

Highlights!

Master-Apprentice Conference

Mparntwe 2022



**Batchelor
Institute**



Arrernte Tinkerbee Dance Troup



Acknowledgement

We would love to thank the Central Arrernte people for graciously allowing us to host this conference on their beautiful country. Thank you to Kumalie Riley and the Tinkerbee Dancers for giving all our visitors from across Australia and overseas a warm welcome, and sharing dance cultural performances with us. We also thank Veronica Dobson for giving us a Welcome to Country at the start of the workshops. The Pertame School acknowledges our deep family, historical and cultural connections with the Central Arrernte community, and pays our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.



Pertame Children's choir performing at Conference Opening



In Honour of Mr. Roach

The Pertame children and families would like to acknowledge the passing of Mr. Roach. Sincere condolences to his family and friends. We would like to thank Mr. Roach for allowing our children to sing his song "Took the Children Away" in Pertame. The words in the song are very powerful. Not only did they take the children away they took our languages away as well. By the kids learning the song they are also learning about the history of The Stolen Generations. We are very proud of our children for singing in front of our Indigenous language speakers from across Australia and our Native American friends.



Conference Logo

The beautiful artwork was designed by our Pertame Apprentice Samantha Armstrong.

The painting represents the conference where the Yuchi people are coming to Alice Springs to showcase the importance of language and how the Master and Apprentice methodology operates. They presented to Indigenous people across Australia who want to utilize the method to create new fluent speakers of endangered languages.

In addition, We are all hoping that the conference will extend out to other language groups who wish to use the master and apprentice methodology in preserving and continuing their languages with an Elder fluent speaker to create new fluent speakers of languages that have been sleeping.

- Yellow represents the sun which is important to Yuchi people for ceremonies.
- The six people represent Richard and family and the children who are Yuchi first language speakers.
- The middle is a meeting ground and it is where we are all meeting.
- On the sides are the shelters where we are all sheltered from elements.
- Red is the red dirt of Central Australia.
- Blue is the Finke River where Pertame people come from and the river is where Pertame language originates from.
- The Pertame master and apprentices are sitting above the red dirt hosting the Yuchi people who have traveled from abroad and exchanging information and ideas.





The Numbers Summary



106 participants



28 endangered Indigenous languages groups



Representing WA: Kimberelys, Perth, SA: Ceduna, Port Augusta, QLD: Torres Strait, Cape York, NT: Wadeye, Ngukurr, Darwin, Tennant Creek, Harts Range, Alice Springs



11 Native American language revival experts



6 organisations working together, including the Pertame School, Batchelor Institute, the Global Indigenous Language Caucus, Yuchi Language Project, Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival and the Next Steps Language Revival Project



89 media hits over 31 days with a potential audience reach of 2,013,400

Media reports including: ABC News Hour, The Drum, ABC radio, NITV Radio, CAAMA radio, ICTV, Southern Cross Austereo's The Briefing, CLC Land Rights News, Education today, Human Rights & Probono Australia

The Organisers:

Yuchi Language Project

Yuchi Language Project Family,
(L-R): Richard Grounds, Chaske
Turning Heart, Jiles Turning
Heart, Narhalay Turning Heart,
Chante Turning Heart and
Halay Turning Heart

The Master Apprentice method of language learning has been a game changer in revitalizing our Yuchi language. It has the potential to make a huge difference in Australia where Aboriginal languages are also severely endangered like ours, with very few speakers and resources available. Through breath-to-breath learning in real life contexts, Master Apprentice is an approach to create new younger speakers in a relatively short amount of time. Our hope is that the sharing of effective methodology and the lessons we have learned from our mistakes along the way will save other communities time in this process.


The dream team of trainers was coming from diverse Indigenous nations across the US, bringing an array of experiences gleaned over decades in the field. We were excited to connect with Aboriginal communities and their beautiful languages. We wanted to uplift the message that language loss is not a foregone conclusion. Right now is the critical time to begin this work as the last opportunity to learn directly from fluent speakers who are the living encyclopedias and knowledge sources for our communities.

I have seen first hand that small groups of dedicated Master Apprentice teams can breathe new life into their languages and I look forward to seeing more of that happening in Australia. Across the world we must unite and support one another in order to protect our collective human knowledge that was passed down from our ancestors since time immemorial. We stand at a critical crossroads where the future of our languages is in our hands.

We are at the start of the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032 which can be a catalyst for more collaboration and support for Indigenous languages. Our languages are the key to maintaining our unique identities, cultures, and ways of life and restoring wellness after the genocide and displacement our peoples faced during colonization.

gOchathla gO'wAdAnAha Ôk'ajU TahAê
Ôk'âfATAnô! (Yuchi)

Working together we can move our
Indigenous languages forward! (English)

A photograph showing three individuals, two men and one woman, standing behind a podium with microphones. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt and glasses. The man in the center is wearing a dark jacket and glasses, and is holding a small wooden gong. The woman on the right is wearing a white patterned blouse. The background is a warm, orange-toned wall.

Julian Lang,
Kauk trainer

Stan Rodriguez,
Kumeyaay
trainer

Tori McConnell,
Kauk trainer

Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival

"A team of 3 language trainers participated in the wonderful and historic conference relating to the revitalisation of the many Indigenous languages of Australia. Two members of the board of directors of AICLS, Julian Lang and Stanley Rodriguez, shared the concepts, philosophy and commitment to creating new speakers of Indigenous languages. A third participant, Tori McConnell presented her experiences as a new speaker of the Karuk language of northwestern California. The three provided hands-on immersive experiences that are designed to elicit conversational fluency to young people in their ancestral languages. The AICLS team introduced the fundamental pedagogy for the Master-Apprentice program, a community based language acquisition strategy that has been very successful in reintroducing indigenous languages throughout California.

Our commitment is restorative, and has evolved over the years to include basic language skills coupled with culture-centred activities and everyday language usage. Indigenous languages are endangered in many communities, yet these languages possess very important traditional knowledge relating to the land, and the cultural earth-based ethic that has sustained our cultures for millenia. The healing properties of indigenous language acquisition to communities that have been subject to harmful colonial and assimilative doctrines and policies is the greatest reward to both AICLS, and to all who commit to restoring their languages. Our special invite by the Pertame people is both an honour and an opportunity to provide our many years of experience in this effort.

This convening is historic in that so many groups have attended who represent a broad cross section of Indigenous Australian languages and cultures. Most enlightening was the affinity that indigenous groups from Australia have in terms of world views of their American counterparts. It is hard to explain this shared sense of place, of purpose and our futures. Modern democratically elected countries will be greatly enhanced when their indigenous peoples are enabled to speak their languages, to acquire their traditional knowledge, and help the world cope with the growing environmental challenges that face us. The beauty of indigenous knowledge is both inspirational and instructive. This knowledge is most efficacious when transmitted via our ancestral languages and reintroduction of our aboriginal beliefs.

We returned to Australia to share but also to gain new insights in our mission. Again, we were very excited by this opportunity. Australian Aboriginal life and culture reflects so much of the turmoil that tribal groups across America have faced. We came with the hope to help in the healing where it is needed and to inspire".

Submitted by: Julian Lang, master speaker and member of the Karuk tribe of northwestern California.

**Kathryn Gilbey, Alywarre woman, head of
Batchelor Institute Graduate School**

**Leon Yeatman,
Batchelor CEO**

Batchelor Institute

Batchelor Institute is incredibly proud and honoured to have hosted the Master Apprentice conference and to have our First Nations visitors share their experience with us. The Institute's values perfectly align with this conference which is all about celebrating our strengths through culture. We were excited to have our campus bustling with people and the air full of First languages, this sharing of food, culture and language with family from across

the ocean and communities and cultures from around Australia was key to Batchelor Institute's vision and strengthening our practice and communities in the future. We acknowledge all our old people who fought in the face of assimilation to keep our languages alive all those grandmothers that whispered words in their babies ears and all those babies who are now in the present and the future you are who we do this for.

Statement by Kathryn Gilbey, Batchelor Institute

Next Steps Language Revival Project

Jacob Manatowa-Bailey was the founding Director of the Sauk Language Department for the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma (2005-2016). Jacob currently works as an advisor providing planning assistance to Indigenous Language Revitalization programs. Jana Yu-l Siu is a multilingual human rights advocate with a background in healing, trauma-responsive care, and cross-cultural communication.

**Jacob Manatowa-Bailey,
Sauk tribe, Next Steps
Project**



**Jana Yu-l Siu, Next
Steps Project**

“The Master Apprentice model can help strengthen the relationship between language, law, people, country, and other beings. It is a way of learning that follows in the footsteps of the ancestors and supports people in beginning to heal from the traumas of colonization.”

-Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Next Steps Project

Opening Ceremony



Pertame children and Yuchi Language family



Indigenous Australian Elders sitting with Native American trainers



Kangaroo tail dinner cooking



Pertame children joining Lakota Prairie Chicken Dance

Opening Ceremony

Last week, we warmly welcomed our international First Nations guests from across the ocean, and endangered language communities from across Australia to Mparntwe with great spirit, ceremony and purpose. We would like to thank deeply Kumalie Riley and the Tinkerbee dancers for welcoming us all on their beautiful country and their cultural performance, as well as our Pertame children for proudly singing in their language to honour the late Mr Roach. We would also love to thank Jiles Turning Heart for sharing his Lakota cultural song and dance, Tori McConnell for sharing her Kurak Prayer song, Julian Lang for sharing his Kurak Earthworm song, and Richard Grounds for sharing his long struggle to successfully make this year the start of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.



Pertame Elder Christobel Swan with Yuchi and Lakota child, Chaske Turning Heart

“ In Richard Grounds speech at our launch event, he said:

"The beauty of the Master-Apprentice Program is that it does not require a whole curriculum, it does not require a teaching degree, it just requires Elders who have the gift of their language. Let me ask, out of this gathering, how many of you, your grandparents were fluent speakers of your languages, raise your hands. Virtually everyone here, your grandparents were fluent speakers. How many of you gathered here, your children are fluent speakers of your language? Did you see that drop? We went from the grand parents, everybody spoke, the parents, almost everybody spoke. And now the children that speak, we are down to like 5 people out of this whole gathering of 200 people. That's the challenge. That's what we are pushing back on. That's what we are fighting to overcome. Our languages are critical to the survival of our youth. There's nothing like it. There's nothing that will connect a young person to their Elders and their traditions more so than their languages.”



Richard Grounds from the Yuchi Language Project

“Wow, what a massive week we've just had - 2 cultures coming together in Mparntwe Alice Springs. Our Native American friends from across the ocean and our own Indigenous language speakers from across Australia. Such a diversity of peoples and languages, but with one dream: getting back our precious languages, that were brutally taken away from us. It is up to each and every one of us now to ensure the passion and enthusiasm of the conference keeps growing, until our hearts are filled with our languages once more".

- Kathleen Bradshaw-Swan, Pertame Elder. ”



Pertame Elders Kathleen Bradshaw and Christobel Swan

Day 1: Presentations



Halay Turning Heart watching her son Chaske presenting in the Yuchi Language



Bardi Language group sharing



Syd Strangeways, Arabana Elder, sharing

The Presentations

We really had the dream team of the foremost experts of the Master-Apprentice model in Alice Springs at this conference. They generously departed their lifetime of knowledge and experience they obtained from their deep commitment to reviving their own languages back on Turtle Island (USA). Each of our trainers had become fluent speakers of their own languages, through painstakingly hard work that required a lifetime of dedication, bravery, lots of mistakes and a thirst for their heritage language that no one could quench. Each trainer beat all the odds, fighting against the tidal wave of English-only policy, a long history of cultural genocide and resistance from even their own communities who had not escaped the reaches of colonisation. They had almost no resources and very few Elder speakers left, who were sick, divided and dealing with generations of trauma around language use. But they never gave up. They overcame all these barriers, and are standing on the other side as fluent speakers, carrying forward their ancient knowledge systems and sharing their blueprint with us in Australia. What made them so powerful was not the content of the training, but the fact that they are the living breathing proof it works. We face all the same barriers as Indigenous people in Australia, and now we have the method, the hope and the inspiration we need to fight tooth and nail for our languages. As we have seen, this is a lifetime journey, we will have to put aside all shame of being ridiculed, of getting it wrong, of being yelled at by our Elders. We need to grow thick skin, and be guided by the fire inside us to become a fluent speaker. We will have to commit at least 10-20 hours a week of learning, we will have to not retreat to the comfort of an English translation, we will have to continue with little funding, and chase our Elders around and actively turn every situation into a language learning opportunity.

After this conference, we now know we can do it, and we know how to do it. The only question left is will we do it? Will we make the time, the effort and the courage to learn our language as an adult? Our Elders are our encyclopaedias of our ancient heritage, and we don't have the luxury to tap into their wisdom forever. I cannot wait to see the Master-Apprentice model take off in Australia, and watch all the language groups present at the conference take on the challenge of continuing their language as the living breathing spoken voice of their community

Vanessa Farrelly, Pertame School Coordinator



The Workshops



Stan Rodriguez's workshop with Alyawarr and Karre Language groups



Jacob and Jana from the Next Steps Language Project workshop



Arrernte language group trying out MR Potato head language learning prop

The Workshops

The Master-Apprentice Conference held three days of workshops, providing 35 endangered language groups from across the country with expert training on how to create new fluent speakers of their languages using breath-to-breath immersion with their precious fluent Elders. A huge thank you to Stanley Rodriguez, Julian Lang and Tori McConell from the The Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, Richard Grounds from the The Global Indigenous Language Caucus, Halay Turning Heart and Jiles Turning Heart from the Yuchi Language Project and Jacob Manatowa-Bailey and Jana Siu from the Next Steps Language Revitalization Project for sharing your expertise, passion and experience breathing life into your Indigenous languages.

Arabana master and apprentices



Ngukurr master and apprentice



“Wow, what an experience I had being a part of the of the Pertame tribe that invited people from over the ocean and all across our land to this conference. Meeting and greeting everybody filled me with a warm feeling. Our Native American friends taught us all how to keep our languages alive and strong, because of the similarity of how they were treated badly because of their colour and race. My sister Pam Abbott and I loved every session at the conference, it was an eye opener for us all how to keep our culture strong. If we keep teaching our apprentices the language with patience and time we will have very strong speakers in all our communities that will eventually become the next generation Master speakers. I would like get together more often with people who’s languages are disappearing and encourage our young people to hear us as Elders. This conference gave us the opportunity to get to know each other and become friends for life. Thanks to the Native American trainers for sharing their knowledge with us. I hope that their languages will be kept alive and strong and that we can all keep in close contact with each other to build on what we have learned. Our language is the most important part of our lives

- Doreen Abbott, Pertame Elder and Master

”

Pertame master and apprentice in Richard Grounds workshop



Western Arrarnta master and apprentice



Closing Dinner



Casii Williams performing at closing ceremony



Closing Ceremony Photo booth



Closing Dinner

To finish off the week of Master-Apprentice Conference, we had a big closing dinner. Everyone came together to unwind and celebrate our conference week with new friendships and the start of new Master-Apprentice language groups starting across Australia. We had amazing performances from Cassi Williams, Pete Nasta O'Connor, Stuart Joel Nuggett, Apakatjah and KnD - Karnage N Darknis. A big thank you to our Pertame family who helped out with all of the setting up and decorations.



Jiles Turning Heart performing



Pete O'Connor



Veronica Dobson and Pamela Lynch presenting gifts to international trainers



Apakatjah

“My experience with our Master-Apprentice Language Revival Conference this year has been the most challenging and rewarding one to organise. I was fortunate to be part of an amazing team and I am forever grateful for my irteya Vanessa Farrelly and Alyawarra wonder woman Kathryn Gilbey support from start to finish. But we were supported by an amazing network of volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly. So from the Zoom calls for conference preparations and presenters to the big countdown leading up to the conference, the knots in my stomach got bigger and the more I wanted everything to go according to plan. But hey, sometimes you just gotta let go of the worries and go with the flow. The arrival of all our guests from across Australia and America really hit home, that after months of planning the big week was about to start.

The opening ceremony was so beautiful and powerful bringing two cultures together to celebrate a special week ahead and to celebrate everything that makes us who we are because although we live in different parts of the world we are all the same, our relationship with every living being on country all have a special meaning to us and that connection is from our mother tongue”

- Samantha Armstrong, Pertame Apprentice



Samantha Armstrong, Shania Armstrong, Michelle Swan and Leela Kruger

On-Country Cultural Exchange



Julian Lang and Tori McConnel, Kurak trainers with Pertame family Henbury Meteorite Craters cultural site



Pertame Elder and Yuchi children



Pertame Elders giving guests a Welcome to country and smoking ceremony

On Country Cultural Exchange

After the conference finished we took our Native American friends out on our country. The purpose of the trip out to Boomerang Bore Homeland was to show them where Pertame People came from and to exchange our cultural knowledge by showing them sites that are important to all Pertame People.

The first day of the bush trip we had a welcome to country smoking ceremony which was done by Pertame elders to welcome everyone to our country. This was followed by a family BBQ and a language lesson with our Pertame kids. Thank you to all the family who came out and helped.



Chanara and her son from the Pertame community getting smoked

"After the MAP conference we had the honour of hosting our native American guests on our family homeland. We shared stories of how we grew up and who were influential in our childhood. We showed them some of our country and bushfood that was in season, we dug for witchetty grubs and wild onion

Leanne Swan, Pertame organiser



Jacob (Sauk trainer) and Pertame kids Dwayne and Sumaiya on Boomerang Hill

Me and my brother played a lot with Narlay and Chaske, hearing them talk together in their language Yuchi. This made me want to speak to my brother more in Pertame, just like them. I went back and told me mum that we should start talking more Pertame. I tell her not to say it in English, we should say it in Pertame.

_ Abbylee, Pertame child, 12 years old



Abbylee and her brother Khealin playing with Chaske and Narhalay



Yuchi family with Montana from the Pertame community

Thank You!

The Pertame School would like to express our sincere gratitude and our heartfelt thanks to the countless individuals who supported and went above and beyond to ensure our conference was a success. On behalf of Christobel Swan, Kathleen Bradshaw-Swan, Doreen Abbott, Sharlene Swan, Auriel Swan, Leeanne Swan, Vanessa Farrelly, Shania Armstrong, Samantha Armstrong and Naomi Spratt we would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support:

Pertame Community Volunteers:

Kyah Walker, Crystal-Rose Furber-Swan, Rebecca Swan, Justine Swan-Castine, Judy Swan, Sharlene Swan, Montana Lockyer, Kayla Dashwood, Irene Swan, Cassandra Swan, Marissa Bradshaw, Rebecca Swan, Brittany Swan-Nandy, Cassandra Stewart, Sheree Cocker, Leela Kruger, Michelle Swan, Lorraine Swan, Courtney Swan, Elsa Swan, Lloyd Swan, Jordan Nandy, Gary Swan Jnr, Derek Swan, Mary Flynn, Gary Swan, Marlene Coombes and Bruce Henley.

Batchelor Staff and Desert Knowledge Australia Staff:

Leroy Villaflor, Julie-Anne Kruhse, Kathryn Gilbey, Leon Yeatman, Janette Elliot, Melissa Raymond, Amanda Bethel-Donal, Linda Angell, Mike Crowe, Michael Walters, Angela Harrison, Judith Lovell, Charlee-Anne Ah Chee, Brigida Alberti, Franca Barraclough, Ruth Katakarinja, Ben Frankcombe and Evelyn Schaber.

Cultural Performers:

Tinkerbee Dancers, Tori McConnell, Julian Lang, Cassandra Williams, Stuart Nuggett, KND- Tristrum Watkins and Corinna Hall, Pete O'Connor, Apakatjah-Dion Forrester and Jonathan Lindsay-Tjapaltjarri Hermawan, Jiles Turning-Heart and Chaske Turning-Heart, and Stanley Rodriguez.

Accommodation and Catering:

Discovery Parks Alice Springs, Alice Village, Mercure Alice Springs Resort, G.A.P.S. Kitchen, Reality Bites and Kungkas Can Cook.

Supporting Organisations:

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, Yuchi Language Project, Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, Global Indigenous Language Caucus, Desert Knowledge Australia, 8CCC Radio, Centre of Appropriate Technology, Children's Ground, Yipirinya School, Alice Springs Language Centre, Araluen Cultural Precinct, ICTV, Central Land Council, Akelyurre Healing Centre, Milner Meats, Coles Alice Springs, Alice Hospitality Supplies, CAAMA, Australian Broadcasting Corporation ABC, First Languages Australia, Kumalie Riley and the Tinkerbee Dancers.



Thank You!

Photographers, Videographers and AV

Kyah Walker, Jeff Tan Photography,
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Accommodation and Catering



Supporting Organisations



Philanthropic Supporters of the Pertame School





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Yuchi Language
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