

Annual Report

2022



SILA
SUMMER INSTITUTE OF
LINGUISTICS AUSTRALIA

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01 Our purpose

Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia (SILA) serves minority language communities through language development activities. SILA does this through integrated programs of vernacular language study, literacy, translation, and development. Such programs facilitate understanding and communication, and help alleviate poverty, health problems and the disadvantaged state of these communities. SILA recognises that language is the building block for development activities in all of these areas.

To facilitate this purpose, SILA carries out, promotes or supports the following activities:

- effective **training** in language description and development
- specialised **consulting** to language development projects
- promotion and **funding** support of language and community development projects in ethnolinguistic communities

All of SILA's work is people-centred and community-based. It is concerned with all aspects of human life. There is an emphasis on training and partnership with indigenous people, and the development of locally owned sustainable programs. Promotion of the work of SILA is assisted within Australia by its partner, Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia, with whom an agreement for services has been signed.



Our PEO reports

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SIL Australia's mission is to deliver effective training and consulting for sustainable language development in minority language communities.

For the last 12 months SIL Australia (SILA) has seen a return to more normal operations after two years of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been deeply encouraging to be able to travel, engage face to face, and resume training on a more normal basis. Did you know that 25% of the world's people are left out because of language-related barriers?

SILA stands with speakers and communities of minority and excluded languages, and is determined that no-one should be kept from thriving because of the languages they speak or sign. Too often, communities believe that they must forsake one or more languages that they value in preference for a national or global language to access opportunities and achieve their goals.

SIL Australia provides training, consulting and funding for sustainable community-based language development. Our staff team and our graduates partner with communities worldwide to develop language solutions to expand their possibilities for a better life.

In 2022 Launch remained a winter, in person, four-week course, with the advantage of having international students able to join us again.

In the COVID era we have learned a lot about distance and hybrid forms of learning, and these are now added to our skill set. Classes can now be hybridised, and we have had students in remote Australia and international contexts participate alongside the students in Kangaroo Ground. This allows us to train people in the contexts they are already in, increasing the effectiveness, timeliness and immediacy of their training. These students are able to engage with their communities while they are learning.

A major highlight of 2022 was the ability to host and help facilitate two workshops. The Community Based Language and Identity Journey saw 21 people from across the Pacific receive training and certification as specialists to facilitate conversations about language and identity with communities. These conversations allow the facilitators to come alongside the community, providing a strategic investment in the work SIL does across the Pacific. A unique feature of the Journey was that after four days of training the final two days were spent engaging with members of local diaspora communities here in Melbourne. This workshop also connected with SILA's Diaspora Research Project, which works alongside diaspora groups to help them identify and achieve their goals for their use of languages. The community can make informed decisions based on their actual situation.

The second workshop looked into what it means to be local, with SIL leaders from around the Pacific coming together to hear from guest speaker Dr Johnstone Ndunde at both the workshop and the Bruce Hooley dinner.

It is exciting and encouraging to see the range of activities and the impact of SILA as a small organisation, especially through our consultants as they engage across Asia and the Pacific. We also have the ability to increase our impact in a global sense through coming alongside diaspora communities here in Melbourne.

We are so grateful to our generous donors, partners, board members, staff, graduates, and friends who helped us impact global communities during the past twelve months. Thank you for standing with us and supporting our work to see communities transformed and flourishing in the languages they value the most.

Graham Scott
Principal Executive Officer



Our **03** governance

Meetings of the SILA Board of Directors were held: 12 February, 21 May, 20 August, and 26 November 2022. The Annual General Meeting of SILA was held on 21 May 2022, in person and via Zoom.

The following are the Directors of SILA who served in 2022:



Dr David Nicholls

Appointed: 2013

Term expires: 2023

Responsibilities: Board Chair, Chair Board Development Committee



Gillian Asquith

Appointed: 2015

Term expires: 2025

Responsibilities: Vice Chair, Board Development Committee



Timothy Wilson

Appointed: 1991

Term expires: 2023

Responsibilities: Treasurer



Roslyn Manson

Appointed: 2015

Term expires: 2023

Responsibilities: Board Development Committee



Professor David Grayden

Appointed: 2020

Term expires: 2025



Dr Thomas Kimber

Appointed: 2017

Term expires: 2025



Naomi Chua

Appointed: August 2021

Term expires: 2023

04

Our partnerships

SILA operates with partners to extend its influence and mission into communities across the globe.



SILA's fundamental partnership is with SIL International, from whom we derive our identity and being. Together we work to see people flourishing in community using the languages they value most.



Eastern College Australia is SILA's educational partner. Eastern offers accredited undergraduate and graduate level qualifications. SILA staff teach for Eastern in the applied linguistics specialisation of these courses. This partnership is vital for the delivery of relevant, current, and practical training for cross-cultural work and language development.



Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia and SILA share a common campus, working together to assist each other meet their goals.



SILA partners with World Relief Australia to ensure that SILA's projects are consistent with best practice.

SILA also partners with local communities and other SIL organisational units in the delivery of training, consulting, and funding.

Churches across Australia and abroad also partner with SILA in their ongoing support and care of the SILA staff team and student body. These relationships are critical to the continued wellbeing of the SILA community. With these faith communities, and our other partners, SILA provides personnel and support for language communities around the globe, and we are excited to witness what is possible when local communities realise the potential and power of their languages as vehicles of identity and change.

Our training

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Graham Scott served as Principal Executive Officer (PEO) for the period. The PEO serves as both the CEO of SILA and the Principal of the training program. Christine Brodie was the Principal for the duration of the Launch course.

SILA is associated with SIL International as a 'Collegial Organisation', with a Memorandum of Understanding between the bodies. The MoU is the primary document expressing the formal agreement between the two bodies. This connection provides a formal means of input and feedback within the international corporation for personnel, training and language development projects.

During 2022, training for language description and development was delivered from the SILA campus, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria and online. Training was offered at a reduced capacity as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. For 72 years, SILA has provided training in language learning, descriptive and applied linguistics, and literacy and education for SIL workers, members of other organisations, and members of the public.

In 2022, SILA delivered accredited training in partnership with Eastern College Australia as units in a Graduate Diploma in Arts.

SILA's training and consulting operations rely on volunteer staff. Academic staff consisted of both permanent and sessional personnel with considerable field experience in linguistics and language development activities. Support staff operated the administration office, library, IT services, and the occasional child-minding program. Many staff continued to work from home during the year as required by the Victorian government.



Launch student group 2022
Photo credit: Peter Brook

LAUNCH

In 2022, SILA again delivered the four-week intensive during winter instead of summer as a result of conditions during the pandemic. This intensive serves as an introduction to the yearlong courses for students taking it for credit as well as providing a standalone non-accredited introductory course for students in cultural anthropology, basic linguistic analysis, language learning, and phonetics.

In 2022 three students were enrolled at Eastern College Australia, in Eastern's Linguistics and Language Learning unit, three students were enrolled in the non-accredited course and three students took just the non-accredited Cultural Anthropology subject.

SEMESTER 1

There were four students in Semester 1 taking the online unit, Principles and Practices of Translation at Graduate Diploma level.

SEMESTER 2

SILA delivered two units in Semester 2 – one by distance and the other as a hybrid class. Nine students were enrolled in the hybrid Introduction to Sociolinguistics unit and three in the distance unit, Semantics and Discourse. Several of these students are recent graduates who have seen the need for further training for the contexts in which they have found themselves. Five students completed the mandatory unit Faith, Reason and Justice taught by Eastern College Australia faculty.

In 2022, one student completed a Graduate Certificate in Arts at Eastern with the graduation ceremony to be held in March 2023.

Our projects

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SILA OVERSEAS AID AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

SILA's Overseas Aid and Development Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) fund which provides assistance to literacy and education development projects. During the reporting period, a total of \$15,165 was raised through donations and \$20,000 was distributed via World Relief Australia (WRA) for projects.

LINGCROP

SIL Australia continues to provide financial support to the LingCrop (Linguistics Consultant Resourcing of PNG) project in Papua New Guinea, managed by SIL-PNG. This project is designed to build capacity in PNG linguistics graduates by providing employment, training, mentoring and linguistic field experience so that they can contribute to language development efforts in PNG and possibly in the Pacific region. It is anticipated that a number of the trainees will advance to become linguistics consultants following advanced studies. Meanwhile, the trainees participate in targeted training workshops, serve as mentors for other PNG language workers, and are mentored themselves by SIL-PNG linguists.

There are currently seven trainees in two cohorts in the program. They have recently been engaged in training and research in language documentation, sociolinguistics, grammar studies and lexicography. In a two-week field trip in 2022 to a language community in the East Sepik Province, trainees undertook sociolinguistic research and language documentation, mentored by three SIL linguists. Field trips for practical linguistic research are a feature of the project.



LingCrop trainees and mentors
Used with permission

The trainees are highly motivated, keen to learn, and enjoy every opportunity they have to discover new things. They especially enjoy learning new software, working on academic English, and doing practical assignments.

The project began in August 2021 and seeks to provide \$20,000 per year for the three years.



Language documentation in Bungain, East Sepik Province
Used with permission

SILA is a signatory to the World Relief Australia Code of Conduct. As a signatory, SILA wishes to express its commitment to the responsible and effective use of donations, to helping the poor and needy in developing countries irrespective of nationality, race, gender, political conviction or religious belief, and to improving the quality and effectiveness of SILA development initiatives.

DIASPORA RESEARCH PROJECT

During 2022, SILA continued to engage with diaspora communities in the greater Melbourne area through this research project. The team consisted of Graham Scott, Jack Hibbard, and Tomer Opat.

Activities included research into the literature already available on diaspora communities in Melbourne, searching for social media connections, building a database of diaspora community organisations and advocates active in the Melbourne area, connecting with diaspora community and advocacy leaders, offering the Language and Identity Journey tool to communities, and mapping diaspora communities in Melbourne.



Tomer Opat and Graham Scott at the Nowruz Festival in Dandenong
Photo credit: Sharna Steinert

Two key opportunities to engage directly with communities were the Nowruz Festival in Dandenong in March (Persian New Year Festival) and the Pacific Connections Expo in April, where the team had space to show the community materials available in their languages, and explain SILA's interest in coming alongside diaspora communities.



Pacific Connections Expo
Photo credit: Graham Scott

The team built relationships with six diaspora community and advocate organisation leaders, and informed those leaders about options for language use. As a result of the research project and these relationships, several diaspora communities engaged in new language development activities. The ultimate goal of the project and SILA's ongoing connections with diaspora communities is to see these communities flourishing in their context in their identities and languages they value the most.

Our consultants

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SILA provides specialist consultant services to organisational units and partners of SIL International where language development work is being carried out.

KEN MANSON

Linguistics

Ken was a peer-examiner for the Payap University Symposium March 2022, examining two papers “Analysis of a So Hortatory Text”, and “A First Look at Northern Pwo Karen Numeral Classifiers”. He has updated his “Bibliography of Karen Linguistics, 4th edition”. He wrote a chapter for the edited book The Orthographic Word, titled: “The Orthographic Word as a Social Construct: A Perspective from Karen Languages”, an SIL publication due late 2023. He updated the Structure of Languages course for SILA.

CHRISTINE BRODIE

Literacy and education

Christine has continued to work as part of a team to write and facilitate workshops for a mother tongue based multilingual education project involving five language teams in Asia. Workshop sessions were offered online across March, April and May, and then in person for two weeks in October. Workshop topics covered aspects of teacher training and curriculum writing. The project is scheduled to finish in 2023.

LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY

ADAPT IT TEAM

The year 2022 was busy for all of the project’s developers: Erik Brommers, Graeme Costin, Bruce Waters and Bill Martin. Erik and Bill are remote assignees to SIL Australia. Erik works on Adapt It Mobile, Graeme on Key It and Bill and Bruce on the desktop version of Adapt It.

Principal areas of focus in 2022 were:

- Adapt It (desktop version) – Version 6.10.7 was the last version released in 2022. Part-time team member, Leon Pearl, and Bruce did a lot of work to make the Knowledge Base sharing feature work successfully. That work was incomplete at the end of 2022 and had to be put on hold while Bruce turned his attention to re-working Adapt It's document parser. It needed an almost complete reworking, which was still in progress at the end of 2022. The intent is to release a significantly more capable 6.11.0 version in the first quarter of 2023.
- KeyIt development by Graeme Costin continues to make progress but development time in 2022 was limited by a number of issues.
- Help Desk work – Bruce Waters, team manager, continued as the principal Help Desk person. All requests for help were responded to successfully and many of these indicated further issues that needed to be supported by Bruce's work on the parser. Bill, our team's lead developer, helped with a few requests involving code he was supporting and improved a number of Adapt It's features.
- Training workshops – midyear, Glenys and Bruce were able to fly to Milingimbi island in the NT, for a couple of weeks to support two translators – one working on Gupapuyngu, the other on Liyagawumirr. It was a successful time, though there were many difficulties in getting to a helpful overall outcome.

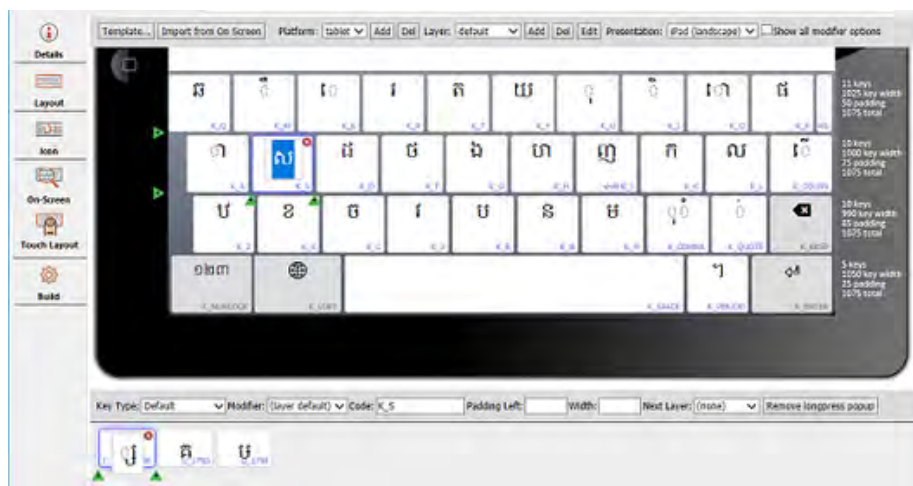
KEYMAN TEAM



Marc Durdin heads a software development team working on Keyman, a free open source keyboarding platform which allows anyone to create a keyboard layout for their language. It currently supports more than 2000 languages.

The Keyman software development team released Version 15.0 in June 2022, including new support for sentence detection and significant redevelopment of Keyman in preparation for the LDML (Locale Data Markup Language)/ CLDR (Common Locale Data Repository) Keyboard Standard, expected late in 2023. For more information see <https://keyman.com/15>.

Many new keyboard layouts were developed in 2022 by users around the world. Additionally, there were many updates to existing keyboards, and predictive text dictionaries (lexical models) were created or updated by many users around the world. All these developments were verified under the leadership of the Keyman team.



Sample keyboard as shown on the Keyman website

During February 2022, the Keyman Project Team was able to meet in person, with team members coming together from Australia, Cambodia, Germany and Thailand, to plan for and prepare the functionality and design of the next release of Keyman, version 16.0, expected early in 2023.

Again in December 2022, members of the Keyman Team from Australia, Cambodia, Germany, India, Thailand and the USA were able to meet in person to plan and prepare for the design of Keyman version 17.0. This version is expected to include LDML keyboard support as a result of the preparatory work undertaken with versions 15.0 and 16.0.

GUINEVERE SWAN

Translation

During 2022, Guinevere continued exegetical checking and training the Papuan Malay (PM) written translation team as they move towards the publication of the New Testament. Translators Yustin and Kristin experienced their first consultant checks on Matthew and Mark, and began work on Colossians and Galatians. The team published a total of 15 PM Bible books and Scripture resources, some reprints, some new. Guinevere spent two weeks in Papua with the team in May, focussing on team-building and training in translating epistles.



The PM written translation team learning about grammatical relations in the epistle

The team is seeing increasing engagement with churches at local and leadership levels, and now has MoUs with three denominations. The Holy Spirit continues to bring transformation as God's Word comes alive to people in Papuan Malay. In August, a Papuan evangelist shared how instrumental the PM Scriptures had been in bringing 90 people in one village to repentance and faith in Jesus.



In 2022, the PM team leadership was taken on by Papuan translator Maryam Yoku. Here she is sharing PM Scripture books and resources with a local pastor.

In February, Guinevere consultant-checked John’s Gospel in another Papuan language, Kosarek, and completed the exegetical check in preparation for a consultant check of 1&2 Thessalonians in Papuan language Tehit.

PHILIP SWAN

Translation

Philip’s main development goal as a translation consultant-in-training for 2022 was to gain experience advising in the translation of an epistle. The Nimboran team (Papua, Indonesia) drafted Titus which Philip received when he visited Papua in October-November. This trip provided good reconnection for Philip with Nimboran and Kemtuik friends and teams. While he was there the Kemtuik team was able to carry out final community checks of the Apostle’s Creed and Lord’s Prayer and the Nimboran team drafted the Apostle’s Creed and 10 Commandments.



Drafting the Nimboran ten commandments



Community check of Kentuik Creed

In May and September, Philip taught phonetics and language learning at MILL (Missions Interlink Language Learning) course, a 7-day course for prospective cross-cultural workers from CMS (Anglican Church Mission Society), SIM, and Interserve. It's an exciting partnership between SILA, Missions Interlink, and St Andrew's Hall (CMS's national training school).

In February, Philip again gave a guest lecture (via Zoom) to cross-cultural communication students at Trinity Theological College, Perth on 'avoiding intercultural miscommunication in Bible translation'.

Philip also spent time working on two chapters (one to be co-authored with Cathy Easton) for an edited book on Participatory Linguistics which will be published by SIL International.



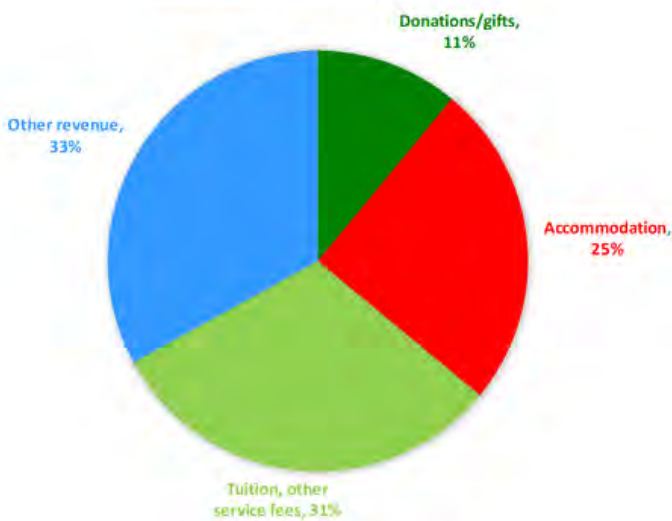
Strategic planning with the Nimboran translation team

Our finances

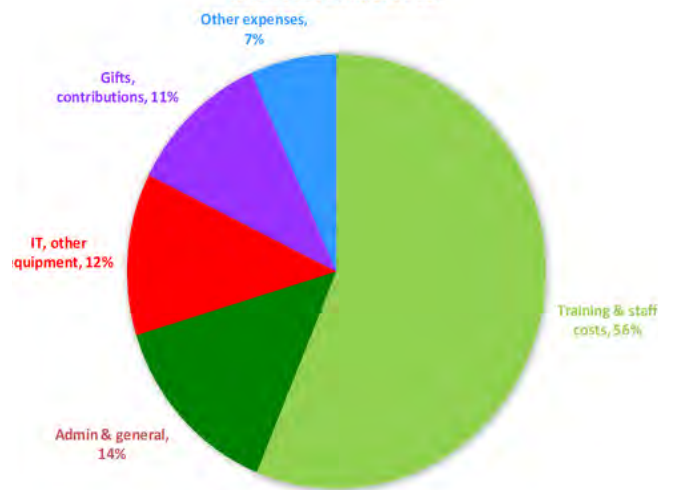
08

SIL Australia recorded an operating loss of around \$100,000 in 2022. This loss was primarily the result of COVID-19 impacting student enrolments and an increase in staff remuneration associated in part with a review of staff relationship to the organisation. This result was not unexpected and met through reserves.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?



Our Financial Performance



Audited full financial statements are available on request.



WORLD RELIEF AUSTRALIA

Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia partners with the World Relief Overseas Aid Fund by acting as its agent for fundraising and the delivery of relief and development projects in developing countries.

Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia is a signatory to the World Relief Australia Code of Conduct.

<https://www.wra.org.au/>



Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia is a charity registered with ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission)

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