

A Twist in the Tale

Treasure Language Storytelling

The Bakehouse - Black Box Theatre (STAG)

Saturday March 16th 2019 at 10:30am

Part of the Shepparton Festival – Story bowl – theme for 2019

A celebration of the mother languages in the diverse community of the City of Greater Shepparton, Victoria. The first such event in a Rural Centre in Australia.

Welcome to Country by Ebony (Yorta Yorta)

Ebony has lived in Shepparton from the age of 6. Shepparton falls on Yorta Yorta country and she is proud to be a Yorta Yorta woman. Ebony works as a Documenting and Revitalising Indigenous Languages Trainer at a not-for-profit organisation called the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity. In her job she has the privilege of working with different Indigenous language groups around the country. Ebony has been extremely lucky to have exposure to many different traditional languages of Australia and is very thankful to have that opportunity.



Yorta Yorta is the language spoken by most of the clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nations. Yorta Yorta is one of the 260-800 different languages and dialects that belong to Australia. The Yorta Yorta language is nowhere as strong as it used to be, but we are very fortunate that it has come through the timeline of colonisation still with a small number of speakers. Fortunately, there are people with language knowledge and they possess past documentation of the language of this land you are standing upon.

Bunyma Dungala - Murray River Creation (Yorta Yorta)

Belinda is of the Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba Peoples. A river girl at heart, she is living, working and raising her family here in Shepparton with her partner Bradley. Belinda works and volunteers across the arts, culture, sport and revitalisation of the Yorta Yorta language. Number of speakers <100.

Listen for “Dungala” – the Murray River.



Zindagi yak Bacha – Life Story of a Little Boy (Hazaragi)

Greeting – “Salaam, subha bakhair” – Peace unto you, good morning.

Response – “Walakum salaam” – And unto you, peace. صبح بخیر سلام



Ramzan is Hazara and his mother tongue is Hazaragi, the language of the Hazara people from the Hazarajat region of central Afghanistan. It has Mongolic and Turkic influences, postulated to be derived from the time when Genghis Khan invaded Central Asia.

Listen for “aloo” – potatoes, “piyaz” – onion, “?” – kite.

Bardaan □□□□□ – A Blessing (Nepali)

Greeting – □□□□□□ “Namaste” – Hello.

Brishna comes from the beautiful mountain city of Pokhara, Nepal. She will tell us a story about a young woman growing up in Nepal. Nepali uses the same Devanagari script as Hindi but has some differences in pronunciation. About 12 million people speak Nepali. She now works and brings up her family in Shepparton where there is a sad lack of snow-capped mountains.

Listen for भान्सा “Bhanchha” – kitchen, महिनावारी “Mahinabari” - ?



Nyan rec be jam – The Girl who Won't Talk (Dinka)

Greeting – “Kudual! Weka aca muoth?” Response - “Kudual”

Abraham – speaks Dinka, the language of the Jieng people of South Sudan. It is a Nilotic language cluster. There are several main varieties and the people are located mainly on the West Bank of the White Nile river. When he is not helping young people with English, Abraham can be found on the soccer field. Listen for “Nya” – girl



Ang talento sa akong apuhan bahin sa saging nga mahimong kalo ug sapatos! My Grandmother made me a hat and shoes from the banana tree! (Visayan)

Greeting – “Maayong buntag sa inyong tanan” – Good morning to everyone.

Response – “Maayong buntag pod” – Good morning to you too.



Edith is from the Central Visayas region of Philippines and speaks Tagalog, Ilonggo and her native Visayan. Visayan is actually a group of languages spoken in central and southern Philippines. The subgroup with the most speakers is Cebuano with 20 million speakers. This story is special to Edith as it was her grandmother who fostered her.

Listen for “sapatos” – shoes, “kalo” – hat, “saging” – banana.

O nyawa manga moholehe homi suku homi hidadi nanga moyoka Asking the family for the Young Lady's Hand in Marriage (Tobeloese)

Frans is from a far eastern province of Indonesia, the Spice Islands of the Moluccas, the source of nutmeg and cloves. He speaks the language of the main city of Tobelo, a West Papuan language not related to Indonesian. Approximate number of fluent speakers is 30,000. Listen for “moholehe” – young woman, “moyoka” – married woman.



“Shotor dar Australia” – Camels in Australia (Dari) شوتور رد استرالیا

Greeting – “Salaam, subha bakhair” – Peace unto you, good morning.

Response – “Walakum salaam” – And unto you, peace. سلام
صبح بخیر

Zahra speaks Dari, one of the most widely spoken languages of Afghanistan (15-30%). It is written in a modified form of Arabic script and has a total of 32 letters.



Listen for “shotor” - camel, “baabaa” – father بابا شوتور

Close by Ebony

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*And last, but no means least, the wonderful **Storytellers and MC Ebony**, who took time to think, practice and share their stories with us ALL.*