

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

At the time of writing there are only a few days remaining before Professor Dodson heads off on fieldwork for the Canning Stock Rout project followed by sabbatical leave in Broome. Professor Dodson will return to the ANU in early November 2010.

Professor Dodson attended a pre-session meeting for the 9th Session of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues (PFII) which was held in Bolivia from 17-18 March. At both the pre-session meeting and the 9th Session Professor Dodson and Carsten Smith, who had been appointed Special Rapporteurs on the topic of Indigenous fishing rights in the seas, presented their research with case studies from Australia and Norway. The paper was received well and widely reported on. It was particularly relevant given the two countries' large coastlines and the theme of the PFII's upcoming 10th Session in 2011: the right to water and Indigenous peoples. The PFII considered Articles 3 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, discussed the ongoing impact of the international legal construct known as the doctrine of discovery on Indigenous peoples' rights, and concluded with recommendations that development models be based on concepts underpinned by Indigenous cultures and identities.



Mick Dodson with runners from the Marathon Project at the Australian Institute of Sport

The site visits for the Indigenous Governance Awards took place in May. Professor Dodson visited Indigenous organisations in WA, NT, Cape York Peninsula, Victoria and the ACT.

Professor Dodson said of the awards which are managed by Reconciliation Australia through sponsorship from BHP Billiton, "Studies around the world and in Australia show that good governance is the key to building and sustaining healthy, prosperous communities, and we want to recognise, applaud and share those achievements."

Professor Dodson met with six young men from remote communities

who were in Canberra attending a two-week intensive training program at the Australian Institute of Sport. The young men are part of the Marathon Project organised by former world champion marathon runner, Rob de Castella. The project aims to promote distance running and establish a program that encourages a healthy lifestyle, exercise and good nutrition for remote areas Indigenous males and females. The aim is for the runners to compete in the New York Marathon later this year. A film about the project will be screened nationally on ABC television.

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recent and upcoming events

- **8 June 2010** ANU RAP workshop details from deborah.tranter@anu.edu.au

- **19 July 2010** "Does law constitute identity? Indigenous Allegiance and Identity in Australia" presented by Asmi Wood and Jo-Anne Weinman
- **11 November 2010** ANU Annual Reconciliation Lecture presented by Dr Kerry Arabena, Co-Chair National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (venue to be advised)



NEW ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

NCIS welcomes the appointment of Professor Frank Brennan as an Adjunct Professor. Professor Brennan is a Jesuit priest, Professor of Law at the Australian Catholic University and Adjunct Professor at the Australian National University College of Law. He was the founding director of Uniya, the Australian Jesuit Social Justice Centre and is a board member of St Vincents Health Australia and Jesuit Social Services. He is presently Advocate in Residence for Catholic Health Australia, Catholic



Social Services Australia and the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

His books on Aboriginal issues include *The Wik Debate*, *One Land One Nation*, *Sharing the Country* and *Land Rights Queensland Style*. His books on civil liberties are *Too Much Order with Too Little Law* and *Legislating Liberty*. His book *Tampering with Asylum* compares Australia's asylum policies with other first world countries. He wrote the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council's paper *The Timor Sea's*

Oil and Gas: What's Fair? His latest book *Acting on Conscience* looks at the place of religion in Australian politics and law. At the launch, Kevin Rudd described Frank as "an ethical burr in the nation's saddle". He is a contributor to Bernadette Brennan's *Just Words*.

He is an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to Aboriginal Australians, particularly as an advocate in the areas of law, social justice and reconciliation. The National Trust has classified him as a Living National Treasure. In 2009, he chaired the Australian National Human Rights Consultation Committee.

RECENT STAFF PRESENTATIONS

NCIS Deputy-Director Peter Veth recently presented at an international symposium (SAAs) in St Louis and carried out research in New York University. In St Louis Peter co-convened and presented a paper in a Special Session held in Honour of the President - Professor Margaret (Meg) Conkey. Meg is currently Head of the Department of Anthropology at UC Berkeley, President of the SAA and has been instrumental in capacity-building initiatives in higher education and research by Indigenous scholars from both the US and globally. There were 3,600 Registrations at the St Louis Conference, with the Session in Honour being well attended. Peter's co-authored paper reported on results from the *Rock Art and Jukurrpa* Canning Stock Route ARC Project - looking specifically at some of the issues raised in Meg's seminal paper in *Current Anthropology* on information exchange theory.

In New York Peter met with anthropologist Professor Fred Myers

- who has worked and published extensively on contemporary acrylic art from the Western Desert since 1973. Discussions were held regarding future research collaboration. Visits were also made to several cultural institutions that hold Australian Indigenous collections.

Plans are also underway to host a two day symposium at the Research School of Humanities and the Arts on current studies from the Canning Stock Route - between December 2nd and 3rd. The symposium will likely have two streams comprising longer presentations on cultural and natural values; while custodian planning workshops, film sessions of recent fieldwork (and archival footage) and discussion groups on IPA and National Heritage Listing will run in tandem. Both Professors Conkey and Myers are likely to attend this symposium.

From the 19th April to the 15th May, NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Sarah Holcombe, spent two weeks in New York and two weeks on Vancouver Is in BC.

Canada. For the first week Sarah was an observer at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) where she had the opportunity to experience first hand how the Australian caucus participates and what the current caucus issues are. In the second week as NYU Visiting Fellow, Sarah had the opportunity to hold discussions with Silver Chair Professor Fred Myers and build on mutual interests. During the two weeks in Canada, Sarah presented a paper (co-authored with Terri Janke) entitled "Translating the 'Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' into cultural and intellectual property (ICIP) rights in natural resource management" at the annual Ethnobiological society conference at the University of Victoria. In the final week, Sarah participated and presented in several workshop sessions at the bi-annual International Ethnobiological Society (ISE) Congress in Tofino to update the ISE Code of Ethics and develop an associated toolkit.

NEWS BRIEFS

NCIS KEEPS PLACE ON UN

Megan Davis, soon to be a visiting scholar at NCIS has been elected to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and becomes the first Australian Indigenous woman to be elected to a UN body. Ms Davis becomes the first Australian Indigenous person to receive the honour of being nominated by the Commonwealth Government for the role.

Ms Davis is an international human rights lawyer and is a PhD scholar at the Regulatory Institutions Network at ANU, studying Aboriginal Women and the Right to self-determination. She is also the Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Ms Davis has worked with the UN before as an Indigenous Fellow, based in Geneva with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

She will commence her three year term at the start of 2011.

AWARD FOR THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE CRC ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (AKIP) COMMUNITY GUIDE

On Friday the 28th May in Alice Springs, at the culmination of the CRC pathfinders Conference, the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research awarded the DKCRC AKIP Community Guide an award for excellence in innovation by CRCs. Dr Sarah Holcombe's work in developing the Guide was acknowledged at the presentation.

PROGRESS ON DVA PROJECT

This project was featured in the June 2009 issue of the NCIS newsletter. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Australian War Memorial will profile the role played by Indigenous Australians in war theatres and domestic military service spanning the Boer War through to current Australian military missions. The contract has now been signed and work will begin immediately on getting this exciting project off the ground.

It is hoped that production of a volume profiling and celebrating the role of Indigenous Australians in military service will be made from the research and 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.

PUBLIC ETHICS RADIO INTERVIEW

In the last issue it was mentioned that Dr Sarah Holcombe was interviewed on Public Ethics Radio on the topic of research ethics in relation to Indigenous Australia. The interview podcast and transcript can now be found at - <http://www.cappe.edu.au/media/public-ethics-radio.htm> or on <http://www.cceia.org/resources/audio/rss/index.html> (USA Carnegie Council)

ANNUAL ANU RECONCILIATION LECTURE

NCIS is delighted to announce that Dr Kerry Arabena will deliver the

2010 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture on 11 November 2010. Dr Arabena was recently appointed Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and has had extensive involvement in various peak Indigenous organisations over many years. Further details about the lecture will be included in our next newsletter.

THE ANU RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP

The stately Mills Room was packed with over fifty participants at the recent internal ANU RAP workshop, facilitated by Reconciliation Australia's RAP Advisor for higher education institutions Grant Paulson, and chaired by Professor Mick Dodson (Chair, The ANU RAP Committee).

The ANU Reconciliation Action Plan was the first *institution-wide* RAP among the higher education sector, and the first among any of the Group of Eight universities to develop a RAP, providing an ambitious benchmark for the sector. As *The ANU RAP* approaches its first anniversary in July 2010, the workshop focussed on practical measures for implementation via every College and Division. It was a forum for staff working across the campus on similar initiatives to discuss innovative approaches towards common challenges. The importance of adhering to principles central to the RAP program when discharging responsibilities (countering a 'tick-the-box-mentality') was emphasised.

For more information, please contact the **Secretariat** of The ANU RAP Committee.

NCIS PROFILES

JO-ANNE WEINMAN – RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

BA(Hons) / LLB (Monash University)

Jo-Anne Weinman is a Research Associate at the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies. Her primary research interests are native title and other Indigenous-specific rights and interests in land and waters, both in Australia and relation to the Saami people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Indigenous interests in human rights



law are another main area of interest, as are the limits of self-determination, sovereignty and Indigenous governance.

She authored the NCIS **submission** to the Attorney-General's Department's national human rights consultation, was invited to **submit** to the Senate Community Affairs (Legislation) Committee's inquiry and attend its **hearing** regarding the most recent amendments to the Northern Territory emergency response, and co-authored a discussion paper with NCIS colleagues and others for the (then) Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (*Building*

a Sustainable National Indigenous Representative Body), preceding the eventual establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples this year. She has also contributed research to papers presented at the two previous sessions of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues: at the **8th Session** on Indigenous land tenure and management principles contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Conventions 107 and 169, with Special Rapporteur Professor Mick Dodson (Pacific Region); and at the **9th Session** in April this year on Indigenous fishing rights in the seas, with Special Rapporteurs Professor Mick Dodson and Carsten Smith (Norway).

NCIS IMAGES

Top right (Left to Right): Mick Dodson, Sarah Holcombe, Inala and Ishan Cooper at the United Nations, New York

Below: Mick Dodson with members of the UNPFII pre-sessional meeting in Bolivia

Below right: Lars-Anders Baer member for the Arctic on the UNPFII and President of the Sami parliament in Sweden and Mick Dodson with a Bolivian doctor at the pre-sessional meeting

