

Annual Report

2021



SILA

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF
LINGUISTICS AUSTRALIA

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01 Our purpose

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.



Our PEO reports

02

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

For more than seventy years SIL Australia (SILA) has worked alongside a diverse range of partners and communities to deliver transformational training and consulting.

In the second year of the turmoil and disruption wrought by the realities of COVID-19, SILA has gained a deeper appreciation for its connectedness to the global work of SIL International and its partners.

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.

SILA 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.

Globally, the work of SIL International impacts almost 900 million people in 1,347 communities in 98 countries.

SILA is connected directly to this impact, with more than 3,000 graduates and consultants contributing to the efforts of communities across the Pacific, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Eurasia.

During 2021, SILA provided high quality and innovative training to students across Australia and the Pacific. As we grow in confidence in the use of digital technology, our students have been able to more effectively engage in online learning communities, even though geographically distanced from each other.

The SILA team has demonstrated great resilience in the face of the obstacles that COVID-19 has thrown up over the past year. In this report you will read stories of the impact of the team's work. These stories illustrate the transformative power of sustainable language development and the necessity and value of effective training in areas like language analysis, sociolinguistics, literacy, and Bible translation.

We are so grateful to our generous donors, partners, board members, staff, graduates and friends who helped us impact global communities during the past 12 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 governance 03

The SILA Board of Directors 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 2021. The following are the Directors of SILA who served in 2021:

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





Naomi Chua

Appointed: August 2021

Term expires: 2023



Professor David Grayden

Appointed: 2020

Term expires: 2025



Dr Thomas Kimber

Appointed: 2017

Term expires: 2025



Roslyn Manson

Appointed: 2015

Term expires: 2023

Responsibilities: Board Development Committee

Meetings of the full Board were held: 26 February, 7 May, 24 July, and 27 November 2021. The Annual General Meeting of SILA was held on 7 May 2021, in person and via Zoom.

Our partnerships 04

SILA recognises the essential connectedness and relatedness of peoples, communities, organisations, nations, and more. This requires all to embrace hospitality as a fundamental value, and to be willing to find ways to work with and alongside others. We operate with a set of partnerships through which SILA extends 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. The core principles of SIL International are ones that SILA shares and is deeply committed to. Together we work so that communities around the world, particularly ethnolinguistic minorities, are able to pursue their goals — social, cultural, political, economic or spiritual — through the power of their languages.




Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia on a day-to-day basis is SILA's closest partner. Sharing a common campus, and working together to assist each other meet their goals, SILA is thankful for its relationship with WBTA, and seeks to find further opportunities to work and serve together in ways that are forged in mutuality and respect.



SILA works closely in partnership with World Relief Australia, to ensure that SILA's projects are consistent with best practice. All of SILA's projects are possible through the good working relationship that we have with WRA.




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



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.

SILA is grateful to be able to host training and consulting, and we desire to be gracious and generous hosts. And SILA is thankful for the friendships in partnership that it has that enable it to be SILA and to deliver on the promise of our vision and mission.



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.

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 2021, training for language description and development continued to be delivered from the SILA campus, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria, primarily remotely as a result of the COVID-19 protocols. For 71 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 2021, SILA delivered accredited training in partnership with Eastern College Australia as units in a Graduate Diploma in Arts. SILA faculty also taught one unit and coordinated projects in a Master of Arts (Ministry) through Melbourne School of Theology (MST). This course was being taught out and the students enrolled completed their awards at the end of 2021. Dr Ken Manson, SILA faculty member, coordinated the MA for the duration of the three and a half year program. Our training relationship with MST has now concluded.

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, student support services, IT services and the occasional child-minding program.

SEMESTER 1

There were six students enrolled in Semester 1 – four in the Graduate Diploma and two in the MA (Ministry). All were part time. The Master's unit was delivered as independent study, with fortnightly meetings between the lecturer and the students via Zoom.

LAUNCH

In 2021, SILA reworked Launch, traditionally a six-week summer intensive, into a four-week intensive which it offered during winter instead of summer, as a result of conditions during the pandemic.

This intensive serves as an introduction to the yearlong courses as well as providing a standalone non-accredited introductory course in cultural anthropology, basic linguistic analysis, language learning and phonetics.

The course was non-accredited in 2021 unless students were enrolled at Eastern College Australia. Five students studied during the winter intensive: two were studying cross-institutionally at graduate and undergraduate levels, and three were Launch students, not taking the course for credit. Cross-institutional students were enrolled in Eastern's Linguistics and Language Learning unit.

SEMESTER 2

A new unit in Language Program Management was developed for delivery at graduate level in Semester 2. It had previously been taught once at Diploma level. The unit is aimed mainly at experienced field workers so was more widely advertised in SIL International. In recognition of the growing importance of this field of study to the organisation, SIL Pacific Area undertook to cover tuition costs for a set number of students. One current Graduate Diploma student enrolled in the unit and four new students from the Asia-Pacific region enrolled in it as non-award study – three at graduate level and one at undergraduate. The bi-weekly sessions were timed to suit multiple time zones and delivered via Zoom.

Two students took one unit each in Semester 2 and the two MA students undertook research projects as the final unit in their degrees.

In total in 2021, five students completed a Graduate Diploma in Arts and two students finished a Master of Arts (Ministry), with graduation planned for March 2022.

Our projects 06

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 \$16,150 was raised through donations and \$13,934 was distributed via World Relief Australia (WRA) for projects.

MAYOYAO MOTHER-TONGUE BASED MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The Mayoyao mother-tongue based multilingual education project in the Philippines has been on the backburner during the COVID-19 pandemic, however contact with the workshop community has been maintained via social media. Interest is still high for completing the project when international travel restrictions allow for safe travel. The primary focus of this project has been 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. A number of materials are awaiting final edits from the local language experts before they are ready for publication. It is hoped that plans can be made soon to revisit the community and complete this phase of the project.



Workshopping a text
Photo supplied by Christine Brodie

LINGCROP

The Linguistics Consultant Resourcing of Papua New Guinea project (LingCrop) was launched in August 2021.



Dr René van den Berg with LingCrop trainees
Photo credit: René van den Berg

LingCrop is a three-year mentored program of training for well-educated Papua New Guineans to become linguistics consultants with SIL-PNG or Bible Translation Association of Papua New Guinea (BTA). 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 region. The participants in this program will make a direct contribution to the cause of education and development in PNG. The services they provide will include basic language documentation, orthography development, and research on linguistics factors relevant to literacy, education, teacher training, and the translation of important information including health literature.

The project seeks to provide \$20,000 per year for the three years.

SILA is a signatory to the World Relief Australia Code of Conduct. As a signatory, SILA commits to: a) the responsible and effective use of donations to help the poor and needy in developing countries irrespective of nationality, race, gender, political conviction or religious belief and b) improving the quality and effectiveness of SILA relief and development initiatives.

MA'DI LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

During 2021, SILA continued to provide support, training, and consulting services to the Ma'di Language Development Initiative (MLDI) based in Brisbane. MLDI is a community-based language project led by Ma'di community leaders. Having embraced the necessity of virtual training in 2020, literacy training continued via Zoom this year facilitated by Graham Scott and Jack Hibbard.

A highlight of the year was the production of an e-book using SIL's Bloom Library app to provide COVID-19 health information in Ma'di. This book was also a significant step for members of MLDI, who were now sufficiently confident as learners to be able to write a text in their own language. A related highlight was the release of a Keyman keyboard to enable typing in Ma'di. Without a specialist keyboard, data entry is not possible for the Ma'di community. This keyboard was produced by the Keyman team in consultation with the Ma'di community, and a locally based Keyman team member was able to provide onsite training to the group as well.

In December, there was a joyous celebration as Graham Scott was able to travel to Brisbane and meet with the Ma'di community as they celebrated the life of a significant female leader. The renewal and furthering of relationships after the long isolation required by COVID-19 was encouraging and has spurred the Ma'di community on towards their goal. The event also provided the opportunity for further connection with other African diaspora community members who are also seeking more opportunities for their languages.



Ma'di community celebration
Photo credit: Graham Scott

DIASPORA RESEARCH PROJECT

SIL Australia has been reflecting on what it means to be a localised organisation. One question we have asked is how can we serve the people of the city we live in more fully. What languages are spoken here in Melbourne? Where do the communities live? What resources can they access for their languages?

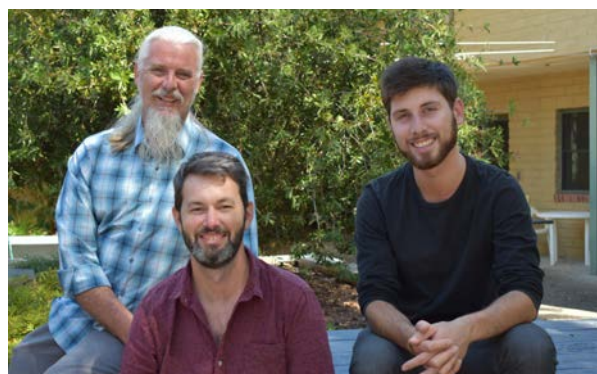
Late in 2021, with the support of SIL Pacific Area, we started a project to look into these questions.

Here's what we've learned so far.

- Yes, there are many languages spoken here. Some language communities are large, but some are very small.
- Government, NGOs, and academic institutions have been working with large community groups but not the smaller groups.
- Many of the small communities' languages are under-documented and lack resources in their homelands. And many of these groups have arrived in Australia from homelands torn by war, trauma and conflict.

When we meet with communities our goal is to develop good relationships. We want to understand the hopes and challenges of each community. One question that we have heard over and over again from communities is: how can we preserve our identity, language and culture?

We were surprised when one community from Southeast Asia told us they wanted the Old Testament in oral form.



The team: Graham Scott, Jack Hibbard, Tomer Opat
Photo credit: Sharna Steinert

Another community has talked about conflict in their community because parents, children and grandparents cannot speak and understand each other.

The friendships that we are making now will lead to deeper conversation about language sustainability, identity and the positive choices that communities can make.

The challenge for communities like these is that they are hurting from trauma, separated from family and homeland, and they struggle to find ways to provide for themselves. Life is hard, and there are very few friends and good neighbours on the journey. Language development and literacy promotion mean greater access to resources for healing, employment, education, and relationship formation, as well as helping learn English.

SILA's prayer is that we would be a good neighbour and friend to diaspora communities here in our city. We trust that God will use this project to inspire us by his love to walk with diaspora communities in our local context for his good purposes.

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.

LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY

ADAPT IT TEAM

The year 2021 was busy for all of the project's developers. Erik Brommers continued to improve Adapt It Mobile. Graeme Costin made improvements to Key It, though it does not yet support non-Roman character sets. Bruce Waters and Bill Martin continued development work on the desktop version of Adapt It, which is released for Window, Linux, and Macintosh operating systems.

Despite the COVID-19 problems everyone has endured, work on Adapt It (AID, desktop version), Key It (KIT, for Android and iOS phones & tables), and Adapt It Mobile (AIM, also for Android and iOS) continued. Bill Martin and Erik Brommers continued as remote assignees to SIL Australia, working on the 3 apps from the USA.

Principal areas of focus in 2021 were:

- AID – Versions 6.10.3, 6.10.4, 6.10.5 were released. Part-time team member, Leon Pearl, did a lot of work to make the Knowledge Base sharing feature work successfully. All the issues were not overcome in 2021 – it's very complex. Trying to embed C code had to be abandoned. Leon and Bruce switched to having external executable files that could be run at the time of need. Work on that is continuing.
- AIM – Erik continues to add useful features, and provides support for tablet installations. Discussions for data sharing with KIT and AID commenced, and are ongoing.
- KeyIt development by Graeme Costin continued to make progress but development time in 2021 was limited by family issues.

- Help Desk work – Bruce Waters, team manager, continued as the principal Help Desk person. All requests for help were responded to successfully. Bill helped with a few requests involving code he was supporting.
- Training workshops – Access constraints in the Northern Territory precluded any training workshops in the Arnhemland area this year.

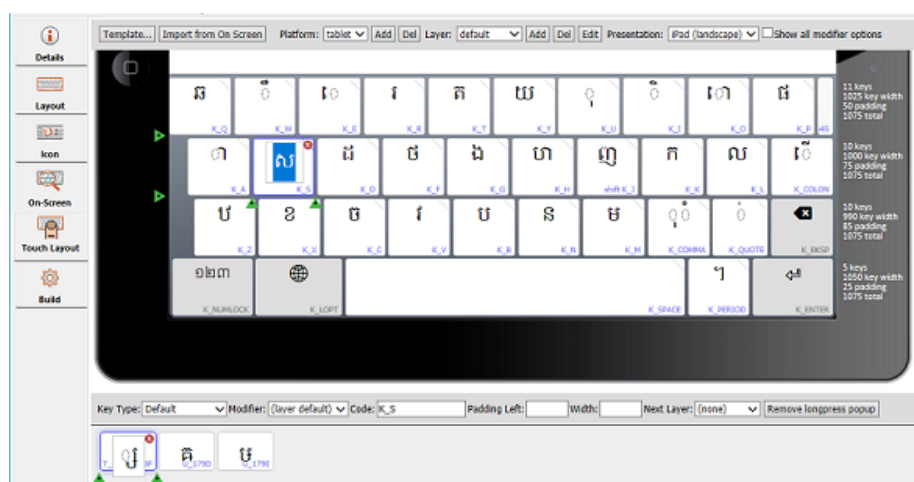
KEYMAN TEAM



A second software development team is headed up by Marc Durdin. In 2021, this team continued its work on Keyman which is a free and open source keyboarding platform which allows anyone to write a keyboard layout for their language. Keyman is available for many platforms, including Windows, macOS, iOS, Android, Linux and the web. Keyman currently supports over 2000 different languages!

The Keyman team has grown from 5 people in 2020 to 10 people by the end of 2021. The team will be releasing Keyman 15 in 2022, which adds Caps Lock support on touch devices and Start of Sentence detection, along with many new user interface translations and hundreds of smaller fixes and features.

Learn more about Keyman 15: <https://keyman.com/15>



Sample keyboard as shown on the Keyman website

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

CHRISTINE BRODIE

Zoom has enabled Christine Brodie to continue engaging in training and consultation in the areas of literacy and education. She has continued to work alongside the SIL International Coordinator for Literacy and Education to write and facilitate workshops with five ethnic education groups in Asia. The groups are developing literacy materials and education programs based on their own languages. This year, two workshops were delivered focusing on developing materials and strategies that help students bridge from their mother tongue to the national languages that children are expected to learn at school. Another four workshops are to be delivered over the next two years, with the current MOU for this phase of the project set to expire in 2023.

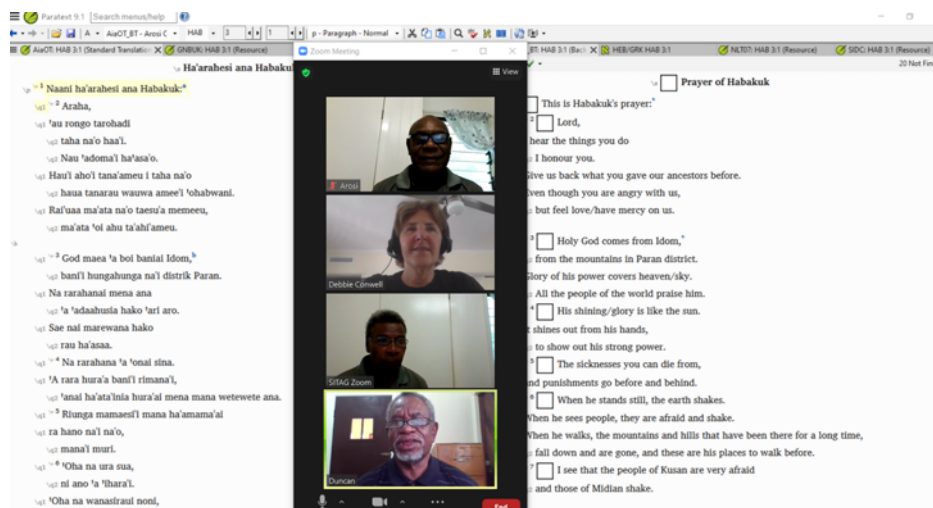
Christine has also had the opportunity to reconnect with the Philippines, participating as one of a team of SIL trainers who wrote and facilitated a ten-week course with pre-service and in-service teacher trainers connected with the Department of Education and various tertiary education institutions. The purpose of the course was to provide an introduction to the foundational principles of multilingual education and explore some practical strategies for teaching and learning using non-dominant languages. It was hoped that the course content might be useful to trainers in strengthening their pre-service and in-service teacher training courses. The thirty participants met weekly via Zoom from October to December, with additional readings, videos and weekly tasks shared via the SIL International Moodle platform. Overall, the course feedback was positive, although poor internet and electricity service hampered some participants from engaging more fully with the course content. Nevertheless, the invitation has been extended for more training courses that focus on specific aspects of materials development and classroom pedagogy to be provided in the future, preferably face to face.

TRANSLATION

DEB CONWELL

Deb and her husband returned to Australia at the start of the pandemic and settled on the Sunshine Coast. Deb is grateful to have had access to consultants, assistance with funding and a way to continue working at a greater rate than previously. Her activities in 2021 included:

- Exegetical checks of translation drafts and their back translation of 13½ books from 4 language projects
- Preparing and consultant checking Zechariah 1-9
- Facilitating consultant checks of 12 other books for 3 language projects
- Formatting and organising printing of 13 consultant-checked books for 3 language projects.



Arosi team on Zoom
Photo credit: Deb Conwell

KEN MANSON

Ken has been involved as an outside examiner with the Payap University Linguistics Department (SIL training) MA Curriculum Defence.

He presented 'Historical migration in Mainland Southeast Asia' to the SIL Mainland Southeast Asia group (MSEAG). During 2021, Ken worked on developing 'Grammar Helps' for MSEAG and completed the Introduction and Clause structure sections.

GUINEVERE SWAN

During 2021, Guinevere worked with the Papuan Malay translation team on further developing their Key Terms list, the fourth book in a Bible Background series (a resource for pastors and translators), and finalising the translation of Genesis for publishing in comic form. She also continued to work with the translators on exegetical and comprehension checking of Mark's Gospel and Revelation. Together with Wycliffe Canada colleague Lenice, Guinevere developed a workshop to give the Papuan Malay translation team training in translating epistles.

In July Guinevere accepted a part-time assignment, joining a pool of translation consultants under SIL South and Islands Asia.



Papuan Malay team members
with the head of a local presbytery
Photo supplied by Guinevere Swan



Interest in Papuan Malay books after church
Photo supplied by Guinevere Swan

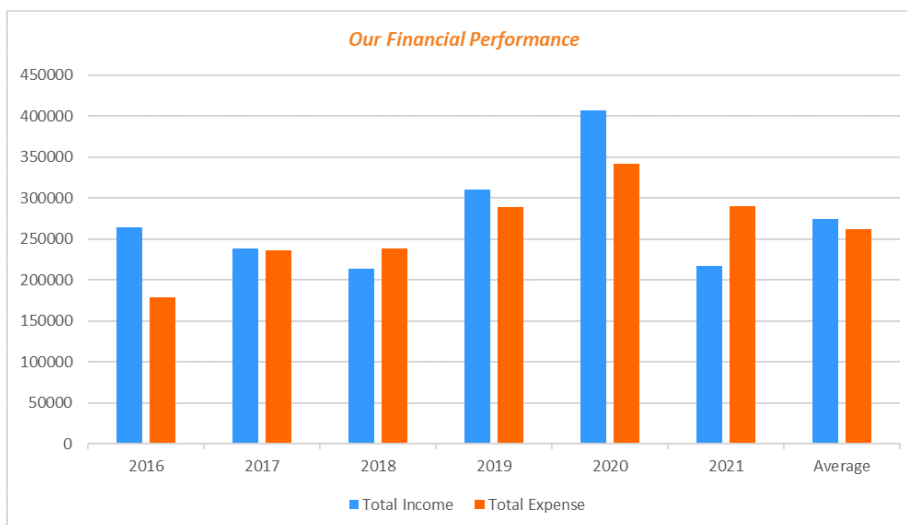
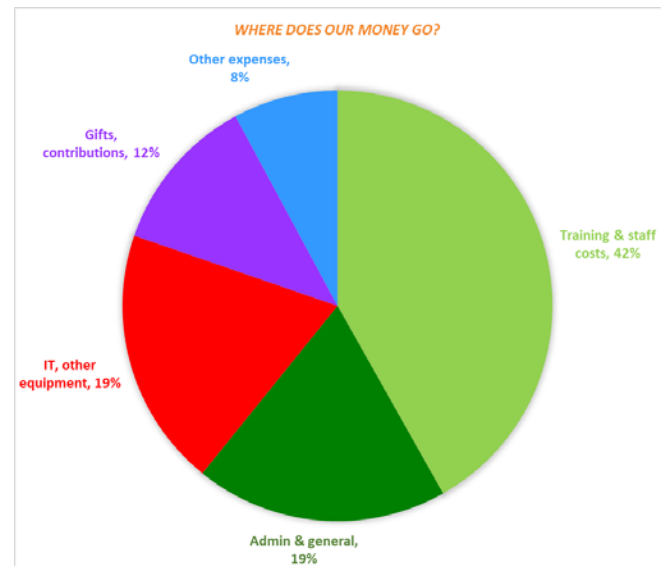
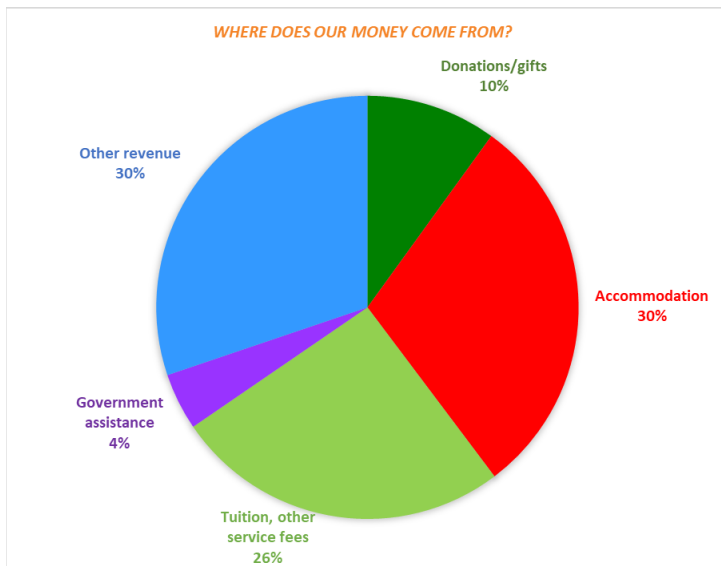
PHILIP SWAN

In May and June, Philip attended the SIL Asia Area Translation Consultant Development Workshop (virtually). Two weeks of theory was followed by supervised consultant checks later in the year, one checking some of the book of Acts in a Papuan language, and two with SILA translation consultant David Andersen, checking some Psalms in an Austronesian language. David is mentoring Philip as a consultant-in-training. Philip is pursuing experience translating epistles by advising the Nimboran (Papua) translation team as they translate Titus.

Our finances

08

SILA recorded an operating loss of around \$73,000 in 2021. This loss was primarily the result of lower student enrolments and reduced accommodation income. This result was expected in light of the impact of COVID-19 both domestically and internationally. During this period further investment in renovations and maintenance of the facilities has taken place. All paid staff positions were retained during the year, with no COVID-related layoffs.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	216,815	406,511
Accounting and audit fees	(7,000)	(5,175)
Computer, library and other equipment	(13,350)	(45,755)
Depreciation expense	(21,023)	(20,242)
Donations, gifts and contributions	(23,434)	(40,473)
Employee costs	(128,209)	(98,696)
General office expenses	(20,332)	(37,986)
Insurance expense	(12,555)	(12,253)
Subscriptions	(12,255)	(7,207)
Training and other staff costs	(22,021)	(34,926)
Travel expenses	(607)	(2,678)
Utilities and rates	(8,073)	(9,485)
Other expenses	(20,986)	(26,902)
	(289,845)	(341,778)
Surplus before income tax expense	(73,030)	64,733
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia	(73,030)	64,733
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia	(73,030)	64,733

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	386,864	351,525
Trade and other receivables	20,071	15,269
Term Deposit	-	100,000
Prepayment	13,978	13,024
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	420,913	479,818
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	59,353	65,816
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	59,353	65,816
TOTAL ASSETS	480,266	545,634
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	16,496	13,953
Annual Leave Provision	8,530	4,411
Accrued Expenses	5,000	4,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	30,026	22,364
TOTAL LIABILITIES	30,026	22,364
NET ASSETS	450,240	523,270
EQUITY		
Reserves	94,798	108,599
Retained earnings	355,442	414,671
TOTAL EQUITY	450,240	523,270

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Receipts from customers	214,026	412,903
Payments to suppliers and employees	(264,805)	(326,974)
Interest received	1,164	3,887
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(49,615)	89,816
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Proceeds from sale of investment	100,000	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(15,046)	(36,633)
Net cash provided by/used in investing activities	84,954	(36,633)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	35,339	53,183
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	351,525	298,342
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	386,864	351,525

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

2021				
	Retained Earnings	Plant replacement reserve	Designated funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2021	414,671	65,817	42,782	523,270
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	(73,030)			(73,030)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax				
Total comprehensive income for the year	(73,030)			(73,030)
Transfer to/from reserves	13,801	(6,463)	(7,338)	
Balance at 31 December 2021	355,442	59,354	35,444	450,240
2020				
	Retained Earnings	Plant replacement reserve	Designated funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2020	364,735	49,426	44,376	458,537
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	64,733	-	-	64,733
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	64,733	-	-	64,733
Transfer to/from reserves	(14,797)	16,391	(1,594)	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	414,671	65,817	42,782	523,270

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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