

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Professor Mick Dodson continued his hectic schedule with a Tour of Honour to South Australia in June. The visit was part of the Australian of the Year Awards Tour of Honour program which brings the recipients of the four award categories into contact with school students and community members to share their inspiring stories.

Continuing his focus on education Professor Dodson met with key stakeholders on Indigenous education to further develop a long term National Action Plan for Indigenous education in Melbourne. Also in Melbourne Mick participated in a discussion for the Xavier Social Justice Network with Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Chair National Human Rights Commission and moderated by Judge Fran Hogan. He also undertook visits to Xavier College and Melbourne Boys High School.

On 11 August Professor Dodson met with Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property

Organisation (WIPO) and NCIS PhD candidate Terri Janke to discuss the work WIPO has been doing on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression. Dr Gurry said that WIPO may be looking at an international instrument to protect traditional cultural expression. An interview for ABC Radio National with Dr Gurry discussing intellectual property in Indigenous communities can be found at: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/breakfast/stories/2009/2652061.htm>

Currently Professor Dodson is conducting lectures at the University of Alaska Anchorage on Australian Human Rights Issues and International Indigenous Human Rights Developments (in particular Treaty Bodies) for students



Mick Dodson with Terri Janke and Dr Francis Gurry

undertaking the Human Rights Course. While in Alaska Professor Dodson will also visit some Alaskan native communities and visit the offices of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Alaska Native Heritage Centre and various other organisations in the Anchorage area.

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- **10 June 2009**
Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture
- **30 July 2009**
Launch of the ANU Reconciliation Action Plan

recent and upcoming events

- **29 September – 1 October 2009**
AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference
Manning Clarke Centre, ANU
Enquiries: conference@2009aiatsis.gov.au or www.aiatsis.gov.au
- **2 October 2009**
20th Anniversary Celebrations for the Jabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre
10.30am Launch of the ANU Indigenous Alumni Network

12pm – 1pm Public Lecture: Beyond Guarding Ground – A Vision for a National Indigenous Cultural Authority by Terri Janke
6.00pm The Alumni Dinner at Vivaldi's Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant, ANU

All enquiries for the Jabal Celebrations phone 6125 3520

- **16 – 20 November**
Barks Birds & Billabongs: Exploring the Legacy of the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land International Symposium
Speakers include NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson and NCIS Deputy-Director, Associate Professor Peter Veth



THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE

NCIS Deputy-Director Peter Veth has just returned from a major field season on the Canning Stock Route of the Western Desert. With some 50 traditional owners from remote communities such as Punmu and Jigalong, and researchers from Partner organisations, the group surveyed Wells 51 to 25 on the Stock Route – located south of Halls Creek and running south-east towards Wiluna and the Karlamilyi (Rudall River) National Park area. The main focus was on rock art, Dreaming narratives and interpretive material towards a plan of management. Other values recorded included contact history with Europeans (1906 – 1976), the ecological sustainability of the waters and their surrounds – which are largely based on pre-existing Aboriginal springs and soaks – and the nature of impacts from increasing tourism. It is estimated that traffic on what is described as 'one of the most difficult and remote 4wd tracks in the World' has increased from 500 to 5,000 parties per annum. There is a desperate need for a management plan, code of conduct for tourists, interpretive and educational material and seeding of cultural tourism for resident traditional owner groups.

A pan-Indigenous Governance Group has been established entitled *Kutju Wangka Ngurra* (One voice for many Places) and this now speaks for, and



L to R: Peter Veth (ANU), Jack Gordon (Billiluna) and Henry Cox (KLC) recording jukurrpa near the northern Canning Stock Route.

makes decisions about, a range of strategic issues on behalf of the many thousands of traditional owners with an interest in (and often native title rights for) the lands that the Stock Route passes through. A late October meeting scheduled for the remote community of Parnngurr will consider specific signage options, information kits and permit conditions for tourists and commercial operators. Proposals for establishing continuous Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) for the 1600km long desert route are before the Department of Environment, Heritage, Water and Arts

at present – with both IPA rangers in the north (on the existing *Paraku* IPA) and Martu Rangers in the central portions – already monitoring remote waters, tree stands, cultural sites and engaging in feral weed and pest control and fire management.

On the current trip invaluable data was collected on major rock

art complexes, stone arrangements, contemporary Dreaming narratives (*jukurrpa*), contact history, weed infestations, sustainability of firewood collecting and general driver impact on the fragile dune systems. For example, one of most heavily incised art sites ever recorded in Australia was located near a major well, samples of pigment art taken for dating from three locales, grindstone fragments collected for residue analysis, a 2 km long stone arrangement with Dreaming recorded and a historically significant conflict site additionally documented.

The Project was fortunate to have award winning film makers Martin Butler and Bentley Dean accompanying them – making production quality footage of much of the oral history with traditional owners. With Martu elder Yuwali they have just been awarded the Best Documentary at the Sydney Film Festival for the film 'Contact' – made about a group of women and children on the Percival Lakes within the dump zone of the Woomera Blue Streak Program in 1964. They are now making a film of the Canning Stock Route Project and hope to launch a Deep Time History series next year.



Film makers, project researchers and Martu traditional owners recording oral history at a major well on the Canning Stock Route

NEWS BRIEFS

MINING MONOGRAPH LAUNCH

The ANU e-press monograph *Power, Culture, Economy: Indigenous Australians and Mining* [eds] J.C. Altman and D. Martin, was launched at an Toyota-ANU Public lecture on the 26th August by Dr Richard Dennis, Executive Director of the Australia Institute. The NCIS's Dr Sarah Holcombe, as one of the authors, spoke at the launch about her chapter.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS

In June and August - Sarah Holcombe, Matthew Rimmer (ANU College of Law) and Terri Janke (Terri Janke and Company and NCIS post-grad) responded to a call for submissions by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). These were: *Submission to the National Biodiversity Strategy Review Taskforce on Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020*; and a *Submission on the Hawke Interim Review of the Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Both of these Submissions can be found under topical issues on our website, or on the DEWHA website.

JABAL INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION CENTRE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Jabal Centre will celebrate 20 years of providing a meeting place for Australian Indigenous students studying at the ANU with a day of activities on 2nd October 2009. Activities include the Launch of an ANU Indigenous Alumni Network, public lecture by NCIS PhD candidate Terri Janke and an Alumni Dinner. For details please contact the Jabal Centre on 6125 3520.

INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

The resources to better manage Indigenous ecological knowledge and intellectual property in the Northern Territory are now available online at: <http://www.nrmbnt.org.au/iek.shtml>



Djan'kawu © Banduk Marika, Rirratingu clan. Reproduced under licence with the artist.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION

NCIS made a submission to the consultative committee which is due to report to the Attorney-General on 30 Sep 2009. The NCIS submission can be found here:

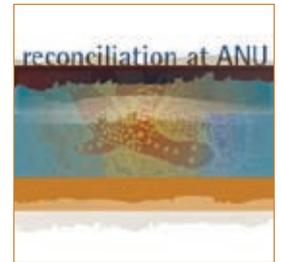
<http://law.anu.edu.au/ncis/JW%20NHRC%20Submission.pdf>

DR PATRICK SULLIVAN

NCIS congratulates Dr Patrick Sullivan on his recent promotion from Adjunct Associate Professor to Adjunct Professor with NCIS.

ANU RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCHED

At a festival of events on 30 July 2009 the Australian National University celebrated the launch of its



Reconciliation Action Plan. The day's events included a leadership breakfast, a concert featuring Indigenous performers Omar bin Musa and The Last Kinection, an official presentation ceremony and a panel of ANU staff and students in conversation about reconciliation.

The ANU RAP was developed in consultation with Reconciliation Australia by a committee chaired by Professor Mick Dodson. As the first RAP among Group of Eight universities, it sets a benchmark and formalises the ANU's commitment to increase understanding of Indigenous culture and history, encourage further and better participation of Indigenous students and staff and foster partnerships in Indigenous research and development. Chancellor Kim Beazley who hosted the launch said he hoped other tertiary institutions would follow the University's lead in taking an institution-wide approach to reconciliation.



Mick Dodson hands the ANU Reconciliation Action Plan to Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb while the Chancellor, Kim Beazley looks on.

NCIS PROFILES

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT: SIMONE ALCORSO

Simone has been involved in issues of social justice and human rights for most of her career. Her involvement with Indigenous issues began as an Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator in 1984. This involvement led to the establishment of an Indigenous Art Gallery promoting urban Aboriginal art and which worked as a cooperative with the artists sharing the profits. Unfortunately, the concept and the art were ahead of their time and due to lack of popularity, the gallery doors were closed prematurely. Many of the artists who hung their work in

the gallery now enjoy considerable fame both in Australia and abroad.

Her qualifications in Education and Language Teaching brought her back to her home State of Tasmania where she taught English to Cambodian Government Ministry officials. This led to her appointment teaching English at the University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. She stayed on for another five years working for UNESCO, Oxfam and Save the Children in the arenas of Education and Training, HIV AIDS education and Human Resources Development. Simone holds a Masters Degree in Education from



*Postgraduate student:
Simone Alcorso*

Stanford.

Her continued interest in Education for marginalised groups has led to her undertaking a PhD at NCIS. Her thesis examines the historical implications of Education and how the educational circumstances of the 1930's to 1950's influence the growth of Indigenous leaders.

As a resident of Sydney and a part time student at ANU, Simone teaches at the University of Sydney for the Koori Centre and the Education Faculty. Her courses include Introduction to Indigenous Australia and Social Perspectives on Education.

NCIS IMAGES



Above: Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter perform at the Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture on 10 June

Left: ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb with Ruby Hunter, Mick Dodson and Archie Roach

Photos: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography