

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Well, another quarter has come around and this is our first edition of the newsletter for 2013, now under the capable editorship of our new Centre Manager, Barbara Wallner. I managed to get away for a short break over the Christmas holiday period with the family down the coast and then we took a much longer break, from the end of January until the last week in February, in New Zealand's South Island with some old friends at Golden Bay - so there has not been a great deal to report on in the period between editions.

I have been kept busy bedding down the contracts for the Indigenous Veterans ARC Linkage Project 'Serving our Country' and we are very close to getting that underway - all the partners are raring to go. We have high hopes it will be a great project and serve to deliver, at last, the history, acknowledgement and recognition of the military service of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders in the defence of Australia.

Dr Bill Fogarty and I are seeking to put together a project to map the history of Indigenous cricket in Australia and were recently the guests of Cricket NT and Cricket Australia at the Imparja Cup in Alice Springs. We have also had keen interest from Cricket NSW and the National Indigenous Cricket Council. We hope to embark on a pilot project soon which will hopefully pave the way for a full-blown ARC Linkage application.

It was a great honour to be invited by La Trobe University to a conference honouring the work of Professor Robert Manne. My presentation consisted of being interviewed by Professor Manne on a number of key Indigenous issues over recent decades. He certainly put me on the spot. I understand the papers will be online shortly. I want to pay tribute to Robert Manne for his life's work and his fearless and robust engagement in Indigenous policy issues on a regular basis. His contribution to the debate has been both rigorous and beneficial. I wish him and his wife all the best in retirement. But, as they say, Professors don't really retire (fully that is).

I was invited by the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Congress) to act as Rapporteur for the Pacific Region Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP 14). The meeting was convened by Congress in conjunction with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and the Indigenous Peoples Pacific Caucus and included delegates from Aotearoa, Tonga, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Hawaii, Kiribati, PNG, West Papua, Samoa, Timor Leste, Maluku and, of course, Australia. Issues discussed included health, education, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, decolonisation, sovereignty, justice, and the place



of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations system. All Indigenous regions of the United Nations will be having preparatory meetings and providing reports, which will be collated into a global draft report in Madrid, Spain, in early May 2013. I have been selected as one of the drafting team for that meeting. A Global Meeting of Indigenous Peoples will be held in Alta, Norway in June 2013, hosted by the Saami parliament of Norway. This meeting will produce the final document to be submitted to WCIP 14.

WCIP 14 will be held as part of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September 2014. This is a meeting of governments (as is the UN) but Indigenous delegates will be in attendance and some will have speaking rights - not much, but this is a huge shift for the UN.

Mick Dodson

## NCIS WELCOMES NEW STAFF



### LEN KANOWSKI, VISITING FELLOW

- > Master of International Mental Health (The University of Melbourne), Harvard/University of Melbourne International Mental Health Leadership Fellow (2002), Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellow (The University of Sydney) (2006), MSc (University of Wollongong)
- > M +61 459 479 617
- > E [leonard.kanowski@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:leonard.kanowski@newcastle.edu.au)

Mr Len Kanowski joined NCIS in November 2012 as a Visiting Fellow for 12 months.

Len is the Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing with the University of Newcastle Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health. He is also a consultant with Mental Health First Aid Australia ([www.mhfa.com.au](http://www.mhfa.com.au)) where he is working to further develop the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training and Research Program.

His current work with Mental Health First Aid Australia involves working with researchers from MHFA Australia, the University of Melbourne, and a National Delphi Panel of Aboriginal mental health clinicians to develop mental health first aid guidelines for helping young Aboriginal people with a mental health problem. This research is being led by Professor Tony Jorm from the University of Melbourne and Kathryn Chalmers from MHFA Australia.

Len's work includes developing a short film demonstrating mental health first aid assistance. Len has previously developed scripts and worked with film-makers, Aboriginal community members and actors to develop short films

demonstrating helpful assistance for persons experiencing psychosis and depression.

During his time at NCIS, Len will commence research investigating culturally-appropriate psychological first aid approaches for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing ongoing adversity and following critical incidents. This work will be conducted in regional, rural and remote NSW.

## Welcome to new NCIS HDR candidates



### ED WENSING AND VERONICA FYNN

Three Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates joined NCIS in early 2013.

Mr Ed Wensing is an experienced urban and regional planner, policy analyst and academic. His PhD candidature started in early January and he will be investigating 'Land justice for Indigenous Australians: Accommodating customary land rights in conventional land tenure systems (in Australia).'

Ms Veronica Fynn is Adjunct Professor in the School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia. Veronica started her PhD in February, and will focus on 'Gender violence and the "Rule of Law" in Indigenous communities of post-war Liberia.'

Magali McDuffie is a professional filmmaker. Her research project, started in March, uses filmed interviews and narratives of the lived experiences of three Nyikina sisters to research at how they have responded and adapted to different waves of government policies, and influenced

cultural actions and economic and self-determination initiatives at a local and national level.



Magali filming Lucy Marshall at Valentine Island, Western Australia.

## Congratulations

NCIS would like to congratulate Sarah Bourke, Dina Saulo, Ray Lovett and James Newman for their achievements at ANU in 2013.

### SARAH BOURKE



Sarah Bourke writes:  
In 2012, I undertook my Honours degree in biological anthropology. My project was supervised by Dr Cressida Fforde and Dr Melinda Hinkson with further support provided by Dr Robert Attenborough. I received First-Class Honours

for my research which addressed the significance of the repatriation of indigenous ancestral human remains to their community of origin. The significance of this act was assessed from the perspectives of both indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders in Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the United Kingdom. I interviewed a number of key contributors to the discussion in order to understand how the repatriation process affects different groups of people. The major question that this study addressed was whether indigenous ancestral remains should be studied scientifically. While these investigations may provide valuable and unique data on the population genetics, migration and health of indigenous populations in the past, it has also been argued that scientific study intrinsically

seeks to objectify and de-humanise ancestral remains. Repatriation has been seen as a method for restoring both the integrity and the identity of these individuals. However, such a course may mean that the valuable biological data stored in the remains will be lost to science. By analysing the relevant literature and the interviews of those who participated in my research, I found that a major factor which influenced the conversation around the scientific study of remains is a miscommunication and lack of understanding between various indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders. Nevertheless, these difficulties have been acknowledged by those involved and a process of change is currently underway. It is hoped that this change will result in all perspectives, not just those of science or other stakeholders, being heard, understood and valued by all involved. For science, this will mean possible access to valuable information on past lives and the formation of a lasting and reciprocal relationship with living indigenous populations. For indigenous people, the development of that relationship will lead to greater self-determination over our own past and the shaping of our futures in an increasingly technological and globalised society.

### DINA SAULO

Ms Dina Saulo was recently awarded a scholarship through the Indigenous Offender Health Capacity Building



Group (IOHR-CBG) to undertake the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) through the National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health (NCEPH) in the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment (CMBE).

The MAE program enables scholars to learn how to investigate outbreaks of disease, conduct and evaluate public health surveillance, and conduct applied epidemiology in the field. MAE scholars are placed in health departments or research centres, and receive practical academic training. The training includes five coursework subjects held at NCEPH during its 21 months' duration.

Dina's field placement will be at the Kirby Institute, with Professor Tony Butler, also a member of the IOHR-CBG. Dina has previously worked at the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) where she coordinated the NSW Aboriginal sexual and reproductive health

program. Dina has had experience working with a number of marginalised populations in a public health capacity with a particular focus on sexual health, STIs, BBV and HIV/AIDS. Congratulations Dina. NCIS wishes you every success with your MAE.

## RAY LOVETT

Ray, a Wongaibon man from far west New South Wales, has a passion for Indigenous health and is the first Indigenous PhD candidate at NCEPH.



Ray has been an active NCEPH student from the outset, providing support and mentoring to his colleagues, particularly those working on Indigenous health. Ray has held numerous positions aimed at advancing the health of Indigenous

populations. He has been a member of the CMBE Indigenous Health Interest Group and Reconciliation Action Plan sub-committee since its inception, and has been a member of ACT Health's Human Research Ethics Committee since 2011. In the same year, Ray was appointed Professional Associate at the Centre for Research and Action in Public Health at the University of Canberra where, amongst other duties, he mentors Indigenous undergraduate students.

Ray is an Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and an active member of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Association of the ACT. In 2012, Ray was part of a research team commissioned by ACT Health to review the need to expand alcohol and other drug rehabilitation services in the ACT. He is frequently approached by ACT Health to provide policy advice, particularly on tobacco, alcohol and other drug use by Indigenous people.

Ray is extensively involved with the local Indigenous community, including as a volunteer working with young Indigenous people at the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service's Boxing Club, where he has been Club Manager and Coach since 2005. Ray has helped raise over \$40,000 for the Club.

In late 2012, Ray was presented with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Award at Congress Lowitja, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health research.

Congratulations Ray for being Awarded 2013 Alumni Student of The Year.

## JAMES NEWMAN

James Newman (centre) with ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Dean, Professor Andrew MacIntyre (left) and Director of the Crawford School Professor Tom Kompas. Photo by Jimmy Walsh.



James Newman is the inaugural Garrurru Scholarship winner. He will use his time studying at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific to help drive Australia's water reform agenda.

James will take up a Masters of Environmental Management and Development at the College's Crawford School of Public Policy under the scholarship, which aims to increase Indigenous university enrolments. Newman said he was honoured to be named as the first Garrurru scholar and to have the opportunity to work on issues that are close to his heart.

"Being awarded this scholarship means not having to worry about financial issues. But there is another upside, in that I can concentrate more on my studies on an increasingly important issue – water management. I am a Wiradjuri koori and grew up in Wellington and spent many years in Warren. Both townships are on the banks of the Wambool River, now known as the Macquarie. My father was a shearer and came from Kalari River, or Lachlan as it is now known. For me, healthy river systems are vital for so many reasons, but the hydrological cycle as a whole, including groundwater, should share equal importance. Water is the basis of a healthy environment, which lays the foundation for a healthy economy, and of course, our social well-being is greatly improved in the process. So many industries rely on our rivers and aquifers to produce goods for human health, and they need to be managed adequately, including robust policy and regulations for our own prosperity."

Newman added that the Crawford School at ANU was the best place to study how Australia's fragile water systems could be best managed and maintained.

“After many years of practical work in the environmental management field, I gradually became more interested in how environmental policy was developed. I also recognised the importance of economics and social factors in policy development. When I looked at the different institutions offering policy development courses, ANU stood out with the courses available at Crawford School. My earlier studies at ANU played a significant part in me being offered a position with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. This degree fits in with my current employment in water reform.”

Launched by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific in 2012, the Garrurru Scholarship provides ongoing financial and pastoral support to Indigenous students studying at the postgraduate level. As the first recipient of the award, Newman had some clear advice for other Indigenous scholars considering further study.

“University has given me a greater understanding of the world in which we live,” he said. “Going to university does not mean Indigenous people have to forego any cultural or community-based ideals. Higher-level education can develop students’ current world-views alongside those of other cultures. In the process, it helps to broaden ideas, improve communication skills and can help to break down cultural barriers.”

For more information about the Garrurru Scholarship visit the College’s website.

## NEWS FROM NCIS STAFF

### Engaging Our Mob – Expression of Interest

The Engaging Our Mob workshop is aimed at helping participants learn real life skills and strategies that are effective in engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the research activity.

Selected researchers currently working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are interviewed by a skilled facilitator about their experiences so that participants gain an understanding of the values, attributes and skills necessary for successfully engaging with Indigenous Australians in the research activity. It provides a supportive and informed environment in which participants can feel safe to discuss topics and ask difficult questions about the Indigenous studies space.

Feedback about previous Engaging our Mob workshop can be found at:

> <http://ihig.anu.edu.au/training-events/engaging-our-mob>

In September 2013, NCIS intends to run an Engaging Our Mob workshop as part of its annual Higher Degree Research (HDR) 2-day residential postgraduate research retreat for Indigenous and non-Indigenous HDR candidates who are undertaking research into Indigenous topics.

If you are interested in participating in the NCIS HDR Research Retreat and the Engaging Our Mob workshop, or if you have HDR candidates who may find this event helpful, please contact the NCIS HDR Coordinator - Dr Asmi Wood, on [Asmi.Wood@anu.edu.au](mailto:Asmi.Wood@anu.edu.au) and register your interest.

Please note that places are limited and fill very quickly, so early notification of your interest is most likely to gain you a place.

Dr William Fogarty

---

NCIS Research Associate

## NCIS HDR CANDIDATE UPDATE

Although still early in the year, we have already had two oral presentations by NCIS Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates: Fleur Adcock's oral presentation was held on 19 February 2013, and was entitled 'Mobilising for Indigenous Rights Implementation: The role of the UN Human Rights Council's special procedures in regulating state behaviour towards Indigenous peoples'. A large audience of staff and students attended Fleur's presentation, where she spoke confidently and answered all questions with ease. Sam Curkpatrick's oral presentation was held the following day and was entitled 'Conversing tradition: Wagilak song and the Australian Art Orchestra'. Again a large number of staff and students attended to Sam's presentation of the research that he has undertaken over the last three years. Not only are Fleur and Sam a credit to NCIS, but also it was evident from the diverse range of Colleges represented by those in attendance that these candidates are a credit to the University as a whole. Well done guys!

NCIS HDR candidates have instigated a 'Writing Group' which will meet once a fortnight and focus on appraising our own work, and appraising and offering feedback on the work of other candidates. The Writing Group is also planning a week-long writing retreat for NCIS HDR candidates, at the University's Kiola Coastal Campus. We are very excited at the prospect of staying at the beautiful Kiola campus, and the tranquillity that comes from there being no mobile phone or Internet reception in the area!

Last year NCIS held monthly 'Research Gatherings' where our HDR candidates gave an informal presentation on their research to other staff and candidates. These were beneficial as a means of giving HDR candidates an opportunity to present their research, all HDR candidates have now had an opportunity to present. This year, we have redesigned the gatherings into a monthly 'Research Hour' where we intend to invite experts from the field of Indigenous studies to lead a discussion based on the research we are individually carrying out, offer us the opportunity to receive feedback on our work from experts, and receive advice for early-stage researchers. So keep a lookout for an email inviting you to come and talk with us!

## Commonwealth Intercultural Arts Network (CIAN)



In April, I was fortunate to be a part of a joint-bid to form a collaborative association of researchers known as the Commonwealth Intercultural Arts Network (CIAN). Hosted by Dr. Pamela Burnard at Cambridge University, three Australians – Dr. Brydie-Leigh Bartleet (Griffith University), Lena Gan (Australian Art Orchestra) and myself (The Australian National University) – were awarded fellowships by the Centre for Commonwealth Education to spend a month-long residency at Cambridge University in October 2013. During this time we will be involved in the publication of a number of joint papers, the opportunity to meet and talk with a wide range of academics and arts practitioners, and lead three day-long seminars and one conference. As we seek to establish a network of voices and projects, we hope to advance research that enlivens new ways of understanding cultural expressions and cultural difference in arts practices. From my perspective in NCIS, this means the chance to examine in more detail the potential issues and possibilities for engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous musical cultures; perhaps the way in which Indigenous music is incorporated into tertiary music curriculums in Australia. But it is early stages yet... watch this space.

Samuel Curkpatrick

## Aunty Kerrie Doyle in Oxford

I am now past the half-way mark in the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention. This course is brilliant. It teaches how interventions may be assessed and evaluated, and how critical appraisal can test the claims of "evidence-based practice". It also teaches research translation, large-scale community interventions, as well as rigorous research and appraisal skills. We are fortunate to have world-class leaders in their fields as tutors and lecturers. Additionally, there are seminars, workshops and lectures given by world academic and political leaders.

I am also lucky to be at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. I live in the College, and it is 100 steps to a Bodleian library (and the food hall, but best not mention that). The people here are welcoming and affirming. So much so that the College hosted Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver this week – to our knowledge, the first Aboriginal professor to lecture at Oxford!

I also went to Ireland and Northern Ireland recently to give a paper at the RCN International Research Conference. Trouble was, it snowed so badly there were black-outs (no pun intended) and road closures. So, being on the 8th floor of the most-bombed hotel in Europe in the middle of a snow storm with no power or heating, it is not an experience one would, hopefully, repeat! But – what doesn't kill you gives you chilblains, or something along that continuum.

We are heading into the final term – so we are all writing what feels like 24/7. Regardless of how one dresses, it is always cold, and given my laptop passed away in Belfast, I have been wrapping my chubby self in blankets and typing away at the library desks. People tell me this is the 'Oxford Experience', and that it 'worked in the 1200s', but one wonders if there is not a better way...

I wanted to send you photos of us and the Oxford experience – but I might need to go and take some first. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone on my return, and hope there is still a desk for me!

Arohanui

Aunty Kerrie (& Papa Ron)

Roberta Sykes and Charlie Perkins Scholarship holders undertaking



postgraduate study in the UK: Krystal Lockwood, Kerrie Doyle, Kyle Turner, Greg Lehman and Paul Gray

## EVENTS

Wednesday 15 May 2013

11am – 12.30pm

Mabo: a catalyst for social change

Greg McIntyre, Barrister

Sparke Helmore 2, ANU College of Law, Fellows Rd,  
The Australian National University

For further details and booking information please visit our website <http://ncis.anu.edu.au/events/>



Barrister Greg McIntyre practises from John Toohey Chambers in Perth. He has received the Australian Human Rights Commission Law Award in 2009 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2002. In 2001, he was appointed Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame on teaching Indigenous Peoples and the Law. Greg

was solicitor for the Meriam People in Mabo v Queensland (1982–92) and counsel for Eddie Mabo in the High Court (1991). He was counsel for Robert Bropho in Bropho v WA (1990), the High Court case regarding the Aboriginal Heritage Act and shield of the Crown. Greg was also solicitor for John Koowarta in Koowarta v Bjelke Peterson (1982), the High Court case regarding the Racial Discrimination Act and external affairs power.

**Abstract:** The Mabo case was commenced at a time when there was no national land rights legislation for Aboriginal people at a national level and the prospects for it were not high, with opposition from mineral rich states such as Western Australia. It came in the wake of a High Court which had indicated in the Koowarta v Bjelke Petersen in 1982 that it was prepared to adopt a view of the law which was favourable to the obligation of the Commonwealth to respect the rights of indigenous people as equal citizens in international law. The High Court's 1992 decision recognising the native title of the Meriam People of the Torres Strait spear-headed a national movement of Aboriginal and Islander people which resulted in the historic negotiation of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 through the Commonwealth Parliament. It has created a statutory mechanism for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples to sit at the negotiating table with government and industry at a national, state, territory and local level, and has brought with it a range of incidental

benefits, such as an intense attention being given to the recording of the laws and customs and family relationships of Indigenous peoples. It created a change to the way in which the broader society viewed Australia's Indigenous inhabitants and avoided the possibility of Australia's Indigenous people and their culture succumbing to the pressure towards assimilation and absorption into the broader undifferentiated Australian society.

## Likan'mirri II: Indigenous Art from the AIATSIS Collection

Drill Hall Gallery

8 November – 16 December 2012

This exhibition presented art from the collection of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). Many of the works held by AIATSIS are extremely rare and of major historical and cultural significance. The collection includes paintings, drawings, photographs, posters, sketchbooks, and three-dimensional objects such as sculptures, bark baskets, ceremonial objects, and weavings.

This exhibition followed on from the exhibition Likan'mirri: Connections that was held at the Drill Hall Gallery in 2004 and showcased a selection of key art pieces from the AIATSIS collection. For Likan'mirri II, guest curator Wally Caruana revisited this wonderful resource to make a selection of recently-acquired works which are contextualised by rare works from the AIATSIS archive that are of major historical and cultural significance. As with the 2004 exhibition, many of the works included in Likan'mirri II had never before been on public display.

Likan'mirri II was presented by NCIS in association with the Drill Hall Gallery, and was a collaborative project of AIATSIS. The exhibition was officially opened by Mr Russell Taylor, Principal of AIATSIS.

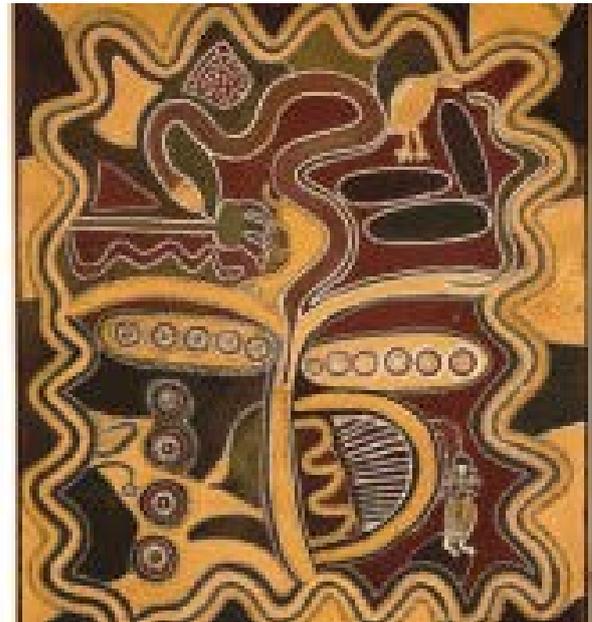
"Likan'mirri" is a Yolngu (eastern Arnhem Land) term with a range of meanings from 'elbow' or 'the fork in a tree', to more spiritual connotations such as the connection between the secular and sacred worlds.

The Likan'mirri II exhibition explored connections between the past and the present, containing exhibits that date back several decades alongside others that are vividly contemporary. The exhibition included 19th century sketches, children's drawings, bark paintings, sculptures and glassware. The objects selected for exhibition originally came from remote areas including the Central and Far Western Deserts, Arnhem Land, the Kimberley

Ranges, the Tiwi Islands, as well as metropolitan and rural Australia. The theme of connectedness inspired both exhibitions. Professor Mick Dodson – AIATSIS Chariman and NCIS Director – has described the AIATSIS objects and works of art collection as an integral part of the continuing story unfolding through connections between ancient and modern Australia, and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Likan'mirri II was very popular: 1422 people visited the exhibition, with feedback including that it was a 'knockout' show. It was also stated to be a wonderful selection, and some visitors mentioned that a great spectrum was offered. Others were amazed at the fascinating diversity and the fantastic range of exhibits. The exhibition was also praised as having remarkable images, and was described as being excellent and superb. Visitors thanked the Drill Hall Gallery profusely for giving the exhibition a display space.

Nym Bandak c. 1904 - 1979, "Ku Wandatji, the Rock Python" 1959, natural pigments on composition board, on permanent loan to AIATSIS



from Mrs. W.E.H. Stanner



## Calendar of events in Indigenous studies

We have recently created an online calendar of events in Indigenous studies, to include all Indigenous-specific events available at ANU and also conferences with Indigenous content throughout Australia. The aim of the calendar is to centralise the promotion of events which may be of interest and benefit to ANU students and staff, and perhaps in time also to the wider community.

If you have any conferences or events you would like put onto the calendar, and also any mailing lists to which you think we should subscribe in order to gather information on relevant events, please contact us on [nics@anu.edu.au](mailto:nics@anu.edu.au).

For now we are piloting the calendar with Indigenous Australian-specific content only, but may in future include events and conferences of other Indigenous cultures.

Please visit our online calendar at:

> <http://ncis.anu.edu.au/events/calendar.php>