

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



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This October 11-31 **Professor Mick Dodson** visited the USA as part of an exchange programme in partnership with the **Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development** and the **Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy** at the University of Arizona.

Reconciliation Australia facilitated the trip, enabling Australian participants to attend the 65th annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians in Phoenix, a national Indigenous body that monitors and has input on federal policy affecting Indigenous interests, where Professor Dodson was invited to address their General Assembly. He also visited American Indian communities in Arizona and New Mexico – the San Carlos Apache, Hopi, Tohono O'odham and Zui Pueblo nations – for discussions with tribal governments and community leaders.

The Harvard Project exchange focused on sharing knowledge and

examples of good Indigenous governance and leadership. Among the Australian delegation were four people from two winning organisations in the **2008 Indigenous Governance Awards**. Presentations were also conducted by ten finalists in the prestigious 2008 Honoring Nations awards.

En route to Australia, Professor Dodson gave a series of lectures at the University of Hawaii's Centre for Human Rights in his capacity as the Community Member for the Pacific on the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and as part of celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the inaugural anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The lecture series outlined the implementation of the recent Declaration, the creation of new United Nations bodies and examined the global Indigenous rights movement.



## recent and upcoming events

- **14 November 2008**  
Professor Mick Dodson AM named ACT Australian of the Year
- **19-20 November 2008**  
International Indigenous Forum (Canada) Professor Mick Dodson, NCIS Director, Keynote address
- **3 December 2008 4pm**  
ANU Dialogues: Indigenous Peoples of the World series – Native Americans National Europe Centre, Liversidge Street, The Australian National University
- **February 2009**  
Indigenous Postgraduate Researchers Workshop Bateman's Bay

*Top left:*  
Professor Mick Dodson AM  
NCIS Director,  
2009 ACT Australian of the Year

*Left: (From left to right)*  
Nancy Sever, Andrew Blake, Lawrence Cram, Mick Dodson and Basil Hall at the opening of the exhibition 'Etched in the Sun' at the ANU Drill Hall Gallery on 25 September.

# ANU DIALOGUES: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD SERIES

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER, 4 PM

NATIONAL EUROPE CENTRE, LIVERSIDGE STREET, THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



On 3 December 2008 NCIS presents the fourth annual ANU Dialogue in the Indigenous Peoples of the World series.

Its aim is to bring together representatives of the international community to discuss with selected academics, both from our own institution and others, issues that are important for all of us to understand. Previous Dialogues in this series included Indigenous Australians, the Maori people of New Zealand and the Saami people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

This year's Dialogue is presented in association with the Embassy of the United States of America and will focus on the political and legal issues relevant to Native American territories. It will be moderated by NCIS Director, Professor Mick Dodson. Four renowned speakers will be debating why Australia, the United States, Canada and New Zealand voted against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the global struggle for the recognition of Indigenous rights to land.

Prof. Dalee Sambo Dorough, an Inuit from the University of Alaska Anchorage, is a former Fulbright scholar whose research focuses on the human rights of Indigenous peoples. She advocates for the protection of Indigenous human rights at the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Organization of American States and with Alaska Native tribal governments.

Professor Robert A. Williams Jr from the

Lumbee tribe is the E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and American Indian Studies and Director of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona. He has published extensively on the subject of prejudice in the United States.

Professor Marcia Langton from the University of Melbourne and Dr Lisa Strelein, from the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and an **Adjunct Scholar at the NCIS**, will engage with their comments and provide an insight to their relevance to Australia.



*Above left: Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough.*



*Above right: Professor Robert A. Williams Jr*

## INDIGENOUS RESEARCHERS POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 24TH AND 25TH 2009 BATEMAN'S BAY

The National Centre for Indigenous Studies will be hosting a workshop held at Bateman's Bay for postgraduates completing research theses on Indigenous Australia and in allied fields. While targeting issues relevant to Indigenous postgraduate research

and researchers, allied methodological and practical issues relating to working on Indigenous themes will also be covered. Supervisory panel members and Indigenous supervisors will be represented and include Mick Dodson, Lester Irabinna Rigney, Kerry Arabena

and James Warden. Other ANU research staff will include Mandy Thomas, Nic Peterson, Peter Veth and Janet Hunt.

*A detailed program will be available on the **NCIS website** by mid-December.*

## ANU RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

As a demonstration of its commitment to the reconciliation process, the Australian National University is developing its own Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP program was launched nation-wide in July 2006 by Reconciliation Australia, an independent, not-for-profit organisation building and promoting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The ANU is proud to be part of this national program which is committed to facilitating equal chances for all, in particular in socio-economic

outcomes, while recognising and respecting the special place, culture and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians.

Professor Mick Dodson chairs the ANU RAP Committee comprising Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics and general staff from across the campus as well as Indigenous student and community members with relevant expertise.

The Committee identified areas of activity where the university could enhance its Indigenous involvement by establishing initiatives with clear



actions, deadlines and measurable targets. After a period of extensive consultation and drafting, the document will be submitted to various ANU executive polities for consideration and endorsement.

It is anticipated that the ANU RAP will be launched early in 2009.

For further information please contact **Jo-Anne Weinman**.

## CONFERENCE IN THE KALAHARI

CLIMATE CHANGE & PEOPLES SOUTHERN DESERTS

16-19 SEPTEMBER 2008

NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



*Fieldwork Kalahari-style*

Deserts and drylands embrace some of the world's major habitats, covering vast areas of land across the globe and supporting over a billion people. Humans have interacted with these regions for hundreds of thousands of years under an enormous range of social, technological, environmental and economic conditions. There is now

a vital need to acquire and apply an understanding of these interactions in order to manage scarce and fragile resources, to mitigate natural hazards and to determine how desert environments, their peoples and resources will be affected within the context of climate change.

NCIS Deputy-Director Peter Veth co-presented two papers at the conference entitled *Information*

*Exchange amongst Hunter-Gatherers of the Western Desert of Australia*, which reported on the Canning Stock Route project, and *Dating the Dreaming through Rock Art* on a book which explores the way that Western Desert art is used by Indigenous peoples to define themselves and their social connections through periods of time.

## INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

NCIS Research Fellow Dr Sarah Holcombe along with Michael Davis (Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, UTS) and Terri Janke (Terri Janke & Co Legal Consultants) are currently working on developing Indigenous cultural and intellectual property protocols for Indigenous ecological management in the Northern Territory.

This collaborative project will develop guiding principles, practical advice and a clear statement of the rights and obligations of natural resource management practitioners in relation to Indigenous territorians' intellectual property rights in ecological knowledge. The \$100,000 project is funded by the Northern Territory government's Natural Resource Management Board.

The group is working closely with the **Central Land Council**, Charles Darwin University and a diverse range of other Aboriginal land management organisations across the top end and central Australia. Research for the project is being conducted through workshops, discussions – with 3 trips to Darwin and Alice Springs – and desktop research, drawing especially on international material.

## NCIS PROFILES

### STAFF: DR. SARAH HOLCOMBE

As a social anthropologist, Sarah has extensive experience in remote and very remote areas of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and western Queensland which has been a balance of applied and academic anthropology. She has worked for the Central and Northern Land Councils. Sarah's PhD research in anthropology was undertaken in the Central Australian Luritja community of Mt Liebig (Amunturrngu) on the processes by which this settlement evolved into an Aboriginal 'community'. Before coming to the NCIS Sarah was a Research Fellow at CAEPR and Social Science Co-ordinator for the Desert Knowledge CRC.

Research interests include the engagement of Aboriginal organisations,



Dr. Sarah Holcombe

such as native title representative bodies and small corporations, with development issues such as mining, Aboriginal governance, land tenure systems and decision making processes, succession processes and re-territorialisation, the dynamics of the 'inter-cultural' and social change, collaborative research methodologies and the management of Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property in research.

### POSTGRADUATE STUDENT: TERRI JANKE

Terri enrolled as a PhD candidate with NCIS in February 2008. She is an Indigenous lawyer and the author of an important report on cultural and intellectual property rights, as well as *Minding Culture: Case Studies on Intellectual Property & Traditional Cultural Expressions* prepared for the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Her first novel, *Butterfly Song*, was published in 2005

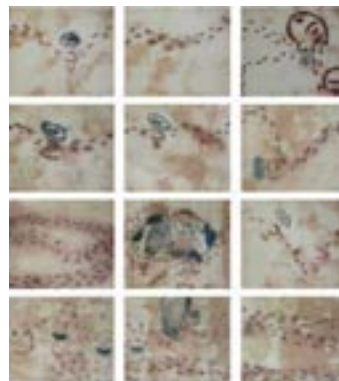
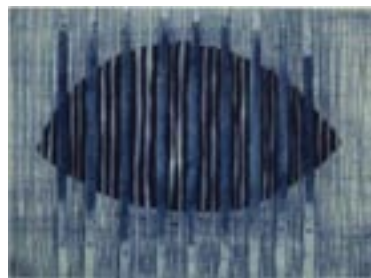
and reprinted in 2007.

Her thesis explores options for an Australian legal and political framework of recognition and protection of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights, a call which has gained impetus due to the new Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the recent work of the World Intellectual Property Organisation on traditional knowledge. The thesis outlines a proposal for a national Indigenous cultural authority, one of the recommendations contained in the *Our Culture, Our Future* report, arising from the recent 2020 Summit to which she was a delegate.

Postgraduate student Terri Janke



## NCIS IMAGES >>>



### FROM THE RECENT ETCHED IN THE SUN EXHIBITION

25 September – 2 November  
ANU Drill Hall Gallery

For a copy of the Catalogue containing a foreword from Professor Mick Dodson and *I Made My Mark*, an essay by curator Djon Mundine, please contact **Anna Damiano**.

Artists clockwise from left: courtesy of Yothu Yindi Foundation and Peter Eve; Rosella Namok; Paddy Japaljarri Sims; Bardayal Nadjamerrek; Amanyi Haggie; Gawirrin Gumana