Here we are in a month named after the Roman God Janus, an appropriate personification of the start of the new year. Janus had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we get rid of an old year and look forward to a new one, we all try to be a little like Janus. We know through experience what we did wrong and what we did right, and hope to do better this year. Some people make ambitious new year’s resolutions; others just take a deep breath and hope for the best.... Leonard Spinrad

A performance at the Vatican Museums on the evening of October 15 entitled Una Notte Australiana, featured a team of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from Australian Catholic University, Catholic Education and Nudgee College in Brisbane.

The Vatican echoed to the sounds of the didgeridoo while the performers danced and sang in the courtyard of the Vatican Museums. To speak at this event was certainly a personal highlight for 2010.

Almost 40 Indigenous women attend the 2010 Tiddas Writin’ Up workshop successfully hosted at the Virginia Palms Hotel, Brisbane. The aim of the workshop was to encourage each attendee to develop their confidence in writing about their research and work. Guest speakers included well published Indigenous writers Aunty Ruth Hegarty and Yvette Holt.

These workshops are part of Indigenous culture as they follow a tradition of participating in women’s circles. In these busy times we need to make time for one another so that our leadership journeys within institutions are not taken in isolation.
INDIGENOUS STAFF RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The number and quality of applications received for the 2010 Indigenous Staff Research Scholarships was outstanding. Applicants were judged on their standing in the Indigenous Community as well as their academic record. Thank you to everyone who applied and to all involved in the selection process.

Congratulations to each of the following successful applicants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Campus/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Bindi Bennett</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>Strathfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Doseena Fergie</td>
<td>Faculty of Health Sciences</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Leanne King</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
<td>Strathfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gary (Mick) Martin</td>
<td>Faculty of Business</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ren Perkins</td>
<td>Faculty of Theology &amp; Philosophy</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: PACIFIC RIM

December 2010 saw the culmination of months of planning and preparation successfully come to fruition at the 6th International Conference on Indigenous Education: Pacific Rim. Key Indigenous leaders from universities around the world met in Cairns for the 4 day conference.

Co-hosted by Australian Catholic University’s Centre for Indigenous Education and Charles Darwin University’s Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Education, the conference included delegates from Canada, China, USA, Taiwan and New Zealand.

The conference was an important part of establishing and maintaining relationships while providing a chance to share ideas and debate issues. The networks that are formed often result in fantastic opportunities for collaborative teaching and research.

A LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE ...

JANUARY
CIER Bulletin

FEBRUARY
CIER Retreat
Weemala and Yalbalina Residencies
CIER Bulletin

MARCH
Gender Equality in Higher Education
NATSIEC Indigenous Theology & Spirituality
Yalbalina Residential
IEC Meeting
IRC Meeting

APRIL
CIER Bulletin

MAY
Weemala and Yalbalina Residencies

JUNE
CIER Bulletin

JULY
Weemala and Yalbalina Residential
NAIDOC Week

AUGUST
WIPCE - Peru
World Youth Day - Madrid
Yalbalina Residential
CIER Bulletin

SEPTEMBER
Yalbalina Residential
IEC Meeting
IRC Meeting

OCTOBER
Weemala and Yalbalina Residencies
CIER Bulletin

NOVEMBER
TBA

DECEMBER
CIER Bulletin
From the moment he heard he was going overseas for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Elwyn was both scared and homesick.

This was the first time he would be venturing out of Australia and he was scared of what might happen at the international airports and homesick because he had never been so far away from his children. Well it didn’t turn out so bad, there was ‘no worries’ at the airports, he was treated with the utmost respect but he did miss his wife and kids very much.

Elwyn got to perform in two events. The first was a cultural performance performed at ‘Una Notte Australiana’ to mark the opening of a new Indigenous wing at the Vatican Museum. The performance consisted of Aboriginal dances (from various areas) performed in the early evening with St Peter’s Basilica in the background.

“I did jog around the outside of the Coliseum (running with the gladiators)”

Performing at ‘Una Notte Australiana’

“It was an honour to perform in such a lovely setting in front of so many people and international media” said Elwyn.

The second performance was the following night with the wider ACU community in a drama production that told the story of the life of Mary MacKillop. Elwyn got to play his Yiggy Yiggy (didgeridoo) along side a Scottish piper named Sean D Cameron. “Sean was from Mary MacKillop country and it was the first time he had heard a Yiggy Yiggy and played along side one. We also had a great exchange of cultures” said Elwyn.

Dancing with St Peter’s Basilica in the background

“We didn’t get to see much of the sites (and there is so much to see) but I did jog around the outside of the coliseum (running with the gladiators) and do some shopping for my family” says Elwyn.

He also goes on to say that he loved the people and the culture but not the traffic as he nearly got “hit” twice.

(Maybe he shouldn’t jog with earphones in foreign countries).
My work over the past 4 years has been coordinating and teaching in the TAFE sector. Anyone who has worked with TAFE will realise it is highly regulated and there is a form or protocol for nearly everything you do. This has increased my knowledge in how systems work and also to see sometimes what doesn’t work within the education sector. The enjoyable aspect of TAFE work has been the teaching of students, from wide ranging backgrounds, in how to engage and work effectively in the community service sector. A number of the students who successfully completed the Diploma of Community Services have used this to successfully apply to do studies at Universities. When recently asked if I would be interested in acting in the role of Academic Coordinator for Weemala I accepted the role enthusiastically as I have a passion for Indigenous Higher Education.

Over the past 4 weeks I have had the opportunity to work in the role of Acting Coordinator of the Weemala Indigenous Higher Education Unit. Like any new job I started with both a certain level of excitement and anticipation. Three days into the new role, the “away from base” residential commenced. With the arrival of 60 students for a week of intensive workshops, across three faculties, this required us all in Weemala to work as a team to meet the needs of the students. Spending time throughout the week to talk with a number of students gave me the opportunity to not only see how the students were progressing but to get an understanding of the diversity of the Indigenous student population accessing Weemala. Students studying with the away from base programs talked about enjoying having the flexibility of coming to residential and being able to still work and live and study back in their community. They also spoke about the nature of community life and the pressures that often come with being involved in working in their communities and how juggling work, family and study can be a challenge.

It reinforced in my mind how important Weemala is in playing a support role as students’ endeavour to gain their tertiary education qualification. Their comments highlighted my own experience with Weemala 9 years previously as a postgraduate student, doing my Masters of Leadership through ACU. I would regularly pop into Weemala and talk with staff and get the encouragement I needed to stick with my studies when times got tough.

Now a month into the job I am looking forward to working with CIER and Weemala in helping to set direction for the coming year ahead. Getting to know the staff in the various Faculties and talking with them about Indigenous education has been a very positive experience.

Staff within the University have a clear understanding about community engagement and social justice and are wanting to engage with Weemala and the wider Indigenous community, I am sure this will lead to some very interesting collaborative approaches in 2011.

As in any new job there are new systems to learn, new people to meet and coming to terms with a new environment with certain protocols that need to be understood. So my learning curve is fairly steep as I continue to ask questions, connect the right names and faces together, read copious policies and attend lots of meetings in an endeavour to immerse myself into the role as the Academic Coordinator of Weemala.

**Krishna Heffernan**

**Acting Coordinator**

**Weemala Indigenous Higher Education Unit**

**ACU Brisbane Campus Banyo**
DHARA DARAMOOLEN

Since the employment of the Academic Coordinator, Ms Kerry Reed-Gilbert, the Unit has begun to establish itself as one that is proactive in supporting current students and potential students in their studies.

The image of the Unit has been changed to promote the strength and dignity symbolising the Unit as a higher education place of study instead of a study centre in a demountable.

The employment of Ms Lyndy Delian as the Community Engagement Officer has assisted the Unit in the promotion of a support network that is available for not only students but ACU overall. Lyndy’s position is three days per week on a casual contract until the position is finalised and advertised.

SCHOLARSHIP

A positive outcome for the Unit has been the Dhara Daramoolen scholarship which is sponsored by The St Vincent de Paul Society and was presented by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Greg Craven, on the 2nd of December at the Canberra campus. This is the first time the scholarship has been presented for many years. Dhara Daramoolen would like to acknowledge the support of Mr. Bruno Yvanovich from Marketing for his valuable assistance. The winner of the scholarship, Ms Larissa Duncan, is well deserving.

ORIENTATION WEEK

Dhara Daramoolen is working closely with Student Services to participate and promote the Unit to the wider ACU student body. Specific activities will be undertaken by the Unit in conjunction with Student Services that will enable positive outcomes and interaction.

ACU ENGAGEMENT

An official offer of support from the Unit has been promoted through the ACU’s newsletter SIGNificant. The Unit has also portrayed itself as one that other faculties access at any time for information, support and/or resources. In an effort to create positive working relationships with the ACU the Unit has invited staff to meet Lyndy for a morning tea. We have had a getting to know you morning tea with Lyndy as an initiative to invite the wider ACU staff to participate positively with the Unit; this was seen as a success by all in attendance.

As a way of fund raising to support the Unit and local artists and the Indigenous Literacy project artists works were showcased at the morning tea. This also was successful with the Unit being able to by some gifts of appreciation for ACU staff that have supported the Unit since Kerry has come on board.

Dhara Daramoolen Scholarship winner - Larissa Duncan with her parents

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

We were also able to purchase a Student of the year award this was awarded to Larissa for her commitment to her studies and the Unit. All monies raised will assist the Unit with activities that will further promote and enhance the Unit to the wider ACU.

CREATION SPIRIT PAINTING

Lyndy donated a painting entitled ‘Creation Spirit’ to Dhara Daramoolen. This artwork represents the Hand of the Great Spirit from Dreamtime and the Creation of our peoples. The use of the spattered hands signifies respect to the traditional owners and their custodianship of the land and the passing on of knowledge that links us to each other and to our communities.

A detail of this painting will become a bookmark in the show bag given to new students on Orientation Day, a new marketing strategy to increase student awareness about Dhara Daramoolen, the Indigenous Higher Education Unit at Signadou Campus ACU.

Lyndy Delian and her ‘Creation Spirit’ painting

Kerry Reed-Gilbert
Academic Coordinator
Dhara Daramoollen Indigenous Higher Education Unit ACU Canberra Campus

Dhara Daramoollen Support

Dhara Daramoollen acknowledges the support and commitment by Dr. Jo Zubrzycki from the School of Social Work and Mr. Bruno Yvanovich, Marketing and External Relations with the presentation of a local artists’ glass works. These awards were purchased from the fundraising activities.
JIM-BAAY-HER

CIER hosted the December meeting of the National Indigenous Higher Education Network (NIHEN) at the Melbourne Campus. Naomi and Ken (Yalalinga) represented ACU. Naomi and Chloe organised the meeting and received many thanks for their efforts. Both staff agree that it was a great opportunity to practice and learn new conference organisational skills.

COMMUNITY REFLECTION DAY
In conjunction with Father Werner Utri (Campus Chaplain, Melbourne Campus), Jim-baa-yr held a Community Reflection Day with the theme: “Spirit of the Land, Spirit of the People, Spirit of Mary MacKillop.” It was a wonderful day held at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre which is a block away from the Melbourne Campus. The day was open to all students and staff and incorporated sessions on Aboriginal spirituality, reflecting upon 2010, the charm and example of Mary MacKillop and of connecting our spiritual lives with our work lives. It was a very insightful and refreshing day with calls for another in 2011. Our thanks to Aunty Delsie & Father Werner for their continued support and involvement with Jim-baa-yr with reflection days and Mission focused events.

2010 CULTURAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA’S CONFERENCE
BYRON BAY DECEMBER 2010

Naomi presented a paper within a panel at the CSAA’s annual conference hosted by Southern Cross University at Byron Bay. The other panel presenters with Naomi were Dr Nell Musgrove, Dr Carolyn Masel and Dr Noah Riseman. The panel topic was ‘Collaboration’ and focused upon the ways in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal academics can work together to ensure culturally appropriate curriculum development, research and teaching occurs within ACU.

HIST106 MORNING TEA AT AQUINAS
At the end of semester 2, 2010 the students of HIST106 Australia’s Indigenous Peoples: Past and Present along with the LIC, Dr Noah Riseman were invited to a morning tea hosted by Jim-baa-yr at Aquinas campus. The morning tea idea evolved as a way of exploring and continuing the discussions about Aboriginal history and reconciliation that the HIST106 students study during the semester.

It was a great opportunity with most of the class attending and was a great opportunity for Naomi to meet some new Aquinas Indigenous students who were also in the class.

INDIGENOUS ALTERNATE ENTRY INTERVIEWS FOR 2011 INTAKE
Naomi has been working with the Heads of Schools and Course Coordinators to interview prospective Indigenous students across a whole range of courses. It has been a very busy time but well worth the effort with many students attending interviews. The interview panels have been very impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of those coming for interviews.

JIM-BAAY-HER CHRISTMAS PARTY
It was a veritable ‘who’s who’ and a great gathering on December 20th. It was a chance to celebrate the festive season, give thanks for the year and look forward to the coming year. Over 65 people attended the party with a revolving door of guests including Elders, graduate, professors, other University Koorie staff members and current students. It was a very festive occasion and thanks much go to those who attended for making it a wonderful occasion. Opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our graduating students, our new students and the achievements of all our staff and students are very important and integral to the life of Jim-baa-yr.

Naomi Wolfe
Academic Coordinator
Jim-baa-yr Indigenous Higher Education Unit
ACU Melbourne Campus

world youth day

World Youth Day 2011 will take place in Madrid. Over 2 million young people from across the globe will come together, united as one, to celebrate faith with each other and with Pope Benedict XVI. This unforgettable pilgrimage to World Youth Day Madrid follows the Footsteps of John Paul II... the man who began this incredible phenomenon!

The three week journey will be an adventure of a lifetime exploring the wonders and beauty of Poland, Italy, Spain and Portugal. For more information visit http://www.wydtours.com/
YALBALINGA

Yalbalinga Staff Danielle Dent and Wayne Blacklock attended and promoted ACU Courses at the Indigenous Jobs Market titled – ‘Learn, Earn, Legend’ Mt Druitt 7th September 2010. Also Shani Gallegan from HR in Strathfield was in attendance promoting the Indigenous Research Scholarship. Over 80 Exhibitors were there to promote their current job vacancies. Former NSW State of Origin Players on site to support the job seekers on the day.

NSW AWARDS CEREMONY STUDENT AWARDS NIGHT

Sydney Campuses Scholarship and Awards evening celebrated 77 students’ successes, and acknowledged the generosity of our many donors and sponsors. Congratulations to Indigenous Residential Student Joanne Grey (Bachelor of Education Secondary) receiving the Australian College of Educators Prize for ‘Most Outstanding Graduating Student’, Secondary Teacher Education Course, Strathfield Campus.

RESIDENTIAL

The first residential for semester two went well. We had 110 students in attendance. The Marketing team in North Sydney came across and took photos of our Indigenous block students. These photos will be used to promote our Indigenous courses and other marketing material.
Established in 2009, CIER provides strategic direction and leadership for the University in Indigenous Education, Research, Leadership and Community Engagement.

**CIER encompasses:**

- The Office of the Director, Professor Nereda White (Brisbane campus) 07 3623 7637
- The ACU Indigenous Higher Education Units (IHEU’s):

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**WEEMALA**  
BRISBANE  
07 3623 7195

**YALBALINGA**  
NORTH SYDNEY & STRATHFIELD  
02 9701 4258

**DHARA**  
DARAMOOLEN  
CANBERRA  
02 6209 1222

**JIM-BAA-YER**  
BALLARAT & MELBOURNE  
03 9953 3004

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The World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) was created to bring together Indigenous organisations, academics, professionals of education and students from around the globe to share, diffuse and promote best practices in education and development programs for Indigenous peoples of the world. For more information visit: http://wipce2011.net/us/inicio.htm

If you would like to make a contribution to the CIER Bulletin please contact Donna Bunn (07) 3623 7637 or email Donna.Bunn@acu.edu.au

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I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in 2010 and look forward to further success in 2011.

Kind Regards

Nereda White  
Professor, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER)