Christmas Greetings from the Director

ACIH NEWS for 2011

Dear All,

Rather than writing a formal Annual report, I thought I’d send a big thank you to everyone who has helped make the ACIH’s year what it was. So let’s take the opportunity to have a look back at the year of 2011.

Grants

Firstly, we have plenty to crow about on the grants front. A 100% Australian Research Council success rate for 2011 – and indeed, for 2010 as well!

Dr Maria Nugent secured an ARC trifecta – a Future Fellowship, a Discovery and also CI on a Linkage. Consequently, in the beginning of the year we were able to leverage funds from this Future Fellowship to gain a three-year Postdoctoral position for an Indigenous candidate. We got great support in our battles from Professors Tom Griffiths, Pat Jalland, Mick Dodson and other friends, and eventually an appointment at Level B for three years was supported by the Director of the Research School Professor Adam Graycar and Head of History, Professor Angela Woollacott. Angela has encouraged our ACIH endeavours throughout the year, and likewise, our College Dean, Professor Toni Makkai.

Dr Shino Konishi already had a DIRD (Indigenous Researcher) grant and this year she won a joint ARC Discovery which will see a collaboration between colleagues Maria Nugent and ACIH’s first PhD graduate, Dr Tiffany Shellam.

I was awarded an ARC Discovery for the ‘Two Lakes’ project with Associate Professor Peter Veth, in addition to the 'Deepening Histories' Linkage that was commenced late 2010. We also conducted research for a grant on the history of Indigenous servicemen and women from Department of Veterans Affairs won by the National Centre for Indigenous Studies; we worked with Professor Mick Dodson throughout the year on developing this project.

New Projects

Dr Allison Cadzow was appointed as a Research Fellow to work on the Indigenous Veterans Project with the Department of Veterans Affairs funding via the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies. Allison has worked night and day to ensure the DVA outputs were completed to a high standard and that our big ARC Linkage application progressed. She has proved a passionate advocate of the Veterans project, has participated in commemorations, organised a panel for the 2011 AIATSIS conference and developed some great networks. She liaised with a diverse range of potential industry partners, organising meetings and consultations throughout the year. Mick Dodson chaired the project group meetings and presented inspiring Keynote lectures at important ex-service and veterans gatherings. He also spread the word as far away as Harvard, where he is the Australian Studies Chair. Along with the National Centre for
Indigenous Studies, we had the privilege of working with many terrific people like Eric McDonald, Robert Noble, Gail Yapp, Donna Boulton, Hilary Rowell, Anne Lyons, Gary Oakley, Garth O’Connell and Linda Ferguson from new partner organisations. Harry Allie, who served 23 years with the RAAF, assisted us as an Indigenous ex-service representative. We also had the good fortune to work with researchers from higher education organisations, such as Luke Taylor and Geoffrey Gray, John Maynard, Noah Riseman and Sam Furphy and Glen Stasiuk. Our new partners and research organisations involved in developing the Serving Our Country Linkage application are the:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Defence  
National Archives of Australia  
Australian War Memorial  
and  
AIATSIS  
University of Newcastle  
Australian Catholic University

They provided generous knowledge, research ideas and networks, and made firm cash and in-kind commitments towards an exciting new ARC Linkage proposal. We will find out the result of our application in May 2012.

Dr Mary-Anne Jebb, the Project Manager on the Deepening Histories Project did an amazing amount of productive work on the Linkage 'Deepening Histories of Place'. She provided much assistance to the Postgraduate students and ensured that the appointment process of our new PhD student progressed. (Dr Carolyn Strange, the History Postgraduate convenor was also most helpful here.) With the National Film and Sound Archives, Mary-Anne negotiated a contract with Terri Janke and Associates to develop Indigenous Research Protocols. We ran a great workshop at ANU led by Terri and attended by all the key partner representatives. Mary-Anne also engaged in discussions with potential web-developers and we now have a terrific consultant, Dr Jason Ensor from WA who will develop an innovative, purpose built web facility to host the project research, to establish a Research Commons and a lot more. Mary-Anne also handled a lot of reporting and ARC-related enquiries and organised Project Management Meetings.

Dr Malcolm Allbrook was appointed to the position of Project Manager/Research Associate. Along with Andrew Pike of Ronin Films, he organised a wonderful final film shoot and field trip to Mildura, Lake Mungo and the Willandra Lakes World Heritage area. We received such generous support and assistance from Richard Mintern and Jo Gorman of National Parks NSW and from Marie Mitchell, Lottie Williams, Tanya Charles, the Aboriginal elders and several pastoralists of the area.

We held a great Deepening Histories Retreat at Kialoa where we discussed the Deepening Histories Project. Representatives from our Industry partners spent an enjoyable few days at the coast that consisted of intensive workshopping! Only Rob Paton managed to get in before things started with a swim. Richard White and Dr
Caroline Ford also joined in the discussions. APAI students Shannyn Palmer, Julia Torpey, Rob Paton and partner representatives Martin Darcy and David Boden made excellent input.

Julia Torpey and Professor Peter Read have been busy with Sydney and Blue Mountains Research, attending the Culture Camp at Bents Basin. Peter’s work on interactive Aboriginal histories of Sydney is progressing well, with posters, web and other exciting outputs emerging. Peter presented with Mary-Anne, Shannyn and I on the politics of oral history in Landscape at the School of History seminar series. Shannyn Palmer has undertaken important fieldwork and established ever-growing networks in Central Australia.

**Our Partners**

We thank our partners on the Deepening Histories Project for all their assistance support and enthusiasm during the year – National Parks NSW (DECC) and Parks Australia, National Film and Sound Archive, Ronin Films and AIATSIS. We also look forward to working with the many new partners associated with the Indigenous defence service project.

**PhD Workshop**

PhD students from around Australia attended an *Indigenous History Postgraduate Writing Workshop* in November, run by myself and Professor Ann Curthoys. It was very exciting to find out all the great new work going on in Aboriginal history research. Guest speakers included Val Cooms, who also participated throughout the workshop and Adjunct Professor at ACIH, Margo Neale, Drs Maria Nugent and Mary-Anne Jebb.

**Book launch**

ACIH helped ensure that Minoru Hokari’s *Gurindji Journey: A Japanese Historian in the Outback* (UNSW Press) got a great launch. Yuki Hokari represented Minoru’s family. The launch was attended by many friends of Minoru and Yuki was very happy to meet them. ANU endowment staff and ANU Coop Bookshop staff were very helpful. Tessa Morris-Suzuki assisted me in getting the book published. I did a lot of background work ensuring two good subsidies were gained to support the publication. We thank our supporters in the Academy of Humanities and the ANU Publication Subsidy Committee and to Yuki Hokari for all her assistance.

**Minoru Hokari Scholarship**

This year’s scholarship winner is Glen Stasiuk, a historical researcher and film-maker based in WA. His topic is *The Swan River Colony (1829-1834): From Collaboration to Conflict* [http://acih.anu.edu.au/minoru-hokari-scholarship].

Minoru’s family have been extremely supportive of this Fellowship and we thank them and all the sponsors for their support. Emeritus Professor David Carment in particular has been a generous long-term donor.
Many thanks also to the judges of the Hokari Fellowship for sharing their time and expertise in assessing the applications.

**Trips to Sweden, Canada and the US**

I was honoured to travel to Sweden to accept my Honorary Doctorate Hederstoktorer at Linnaeus University in Sweden. Thankyou Gunlog Fur and Matts Larsson. I also gave a Professorial Lecture and held a Roundtable at Linnaeus University. This creates a new set of links with the Concurrences group and Post-colonialism Research groups at Linnaeus.

ACIH graduate Dr Christine Hansen travelled to Sweden to take up a prestigious post-doctoral scholarship at the University of Gothenburg. She is examining Aboriginal material culture collections at the Gothenburg Ethnographic Museum (Museum of World Cultures).

I delivered a Keynote panel at the Canadian Learned Academies Conference in New Brunswick before travelling to the Berkshire Conference for Women Historians via Martha’s Vineyard. I was a panellist at the ‘National Parks: Beyond the Nation’ colloquium held by Colorado State University, appropriately enough, in a National Park and I presented “Conquering Sacred Grounds? Climbing Uluru and the Devil’s Monument”. Closer to home, I presented a lecture ‘For Better or For Worse: The Irish, Aborigines and Australian Colonisation’ at UNSW in Sydney.

I was also appointed to the **Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Advisory Committee** so have been able to liaise with the Aboriginal reference group and work with an exciting range of expert and community representatives on the Committee.

I also served on the **ANU Council** and have enjoyed working with my fellow Council colleagues and Chancellor Professor Gareth Evans, new Pro Chancellor Ilana Atlas and Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Young this year. At the Annual Council Retreat, we worked on the new ANU Strategic Plan and enjoyed interesting hosted excursions to the Fenner School, the Residential Colleges and to Biology and its new Linnaeus Building.

**Publications**

Dr Shino Konishi secured a publishing contract with Pickering & Chatto Publishers (UK) for an innovative book *The Aboriginal Male in the Enlightenment World* which will be appearing in 2012.

Shino also published an article, previewed in the History seminar series, 'The four fathers of Australia: Baz Luhrmann’s depiction of Aboriginal history and paternity in the Northern Territory,' which appeared in *History Australia.*

*Aboriginal History*

Drs Maria Nugent and Shino Konishi edited another stimulating volume of the A-ranked landmark journal *Aboriginal History.*
Maria has also been busy doing research in the UK on Queen Victoria. She presented papers on the Queen Victoria project at the Australian Victorian Studies Association conference, held at the University of Adelaide in February 2011 and a seminar paper to the Department of History at the University of Sydney in August.

Maria’s productive year also included publications: ‘Every Right To be There’: Cinema spaces and racial politics in Baz Luhrmann’s *Australia*, appearing in *Australian Humanities Review* and an article in *Labour History* journal called ‘You really only made it because you needed the money’: Aboriginal Women and Shellwork Production, 1870s to 1970s’.

She participated in a roundtable at the NMA, planning for its 1913 Centenary of Canberra exhibition, which included preparing an essay on Aboriginal people in Australia in 1913.

*Dr Martin Thomas* had a prolific year, with the publication of *The Many Worlds of RH Mathews: in search of an Australian anthropologist* (Allen & Unwin), which was shortlisted for numerous prestigious awards. He also co-edited *Exploring the Legacy of the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition* with Margo Neale (ANU E-Press) which was launched at the National Museum of Australia in June. Martin is working with the Arnhem Land community of Gunbalanya, making a documentary film about the theft of human remains during the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land and their repatriation. A preview of the ‘first cut’ footage of this moving and powerful documentary was shown as part of the History Seminar series in November.

**Conferences and Visitors**

*Aboriginal Tent Embassy conference* – Visiting Fellow *Dr Andrew Schaap* organised a very successful gathering of former activists and academics. By the way, several of the activists and their children have since become academics or work in related careers themselves. The National Film and Sound Archive and Museum of Democracy also supported the Conference, and the Tent Embassy was recently the subject of a special program on Radio National. A book based on presentations and discussions at the Symposium will be published by Routledge.

*Professor Annette Gordon-Reed* of Harvard University was the Allan Martin Lecturer this year. I organised the Colloquium to discuss her work, which included contributions from Dr Martin Thomas of History & ACIH, Dr Robert Kenny, Visiting Fellow, History, Professor Kim Rubenstein, ANU Law, Public Law and Director ANU Gender Institute, and ARC Laureate Professor Margaret Jolly. During his time as Visiting Fellow with the School of History, Robert Kenny also presented a seminar on his award winning work.

**Doctoral Students**

With a full draft now completed, *Val Cooms* has been making excellent progress on her Doctorate on Aboriginal policy in Queensland, especially covering the Bjelke-Peterson regime. *Laura Rademaker* has established her panel, and been successfully assessed in her mid-term review. She will be moving to Darwin shortly to base her research in the
NT for the next year. Shannyn Palmer has moved to Alice Springs, where she will benefit by proximity to her planned fieldwork and Indigenous community participants and other experts. Spencer Leineweber has had a busy year working full-time at the University of Hawaii, but she has a near-complete draft of her PhD. Serene Fernando has taken a low profile, with another baby on the way. Nola Errey has had a few interruptions this year but is making some progress. Barrina South and Paul Irish have joined us as PhD students with strong backgrounds in parks and heritage research and both participated in the ‘Historians Craft’ workshop. After a few delays with his enrolment getting through the ANU system, in December, Rob Paton finally joined ACIH and the Linkage Project team for ‘Deepening Histories’, taking up his APAI Scholarship. Rob is still the Treasurer of the Aboriginal History Board and is well known to us because of his long commitment to the Board and the Journal that ACIH hosts. Several students presented Conference papers at a wide range of forums, and we heard great feedback subsequently. Two have been invited to publish their papers.

Administrative and Research Staff

The College of Arts and Social Sciences Research Office, especially Peter Elford, Doug Macnicol and Nick Walsh assisted us in the marathon like task of preparing a Linkage application, as well as reporting on existing grants and providing advice.

We received excellent assistance from the History administration team: Dr Kate Bisshopp-Witting, Karen Smith, Akita Hodgson and Rachael Hetherington, who helped us with myriad tasks that keep everything afloat and functioning smoothly. Anna Damiano of NCIS and more recently, Dr Cressida Fforde, Deputy Director NCIS also helped with the Veterans research support.

Lunches & Gatherings

We had a couple of well-attended lunches this year and hope to organise more of these in 2012. Members of the National Centre for Biography Drs Sam Furphy, Rani Kerin and Karen Fox joined ACIH as Affiliates. Rani published Dr Do Good: Charles Duguid and Aboriginal Advancement 1930s-1970s (Australian Scholarly Publishing) this year. We are looking forward to seeing Karen’s first book come out in early 2012, and Sam has also received news that book has been accepted by Aboriginal History for publication as part of their monograph series.

One person ACIH has missed having around this year is Shino Konishi. Although focussed on her exciting new ‘production’, baby Leo, ACIH’s first staff baby, she has been busy completing her book manuscript. Ned Curthoys and Shino have been much congratulated for being great parents, and it is difficult to keep the visitors away from this little cutie.

Supporters of the Year

Emerita Professor Isabel McBryde always warmly offers advice, especially on our Lake Mungo project. She patiently encourages us to build the best networks and is always calm and helpful in the face of adversity.
Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis, who generously donated the royalties from one of his books, continues to provide much benefit to the Centre’s activities. His scholarship has also been inspiring to the Indigenous Veterans Project.

Andrew Pike of Ronin Films is a very generous collaborator on several documentary film projects. Having had some major surgery recently, we wish him all the best.

Emeritus Professor Barry Higman has been a big help generously reading Shino’s and Ann’s manuscripts. Barry, who founded ACIH and secured the funding from the VC, History and Research School of Social Sciences, has had a year of triumph and tragedy. He wrote and published more history books in a year than most of us have even heard of before – one a world history of food, another about a pro-slavery bishop, and earlier in the year, a history of the Caribbean and more. Barry retired this year and Angela Woollacott and the School of History put on a Lecture to honour his contribution and a reception and dinner. It was also a year of great sadness for Barry, as Barry lost his beloved wife Merle after a short illness. She was a clever and talented woman. Born in Jamaica, she studied in London and worked in the Caribbean and Australia, before retiring and taking up painting and other pursuits. Barry put together a little book of her art works. We all mourn her loss.

On another sad note, Marjorie Peters-Little passed away this year. Jimmy Little launched our Centre back in 2003 and Frances Peters-Little did so much important work as a Research Fellow, as Deputy Director and Acting Director of ACIH before taking up her PhD studies full-time. Professor Tom Griffiths, another long-time supporter of ACIH, lost his father this year after a long illness. Tom was able to read his father many good books and share precious time with him in his last days.

We have exciting times and challenging times ahead for 2012. We are especially looking forward to welcoming our new Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow in April.

I wish all our supporters all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. We may not get around to saying ‘thank you’ as often as we should. But we do very much appreciate your generous contributions and enthusiasm and look forward to working with you in 2012!

Warm Regards,

Ann McGrath

Director FASSA, OAM, HD Linnaeus.