Reflections from Harvard

I was appointed the Gough Whitlam & Malcolm Fraser Harvard Chair in Australian Studies and took up the appointment in late August 2012. I moved into Mather House on campus in a 19th floor apartment which boasts beautiful views of Harvard, the Charles River and Cambridge. I was based as a visiting Professor in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (the Harvard Project) located in the Malcolm Weiner Center for Social Policy in the Kennedy School of Government. I believe I was the first Australian Chair to be based in the Kennedy School.

Although pretty overawed by Harvard I settled in very quickly and soon learned there were lots of other Australians there both as faculty members and students – there were a number of functions hosted by the Australian Studies Committee at Harvard so I was fortunate to meet many.

I had received a few invitations to give presentations at Harvard and elsewhere before I left Australia but soon got flooded with many more when word got around the campus that I was there. I tried to get into a routine of reading and study but that didn’t last as demands for my time exploded. Among the formal presentations I gave over my time were:

- Address to Kennedy School Faculty
- Symposium at the Harvard University Native American Program
- Symposium at the Law Faculty, Victoria University British Columbia Canada
- A Conversation with Richard Bell at Tufts University, Cambridge MA
- Panel Presentation with Prof Manley Begay & Ms. Toni Bauman at the Australian Ambassador’s Lunch-time Speakers Series, Australian Embassy Washington DC.
- Lecture to students at Tufts University, Cambridge MA
- Panel participant, Australia, Canada & USA, Tufts University, Cambridge MA
- Lecture at the Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School
- Joint Panel Presentation with Ms. Toni Bauman on Australian Indigenous Issues at the Kennedy School
- Speaker at the Australian Consulate New York City

There are so many stimulating events happening daily at Harvard it is difficult not to get distracted – I failed to resist trying to fit in as many as I could. The distractions were of course intellectual as well as recreational although on the latter I was struck by how hard people work at Harvard. I had an open door policy for students having attended the faculty’s welcome for students at the Kennedy School and was astounded at how much they put into their work. It is a very busy place.

I managed to audit classes given by Professor Joe Kalt one of the directors of the Harvard Project, and a leadership programme run by Professor Dean Williams. These were Masters Program and the opportunity to share in the wealth of wisdom of the two professors was a special privilege, not to mention the huge diversity of the program candidates who came from all corners of the earth with their multitude of perspectives. I don’t think I will ever present publicly in quite the same way again having had this experience.

I also managed to get to Yale University to see a special sitting of the full bench of the Navajo Supreme Court organised by the Yale Law School and this was one of the highlights of my stay. Just after this I experienced my first game of American football where Harvard thrashed Yale. My allegiances are still firmly with AFL!

The last six weeks of my time in the USA were spent at the University of Arizona in Tucson where I was part of a team presenting the ‘Common Roots – Common Futures’
Conference, a conference on Indigenous governance for self-determination and economic development. It was attended by delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

The conference was organised under the auspices of the Harvard University Australian Studies Initiative in partnership with Professor Stephen Cornell from the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona; Professor Joseph Kalt of The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, Harvard University; Dr Joan Timeche, Executive Director of The Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona; and The National Centre for Indigenous Studies at The Australian National University. In addition to the above organisers and sponsors, I gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, and the Office of Global Initiatives at The University of Arizona.

I returned to Australia and the NCIS in early March 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff, students and adjunct scholars who have joined our Centre in recent months. You can read more about them in this newsletter. I look forward to working with all of them and to what I’m sure will be an outstanding contribution to the academic life of the Centre.

Mick Dodson
NCIS Welcomes . . .

NCIS has undergone a significant period of growth in the past six months. The Centre appointed a new Deputy Director, Associate Professor Cressida Fforde in November 2011, and now has the great pleasure to welcome the following new staff, post graduate students and adjunct scholars.

Dr Bill Fogarty
Research Associate

Bill has a PhD from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at The Australian National University, on the topic Learning Through Country: Competing Knowledge Systems and Place Based Pedagogy, and a Masters in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development (MAAPD) from the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. Bill has lived and worked with remote communities for over 15 years and has extensive experience in research on Indigenous education, remote development, employment policy and service provision. He has worked on research projects with a diverse range of organisations concerned with Indigenous Australia such as the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, the Northern Land Council and the Northern Territory Government. He was most recently working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at CAEPR.

Dr Jill Guthrie
Research Fellow

Jill is a descendant of the Wiradjuri people of western NSW, and has lived in Canberra for over twenty years. She is a graduate of the Master of Applied Epidemiology (MAE) Program at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at ANU. Following graduation from the MAE Program, Jill worked as an academic member of the MAE staff and continues to work in the program. In March 2009 she was appointed as the Health Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra. She is a member of the NHMRC-funded Indigenous Offender Health Research Capacity Building Group.

Jill’s PhD, undertaken through the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales, is titled A phenomenological exploration of the experiences of families of Indigenous children hospitalised in the Australian Capital Territory.

Dr Asmi Wood
Senior Research Fellow and HDR Program Manager

Asmi gained a Bachelor of Engineering/Science (BE) from The University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Honours from The Australian National University. He completed his PhD in 2011 and his doctoral thesis is titled The regulation of the use of force by non-State actors under international law. He is also a practising barrister and solicitor in the ACT. Asmi is responsible for the management of the Centre’s Higher Degree by Research program.

Costanza Maffi
Administrative Officer

Costanza Maffi joined NCIS on a part-time basis in March 2012, and provides administrative and web development support to the Centre.

Costanza holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours from Monash University, a Master of Science with Honours from The University of Melbourne, and a Graduate Diploma in Computing from Monash University.

Costanza is currently developing a new website for NCIS which we hope to launch by the end of June 2012.
Diana Anderssen
PhD Candidate

Diana’s project aims to analyse the conceptual basis for the construct of native title in Australian law. Her research will examine the law relating to the content or nature of native title and native title rights in Australia. The development of the law will be mapped to the history of legal, social and political theories. Tools from contemporary critical theories of race and colonialism will be used to deconstruct the law and situate its philosophical underpinnings in their historical, social and political context. Diana anticipates that the study will conclude that the construct of native title in Australian law today reflects a state of continuing colonialism, by demonstrating that the law reflects colonial, rather than Indigenous, concepts of law, society and land ownership.

Ms Pearl Chaloupka
PhD Candidate

Pearl’s project explores co-authored autobiographies of Aboriginal people published by the Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP), over five decades, from the late 1970s to 2012. For the purpose of this project, Aboriginal autobiographies are works that are authored or co-authored by Aboriginal people. Pearl wishes to examine these works for the insights they provide into how Aboriginal people remember and make sense of the past; that is, for the insights they offer into Aboriginal people’s historical consciousness. The publishing of well co-authored Aboriginal autobiographies allows a platform for the expression of a multiplicity of Aboriginal standpoints and life experiences.

Dr Tom Calma
Adjunct Associate Professor

Dr Tom Calma was appointed as an Adjunct Associate Professor in May 2012. He will bring broad expertise to the Centre in public administration, particularly in Indigenous education and human rights in which he has been involved at the local, community, state, territory, national and international level for the past 38 years. Dr Calma, an elder from the Kungarakan Kungarakan & Iwaidja tribal groups from the south west Darwin region and the Coburg Peninsula in Northern Territory, was the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2004 to 2009. He is currently the inaugural National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking and was appointed Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia in 2011.

Dr Lawrence Bamblett
Adjunct Research Fellow

Dr Lawrence Bamblett is a researcher with twenty years of experience conducting successful community engagement projects. A Wiradjuri man, Dr Bamblett is a leader committed to dealing with vital issues of education and health confronting Indigenous communities. Dr Bamblett was awarded his PhD in 2009 from Charles Sturt University on the research topic: Continuity and Representations of Wiradjuri Culture, and is currently Education Fellow at AIATSIS.
NCIS is continuing to grow its research capacity. One of the ways this is being achieved is through competitive grants. Towards this end Centre staff, students and adjunct scholars have submitted a number of Linkage and Discovery Indigenous research proposals to the Australian Research Council (ARC).

**SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

NCIS along with the Australian Centre for Indigenous History and a number of national institutions has submitted a research proposal to the ARC as the second stage of its research into Indigenous Soldiers’ contribution to Australian defence forces. The first phase of the project was completed in February 2012.

*Servicing Our Country* explores the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service in Australian defence and auxiliary services from the 1890s to 2000. This national project brings major agencies dealing with veterans, memorialisation and current defence personnel into collaboration with key collecting and exhibiting institutions. Partnerships between leading scholars and Indigenous families will address calls for recognition of their significant defence roles.

**DISCOURSE, DEFICIT AND IDENTITY. ’WILL THE REAL ABORIGINE PLEASE STAND UP’: STRATEGIES FOR BREAKING THE STEREOTYPES AND CHANGING THE CONVERSATION.**

Led by Professor Dodson, this proposal is for a project that will bring an Indigenous-led multi-disciplinary team to investigate the relationship between discourse and identity, and to analyse its impact on outcomes for Indigenous Australians. The project’s significance is compelling as emerging research into the debate about Aboriginal Australia and related policy, points to a need to focus on how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people know and understand each other.

**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND IDENTITY IN URBAN ABORIGINAL WOMEN**

Even though almost 75% of Aboriginal women live in urban and regional areas, there is minimal gendered research for this group. These women have significantly higher rates of depression and suicide compared to Aboriginal men, or either gender in non-Aboriginal groups. This innovative and timely project aims to investigate mental health issues faced by urban Aboriginal women and particularly the impact of mechanisms of self-identity and social inclusion/exclusion. The outcomes will provide long overdue analyses that will form an evidence base for policy development and strategies for community use. These outcomes will facilitate greater social inclusion and thus increase wellbeing for Aboriginal women and community health more broadly. This ARC research proposal has been submitted by NCIS PhD candidate, Aunty Kerrie Doyle.

**REDUCING INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION USING JUSTICE REINVESTMENT: AN EXPLORATORY CASE STUDY**

This proposal tests the methodology and theory of Justice Reinvestment (JR). JR diverts portion of funds otherwise spent on incarceration to programs to address underlying causes of crime, thus preventing engagement by certain populations with the criminal justice system. The proposal has four steps; 1. Analysis and mapping; 2. Develop options to generate savings and improve local communities; 3. Quantify savings to be re-invested in high needs communities; 4. Measure and evaluate impact. This innovative proposal uses community-driven participatory-action research, incorporating cost-benefit analysis, to explore the conditions under which juvenile offenders can be repatriated to their community, yielding sustainable outcomes and solutions. This project will be led by NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Jill Guthrie.
Upcoming Events

Thursday 26 July 2012
6pm, Hedley Bull Centre, ANU
Public Lecture – What happened to Mabo?: The search for the missing link in securing land justice for Australia’s indigenous peoples
Professor Robert A. Williams Jr
Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona

3-5 August 2012
NCIS Postgraduate Research Retreat
(invitation only event)

November 2012 (Date TBC)
The Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture
Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

8 November – 16 December
Likan’mirri II – Art from the AIATSIS collection
ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Kingsley Street, Acton

News Briefs

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

NCIS is delighted to host Professor Robert A. Williams Jr. from the University of Arizona on 26 and 27 July. Professor Williams is the E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and American Indian Studies and Faculty Co-Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy (IPLP) Program at the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law in Tucson. An enrolled member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina, Professor Williams has represented tribal groups before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. He has served as Chief Justice for the Court of Appeals, Pascua Yaqui Indian Reservation, and as Justice for the Court of Appeals and trial judge pro tem for the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Professor Williams will deliver an ANU Public Lecture on Thursday 26 July.

INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBITION

The Centre is currently working with the ANU Drill Hall Gallery and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) to present Likan’mirri II – Works from the AIATSIS Collection. This exhibition follows on from the 2004 highly successful exhibition Likan’mirri that was exhibited at the Drill Hall Gallery and showcased a selection of key art pieces from the AIATSIS collection. For Likan’mirri II guest curator, Wally Caruana revisits this wonderful resource to make a selection of recently acquired works which are contextualised by rare work from the archive that are of major historical and cultural significance. Many of the works included in the exhibition have never before been on public display.

The exhibition runs from 8 November to 16 December 2012.

Bogwarda Anindilyakwa people, c.1915–deceased
Umbakumba, Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory
Turtle and boat, 1962
Natural pigments on bark, 62 x 73 cm
On permanent loan to AIATSIS from Alice Moyle (ATS 533c)
RESEARCH STUDENT RETREAT

The NCIS is proud to host its third retreat for Higher Degree Research candidates from the ANU in August this year. The retreat will be an opportunity for HDR candidates researching in Indigenous studies to engage in intellectual, methodological and practical workshops and discussion. This year’s retreat will be held at the Rydges Eagle-Hawke just outside Canberra and will focus on the importance of research to the broader challenges and struggles of Indigenous people.

SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLAR / SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The NCIS is pleased to offer outstanding undergraduate students the opportunity to be involved in a research project in Indigenous Studies at ANU. NCIS has five academic staff led by Professor Mick Dodson and offers a wide range of topics and research areas concerning Indigenous people both in Australia and overseas. NCIS academic staff and adjunct scholars have high-level expertise across Indigenous studies, including: law; social justice; governance; policy; health; education remote development; Native Title; history; representation; cultural heritage; repatriation and identity.

Summer Research Scholars will be able to negotiate a research topic and project of interest with their prospective supervisor. Scholars will be accepted on a merit basis, and we particularly encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to apply. All students will find NCIS to be a welcoming and academically engaging place to be. The Centre offers one Summer Research Scholarship (open to all students) and one Summer Research Internship (for ANU students) each year.

For further information on potential research topics and prospective supervisors at NCIS contact: bill.fogarty@anu.edu.au

NCIS HDR CANDIDATE KERRIE DOYLE RECEIVES OXFORD ENTRANCE AND ROBERTA SYKES SCHOLARSHIP

Aunty Kerrie Doyle (NCIS HDR Candidate and Assistant Professor, University of Canberra) has received the Roberta Sykes Scholarship to undertake a Masters in Evidence Based Social Intervention in the Department of Social Policy & Intervention at Oxford University.

In March 2012, Kerrie was accepted by Oxford University on to the MSc in Evidence Based Social Intervention, and in May was awarded the Roberta Sykes Scholarship to enable her to undertake this significant academic opportunity. This Masters is unavailable in Australia, and she will use it in research and practice around Indigenous health issues upon her return. The research and teaching opportunities provided at Oxford will prove invaluable for the completion of her doctoral research. The MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention teaches how interventions may be assessed and evaluated, and how critical appraisal can test the claims of “evidence based practice”. It tackles the difficult issues involved in transforming research findings into useable interventions for practice, and facilitating practitioner access to the information about evidence which they need to make their decisions.

NCIS Images

Professor Mick Dodson meets interns from the National Assembly of the Quebec Parliament in Canberra on 16 March 2012

Tim Flannery delivers the 2011 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture on 3 November 2011