

## CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

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## Points of Interest

- ◇ William Cooper Memorial Lecture 2009 DVD available
- ◇ Student Success
- ◇ Monash reaches out to local Indigenous Elders
- ◇ Office Relocation
- ◇ Equity and Diversity On-Line Training

## Director's Cut

It seems the year continues to fly by us and we are now getting close to the end of the first semester. For all of us here at CAIS this has been a very busy and rewarding semester.

In April Dr Jane Carey, formerly of the University of Melbourne joined us here at CAIS. Jane has a joint appointment with the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research, in the School of Politics and Social Inquiry. Jane has a five year appointment to undertake a study entitled *White Plague: Settler Colonialism and the politics of population 1837-2010*.

On April the 20<sup>th</sup>, at the State Library Theatre Professor Lester Irabinna Rigney gave the William Cooper lecture. The lecture was very well attended and we were really delighted to see so many members of the Cooper family on the night. Professor Rigney offered a reasoned and acute analysis of the issues surrounding Indigenous education in schools and universities. He developed a

wonderful model for understanding some of the issues, and I am sure his ladder of opportunities will stay with many of us. The William Cooper lecture transcript will soon be available on the CAIS web site for download and hard copies can be obtained by emailing or calling reception.

It is my great delight to announce that Shannon Faulkhead, PhD candidate here at CAIS has had her doctoral thesis passed. Dr Faulkhead will be joining CAIS as a research fellow on an Australian Research Council's Indigenous Research Fellowship. Shannon has big plans for publishing her PhD and advancing her research in the area of Aboriginal community archives. In the not too distant future Shannon will be delivering a lunchtime seminar to outline her new research and discuss her plans for the future.

Shannon, Dr John Bradley, Dr Barry Judd and I are about to head to the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference in Minneapolis, USA. We have been se-

lected to deliver a panel session on Indigenous Studies in Australia: theories, identities and approaches. The conference itself looks like an extraordinary opportunity to network and learn from others. We'll be sure to have some photos for the next newsletter.

In March I was able to travel to London and onto Paris where, with Dr Zane Ma Rhea of the Faculty of Education, I was a visitor to the *Musée du quai Branly*. Situated almost beneath the Eiffel tower, this museum has a large and impressive collection of Australian materials, and most interestingly has incorporated elements of Aboriginal art into the actual architecture of the building. It is both fascinating and perplexing in the way it uses Aboriginal imagery.



Musée du quai Branly

## CAIS Website and Library News

The CAIS Website will soon undergo a major revamp. For the past couple of months the CAIS website committee: Dr Stephen Pritchard, Dr Gwenda Baker, Ms Judith Cooke and Ms Loraine Padgham have been working closely with the Web Content Coordinator to develop and adapt the current website inline with the revised Faculty of Arts template.

Visitors to the website will see a major change with the development of a multi media banner to periodically highlight special aspects of CAIS throughout the year. The banner might include subject promotion, news related to future special events and public lectures or even highlight student profiles. It is our aim to keep the CAIS website dynamic and interesting.

The CAIS library is currently being staffed on a temporary basis in an attempt to keep the library open for staff and students. The Library Technician's position will be advertised shortly with the expectation the new staff member will be instrumental in injecting new ideas and materials into the current collection.

## CAIS Presents at St Josephs College, Belgrave

On April 2, Bev Thomson, Kristel Keleher and Dr. John Bradley travelled to St. Josephs College in Ferntree Gully to assist a CAIS graduate Billy Gray with a presentation to the Year 9 classes.

Billy who graduated last year from CAIS is employed as the Koori Community Liaison Officer at St. Josephs. He had been asked to prepare a presentation on Koori peoples' involvement in the area of Mt Baw Baw as the Year 9 classes were about to travel there on a week long survival camp.



Presentation at St. Josephs College

Loaded with the CAIS possum skin cloak, various stone tools and other material culture items that would have been used by the Koori people in the mountains, Billy, John, Kristel and Bev presented information about not just survival but other issues associated with how country is cared for such as fire, ceremony,

song and just being in country. It was an important occasion for Billy to have Indigenous staff members from CAIS and one of his lecturers support him in his liaison role.

The opportunity to present at St. Josephs was a great demonstration of how CAIS administration, student support staff and academics can work together to support the local community.

After the presentation Bev and Kristel spoke to various staff members at St. Josephs about the role CAIS may play in a relationship with local high schools.

## Charlotte, Laura and Billy received their awards



Dr Charlotte Crow

CAIS had a number of reasons to celebrate recently.

Firstly, Charlotte Crow was awarded her PhD. Her PhD was entitled 'A Taste for the Indigenous: The Branding of Australian Native Food Products and the Imagining of Time, Place, Nature and

Nation'. Charlotte will continue her research and relationship with CAIS as she has been appointed an Adjunct Research Associate.

Laura Wilson graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (Criminology). Laura is pursuing further studies with Monash by undertaking a Masters of Arts (Criminology) by research. Joining Laura at the same graduation

ceremony, Billy Gray was awarded his Bachelor of Arts with a major in Criminology.



Laura Wilson & Billy Gray

## William Cooper Memorial Lecture

Prof. Lester-Irabinna Rigney, Yunggoorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research, Flinders University, South Australia, recently presented an informative speech for the William Cooper Memorial Lecture. His speech, "*The State of Indigenous Education: From Challenges to Optimism*", addressed the premise that poor performance

indicators in education for Indigenous Australians are unacceptable and unsustainable. He felt that too many observers have reduced this phenomenon to a symptom of economics and welfare - policy failure, however subsequent studies revealed a more complex picture. His paper examined the state of Indigenous Education and the challenges toward seeking optimistic evidence based solutions.

A copy of Prof. Rigney's presentation will soon be available in the Elizabeth Eggleston Library in DVD and printed format.



l-r  
Dr Alice Rigney,  
Prof. Lynette  
Russell and Prof.  
Lester-Irabinna  
Rigney

## CAIS RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES

### Copyright Workshop



l-r Dr Stephen Pritchard, Ms Terri Jenke and Prof. Lynette Russell

Dr Stephen Pritchard recently invited, Ms Terri Jenke, an Indigenous lawyer, to provide a one day workshop on copyright and the rights and obligations of Indigenous artists. Academics from across the University who conduct research together with Indigenous communities were well represented. Also in attendance were archivists from the State Library of Victoria and Melbourne Museum and a number of Indigenous community members.

### INDIGENOUS STUDENT SERVICES UNIT ON THE MOVE

The Indigenous Student Services Unit has acquired additional office space on Level 1, Building 55. Nareida Wyatt (Student Services Coordinator) and Reg Shelley (ITAS Coordinator) will relocate their activities to R115. The adjacent room R116 will be set up as a pastoral care / tutors room.

Room R117 will now become the Indigenous Student Lounge. With direct access to the patio area outside Level 1, the fully equipped student lounge will be established as a great space for Indigenous students to hang out with their friends and associates.

Room R102, Level 1 has been designated the CAIS meeting room. Please contact administration to book this room.

Judith Cooke, Manager, ISSU, will relocate to R214, Level 2.

### Aboriginal Visual Histories Project

Prof. Lynette Russell and Dr Jane Lydon are jointly involved the Australian Research Council funded project 'The Aboriginal Visual Histories: Photographing Indigenous Australians Project'. Ms Sari Braithwaite, assisting with the AVH project, is based at the State Library of Victoria and with their financial assistance, is concurrently reviewing their collection of photographs of Indigenous people and producing a contextual literature review.

The Aboriginal Visual Histories project has employed Dr Sue Stanton, NT, Donna Oxenham, WA and Lea Gardam, SA Museum. Also assisting with the project are Dr Wonu Veys in Cambridge at the MAA and Linda Mowat at the Pitt Rivers in Oxford. Further project information can be obtained from:

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

### Elders Lunch

Plans are well underway to hold a special Elders Luncheon in July. A University Council meeting recently made the decision to create a space for dialogue between the University's governing body and Elders from the traditional groups from across Victoria. It is hoped that the luncheon will be celebrated annually around NAIDOC week.

At the Elders Lunch, Mr Gali Gurruwiwi from the NT, will unveil his five Morning Star Poles. His artwork was recently purchased by the Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) for their permanent collection.

Mr Mark Olive, the renowned Indigenous chef, will cater for the luncheon and provide a short presentation on his accomplishments.

### Hypothetical



Unfortunately this much anticipated event was cancelled with the expectation it would be rescheduled in September during Educate09. The Hypothetical organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Law was to consist a panel of judges, lawyers, artists, archaeologists who would investigate how Indigenous art is recognised and protected in Australia and what happens when someone takes an Indigenous artwork or culture site and uses it for their own profit. Further information regarding the rescheduling of the event will be available in the next edition of the CAIS newsletter and on the CAIS website.

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Supporting Indigenous Communities

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

## Staff Movements

- ◇ **Dr Karen Hughes (R222)** recently joined CAIS from Flinders University lecturing in Australian Aboriginal Women and Aboriginal Peoples, Gender and the Colonia Frontier.
- ◇ **Dr Jane Carey (R221)** has commenced with CAIS as Research Associate. Assisting Jane with her research is **Dr Sarah Pinto**. Sarah has taught at Monash and LaTrobe and has worked on projects on adoption, oral history, resilience and adolescent sexuality.
- ◇ **Dr Jane Lydon** is heading off to the UK for two months to undertake further research for 'The Aboriginal Visual Histories: Photographing Indigenous Australians Project' .
- ◇ **Sari Braithwaite and Sharon Huebner** have joined CAIS to assist Jane with her research.

## Equity and Diversity—On-Line Training

Monash University is committed to providing an environment for students and staff that is free from all forms of unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment.

Monash University's Equal Opportunity (EO) Online Training is based on Australian legislation and provides information on basic rights and responsibilities for staff based on these laws. It has been designed as an introduction to equal opportunity at Monash for new staff and to provide ongoing staff with an opportunity to

update their knowledge on a regular basis.

The Faculty of Arts actively encourages all staff to have up-to-date training (every 3 years) in Equal Opportunity as an essential tool to their employment.

*EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ONLINE TRAINING IS LOCATED AT:*

<http://adm.monash.edu.au/sss/equity-diversity/>

### *For Your Diary*

- ◆ NAIDOC Week 5th—12 July
- ◆ The next Brown Bag Seminar scheduled for 12 noon Wednesday 5th August will be presented by Dr Jane Carey. Further information to be posted on the CAIS website. Brown Bag seminars have also been scheduled for Wednesday 2nd September and Wednesday 7th October. Topics and Speakers to be advised.