

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AND PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

## DECEMBER 2012 – JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

### ANNIVERSARY EDITION: CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF THE INTEREST GROUP “YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW”

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**Please note that images of deceased Indigenous people are contained within this newsletter**

#### ATSIPP BUSINESS

##### **21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the ATSIPP Interest Group**

The current issue of the Newsletter invites us to look back on the 21 year history of member involvement in the *APS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group*, formerly known as the *APS Interest Group on Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology*. Many members, both past and present, have shared their memories, images and archives. This newsletter attempts to compile these contributions, although it is acknowledged that there may be gaps in the recording of key events. With reflection on the history of the group, we are also invited to think about where we would like to be in another twenty years' time. What would we like to achieve in that period? How do we continue to influence the Society on important issues pertaining to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? How do we use our knowledge, research and practices to ensure we have a voice and influence in the wider community and make a stand against practices that may be harmful to Indigenous peoples? How does our voice influence cross-cultural practices with other groups? What can we learn from and contribute to other nations in the provision of services and improvement of outcomes for first peoples globally? What partnerships will we form to achieve these goals? In looking ahead it will be important to identify and keep our priority areas in focus, as outlined in the APS Reconciliation Action Plan. It is this vision that unites the efforts of the Interest Group with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association, the Public Interest Team and all members of the APS. Although the Interest Group has been active for more than twenty years, this is the first time in the history of the Society and the Interest Group, that we have a document that sets a clear path for our direction in supporting the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. If you are yet to do so, you are invited to read the RAP and determine the part you can play in its implementation. Visit: [http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/RAP-Booklet\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/RAP-Booklet_Final_WEB.pdf). More about the launch of the RAP is contained on Pages 6 and 26 of this edition of the newsletter. We hope you enjoy this edition.

## **CONVENOR'S REPORT**

### **Outgoing and New Committee Members**

Thank you to Kerry Williams and Kym Schellen, 2011-12 Committee Members, who did not nominate for re-election at the September AGM. We particularly thank Yvonne Clark for her term as Co-Convenor. Yvonne provided an invaluable link between AIPA and the Interest Group and contributed to the APS RAP. She played a fundamental part in setting up the Student Conference Attendance Award and the Round Table at the APS Conference. Whilst Yvonne will step down from her role as Co-Convenor in order to focus on her PhD, we are grateful that she will continue on as a General Member on the Committee. Thank you also to other continuing Committee Members: Kylie Cann (Secretary); Christine Mason (General Member) and Alicia Doherty (Website Editor). We take this opportunity to welcome new Committee Members: Kelleigh Ryan (Co-Convenor) and Lianne Britten. I will continue as Co-Convenor and Treasurer and appreciate the fantastic support offered by our new Committee. See <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/atsipp/> for details about the office bearers.

### **Invitation to Join the ATSIPP Committee**

We would still like to invite expressions of interest to join the Committee in an acting capacity until the next AGM. We are particularly keen to attract representation from members in states other than those already represented, ie Tasmania and WA.

### **Committee Business – Yearly ‘Report Card’ Reflecting on this Year’s Achievements**

The committee held four meetings via teleconference throughout the year. The main themes from the discussions have been:

- Supporting Indigenous Psychology students
  - Via the ATSIPP Conference Attendance Award
  - Collating a data base of Indigenous Psychology students
  - Indigenous Psychology students forum “Round Table” at the APS conference
  - Establishing a process for mentoring Indigenous Psychology Students
- Updating the ATSIPP website
  - To ensure that we have relevant links to other initiatives and websites such as the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the social and emotional wellbeing website and the AIPA website.
- Working with the RAP committee
- Sending out a survey to members for ideas of what you would like see happen with the group, what assistance you might be able to provide and identifying membership areas of interest and expertise.

Stephen Meredith, Co-Convenor

### **FROM THE EDITOR: A note regarding the Anniversary Edition**

When Heather Gridley announced at the 2011 ATSIPP AGM that the occasion marked the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Interest Group, there were responses of amazement from all in the room. Twenty years seems such a long time! As you know, we put the call out for contributions from current and past members. As well as the leadership of past members and AIPA, we have a number of people to thank for their contributions including Heather Gridley from the Public Interest team who is, as always, extremely supportive. Heather provided the poem she wrote for Darren Garvey’s publication and also trawled through old photo boxes (from pre-digital days) to fish out photos from past Interest Group events, including the very first meeting of the Interest Group!! We also have Sue Picard from the National Office to thank for her tireless efforts in organising the retrieval of archived boxes and rummaging through their dust-laden contents to recover some ‘historical’ minutes from previous AGMs. Past editions of the Newsletter have now been made available online. You can access them via the link to the IG archives: <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/GroupContent.aspx?ID=5008>. Without the assistance of a whole team of people who have provided photos, documents and who utilised their technical and editing skills, the current anniversary edition would not exist. We thank you for your patience as we compiled this edition. It ended up being a mammoth task! We hope you enjoy reading the events and activities of the Interest Group from yesterday and into today. We invite you to reflect on the activities in order to determine the direction we take tomorrow! The next chapter of the Interest Group’s history is already in the making! You are part of it!

Kylie Cann, Newsletter Editor

### **Future Direction of the Newsletter**

As indicated in the last Newsletter, I will have less time to devote to production of the Newsletters in 2013 as I have returned to part time work as a School Psychologist. We are looking at ways in which we can link in with AIPAs communication with members in order to maximise efficiency and the use of resources. If there are any member/s that may be willing to take on the role of Newsletter Editor, please feel free to email [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com). In the meantime, during our last teleconference, the Committee decided to try a new approach and a potential alternative to the production of the Newsletters: we are asking for more input from our members regarding topics of interest as well as the contributions of written pieces (like those contributed by members to *InPsych*), journal articles, resources, guidelines, websites, best practice ideas and even case studies you may wish to contribute. We also aim to better utilise the website as a primary vehicle for sharing updates and contributions.

I have committed to finalising two Newsletters as we commence this transition: One will be on the topic of Mentoring as this has been a priority for the Interest Group and a key strategy identified in the APS RAP in terms of increasing the number of Indigenous Psychologists.

One of our members, Soo See Yeo has also provided inspiration for a second Newsletter topic: "Aboriginal Perspectives on Parenting and Attachment". Soo See is the Regional Psychologist Team Leader for Metro West Psychological Services in Sydney. Soo See is interested in collaborating with other interested members who are affiliated with or working in the university setting to conduct research on the collective type of Aboriginal bonding and attachment. She feels that more research is needed in this area to inform current practice. Soo See kindly contributed her article written for Child Abuse Review (2003), entitled *Bonding and Attachment of Australian Aboriginal Children*:  
[http://www.earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au/uploads/Bonding\\_%26\\_attachment\\_aboriginal\\_child.pdf](http://www.earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au/uploads/Bonding_%26_attachment_aboriginal_child.pdf).

If you are interested in working in collaborative partnership with Soo See and her team to forward this area of research, she can be contacted via email [SooSee.Yeo@facstaff.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SooSee.Yeo@facstaff.nsw.gov.au). Soo See is also working on developing an Indigenous Kinship Carer (Trauma Informed Care) package and would like to enquire about any resources in this area. She invites input from other APS members who may be working in a similar area. She has recently linked in with the Project Officer from the NSW Department of Family & Community Services, Aboriginal Services Branch.

If you come across articles or information of interest to this topic for these editions of the newsletter, please forward to [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com).

### **Results of ATSIPP IG Member Survey**

A total of nine members responded to our Member Survey, representing 4% of the IG! Length of membership ranged from new members to 5 years. Grade of respondents mentioned included two Associates, three Members and one Fellow. Members reported working across a variety of areas from academics, ATAPS practitioners, general counselling via face to face or telephone counselling to mental health practitioners. Members worked in areas such as child protection, private practice and bush support services. Members reported working in both Indigenous and mainstream settings.

Members reported varying reasons for joining the interest group including: the opportunity to be informed and aware of any current issues and best practice for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; the capacity to improve access to and the appropriateness of services; staying in touch with psychological issues relating to Indigenous people; an interest in Indigenous rights and issues and the need for more Indigenous people involved in the provision of services for Indigenous people; keeping up to date on issues relating to reconciliation and psychology as well as networking and learning about resources and training. Linking ideas from across the country was also highly valued.

Finally, members provided a number of ideas regarding the future direction of the interest group, including encouraging cross-cultural research; the provision of opportunities for networking and learning about resources and training, building and supporting an Indigenous mental health workforce, along with training and educating non-Indigenous psychologists to a higher level in relation to Indigenous issues and appropriate services in order to fill the gaps in their knowledge.

### **Clarification of the roles of AIPA and ATSIPP**

Feedback from the survey also highlighted the need to clarify the distinction between the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology (ATSIPP) Interest Group.

AIPA is the national peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists in Australia. AIPA aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists and to lead the change required to deliver equitable, accessible, sustainable, timely and culturally competent psychological care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban, regional and remote Australia.

AIPA works closely with the ATSIPP Interest Group to achieve shared goals. The ATSIPP Interest Group continues to be the APS unit where Indigenous and non-Indigenous APS members can meet and work together. As such, it has an important role as the reconciliation arm of the APS and is a source of expertise and support for AIPA [www.indigenoupsychology.com.au](http://www.indigenoupsychology.com.au). Member input is highly valued and always welcome.

### **Response to call out for Student Mentors**

Following our last call for members who may be interested in mentoring postgraduate psychology students, we have been overwhelmed with people willing to help. We are so grateful to all of you who have offered to volunteer your time. We will keep a list of available practitioners and will work closely with the APS National Office to ensure students are aware of the support processes available. AIPA and the APS National Office are working to highlight these initiatives within the universities.

Feedback from a number of members has indicated that they would prefer to support psychology students at undergraduate level given the greater need to increase student retention. Heather Gridley has previously indicated that the National Office often receives requests for tutoring at undergraduate level so we are more than happy to note your preferences if you would prefer to support these students.

We have also had enquiries regarding the specific nature of mentoring and what it involves. We are in the process of drafting Guidelines to assist members. As mentioned, "Student Mentoring" will form the topic for one of our upcoming Newsletters in order that we can call upon the comments, input, experience and expertise of our members. Please contact [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com) if you have had experience mentoring or supporting indigenous psychology students in the past or if you have comments, ideas suggestions or feedback about this support. Please also feel free to forward any existing guidelines, articles, websites or resources you come across that may be related to this topic.

### **What is student mentoring?**

In brief, the idea is to provide an introduction to the Society and encouragement for students during their course of psychological study. There have been varying degrees of mentoring 'relationships', ranging from weekly or fortnightly catch ups to answer questions, offer support and to assist students to overcome any particular obstacles they might be encountering in completing any component of their overall course. It is envisaged that individual students will have individual needs and therefore potentially require varying levels of support. Commitment can be short (ie one year) or long term (ie to see the student through their studies and placements). Mentoring is voluntary in nature.

The idea is that Members provide a model and long-term vision of what the profession entails and offer what they can from their particular skill set within the time they do have available. An example of mentoring might include committing to encourage a student to join and attend local branch meetings and for the mentor to introduce the student to other branch members. In terms of geographical location, matching mentors with a student within a specific location would only be required for face to face meetings. Telephone, email, Skype or face time provide other alternatives for catching up. Finally, just to further clarify the role of mentor, the idea is not to replace existing services for the student ie that provided by the Indigenous Support Unit within the universities or access to counselling services, although the mentor might refer to these services during the course of meetings if required. If you would like to register as a mentor, please email [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com) . More help is always welcome.

## **What is tutoring?**

Tutoring is more specific than mentoring and is prescriptive in terms of a set amount of time and focus on a particular subject. It may not surprise members to know that requests for tutoring are often received for students completing statistics subjects so anyone with expertise, confidence or a passion in this area is strongly encouraged to offer their time! Please register your interest by emailing [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com). Potential tutors should familiarise themselves with the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) which is operated from the Indigenous Studies Centres in each university and provides funding for supplementary tuition to support eligible Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students studying university award level courses - see for example the UTAS program: <http://www.utas.edu.au/riawunna/support-services/indigenous-tutorial-assistance-scheme>

## **What impact does student tutoring and mentoring have?**

Feedback has indicated so far that this has been a very rewarding process, both for the student and the practitioner. As indicated by Heather Gridley, this provides such a great example of what we hope to see more of with the rollout of the APS Reconciliation Plan. Marika Cox, an undergraduate Indigenous psychology student recently provided the following feedback after being supported by the APS Newcastle Branch to find a tutor. Incidentally, Marika was also the successful candidate for the Student Conference Attendance Award. Below is an excerpt of her experience regarding the tutoring process:

*This e-mail is to express my gratitude towards Newcastle Uni and branch members who responded quickly to my stress beacon. Not only did we receive a number of willing people prepared to assist my learning needs, but the tutor I decided to go with was indeed the right choice for me. Gail listened carefully to each concern I had regarding statistics. Not only did she provide academic assistance, but she went well beyond this scope and provided a listening ear and empathy towards my study related anxiety spouts. Gail helped me stay on track with assessment obligations, even though we come from different teaching methods. Gail always made sure that she was easily reached and always helped me feel that there was always someone there by providing and facilitating strong communication links. Statistics has been one of the more challenging units of psychology, but with tutors like Gail, pushing you along, with a strong, yet honest approach, for me, has made learning this unit, easier and less daunting.*

*....It feels empowering and inspiring to be part of such a wonderful team of helping professionals, who were/are willing to respond to a student's stress beacon, when in fact, they could have chosen to ignore it. Thank you.*

## **Supervision for Student Support Officers**

As indicated in the last ATSIPP Announcements, we have also received a request from Yalari to offer supervision for Student Support Workers who currently mentor Indigenous high school students within boarding school settings. Student Support Officers have fortnightly supervision with their manager, however, Yalari is sourcing monthly supervision with psychologists external to their work environment who would be willing to work in a pro bono capacity with one or more of the 11 Student Support Officers nationally. Experiences such as these provide the opportunity for both parties to build capacity and make a difference. The program is supported by The Governor-General, Her Excellency Mrs Quentin Bryce. More information about Yalari can be found at [www.yalari.org](http://www.yalari.org). Correspondence and further enquiries can be directed to Nicole Tujague, National Student Services Manager, Ph 0434 370 723.

In summary, as a result of these initiatives, ATSIPP will have supports in place for Indigenous students at the high school, undergraduate and postgraduate level. It is only through systemic approaches such as these that we can hope to remove potential barriers and keep future pathways to the psychology profession wide open. It is also only through the support of our members that we hope to afford these opportunities and provide avenues to foster a passion for joining our profession. If you find yourself in a position to volunteer for any of these initiatives now or at any time in the future, please feel free to let us know and we will add you to the list of available practitioners. Correspondence can be directed to [kylie\\_cann@bigpond.com](mailto:kylie_cann@bigpond.com).

## APS RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

### Launch

The Australian Psychological Society's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, at the 47<sup>th</sup> APS Annual Conference in Perth. The gala launch was attended by around 100 conference delegates and there was a shared sense of pride, commitment and excitement about the journey ahead. Read more: <http://www.psychology.org.au/RAP/launch/>

### Formal Letter of Thanks to ATSIPP Interest Group Members

Our Interest Group received a formal letter of thanks from the RAP Team in recognition of our support and contribution to the development of the APS' inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan. *"The committee and members of the APS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group have been integral to ensuring a culturally relevant and discipline-specific RAP, and the Interest Group is a key partner for action as we move into the implementation phase of the RAP."*

### Call for Involvement from Members in the Implementation of the RAP

Members will notice a number of references to the potential role ATSIPP might play in the action and targets throughout the RAP document. It is with honour that we continue our partnership with the APS RAP Team and we look forward to involving even more of our interest group members as we work together to implement the key strategies outlined in the RAP.

As mentioned earlier, the RAP is now available on the APS website at:  
[http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/RAP-Booklet\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/RAP-Booklet_Final_WEB.pdf)

### What can I do? Further Ideas for Implementing the APS Reconciliation Action Plan

- Use the **APS Reflection Tool** to begin your own reconciliation journey (in confidence)  
(See: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=4108>)
- Implement **cultural protocols** at member group and organisational levels  
(See: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/resources/factsheets/q-a-factsheets/welcome-to-and-acknowledgement-of-country>)
- Continue to support Indigenous Australians undertaking a postgraduate psychology degree by contributing to the *Bendi Lango* initiative
- **Support and mentor** Indigenous psychology students
- Consider **supervising** Indigenous psychology graduates as interns or registrars
- Develop **relationships and partnerships** with your local Indigenous community
- Attend, arrange and/or promote **cultural competence training**
- Develop an **Indigenous employment strategy** in your workplace
- **Recognise and celebrate** significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates

*The Australian Psychological Society (APS) respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and pays respect to elders both past and present. We recognise the diverse language groups, kinship structures and customs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. The APS is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous psychologists and communities to meet the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.* [www.psychology.org.au/reconciliation](http://www.psychology.org.au/reconciliation)

## REFLECTION

The poem *I was there, but what did I do?* was written by Heather Gridley in 2008 as an invited contribution to Darren Garvey's book *Indigenous identity in contemporary psychology: Dilemmas, developments and directions*. It serves not only as a useful historical reference of events but also provides an opportunity to reflect on our own personal journey, how we came to be involved in ATSIPP and the contributions we have made. With this, the poem also serves as somewhat of a mirror, revealing what we may not have done, challenging us to see what we failed to address. Finally, we are invited to consider what we can actively do today and tomorrow to instigate real change. Heather's insightful and thought-provoking poem has been included in the Appendix to allow time for reflection.

## HISTORY OF THE ATSIPP INTEREST GROUP

*The APS has been involved in indigenous issues since the 1960s, when a Queensland Group became active with submissions to government on secondary education, child welfare and Aboriginal welfare. These reports were ad hoc, and not supported by any Branch structure. The original Group for Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology was established primarily as a way of assisting the small number of indigenous members to the Society to network and to promote discussion of social issues with non-indigenous members.*

Source: Cook, S (2000) *A Meeting of the Minds: The Australian Psychological Society and Australian Psychologists*. APS, Melbourne

The APS interest group officially formed in 1991, following the AGM at the Adelaide Conference. The full history of this group is set out in Sandra Billard, Heather Gridley and Colleen Turner, 'Report from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and Psychology Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society', *Bulletin*, Vol. 16, No. 4, August/September 1994, pp. 23-24.

Another reference of relevance to the Interest Group's History is: Gridley, H., Davidson, G., Dudgeon, P., Pickett, H. and Sanson, A. (2000). *The Australian Psychological Society and Australia's Indigenous Peoples: A Decade of Action*. *Australian Psychologist*, 35, 88 - 91.

The following contribution from Professor Pat Dudgeon sets the historical context for the formation of the Interest Group. It comes from D. Rickman, P. Dudgeon, and H. Gridley. (2010). *A History of Psychology and Indigenous People*. N. Purdie, P Dudgeon and R Walker (Eds). (2010). *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*. Canberra, ACER.

*A major turning point was in 1988, which was a significant year for two main reasons. First, it was the year of the bicentennial of European settlement in Australia or, to use an Indigenous description of the event, the invasion of the continent by the English colonisers. Second, it was the year when about 4000 psychologists from around the world gathered in Sydney for the 24th International Congress of Psychology; many Australian psychologists felt that Australian psychology had come of age with this conference. Yet, despite the bicentennial being a catalyst for many Anglo-European Australians to become aware of their ignorance about the destructive effects of official policies of separation, 'protection', assimilation and integration as legacies of an inherently racist society, as well as of the ongoing effects of common prejudice and discrimination in everyday life, there was a complete absence of Indigenous content or discussion as part of the program. The only Indigenous representation was a photographic exhibition with a section on 'Indigenous Aspects of Australian Psychology', which included photographs of Aboriginal skulls collected by 'craniometrists, anthropometrists and psychometrists', (56) displayed without apology or apparent recognition of the insensitivity of such a display. Shared concerns about these representations and omissions led what was then the APS Board of Community Psychologists to embark on a consciousness-raising process, using the annual APS conferences as a major vehicle. The Board sponsored a symposium on the Psychology of Indigenous People at the 25th Annual Conference of the APS in Melbourne in 1990. The symposium featured the first ever presentations by Aboriginal speakers, with Tracey Bunda presenting a paper about Aboriginal identity written by Dudgeon and Oxenham. Following the conference, a group of 28 delegates set off on the Maralinga Workshop, a seven-day journey to meet with elders of the Maralinga Tjarutja community in the South Australian desert. This was the first activity of its kind designed for psychologists to learn of, and highlight first-hand, the issues of social (in)justice and their effects on Aboriginal people.*

*At the 26th Annual Conference in Adelaide in 1991, the APS Interest Group on Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People, and Psychology was formed, assuming the role of principal advocate on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues from the Board of Community Psychologists. The Interest Group has continued to prioritise these issues at the APS annual conferences; organised mini-conferences in Perth (1993, 1998); run professional development programs with psychologists and other professionals, including Aboriginal Health Workers, in several states; contributed to APS Position Papers and submissions to national inquiries; and mentored of Aboriginal psychology students. (59)*

## ATSIPP TIMELINE

### 1991 Birth of the Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology Interest Group



Arthur Veno and son Zac - 1991 - Art was the first (Acting) convenor of the Interest Group until it was agreed that the convenor should always be an Indigenous person, and Pat took over - maybe in 1992? It was Art who introduced us to Pat and also came up with the idea of an Indigenous symposium at the APS Conference in 1990, in response to the events at the International Congress in Sydney in 1988. He also initiated and led the Maralinga (1990) and Yarrabah Peace Train (1993) mobile workshops - so we owe him heaps. (Heather Gridley)



Colleen Turner (later ATSIPP Treasurer), Errol West (dec), Barbara Miller - and young Pat Dudgeon - at the APS Conference in Adelaide, 1991, when ATSIPP was launched. Errol West was the man behind the proposal to set up an Indigenous University that was very current at the time. (Heather Gridley)





Adelaide Conference 1991 Cont'd (from left): Jenny Sharples (now Professor at Vic Uni), Marion Oke - ATSIPP veteran of Maralinga and Yarrabah trips; Heather Gridley (!), Ross Williams (1st head of School at Vic Uni, and Treasurer of ATSIPP - taught Aboriginal Issues and Psychology at Vic Uni with Auntie Caroline Briggs in the 1990s); Barbara Miller, and Helen McGrath - at the Community Psychology dinner in a basement cafe that was much cheaper than the Conference dinner the same night. (Heather Gridley)



Marion Oke, Conference Presenter - and young Pat Dudgeon - at the meeting *Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal Peoples and Psychology Interest Group* was launched. Ah, the old overhead projectors!

Professor Pat Dudgeon is recognised as the first identified Indigenous psychologist in Australia and was the first Indigenous Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society. To read more about Professor Pat Dudgeon and her work, visit <http://www.indigenouspsychology.com.au/profiles/187/pat-dudgeon>



Graham Davidson (now Hon FAPS) Barbara Miller, Ross Williams, and Darcy Bolton (obscured).

“My memory of that meeting is that there was a lot of excitement and optimism that the group was going to 'make things happen' within and beyond APS.”

Heather Gridley, FAPS



The first AGM 1991: Barbara Miller, Ross Williams, Darcy Bolton, Errol West, Marion Oke, Conference Presenter, Pat Dudgeon, Graham Davidson (obscured)

**1993 Koories & Psychology Conference, Victorian University of Technology *Koories & Psychology: Reconciliation, Education and Professional Practice***

Pat was the keynote – this wasn't strictly an IG activity – it was the annual APS Victorian Branch conference, hosted by Vic Uni and the Board (now College) of Community Psychologists. The Koorie theme was chosen for the International Year of Indigenous Peoples.



Art Venno, Pat Dudgeon & Ross Williams



Ross Williams and Pat Dudgeon delivering her Keynote Address on exploring the validity of Western psychology with respect to the Aboriginal people.

### **1993**

In 1993, the APS established a working party to prepare guidelines to assist psychologists who work with Indigenous people. The resulting *Guidelines for the Provision of Psychological Services for and the Conduct of Psychological Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia* now form part of the *Ethical Guidelines Companion Booklet* to the *APS Code of Ethics*, by which all APS psychologists are required to abide. Adoption of the Guidelines prompted the inclusion in the *APS Code of Ethics* of a General Principle III(b) requiring that psychologists: *must be sensitive to cultural, contextual, gender, and role differences and the impact of those on their professional practice on clients. [Psychologists] must not act in a discriminatory manner nor condone discriminatory practices against clients on the basis of those differences (p.1)*. The most recent revision of the Code goes further, affirming all people's 'right to linguistically and culturally appropriate services' and incorporating an advocacy role when psychologists become aware of discriminatory practices or systems experienced by their clients.

### **1994**

Yvonne Clarke recalls: There was a meeting of 30 Indigenous psychology students at the APS Conference Wollongong in 1994 to discuss Indigenous student issues and initiatives. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group led this initiative.

### **1995**

Professor Pat Dudgeon provided the following reflection: At the 1995 APS Annual conference in Perth Western Australia, we had an unprecedented Indigenous presence and participation. We had a huge Aboriginal flag hanging in one of the halls and cultural displays. For the first time there was an Aboriginal welcome to country and the first ever Indigenous keynote presentation. This was by Rob Riley, one of our most outstanding Aboriginal statesmen and social justice activists. He was part of the stolen generations and as well as influencing the development of native title agreements, he instigated the *Bringing Them Home* reports. He took his life less than a year afterwards in 1996 - the unresolved grief of his personal experiences and the never-ending challenges in the struggle for social justice wore him down. I am proud that Rob Riley gave our first Indigenous keynote but this space was so hard won. I am proud that although he was suffering at the time from acute stress, emotional distress and fatigue, Rob prepared and delivered an important, historical and now widely in demand paper, hoping that in some way it would make a difference. He charged us, psychology, with this responsibility:

*How many psychologists have an understanding of Aboriginal people? How many of you...have an understanding of Aboriginal culture, history and contemporary issues. For many of you, this work is crucial given the social conditions and your work environment in such places as prisons and the welfare sector and where there are large numbers of Aboriginal clients. It is your responsibility to seek that knowledge and understanding now, and to ensure that it is available for future generations of psychologists, in psychological training and education programs. (Riley, 1997, p. 15-16)*

### **1998**

In 1998, led by Pat Dudgeon, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies and the School of Psychology at Curtin University convened a mini-conference in Perth to specifically overview and discuss Aboriginalising the psychology curriculum. Some of these educational activities were presented in a special issue of the *Australian Psychologist*.(65, 66) This volume was unprecedented in its focus and in its genuine collaboration between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other mental health professionals. Reference: *Australian Psychologist* (2000) Vol 35, Issue 2, pp 65-66

### **1993 – 2003**

Heather Gridley has located a number of early Interest Group Newsletters. We are looking to have these scanned and placed in an archived section of the Website in order that they may be available for members to access at <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/GroupContent.aspx?ID=5008>

## **2004 APS National Conference Sydney – Revival of the Interest Group**

"I remember a handful of us gathering around the conference table in a room overlooking Darling Harbour. There was a real sense of needing to re-form the Interest Group and a sense of energy, excitement and commitment was present. I was working on Palm Island at the time and had attended out of a desperate need to link in with other psychologists working in this field. We were all horrified that there had been no traditional welcome at the Conference Opening – in Sydney of all places! Marie Joyce FAPS was so supportive and helpful in suggesting that she would work with the Conference Team the following year to ensure a tradition welcome was in place. I also remember feeling frustrated by the term 'Aboriginal' and asked where the representation of 'Torres Strait Islander' peoples lay in the title of the Interest Group.

The Interim Committee was elected at the Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology AGM - Ruth Braunstein from the NSW Department of Education and Training and Kath Ellerman from Kids Helpline, Brisbane were nominated as the interim Co-Convenors, Kylie Cann from the Townsville Catholic Education Office was Secretary, Helen Kuelde, from Sydney was Treasurer. Committee Members included Colleen Turner, Melbourne, Webpage Editor, Marie Joyce, Australian Catholic University Melbourne, Ailsa Drent, VIC, Peggy Lee, Caroline Musgrave and Rosemary Pynor, NSW. Sue Berry was also our Student Member." (Kylie Cann, MAPS, CEDP)

## **December 2004 Newsletter**

We put out a call for Indigenous members of the APS to come forward. We knew there were 16-17 Indigenous Psychologists within the APS but we didn't know who they were or how to make contact. We were keen to link in, ensure these voices were heard and to ask for guidance in our deliberations. [http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter\\_Dec04.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter_Dec04.pdf)

## **2005 APS National Conference Melbourne *Past Reflections, Future Directions***

A major objective of the Interest Group for the year was to co-ordinate some key-note speakers and workshops for the Conference in Melbourne in order to raise issues and awareness and give guidance to Psychologists who may work with Indigenous children, adults or communities. The group also focussed on the organisation of a Post-Conference Excursion.

The Interest Group, primarily through the help of Kath Ellerman and Colleen Turner, organised Presenters for the Symposium. Papers presented included –

*Talking about Sharing – Ongoing conversations about how psychology can and should work for and with Indigenous Australia* by Colleen Turner

*Strengths and challenges: Working towards family well-being in Tasmania* by Marlene Burchill

*Turning Indigenous Secondary Students' Educational Disadvantage Around: How Psychologists can Begin to Make a Real Difference* by Rhonda Craven and

*Benchmarking the teaching of Australian Indigenous content in undergraduate psychology* by Rob Ranzjin, Keith McConnochie, Andy Day & Wendy Nolan.

Production of a special issue of *The Australian Community Psychologist*, dedicated to Indigenous topics primarily from those presented at the 2005 APS Conference, was later published in 2006. For access to this journal and the articles presented, visit:

[http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/acp\\_vol18\\_april06\[1\].pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/acp_vol18_april06[1].pdf)



Marlene Burchill (Speaker), Kath Ellerman (Convenor), Rhonda Craven (Speaker) and Colleen Turner (Committee Member & Website Editor) following the 2005 Symposium



2005 ATSIPP AGM – Kylie Cann (Secretary/Newsletter Editor) diligently typing the minutes as Kath Ellerman-Bull presents the Convenor's Report.



Neville Robertson from NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues extended an invitation to work together for upcoming Conference in NZ. (Back Left) Amanda Gordon, President APS and Gary Khoo, APS National Office

**2005 APS AGM** - Application for change of name to include 'Torres Strait Islander Peoples' approved.

**2005 Post Conference Excursion to *Narana Creations***, organised by ATSIPP Committee Members, Ailsa Drent and Colleen Turner. The Aboriginal craft and cultural interpretation centre is a non-profit organisation dedicated to developing better community awareness of Aboriginal culture. We were offered a truly memorable and spiritually moving experience as we listening to cultural talks, presentations by our guest speakers and stories of the Dreamtime.

<http://www.narana.com.au/collections/vendors?q=Hale+Imports>



The paintings on the roof of Narana Creations tell their own very moving story about wellbeing, invasion, loss and healing



Ailsa Drent with traditional owners: our guides and storytellers



The Narana Creations Post-Conference Excursion group

### **ATSIPP Conference Networking Dinner 2005**

The dinner was held at Tjanabi restaurant in Melbourne, showcasing Indigenous Australian culinary delights, organised by Committee Member, Henry Briffa.





**May 2005 Newsletter:** focus on resources and protocols regarding health, treatment and intervention with indigenous clients. Henry Briffa wrote a short piece to generate discussion surrounding professional development and the role the Interest Group might take to further develop the capacity of its members to work with Indigenous communities. Reference is made to the psychoanalytically oriented psychologists (POPIG) interest group and narrative therapy, along with the need for a peer support network for psychologists with an interest in trauma and dissociation who may be working with our indigenous community. [http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter\\_May05.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter_May05.pdf)

**September 2005 Newsletter:** focus on issues of child protection, coinciding with *National Child Protection Week* with insight into national and international perspectives. Overview of events organised for the 2005 Conference, including the Symposia (organised by Colleen Turner); the Post Conference Excursion to Narana Dreaming (organised by Colleen Turner and Ailsa Drent) and the Networking Dinner (organised by Henry Briffa). Peggy Lee also offered the first *My Story* contribution after visiting Uluru. [http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter\\_Sep05.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter_Sep05.pdf)

### **2006 Combined NZPs and APS Conference, Auckland New Zealand**

Dr Christine Gillies answered our call regarding Indigenous members of the APS and joined in with our monthly teleconferences. To read more about Dr Christine Gillies visit her profile on the AIPA website <http://www.indigenouspsychology.com.au/profiles/203/christine-gillies>

Dr Tracy Westerman delivered the Keynote Address “The Value of Unique Service Provision for Aboriginal Australians: the Benefits of Starting from Scratch”, organised by the Scientific Committee and joined us for the Networking dinner with the NZPs. To read more about Dr Tracy Westerman, visit: [http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/staticpage.php?static\\_id=2](http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/staticpage.php?static_id=2)

Over the course of 2006, the Interest Group achieved a great deal. Amongst the highlights were:

- In conjunction with Dr Neville Robertson from the NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues, we organised a full day symposium entitled “Decolonising Psychology”
- Also in conjunction with Dr Neville Robertson from the NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues, we organised a combined Interest Groups dinner during the 2006 APS/NZPsS conference in Auckland
- Involvement in organising the Rio Tinto-sponsored Bendi Lango Art Exhibition which raised a substantial amount of money for bursaries for Indigenous psychology students
- Funding support for the attendance of Indigenous students at the Mental Health Conference in Cairns
- Strengthening networks and liaising with universities' Indigenous student support groups to feed into the APS Working Party on a National Curriculum in Indigenous Awareness in Psychology
- Producing a Newsletter as a vehicle for sharing resources – we encouraged members to use it by submitting articles about work in progress and sharing the successes and tribulations of other workers in the field.

To read more about the New Zealand Psychological Society's National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues, visit: <http://www.psychology.org.nz/NSCBI>

To read more about Dr Neville Robertson's work, visit: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/about/staff/scorpio>



ATSIPP organised speakers for the Cross-Cultural Symposium: University of South Australia's team of presenters on their departure from the Conference: Rob Ranzijn, Wendy Nolan, Keith Mconnochie, Rosemary Wanganeen



Kylie Cann, Rosemary Wanganeen and Rob Ranzijn after the Conference presentation

**2006 Combined NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues and ATSIPP Dinner**  
The Interest Group dinner was generously hosted by the NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues in the function room of The Mexican Cafe. Our New Zealand 'sister' Interest Group proved to be the most wonderful hosts, greeting APS members with a formal welcome and beautiful song.

## **2006 Passing on the message stick in Auckland**

As part of our preparations for the joint APS/NZPsS Conference, we worked closely with our NZ counterpart to choose an appropriate gift for our hosts. The gift of message sticks and an Atlas of Indigenous Australia was presented by Dr Christine Gillies, European and Indigenous Psychologist, APS and Interest Group Member, with the following words:

*I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. My own people included Anglo-Celtic, Jewish, Ngarrindjeri and Bindjali people. My Aboriginal forebears were the traditional custodians of the lands surrounding the mouth of the River Murray and the lower South East of South Australia.*

*Drawing on the tradition of Australian Aboriginal peoples, I present this message stick to you as a symbol of peace, goodwill and respect from the members of the Australian Psychological Society's Interest Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology. We thank you for welcoming us to your country and for the opportunity for us to come together and share our knowledge.*

*The message stick is presented as a symbol of a new beginning, where all contribute to the educational, economic and cultural wellbeing of all people. It represents new and old cultures coming together and creating memories for the future. Sharing of knowledge is not new to Indigenous people. Australian Aboriginal people used technology such as the message stick to pass along stories from one group to another and to call the people of different tribes together. In order to foster new paths and relationships between our nations in the future, we invite you to honour this tradition by passing the message stick to a member of your nation each time we meet together at future conferences.*

*It is our hope that the passing of the message stick will allow us to engage in discovering and rediscovering ways of thinking that will allow us to take action and become inspired – together.*





Our gift was accepted by Linda Waimarie Nikora, then Senior Lecturer and Director of the Maori and Psychology Unit, University of Waikato. Linda was the first Maori person appointed to a psychology department in Aotearoa/New Zealand and remains a key figure today. As she accepted with great warmth, the room erupted in a song of thanks. It was truly a treasured moment, creating a bond which remained until (and beyond) the end of the conference.

Photo: NZPs Linda Waimarie Nikora (Waikato University, NZ) giving her acceptance speech upon receiving the gift from the ATSIPP Interest Group. To read more about Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora, visit: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/research/centres-units/mpru/research>

### **2006 ATSIPP AGM**

The meeting was attended by a large cohort of NZPs representatives challenging the APS' lack of support for Indigenous Psychologists and students within universities. In many ways, I think the issues raised at this AGM created the impetus for the Bendi Lango initiative, the launch of AIPA and the APS RAP.



After the 2006 Symposium and AGM: some of the presenters and members of the NZPs National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues and APS ATSIPP Members gather for a photo opportunity. To read more about the 2006 Conference Abstracts and presenters, visit: <http://eprints.usq.edu.au/7824/2/APS2006.pdf>

## 2006 Newsletter – May Edition

[http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter\\_May06.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Newsletter_May06.pdf) Focus topic: *Education*

## 2007

In Psych Focus Article for Psychology in the Public Interest: Indigenous Australians

<http://www.psychology.org.au/community/public-interest/indigenous/>

Article 1: *Teaching cultural competence in relation to Indigenous Australians: Steps along a journey* by Rob Ranzijn MAPS, Keith McConnochie, Wendy Nolan and Andrew Day MAPS. School of Psychology and David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research, University of South Australia

Article 2: *Institutional Safety: An important step towards achieving cultural safety*  
By Dr Christine Gillies MAPS. Private practice, Wollongong

Article 3: *Changing practices, changing paradigms: Working effectively with Indigenous clients* by Dr Susie Burke MAPS. Researcher, APS National Office

Article 4: Indigenous psychologists' stories by Associate Professor Pat Dudgeon. Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University of Technology; Darren Garvey. Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University of Technology (currently on secondment to Edith Cowan University); Yvonne Clark MAPS. Mary Street Adolescent Program, Adelaide; Heidi Lethbridge. Link-Up, Tasmania

Article 5: Report from the APS Interest Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology by Kathleen Ellerman-Bull MAPS, Convenor and Kylie Cann MAPS, Secretary

## Bendi Lango 2007



Former APS President Amanda Gordon with traditional owner Mrs Carol Curry providing a *Welcome to Country* as part of the opening of the Bendi Lango Art Exhibition, held at the Fireworks Art Gallery in Brisbane. The function and exhibition were made possible by the generous sponsorship of Rio Tinto and the APS National Office.



Inaugural Bendi Lango Recipient, (now Dr) Belle Glaskin at the opening of the Bendi Lango Art Exhibition, launched by former Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Mrs Quentin Bryce and APS President Amanda Gordon.

For a full list of Dr Glaskin's achievements, see <http://www.indigenouspsychology.com.au/profiles/2004/belle-glaskin>

For an overview of the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO and her role in supporting Indigenous communities and organisations, visit: <http://www.gg.gov.au/>

For an overview of Ms Amanda Gordon's achievements and initiatives, see page 13 <https://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/2012-AGM-Agenda-Final.pdf>



Kylie Cann and Carmen Cubillo working in the Bendi Lango Booth at the National APS Conference in Brisbane, 2007. Conference delegates were invited to purchase artworks to raise funds for Bendi-Lango.



Committee Members Ailsa Drent and Kerry Williams attend the Bendi-Lango Exhibition at the Fireworks Art Gallery where we held the ATSIPP Interest Group Networking Evening. We took a leisurely early evening ferry ride along the Brisbane River from the Convention Centre to the Gallery.



'Aunty' Jenny with her Granddaughter (middle).... Sharing with us her childhood stories of grief and healing. Her stories were very personal and therefore very moving. They gave us insight not only into grief and loss but also highlighted resilience and healing. This presentation was organised by former ATSIPP Convenor, Kath Ellerman-Bull.



Members of the ATSIPP IG, Women in Psychology IG and other Conference Delegates listening intently to 'Aunty' Jenny's stories, surrounded by the beautiful artworks from the Bendi Lango exhibition. For supper, Kath Ellerman organised *Bushtucker Food* from Eumundi market stockists, including Lemon Myrtle Cheesecake and Lemon Myrtle Tea!! Yum!!



Behind the scenes: The Curators and volunteers work tirelessly to set up and act as guides during the exhibition. Many thanks again to the volunteers from the ATSIPP IG and APS local Brisbane and Gold Coast Branches that offered their time and support. There was such a sense of generosity and a spirit of wanting to contribute.



### **2008 Birth of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)**

In March 2008 ATSIPP members joined ten Indigenous psychologists for dinner in Melbourne to herald the formation of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association under the auspices of the APS. AIPA was formally launched later that year by President Amanda Gordon at the APS Conference in Hobart. ATSIPP Convenor Carmen Cubillo spoke on behalf of AIPA, along with Dr Christine Gillies, Yvonne Clark and sole Tasmanian Heidi Lethbridge. Heather Gridley, FAPS



Photos: Top (L to R): President Amanda Gordon, Dr Christine Gillies, Kym Schellen, Yvonne Clark, Heidi Lethbridge and Carmen Cubillo

Bottom Left: Dr Christine Gillies and Carmen Cubillo

Bottom Right: Carmen Cubillo, Dr Christine Gillies, Heidi Lethbridge and Yvonne Clark

To read more about the profiles of AIPA's psychologists, visit:  
<http://www.indigenouspsychology.com.au/our-members>

## **2008 Bendi Lango Recipient Graham Gee**

To read Graham's story, along with his area of work and achievements, visit <http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=4453>

## **2009 APS National Conference Darwin**

### **2009 National Roundtable**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, over 40 researchers from across Australia met at the University of Western Australia Boatshed in Perth for a Roundtable discussion focused on research concerning racism towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The APS, together with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA), co-hosted the Roundtable alongside several other key organisations.

[http://www.psychology.org.au/inpsych/roundtable\\_racism/](http://www.psychology.org.au/inpsych/roundtable_racism/)

**2010** *InPsych* Article June 2011 *Indigenous psychologists set the agenda as new leader takes the chair*. Read more: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=3926>

### **2011 APS National Conference Canberra**

APS President Professor Simon Crowe signs a Statement of Commitment for the Society to develop a RAP. To read the Statement of Commitment and areas for action, visit

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/APS-Statement-of-Commitment-RAP-2011.pdf>

*InPsych* article *Adding psychology's voice to the reconciliation movement in Australia: The APS Reconciliation Action Plan*

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=3976>

## **2012 Launch of the Australian Psychological Society's Reconciliation Action Plan**



Stephen Meredith, Heather Gridley and Yvonne Clarke



Yvonne Clark, Karen Ugle and Heather Gridley at the Launch of the APS RAP

In summary, during the past 21 years, the ATSIPP Interest Group has grown, changed and developed in response to needs and initiatives. In terms of leadership, from the initial representatives who established the Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology Interest Group, a number of key people continue to be involved either directly via membership of ATSIPP or indirectly, by working alongside ATSIPP. Two members of the original group, Heather Gridley and Pat Dudgeon deserve particular mention for the energy they invest into achieving social and emotional wellbeing for Indigenous Peoples. They are to be commended for their capacity to continually work strategically to achieve better outcomes and always take the time to link the Interest Group in where relevant. There have been other long term members along the way who continue to assist us in advocating best practice in working with Indigenous peoples and we thank these members for their strong, clear voices and guidance. We also thank previous Committee Members for their contribution. Prevalent themes and methodologies have emerged over the years. Trends in treatment and prevention approaches have varied as we look to achieve best practice models and standards of training. We have acquired the capacity to engage, listen and learn from others as well as to share our own knowledge. Our colleagues in New Zealand continue to provide inspiration and support.

The ATSIPP Interest Group is currently comprised of 224 members and continues to grow again in numbers each year. As we look back on yesterday's achievements and examine the priorities in place today, it is clear that ATSIPP has continued to advocate for issues that are relevant to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and to provide the necessary training and support for psychologists in responding effectively and appropriately to the identified needs. The task ahead is to consider how we proceed tomorrow and over the next twenty one years. The APS RAP now provides the Society with a combined sense of purpose as to what we need to achieve and the steps we need to achieve them. The next 21 years have already begun! We invite you to join us on the journey.

## APS SUBMISSION TO AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN 2012

Members of the Australian Psychological Society are invited to comment on the Society's submission to the exposure draft of Australia's National Human Rights Action Plan 2012. The submission can be accessed via: [http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/National-Human-Rights-Action-Plan\\_APS%20submission\[1\].pdf](http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/National-Human-Rights-Action-Plan_APS%20submission[1].pdf) Correspondence should be directed to [h.gridley@psychology.org.au](mailto:h.gridley@psychology.org.au)

## REPORTS

### Reconciliation Action Plan Impact Measurement Report 2012

This report presents the cumulative impact of Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program for 2012. The Reconciliation Action Plan Impact Measurement Report 2011, launched in February 2012, was the first comprehensive analysis of the RAP program since it began in 2006. This report is the next step in documenting the ongoing improvements and effectiveness of the RAP program. More importantly, it is the next step in recording the collective impact of a growing national movement to create respectful relationships and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the name of reconciliation.

<http://raphub.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2012-RAP-Impact-Measurement-report.pdf>

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### A Contributing Life: The 2012 National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

This first Report Card casts an independent eye over how we as a nation support the estimated 3.2 million Australians each year who live with a mental health difficulty, their families and support people, and how we provide and co-ordinate the services they need.

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-report-card.aspx>

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### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012

Released on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 this report provides the latest information on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are faring according to a range of indicators on health status, determinants of health and health system performance that are based on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework. It highlights the main areas of improvement and continuing concern.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543821>

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### Indigenous Cultural Competency in Australian Universities Project

The objective of this project was to provide Australian universities with the tools to embed cultural competency at the institutional level so that they are encouraging and supportive environments for Indigenous students and staff and produce well-rounded graduates with the skills necessary for providing genuinely competent services to the Australian Indigenous community. For more information, see:

<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/page/policy---advocacy/indigenous-issues/cultural-competency/>

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### Closing the Gap Prime Ministers Report 2013

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, I had the privilege of attending the live streaming of former Prime Minister Julia Gillard's 2013 Close the Gap speech in the Great Hall within Parliament House, along with former ATSIPP Committee Member Colleen Turner. It was heartening to hear our Prime Minister celebrate achievements and indicators that are on track whilst also recognising the areas where we have fallen behind. Education, particularly literacy, was highlighted as an important area of focus. The Government's commitment to engage Reconciliation Australia to undertake a campaign to 'ready' Australians for a referendum dedicated to changing the constitution was an important moment. Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tony Abbott's response called for a united approach from both parties in achieving these outcomes and also called for reporting on school attendance rates. Both parties agreed that the recent lifting of 'grog bans' in the Northern Territory were areas of concern for action. Most important for me was the collective sense of unity that came from hearing the address in a room full of like-minded people. I also particularly loved that the address was presented to Parliament with prominent Indigenous Australians and respected Elders present in the Public Gallery. What a great level of accountability and a reminder that our Government is answerable to the Indigenous people of our nation. To read the report visit [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02\\_2013/00313-ctg-report\\_fa1.pdf](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02_2013/00313-ctg-report_fa1.pdf)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

Gridley, H., Dudgeon, P., Pickett, H., Davidson, G., & Sanson, A. (2000). The Australian Psychological Society and Australia's Indigenous People: A Decade of Action. *Australian Psychologist – Special Issue on Indigenous Psychology in Australia*, 35, 88-91.

This paper highlights the achievements of the past decade, together with the shortcomings and future needs, of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) in addressing its social and professional responsibilities towards Australia's Indigenous peoples. A selective chronology of events and initiatives since the 1988 International Congress in Psychology in Sydney is presented and critically examined. Reference is made to parallel national and international developments by Indigenous peoples in reclaiming direction, control, and appropriate partnership in their own mental health issues. The establishment of the APS Interest Group on Aboriginal Issues, Aboriginal People and Psychology represents one such partnership. While psychology's response to the reflection and reconciliation processes underway in Australian society in recent years might be described as sluggish, the accomplishments of the last decade provide a solid foundation for the development of culturally inclusive systems of education, training, and professional service delivery. Read more: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1080/00050060008260329/abstract>

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Westerman T.G. & Wettinger, M. (1998). Working with Aboriginal People. Psychologically Speaking, Western Australian Psychological Society - History of Government Involvement in Aboriginal Issues.

This paper provides an overview of Aboriginal history and evolution prior to and following White Settlement. An extensive references list has also been provided to supplement this information and is located at the end of the document. Available for download from: <http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/publications.php>

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Davidson, G., Sanson A., & Gridley, H. (2000). Australian Psychology and Australia's Indigenous People: Existing and Emerging Narratives. *Australian Psychologist-Special Issue on Indigenous Psychology in Australia*, 35, 92-99.

This brief overview of psychological research with Indigenous people of Australia attempts to apprehend the broad, underlying narratives of previous research in terms of its socio-political aims. It then considers the debate about whether the moral precept of social responsibility is compatible with scientific values that underpin psychological research, and argues that a socially responsible psychology is one that engages in self-reflection on its biases and prejudices, methodologies, and systems of ethics. Each of these self-reflective goals is analysed in turn, with a view to establishing dialogue between non-Indigenous researchers and practitioners and Indigenous people about the role a socially responsible psychology might have in contemporary Indigenous society. The full abstract can be accessed via: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1080/00050060008260330/abstract>

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Ranzijn, R., McConnochie, K., Clarke, C., & Nolan, W. (2007). 'Just another white-ology': Psychology as a case study. *Counselling, Psychotherapy, and Health*, 3(2), Indigenous Special Issue, 21-34.

This paper explores the role of one of the helping professions, psychology, in the lives of Indigenous Australians in the past and present, and suggests ways forward for the future. [http://www.mentalhealthacademy.net/journal\\_archive/cph077.pdf](http://www.mentalhealthacademy.net/journal_archive/cph077.pdf)

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Burchill, M. (2004). Enough talking – more walking – achieving deadly outcomes. *Stronger Families Learning Exchange*, Bulletin No. 6, Spring/Summer.

This paper is about doing research in and with Aboriginal communities. It seeks to find some answers about what may prevent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people from achieving useful research outcomes for our people. This paper is written from an Aboriginal perspective and based on Aboriginal experiences of research. My message is that we have done enough talking. It is time for action so we can achieve some deadly outcomes that will make a difference.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/sf/pubs/bull6/enough.pdf>

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Nikora, L. W. (2007). Maori and psychology: Indigenous psychology in New Zealand. In A. Weatherall, M. Wilson, D. Harper & J. McDowall (Eds), *Psychology in Aotearoa/ New Zealand* (pp. 80-85). Auckland, New Zealand: Pearson Education New Zealand.

Maori have their own approaches to health and well-being, which stem from a world view that values balance, continuity, unity and purpose. The world view is not typically thought of as 'psychology', yet it is a foundation for shared understandings and intelligible action among Maori. Maori behaviours, values, ways of doing things and understandings are often not visible nor valued. However, through these opening years of the twenty-first century, psychologists are slowly turning their attention to addressing this invisibility with the explicit agenda of building 'indigenous psychologies'

<http://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/handle/10289/2146>

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Levy, M. (2002). *Barriers and Incentives to Māori Participation in the Profession of Psychology: Commissioned Report for the New Zealand Psychologists' Board*. Hamilton: Māori & Psychology Research Unit, University of Waikato

It is well known that Māori are over-represented within the client group of psychologists. Despite ongoing attempts to recruit and retain more Māori within the discipline of psychology, the numbers of Māori psychologists continues to remain low, raising serious concerns about the ability of the profession to effectively meet the needs of its clientele. The salient barrier to increasing Māori participation in psychology is the environments in which Māori students of psychology and Māori psychologists are required to participate. Areas covered include current Māori participation in psychology, barriers to Māori participation such as psychology's reliance on western paradigms, lack of Māori participation in psychology training programmes, lack of support for Māori psychology students, and a lack of commitment to Māori development in psychology.

<http://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/handle/10289/457>

## RESOURCES

Dudgeon, P., Cox, K., D'Anna, D., Dunkley, C., Hams, K., Kelly, K., Scrine, C., & Walker, R., (2012) *Hear our voices: Community Consultations for the Development of an Empowerment, Healing and Leadership Program for Aboriginal people living in the Kimberley, Western Australia. Final Research Report*.

This resource deals with suicide and presents culturally appropriate research. *The outcomes of this Project underscore the importance to develop a culturally appropriate and locally responsive empowerment, healing and leadership strategies. The objectives are to restore the social and emotional wellbeing of communities thereby preventing further traumatic events from occurring as a result of community distress and suicide. This also enables communities to regain their resilience and to provide an environment that supports the recovery and healing of community members* Dr Tom Calma

[http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/394426/hear\\_our\\_voices\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/394426/hear_our_voices_final_report.pdf)

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Davidson, G., Dudgeon, P., Garton, A., Garvey, D., & Kidd, G. (1995) Chapter 2: A History of Psychology in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health. In Purdie, N., Dudgeon, P., & Walker, R. (Eds) *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*

The chapter provides an historical account of the different ways that psychology has had an impact upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: through science, practice and advocacy. It discusses how each of the three domains intersect and interrelate and the different ways in which they affect our understanding of and responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health.

The full chapter can be found at

[http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/54856/part\\_1\\_chapter2.pdf](http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/54856/part_1_chapter2.pdf)

The full book can be found at

[http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/54847/working\\_together\\_full\\_book.pdf](http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/media/54847/working_together_full_book.pdf)

## BOOKS

Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice Purdie, N., Dudgeon, P., & Walker, R. (Eds.)

*"Designed for practitioners and mental health workers, as well as students training to be mental health workers, I am confident that the publication of Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice marks a watershed in the treatment of Indigenous mental health issues."* Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice, edited by Nola Purdie, Pat Dudgeon and Roz Walker was released in July 2010. It is now in its second edition with over eleven Indigenous psychologists involved as authors. It was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Kulunga Research Network, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research with funding through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The book offers a high quality, comprehensive examination of issues and strategies influencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and social and emotional wellbeing. "Working Together" has had increasing authority and influence (over 45,000 copies distributed and 45,000 copies downloaded from the website since its initial publication in 2010) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health.

Members should register for their free copies. <http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/kulunga-research-network/working-together.aspx>

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Garvey D., Dudgeon, P., & Kearins, J. (2000). Australian psychology has a black history. In P. Dudgeon, D. Garvey & H. Pickett (Eds.), *Working with Indigenous Australians: A handbook for psychologists* (pp. 231–48). Perth: Gunada Press.

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Cook, S., (2000). *A Meeting of the Minds: The Australian Psychological Society and Australian Psychologists*. Australian Psychological Society, Melbourne.

*A Meeting of Minds* traces the sometimes turbulent past of psychology in Australia over the past 50 years. It focuses on the profession of psychology, which has been shaped by social change and border disputes with psychiatry, counselling and psychotherapy. The book also covers the history of the Australian Psychological Society. Available for purchase from the APS online book shop:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Shop/Category.aspx?CategoryID=000000000000000007>

## DOCUMENTARIES

*John Pilger – The Secret Country – The First Australians Fight Back*

The secret history of Australia is a historical conspiracy of silence. Written history has long applied selectivity to what it records, largely ignoring the shameful way that the Aborigines were, and continue to be, treated. (1985). John Pilger has twice been awarded the UN Media Peace Prize. Parts 1-7 can be watched via accessing:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxFZwKpazDw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQqCUsgvBAw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFigtin8ytM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1defmIJsZUs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFigtin8ytM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2tOypiZXaE&playnext=1&list=PLC73B15D799DE651F>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPFhxx-7id8&list=PLC73B15D799DE651F&index=7>

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To mark Human Rights Day, the original version of the award-winning documentary *Our Generation* is available to watch online for free. *Our Generation* is a groundbreaking people-powered film that has been at the heart of the Indigenous rights movement in Australia. Winner of Best Campaign Film at London International Documentary Festival 2011. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tcq4oGL0wll>

## TELEVISION

### Stories from the first Australians available to all Australians from 12-12-12

The 12th of December marks an important milestone in Australian broadcasting, and in our nation's history. SBS is incredibly proud to be playing a role in delivering content about Indigenous Australians, produced by Indigenous Australians, to every Australian household. With NITV part of the SBS family, we will reflect Australia's diversity in a way no other broadcaster has before. See: [www.nitv.org.au](http://www.nitv.org.au)

## CADETSHIPS

After we put out the call regarding mentors for Indigenous psychology students, we promptly received the following email from one of our members, Alison Soutter:

We have a two unfilled Aboriginal cadetships to support undergraduate psychology students. The cadetship provides:

- paid work placements of 12 weeks for each year of the cadetship
- support for study and work placements, giving professional guidance and mentorship
- ongoing employment including a registration program once the cadet successfully completes their cadetship.

More information can be found at <http://deewr.gov.au/indigenous-cadetship-support-ics>

If you hear of any NSW Indigenous Psychology students who may be interested please contact:

Alison Soutter | Manager Regional Psychological Services [alison.soutter@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.soutter@facs.nsw.gov.au)

NSW Department of Family and Community Services | Community Services

T 02 9716 2433 | M 0407 034 835 | A Level 6, 168 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield 2131 W [www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au)

The **Service to Youth Council (SYC)** is a non-profit organisation that exists to support young people to achieve their goals. SYC are aiming to increase the participation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff in their organisation. SYC are offering part time paid employment to ATSI students undertaking social work, social science (human service) and psychology programs at UniSA. Students will be able to work in their professional area of employment while they complete their studies. On graduation students will have the option of continuing with SYC or of seeking employment in another organisation if they so desire.

For information on the exciting new SYC/UniSA Employment Pathways program please contact School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy Ph 8302 4262

## SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

### Roberta Sykes Scholarship

The Roberta Sykes Scholarship provides supplementary financial assistance to Indigenous postgraduate students who wish to undertake studies at recognised overseas universities. Students must be accepted into a postgraduate coursework or research degree prior to applying. The deadlines to submit applications in 2013 are as follows:

18 June 2013, 13 August 2013 and 28 October 2013

For more information visit: <http://www.robertasykesfoundation.com/roberta-sykes-scholarships.html>

### Puggy Hunter Scholarship

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to people who are intending to enrol or are enrolled in an entry level course in an eligible health related discipline at an Australian educational institution (Certificate IV and above). Over 100 scholarship places are available to students undertaking an undergraduate or graduate entry level course in various health disciplines including allied health.

Applications are **now open** for studies commencing or continuing in 2014.

Applications close on Monday 16 September 2013.

For more information and to download the online application form, visit:

<http://www.rcna.org.au/ISSOnline/fmLogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fISSOnline%2ffrmApply.aspx%3fMasterPage%3dmstApplyPH&MasterPage=mstApplyPH>



## CONFERENCES

### **2013 48<sup>th</sup> Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference**

8-12<sup>th</sup> October, Cairns Convention Centre

Throughout Australia and the developed world, society is grappling with serious threats to the mental and physical health of the population. The challenge facing the psychology profession to play a central role in addressing health risks – social isolation, depression, physical inactivity and obesity amongst many others – has never been more pressing. The conference theme of *Psychology for a healthy nation* represents a clarion call to the psychology profession to bring its considerable expertise to bear in finding solutions to the health challenges of the modern world.

**Registrations Open:** June, 2013

**Early Bird Registrations Close:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 <http://www.apsconference.com.au/>

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### **2013 National Men's Health Gathering**

22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

The gathering will incorporate the 7<sup>th</sup> National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Male Health Convention, The 10th National Men's Health Conference and The Inaugural Men and Vulnerable Families Forum. International speakers include: Prof. Alan White, UK The World's First Professor of Men's Health, Mr. Richard Aston, NZ C.E of 'Big Buddy' Mentoring Program For Fatherless Boys. For more information on the National Men's Health Gathering please go to [www.workingwithmen.org.au](http://www.workingwithmen.org.au)

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### **2013 Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) fifth biennial conference**

26-28 August 2013, Darwin, Australia

LIME Connection V: *Re-imagining Indigenous Health Education: Harnessing energy, implementing evidence, creating change*. The Connection will provide an opportunity to discuss and critique current practices and explore emerging tools and techniques to drive improvement in outcomes for Indigenous health, and aims to encourage information sharing, professional development, capacity-building and networking amongst peers. LIME Connection seeks to support collaboration between medical schools and to build linkages with community, colleges and those from other health disciplines. Keynote speakers will include experts in Indigenous health and medical education from Australia, Aotearoa/ New Zealand and further afield. <http://www.limenetwork.net.au/content/lime-connection-v>

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### **2013 National Indigenous Health Conference**

25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Cairns, Queensland.

The 2013 National Indigenous Health Conference is designed to bring together both government and non-government agencies who are working in the field of Indigenous health with the belief that working together can close the gap between the state of Indigenous Health as compared to the health of mainstream Australians. <http://www.indigenoushealth.net/>

## WORKSHOPS

### **Australian Institute for Loss and Grief**

28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 Northwest Business Development Centre, Adelaide

This three-day bi-cultural and inclusion workshop is entitled "*How to apply loss and grief to inspire social inclusion that encourages many more Aboriginal Australians to access mainstream services*". Facilitated by Rosemary Wanganeen, this workshop promises to be a rewarding professional development opportunity. To register, please email [rosemary@lossandgrief.com.au](mailto:rosemary@lossandgrief.com.au)

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### **Indigenous Psychological Services**

For more information about the remaining Mental Health Assessment and Suicide Prevention Workshops being held in Karatha, Perth and Cairns in 2013, visit: <http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/trainingcourses.php>

## WEBINARS

### **Evidence Informed Practice in Intensive Family Support Programs: Are we there yet?**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies: Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) is currently running a series of webinars for 2013. To view the calendar of events or to listen to previous webinars, visit: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/events/cfca.html>

Input is also sought from professionals in the child, family and community welfare sectors. If you would like to submit a topic of interest and importance in your work, please contact the manager via <https://www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/contactform.php?addr=mapscfom&ref=amfc&scode=webtop&sub=cfcawebsite>

## SEMINARS

### **Lighthouse Institute Seminar Series 2013**

February to December, 2013, Richmond, Victoria

The Lighthouse Seminar Series is a rich learning environment where people can learn from practitioners with hands-on practical experience, hear about effective and innovative approaches to working with children and young people, and share experiences. The seminars provide attachment and trauma informed practice for working with children, young people, families and communities. Specific topics of interest for those working with Indigenous clients may include: *Culturally Inclusive Approaches to Working with Children and Young People*. For further information, visit [www.lighthousefoundation.org.au/the-institute](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org.au/the-institute)

## IN THE NEWS

### **Grant set to increase number of Indigenous psychology students** July 2013

The Federal Government's Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) has awarded a \$350,000 grant to a project that will increase the number of Indigenous psychology students and enhance psychologists ability to work effectively with Indigenous communities. <http://www.psychology.org.au/media/19July2013/>

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### **Vic gets Commissioner for Koori Youth** July 2013

Victoria has become the first state to appoint a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people. <http://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n6/news/a/-/national/18002898/vic-gets-commissioner-for-koori-youth/>

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### **Different Approach needed in Indigenous Communities** July 2013

Damian Griffis from the First Peoples Disability Network discusses the difficulties of developing disability care in Indigenous communities.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-15/different-approach-needed-to-develop-disability/4819918/?site=indigenous>

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### **Exhibition Throws Light on Dark Years for Indigenous Residents** July 2013

Blacktown's Native Institute was home to the first "stolen generations" of indigenous children and an exhibition about the site has drawn on emotions that are still raw.

<http://www.blacktownsun.com.au/story/1638437/exhibition-throws-light-on-dark-years-for-indigenous-residents/>

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### **Noongar Man wins NAIDOC Award** July 2013

The NAIDOC Person of the Year says the high rate of Aboriginal suicide is the biggest issue confronting his community.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-15/kickett-awarded-naidoc-honour/4821374?&section=news>

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### **Indigenous Australians recognised at NAIDOC Awards** July 2013

Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM was tonight recognised for his lifelong advocacy for the rights of Indigenous Australians at the 2013 National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee NAIDOC Awards.

<http://jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/2460>

### **Isa Students Create Rap Video** Apr 2013

Mount Isa teenagers from the Flexible Learning Centre are on their way to becoming Youtube sensations after starring in a rap music video addressing petrol sniffing and smoking in the community. The video, which was shot and produced with the help of The Indigenous Hip Hop Project and Central and North West Queensland Medicare Local, will be unveiled at a preview screening at the Civic Centre <http://www.northweststar.com.au/story/1455418/isa-students-create-rap-video/>

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### **Professor Megan Davis re-elected to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** Apr 2013

The Australian Government has welcomed the re-election of Professor Megan Davis, to the United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Professor Davis was elected for a second term at the meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 25 April in New York. Australia is rightly proud that our outstanding Indigenous candidate was re-elected as a member of the pre-eminent UN body for Indigenous issues for another three year term.

<http://jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/2322>

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### **Final resting place for Indigenous ancestors in Cairns** Dec 2012

In the shadows of their sacred mountain, the Yidinji people have finally laid to rest the remains of ancestors lost to them more than a century ago. Four sets of skeletons were returned to the Yidinji Aboriginal people, whose land comprises much of Cairns' southern corridor and parts of the Tableland, by the Queensland Museum two years ago after a decades-long battle led by indigenous leader Seith Fourmile. [http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/12/15/237634\\_local-news.html](http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/12/15/237634_local-news.html)

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### **National Finalist Australian of the Year: Dr Tom Calma AO** Dec 2012

Respected for his inspirational and inclusive advocacy for human rights and social justice, Dr Tom Calma has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Indigenous Australians. For more than four decades he has championed the importance of empowerment – a passion which runs through his work in education, training, employment, health, justice reinvestment and development.

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/honour-roll/#browse:view=fullView&recipientID=919>

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### **Silence is Deadly Campaign launch with the Canberra Raiders** Dec 2012

This program is designed to reduce the stigma associated with young men getting help for common mental health issues like depression and anxiety. A quarter of all young men aged under twenty-five will suffer symptoms of depression or anxiety this year. Only one in ten of them (or one in forty young men overall) will get help, leaving the overwhelming majority suffering in silence, with potentially deadly consequences. More young men die by their own hand each year than die on our roads, with suicide the leading cause of male deaths in every age group from 15 right through to 45.

<http://menslink.org.au/news/>

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### **Synthetic Cannabis Spreads to APY Lands** ABC News Nov 2012

There are signs a new type of illegal drug is becoming widespread on remote Aboriginal lands in South Australia's far north-west, police have warned.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-06/synthetic-cannabis-reaches-apy-lands/4356784>

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### **Number of Indigenous Heavy Smokers Down 45%** The Conversation Nov 2012

The number of Indigenous heavy smokers fell from 17.3% in 1994 to 9.4% in 2008, a relative drop of 45%, a study has found. The study, conducted by the Menzies School of Health Research and published today in the Medical Journal of Australia, analysed data on from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, and the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey. The first survey had 8565 respondents aged 15 and over, while the second survey had 7803 respondents aged 15 years and over.

[http://theconversation.edu.au/number-of-indigenous-heavy-smokers-down-45-10525?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+6+November+2012&utm\\_content=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+6+November+2012+CID\\_d1ec84508271ad6eeabcc783d557a308&](http://theconversation.edu.au/number-of-indigenous-heavy-smokers-down-45-10525?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+6+November+2012&utm_content=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+6+November+2012+CID_d1ec84508271ad6eeabcc783d557a308&)

**Inconvenient Truths of the Intervention** *Sydney Morning Herald* Nov 2012

The new Northern Territory government abolished the office of its coordinator-general for remote services early last month, though it barely made the news in Canberra. The incumbent, Olga Havnen, had been in the job for only a year and had just published her first report on government spending, programs and service delivery in the territory's remote communities. It was a case of "if you don't like the message, shoot the messenger".

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/public-service/inconvenient-truths-of-the-intervention-20121105-28t0y.html>

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**Macklin Unveils Tough Alcohol Control Standards** *ABC News* Nov 2012

The Federal Government says its new alcohol management plan for Aboriginal communities will ensure restrictions in the Northern Territory will not be lifted until harm reduction standards are agreed upon. So-called "tougher" minimum standards are set to be discussed with stakeholders, and will apply to prescribed communities under the Stronger Futures legislation, which replaced some of the powers of the federal intervention in the Territory.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-08/macklin-on-draft-alcohol-controls-indigenous-nt/4360422>

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**Access to Alcohol in Remote Indigenous Communities** *ABC TV News* Nov 2012

The Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon discusses draft minimum standards for community alcohol management plans.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-09/access-to-alcohol-in-remote-indigenous-communities/4364392>

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**'Grog' hits Indigenous Babies** *The Age* Nov 2012

The nation's first comprehensive study of the impact of excessive drinking on unborn Aboriginal children has revealed devastating rates of intellectual disability. The study, conducted in Western Australia's Kimberley region, found that half of babies there are born with disabilities from foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. The research, undertaken by the Liliwan Project, found that one in two Aboriginal children attending school in the region's Fitzroy Valley has the disorder, a condition that ranges in severity from severe learning and behavioural problems to acute intellectual impairment.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/grog-hits-indigenous-babies-20121111-296hs.html>

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**Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse** *SNAICC News* Nov 2012

Prime Minister Gillard has announced the Australian Government will establish a Royal Commission into "institutional responses to instances and allegations of child sexual abuse in Australia"... Acting Families Minister said the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in federal institutions may be included for examination by the royal commission.

<http://www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/fx-view-article.cfm?loadref=32&id=927>

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**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service calls on Government to put a stop to detaining juvenile offenders in adult custody** *SNAICC News* Nov 2012

This follows revelations on ABC TV that a 16-year-old Aboriginal boy had spent four months in solitary confinement at the Charlotte maximum security unit inside Port Phillip Prison.

<http://www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/fx-view-article.cfm?loadref=32&id=918>

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## WEBSITES

**Ear disease and Indigenous childcare** - a new website

Hearing loss is widespread among young Indigenous children around Australia. A very high proportion of young Indigenous children who attend childcare are likely to have fluctuating hearing loss as a consequence of middle ear disease (otitis media). If child care workers are aware of signs of ear disease and hearing loss, as well as effective communications skills to use with children who have hearing loss, they can improve outcomes for young Indigenous children. [www.lookafterkids.org.au](http://www.lookafterkids.org.au)

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**Tomorrow People** is all about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being healthier and living longer – today, tomorrow and into the future. The website includes recipes, advice, motivational ideas and resources. [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/abhi/publishing.nsf/Content/tp\\_home](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/abhi/publishing.nsf/Content/tp_home)

## DIARY DATES 2013

### July 7-14<sup>th</sup> National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC)

The origins of NAIDOC can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2013 is *We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963*, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. Activities take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week in the first full week of July. All Australians are encouraged to participate. To register an event or to locate your local events calendar, visit: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

### August 4<sup>th</sup> National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

This year NAIDOC is all about standing up for child rights. It's about creating a space for people to come together and discuss Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's rights - Right Here Right Now: Our Rights Matter! It is also a day of celebration and pride for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. To get the message out there SNAICC has produced beautiful animated 30 second Television Advertisement. The ad is screening far and wide around Australia from free-to-air television to subscription television. Set against the music of Paul Kelly's "From Little Things Big Things Grow" the ad tells the story of one Aboriginal boy and the things that keep him strong. As the young boy says "my family, my community and my culture all keep me strong. So can you". To view the television advertisement or to order 2013 resources for National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day, visit <http://www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=58>

### August 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Indigenous Peoples : " Indigenous peoples building alliances: Honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements"

The theme aims to highlight the importance of honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, between States, its citizens and indigenous peoples. Both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples have a pivotal role in making treaties "living documents" in their own communities, by establishing new ways to live together, respecting one another and cooperating in the pursuit of common goals. This contributes to building societies that guarantee the security of their communities, while preserving the environment in recognition of the unique spiritual, cultural and historic relationship between indigenous peoples and their lands and natural resources. The theme is inspired by the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign, an educational advocacy campaign organized by the Haudenosaunee people (a confederacy of six nations living in New York State), to honour their first treaty concluded with Dutch immigrants in 1613. (For more information, see <http://honorthetworow.org>). To view the final program of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, visit the UN website via: <http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/InternationalDay/2013.aspx>

## APPENDIX

### I was there, but what did I do? by Heather Gridley

There's been a lot of talk about Reconciliation lately

- Forty years since the '67 referendum

- Ten years since 'Bringing them Home'

Sorry business, sorry talk, Sorry Day

Shame job

I'm old enough to remember '67, though I wasn't quite old enough

to Vote Yes for Aborigines with the 91% of Australians who did

- a feelgood moment that one

I'd never met an Aboriginal person

- in inner city Brunswick we were busy getting used to new Australians,  
Italians and Greeks filling up Sydney Road, talking their own lingo,

Their kids looking lost at school, smelling of garlic  
 I did a nice project on Aborigines at school  
 - assimilation was the word of the day, and I cut out pictures to match.  
 In my precious scrapbook, circa 1962, there's a picture from Woman's Day  
 of two little brown girls in white frocks,  
 flower girls at a wedding in their adoptive family.  
 A few years ago I read a story that rang bells – one of those girls  
 had died in distress, the other's life had spiralled downwards too  
 That's when I realised the Stolen Generation happened in my lifetime,  
 not 'way back when'  
 But no-one told me, and I was too young to do anything, wasn't I?  
 Indigenous AFL round last weekend too  
 - other feelgood moment, and I'm not bagging those  
 In the 60s my Mum and I loved Syd Jackson  
 - with Jezza and Kekovich and Barassi (multicultural names!)  
 he brought a new age to the Blues and we thrived  
 Less was said about Polly Farmer or Barry Cable being Aboriginal  
 -they could almost pass for white  
 Like the handful of kids at Lake Bolac High where I taught in the 70s  
 it was still no source of pride, just a whisper behind the hand.  
 Some teacher friends took me on a hike to explore an extinct volcano  
 scattered with remnants of Aboriginal middens - fireplaces, spearheads and the like  
 Recently I saw a 'massacre map' of Victoria  
 thickest in the Western District and Grampians-Gariwerd  
 - a wonder that handful of kids survived at all.  
 Fast forward to the 1980s, no longer a teacher  
 I'm a psychologist now in community health  
 getting more involved in the APS, a fledgling community psych  
 I've written elsewhere of the events of '88, Bicentennial Year,  
 of the Sydney Congress where we were shamed into action by our kiwi friends  
 who questioned the absence of anything Aboriginal apart from some photos of skulls  
 I drafted the letter of outrage that never got sent  
 Thanks to Art Venno's strategic smarts we opted instead for a longer-term plan  
 that played out and paid off two years on  
 - and The Psyching of Oz became Exhibit A  
 in my History and Theories lectures for years after that:  
 "So what would have happened to Australian Psychology, to Australia itself,  
 if we'd asked 'tell us how you live here' instead of measuring skulls?"  
 Come the 1990s, the Decade of Reconciliation  
 and I'm an academic now, at Victoria University  
 The APS Community Psychology Board is working up the Maralinga Trip,  
 Art Venno again, hustling, building alliances, making connections with Aboriginal colleagues – how  
 come this Yank knows so much?  
 I've lived here all my life and Still Never Met One.  
 At the 1990 APS Conference in Melbourne Tracey Bunda read Pat Dudgeon's paper  
 - 'read' isn't really the word, Tracey spoke to it,  
 talked of walking down city streets, Melbourne streets, anywhere,  
 catching eyes that affirmed 'we've survived'  
 - and I suddenly knew I'd been blind.  
 Few dry eyes in the theatre that day.  
 Soon after we took off in a bus on a 7-day, 4900k journey west  
 via Woomera (Phallic Park) and Roxby Downs to Maralinga  
 And a meeting with Tjarutja elders who remembered The Bomb and even more  
 being moved from red earth to the coast where 'white sand make you sick and old'.  
 On the bus we watched John Pilger's 'Secret Country'

- I'd heard men in the past speaking to women's issues, mostly ending up sounding patronising or chauvinistic or sexist no matter how hard they tried to get it right.  
 Now as a white coloniser I wept without words, lest I sound just the same.  
 Reconciliation for whites is like housework for men in some ways  
 - you can take it or leave it but it feels really good when you give it a go.  
 It's rather like bacon and eggs -  
 A hen can contribute her eggs without losing too much  
 For the pig bacon's total commitment, a life and death call.  
 So I cheered from the sidelines through most of the nineties  
 and I laid a few eggs for the cause where I could, now and then.  
 I signed on when the APS Aboriginal Interest Group formed – Adelaide '91  
 - met Pat Dudgeon; Errol West was there too.  
 1993 – International Year of Indigenous Peoples –  
 the pressure was on APS to put dollars to words.  
 At Vic Uni we hosted a conference – 'Koories and Psychology' – not many came.  
 The Community Board's fourth Trans-Tasman went to Yarrabah  
 on the Peace Train from Brisbane - Art doing the hustling again.  
 Tracey and Pat had company now - Judy Atkinson, Phil Stewart, Mick Miller  
 and more – and young Darren Garvey was there!  
 This time we did more than drop by  
 - we sat with a community in the re-making, education and health to the fore.  
 1994 - APS's Reconciliation commitment brought 30 Indigenous psych students together in  
 Wollongong – a meeting of sparks as well as minds.  
 One was Linda, who soon became our first VU student  
 The 1995 APS Conference was in Perth, where Indigenous presence peaked  
 Rob Riley left a hospital bed to deliver his keynote address  
 By the time it was published Rob was dead by his own hand  
 Dead too now are Phil Stewart and Errol West, Lisa Bellair and Charles Perkins  
 - Indigenous life expectancy realities, the bacon principle at work.  
 I didn't do much in Perth either – bought some red, black and gold earrings maybe  
 But the Interest Group was steaming ahead, ethical guidelines rolling off the press,  
 an APS paper on Racism and Prejudice in the pipeline,  
 a white responsibility for once, and I put in my bit.  
 Deaths in Custody inquiry, Mabo, Keating's Redfern speech now gave way  
 to Wik, Howard's 10-point plan, Hindmarsh Island defeat, and One Nation.  
 By 1997 I was APS Director of Social Issues  
 reading the ACOSS statement of Apology and Commitment at Yarrabah  
 - I saw what it meant on the faces of elders, much more than a plaque on a wall.  
 As Director I had more scope to make a difference behind the scenes  
 - a word at a meeting here, some discretionary funds used there  
 Please get out of the doorway... if you can't lend a hand,  
 for the times, they are a-changin'  
 Sometimes getting out of the way of a movement for change is the best you can do  
 or removing a few logs along the stream.  
 The International Year of Tolerance  
 - women would rather have equality  
 - gays and lesbians preferred acceptance  
 - Indigenous peoples demanded justice  
 Tolerance then just felt like spare change – but hey, we could do with some now.  
 The AP Indigenous Special Issue came out in 1998  
 We walked hand in hand across Bridges in 2000  
 and Colleen Turner and I got to be the white minority  
 representing APS at the Indigenous Peoples and Racism conference in Sydney  
 In 2001 The Handbook came out – Dudgeon, Garvey & Pickett – what a tome!  
 But Something Else happened other side of the world

9/11 and Tampa, Siev-X, then a war  
and hens like me laid our eggs over there.  
When we turned back around ATSI was gone, a boy impaled in Redfern, a man dead on Palm  
Island, talk of violence, grog and abuse everywhere  
And Blame the Victim was the name of the game once again  
Would anyone dare to tell Brunswick kids  
they can't use the pool if they don't go to school?  
Do we in Melbourne have to bargain for a petrol pump?  
A life unexamined is a life not worth living, the philosopher said  
And a privilege unexamined is one not worth having  
– or maybe it's the privileged who aren't worthy of the having.  
The Decade of Reconciliation has been and gone  
I've learned a lot, done a bit and it's not enough, no such thing as enough  
At APS the Interest Group has now revived after a lull of some years  
I didn't know how to start writing this, and now I don't know how to finish  
That's the trouble with this Whiteness stuff  
- you can go on and on, and nothing will have changed  
We do need to clean up our white backyards  
And mine is Psychology, layered with Western dust  
Stop talking, start listening, don't just stand there, pick up a broom.

Adapted from:

Gridley, H. (2008). I was there, but what did I do? Invited contribution to D. Garvey, Indigenous identity in contemporary psychology: Dilemmas, developments and directions, pp.113-118, Melbourne: Nelson Australia. ISBN 978 0 17 013389 0.