

WHAT'S NEW AT THE KOORI CENTRE



Issue 5 – August/September 2005

GARMA FESTIVAL

In August, 5 students attended the 2005 Garma Festival in North East Arnhem land along with two staff as part of the course: Yolngu Way. This became a tremendous learning experience as the five students were 'adopted' by the Gupapuyklna clan – dancing with them each afternoon at the Bungul, and given the opportunity to have 'audiences' with the tribal elders.



Laura with Gupapuyklna Elders

It was a credit to the students involved that they took on the tasks of reaching out to the Bupapuyklna to become a part of that family, and this was reflected in the overall learning experience – much more so than if they

had just attended forums and lectures while at Garma, the students were able to experience the 'lived' feeling of being a part of a community.



Lucas, Kirsten, Aaron Corn and Pete

Towards the end of this year, the assessment tasks for the unit of study are due, and as a piece of their major assessment, the students will once again (and with permission from the Gupapuyklna) dance in a Bungul performance at the Koori Centre. As an annual event, the Garma festival encourages the practice and maintenance of Yolngu traditions in music, dance, art and ceremony. Already there is talk among the 'Garma Five' of returning for next year's festival such is the impression that was left on them. (And rumour has it that romance also flourished?!?)



Kirsten and Gupapuyklna Elders

Indigenous Student Website

The University has announced that it will create a new section of its website dedicated to prospective Indigenous Students. The new page will be a 'one stop shop' for information that any future Indigenous Student would need about enrolling at the University of Sydney.

Curtis Flood, Deborah Kirby Parsons, Andrea Andreou and Sally Farrington from Yooroang Garang have been working on the new site for about 2 months. The site should be up and running by the end of September.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week

It was a wild blustery day for the flag raising this year which might explain why attendance figures were down, but the weather did not put off those dedicated individuals who attend our flag raisings every year. Professor John Lester, newly appointed Director of the Aboriginal Education & Training Directorate for the NSW Department of Education and Training, officiated the flag raising. Dr Wendy Brady from the Koori Centre also spoke as did the new President of the Student Union, Mr Amit Singh. The Darlington Public School Choir performed two songs at the end of the proceedings and this was followed by morning tea in the Cloisters of the Main Quad.

Also on that day at the Cumberland Campus, Yooroang Garang held a forum which was extremely well attended. Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Human Rights &

Equal Opportunity Commission spoke about: *"Challenges facing Indigenous Australians today, and what Strengths have they gained through these Challenges"*

Later that week Thulli Dreaming performed in the Manning Bar forecourt on the main campus and they also provided a 'bush tucker' b-b-q that day, which was very well attended.

If you have any suggestions for activities during Reconciliation Week or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week next year at the University, please send them to Deborah at the Koori Centre: manager@koori.usyd.edu.au, or drop into the office.



Flag Raising, ATSI Week

CENTRELINK – Budget Benefits for Students

The May Budget announcement included changes to the income tests on allowance payments. The Changes will make the tests more generous and will benefit both new and existing recipients from 1 July 2006.

Currently, if students earn between \$236 and \$316 across a two week period their fortnightly payment is reduced by 50 cents in the dollar. Income above \$316 reduces payment by 70 cents in the dollar. The new changes will see students in receipt of Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY payments benefit from a reduction in the maximum withdrawal rate from 70 cents in the dollar to 60 cents.

For more information you can call Centrelink re: ABSTUDY Pensioner Education Supplement or ABSTUDY on 13 2317

Black Faces on Uni Homepage

The University has agreed to having two Indigenous Students featured on the University Homepage as part of the 'rotating stack' of images currently located at www.usyd.edu.au.

Every time you visit the homepage or hit the 'refresh' button on the browser, the images change, showing different staff and students in various aspects of University life. Very soon two of your fellow students will be gracing the page for all the world to see.

Party of the Year

Friday 26th August 'Norton's on Norton' Leichhardt Some say: THE

EVENT OF THE YEAR – There was a packed house to help Clarky celebrate his 21st on 26 August and a great time was had by all till the sun came up the following morning. Past and present students, a handful of staff, other family and friends – a testament to the high regard Clarky (our Klub Koori President) is held in by many. In his own words: **“stay black, stay proud, stay strong, don't take no for an answer”**.

Congrats and best wishes Clarky – you're a dead set legend!



Clark's 21st - A night to remember

Koori Centre Staff Retreat – Student Representative

Just a reminder to students that Peter Hawkins is representing you at the Koori Centre Staff Retreat this year, so if you have anything that you would like Pete to discuss or include in his report please let him know before the 23 September.

The Koori Centre will be closed from **Monday 26th – Wednesday 28th**, Re-opening for business as usual on **Thursday 29th September**.

Dr Charles Perkins Oration

A gala dinner is planned this year to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Annual Dr Charles Perkins AO Oration.

This very special event will be held in MacLaurin Hall on 27 October. The speakers on the night will be Chief Justice James Spigelman, Professor Larissa Behrendt and Mr Lyall Munro Snr.

Tickets are for sale through the Office of University Relations and can be purchased by contacting Mr Chris MacDonald on **Phone** 9351 2673

Email c.macdonald@vcc.usyd.edu.au

Tickers for students and community members are \$60ea. A table of ten is \$900 and individual tickets are \$100.

If you have any questions about the dinner, please see Patrick or Deborah at the Centre.



Charles Perkins in the Main Quad of the University of Sydney.

CENTRELINK - ABSTUDY Rate Adjustment

ABSTUDY Living Allowance rates for 21 & overs (single, partnered, single with children, 60 & over) will be adjusted in line with the CPI on 20 September 2005

Indigenous Student Games

Planning is still underway for the Indigenous Students Games which are taking place in Newcastle. With just a couple of details to be completed everything is under control.

We wish the team every success and hope that they can bring home the trophy once again.

UPDATE:

A small group of students from Sydney Uni made the trip to Newcastle for the Games.

The team was a little smaller than we had hoped, but Uni work does take precedence sometimes.

By all accounts the competition was fierce, the games were full-on and our beloved team were in every game in every sport running their hearts out.

Although they didn't quite make it to the winning circle the important thing is that they were there representing us and having a great time. (If working up a sweat on the Dance floor was an official sport of the Games, apparently we would have done very well!)

Congratulations to **Ben Phillips** who won the Best and Fairest for Touch Footy.



2004 University of Sydney team