

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Welcome to the first NCIS e-Newsletter for 2010. The year has started at a somewhat less hectic pace than last year which has been welcomed by the Director and staff at NCIS!

Professor Mick Dodson participated in a number of events during January for the

shift in the way people view Australia Day. It is not the sense of the date anymore – it's more about who we are, what it means to be Australian, what our country is about". The actor Jack Thompson attended the service and read the poem *The Mountains* by Banjo Patterson.

is on at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra until 26 April 2010.

Professor Dodson will attend the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for his final session as the Pacific regional representative from 19-30 April 2010 at the United Nations in New York. He will attend a preessional meeting in Bolivia in March.

The Indigenous Peoples and Law Policy Program (IDL) at the University of Arizona has invited Professor Dodson to deliver the 2010 IDLP Vine Deloria Distinguished Lecture. Vine Deloria was one of the most important Native American political thinkers and activists of the modern Indian rights movement.

Finally, we congratulate Professor Dodson on his appointment to the Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University for the 2011/2012 academic year.

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Professor Mick Dodson with Jack Thompson and above, at the National portrait Gallery

National Australia Day Council as his term of 2009 Australian of the Year came to an end. The lead up to Australia Day was marked with a dawn service at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. Asked about the meaning of Australia Day Professor Dodson said "there has been a

A portrait of Professor Dodson by photographer Ricky Maynard was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery on 25 January as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Australian of the Year awards. The exhibition titled *Australian of the Year: Inspiring a Nation*

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recent and upcoming events

- **9 March 2010** – Professor Mick Dodson talks about Reconciliation at Burton and Garran Hall, ANU
- **20 May 2010** – ANU Indigenous Community Day. More information from ian.martin@anu.edu.au

- **20 May 2010** – Indigenous Peoples of the World Dialogue: Mexico presented in association with the Embassy of Mexico – 4.30pm, ANU Centre for European Studies
- **June 2010** Universities RAP Workshop, presented in association with Reconciliation Australia. More information from jo-anne.weinman@anu.edu.au (date to be advised)
- **May/June** – Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture (date to be advised)

NCIS CROSSES THE BARRIERS

The NCIS charter states that it is to be a recognised leading academic institute for inter-disciplinary research in fields relevant to Indigenous Australia. The Centre now boasts a growing number of Higher Degree Research Students working in areas such as music, history, law, analysis of film making, cultural heritage, Indigenous cultural intellectual property, peace and conflict studies, Indigenous education and governance. In the short space of a few years, NCIS has now attracted a vigorous and collaborative group of scholars working on these rich cross-disciplinary research themes.

This year the NCIS is proud to announce the arrival of our first full scholarship holders, Fleur Adcock and Samuel Curkpatrick.

Fleur Adcock (Ngati Mutunga) is from Aotearoa/New Zealand and gained a Master of Laws (Distinct.) from Victoria University of Wellington in 2006 and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons.) and a Bachelor of Arts (Maori Studies) from the University of Canterbury in 2003. Fleur has four years experience practicing as a solicitor with Bell Gully in Wellington where she worked in their Maori Services team and in the areas



of technology, telecommunications and intellectual property. Most recently Fleur worked as an in-house lawyer for a telecommunications company in the United Kingdom. Her research interests include international human rights law, indigenous peoples' rights, jurisprudence and the law as it applies to emerging technologies. Fleur's Masters thesis examined the possibility of developing an indigenous specific justification for special measures and her PhD thesis will examine the right to development with respect to indigenous peoples. Fleur has been awarded the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for Doctoral Study.

Samuel Curkpatrick has a Bachelor of Music from Monash University. His training as a classical musician has largely focussed on stylistic interpretation and the experiences the performer can create for the audience.

Sam has enrolled with the NCIS to look at music from a different perspective – that of active participation. He believes that music participation is capable of addressing educational problems in areas where there are issues surrounding participation in education and youth involvement in remote Indigenous communities. He also wants to make a move toward rectifying the general lack of widespread knowledge about the culture and artistic practices which are Indigenous to Australia. Sam has been awarded a University Research Scholarship.



The NCIS would like to welcome these two exceptional people to the centre and we wish them all the best in their studies.

*Above: Samuel Curkpatrick
Above left: Fleur Adcock*

Cont. from page 1. Professor Dodson plans to take up his six-month appointment to the Indigenous Development program at the Kennedy School of Government in June 2011. Professor Graeme Davison, Chair of the Australian Nominating Committee

said: "Professor Dodson's appointment to the Kennedy School of Government will enable American policy-makers to hear about Australian indigenous issues from one of its most powerful voices". For Professor Dodson this will be "a good opportunity to find out

more about some of the work being done in the US that I can bring back to Australia. Indigenous peoples from around the world have much to gain from sharing knowledge about their individual efforts to win full rights and recognition."

NEWS BRIEFS

RESEARCH ETHICS IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Dr Sarah Holcombe was recently interviewed by Christian Barry of the Public Ethics Radio on the topic of Research ethics as it relates to Indigenous Australia.

Public Ethics Radio is a small radio program run by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics in conjunction with the Australian National University, Charles Sturt University and the University of Melbourne. The podcast for past broadcasts can be found on <http://publicethicsradio.org/> and Dr Holcombe's interview will be available in the near future.

CANNING STOCK ROUTE ARC PROJECT UPDATE

Planning for the 2010 fieldwork for the Canning Stock Route Project (Kuju Wangka Ngurrara) is well underway. Three trips will be made by ANU staff, partners and custodians in three sections – in the north between Wells 48-44; in the centre at the Durba, Calvert and Mungulu Ranges (Jilakuru, Kurukanti and Mungulu); and finally to the south between Wells 1 -15. This final phase of work will focus on mapping and recording cultural sites including rock art and jukurrpa and making final management decisions at locales now subject to considerable visitation by 4wd parties. The 15 member Indigenous governance group convened for the entire 1700 km Canning Stock Route will participate in the planning and with their PBCs oversee traditional owner participation and collaborative research. NCIS staff who are participating in the central recording program include NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson and Chief Investigator Assoc. Professor

Peter Veth. Project Manager Dr Diana James will be participating in the other two fieldtrips with the Kimberley Land Council's Land and Sea Management Unit and Central Desert Native Title Services, respectively. A two day Symposium on the project is planned for later in 2010; with publication of the proceedings.

NT INTERVENTION & HUMAN RIGHTS*

Following the suspension of the application of the *Racial Discrimination Act* to the intervention, the government and the Greens have proposed 3 Bills which they say will bring the Northern Territory intervention in line with human rights principles. A **joint submission** to the Senate Community Affairs (Legislation) Committee from NCIS and College of Law academics (Prof. Dodson, Prof. Bailey, Ernst Willheim and Jo-Anne Weinman) analyses to what extent the Bills achieve this purpose. The authors of the submission were invited to appear as witnesses before the Committee at a public hearing on Thursday 25 Feb 2010 5:30-6:30pm. A Hansard **transcript** of the proceedings and the Committee's **report** are available.



APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR JOHN MAYNARD

The NCIS is proud to announce the appointment of Professor

John Maynard as an Adjunct Professor. Professor Maynard is Chair of Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle and Deputy Chair of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Studies. His traditional roots lie with the Worimi people of Port Stephens, New South Wales.

He has held several important fellowships including the Aboriginal History Stanner Fellowship for 1996 at the Australian National University and the New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History Fellowship for 2003-04.

Professor Maynard's remarkable skills and knowledge in the field of Indigenous history will contribute significantly to NCIS's research outputs, supervision of higher degree research students and providing a mentoring role to many other academics, including early-career Indigenous academics.

VISITORS FROM NEW CALEDONIA

On Wednesday 10 March Professor Dodson met with Mr Paul Neaoutyine, President of the Northern Province Assembly of New Caledonia and Mr Neko Hnepeune, President of the Loyalty Islands Province Assembly. The visitors were keen to meet with Professor Dodson to discuss common issues facing Indigenous peoples in Australia, New Caledonia and the Pacific region in general. Mr Neaoutyine and Mr Hnepeune were part of a delegation visiting Australia to further develop the relationship between Australia and New Caledonia in a number of areas including higher education. The delegation was led by the Representative of the French Government in New Caledonia and the President of the of the Government of New Caledonia.

DIALOGUE WITH MEXICO

The Indigenous Peoples of the World Dialogue with Mexico which was scheduled to take place on 11 March 2010 has been postponed until Thursday 20 May 2010. Revised details about the event will be available on the NCIS website shortly.

NCIS PROFILES

NATALIA GOULD

For six weeks during summer break (Jan-Feb) the NCIS played host to Natalia Gould, an intern with the Aurora Native Title Project. Natalia, who is studying at La Trobe University in Melbourne worked on a literature review for the upcoming Special Addition of the Australia Aboriginal Studies Journal (Co-Edited by NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Sarah Holcombe). The journal focuses on ethics within Indigenous organisations.

Natalia grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia and in 2005 moved to Australia to start her undergraduate degree in



a Bachelor of Arts (International Development/Anthropology).

Natalia is hoping to go on to do Honours in Sociology and in the future she hopes to be working in either Australia in the area of Indigenous Issues or in Jakarta looking at Urban Sociology in settlement communities.

FRANK GAFA

The NCIS welcomes

Frank Gafa as a new staff member of NCIS in the role of Administrative Assistant on a part-time basis. Frank is currently in his third year of a Bachelor of Arts degree at the ANU majoring in Political Science and Sociology.



During his time at the ANU Frank has been involved in the planning and running of many events on campus in his capacity as the Indigenous Officer of the ANU Students Association. In his role as the Indigenous Officer (ANUSA) Frank is a member of many University committees including the ANU Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee.

He joins the NCIS after working for seven months as an Advisor to Ms Mary Porter AM MLA, Member for Ginninderra and Deputy Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly. Frank hopes the experience gained at the Assembly and the further experience he will gain from the NCIS will assist him with his ambition to be involved in Indigenous politics.

NCIS IMAGES

Clockwise from top: Professor Mick Dodson delivers his final address as 2009 Australian of the Year at a morning tea at The Lodge on 25 January 2010.

A final get-together for the 2009 Award recipients, (from left to right) Mick Dodson, Pat La Manna, Jonte Bush and

Graeme Drew at The Lodge.

Professor Mick Dodson and Ms Toni Bauman wait to greet Her Excellency The Governor-General Quentin Bryce at the 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner of the Australian of the Year Awards in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra.

