

# TREASURE LANGUAGE STORYTELLING

Browns Mart Theatre, Darwin ~ 7:30pm Saturday 22 April

## Invocation: Miaweson

Christland, Mavis, and Emmanuel Kovison welcome us with the words Miale bena miafe Dekonuwo ~ *Keep our culture strong*, in the Ewe language.

## Welcome

*Steven Bird*

## Namaladj (Kunwinjku) – Orphan Boy



Kunwinjku is the language of Gunbalanya, and part of the Bininj Kunwok dialect chain that spans West Arnhem. Our storyteller, Rosemary Nabalwad, is a leader of the ranger program and serves on Red Lily Health Board in Jabiru. Orphan Boy is the dreaming of Rosemary's ancestral land in Demed Country (Mamardawerre outstation), and she is one of the few people who can tell this story.

Greeting: **Mah! Ngudda kamak?** *OK, are you good?*

Response: **Yoh! Kamak!** *Yes, good!*

Listen: *namaladj~orphan boy, ngalyod~rainbow serpent, birri~they, duruk~dog, kabbari~orphan boy dreaming site, manmanjmak~tasty food, bolkkime~today, kanjdji~downstream, kaddum~upstream, kunwardde~rock/stone.*

## Burarr dja Kalawan (Kunwinjku) – Water monitor and goanna

Conrad Maralngurra is from Kudjekbin Country, west of Demed. He is a musician, playing didgeridoo and lead guitar. Conrad and Rosemary are raising their son Tyson (6) to be bilingual. Kunwinjku is one of just 15 Australian languages still being learnt by children as a first language.

Listen: *burarr~water monitor, kalawan~goanna, kokok~older brother, rdarda~younger brother*

## Mbambo ndigalu (Chichewa) – Man and dog



Chichewa is a Bantu language spoken in Malawi. Our storyteller, Mfaume Kakozi (18), left DRC for Malawi when he was 8 and lived there until moving to Darwin last May. Mfaume is in the intensive English program at Darwin High School, learning his fifth language. Mfaume is winner of the 2017 SBS National Youth Week Award ([sbs.com.au/feature/mfaume](http://sbs.com.au/feature/mfaume)).

Greeting: **Mulibwanji?** *How are you?* Response: **Ndilibwino!** *I'm fine*

Listen: *galu~dog, nyama~meat, mpingo~church, kutawisa~chase*

## Mystery language!

Can you guess what language this is?

### Afi kple gbemelanwo nutsinya (Ewe) –

The story of the mouse and the other animals



Ewe is a tonal language spoken in Togo, Benin, and Ghana. The name Ewe evokes the children of the sun, the source of life and wisdom. Our storytellers Christland and Mavis were born in Togo, and moved to Darwin a year ago. Christland is a musician and a traditional healer; Mavis works in the Juninga Centre in Coconut Grove. Emmanuel (9) attends Stuart Park Primary school and is bilingual in Ewe and English. To engage them, contact kovison@gmail.com.

Greeting: *Mi segli lo Listen to the story that I bring*

Response: **Egli ne va** *Let the story come forth*

Listen: *afi~mouse, ato~ear, elanwo~animals, wu~drum, ado~tunnel, jata~lion*

Song: *Ne lawo lawo dzotoa ɖɛɛ ne nye mae dzoto;*

*Ne meva dzoto ɖɛɛ kaye la kpɔto nama.*

## Language Champion Panel

Storytellers are invited back on stage for questions and discussion.

## Close

Credits: A big thank-you to tonight's storytellers! Thanks to Andrea Van Der Werf and Laura Quirk from Melaleuca Refugee Centre for logistical and financial support. Special thanks to Alexandra Marley for transporting Conrad and Rosemary from Arnhem Land. We are grateful to Ron Mitchell of the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory and to the staff of the Intensive English Unit at Darwin High School for helping us recruit storytellers. Thanks to Browns Mart Theatre for hosting us again!

Photos and audio recordings will be posted on [treasurelanguage.org](http://treasurelanguage.org) and at [soundcloud.com/aikuma](https://soundcloud.com/aikuma). Treasure Language Storytelling is an initiative of the Aikuma Project. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

