and BIITE next year. We met with the KIS recruits on a recent trip to Derby. We discussed the importance of their role as interpreters and explained how KIS operates.



Teik Oh KIS Business Advisor

During 2005 Teik Oh from Outside the Square Management Pty. Ltd began working with KIS giving advice about what we need to do to build a strong business.

In July Teik came to Broome and met with KIS staff and board members. At this meeting, an action plan was developed showing what KIS needs to do over the next year before it becomes a Pty. Ltd Company.



NEW KIS BOARD MEMBER

Ronnie Jimbidie has been appointed to the KIS Board as the West Kimberley interpreter representative.

Ronnie is a Walmajarri man from the Fitzroy Valley and is a NAATI accredited interpreter with KIS. He has been working strongly with KIS, interpreting in the health, legal, social and country fields. He will join the current board members Mr David Newry Chairperson of Mirima Dawang Woorlab-Gerring Language and Culture Centre, June Oscar Chairperson of Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC), Keeley Palmer Mirima Linguist, Vickie Butters KLRC Office Manager, and Annette Chunuma East Kimberley interpreter representative.