

CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

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Director's Cut

Well we are now at the threshold of a new era, Monash is celebrating its first fifty years and at the same time the university's commitment to Indigenous education continues to grow. Recently the university council made the following announcement:

Monash University is fifty years old this year. But its half-century cannot compare with the tens of thousands of years in which Indigenous Australians have walked, lived and flourished across the breadth and length of Australia.

Echoing the sentiments of apology and partnership affirmed by the Prime Minister, Monash reaffirms its role to advance the educational and career aspirations of Indigenous Australians.

This will occur on every one of Monash's eight campuses - metropolitan, regional and international -- and in our staffing, educational and research programs.

This announcement coincided with the parliamentary apology to the Stolen Generations.

For the parliamentary apology. CAIS hosted a early morning get together here at the Clayton campus, where we booked out a theatre and watched the live broadcast. We had extended an invitation to colleagues across the university and we were simply overwhelmed by the reaction. We literally had three times as many people as we anticipated. It was a wonderful experience to watch and listen to the Prime Minister's words along side our friends and colleagues who support us in our Indigenous Education endeavours.

A few weeks ago Dr Zane Ma Rhea and Yorta Yorta elder Henry Atkinson gave the Faculty of Education's anniversary lecture and their topic was Indigenous Education, Reconciliation and profiled the unique partnership approach which they have developed. It was a well attended event with

public and Monash community making an effort on one of our few rainy evenings.

Dr Alan Finkel was recently installed as Monash's new chancellor. Dr Finkel has indicated that he is deeply committed to continuing to address the disadvantages of Indigenous Australian and we are sure that this support will mean great things for us here at CAIS.

Finally Dr Barry Judd has just returned from a trip to South Africa in which he began the research for his post-doctoral fellowship looking at Australian Rules Football, and the role it can play in reconciliation. We were all happy to see Barry return safely with lots of fascinating stories about the conditions in post-apartheid, South Africa. No one was happier to see him than me, as he managed to get me a much treasured autograph of Kevin Sheedy!

Points of Interest

- CAIS goes *Green*
- Archiving Files Off Site
- Borrooloola Community Remote Learning Partnership Report.

News

CAIS GOES GREEN

As one of the top priorities for 2008 CAIS is turning it's attention to becoming greener. Initiatives such as printing double sided and reducing the amount of printed material will serve to ensure CAIS has set an example to students

and other schools.

Other Initiatives being investigated may include the production of student handbooks in electronic format with essays being submitted via electronic format.

The installation of hand

driers in the toilets and sensory lights in some areas of the library will go along way to ensuring the carbon footprint is minimized.

Turning off equipment at the mains should also be encouraged.

CAIS NOTES

Congratulations to Students

A number of our Indigenous students have now completed their degrees.

Kimberley Moulton, one of the first INAP students has completed her B.Arts.

Others who have satisfied requirements for their degrees are Bernadette Atkinson for her B.Arts and Susan Folmer for her achievement of a

Masters in Child Welfare through Off Campus study.

Laura Wilson achieved a B.Arts and is continuing onto Honours in 2008. She was awarded the Sir John Monash Medal commendation award and been accepted into the Master of Laws (Juris Doctor) for 2009.

Kylie Clarke has completed a Bachelor of Education

(Outdoor Sports and Recreation).

Our final congratulations goes to Barry Judd for the completion and achievement of his PhD.



Congratulations everyone

Off Site Storage

Administration have recently reviewed and assessed numerous boxes and files cluttering cabinets, files and shelves in the administration area.

Many of the files and documents relate to former courses, MOSA students or financial records that are required to be archived for seven years.

With little space available at the Centre a rental site located close to Clayton was found and all excess materials were relocated to the facility.



A small amount of space is still available in the locker. If you have any boxed files, records etc. that you need to keep but do not access them regularly you might like to consider relocating them to the locker.

Contact either Wendy or Loraine if you have a need or would like to store any items off-site.

Library News

We have had a quiet time in the library over the holiday period. We have acquired quite a substantial collection in regards to Indigenous Education donated by Ian Spalding and collected from the Education library. In addition to this we have some new art works for the library including traditional Tjampi baskets

from the NT and our wonderful piece of art titled Wandurrk by artist Terry Butawiliya Wilson.

We have also updated the display cabinet showcasing what the Elizabeth Eggleston

Library has to offer.

Finally, we have a couple of new acquisitions about central desert art titled Paunya Painting and another acquisition titled Breasts, Bodies, Canvas.

Volunteering with NPY Women's Council

Loraine Padgham



I spent three weeks volunteering at the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council in Alice Springs during my annual leave. I assisting staff drive women and children to and from their community at Hidden Valley to hospitals and other places and also assisted NPY staff at the council's AGM.

It was a wonderful and interesting experience helping staff members organise and cater for approximately 120 women who attended the AGM. Unfortunately the AGM coincided with really hot weather. Camping out bush with swarms of flies, little shade and water rations was quite a challenge nevertheless I found the experience one I will never forget.

It took 10 hours of 4x4 wheel driving, in a packed 8 seat 'troopie', to reach the meeting site. The main task for the NPY staff at the meeting was to deliver food and water to each family group attending the meeting. This meant distributing water and lots and lots of kangaroo tails—the favourite food.

The meeting was held over three days with lots of yarning, singing and dancing. By the end of the third day, like everyone else, I was really in need of a hot shower and a rest away from the heat and those #@&* flies.



A candidate's speech



Casting votes

After the AGM, a group of six ladies needed to be driven back to Wingellina (near the north eastern corner of WA). We headed off early in the morning, dropped off the ladies and finally arrived around 5pm at the NPY out-post in Wingellina to a much welcomed hot shower and comfortable bed.

It was around this time I started to notice there was something unusual about my eye. Without experiencing any pain and suspecting it was only an infection or conjunctivitis, at the very worst, I temporarily ignored it. It wasn't until when we arrived back in Alice the sight in my eye had deteriorated to the extent that I thought it would probably be a good idea to have it examined.

Not good news—it was confirmed I had a detached retina and needed immediate surgery. A quick rescheduling of my return flight to Melbourne saw me heading to the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital where a scleral buckle was fitted. That procedure restored my sight but a subsequent vitrectomy was required to repair a macular hole. It's now been over four months since I first noticed my eye problem. I have regained my sight however the images are distorted.

My advice is

DO NOT IGNORE *ANY* UNUSUAL EYE DISCOMFORT HOWEVER SLIGHT.

All in all, my time away volunteering with the NPY was memorable on a number of levels but I would gladly do it again.

Grant Funding

CAIS recently received \$6000 from The Andrews Foundation to assist with a small research program aimed at identifying obstacles that inhibit Indigenous students finalising their secondary education and attempting tertiary studies.

The Andrews Foundation is a Perpetual Charitable Trust established in 1984 by Mr. Ronald Clifford Andrews a successful businessman from the Gippsland area. The primarily focus

of the trust is the Gippsland region and aims to assist 'organisations working in the area of social disadvantage, needs and problems in order to help individuals and groups to find sustainable solutions to their issues'.

The research program prepared was designed to engage with Indigenous students from secondary schools in the Gippsland region and provide them with skills to build self confidence and maturity.

During the six months program the selected students would gain skills in research, data analysis, report writing, oral presentation at the same time develop negotiation and team building skills.

In order to proceed with the program additional funds are required from another funding source. Further submissions are being developed to supplement the funds in order to commence the program.

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CAIS Staff

A number of changes have occurred at CAIS since the last newsletter.

- Diana was appointed PA to Director, moved office and has changed her surname to DeZilwa and is looking great with a new haircut and new car.
- Reg Shelley has taken up the gauntlet as ITAS coordinator and is located in R214 with Nareida.
- Jane has returned from maternity leave for a rest.
- Sue Taffe now resides in R207 at the end of the corridor—a long way from the printer, when you are on crutches.
- Lynette has been starring - she was:
 - ◇ Was appointed by Minister Garrett to the Collections Council of Australia for a term of three years.
 - ◇ Was part of a successful Canadian Govt funding bid to examine Aboriginal women's labour in Canada and Australia.
 - ◇ Was successful in a bid to get funds from the Australia Japan Foundation to bring out a visiting Japanese scholar who will be working in Indigenous Australia.

Research: Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria

Amanda Kearney and John Bradley have continued to travel north to Borroloola in the south west Gulf of Carpentaria.

Last year they successfully tendered for a consultancy from the Department of Education Employment and Training to undertake research and produce a report that details Indigenous concerns and issues with education provision in Borroloola.

The result has been a report entitled the Borroloola Community Remote Learning Partnership Report. Negotiations with DEET are now underway and Amanda and John are acting as advocates with the local *W u k a n y i y a - Yanymbagiyi* Action Group, which comprises Yanyuwa and Garrwa

teaching Assistants at the school and a number of selected people from the community.

It is hoped these negotiations will be completed in May and the Indigenous community will be able to sign off on a five year plan that will assist in giving the Indigenous community much more control over developing culturally appropriate education in the community.



Still of animated Kujika view of river and bank

In addition to this Amanda and John are to continue work on the animation projects with Tom Chandler and Brent McKee from Monash IT services. The first trial animations has been proofed with elders at Borroloola and apart from a stingray not being brown enough they are very pleased with the result. This year will see another five animations completed.

Contact either Amanda or John at CAIS if you would like to know more about this exciting project.