

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

A lot has happened since our last newsletter and I have been very busy with lots of stuff. I attended two conferences in the period March-June 2011.

I attended the Pacific Leadership Programme Annual Convention and the PLP Advisory Committee meeting. This is a programme that was set up by AusAID and the NCIS has in the past been engaged in some research surrounding its objectives. The Advisory Committee includes members from the Pacific nations and AusAID it is presently under the Chairmanship of Sir Rabie Namalu former PNG Prime Minister.

I had numerous speaking engagements including a lecture for the ANU College of Law International law students on the recognition and protection Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property.

One of the highlights of the intervening period was an invite from my



Mick Dodson with participants at the Indigenous Data Workshop dinner at University House on 13 April

countryman from Broome, Peter Yu, to deliver his paper at the Indigenous Data Workshop held on 13 April 2011 and organised by HC Coombs Policy Forum at the ANU, in conjunction with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). (I also attended the Coombs Policy Forum session the next day). There will be a follow up workshop on 7th July 2011 tentatively called 'New Directions in Indigenous Policy Evidence'. Peter Yu's paper will be one of 2 papers to discuss in detail at that workshop the other is by Tahu Kukutai. Hopefully a book will eventuate as a result of both workshops.

I have been invited along with Justice Stephen Southwood (Chair), Associate Professor Megan Davis and Associate Professor Simon Rice to consider nominations for the National Indigenous Law Student of the Year Award.

The award is an initiative of the Commonwealth Attorney-General, with the inaugural winner of the award to be announced and presented at the 2011 National Indigenous Legal Conference in Sydney on 12-13 August 2011. The winner will receive a one-off payment of \$2,500 to assist their studies.

I was invited along with about 20

other Australians mainly academics to participate in the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law index.

Simon Rice and Tom Faunce from the ANU College of Law also participated in the project. The aim of the project is to promote the rule of law around the world which according to the programme '*...is fundamental to achieving communities of opportunity and equity—communities that offer sustainable economic development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights*'.

The report can be located at: **WJP Rule of Law Index™ 2011** If you are interested in seeing the Report in full an Electronic version can be accessed online at: http://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/wjproli2011_0.pdf

I once again stood for election by the members as a member of the Council for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies and managed to get re-elected. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the members for the confidence they have shown me and it is indeed a great honour to be again chosen.

I also had the great honour to meet the Dalai Lama during his recent visit to Australia in June.



In this issue

From the Director's Office	1
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Defence Service History Project	2
NCIS PhD candidate enjoys research adventures in the USA, Guatemala and Panama	2
News Briefs	3
Caption competition	4
NCIS Profile: Alycia Nevalainen	4
Recent & upcoming events	4

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEFENCE SERVICE HISTORY PROJECT

New research on the under-acknowledged history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Defence service across the major conflicts and in peace-time operations, has begun.

Funded by DVA in collaboration with the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) and the ANU Australian Centre for Indigenous History (ACIH), the initial twelve month phase will lay the groundwork for developing a larger project with major national institutions.

Drawing upon a rich array of information such as biographies, autobiographies of wartime experiences and service, oral histories, photographs, letters and archival sources about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence service, the project will provide comprehensive overview of what is 'on the record' already. It will also begin to explore the potential of collections held by Indigenous Australian families with



a history of Defence service in finding out more about their perspectives on military participation and the impacts it had on their lives and communities.

The first work in progress report for DVA has just been completed and the first Advisory Group meeting with ANU representatives Prof. Mick Dodson from NCIS as Chair and Prof. Ann McGrath from the ACIH as well as representatives from AWM, NAA, NLA, DVA, Defence, AIATSIS and ATSIVSA was held in May 2011. Discussions are underway with these organisations regarding the future phases of this ambitious project.

*If you would like to share information about your own knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's participation in military service, or that of your family members, or if you just want to find out more about the project, please contact the project researcher:



Dr Allison Cadzow
P: 02 6125 3267
M: 0402 741 832
E: Allison.cadzow@anu.edu.au



NCIS PHD CANDIDATE ENJOYS RESEARCH ADVENTURES IN THE USA, GUATEMALA AND PANAMA

NCIS PhD candidate Fleur Adcock recently returned from a research trip to the USA, Guatemala and Panama. Fleur's research explores how the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council's special procedures mechanism can be mobilised to influence states to better respect indigenous peoples' rights. In the USA Fleur attended several days of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues'

tenth session in New York City. The session was a review year so unlike previous years it did not consider a specific theme, but Fleur was able to observe the Forum's dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Professor James Anaya, and to get a feel for the mechanics of the Forum. She was also able to catch up with previous

...continued next page

Top left: Antigua, one of Guatemala's former capital cities, where Fleur met with a Guatemalan Professor and a UN researcher. Left: A local market in Antigua, Guatemala.



continued from page 2... NCIS visiting scholar Megan Davis, a new member of the Forum.

Guatemala is one of two case studies Fleur is examining to assess the influence of the special procedures, Aotearoa/New Zealand is the other. In Guatemala Fleur interviewed a number of people, including academics, indigenous activists, representatives of non-governmental organisations advocating for indigenous peoples' rights and various representatives of Government offices focused on promoting indigenous peoples' rights.

The trip was eye-opening. The challenges facing Guatemala are extreme but Fleur was heartened by the passion of the people she met for their country and their culture and is already planning how to get back for another visit! The trip to Panama was very brief to interview a representative of an indigenous organisation that advocates for Maori rights in international fora, who now lives in Panama with her Kuna (one of the indigenous peoples of Panama) husband and stepson, for her New Zealand case study. It was great to catch up with a fellow kiwi in such a foreign land and to sample her excellent Panamanian cooking!



We welcome back to Canberra our graphic designer Greer Versteeg, who has been designing our newsletters and website, after a year in Montreal – surviving her first Canadian winter!

NEWS BRIEFS

CONNECTING GENERATIONS: CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM CONCERNING ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES FROM 1967 TO 2013

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders consider the historical, political and legal aspects that will shape the upcoming referendum on constitutional recognition of their peoples at the annual national Indigenous studies **conference** held by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

A session convened by Centre staff Jo-Anne Weinman and Frank Gafa will take a generational perspective on attempts at constitutional reform in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The session will begin with an assessment of the historical and political climate of the 1967 referendum – which gained unprecedented and hitherto unmatched support from the Australian population – with a view to asking whether and to what extent strategies for the 'Yes' campaign

could be adapted for the upcoming referendum. Preambular and substantive proposals for change in recent decades will then be presented and evaluated for their strengths or weaknesses. The upcoming referendum in 2013 that seeks to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is to be the subject of the last presentation, which will discuss the national consultation and the legal consequences of some proposals for reform. Speakers are yet to be confirmed.

NCIS LIBRARY'S NEW INDIGENOUS RESEARCH COLLECTION

Thanks to funds awarded from the ANU Major Equipment Grant scheme, the Centre now houses a library of books in various areas of Indigenous research. The new collection specifically addresses gaps in ANU's libraries that are research priorities for the Centre and for the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, namely Indigenous governance, histories, health, public

policy, international law and Indigenous human rights. The collection strengthens the research concentration area of Indigenous studies at the University, which also benefits other Centres, Schools and Departments at the ANU. The library is open to all ANU students and staff conducting research in the area of Indigenous studies.

LAWS2238 INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND THE LAW

Enrollment is now open for a new undergraduate subject being offered in Semester 2 by the ANU College of Law (co-convened by Asmi Wood and Jo-Anne Weinman, with Fleur Adcock conducting tutorials). **Indigenous Australians and the Law** aims to arm students with an understanding of, and a critical approach to, the law as it applies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, presenting various areas of law (constitutional, human rights and property) in their historical and social context.

NCIS PROFILE:

NCIS PROFILE: ALCYIA NEVALAINEN

Hi, I'm Alycia Nevalainen and I'm studying for my PhD with the National Centre for Indigenous Studies. I received the Trendell Graduate Research Scholarship for my studies. I gained my Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal Studies) from Wollotuka (School of Aboriginal Studies, University of Newcastle), where I was awarded the Faculty Medal and First Class Honours for my thesis on the history of Redfern, NSW. After leaving Wollotuka

I worked in Indigenous Policy for the public service, but always wanted to return to University to undertake my doctorate in Aboriginal Studies.

For my Doctoral studies I'm looking at Murdering Gully, an area in the western district of Victoria where between 35-40 Djargurd Wurrung were massacred in 1839. I'm aiming to piece together the fragmented history of the massacre, through uniting existing literature with the oral history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Aust-



ralian descendants of those involved in the massacre. My supervisory panel includes Mick Dodson, John Maynard and Henry Reynolds.

I look forward to meeting you all soon!

CAP-COMP!

The prize is yet to be determined but it will be a good one!

Our first photo is of our favourite archaeologist Dave Johnston, currently working on The Mitakoodi Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Project, on the Cloncurry River. The prawns are 'Cheripin' (freshwater prawns) caught in the river in Kuthaarn 'country'.

Please send your caption entries to: anna.damiano@anu.edu.au



recent and upcoming events

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Implications for the Northern Territory: Recognition of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Federal Constitution* by Prof. Mick Dodson
'A Constitution for all Australians – the Top End Experience' (Darwin) Broadcast
10 July 2011 5pm ABC Radio National program *Big Ideas* on Sunday
- *Legally Sanctioned Racial Discrimination: the Northern Territory Intervention* by Jo-Anne Weinman

Guest Lecture at Australian-US Comparative Law (Alabama) Program

12 July 2011 9:30am

(Moot Court, College of Law)

- *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Symposium*
Keynote: Senator Rachel Siewert
7 October 2011 (Australian Parliament House, Canberra)

RECENT EVENT

- *Socio-Political Aspects of Human Rights Breaches in the NT Intervention or Why I Will Not Call it the NT 'Emergency Response'* by Jo-Anne Weinman
Guest Lecture at LAWS2219 Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights
11 April 2011 9-11am (Research School of Chemistry Lecture Theatre)