

TREASURE LANGUAGE STORYTELLING

Trades Hall, Melbourne ~ 7pm Saturday 18 February 2017
In Celebration of UN International Mother Language Day

Invocation: Wominjeka Song (Woiwurrung)

Mandy Nicholson will open with an invocation that invites the ancestors to be present with us here this evening. Mandy is a Wurundjeri woman, and an artist working to raise the profile of Victoria's rich Indigenous cultures. She works at the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) in Fitzroy.

Welcome

– Steven Bird

Ìkan nínú àwòn itàn abaun (Yoruba) – One of the Tortoise Stories



Yoruba is one of the main languages of Nigeria, also spoken in Benin and Togo. The language is associated with a culture and religion that spread to Brazil, Cuba, and the Caribbean through the Atlantic Slave Trade. Kunle Adesua was born in Nigeria and moved to Melbourne over twenty years ago. He is founder and director of Tribal Tastes foods and has a shop selling African food in the deli hall at the Queen Victoria Market.

Greeting: **Ẹ ku irọlẹ o** *Good evening all*

Response: **Ẹ ku irọlẹ** *Good evening*

Listen: **abaun~tortoise, àwòn eye~birds, iyé~feather, ayé~world, Ọrun~heaven**

Ho ko po 虎姑婆 (Southern Min) – Aunty Tigress



Amber Wang, our storyteller, is from southern Taiwan, where she grew up speaking the Southern Min language, also known as Hokkien. This language is not mutually intelligible with Mandarin, Cantonese, or Hakka, and it does not have a standardised writing system. Amber studies English in Melbourne.

Greeting: **Chiáh-pá bōe?** *Have you had dinner?*

Response: **Chiáh-pá á!** *Yes I have*

Listen: **ché-ché~elder sister**

Buln-buln Song (Woiwurrung)



Woiwurrung is an Indigenous Australian language spoken by the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation of Central Victoria. Our performer, Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward, has been learning Woiwurrung with the help of her mother Mandy.

Govina kathe ಗೋವಿನ ಕಥೆ (Kannada) – The Story of the Truthful Cow



Kannada is a language with a 2000 year history and its very own writing system. Udaya Parampalli, our storyteller, is originally from the Indian state of Karnataka, where Kannada is the official language. His name, Udaya, means 'rising sun'. Udaya and his sister-in-law Madhavi will recite part of the epic poem *Govina Hadu*, the story of a truthful cow and a tiger. The story illustrates complex issues of human-animal interactions in Indian society, and helps explain the ethos of treating the cow as holy.

Greeting: **namaskāra, hegiddēra?** ನಮಸ್ಕಾರ ಹೇಗಿದ್ದೀರಾ?

Salutations, How are you?

Response: **namaskāra, nan chennagiddene** ನಮಸ್ಕಾರ, ನಾನ್ ಚೆನ್ನಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ

Salutations, I am good

Listen: *punya koti~truthful cow, arbudha~tiger*

Hiyabita hunna ikudo ho tome hojo hadori (Lopit) –



The story of the squirrel, the elephant and the tortoise

Lopit is spoken by people living in the Lopit Mountains in Eastern Equatoria State of South Sudan. Elizabeth Amedeo and Jane Lobalu grew up in these mountains, and spent time living in Kenya before making Melbourne their home. This is one of many Lopit children's stories featuring *Ikudo*, a squirrel who is notorious for his bad

behaviour. These stories are told to children by their parents as they sit around the fire before bedtime.

Greeting and Response: **Mong te tari** *Good evening*

Listen: *ikudo~squirrel/story, tome~elephant, hadori~tortoise*

Language Champion Panel

Storytellers are invited back on stage for questions and discussion.

Close

Credits: A big thank-you to tonight's storytellers! Special thanks to Rosey Billington, Jonathon Lum, Jonathon Schlossberg, Ekaterina Vylomova, and Brandon Wiltshire, and to our hosts at Melbourne Trades Hall. We gratefully acknowledge sponsorship of the Research Unit for Indigenous Language at Melbourne University. Photos and videos from tonight's show will be posted on treasurelanguage.org. Treasure Language Storytelling is an initiative of the Aikuma Project, led by Steven Bird and Robyn Perry (aikuma.org, facebook.com/AikumaProject).

