Opening Remarks

The last year was a busy one for the RCLT, beginning with the hosting of the Australian Linguistic Society conference in July 2009, and ending with the hosting of the 10th RCLT International Workshop, “The Shaping of Language: The Relationship between the Structures of Languages and their Social, Cultural, Historical, and Natural Environments”, in July 2010. In between we had our usual weekly Wednesday discussion meetings and Thursday seminars, and monthly Language Workshops and Linguistics Classics Reading Group meetings. The seminar workshop series on “Transitivity” was brought to an end after 32 presentations, and we are now editing a volume of selected papers from that series. We began a new series on “Prosody” with presentations by Janet Fletcher of Melbourne University and Roger Wales and Marija Tabain of La Trobe.

There were also a number of special activities, such as the Workshop on Non-configurationality presented by Peter Austin, and the Workshop on Radical Construction Grammar and Grammatical Categories presented by William Croft. We had nine long-term visiting scholars, and seminar presentations from several other prominent scholars passing through the area. We also ran the Wilderness First Aid training classes twice, and allowed people from other parts of the University to participate the second time. More widely we participated in and occasionally led the “Linguistics in the Pub” monthly discussions with linguists from other universities in Melbourne.

It was also a very productive year for us. We submitted a total of 38.3 points worth of HERDC publications for the 2010 (2009 data) collection. This is particularly impressive given the disruption to our work which occurred in 2008. We also completed 18 grant applications of different types. Six of those have been successful, including an ARC Linkage grant, and we are now waiting to hear back on an ARC Future Fellowship application, seven ARC Discovery Grant applications, three Endangered Language Documentation Programme (ELDP) applications, and an ASSA Conference Grant application. We also completed the preparation of
the ERA submission and the documents for the RCLT review in the first half of 2010. We are still awaiting the results of the review, and of course the ERA. Last year Linguistics (2004) at La Trobe scored a “4” in the ERA trial. This year, given our better understanding of the ERA system and our more focused submission, we hope to achieve an even better result.

Two of our PhD students, Seino van Breugel and Rik de Busser, completed their theses and successfully passed examination. Seino is now working at Thammasat University, and Rik has a post-doctoral position at the RCLT.

Our long-serving Executive Officer, Siew-Peng Condon left the RCLT to take up the position of School Executive Officer in the School of Communication, Arts, and Critical Enquiry. We are sorry to see her go after more than ten years at the RCLT, and we wish her all the best in her new position. Her duties have now been taken up by Meifang Gu.

We are also looking forward to the future, with Birgit Hellwig, who won an ARC Future Fellow grant last year, planning to take up her position in September. Scholars who are to visit the RCLT in the latter half of 2010 include Christian Lehmann, Willem de Reuse, and Gaku Kajimaru.

Randy LaPolla
Director

Ye knowe ek that in fourme of speche is chaunge
With-inne a thousand yeer and wordes tho
That hadden pris now wonder nyce and straunge
Us thenketh hem and yet thei spake hem so
And spedde as wel in loue as men now do

(G. Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde, Book II: 22-26)
List of Members and Visitors 2009–2010

Following is a list of members and visitors who have worked at the RCLT in the last year (to July 2010):

**PhD students**

Henriette Daudey
Jingyi Du
Friedel Frowein
Rebecca Hanson
Paul Hastie
David Sangdong
Ian Tupper

**Visiting PhD students**

Seino van Breugel
Melanie Viljoen
Roberto Zariquiey

**Postdoctoral Research Fellows**

Dr. Rik De Busser
Dr. Gerd Jendraschek
Dr. František Kratochvil
Dr. Renee Lambert-Brétière
Dr. Simon Overall
Dr. Mark Post
Dr. Yvonne Treis
Dr. Katerina Zombolou

**Visiting Fellows**

Prof. Peter Austin
Prof. William Croft
Prof. Willem de Reuse
Prof. Axel Fleisch
Dr. Guillaume Jacques
Dr. Chon-hak Kim
Dr. Anna Margetts
Prof. Yong-min Shin
Mr. Namgay Thinley
Dr. Pilar Valenzuela
Dr. Alejandra Vidal

**Local Members and Honorary Members**

Prof. Barry Blake
Assoc. Prof. David Bradley
Dr. Alec Coupe
Prof. John Hajek
Ms. Salome Harris
Dr. Anthony Jukes

Prof. Randy LaPolla
Dr. Stephen Morey
Dr. Tonya Stebbins
Prof. Peter Trudgill
Dr. Sheena Van Der Mark
Prof. Roger Wales
Members & Visitors 2010

STAFF

Prof. Randy LaPolla — Director

Prof. LaPolla is currently working on a grammar, text volume and dictionary of the Rawang language of Myanmar, a collection of Qiang texts, and three other book projects.

Dr. Stephen Morey — Associate Director

Dr. Morey was appointed Associate Director of the RCLT in June 2010. His fellowship from the Volkswagen Stiftung (DoBeS program) ended this year and he is now a Continuing Research Fellow, working on the multidisciplinary project entitled ‘The Traditional Songs and Poetry of Upper Assam — a Multifaceted Linguistic and Ethnographic Documentation of the Tangsa, Tai and Singpho Communities in Margherita, Northeast India.’ Dr. Morey is also working with Dr. Luise Hercus and Prof. Barry Blake on The Mathi group of languages, a book about a group of Aboriginal languages once spoken in North-west Victoria and South-west New South Wales. His Turung Grammar is now at the printer, the co-edited monograph North East Indian Linguistics Volume 2 came out in January 2010, and he is currently co-editing papers for North East Indian Linguistics Volumes 3–5.

Prof. Peter Trudgill — Adjunct Professor of the RCLT

Professor Peter Trudgill is recognised worldwide for his expertise on sociolinguistics and dialectology. In April 2009, he was awarded the position of Adjunct Professor at RCLT for three years. He regularly visits RCLT to interact and consult with its members. During his most recent stay with us in July 2010 he participated in the International Workshop “The Shaping of Language” and presented a paper on the relationship between social structure and language change.

Ms. Meifang Gu — Project Manager

After Siew-Peng Condon left in June, 2010, to take up the position of Executive Officer of the School of Communication, Arts and Critical Enquiry at La Trobe, Meifang Gu was employed to oversee the day-to-day running of the RCLT.

Ms. Jo Taylor — Publications Assistant

Jo Taylor has been working on a casual basis for 2 years, proof-reading and editing a number of publications for RCLT members, from presentation handouts to journal articles, PhD theses and the ALS proceedings. She also helped organise the ALS conference and the International Workshop, and compiled the 2009 HERDC publications database.
VISITING FELLOWS

Dr. Chon-hak Kim  
National Research Foundation of Korea  
24 December 2009 — December 2010

Dr. Kim has been working on topics that relate to aspectual distinctions in Korean, with the hypothesis that some verbs and some aspectual expressions have different realms in each language.

Dr. Guillaume Jacques  
CRLAO, CNRS, France  
15 February — 21 June 2010

During this visit, Dr. Jacques worked on the typology of transitivity marking in Sino-Tibetan (ST) languages and on data archiving, as well as exchanging experience and knowledge with RCLT members. He prepared several papers for publication, one of which has already been published.

Professor Peter Austin  
SOAS, University of London  
1 March — 1 June 2010

Prof. Austin has published bilingual dictionaries of Jiwarli, Warriyangka and Tharrkari from the Pama-Nyungan family of Australian languages, and a collection of texts in Jiwarli and Warriyangka. He has also published a number of papers on this language group and neighbouring Kanyara languages.

While at the RCLT, he worked on revising and extending draft chapters for a comprehensive reference grammar of these languages, which will probably be a Pacific Linguistics publication. He also proof-read the Handbook of Endangered Languages, to be published in 2010 by Cambridge University Press.

Professor William Croft  
Linguistics Department, University of New Mexico  
10 May — 1 June 2010

Prof. Croft’s areas of research are typology, construction grammar, semantics and language change. While at the RCLT he completed the manuscript for a forthcoming book, Verbs: aspect and argument structure, to be published by Oxford University Press. Prof. Croft also gave a seminar at Melbourne University and a seminar, “When is a modifier a modifier? A Radical Construction Grammar approach” and a workshop, “Radical Construction Grammar and grammatical categories”, here at the RCLT.

Dr. Anna Margetts  
Monash University  
6 July — 21 December 2010

While at the RCLT, Dr. Margetts is working on data processing for the Saliba-Logea DOBES project, and on completing two articles — one on recording equipment and techniques for linguistic fieldwork and one on transitivity in Saliba-Logea. She will present a seminar at Melbourne University on the use of 2nd person pronouns for 3rd person reference in August, and one at the RCLT in November.
Namgay Thinley 30 June — 31st October 2010
Dzongkha Development Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan

Namgay Thinley is working at the RCLT on an Endeavour Fellowship for four months. He is working on advanced theories of phonetics and phonology, including tones, accent and syllables, and conducting an analysis on the phonetics and phonology of Dzongkha, the national language of Bhutan, for publication as a journal article. The research will lead to the development of spelling guides and creation of sound clips for the IPA dictionary of Dzongkha, and support the work on documentation of endangered languages of Bhutan.

Professor Christian Lehmann 1 September — 30 November 2010
Universität Erfurt

Prof. Lehmann will be working on the online description of Yucatec Maya, and collaborating with members of the RCLT on a variety of issues relating to linguistic typology during his visit.

Dr. Willem de Reuse December 2010 — January 2011
University of North Texas

While at the RCLT, Prof. de Reuse is planning to work on the verb form database of Han Athabascan, an endangered Native American language, and substantially complete a grammatical sketch of the language.

Visiting PhD Students

Jerome Paiyu Zhang 26 May — 24 August 2010
University of Hong Kong

Jerome Zhang is working on the grammar of Kilen (a dialect of Hezhe/Hezhen) for his thesis, which he has studied with some of the last fluent speakers. He is also interested in Tungusic philology. While at the RCLT, he is focussing on rethinking Kilen word classes, and the history and traditions of Tungusic scripts, particularly Manchu scripts, and will present a seminar on the Manchu scripts.

Gaku Kajimaru 13 August — 4 September 2010
Kyoto University

Gaku Kajimaru is studying cultural anthropology at Kyoto University, Japan. He has been studying the antiphonal singing (conversation by singing) of the Buyi people in Guizhou Province in China from a linguistic perspective. He has also applied for funding to come to the RCLT for an additional two years in 2011–2013.
**FUTURE FELLOW**

**Dr. Birgit Hellwig**

Dr. Hellwig will commence a 4-year Future Fellowship in September 2010, to work on the project entitled ‘Semantic categories: exploring the history of the Baining languages of Island Melanesia’. The research will investigate and compare semantic categories of verb classification within this Papua New Guinea language family, in order to contribute to a fuller understanding of the historical, linguistic and ethnic relationships across Island Melanesia, as well as the understanding of human cognition by examining how the human mind categorises the world.

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS**

**Dr. Rik De Busser**

Dr. De Busser completed his PhD in February 2010 and commenced an RCLT Post-Doctoral Fellowship in March after being selected in an open competitive search. He is continuing his work on the Takivatan dialect of Bunun, an Austronesian language of Taiwan, and is preparing fieldwork on Hlersu, a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Yunnan, China. He is also working on the application of computational methods for descriptive linguistic analysis.

**Dr. Simon Overall**

Dr. Overall, on a three-year La Trobe University Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, is working on Jivaroan languages, with particular focus on the four recognised languages of the Jivaroan family (Shuar, Achuar-Shiwiur, Huambisa and Aguaruna), spoken by about 85,000 people in the border area between Peru and Ecuador. The project will investigate both the internal history of the Jivaroan family and genetic and areal relations between Jivaroan and other language families. He co-supervised Rebecca Hanson’s PhD thesis.

**Dr. Yvonne Treis**

Dr. Treis is here on a three-year La Trobe University Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, and is continuing research on a comprehensive reference grammar of Baskeet (Basketo), a previously undocumented Omotic language spoken in South Ethiopia, and continuing her work on the Cushitic language Kambaata. She coordinated the monthly Friday Language Workshops and the monthly Linguistic Classics Reading Group at the RCLT and is currently co-supervising Melanie Viljoen’s PhD thesis.

**Dr. Katerina Zombolou**

Dr. Zombolou is on a three-year La Trobe University Postdoctoral Fellowship, continuing her research on Greek spoken in Latin America. Greek in this area is a previously undocumented ethnodialect of the Greek language, and has been diminishing in vitality in recent years. The aim of the project is to document the linguistic changes occurring as compared to Greek spoken in Greece currently.
LOCAL MEMBERS

Associate Professor David Bradley
Assoc. Prof. Bradley will continue to work on the documentation and description of the Lisu language. He is also working on the sociology of language, language contact and issues related to endangered languages.

Professor Barry Blake
Prof. Blake is an Emeritus Professor of La Trobe University. He spends his time researching a wide range of linguistic topics, from secret language (ciphers, riddles, magic words, taboo, slang, argot, euphemism, irony, allusion) to Victorian Aboriginal languages.

Dr. Anthony Jukes
Dr. Jukes is working on Makassarese, an Austronesian language spoken in the Sulawesi, Indonesia. In November he will conduct fieldwork in Jakarta and Sulawesi, evaluating collections of Makassarese manuscripts (lontara') and searching for undocumented collections. He presented a Language Workshop ‘Makassarese’ on July 2\textsuperscript{nd} at the RCLT. In September he will present at the Foundation for Endangered Languages annual conference in Carmarthen, Wales: ‘Someone else’s job: externalizing responsibility for language maintenance’.

Dr. Tonya Stebbins
Dr. Stebbins is currently working on two projects, ‘The Baining languages: a window on the history of Island Melanesia’ and ‘Meeting point: integrating Aboriginal and linguistics knowledge systems for description of contemporary revival languages in Australia’.

Professor Roger Wales
Emeritus Professor of La Trobe University, Prof. Wales gave a joint presentation with A/Prof Janet Fletcher of a position paper for the RCLT workshop series on Prosody in March. In early April 2010 he presented a paper at the Language Acquisition Conference at Beijing Language and Culture University, and then acted as a consultant in the Linguistics Dept., Nankai University, Tianjin. He is also co-supervising two PhD students (in Education, and in Health Sciences).

HONORARY MEMBERS

Dr. Alec Coupe
Dr. Coupe continues his work on the typology and description of Tibeto-Burman and Indic languages of north-east India, with particular focus on Prosody of Naga languages and genetic relationships on the Naga languages within Tibeto-Burman. Dr. Coupe spent three weeks working here in May and June 2010 and presented at the Prosody Workshop. He now works at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.
Dr. David Fleck

Dr. Fleck has returned to Peru after four years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the RCLT and has been appointed as an Honorary Research Fellow as he continues further work on Matses and other Panoan languages. He will also continue co-supervision of Roberto Zariquiey’s PhD thesis.

Professor John Hajek

Part-time
French, Italian and Spanish Studies, University of Melbourne

Prof. Hajek is working on language typology and on the languages of East Timor. Other research interests are; Southeast Asian and Papuan linguistics, phonetics and phonology, and language teaching and learning.

Salome Harris 1 April — 31 December 2010

AIATSIS, Canberra

Salome Harris is working on the Dalabon Online Corpus Project for AIATSIS while visiting the RCLT. Dalabon is a severely endangered language of south-western Arnhem Land. It is a non-Pama-Nyungan language, of the Gunwinyguan language family. The aim of this project is to support the Dalabon language community in their efforts to maintain their linguistic and cultural heritage, and to contribute to the body of knowledge on Dalabon and its context among the world’s languages, through the building of a rich Dalabon online corpus. Her task is transcribing archived recordings, and creating an online digital archive to house all Dalabon media, time-aligned transcriptions and translations, multi-user lexicon and metadata.

Dr. Renée Lambert-Brétière

Dr. Lambert-Brétière has returned to Montréal, Canada, after three years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the RCLT. She is now associate professor at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Québec at Montréal, Canada, and has been appointed as an Honorary Research Fellow at the RCLT as she continues her research on Kwoma, a Papuan language of the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Cindy Schneider

Dr. Cindy Schneider left the RCLT in 2009 after a three-year Post-doctoral Fellowship to take up an academic position as at the University of New England in Armidale, N.S.W. She continues as co-supervisor of Jingyi Du’s PhD thesis.

PHD STUDENTS

Henriette Daudey

Henriëtte Daudey joined the RCLT in March 2010 and is working on a grammatical description of Primi (Pumi), a Tibeto-Burman language of the Qiangic branch spoken in the mountains of Southwest China, in the provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan. She is currently on fieldwork.
**Jingyi Du**

Jingyi Du is working on a descriptive grammar of the Barok language (Usen dialect), an Austronesian language spoken in New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea.

**Friedel Frowein**

Friedel Frowein is working on a descriptive grammar of Siar, an Austronesian language of New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea which is spoken by about 4,000 people. He has also been involved in the creation and maintenance of a website for the only German-lexifier creole language Unserdeutsch (or Rabaul Creole German), a near-extinct language of Papua New Guinea. He went on a fieldtrip to PNG from February to July, 2010, and has created first drafts of a Siar–English Dictionary and a Siar–German Dictionary.

Another area of interest has been the development of database applications for collecting, editing and analysing linguistic data (e.g. comparing word forms, finding cognates, and computational reconstruction of proto-forms).

**Rebecca Hanson**

Rebecca Hanson will shortly submit her PhD dissertation, a reference grammar of Piro (Yine), an Arawak language of Peru with about 2000 speakers.

**Paul Hastie**

Paul Hastie joined the RCLT in June 2009. For his PhD dissertation, he is working on a grammar of Tikhak Tangsa, a Tibeto-Burman language of North East India, including a dictionary, orthography and cultural texts.

**David Sangdong**

For his PhD dissertation, David Sangdong is writing a grammar of Kadu, which is a member of Sal/Luish group of Tibeto-Burman language family. It is mainly spoken in Sagaing Division, Myanmar.

**Ian Tupper**

For his PhD dissertation, he is writing a reference grammar of Pamosu, a previously undescribed Papuan language spoken in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. There are around 1800 speakers living in mountain villages.

**Melanie Viljoen**

Melanie Viljoen joined the RCLT in February 2010. For her doctoral thesis she will be completing a description of the grammar of the Buwal language, a previously little-described Central Chadic language spoken by 7,000–10,000 speakers in the Extreme North Province of Cameroon.

**Roberto Zariquiey**

Roberto Zariquiey Biondi is working on a synchronic description of the grammar of Kashibo-Kakataibo, a Panoan language spoken in Peru by an estimated 3,000 people.
Recent Members & Visitors

In the last year we have had a number of visitors who have stayed at the RCLT for various lengths of time to work on their research projects, and some of our Post-doctoral Fellows who have finished their contracts with us and Doctoral students who have completed their theses have moved on to take up positions at other Universities. These people are listed below:

VISITING FELLOWS

Prof. Willem de Reuse
University of North Texas
April — September 2009

Prof. de Reuse worked on completing a scientific reference grammar of Western Apache of 600–800 pages, and also a book manuscript on fieldwork methodology during his stay at the RCLT.

Dr. Pilar Valenzuela
Chapman University, Orange County, CA
June — July 2009

Dr. Valenzuela organized a panel on South American languages for the ALS conference while at the RCLT.

Prof. Yong-min Shin
Gyeongsang National University, Jinju, South Korea
8 July — 21 August 2009

Prof. Shin worked on a paper ‘Suffixal clause-linking in Korean on the subordination-coordination continuum’ (co-authored with Dr. Gerd Jendraschek). He also organised a Language Workshop on Korean, and presented two public lectures during his stay at the RCLT.

Dr. Alejandra Vidal
Universidad Nacional de Formosa
September — December 2009

While visiting at the RCLT, Dr. Vidal worked on various aspects of her research on two language families spoken in the Chaco region of Argentina, the Guaycuruan and the Mataco-Mataguayan.

Prof. Axel Fleisch
University of Helsinki
December 2009

While visiting the RCLT, Prof. Fleisch organised a language workshop on Swahili and presented a paper on Bober in the Thursday seminar series.
MEMBERS

Dr. Gerd Jendraschek
Dr. Jendraschek left the RCLT in October 2009, after completing a Charles La Trobe Post-Doctoral Fellowship, to take up the position of Assistant Professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at the University of Regensburg.

Dr. Mark Post
Dr. Post left the RCLT in February 2010 to take up a post-doctoral position at James Cook University, Cairns.

Dr. Sheena Van Der Mark
Dr. Van Der Mark left the RCLT in December 2009, after seven years as a Doctoral student and Post-Doctoral Fellow, to take up a position at the University of Calgary.

Dr. Seino Van Breugel
Dr. Van Breugel left the RCLT in December 2009 on completion of his PhD and commenced an academic position at Thammasat University in Bangkok in June.

Dr. František Kratochvíl
Dr. Kratochvíl left the RCLT in June 2009 after completing a La Trobe University Post-Doctoral Fellowship, to take up a position at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Thinking of visiting RCLT?

Everyone at the RCLT has written (or is writing) a grammar of a language, and many of us are working on linguistic typology, working inductively. We welcome enquiries from similarly oriented scholars (from Australia or from overseas) who would like to consider spending a sabbatical at the RCLT. We can provide a room and a computer, plus an intellectual ambience of the highest order.

RCLT Events & Activities 2009-2010

Australian Linguistic Society Conference

The RCLT, together with the Linguistics Program at La Trobe University, hosted the ALS 2009 Conference from 9 July to 11 July, at the Hotel Ibis, Therry St, Melbourne and the La Trobe City Campus. Three plenary speakers presented at the conference: Professor Anne Cutler from Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Professor Alan Dench from University of Western Australia and Dr. Alex François from LACITO, CNRS. There were 92 papers presented including three workshops – two full-day and one half day – as well as 9 poster presentations. Total attendance was over 160.
RCLT, together with the Linguistics Program at La Trobe University, hosted the ALS 2009 Conference held from 9th July to 11th July. Dr. Yvonne Treis and Dr. Rik De Busser took on the task of editing the Proceedings. Thirty-six papers presented at the conference were submitted, of which twenty-one were accepted for publication after anonymous peer review. The Proceedings were published online on 30th April 2010 at: http://www.als.asn.au/proceedings/als2009.html

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Our 10th International Workshop, The Shaping of Language: Relationships between the Structures of Languages and their Social, Cultural, Historical, and Natural Environments, was held from Wednesday 14 July to Friday 16 July, 2010, at the nearby IAS Seminar Hall. The Workshop was well-received, with around 100 people attending, and even incorporated a presentation via Skype from Edinburgh by Anna Martowicz.

The talks were recorded and are scheduled to be podcast through La Trobes’s iTunesU site chronologically, one per week, starting a week after the workshop (search for “The Shaping of Language” on the iTunes U site). There is also a plan to publish selected papers from the Workshop in a refereed volume at a later date. For the Workshop program, see http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt/Workshops/2010/Workshop%20schedule.pdf.

Presenters:

**Dr. Yoshiyuki Asahi**
National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics

**Prof. David Bradley**
La Trobe University

**Prof. Kate Burridge**
Monash University

**Prof. Michael Clyne**
Monash University

**Jingyi Du**
La Trobe University

**Friedel Frowein**
La Trobe University

**Prof. Randy LaPolla**
La Trobe University

**Anna Martowicz**
University of Edinburgh

**A/Prof. Ronny Meyer**
Addis Ababa University

**Dr. Lev Michael**
University of California Berkeley

**Prof. Johanna Nichols**
University of California Berkeley

**Dr. Bill Palmer**
University of Newcastle

**Dr. Tonya Stebbins**
La Trobe University

**Dr. Uri Tadmor**
Mouton de Gruyter

**Prof. Peter Trudgill**
La Trobe University and Adger University
LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS

The RCLT Language Workshops began on 13 February 2009. These workshops were on one language each time and took place roughly every fourth Friday from 10am to 4.30pm up to August, thereafter 10am to 1pm. Every workshop covers the sociolinguistic situation (including speakers, regional and diachronic variation, multilingualism and language contact), the typological profile (including outstanding features in the phonology, morphology, and syntax), and basic conversational practice (what to say when meeting someone for the first time). In early 2009 we held workshops on: Basque, Greek, Quechua, and Tagalog. In the last year, the following scholars held these workshops:

2009

29 May       Flemish-Dutch       Rik de Busser
26 June      Arabic              Dr. Adrian Gully
24 July      Korean             Prof. Yong-Min Shin and Dr. Gerd Jendraschek
21 August    Tok Pisin          Dr. Sheena Van Der Mark
18 September Chinese           Jingyi Du
16 October   Amharic            Dr. Yvonne Treis
20 November  Indonesian         Howard Manns and Katrina Langford
4 December   Sanskrit           Prof. Greg Bailey
18 December  Swahili           Prof. Axel Fleisch

2010

12 February  Croatian          Dr. Marija Tabain
12 March     Wolof              Richard Shawyer
9 April      Tibetan           Dr. Guillaume Jacques
7 May        Latin             Prof. Barry Blake
21 May       Special Session: Workshop on non-configurationality Prof. Peter Austin
4 June       Japanese           Dr. Lidia Tanaka
2 July       Makassarese        Dr. Anthony Jukes
30 July       Burmese           David Sangdong and Prof. David Bradley

For more details and a full list of the Workshops planned please see:
LOCAL TYPOLOGY WORKSHOP

Our local Workshop on Transitivity met fortnightly from August 2008 until February 2010, on Thursdays from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. At the meetings, speakers each gave a presentation on transitivity in a language about which they have specialised knowledge. In 2008 and early 2009, we had presentations on Basque, Greek, Quechua, Tagalog, Dutch, Iatmul, Ao and other languages of Nagaland, Vinitri, Usen Barok, Murrinth-Patha, and Takivatan Bunun. These are the workshop presentations given in the last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>Kwoma</td>
<td>Dr. Renée Lambert-Brétière</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>Shipibo-Konibo</td>
<td>Dr. Pilar Valenzuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Tagalog</td>
<td>Maureen Saclot</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 August</td>
<td>Kayan</td>
<td>Ken Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>Atong</td>
<td>Dr. Seino van Breugel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>Siar</td>
<td>Friedel Frowein</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>Berber</td>
<td>Prof. Axel Fleisch</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 February</td>
<td>Aguaruna</td>
<td>Dr. Simon Overall</td>
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</table>

Our 2010 local Workshop on Prosody continues to meet on Thursdays from 3.30 to 5.00pm. Speakers give a presentation on prosody in a language for which they have specialised knowledge. The first workshop was held on 18th March 2010 with presentations by Prof. Janet Fletcher, Prof. Roger Wales and Dr. Marija Tabain. The other workshops presented so far are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Tonal systems in North East India</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Morey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>Tibeto-Burman languages of Nagaland</td>
<td>Dr. Alec Coupe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All linguists from the Melbourne area (or from elsewhere) are warmly invited to take part in this and all other workshops and seminars at the RCLT. For the schedule, see: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rcit/localworkshop.htm.

SEMINARS

Aside from our regular Workshop series, we also had seminars by eminent scholars, as listed below:

17 Dec 2009  Bob Ladd, University of Edinburgh
             “Nilotic tones.”

23 March 2010 Victor Friedman, University of Chicago
28 May 2010  Bill Foley, University of Sydney
“The Phrasal Basis of Grammatical Category Distinctions in Tolai of New Britain.”

29 July 2010  Christina Eira, Victoria Aboriginal Corporation for Languages:
“How many languages? Descriptive traditions and language definition in Victoria.”

REMOTE AREA FIRST AID

As our members do fieldwork in remote locations, and could be faced with medical emergencies, a recent RCLT initiative was the introduction of First Aid courses to improve our knowledge and skills in this area.

In November 2009 we held a two day Remote Area Emergency Response course for members, which was run by Stuart Clark of Wild Aid First Aid. The following people completed the training:; Rebecca Hanson, Stephen Morey, Simon Overall, Yvonne Treis, Ian Tupper, Tonya Stebbins, Seino van Breugel, Sheena Van Der Mark and Roberto Zariquey. We ran the course again in May 2010, and opened up registrations to people from other La Trobe University Programs. Members who completed the course were: Rik de Busser, Anthony Jukes, Chon-hak Kim, Henriette Daudy, David Sangdong, and Melanie Viljoen.

IT AT RCLT

In 2009, a data projector was installed in the RCLT Reading Room, which has been of great benefit for our talks and workshops. In July 2010, a wireless router was installed to make it easier for scholars to work at the RCLT on their own laptops.

RCLT Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee met on 6 May 2010.
The membership was as follows:

Professor Tim Brown, DVC (Research), Chair
Professor Randy J. LaPolla, Director
Professor Tim Murray, Dean, FHUSS (Apology)
Professor Roger Wales, University representative
Professor Malcolm Rimmer, University representative, non FHUSS
Professor Kate Burridge, external representative (Apology)
Professor John Hajek, external representative
Dr. Stephen Morey, research staff representative
Ian Tupper, student representative
RCLT Executive Committee

As stipulated in the RCLT constitution, an Executive Committee was formed which meets fortnightly. It includes the Director, the Associate Director, the Executive Officer, a representative of the staff, and a representative of the students. The role of the Executive Committee is to assist the Director in managing the day-to-day functioning and administration of the RCLT, administering the funds available to the RCLT and preparing the annual report and other relevant reports.

In 2009–2010, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their contributions to and service on the Executive Committee:

Simon Overall  Friedel Frowein
Yvonne Treis  Rebecca Hanson
Katerina Zombolou  Ian Tupper

Book Collection and Artefacts

We have a useful and growing collection of monographs — predominantly grammars of languages and good-quality works on typology, language contact, etc., as well as literacy materials that our members have developed for the communities in which they work.

We are grateful to scholars who donated books in the last year:
Sander Adelaar, Peter Austin, Barry Blake, Rik de Busser, Du Jingyi, Friedel Frowein, Guillaume Jacques, Randy LaPolla, Stephen Morey, Mark Post, Yong-Min Shin, Yvonne Treis, Ian Tupper, Seino van Breugel, Roger Wales, Katerina Zombolou, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Angel Corbera Mori, editor of LIAMES publishing house. We welcome further donations of relevant volumes.

We are also grateful to have received gifts of art and artefacts from members and visitors, which are displayed around the public areas in the building. We would like to thank the following people for these gifts:

Alec Coupe  Ao shawl, *Mayu-lap-sə*, Nagaland, North-East India
Gerd Jendraschek  Iatmul mask, Korogu village, East Sepik, PNG  
Iatmul string bag, Korogu village, East Sepik
Alejandra Vidal  Chaguwar bag, Wichí communities, Formosa-Argentina  
Seed necklace with clay pebbles, Wichí communities
Kim Chon-hak  Carved wooden figurines from Korean
Roberto Zariquiey  Shipibo-Konibo textile, Ucayali, Peru  
Sarhua painted wood, Sarhua, Ayacucho, Peru
Gerrit Dimmendaal  Map of African language phyla and linguistic isolates
Ping Rao  Chinese scroll from Hangzhou
RCLT Members’ Achievements and Interaction with the Wider Linguistics Community

In addition to the usual weekly local seminar presentations (which are listed in a separate section above) and fieldwork trips that our members undertake each year, this section highlights some of the individual achievements and international collaboration that took place in the last year, since our 2009 Newsletter. (Details of publications are given in the following section.)

David Bradley

Assoc. Prof. Bradley is on the Editorial Boards and is a regular referee for a large number of international journals, and has one PhD student who recently completed and two who recently submitted. He is regularly invited to speak in the media, including ABC local radio in Melbourne, Brisbane and regional Queensland, SBS radio and television and *The Age* newspaper.

- Organisation of the International Symposium on the Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment, SOAS, University of London in June 2009. He is editing a selected proceedings volume for *Anthropological Linguistics*.
- Organised the Heritage Maintenance for Endangered Languages, Yuxi Normal University, June 2010; which was attended by two other RCLT members, Rik De Busser and Henriette Dau dey.

Keynote and Invited Plenary Presentations:


Dec 2009. “Evolution of language.” Evolution Symposium, Department of Primary Industries, VIC, Melbourne; also podcast on La Trobe U iTunes site.


Presentations:


June 2010. “Resilience linguistics: revitalising indigenous languages.” Foreign Language Program, Yuxi Normal University, China:

**Rik De Busser**

- Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan in November 2009.
- In March 2010, submitted an ARC application.

Presentations:

June 2010. He will attend the 3rd Conference on Heritage Maintenance for Endangered Languages at Yuxi Normal University, Yunnan, China, 10-13 June 2010, and go on a preparatory fieldtrip in Yunnan.

9 Feb 2010. Presented a seminar at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Nov 2009. Presented a paper at the Workshop on Coordination and Comitativity in Austronesian Languages, the Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, November 7-8, 2009.

Nov 2009. Presented a seminar at National Tsing-Hua University and two at National Chi Nan University, both in Taiwan.

Gerd Jendraschek

Conference organisation:
8–10 July 2009. Australian Linguistic Society Conference, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia (co-organiser).

Presentations:

Guest lecture:
10 Aug 2009 ‘Korean: Some sociolinguistic characteristics’. Guest lecture given at the seminar ‘Languages in Asia’. La Trobe University.

Anthony Jukes

• Received a Pilot Project Grant from the Endangered Archives Programme, British Library, for a project ‘Preservation of Makassarese Lontara’.
• Awarded a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship to visit Tokyo in 2011.

Presentations:
Participated in three international workshops, at the Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies:
Dec 2009. Presented the papers; ‘Voice and person marking in two Sulawesi languages - a contrast’ and ‘“Down to there and back down to here”: the directional system of Toratán’ at the 2nd Workshop on Descriptive Studies of Indonesian Languages.
Jan 2010. The 3rd Workshop on Descriptive Studies of Indonesian Languages: “Language endangerment and documentation in Minahasa”.
František Kratochvíl

- Co-supervised Rik De Busser’s PhD in 2009.

Presentations


Randy LaPolla

- Invited to be a member of the Endangered Language Documentation Programme review panel for the next four years, July 2010.
- Research Grants Council of Hong Kong granted funding to international project “Stance Markers in Asian Languages: Diachronic, Sociolinguistic and Typological Perspectives” (Principle Investigator Foong Ha Yap, Co-Investigators Randy LaPolla, Shoichi Iwasaki, František Kratochvíl, Mark Post, and Seongha Rhee), June 2010.
- Completed two more issues (32.2, October, 2009, and 33.1, April 2010) as Editor of the double-blind peer-reviewed journal Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area.
- Elected to new Editorial Board of Australian Journal of Linguistics for a five year term from July 2010.
- Submitted two ARC grant proposals.
- Research Grants Council of Hong Kong granted funding to international project “Stance Markers in Asian Languages: Diachronic, Sociolinguistic and Typological Perspectives” (Principle Investigator Foong Ha Yap, Co-Investigators Randy LaPolla, Shoichi Iwasaki, František Kratochvíl, Mark Post, and Seongha Rhee).
- Interview with Prof. LaPolla appears on iTunesU: http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/latrobe.edu.au.2123687566
- Interview with Prof. LaPolla appeared in the Chinese journal Hanzangyu Xuebao (Journal of Sino-Tibetan Linguistics) 3:79-90, 2009.

Supervised three PhD students to completion, co-supervised two others to completion, and is still working with two others soon to complete and three others due to complete sometime next year or the following year.

Presentations

1-6 November 2009. Visited Chiang Mai, Thailand, attended and presented a paper at the 42nd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics, Payap University, and visited with Rawang elders in the Chiang Mai area to discuss the possibility of doing fieldwork in a Rawang community near there next year.

2009. Made two trips to the Philippines, presented two papers at the University of the Philippines and negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines and La Trobe, and began discussions of concrete joint projects, such as the development of a research and teaching centre for language documentation and multilingual mother-tongue based education in the Philippines.


12-16 March, 2010. Visited at Nanyang Technological University, presented a paper, and discussed collaboration on a workshop on pragmatics to be held next March in Singapore.

Stephen Morey


- Joint Editor with Mark Post and, since 2008, Gwendolyn Lowes (University of Oregon) of North East Indian Linguistics (Volume 2 published in early 2010; Volume 3 at the printers as at May 2010) published by CUP India.

- Submitted The Mathi group of languages, co-authored by Luise Hercus with Barry Blake and Ted Ryan - a grammar of the Mathi Mathi group of languages of North West Victoria and South West NSW (submitted to Pacific Linguistics – now under revision).

- Turung – a variety of the Singpho language spoken in Assam at the printers in May 2010. (published by Pacific Linguistics). The electronic version is now being prepared.
• Co-organisation with Mark Post and Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University) of the 5th NEILS conference held in Guwahati in February 2010.

• Organisation of an archiving workshop, funded by DoBeS, at Guwahati in February 2010.

• Research trip to Thailand, Germany and Austria, to work with Chaichuen Khamdaengyodtai, Rajabhat University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, on translating Ahom manuscripts, and Juergen Schoept of Phonogram Archiv, Vienna, Austria and Meenaxi Barkataki, Goettingen Academy of Sciences.

• Field trip to India to work on Tai Ahom and Tangsa.

Presentations

Two workshop presentations at Gauhati University, Assam, India (on linguistic analysis and tones).

**Simon Overall**

• Co-supervised Rebecca Hanson’s PhD.

Presentations

Sept 2009. ‘Jerarquía y tratamiento de la primera persona plural en la gramática de aguaruna’ presented at Encuentro de Lenguas Indígenas Americanas II, Resistencia, Argentina, 17-19 Sept 2009. The conference proceedings were published on CDROM.

**Mark Post**

• Co-organisation with Stephen Morey and Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University) of the 5th NEILS conference held in Guwahati in February 2010.

**Tonya Stebbins**

• Received an e-research grant for the project “Computerised lexical comparison and cognate ranking for large cross-linguistic data sets.”

• Published *Mali (Baining) Grammar* (with the assistance of Julius Tayul)

• Published *Mali (Baining)–English Dictionary* (with the assistance of Julius Tayul)

Presentations:

Yvonne Treis
- Invited speaker to the Australian Workshop on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics, Brisbane, 11-13 September 2009.

Presentations:
18 May 2010. Introduction to the discussion on grammar writing, Linguistics in the Pub (Melbourne).

Seino van Breugel
- Awarded an RCLT writing-up scholarship, which was used to work on his Atong-English Dictionary and to write the article ‘No common argument, no extraction, no gap: Attributive clauses in Atong and beyond’, which was accepted for publication in Studies in Language in 2010.

Melanie Viljoen
July 2010. Presentation on Buwal vowels at the Australian Linguistics Society Conference in Brisbane.

Roberto Zariquiey Biondi
- Organized a whole week of activities about the Kakataibo people, including talks, photographs and artistic presentations at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, Lima.
- Taught a course on Ergativity at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru from April 12–16, 2010.
• Worked on a Kakataibo story book and an edited volume for publication in 2010.

Presentations:

**Katerina Zombolou**

• Invited to collaborate with the Monash University Greek program on a Greek sociolinguistic project concerning the use of archaisms in order to achieve a higher social level in Greek Diaspora.

• Published one paper, prepared another for publication, and co-edited a textbook, *Living Language, Greek*.

Invited talks

Presentations


“Language is the most massive and inclusive art we know, a mountainous and unconscious work of anonymous generations.”

*(Edward Sapir, Language, 1921)*
Publications

This is a list of books, book chapters and journal articles (members of the RCLT also put out a number of scholarly reviews) published or In Press in 2009, and the first half of 2010. The list covers publications by present and past members of the RCLT, based on work done while they were at the Research Centre.

Willem F.H. Adelaar


Azeb Amha


David Bradley


**Rik De Busser**


**Guy Deutscher**


**Stefan Dienst**


**Gerrit J. Dimmendaal**


David W. Fleck

Victor Friedman


John Hajek


Gerd Jendraschek


František Kratochvíl


Renée Lambert-Brétière


Forthcoming. (edited with F. Floricic), La négation et les énoncés non susceptibles d’être niés. Paris: Éditions du CNRS.


Randy LaPolla


**Yolanda Lastra**


**Yaron Matras**


**Stephen Morey**


In press *Turung – a variety of the Singpho language spoken in Assam*. Canberra, ACT: Pacific Linguistics. The electronic version is now being prepared.


Simon Overall


Mark Post


Cynthia Schneider


Masayoshi Shibatani


Ho-Min Sohn


Tonya Stebbins

Forthcoming *Mali (Baining) – English Dictionary*. [accepted for publication with Pacific Linguistics.] [With the assistance of Julius Tayul.]


In press (with Birgit Hellwig) Principles and practicalities of corpus design in language retrieval: a three step approach to the Beynon corpus of early twentieth century Sm’algyax materials. Accepted for publication in *Language Documentation and Conservation*.


2009 *Mali (Baining) Texts*. Canberra, ACT: Pacific Linguistics. 295 pages. [With the assistance of Julius Tayul.]


Yvonne Treis


Peter Trudgill


**Ian Tupper**


**Seino van Breugel**

Forthcoming. No common argument, no extraction, no gap: Attributive clauses in Atong and beyond. Accepted for publication in *Studies in Language*.

**Roger Wales**


**Roberto Zariquiey Biondi**


**Katerina Zombolou**

Forthcoming Transitivity and Voice in Greek. *Lingua*.


2009. (co-editor) *Living Language, Greek*. Textbook for Greek, for autodidactic learners. Randomhouse, New York, USA.

*Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone.*

*—Ralph Waldo Emerson*
The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology

The RCLT is committed to comprehensively analysing the linguistic structures of languages that are endangered, or have previously been little studied, or are completely undescribed. This commitment is part of a worldwide enterprise to document and preserve for posterity as much of the world’s linguistic and cultural diversity and heritage as possible.

Analyses are based on primary linguistic data collected through extensive immersion fieldwork by our members in speech communities across the world, and, wherever possible, data are archived in international digital archives. Research at the RCLT covers many areas of the world, though we have particular strengths in:

- the languages of the Tibeto-Burman family (Asia),
- the Papuan and Austronesian languages of New Guinea and surrounding islands,
- the languages of Amazonia, and
- the languages of Africa.

All research is cast within the larger framework of typological linguistics, drawing on and contributing to our theoretical understanding of human language, culture and cognition. The RCLT undertakes typological investigations, following an inductive methodology, putting forward generalisations concerning the nature and mechanism of the human language ability and associated cognitive capacities, and investigates relationships between languages, both in terms of historical development and genetic links, and the influence of contact phenomena between geographically contiguous languages within a linguistic area. For instance:

- We document and describe what sorts of categories are found grammaticalised in language, and investigate the interrelation between different grammatical categories — for example if gender choice depends upon number is it always the case that there are more genders in singular than plural?
- We look at how languages change — in what circumstances and from what sources do languages develop tones? And why and how do languages lose tones?
- Relative to the question of the ways in which languages influence each other, we ask what kinds of words, grammatical categories, or construction types, are likely to be borrowed between two contiguous languages, and under what social circumstances?
- Are some kinds of grammatical system particularly open to diffusion, so that they are likely to spread over all the languages in a geographical area, and are other kinds of system less likely to be diffused?

This research enables us to lay the foundation for scientific understanding concerning the reasons for and mechanisms of language development.

We welcome enquiries from linguistic scholars who are involved in the sort of work carried out at the RCLT and would like to spend a sabbatical at the RCLT. We can provide a room, a computer, and an intellectual ambience of the highest order. We also welcome enquiries from students interested in applying for a PhD scholarship, to write a grammar of an endangered language.

More information is available on our website: [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt)
RCLT HALF-YEAR BUDGET STATEMENT
(From 01/01/2010 to 30/06/2010)
AND PROJECTION FOR 2011

1. Salary Expenditure (Employee Benefits and On-Costs)

Figure 1 below shows three pieces of information about the RCLT salary expenditure: the status in 2010 mid-year, the projected expenditure for 2010, and the planned expenditure in 2011.

A. In 2010, $371,027 was budgeted for Salary Expenditure for RCLT employees, which includes 2 EFT Postdoctoral Research Fellows, 1 Executive Officer, 6 Visiting Fellows (Junior [$500/wk] and Senior [$800/wk]) and 1 Academic Casual staff (Publication Assistant; 2 days/wk). According to the mid-year finance report in June, the actual expenditure for 2010 so far is below budget. The adjusted full year forecast for 2010 will be 15% less than the budget.

B. In 2011, the Salary Expenditure will further shrink 25% relative to the 2010 budget, to $277,400. The RCLT will only keep one Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 1 Executive Officer, 5 Visiting Fellows (all now on $500/wk) and 1 Publication Assistant (2 days/wk). In the last line the amount minus the five Visiting Fellows is also given. (The total salary (subsistence) and non-salary costs for the five visiting scholars is $69,000.)

![Figure 1 RCLT Salary Expenditure in 2010 and 2011](image)
2. Non-salary Expenditure

Figure 2 shows the non-salary expenditure of the RCLT in 2010 and the planed expenditure in 2011.

A. In 2010, $204,900 was budget for non-salary expenditure, which included 33 items (see Appendix I) aside from the Central Cost Allocations. Based on the finance report created in June, the half-year actual expenditure excluding the Central Cost Allocations was 22% lower than the budgeted amount. The adjusted full year forecast for non-salary expenditure excluding the Central Cost Allocations will be approximately 15% lower than the 2010 budget.

B. In 2011, the non-salary expenditure excluding the Central Cost Allocations is planned to decrease 4% compared with 2010 to $182,479 by cutting items or item cost (See Appendix II).

3. Revenue

Revenue for 2010 was $293,600. This was based almost entirely on postgraduate completions and HERDC points (we had 80 HERDC points in the 2009 collection). Given our recent successful Future Fellowship and Linkage Grant applications, and the seven Discovery grant applications and three other grants still being evaluated, we are assuming a much higher revenue next year.

4. Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2010 Budget $000</th>
<th>2010 Projected $000</th>
<th>2011 Budget $000</th>
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<td>Revenue</td>
<td>293.6</td>
<td>293.6</td>
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<td>Salary Expenditure</td>
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<td>277.4</td>
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<td>Non-Salary Expenditure</td>
<td>204.9</td>
<td>174.9</td>
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<td>Operating Result</td>
<td>(283.3)</td>
<td>(197.5)</td>
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## Appendix I: RCLT 2010 Non-Salary Costs Excluding the Central Cost Allocations

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<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>103540 Actual</th>
<th>103540 Budget</th>
<th>100302 Actual</th>
<th>100302 Budget</th>
<th>104746 Actual</th>
<th>104746 Budget</th>
<th>106658 Actual</th>
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<td><strong>Books</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Casual - Academic</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Conferences</strong></td>
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