

Teaching from Country

Where to from January?

Notes from Sunday afternoon discussion, John and Michael, 1 Feb 09

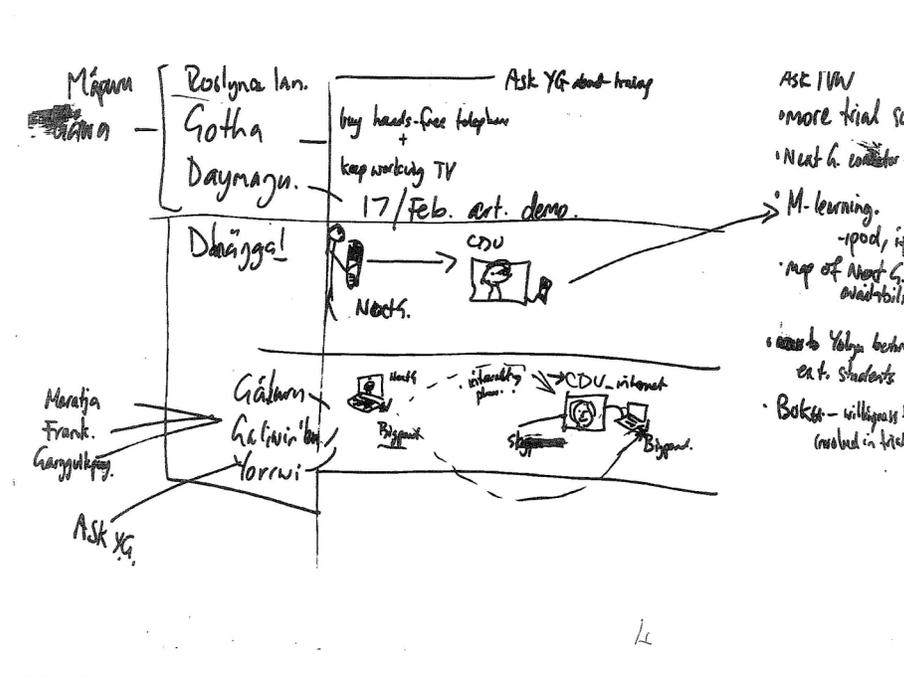
Things are warming up for the New Year, there are many things happening, John and I went to the whiteboard and tried to make some notes. We couldn't decide whether we should start with people or places or problems or hardware so we just started making notes on the whiteboard.

We started with talking about Gotha because she has been working with us using Team Viewer software (see John's notes). The first thing she needs is a hands-free connection so she can talk on the phone and work on the keyboard at the same time. We'll also get them for the Mac research room and our own office phones. *John's going to look them up on the internet.* Also at Gäwa, we need to start organizing Gurraṅgurrāṅ and Daymaṅju the artist who is going to talk about his art work – to the Yolṅu studies students but also the fine arts students with Sylvia (now that Sarah has gone). I think all Sylvia's students are external so getting something sorted live might be a problem. Anyway, Sylvia will be in Darwin in a couple of weeks (I'll be away) so we'll line up a meeting for her with John and Yiṅiya and hopefully even get Gurraṅgurrāṅ and Daymaṅju on the line as well. We need to start thinking about whether we can get external students to tune in to the remote lectures using TeamViewer or (Trevor's latest find) YUGMA. *We'll ask Trevor to look into that.* John said that they really need a camera to make good images of Daymaṅju's art. There is already one beautiful image of one of his paintings ('mäḍi') on Gurraṅgurrāṅ's website, in the Yolṅu resources section of the TFC website. *We need another small digital stills camera or two.*

We lamented once again that we are not allowed to use Skype at the university and decided to try to get Next-G connectors (the ones with little aerials) to stick into our Macs and circumvent the Uni's restrictions. It would make things legal and easy. *We'll ask Trevor to advise on that.* That solution will only work where we have Next-G coverage so that means Milingimbi, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala and Gapuwiyak (the major centres) and not the smaller homeland centres (excepting Gäluru where Dhāṅgal lives which *does* have Next-G because it's right next to Nhulunbuy the mining town). Trevor has already done some notes on the use of mobile phones with a Telstra map of Next-G coverage, so we'll get him to link that to the TFC website. *We'll also talk to him about finding the best option available among what he calls on the blogsite the 'bewildering array of plans'.* We really need pre-paid accounts so we can top up the account before each class. So we started talking about Mäpuru which has the same connectivity as Gäwa (ie satellite broadband). *We decided to ask Yiṅiya to set up a time to talk to Roslyn and Ian Wuruwul about setting up TeamViewer (or similar) and learning how to use it. We'll also ask Yiṅiya to think of someone at Yurrwi (Milingimbi) who might want to try some TFC.*

Back on the next-G, we got to talking about Dhāṅgal. There is a good lot of Yolṅu studies students enrolled for this semester in Gove, and Dhāṅgal will probably be teaching them. John is thinking about using the TFC technology to do some remote tutoring of the students in Gove from Darwin. We need to work out where the best places

for the classes would be. Might be the CDU annex in Nhulunbuy – but not available at night? Maybe the mini-theatre at the Buku-Larrnggay Arts Centre? John did his best to explain the different connection options with drawings on the whiteboard (see printout). The top one is Dhänggal holding a mobile phone and talking to another mobile phone plugged into the new giant screen in the seminar room. The lower one is a computer talking to another computer plugged into the screen and using the CDU internet connections. *We'll ask Trevor to do up a better graphic of these (and other?) options.* Dhänggal's new Mac laptop has arrived. John just has to download a bit more software and we can send it to her.



We also need to get on to Buku-Larrnggay Arts centre to see if they want to get some artists involved in TFC from their multimedia centre. I've talked with Andrew on the phone and *I'll send him a detailed email.* I think Dhänggal could consider working from there, but would prefer to do it from home, I'm sure. There's also the big advantage the Yolngu keep mentioning of having the outdoor 'live-coverage' when you have a video option.

We started talking about setting up Maratja, Frank and Garngulkpuy at Galiwin'ku. Frank's computer is broken – *we need to get it and get it fixed.* We decided to avoid using the Yalu centre at the moment until we find out what's happening with the new shire council (a major structural upheaval for Aboriginal communities in the NT).

John had to go for dinner, the whiteboard printout jammed but we eventually got the scribbles printed out.

Michael 2/2/9