

CAIS NOTES



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Inside this issue:

Education Study Tour	2
Monash's Possum Skin Cloak	2
Celebrating Students' success	2
Staff Creativity	3
WIPCE 2008: Indigenous Education in the 21st Century:	3
Second Semester Seminars	3
CAIS Advance	4

Points of Interest

- ◇ Apology to the Stolen Generation - DVD at the Elizabeth Eggleston Library
- ◇ Monash University and Lulea University joint STINT research grant
- ◇ WIPCE Conference details
- ◇ 2nd Semester Seminar Topics and availability of CDs in Elizabeth Eggleston Library
- ◇ Details of CAIS Advance scheduled for October.

Director's Cut

As summer rapidly approaches and the academic year is coming to an end it is timely to reflect on some of our 2008 activities. Recently we have Judith Cooke join us as the Manager Indigenous Student Services Unit. Judith has a wealth of experience and commitment to the areas of recruitment and retention and we are already seeing the tremendous value of having her with us. As the University has made Indigenous matters, recruitment, retention and our Indigenous profile generally a priority area we anticipate that we will soon be improving our efforts across the university.

In June, I was lucky to be the guest of the Australia Japan Foundation's annual Australian Studies conference where we were able to promote CAIS and Monash as a great place to

do post-graduate study. At this venue we were also able to promote the Monash Tri-Centre fellowships that CAIS, the National Centre for Australian Studies and the Japanese Studies Centre have developed. CAIS was fortunate to have Dr Yuriko Yamanouchi from Tokyo spend four weeks with us in August-September. Yuriko spent her time developing a research project examining Japanese/Indigenous marriage in Torres Strait. She gave two well attended seminars and we all really enjoyed having her with us, and hope to see her back again soon. This initiative is we hope, to be continued and certainly as far as CAIS and NCAS are concerned should mark the start of much closer collaboration between the two centres.

In July a number of CAIS academics and post-graduates headed off to

Dublin, Ireland for the Sixth World Archaeological Congress. We were joined by Uncle Henry Atkinson and other Monash staff from Geography and Environmental Science. The congress was a huge success and those CAIS members who gave papers were very well received and all are expected to be published. I hope to have photos to share with you all in our next newsletter.



Delegates at Trent University in Peterborough Ontario, Canada.

In August I along with Dr Tracey Banivanua-Mar, from La Trobe University were the only Australians at a workshop on Indigenous Women's labour held at

Library News

Just to let you all know of some new acquisitions to the library. Lynette bought a couple of books for us, they are titled "Archaeology as Political Action" and "The Makers and Making of Indigenous Australian Museum Collections". Also, at the suggestion of Duncan, the library has purchased

"Islands of Inquiry, colonisation, seafaring and the archaeology of maritime landscapes".

We also have the latest editions of Human Rights Defender and Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues.

Finally, we have "The

Apology to Stolen Generations" on DVD for anyone who would like to watch this again.



CAIS NOTES

Trent University in Peterborough Ontario, Canada. Over three wonderful, sunny days we heard a range of papers which explored the role that Native and Aboriginal women have played in the economic systems of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America. I managed a couple of days in New York where I was able to meet up with the curators of the National Museum of the American Indian and we were able to discuss research synergies and the possibilities of our students undertaking exchange programmes. It is all looking very exciting for future collaboration. CAIS is also looking to become involved in the Indigenous and Native American Studies conference to be held next year in Minnesota, USA.

Our postgraduate numbers continue to slowly increase and recently one student completed while we are currently looking forward to several more completions in the next couple of months. After the long years of study there's sure to be lots to celebrate.

Education Study Tour

Reg Shelley was part of a team of researchers who recently presented a paper at the Paris International Conference on Education, Economics and Society. The paper entitled Indigenous and Traditional Education in a Global World: preparing pre-service teachers to meet the challenges of educating Indigenous children in mainstream schooling. Reg was a member of a five member delegation led by Uncle Henry Atkinson and also included Bernadette Atkinson, Ms Ruby Langton-Batty and Dr Zane Ma Rhea.

The symposium focused on preparing pre-service teachers for work with Indigenous students.

While in Paris the research team linked up with research colleagues from Lulea University, Sweden who were also attending the conference. Both Monash and Lulea University were jointly successful in attracting a three year STINT grant for research entitled: Desert and Ice - Learning without boundaries. A research and development project of learning between Northern Sweden and Southern Australia.

CAIS Possum Skin Cloak

After three years of sewing and burning, the CAIS possum skin cloak has finally been completed—in time for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education to be held at the Rod Laver Area in December this year.



Bev Thomson sews the final pelts together on the CAIS Cloak

The Cloak, made from 35 possum pelts purchased in NZ af-

ter the last WICPE conference in 2006, has been a project undertaken by members of the Taungurung people. Participants have lovingly burnt and sewn the luxurious pelts to create the cloak. Each pelt was burnt with an image representing an area of study at the University including Archaeology, Biology, Neurology, Engineering, Law etc.

With experience creating a Cloak for the Commonwealth Games, the Taungurung community proceeded to create the CAIS cloak. In post-colonial times the Possum Skin Cloaks were worn by the Aborigines of South Eastern Australia and were inscribed with emblems, totems or other icons meaningful to the owner.

The CAIS cloak is currently on display along with other Indigenous artefacts in a display case on level 2, building 55.

Celebrating Student Success



Leonora and Davina Lippmann with the successful recipients of the 2008 Lippmann Scholarship with CAIS staff.

Staff Creativity and the WIPCE Conference

How to make the **CAIS** booth stand out from the other University booths at the next WIPCE conference? This was the challenge put to the administration staff at CAIS recently.

The aim was to establish an environment that would actively entice people to visit the booth and create an opportunity for attending staff to interact with the visitors and provide information about the Centre's programs and research. With that objective a number of ideas were conceived: short video, display of interesting Indigenous artefacts, an assortment of informative brochures and fliers and the predictable promotional give-aways. The ideas and resources were brought together on the Paint and Pizza day held on a Sunday in July.

The day was well attended by staff who put their creative ideas to good use and developed a variety of artefacts: replica funerary poles, sculptures and canvases. To an international visitor these artefacts

could hardly be distinguished from the real thing and will be displayed in the booth to create an ambience designed to set CAIS apart from the other education-booths. Not only was the day productive but it created an atmosphere of camaraderie, good will



and consolidated the teamwork that exists at CAIS.

The short video, still being developed, will present research staff briefly talking about their latest research activities.

Where possible, the presentations were filmed in the research locality giving potential research students an insight and understanding of the academic research environment.

WIPCE 2008: Indigenous Education in the 21st Century: Respecting Tradition, Shaping the Future

The WIPCE conference will be held on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation, Melbourne, from 7th - 11th December 2008. It will be a celebration of the diverse cultures, traditions and knowledge and will be an opportunity to showcase Australia's efforts to provide educational experiences suitable to our individual and unique communities. It will be a time to rejoice in our strengths and capacity to uphold our traditions and knowledge systems. It will also be a chance to consider how we, as Indigenous people, would like to see education shaped into the future to meet our needs. It is Australia's Indigenous peoples' vision that WIPCE 2008 will be solidly embedded in community knowledge.

2nd Semester Seminars

- Time:** Wednesday 16th July
- Location:** Burchill Room, Building 68
- Presenter:** Bryan Anthony Fricker
- Title:** *Apology or Excuse? An opportunity lost? A Critical Discourse Analysis of Brendan Nelson's Apology to the Stolen Generations.*
- Time:** Wednesday 6th August
- Location:** Room W220, Building 11
- Presenter:** Dr George Mukuka,

- Title:** *'The Making of the Catholic Indigenous Clergy in South Africa'*
- Time:** Wednesday 3rd September
- Location:** Room L1, Building 12
- Presenter:** Dr Stephen Pritchard
- Title:** *"The Cultures of Multiculturalism".*
- Time:** Wednesday 1st October
- Location:** Burchill Room, Bldg 68
- Presenter:** Dr Ian Lilley

Title: Archaeology and the 'tyranny of participation': have we avoided a backlash or is it still coming?

Whenever possible the presentations have been videoed and a copy of the CD placed in the Elizabeth Eggleston Library.

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CAIS Notices

- ◇ Bryan Fricker is pleased to announce that he now the President of the Monash Postgraduate Association. This means that he'll be able to push Indigenous issues more effectively as the presidency opens many more doors into the administration of the university. It also meant that the MPA is now looking for another Indigenous Representative, so if anyone is interested, please let Bryan know.. Brian's contact details are 99055338 or 99053879 or anthony.fricker@adm.monash.edu.au).
- ◇ Barry Judd is currently on secondment to Melbourne University and is heading the Indigenous Services Unit but assured us he will return in the new year.
- ◇ WIPCE Indigenous Education in the 21st Century: Respecting Tradition, Shaping the Future 7th - 11th December 2008 Rod Laver Arena.
- ◇ Rumour has it that a certain staff member has made a formal commitment which will be commemorated in Hobart September 2009.

CAIS ADVANCE (aka Retreat)

Staff at the Centre are enthusiastic about participating in the two day ADVANCE aka Retreat. The word 'Retreat' was seen as being too negative when in fact the idea of the activity was to recharge and refocus the energy of staff to forge ahead. The key issues to be addressed will assist the Centre tackle and confront matters concerning: undergraduate and postgraduate student recruitment and research, addressing funding cutbacks and improving community engagement and involvement.

The Advance is scheduled to be held at Glen Erin at Romsey late October and will be facilitated by Tony Norquay an experienced facilitator from Team Training Services.

Tony has been involved with training, facilitation and consulting since 1974 with business, government, education, health and community organisations. His particular interest is the development of personal and people management skills that help people to work effectively and satisfyingly as individuals and in teams.

A range of topics up for discussion will include:

- * CAIS Student experience, Indigenous and non-Indigenous students
- * Indigenous Student Recruitment

and retention how to do better.

- * Higher Degrees by Research recruitment
- * Research environment and community engagement
- * Changing university funding arrangements and the impact these might have on CAIS.

A very special evening activity has been organised in conjunction with the Macedon Observatory where the group will examine the night sky through the eyes of the first astronomers—the Australian Aborigines.