

# RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN



*Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter will perform at the ANU Reconciliation Lecture on 10 June*

The Australian National University has spelled out its commitment to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in its ambitious new Reconciliation Action Plan, due for launch on 30 July 2009. ANU is the first University to address reconciliation so comprehensively across the institution. Its RAP displays a willingness to be held accountable for implementing its good intentions – internally and externally, on a College level as well as on the level of individual responsibility. These are clear indications that the University takes reconciliation seriously. A festival of events linked to the Reconciliation Action Plan includes a RAP Concert with local Indigenous artists, a Reconciliation Forum, film screenings and NAIDOC Week and Cultural Day celebrations. The

document will be launched by the Chancellor, the Honourable Professor Kim Beazley, and Professor Mick Dodson who chairs the ANU Reconciliation Action Plan Committee.

**Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture**  
The Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture will be delivered by 2009 Australian of the Year and NCIS Director, Professor Mick Dodson on Wednesday 10 June at 5.30pm for 6pm in the Arc Cinema at the National Film and Sound Archive. The lecture is now in its sixth year and will feature performances by two of Australia's leading singer songwriters, Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter. A short compilation of segments from the National Film and Sound Archive's national collection will also be screened as part of this special event. More event details can be found in the Recent and Upcoming section of this newsletter.

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## recent and upcoming events

- **11 May 2009 5-6:30pm**  
Manning Clarke T5 – ACT United Nations Youth Association  
'Indigenous Rights' Jon Altman, Patrick Sullivan, Jo-Anne Weinman
- **10 June 2009 5.30pm for 6pm**  
Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive – Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture: How well do we know each other? Professor Mick Dodson.  
RSVP essential: [rsvp.reconciliation@anu.edu.au](mailto:rsvp.reconciliation@anu.edu.au) Further information

from Anna Damiano 6125 6708

- **3 July 2009 1pm – 3pm**  
Hedley Bull Centre – Celebration of Indigenous Culture: Discover Diversity, NAIDOC event, featuring storytelling, performance by the ACT Torres Strait Islander Dance Troupe. Food provided. Further information from [ian.martin@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.martin@anu.edu.au)
- **30 July 2009** Union Square Amphitheatre 12-2pm – RAP Concert
- **30 July 2009 4-4:30pm**  
ANU Arts Centre – ANU Reconciliation Action Plan Launch
- **30 July 2009 4:30-6pm**  
ANU Arts Centre  
Reconciliation Forum

# NCIS AWARDED MAJOR GRANT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS STUDIES, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS HISTORY, HAS BEEN AWARDED A LARGE GRANT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO PROFILE THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IN MILITARY SERVICE OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS.

In 2008 the National Centre for Indigenous Studies was approached by officers of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian War Memorial to develop a multi-year plan aimed at profiling the role played by Indigenous Australians in war theatres and domestic military service spanning the Boer War through to current Australian military missions. The contribution that Indigenous Australians have made in various ways to military service has been under-represented in Australian history.

Funding via a competitive grant has now been obtained to carry out the first year of an ambitious 5 year project - in collaboration with the Australian Centre for Indigenous History (ACIH) which is based within the College



*Captain Reg Saunders – The first Indigenous Australian to be commissioned as an Officer into the Australian Army in 1945. Photos courtesy of Department of Veterans' Affairs.*

of Arts and Social Sciences. NCIS Deputy-Director Associate Professor Peter Veth and ACIH Director Professor Ann McGrath developed the grant in consultation with Mr Eric McDonald of the DVA. During the first year a critical literature review will be carried out of Indigenous military service records and contacts made with peak representative bodies.

It is envisaged that in subsequent years, in partnership with other Commonwealth, State, military and community partners, the Project will

*Lance Corporal Kathleen Jean Mary Walker of Stradbroke Island, a Communications Worker with the AWAS. Photos courtesy of Department of Veterans' Affairs.*

carry out community outreach workshops to access (as appropriate) further records and personal histories. An eventual outcome of this work would be the production of a volume profiling and celebrating the role of Indigenous Australians in military service. This volume would be aimed at the wider public.

In subsequent years it is planned to develop modules from this volume suitable for school curriculum in order that the major contribution made by Indigenous Australians in military service is adequately represented in school history programs.



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Continuing his focus on education Professor Mick Dodson undertook visits to schools in the Northern Territory from 20 to 24 April. Professor Dodson visited schools in Darwin, Katherine High School (his old stomping ground) and Ngukurr School with Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson.

Professor Dodson held preliminary discussions earlier in the year with the Federal President and other members of the Australian Education Union (AEU) to develop a long-term National Action Plan for Indigenous Education. These discussions have now led to the establishment of a Working Group which will advance ideas for the development of the National Action Plan. Members include Commissioner Tom Calma, Dr Chris Sarra, Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney and Professor Peter Buckskin as well as Professor Dodson and AEU members. The Working Group aims to have the National Action Plan included on the agenda for the next COAG meeting in July.

On 3 April at Parliament House Professor Dodson responded to the *Australian Government's Announcement on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in his capacity as Pacific community nominated member and Forum Rapporteur of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. His statement was made on behalf of the Chair and members of the Forum. Professor Dodson noted "... this announcement today from the government of Australia represents another piece in the jigsaw puzzle that began with the apology to the stolen generations last year. This is another piece to build the full puzzle. To close



*Mick Dodson with students from Wagaman Primary School*

the gaps. To continue the healing". The full speech can be found at: <http://law.anu.edu.au/NCIS/MD%20Statement%20on%20Aust%20Govt%20endorsement%20of%20Dec%20RIPs%20030409.doc>

Professor Dodson will deliver the 2009 ANU Annual Reconciliation Lecture on 10 June. The lecture titled *How well do we know each other?* will consider the private domain of reconciliation.



*Mick Dodson with NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson and students from Katherine High School*

## NCIS PROFILES

**DR PATRICK SULLIVAN**  
NCIS ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Dr Sullivan is a Visiting Fellow with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). He is an anthropologist who has studied the engagement of Aboriginal people with the Australian public sector since his introduction to the Kimberley region of Western Australia in 1983. Much of his professional life has been spent working with independent Aboriginal organisations. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles, as well as practical reports, and the book *All Free Man Now: Culture, Community and Politics in NW Australia* (Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra 1996).



*Dr Patrick Sullivan – NCIS  
Adjunct Associate Professor*

Dr Sullivan's current active research interests include: the anthropology of organisations; the anthropology of policy; critical management studies; whole-of-government Aboriginal service delivery and development.

**WAYNE CONNOP**  
NCIS MPhil STUDENT

"Justice is one of the deepest yearnings of the human spirit, and one of the most important promises of democracy. When Law and Justice part company, we are betrayed; when Parliament makes unjust laws we are betrayed; when Justice is promised but is placed beyond reach, democracy fails."



*Wayne Connop –  
NCIS MPhil Student*

My name is Wayne Connop. I am a Wardaman/Dagoman person from the Katherine Region in the NT, and my family are descendants of the Jawoyn, Wardaman/Dagoman people. I have been living in Darwin for over 20 years. As a former ANU student I lived in Canberra from 1998 with my wife Deborah and four children (who were all born in Canberra). In 2009 I'm returning once more to study at the ANU.

I completed a Bachelor of Education (majoring in Public Policy and Political Science) and also successfully completed my LLB and Graduate Diploma of Legal Studies. I have been admitted to the Supreme Court of the ACT and the NT and am enrolled as a Barrister at Law on the High Court Roll. I also hold trade

qualifications which have allowed me to work extensively throughout the NT, especially in remote areas. As a person with a social justice agenda I have always sought to fight for the rights of Indigenous Peoples. My Masters topic builds on my previous experience and focuses on the Northern Territory Intervention.

During my previous time at the ANU I was a strong advocate and lobbyist for the NT Stolen Generation. I was a member of the ACT Journey of Healing Network and Reconciliation and an interview friend in the ACT Justice system - helping Indigenous people when they were taken into custody. I have approximately 25 years experience in public administration and am currently employed with the NT Ombudsman Office and Health and Community Services Complaint Commission in the NT.

My future aspirations revolve around completing a PhD through the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the ANU. I appreciate the ongoing support from NCIS Staff and especially Professor Dodson, who has inspired me to pursue higher studies at the ANU.

## INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (IEK) PROJECT

We have now completed the Indigenous Ecological Knowledge project for the Natural Resource Management Board of the Northern Territory. The NCIS, Terri Janke and Co Pty Ltd and Michael Davis were engaged to develop a suite

of resources to better manage IEK in the NT. These included Guidelines for IEK Management (including archiving and repatriation) - for researchers, a Handbook for Working with IEK and IP - for Aboriginal land managers and a Report on the

Current Status of Indigenous IP - for policy makers/lawyers. All of these resources will be available on the [NCIS website](#) once the NRM Board (NT) has approved their release, however, they are available from us on request now.