Another semester has begun and it is hard to believe half the year has flown by so quickly. CIER staff have been busy with NAIDOC community activities across the states and have personally attended a number of events in NAIDOC Brisbane, I am very proud to see how particularly our young people are celebrating our cultures.

**CIER UNITS UPDATE**

**Weemala – Dean Duncan**

- Weemala 20th Year celebrations are being finalised and preparation is well under way.
- Current staff within Weemala are Dean, Waiata, Suellen, Elwyn, Melissa – with Nereda and Natalie still “cramping our style”.
- Staff attending the recent dedication of the Peter Sheehan building with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners being provided by Dean.
- Work being discussed for the input of Weemala in this years NATSICC (what we just met about with Murri Ministry).
- Residential 3, 2009 began on Monday 20th July for Weemala students.
- Redesign of course cover sheets, within all units, to incorporate Indigenous designs.

**Yalbalinga – Ken Ralph**

Ken visited the NAIDOC celebrations at Musgrave Park in Brisbane on Friday and attended the National NAIDOC Ball on Friday evening. It was good to be present when Elsie Heiss of the Catholic Ministry at La Perouse in Sydney received an Elder of the Year award. It was good to see so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at Musgrave Park and later at the ball enjoying themselves and celebrating their identity. It was uplifting.

**Dhara Daramoolen – Kath Wallace**

Here is a picture of Kath at the University experience celebrated at the Signadou Campus on Tuesday 7th July.

On Wednesday 8th July, Kath attended the NAIDOC celebrations at CIT and the reaffirmation of the reconciliation Statement – there was bush tucker and Didgeridoo playing. On Friday 10th July, Kath attended the Aboriginal Hostels Luncheon. On Saturday 11th July, Kath attended the NAIDOC on the Peninsula, handing out student information and show bags.
Jim-baa-yer – Naomi Wolfe

Naomi has returned from some time off and has finished marking several hundred exam papers from last semester’s NRS120 Indigenous health and culture unit. Mathew has recently completed a Winter School on Philosophy.

The Melbourne office has had a spring clean and the Ballarat office is currently being repainted and re-carpeted along with the rest of Burke House. The weather on both campuses is a little crisp but the enthusiasm is warm and engaging 😊

NAIDOC Week is happening around us as we write. We have our flags proudly flying on both Ballarat and Melbourne Campuses and have managed to go to a few NAIDOC Events. The event at the Health Service was great. The annual NAIDOC March is happening this Friday so the office will be unattended for a little while. It’s a great chance to network and remember community!

We have several Indigenous students starting mid semester and we look forward to welcoming them to ACU soon. We’re also involved in the International and the Mid Year Orientation and we’ll have an opportunity to meet lots of new students.

The Victorian State Aboriginal Catholic Conference will be held at the Melbourne Campus over the weekend of 7th to 9th August and is sponsored by Jim-baa-yer/CIER. Nay and Mat will be attending and it will finish off a great ACU Indigenous Week. More details about our activities on each campus very soon.

We are also working with International Education in their Cultural Diversity Week and will be supporting several of our students as present some of our culture along side the many other cultures present on campus.

Jim-baa-yer held a Back to Uni morning tea for new and returning Indigenous students in the Melbourne centre. The morning tea was a chance to meet each other, talk about plans for the coming semester and receive help with last minute enrolments. Several Elders came along with a couple of ACU Indigenous Graduates. A good yarn and a good feed was had by all who came by. There are plans to have a similar get together at the Ballarat campus with students, staff and Elders.

In September, we will be running our Aboriginal Cultural Immersion Weekend again. Fr Werner Utri, Campus Chaplain & several of our Elders and Community members will be helping Naomi to facilitate this weekend. Previously run two years ago, the weekend is open to ACU Students and staff to experience Aboriginal culture from a local context and in a sensitive environment.

We look forward to giving you more details soon!

CENTRE PLACEMENT PROCESS

The HEW 5 and HEW 6 positions for Sydney and Brisbane have been forwarded to the Classification Committee for their meeting on 29 July. All going well we will be able to advertise and fill those positions thereafter. The HEW 3 positions for Melbourne/Ballarat and Canberra will be able to be advertised after refinement of the Position Description as this level has been previously classified.
IESIP AND ITAS REPORTS

Ken will attend a meeting with DEEWR next week in Canberra with Kath to finalise the reports.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Natalie will be leaving us on 29 July to join the School of Theology, Brisbane campus as a sessional lecturer. We wish her all the best and thank her for her contributions to Weemala and CIER. David Pitt is returning to his studies this semester but we expect him to be back with us next year.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION STATEMENT & CIER THEMATIC PLAN

These documents are now complete and have been circulated to the academic co-ordinator’s. The IES is available on the website: http://www.acu.edu.au/student_resources/student_support/personal_support/indigenous_experience/

EVENTS

NAIDOC Week (5 - 12 July 2009) – Weemala held a stand at the Musgrave Park NAIDOC Celebrations on Friday 10th July 2009. Photos of the day have been displayed on the following page.

CONFERENCES

- AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 2009 - Perspectives on Urban Life: Connections and Reconnections will be held on 29th September – 1st October in Canberra. For further information please visit: http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research_program/events2/conference_2009
- Indigenous Studies & Indigenous Knowledge Conference – The 2009 Indigenous Studies & Indigenous Knowledge Conference will be held in Perth, 30 November and 1 December 2009, and hosted by the School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame. Papers are now being called. For further information please visit: www.isik.org.au

If you have any contributions you would like to make to this Bulletin, please contact Melissa Derickx on (07) 3623 7554 or melissa.derickx@acu.edu.au

Kind regards

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Queensland Musgrave Park NAIDOC Celebrations