

SILA



SUMMER INSTITUTE OF
LINGUISTICS AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

January to December 2018

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1. The Purpose of the Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia

The purpose of the Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia (SILA) is to serve minority language communities worldwide 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 major partner organisation, Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia, with whom an agreement for services has been signed.

2. Directors and Board meetings

The Board of SIL Australia is elected at its Biennial Conference. Approximately half of the Board members are elected each two years and serve for not more than four years without re-election. The most recent Biennial Conference of SILA was held in May 2017. At this time it was agreed that the Chair of the Wycliffe Australia Board, an ex-officio member of the Board would be a voting member. The following are the names of the Directors of SILA who served in 2018:

Dr David Nicholls	Chair (from April 2016) (Board Member since 2013; Director of Language Program Services Pacific Area, SIL International; Melbourne)
Mr Timothy K Wilson	Treasurer (from April 1991) (Board Member since 1991; Accountant and Tax Agent; Melbourne)
Ms Gillian Asquith	Vice Chair (from November 2016) (Board member since May 2015; Lecturer, Melbourne School of Theology; Melbourne)
Rev Graydon Colville	(Board Member since 2005; International Director, Global Recordings Network; Sydney)
Mr Greg Conwell	(Board Member since May 2015; Coordinator, Next Step Development, Wycliffe Australia, CEO Wycliffe Relief and Development Foundation; Melbourne)
Mr Paul Eckert OAM	(Board Member since 2009; Production Coordinator, Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support, Bible Society Australia; Adelaide)
Dr Thomas Kimber	(Board Member since April 2017; Dean of Faculty, Senior lecturer, Head of Postgraduate Coursework Department Melbourne School of Theology; Melbourne)
Mrs Roslyn Manson	(Board Member since May 2015; Care and Wellbeing, SIL Australia; Melbourne)

Meetings of the full Board were held: 10 February, 4-5 May, 11 August, and 2-3 November 2018. The Board Development Committee met as required between the Board meetings. The Annual General Meeting of SILA, in accordance with the requirements of ASIC legislation, was held on 4 May 2018.

3. SILA program activities

Rev Dr Jeffrey Pugh served as Principal Executive Officer (PEO) until March 2018. Mr Graham Scott was appointed as the PEO for the rest of the period. The PEO serves as both the CEO of SILA and the Principal of the training program.

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.

a. SILA training

During 2018 training for language description and development continued to be delivered at the SILA campus, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria. For 68 years SILA has provided training in language learning, descriptive and applied linguistics, and literacy for SIL workers, members of other organisations, and members of the public.

SILA delivers its training in partnership with Melbourne School of Theology (MST) a college affiliated with the Australian College of Theology (ACT). In 2018 SILA delivered its training as units in an MST Master of Arts (Ministry), a Graduate Diploma of Divinity or an ACT undergraduate degree.

The MA was offered for the first time in 2018. SILA developed applied linguistics content which was approved by the ACT for delivery in their Master of Arts (Ministry) course.

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 serviced the office, library, student welfare, IT services, and the occasional child minding program.

Summer Semester

SILA's 6-week summer semester serves as an intensive introduction to the yearlong courses as well as providing a stand-alone introductory course called Launch for students studying language learning, phonetics, basic linguistic analysis and anthropology.

The course was non-accredited in 2018 unless students were enrolled at Melbourne School of Theology. Sixteen students studied over the summer: five were MST students studying at graduate level, two were MST students studying at undergraduate level and nine were Launch students, not taking the course for credit. Non-accredited subjects taught were Language Awareness, Cultural Anthropology, Language Learning, and Phonetics. MST-enrolled students were enrolled in the Linguistics and Language Learning unit.



Launch Students 2018

Semesters 1 and 2

In all there were eleven students in Semester 1 and thirteen in Semester 2, a total of eighteen overall. All were part-time and seven were distance students. Three were enrolled in the MST MA (Ministry), seven students were enrolled in the MST Graduate Diploma of Divinity, three were non-award students and there were five cross-institutional students from other ACT colleges, two of whom were at undergraduate level.

The MA unit was taught as an intensive on the MST campus by a visiting lecturer from SIL International. All other units were delivered at the SILA campus at Kangaroo Ground by SILA staff, or online. One unit was offered by split intensive in Semester 2.

At the end of 2018 two students graduated with an ACT Graduate Diploma of Divinity. These students will prepare for service in language development work in Europe and the Pacific.

SILA Academic Governance

The partnership with MST has meant that the SILA training operations have been incorporated into the academic governance structure of MST.

Throughout the year, an internal Education Committee comprising SILA academic staff processes the academic matters needing development and documentation.

Promotion of academic activity in major discipline areas

Academic perspectives of SIL Australia are enhanced by:

- seminars and visiting lecturers
- attendance by SILA staff at academic conferences and seminars relating to the disciplines taught
- staff member involvement in research and supervision of higher degree students
- the involvement of several SILA members in the development of computer software to aid translation of texts in related languages

Professional development and scholarship

Study Programs

Eight staff or sessional staff members were enrolled in formal study programs in 2018, four in PhDs, three in Master's degrees and one in a Graduate Certificate. One PhD was completed in August and the Graduate Certificate in Semester 2.

Several academic staff members audited the Masters unit *Effective Christian Education Across Cultures* with guest lecturer Dr Catherine Young.

Conferences

Staff attended a wide variety of conferences and training courses. Three staff attended the SIL and Partners Meeting in Indonesia, and three staff attended the International Language Assessment Conference in Malaysia. One staff member attended the Eurasia Media Distribution Consultation in Thailand, and one staff member attended the South East Asia Language Learning Advisor Course in Thailand.

Within Australia, three staff attended Shaping the Future of Missions Training, two staff attended literacy conferences, three staff attended teaching and learning conferences, one staff member attended the ACT Registrar's Conference, and one staff member attended several training events on topics relating to spiritual health, mental health, crisis intervention and debriefing.

Staff attended a number of day conferences on a range of topics, including missions, academic language and learning, sustainability for learning and teaching, editing, and biblical scholarship. Six staff attended the Evangelical Women in Academia Conference.

Seminars, Lectures and Presentations

One staff member presented two seminars on electronic referencing systems. Another staff member presented a day seminar titled 'Exploring Walking the Labyrinth: as a spiritual practice and as a metaphor for Spiritual Direction'.

At least twelve staff attended the Bruce Hooley dinner lecture by Dr Catherine Young on transforming mission. Four staff attended the Alfred Stanway lecture on the future of contextualisation in mission. Three staff attended the Footsteps of King David lecture. One staff member attended the Leonard Buck missiology lecture. One staff member attended two lectures in a series of medieval and modern mystics, as well as the Thomas Merton lecture.

Staff attended a variety of seminars on diverse topics such as organisational change, discourse, linguistic data, cultural issues and Spiritual Direction.

Many staff participated in the SIL Australia Staff Colloquium which covered a variety of topics representing SILA research interests. Three staff members attended various postgraduate student presentations on multilingualism and research in specific languages.

Professional Standards Registration Requirements

One staff member participated in monthly supervision with a Spiritual Director, peer group supervision eight times during the year, and monthly Spiritual Direction to maintain their registration as a Spiritual Director.

Bruce Hooley Dinner 21 July 2018

The inaugural annual dinner and lecture honoured the contribution of Bruce Hooley to linguistic research and publication, as well as the leadership of SILA. The inaugural speaker for the event was Catherine Young (PhD, MEd, BEd (Hons), Global Language and Development Services Director for SIL International. Dr Young's lecture reflected on transforming mission, literacy, and development in ethnolinguistic minority communities.



Bruce and Joan Hooley

Coming Together, Walking Together: Toward Effective Partnerships, 24-25 July 2018

The workshop brought together staff from SIL International, Wycliffe Global Alliance, and other agencies to discuss and strategise partnering with local community-based organisations. Partnership extends from our organisational ethos, and also delves into the areas of theology, sociology and anthropology, organisational development, as well as community development. This has been clearly identified as a felt need by both Pacific and Asia Area leadership of both SIL and Wycliffe. The workshop consisted of key note sessions led by Dr Catherine Young, group discussion and exercises, reflection, writing and sharing.



Workshop participants

Research Outputs in 2018

A number of permanent and sessional staff published articles or presented papers at conferences.

David Nicholls

Nicholls, David. 2018. "Leadership and cultural hegemony: the experiences of minority culture leaders in a multicultural SIL." PhD thesis, Australian College of Theology.

Mavis Price

Price, Mavis. 2018. "To English from Vernacular Literacy." Paper presented at ALEA Conference, Perth, 9-11 July.

Bruce Symons

Symons, Bruce. 2018. "Does missing a train help us to read Colossians?" Paper presented at Postgraduate Seminar, MST, Melbourne, 25 October.

b. Funding of development projects

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 \$21,130 was raised through donations and \$25,221 distributed via World Relief Australia (WRA) for projects.

In 2018 SILA continued to support the **China Minority Education (ChiME) project** through the Overseas Aid and Development Fund. In May 2017 a new stage of the project was approved which is now halfway through its three-year duration. The aim of the project is to build on the lessons learned through the successful implementation of the Bai minority language education program by establishing an educational capacity building partnership in China's Yunnan Province. The project aims to help with the building of strategically located university-based centres of expertise in the early educational needs of children in remote rural areas in the province. The program is supported by SILA consultants Dr Brian Billard and Dr Liz Billard.



Brian with the University of Dali team

The **Mayoyao, mother-tongue based multilingual education project** in the Philippines has now been running for two years. The primary focus of this three-year project is to support national teachers in the Mayoyao area to develop reading books and curriculum materials in the local Mayoyao language for children in Kindergarten to Grade 3. These materials are to help students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 develop foundational literacy skills in their local language before also acquiring the national languages of Filipino and English.

The focus of the project in the second half of the year was on preparing teachers to re-echo their workshop learning to other colleagues in their local Mayoyao language.



Mayoyao workshop participants preparing materials

World Relief Australia

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.

c. Consultant support for language development projects

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

China Minority Education (ChiME) Project

SILA consultants Dr Brian and Dr Liz Billard continue to work in this project which will conclude in 2019. During 2018 Brian continued to prepare documentation with Liz providing consultant support on educational issues, completing eight of nine topics planned for under agreements with local universities. A considerable quantity of materials was generated and delivered.

A disappointment during the period was that cooperation with the Yunnan Minorities University had to be suspended owing to a lack of education expertise on their team. However, the cooperation with Dali University continued strongly. This team has been welcoming of the cooperation available through ChiME and is taking the input provided through Brian's visits and immediately applying it in two field situations they have established. Brian visited the university twice during the year and in September was able to workshop more than 100 pages of materials relating to the Bai preschool curriculum developed by Liz.

These ChiME materials are first created in English and must then be translated into high quality (academic standard) Chinese for delivery to the cooperating partners. Up until the end of 2017 the translation was provided by an official of the Yunnan Minority Languages Commission but in January this arrangement came to an end. This created a huge challenge in 2018 in finding alternative translation services.



Brian with the Dali team in September

Mayoyao Mother-Tongue Based Multilingual Education Project

SILA consultants Christine Brodie and Robyn Terrey visited Mayoyao twice in 2018. A total of 42 teachers attended the two workshops in April and May. A number of strategies were demonstrated that teachers could use both for mother-tongue language lessons as well as bridging to the required national languages of Filipino and English. Teachers then applied these strategies to plan literacy lessons for the reading books that have already been reproduced. There was also a focus on developing reading books based on Science and Health curriculum topics. Teachers left the workshop with books, posters and materials for the new school year which began in June.

The October workshop had 41 teachers spanning Kindergarten to Grade 3. The focus of this workshop was not so much on producing new texts, but ensuring the texts that have already been produced are being used to their full capacity for literacy and language development. To that end, teachers created a range of additional materials (flashcards, charts, games, etc.) to match selected text titles, with the aim of enhancing student comprehension, word recognition, spelling, grammar and writing proficiency in the Mayoyao language.

Several teachers demonstrated a greater understanding of the connections between the texts and literacy development as articulated in the national Department of Education Mother-Tongue Curriculum. This showed not only in the type and quantity of materials they were making, but also through verbal and written feedback comments.

By the end of 2018, 83 titles had been completed and published with an additional 10 titles in the process of being edited, as well as other drafts that teachers are still working on but have not yet submitted for editing.



Workshop participants and staff

Language Technology

Software Development Project

The project had another successful year. Adapt It continues to have good impact in various places round the globe. The development team work together well, though physically separated from each other. Work continues on the desktop version of Adapt It (AID), also on Adapt It Mobile (AIM) and Key It (KIT) (a scripture keyboarding mobile app). The team includes two full-time SIL developers from the USA who are remotely assigned to SIL Australia. They are an indispensable part of the operation.

Principal areas of focus in 2018 were:

- **AID** – The drop down list has been refactored and it is much improved. Several new versions have been released, some issues have been fixed and robustness has improved. Version 6.9.4 is expected to be released in May 2019. The knowledge base sharing feature is going to be redone as a version 2 for release. In a welcome development for the team, a local Melbourne developer will work with the team manager to redo the server end in an improved way. The client end has been ready for years.
- **AIM** has now been released with several helpful features added and further improvement to come.
- **KeyIt** development is temporarily on hold but work on it will resume later in 2019.
- **Help Desk work** – Bruce Waters, team manager, continues to be the principal Help Desk person. All user bug reports have been handled successfully, and requests for advice responded to.
- **Training Workshop** – Nothing formal happened in 2018 but a trip to Arnhem Land in October provided the opportunity for Bruce to install Adapt It on three people's laptops and to show how to do basic translation tasks. This subsequently provided the impetus for others to plan a workshop for representatives from nine languages to be held in Gove in May 2019.

4. Financial statements

SIL Australia Operating statement for the year ended 31 December 2018 (Statement of financial performance)

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Education Fees and Operations	90,835	118,559
Rental Income	64,533	68,806
SILA General Income	28,121	18,016
Donations and Gifts		
Overseas Aid	21,130	26,280
SILA Training Fund	108	124
SILA School Building Fund	370	545
Other gifts and donations	1,565	0
Investment Income	6,129	5,684
Other revenues	1,245	3
Total Revenue	214,036	238,017
Expenses		
Education & Operating	158,203	140,762
Overseas Projects	23,000	38,147
Domestic Projects	29,500	15,416
Scholarships given	4,000	12,000
Depreciation	11,127	10,775
Other expenses	12,622	19,450
Total Expenses	238,452	236,550
Excess of Revenue over Expenses (shortfall) from continuing operations	-24,416	1,467
Funds available for future use at beginning of financial year	376,932	367,052
Amount transferred to/from reserves	-71,618	9,880
Funds available for future use at end of financial year	305,314	376,932

SIL Australia
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2018
(Statement of Financial Position)

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash Assets	227,567	265,430
Receivables	8,913	27,095
Investments	155,000	155,000
Other	3,131	1,183
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	53,932	28,295
Total Assets	448,543	477,003
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	3,557	12,501
Other	7,815	2,915
Total Liabilities	11,372	15,416
Net Assets	437,171	461,587
Equity		
Reserves	131,857	84,655
Funds available for future use/retained earnings	305,314	376,932
Total Equity	437,171	461,587

Audited full financial statements are available on request.

SIL Australia
Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1 January 2018	376,932	84,655	461,587
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-24,416	0	-24,416
Amount transferred (to) from reserves and other fund	-47,202	47,202	0
Balance at 31 December 2018	305,314	131,857	437,171

SIL Australia
Table of cash movements for designated purposes
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Cash available at beginning	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year	Comments
Overseas Aid & Development Fund	47,508	21,130	25,221	43,417	Contributes to overseas development projects
SILA General & Training	195,754	174,930	201,868	168,816	
Total for Other Purposes	22,168	36,158	42,992	15,334	
TOTAL	265,430	232,218	270,081	227,567	



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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