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UC CIRI – COLLABORATIVE INDIGENOUS RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Late in 2013 a group of UC researchers interested in Indigenous issues came together and formed the University of Canberra Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative (UC CIRI). The purpose of the group is to encourage coordination and sharing of information on Indigenous research at UC and in the wider community, with the aims of collaboration, growth, support, impact, profile and resources.

UC CIRI was launched on 22 July 2014 by Dr Tom Calma AO, Chancellor of the University of Canberra and we were delighted to have Auntie Agnes Shea, elder of the Ngunnawal people, conduct the 'Welcome to Country' at the event. As a part of this initiative the group has planned a series of seminars and networking events which will feature Indigenous research being undertaken by UC and eminent speakers from across Australia.

At the inaugural seminar Dr Calma spoke on research from the perspectives of what we are doing at the University of Canberra to how intra and inter institutional collaboration in research is essential if we are to effectively influence public policy to improve the life status and health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.



Since the launch we have followed up with two workshops:

In September 2014, **Tjanara Goreng Goreng** a Wakka Wakka Wulli Wulli 'Elder in training' and a researcher and teacher in Indigenous Studies at UC spoke on '*True leadership? Exploring indigenous eldership values, principles and lifelong learning*'



There are currently many models and programs available relating to leadership development and 'how to be a leader'. Looking at the modern and the ancient this seminar presented evidence of 'sacred and visionary' leadership based in the cultural, societal governance structures and human development system of the most ancient race in the world and compares this with current western theories of leadership to present an idea of 'true leadership.' Tjanara discussed how sacred leadership occurs in the Aboriginal tradition. She examined its comparison in the modern world through research into the theories of visionary and sacred leadership and posits that this ancient form of Eldership training and development throughout a person's life, produces individuals with incredible intuitive wisdom and insight, and develops integral and moral leaders of the sort searched for in the modern western world. Building on the work of Professor Robert Kegan of Harvard University's School of Education, who developed leadership thinking based on the stages of human emotional intuitive development and who states that only 1% of the world reaches the highest levels of thinking and 'Being' which makes them 'sacred leaders'. Tjanara explored this work with the ancient development process of Eldership training which too creates 'sacred leaders' thus creating the idea that true leadership is 'sacred' and something to reach for.

If you would like to contact Tjanara regarding her research please email her at tjanara.gorenggoreng@canberra.edu.au

In October 2014, **Dr Kerry McCallum**, an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies and a Senior Research Fellow in the News & Media Research Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Design spoke on ***'Media and Indigenous Policymaking in Shifting Terrains'***



This seminar investigated the relationships between media, advocacy and Indigenous affairs policies in Australia and identifies new directions for research in a rapidly transitioning media and policy environment. A key aspect of The Media and Indigenous Policy 1988-2008 project was to examine the media-related practices of policy professionals involved in advising on, implementing and communicating government policy in Indigenous health and education. It painted a picture of a mediatized policy field that was heavily dependent on mainstream media, where Indigenous affairs policy professionals had internalized and embodied the routines, priorities and practices of the news media. In their quest to address Indigenous 'problems' Ministers and their public servants typically responded to the voices of a narrow range of stakeholders amplified through news media. At the same time, Indigenous Australians have been resourceful and persistent in their desire to contribute to public policy debates. News media have played a pivotal role in enabling Indigenous voices to cut through the noise and affect better policy outcomes. Since 2008 there have been seismic shifts in the industrial and technological terrains in which news is produced, with digital and social media providing new opportunities for Indigenous voices to be heard. At the same time, the Indigenous policy field is experiencing dramatic policy shifts. The seminar will explore the constraints and possibilities for political listening in Indigenous affairs in a time of unprecedented industrial, technological and policy change.

If you would like to contact Kerry regarding her research please email her at kerry.mccallum@canberra.edu.au

Plans for the future

In 2015 we are planning further events in our **seminar series** which will include presentations from

- Terri Janke Solicitor Director of Terri Janke and Company, Lawyer and Consultants. Ms Janke's widely regarded as one of the country's top lawyers in Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights
- Martin Nakata Professor Nakata is the Director of Nura Gili at the University of New South Wales
- Lisa Jackson-Pulver Professor Jackson Pulver holds the Inaugural Chair of Indigenous Health and is a Professor of Public Health at UNSW. She is also Director of Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, is an Adjunct Professor at UC and Wing Commander in the RAAF Specialist Reserve (Public Health Epidemiologist)
- Peter Radoll Professor and Dean, Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle

We will also be continuing to produce this newsletter which will include information on activities by UC CIRI as well as events and activities presented by other Indigenous organisations in the ACT and its surrounds.

If you wish to publish an article or advertise an event please send the information to uc-ciri@canberra.edu.au. Approval to publish the article or event will be at the discretion of the UC CIRI committee.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the UC CIRI newsletter and to receive invitations to UC CIRI events please email uc-ciri@canberra.edu.au and type 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

FRIENDS OF THE PINNACLE: 2014 SPRING PROGRAM OF GUIDED WALKS



friends of the pinnacle 2014 Spring Program of Guided Walks

This spring, fotpin is holding three guided walks looking at the rich history and abundant wildlife of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve

● **The Pinnacle Past and Present (Part 2)**

Sunday 19 October, 9 am to 11 am

PCS ranger and ParkCare Support Officer Craig Wainwright has generously agreed to reprise his walk looking at the historical land use and present day management of the reserve. For those of you who missed this fascinating walk last autumn, here's another chance to delve into the history of the reserve, its origins and its role in a changing landscape, complete with visual aids!

Meet at the entrance on Springvale Drive, Weetangera opposite De Salis St.

● **Birds and Their Nests**

Sunday 26 October, 9 am to 11 am

John Brannan will lead a gentle walk looking at the many birds who nest each year in the reserve, including the resident species and the migratory visitors.

Meet at the Dungowan St entrance, Hawker.

● **Aboriginal Heritage Walk & BBQ**

Sunday 9 November, 9 am to 11 am

Fotpin is very pleased and privileged to once again welcome Wally and Tyronne Bell of the Ngunawal people, who will share their wealth of traditional knowledge and expertise. This walk follows on from the very popular walk held last autumn, and offers an opportunity to delve deeper into Wally and Tyronne's insights into the reserve's pre-settlement history and use. Definitely not to be missed! You can find out more about Wally and Tyronne by visiting www.ngunawal.com.au and www.thunderstone.net.au. The walk will be followed by a delicious fotpin BBQ!

Meet at the entrance on Springvale Drive, Weetangera, opposite De Salis St.

All welcome. Please wear clothing suitable for the weather, sturdy footwear and hat. Bring water and a camera and binoculars if you wish.

Contact **John** on 0405 331 405 or at coordinator@fotpin.org.au for more information.

Visit www.fotpin.org.au for more information



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