

## **Anita Heiss: Visiting Fellow Report**

**Duration:** September 25- October 20, 2006

**Location:** School of Humanities

**Sponsors:** National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Arts, and the School of Humanities

I have just completed four weeks as visiting fellow courtesy of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Arts and School of Humanities. Thanks to the opportunity to simply focus on my writing projects in a space conducive to being creative, I had an overwhelmingly productive time while in Room 132A, facing the Chifley Library.

Even for a supposed wordsmith, I cannot express on the page the gratitude I continue to brim with. The opportunity afforded me to think, create, write and bring closure to so many projects, was the ultimate gift. I wish to extend much appreciation to all those who were part of my writing journey at the ANU. I hope I will be will joined for some bubbly to launch at least one of the titles in Canberra in 2007.

Below is a summary of what I managed to achieve whilst visiting fellow. Copies of all works published will be forwarded to both the Director of the NCIS and the Dean, Faculty of Arts, as they are released.

### **Academic contributions:**

1. Two seminars in the course Indigenous Australian Literature (ENGL 1010)
2. Conference paper: "Aboriginal writers on notions of space, sense of place, and connection to country" as part of "Places, Lost and Found", hosted by the Centre for Cross Cultural Research.

### **Personal research / writing projects completed while visiting fellow:**

1. Final edits on adult novel *Not Meeting Mr. Right* (Random House, February, 2007).
  - Acknowledgement in final publication: *The National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Humanities at the ANU – for the time and space, as visiting fellow, to do the final edits.*
2. Final draft of poetry collection *I'm not racist, but...* (Salt Publishing, April 2007)
  - Acknowledgement in text: *The National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Humanities at the ANU – for the time and space, as visiting fellow, to work on the final draft.*
3. Copy edits on children's novel *Yirra and her deadly dog, Demon* (ABC Books, May 2007)

- Acknowledgement in final publication: *The National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Humanities at the ANU – for letting Anita work on the copy edit while she was visiting fellow in Canberra.*

**Articles / Essays written and / or completed:**

1. “Anthologising Indigenous Voices” – sent to *Meanjin* for consideration
2. “Being invisible in the Australian story” for *Griffith Review* (publication date tba)
3. “Tales of a visiting fellow-ette” for *Campus Review* (publication date tba)

Acknowledgements for all published articles will read: *Dr Anita Heiss is visiting fellow at the Australian National University courtesy of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Humanities.*

**Alliances formed:**

Renata Grossi, Freilich Fellow, The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Foundation, with the aim of doing some collaborative work in 2007. Renate also flagged the potential for the Foundation to host the launch of the title *I’m not racist, but...* in April 2007.