

LANGUAGE PARTY – CANBERRA

Hippo Co., Civic ~ 5pm, Sunday 1 December 2019

Welcome

Kingsley Omosigho

Wanagan the Awakening Custodian (Ngunawal)



Glen Freeman is the first Ngunawal person to speak authentic Ngunawal in public in 140 years. He has been revitalising Ngunawal – the first language of the Yass Valley – for the past decade. Glen coached Prime Minister Turnbull to say the acknowledgement at the opening of the ‘Closing the Gap’ conference in 2016. Glen writes: "I truly believe in the life-giving connection of all languages to all cultures of the universe. It is our truth." Tonight, Glen will share the story about how Wagaramuruen (white cockatoo) got its yellow crest and under-feathers. He will explain why the bird’s name was changed to Wanagan and the significance of this change to all others on country.

Greeting: **Yadhung dhunga~hello**

Listen: **wagaramuruen/wanagan~white cockatoo, garu gul~great spirit, idja~mother, ngaiyuri~father, ngulyun~goodbye**

سيب Sie Eu Eb (Dari) – The Apple



Hangama Obaidullah came to Australia from Afghanistan as a refugee in 2003. At that time she spoke no English. She enrolled as a mature age student at St Mary’s Senior High School, Sydney, NSW. Hangama has an arts practice in painting, drawing, photography and writing. Her work has been exhibited in a variety of public venues in Canberra, other Australian capital cities, and internationally. She regularly participates in conferences and events for women and refugees.

Greetings: **Salaam~peace upon you, Asr bekheyr~good evening**

Listen: **seeb~apple, laeb khaend~smile, khushal~happy**

Bokhorok Thaitam Borok (Kokborok) – Three-Headed Man



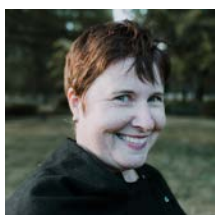
Abhilash Tripura comes to us from the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh, and his people (also called Tripura) are just one of 75 tribes in Bangladesh. Abhilash has worked with United Nations agencies on indigenous peoples’ rights and the International Labour Organisation’s global project on capacity building and policy advocacy on the rights of indigenous peoples. Tonight he will share a folktale in his mother tongue, Kokborok, a story that reflects indigenous wisdom on the importance of thinking and acting smartly for a healthy and wealthy life.

Greeting: **Khulumkha, gam kurung doi~hello, are you well?**

Response: **Gam kurung se~yes I am well**

Listen: bokhorok~*head*, joikho~*treasure*, bhuju~*intelligence*

Cantre'r Gwaelod (Welsh) – The Sunken Kingdom



Alison Walker was brought up in Llanymddyfri on the edge of the Brecon Beacons in Wales. She was educated in Welsh until the age of 11. For a long time, Welsh was suppressed and people could be imprisoned for seeking to maintain the language. Today, Welsh is recognised as an official language in Wales alongside English, and children learn Welsh in school up to the age of 16. Alison will share the legend of the ancient sunken kingdom, a magical tale which is part of any Welsh childhood.

Greeting: **Shwd i chi?~How are you?**

Response: **Da iawn diolch~Very well, thank you**

Listen: teyrnas~*kingdom*, cyfrifoldeb~*responsibility*, clychau~*bells*

The Jackal & the Tortoise (isiXhosa)



Thandazwa Katase (Thandi) is from the Mamkwayi clan of the Xhosa tribe of South Africa. Thandi is a storyteller and praise singer.

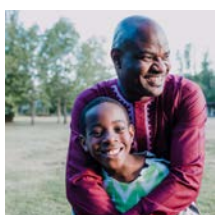
Greeting: **Molweni! Hi!**

Response: **Eweke! Hello!**

Opening: **Chosi Chosi ndingaphum; impond!**

Response: **Chosi!**

Omokhuo No Damwen Ehor (Benin) – The Girl Who Listened



Kingsley Omosigho grew up in Benin City, Nigeria. Although he's lived in Australia for over 17 years, preserving his mother tongue is a huge passion for Kingsley. He speaks this every day with his son to ensure he has a good grasp of the Benin language; Kingsley is doing everything he can to make this interesting and fun, including building an app (which he is currently fine-tuning) to support the teaching of Benin and other indigenous languages.

Greeting: **Wa hia bokian! Welcome!**

Listen: gbue~*punished*, iwemwin~*lesson learnt*, damwen ehor~*listened*