

From: TELC
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 2:17:07 PM (UTC+09:30) Darwin
To: livingarchive
Subject: TELC event 24 Feb 2021

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Next TELC meeting 24 Feb 2021

Welcome all TELC folk in 2021. Like many groups, our plans for 2020 did not eventuate, but we're taking advantage of the current situation to plan for our first event in almost a year.

We plan to meet in person - subject of course to change - with **two activities** on the afternoon of Wednesday 24 February.

Firstly, with esteemed regular visitor **Professor Michael Walsh** coming to Darwin at that time, we thought we'd hear about one of the topics he's been working on lately. See his abstract below - he'll present from **2-3pm**.

Secondly, rather than fill the schedule with other formal presentations, we'll take the rest of the time to **catch-up** from **3-4pm**. We'll make opportunities for various attendees to share about their current projects, and time for **networking**.

If you would like to present something about your project or activities, please let us know **by 19 Feb** - limit **5 minutes** each. If you want to use slides or video, please submit ahead of time so we can make sure things are set up.

If possible, we plan to have **more TELC events** throughout the year, so there will be other opportunities to share in more detail. **Contact us** if you have a presentation to give, whether you're a Darwin local or passing through - topendingcircle@gmail.com

Guest speaker - Professor Michael Walsh



"Christianity in Indigenous Australia: Linguistic Adaptations to an Exotic Spirituality "

Abstract:

Since the earliest days of "settlement" in 1788 Indigenous Australia has been engaged with Christianity. At one end of the spectrum were so-called "rice Christians": Indigenous people who endured religious services because of an expectation that they would be given food. At the other end of the spectrum is the Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM, a Yolngu from the Northern

Territory, who has preached, lectured and published on Aboriginal spirituality for many years. Sometimes encounters between Christianity and Indigenous spirituality have led to the counterintuitive. For instance in the late 1970s Lutheran missionaries were engaged in re-translating the New Testament into Western Arrernte (central Australia). When asked why there was a need for a re-translation, the surprising response was along these lines: the earlier translation was so good that, now, almost no-one can understand it. Some commentators (e.g. Daisy Bates) have suggested that some Christian material (e.g. The Lord's Prayer) cannot be translated into an Australian language. Recalling the parable of the seven wise and foolish virgins, it becomes a challenge for the translator of Scripture if there is no Indigenous word for "virgin"! This account will present some of the range of issues surrounding the encounter between Indigenous Australia and Christianity.

About the speaker:

Michael Walsh holds a PhD in Linguistics and has been dedicated to working with Australian Aboriginal languages for about 45 years. He has worked and published extensively on documenting and revitalizing Aboriginal languages of Australia, especially in the Northern Territory and New South Wales. His research interests include lexical semantics, cross-cultural pragmatics, language and identity, language and law, linguistic geography, language revitalization, song language and other expressive uses of language. In addition to his linguistic research, Michael has a strong record of advising and supporting Aboriginal communities in legal matters, such as land rights. He held positions at several Australian universities and research institutions and is currently affiliated with AIATSIS, the University of Sydney and the Australian National University among others.

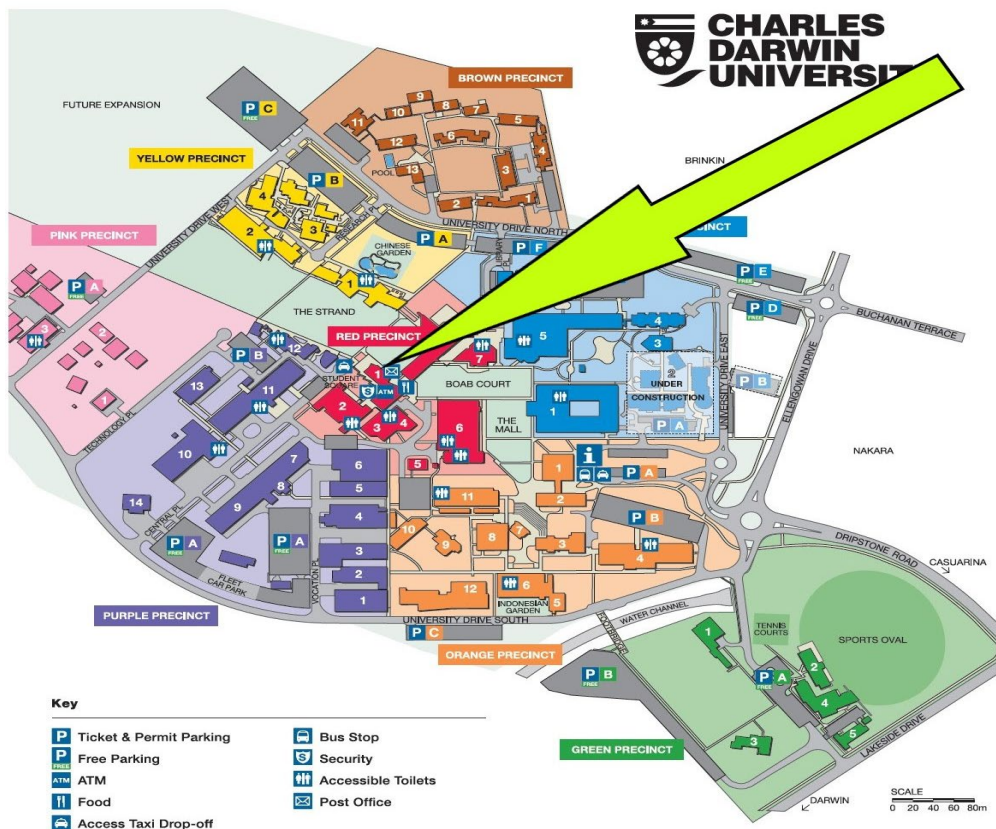
WHEN: Thursday 24 February 2021 from 2-4pm

Prof Walsh will speak from 2-3pm, followed by participants sharing briefly about their projects from 3-4pm, with time for networking.

WHERE: Charles Darwin University [Casuarina](#) campus, Red 1, level 3 function room (above the cafe) - see green arrow below

Open to everyone, no need to register or RSVP, no cost to attend.

Of course, everything is subject to change, so keep an eye on our social media for any updates.



Passing through Darwin? Present at a future TELC meeting!

We have an open invitation to anyone interested in presenting at a TELC meeting. We know many people pass through Darwin for fieldwork, particularly during the dry season, and we'd love to hear about your work. With sufficient notice, we can arrange a meeting, so let us know your dates. **Contact** the committee at topenclingingcircle@gmail.com

Got any other news to report or events to promote? Contact us!

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