

CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

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Director's Cut

It has been an incredible semester for us here at CAIS.

Firstly Barry Judd, lecturer, completed his PhD with flying colours. I am sure everyone will join me in wishing him **CONGRATULATIONS.**

This success was followed by his receiving an ARC Indigenous Research Fellowship to study football in South Africa.

Dr Jane Lydon also received ARC funding for the next four years and I, along with Professor Marcia Langton (University Melbourne) and Dr Zane Ma Rhea from the Edu-

cation Faculty here at Monash, were funded to undertake a research project on 'Indigenous Knowledge' in the colonial era.

This semester CAIS employed Gundijtmara warrior Richard Frankland to act as our male mentor. Richard ran a men's workshop and is going to be available to our male students for ongoing mentoring and cultural counselling.

In October our library assistant Carly Castlehow will marry her partner David and we wish them the very best for their future together.

There will be many changes around here as of next year, as I am going to be the Faculty of Arts Deputy Dean. Dr John Bradley will be moving to CAIS as the Deputy Director.

Ms Diana Hettihewa who is currently our Administration Officer based in the reception, will be moving across with me to be my Personal Assistant. This means we will have some new staff in the area.

Points of Interest

- Mullum Mullum Tree has been relocated from its former site near Medicine to the parklands near the Monash Science Centre.
- Indigenous Recruitment

News

On-site research will continue for the remainder of 2007 with Liam Brady heading north to resume his Kaurareg research activities in the Torres Strait and Amanda Kearney and John Bradley will once again brave the dongas at Borrooloola, NT whilst Lynette Russell will head south to continue her

research and collecting contemporary photographs of the Tasmanian coastline and other images for her latest publication.

Early December Sue Taffe will be attending the 'Victorian Women's Suffrage and Political Citizenship' conference organised by the School of His-

torical Studies at the University of Melbourne, to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in Victoria in 2008.

Charlotte Craw (PhD student) will attend the 'Sustaining Culture' conference organised by the University of South Australia during December.

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Research—Dr Sue Taffe

'Sue Taffe has joined CAIS as an honorary research fellow to work on her new project 'Fighting Friendships: Australian Aboriginal rights activists 1950s -1980s'.

This study focuses on six pairs of activists whose friendships profoundly influenced their lives. Most importantly they made contributions to thinking and policy formulation in Aboriginal affairs. Some are well known, such as poets and environmentalists Oodgeroo Noonuccal and Judith Wright, and Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls. Stan Davey, who met Doug when they were both on the Church

of Christ Aboriginal Mission Committee, is less well known.



Oodgeroo Noonuccal

Other pairs in the study are Shirley Andrews and Mary Bennett, Joe McGinness and Barry Christophers, Jessie Street and Faith Bandler, and Gladys O'Shane and Pauline

Pickford. This work grew out of Sue's earlier meetings with a number of these people and a realisation that the relationships were life changing and empowering. The project is supported by an AIATSIS grant and a Harold White Fellowship.

Sue is also working as a research associate with the National Museum of Australia which is hosting a large website she developed 'Collaborating for Indigenous Rights' and is planning an exhibition on the civil rights campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s. This is due to open in 2009.

Community Notice

With the construction of new buildings along 'The Strip' at Monash Clayton Campus, the Mullum Mullum Scar Tree found in 1997 lying in the Mullum Mullum Creek within the City of Manningham has been relocated to a position outside the Monash Science Centre.

The tree discovered by Isabel Ellender during an archaeological monitoring of the Mullum Mullum creek bank rehabilitation works bares a 'scar' from the removal of bark many years ago by the Wurundjeri Willam people of the Yarra Valley.

The shape and size of the scar exhibited on the tree, suggests the piece of bark was made into a shield called a Gee-am.

A Gee-am was a heavy shield used to protect the body during battle.

After seeing photographs of the tree in its new location, Isabel was concerned for it's long term preservation. The angle of the scar was such that a pool of water may collect within the fold of the scar creating an opportunity for tree rot.

Rotation and further preservation treatment may be required to insure decay does not occur.



Mullum Mullum Tree adjacent to Monash Science Centre, Clayton Campus

Library News

It's been a busy time for the library. Just kidding.....

Recently Carly and I attended a two day workshop at PROV entitled 'Know Your History, Preserve Your Culture'. Both of us found this to be useful and interesting.

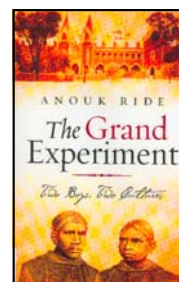
The library has recently purchased a few new books:

'The Grand Experiment: Two Boys Two Cultures' by Anouk Ride, - this book tells the story of two Nyungar boys sent to

Europe to be educated and 'civilised' according to the Spanish missionary Rosendo Salvado.

'Black and White Together' by Sue Taffe — this book is based on Australia's Indigenous peoples struggle for civil rights between 1958-1973.

This book was generously donated by Sue for the library. Thank you Sue.



A Three Part Story

Scene One: A black haired teenager paused during a hectic football game to catch his breath, and was puzzled when he noticed that he, and his older brother, both had very dark hair colour as well as olive skin. These features were markedly different from those of both his younger brother and the two oldest siblings. The teenager was puzzled at the difference! And then was back into the game.

Scene Two: Some years later, the same teenager had grown into an adventurous budding academic who had recently arrived at Central Queensland University after teaching in Papua New Guinea for the previous nine years. He got involved with the Indigenous community

development activities, hardly giving a thought as to why. Except, perhaps, because there was not a lot of equality around that place in the 1970's. One day one of the Murri men he'd been working with said to our adventurer, "You know, somebody jumped the fence back there!"

Now that was a puzzle to this chap! This chap's mother declared that she knew nothing about such behaviour. The puzzle deepened! Then the matter of 'fence jumping' disappeared from this chap's thoughts.

Scene Three: The main character of our story visits his 86 year old aunt in Sydney, 35 years after the events cited above. The aunt, the second youngest of twelve

children, and 'yes', sister to this chap's mother, reveals over afternoon tea, that there was no 'fence jumping' in her family! In fact, there was a formal marriage between the great grandfather of 'our chap' and an Aboriginal woman from Northern NSW. The pieces of the puzzle had come together at last.

Conclusion: So what has this story to do with CAIS, you ask? Well, the 'chap' who is the 'puzzled star' of our story is none other than, Reg Shelley !

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Reg Shelley currently tutors in and coordinates the ITAS Indigenous Tutoring Assistance Scheme program for CAIS.

Indigenous Student Services Recruitment Activities

The 2007 recruitment effort made by the Indigenous Student Services Unit saw Nareida Wyatt and Peggy Swindle attend over twelve major career and education expos around Australia.

From one corner of Australia to the other and back again, Ned and Peg have taken their Monash message to far-away communities such as Derby in Western Australia and Townsville in Queensland just to name a few! Next year is set to be even busier with trips planned for Tasmania and the Torres Strait Islands!

"Seeing the kid's faces when we tell them how far we've come just to meet them is priceless. And they look awesome walking around in our Monash hats too!"

If you have any expo or event you would like Monash to attend, please contact Peggy on

(03) 9905 8699 or

email

Peggy.Swindle@general.monash.edu.au.



What's Coming Up

Special Western Australian Visitor

During September, CAIS will host Ms Theresa Polkinghorne from the Western Australia community of Halls Creek.

Theresa will be with CAIS for a week to observe and learn the archiving techniques used by the library staff in their day to day



Theresa (right centre) with CAIS staff

running of the Elizabeth Eggleston Library.

The procedures, processes, skills and ideas Theresa picks up from CAIS will be incorporated into the way in which information is stored at the Kimberley Language Resource Centre Community Library .

Theresa—Welcome to CAIS

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Summer School

Barry Judd will be presenting AIS2180/3180 'Aborigines: Sport, Race and Gender' unit during the summer semester break. The commence date is Tuesday 8th January in room 210, Building 55. It is expected a lot of interest will be shown by students interested in subject matter and completing a unit over the summer break.

Unit Synopsis

A touchstone of Australian nationalism, sport has played an important role in determining the boundaries of nation by providing (re)presentational types of who Australians are or should be. Until recently images of Australian-ness to emerge in sports reflected the social and political aspiration of white Australia which formed around national identity around white masculinity. Despite this, Aboriginal people have both a long history of sporting participation and an outstanding record of sporting achievement. This unit considers the contribution of Aborigines to sport. Students will gain an appreciation of how ideas of race and gender have influenced Aboriginal participation in sport. For further information contact CAIS or Barry Judd.

Mission House—Ebenezer

Ebenezer Mission:

Archaeological conservation and interpretation

Jane Lydon has been working in collaboration with the descendant communities at Ebenezer - Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op and Barengi Gadjin - to develop a strategy to stabilize the ruins of Ebenezer's Mission-house and to install interpretive signs. We have applied to Heritage Victoria for funds, and have also been successful in obtaining a grant for the interpretation from the Department of Victorian Communities' Local History Grants Program.

Over the rest of the year we hope to preserve the remains of the building that were exposed during archaeological excavation in 2003 so that visitors to the site can understand how the settlement was once laid out, and how people lived on the mission.



Excavation in progress at the Mission-house, 2003

CAIS Seminar Series

2007

For those of you who were unable to attend the lunchtime seminars conducted by CAIS during 2007 a number of seminars have been recorded and saved on CD. Copies of the CDs have been lodged in the CAIS library. Contact the CAIS library for assistance.