## **Cross-Cultural Communication WWUNSW - 2025/04/22 12:05 ACST – Transcript**

# **Attendees**

Belinda Morton, Maree, Nat, Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados, Phillip Trudgen, Richard Trudgen, Timothy Trudgen

# **Transcript**

Phillip Trudgen: This is the recording of the meeting of crosscultural communication with World Wars and University of New South Wales. This is the one we're sharing with University of New South Wales. Check.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Hello Phillip, how are you?

Phillip Trudgen: Hello. Good.

Phillip Trudgen: Good. Right.

Phillip Trudgen: Should be all right to hear me now.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah, I can hear you well.

Phillip Trudgen: Rich is just having something tweeted. I was hoping other ladies would jump into, but it's all right. just test something now. You can see that present screen.

Phillip Trudgen: All right, can't you?

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: I can.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah. Yep. Yep.

Phillip Trudgen: Okay, That's good. Once Rich is on, he can test his screen. so your settings for your page or is meeting all down the bottom there. So you should have By clicking on that mic, you can turn your mic on and off. I might mute everybody once they're in the meeting. And then after that once everybody's on we'll talk about the rules of how's it going to go. Your camera's there too so you can turn your camera on and off without any problem.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah, yeah,…

Phillip Trudgen: Here comes Natalia.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: yeah, yeah.

Phillip Trudgen: So she's coming in.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah. Yeah,…

Phillip Trudgen:

Phillip Trudgen: Hello Natalia. Hello. Yeah.

Nat: Hello. Hi.

Nat: Okay, it work. Can you hear me? hello.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: can hear you well.

Phillip Trudgen:

Phillip Trudgen: Here comes Tim's in.

Timothy Trudgen: Hi guys. Nice to meet you both.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Good to meet you, too.

Nat: Nice to meet you.

Timothy Trudgen: My camera's over here. I haven't moved it.

Phillip Trudgen: …

Nat: I can't turn on my closed captions right from Yes.

Phillip Trudgen: So, I was just going to go through that quickly. I went through a little bit with earlier. So you got on your settings down the bottom there, you can see the time, the meeting, and then you've got your mic as your first setting. I'll probably mute everybody once we're in line. so we can do that, but you can control your mic, turn it on and off with just clicking that button there. Same with your video or your camera or your video.

Phillip Trudgen: And then next one will be your captions. So if you hit that and this is individual controls.

Phillip Trudgen: If you hit captions it should bring it at the bottom of your screen there.

Nat: Yeah. Yeah.

Nat: Got it. Do you know how to blur my camera? I don't want to show the mess behind me.

Phillip Trudgen: So if you go so along that thing you've got reactions, you got presenting screen. I'm just going to turn that off. so you guys don't have to worry about sharing screens.

Nat: Yeah, you're not allowed.

Phillip Trudgen: If you've got any questions once we're muted,…

Phillip Trudgen: you can hit the raise hand thing and me and Tim will see that and we'll communicate with Richard if he's going to and we'll unmute you and I think you've got your settings just there as well. You just blurred your screen just then.

Nat: Okay.

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Phillip Trudgen: I saw that.

Nat: Which is not

Phillip Trudgen: Yeah, he's two seconds away. and…

Phillip Trudgen: then more and then those three dots is your more settings. So everything from change your layout. So if you want more of the presenting screen or the pin screen, you can change that to whatever makes you feel better. There's a couple of options in there. If you want more of it,…

Nat: Okay, that's enough just to cover this.

Nat: Thank you.

Phillip Trudgen: if you want to go full screen, the whole thing's presented. so that tab is everything you see in full screen. Just hit full screen.

Phillip Trudgen: We were having issues with the captions before and if anybody has that or ask that question we'll just talk about that once we need to cuz there is options to bring what they call picture in picture mode. So you can eliminate this tab into a smaller mode so that you can see the captions and stuff like that. So most of it's the same as teams and…

Nat: Yeah. Yeah. I can see.

Phillip Trudgen: all zooms and all that stuff.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Thank you.

Phillip Trudgen: You just have to work through it.

Phillip Trudgen: I'm gonna mute myself and probably turn my camera off and Rich is going to come in

Nat: Thank you.

Timothy Trudgen: I'll just introduce myself briefly.

Timothy Trudgen: So, I work yeah, you can see my name, Tim Trean. So, I'm Richard's oldest son and I work in health education in Elco Island.

Richard Trudgen: I'm not sure what settings I've got. Tim, can you hear me?

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah,…

Richard Trudgen: I can't hear you at the moment.

Timothy Trudgen: We've got you.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, you settings underneath that.

Timothy Trudgen: I was just doing a brief introduction of myself so people know who I am.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, We're on headset. no, you're muted all together.

Timothy Trudgen: We can hear you and see you.

Richard Trudgen: Dismuted. Try now.

Richard Trudgen: Tim, I can hear you, too. That's good. get rid of that.

Timothy Trudgen: Yep, I'm here.

Timothy Trudgen: We had an echo a minute there's no echo now.

Richard Trudgen: Is that There's an echo. Could be. Phillips is Philips.

Timothy Trudgen: It's all good. It's all good.

Richard Trudgen: Philips open too. I'm just going to pull the volume back a bit.

Richard Trudgen: Just say something again.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah,…

Timothy Trudgen: we can hear you clearly and your lights a bit high is probably one thing. you're a bit washed out.

Richard Trudgen: I'm on a horrible camera.

Richard Trudgen: Is that better? I'm on a horrible Yeah,…

Timothy Trudgen: No, you've just got way too much light.

Richard Trudgen: I Just close the curtain. I think I can't remember now whether I joined or not. I'm joined. You're in with you. just we'll just clear the light down a little bit. camera is a cheapy old camera though. So I can use my computer as what's the name? Laptop.

Timothy Trudgen: so you can draw your screen.

Richard Trudgen: So I can drive.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, that's better.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, it'll be better in a minute. Been here before.

Timothy Trudgen: Here we can Marie Marie.

Maree: Can you guys hear

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah, we can hear you.

Nat: Yeah. yeah. Hey Marie.

Timothy Trudgen: Welcome. So yeah,…

Richard Trudgen: Just going to change my camera a little bit. Yeah, that's us. Okay.

Nat: Elima said she will be a bit late so it's okay to start whenever you want. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: I'll just finish my introduction. So I work in Elco Island. I'm actually based on the Gold Coast, so actually probably not too far from where the rest of you are. but I'm supporting a charity up in Elco Island and working on establishing a new Aboriginal organization to support lifestyle and diet change in northeast Ireland. We just released a research paper on that and I do webinars around the country for people.

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Timothy Trudgen: So I'm just going to be sitting in the background just to catch up on how dad presents this crosscultural communication stuff.

Timothy Trudgen: And yeah, just to keep in the loop. so I hope you guys are all okay with that.

Richard Trudgen: that screen.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, so I'll duck out and I'll turn over to Richard.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, do This is the presenter screen here. Okay. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: So yeah, over to you, Dad. I definitely can.

Richard Trudgen: Thanks, Can you hear me, Tim? Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: Yes. Yes.

Richard Trudgen: So we've got Sorry, names go blank on my head. Don't like your layout. I'm just going to change the layout. We're just doing a few little shifts around here. Let's make that right. So these are the guys. Yeah. Okay. Natalie. No. Have I got your name wrong?

Richard Trudgen: Natalia. yeah,…

Nat: Yeah, Natalia. I don't know. I didn't write it properly. Natalia. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: good on and the other guys, Mar there and Paula. Yep. So, we're just trying to share a screen now and we'll go to that. Where's the control screen? I can't see it. it's the control screen is there we go. And so over here, but you're sharing the hit that one. Yeah, you want an entire screen. And it's this one. number one. Yep. Okay, you should be able to see my screen there now. Coming up. Still trying to

Richard Trudgen: Can you see that screen or not, guys?

Nat: Yes.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah, we see it.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: It shows. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. What is communication? so we're going to start on that today. yeah, it's good. I'm glad you pulled me back into this because this is some of the stuff that's just so critical in working with people and especially with you as we work through it. Now some of the ground rules we'll have a couple of breaks from this time. I don't believe in just pushing right through if we get to a spa stage we say we think we need a break. I got enough material that can go two and a half days.

Richard Trudgen: So there's no shortage of material. but I want you to ask questions as we go through. I don't believe in this business of keeping questions till the end. You're all adults. You've got life experiences that match mine or whatever. but to really understand something sometimes especially in this subject area where we're going into areas that many times most especially in the mainstream we haven't thought about it we haven't had to think about it and I didn't have to think about it 50 years ago when I came to Anamlan and I had to learn at the coalace but I was also taught with

Richard Trudgen: were a whole lot of people who did some really good communication stuff and all that and community development, but I don't know. I think I was a slow learner. I wish I knew back then what I It's probably most of us and life could be a much easier. So, we're going to look at this What is communication? And I just got to get used to using the buttons again and all that sort of stuff. And hopefully the machine goes all right. No. Why is it It's What's this down here? No. Not stop sharing. Okay. I'm going to have to click these to move them forward. I think one.

Richard Trudgen: It's not moving either. It's gone installed for some reason. that's just the pen. Try to go now. That's it. Something was just stalled in PowerPoint. Computer's having a bit of a fit. So communication, and unfortunately with Yong, I think communication is a bit like this at the moment. all right. it's not real good. And I always say when I'm communicating with somebody, I really don't know what they're hearing unless I know what they're hearing. I can never assume that I know what they're hearing.

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Richard Trudgen: And I find it quite exciting working with you more that many times when I stop and listen and find out what they're hearing in the conversation, I learn a lot of stuff. So really, it's not what we say or what you say, but it's how you say it that counts in any situation in our mainstream culture or culture that we come from or in others.

Richard Trudgen: if I'm speaking too fast for English second language people, please guys give me a hands up and say slow down a little bit. It will become a little bit clearer. In actual fact, it's one of the big issues for y at the moment. They're finding English speakers just Far too fast. And we'll look at some of the reasons why that matters.

Richard Trudgen: we're also got this situation where we're dealing with a linguistically marginalized indigenous culture and they are linguistically marginalized. Severely and the dominant culture that's interacting with each other. You have these two cultures interacting with each other and there's not a lot of good communication between them. Take the mouse down that screen. Okay. So, there's not a lot of good communication between two communities, two different groups of people. And hopefully by the end of this, we'll have a bit better idea of main factors that we need to be looking at. of course, there's all sorts of points of communication in failure.

Richard Trudgen: people might be lacking the words or the vocabulary that we've got. There could be all of the inclination in our or what do we call the way we just speak. many Australians use too much slur language joining words together and you will find that really really hard when we speak fast and it joins words together type speaking Australian speaking we're not clear English speakers and then in actual fact many migrants that come to this country are much better English speakers than what Australians are and then we've got the environmental

Richard Trudgen: noise that can be going on in the background. And then people could have also troubles with hearing. they could have damaged ears or a bit deaf or like me a couple of plane engines in each ear after being working in a workshop with noisy equipment. and then there's also the wiring in the brain. Now, we're going to look through all that, but we're going to work through all that a bit, but the main thing is to what we doing here silly thing was go the wrong way. Let's just go back a bit. Yeah, we're there. Sorry. The main thing is that it's not what you say, but how you say it that counts.

Richard Trudgen: how you say it counts more than anything else. If we can remember that and this is the cardinal rule that was written across my head, forehead is to work be clear on what you saying is not what you say, but How you say it. So the process is far more important than the content. a lot of people spend a lot of time on, what are we going to talk about when we get to community? What are the things we're going to say? and they don't spend a lot of time on how they're going to say And so, Communication fails. when you're working in a cross-cultural situation, there's a lot of factors that are not normally taken into consideration.

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Richard Trudgen: and so we're going to look at some of those. So that's the first little PowerPoint that I just want to run you through. I'm going to just jump over now to another one which is crosscultural. Stop sharing. you can keep sharing on that page if it'll do it. Let's just do that. Yeah. See if it comes up. And we'll just see if it picks up the sharing. So good. is it not just giving me here It's all right. Y So, it's sharing there. Good. We don't have to stop started.

Richard Trudgen: So when we're in a cultural cross language communication environment, there's a number of things that we need to be thinking about. I just want to throw some examples up here that will just help us get into the right thinking space. Want them to raise their hands if they got questions? Yeah, raise your hands if you got any questions. Philip will keep an eye on that for you. we'll click The hand button down the bottom there. We'll see that come up. two basic principles that we need to just think about here as we go forward. Two basic principles. One is that people think and construct knowledge in their own language.

Richard Trudgen: most English-speaking people forget that when they come to community, they just carry on in English flat out. And they're not realizing that people actually got to take that language, translate it in their own thinking language, and then they've got to work on, how am I going to respond to this? So they're doing four or five times the amount of work that an English first language person is doing when we're operating in English. Now I'm on the phone in many days these days with doctors and psychologists and business people and all sorts of people.

Richard Trudgen: And this is the the big issue is trying to get people to slow down and realize that yung on the other side are doing four times the amount of work that anybody else in the meeting and so they become extremely tired and they become traumatized in Most meetings you all will want to be out of those meetings within 10 minutes if it's in English and it's going hard within 10 minutes. And it seems to be worse today even than it was in the past. There seems to be less communication between English speaking people and yung than even 10 and 20 years ago.

Richard Trudgen: And I think a lot of it's got to do with the fact that the intervention and the amount of people that are coming to communities now the amount of people that's coming to communities is just through the roof. For instance, the Blender's just joined us, hasn't she? Good to see you, and the young number of bellanderong communities doubled in the intervention period John Howard intervention.

Richard Trudgen: So you had a doubling of people who were speaking and they come and they took over most of the jobs. and so the employment dropped the number of baller came but yung were not participating and not communicating with them like they were in the past. Before you might have one baller an English-speaking person that's the term I'm going to be using. Sorry Bander comes from the word Hollander. So you'll have one English speaking person and you could have five or six yung working with them. today you might have three or four balander and one yung working with them. so there's not a lot of yung that are getting good experience now unless you're in a situation with which you're in a school classroom or something like that when there's a lot of young kids in there.

Richard Trudgen: but in the workplace that's become more the picture of how of what things are like. But people think and construct things construct knowledge in their own language. They're also operating in a very different worldview and a different college cultural knowledge base. when we're looking at world view and cultural knowledge base, it's a sorry, system's just gone mad again. it's a world view is a big thing in itself.

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Richard Trudgen: And I think that the course we have on worldview that you guys were looking at is much better than trying to work through it here. Worldview is as important as language and sometimes I believe it's more important than I keep forgetting your name Natalia. Yeah.

Nat: Natalia.

Richard Trudgen: Natalia. Thank you. Paulo Frier said what Paulo Frier and you're a student of him. I don't know how much you other guys. Do you know Paul Frier? I'm getting a few not nods in. Tim Tim does. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: there's three others in the other group. We can't see them. They got their camera off. so Paulo Frier said you cannot conscientize people until they conscientize In other words, you cannot educate people or even really participate in good dialogue until they have educated you first. And other words, until they've given you a mindset, a worldview that's more in line with them. We sort of say it's like getting in the same canoe together with the people.

Richard Trudgen: if we can be together in one canoe where if we're traveling in two different canoes and we got a different destination, we've got a different values and we got different ways of seeing the world, then it's very difficult. So, I just recommend rather than me work on worldview here, I recommend that course that it explains that much better. The other thing is the cultural knowledge base which we need to think about a little bit. We're not going to do a lot of work into today because it's a pretty big subject. But in actual fact, we're just looking at what knowledge do I carry and what's my cultural knowledge base and what's the cultural knowledge base of Yong. It's Very different.

Richard Trudgen: unfortunately most of the mainstream tends to see the yal cultural knowledge base as primitive and backward and lacking where in actual fact It's all the opposites. and especially in traditional times these days people are losing mastery and they are losing cultural knowledge flat out because the mainstream doesn't believe that it's there and doesn't see that it's needed really important to help it get used on a daily basis.

Richard Trudgen: we don't believe that people have got a good political system, governance system or they can understand health issues down to a deep biomedical level. Most mainstream people will think that traditional Aboriginal people have to learn English to be able to understand all that. Totally wrong. Timothy and I can teach yung down to a deep biomedical level in Yamato. We go right down to DNA in in original Australian languages. We can talk about Some of the stuff I'm going to show you in the brain, we can talk about that. I've got videos that show that stuff. there are some economic terms in Yongamata that don't exist in English. There's a lot of business terms in Yongamata that doesn't exist in English. So their cultural knowledge base is very rich.

Richard Trudgen: But unfortunately hardly anybody is using it in education or training or general conversation because the world view of the colonial mainstream in Australia is that we're dealing with primitive or backward people and so they're lacking in some way. So with that in mind, how do we move forward here? what I'm going to say is that first of all, we need to Just hit the button. Yeah. Yeah. Take language seriously. I don't know why it's a problem. Yeah.

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Richard Trudgen: My computer's having a little freak out here. Don't worry guys, it'll be all right. it's showing up Take language seriously. and I'll just want to give you a couple examples of how language can get into trouble. so here we have a situation where a person at college or whatever is working with a health worker and this is a real situation even today and they say a balanced diet consists of carbohydrate and Balanced diet consists of it's very unstable. Just go back to this button if you can.

Richard Trudgen: I'll get it so let me just put it back on pan here so it doesn't go jumping all over the place. balanced diet consists of carbohydrate and protein foods. And on this side, the young person on this side has heard something. They've heard something. But what have they heard? if you look at what we call the semantic envelope and I like to always think about semantic envelopes if that makes sense to people. What is that envelope that comes into the person's head when you're talking to them? remember the old comics that used to have the writing up in a little bubble up there.

Richard Trudgen: What is the semantic envelope that people get? The image they get when they hear that phrase. most jungle will get this sort of image, a balanced diet. They're seeing somebody's balancing. They don't understand what a balanced diet means. And even today, people don't even know what nutrition means today. And I've done some videos on that. And when we check it out, even with your interpreters, they're having trouble with the word. They said, "We just don't understand what it means. It's It's not making any sense to us whatsoever." So, a balanced diet consists of carbohydrates.

Richard Trudgen: as soon as we use these type of words, and we'll see this a little bit later on, we throw in a word like this and protein that immediately creates this problem where the people are thinking, what the hell does that go mean? What does it mean? They won't even think about it. They'll just jettison it straight sideways. so they might be thinking and funnily enough they could be thinking and they will be thinking today many young believing that Coca-Cola it is really fantastic.

Richard Trudgen: they're feeding Cokes to babies at the moment instead of breast milk because the advertising of Coca-Cola and the promotion of it in all the stores, on on TV, on everywhere. People now think it's the government telling them to drink Coca-Cola because they think the government owns most of the businesses and all that. So, a lot of confusion. it breaks my heart to see the cartons of Coke that come out of the stores around here. And we've even got people that are selling it out around Duracal. And of course, you get a headache if you don't keep drinking it. And so the babies get headaches and they're screaming. So mom gives them some more coke to keep them quiet. They will also believe that sugar's fantastic because all sweet foods were good in the past.

Richard Trudgen: So, have these two people got the similar image? In And there's no way that they can work out this guy over here who can work out what are the other people hearing? If he's over here and he's thinking, what are they hearing? If he asks them, and I've had arguments with people about this, they say, " I just asked them. Did they understand?" what's this lady over here going to say to that? to that? She's going to say, "Yes, I understood." he has no way of knowing over here. He has no way of knowing what she is thinking until he finds out what she is thinking.

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Richard Trudgen: And it could be as weird as this right off the screen in terms of what people are hearing and so forth. what happened to the others here? Let's just go a bit this way. So she'll get something like a balanced diet consists of D. That's what she'll get. so that image will be very clear in her mind. let me just go to another one. Doctor says to a guy, "Your immune system is shot." again, we have this one word that that is completely have the yal person didn't have a clue about. And matter of fact, I had a colleague working with this guy as they walked out of the hospital and he said to them, "Did you understand what the doctor just said to you?"

Richard Trudgen: he was an alcoholic and he said to my colleague, "Yeah, something about somebody shot me." And I'm thinking maybe that was last weekend when we were out hunting and somebody fired a bullet into my shadow or something. And so the guy is thinking, "Somebody's been trying to kill me." not from what his evidence was but from what the doctor said. So the doctor has actually sent him off on a track which is completely wrong. He didn't get to understand that his liver was failing. He was collapsing. He needed to stop drinking. Didn't get that picture at all. complete wasted communication. and this is how bad it can be in a cross-cultural situation. Let's just look at another one quickly.

Richard Trudgen: wrong way, you need iron. this is actually a real story again. many times, you need iron. Then what's the younger person thinking in their semantic envelope? They're hearing the word iron. And they're thinking somehow or another somebody's been cutting little sharp bits off the roofing iron and this doctor's going to give it to them. And at one stage the Alpa stores tried to put iron reinforced bread into their stores.

Richard Trudgen: And they advertised it in big times, buy this bread. It's full of iron. How many people brought the bread? Nobody. No one was going to feed bread with iron in it to their kids and all that. And the whole very expensive government program Completely failed around one word understanding of iron. I've been walked into the ward up here on the hospital and I've had yung more hiding under the sheet and I could see that they were putting iron infusion into them and I knew exactly what was going on immediately. So I talked to them and explained to them what was going on and no it wasn't iron shs.

Richard Trudgen: was more like baking powder and it's brown in that bag there and it's going to make your blood strong because they would have told you your blood was weak out at the clinic and they said yes that's what they were telling our blood was weak. it's not the iron off a roof of a house or anything like that. It's iron baking powder that makes your blood strong again. And I have a doctor there and ask him, "Is that right, doc?" And he says, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah." so we're not here because we're not here because we did some horrible thing wrong went out and played around at nighttime or anything else. you're here because of that weak blood and they going to give you and so it can be explained very quickly. Unfortunately, there's hardly anybody in the hospital that can do that.

Richard Trudgen: And so people still walk away sometimes with all sorts of crazy ideas and then they were surprised to find that they were going to be out of there in 8 hours. they thought they're in for life almost. So all sorts of really bad communication. And then you have this situation which occurs quite often. you got young kids sitting there saying, "What's she talking about?" not understanding anything that's going on. I've got a little story that goes with this. one of my sons was working as a teaching aid one day and he was supposed to be helping a couple of kids in that class that he wasn't supposed to interrupt in the class process and all that. He wasn't trained to be a teacher.

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Richard Trudgen: the teacher was trying to get the kids attention over and over and over again and the kids were just talking to each other. It's like her English was just going Over the head. They weren't even hearing it. They were talking to each other about, what they were involved in and all that sort of stuff. So my son just said, "Hey, w be quiet." And they all looked at him and he just pointed out the front to the teacher to which the teacher broke down and run out of the classroom. communication can be that bad sometimes where the two worlds just don't meet together. They just don't come together and communication start happening. And a lot of it's around language. Unfortunately, sometimes it's driven by time.

Richard Trudgen: there's just never enough time to really talk about what even though we've come here to speak to you people today. we want to know what you're thinking. We'd like you to be telling us what you're thinking and what your concerns are and what the government needs to hear. But It virtually never happens. And I hear this from Yung over and over and over again because there's just So, we need to make sure there's enough time for things to happen. any questions at that so far on that, guys?

Maree: No questions from me,…

Maree: but I really like how you're describing the interpretation of language and communication.

Richard Trudgen: Okay.

Richard Trudgen: So, I haven't run you into any brick walls yet. That's good. I'll try not to. So, I'm going to go to another I'm gonna clock.

Richard Trudgen: Sorry, it's 1:00. I'm right. We go to half past one. we'll go to the hour. We'll have a break at the hour because I'll get through this stuff here first. I'm going to go to another slideshow and we'll just get it working.

Richard Trudgen: Before Yes. Yeah.

Maree: Can I just ask a quick question?

Maree: So with the yong in schools is home language and then book language is that taught up there or is it that kind of piece around code switching or is it all yong or ma and then the English is just something that is taught from a very standard western practice. This

Richard Trudgen: in most schools people like Glenda who's joined there a little bit I think she speaks language most schools it's all in English all in English and they might have a bilingual program which come and go come and go come and go they spend

Richard Trudgen: all this money in creating a bilingual program and then governments come along and you get what we call the English police who then try and force English in because the beginning of colonization this is why I like your questions since the be beginning of colonization all colonial groups tried to destroy the language of the first people it's the first thing that happens if you go off to places like Canada today, they're still arguing over whether it should be British or French. They don't talk about it should be one of the Indian languages. and so you'll find that language is the strongest thing around identity and all those sort of things, so around communication. And unfortunately, I wrote a book 20 years ago to try and convince people that they should be learning language.

Richard Trudgen: some people did and some people have now picked up on that language worldview understand where the people at all communicate answer their questions all that sort of stuff…

Maree: Hang on.

Richard Trudgen: but it's not happening in most of the schools and so after the intervention we had schools running before the intervention we had schools running at 60%. last time I was on community with one of the major schools it was what something Phil that day 24% or something like that.

### 00:45:00

Richard Trudgen: So since John Howard's intervention the 120 128 out of 600 yeah there was a percentage on that something like 24 25% attendance most of those people kids attending that school that day were English first language kids not yung mata so the yung kids are off sniffing petrol break and entry doing all sorts of other things because language is not taken seriously it

Richard Trudgen: is not taking serious. And the book I'm just writing at the moment hopefully hopefully will turn this around because we're showing the way where from here is to start taking some of this stuff that we're talking about today seriously because kids lives at stake. We're filling up the jails in the Northern Territory. There's more attention on filling jails than there is on doing some really good education. So unfortunately most of the education that is still occurring is in the colonial lang language English not in one of the original Australian languages and we've got good languages we can teach through to high level economics law governance business as a business language in the north.

Richard Trudgen: but the mainstream hasn't seen that. they think we're dealing with primitive languages. But what I want to do is just a little exercise here and I'm going to try I've never done this on a webinar before, but I've done it live many times. what is I just get my pen operating if we get it to switch on down the bottom here. No. Didn't want that. Yeah. Got it. And the thickness of the pen is not real real good.

Richard Trudgen: but I go. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: While you're trying to do that,…

Belinda Morton: can I just say two things about what you were just speaking about? I was working at Shepherdson College in the classroom when sadly the government of the day made or depend I don't know how into it she was Marian Scrimjour was announced that for bilingual schools across the Northern Territory Marie in bilingual schools the model is

Belinda Morton: that children from preschool up and hopefully faft up are instructed in first language and that's why it's so key to have Yong in the classroom and you'll have a teacher like me there balinder with the accredititation and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: the paperwork but yung will actually deliver instruction and can provide metaphors and break things down for the students. So they're being instructed by in English, but they had the genius idea and it was a targeted attack on everything you were just saying, world view and identity and everything, first four hours every day at school to be delivered in English and they got an Aboriginal lady to bring that policy in. And our school was not compliant with that. A number of schools weren't, but it was hard to believe in that day and age that something so hamfisted would be avert public policy. it was beyond the pale.

Belinda Morton: And two years later, I was in an international languages conference in Hawaii and there were indigenous people from Canberra presenting about…

Belinda Morton: how they're reinvigorating a language of theirs that was down to 40 words.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: And I'm in a school where they're literally overtly trying to smash languages.

Richard Trudgen: Destroy language.

Richard Trudgen: And that's still the case now in the Northern Territory. one of the things that caused that to happen is that what was the name? Marian Scrimjul's minder. She came to Australia as a Greek speaking person and she learned English in Australia. So she said, " I learned I was forced to learn English when I come to Australia." and you speak English well too. what's her name? Scrimjour. but they didn't think for a second.

Belinda Morton: That's it. Yeah.

### 00:50:00

Richard Trudgen: Marian Scrim learned language from her father who was a stolen generation man and so he's forced to learn English so she learned English from here and Greek people have been speaking English for thousands of years they got all sorts of language courses and all that you don't have any of that so the program really failed big time and it's one of the things that led to that massive decline in schools that we're seeing still in the northern church let's go to these two heads we got two heads here and one's talking to the other. What is it that's going out of You got something Natalia. Sorry.

Nat: Yes, sorry, I was just curious in your book, you were saying that there was not a rigorous work to create young lamata to English dictionaries and…

Nat: I wanted to know since you wrote that book if there has been any difference in that.

Richard Trudgen: The short answer is no.

Richard Trudgen: There are some dictionaries but they're all Nothing in the concept area and I'll be actually referring to that a bit later on again. but the short answer is no. I think we now have a language center in northeast Anamland but it's and truly not properly functional. most of the work we're doing in Y Warriors is doing what we call the academic level of language because we're using it every day in health, economics, law, business and everything else. so we're trying to gather stuff stuff but we're not even paid to do that. So we do that unpaid. But I will refer a bit more to that later on. So what is going between these two heads when they're talking?

Richard Trudgen: What is it that's moving from one person to the other? What is it? Any ideas?

Nat: Sorry, I did not understand the question.

Richard Trudgen: We've got one person here and they're saying something and they're talking to the other person over here. What is it that goes between my mouth through the computer to yours your ears? what is the…

Maree: vibration like it's I don't know

Richard Trudgen: scientifically's happening? What is creating the communication? I just want us to think about this a bit.

Belinda Morton: Words.

Richard Trudgen: Words any thoughts thought vibrations? Yeah. Yeah. I think you're right there.

Richard Trudgen: what is going between. it's not in a sense a little package with a bow on it. It's really just vibrations that are going out. That's all it is. Vibrations. Now, I'm going to do a little exercise and never done this in a webinar before. So, let's see If I give you a vibration, is this useful or not? Or how can you give an adjective? What is it? Come on.

Maree: I feel like I'm playing a game with you.

Maree: It's like guess the secret sound little bit.

Richard Trudgen: But is it annoying also little bit…

Richard Trudgen: if I keep it up for hours? know that when we're speaking English second language that a lot of our sound coming out of our mouth is nothing but annoying noise. if we can remember that we could be just creating noise into the space.

Maree: Welcome.

Richard Trudgen: A lot of lawyers and things have said to me, the best thing you did in that seminar was teach me that a lot of the things I'm saying is just absolute junk noise. Just absolute noise.

Richard Trudgen: makes me really think about now what I'm going to say to my young clients or Aboriginal clients who are English second language. so it's important to think about that. Now some of you would have already thought through some of this process. some of you might not have. So I'll just move through it fairly quickly. so we have the noise coming up into the inner ear and it's It's just vibration. That's all it is. it's nothing more than just noise coming up into here and then it goes through the inner ear here which turns into not just a well sound waves.

### 00:55:00

Richard Trudgen: They were Sound waves. Then they turn into real vibrations here through A physical vibration that then gets turned into some sort of electrical current that gets taken up into the brain. I don't know why PowerPoint change the thickness on these pens, but it's really not useful.

Maree: Hey, whatever.

Richard Trudgen: That's what goes. And so then it turns into electrical impulse or we'll just go looking at that a little bit at the other end up into the brain. Wrong way. and it ends up in let's just go to the next one. I think this way.

Richard Trudgen: you get the neurons and the long axons transmitting neurotransmitters down along these axon. So this is all happening as we're thinking, as we're hearing. These vibrations are creating all this activity in our billions of cells in our brains. And we could spend a time looking at this and how does it all work? And it ends up at the sinapse the gap between the sinapse and the other cell here.

Richard Trudgen: And that's what I want to look about look at just a little bit at the moment. I want to look at this what happens there. So you get these neuron transmitters coming down. Putting a chemical load over into the other cell. So marijuana and all this, this is how marijuana blocks it because those receiving cells there get the HTC's actually make these little cells block up and so people can't think properly and all that. So it's fairly important this transmission of these electrical neurons in the brain. What I want us to look at is a thing called dendrite deafness.

Richard Trudgen: A lot of people think about auditory deafness and there's a lot of stuff done around that medically audio diff but there's a bigger massive deafness which is this dendrite diffness and droids little type ferns that grow in our brain and when I'm teaching language I say to people look concentrate on your dentite growth this growth here and I learned all about this because I'm dyslexic and I think my wife found this image somewhere and I started looking at droidites. they're quite incredible. They grow like little ferns in our brain. Everything new that we learn we have to grow ditrites for.

Richard Trudgen: So if we're in another language or we're learning new knowledge or whatever it is, we actually have to grow dendrites, these little ferns. And most of the time they grow at night time. They don't grow during the day. So if I'm teaching somebody to learn a language, I just say just keep hearing. And you'll find after about a week, you just say these words and you don't even think about them, because the dendrites would have grown and created the linkage between the brain cells, the neurons, and then to the next brain cell.

Richard Trudgen: And if you keep talking, what you're going to do is create more and more connections. As the dendrites grow out, as the dendrites grow out, there's more and more connections coming down onto this brain cell. So that turns from a little sort of walking path into a massive highway. And that's why when people then even get dementia, they remember things way long time ago, years ago, 30 years ago. There's a guy with dementia down the road and he says hello to me it was 30 years ago. but he can't even walk 50 yards away from his house. He'd get lost with the new knowledge because that's just not happening. The dendrite growth is not happening. So droidites are fairly important. But if we're meeting with people, we could be dealing with not the fact that they're not hearing us, but they've got dentrite deafness.

### 01:00:00

Richard Trudgen: They're just not understanding the noise we're making is not making any sense to them. So when we're communicating with a group of people and I'm communicating with you, I am trying to think I am saying, what is it they are hearing. any questions there guys or comments or add to it whatever. Yes. Yes.

Nat: I just wanted to say when you were making that noise I was feeling very impatient because I couldn't understand that was the feeling that I was having and I understand that this is from a young perspective how they will feel if we are talking in English and they were trying to make sense of it but I was remembering when I was there that I also felt a lot of impatience…

Nat: because I did not understand the silences when they actually did not talk to me and…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. Yes.

Nat: that was harder for me than any other thing is to take the silences and through the courses and your books and everything I understood more that silence was actually necessary for them to deep listening to me first before they could give an answer and probably there were multiple things there that was happening why they didn't talk but yeah I just want to know more about those when actually communication is not happening in a verbal way when it's happening in visual and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yes.

Nat: all of that. Yeah. When the silence is placed so rigidly then that's when I felt the most impatient.

Richard Trudgen: Yes. Yes. And then look, you're not alone.

Richard Trudgen: So many people feel impatient because Have you heard me? And I was just making sure that we're going to deal with the silence one because we need to deal with that big time and I'm not sure if I put it on my list. maybe Yeah. Yes.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: One more thing that I have following on Nat's impatience make me think how is it that we not only communicate through vibration and those silence and those silences come as well with how the nervous system communicates and when we hear a noise that makes us going to impatient into that feeling of contraction the nervous system goes into fightly free responses it's not possible to actually connect to going to a place of feeling safe with the other.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Your nervous system is constantly feeling that you're in danger. So that as part of that noise. No.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yes.

Richard Trudgen: You've opened up a whole Pandora's box there. In actual fact, you feel impatient and you can feel annoyed and some people from Yung, they feel traumatized. and this is why they're running away from classrooms because when you're in that situation, you get cortisol released from the brain. the cortisol actually can damage the bl brain when it's there constantly.

Richard Trudgen: It's usually there the fight flight enzyme or whatever it's called to get you away from there to get you away from that experience and so people who are experiencing it all the time as I say yung be in a meeting in u they can be in a meeting and just in 10 minutes just picked up on a pen that won't work on my computer. Just 10 minutes. and what they're doing is they're saying, " when are we going to have a break?" They're saying, "When are we going to have a break? When's lunch? When's this?" And what they're saying is, "Hell can I get out of here?" Yeah. When can I get out of here?

Richard Trudgen: because al already they're getting cortisol release which is hrinking the brain actually shrinks the brain. So if just acknowledge Marie's back. All right. So the education department…

### 01:05:00

Maree: Sorry, I dropped out.

Richard Trudgen: if they're not wanting to traumatize kids u Marie's gone. Did you say she's Back Sorry about that. So, we're talking about that noise, and noise that makes us feel impatient. It actually creates a cortisol release and that actually shrinks the brain. Now, the education department got what do we call it? Mandatory reporting for violence against kids.

Richard Trudgen: I'm trying to tell you all that you should actually be putting mandatory reporting reports on the education department. because you're traumatizing kids, you're shrinking their brain through constant cortisol release. You're not educating them. you're dumbing them down to fit the mainstream English naming about First Nations people. So it is massive and it's hard to change culture though, if we expect somebody to answer us back quickly, then we start stressing out and we start getting a bit of cortisol release. Now, I'm going to do it here because the question's been raised and all that. I just want somebody to ask me a question. I don't care what the question is. Make sure it's loud enough.

Richard Trudgen: So everybody else can hear. Tim's not there at the moment, is Tim's there. Tim, maybe you can ask any sort of question in the world. where I'm going.

Richard Trudgen: Tim's not reacting. So Marie's open. Go Any question? No. …

Maree: Do you dye your beard? …

Richard Trudgen: I've just gone What was funny about that communication? What was funny or the pause?

Richard Trudgen: the big pregnant paws. It's massive.

Maree: I think what struck me because that was just a random question, but did you die dead?

Richard Trudgen: I was going to tell you that the word itself die could have pushed me into a lot of confusion…

Maree: Did you die? Absolutely.

Richard Trudgen: because that word might not be familiar to people. yeah, I was thinking that also. So what was going through my mind as a you're more thinking person right first of all I try I have to hear the sentence but there's something more important than that I have been taught since I was a small child to answer a question quickly is actually insulting to the person who asked the question.

Richard Trudgen: You should consider what the person is saying. If you don't consider, it's bad manners. And if you go across the world to villages, not in major cities where everybody's going flat out and they're da da da da da da, but you go back into the villages and all that, you'll find this is the same thing that they're saying to the young people and all that. listen to the question properly. and there is a book we'll be sending out to you, active listening, which will go into this and you can go through it a bit better, but I'm just going to go through this here at the moment because of the way the question came up. listen to the question properly. and then you got to think through in yungam. what do you got for me? Yeah. Yeah. You got to through in yamato. Think how you're going to respond to it.

Richard Trudgen: And of course that thinking through you might be dealing with the word die. What was the meaning of that? there might be two words slurred together which give a different meaning. So you think it through in yung mata and then you've got to think about how you're going to translate this back in English. And that's the hardest part as Natalia or somebody else is English second language the hardest part is how am I going to respond in English and not sound stupid. Yeah. So you work on that really hard.

Richard Trudgen: and so you've got all these process going on in your mind but the biggest one is the cultural one and there's another one that I just want to throw in here. guys are usually slower than women at this process. And we know that because the two hemispheres of the brain are actually in a woman's brain there's a lot more connections between them.

### 01:10:00

Richard Trudgen: So girls, that's why you find the guys in a party or something like that. they usually won't stay talking with the girls. They'll usually flip down the end of the room somewhere where they can just crack another can and, talk about fishing or something else like that. They just cannot cope with the speed of female communication. And of course, if you want to get your males to talk to you, give them space. I remember saying that to a neighbor once who was having trouble with her son who was delinquent, doing all sorts of horrible things, and she was trying to get him to talk to her. And I said, just ask the question, then shut up." She said, "You know how long it took?" I said, " could have taken a while." She said, "Well, it took two days."

Richard Trudgen: We were sitting down on the swing down the back and I kept my mouth closed through that whole time. Did not repeat the question again and all of a sudden he said, "Mom, do you know what you asked me a couple of days ago and then he started just boom boom." and this is why if you go to ainal communities on the Cape up in Queensland in Western Australia and all that, you find women running the community. the guys just cannot cope with The English and the speed of it and all that, they just go off and get drunk. And it's happening now to you all also. it's happened right across the country. So we've got this different ways of communicating and there's some other things that we need to look at too. Natalya, you've got a question there.

Nat: And sorry, Richard, now that you were saying that,…

Nat: you said you mentioned marijuana and that's one of the things that I became aware of when I was in the community. So, I also want to know the links that you find between marijuana and shutting down that communication and especially in the context of young young people.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: It's massive for some of the young people because we've got all these bal white fellows English not only white fellows and other even Aboriginal people English first language in town selling all sorts of stuff u pushing marijuana big time. so a lot of the young kids can be affected by it.

Richard Trudgen: and the HTC chemical which blocks those little receptors that were on the other side of the brain, the little receptors here, it just means that information doesn't flow and so they become very stressed. I'm dealing with a lady in Katherine at the moment who her niece is just coming off marijuana and she's just so stressed but also what we're seeing is that the marijuana creates psychosis where the young people are thinking that the world is out to get them that somebody's stealing their keys, stealing their money, stealing their fishing line or whatever whatever and they start blaming

Richard Trudgen: blaming the parents for it. And a lot of you parents in some cases in some of the communities are even moving out of house now because they can't take it from their young kids anymore. Now I'm trying to get stuff out. We've produced programs on this and everything, but can't get it out because government won't give us any money because they think we can't explain these things a new which we can. So, we're back to the same circle. So, if you're going into a community and you've got a group of young people, you've got to be trying to find out whether there's things that are blocking the communication. And marijuana can be one of them, but a lot of other things, too. Do we want to just take a short break, guys, if anybody needs a break? Yeah. Let's just go. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: nod. Let's do What do you think? 10 minutes. I've got a nod.

Belinda Morton: You

Richard Trudgen: Let's just do 10 minutes. Get us back here in 10 minutes, Phil. Yeah.

Nat: Hey you.

Nat: Thank you.

### 01:15:00

Richard Trudgen: You can leave it open if you want to. Just mute yourself.

Timothy Trudgen: I'm still here, but I'm going to have to go pick up kids in half an hour.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, that's okay. I think we're rolling all right.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, it's going good.

Richard Trudgen: Okay. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: Coming through clearly this end.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. No, it's all good. Yeah. Thanks, mate.

Timothy Trudgen: I just find it helpful in a break if you just turn your video off and turn it back on when you're back from the break so everybody knows …

Richard Trudgen: Cool. I'm just trying to set it up so he can only see everybody but us too. But some reason it won't. It just keeps moving whoever's talking the most. It's on.

Timothy Trudgen: you can pin. So, what you want to do is go to change the layout and get it off automatic will switch to whoever's talking.

Richard Trudgen: It's on sidebar already.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, you're gonna if you want to see people, you got to switch to tiled.

Timothy Trudgen: But that might not work for him because he might want to see what's being displayed.

Richard Trudgen: He wants to see what's being displayed.

Richard Trudgen: And he's looking at the screen instead of the camera, but that doesn't matter.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, that doesn't matter. try tile might work. And then you can pin anyone that you want to have at the top. And down the bottom. You tick hide Hide tiles without video. change the layout to tile. Just see how it goes. And at the bottom tick hide tiles without video.

Timothy Trudgen:

Richard Trudgen: But if they're talking …

Richard Trudgen: that could be anybody. yeah. I'll do that. See what happens.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah. That'll put everyone in front. This should work cuz you still will see the onscreen stuff.

Richard Trudgen: It get rid of everybody. that's not what I want. Unless they got the video on, you can't see him at all. I don't want that cuz he didn't believe Blinder was there,…

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah, that's right. you choose what you want.

Richard Trudgen: but Linda was there.

Timothy Trudgen: It's because when you're on sidebar, you don't see everybody. So if you want to see everyone, you got to put it on tiled.

Richard Trudgen: Okay, I might just leave it on tiled and see how it goes. the presenting screen's big enough for him to see it and check it. So, that's all right.

Timothy Trudgen: All right.

Richard Trudgen: I wanted to talk to him about trying to use the Google because goo Google you can draw now, too.

Richard Trudgen: So if you Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: I just Let's not do it here.

Timothy Trudgen: Let's do it another time. Okay.

### 01:25:00

Richard Trudgen: Okay.

Richard Trudgen: Okay, I think we're good at most or don't know. Yep. Looks like friend is in the chat. So, you can hear Okay, guys.

Nat: Yes.

Richard Trudgen: Good on you. so all that's happening here between my mouth, your ears, is that vibration or Sound waves in the air.

Richard Trudgen: And we got to remember that because people can get completely different pictures from what is being said over here. In my mind, it can be a completely different picture that they're getting over here. All right. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: Hey one minute before you said something like profound about that as the speaker you'll be concentrating on your own message but we should be cognizant and thinking about what is it that the person that we're speaking to the more what are understanding from what your message is like is it getting across…

Belinda Morton: what are the best like you can that's a good reflexive kind of question to ask yourself, but we can't know. So, what do you do to check without putting people on the spot? Yes.

### 01:30:00

Richard Trudgen: Okay. …

Richard Trudgen: that's good coming from you, Blinda. Thank you. yeah. I'm in language I can say and so the best question is in language is how do you translate that which way are you thinking guys?

Richard Trudgen: So you're not really putting the pressure on them to give you a direct answer. But let's go a bit deeper into that. note the muena or what pictures are you seeing from what I've been talking to you for a while. what pictures are you getting from what we're talking about? And that's what I would say in English if they were Creole speakers or whatever. I might use a little bit of creole too, but mainly I would just say what pictures you getting. So in other words, what picture are they getting up here? That's what I'm after. I'm after this semantic envelope. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: But it is Yung They've taught me to concentrate on what the other person's hearing, not what I'm saying. I don't always follow this rule. I go into cultural habits just like everybody else. But I'm with you more. that's what I'm concentrating on. So what pitch are you getting? And then when I ask that question, what have I got to do? Yeah, wait for the and…

Belinda Morton:

Richard Trudgen: I'm a bad speller guys and a bad writer on here but this is not what we're worried wait and I have waited up to 3 minutes how do we deal with that in between what I've done with doctors and lawyers and everybody

Richard Trudgen: I've just told them, look, just if they're doctors, I said, read the patient's file. that's helpful. And some of them said to me, I don't usually get around to reading their file like I do now. and then all of a sudden, the patient starts speaking to me after a minute or a minute and a half. And as I say, I've had it up to 3 minutes. but just wait. And that is not being rude to yung more. if it's being rude to English mainstream people, that would be extremely rude. it would actually stress them out. The silence would stress them. But for Yung, silence is golden. It's wonderful gives that space. So, You got to practice that. And I find that I do all sorts of things.

Richard Trudgen: So sometimes to deal with my impatience, I'll sit there and doodle, So I'm not letting them feel that I'm putting the pressure on them in any way at all. I'm just sitting there doodling away, making up all sorts of images or whatever you got to do to deal with it. ask them and sometimes I might say to them is something I'm saying confusing you but I'd say that in language but I might even say that in English if they were not yung mat speakers. and again wait for the response. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: So just in reflection there, it's vibrations and then it's all this other stuff that's happening up in the brain, it's all happening up in the brain flat out. And you could have, some brain damage there. And you could have the HTC's here on u the brain here from marijuana or even blocking these little receptors. But you might also have people who didn't sleep well last night. Yeah. Because there was drunks all night.

Richard Trudgen: And so they're not really operating too well at the moment. And we'll look at that a bit in a minute. let me just say there's a couple of other things around. So we call that response that waiting I call it the three minute rule. and around the 3minut rule I should be also putting in there. I can do that. might bring that forward. So, try round the threeminut rule. Don't be like a speedboat.

### 01:35:00

Richard Trudgen: Don't go flat out. I remember I was down in Alice Springs and we were working with Pigjara Arena people. We started talking about this sort of stuff and they said, " we got this one English-speaking person who was the manager of the community at the time during the intervention and they said, "We used to hide from her." And I said, "What do you mean? Tell me the story. What's it about?" we called her the machine gun. and if anybody saw her coming down the road, just everybody would disappear off the road. Just disappear. Go and hide because her communication was traumatic that it was like somebody shooting at you with a machine gun so fast.

Richard Trudgen: And yet she was putting reports into the government saying, " the communities, they're not showing any interest. they won't come to meetings to sort out all the problems and all." And was her English. That was her problem. one Natalia. Yeah, I'll get your name right. Just give it to me again.

Nat: Natalia, you did it right the last time.

Richard Trudgen: So, Natalia, I'll get it by the end of the show.

Nat: Sorry, Richard, you have repeated this experience of putting pressure on answers can traumatize them and I want to understand more what is this traumatic experience that you are referring to if it's connected to something from the past also or if you can just unpack that traumatizing By forcing someone to give you answers straight

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: As an English second language person, when you're let me give you a couple of examples. We're seeing it on community now where young adults won't even turn up at community meetings now. They won't even turn up at community meetings. The police are calling community meetings because all the breaking entries and lawlessness and everything else going on.

Richard Trudgen: And the main reason they won't turn up is because of the machine gun English where English speakers are just going d but they're also expecting the yung parents to have some sort of response, some sort of answer. And the Yung parents know that. They know they're going to get asked questions and they're going, "Hell, I can't understand this. I can't understand what's going on."

Richard Trudgen: there was an example back in my book and it's always a good one for me to put out where this chairman said I get called to the office and I get this dut English from the CEO of our organization and the example he used he says it's like a grenade thrown down in front of you a live grenade it's like a grenade just been pin pulled out and thrown down in front of you, You lose complete sense of mastery that I can actually communicate in this space and They want to run from that grenade. and so that's how bad it is. And we're seeing that all over the place. Somebody will do 12 months training into employment programs.

Richard Trudgen: They'll get all the high viz gear and the boots and the gloves and helmet and they get everything. They get all the gear and they get taught how to all the rubbish, what they what they don't do and they get the job and they last three days and everybody's saying why aren't they coming back to work? One of the problems was nobody realized that the English-speaking people on that work site needed training how to work with those people. And of course, they get bad u They call them derogatory naming terms used against them. just black fellows, they never come to work. They're not interested in work.

### 01:40:00

Richard Trudgen: get d all the victimization gets just trotted out all the time. So you've had Nalco Riointo here for how many years more. And There's one or two English first language people employed there. Yung, but no Yong who are English fifth or sixth or second language. They can't stand there. They can't stand being in that workplace for more than three days. so they do all the training, they can't stand it because of the trauma it causes them. And they go home and they've said to me, many people said, " the same with School just makes me want to go home and sniff petrol or find some marijuana and smoke marijuana. School is telling me that I'm a useless, stupid person.

Richard Trudgen: I was working with a 12y old who was doing breakin entries. He was sent over here to work with his grandmas and grandpa over here and all that and I had to get him back out to a plane and that conversation with him was just absolutely enlightening. I said, "You like school?" He said, " yeah. When did you last go to school?" " before Christmas." that was eight months ago. So, you find school really hard. What's the big thing with school? And I'm talking to him in Yamaku. He says, " the English." It just makes me feel so stupid. And in 200 years, no government has provided an English learning course For any first Australian language and they still haven't done it for yamata.

Richard Trudgen: There's some schools that have their little training programs and the English training program learning programs, but there's no open- source one that you could go to for other languages all over the world. And this is the colonial mindset that just keeps doing this. So these kids don't get an opportunity to learn. if I went down the road here, I'm talking to youth down around the cafes and all that and say, "What would you like to hear on y radio rather than all the music that just gets played all the time?" we learn love to learn English. Yeah, I thought Yeah. So,…

Timothy Trudgen: Could I just jump in there D?

Richard Trudgen: we've got this problem and Go,…

Timothy Trudgen: I just wanted to list a couple of things there to think of it from a bit more of a psychological cultural kind of perspective and…

Richard Trudgen: Tim. Go go go.

Timothy Trudgen: you've mentioned some of them, dad's mentioned the stereotyping or the naming that people are dealing with and a lot of that relates to being stupid or not good enough.

Richard Trudgen: Yep. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: So language when English is unfamiliar there is that feeling in people's minds and hearts that they might just be too stupid to understand this.

Richard Trudgen: No, they say we just can't understand English.

Timothy Trudgen: So there's an internalized kind of dialogue there around inadequacy.

Richard Trudgen: We're black fellows and we can't understand English and all that sort of stuff. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: Then there's also just the culture shock type psych trauma. So anyone who's been to another country knows what culture shock can be like and how stressful it can be in another culture. So dealing with English is a major part of just dealing with a culture you're unfamiliar with and it stresses you out. And when you layer on top of that sense of the legacy that people have experienced from the past of being the dominant culture often wins out…

Timothy Trudgen: because it's using English and the English second language person is not able to compete. So you miss out on opportunities, things can go drastically wrong.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: Where you say yes to something you never should have said yes and you have to deal with an excessively stressful experience following on from that. you can think about traditional owners, for example, who lose parts access to part of their land just by accident because they didn't understand the communication. So I just want to add it in that kind of context.

Richard Trudgen: And it's that intergenerational trauma that comes through from people before and seeing their parents not

### 01:45:00

Richard Trudgen: Let me say it this way. Seeing their parents unable to smile unless they're drunk. We are dealing with You take Uricala, it's the worst of all the communities because it's The most hammered community. Why? Because you can get a Quantis plan in here or a north plane in here. So you can come in from Darwin, Sydney, Melbourne, anywhere. go out one day straight out there and they get hammered. so they're the most traumatized community of all of them. So when we're dealing with that community, we need to really say, " whoa. Okay, we need to make sure that we're covering our bases good here to deal with all the stuff that people are coping with." Yeah.

Belinda Morton: There's also an interesting paradox that when I've worked in secondary school or…

Belinda Morton: campuses that it's a slur to be known to be good at English And so there's this yeah it's like you just think that you're baler…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. …

Belinda Morton: because you've got great English or something like that or yung will also tear each other down for their poor English and I've seen that a lot on Facebook before. they don't know how to speak English. So it's a weapon either way. it's f

Richard Trudgen: it Belinda it becomes a weapon just like the mainstream has used it as a weapon we had Yong who whip for speaking in class 70 50 years ago down down in Numbar and all that and that's affected those kids for all their lives one became an axe murderer be when he got drunk

Richard Trudgen: and when I sat down with him and tried to find out where the trauma started from, it was when he was whipped as a kid in classroom. So, you've got that intergenerational stuff and then you got the same thing happening again now. So it just can't emphasize this enough that we've got this environment which is not making communication so easy at the moment but without any training people coming into it without any training you guys know that you're going to run into that silence you're going to run into the problems and you're going to go what the hell's going on

Richard Trudgen: So, one. Don't be a machine gun. Speak to be heard. Don't slur your English. Make it as clear as you can. Don't make it too slow where you take away the normal inclination in the sentence. If you make it too slow, you are actually making it harder for the other person to hear. So it needs to be a normal inclination, a normal sort of speed, but the words separate. And yeah, now I just want to go to one other thing here at this stage and we've already sort of run over the top of it a bit. maybe it's just locked somewhere. There you go. yeah, let's just go back.

Richard Trudgen: We can clear Moses, I think. Let's just go to the white or go to Talking Heads. I think I got a whiteboard on there, think. I haven't got a whiteboard on there. No. Yeah.

Nat: Sorry, Can I just throw a quick one there? When you were saying wait for their response, you can guide in a piece of paper to distract yourself. Would that in any context be considered rude…

Nat: if they think that you might be griting about them? Or is there a perception that you might be

Richard Trudgen: No. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, it's okay, guys. We're just trying to close. No, let's deal with that as you raise it now. So, this is where I just did a thing on this morning. can you get it down, Phil?

Richard Trudgen: Just you might have to just Close it down. It'll ask for that and yet it won't. Discard. And then we just reopen it again. no, it's not seen as rude because there's a whole different what we call communication moray happening here. how you communicate. And I think it's this one here. Just go to the white board on it. Just that's Open that one. Yep. Yeah. whole lot of or I'm just thinking another one that I might be going to. I'm just trying to think of the best way to shortcut the picture on it. No, not the

### 01:50:00

Richard Trudgen: But I did put one together. let's just look at this one. Let's go to effective communication because I think it's got some of the slides and that helps answer this question. so effective communication, we need to be looking at the situation where let's put that on there. Can I be heard is one of the things we've talked about that now in that we'll just talk a little bit more about it. Daddy. Thank In that let's talk about can I be heard. We need to be clear that people are having trouble hearing.

Richard Trudgen: So, even things like in the room and there's an air con in the room. Hate I hate them. because that's creating that white noise vibration, or there's a fan or there's a builder outside who's hammering on the wall or whatever it was. Can I be heard is one of the first things I'm going to be saying to myself. Is there clear sound waves coming through to this person to give them the best opportunity to hear what I'm talking about? are the people preoccupied right now? we all already looked at that. are they tired? are they suffering from drug use of drugs, marijuana or whatever?

Richard Trudgen: has somebody just died in their family and with the number of people dying so quickly you are constantly in funerals these days it's a full-time occupation. they sometimes have a break over Christmas for a couple of weeks out at the same all along the coast. You got to book your funeral now up to two months ahead. after the person's died that's the family booking the funeral. so are they preoccupied? Are they dealing with a whole lot of other things in their life? And that's hard to tell if you haven't got language and find it out quickly. Sometimes if I go to a community, I jump in the vehicle and by the time I get into town, I've caught up on what's going on and, they'll see some of the valer there and they'll say, " we're trying to get the meeting together." And I said, there won't be a meeting this morning. It might happen this afternoon."

Richard Trudgen: and they say, "What?" yeah, because of da da, something's happened. they didn't even know about it. They're out of the loop. So, it's difficult. If you're working with a young person, one of the things you need to do with them is just say, "Is there any issues that are going on that we need to know about that we need to be aware of that this group's going to have to deal with?" Because you might just have to deal with it. because you're not going to get full engagement if they're preoccupied. Just not going to get engagement. and look at this one. Context is everything. Make sure the people they're working with know what are we here for this morning? what is it we're trying to achieve?

Richard Trudgen: Especially if you guys are working on a program that's outside from a university, there will be a lot of questions in people's minds. What is it going to lead to? Is it going to get us into trouble later on? is it going to bounce it? Like Tim said, is it going to come back and hit us in the face? unless the context is very clear, people will have trouble following any of the communication.

Richard Trudgen: we would have all experienced it. you walk into a party, and it's your language that's been spoken in the party, but you haven't got a clue what they're talking about. Been there. Yeah. You're going, "What is this person talking about?" if you're English first language, they could be talking English first language and they're talking about something, but you're out of context.

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Richard Trudgen: You don't know what the context of the conversation's about. And it's interesting when that happens and people see us there in the conversation and they start talking to us and they're going yabby yaba and what are we doing? We're saying yes yes yes even though we haven't got a clue. what's being talked about. We won't go no, no, no, no. I don't understand. We go yes, yes, yes, yes. A lot of people say, why do you almost say yes when they're really not understanding? they're just in this party situation where they're out of context. They don't know what's going on. And if you say to them, do you understand what I'm saying? They're going to say They're just going to say yes. everybody does. It's a human thing.

Richard Trudgen: And so context is everything. What are we talking about? Who are the players? What for? Why are we doing this? The big why. Thanks, Phillip. Why are we doing this?

Richard Trudgen: What's it about? and where's it going to end up? because remember the Yung in the Yung context, they don't understand the baler world. they don't understand the big wide world out there. and they don't even understand what the university is about or whatever. So there can be a lot of questions around it. And so need to spend some real time around answering the questions around the context for what it's all about.

Richard Trudgen: Natalia. Go. Okay.

Nat: Yeah, Richard, I have a question there. When we were doing our program, Belinda was there with us. So, we had the advantage that she understands young lumata. So, we had some people from the community that became our research assistant to people. So we explained everything to them and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Change. Yes.

Nat: we had the understanding that they understood what we were saying and then they were the ones who talk to the young kids and then every time that they were trying to explain I heard that the Linda was saying yaka this is not a program this is a research so she will be trying to not mislead what we were trying to do but then somehow how I realized that the only way that this research assistant had was to communicate what they are they know if it's something new she couldn't communicate it so she kept saying this is a program to help you and…

Nat: we tried different angles to explain that it was a research but I saw that because it was something new there was no way of actually explaining it without using references of something that they already have experienced.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Nat: And that's when confusion can happen because we were not trying to do what in the past has been done.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. There is a concept in yum which is really great in that situation.

Richard Trudgen: Jillum Gadam Blinder yeah okay so you're trying to find a win for them sort of thing to help them in their situation and…

Belinda Morton: Yeah, I didn't know that term, Richard and…

Richard Trudgen: then straight away it goes right so this is you don't know the answers here you're actually wanting us to help find the answers Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: I think that's where we tried to speak around and that's the thing like using project or model or whatever, you end up using even more words to say we don't know it yet, but we're going to work together to create it. And that's why we need you guys, and so yeah, it's a lot more words.

Richard Trudgen: And it's those words.

Richard Trudgen: And let me just see if I can bring this.

Maree: So Richard,…

Maree: I've got a question.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Go. Yeah.

Maree: So I'm an Aboriginal person myself and so there this piece around what's appropriate and what's not appropriate. And for this project or research, it's coming from elders that have said that they want to help young people to understand their own wellness, or spirit or whatever word is actually being given. And I guess there's this little twinge in me which is around do these young people even want this? because it's an assumed and what the old people will say is we have to do something because of the really high rates of suicide and…

### 02:00:00

Maree: self harm and all of these terrible things these happen in these communities. I'm not even sure…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Maree: if this is making sense, but how do we ensure that we're getting consent and inform consent and a want from our young people in those communities to be involved in this? Because the other layer is we have these things called gift vouchers and is that being coercive Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: It is if it's not clear it's not and there are things you can use in yungam around it.

Richard Trudgen: the word consent is badly being tracked badly badly. your more interpreters will even call it the yes saying document in hospitals and all that. but there is a concept that works around it and in and that we can work through to get that right. there's a lot of good stuff. I just want to pull us up for a second and look at when we're communicating around things and you're using whenever we're using a word which basically this word if we look at a cup or a mug or something like that, that's supposed to be a mug or cup. Okay. Looks like and it is easy to translate.

Richard Trudgen: very easy to translate. Why it's tangible.

Maree: It's something that is used every day or it's visual.

Nat: It's tangible.

Maree: You can see it there.

Richard Trudgen: Get that stuck in your mind. it's tangible. So it's the intangible stuff. And if you look in terms of language for instance language has sort of three levels to it. You've got the tangible language, you got the intangible here and you got grammar.

Richard Trudgen: And what's happening over when you more are translating over into English, you've trouble with at all. The intang that's what they're having all the trouble with. Can't hear it, can't see it. You can't get the image of it. You can't get its image. so they're not learning much of this intangible in English. Sadly, they're also losing their intangible language in Yongamata. You've got some Yungamata speakers these days around round go who don't know any of their academic language. It's even got a special term to it. It's called Guramata. so it's the intangible that's the problem.

Richard Trudgen: And what also happens is usually what's gets carried over into here is the grammar from your original language gets carried in. So that's why you've got a lot of Aboriginal English languages around Australia. so if I speak Australian language I have less trouble translating understanding whatever other Aboriginal languages pigeon jar and central Australian and all that because even in the creole the grammar structure is very very similar.

Richard Trudgen: So I'm just saying that it's the intangible language that is over here which is the problem stuff. So every time we hit an intangible term we've got to check especially if we're working with Yung some Yong leaders make sure they understand the intangible terms that we're using. Just go is that clear and is that giving you a clear picture?

Richard Trudgen: And sometimes check what picture they can being given right yeah

### 02:05:00

Belinda Morton: Richard in so that we can maximize the value of this conversation for the project I think and…

Belinda Morton: Marie getting back to your deep and real concern about consent and willingness to be involved in everything. I know hand on my heart 100% that and I think there's also tangible and intangible within concepts as well because any young person that you talk to whether they're in trauma themselves or depression or anxiety they can recognize that it's an issue for so many young people and not just young people.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: And so there's that acknowledgment that it's not just top down from elders, but it's It's a recognized need. and yeah, I think the bit and honestly we've spent one session plus a couple of you moments meeting people to be able to talk about this project and as a group and things like that. I think everything comes back to people wanting to know what their place is in it and so yeah that time will just need to be allocated for the young people to place.

Belinda Morton: I think that obviously it's going to be a choice but I think that most people that because we have also had input from teachers and community leaders and families and everything about who has the skills and maybe the inclination as well to want to be involved in the creation of the model or being in the steering group.

Belinda Morton: That's what the young people can't conceptualize because it's not school and it's not work. It's something different. And so it's going to take time and words to kind of talk about that process and then you ask the question after that. So do you want to be a part of it once people can conceptualize that? Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. and there's the concepts we can work around there. Yeah, I'm not a 100% I've read the document you sent through and so I'm across to a bit more what you're looking at.

Richard Trudgen: I get shocked today constantly on the words that y interpreters don't even understand. so the one that was shocked me in the last few weeks was Everybody's talking about domestic. before I go there, Blind, I agree with you totally. Young kids they're looking for answers to things. You don't go and sniff horrible petrol, cuz you really like it. It's a disgusting process. You end up very sick from it. But people are looking for the wid the high out of that that comes out of it.

Richard Trudgen: We've got kids along the coast walking around choking themselves so they can get a high off oxygen starvation and they end up with brain death and end up with brain death and dead from it fairly early. So yeah, kids are looking for some answers to this and there are answers to it. That's why I'm trying to get this next book out. the clear answers to it and the clear answers are answering the people's questions mainly more than anything else around any subject so they can actually start to be as Paulo Frier talked about world literate so they can become world literate and as Frier said Frier was clearly saying what you've got to do is start with concept education rather than skilled education so people can understand the world first and then they'll demand

Richard Trudgen: unskilled education, They'll be lining up for it. So, communication can happen and you got to slow it down enough till we find out where people are Make it as clear as possible. but it's pretty disgusting around here at the moment as I can tell you about some programs that are just falling to bits because English speaking people have taken over it. So, this is what I just want to make some of these clears to you. Remember the silence.

### 02:10:00

Richard Trudgen: be ready to deal with that, cope with it somehow. but you were asking, Natalia, is that offensive? And I just want to let me just show you this one other slide and then I'll bounce off this one, I think, and I'll try and find another one to remember that also, in information overload. So, people get into information overload. It's no good going any further. If they're stressed, they're tired, they can't Get out of there for a while. Go and sit out under the trees or Whatever you got to do, take a break. watch for information overloads because it's going to happen much more faster than would happen in their normal home home situation.

Richard Trudgen: but let's just look at this too. Where are you positioned? in a Yung sense, we should be more in this sort of position here. Yung don't like using this balance lecture style. We're at the front, the other groups over there. the western model it's seen as extremely offensive at times because it's eye to eyeball to eyeball rather than heart to heart mind to mind so in a y situation I think there's a couple of videos I think on our website not in the cultural courses but the other ones somewhere got to get them out I can be standing with my back to people

Richard Trudgen: And it's not seen as offensive. If I'm working in a group, I will not stand out the front. I'll go and sit in the group. so if necessary, then not even this situation where I'm higher than the group. I want to be down same level as them. I want to be at the same level, eye to eye, heart to heart, mind to mind, soul to soul.

Richard Trudgen: in oneness and I'll even get somebody else out the front to if we're using a whiteboard or whatever like that to use the whiteboard. Otherwise, we put paper down on the floor and we sit around it. That's the traditional way of doing education where you sit around a model on the floor. You work with something on the floor. The group's big. It's difficult to do. Sometimes you got to use a whiteboard. So, I'll go back and sit with the group. I was just referring to that one situation down springs because I'm saying this because it's not just with Yongo. it's right across traditional lands. and I'd been out front for a whole day doing this sort of stuff. And I and I walked back and I sat down with some of the arender guys pigeon guys and I said how do you feel now me coming back here?

Richard Trudgen: And" They said, "That's good. You're back with us. You're with us. You're not out the front lecturing us, teaching us, telling us." So, it's not a problem if you don't give eyesight. It's absolutely better. So, if you're waiting in a space, silence, you can be writing notes, you could be on your computer going, "People are not going to worry it at all."

Richard Trudgen: when I used to do seminars around the country, I'd have trouble getting especially young women to come with me because they'd say, "I just can't stand out the front. I'm feeling as though I'm being undressed by everybody looking at It's like they're looking through my bedroom window. It's the same feeling. I can't stand it. It traumatizes me. I won't be able to come anymore." But everybody say, "Why haven't you got more people in your seminar?" I'm going yes because the western model is just bad. It's just good. and u so we try practicing that during seminars me going sitting back with a group and what would happen all the English speaking people there would want to turn around and look at me right because it's so offensive to them to not be looking at the person who's speaking. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: So this is what we call the communication moray is different sometimes. know that where are you positioned is important and that can be very very different. Being back with the group is a good way back with sitting with a group equal adults sitting around looking at something on the ground drawing on that using your things and even if I'm working with young patients in hospital we do the same thing I won't stand at the foot of the bed I'll go to the head of the bed and then we'll put stuff down in front of them and straight away people start participating because they see it they feel like they're equals then they're not being lectured they're not being ear talked down

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Richard Trudgen: I don't know if that answers your question there. Natalia, you're hearing okay. You've changed your headset. No, youve Got sound troubles. Can't hear you. Sorry. She's lost sound or something.

Richard Trudgen: She's on the phone here. So, she's going back to headset. That's good. where am I going? I got one more there and then We got what? I can't help. Can you hear us now? One, two. Yeah, but I can't hear you.

Richard Trudgen: Can't hear Still nothing. Yeah, I got you now. Got you.

Nat: No. …

Nat: Yes, I was going to say yes. Thank you. I understood what you were saying and I remember some of the context that you work of the best position is to be next to each other and…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. Yes. Yeah.

Nat: facing something else. So, yeah, it makes sense. but my other question is still we say in Colombia on the bottom of the coffee cup…

Nat: which is how do we communicate things that do not exist that we are trying to build in the future?

Richard Trudgen: One of the things it's a good question and…

Richard Trudgen: I'm getting a response. I need to go to a board somewhere. just watch people's body language. I was just going to show you that. No, we'll come to your question. I don't think Got I saw draw as you talk. Where's that? You're going the other way. Next Phil. Thanks. You saw that there. Yeah. Yeah. So, one of the ways to do it is to draw as you talk.

Richard Trudgen: the traditional way is to I remember when I was back in the bush at Ramen Guiner and the old men were giving instructions to the guys to do different jobs during the day and all that and they'd just be using their toe to just put a mark in the dirt or in the sand, just bang just one and they'd say, "Look, you two guys

Richard Trudgen: here or you three BS here. This is the jobs that you've got to do today. You got to do this. Then you got So what you're doing is giving a visual image of your communication. And it's the same here. If you say, we're here in New South Wales Uni and we're coming to Ukala here and you guys come from how many different clans here? I would say something like that you come from different families or the same family or what try and just map it out a little bit. Yeah. Now we know that back here things are easy for bala back here baler kids are going to school because it's English okay and they're going through to university and all that.

Richard Trudgen: But we know that you guys are struggling here, so I've tried to draw as much as I talk. So you're using the eyes the terminal rather than just using the terminal in rather than just using the terminal in the ear the input there to the computer in your head just using this one you're also using the eyeball so you're getting two terminals into the brain and so sometimes the communication can be much easier but when it comes to concept words sorry you got to do your work around them there's the

### 02:20:00

Richard Trudgen: it is very difficult to explain some of these concept in tangible words because the imaging is just not there. One of the things we find with yung mut is an English imaging concept If you got a concept word here to get an image in an English concept words sometimes you might have to go back four generations back to Latin or Greek to get a picture to get a picture.

Richard Trudgen: In yungam when we're in concept language it's either in this generation or it's only one generation away. So it's very quick in yam mata once we find the concept very quick dealing with English first language ainal people down south who become lawyers and all that sort of stuff and they're just going I can't understand these legal terms and I said do your work go back and find the picture the word charge, I'm going to charge We're going to charge the battery. D, we can learn that. We can learn what it means. But what is the image of it? And when you go back into it's either the Greek or the Latin, I can't remember the Latin it's a horse cart that with a big pile on it.

Richard Trudgen: Big load on the cart. That's the picture of the word charge. And people go, " right." So that's when you're charging somebody or somebody's being charged, you're being loaded up. Yes. You go to the shop and you want to buy something and they said, "We're going to charge you so much. We're going to load you up for this." And so once you're into the concept terms, you've really just got to do work on them. And You unpack them. But you got to go back what Yung will call The Jury back, which is that one of the groups you're working with that they call themselves the Jocker, but I'm not sure if we use this method all the time to unpack the English words. one of the exciting ones I'll just give you an example.

Richard Trudgen: We were looking for nutrition and we were dealing with the video for chronic disease. and the interpreter says, "What does nutrition mean? It doesn't make any sense to me." And we went back and we found out it meant nutria which was the root word for a nurse or suckling of the baby at the breast and soon as I said this to the young person they went we call it this I can't remember the term just at the moment we call this so that's what nutrition means it's like being suckled at the breast not holding the baby to your breast but caressing the baby to the breast

Richard Trudgen: so they can get good mother's milk. So we find these beautiful concepts but in a sense you do that with the group and the group gets really excited because They've learned something in English and they go wow we can understand these English words. We're not black and dumb and stupid like the colonial naming tells us we can actually know know these terms. So, you've got to deal with those concept words. It's no good just using blah blah blah blah blah blah because it's just blah blah blah blah blah and it's assaulting and it's traumatic and it's everything else and makes people feel terrible. Where are we?

Richard Trudgen: Jery means jocky.

Nat: So sorry Richard,…

Nat: can you please unpack a little bit more the Jackary method?

Richard Trudgen: Not sure if I spelled it right there. How am I going Means the footprint, which doesn't make much sense to us. But they say the first person who was created, their footprint was put in the sand. And that's the jury going right back to the foundation of existence of life itself.

### 02:25:00

Richard Trudgen: U so when we're looking at a concept word we always go okay let's go back and look at the jury in English or Latin or wherever it comes from and then be able to talk that through in language and as I say a lot of the times you will then come up with the concepts which absolutely are so powerful they're more powerful than the English this one about Nutria, I can't think of the word that came out of that. I must go back and look it up and put it into my dendrites. Nutria was a Latin term. But I can't remember the must go and grow my dentites around it. Any other questions, guys?

Richard Trudgen: We have a break Wait until 3:00. We'll have a break at 3. Yeah. we just go let me just give you this one here. I'm going to close this one down. Are we? This one first. Give people permission to ask questions. That's part of the conversation that needs to happen up front because people don't know they're allowed to ask questions. In traditional society, you usually don't ask questions, but your teachers know you from birth. So, they don't lead you into a blind alley. They don't lead you into somewhere where you're not going to understand. They'll be adding to your education as you come through. so traditional education is not a lot of question and answering.

Richard Trudgen: And a lot of people say, but Yong won't ask questions. I don't have any trouble with them asking questions. First of all, I give them permission to ask Any questions they want. And I even say things like, " There's nothing do you holy in what we're going to talk about that you can't know about." And that makes more sense to them than it does to us. so you're not going to get in trouble by asking questions. There's no way you're going to get in trouble by making us questions, asking questions. And that needs to be clearly said to the group that you can ask Any question in the world about us or university or what we're talking about that you will not get into trouble about asking questions. so that's a very very important thing to do.

Richard Trudgen: And then of course

Nat: Richard, sorry.

Nat: When we were talking to the young people, they were saying we ask, "Do you have any questions?" We ask even, and this comes to another question that I had about decision making. We were trying to let them know that they were the ones making the decision and we will learn and listen from it to create the model. So we wanted to give them the role as they decide…

Nat: what they want from the beginning. Even what Marie says the gift cards, is it okay a gift card? type? What do you want to buy with it? Like we asked all of these questions and we did not receive any answers.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. But…

Richard Trudgen: but I'm saying there's something before that because let me just grab this here because if you're a yal person you're at this level of learning traditionally right you don't put yourself to the next level you get invited

Richard Trudgen: So what if you're dealing with a subject, you've got to invite people into that subject by saying it's okay to ask any question of the university or us what we do. You've got to clearly give that permission. So you're inviting them into the next level. If you leave them at this level and say, "Have you got any questions?" They're going, " bugger me. I don't know what I could ask and what I'm not allowed to ask. They'll be locked at that level because this is the traditional method of education. You get invited to the next level, which funnily enough, we do the same. We invite students into universities. They can put an application in, but they must be invited." Yeah. So, there's a lot of human interactions that are equal in many senses.

### 02:30:00

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. human dynamics we talk about. make sure you give per people permission to ask any question about you, who you are, where you come from, s the project about, what's the university about, what do you do? Give them that permission. Yeah. Hat.

Belinda Morton: I think as well,…

Belinda Morton: Richard, that's really powerful about what you said about being invited and that This is counter Yongo culture in some ways and definitely by design and was interesting when we put this proposal for research to Yinga and for this endorsement his first thing or his main concern coming back was why aren't you asking the elders to tell you their ideas and we were like this is a new phenomenon really that we're coming up against these levels of depression and anxiety and everything and we're doing something where we ask the young people themselves.

Belinda Morton: we explore with them potential solutions or something that may help or their preferences and then he was like okay and saw and agreed and endorsed what we're doing but it did remind me again of and I've said to the team before that jungle are really if you're younger or a lower level or whatever, you don't ever put yourself out out there. it's very different to mainstream baler culture of anybody, everybody give it a go. There's no wrong answer or something like that. There are wrong answers for y in most spheres because you're just accessing knowledge that always has been.

Belinda Morton: But we're building something new here. And we're going for a situation that hasn't been encountered in this way before, ever in history. these levels and the complex social problems and all of that, but we're going to the end users for design ideas. And so it is asking something new and…

Belinda Morton: it will take some time to come to an understanding and an acceptance and being powerful in that and seeing agency in that. I think

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: When I read the proposal I thought same thing. why is not and I understand why in some ways and sorry it's a bit of a colonial thing we'll go and work with the young people the missionaries said it just work with the young people we'll get them on board we'll get them on board and there are 31 youth programs now in northeastland 31 and there's not one adult education program so

Richard Trudgen: We're shooting hoops. We're kicking footballs.

Belinda Morton: Hold on,…

Richard Trudgen: We're doing all this stuff.

Belinda Morton: I'll pull you up on that. I work for one,…

Richard Trudgen: Okay.

Belinda Morton: but I get…

Richard Trudgen: You're probably the only one, Belinda.

Belinda Morton: what you're saying. yeah, look, and I get you and please know as well, and you did acknowledge that jury are on board, but they've got their place in this. And the point is that young people will have a choice of being asked of asking elders of asking senior people to come in but it will be their choice and at their invitation. So yeah that they are it's different…

Belinda Morton: because of that and I felt okay being a part of it because this isn't a program it's something different and it's doing things in a real way. Anyway, now I work for fat.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, I don't have any problems with it.

Richard Trudgen: I'm just saying some of the structures around who you working with at the moment, Belinda, you still Yeah.

Belinda Morton: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. …

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. still…

Belinda Morton: yeah. Yeah. yeah. My

Richard Trudgen: but Lena's about the only group that's doing anything good in the health area and all that. If I go into a hospital and…

Richard Trudgen: ask s which patients know a little bit about what's going on, it's always Lena patients. It's not new age health or anything like that. It's always So yeah, broad brushing a little bit there. but still 30 31 31 to1 is still a pretty horrible ratio.

Belinda Morton: That's right.

Belinda Morton: That's all right. Yeah, it

Richard Trudgen: horrible ratio. Also, you got to go back to your thing that you keep repeating is you ask a question, it might be not a threem minute rule that you need for an answer. It might be a two-day rule that you need for that's right. The Philip's just saying if you ask a question, it might be two days that you get the answer to it will go away and think about it and all that sort of stuff. Paula Paula, you got something there?

### 02:35:00

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yes, thank you so much for this. I have a set of questions. Yes, one you've been talking about which is the untangible language and I guess that I still have this question that I guess will be answered as we go in this course but as we go there but when you're talking about a concept as mental health…

Richard Trudgen: Good night.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: that intangible like that how would you be able to talk about something like that and the other question that I'm having is time. So you were saying how important it is silence. Yes. And you said a person can take up to three minutes to answer a question and they stay in silence. That means time. But in terms of this program, how much time would we actually need to be there beforehand to create the safety needed for people,…

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: the engagement, the connection with people? Because just like going there and…

Richard Trudgen: It's the process.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: pretending, for them to answer questions when they don't really know us,

Richard Trudgen: Your process is more important than content. And as community educators, as communicators, we start on a process. And the process can't go any faster than the process goes. but let me tell you a little story. there's one of my teachers used to be Jim Downey and he give this example. He'd go into a community in central Australia and he'd go up to the office.

Richard Trudgen: He wanted to see the chairman, go up to the office and they just sit down with the guys on the step up at the office, and it's a story about process. And he just sit there and after probably 10 minutes, even quarter an hour, some of the guys sitting there say, "Where are you from, old man?" And I go, " yeah. I'm just flew down from Darwin." like to see the chairman, all that. and they said, " you better go over to the clinic there because he's got a boil on his bum over there and he's getting it fixed up, and all that." but if you go over there, there'll be a big line lineup of people and you'll be able to talk to him while he's waiting, So, here he is. He's got to see the chairman already. he's back on the plane. He's out of there that day because he's concentrating on process, not content.

Richard Trudgen: where the other government guys turn up and they don't sit down with the guys. They got their briefcase. They walk around in a bit of an angry mood up and down in front of he's not at the office. We couldn't speak to him and we'll have to stay another day or two days. They're not concentrating on process. So you concentrate on process. I get 10 times more done than most other people because I'm concentrating on process. So the time actually is shorter not longer. but we concentrate on good process. Yeah, it doesn't mean to say you're going to magically get everything happening. one of the big programs I did later is closing down just in the last couple of years, big one, closing down the AG gas sniffing petrol ride along the coast which was causing lead poisoning to all the young people. Government tried to block me out of community. I got in there, I got somebody to give me $10,000 to go and do it and fly out there and talk to people.

Richard Trudgen: We talked to 250 adults and we closed down the whole problem virtually within a week or two. and because you concentrate on process, it's not easy and it's different, but that's your main process that you're looking at. And the other thing you look at is always creating a dialogue situation if you can. trying to get into dialogue rather than into the lecturing mode, having conversations like Jim, sitting down with the guys, having a talk, getting the local knowledge, finding out what's going on. people like Blinda,…

Richard Trudgen: people like Blinda, there's only a few of us around. There's not many that can do it, I'll tell you.

Belinda Morton: that for me.

Belinda Morton: Paula, the most crucial members of the team are the Yong research assistants and they're like Yong talk about have a concept of bara like a companion someone to always be with you so you're not by yourself someone that you draw strength

### 02:40:00

Belinda Morton: and you give strength to as well and the people that will work in your team who are here relate even Nat now has been adopted and so even though she's at the infancy of her journey with Yongu she belongs now in this community she's relatable because she has a position and she has a relationship with everybody who she'll come into contact with and then that's actually a beautiful way to get to know people is to discuss that.

Belinda Morton: But the people the yummore that will be part of this project as staff have they already have those relationships and help pave the way and will be your balmer that will guide you and even though they might not know a lot about this particular content they know all about the protocols they have relationships with all those young people they have the knowledge about who's passed away and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: where you can't go back cuz there's a funeral and all of that and the value of them means that not that that process they are just a big part of the process. it's absolutely yeah yeah yeah the other thing is and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. They're a massive part of the process if you haven't got them on board. And they're also going to be interpreters. So you got to make sure that you've worked through all the concepts with them. You do all the investigation with them. That's definitely locked in to work with them until it's all clear. And then after that, bang, communication evening.

Belinda Morton: I'm not sure if you've seen this yet and I think Nat just resent them back to me Today we're really fortunate that I accidentally ran in the homelands a group of researchers that have grown up a whole heap of yung researchers out in a couple of homelands and they've actually created in a couple of homeland communities some re yong resources around capturing languages and metaphors and processes as well, all around mental health and And so they've been kind enough to give those to us as well.

Belinda Morton: And while it's for those people that have gone through that process and the homelands, that's not your Carla, but there's connections and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: all of it will be absolutely relevant. And I think in that process particularly of getting the research assistance to that place of being able to function as Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. …

Belinda Morton: there's two at this Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: how many research assistants are there in this program? Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: But we've also got relationships with people at Lena and that have done this work. so just to reassure you that it's not starting at a blank slate and…

Belinda Morton: again it's that beauty of the process because those research assistants are coming into knowledge that they don't know already even…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: though it's their cultural heritage and their own culture and language like it's there.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: It's just a matter of accessing it. So,

Richard Trudgen: It's a method we work with. we use co-producers and all the stuff we produce, So, we work through with them. We do the investigation together. bang. And sometimes I think we're only going to produce one podcast. We end up producing up to 12 podcasts to deal with it,

Richard Trudgen: but we're working with the Ymore co-producers, investigating all those subjects and then they're then across the subject. If they needed to go and talk to other people about the subject, they can talk about it Extremely quickly. Yeah. So let's just couple of things. Let's just go on three. Do we want another five minute break or how are we going guys? Yeah, I'm getting let's do a five. Let's do a five. We're back in five.

### 02:45:00

Maree: Where are you, Belinda? you're on mute.

### 02:50:00

Belinda Morton: Hello. I'm on my back deck taking the opportunity while it's unseasonally not raining right this moment.

Belinda Morton: But it's just been wet. So I thought I'd actually just spend a bit of time outside on again.

Maree: Yeah. …

Maree: Nice.

Belinda Morton: Yeah. Yes,…

Maree: A it's about to rain here in Sydney. Yeah. We've had kind of big cold drum raindrops falling out of the sky. Yeah. Oh no.

Belinda Morton: a big difference because it is not cold.

Belinda Morton: And actually, the reason why I was late, and I apologize to this today, was at work we had to change everything around and I'm having to fly this week to work instead of drive because the road condition is just horrific. for our sister organization next door, four of their troopies got bogged yesterday or no, this morning it must have been. and they're seasoned drivers in these conditions and yeah, it's really bad. So, yeah, I'll be flying, which is not good cuz I have a lot of luggage usually. So, it back.

Richard Trudgen: We're just going to You want to be muted for a little bit?

Maree: No.

Maree: How long you going out for?

Belinda Morton: Just for two days this week…

Maree: Yep. wow.

Belinda Morton: because it's short week. but usually I'm out for two nights and three days at least every week. So, yeah,…

Maree: Okay. it sounds like fun.

Belinda Morton: It really is. Yeah. And I haven't seen everybody for so long, so yeah, it'll be great.

Maree: That's so nice. Just send me some beautiful photos.

Belinda Morton: I will

Maree: You should see these children, Paula. my gosh.

Belinda Morton: There's

Richard Trudgen: Okay, I think We're back on. so just thinking how to get the best out of this. there's one more slide here on this one. I'll just Click Where we Down here. You got it. So yeah, just remember what are they hearing? whoever we're working with that other group or we're working with the people whatever concentrate on that. just want to go and share this slide with you just quickly because it's a good thing to just remember as some people say why are you more struggling the way they are and all that that sort of thing.

Maree: We are

Richard Trudgen: and it's good just to remember that get this operating English and European languages have been working with each other for thousands of years and math down the bottom page down there. And then, Chinese and Japanese, they've been working together with English At least 400 years. Jesuit priests started over in China and Japan 400 years ago and even English and Pacific Islands Fiji and Samo and Tonga are 180 years and then if we look at English and Yunga 75 80 years max and no real language center no real development or anything.

Richard Trudgen: So it's one of the reasons why old people are struggling really hard. So there's no good two-way dictionaries that really develop things and language resources. so it just leaves people severely linguistically marginalized and so this is why there's got to be the concentration on communication. We've been through that. Yeah. Is there anybody with a question at this point?

Richard Trudgen: There's about three or four different ways I could go at this point.

Maree: You choose the path and…

Maree: we'll follow.

Richard Trudgen: I don't think it's this. No, no, no. I don't think it's that.

Richard Trudgen: I'm sort of thinking that what would help you guys better to see this in terms of your whole project with the conversations that's been going on there. I want to just share with you discard that. the levels of awareness that Bolo Frier talked about because it just helps us get into the mindset of what we're dealing with in the community we're dealing with.

### 02:55:00

Richard Trudgen: and because when we're dealing with things like psychological problems, trying to get people to talk around all this, the biggest concept that Yung have is a concept called MA. M A R the M is your spiritual power or strength within your soul within your man or down in the middle of your stomach and it's what people measure to their feeling of the feeling of being feeling good or bad in credit or in debt and so forth and I think there's about 20 words around

Richard Trudgen: hard which is all around emotional stuff and everything else. So there's concepts there that we can go to. but a lot of people just still think then but why are so many people just don't seem to care about changing and improving their situation anymore? why are they just locked into another term that Paulrey used culture of silence which I'm trying to ride around at the moment and Fria was talking about this stuff in the 60s in Brazil and so forth and when I started reading his stuff I'm saying this is exactly what's going on in Arnamland even back when I read it was back in the 70s it's far worse today.

Richard Trudgen: so in Brazil most of free so I won't spend much time on and he had four levels of awareness when one group of people is dominated by another cultural group. just a note of caution we shouldn't use this stuff. Levels of awareness are effective to analyze people's state of consciousness where they're at. However, they should not be used as a weapon to label or further stigmatize people and so forth. And this comes out of that book was called helping health workers learn by David Warner who wrote the book also where there's no doctors and so on. And I've paraphrased it quite a bit now. I'll move through it fairly quickly.

Richard Trudgen: First level is magical awareness that Fria talks about naive critical awareness and fanatic awareness. I never used to teach about fanatic awareness but now Freya actually worked on the radical radicalization of people and all that back in the 60s everybody should be especially the federal police and all that should be actually going through this course. but one person might be in more than one stage of awareness at a particular time or around a particular subject. So they might have something sorted out. They understand this or they understand that but they don't understand this and they can be at different levels.

Richard Trudgen: So magical awareness this first level of awareness come on first level awareness which people of a culture that has been dominated by and find themselves is this level people experiencing ma magical awareness consider themselves to be inferior and unable to master the skills and ideas of the dominant culture. unfortunately yung have gone there today where even ago 30 years ago it was not such a problem. I'm dealing with a young elder at the moment who's just being totally trashed by English first language people even in his own family that have taken total control over him as an elder and they're not listening to him not taking any notice of him.

Richard Trudgen: And where it's at. He believes he has to have a balancer to run his business or somebody who speaks English. He believes it emphatically. it's not just a simple thing just absolutely convinced of it. It's a magical way. They believe that the dominant culture is better than themselves that the dominant culture has some magical power which they do not have. Now I'm fair income about this guys. So people are thinking that they can just create money. They can just create vehicles, puff of smoke in some sort of weird factory somewhere. Some of the stories I'm getting from people it's, cargo cultish type stuff.

### 03:00:00

Richard Trudgen: and that's why I question a little bit whether you can be totally successful in what you're wanting to do because you've got a state of mind where some people are not what Paula said world literate. They don't understand how the world is operating. Now it doesn't mean to say you should stop doing what you're doing or anything else but I'm just saying it might be difficult. so you get this this is because the events and this is because the events and the forces that shape their lives are not understood intellectually that people have got so many knowledge gaps about how that works, whatever.

Richard Trudgen: if you get down on to health issues which we're dealing with and mental health people are thinking that health and health issues is caused by sorcery or it's because the bell under not giving us the right medicine a whole stack of other things that I constantly hear of all the time. so if they're not understood intellectually they're seen as some sort of magical thing that's happening. people become fatalistic accepting what happens to them as fate or God's will. And some people will just go off into almost religious weird religious sort of things.

Richard Trudgen: I just got to do this or just got to hold my mouth this way or make sure I do this or do that. yeah, it can get quite weird. Although the problems are great, you got poor health, you got poverty, you got unemployment, and you got massive imprisonment rates at the moment. The people sometimes commonly deny these problems. That's what I wanted to get you to. You're saying that they know that they've got problems. They sometimes commonly deny that they've got it because It is too hard to go there. now it doesn't mean to say you pull up, but be ready to, go to all sorts of places that you've never been before.

Richard Trudgen: They are often exploited but at the same time become highly dependent upon those with authority or power whom they fear and try to please. So in answering questions unless we've given people the right opportunity and they feel good about it and they feel great about it they'll be looking for what do you want me to say in many cases. Now you got to make sure more colleagues your bummer as Belinda has pointed out those people who are working with make sure they're right across this that no you can stop this process you can change it you can question it we got to make sure that's right because sometimes they just go along with it now this is freer talking Brazil wherever back in the 60s but we see so much of

Richard Trudgen: much of it today. So they conform to the dumb down image of themselves given to them by those on top in the dominant culture. So a lot of why are young kids now breaking into all the teachers houses stealing cars and getting drunk? that they're taking on the image that's being given to them by the mainstream that they're primitive. They're backwards. systems, their governance systems are just rubbi Nobody's coming to study their legal systems or anything else like that. Even though we've talked about it for years, still not happening.

Richard Trudgen: so they take on that image and I'm using these images from South America where this is the magical awareness area. If I go over to Cape York go up to Weer I got off the plane one day in Darwin and what was his name? He was a human rights commissioner. He was there, one of those brothers from Western Australia. And he says, "Judge, you've been to Weber and K." I said, "Yes, where the men look at the ground." He said, " I never experienced this in my life." He said, he's an average person from Western Australia. Never experienced in my life. The men stare at the ground. so this is magical awareness and gets to that level.

### 03:05:00

Richard Trudgen: can get to that level. we're seeing this with some not so much around groups like Lena and all that, but I'm seeing it back at some of the other communities. we were at this level. Magic awareness was fairly heavy back in the early days when people had no understanding about how vehicles worked and all that, but it's still there and it's very strong. The next level is naive awareness. Now some people have had a broader exposure to the culture that has dominated them but this level is almost worse than any other level.

Richard Trudgen: they may have worked with some people from that culture and have developed an incomplete understanding of it and so they can dress well, they can turn up to work well, they can do that. But at this level people are no longer passive and accepting their condition. they try to make the best of the situation by imitating those from the dominant culture. And it's not that they got the answers and all that.

Richard Trudgen: the one guy I was talking about I'm working with at the moment, that's exactly what he's doing. He's actually got a pretty important job in town, but he doesn't understand it. He said to me the other day, "What does manager mean?" I said, "But you're a manager of your own organization." He say, "Yes, but what does manager mean?" So, I had to talk it through in language with him what it meant. He goes, "You sure?" I said, "Yes. you are legally liable for things that are happening in your organization. You got to make sure this is right, that's right. You got to make it happen properly. So he's imitating those from the dominant culture. And unfortunately, a lot of it's without understanding what he's really imitating. it's just as I say, Frey has talked about this.

Richard Trudgen: Naive awareness is characterized by an oversimplification and powerpoints got oversimplified. It won't even work now. An oversimplification of the problem so they sometimes just oversimplify the problem. look, it's just this or just that or just that because they don't understand the details around it. and all the time working with this guy I'm working with says, " but you can't just do that? you just do that? Can't you just do that? Can't you just put the internet on or can't you just give me the phone or can't it's just bing bing as though it's oversimplific and u an underestimation of ordinary people. we had four people employed at his business.

Richard Trudgen: Y had never been employed before, but he was convinced that even though they could run the show, even though they were running the show, he wanted a baller in there to run the show. A strong tendency towards enjoying crowds of similar people, funloving, and a dislike of being alone. That's Yung, that's why you love to be together even at funerals. just there it's like the world is too hard to understand on your own. So you get together, you tell stories, might even be gossip or whatever, but you get together and you don't like being alone by them by themselves. One of the ladies I'm working with at the moment, she just got to have somebody around. that's different from mainstream where mainstream people like to have some space, because of this level of awareness.

Richard Trudgen: So there's a disinterest in investigation and a fascination for fancible explanations of reality. So if you get a story that comes along the coast or the world's going to end tomorrow, yeah, bang, right along the coast, it'll just spread like wildfire. some other crazy things. during the co stuff it was just rampant because government was even putting out the wrong messages about blood blood clot even though the Astroenica in vaccination wasn't even coming this way but they put it out on radio for 6 months and so that story just was everywhere and from my experience these people are suffering the highest level of this disorder

### 03:10:00

Richard Trudgen: because things just don't add up for him. And I remember the Reverend Dr. Gundra who's just passed away been a colleague for three 30 years he kept on saying he says when we went through this and explained this out he says that's why so many of our people who have got into jobs and even run communities and all that they end up with psychological disorders mental disorders they end up going stupid because the world just doesn't make any sense. It just doesn't You try and make it add up, but it doesn't make up. So, that's naive awareness. And the transition from naive to critical is never a oneshot event. It can never be. anyone who starts the learning process towards critical is takes on a lifetime job.

Richard Trudgen: And with a colleague he was still working at it right up until his death around so many subject areas that he was when we first started investigating things he was completely naive in his understanding of. he believed that money just magically come from God or from government whatever that all the businesses in including the mining company up the world up the road get all their money from the government and I can tell you now if we went through urala and ask the question of where Rio gets their money from to buy their vehicles all their wages everything I reckon

Richard Trudgen: 95% of Eural will say from the government and so you've got this naive awareness which if there you can work around it and you can work through it. we had a workshop just a while ago which we had some Rio executives sitting in and this subject came up and the young old lady who worked out at the school at UICOA she just said straight out when we asked the question where they get their money she said from the government of course. and when you think about it all the programs operating on their community these days they're all operating with government money.

Richard Trudgen: So why shouldn't they think that way? If they ask a valer person, English first language person, they ask them where does your money come from? Where's your vehicle Where's your house come from? the government. So there's a lot of confusion around all these things. this level of awareness can be clearly seen when the words the people use in legal agreements do not match the corresponding actions. We used to see this all the time from local councils where people would pass recommendations and so forth and we see it sometimes in business today with where they'll sit in a board meeting and they'll agree to this agree that but follow through.

Richard Trudgen: It's like we're just playing a game. And Yet in this stage of awareness, people strongly reject any suggestion. They are confused. So you got to be careful of this. Don't go out and say, " you're in naive awareness. You don't really." they will reject that idea because from their point of view instead they believe they understand everything and they act very authoritatively or even bossy in that role and there's a good image of this from South America that sort of points it out. So that's the naive awareness. any questions at that point?

Richard Trudgen: I'm going to move to critical awareness now. Yeah.

Nat: Yes, I had one. You were saying that in this level of awareness, people tend to always be together and try to do everything together. and strong they cannot be alone. when we were asking our participants if the only question that we received answer to clearly was when we say do you want to do it together or…

### 03:15:00

Nat: separate and they said together whatever we do wherever we go we all do it together and…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah.

Nat: we were asking is it okay because of kinship and the kin relations and all is it okay cause this topic when these terrors are present should we separate between male and female or between clans or between family relationships. Should we make so we were asking those questions and the only clear answer we got from them was whatever it is we want to do together.

Richard Trudgen: I want to do I'll be doing a bit of investigation around that question.

Nat: So this is one of the questions that we have been constantly asking ourselves methodologically how to go about this is if we talk to people separately or together.

Richard Trudgen: I'm just thinking I was baroo over in what's it called? West Arnam, but Jabaru around the tourist area over there, Kekado and all that. We're in a big workshop. and all the people there and I found it impossible to get them to ask any questions. So, I knew what was going on. So soon as we had a break, I took my pen and note notebook and went around and sat beside people and said, "Have you got a question you'd like? I'll ask it for I'll ask the question." I got a whole book full of questions. Now, but people see it's a baler thing to do this, right?

Richard Trudgen: and so sometimes I'll find other mechanisms to get their questions out and…

Richard Trudgen: and then the group can work through it and they feel that's a good process. They go yeah yeah yeah okay

Belinda Morton: Yeah. and…

Belinda Morton: from a school and I know this is not school but from a school teachers or working with big groups small groups one-on-one with my work with adults and with babies and all the way through I've taught secondary and primary and all of that I think that that was more a function of not knowing that group couldn't really picture and so of course you're going to say as a group at that point, but I've seen young people be comfortable from one-on-one right through to Yeah.

Belinda Morton: to groups and things like that. I think it's less about Yeah,…

Richard Trudgen: Nice. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: As you said, Richard, I think there's lots of different ways that can fall out over time. It's just that question at that time. it's safety in numbers and that's not necessarily about the naive awareness or anything. It's just h I want a group of people around me because otherw then I'm not the focus. the safe exactly.

Richard Trudgen: And the fact is they might be thinking, I don't want to get asked a question in English, and there's other people here better in English than me. I'll get them to answer the question.

Belinda Morton: So I lots of Yeah. Yep.

Richard Trudgen: And so there's a whole that's process again of working it out what's happening. and you can sense that that sort of Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: We can work through it. There's no doubt about it. Been there. It's more of an individual thing that You're talking to an individual and they will not answer unless they've got a group around. Yeah. So,…

Richard Trudgen: let's just go to the …

Nat: Sorry, I did not understand…

Nat: what Philip was saying. Sorry.

Richard Trudgen: Philip was sort of just saying it's more of individual drag a group together if they're in the drag group together. People always like a bummer. They like a friend. They like somebody else around them.

Richard Trudgen: And if they're in a strange environment, they're going to go, I'll stay in a group." It's But if the process is right and they feel safe in that process, culturally safe,…

Belinda Morton: Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: yeah, then I do it all the time. I go off with individuals and hospitals and all that and say, "Where would you like to sit to?" We can have a conversation go. But that's only when they get to know me and then they know that they're not going to be set up in any way. yeah, let's just go to critical awareness. it's when a new understanding of what is happening around them starts to break through. And it doesn't happen quick at this level of ness. Observation and reasoning replace the myths about the dominant culture.

Richard Trudgen: And I'm saying myths that the dominant culture can just make up laws. They can just get money. Everyone's got money. some of the y kids that they come into Nulboy here and they see three or four motor cars at every house and a boat and everything and they're thinking that the government has given these baler all these things, And that's what's leading to a lot of the anxiety and mental depression. Why am I born on the wrong side? Why was I born black? Was I born young? And some of them are now quite angry at their elders. I'm hearing from youth saying, "We don't want their silly old song cycles and stuff anymore. this is coming from along the coast and all that, too. we want the Bellander culture thinking that they're going to get a lot of money.

### 03:20:00

Richard Trudgen: and so we don't want that old culture. they won't speak that out in front of older people. They'll speak it out to me once they got my trust. I'll say, " this is where it's at." And so critical awareness is where you start to break those myths and you start to break the confusion that people have about the dominant culture.

Richard Trudgen: and the stereotype naming about Aboriginal people being primitive, backward and all that sort of stuff. having no legal system, having no governance structure, no parliaments and so on, which we know is all wrong here in and the unquestioning acceptance, they start to actually have a real position on things.

Richard Trudgen: I'll just move through this quickly because I'm not talking about their mythology here. I'm talking about the mythology of the minant critical awareness, observation, and reasoning replace those dominant culture myths and the confusion what we had there before and start to replace all that. so the values then the things that are questioned let's go back jump get my head right around this and unquestioning acceptance. So the rules and the expectations from the dominant culture are also questions questioned.

Richard Trudgen: So when people get to that position and they're not there in most cases at the moment they're not at that position that's where we've got to try and get people to people then discover why they are afflicted with various social conditions and at that critical awaren stage people start to feel better about themselves. If we really want to deal with depression and all that in new communities, this is the process we've got to get to where they start feeling good about themselves wherever they're at, where they've still got their full levels of mastery or just half of it or they've now half adopted the western way of living or they've adopted fully the western way of living and walked away from most of their ceremonial stuff or whatever.

Richard Trudgen: wherever they're at, if people have got a good handle on the world, the world is operating around them. And we're saying that that means that people need to have their questions answered around all the subjects that they've got questions about, start to feel better about themselves, and they can rediscover with pride even their origins and their traditions. Like young people are saying, " we want the Beldana culture because it's not realizing that their traditional trade with Asia for four centuries had all the aspects of in it that they needed if they wanted to get money to be rich, to be like Balander and that's where They need to go back to that system and back to that business language and understanding the business language because that's how you're going to understand the valer business language.

Richard Trudgen: they can work out what is value in their traditional systems and the new systems.

Timothy Trudgen: You might just want to say that again. You dropped out for a bit there.

Richard Trudgen: Sorry, I dropped out of a couple of things, did I? sorry.

Timothy Trudgen: Just the last paragraph.

Richard Trudgen: They can work out what is of value in both the traditional and the new systems. Go. Yeah.

Belinda Morton: Richard, if I could just like I don't know.

### 03:25:00

Belinda Morton: I'm sorry if I'm talking too much, but to me the crux of the heart of this project is to explore that. It's for young people to explore that because I feel like to go forward, they may look back and find value through a process of younger ways of healing and understanding and all that. And I can attest to having when I'm talking with young families and parents about addiction and trauma and the risks and protective factors for children growing up amongst young communities because of generational trauma and all of that.

Belinda Morton: I always make it my practice to talk about colonization to start pre-colonization and how strong and the values and what the lifestyle and risk and protective factors that were around then compared today before we start to use materials that I'm on a duty bound to address and that are the realities of today but to See, that is the way to invite Yung into it because it doesn't mean it's not about anymore a blame mindset or anything like that. It's like, no wonder there's all of these difficulties because let's have a look at how much yong culture has changed and all of the things that are present in the pressures in today's society.

Belinda Morton: But then that places you perfectly to start talking about the protective factors and what we can do and all of that. So I see that would be a really important thing to do with the young people as well just to get that yeah and…

Belinda Morton: then say that you're cherrypicking the things that they want to try. that could help. Sorry.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: That's good. So at this critical level, people seek to understand the new ways intellectually and critically and with growing confidence they work with others to change what is unhealthy in their current. that's what you're saying through observation and critical reasoning they can be led towards positive action for their own development.

Richard Trudgen: So that's what you're saying that we need to try and aim for and all that and sometimes that means people get quite animated they can get animated and the domino culture doesn't always like it when it happens. Unfortunately people say hang on we're not going to move back any further. We're going to stand our ground. U yeah I'm not going to go in fanatic awareness.

Richard Trudgen: That's a different area. But it's interesting if Freya said this, back in the 60s and it's still where we're at a lot today u in and what we're dealing with. So now I don't know if that was useful to you or not useful to you that levels of awareness. Yeah. Okay.

Nat: It was useful.

Richard Trudgen: I'm Yeah.

Nat: Thank you. my mind going now is…

Richard Trudgen: Okay. Yes.

Nat: how to build into and I know it's a huge question and in any subject that you want to do that…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. Yes. Yes. Again,…

Nat: how do you do it without if you want critical awareness you would have to change everything else.

Richard Trudgen: again, you concentrate on Process, not content.

Richard Trudgen: process, not content. You concentrate on that. that's your cardinal rule. Looking at the process, Any questions,…

Richard Trudgen: guys? We've got about 10 minutes to round something up for the day. Got any questions?

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Richard, one comment that is a question as well.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Thank you for bringing this.

Richard Trudgen: Another checking my time here. Sorry.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: And I Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: You got another hour. It's coming up to 40. it's through.

Maree: …

Maree: we finish at 5our time, which will be half an hour.

Richard Trudgen: Half an hour. Yeah. Yeah.

Maree: 30 minutes.

Richard Trudgen: Half an hour. So, that's good. Yeah. Go. Okay. So, Questions.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah. Just a question comment. thank you for bringing Freya to the table. I think this is very useful and it made me think once I was working with indigenous people in Latin America and they didn't like this framework much because there was this thing of it's as awareness was something that is linear and…

### 03:30:00

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: for indigenous people it's not something linear it's something that happens in a systemic kind of way yeah so it was like this thing of like them saying this is then an awareness that we need to gain anyway to find our way within the colonial thinking but that's not our way of understanding knowledge or…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: integrating no and it made me think about that years and years ago so super interesting I just want to bring

Richard Trudgen: And it's quite a big subject because free air goes on to say when the people get liberated the liberators can become subopressors of their own people.

Richard Trudgen: And We're seeing that now in Arnamland where some people have become virtually dictators that because they've got English skills and they've got some reading and writing, they've been to school and all that sort of stuff. they're actually now the ones who are doing the damage to Yilmore, and it can be their own people. But it's good to see that there was those frameworks that we could understand a lot of this on hang it on and understand it that's what I found very very interesting in that but again it's process that we need to concentrate on and then try and get the communication right happening and then very surprised where we end up in

Richard Trudgen: I'm going to just adding question.

Nat: Richard, sorry. I have a question. Yes. or…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. No,…

Nat: a petition. Do you know any pre-colonial stories about healing and specifically in the face of mental health?

Richard Trudgen: because the mental health wasn't a problem in traditional society. It wasn't there. no.

Maree: No.

Maree: Was suicide.

Richard Trudgen: Suicide started to become I remember some of the first suicide attempts along the coast and it was more to get attention to yourself,

Richard Trudgen: but also looking at suicide, some of it I think is accidental because a lot of young people are using this what they call sniff smoke choking the throat to get an oxygen starvation. We're in and that's all along the coast. And so if you use a cord around your throat, phone cord is used quite a lot, the charging cord, and you can't get it off because there's nobody else there. But you're dead. But some people have used fans to hang themselves off and all that. And that's happened in the last few years because life has just become absolutely too traumatic for you and you don't see any hope.

Richard Trudgen: talking to young kids who are doing a break and entry out at Urala and I went to see some of them and got speaking to them and why are you doing these breaking entries? And they I said what do you mean there's no hope? And I had their parents there and the parents and the kids were talking young. They were young adults that weren't kids more than teens. Some of them were in early 20s. Why are you doing this? Said there's no hope for us here. We'll never get a job to come and do everything. Now they come and build all the houses. UAL they've just had 40 brand new houses built there. 40.

Richard Trudgen: That would have been what? $60 million investment in that community. and no thought about how you could use that $60 million to have a continuous educa employment program for people building their own houses. No, just have the white fellas fly in, bang, smash down any old houses and build up new ones and fly out again and wonder why we leave a community young of young people absolutely trashed saying there's no hope for us. They'll even say back in the mission days, our people were employed.

### 03:35:00

Richard Trudgen: in the government days today 2025 no hope for us. So we just got to find something to do something to take up our time and then you'll get a lot of programs then run out by the government to keep everybody what's the word Tim if you're there? keep them occupied not bored. So they're not bored. They're bored. All right.

Richard Trudgen: there's no hope in life for him. and this is what these young people were saying to me just a few months ago out at Udica. so there's some of those bigger questions that but if you say was there something back there in traditional society about no there was I remember a couple of people who had psychological illnesses affected by the full moon and so on. And when I sat down with one of them, and we're up in C County Ward up in Darwin and all that, and we had their parents there and all that. that was because who she supposed to had her husband, he ran off with three or four other women. She had his child and then he ran off.

Richard Trudgen: He was one of the dictators in communities with all the money and chairman of the council and everything else and high living and everything else and she just said he just sees me as rubbish. Now she was one of the cases I work with and she used to go right off when the moon was full and all that sort of stuff but hardly any other cases. So there didn't need to. And this is where it's difficult with this project because you're talking about a condition there that people haven't experienced before fully in terms of, if you look at 60,000 years and you look at the last little speck on the end of that 60,000 timeline. You're talking about a condition that's been in their society just for a spec. People are wanting to know why we can't h handle alcohol like Belinda do.

Richard Trudgen: Blander can't handle it too well either, but a lot of those people have died off. Those families who had the gen genetic tendency towards out of controlled alcoholism, The families are gone. our one that struggles with us still.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: We're on the borderline. so more society hasn't had that thousands of years centuries of dealing with even those sort of situation. A lot of the people saying why are we attacking each other now? why is the horizontal violence where's this coming from? We never attacked each other before we never had it before. Where's it coming from? And yet all the research shows very clearly it comes from dominance.

Richard Trudgen: dominancy, dominant culture pushing people back down and then people strike out sideways.

Richard Trudgen: So, there's a lot of questions that people have got about what's happening psychologically in their families and their communities and everything else and they're not simple subjects. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: So, I'll give you an example from chronic disease…

Timothy Trudgen: because it's the same situation with chronic disease. there was no chronic disease prior to colonization. and so the way that we had to tackle it once we had interest in the community around solving the issue was when you're looking at traditional knowledge or your knowledge the question is more what were they doing and

Timothy Trudgen: what did they know in the past that worked. so in the investigation of what value you will bring to any discussion it's not necessarily the best place to start with …

Timothy Trudgen: how did you solve these problems in the past because they're not always there. The question is what worked.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: And so in the area of mental health you've got things like rapidity which is the discipline of body and mind and soul. so there's a lot of traditional processes around how to be an ethical person, how to have self-control,…

### 03:40:00

Richard Trudgen: And while and…

Timothy Trudgen: how to develop yourself.

Richard Trudgen: while you're on that rapidity one, it's interesting because you are talking more about this than ever before.

Richard Trudgen: They're saying get rid of some of the youth programs and let us do rapidity again with our people where we took them bush where we sat down we give them some mastery about how to catch that. What are the pharmaceutical chemicals of this plant or that plant? Learning a whole lot of knowledge around rapidity. The discipline of the mind, the body and the soul. And when people hear, " you're going to discipline." No,…

Richard Trudgen: no, we're not going to flog them. We're going to actually sit down with them and you are actually talking about this at the moment. Yeah. Sorry, Tim.

Timothy Trudgen: That's right.

Timothy Trudgen: I'm just giving that as an example. yeah. and if you look into the traditional culture around knowledge you can find that about what makes a healthy person how a person fits into society. So another issue is Guruto is relationships the kinships…

Timothy Trudgen: but there's a lot more in it than just who's related to who and how. Gurut is actually about m…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. and…

Timothy Trudgen: which is that power and strength and being connected in a way that is appropriate that is respectful. so that's another one room that's the whole knowledge about how to be respectful of each other. So there's a lot of different things there about what worked rather than saying how do we fix these things? let's look at what worked.

Richard Trudgen: And they're the locked in processes that have been there for thousands of years. and in some ways you are thinking, why is this not working now? but look at the family relationships. It's not just your family.

Richard Trudgen: It's three or…

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: four across five clans that are looking after each other. It's not just your family and we have responsibility for people in other clans and they have responsibility for you personally personal care for you. it's an incredible system and it locks into their governance system where governance and decisions making should be made and it's one of the words we will use when we're talking about consensus around or the oneness of the mind, the body and the soul.

Richard Trudgen: So if you wanted consensus, you've got to get oneness about what somebody is talking about. But not just the of knowledge. It's a oneness of the mind, the body and soul where you feel absolutely empowered to be able to say no to somebody, be able to say not interested or you're happy to go along with what they say so it's orangi and…

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: the oneness of mind body and soul. So those processes are there but those processes have also been denied and even shamed because young people today are saying no we don't want that old way we just want to be rich like balander just give us money and then we have some youth people in youth programs saying they're talking to young people and they're saying the problem is the government's not giving us enough money to do this or do that so the young people actually pick up on that.

Richard Trudgen: So there's all sorts of feeding in of wrong information too.

Richard Trudgen: That's just confusing the whole comes a bad mixing.

Timothy Trudgen: Yes, you're right.

Timothy Trudgen: Sorry. I was just going to say to kind of fill that in…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: because often when we say to someone " you need to look at what was working." you can't just go to a person and say, "Okay, let's talk look at what was working." Because of all those things that dad's just mentioned. around confusion that people are carrying.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: So, you've got to go back to that process of dialoguing you're asking your questions,…

Richard Trudgen: Back to that. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: but you're answering their questions and you're identifying what their gaps are. So they can't particularly young people won't want to talk about gur or respect or rapidity. I mean it's elders knowledge anyway in many ways but they will resist talking about that …

### 03:45:00

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: because they will think that that's not something that baler value. so the dialogue has to engage them with what do baller value in this area? their knowledge gap in that area has to be unpacked. so it very much is a two-way conversation as you dive into these things. yeah and that I just wanted to also respond to the question about the levels of awareness because there was mention of just it being people are resistant to that model sometimes…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: because that's always the case because it's not really a linear thing. we have to acknowledge the context of that awareness levels are different for everyone across different subjects as well and we have to recognize our own awareness and lack of awareness in different subjects as well. So when we walk into the yong space we have a great deal of magical awareness about how things work. We have all these presumptions about whether we're got the noble savage problem or whether we've got the problem of paternalism and…

Timothy Trudgen: and thinking that they're simple. we're still operating in that magical or naive space. so it's a two-way street. critique the other culture or…

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Timothy Trudgen: the other person because we're going to have a degree of that as well. And the emphasis is bringing everyone to critical awareness, a conscious critique of the reality that we're dealing with.

Richard Trudgen: In a sense, we've got to turn people into what's the people who study social sciences, anthropologists of themselves. where they start to look at that.

Richard Trudgen: But sometimes that's difficult because they say, " what's a cleansing ceremony for?" and until they realize that a lot of the stuff they're using in a cleansing ceremony is actually antibacterial, or our old housing, why was that any good? And they've got to find out that their old housing was built from materials who were all antibacterial. And so They never had scabies back with those gut the old traditional housing because by traditional law you could not build a traditional house out of old materials. You had to always get new materials that were full of the saps that were antibacterial.

Richard Trudgen: So even under traditional law, they had antibacterial houses, not like the new ones today that are causing renal failure and roheatic heart disease and all that because of the products that we're using which are seen as modern and sophisticated and they're seeing their old stuff as primitive and backwards. just throw it away. I had a health worker say to me on Sunday, he said to me, "When I retire as a health worker, I'm going back to build myself a traditional house out of those materials you've been talking about." Richard, we're going to have those houses back on our homelands, not the new sophisticated things because we never had these sicknesses back then.

Richard Trudgen: And so it's getting them to investigate, as Tim is saying, through a dialoguing process where process is central to the whole thing. Are we having a good conversation? that's great. Are we having a horrible conversation? Let's stop it and find out what's wrong and make the conversation better. and questions.

Nat: Yeah, sorry. I just want to explaining what Timothy was saying about the dialogue. So one of the things that I told Richard before was when we were you said trying to get some understanding of the things that worked before we were reading some stories about how elders were used to hunt and count the mind before hunting and those techniques.

### 03:50:00

Nat: And we were thinking perhaps the knowledge is there and…

Timothy Trudgen: There'll be a watch. Sorry.

Nat: what we need to now do is contextualize that to the realities of the young people that now they're living in. But exactly as you say I have in the intuition that it will go and say this is this rapid and all of that. Could we please discuss that? I don't have the word in English for that.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Yeah. re resistance.

Nat: But they will have a resistance to think about it. Sorry that was in Spanish a resistance to engage with that because as you said they don't see it as valuable knowledge. So then how can we continue that conversation into how do we contextualize this knowledge there? Because as Richard said is not to say this traditional knowledge is not useful.

Timothy Trudgen: Mhm.

Nat: It's just the context that these young people are living is different. How can we make them tell us how to contextualize that knowledge?

Nat: And I'm not sure if they will be willing to talk about those traditional ways of doing it.

Richard Trudgen: We have conversations and…

Richard Trudgen: those conversations can even lead off into some of those other subjects where they go, right." so that cultural ways aren't bad. it's leading people towards that conscience critical awareness. You've got to be ready to lead people towards that all the time. And you've got to take the opportunities that occur in the dialoguing process. there's no road map on that one. There's no clear map or track. you enter into a good dialogue and in that dialoguing process you can end up in all sorts of different destinations.

Richard Trudgen: But in my mind as an educator, I'm thinking, how can I move them from a naive state or…

Richard Trudgen: a magical state into a more critical state around the subject that we're now talking? Yeah. And there's Lots of options. Yeah. Yeah. No.

Timothy Trudgen: I would say that the process that we would use would be the discovery education process.

Timothy Trudgen: And what that's would start with because this is a whole day subject to work through, but it basically goes like you got to start with your naivity first. And that doesn't mean that you're going to interrogate them. That means you admit where that you don't understand everything that's going on and you don't understand their experience. So the first place to start is with their experience.

Timothy Trudgen: What have they felt? they can tell you all about their experts that and they won't be afraid to teach you about it. once they feel in building you got to build trust the trust.

Richard Trudgen: Once they feel trusted,…

Richard Trudgen: you can trust it.

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah. And…

Richard Trudgen: Yes. Go.

Timothy Trudgen: then what you will find are contradictions. So there'll be things that they say and things that pop up that are contradictions to the reality that They might be just things that just don't make sense. Why would that happen? When you hit those contradictions, there's either a cultural thing going on or there's a confusion going on. And in the dialogue, we then start to dig down to uncover the iceberg that's underneath those contradictions.

Richard Trudgen: No, I was

Timothy Trudgen: And that's where I'm at, Dad, with that. So, you start then to ask the why question to get deeper and deeper into that subject area of why they're experiencing things or why they're seeing things that way or to kind of unpack their confusion.

Timothy Trudgen: And that will enter you into the kind of dialogue that you're looking for where you're going to find spaces to share what as well as discover what they know and what they don't know.

Belinda Morton: I feel like as well that just totally rings true and makes sense. I feel like as well that that is where senior elder yong all people can be called upon and invited to be part of that dialogue as well because they could be critical in helping to work through those contradictions because they've got a whole other level of knowledge and experience and…

### 03:55:00

Belinda Morton:

Belinda Morton: perspective that non Yung researchers won't have, but that might be their level of expertise and where they could come into that as well to support

Timothy Trudgen: I totally agree…

Timothy Trudgen: because number Your best place to start is going to be with a small group of elders, parents, and some youth perhaps. if you would want to know about youth experience, sure you've got to talk to youth and you've got to include them in discussion and create safe spaces for them.

Timothy Trudgen: But starting with a large group of youth is not going to give you the opportunity to really ck their not experience, unpack the traditional knowledge.

Belinda Morton: And I think our ethics application and protocols and things like that have leeway for that and we have talked or mentioned having those traditional healers or elders or whatever be part of that process as well and built that in. So yeah, that's fitting and

Timothy Trudgen: Yeah, great.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I was just trying to find another PowerPoint that answers some of that. But, as you say too, discovery education is something that were built in Arnamland here. happened at Ram Guini in the old days. It was named that way by the Reverend Dr. Gunda and he says it's great because we get the answers to the questions we've got rather than you come along with the content and try and force it down our throat. so they are setting the curricular which Frier talked about again he got hammered for saying things like that but it means exactly that you're working from where the people are at and the process is just so important.

Richard Trudgen: And I know I keep saying in a sense it's a bit like let's go. Tree of knowledge. you're starting off now. This is a old YA story. This one We're in present mode. No, just hit it Just hit it again. Yeah. No, it's in there. Tree of knowledge. And this is an old Y story. It's come in many different ways but where Yung was saying this knowledge is a bit like they say that Yonga knowledge is up here and Bellander knowledge is down

Richard Trudgen: Yeah, it's down in the roots of the tree and we can't get at it because of language, because of history, because of all those things that we've been talking about. And of course, we will think the tree is the other way around. we think, " they've got all that access to stuff up here in the top of the tree." And another your colleague who passed away a while ago, she was saying that the Bellander will say, " this is the Bellander knowledge up here and this is the knowledge down here."

Richard Trudgen: she was saying that we go off to university or school we learn all these things and we come back but we haven't got this knowledge down at the roots of the tree we don't really know what sustains the energy into the tree and she says so the leaves just turn yellow after a while and u then the leaves drop off to the ground and die but the bellander come along and they get the next lot of youth and they take them off through the same process and the same process goes on again.

### 04:00:00

Richard Trudgen: So it's this tree of knowledge thing. I was interesting. I was doing a workshop somewhere one day and the u I'll just go through to that and this man from Katherine he says it's even worse than that old fellow. Hang on. He says worse than that. He says trying to get this knowledge down here in the ground. frustrated about it that we grab the tree, we pull it out of the ground, but the roots break off and we don't get the knowledge and we usually end up dead because we're just so frustrated with it.

Richard Trudgen: So getting the knowledge into from the knowledge tree is about process having conversations dialoguing. Yes. Use the skills skills that Tim and I and Blinder have got and working with your colleagues, matching it together, finding out where they're at, making sure they're in the process properly. All to all those things, but don't expect it to go really in that direction. That's the exciting part about it where you've got living human beings. They're not little bottles of Vegemite that we're just going to put water into or what I say freeze dried yong everybody wants to come along and just put a bit of water in and turn into what they want. But no, they're living people with real lives.

Richard Trudgen: And so we enter into that excitement of that adventure. Questions to think about.

Belinda Morton: No questions,…

Maree: I'm just thinking a lot.

Belinda Morton: but it's a lot to think about.

Richard Trudgen: You'll do a lot of thinking and that's why I wanted to come back to a question and answer by the end of the week. Why? Because I knew we'd get up to here. If you got no more questions, I'm going to throw another little image at you and hope you're not in overload. You ready for it? I just do the grace quickly. Tim, you do it or I do it.

Richard Trudgen: I'm just going to talk about Just Hang on the Wrong button. Yeah, The gray zone because this is what we're ing into. We're entering into a gray zone where we have we have two worlds. We've looked at those two worlds. You got mainstream world, you got dominant culture, you've got Aboriginal culture, and then you've got in the middle, the gray zone. Yeah. And this zone impacts quite a bit if we're moving from dominant culture into the other culture.

Richard Trudgen: What we're giving you in this lesson this is the awareness, the knowledge, and the skills you got to have there those three things that awareness is more important than really any of the others. So if you're going to work in a dangerous zone in mainstream, they will teach you all about the danger zone. But unfortunately, they never do the training for people to go into the danger zone in the cross language workplace. A lot of people come out of it there's teachers who've given up walked away from the profession.

Richard Trudgen: And the same medical people they just go not going back there again. It was so traumatic on them. So it's know where you're going and you can come out the other end, but for a lot of us it's just this experience, Just pulling your flaming hair out. where are we going to go? It's not new to it's a common experience for many people. forget which way this goes, but there's the dominant culture. I haven't done this. And then there's u that jumped through too fast, but no.

### 04:05:00

Timothy Trudgen: It's just the definitions of the culture.

Richard Trudgen: No. Yeah. The culture that you got your law, economic system, communication, mor history, and then you've got the legal systems over here.

Richard Trudgen: and you just see that and you just say, "Whoa, no wonder a lot of Aboriginal kids are really cranky today and Ellis Springs and everywhere else." and they're hitting back. They're seeing a draconian dominant culture coming at them. They're saying this is what they're sort of feeling, and of course you got the Aboriginal culture on the other side and with all the same systems. Yeah, it was supposed to unload like that, Tim. That's I wonder why it went bang language law. So They're living in There's two worlds. One they understand their own system and all that. The other one they don't understand. and we need to know that because we're entering into that space.

Richard Trudgen: and same sort of things. So it's this gray zone that a lot of English first language people want to stay back here in what we call the safe zone. Aboriginal people have got to come into this zone to get any services. They have to enter that zone to get services. Go to school, clinic, center link, whatever. the baler can actually stay in this zone. They don't even have to know how to get across into this world, let alone into this world,

Richard Trudgen: and so the key to the tools which I'm repeating a little bit I think but mindfulness about where you're happening where you're going. Don't expect don't think we're just going to go bang bang. No, we're going to go into an adventure which is unlimited. 60,000 years of unlimited adventure, it's not just going to be some and we need knowledge to do that. And hopefully we've built a bit of knowledge with you today. How to do a bit more stuff and you need the skills in that safe zone to be able to operate in that safe zone. How to just be quiet yourself. How to stop my habits because culture is habits of youth.

Richard Trudgen: what I learned all my life to communicate this way, do things this way. I still have trouble not eyeballing people, to look away from to talk side by side, heart to heart, mind to mind, soul to soul. I still have trouble with it even though I teach it. I still have trouble with the threeinut rule. You will have trouble with it. And don't whip yourself when you get it wrong. Don't do that. You've now got mindfulness. You've now got some knowledge. it's got some skills to survive at the cold face. We've got question enough time for one question I think before we hit 4:30 here. Are we on the right time? But we're going to come back at the end of the week and do a Q&A, aren't we? Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: And that's why I set it up this way because I knew you'd need to go away, refct, get your questions together. let me just draw this one. It's a bit like this. I tried to explain that to you on the phone. it's a pyramid of information, Usually when we're working in our own culture and all that, what we call short scripting up the top here where we're saying things quickly in our own language D depending on if the other person's got the same skills that they got the same language we short script now working in another culture there's this whole other area that we need to probably know about now what I used to find is I would start with a set of questions with Yungu and they'd start telling me

Richard Trudgen: this about it. I would go away, think about it, and I'd say, "Yeah, but yeah, but" and then I'd have another list of questions and we'd come back again and they go, this is because of this." Then they'd start telling me that about what well because of this? And I go away again and I get another list of questions and the process would go on sometimes over three years or four years or five years or six years looking for terms in company shares. You'll not have a term for company shares in their business language. and this process goes on and we won't be able to do that because we won't have the time to fully do it.

### 04:10:00

Richard Trudgen: with experience like Tim and I have got and Blind's got there, we can shortcut it a fair bit and you get down to the bottom where you got more questions. There's just no more questions. You've got it. Your world view has changed to be in line with the people's worldview. the good thing about this when we work with this sort of process, the next time we get a question, let me just get another color. It goes like this. So all this information you've already got. So you've only got to work through a limited amount of questions now. and that's what happens.

Richard Trudgen: You go into the gray zone, you learn from the people, you look at process, you move forward. And as I said, we're moving into a knowledge base that has 60,000 years of knowledge in it that goes right back to what we call the jury, the foundation of the earth. Yeah. And yung even say the law has to go right back to the jury. what they call dutic. has to be consistent with that law right from the beginning of time. Otherwise, it's not law. And so, they've got all this knowledge, all this stuff, and hopefully we're going to be able to write about it more and get it out there more. But more than that, the young are going to be able to appropriate it into modern education, modern things that we're working on to solve their health problems, to solve their employment, and a whole lot of other things. We're not giving up on it. Yeah.

Richard Trudgen: Guys, we're not going to give up.

Nat: That's a good way of finishing. We're not going to give up on it.

Richard Trudgen: We're going to be future changers.

Maree: Yeah, thank you.

Richard Trudgen: You change the future of one person,…

Richard Trudgen: you've changed the future.

Nat: Thank you, Richard. Thank you.

Richard Trudgen: Thank you guys. Good on you.

Timothy Trudgen: File.

Richard Trudgen: We'll be talking later on in the week.

Nat: Okay. Yes.

Richard Trudgen: Yeah. Bye.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Thanks. Bye.

Nat: Bye. Bye. Bye, baby.

Paula Andrea Ramírez Diazgranados: Thank you.

Nat: Sure.

Phillip Trudgen: Can you just sit for a sec? I just want to talk for a sec. Just want to mute yours,…

Richard Trudgen: Just want to mute you.

Phillip Trudgen: Dad. …

Richard Trudgen: I got to I'm just trying to mute.

Phillip Trudgen: with the video, you turn your sound off. You can leave if you want.

Nat: Okay, that's okay.

Phillip Trudgen: I'll leave this. That was great. it will take about 4 hours to come down because every minute another minute takes to download. probably tomorrow I'll do a quick edit on it. Make sure we haven't got noise or anything. And then I'll give it to you probably Wednesday and we'll probably do that with the same with the Q&A is once it's down just do an edit and then bring it up and then give it to you. We got to figure out how we'll give it to you as well. But that's it.

Phillip Trudgen: And with the books, the cultural actively listening, we need a address to send it to you cuz it's easier for us to send it from our warehouse to you guys in Sydney than it is to go from Gove.

Nat: Yeah. …

Nat: I assume it was online. That's why I asked. Sorry for my unreasonable request.

Phillip Trudgen: No. Yeah.

Nat: I thought it was online. I could check it before. yes.

Nat: I'll send you the address of Maurice Marie's office in Sydney. maybe here in my house in Brisbane. I'll ask her where do we want it? But yeah, I will ask and then send you the address. Sorry, I thought it was something that it was online.

Phillip Trudgen: No,…

Phillip Trudgen: it's a booklet. I was going to say if you had people already coming to Eric Cara or Norm boy, we just give it to you then.

Phillip Trudgen: But if you're in Sydney,…

Nat: We do we're going to go…

### 04:15:00

Nat: but we're going to go in June. I think it'll be useful before that.

Phillip Trudgen: Yeah, it would be because it'll definitely prove all the stuff that we've been talking about today. So, it'll be no one.

Nat: Where are you guys based in? Are you in Darwin or no. Okay.

Phillip Trudgen: So when you guys do come up and you do need resources, we can give it to you directly.

Phillip Trudgen: So if you're going to your car and…

Nat: Absolutely. I was just thinking now that in our next trip we have budget for interpreters and…

Phillip Trudgen: stuff like that

Nat: all because Belinda's not going to be there and we need one interpreter. And I was thinking if it would be better if you guys know or if you will be willing to do some translations or because we contact someone and we had the code for the services and all but I think we need someone that has more context of the thing that we are doing. So, if you can recommend or…

Nat: suggest anyone that could help us with interpretation There is

Phillip Trudgen: If you're willing…

Phillip Trudgen: if you're willing to talk about it after next session of okay how much is going to cost to do us just to do it. It's also easier for us to book it in now than it is talk about it went before you arrive because we can book it in and say, "Okay, we're going to be not available for anything else during that time." Stuff like that. and…

Nat: I'll have a chat and once we Yeah.

Phillip Trudgen: yeah. Yeah.

Nat: Once we finish after next week now we will have time to think and organize again the project then yeah I'll let you know.

Phillip Trudgen: And it could be either dad or Tim because Tim could be doing stuff in Elco and he could just come over at the same time or it could be dad and then what we have to do is block out that time for other courses and…

Phillip Trudgen: other seminars. Yeah,

Nat: Yeah. Yeah.

Nat: Thank you, Philip. So, yes, I'll send you the address once I know where. And do want we can check on Wednesday how things are going with the purchase order and if you guys feel that we need to reschedu the meeting on Thursday that can happen. I hope that it comes in Wednesday,…

Phillip Trudgen: That's yeah,…

Nat: but we can just talk and see how you guys feel.

Phillip Trudgen: we'll just leave it to Wednesday and just you need to after a session like this,…

Nat: See what?

Phillip Trudgen: you need time to get your question answered together,…

Nat: Okay.

Phillip Trudgen: but you also got to have a close time to that have those questions in your mind. So if we leave it too long, it can be lost. But yeah, let's talk let's go Wednesday.

Nat: The session is on Thursday. So I'll talk to you on Wednesday to see how the purchase order is going.

Phillip Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah, that's fine. That's fine.

Nat: And you will also organize the link for that for Thursday section.

Phillip Trudgen: Yep. Exactly.

Phillip Trudgen: We can do another one just through Google Meet…

Nat: Would you okay?

Phillip Trudgen: where we won't be probably dad might have powerpoints to answer those questions you've got. So we might do the same thing again be sharing screen and just use the powerpoints to answer those questions directly but it'll be more a online video conference call where people ask a question we answer it keep going 1 2 3 4 and…

Phillip Trudgen: we can probably even use the chat more too with that session as well where if people have got questions in their head and they think they're going to lose it they can put it up in the chat.

Nat: Yep. Yeah.

Phillip Trudgen: and I can communicate with dad about, okay, this question's just been asked. Let's go that one first before someone jumps in the video and starts asking that question as well. So, we can just do this as well.

Nat: I agree. Yeah. And thank you for all the setup.

Phillip Trudgen: Nice. Yeah,…

Nat: It worked perfectly. Thank you very much for everything you've done.

Phillip Trudgen: it worked good. yeah. Yeah, it's fresh, but also yeah, it's kind of stuff that we're kind of used to now. because we're using the system a lot on other things, it seems to work a bit well. And we might upgrade to teams or some other official webinar when we can, but at right now, this is the best we can use right now for us.

### 04:20:00

Nat: Y it worked perfectly. Thank you.

Phillip Trudgen: Yeah. Yeah.

Nat: Thank you.

Nat: Okay, we'll talk to you on Wednesday. I'll just call you to check if everything is okay with fine. Yes. Okay. Bye. Bye. Thank you.

Phillip Trudgen: Okay, no worries.

Phillip Trudgen: End of recording. 439 22nd of April 25.

### Meeting ended after 04:20:45 👋

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