

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Professor Mick Dodson

The end of a very packed and hectic year is almost at an end! The number of speaking engagements, schools visits and other events attended by Professor Dodson in his year as the 2009 Australian of the Year has been quite extraordinary! So much so we've decided to produce a separate publication which will list all the extra engagements undertaken this year, including a short article about what the year has meant to Professor Dodson. The publication will be available online and in hard copies. If you would like to receive a copy please email [anna.damiano@anu.edu.au](mailto:anna.damiano@anu.edu.au)

Activities by Professor Dodson undertaken since our last newsletter in September have included launching the NSW Judicial Commission's *Circle Sentencing DVD*, delivering keynote

addresses to the *Forum on Universal Children's Day* organised by the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Perth, *Closing the Gap in Education Conference* at Monash University's South Africa campus and presenting the *2009 Sir John Quick Lecture* at Latrobe University's Bendigo Campus.

NCIS congratulates Professor Dodson on being admitted as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

NCIS staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in and support of the Centre's activities in 2009 and wish you all the very best for the holiday season and the New Year. We hope to see you all in 2010!

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## recent and upcoming events

- **8 October 2009** History (RSSS) Seminar: *Historical expertise and evidence in native title legislation* presented by Jo-Anne Weinman

- **17 November 2009** LESANZ Seminar: *Translating Indigenous Rights into the Action and Language of Research* presented by Sarah Holcombe

- **25 November 2009** Leadership Exchange – A presentation by Peter Veth to visiting Taiwanese students

- **14 December 2009** AAA National Seminar on *Parnkupirti, Lake Gregory – a 50,000 year old site in the Kimberley*, Flinders University by Peter Veth

- **11 March 2010** Indigenous Peoples of the World Dialogue: Mexico presented in association with the Embassy of Mexico. Time and venue to be confirmed.

More details about the Dialogue on page 2 of the Newsletter



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD DIALOGUE: MEXICO



NCIS has presented the Indigenous Peoples of the World Dialogue Series since 2003. The aim of the Dialogue is to bring together the representatives of the international community to discuss with selected academics, both from the ANU and other institutions, issues facing Indigenous peoples around the world. Previous Dialogues in the series have included Indigenous Australians, the Maori people of New Zealand, the Saami people of

Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia and Native Americans.

We are delighted to announce that our next Dialogue will be presented in association with the Embassy of Mexico and will be held on 11 March 2010 (*venue and time to be confirmed*). The Dialogue will focus on indigenous languages, identity and bilingual education in indigenous communities. Confirmed speakers from Mexico are Professor

Juan Gregorio Regino and Professor Fidencio Briceno Chel, both Indigenous academics specialising in language and identity and from Australia, Dr Inge Kral, a linguistic anthropologist from the Centre for Aboriginal Policy and Economic Research at the ANU and Dr Payi-Linda Ford, senior lecturer with Charles Darwin's University's School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

## NCIS IMAGES



Above:  
Side view of ancient  
artefact recovered from  
gravels – artefacts date from  
circa 50,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Right: Team leader Dr Peter Veth recovering 50,000 year old artefact  
from deep trench dug into ancient lake muds.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE AND IP COMMUNITY GUIDE LAUNCH

Dr Sarah Holcombe recently attended the launch of the Aboriginal Knowledge and Intellectual Property Protocol Community Guide. Sarah worked closely on the development of the Community Guide and the Desert Knowledge CRC Aboriginal Knowledge and Intellectual Property (AKIPP) Protocol. The launch was held at Parliament House in Canberra on 24 September and was hosted by Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/speeches/social\\_justice/2009/20090924\\_DKCR.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/speeches/social_justice/2009/20090924_DKCR.html)

### LESANZ SEMINAR

Dr Sarah Holcombe delivered a LESANZ Seminar at the CSIRO Entomology – Lecture Theatre on Tuesday 17 November 2009. Entitled 'Translating Indigenous Rights into the Action and Language of Research' it focused on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was endorsed by the Australian Government earlier this year. The Seminar also looked into the content of a range of resources including the Desert Knowledge CRC 'Aboriginal Knowledge and Intellectual Property Protocol' and the 'Guidelines for Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Management' in the NT.

[http://www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au/publications/downloads/Sarah-Holcombe\\_LESANZ-2009\\_Canberra\\_Translating-Indigenous-rights-into-the-action-and-language-of-research.pdf](http://www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au/publications/downloads/Sarah-Holcombe_LESANZ-2009_Canberra_Translating-Indigenous-rights-into-the-action-and-language-of-research.pdf)

### OFFICIAL SUBMISSIONS

Dr Sarah Holcombe Partnered with Dr Matthew Rimmer (Senior Lecturer, ANU College of Law) and Terri Janke (Solicitor Director, Terri Janke and Company Pty Ltd) to lodge a submission on the Hawke Interim Review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*. The Submission was lodged to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2009 ([http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=matthew\\_rimmer](http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=matthew_rimmer)). Dr Holcombe made a further submission after a workshop on 27 August 2009, in part reiterating the core issues that were made in the previous submission <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/review/comments/pubs/115-dr-sarah-holcombe.pdf>

Dr Holcombe, Dr Rimmer and Ms Janke also worked together on a submission to the National Bio-

diversity Strategy Review Taskforce (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/strategy/review-submissions/pubs/id955-anupart1-01062009.pdf>) on Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020.

### LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

Associate Professor Peter Veth recently spoke to a group of Taiwanese students who are part of the Project of Cultivating Senior High School Students to be Leaders in the New Century. He spoke to them on the issue of Indigenous people in Australia, giving an overview of their cultural background and forms of governance and the situation that Indigenous Australians face in this country in terms of leadership, equality and representation. The students and their mentors were enthusiastic about the visit and enjoyed an afternoon tea/break-out session where other NCIS staff came to meet and talk with them.

*Below: Peter Veth with Taiwanese students*



## CSIRO ETHICS

Dr. Sarah Holcombe and Assoc. Prof. Peter Veth were recently involved in co-writing two documents for the CSIRO in relation to their Human Research Ethics involving Indigenous Peoples and Communities. These documents were entitled the 'Checklist for Ethical Research Practice with Indigenous Peoples' and 'Ethical Considerations for Research Projects Involving Indigenous Peoples and Communities'. The documents will hopefully aid research that is done by the CSIRO by helping them better understand and collaborate with Indigenous Peoples and Communities.

## OFFICIAL SUBMISSION

Prof. Mick Dodson and Assoc. Prof. Peter Veth have sent a joint submission to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in relation to Reforms to the Legislative Arrangements for Protecting Traditional Areas and Objects (Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984). (<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/laws/indigenous/>)

[lawreform/pubs/submissions/prof-m-dodson-am.pdf](#)). The Director of Indigenous Heritage Law Reform at DEWHA has visited NCIS in response to canvas issues around national accreditation and global covenants.

## NEW POSTGRADUATES

The postgraduate cohort at NCIS is set to reach 15 in the near future with the recent awarding of a Vice-Chancellor's and University Research Scholarship to Fleur Adcock and Samuel Curkpatrick. They will be conducting research on international approaches as opposed to classical state based approaches in protecting and promoting Indigenous rights; and youth music-making in a remote, Indigenous Australian community.

## RAP AWARD

The ANU'S Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee, chaired by Professor Mick Dodson, has been acknowledged for their work, having being awarded the ANU Media and Outreach Award for Best Community Building event. The award related specifically to the launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan on 30 July

2009. The RAP Student Working Group worked closely with ANU's Marketing and Communications and External Liaison Office to deliver a number of events including a leadership breakfast, a concert during the day and the official launch and reconciliation forum, chaired by Professor Mick Dodson in the evening.

## RAP UNIVERSITIES WORKSHOP

As the only University with a University-wide RAP, ANU will be leading the first sectoral RAP workshop for Universities early in 2010, convened jointly with Reconciliation Australia. While similar in format to the workshops that Reconciliation Australia is conducting around the country, this workshop will explore the challenges and insights in creating and implementing RAPs specifically from the perspective of those working at higher education institutions. Participants will be representatives from Universities with a RAP either developed or in train. For more information, please contact [Jo-Anne.Weinman@anu.edu.au](mailto:Jo-Anne.Weinman@anu.edu.au)

## NCIS PROFILES

### STAFF: ASSOCIATE PROF. PETER VETH

Peter Veth is the Deputy-Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

Peter was formerly the Director of the Research Program at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for five years and a lecturer and Associate Professor at James Cook University for ten years previously.

His research interests include the evolution of desert and maritime societies, cultural heritage



management, native title, maritime archaeology, contact history and the depiction of Indigenous societies in the media. Completed projects include

books on global desert peoples, maritime societies east of Wallace's Line, the archaeology of northern Australia and the use of social science evidence in native title and projects on the archaeology, ethnohistory and material culture of societies in the Western desert of Australia, the Aru Islands of Maluku province, Indonesia and East Timor.

Peter's work in the Lake Gregory region has recently received widespread media coverage. The Editorial of the A-ranked journal *Australian*

*Archaeology* noted "Welcome to the second issue of AA for 2009. This is an exciting issue with many papers presenting information that challenges previous wisdom. Peter Veth and his team report on excavations with Traditional Owners at Lake Gregory in northwest Australia (Kimberley region), where artefacts dating to at least 37,000 BP, and perhaps as much as 50,000 BP, have been found. This find demonstrates that there are still new frontiers for archaeological research in Australia, and if Lake Gregory proves to be as interesting as the preliminary research suggests, we can look forward to many years of analyses from this region, which will parallel the pioneering research in the Willandra Lakes".