FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK ... 

This year has been a very busy year for CIER. We have said goodbye to several staff members and welcomed some new faces to our centre. I was fortunate to attend the Learning Conference in Mauritius in July and in August the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Cusco Peru along with Krishna (Weemala), Kerry (Dhara Daramoolen) and 3 of the 5 Indigenous scholarship holders.

Our student numbers have increased from 337 in 2010 to 377 in 2011 and our numbers look very promising for 2012. The development of our national student database has been implemented and our research projects are going well.

Farewells and Welcomes

2011 saw us farewell Suellen Scroope and Fiona Frail (Admin Assistants) from Weemala and Yalbalinga, Jocelyn Anderson Acting Research Projects Manager & Dana Thompson (Research Assistant) who resigned due to family commitments. Yvette Holt and Guadalupe Rosales-Martinez completed their work on the SSLC project at the end of September. We thank each of those staff for their contributions to CIER and wish them all the best for the future.

Retirement

We also said goodbye to Ken Ralph (Academic Coordinator of Yalbalinga) who decided to retire this year. We all wish Ken a wonderful retirement and thank him for his time with us.

Welcome

CIER welcomed Mathew Lillyst, Part Time Student Support Officer at Jim-Baa-Yer; Leon Appo, Project Officer, PaCE Project and Don Reid as Research Project Manager in CIER.

Conference Presentations in 2011

Spirit Dreaming in Burning Hearts May, 2011
Nereda White with Aunty Joan Hendriks on Spirituality and Education.

Learning Conference Mauritius July, 2011
Nereda White - presentation on the Tiddas Indigenous Educational Leadership Project.

WIPCE August, 2011
Two presentations: ACU Leadership Activities - Nereda White with Krishna Heffernan; Seeding the Next Generation of Indigenous Scholars Nereda White with Professor Mark Rose.

Indigenous Skills conference, September 2011
Nereda White, keynote and session facilitator - Indigenous participation in mining and construction industries.

National Indigenous Education Committee

October, 2011 – Nereda White two presentations: Investing in Good Teachers for Student Success and RoleM Project with Professor Elizabeth Warren.

Kind regards

Professor Nereda White
Director,
Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER)
WEEMALA
Indigenous Higher Education Unit
McAuley at Banyo

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIER DATABASE
This year, work commenced on the development of a database for all the IHEU’s. A considerable amount of staff time has been spent on getting the data base to the operations stage that it is at. We now have the data base completed with students information compiled and are looking forward to being able to put queries into the data base and producing accurate reports.

ACU GAMES APRIL 2011
Ten students participated in the ACU games in Ballarat. The Indigenous “All Stars” team was sponsored by CIER and was a great opportunity for Indigenous students to network more widely with the students from other campuses.

WEEMALA “THE SPIRIT CONTINUES” MAGAZINE
This magazine was launched on the 21st July 2011 in Brisbane. The magazine is the culmination of work undertaken by Dana Thompson to compile stories of students endeavours over the past 22 years of Weemala being open and supporting students through their courses.

DHARA DARAMOOLEN
Indigenous Higher Education Unit
Signadou at Canberra

Dhara Daramoolen St Vincent de Paul Scholarship
Consultation and final selection of the St. Vincent's student applications were conducted to finalise selection for the scholarship. Presentation took place during the ACU specific awards ceremony on October 5. It is envisaged that future presentations will be held during the designated Indigenous week timeframe.

The Library:
The Unit continues to work closely with the library in relation to updating its current resources to the wider ACU students. The presentation of a map of Aboriginal Australia was made to acknowledge the support and commitment shown by staff of the Library to the Unit.

YWALBALINGA
Indigenous Higher Education Unit
Mt St Mary at Strathfield and MacKillop at North Sydney

Yalbalinge Academic Coordinator Ken Ralph visited the University of Fiji from the 13th May to the 22nd May this year. He attended with Professor Jude Butcher, Director, Institute for Advancing Community Engagement.

Their visit to Indigenous Fijian villages was warmly received. The villages they called into were varied and included a poor catholic village and an important village where they were received by the paramount chief and entertained by the villagers.

JIM-BAA-YER
Indigenous Higher Education Unit
St Patricks at Melbourne and Aquinas at Ballarat

SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES
Koorie Study Nights - are occurring on the Melbourne campus on a Tuesday evening and discussions are in progress to see if we can establish a similar activity in Ballarat.

Open Day - staff attended both Ballarat and Melbourne Open Days and flyers were sent out to all schools advertising our presence at Open Day. We had Aboriginal Student Ambassadors and an Aboriginal musician.

Toorong Marnong Koorie Big Day Out - Indigenous Students day run at the Aborigines Advancement League and was a very successful day with many inquiries at our ACU stall. A big thank you to Ken Ralph, Chloe Coombes and our Aboriginal student Ambassadors.

Strong Voices, Strong Culture, Strong Faith - Indigenous student day for Catholic Schools was very successful with lots of invitations from schools. Thank you to Aunty Delsie for including us and to Mathew Lillyst and our Aboriginal Student Ambassadors for their assistance on the day.

Naomi Wolfe - Academic Coordinator Jim-Baa-Yer

Wishing you and yours every blessing at Christmas and throughout the coming year from everyone at CIER

Kerry Reed-Gilbert - Academic Coordinator
Dhara Daramoolen