

CAIS NOTES



Prof. Lynette Russell

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Director's Cut

As ever it has been eventful around here at CAIS, comings, goings and changes, it seems things are never still for long. Firstly after many years of service here at CAIS Loraine Padgham decided to retire. Everyone wishes her a wonderful, restful and fulfilling next phase.

Staff have been busy with teaching and research and some have undertaken really fascinating travels. Shannon Faulkhead was invited to be a guest speaker at an international conference in Canada so she is off to North America before coming home via the UK where she will present results from our project Trust and Technology. John Bradley has commenced a new phase of fieldwork up at Borroloola with colleagues Amanda Kearney (UNSW) and Liam

Brady (UWA). Stephen Pritchard has been busy on his research leave visiting both New Zealand and North America. Jane Lydon has just journeyed to Italy for a conference and to undertake further research for the Aboriginal Visual Histories project. Meanwhile I have just returned from a trip to America, mostly in Arizona where I had the opportunity to see and explore some of the ancient Native American Pueblo ruins found on the Navajo Nation's Reservation, see the lovely pictures.



Other news includes the wonderful awarding of AIATSIIS grants with Karen Hughes receiving \$26,000

to undertake a study entitled "Bearing witness: four generations of Warndarrang women" with Audrey Bush. And Gwenda Baker being granted \$35,000 for her project "Remembering Mission time" with Joanne Garngulkpuy Dhurrkay.

As semester one draws to a close we are able to report we have had a terrific increase in our numbers of students we now have near to 150 students. This is a wonderful improvement and is due to the hard work of the staff in the Indigenous Student Support Unit. Our academic programs continue to strengthen and we look forward to growth in all our programs.

Lynette Russell

Points of Interest

NIHEN Meeting in Melbourne 2 and 3 December 2010.



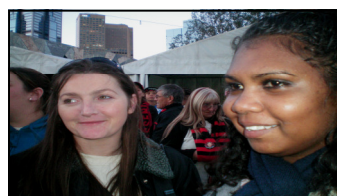
Cathy Freeman with Bev Thomson

CAIS staff members and students met up with celebrities when they walked the

2010 Long Walk from Federation Square to the MCG. The Long Walk is a celebration of Michael Longs walk

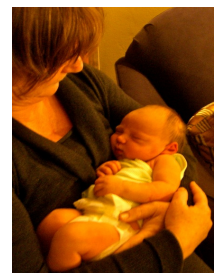
The Long Walk 2010

to Canberra in November 2004 to raise awareness of the plight of Indigenous Australians.



Kristel Keleher with Maggie Reid

WELCOME
CHARLIE JAMES
BROADSTOCK



From U-Matic to YouTube

From U-Matic to YouTube: A national symposium celebrating three decades of Australian Indigenous community film and video celebrates an important chapter in the Australian cinema by bringing filmmakers and community members to Melbourne to exchange experience and knowledge with local Victorian Indigenous community.

Over 8-9 June, the Australian



Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) will screen a wide range of films from Borroloola and Victorian communities which reflect

on the rich history of Indigenous community film and video pro-



duction in Australia.

Prof. Lynette Russell and Assoc. Prof. John Bradley along with invited speakers, will address key concepts and issues such as: collective-representation and expression; models of collaboration and creative partnerships; Indigenous cultural rights and intellectual property; participation and community access; cross-generational communication; community history and social memory; film and video archives

New Release

Singing Saltwater Country



John Bradley's compelling account of three decades living with the Yanyuwa people of the Gulf of Carpentaria and of how the elders revealed to him the ancient songlines of their Dreaming.

At twenty, John Bradley was sent to teach Aboriginal children in a school at remote Borroloola, on the Gulf of Carpentaria in far north Australia. Over three decades he learns their language and their country, becoming intimately drawn into other ways of being, both practical and spiritual. With passion and pride they teach him their songlines, relating what they know and value - ancestors, kin, allegiances; places, plants, animals; seasons, ceremonies, stories - and the spirit that sustains all.

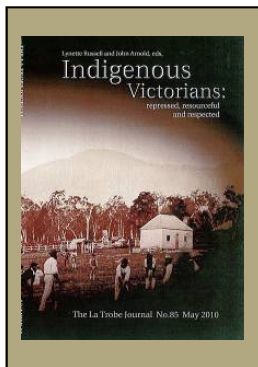
'A rare diary of devotion... sometimes humorous, sometimes very sad, revealing the extraordinary personal commitment needed to gain insight into Aboriginal connections to country... a moving tale of an urgent quest.'
- Professor Jon Altman, Australian National University

John Bradley also worked with the Yanyuwa as anthropologist on their land claims and sacred sites.

Copies of *Singing Saltwater Country* can be obtained online at www.allenandunwin.com

Prof. Russell launches journal articles at SLV

On 21st May Prof. Lynette Russell launched 'Indigenous Victorians: repressed, resourceful and respected' published in



the La Trobe Journal NO. 85, May 2010 at the State Library of Victoria. The article provides a major contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the lives and aspirations of Victorian Aborigines and their interaction with white Australians from the beginnings of European settlement to the present day. The articles in this special issue of the La Trobe Journal cover both

historical and contemporary subjects, including Aboriginal cricket at Coranderrk, eek fishing at Lake Condah, the revival of the making of possum skin cloaks, and the successful fight to save Lake Tyres. The range and content of the twelve articles ensures that this special issue of the La Trobe Journal will become a landmark collection.

Update CPR training

Many CAIS members will need to update their CPR certification as they are due to expire mid 2010.

In accordance with the Monash University First Aid Policy, staff are required to update CPR skills approximately every 12 months for a period of 3 years as

first aid certificates are only valid for a 3 year period.

After this time staff will need to re-do their First Aid course (either First Aid Level 1 or First Aid Level 2) which will be valid for a further 3 years.

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/staff-development/ws/ohs/cpr-refresher.html>



Yarning Up

Yarning Up is a collaborative event organised by CAIS and the Arts, Law and Information Technology Faculties.



More than 25 Indigenous senior secondary students and their teachers ventured out to

Clayton in the appalling Melbourne weather to start of by quizzing some of our Indigenous students about life as a student and their reasons for studying. After enjoying a presentation of an animated traditional story from Borrooloola, they had to thrash out some ethical and legal issues arising from the misuse of an artwork in a mini-tutorial. They also enjoyed the opportunity to have their photos taken in the possum-skin cloak and the pizza lunch. Once the rain stopped they had a guided walk around the Clayton campus and got an idea of what



Aunty Faye Carter

being a university student would be like.



Koorie Footprints to Monash Camp: 'Discovering Our World of Science'



45 Indigenous students from across the Gippsland region studying in years 9-12 & VCAL attended the Koorie Footprints to Monash Residential Camp.

The 3-day camp program was based on the theme "Discovering Our World of Science" and aimed to inspire students to appreciate science, their education, culture and also their potential as future university students.

Students were Welcomed to Country with a Smoking Ceremony by Brayukaloong Custodian Uncle Wayne Thorpe and spent their 1st day familiarising themselves with the campus environment, discovering information about the study opportunities and services at Monash Gippsland, whilst getting to know one another. A highlight was the very funny stand-up comedy performed by local talent Shiralee Hood.

Students were presented with informative and motivating stories by Aboriginal Role models including senior Gunnai Elder Uncle Aldert Mullett, PhD student Pettina Love,

Archaeologist Sam 'Juparulla' Wickman, Monash Marine Biology student Daniell Evenlyn Snow and Lecture Robyn Heckenberg from Monash Gippsland's Centre of Australian Indigenous Studies.

Monash staff in the areas of Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Science and Archaeology facilitated exciting and hands-on sessions where students had opportunities to experience first-hand what a university tutorial is like. Student feedback revealed that they enjoyed:

- learning how to solve a murder using lab equipment (Chemistry)
- using computer technology to design a bridge (Engineering)
- identifying birds by their calls (Environmental Science)
- & knapping flint to make stone tools (Archaeology)

Students were also captivated by Uncle Wayne's Dreaming Stories about the moon cycles and the spectacular images by Latrobe Valley's Astronomical Society.

Aunty Marjorie Thorpe from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Uncle Derek Carpenter from Parks Victoria encouraged students to consider working in the area of land management, a rewarding career path as Aboriginal people. 10 career expo stalls attended by various industries, departments and organisations provided curious youth information about employment programs and opportunities.

When asked to describe their over-all camp experience in one word/sentence, students commented that:

"It was so good I want to come back"

"A Great experience to meet new friends and find out about my culture"

"SICK" "Worth doing again"

"Exciting" "Unforgettable"

"Legendary"

"Awesome"

"Great fun"

"DEADLY!!"

"An excellent experience"

Congratulations Dr Duncan Wright



All CAIS staff wish to congratulate Duncan on the achievement of his PhD which was awarded recently.

His thesis, entitled "The archaeology of community emergence and development on Mabuyag in the western Torres Strait examined the archaeology of the Goemulgal community of Mabuyag in central western Torres Strait. The thesis provided the first detailed archaeological study into the emergence and devel-

opment of historically and ethnographically-known villages in the region and added insight into the late-holocene chronology for Torres Strait.



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FOR YOUR DIARY

Brown Paper Seminars for Semester 2, 2010 *

All seminars will take place from 12.30-2pm in the Elizabeth Eggleston Library, Room 204, Level 2, Monash University Museum of Art (Building 55), Clayton Campus.

originality in Australia' Tuesday 19 October – Barry Judd, 'AFL in South Africa'

Tuesday 27 July - John Bradley, 'Exploring Problem-Based Learning Pedagogy as Transformative Education in Indigenous Australian Studies'

Tuesday 7th September - Bryan Fricker, 'The Media Construction of Abo-

SAN REMO PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Tuesday the 8th of June this year CAIS Staff -Kristel , Bev and Aunty Diane Singh) and other members of the Koorie community had the opportunity to share some of their Indigenous Knowledge with the grades 5/6 students at the San Remo primary school as part of their Koorie studies program. The theme for the day, which focused on family life and children's activities prior to European occupation in Victoria, saw children divided into family groups around a symbolic river to give them an idea of how life may have been for fresh water communities in those

early days.

Activities included fishing, grinding of seeds using a traditional grinding stone, "dreamtime" story-telling in which students painted and told their stories to the class, string games demonstrated by students.

Students were also shown string bags, shell necklaces, and tools such as a stone axe, boomerangs, digging sticks. The most popular activity was being photographed wearing the CAIS possum skin cloak.



STAFF MOVEMENTS

- * Jane Lydon will be travelling in Italy during June where she will participate in an international conference at the Monash University Centre at Prato, on the theme of 'Atrocity, Photography and War'. Following the conference she will visit Rome to consult the collections of Enrico Hillier Giglioli anthropologist who worked in Australia during the 1860s.
- * John, Jane C and Jane L have all moved into new offices . John is now in room 220-221, Jane C in room 217 and Jane L in room 211.
- * Kristel Keleher, Uncle Henry Atkinson and Peter Anderson will be attending the Garma Festival 6th-10th August up in Arnhem Land. Now in it's 12th year it is a celebration of Yolgnu culture and is considered to be a life changing experience for many.
- * After 6 enthusiastic years, Loraine Padgham, CAIS Executive Officer has retired. Since doing so she has been able to concentrate on her other interests. eg Tanuarong , Languages , Travel and Family etc etc.