

KARRINYUP



Angie Pascho, from China, and Marta Elena, from Columbia, at the Karrinyup ESL group which uses food and shares recipes to help them learn English. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

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English on menu

Kate Leaver

STUDENTS from a Karrinyup English language class exchange more than just words with their teachers every Friday.

The group share their cultural food and cooking skills and learn English in the process.

Linguistics professor and group coordinator Ian Malcolm says it is a learning experience for the whole group, including him.

"People of many cultures have made Australia the great place it is," Prof Malcolm said.

"The language learners who share their cultural cooking skills come from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Colombia and South Sudan.

"Some have been in Australia for many years; some for just a few months.

"All of them confess to still feeling nervous when they're talking to Aussies."

Held at Karrinyup Anglican Church on Friday mornings, the class caters for beginners, intermediate and advanced level students.

Group member Angie Pascho,

who came from China three years ago, said the group was a chance to build up her English vocabulary.

"In our English lessons we sometimes have Asian food and Australian food, like a barbecue," Mrs Pascho said.

"It's really hard for people who have migrated and language can be a big problem."

The Gwelup resident said her English had improved since she moved to Perth.

"I like living in Perth, the environment is nice and the people are really friendly," she said.