

# CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

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## Director's Cut

Welcome to the first CAIS notes for 2009. What a terrible summer we've had horrendous drought and bushfires, blistering temperatures. Some staff and students had near misses with the fires, but mostly we were lucky. Not so for colleagues both here, at Monash, and across the university sector. Our hearts go out to those who lost so much. In conjunction with the Red Cross Monash University has set up the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, staff students, alumni and all are encouraged to give generously.

The year is looking like it is off to a very successful start we have greater numbers of students in both our undergraduate and post-graduate programs and our Indigenous students are growing strongly. The Monash University Student Social Committee is getting set for a year of exciting activities and functions.

In February Nareida Wyatt from Indigenous Student Services, Dr Ian McNiven from the

School of Geography and Environmental Science and I travelled to the Monash South Africa campus. We saw first hand the amazing work being done there both educational and community. We spent a day visiting a preschool, primary school, high school, antenatal clinic and orphanage, all of which are part of Monash's community engagement program and where Monash students volunteer their time. It was truly inspiring. We came back determined to set up exchange programs so our students might have the opportunity to travel to Johannesburg and see for themselves this most fascinating of countrys. You can look forward to further updates on this topic in the future. On our last day we were given a tour of Soweto by Ayunda who was witness to the terrible events of 1976, he showed us some of the sites and generously told us his stories from those violence filled weeks. The following photos are from that day. The first is outside Walter Sisulu square where in 1951 the fa-

mous defiance campaign began. The second is from the Hector Pieterse museum which commemorates those who gave their lives to end apartheid. It was in all a humbling and confronting experience.



In January CAIS Dr Karen Hughes joined our teaching and research staff. Dr Hughes has worked as a teacher, film maker and academic. Karen is setting up some wonderful programs including a field based unit which will take students on a Narrindjeri experience. I am sure everyone agrees that her skills and expertise really enhances our offerings and we welcome her.

## Points of Interest

- ◇ Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney to present 2009 Biennial William Cooper Lecture on Monday 20th April 2009
- ◇ Australian Indigenous Arts and the Law Debate, Tuesday 5 May at 6 pm-8pm at the Faculty of Art and Design, Monash University Caulfield Campus.
- ◇ Brown Paper Bag Program for 2009

# CAIS NOTES

## Library News

Ms Jenny Casey has temporarily taken on the role of Matheson Library—Australian Indigenous Studies Subject Librarian while Gayle Whyte is on six months leave. Jenny's primary role is to maintain the Australian Indigenous Studies collection and liaise with CAIS academic staff. She will be contacting staff shortly with regard to the purchase of recently published Australian Indigenous materials.

Jenny has had experience in electronic publishing at RMIT

Publishing, as well as extensive experience in accessing and demonstrating the Australian content in Informit online. Recently, Jenny has been the Music-Multimedia co-ordinator in the Matheson Library. Her email address is:

Jenny Casey@lib.monash.edu.au  
and telephone 9905 9401.

While working closely with CAIS it is hoped that Jenny will assist the library to identify and develop appropriate ways to address the developing shortage of storage

and shelving space. It is hoped that a solution will be found which avoids the necessity to resort to off-site material archiving. As anyone who has recently tried to use the materials in the compactus units will attest, a major review of stored materials is desperately needed. Such a review will help identify ways in which the space in the compactus units can be used more efficiently. Already Jenny has suggested spare compactus units may be available as a result of the recent closure of the Faculty of Education library.

## CAIS Farewells Amanda Kearney

In December last year the staff of CAIS, joined by staff members from other Monash Faculties, gathered in the staff room to farewell Dr Amanda Kearney. Amanda had worked at CAIS for three years as a lecturer and during that time actively contributed to all aspects of the academic program. She was known by students and staff as an excellent teacher and she demonstrated enthusiasm, warmth and commitment

in her professional role. In 2008, Amanda won a Deans Teaching of Excellence Award.

Amanda applied for a lecturing position with the University of New South Wales and amongst very strong competition was successful. She has taken up a position there as a lecturer in Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences and International Studies. We wish her every success in this new endeavour.



L to R: Drs John Bradley, Brett Hough, Ian McNiven and Amanda Kearney

## Celebrating Success



Dr John Bradley (Deputy Director CAIS) congratulates Laura Wilson and Barry Judd on their achievements

CAIS staff helped celebrate the successful completion of Laura Wilson's Honors Degree and Barry Judd's publication of his book based on his PhD.

After completing her B. Arts with first class Honors in Criminology, she has commenced her Masters Degree focusing on Drug Driving. Laura will be

awarded the Sir John Monash Medal for Outstanding Achievement in March.

Barry Judd completed his PhD while lecturing at the Centre. His research centred on Indigenous identity and the AFL. The basis of his research was adapted for the publication of his first book—Beyond the Boundary Lines.

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## River of No Return

I watched 'River of No Return' at the outdoor Deckchair Cinema in Darwin during the Darwin Festival, under a sky crossed with lightning: a precursor of an early wet season. The star, Frances Djulibing, a 45-year-old Yolngu woman from Ramingining in Northeast Arnhem Land, was at the screening in a white evening dress, a tribute to her favourite film star Marilyn Munroe. Frances told me she was enjoying her 'star treatment' in venues around Australia and talked about her impending overseas trip. 'River of No Return' tells the story of Frances's life, and her ambitions to become an actress like Marilyn Munroe.



Frances Djulibing

Her story is told in a candid and sometimes amusing manner. Her depiction of contemporary life in a remote Aboriginal outstation is poignant and recognizable to anyone who has lived in or visited the area. The

conflicts and challenges facing modern Aboriginal women are addressed in an honest and confronting way. Someone asked me if it was a real story, a real person. Yes is the answer to both those questions. A copy will be available for viewing soon. I urge everyone to avail themselves of the opportunity to view this film.

Dr Gwenda Baker

Adjunct Research Associate  
Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies

(Frances Djulibing starred in Rolf de Heer's film "Ten Canoes")

## CAIS PROMOTION AT WIPCE 2008

**Indigenous Education in the 21st Century  
- Respecting Tradition, Shaping the Future.**

The first week of December 2008 saw over 2500 mainly Indigenous delegates from around the world descend on Rod Laver Arena to attend the triennial WIPCE conference organised this year by VAEAI. Held over four days, the conference attracted Indigenous people from around the world to share and celebrate their cultural diversity and to come together to share and promote education programs, policies and practices.

The conference themes included presentations on Respecting Tradition; Living with Competing Knowledge Systems; and Beyond the Horizon. With so many international visitors and potential post graduate students, it was a great opportunity for CAIS to promote and publicize post graduate programs.

As one of a number of University represented in the exhibition hall, CAIS was more successful in attracting

visitors than many of the other education booths. Our tactic for attracting visitors revolved around photographing and printing digital images of visitors wearing the CAIS possum skin cloak. Over the four day conference visitors walked away with around 400 photographs with the compliments of CAIS and Monash University. Those photographs will become a lasting souvenir of their visit to Melbourne, the WIPCE conference and Monash University.



Diane Singh, Monas Resident Elder (Centre) with two of her daughters, Angela and Jeanette.

## Brown Paper Bag Program for 2009 \*

### Venue:

Burchill Room, G38, Bldg 68,  
Arts Precinct, Clayton Campus

- ◇ Wednesday, 11th March  
Dr Sue Taffe, Honorary Research Associate, Monash University  
Title: 'Fighting Friendships: campaigners for Aboriginal rights, 1950s - 1970s
- ◇ Wednesday, 1st April  
Dr Travey Banivanua-Mar, La-Trobe University
- ◇ Wednesday 6th May  
Dr Sean Gorman, Melbourne University
- ◇ Wednesday 5th August  
Dr Jane Carey, Monash University

Additional seminars will be presented on Wednesday 2nd September and Wednesday 7th October. Speakers for these seminars are still being negotiated.

\* Where possible presentations will be filmed and available for viewing in the CAIS library.

## Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies

Building 55  
Monash University  
Clayton 3800

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

### Supporting Indigenous Communities

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

### CAIS Staff Movements

- ◇ Library Assistance position is currently vacant. A review of the PD is currently being undertaken.
- ◇ Dr Karen Hughes will join the CAIS staff in January 2009. Karen will deliver the Australian Aboriginal Women and Aboriginal Peoples, Gender and the Colonial Frontier units.
- ◇ Dr Jane Carey was recently appointed an Adjunct Research Associate and will take up this research position in April 2009.
- ◇ Dr Jane Lydon is travelling to the UK in June and July to work in the photographic archives of the Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford) and the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, for the Aboriginal Visual Histories project.

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais/research/visual-histories/>

## Australian Indigenous Arts and the Law

How are Indigenous arts recognised and protected in Australia?

What happens when someone takes an Indigenous artwork or cultural site and uses it for their own profit?

A lively performance presented by the Faculties of Art & Design, Arts, and Law at Monash will debate how Indigenous arts and culture are recognised in the Australian community, and what sorts of protections are provided by Australian laws.

Judges, lawyers, artists, archaeologists and others will take part,

using the dramatic format of a 'Hypothetical', and will ask and answer the many questions that arise about this important issue.

**Date:**

6 pm-8pm Tuesday 5 May, 2009

**Venue:**

Faculty of Art and Design,  
Monash University Caulfield  
Campus.

**Inquiries:**

Kristel Keleher 9905 8699 or  
Cathy Meredith 9905 3311

### FOR YOUR DIARY



**William Cooper**

#### Memorial Lecture

The 2009 Biennial William Cooper Lecture will be presented by Professor Lester- Irabinna Rigney, Director, Yunggoorendi, First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research, Flinders University, South Australia.

*Monday 6pm 20th April 2009  
Venue: Village Theatre  
State Library Conference  
Centre*

Enquiries: Loraine Padgham  
9905 4208