NCIS Director, Professor Mick Dodson, was one of two Pacific Indigenous delegators appointed to the Global Indigenous Drafting Group for the Global Indigenous Report to the WCIP (United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples).

Prof. Dodson is an active member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ Delegation that was participating in the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) global preparatory meeting being held in Alta, Norway. The Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference (10 – 12 June 2013, Alta) was a gathering of indigenous peoples and nations representing the seven global geo-political regions. Its purpose was to exchange views and proposals and develop collective recommendations on the WCIP – a high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to be held on 22 – 23 September, 2014 in New York City.

A draft report has been prepared.

Read more about the Indigenous Peoples Organisation Network Australia:

> facebook.com/pages/Indigenous-Peoples-Organisation-Network-Australia/190946244391874

**Mick Dodson**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ Delegation.  
**Back row, L-R:** Shane Duffy, Lisa Buxton, Peter Dawson, Mick Dodson, Boni Robinson, Brian Wyatt, Damien Miller, Geoff Scott, Mick Gooda, Katie Kiss, Eddie Cubillo, David Lee  
**Front row, L-R:** Tammy Solonec, Sandy Miller, Les Malezer, Diat Callope and Dea Delaney.  
*Photo: Ben Powless, Global Coordinating Group Media Team*
NCIS welcomes new staff
Corinne Walsh, Research Officer

NCIS extends a warm welcome to Ms Corinne Walsh, our new Research Officer. Corinne will provide research assistance on two research projects being undertaken by NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Jill Guthrie, regarding Indigenous incarceration and alternatives to incarceration: one project is aimed at testing the theory and methodology of Justice Reinvestment in Australia, while another uses Citizens’ Juries to explore alternatives to incarceration for Indigenous Australians. Corinne has a very keen interest in social and cultural issues and enjoys learning about the way our worlds are constructed and lived out, and challenging the ‘taken-for-granted’, which is why she pursued a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. After graduating from university, she gained a place in the Graduate Program for the Australian government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in 2010 and moved from her hometown of Sydney to Canberra to undertake it. Corinne worked in a range of research, policy and program areas of FaHCSIA until mid-2012, including Research and Analysis, Family and Child Support Policy, and the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Program. One of her achievements at FaHCSIA included being awarded a prestigious Secretary’s Award for her role in CDEP reforms. Corinne moved back to Sydney in August 2012 and took up a policy/project officer role with NSW Health, but decided to head back to Canberra in April 2013 to pursue her career and study aspirations.

NEWS from NCIS staff

Rethinking the justice system
NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Jill Guthrie, and colleagues have commenced a three-year exploratory study looking for ways to prevent young people from being imprisoned. The project, which is funded through the Australian Research Council’s Discovery Indigenous scheme, uses Justice Reinvestment methodology to explore the conditions, governance and cultural appropriateness of reinvesting resources otherwise spent on incarceration, into services to enhance juvenile offenders’ ability to remain in their community.

Read more about this project on the ‘Cowra Guardian’ website.

Jill Guthrie

Return, Reconcile, Renew Project: understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future

With its research and industry partners, NCIS was recently successful in securing an ARC Linkage grant to further understanding of the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and to build an evidence base for the future. The repatriation of ancestral remains is an extraordinary Indigenous achievement and inter-cultural development of the past forty years. This international project will provide critical new knowledge to the understanding of repatriation, its history and effects, and will provide outcomes that empower community-based research and practice.
The ‘Return, Reconcile, Renew’ project illuminates over forty years of the repatriation of Indigenous ancestral remains. Bringing together community organisations, government and cultural institutions, and universities, the project will significantly advance repatriation research. It will provide in-depth analysis of historical context, reveal rich Indigenous histories, explore the effects of repatriation, and present new understanding about the current and future role of repatriation in community development. The project will deliver publications in scholarly and popular domains, and its data archive will forge new ground in the Indigenous development of protocols for the digital archiving of, and online access to, information of high cultural sensitivity.

The project is planned to commence in early 2014 and involves: the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority; the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation; the Office for the Arts (Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport); Flinders University; The University of Melbourne; The University of Queensland; the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; the National Museum of Australia; the University of Otago; the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA); and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Cressida Fforde

Caring for the Cotter Evaluation Project

NCIS Adjunct Professor Patrick Sullivan, PhD Scholar Magali McDuffie, and Research Associate Bill Fogarty are presently undertaking an analysis of the two-year Caring for the Cotter project, involving the drafting of an evaluation report and the making of two short films for the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.

The Caring for the Cotter Catchment Project in the ACT commenced in 2010 and was completed in June 2013. It involved a multi-layered collaboration of several organisations and stakeholders: the NRM Council, the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC), ACTEW Water, ACT Waterwatch, the Canberra Institute of Technology, and Greening Australia Capital Region. Located in the high-conservation area of the Cotter Catchment in the ACT, the project encompassed the environmental rehabilitation of extensive land areas within the Cotter Catchment, which was particularly affected by the 2003 bushfires, as well as a training component in land and resource management aimed at creating employment pathways for Aboriginal trainees.

The Caring for the Cotter project was funded under the Caring for Our Country program. This federal initiative promotes the environmental management of Australia’s natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

Funding Indigenous projects is deemed an important part of the Caring for our Country initiative, and the Caring for the Cotter Catchment evaluation will be important in analysing social, economic, and environmental outcomes. The report will examine the funding sources for the project, the environmental outcomes achieved and whether Indigenous aspirations for employment in land management were met.

This Caring for the Cotter Catchment evaluation - while very small in scope- is nonetheless an important venture that will critically contribute to the government’s strategic goals of conserving and protecting our environment and biodiversity and engaging Indigenous people in employment and further training.

Magali McDuffie
NCIS HDR Candidate Update

It’s that time of year when most of Canberra has migrated inside to escape the freezing and bone-chilling depths of winter, but it would seem that our HDR candidates have kept warm by being extra busy!

Yesterday Sidha Pandian gave a brilliant presentation for her Thesis Proposal Review on her research entitled ‘Indigenous Australian and South Indian Classical Dance Dialogues: An ontological & epistemological performance-based study’. Although still in the early stages of her candidacy, Sidha was able to confidently present the complexities of her research to a broad audience, and even managed to teach us some dance moves. Well done Sidha!

Katherine Aigner was recently invited to present at the Local Intermediaries in International Exploration Conference, where she spoke about the ‘Ngarakwal and Githrabaul people – mediating from cedar cutters to coal seam gas exploration’. Katherine’s presentation was extremely well received, with one participant thanking her for carrying out such invaluable research. Congratulations Katherine!

Since our last update we have held two ‘Research Hours’, the first with Greg McIntyre where Greg offered HDR candidates important feedback on their research, as well as further detail on his illustrious career. The second ‘Research Hour’ was held with Leonard Kanowski, at Philippa Weeks Staff Library. He presented on his work with the Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Program and Guidelines and the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (University of Newcastle). Len’s presentation provided HDR candidates and staff with insight and awareness into Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the research which is being carried out to support such an important issue. Thank you to both Greg and Len for your insightful presentations; they were much appreciated by our HDR candidates and staff.

Nicolas Peterson presented a masterclass to NCIS HDR candidates on ‘Aboriginal societies and cultures and the production of European social theory’. The Masterclass proved a solid introduction into anthropology for all HDR candidates, and offered an alternative perspective by which to view our research. Thank you Nicholas for your presentation, and to Anna Buckley for organising the Masterclass.

Inger Mewburn (ANU Director of research training, and author of ‘Thesis Whisperer’ blog), hosted a workshop for NCIS staff and students on how to successfully use theory in research. The workshop proved very beneficial for both staff and students, who came away with ideas of which theories are relevant to Indigenous Studies, and how to successfully incorporate these theories into the broad field of Indigenous Studies. Inger also discussed how to use your chosen theory to your advantage both during and after your research, including ensuring your chosen markers are supporters of your chosen theory! Thank you to Inger for such an insightful workshop.

Several of us have now moved into the ground floor of the John Yenken Building, where we now have a huge office which accommodates six HDR candidates. We’re currently decorating the office space, but still have a few spare walls so please feel free to donate any artwork or flags for us to display in our room.

Alycia Nevalainen
News

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Narrabundah held a large birthday celebration on 10 July to celebrate 25 years of healthcare provision in Canberra and the surrounding regions.

The birthday party included good food, lots of fun activities for kids (and big kids) and live music from Angry Anderson and hip hop trio Last Kinection, whose members Joel and Naomi Wenitong belong to the Kabbi Kabbi people of south-east Queensland.

Long-standing Chief Executive Julie Tongs, MC Maurice Walker and Winnunga staff and Board members made visitors feel most welcome during the event.

Staff and Visiting Staff (Jill Guthrie, Corinne Walsh, Barbara Wallner, Costanza Maffi and Len Kanowski) from NCIS attended the important and much celebrated event and met with old and new acquaintances in the spirit of celebration and achievement.

Past Events

Book launch
‘In Black and White: Australians All at the Crossroads’
24 June 2013

Prof. Dodson launched this book at the ANU Co-Op Bookshop and with large attendance, including a number of authors and editors from ANU and elsewhere.

Book launch
22 July 2013

NCIS Visitor

Veronica Tawhai

Veronica Tawhai is from the Ngati Porou, Ngati Upeohatu nations on the East Coast of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and is a current lecturer in the politics and policy stream at Te Putahi a Toi School of Maori Studies at Massey University. She has visited NCIS for two weeks in July and during this time she provided a seminar.

Addressing “the casual undercurrent of racism” in Aotearoa through transformative citizenship education

The last three decades in Aotearoa New Zealand has seen a significant shift in indigenous-Crown relations and the development of provisions for the greater exercise by Maori of self determination across a range of areas including politics, education and health. The intellectual-political space within which these and other initiatives occur, however, continues to be restricted by debates on whether or not such provisions constitute ‘separatism,’ ‘apartheid,’ and afford Maori an unfair ‘special privilege.’ As highlighted by Australia’s Professor Houston, “[t]he casual undercurrent of racism... thrives on ignorance,” Aotearoa New Zealand being of no exception, where the right of the Crown to govern is unquestioned and Maori socio-economic disadvantage misunderstood amongst the wider citizenry. This is in the absence of any education on the history of colonisation and its ongoing effects. As one step towards remedying this, Veronica Tawhai’s PhD research explores the pedagogies of senior indigenous educators in their efforts to ‘break through the ignorance barrier,’ the insights and experiences they might wish to share to help prepare the next generation of educators engaging in this work, and whether or not this type of education could form a new and transformative agenda for citizenship education in countries such as Aotearoa and Australia.

Veronica Tawhai is from the Ngati Porou, Ngati Upeohatu nations on the East Coast of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and is a current lecturer in the politics and policy stream at Te Putahi a Toi School of Maori Studies at Massey University. With a Bachelor of Arts in Social Policy and Maori Studies and a Masterate in Education (Hons), her past research examines aspects of indigenous electoral, political and citizenship engagement and electoral, political and citizenship education. She is also a member of various local and national groups including the Education Sub-commission of UNESCO NZ, Te Ata Kura Society for Conscientisation and the Matike Mai Aotearoa Independent Working Group on Constitutional Transformation, her PhD research bringing together her academic and community work by investigating the praxis of citizenship education relevant to socio-political transformations in indigenous-coloniser/settler societies.

Events

NCIS postgraduate research retreat

NCIS is proud to host its fourth retreat for Higher Degree Research (HDR) candidates undertaking research into Indigenous topics. The retreat is an opportunity for Indigenous HDR candidates and candidates researching in Indigenous studies to engage in intellectual discussion, networking and information sharing.

Time & venue: Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 September 2013; Rydges Eagle Hawk resort, located on the Federal Highway at the ACT/NSW border.

Enquiries & RSVP: Please email the NCIS HDR Program Manager, Dr Asmi Wood or phone 02 6125 8141. The event is free and places are limited.
The 2013 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture

Each year, a renowned Australian individual is invited to speak publically on the topic of reconciliation. As 2013 is the 10th anniversary of the Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture, we have invited Professor Patrick Dodson, who gave the inaugural lecture in 2004, to present this year’s anniversary lecture.

**Time & venue:** 6 – 7pm followed by refreshments; Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton.

**Enquiries & RSVP:** The event is free and open to the public. Registration is essential (registration details TBA).