

## Lightning Ridge Workshop 2024



In April, the University of Queensland team Desmond Crump, Paul Williams, and Felicity Meakins delivered an on-Country language revitalisation workshop facilitated by the Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay Language Nest at Lightning Ridge. The workshop saw participation of 25 Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay and Muruwari educators and Elders.

Paul and Felicity conducted sessions focusing on Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay sound systems, pronouns, and noun and verb morphology. Des provided valuable insights into research and archival materials, equipping participants with the knowledge to access and utilize essential tools and resources. Afternoon sessions featured teacher professional development led by Yuwaalaraay teachers Priscilla Strasek and Liz Smith, offering useful strategies for teaching language in the classroom.

Des and Paul had a role in teaching the Summer and Winter Language Revitalisation Programs of 2022-23 and work on the Indigenous Languages Revitalisation Program in the School of Languages and Cultures at UQ. The idea for the on-Country workshops was first conceptualised with Priscilla and Liz during their participation in the Summer School of 2023.

The Lightning Ridge Workshop was the first on-Country program delivered by the Indigenous Languages Team. It was a collaborative and enriching experience, highlighting the importance of community outreach and engagement. A second on-Country workshop is currently in planning and will take place later this year. The program is supported by the Indigenous Language and the Arts Strategic Initiative fund and the University of Queensland, School of Languages and Cultures Indigenous Languages Revitalisation Team.



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