



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander*  
*a c t i v i t i e s*



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### *Cover design*

“This piece uses colours which were in the sky above Canberra during a spring sunset as I painted it. The central band of colours shows the silhouette of the mountain visible from the Jabal Students Centre against a darkening sky. This particular mountain – Black Mountain – is a place in Canberra on which many sacred sites exist. It is a place of spiritual importance, for the Ngunawal people in this area, and as such forms the foundation for the central design of the painting.

The blue and white dreaming tracks lead into a central meeting place, and it is along these paths that the students travel and meet at Jabal, our Centre at the ANU. From this central ground, students branch out into different areas of the University, into their chosen fields of learning. These differing faculties are represented by the six smaller meeting places. These faculties are: Arts, Law, Languages, Science, Fine Arts and Information Technology”.

*Explanation of cover painting by artist Danie Mellor, Canberra  
School of Art, Institute of the Arts.*

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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities

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*This booklet has been produced as part of The Australian National University's 1998 National Sorry Day activities. The booklet brings together the research, teaching and cultural dimensions of work in the University which we believe will assist in reconciliation and a better future for indigenous Australians and for all Australians.*

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Many projects focused, from different disciplinary perspectives, on Aboriginal Australians' anthropological studies of communities and the relations between them, historical surveys, archaeological studies which built on the work of Professor John Mulvaney had begun in 1957. Nellie's work exploded traditional assumptions about the size of the Aboriginal population at the time of European settlement, then turned his hand to the study of a colonial portener. In the 1960s, E. L. Jones, Fellow

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## *From the Chancellor*

As Chancellor of The Australian National University and as a former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of such of my generation as may wish to join me, we are sorry for what was done in respect of the stolen generation.

We are sorry for the hurt; sorry for the tragedies we caused; sorry for the unhappiness inflicted; sorry for the lives we ruined and sorry for the families we parted.

What was done by people like us was done using the theories of the times for the best of reasons. But, with our present understanding, we are ashamed of what went on while we looked away.

Professor Peter Baume, AO, MB BS MD *Syd.*, FRACP, FAFPHM, FRACGP(Hon)  
8 May 1998



## Foundation Studies at The Australian National University (ANU)

In the 1950s, the ANU developed interests in Aboriginal anthropology, and for a decade (W.E.H) Bill Stanner conducted research on Aboriginal themes. Stanner returned to places in the Northern Territory that he had visited 20 years earlier and recorded the drastic changes that had taken place there. His observations led him to question the adequacy of current anthropological theories. He thought radically about continuity and change in Aboriginal societies, and wrote profoundly about Aboriginal religion, including that "impalpable and subtle" concept, The Dreaming. Not many people, beyond his professional colleagues, listened. It was well into the 1960s before his work started to attract the attention it deserved.

During the 1960s archaeological fieldwork, much of it conducted by members of Research School of Pacific Studies, had transformed understandings of Aboriginal Australia, dispelling myths associated with the "stone age" and revealing a society much richer and older than most people had previously thought.

As the ANU founders had intended, much of the University's research in the social sciences and humanities continued to focus on Australia and Australians. Although Manning Clark had retired in 1975, he continued to present his inimitable view of the nation's past and speak out on the issues of the day. The sixth and final volume of *A History of Australia* was published in 1987, four years before his death.

Many projects focused, from different disciplinary perspectives, on Aboriginal Australians: anthropological studies of communities and the relations between them, historical surveys, archaeological studies which built on the work that Professor John Mulvaney had begun. In 1983 Noel Butlin exploded traditional assumptions about the size of the Aboriginal population at the time of European settlement, then turned his hand to the economics of Aboriginal societies. In the 1960s, F.L. Jones, Fellow

and later Professor of Sociology in RSSS, had conducted the first major demographic study of the Aboriginal population; 30 years later, researchers in the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and the Centre for Aboriginal Policy Research, a small unit in the Faculty of Arts, were analysing social change in Aboriginal populations and generating data which contributed to government policy-making.

Meanwhile, R.M.W. Dixon, Professor of Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts from 1970, worked with his colleagues to record and document Aboriginal languages, including fifty or so that were still in use and another fifty that had died out. As well as compiling academic grammars chiefly of interest to linguists, the team prepared dictionaries and literacy materials to ensure that unique evidence of Aboriginal culture survived.

(From "*The Making of The Australian National University 1946-1996*"  
S.G. Foster & Margaret M. Varghese")



Dispute resolution ceremony held by Warlpiri people at Yuendumu, NW Alice Springs.  
Photo N. Peterson.



In 1988 the ANU established an Aboriginal Liaison Office and Students Centre, now known as the Jabal Centre.

The name Jabal means 'the large assembly of groups from widely separated areas that take place once or twice a year-a time of great ritual and social intensification and a high point of the Aboriginal year'.

The Jabal Centre offers a first point of contact for all enquiries about indigenous Australian student matters in the University and is a centre where students can meet for study purposes and social support. The ANU and its Jabal Centre aim to encourage and assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to gain admission and also to provide support to enhance their prospects of academic success.

Aboriginal enrolment in 1998 has more than doubled due to improved services and recruitment. Neville Perkins, Director of the Jabal Centre, said the increase in enrolment went against the general trend around the country. The Centre has improved academic support services for students by expanding its office areas, academic tutoring program and computer facilities. The Centre plays a key role in keeping the ANU's retention rate for indigenous students well above the national average. 1998 enrolments represents increasing participation in areas under-represented by indigenous Australians, including science, economics and commerce, and health.

The Jabal Centre assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in all aspects of their studies and university life. Supplementary

tutoring, assistance in dealing with Government departments and University faculties and administration is available.

Students may be admitted under an alternative admission scheme which usually involves an interview and consideration of work experience, informal study, referees reports, and results of assessment tasks set by alternative admissions.

### **Jabal Student Support Program**

Programs are offered at Jabal relating to study skills and discussions on contemporary issues concerning indigenous Australians. Prominent indigenous guest speakers are invited to address students on relevant issues. The social focus which Jabal provides aims to assist students to build a cohesive indigenous Student Community. It provides a high level of support and community feeling, enabling students to achieve their academic potential.

### **JABAL/Northern Australian Research Unit (NARU) Aboriginal Undergraduate Program**

The prime purpose of this new program is to provide ANU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduates with the opportunity to undertake relevant research and fieldwork in the Northern Territory, based at NARU near Darwin for part of the academic year.

### **JABAL/National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Mentoring Program**

The Jabal Centre and NCEPH will embark upon a new mentoring program for ANU indigenous Australian students.

The mentoring program will provide tutors and mentors, as needed, to indigenous Australian students enrolled at the ANU, including the new Master of Applied Epidemiology (indigenous Health) degree course students at NCEPH.

## Undergraduate Students

### Nugget Coombs Forum for indigenous studies

[Dr H C Nugget Coombs (1906–1997)]



The Nugget Coombs Forum for indigenous studies was established by NARU under the auspices of Dr HC Nugget Coombs in 1992. The aims of the Forum are to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attain social justice by advancing their opportunities for education. The Forum aims to offer two fieldwork scholarships to indigenous students from the ANU each year.

### Dean of Students

In 1986 a special ANU admissions scheme for Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander students was established. It was the blueprint for the scheme which has admitted several hundred students to the ANU who would not have gained admission otherwise. The report also recommended the establishment of a centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; this led to the development of what is now known as the Jabal Centre. Mr Selwyn Cornish, the Dean of Students, has been the Chair of the Jabal Centre Advisory Committee for the past 4 years.

Mr Cornish has also been a member since its inception, of the ANU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee, which was established by Council to provide advice on relevant issues.

Last year Mr Cornish chaired a Working Party for the Vice-Chancellor on ANU scholarships. This led to the creation of 30 new

honours scholarships, four of which are designated H.C. Coombs Honours Scholarships, one of which is specifically for an indigenous student. The first H.C. Coombs Honours Scholarship indigenous student has commenced her honours year in 1998 — in womens studies.

### The Law Faculty

The Law Faculty has an entry and support scheme for Australian indigenous students which began in 1990. There have been seven students who have completed undergraduate Law School studies this way and ten students are currently studying. Two part-time academic advisers, Ms Elizabeth Baxter and Ms Johanna Sutherland, tutor the students in academic skills and offer pastoral care.



Ingo Kleinert, *Sorry Land*, 1998  
Installation [inscribed Sorry Land 1788–1998]  
Weathered galvanised iron, 45 x 700 x 700cm  
From the exhibition *In Place* held at the Drill Hall Gallery from 2 April to 3 May 1998, as part of the Canberra National Sculpture Forum.



## Graduate Students

### **The Graduate School**

The ANU is a leading international centre for graduate research and teaching on indigenous peoples from Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Asia. There are a number of Graduate Programs which offer relevant courses and research supervision, including Anthropology, Australian Studies, Epidemiology and Population Health, Geographical Sciences, History, Linguistics, Literature and Art, Southeast Asian Studies and Visual Arts.

For example, the Graduate Program in Anthropology draws on the resources and expertise of the Department of Anthropology and the Gender Relations Project in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in The Faculties, the North Australia Research Unit, the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, and the Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies.

Graduate Programs establish close links between different but related disciplines within the University. Fieldwork is an important component of many Graduate Programs, particularly at PhD level where students are encouraged to undertake intensive fieldwork studies of up to eighteen months. Short fieldwork studies may be possible during a Masters degree by research.

### **Graduate School Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Scholarship**

To reflect its continuing commitment to indigenous people's education, the ANU aims to encourage indigenous students wanting to undertake postgraduate studies in any discipline offered by the University. The

Graduate School offers indigenous Australians opportunities for study at PhD, Master and graduate diploma levels. Graduate studies are organised in 40 Graduate Programs, and there is a detailed Prospectus about these Programs available on request.

The ATSI postgraduate scholarship provides a tax free living allowance and fares to Canberra as well as an establishment allowance.

### **New Postdoctoral Fellowship**

In 1998 an ATSI Postdoctoral Fellowship has also been established to provide encouragement to indigenous students at an advanced research level, and the first appointment, Dr Gordon Briscoe, has been made.



Valerie Cooms, Shereene Currie, Gary Shipp



Director, Jabal Centre, Mr Neville Perkins,  
Valerie Cooms



### **Images of Coranderrk: Cultural Exchange, Representation and Photography**

The PhD student (Jane Lydon) in the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research started work in April 1997 under the joint supervision of Professor Ann Curthoys (History) and Professor Nicholas Thomas. She is working on nineteenth-century Aboriginal-European relations at Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, Victoria, with particular methodological emphasis on the use of photographic sources and the significance of photography around the mission. The project entails wider theoretical reflection on visuality, colonialism and cultural process.

### **Present Objects: Indigenous Art in the Contemporary Art Museum**

Another of the CCR's graduate students, Gordon Bull, is undertaking a study which will examine indigenous art in the context of the contemporary art museum. It will focus on particular objects and institutions, taking the art museum as a key institutional site for the collection and display of objects. Initially the project will focus on the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Sydney. The MCA is a particularly useful example since it is devoted to Australian and international contemporary art practices and is active in the collection and display of Aboriginal art. The MCA also seeks to attract a large, popular audience and to inform that audience through an active education program. The study will consider individual objects within displays and curated exhibitions as contexts for those objects, as well as examining collections of objects. In these ways general questions of collection, display and reception will be raised and examined. What happens to Aboriginal art objects in this context? How are they seen, and presented to be seen? What expectations are there of these objects? And (how) can the material thing be understood to cut across those expectations? The key methodological aim of the study is to go beyond the textualism that

characterises contemporary cultural studies — where objects are treated as texts mediated by institutions (gallery spaces, journal pages) to readers (viewers, audiences) — by restoring the practical, material dimension of encounters with objects to the interpretive process and developing new interpretive practices.

The project will also refer to significant developments in the collecting and exhibiting practices of other relevant institutions, particularly the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. The study will be a contribution to the current debates over the status of the museum as part of a contested public sphere and of public life, and over the place of Aboriginal visual culture in contemporary Australian cultural and political life.

### **National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health**

#### *Students Projects*

Over representation of Australian indigenous people is seen in the levels of arrest, police custody, court appearance, conviction and imprisonment within the criminal justice system. Research conducted by PhD scholar David McDonald in conjunction with colleagues from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Criminology is exploring this area of public policy so as to inform the development and evaluation of preventive interventions. The study provides the first national data on Aboriginal people as victims of interpersonal violence and explores the causes of the high level of arrests for violence and other offences seen among indigenous people.

Australia's indigenous people have a homicide rate seven times that of the total Australian population; in almost all cases, the offender is another indigenous person. The patterns of homicides among this section of the population differ from those observed in the non-indigenous

community, with indigenous people having rates of firearm-caused homicide, child homicide and stranger homicide lower than those observed in the Australian population generally. As part of a wider doctoral study into firearm-caused homicides, David McDonald is investigating the epidemiology of these deaths and the factors which may help explain the differences between the indigenous and non-indigenous populations. It is expected that the findings of the study will contribute to the development of violence prevention programs in indigenous communities.

Australia is experiencing an epidemic of deaths in custody. Over the period 1990 to 1997, 39 indigenous people died in police custody, 4 in juvenile detention centres and 70 in prison. In 1997 alone, 14 indigenous people died in custody. This was 14 per cent of all Australian deaths in custody that year, even though indigenous people comprise only 2 per cent of the Australian population. David McDonald, who was the Deputy Head of Research with the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody when it was conducting its investigations, continues to write and speak on the topic of indigenous deaths in custody, drawing on contemporary epidemiological data collected by the Australian Institute of Criminology and publicising the actions that governments need to take to reduce the incidence of indigenous custodial deaths.

There are three PhD students (one of them indigenous) undertaking studies on aspects of indigenous health:

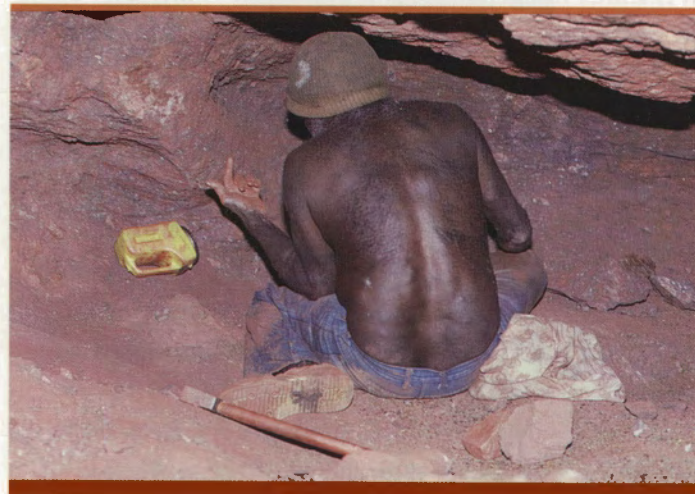
Ms Maggie Brady is examining the development of responses to indigenous alcohol abuse;

Mr Steve Larkin is exploring self-determination and community control in the context of state community relationships, focusing on the Northern Territory;

Mr Robert Griew is examining the role of general practice in indigenous primary health care.

As part of the Tennant Creek Telecommunications Regional Infrastructure Project (TRIP), PhD student, Dr Chris Kelman, will demonstrate the potential of modern communication technology using a satellite link between outlying communities and Tennant Creek. One of the primary objectives of the project is to demonstrate potential uses of Telemedicine and to gain community input about how this technology could be used to facilitate the provision of remote health care.

An indigenous Graduate Diploma of Population Health student, Mr Aaron Briscoe, is developing a project for his Masters degree on indigenous mens' access to sexual health services.



The Warlpiri red ochre mine shown in this picture has been in use for 30,000 years. It is entirely underground running with the main shaft running horizontally for over 25 metres into the hillside and being about 1.5 metres high. The senior traditional owners can be seen working at the ochre face. Photo N. Peterson.

## Teaching and Research

### **Department of Archaeology and Anthropology**

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology is a leading centre for teaching and research in Aboriginal anthropology and archaeology. The Department teaches four units in Aboriginal studies covering prehistory, traditional culture, the contemporary situation and health and demographic issues. It has a major research program with over 30 graduate students carrying out research in all parts of the continent, including the Torres Strait, on topics ranging from prehistoric art and pre-colonial settlement systems, to bark paintings, contemporary art, material culture, health, land tenure, medical systems, song cycles, changing gender relations, masculinity, the impact of christianity, juvenile justice, prison culture, community politics, education and race relations. Several honours graduates from the Department run their own archaeological and cultural heritage management consultancies and many others work for Aboriginal organisations, museums or the public service.

From the time of its foundation the Department has had a strong interest in the study of Aboriginal visual culture. Students and staff have also inquired into many topics in Aboriginal visual and material culture. These include the construction, contextualisation and curating of Aboriginal material culture collections, design analysis of Warlpiri shields, and the use and distribution of pearl shell ornaments. Through its emphasis on Australian studies, and the many honours and postgraduate research theses completed during the 1970s to 1990s, the Department has become a major centre for research on the archaeology and anthropology of Aboriginal art. Postgraduate research topics include Central Australian rock art, Aboriginal regional identities in art, the history of ethnographic collecting, and the history of Wagilak imagery in Ramingining bark painting.

### *Staff research interests*

The research interests of the archaeology lecturers include, the archaeology of culture contact, gender and archaeology, cultural heritage management, stone working technology and community based archaeology. The research interests of the anthropology lecturers include, anthropology of art, kinship and social organisation, religion, land and sea tenure, social change and development, linguistic anthropology, anthropological photography and ethnographic film.

Staff of the Department have had a long standing involvement in land claim research in the Northern Territory from participation in the Woodward Royal Commission that inquired into landrights in 1973-4 to acting as the senior anthropological research on more than a dozen land claims and several native title applications, including the test case on the existence of native title in the sea which is currently before the courts, and the Kurnai application in Gippsland.

### *ARC funded projects and inter-institutional collaborations*

The Department has had great success in attracting ARC fellows in both archaeology and anthropology. Dr Judith Littleton is completing a major archaeological project at Lake Victoria in western NSW on a large burial ground, and Howard Morphy, Professor of Anthropology at University College London, has just joined the Department for five years as an ARC Senior Fellow. His major research project is to produce a biography of the artist Narritjin Maymuru who in 1978, with his son Banpana Maymuru was a creative arts fellow at the ANU, the first such fellowship awarded to an Aboriginal artist. He is in the early stages of planning an exhibition of Narritjin Maymuru's art at the National Gallery. Professor Morphy was the editor of the Aboriginal section of *The Dictionary of Art*, and has just completed a major general work on Aboriginal art that is in press with Phaidon. He is collaborating with the National Museum of Australia and Film Australia to develop a multi media installation centred on a

yingapungapu ground sculpture. The ground sculpture was the central theme of the Native Title Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and has been used on a number of occasions by Yolngu from Yirrkala as a means of communicating their cultural values to Europeans. He is at present a member of a committee to research the future research agenda of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Another major collaborative project which involves the ARC, the Department, the National Museum, The Academy of the Social Sciences and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is the 'People of the Rivermouth: the Joborr (customary law) texts of Frank Gurrmanamana' being carried out by Dr Les Hiatt and Mr Kim McKenzie which will involve the production of a CD-Rom and the publication of Mr Gurrmanamana's own ethnography of his Arnhem Land culture.

### **Aboriginal Studies Program**

This program was established in 1976 at the initiative of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and was the first such program established in a university. The program enables students with an interest in Aboriginal studies to take a set of interrelated units in different disciplines without the normal prerequisite required in each unit. The major in Aboriginal Studies is an interdisciplinary program in which it is possible to combine prehistory, anthropology, history, music and linguistics for a broadly-based understanding of Aboriginal society, both past and present.

### **The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR)**

The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR) was established in January, 1997, with a grant from the Australian Research Council's Special Research Centres program. It is the first Special Research Centre

to be established in the humanities, and is conducting an ambitious and wide-ranging program in cultural history, art history, visual studies, and anthropology, ranging over art, travel, colonialism, settler-indigenous relations, migration, museums, consumption, and other topics in cross-cultural studies. Research highlights the Asia-Pacific region since the eighteenth century, but will illuminate colonial histories and contemporary developments through wider global comparisons. The Centre's activities are closely linked with the conference and fellowship programs of the ANU's Humanities Research Centre (HRC).

### **The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR)**

CAEPR is a multi-disciplinary social sciences research centre at the ANU with a primary focus on indigenous Australian economic policy and economic development issues, including native title and land rights, social justice, and the socioeconomic status of indigenous Australians. Established in 1990, CAEPR is funded by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, the Department of Social Security, and the ANU.

CAEPR's mission is to be a world-class centre undertaking research on indigenous economic development issues that combines academic excellence with policy relevance and realism.

CAEPR's vision is to be a stand-alone and independent ANU-based research centre, with strong links both to the indigenous community sector and the bureaucracy that undertakes a mix of policy-orientated and pure research.

In Australia, CAEPR is the only dedicated research centre focusing on indigenous economic policy issues from a national perspective. Its publications aim to broadly evaluate government policy, influence policy formulation and inform rational debate.

## **National Centre for Development Studies**

### *Graduate Studies in Environmental Management and Development Teaching*

Indigenous land and resource tenure and the search for indigenous sustainable land management are major components of Dr Elspeth Young's teaching, primarily in units in resource management, and in the implementation of sustainable development. The comparative experiences of Australian indigenous peoples and indigenous minorities from Asia, Africa and the Pacific, all highly relevant to international and Aboriginal students in Dr Young's program, are an important element of these courses. With Dr Helen Ross (CRES), Dr Young has just completed a lecture segment on indigenous issues concerning the management of Australia's rangelands. This 1998 initiative aims to increase content on indigenous issues in land management units offered in the Faculties School of Resource Management and Environmental Sciences.

### *Research*

Since 1978 Dr Young has, along with Aboriginal people from remote parts of Australia and northern Canada, been conducting research on how they are affected by development impact. This has included studies of socio-economic change, commercial enterprises, service delivery and, during the 1990s, land tenure and management. The latter has included investigations of customary land tenure in central Australia (conducted primarily as consultancies for Aboriginal Land Councils in the Northern Territory) and examinations of Aboriginal land management and the need for appropriate support services. Dr Young's current research, carried out in collaboration with Dr Ross and Dr Jocelyn Davies (University of Adelaide), concerns planning for the sustainability of Aboriginal land management and of the communities which depend on that land. In 1997 they, along with other collaborators from the University of Adelaide, compiled an overview report on indigenous community wildlife management in Australia. This study, the Australian contribution to the



Warlpiri women enact a segment of a ritual associated with the Incestuous Man Dreaming for the judge in Tanami Downs Land Claim as part of the demonstration of their attachment to sites on the pastoral lease, in September 1990. Photo N. Peterson.

first stage of an international comparative study conducted by the UK-based International Institute for Environment and Development, examines how indigenous people are managing wildlife on their own lands and how they participate in scientific research or in government wildlife management programs. A workshop, conducted at the University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus in December 1997, explored indigenous views on issues highlighted by this study.

## **North Australia Research Unit**

*Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies  
Darwin*

NARU was established in Darwin in 1973 as part of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU. NARU is a primary research facility in northern Australia. The role of the North Australia Research Unit (NARU) is to provide a unique institutional base to facilitate links with

the ANU and between social, economic, political and cultural aspects of regional and international research. Research is focussed on the indigenous community of northern Australia, changes to the northern economy, and the implication of far reaching events in countries north of Australia, particularly governance in Australia's regions as well as the impact on the people of East Asia.

NARU is on the Board of the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management, Northern Territory University. CINCRM received funding of \$1.8m from the Department of the Department of Employment, Education, Training & Youth Affairs for three years. NARU's involvement covers collaborative research and supervision of indigenous post graduate students.

NARU is a participant in the Public Policy teaching course at the Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Northern Territory University.

Through an ANU agreement, NARU academics are partners in the Cooperative Research Centre for the Sustainable Development of Tropical Savannas. NARU's involvement is focussed on cultural perceptions of savanna environments among settler and indigenous people and research into landscape history and the use of fire.

Recent NARU consultancies include Evaluating Responses of Northern Territory Governments to the Aboriginal Land Right (NT) Act 1976, commissioned by the Northern Land Council and The Establishment of a Single Native Title Representative Body for the Pilbara Region of Western Australia for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission.



On the 26th October 1985 the title to Uluru, Ayers Rock, was handed back to the traditional owners by the Governor General Sir Ninian Stephens. Photo N. Peterson.

### **National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health**

#### *Water quality and health in Aboriginal communities*

As a member of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment, NCEPH, through Dr Gabriele Bammer, has carriage for projects involving Aboriginal communities. An audit has been undertaken of recreational water use in remote communities, particularly documenting experience of the advantages and problems associated with swimming pools. There is also a small amount of published evidence that swimming pools can improve physical health, particularly by reducing skin infections, that there may also be social benefits and that pools may reduce hazards associated with swimming in creeks, tanks and stagnant ponds which become available after rain. However there may be problems, particularly associated with on-going maintenance of pools.

*A Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Smoking Habits in the ACT*

With funding under the ARC/DEETYA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers Development program, a team from NCEPH comprising Michele Moloney, Winnunga Nimmityjah (ACT Aboriginal Health Service) and Gabriele Bammer has conducted interviews with current smokers, people who have stopped smoking and people who have never smoked to examine factors which influence smoking and its cessation in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The aim is to allow more effective smoking cessation programs to be developed.

*The Draft National Environmental Health Strategy*

The Strategy was prepared at NCEPH in 1997 by Masters student, Rosalie Woodruff, and member of staff, Dr Charles Guest. It recognised the magnitude of environmental health issues in indigenous communities, and recommended that indigenous environmental health issues be considered as the first priority in the development of a national strategy.

*Study of Health Services to Indigenous People*

NCEPH, in collaboration with The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has recently undertaken a major study of Commonwealth and State expenditure on health services to indigenous people.

*Hazardous alcohol use*

In collaboration with Nunkuwarrin Yunti Inc, The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, NCEPH is conducting a trial of brief intervention for hazardous alcohol use in an urban Aboriginal Medical Service. If this internationally tested intervention is found to be effective among indigenous people a mechanism for national dissemination will be developed.

*Performance indicators for Aboriginal Medical Services*

Dr Sibthorpe is a member of a steering committee which is overseeing the development of performance indicators for Aboriginal Medical Services, a joint project of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services and The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

**The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research**

*Colonial Science & Indigenous Peoples*

The CCR sees broader community awareness of the shared historical experiences of indigenous peoples and settlers since 1788 as essential to reconciliation. Many non-Australians now accept that the establishment of the New South Wales penal colony in 1788 marked the beginning of the unjust and violent dispossession of Aboriginal peoples from their ancestral lands. However, the aims and assumptions that shaped our colonial past were often the product of culture forces that today are only vaguely understood. The Centre actively fosters research which seeks to appraise this past in all its richness and complexity, through research articles and books, but also through the production of public exhibitions and multimedia resources.

Among the researchers currently associated with the Centre is Dr Paul Turnbull, a historian who is studying the relations between colonial science and trafficking in the ancestral remains of Australian indigenous peoples. His work has shown that indigenous people have actively resisted the desecration of burial places since the earliest days of European invasion, and have long fought for the repatriation of ancestral remains from museums and other European scientific institutions.

This work will contribute to the reconciliation process by making us think about western scientific aims and practices as processes which must incorporate respect for the law, religion and cultural aspirations of indigenous Australians.

*Souvenirs of Aboriginality: The Trade Between Aborigines and Tourists*

Dr Sylvia Kleinert's doctoral research retrieved a 'hidden history' of Aboriginal cultural heritage in south-east Australia. She examined the work of a range of artists working in a variety of rural and urban settings, many of whom were members of the Stolen Generation. She is presently working on the revision of her thesis for publication. Dr Kleinert's ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship, 'Souvenirs of Aboriginality', extends the work of her thesis to undertake a historical study of tourism in Australia based on the findings from two comparative case studies: Arrernte at Hermannsburg Mission and Gunai(Kurnai) at Lake Tyers in Victoria. The project is a study of domestic tourism and highlights the importance of tourism in Aboriginal cultural survival; though primarily historical, it relates to contemporary initiatives in cultural tourism and cultural-heritage management.

**Faculty of Law**

Ms Jennifer Clarke teaches an undergraduate unit called Indigenous Australians and the Law which incorporates critical and historical material on the definition of 'Aboriginality' and the colonial acquisition of Australia, as well as covering constitutional issues, the separation of children from their families, native title, land rights, heritage protection and some issues about the relationship between indigenous people and the state (e.g. funding of indigenous corporations, ATSIC). Ms Clarke's background is as a solicitor in Aboriginal land rights claims.

As well as teaching three specialist graduate units as four-day intensives: Native Title, indigenous Land Rights and indigenous Heritage and Culture, Ms Clarke is writing a chapter on indigenous people and the Constitution and expanding it into a book. She is also finishing a paper on litigation relating to the former Northern Territory 'Aboriginal protection' law and researching indigenous corporations, including those

which operate in the land context. Her thesis research is on how indigenous people's access to land is mediated in Australia and North America — e.g. under principles of native title, land rights, claims agreements and the Canadian Indian Act.

Australian indigenous legal issues are discussed in many areas of the core undergraduate curriculum. An elective in indigenous Australians and the Law is offered for undergraduates by Ms Jennifer Clarke who also offers courses in Native Title and indigenous Land Rights as part of the Postgraduate programme.

Research is being carried on into Australian indigenous issues in several areas in which the Faculty is particularly strong, International Law and Human Rights, Constitutional Law, Tribunals, Property and Corporations.

Ms Johanna Sutherland is researching indigenous People and Governance at all levels and also the Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of indigenous People. Mr Peter Bayne has a research interest in legal history as it relates to indigenous Australians. Ms Jennifer Clarke and Mr Christos Mantziaris have an ARC grant to research the use of the corporate form by indigenous Australians.

Ms Pam O'Neill, a member of the National Native Title Tribunal is a visiting fellow in the Faculty at present.

Citizenship and indigenous Australians and the Kruger Case occupied two general sessions of a weekend conference on Critical Perspectives on Australian Constitutional Law organized by the Faculty's Constitutional lawyers last year.

Recently Professor Hilary Charlesworth, head of the ANU Centre for International and Public Law spoke at the Fullbright Symposium in



Adelaide on the weak protection which human rights have in Australia, particularly the rights of Australian indigenous people. She has argued strongly for a Bill of Rights.

The Law Students Society demonstrated their concern over these issues last year by inviting a series of lunch-time lecturers to speak on the implications of the Wik case and the Ten Point Plan. Mr Mick Dodson's lecture was full to overflowing.

### **English Department**

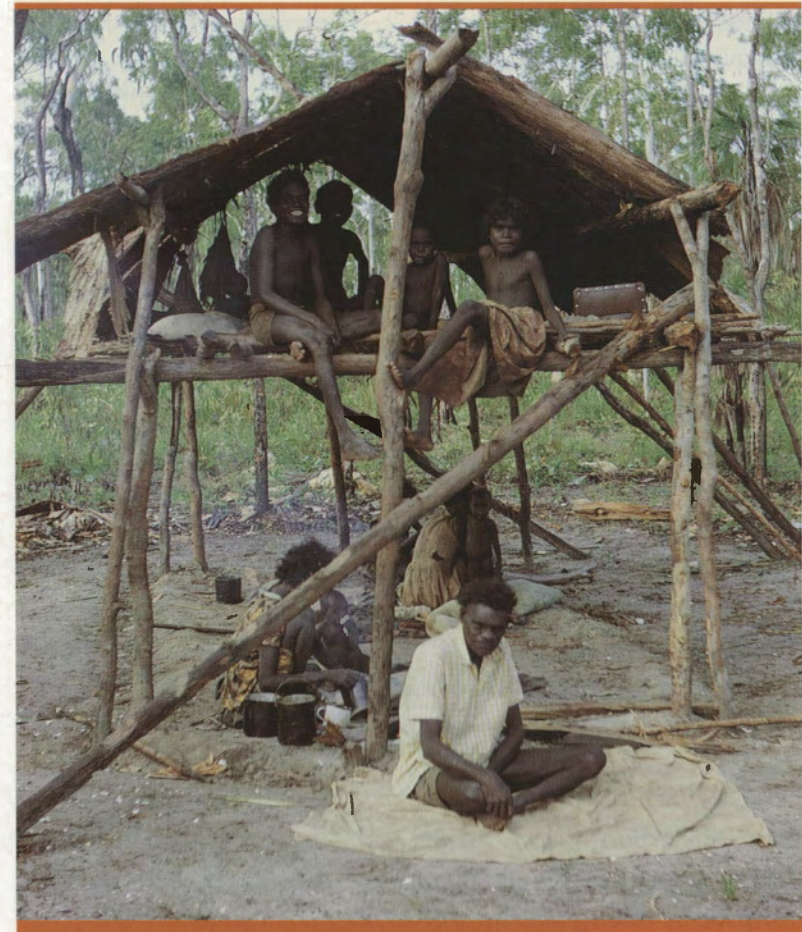
A substantial part of Dr Livio Dobrez's work in the English Department focusses on Aboriginal writing and art. There is considerable Aboriginal content, in the form of texts by and about Aboriginal people in the following courses:

"Australian Film" (run in conjunction with the National Film & Sound archive and including films by Tracey Moffatt and discussion of Jedda) "Contact Discourse" (including representation of Aborigines in First Fleet and other journals, as well as black writing and art which represents Europeans) "Twentieth Century Australian Writing" (including the Paperbark anthology contemporary black writing and two UQP anthologies of Aboriginal songs)

Dr Dobrez writes for the journal *Aboriginal History* and works on Aboriginal art in the context of Contemporary Theory.

### **School of Resource Management and Environmental Science**

The School of Resource Management and Environmental Science has a history of engagement with indigenous issues through the research work of a number of its staff — notably Dr Richard Baker (Geography), Dr Helen Ross (CRES), and Irene Guijt (Visiting Fellow, Forestry, 1997) — and their students. In 1997, the School initiated — with the assistance of



Liyawulpul's wet season house at an Arnhem Land outstation near Buckingham Bay. The family only uses the upstairs for sleeping when there are heavy falls of rain. *Photo N. Peterson.*

the Vice-Chancellor — a Visiting Fellowship in indigenous Natural Resource Management, to review both the curriculum in terms of indigenous issues, and the School's accessibility to indigenous students. Lynette Liddle was appointed to the fellowship, and completed a report which will provide the basis for action by the School.

# *Art, Exhibitions, Conferences, Special Lectures*

## **Nugget Coombs Lecture**

NARU established the Dr HC Coombs North Australia Lecture in 1996. The lecture was first presented by Michael Dodson. It is part of the ANU's Public Lecture series and honours Nugget Coombs. The 1997 Lecture was presented by Professor Marcia Langton, Ranger Chair of the Faculty of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies and Director of the Centre for Indigenous Natural & Cultural Resource Management, at the Northern Territory University.

## **Institute of the Arts**

### *Canberra School of Art*

ANU School of Art students Alick Tipoti and Rea have both been successful in the recent National Heritage Art Awards in Canberra. Alick is a fourth year student in the BA (Visual Arts) degree in Printmaking. He was awarded the Lin Onus Youth prize, and has been selected for the "Working Together" exhibition in Noumea. Rea, who this year won the ANU ATSI Scholarship to undertake her Master of Arts Visual Arts (Research) student was also been awarded joint runner-up for the Normandy Heritage Art Prize prize at the Heritage Awards.

The ANU School of Art has exhibited a selection from the Groundwork Collection at the Kuan Du Festival at the National Institute of the Arts in Taiwan. The Groundwork Collection is the archive of fine art prints made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and students at the school since 1976.

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art**

### *ANU Art Collection*

Tribute must to be paid to Dr H.C.Coombs, whose vision for the university and whose appreciation of Aboriginal Australian art and culture have been an inspiration for decades. Australian Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander art has been a strength in the University's collection, reflecting the ANU's long standing interest in Aboriginal studies.

Works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists may be found in the ANU Central Collection and in the Collections of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Jabal Centre, University House, the Canberra School of Art, Bruce Hall and other Halls of Residence.

The Central Collection, which is displayed in various buildings throughout the campus, contains important works by traditional and contemporary artists. The Collection has commissioned limited editions by Fiona Foley, Banduk Marika and Arone Raymond Meeks.

### *The Drill Hall Gallery*

The Drill Hall Gallery has shown major exhibitions of both contemporary and traditional Aboriginal art. Its most recent exhibition was *Fluent*, an exhibition of works by Emily Kngwarreye, Judy Watson and Yvonne Koolmatrie, which represented Australia at the 47th Venice Biennale.

**Students as artists: the establishment of the Jabal Centre collection**  
Jabal Centre support for students at the School of Art has included help with the organisation of exhibitions of their work, and the purchasing of a number of student works for the Centre's Collection. It has been largely through the Jabal Centre Collection that artworks by Aboriginal people living in towns and cities rather than in remote regions have entered the University's art collections. It comprises works by Torres Strait Islander as well as Aboriginal arts from urban and rural Australia, and works by female and male students.

### **Captive Lives: Looking for Tambo and his Companions**

**(3 November 1997 – 18 March 1998)**

The CCR is collaborating with the National Library on an exhibition program. The first of several proposed exhibitions was curated by CCR Visiting Fellow, Roslyn Poignant. It explored the linked colonial spaces of frontier and metropolis through the particular narratives of two groups of North Queensland Aborigines removed abroad in the late nineteenth century by the showman, R. B. Cunningham, to be exhibited in Barnum's Circus and many other exhibitions in North America and Europe. Only two are known to have returned home. The exhibition was opened by the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, on 3 November, and received extensive media attention. This project is linked with the Centre's ongoing work on photography, which emphasizes images of and by indigenous Australians in comparative perspective.

### **The Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937–1997**

**(16 September – 23 November 1997)**

Nigel Lendon (CCR Visiting Fellow, 1997; Deputy Director, Canberra School of Art) was guest curator of this major National Gallery of Australia exhibition, and co-editor of the catalogue, which notably included significant texts by Yolgnu. The exhibition, which was the first major one to focus on the representation of a single myth and to draw attention to the innovative dynamism of a particular indigenous painting tradition, was hailed as a significant step forward in the presentation and contextualization of Aboriginal art. The exhibition opening was a remarkable event, marked both by the Yolngu smoking ceremony and the Governor-General's moving and trenchant address.

### **Same but Different: Exhibiting indigenous Art Forum (6 October 1997)**

Convened by Nigel Lendon, this well-attended one-day event was linked with the "Wagilag Sisters" exhibition and held at the National Gallery.

Speakers included distinguished indigenous curators and artists Djon Mundine, Francesca Alberts, Rea, and Judy Watson, and Howard Morphy, Wally Caruana, and Nigel Lendon. The program complemented focused discussion of the exhibition itself with a wider discussion of the representation of Aboriginal art in exhibitions.

### **Aboriginality in Southeastern Australia Conference (18–19 June 1997)**

Francesca Merlan (Archaeology & Anthropology, ANU) and Nicholas Thomas convened this conference, which was the first to address questions of Aboriginal history and identity in Australia's settled south-



Banduk Marika, *Ojarrakpi*, 1976. ANU Art Collection.

east. It was held in part to honour the work of Jeremy Beckett (CCR Visiting Fellow, May–July 1997), who was one of the first anthropologists to undertake serious work in the region, and whose studies are of foundational importance for the anthropology of Aboriginal identity and colonial experience. The conference attracted about fifty participants, including anthropologists, historians, and archaeologists. A number of papers were presented by indigenous speakers. A book developed on the basis of the event and edited by Dr Ian Keen (Archaeology & Anthropology, ANU), is currently under consideration by a number of publishers.

#### **Symbolic Tourism Conference (24 April 1998)**

In association with her Fellowship at the CCR, Dr Sylvia Kleinert convened a conference on cultural tourism at the ANU's Humanities Research Centre on 24 April 1998. 'Symbolic Souvenirs' provided an opportunity to consider the long-standing issues raised by cultural tourism and its relevance to settler colonies such as Australia. Keynote speaker for the conference was Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, Head of Indigenous Studies, Museum of Victoria. Other indigenous scholars who contributed to the conference included Dr Bill Jonas, Director, Museum of Australia, Margo Neale, Curator of Australian indigenous Art, Queensland Art Gallery, and Robyne Bancroft, a freelance consultant. Publication of the conference proceedings is currently under consideration.

#### **Canberra Australian Artists Against Racism (AAAR!)**

Professor Joan Kerr, along with Vivienne Binns, Tess Horwitz and Merren Gates of the Canberra School of Art, co-ordinates the Canberra Australian Artists Against Racism group. The group's major activity in 1997 was an exhibition held in conjunction with the Humanities Research Centre's indigenous Rights conference. Another exhibition is planned for this year.



Banduk Marika, *Djanda and the Sacred Waterhole*, 1984. ANU Art Collection.

## Publications

### **The Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture**

The single largest and most challenging publishing project within the CCR, ranges over historical and contemporary indigenous Australian art, in the context of culture in a broader sense. Though the book will be an accessible reference work, directed at a broad audience, it draws on much original research and will constitute a landmark work. General Editors for the Oxford Companion are Dr Sylvia Kleinert, ARC Postdoctoral Fellow at the CCR, and Margo Neale, Curator of Australian indigenous Art at the Queensland Art Gallery.

Contributors to the *Companion* include a significant number of indigenous artists, academics and curators as well as many of the most eminent non-Indigenous scholars working on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture. Distinguished indigenous scholars contributing to the *Companion* include: Professor Marcia Langton and Dr Ian Anderson, Visiting Fellows at the Centre in 1997, and Dianne Mellor, Philip Morrissey, Djon Mundine and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe. In addition, the *Companion* will reproduce major works by key artists such as Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Rover Thomas, Yvonne Koolmatrie, Gordon Bennett and Tracey Moffatt, and introduce the work of many more important artists working in a variety of media.

*The Oxford Companion* is due for publication by the year 2000.

### **Humanities Research**

Humanities Research, a new journal published jointly by the HRC and CCR, is publishing a special issue devoted to relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians in June 1998. It includes articles by Nigel Lendon (ITA) on the opening of the 'Wagilag Sisters' exhibition at the NCA, by Deborah Bird Rose (NARU) on the Daly River Mission in the Northern Territory in the late nineteenth century, and by Geoffrey Gray

(AIATSIS) on relations between Aboriginal people, anthropologists and government. Issue 1 of 1998 has an article by John Docker (HRC) on Sally Morgan's *My Place*.

### **The Journal 'Aboriginal History'**

The journal has been published for the last twenty years by a committee operating out of the ANU — Aboriginal History Incorporated.

#### *The Committee of Management and the Editorial Board:*

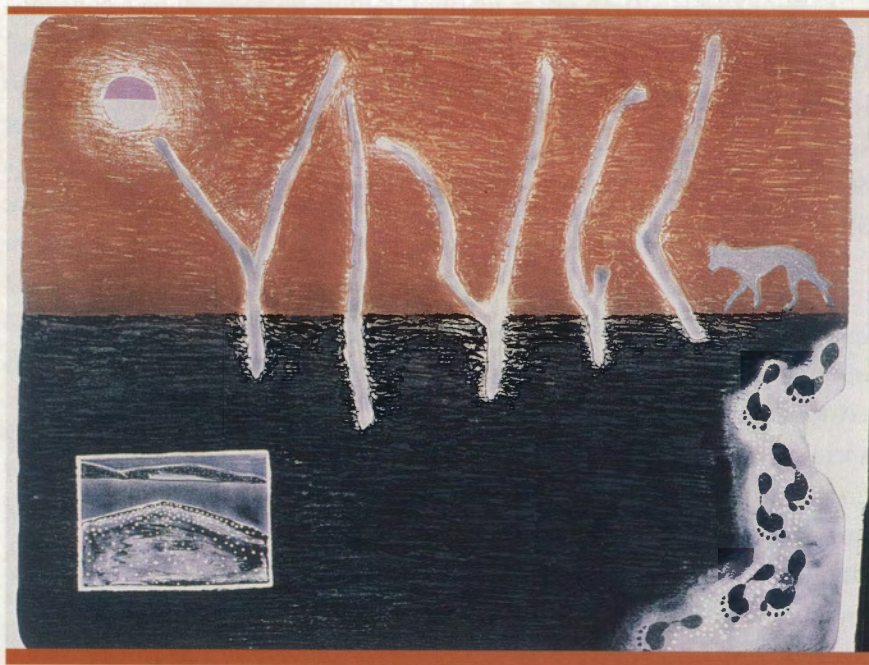
Peter Read (Chair), Rob Paton (Secretary), Peter Grimshaw (Treasurer/Public Officer), Neil Andrews, Richard Baker, Ann Curthoys, Brian Egloff, Geoff Gray, Niel Gunson, Luise Hercus, Bill Humes, Ian Keene, David Johnson, Harold Koch, Isabel McBryde, Diane Smith, Elspeth Young.

#### *Correspondents:*

Jeremy Beckett, Valerie Chapman, Ian Clark, Eve Fesl, Fay Gayle, Ronald Lampert, Campbell Macknight, Ewan Morris, John Mulvaney, Andrew Markus, Bob Reece, Henry Reynolds, Shirley Rosser, Lyndall Ryan, Bruce Shaw, Tom Stannage, Robert Tonkinson, James Urry.

Aboriginal History Incorporated aims to present articles and information in the field of Australian ethnohistory, particularly in the post-contact history of the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Historical studies based on anthropological, archeological, linguistic and sociological research, including comparative studies of other ethnic groups such as Pacific Islanders in Australia, will be welcomed. Issues include recorded oral traditions and biographies, narratives in local languages with translations, previously unpublished manuscript accounts, resumes of current events, archival and biographical articles, and book reviews.

'Aboriginal History' is about to publish the fifth volume in their Monograph series. "Rebellion at Coranderrk" This is a book written by the late Diane Barwick who died suddenly in 1986. The book is a historical account of a successful Aboriginal farming settlement at Coranderrk in Victoria, retelling the story of the Kulin and the machinations of their European 'administrators', the attempts by politicians and envious pastoralists to resume the land of the settlement and the strong fight put up by the Aboriginal community. The book has been edited and prepared for publication by Laura and Richard Barwick. The publication of the book is to be supported financially by Victorian Aboriginal Affairs and the Social Sciences Research Council.



Fiona Foley, *Untitled*, 1990. ANU Art Collection.

#### Department of Archaeology and Anthropology

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**SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN  
HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY, CANBERRA, ACT.**

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To increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolments and access to the University.

To increase enrolment in discipline areas of the University in which Indigenous Australian students are at present under-represented

To build up appropriate links with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities over a long period of time, in order to develop and enhance positive attitudes to university study generally and the ANU in particular

To increase understanding and appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, through every relevant area of the University's academic enterprise

To promote and nurture Indigenous Australian scholarship and excellence in scholarship

To improve the support facilities and services available to students at the Jabal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre

To establish and develop an appropriate Indigenous Australian Higher Education Centre of excellence at the University

*This song is dedicated to those many mothers and children affected by their enforced separation.*

*Chorus*

My Brown Skin Baby They Takem Away  
Eee-yow-weee — Eee-yow-weee  
My brown skin baby  
They takem away

**1** As a young preacher  
I use to ride  
My quiet poney  
Round the country-side  
In a native camp  
I'll never forget  
A young black mother  
Her cheeks all wet

Chorus

**2** Between her sobs  
I heard her say  
Police bin takem  
My baby away  
From white man boss  
That baby I have  
Why he lettum  
Take baby away

Chorus

**3** To a childrens home  
A baby came  
With new clothes on  
And a new name  
Day and night  
He would always say  
Mummy-mummy  
Why they take me away

Chorus

**4** The child grew up  
And had to go  
From a mission home  
That he loved so  
To find his mother  
He tried in vain  
Upon this earth  
They never met again

Chorus



By Bob Randall  
Composer/Musician  
One of the group affected by these policies

Bob Randall, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, ANU 1987–1988