

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Professor Dodson is on study leave as a visiting scholar at the University of Notre Dame Australia Broome campus. Professor Dodson is examining the successful Rubibi community Native title claim of the Yawuru traditional owners of Broome. After almost 15 years of struggle and intense negotiations over more recent years the Yawuru have come to a settlement agreement valued in land and money at approximately \$200M. He hopes to produce a paper on the background to the claim and the settlement arrangements by the end of his stay in Broome. He is hoping that in the next 2 years he will produce a book about the claim. For now he is busy reading all relevant materials he can get his hands on. He is due back at the NCIS



*L to R NCIS Deputy Director Peter Veth and Mick Dodson with traditional owners on the Canning Stock Route*

in early November. Prior to taking his study leave, Professor Dodson spent two weeks travelling the Canning Stock Route participating in fieldwork

for the major ARC Linkage Project – *Rock Art and Jukurrpa*. More about this trip can be found on [page 2](#) of the newsletter.

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### recent and upcoming events

- 11 November 2010 5.30pm**  
 Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture  
*Post normal reconciliation – using science to reframe the reconciliation agenda* by Dr Kerry Arabena (more details about the lecture on [page 3](#) of the newsletter)  
 National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton  
 Enquiries: [anna.damiano@anu.edu.au](mailto:anna.damiano@anu.edu.au)

- 12 November 2010**  
**9.30am to 4.30pm**  
 National Higher Education Workshop on Reconciliation Action Planning  
 Manning Clark Theatre Centre, ANU  
 Enquiries [student.equity@anu.edu.au](mailto:student.equity@anu.edu.au)  
 T: 02 6125 4806
- 28 to 30 November**  
 NCIS Higher Degree Research student retreat, Bateman's Bay – By invitation only  
 Enquiries: [peter.veth@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.veth@anu.edu.au)
- 1 & 2 October 2010**  
 Fifth National Indigenous Legal Conference on "Legal Education: A Way Forward" to be held at the ANU. Details and registration [coast@law.anu.edu.au](http://coast@law.anu.edu.au) or ph: 02 6125 1096

## HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CANNING STOCK ROUTE TRIP BY NCIS STAFF

The Canning Stock Route ARC Linkage Project – *Rock Art and Jukurrpa* – represents one of the largest research and management collaborations between ANU researchers, custodians and industry partners in Australia. Comprising an exhaustive 4 year recording program of a 1,700 km transect

being mooted for the Canning Stock Route. Partners include the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, Central Desert Native Title Services, the Kimberley Land Council, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, WA Department of Conservation and Climate, Landgate,

should be mobilised for heritage trails and *in situ* signage, and importantly what conditions should attach to the all-of Stock-Route permits now in place – and for the first time – being actively monitored by Rangers from all sections – from Wiluna in the south to Lake Gregory (*Paruku*) in the north.



Plate 1: Women's Team with Dr Diana James (with Akubra) and Principal Investigator Dr Jo McDonald (with the field hair)



Plate 2: Men's Team with Mick Dodson and Peter Veth in centre back (with and without Akubra) at Jilikuru (Durba Hills)

through the great western deserts of Australia, the Project has documented a plethora of heritage values to inform a strategic plan of management. The Plan of Management will sit within native title lands and be overseen by an autonomous Indigenous body titled *Kuju Wangka Ngurra*. While rock art and associated Dreamings have been the focus of the Project – given these are currently subject to impacts from use of the Stock Route – research partners with expertise in other relevant fields such as ecology and history have been conducting assessments of the condition of the wells and water sources and their environs, the labour history of the droving era and the cross-cultural experiences of peoples making first contact. Further Indigenous Protected Areas and National Heritage Listing are

WA Department of Indigenous Affairs and Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management. Project Manager was Dr Diana James. Custodial participation was co-ordinated by *Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa* and the KLC's Land and Sea Management Unit, respectively. Over 200 custodians have been involved in the mapping of cultural values to date.

The Project completed its final major fieldtrip within the *Martu* lands in June–July focussing on the art-rich gorges of the Durba, Diebel and Calvert Ranges (known more properly to *Martu* as *Jilikuru*, *Tirpil* and *Kurukanti*). Over 60 custodians, researchers, filmmakers and support staff (pictured) documented numerous cultural sites and made significant management decisions about where tourists should have access, what interpretive materials

*Martu Media* and mentors made substantial footage of recording work, custodians speaking for country and a major painting of *Jilikuru* by renowned artist *Yankura* (Billy Atkins). Intensive surveys were made on foot of more remote portions of the ranges where visitation has increased and highly significant sites documented. On this trip were two NCIS staff – Director Professor Mick Dodson and Deputy-Director (and Chief Investigator) A/Professor Peter Veth. Full-day 25km walks involving survey and recording were part of the routine – with everyone saying this was “one of the best trips ever” at the end. Peter finished surveys with Ngurrara custodians between Wells 48 – 44 in mid-August. An end of Project Colloquium is now in the planning.

# ..... ANNUAL ANU RECONCILIATION LECTURE

The Annual ANU Reconciliation Lecture will be held on Thursday 11 November at 5.30pm at the National Film and Sound Archive and will be followed by a reception from 6.30pm to 7.30p. The lecture titled *Post normal reconciliation – using science to reframe the reconciliation agenda* will be delivered by Dr Kerry Arabena. Below is a synopsis of what Dr Arabena will focus on during her lecture:

The word 'normal' carries a heavy expectation that that is what we all should do. In Australia, 'normal' reconciliation involves building mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and other Australians. We hope that this will allow us to work together to solve problems and generate the successful collaboration that is in everyone's best interests. In this context, reconciliation involves raising



*Dr Kerry Arabena*

awareness of Indigenous history and culture, changing attitudes and encouraging action where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are afforded the right and responsibility of contributing to Australian society as fellow Australians.

Yet, these 'normal' reconciliation strategies that we are currently espousing are not broadly enough considered. To take our place in contributing to the influence and well-being of Australia in the Asia Pacific region over the next 20-30 years we need to go beyond the

"normal to a new way of thinking. It is important for the society into which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are being drawn to consider the impact of an increasing number of environmental, global monetary and political uncertainties in a regional context.

An expansion of the term and application of reconciliation is required. Whilst some of the answers can and will be found in the humanities, science can also contribute to the reconciliation agenda. Post-normal science offers a methodology of inquiry which accepts that 'facts are uncertain, values are in dispute, stakes are high and wise decisions urgent'. Post-normal science utilizes the involvement of an extended peer community and the deliberation on many ways of knowing. In the same way, post normal reconciliation could broaden the current reconciliation program, making our own contribution to enable our society to better respond to complex, interrelated regional issues in these uncertain times.

For further details about the lecture please contact Anna Damiano: [anna.damiano@anu.edu.au](mailto:anna.damiano@anu.edu.au)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

Sarah Holcombe, Terri Janke and Michael Davis were recently invited to contribute to a special edition of the Endogenous Development Magazine on Biocultural Community Protocols.

The article is on pps 8-10 of the magazine and can be seen at

[http://www.compasnet.org/afbeeldingen/Magazines/ED%20Magazine%206/Magazine\\_ED6.html](http://www.compasnet.org/afbeeldingen/Magazines/ED%20Magazine%206/Magazine_ED6.html)

This special edition will be taken by COMPAS to the Conference of the

Parties (COP) 10 of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Japan (in October), for the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) negotiations. It will be used to show recent best practice in rights based approaches for communities to assist in negotiating the ABS. COMPAS Endogenous Development is a Netherlands based organisation with a global network.

## NEWS BRIEFS...CONTINUED



### CROSSING ROPER BAR

*Crossing Roper Bar* is a musical collaboration between the Wägilak Yolnu of Nilipidji and members of the Australian Art Orchestra. Traditional owners and practitioners of Manikay song from South East Arnhem Land have come together with contemporary jazz improvisers from Melbourne to create this musical dialogue; a process of listening and responding through the unique perspectives, backgrounds, cultures and approaches to music which each individual brings to the Project.

Research undertaken by PhD candi-

*Above: Musicians from the Crossing Roper Bar project*

date Samuel Curkpatrick through NCIS examines these processes of cross-cultural collaboration, shifting iterations of Manikay traditions with which the project is concerned, and creative approaches to the perpetuation and renaissance of things cultural.

On September 22nd, the ANU School of Music will be hosting an evening performance of *Crossing Roper Bar* in Llewellyn Hall. More info at [www.aao.com.au](http://www.aao.com.au)

### AUSTRALIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY APPOINTMENT

NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Sarah Holcombe has recently been elected as a Director in the Executive of the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) for a three year term. The formal handover will take place at the AAS AGM (coinciding with the annual conference) when Sarah will take over from Yasmine Musharbash.

### THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION WORKSHOP ON RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANNING

The ANU will host a National Higher Education Workshop on Reconciliation Action Planning on Friday 12 November from 9.30am to 4.30pm in the Manning Clark Centre. The workshop will be facilitated by Grant Poulson Advisor, Higher Education Reconciliation Action Plan Program, Reconciliation Australia. For more information about the workshop please contact [deborah.tranter@anu.edu.au](mailto:deborah.tranter@anu.edu.au)

### NUS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS STUDENTS CONFERENCE

NCIS Admin Assistant, Frank Gafa recently attended the third annual NUS National Indigenous Students Conference, hosted at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence in Redfern. The conference which brought together Indigenous students from all around the country was an opportunity to discuss common issues facing Indigenous students in tertiary education. Information about the conference can be found at [http://www.unistudent.com.au/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=297:national-indigenous-students-conference-2010&catid=40:conferences&Itemid=57](http://www.unistudent.com.au/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=297:national-indigenous-students-conference-2010&catid=40:conferences&Itemid=57)