

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE KOORI CENTRE



Issue 1 - March 2005

## Academic Skills Classes

New Academic Skills Classes have started for the year and the difference this year is that the Learning Centre at the University will be delivering these workshops. These will be held twice each week in Room 217 at the Koori Centre – on Mondays between 11am and 12 noon and on Wednesdays between 1pm and 2pm. The workshops include things like: general essay writing, time management, research skills, referencing styles and much, much more. Primarily designed to assist first year Cadigal students, the workshops are open to all Indigenous students at any stage of their study program. So please contact Jeff Dunn on (02) 9351 7001 for more information.

## Koori Centre Website

The new website went live on 17 March 2005 and we hope that it is easy to navigate and provides everyone with loads of useful information. Weekly updates will mean that all of the details contained on the site will be current. If you have any comments or suggestions

about the new site, please let Curtis know as he has been doing all the technical stuff with the site: [curtis@koori.usyd.edu.au](mailto:curtis@koori.usyd.edu.au)

## New Computer Lab

If you are continuing your studies this year and you have been to the Koori Centre since the beginning of first semester, you will have noticed that the Computer Lab has moved. The old location (Room 217) is now home to the student seminar/tutorial spaces and the old Art Room (Room 216) has been dramatically re-vamped to become a new Computer Lab. With additional computers and more space, we hope that this new facility will work much better for our students.



Students in the new computer lab.

## ITAS Tutoring

The most obvious change to the DEST tutoring scheme has been in the name – formerly known as ATAS (Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme) the new scheme will be known as ITAS (Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme). No major changes have been made to the structure of the program and all students are encouraged to apply

for tutoring. Sherrie is administering ITAS for the Centre and she is now located in Room 221. Sherrie will be available during normal office hours and will also be available for students and tutors between 1pm and 2pm every Wednesday.

## Student Support

The Koori Centre is trialling a new timetabling procedure which will enable students to access particular staff members at various times during the day. If any Indigenous student needs advice or support, all they have to do is drop into Sherrie's office or phone her on (02) 9351 5177 - she can let you know who is rostered on at a particular time. The following staff are available for student support: Jeff Dunn, Sharon Galleguillos, John Hobson, Leah Lui-Chivizhe and Wendy Brady.

## Other Bits and Pieces

Jeff Dunn, the Cadigal Coordinator has moved to Room 214A and shares this office with the new Academic Coordinator, Wendy Brady. Wendy re-joined the Centre on 14 March after an absence of 5 and a bit years, to take over the reigns of coordinating the Academic program from Arthur Smith, who plans to retire this year.

Returning students will also notice a considerable difference in the Koori Centre Library. Uma has been working at a breakneck pace to get everything sorted out in time for the beginning of semester, and hopes that the new environment better meets student needs for research and study.

There have been a couple of changes in Administration too. Our new trainee, Judy Fernando, started at the Centre last November and came to us as part of the University's new Indigenous Employment Strategy. You will find Judy in the front office with Noeleen and Curtis.

In the Executive Office, Patrick Snowdon is currently the Director's Assistant and Deborah Kirby-Parsons has moved over to do Jenny Thompson's job. Jenny is off gallivanting overseas until February next year.

## Units of Study

The Koori Centre together with the Music Department is delivering two new units of study this year: *Yolngu Way* and *Garma Field Work*. *Yolngu Way* introduces students to the culture and intellectual traditions of the Yolgnu peoples and the *Garma Field Work* unit is undertaken at the Garma Festival of Traditional Culture which is held at Gulkula in Arnhem Land each year. More information about these units is available on the website.



Janelle and Pete teaching us all how to be happy.