

# The Language People

April 2007

## Vale Cathy Rogers

Some of you will remember her as Catherine Saide from Phoenix House or State High. Later she worked at Yeronga and Inala. Multiple myeloma overcame her body, but never her spirit. She was an excellent teacher and valued colleague and friend. Loved and missed.

Get your orders in now for the wonderful new book by Penny McKay and Jenni Guse from QUT - Five-minute activities for young learners in the prestigious *Cambridge handbooks for language teachers* series. \$49.95 and specially for 6 – 12 year-olds.

In the same series (but not by my friends Penny and Jenni) is Dialogue activities \$55. It attempts to help learners bridge the gap between what they practise in class and the real world. It includes a bit of theory, a lot of practice, and a bank of dialogs (which they spell “dialogue”. Who will join my campaign to rationalize spelling where possible?)

You know we have a lot of **journals** if you’re feeling creative or reflective. They make lovely gifts. The latest one in is Motherhood. It’s hardback and includes a music CD and I don’t know why it’s only \$14.95 but most of them are about that and they’re lovely books.

Language education in the primary years by Frances Christie \$70.95. You could read the blurb on this book and not be much wiser, but you couldn’t read *the book* and fail to be wiser, and the book is far less boring than the blurb. For example, she uses “The king’s breakfast” (which I memorized as a tiny tot) to illustrate verbal processes, and a long quote about Piglet (my favourite) to illustrate mental processes. Gotta love it.

International legal English \$77 for book and 3 CDs. Not for Cat’s class but exactly what somebody needs. The arrival by Shaun Tan \$39.95 for a bigger-than-A4 work of art which is also a graphic novel (no words). This is the most amazing book I’ve seen for years - bewildering, amusing, moving. It’s a silent tribute to the spirit, courage and endurance of all those people who migrate to a totally unknown new country. I don’t actually have a copy in the shop but it will be in the TESOL library soon so see Fran about it. As Richie Benaud would say, “MARVELLOUS!” Here’s something different: Mouth Gym: Australian English pronunciation trainer \$49 Works on the assumption that the mouth actually needs to practise

making foreign sounds, so Trevor and Annie have cleverly set this phonics teaching to foot-tapping music, and the whole lot can be downloaded onto one of those modern things and danced to! To use their bigger work, you’ll definitely need to sit down at your computer. It’s called Copycat English pronunciation teachers toolkit and it’s priced at \$249 for institutions and \$149 for the home user or volunteer tutor. It’s low level, very comprehensive, and technologically very clever so that even I found it painless to operate. Literacy face to face: a resource for volunteer literacy tutors \$25.95 An excellent book full of helpful attitudes and techniques for working one-to-one with an adult.

At work in Australia series has finally emerged. Book 1 Getting a job \$39.95 DVD \$49.95 Book 2 Getting on with the job \$34.95 DVD \$49.95 Made by NSW AMES.

Also hot off the press but not part of the same series (and I predict lots of confusion with these titles!) is Getting it right at work: customer service Also NSW AMES, \$45.90 for book and DVD, intermediate to advanced level.

Auslan phrase book: a reference to workplace Auslan signs \$20 This book would be invaluable to employers and workmates of deaf people.

Now this will excite you - what has Penny Ur been doing? Bringing out some teen videos to supplement your lessons! They’re in DVD format with optional English subtitles, and each one is \$123 with an accompanying activity book. Way to go! (approx 40 mins) is for elem to pre-int, and Newland Street (approx 60 mins) is for pre-int to int. I haven’t opened the clingwrap but I do so trust Penny Ur. You never met a less pretentious brilliant person.

I’ve finally managed to locate an Amharic Dictionary. It’s \$85.95 for a big, 2-way paperback, with Amharic script as well as a romanized version.

Also a Somali-English 2-way phrasebook & dictionary for \$24.95, the Periplus Pocket Arabic dictionary for \$9.95, and the Eastern Arabic dictionary & phrasebook for \$27.95

Oxford essential dictionary \$39.95 or \$44.95 with CD-ROM Elem & pre-int level and up to Oxford’s usual high standard with dictionaries.

Times visual dictionary \$16.95 About 1500 words, clearly depicted and arranged in topics. Could be used by adults or kids and is a lot cheaper than most of the picture dictionaries.

A new title from Classic Communication Skills - Have you heard the news? \$27.50, CD \$16.50 Listening exercises based on authentic radio news broadcasts with a variety of written activities. Intermediate level

English in action 1 \$43.50 Quite a good American coursebook for beginners. It covers all skills, and all

the listening could be administered by the teacher with no need for a CD. There is also a workbook for \$26.95 which includes a CD.

Rabbit-proof fence is now available in the Oxford Bookworms Series, Level 3 (1000 headwords) \$13.95 The phenomenal skill and endurance of the walk is a bit lost in the condensed version, though the map is very graphic.

Moving house in the NSW AMES “Start to read” Series. You can get just the reader for \$8.95, or the whole excellent kit for \$45.95.

At a somewhat higher level, Project-based language teaching with technology \$16.50 from NCELTR.

Lots of ideas and lesson plans for social computing, with an emphasis on working collaboratively.

The vocab vitamins vocabulary booster \$29.95 Good, fun, interesting and linked to a website.

Focus on grammar: an integrated skills approach 5 \$69.95 for book and CD-ROM. Very clear, accessible, contextualized grammar.

Cambridge grammar for IELTS \$46.40 with answers and audio CD. Includes test practice in all aspects of IELTS. I predict this will be a very popular book.

Objective IELTS: Intermediate \$57 with CD-ROM. Aiming for a score of 5.5 or 6. Very comprehensive and a tiny bit British, though I found one text on social trends in Australia.

Tactics for TOEIC speaking and writing tests \$65 for book and 2 CDs, right up-to-date.

Advanced grammar in use 2<sup>nd</sup> ed is now available with CD-ROM for \$51.50. By the way, it’s green.

English pronunciation in use is also now available in three levels. The original one was intermediate (blue, like blue Murphy). Now we also have Elementary (red) and Advanced (green). They are each \$62 for a book and 4 or 5 audio CDs, so it’s good value.

Just listening & speaking \$31 with audio CD. By Jeremy Harmer. Good price, good book. Two levels out now, int and upper-int.

*Update: Pre-int level is also available now, all four titles - L &S, R&W, Grammar, Vocab. Each one is \$31, even though L&S and Vocab include a CD. They really are a good buy.*

You decide: issues for adolescents \$14.95 What a useful book! All the thorny topics are there, dealt with in a non-preachy way with lots of little case studies and scenarios, and plenty of scope for role play and discussion. Very clear on both rights and responsibilities.

English: an A – Z of essential facts and definitions \$14.95 A useful little mainstream book, mainly for improving written grammar and punctuation.

I have Modern world history \$15 in the same series. The alphabetical arrangement makes it very accessible. Entries vary in length from a single line to several pages.

Collins international primary atlas \$22 Nice clear maps you could use with anyone. Flags, key data, pictures of well known landmarks.

Basic synonyms: pre-intermediate \$21.95 By explaining the different contexts and collocations of near-synonyms, this book would help learners avoid mistakes while expanding their vocabulary.

Speak out!: great ideas for speaking and listening activities Ages 9 – 11 \$27.95 Quite a useful little hardback book with imaginative ideas. Mainstream but useable.

Do as I say: operations, procedures and rituals for language acquisition \$33 Has 49 photocopiable pages of sequences and then some teaching notes about what to do with them. American but OK. About Pre-intermediate level.

Role plays for today: photocopiable activities to get students speaking \$56 Includes a range of enjoyable activities for all levels except complete beginner.

Are you more like? 1001 colourful quandaries for quality conversations \$24.95 With a title like that, you just know it’s going to be fun inside. I’m sure every teacher from elementary level up will find some they can use with their learners to get some interesting conversations. Answer these for yourself: Are you more like a rock or a pillow? ...cursive or printing?...a grin or a laugh?

Flip-over learning Numbers \$7.95 It says for age 3 +. For me it’s well and truly +. This is a sturdy little stand-up book for counting and number recognition. I don’t know how they can produce them so cheaply.

Two good little workbooks for learning tables:

Practise times tables for ages 7 – 9 \$8.95 with a free wall chart in the middle, and

Times tables today: practice for all ages \$5.95 Good for adult numeracy as well.

Games (and other stuff) for teachers: classroom activities that promote pro-social learning \$48.95 and worth it. Bursting with ideas from two experienced teachers. Some activities will need too much language to set up for low level students, but most are adaptable given the original good idea.

100 + ideas for primary assemblies \$19.95 A delightful and eloquent collection, some faith-based, many secular. Many of them lead to suggested activities.

Oxford basics for children is a new series costing \$13.95 each. The first one I’ve seen is Listen and do. No audio stuff, just spoken instructions and very simple equipment (eg coloured pencils, clothes pegs) required, and 30 good ideas. Some of them would work with unsophisticated or co-operative adults, but most are for the littlies.

Cave Dave \$10 is a phonic comic for beginning readers.

Garfield: reading & phonics \$9.95 including a

CD-ROM, is a really good work book, aimed at Year 2 or age 6 –7. But I thought it was alright for age 61. At last somebody (OUP) has brought out this kind of a book again: Teaching other subjects through English \$49.95 Primary & secondary, most subjects, wonderful.

This one from NSW Dept of Ed is also still available: Communicative activities across the curriculum 7 – 10 \$44.55 Home-made looking format but excellent content

In the same vein but for slightly younger learners are Wordwise, a picture vocabulary book, and Communicative literature activities \$44.55 each, and both with lots of photocopiable worksheets.

Text starters for junior secondary students \$29.95

Twenty different text types with masters to make OHTs and notes for the teachers. Each starter is meant to take 5 to 20 minutes and lead into further work on the same text type.

Home help in essay writing: a guide to text types \$14.95 from Curriculum Corp. Looks very useful, even for teachers.

Great writing ideas \$34.95 and Great debating ideas \$32.95 have photocopiable worksheets and are aimed at mainstream upper primary, but, as the titles suggest, they have great ideas in them!

Reading and thinking a series of 4 books for \$32.95 each, aimed at mid to upper primary, with photocopiable worksheets. Genre-based, clear, interesting.

A reminder that Teaching survivors of torture and trauma \$22.30 is still available

Style: towards clarity and grace \$24.95 Improve your own writing too!

How to read faster and recall more Read faster and what? (Sorry!) \$32.95 But will it help me find my favourite beagle coffee mug that I've left somewhere? We now have all the Macmillan Topics series. The ten books cover five levels and are \$8.95 each. They are magazine format and aimed at teenagers, with topics related to science, history and the arts.

### **Children's picture books**

Who loves me ? A big hardback for \$24.95 with the text forming part of the double-page illustrations. The cat reminds the little girl of all the people who love her.

You & me \$12.95 Another affirming, reassuring book about love.

The little drummer boy \$14.95 The words of the song nicely illustrated in a hardback book.

The adventures of Pinocchio \$16.95 for a beautiful big hardback.

One grain of sand \$14.95 A Pete Seeger lullaby, beautifully illustrated.

A paperback edition of Graeme Base's Animalia for \$19.95. Use it for pre-reading visual discrimination

exercises, or with older kids to enjoy the wittily weird language and revel in the fabulous drawings.

I will not ever never eat a tomato \$15.95 A fussy eater is converted.

Share, said the rooster \$24.95 A moral tale about two little men who wouldn't share. The text is rhyming and repetitive and half the meaning is in the pictures. A great book for sharing with pre-readers or pretend readers.

It's OK to be different \$14.95 A clever, colourful, inclusive book.

### **For littlies**

A fly went by \$9 A Dr Seuss-style rhyming book suitable for reading to your grandchildren or for young readers to tackle themselves.

The fly \$14.95 by Gusti. A very unusual book that children will *love* and even adults will have trouble keeping their faces straight as they read. I can't tell you what it's about or it will spoil the joke.

Usborne Look & say 30 chunky flashcards – abc \$10 cute and useful.

Ditto Usborne Look & say - bedtime \$15 a very sturdy hardback with all the vocab you need to set the scene for bed.

Sleepy time \$14.95 for book & CD. Both the author and illustrator have Japanese names and the cover looks cute but I can't open it because it's shrink-wrapped.

The Usborne little book of poems for young children \$13 for a sturdy little book, nicely illustrated. Good variety of poems. I like this 2-line one on tomato ketchup:

If you do not shake the bottle,  
None'll come and then a lot'll.

Hop on Pop small hardback for \$11

Aesop's fables \$17, small hardback with CD. Simply told.

Oliver Twist \$10 for a small hardback with the story simply retold.

Goodnight, Baby \$15 A dear little book where the baby animals are attached with ribbons and you have to tuck the baby in beside its mother.

Tiger \$15. By Nick Butterworth. A cute book about a kitten

Nursery rhyme sticker book \$13 for all the classics with over 100 stickers

The big ball of string \$14.95 About a little boy called George who wants to play soccer but only has a big ball of string to do it with.

Hairy McClary from Donaldson's Dairy \$14.95 Lovely rhyming, rhythmical language.

Raymond Briggs's The snowman \$14.95 in simplified form with magnets to place on the story pages.

Three special ones:

When I'm feeling scared \$12.95

Daddy's getting married \$12.95 and

My grandparents are special \$12.95 and no, I do not spend all day reading children's books!

### **For older children**

For beginning readers: The best seat in second grade \$8 About a little boy and a hamster.

The world according to Humphrey \$14.95 A different hamster, a very wise one. A proper "chapter" book.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: the boy who made music \$14.95 A very readable little account.

Stuart Little \$14 by E B White (author of Charlotte's Web) You knew that, didn't you?

Great big book of children's games \$24.95. Over 450 sensible indoor and outdoor games. Good value. The label says ages 3-14.

Akimbo and the snakes by Alexander McCall Smith \$19.95 Adventures on a game reserve and a snake park.

How to do a belly flop & other tricks, tips & skills no adult will teach you \$9.95 and Everything you need to know about the world by Simon Eliot \$14.95 Both of these take a light approach but cover some useful stuff. They are designed to be boy-friendly but don't exclude girls. The second one is for a slightly older age group starting to think about puberty (amongst many other things)

Ridiculous jokes (and believe me, they *are*) \$6.95 for a book shaped like a cow which kids (and fathers?) will love.

The world's funniest puns \$10.95 I put this in this section because of the level of the humour, but then I found a lot of rude stuff in it, including the f word, so be warned. This one was topical: If you step onto a plane and recognize a friend of yours named Jack, don't yell out, "Hi. Jack!"

Finding Fizz \$14.95 A little stray dog turns Carly's life around when she's being bullied (girl style) at school.

In the bush \$14.95 An Aussie camping holiday of the kind some of you might remember from way back. Minimal text, and Roland Harvey's delightfully detailed drawings. Charming.

If the world were a village \$16.95 You've probably heard of this book but did you know it's beautiful? Instead of dealing with statistics which are so big as to be unmanageable, it breaks down many aspects of global population as they would apply in a village of 100 people. It's quite fascinating, and not just for children.

Butterflies sticker book \$13 Little kids might just enjoy matching the stickers to the pictures, but for older kids there's also a lot of useful information. Just one fairly big drawback for most of us - they're European butterflies. But they *are* lovely!

A 4 CD set of Favourite Colin Thiele stories for \$35.

Contains Storm boy, Pannikin and Pinta, and Speedy.

### **Young adult fiction**

Refugee: the diary of Ali Ismail \$18 Hardback. A 14-year-old boy smuggled out of Afghanistan by his family after the Taliban have killed his father thinks he is on his way to freedom but ends up in Woomera. Yet another disturbing story about this dark blot on our nation's conscience.

**This book will break your heart:** Sold by Patricia McCormick \$16.95 A beautifully-written, almost poetic book about an ugly, ugly subject. A totally unsophisticated 13-year-old girl from a poverty-stricken village in Nepal is sold by her step-father into prostitution slavery in India. Amidst the harsh cruelty there are amazing touches of humanity and kindness. The back of the book has some saddening facts and figures about international trafficking. It puts watering the garden with a bucket in perspective.

Ophelia \$15.95 The story of Hamlet retold as a novel from Ophelia's point of view.

### **Culture Corner**

Freeing Ali: the human face of the Pacific solution

\$15 Covers survivors of the Siev X and "children overboard" as well as Nauru, showing not only the human face but the human cost, and the Howard Government's role in it. An important book.

And so is this: Rescuing Afghanistan by William Maley (ANU) \$20 An excellently clear analysis of what has happened and is happening in Afghanistan, and warnings about what might happen if Afghanistan and the rest of the world don't get it right.

Afghanistan (3 books \$19.95 each - the land, the people, the culture) Nicely illustrated and written to educate children, but they would be useful ones to have in our centers for people to identify with. I've ordered some more in the same series about relevant countries.

Success with Asian names \$29.95 An informative and practical book, covering names from China, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Which name to use, when and how to use, how to pronounce, cultural aspects of naming systems, how to enter them in data bases, etc.

Yolngu Mali: traditional life of people from North East Arnhem Land \$14.95 Informative and well-illustrated

Tiddalick: the frog who caused a flood \$14.95 A Dreamtime legend

Bitter dumplings \$14.95 A Chinese folk tale in a hardback picture book.

Count your way through Germany and Colours of

China each \$15.95 Beautifully illustrated.

Chasing the sun: stories from Africa A small hardback for \$29.95 with 12 stories from a good variety of countries

Love like water by Meme McDonald \$19.95  
An Australian black/white love story that's much more than that. Let me just quote you one sentence:  
"They were staring out further, stunned, struggling to orientate in a land that had concrete poured over its songlines."

## General Books

Pooped puppies \$14.95 A gift book with photos of adorable puppies and cutely applied quotes, eg, "Nothing cures insomnia like the realization that it's time to get up."

I've got lots of puppy books! They've brought out little hardback editions of Happiness is a warm puppy and Christmas is together-time (both Snoopy books) for \$9.95 each, and then for Jan Kohn I've got Cat naps: the key to contentment \$14.95 and The wisdom of kittens \$16.95 (because it's even cuter!)

Mr McGreevy's absolute howlers \$19.95 eg The king wore a scarlet robe trimmed with vermin.

True green: 100 everyday ways you can contribute to a healthier planet \$19.95 I'll bet there are some things in here you've never thought of or just need reminding of.

Think you're with it? Try this book: I smirt, you stooze, they krump....Can you still speak English? \$20 Please buy it quickly because I hope it's going to be ephemeral.

Writing the story of your life: the ultimate guide \$25 This is a very practical, hands-on encouragement from Carmel Bird which is in itself a delight to read. Not only will you be inspired to put pen to paper, but she will introduce you to lots of other memoirists that you would love to read.

India Vik by Liz Gallois \$19.95 This is a collection of short stories set in India and occasionally in Australia, but about half-way through the book you realize that characters from earlier stories are cropping up in other people's stories. It's an interesting technique. Captures the colours and tastes and smells of India very evocatively

Blue shoes and happiness \$22.95 The latest in Alexander McCall Smith's No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, as charming as the others.

Janette Turner Hospital's new book Orpheus lost \$33 You can't have it till I've read it

Penguin have brought out a series of classic fiction called READ RED for only \$9.95 each. I have Alice's adventures in Wonderland, Things fall apart by Chinua Achebe, and Love in the time of cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Have you read it? It's weird and

wonderful.

A 2-inch-thick paperback edition of David Copperfield for \$10.95. It has some very clever and interesting "extras" at the back.

Help your teenager succeed at school: a parent's guide \$14.95 Sensible, useful and fairly brief.

Ask your mother: fifty things you should have learnt from your mother but probably didn't \$14.95 I'm not recommending this one for Mothers Day - she'd probably be as shocked as I was. A very practical book. I'll put it on a high shelf.

## LOTE Corner

The upside down boy/El nino de cabaza \$14.95

Bilingual picture storybook.

Stories from Latin America and Stories from Spain

\$19.95 Side-by-side bilingual books, adolescent or adult topics.

DK Language learner – Spanish \$35 This is a kit for kids aged 8 upwards. It's got lots of components in a sturdy plastic box and it's very popular.

I can read that: a traveler's introduction to Chinese characters \$18.95 Know which toilet to use!

The eater's guide to Chinese characters \$28.95 I've always found "No. 16, please" worked well, but I know some of you like a challenge.

Speaking Chinese: 100 daily expressions \$13.95 Characters and pinyin, with very occasional explanations in English

100 Putonghua situations: practical Chinese conversations \$38.95 for book & 2 CDs. Has

characters, pinyin and English with notes in English.

Reading the past: Chinese \$20.95 Written in English, this book explains how the Chinese writing system developed. I think Karen Dooley and other university types would find it very interesting.

A new text for Modern China \$19.95 There's a little pinyin and English support, but it's mainly to practise your Chinese reading.

Chinese sentence book: a copy-ready workbook \$19.95 This one is for beginners working with a teacher. Could be for kids or adults.

First thousand words in Chinese \$17 Definitely for kids - so cute!

A Chinese character a day Vol 1 Practice pad \$29.95 Looks very useful; has 365 essential characters.

Chinese picture cards: a copy ready resource \$24.95 For teachers. Black and white flashcards in a big book, some pictures, some characters.

Upgrade your Italian \$37.95 A 30 day revision guide aimed at eliminating basic errors, increasing & consolidating vocab, and improving style. Useful.

Destinazione Italia \$9 Simplified reader with comprehension questions. Maybe pre-int level. Definitely beyond me.

Need to know? Speak French/Italian/Spanish \$32.95 for a book and 2 CDs. Lots of colour-coding and skillful page layout to enhance clarity. Aimed at people who've struggled to learn a language in the past, so everything works towards accessibility. Tapis Volant Senior is aimed at Years 11 & 12. The Teacher's resource Book is \$199.95 and the class CDs are \$180. Apart from that it's an excellent resource, and one than which you could do worse if wanting to refresh your own French. The student book is packaged with a grammar booklet for \$46.95 and the workbook is \$26.95 which includes a free DVD! Streetwise French with audio CD \$29.95. I don't think I learnt *any* of this at school! Ditto French in your face! \$14.95 Great fun. Must-know French \$19.95 This is a sort of vocabulary cheat sheet in book form, for business, travel, everyday conversation. Better French: achieving fluency with everyday speech \$32.95. Ditto Better German. Learn in your car German 9 audio CDs for \$99.95. Also available for Spanish and Japanese. Arabic language handbook \$39.95 A no-frills book which I doubt will teach you to use Arabic but will teach you a great deal *about* it. Here's a joke that people like us should find in bad taste (but I enjoyed it.) It's about a newspaper headline that said: "THE BIG C - At last, a cure for Dyslexia!"

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**Remembering Anna  
Kohler, without whose  
imagination and drive  
The Language People  
would not exist.....**

It may be a few days before you get this, but I'm actually typing it on what would have been Anna's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. As some of you know, she liked to

celebrate her decade birthdays by doing something grand or adventurous. Unfortunately she was in hospital for her 60<sup>th</sup>! All of that means that on 11 July it will be 10 years since Anna died, so why don't we have a reunion to acknowledge it? I suggest a **picnic in Orleigh Park, Orleigh St, West End** (start at the Hoogley St end and go west till we find a good spot) at **1 pm on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> July.**

If everyone brings something to share, that should work well enough. Choose food, drink (coffee, juice, wine), cake (as opposed to food), or maybe picnic gear. Dress: Bright colours would be appropriate, though of course nothing inelegant or lacking in style. Also bring memorabilia, anecdotes, anything zany or quirky by way of entertainment.

Please circulate this notice to those dreadful people who aren't on The Language People mailing list or are no longer

QATESOL members.

I don't think there's any  
need to RSVP - **just turn  
up!** But if you have any  
questions or suggestions  
you could ring Lyndal or  
Teresa at The Language  
People, 3844 8700