FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK...

Can you believe a quarter of 2010 has already passed! Last year was a wonderful year for Indigenous education at Australian Catholic University and this year is and will be no different. Not only do I look forward to seeing how much further Indigenous education can improve at ACU, but also how the students and staff of CIER can improve on the accomplishments of 2009.

Centre for Indigenous Education and Research Launch

The ‘Centre for Indigenous Education and Research’ (CIER) was officially launched in October 2009 with many dignitaries from Australian Catholic University (ACU) and local Indigenous community members in attendance. This launch included the unveiling of the CIER logo which shows the connection of all four ACU Indigenous Higher Education Units (Dhara Daramoolen - Canberra, Jim-Baa-Yer – Melbourne & Ballarat, Weemala - Brisbane and Yalbalinga – Strathfield & North Sydney). CIER will now strive to increase the exposure of Indigenous education within ACU and excel in all areas of Indigenous research. The CIER launch was a very successful day with many thanks to everyone for their help on this momentous occasion.

Weemala Anniversary

Weemala celebrated its 20th Anniversary at ACU in October 2009 with a celebratory dinner at Kedron Wavell Services Club. This event gathered past and current dignitaries, students and co-ordinators of ACU and Weemala. Co-ordinators past and present added to the celebration sharing their individual stories and experiences on their journey through Weemala and ACU, hopeful this would encourage other students to fulfil their goals at Weemala and ACU, and into the future. This event was a major success and my thanks go to all staff involved in the organisation of this special occasion.

CIER Office Opening and Blessing

In January 2010, an area of the McAuley at Banyo Campus was reconstructed to make way for our new CIER offices. The new offices are a significant step forward in establishing CIER within ACU. In February, the CIER offices were officially opened by Professor Gabrielle McMullen and Professor John Devereux. Aunty Joan Hendriks commenced the ceremony with an
acknowledgement and Father Jerry Heffeman blessed the office with holy water and Elwin Henaway playing Didgeridoo throughout the ceremony.

**CIER Units Update**

**Dhara Daramoolen**

I would like to send my thanks and best wishes for the future to Kath Wallace. Kath has been our Academic Co-ordinator for many years at Dhara Daramoolen, Signadou Campus, Canberra. She has played an integral part in increasing Indigenous awareness throughout ACU and promoting Indigenous education. Violet Sheridan has joined CIER as an Administrative Assistant at Dhara Daramoolen. Violet has provided us with small bio below.

> I am a Ngunnawal woman with my family from Yass New South Wales. I have worked and been involved in Aboriginal Affairs for over 30 years with roles such as CEO of Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council. Since working here for the last couple of months at Dhara Daramoolen, I have met so many nice people and if the other campus’ are similar to Signadou our peoples education is in good hands

Again I would like to thank Kath Wallace for her contribution to Indigenous education here at Australian Catholic University, and wish her the best for future endeavours.

**Jim-Baa-Yer – Naomi Wolfe**

Jim-baa-yer staff have been very busy with many new students settling into the Ballarat campus. The past month has meant assisting students locate accommodation; settle into either the Melbourne or Ballarat campus or general adjustment issues. The critical shortage of housing and the lack of financial assistance through bursaries and scholarships have prevented many students from accepting their offer or returning to study. I am hoping that the Federal Government changes to student assistance will eventually get through the Senate thus providing necessary financial support.

An Open House morning tea (Jim-baa-yer Melbourne) was held on the 28/2 for ACU staff. Staff had the opportunity to meet Jim-baa-yer staff and some of our Elders over a cuppa and some nibblies. Over 70 staff attended making the Melbourne centre a hub of conversation and activity. Many discussions for future collaborations & research were held and another morning tea is planned for second semester at Melbourne and one is planned for the Ballarat campus later this month. International Education & Jim-baa-yer will be holding a cross cultural morning as part of National Harmony Week celebrations. We are looking forward to sharing our culture and the cultures of other nations.

Progress has begun on a new centre in Ballarat. Our thanks to Professor Sue McNamara, Campus Dean and Martin Hill, Campus Manager Ballarat for working with us on this exciting and valuable initiative. We are hoping to have Wathaurong smoking ceremony to open the new centre soon.
A final note: 0429 860 608 is the Jim-baa-yer mobile. Would you please use this mobile number for ACU matters instead of my personal number 😊

Cheers, Naomi

**Weemala – Dean Duncan**

We are pleased to announce that there have been two permanent appointments at Weemala - Elwyn Henaway, Student Support Officer and Debbie Malezer-Ide, Residential Officer.

Weemala held its first Residential during ACU Orientation Week (15 to 19 February). Also in Orientation Week, Weemala held the Indigenous Orientation for undergraduate students on Friday, 19 February 2010. This workshop was run by Elwyn and included ice breaking activities, meeting key support staff, individual Orientation Bags and a campus tour, followed by a delicious lunch.

Weemala’s Administrative Assistant, Suellen manned a stall at ACU Orientation Week, which was well attended by new and continuing students. Despite the weather (which was hot and very windy with the marquee blowing over several times!), Suellen managed to keep a smile and assist students and parents with their enquiries. This year enrolment numbers have increased the student intake to 122.

Weemala’s First Residential for the year was a very busy time for staff and students. Students received their study material, attended lectures, networked with other students and are now well on their way to completing Semester One. We hope their time at Weemala and ACU is very successful and enjoyable.

Weemala students and staff attended the inaugural Indigenous All Stars Rugby League match which was held on the Gold Coast on Saturday, 13 February 2010. This was a massive success and brought together two great rugby league teams which we saw as a great step towards Reconciliation. Students also met up with family and friends who came from all around Australia.

Weemala has 15 students who will graduate this year at the Convention Centre in Brisbane on 7 April. We are really proud of their achievements and wish them well with their future careers.

**Yalbalinga – Ken Ralph**

I am happy to announce that Yalbalinga is moving forward with the allocation of office space at the Mary Mackillop Campus (North Sydney). This will enable us to improve student relations within both campuses in New South Wales.

I would like to send my congratulations to Danielle Dent on her permanent fixture with Yalbalinga to become our Student Support Officer. Danielle is well known to our current students and will help with recruitment of future Indigenous students to ACU and Yalbalinga. Recruitment has also commenced to fill our vacant Administration Officer position.
**RESIDENTIAL DATES 2010**

**Weemala**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Finish Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Residential</td>
<td>15th February 2010</td>
<td>19th February 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Residential</td>
<td>24th May 2010</td>
<td>28th May 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Residential</td>
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<td>30th July 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Residential</td>
<td>1st November 2010</td>
<td>5th November 2010</td>
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**Yalbalina**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Residential</td>
<td>13th February 2010</td>
<td>19th February 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Residential</td>
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<td>7th May 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<td>27th August 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Residential</td>
<td>23rd October 2010</td>
<td>29th October 2010</td>
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**CIER EVENTS/COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd March, 2010</td>
<td>McAuley at Banyo Campus (Brisbane, QLD)</td>
<td>Indigenous Research Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March, 2010</td>
<td>McAuley at Banyo Campus (Brisbane, QLD)</td>
<td>Indigenous Education Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March, 2010</td>
<td>McAuley at Banyo Campus (Brisbane, QLD)</td>
<td>CDU Book Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th - 23rd June, 2010</td>
<td>McAuley at Banyo Campus (Brisbane, QLD)</td>
<td>Indigenous Theology Symposium – Dreaming a New Earth: Indigenous Spiritualities and the Vision of Raimon Panikkar</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th - 23rd December, 2010</td>
<td>Cairns, Queensland</td>
<td>6th International Indigenous Education Conference/Pacific Rim</td>
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DIRECTOR TRAVEL DATES FOR MARCH-MAY 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th March</td>
<td>Mary MacKillop Campus (North Sydney)</td>
<td>AUQA Progress Visit Indigenous Employment Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th April</td>
<td>Aquinas Campus (Ballarat)</td>
<td>ACU Student Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th May</td>
<td>Campus (TBC) Sydney</td>
<td>University Research Committee</td>
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If you would like to make a contribution to this Bulletin, please contact Alysha Georgiou on (07) 3623 7637 or email alysha.georgiou@acu.edu.au.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work throughout 2009 and look forward to further success for the rest of 2010.

Kind Regards

Associate Professor Nereda White
Director, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER)
CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION & RESEARCH LAUNCH

OCTOBER 2009

THE CIER LOGO
WEEMALA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER
CIER OFFICE BLESSING 2010

Welcome to the CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
If you would like to make an enquiry, please speak with Alysha Georgiou (EANI – First door on the left)
INAUGURAL RUGBY LEAGUE

ALL STARS GAME 2010

INDIGENOUS ALL STARS V NRL ALL STARS
ALL STARS GAME
CONTINUED

[Images of Indigenous All Stars and NRL All Stars]
**Centre for Indigenous Education and Research Contact Details**

**Director**  
Associate Professor Nereda White

**Senior Administration Officer**  
Caroline Pease

**Personal Assistant**  
Alysha Georgiou

**Research Assistant**  
Robert Vidler

Office Hours - Monday to Friday  
8:30am – 4:30pm

Centre for Indigenous Education and Research  
Australian Catholic University  
McAuley at Banyo  
PO Box 456  
Virginia, QLD 4014  
07 3623 7637

**Weemala**

*Dean Duncan*  
Academic Coordinator  
Associate Director – CIER

Australian Catholic University  
McAuley Campus  
1100 Nudgee Road  
Virginia, QLD 4014  
Tel: 07 3623 7195  
Fax: 07 3623 7311

**Yalbalinga**

*Ken Ralph*  
Academic Coordinator  
Associate Director – CIER

Australian Catholic University  
Mt St Mary Campus  
25A Barker Road  
Strathfield, NSW 2135  
Tel: 02 9701 4258  
Fax: 02 9701 4198

**Jim-baa-yr**

*Naomi Wolfe*  
Academic Coordinator

Australian Catholic University  
St Patrick’s Campus  
115 Victoria, Parade  
Fitzroy, VIC 3065  
Tel: 03 9953 3004  
Fax: 03 9953 3025

**Dhara Daramoolen**  
To Be Confirmed  
Academic Co-ordinator

Australian Catholic University  
Signadou Campus  
223 Antill Street  
Watson, ACT 2602  
Tel: 02 6209 1231  
Fax: 02 6209 1221