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FROM THE DIRECTORS OFFICE

New ANU Centre to boost Indigenous health research



Professor Mick Dodson, Dr Misty Jenkins, Ann Evers, Pip Deveson & Mick Gooda at the NCIG launch

NCIS Director, Professor Mick Dodson, has commenced a new role as a member of the governance board for an ANU Centre designed to boost Indigenous health research. The newly launched National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) aims to establish a national resource, under Indigenous governance, for appropriate and respectful genetic and genomic research that will benefit Indigenous Australians. The Centre's purpose is to give researchers new tools to help to improve Indigenous health and life expectancy.

Reflections on the past and future of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

In this update NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson provides his reflections on a meeting he attended on 25 April 2014 at the University of Arizona, in Tucson Arizona in the USA, on the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert charged by the United Nations Human Rights Council with reporting on and promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples around the world.

The meeting was convened by Professor Jim Anaya, who is the current Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and whose six year term in the role will soon end. Professor Anaya is the second person to hold the appointment (Professor Rodolfo Stavenhagen was the first). The meeting provided an opportunity for reflections on how the position has worked thus far and to look to the future and ways in which the mandate for the position might be progressed and improved.

The discussions over the course of the day ranged over the major work areas and methods employed by the mandate, including thematic reports, country visits, communications on cases and the promotion of good practices for the recognition and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples. We examined lessons learned and ideas for the future.

My contribution concerned the mandate's engagement with stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples and their organisations, NGO's, National Human Rights Institutions and governments in the context of the mandate's various areas and methods of work. It also looked at how to build best practices for the sharing of information, shaping of debate and the influencing of governments and others.

I also took the opportunity whilst in Arizona to speak with the Udall Centre and the Native Nations Institute about possible future academic and scholastic cooperation between our institutions.

Representatives at the meeting included the ILO, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, IWGIA, the University of Arizona's Rogers College of Law, Tebtebba and the Saami Council.

Jim Anaya has performed his task admirably and with great intellectual vigour. During his tenure he has certainly set a very high bar for the exercise of the mandate. It will indeed be a great challenge for Ms. Vicki Tauli-Corpuz, the incoming mandate holder from the Igorot people of the Philippines, to take on the role but we look forward to seeing the work that she does.

Mick Dodson





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NCIS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

New Research Officer for NCIS



Dr Melissa Lovell joined NCIS as a Research Officer in March 2014 to provide research assistance on projects being undertaken by NCIS Research Fellow, Dr Jill Guthrie, regarding Indigenous incarceration and alternatives to incarceration, and NCIS Research

Fellow, Dr Bill Fogarty, concerning engaging young Indigenous people through cricket. Melissa contributes to the Centre's expertise in governance, policy, human rights, identity politics, and social justice. She is also working with several members of NCIS to develop a better understanding of the role that 'deficit discourses' play in Indigenous Affairs governance.

Melissa has a long-term interest and involvement in political advocacy and community sector organisations. She was awarded a PhD by the ANU's School of Politics and International Studies in 2012 and completed her undergraduate education in policy and political science at the University of Queensland.

A warm welcome to the Centre's new research staff member. Dr Melissa Lovell.

New Research Associate for NCIS



Fleur Adcock joined NCIS as a Research Associate in January 2014, after submitting her PhD thesis entitled 'The United Nations Special Procedures and Indigenous Peoples: A Regulatory Analysis' through NCIS in November 2013. Fleur is providing high level research assistance on

several of NCIS' research projects, working on publishing from her doctoral thesis and is developing new research projects for the Centre. She will also continue to teach within ANU. Fleur contributes to the Centre's expertise in human rights, law, policy and social justice.

Fleur is from Aotearoa New Zealand and is both Maori, from the iwi or nation Ngati Mutunga, and English. She currently

holds a Master of Laws with Distinction from the Victoria University of Wellington and Bachelors of Laws (with First Class Honours) and Arts (in Maori Studies) from the University of Canterbury. Fleur was admitted to the Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 2003 and, prior to commencing her doctoral studies, spent several years practising as a solicitor in New Zealand and as in-house legal counsel in the United Kingdom. .

A warm welcome to the Centre's new research staff member. Ms Fleur Adcock.

NEWS FROM NCIS STAFF

Serving Our Country: A history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia

Unearthing the many untold stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' service in the defence force has made a strong start with the nationwide community consultations, also known as the Community Yarn Ups. So far the team has heard some amazing stories from Queensland and New South Wales and is about to embark on Community Yarn Ups in Dubbo and Moree but will also go to every State and Territory over the next 18 months.

Thousands of Indigenous Australians have served in every conflict and peace time exercise from the Boer war, World War I and II and the many more that followed.

Even though many of our mob were not counted as citizens back at home and many could not even vote, they still put their hand up to serve the country.

The telling of our stories of service through our eyes will contribute to a shared history that must be remembered, honored and acknowledged.

The project so far is finding stories of everyday Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians wanting to serve their country as best they can, even though the cards were stacked against them to begin with. They wanted to "do their bit" in the hope that change would happen for their families and communities.

As NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson says, the contributions made by Indigenous service men and women over the last 100 years are too often forgotten. "It's a cathartic experience in the telling for many and





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it's recognition that people have done things of note," Dodson said.

"Not just fighting for this country and the war, but fighting for social change back home and they went away fully expecting to come back and that their service would be rewarded in the sense of making change for their people back home."

UPCOMING YARN UPS

- > Dubbo (19-20 May 2014)
- > Moree (21- 22 May 2014)
- > Warnambool (1-2 September
- > Shepparton (4-5 September 2014)
- > Melbourne (25-26 September 2014)

More information

- > www.ourmobserved.com
- > Craig Greene on (02) 6125 0092 or 0407 561 198 or craig.greene@anu.edu.au



Patrick Mills, Les Boyd and NCIS Director Professor Mick Dodson during the Cairns Community Yarn Up in April 2014.

Exploring Justice Reinvestment as a theory and research methodology: **Community Development approach**

Justice Reinvestment (JR) focuses on diverting public funds from the construction of expensive incarceration facilities, and reinvesting those funds in social and health programs that offer the potential for lowering both crime and incarceration rates.

In November 2012 researchers from ANU, including NCIS, were awarded an Australian Research Council grant to work with the NSW town of Cowra. The research is community-driven and explores the theory and research methodology of Justice Reinvestment (JR) as a way of reducing the incarceration of juveniles. The research invites the entire Cowra community to participate - not just the Indigenous community - thus enabling whole-ofcommunity responses to juvenile justice issues.

Being community-driven, the research involves a great deal of interaction with various sector stakeholders and individuals within the town. The first was in December 2012 with a courtesy visit to Cowra to let key people know what was envisaged as part of the research process. In March 2013 all Chief Investigators on the project visited Cowra. The purpose of this was to build relationships between the town and the research group. ANU ethics approval was received on 14th March to conduct stakeholder forums and the research team made another visit to Cowra in April to plan how these stakeholder forums might be conducted. On 30 May, the research team made another visit to Cowra for the first stakeholder forum, which was a great success with representatives from health, education, the judiciary, the police, social and welfare services and Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities attending and reaching agreement on how to recruit young people into the research.

Utilising participatory action research with key informants and stakeholder groups and all levels of government, the study integrates administrative data with focus groups and semi-structured interviews to explore whether JR as a policy option can re-orientate responses to young people offending. Researchers visited Cowra during Youth Week to begin the first round of interviews and focus groups. They completed a number of interviews with both young people and service providers. The researchers will be returning to Cowra again in late May.





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Justice Reinvestment has rarely been adopted as either a research methodology or a policy response in Australia. While gaining traction in the United States and other parts of the world, the concept of Justice Reinvestment is relatively unknown in Australia. This research will therefore provide much needed information on the antecedents of crime, as well as information about successful social services and programs that help to divert young people away from contact with the justice system.

Corinne Walsh

Assessing the public's views of incarceration and non-incarceration alternatives using Citizens Juries



Mark Barron, Len Kanowski and Melissa Lovell whilst recruiting young people into the JR research at a Touch Footy game organised by the Cowra Youth Council as part of Youth Week.

In late 2012, researchers from NCIS (Jill Guthrie and Corinne Walsh), the University of NSW (Tony Butler, Paul Simpson and Michael Doyle) and Curtin University (Jocelyn Jones) were awarded a grant from the Lowitja Institute to examine the public's views on alternatives to incarceration using Citizens Juries.

In recent years there has been increasing interest in involving communities in decision making through various forms of 'deliberative democracy', of which Citizens' Juries are one such approach. Citizens Juries involve bringing together a randomly selected group of citizens, providing

them with good information on the issue at hand, and asking them as members of the citizenry about their preferences for policy options or resource allocation. This research is crucial because of the continuing high representation of Indigenous people, mostly juveniles, in the Australian prison population and the financial and social cost of incarceration for the community.

Our research team sought to gain the views of the Australian community about strategies to deal with offenders. Citizens Juries were held in Canberra (28 September 2013) and in Perth (5 October 2013). Expressions of interest were sought from 600 randomly selected people from Canberra and Perth. Fifteen people from Canberra and fifteen from Perth were selected to participate in the Citizens' Juries. The Citizens' juries included men and women, older and younger people and people of different cultural backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses.

One of the key findings from the Citizens' Jury events was that citizens believed that excessive investment in prisons has become an unnecessary burden on the public purse. Jurors were also supportive of alternatives to incarceration, including investment in holistic, early intervention and prevention strategies. JR strategies, which redirect government spending from incarceration to crime prevention and offender rehabilitation, received broad in-principle support. Jurors were also keenly aware of the need for victims of crime to feel that their experiences are included in the justice system.

The findings from the Citizens Juries were presented to senior policymakers in January and February this year. The researchers wished to ascertain whether policy makers might be influenced by the knowledge of what an informed citizenry believes should occur in relation to incarceration policies. The policymakers were largely supportive of the Citizens' Jury findings. Policy makers also flagged the need for more concrete information about what JR might look like in an Australian policy context. This is a potential direction for further research.

Corinne Walsh



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NCIS HDR SCHOLAR UPDATE

Congratulations to NCIS PhD scholar Glynnis-Anne Buckley for becoming an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

NCIS PhD Scholar Veronica Fynn is currently in her homeland of Liberia in Central Africa undertaking field research for her PhD on 'Gender violence and the "Rule of Law" in Indigenous communities in post-war Liberia'. Before departing for her fieldwork, Veronica presented her Thesis Proposal Review to her supervisory panel members and peers at NCIS.

NCIS PhD Scholar Magali McDuffie is currently in Broome undertaking fieldwork for her PhD on 'Jimbin Kaboo Yimardoowarra Marninil: Listening to Nyikina women's voices, from the inside to the outside'. How have Nyikina women's voices influenced, and are still influencing, cultural actions, sustainable economic initiatives and selfdetermination in the Kimberley? A cross-generational study through film: the three sisters' story.' Magali also recently presented her Thesis Proposal Review to her supervisory panel members and peers at NCIS.

NCIS PhD Scholar Alycia Nevelainen is on the home stretch of her PhD on 'The Butcher's Apron: A postcolonial investigation into the Murdering Gully Massacre'. Alycia gave her Oral Presentation to her Supervisory Panel and peers at NCIS in February 2014.

NCIS PhD Scholar Ed Wensing presented his Thesis Proposal Review in February 2014 for his PhD on 'Land Justice for Indigenous Australians: Accommodating customary land rights in conventional land tenure systems (in Western Australia)'. Ed's PhD research will involve fieldwork with the Bardi Jawi and Yawuru Peoples in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, which he is planning to undertake during the dry season this year. Ed has also authored a chapter in a new text on 'Australian Environmental Planning' edited by Jason Byrne, Jago Dodson and Neil Sipe from Griffith University and published by Routledge Press. The title of Ed's chapter is 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationships to 'country''.

> www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138000711/

Ed has also recently donated over 250 documents to the AIATSIS repository on local governments' responses to native title following the High Court's decision in the Wik

case and the Howard Government's amendments to the Native Title Act in 1998. The documents comprise the 'Working with Native Title' and 'Working Out Agreements' guides, training materials, training manuals and workbooks, information papers and issues papers, copies of local agreements, correspondence, photographs and various resources and documents prepared by local councils, state local government associations and the Australian Local Government Association. These will become available as a research resource once they have been added to the AIATSIS repository.

NCIS HDR scholars have had the benefit of two great Master classes in recent months, with Dr Tim Rowse from the University of Western Sydney speaking on 'Indigenous peoples vs Indigenous populations' and Professor John Taylor from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy at ANU speaking on 'Continuity and Change in Indigenous Population Mobility'.

'Cloisters and clapsticks' Interview with NCIS PhD scholar,



Aunty Kerrie

NCIS PhD scholar, Aunty Kerrie Doyle, was interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald about her involvement in community health. Aunty Kerrie graduated last November with a scholarship-backed Master

of Science in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy from Oxford University.

The full article is set out below.

AN INDIGENOUS OXFORD GRADUATE IS MAKING HER MARK IN HEALTH, WRITES DAVID WILSON.

Kerrie Doyle has gone far - from the red dirt of West Queensland to snowy Oxford.

Doyle's employer, the University of Canberra (UC), touts her as the first Aboriginal Oxford University graduate. Explaining what Oxford taught her, 56-year-old Doyle, who graduated last November with a scholarship-backed Masters degree in social intervention, says she could just state that we never succeed by ourselves - we stand on the shoulders of giants.





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"But the thing I really learned at Oxford was - it's going to sound silly – but it's how big the world is: you're mixing with so many different sorts of people," she says, mentioning her supervisor, social intervention expert Lucie Cluver.

"You think you don't realise how many people there are in the world – you don't realise how many people are out there making a difference. And you come back realising that your problems are just small compared to what other people overcome. I mean, it's a privilege to hang around with some of those people over there," she says.

A downside of her time in Britain was the climate that meant she was often trapped indoors. "I thought it would just snow and then go away, but that's not how snow works," she says.

Now back at UC, Doyle is on a good wage, about \$110,000 a year. The indigenous health lecturer, who has worked for the World Health Organisation, explains what it takes to succeed in nursing: "You need to be curious. I think you need to have good core values: you need to know who you are, in terms of integrity, social justice. You need to have a thick skin, you need to have really good training - and the biggest thing is you need empathy."

Plainly, you also need grit, because of "social determinants" - eventually your patients will return to poor, unhealthy conditions, irreversibly.

"I can't fix everyone. You want to fix people - you want to make them well, you know?" she says. "Sometimes you can't. Sometimes patients die. Now I find that a heartache," she says, adding that handling sick children is harrowing. "I don't cope well with that either," she says and notes that some people are born-paediatric nurses. "Not me."

Despite this, Doyle, or "Aunty Kerrie", has a nice line in humour. Witness her story of the geneticist who reckoned she had three DNA types: Aboriginal, Viking and Irish. "And I thought, well that explains why I've always wanted to riverdance to Wagner playing clapsticks," she says, referencing the traditional Aboriginal instrument.

More serious about music, her Maori husband "Papa" Ronnie Peita, is involved in the performing arts. The couple have "an emeritus poodle" and three sons. Kerrie would also like grandchildren, so if anyone cares to wed one of her sons, get in touch, she requests.

A mission-born member of the Winninninni – "an Aboriginal mob from West Queensland" - she grew up in New South Wales in Darkinjung country. Her mother was a teacher's aide; her artist father worked as a driver and moved his children to Darkinjung to stop them being "taken away" as he was. He protected Kerrie especially, because she was a "yella fella" - a "mocha" blonde.

Because she had two younger brothers and scant resources, she left school at 16, and trained as a general nurse at Gosford District Hospital for three years, and was hooked.

"Nursing is a great career if you have a need to serve others, and I think I did. And you know there's a lot of job security and it's always interesting – and in those days they took you and fed you and clothed you and housed you. And I thought that was a pretty good deal," she says.

She went on to earn multiple nursing qualifications from institutions including the University of Newcastle (bit. ly/1d8Q5Qi), where she attained a psychology degree. Still hungry to learn, now she is pursuing an Australian National University doctorate in Aboriginal social inclusion, acutely aware of how the reverse feels. One example: being shunned during meal breaks in the past because nobody would "eat with the Abo".

Still, she is upbeat. As a growing Aboriginal nursing cohort emerges, discrimination will surely wane, she says and describes her UC team as "amazing".

Besides "world peace", her dream is to interest more Aboriginals in nursing. While more than 1000 nurses and students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait backgrounds exist, her community still needs to improve its mob's health, she says. Only if she can make a difference or even a contribution, will she be a success, she reckons. She refuses, as she puts it, to "big-note".

More information on indigenous nursing:

> catsin.org.au





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Elder Brother: The Qom community of Argentina and the Kogi Mamas of the Sierra Nevada

NCIS PhD scholar Katherine Aigner provides an update on her recent fieldwork with the Vatican Ethnological Museum,

During recent fieldwork with the Vatican Ethnological Museum to culturally re-connect objects in their collection with Indigenous communities, I was fortunate to visit a Qom community in northern Argentina and meet priests of a Kogi community in Colombia. There I witnessed firsthand the challenges they face in maintaining land and heritage, as well as the importance the survival of their culture has for the rest of the world. It is not only tribal people who experience the dangers of overexploitation of the earth, or climate change, in many cases they are part of world-wide events, but often it is tribal people living closely with the environment and the seasons who bring the urgency of change to the world stage.

In northern Argentina Indigenous spokesperson and leader Felix Diaz is fighting to keep his 4000 Qom community on their land. Their land borders the 'Grand Chaco' region - a vast, flat, semi-fertile country with marshes and rivers. The land is valuable for genetically modified (GM) crops and soya bean plantations.

Across Argentina, Indigenous lands continue to be threatened by the constant intrusion of investors and private enterprises. In many cases the government recognises traditional ownership of land, but the provinces do not always implement the laws. As with other Indigenous lands across South and Central America, armed private militia are used to scare the people off their land so the land can be sold. This is happening at an alarming rate across the continent as land resources become more and more valuable, causing mass migrations of Indigenous groups into cities, where work and social support is scarce.

The last 3 years have been very difficult for the Qom community to stay on their land. In one altercation, 17 houses were burnt down. The lives of Felix and his family are under threat. Felix has tried to raise international awareness and support to hold onto Qom land and raise funds for scholarships for the young people to study law and medicine. To learn more, please like them on Facebook: Resistencia Qom or visit their webpage:www. comunidadlaprimavera.blogspot.com

In Colombia, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is a spectacular stretch of land that rises up from the North East Caribbean sea to mountains more than 5700 meters in height. The mountain peaks are covered in perpetual snow, hence the Spanish name: Sierra Nevada or snow mountains.

After Spanish conquest during the 16th century, the Indigenous people – generically labelled 'Tairona' by the Spanish – retreated further up the mountain range into isolation to resist colonisation. The remaining descendants today are known as the Kogis, Arhuacos, Wiwas and Kankuamo. As a last surviving theocracy, their priests, known as Mamas, lead their political and social structure.

Predominantly high altitude farmers, the communities today remain self-sufficient. The Mamas or priests conduct all healing. As one commented, 'Indigenous people here are taught to maintain the connection to themselves and nature. Everything is based on keeping this equilibrium and knowing how to care for it.'

But an alarm has gone off; the perennial snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada are losing their snow. They call us Western cultures 'Little Brother' and have come out of isolation to warn of the irreversible consequences of climate change. With proper techniques and rituals the Mamas work to replenish the energy void caused by deforestation and environmental damage, but if humanity takes too much, goes beyond a certain threshold, there is nothing they can do.

The 'Elder Brother' Kogi believe that most of the little brothers do not understand the harmony of the Earth and so they destroy the balance and the environment in search of profit. The Kogi are politically active and confident; the President of Columbia has visited them five times already.

In 1692 ceremonial Tairona masks were sent to the Vatican and started the non-European ethnographic collection. Few of these cultural artefacts are known to exist outside the Sierra Nevada. A mask is connected to a specific temple in the forest and is inherited through territory and lineage, passed from father to son. Anthropologist Konrad Preuss who collected masks in 1914 and 1915, provenanced one temple site through a sequence of 39 priests who had worked with a specific mask. He dated that temple foundation to between 1150 and 1450 AD. Recently the associated mask held in the Berlin museum was radiocarbon dated, which confirmed that the mask was indeed as old as the estimated date of the temple.





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Qom leader Felix Diaz and his wife from Northern Argentina meeting countryman Pope Frances at the Vatican in 2013. *Photo courtesy of the Vatican Museums*

For the Kogi, the masks are not merely material culture, but living beings that, imbued with energy, activate a site over time to sustain nature. Having visited the masks in Berlin unsuccessfully asking for their return, the priests told us that 3 months earlier they had climbed the snow-capped mountain peaks to discuss the masks in Rome. Our arrival from the Vatican Ethnological Museum, oblivious to their meeting, confirmed to them that the power of the mask was still active. They said: 'You came here in response to being moved by the spirits, so there is balance and equilibrium. We are people, same people, what makes us different is our language, our ways of thinking but we are all the same – remember that – don't let the system pull us apart. That is the spiritual message to take with you.'

As a result of this field trip, a relationship with the Vatican Ethnological Museum and the Kogi community in the Sierra Nevada to strengthen cultural heritage has begun.

My other work with the Vatican Ethnological Museum included researching and writing articles for catalogues and preparation and research for exhibitions, like one on the religious diversity of Indonesia, which opened with a display of Hindu dancers inside the Vatican. Another exhibition showcasing the Vatican's Islamic collection for the first time opened in March in Sharjah, one of the seven United Arab Emirates by His Highness Sheikh Sultan III bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi. The title was inspired by a verse in the Holy Koran So You Might Know Each Other – the world of Islam from North Africa to China and Beyond. I was fortunate to attend the opening on my way back to Australia.

Katherine Aigner

FVFNTS

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NCIS Indigenous Studies Reading Group to Launch on 5 June 2014

NCIS is excited to announce the launch of its Indigenous Studies reading group. The aim of the reading group is to develop scholarly understandings of the Indigenous Studies field within ANU. The group will be hosted by NCIS (coordinated by NCIS Research Associate Fleur Adcock) but open to all ANU PhD researchers and staff with an interest in Indigenous Studies. The group will meet on the first Thursday of every second month from 3-4.30pm for a facilitated discussion on a reading set in advance (usually a journal article, book chapter or book excerpt but documentaries, novels and other relevant media may also be set). The readings will be carefully selected to help to establish a core understanding of the key scholarship, themes and debates in the Indigenous Studies field. All participants are encouraged to raise questions, offer comments and suggest readings for discussion. The first session will be held on Thursday 5 June. ANU PhD researchers and staff interested in participating in the reading group are invited to contact Fleur Adcock:

> fleur.adcock@anu.edu.au

2014 NCIS graduate research retreat

NCIS is proud to host its fifth retreat for Higher Degree Research (HDR) scholars undertaking research into Indigenous topics. The retreat is an opportunity for Indigenous HDR scholars and scholars researching in Indigenous Studies to engage in intellectual discussion, networking and information sharing.

Time & venue: Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 October 2014; Ibis Styles Canberra Eagle Hawk resort, located on the Federal Highway at the ACT/NSW border.

Enquiries & RSVP: Please email the NCIS HDR Program Manager, Dr Asmi Wood on <u>Asmi.Wood@anu.edu.au</u> or 02 6125 8141. The event is free and places are limited.

More information:

> ncis.anu.edu.au/events/retreat.php

