

# CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

## Inside this issue:

Conference: Visual Cultures and Colonialism: Indigeneity in Local and	2
Introducing Anthony (Bryan) Fricker PhD Candidate	2
Indigenous Student Social Committee	2
Faculty of Information Technology Undergraduate and Graduate Pathways	3
Awards for Excellence	3
Howitt Hall invitation	4

## Director's Cut

Semester One is rapidly coming to a close. Our subjects are becoming more popular and there seems to be an increased curiosity in Indigenous Studies, perhaps the change of government and the apology have sparked more interest.

The academic staff are looking forward to the semester break so they can get back into their research projects. Liam Brady, myself and PhD candidates Joe Crouch and Duncan Wright are heading off to Ireland to take part in the World Archaeological Congress (WAC). These meetings take place once every four years and there are usually over 1500 participants. WAC is an important organisation as it sponsors 'Archaeologists without Borders' and the 'Global Libraries Project'. The registration fee for these congresses provides 'Travel Support for Indigenous Members' as well as 'Scholars from Economically Disadvantaged Countries'. CAIS is an institutional member of WAC and

we will be very well represented at this year's congress with papers from those of us attending as well as Jane Lydon (whose paper will be read by Aboriginal elder Alan Burns and myself). Hopefully we will have some images of our time in the emerald isle for the next newsletter.

We have been extending our international connections with a visit by Professor Jane McMillan who is the Canada Research Chair Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Communities at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia. Jane, myself and Dr Ian McNiven from the School of Geography and Environmental Science are developing a collaborative research project with the eel fishers of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and Western Victoria's Gunditj Mirring. Jane will be giving a seminar on the 12th of June, called "Seeking Netukulimk: An Exploration of Mi'kmaq Law Ways in Resource Relations, Canada."

Seminar details are available on the CAIS website:  
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais/>

Two of our staff have recently been in the media. John Bradley ("language man") was featured in a wonderful and moving documentary on the ABC television show *Compass*. I highly recommend this to anyone who is interested in cross-cultural relationships and understanding how people from divergent backgrounds come together. A copy of the DVD will be available for viewing in the Egglestone Library. The ABC are planning to show it again on ABC 2, so keep an eye out for it.

Jane Lydon was recently on the ABC as well, this time on Radio National's *Hindsight*. Jane's work was featured in a wonderful exploration of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, its history and meaning. As well as this Jane convened a very successful conference on *visuality*. As you can see things are as ever, busy here at CAIS and with student recruitment activities beginning to hot up next semester it's bound to be just as exciting.

## Points of Interest

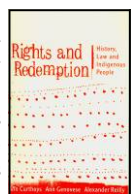
- ◇ The 6th World Archaeological Congress (WAC) will be held 29 June—4 July, Dublin, Ireland.
- ◇ Professor Jane McMillane, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia will present a seminar on 12th June "Seeking Netukulimk: An Exploration of Mi'kmaq Law Ways in Resource Relations, Canada."
- ◇ In July Stephen Pritchard will be presenting 'Sites of Remembering' - an exploration of the relationship between place, memory, identity and culture, as keynote speaker at Lancashire University, Britain.
- ◇ Lynette Russell will be visiting Osaka, Japan early June as the discussant at the Australia-Japan Foundation's annual Australian Studies conference.

## Library News

The library has been very busy hosting the last three CAIS seminars. Attendance for all seminars was very good and exceeded expectations for our little library.

On to normal library activities.

The library has acquired some new materials



for staff and students to utilise.

These include a few books titled: Coercive Reconciliation, The Secret War—A true history of Queensland's native police and Rights and Redemption.



We have also acquired a DVD titled: Mabo, Life of an Island Man.

Finally, we have some staffing news to report. It will be sad to see Bev leave our library but I wish her all the best for her new position in CAIS.

## CAIS NOTES

## Conference:

## Visual Cultures and Colonialism: Indigeneity in Local and Transnational Imagery

The Visual Cultures and Colonialism conference was held 2-3 May at the Koorie Heritage Trust, convened by Jane Lydon and Liz Conor.



Ross Gibson opening the conference

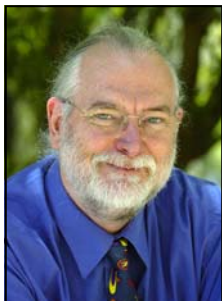
This event was sponsored by CAIS and the Trust. A public lec-

ture by Ross Gibson (UTS) opened the conference, and Frances Peters-Little (ANU) and Chris Healy (Melb. Uni) were also keynote speakers. A series of excellent papers were warmly received, and we intend to publish the proceedings. Thanks to all CAIS staff who assisted with organisation, especially Lynette Russell, Wendy Saunders, Loraine Padgham, Liam Neame and Allegra Reinalda. Many thanks to the Koorie Heritage Trust for its friendly and professional welcome.

### Snapshots from the recent staff first aid training



## Introducing Anthony (Bryan) Fricker PhD Candidate



Bryan Fricker

I'm a Dja Dja Worrong man and my people originally came from the Bendigo area (Chinaman's Flat). They were later dispersed to the Coranderrk Co-Op.

I came to this uni lark late in life (didn't start my undergrad at Melbourne until I was 46) and majored in psych and linguistics. \*After doing Honours in linguistics, I did a Masters in socio-phonetics (the study of how people's circumstances affect their accents). Having decided that Monash Uni was the place to be, I enrolled here for my PhD.

Looking at the intransigence of the previous government regarding the Apology to the Stolen Generations and the surprising level of support for that position (as well as more general disrespect) in the wider community, it occurred to me that most people's attitudes might be formed by the construction, by the media, of Aboriginality and Indigenous issues.

My research will look at media discourse and the construction and representation of Aboriginality, probably focusing on one or two large events like the Olympic Games and the Parliamentary Apology. I hope that exposing media assumptions will lead to better reporting and more good will in the wider community.

I am currently the Indigenous representative on the Monash Post Graduates Association Committee. If you have any concerns feel free to contact me either via email or I can be frequently found in R206, Building 55, Clayton Campus.

Anthony.Fricker@arts.monash.edu.au

## Indigenous Student Social Committee Event

Our second student social event of the year had our students and a couple of graduates attending a dinner and show in the beautiful city of Melbourne.

The performance was called 'Mathinna' by the wonderful Bangarra Dance Theatre. The performance was brilliant and enjoyed - perhaps the wrong word - 'appreciated' by all who attended.

For those who do not know the story of Mathinna, "she was a young Aboriginal girl who was removed from her traditional life, adopted in Western Colonial society to be ultimately returned to the fragments of her original heritage.

Mathinna became the archetype of the 'stolen child' and the Bangarra Dance Theatre recreated her powerful story of vulnerability and searching in an era of confusion and intolerance."

Naturally, this was a performance that left you feeling somewhat in need of a 'debriefing' glass of 'whatever' after the show.

I do have a student group photograph to mark the occasion and will not be leaving my day job to embark on a career of photography - such a bad photo. Sorry!

Anyway, a good time was had by all and we look forward to semester 2 and more social events.

# CAIS NOTES

## Faculty of Information Technology Undergraduate and Graduate Pathways for Indigenous Students

The Faculty of IT identifies with the individual needs of Indigenous students. In this regard the Faculty is pleased to be able to offer a variety of entry pathways to enable Indigenous students to study IT units. These are comprised of three undergraduate pathways available via bursaries and scholarships and one post-graduate pathway.

### ***Undergraduate Pathways***

#### ***Pathway 1:***

Indigenous students can apply to the Faculty of Information Technology to study two (2) IT common core units selected from one of the Faculty's IT undergraduate degrees, on a non-award basis.

- ◇ Non award units are undertaken outside an award course where standard entry requirements are not met, and where the student is not currently enrolled in a Monash University degree.
- ◇ A maximum of four bursaries each year are offered to eligible Indigenous candidates. The bursaries cover tuition costs for the non-award study. Successful candidates are selected on academic merit.

Candidates can contact the Faculty of IT Scholarships Officer for further information (see contact details below).

#### ***Pathway 2:***

Based on the student's ability to achieve higher level passes in the two units, Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) can be offered in one of two ways: Firstly, to applicants who meet minimum university entry requirements (year 12 or equivalent) but do not have the required ENTER, but who complete the two non-award units with a pass level (50 and above) average and secondly, to applicants who do not

meet the minimum university entry requirements but who complete the two non-award units with a credit (60 and above) average.

#### ***Pathway 3:***

Faculty of IT Indigenous Undergraduate Scholarships are offered to new-to-course Indigenous students who are admitted via VTAC application into an IT undergraduate degree. The scholarship will be awarded to the highest achieving Indigenous students based on their ENTER or interstate equivalent. One scholarship is awarded per year and is valued at \$2,000 per annum.

### ***Postgraduate Pathway***

An indigenous postgraduate pathway is currently being developed for Semester 2, 2008. Watch this space!!

To find out more details about these pathways contact Faculty of IT Scholarships Officer - Dianne Pickering via email:

[Dianne.Pickering@infotechmonash.edu.au](mailto:Dianne.Pickering@infotechmonash.edu.au) or phone +61 3 990 31819.



## Awards for Excellence



Sadie Heckenberg & Matthew Atkinson

Sadie Heckenberg and Matthew Atkinson both received awards at the HUMCASS Awards Night 2008 at the Gippsland campus.

For producing an outstanding assignment in Australian Indigenous Studies AIS Activism, Politics and Indigenous Australia & Academic Excellence in the Bachelor of Arts Sadie won both awards.

Matthew won the award for Academic excellence in first-year discipline areas for on-campus students – Australian Indigenous Studies.

***Well done to both students!***



## Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies

Building 55  
Monash University  
Clayton 3800

Phone: +61 3 9905 4200  
Fax: +61 3 9902 0321  
Email: [cais@arts.monas.edu.au](mailto:cais@arts.monas.edu.au)

Supporting Indigenous Communities

[www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais/](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais/)

### CAIS Staff Movements

- ◇ Dr Barry Judd has been seconded to Melbourne University for a period of six months to head the Indigenous Unit.
- ◇ Kristel Keleher has been seconded to the Indigenous Student Services Unit as a Student Services Administration Assistant.
- ◇ Bev Thomson has been seconded to the Administration Assistance position commencing 1st June.
- ◇ Carly Castlehow will be assuming full-time management of the CAIS Elizabeth Egglestone library.

## Howitt Hall invitation

On Sunday 20th April, Diane Singh and Loraine Padgham presented a short information session to about 20 country and international students in residence at Howitt Hall.

The students were interested in hearing information about Aboriginal Australia and particularly Diane's personal views on the Yorta Yorta people. The international students were particularly interested to hear about the wide variety of languages and customs throughout Australia.



Jeanette.Vaha'akolo, Diane's daughter and driver was also in attendance. She quickly donned her Dept. of Justice hat and engaged in discussions related to Native Title and the interaction activities between neighbouring clans.

After the presentation the organisers prepared a hands-on activity to engage the student's creativity. With paints, brushes, blank boomerangs and a lot of imagination the group quickly congregated around a tarpaulin and were soon absorbed in the task of decorating an arsenal of weaponry.

