Inaugural Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research Symposium 2011
The University of Melbourne

Putting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research to Work

Symposium Program

Thursday 3rd November 2011, 9.00am to 5.00pm

The Law Building (106), 185 Pelham Street, Carlton
The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria

Supported by
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On behalf of the Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA) it is my great pleasure to welcome all delegates to this Inaugural Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research Symposium at The University of Melbourne.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the land of the Wurundjeri and pay my respects to their Elders and families. I acknowledge Elders past and present, and particularly acknowledge community here today from Victoria and around the country – our current and future leaders. I would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alumni of The University of Melbourne, in particular Lisa Bellear (1961-2006) for her extraordinary contribution to the University.

The theme of the symposium is Putting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research to Work. This is a significant and most current topic. To support the theme, the aims of today’s symposium include providing opportunities:

- for graduate students to establish networks and to strengthen and expand their professional networks and supports in this area;
- for researchers from across The University of Melbourne to meet our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students; and
- to showcase the breadth and excellence of Indigenous research being undertaken at The University of Melbourne.

The idea for a university-wide multidisciplinary symposium came from graduate students with the purpose of bringing together graduate students, academic staff and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the university, as well as community members.

The Inaugural Symposium has attracted 39 presentations from students and staff.

I would like to thank the Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development, and an anonymous donor who provided financial support for this symposium, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, The Lowitja Institute (National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research), the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control, Professor Marcia Langton (Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies), Angelina Tabuteau Moore, Steve Kelly, Associate Professor Robyn Sloggett, the IGSA Committee and members and all of the presenters, guests and volunteers. Special thanks to Elijah Louttit and Penelope Smith.

I hope you find this Inaugural symposium an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait research at The University of Melbourne.

Lyndon Ormond-Parker
Chair, Indigenous Graduate Students Association
Acknowledgements

The Inaugural Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research Symposium 2011 is a joint initiative of the Indigenous Graduate Students Association, Murrup Barak (Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development), Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, The Lowitja Institute (National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research), the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control and Professor Marcia Langton, Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at The University of Melbourne, Australia.

Co-Convenors: Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Graham Gee, Ian Anderson, Shaun Ewen, Penelope Smith, Viki Briggs and Marcia Langton

Event Coordinators: Elijah Louttit and Penelope Smith

Symposium Organising Committee: Christine Asmar, Elijah Louttit, Penelope Smith, Graham Gee and Lyndon Ormond-Parker

Program: Elijah Louttit, Penelope Smith and Lyndon Ormond-Parker. We gratefully acknowledge Jane Yule and Cristina Lochert’s assistance. Design by George Kirby.

Supported by The University of Melbourne

Indigenous Graduate Students Association
The Indigenous Graduate Students Association is open to all graduate students from The University of Melbourne and aims to:

- maintain regular forums for graduate presentations on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research;
- encourage social and cultural interactions of all graduate students with an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research; and
- enhance the academic and professional life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduate students.

For more information please go to the following link:

http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/content/pages/indigenous-graduate-students-association-monthly-forum

IGSA Committee 2011
Lyndon Ormond-Parker (Chair), Michelle Evan (Secretary), Graham Gee (Treasurer), Scott Winch, Suzanne Spunner, Michael Hemmingway, Terry James and Lia Bartholomew.

The IGSA Committee and the symposium co-convenors gratefully acknowledge the support of the volunteers at today’s event.
# Program

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research Symposium

**The University of Melbourne Melbourne Law School, University Square, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton, 3rd November 2011**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8.30 – 9.00</td>
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| 9.00 – 10.30| **Official Opening & Hot Topics 1**               | Room G08     | **Professor Ian Anderson** | Welcome to Country: **Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy**
Opening Address: **Professor Marcia Langton**, Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies
HT1. **Kevin Rowley, Rachel Reilly, Joyce Doyle, Sharon Atkinson-Briggs & Bradley Firebrace:** Creating Healthy Environments: The Establishment of the Goulburn–Murray Aboriginal Health Promotion Alliance
HT2. **Graham Gee:** Understanding Trauma, Recovery, and Resilience in an Urban Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
HT3. **Emma Kowal:** From Scientific Specimen to Indigenous Cultural Property: Studying Indigenous DNA Collections
HT4. **Janet McGaw & Anoma Pieris:** Assembling the Centre: Architecture for Indigenous Culture

Questions and Open Discussion |

### Morning Tea

10.30 – 11.00

| 11.00 – 12.30| **Antecedents to Health:**                        | Room 0102    | **Graham Gee**         | AH1. **Shaun Ewen & Gina Bloom:** Indigenous Health Education—Closing the Gap, or Just Making Us Feel Better?  
AH2. **Jane Freemantle:** Colonisation and the Indigenous Child Health Gap: Fact or Fiction?  
AH3. **Joan Cunningham:** Socioeconomic Status and Chronic Disease Prevalence in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Adults  
AH4. **Leanne Coombe:** National Review of Core Indigenous Public Health Competencies Integration into MPH Curricula  
AH5. **Laura Hart:** The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Program  
AH6. **Terry James:** Trauma: Whose Criteria? |

Questions and Open Discussion |

### Lunch

12.30 – 1.30

| 1.30 – 9.00| **Past Design and Future Directions:**           | Room 0104    | **Scott Winch**        | PF1. **David O’Brien:** Indigenous Housing with Indigenous People  
PF2. **George Stavrias & Silas Gibson:** Learning from the Media Box: Delivering Infrastructure Projects in Darwin’s Indigenous Town-camps  
PF3. **Julie Evans, Nesam McMillian & Giordano Nanni:** Coranderrk: We Will Show the Country and the Minutes of Evidence Project  
PF4. **Suzanne Spunner:** Vindicating Rover Thomas  
PF5a. **Kira Randolph** (3M): What Happened before Dreamings?: The Early Exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Art in America  
PF5b. **Darren Parker** (3M): (Under)Mining a Culture: Can’t We Do Better Than This? The Need to Recognise Transformative (Educative) Values in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Laws in Australia  
PF5c. **Michael Hemingway** (3M): Aboriginal Community-Control: Self-determination and Liberal Democracy  
PF5d. **Lyndon Ormond-Parker** (3M): Digitisation and Indigenous Communities: The Development of Online Collections |

Questions and Open Discussion |
### Symposium Program

#### 1.30 – 3.00

**Determinants of Health**  
Room 0102  
Chair: Shaun Ewen

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<th>DH1. Viki Briggs</th>
<th>Overview of Research Projects Relating to National Indigenous Tobacco Control</th>
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<td>Researching Child Language Acquisition in Indigenous Australia: A Longitudinal, Linguistic Study</td>
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<td>DH4. Mary John &amp; Stephen O’Leary</td>
<td>Colonization of Otitis Media Bacteria in Aboriginal children—Is Probiotic an Answer?</td>
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<td>DH5. Benjamin Cowie &amp; Jennifer MacLachlan</td>
<td>The Impact of Hepatitis B on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</td>
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**Learnings, Art and Desires**  
Room 0104  
Chair: Lyndon Ormond-Parker

| LAD1. Sally Godinho & Ken Winkel | Learning through Country: Literacy Empowerment in a Remote Indigenous Community |
| LAD2. Meredith Kiraly & Cathy Humphrey | It is the Story of All of Us: Learning from Aboriginal Communities |
| LAD3. Allison Stout | Consultation – A Continuous Learning Framework for Development |
| LAD4. Fran Edmonds & Christel Rachinger | Technology Talks: Aboriginal Youth in Victoria and Their Use of Mobile Phones |
| LAD5a. Susan Lowish (3M) | Digital Archiving Aboriginal Art |
| LAD5b. Jacob Otter (3M) | The Postcolonial Moments of Nature–Culture Entanglement on the Murray River |
| LAD5c. Penelope Smith & Paul Stewart (3M) | How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students Experience their Undergraduate Candidature at the University of Melbourne |
| LAD5d. Jasmine Angus (3M) | The Experiences of Aboriginal Families who Have a Child with a Disability in Melbourne |

#### 3.00 – 3.30

**Afternoon tea**

#### 3.30 – 4.45

**Hot Topics 2**  
Room G08  
Chair: **Professor Marcia Langton**

| HT5. Scott Winch & Kevin Rowley | Limitations of Community-level Indicators for Victorian Aboriginal Populations |
| HT7. Sally Trelony | Songs that Need to Stay: The State of Indigenous Australian Performance Traditions and New Directions in Ethnomusicological research |
| HT9. Dylan Lino (5M) | Federal Constitutional Reform and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People |
| HT10. Marcia Langton (5M) | Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution |

#### 4.45 – 5.00

**Awarding of ‘Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research’ to Summer School Graduates**  
Room G08  
Presenter: Mr Willie Hensley, Alaskan Inuit leader from the University of Alaska, Anchorage

**Closing Remarks:** Professor Ian Anderson, Professor Marcia Langton

#### 5.00 – 6.00

**Refreshments**
Session Information and Presentation Format

The symposium format will consist of consecutive presentation sessions for the duration of the event. The first presentation session of the day will be delivered in the main lecture room, then will be broken up into two separate stream sessions located in two lecture rooms. Both streams will rejoin for the last presentation session of the day in the main lecture room.

All sessions will consist of both presentations and discussion time. To ensure the smooth running of both the presentations and the discussions, Session Chairs and Timekeepers have been assigned to manage the sessions. The symposium comprises of mostly 10-minute presentations with only a few 3-minute and 5-minute presentations towards the end of the concurrent sessions. The Session Chair will introduce the speakers, and ensure that the speakers keep to time. The audience is asked to keep their questions for the speakers to the end. At this time the chair will ask all session speakers to form a panel and open to the floor for questions.

Public Transport

- **Tram**
  The following trams stop on Swanston Street: **Tram 1** (East Coburg to South Melbourne), **Tram 3/3a** (East Malvern to Melbourne University), **Tram 5** (Malvern to Melbourne University), **Tram 6** (Glen Iris to Melbourne University), **Tram 8** (Moreland to Toorak), **Tram 16** (Kew to Melbourne University via St Kilda), **Tram 64** (East Brighton to Melbourne University), **Tram 67** (Carnegie to Melbourne University) and **Tram 72** (Camberwell to Melbourne University). **Tram 19** (City to North Coburg) stops on Royal Parade.

- **Train**
  Attendees are advised to take a train to **Melbourne Central Station** and take a connecting tram (see above) on Swanston Street or take a train to **North Melbourne Station** and then catch the very frequent **Bus 401**.

- **Bus**
  The following buses travel to The University of Melbourne precinct: **Bus 205** (Doncaster Shoppingtown to Melbourne University via Kew), **Bus 401** (North Melbourne to Melbourne University), **Bus 402** (Footscray to East Melbourne), **Bus 505** (Moonee Ponds to Melbourne University via Parkville Gardens) and **Bus 546** (Heidelberg to Melbourne University).

For timetables maps and further information, visit [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au)

Taxis

There is a taxi rank outside the old Women’s Hospital site on Grattan Street near the corner of Swanston Street. Taxis are available for booking or on request by calling Yellow Cabs on 13 222.
Parking

For those driving to the symposium, the recommended car park is the University Square Car Park, which is a short walk to the Law Building. On-street car parking is available around the university and Law Building location, but is extremely limited during business hours. Time restrictions may apply for some locations. There are multi-storey car parks within walking distance of the Melbourne Law Building.

- **University Square Car Park**
  - Located beneath University Square, access is via an underground tunnel from Berkeley Street
  - $2.50 per Hour with a daily maximum of $7.00
  - Monday to Friday 7.00am–11.00pm

- **Kim Lim Parking – Leicester Street Car Park**
  - Phone: 9349 2147
  - 16 Leicester Street (between Queensberry and Victoria Streets)
  - $2.20 per hour with a daily maximum of $13.20
  - Monday to Friday 6.30am–6.30pm

- **The Royal Women’s Hospital Car Park**
  - Corner of Cardigan and Grattan Streets
  - The car park is open to the general public for casual parking at a rate of $2.50 1st Hour, $5.00 2nd Hour, $7.50 3rd Hour, $9.00 4th Hour, Maximum fee is $10.00 until closing time
  - Monday to Thursday 6.30am–11.30pm

Emergency and Security

- For Emergency Assistance 24 Hours a Day – Dial 000
- Security/Building Access – Dial 03 8344 4475
- Security Escort Service – Dial 03 8344 4674 or Free Call – 1800 24 6066

Campus security patrols are available to escort you to your car, public transport, colleges or other location on or in the near vicinity of campus. This service is available to staff and students.

Should you need to contact a member of the Symposium Organising Committee urgently during the symposium, phone either of the following numbers:

- Elijah Louttit: 0431 327 133
- Penelope Smith: 0447 414 469
Official Opening and Hot Topics 1

9.00 – 10.30
Room G08

Chair: Professor Ian Anderson

Professor Ian Anderson has worked in Aboriginal (Koori) health for more than 25 years: as an Aboriginal Health Worker, in health education, as a General Practitioner and as an academic. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, then the Medical Adviser to the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. Ian’s family are Palawa Trowerna from the Pyemairrenner mob in Tasmania, which includes Trawlwoolway and Plairmairrenner and related clans.

Ian has a professional background in medicine and social sciences. He has written widely on issues related to Aboriginal health, identity and culture, and has also been involved in Aboriginal health policy development. He holds the Foundation Chair in Indigenous Health at The University of Melbourne where he is the Director of Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development. Ian also chairs the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council, which advises the Australian Government on its progress towards meeting its Close the Gap health targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ian is the current Director of Research and Innovation of the Lowitja Institute and in 2011 Ian was appointed Fellow for Indigenous Leadership.

Welcome to Country: Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy

Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy, AO is the Senior Elder of the Wurundjeri people of Melbourne and surrounds. She has been actively involved in Aboriginal issues for more than 30 years, working in policy areas at all levels of government. Joy has welcomed many people to her Father’s country, including Nelson Mandela, Mohammed Ali and almost all of Britain’s royal family. Joy’s recent focus is in the arts and she says not only is it more enjoyable, she firmly believes that the influence of the arts is a significant factor in raising the bar of cultural awareness, creating a better understanding of our community affairs.

Opening Address: Professor Marcia Langton

Professor Marcia Langton, AM holds the Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at The University of Melbourne. Her doctoral fieldwork was conducted in eastern Cape York Peninsula during the 1990s, and her experience of the statutory land claim and native title system in this region was informed by a decade of administration and fieldwork in the Northern Territory. She was awarded a PhD from Macquarie University in 2005. She is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia, a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the Chair of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership.
HT1: Creating Healthy Environments: The Establishment of the Goulburn–Murray Aboriginal Health Promotion Alliance
Kevin Rowley, Rachel Reilly, Joyce Doyle, Sharon Atkinson-Briggs and Bradley Firebrace

There is a long-standing and effective partnership operating between researchers from The University of Melbourne and key community controlled organisations in the Goulburn–Murray region: Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative (RAC), Rumbalara Football Netball Club (RFNC) and Viney-Morgan Aboriginal Medical Service (VMAMS). The partnership has resulted in health research and interventions including the Heart Health Project and a number of community owned and run intervention projects. Efforts to evaluate the broad range of health programs across the region have encountered the challenge of identifying appropriate indicators and methods that do justice to the cultural, community and other factors which contribute to program success (or otherwise). Current work aims to evaluate and integrate health promotion efforts in the Goulburn–Murray region through the establishment of a Health Promotion Alliance. This includes an audit of health promotion activities in the region, an ecological evaluation of these activities and the development of appropriate indicators and evaluation tools for use by individual programs.

Kevin Rowley is a Senior Research Fellow at Onemda, with an academic background in the biochemistry, pharmacology and epidemiology of cardiovascular health and disease. Kevin has been involved in the evaluation of community-directed health interventions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since 1994. He has local and interstate collaborations with academic institutions and Aboriginal community controlled organisations. Kevin’s research includes medical, biological and social aspects of heart health as they relate to Aboriginal peoples and other population groups in Australia, and the ways in which health programs can be designed and evaluated with all these issues considered.

Rachel Reilly is a Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne who undertakes program evaluation and contributes to delivering program activities for the Goulburn–Murray Health Promotion Alliance. She has a Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology, has clinical experience in the management of chronic conditions, and has been a collaborator on health research projects with RAC, RFNC and VMAMS since 2003.

Joyce Doyle is a Yorta Yorta woman who started community work in 1970s as an Aboriginal Educator. She completed a BA(Ed) at Deakin University in the 1980s before returning to community in 1999, working in Jemuria (an Aboriginal youth education initiative) through TAFE for 3 years. She later worked at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative in Mooroopna as CEO and was manager of the medical centre for 2 years. Joyce has had a number of roles in working in the mainstream sector also, and ran for local council in 1995. Joyce has worked in her community most of her life and has been with the Rumbalara Football Netball Club since it began in 1997 in a number of roles: board member, youth leadership, program management, researcher, volunteer, canteen manager and helping to establish the Healthy Lifestyles and Hungry for Victory Programs.

Sharon Atkinson-Briggs is the Coordinator of the Goulburn–Murray Health Promotion Alliance. She delivers and coordinates various program activities. Sharon has a Diploma in Community Nutrition; Diploma in Administration; Cert IV in Fitness; Grad Cert in Diabetes Education; and more than 20 years’ experience in administration, finance, employment and project management.

Bradley Firebrace is a graduate of the Academy of Sport, Health and Education (Cert IV Fitness). He has more than 10 years’ experience working in community organisations in communications and research roles. He is currently a Research Assistant (Communications) with The University of Melbourne.
**HT2: Understanding Trauma, Recovery, and Resilience in an Urban Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service**

Graham Gee

The broad aim of Graham’s PhD research is to investigate the psychosocial factors associated with trauma, recovery and resilience in an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. A mixed methodology approach was developed in collaboration with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS). The first phase of the study involved conducting focus groups with Koori staff at the counselling service to explore local concepts of trauma, recovery and resilience. A culturally valid Indigenous resilience measure was developed during this phase of the study.

The second phase involves investigating the relationship between trauma exposure, trauma symptom severity and the social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous clients attending the counselling service. A key aim is to identify personal, social, community and cultural based protective factors associated with greater self-reported levels of social and emotional wellbeing and general health, and lower trauma symptom severity. Findings from the study will help to guide therapeutic engagement with clients presenting with trauma-related difficulties in urban Aboriginal community controlled organisations in Australia.

*Graham Gee* is a descendant of the Garawa nation and grew up in Darwin, Northern Territory. He has a prior background in education, and worked for some years in the area of land justice. After completing his postgraduate Diploma in Psychology, Graham began working as a counsellor at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, while also undertaking a combined Masters/PhD degree in Clinical Psychology at The University of Melbourne. The focus of his PhD research is on trauma, recovery and resilience in urban Koori communities. Graham also sits on the Board of Directors of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation and the Steering Committee of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association.

**HT3: From Scientific Specimen to Indigenous Cultural Property: Studying Indigenous DNA Collections**

Emma Kowal

Thousands of blood samples taken from Australia’s Indigenous people lie in institutional freezers of the global north, the legacy of twentieth-century scientific research. Since those collections were assembled, standards of ethical research practice have changed dramatically, leaving some samples in a state of dormancy. While some overseas collections are still actively used for genetic research, this is viewed as maverick and unethical by most Australian genetic researchers who have closer relationships with Indigenous Australians, Indigenous bioethical norms and postcolonial politics.

Some Indigenous donor communities in Australia and elsewhere now view samples not as scientific gifts but as cultural property and an extension of the collective Indigenous body. While some scientists consider research on older samples as a universal good with potential to improve Indigenous, national and global health, Indigenous peoples can view this as a neo-colonial injury. This brief paper explores these issues, drawing from an ongoing ethnographic study of Indigenous DNA collections and genetic researchers who work in Indigenous communities across Australia.
Emma Kowal is a cultural anthropologist who has previously worked as a doctor and public health researcher in Indigenous health settings. Her PhD research examining non-Indigenous people who work in Indigenous health in the Northern Territory is the basis of her forthcoming book *Caught in the Gap: The Cultural Politics of White Anti-Racism*. She co-edited *Moving Anthropology: Critical Indigenous Studies* and her work is published in American Anthropologist, Social Science and Medicine, Medical Anthropology, Cultural Studies, The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology as well as medical journals. She is currently conducting ethnographic research with genetic researchers who work in Indigenous communities as a National Health and Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Anthropology at The University of Melbourne.

**HT4: Assembling the Centre: Architecture for Indigenous Culture**

Janet McGaw and Anoma Pieris

This presentation will introduce a three-year Australia Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant, Indigenous Place-making, Representations, Practices and Creative Research. The Melbourne City Council is a contributing partner and the Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group is an in-kind partner. The research project was developed in response to a desire by our linkage partners for a major centre for Indigenous culture in Melbourne. The centre would address the perceived problems of visibility in a metropolitan context, a need for a central gathering place, land justice for dispossessed urban Aboriginals and a place for promoting a dynamic and contemporary culture.

There are inherent tensions in centralising Indigenous culture, as revealed through the history of colonisation, the geographies of Indigenous settlement and recent Indigenous cultural centre precedents. Yet the corollary, marginalisation on the periphery, has had demonstrably negative impacts on Indigenous visibility, pride, education and health. Our research is investigating what aspects of ‘the centre’ must be decolonised if Indigenous place is to be effectively re-made.

Janet McGaw is a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. She is a chief investigator, with Emily Potter and Anoma Pieris, on an ARC Linkage Grant in partnership with the Melbourne City Council Indigenous Arts Program, the Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group and Reconciliation Victoria, investigating Indigenous Place-making in Melbourne.

Dr Anoma Pieris is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. She is an architectural historian by training with an interest in anthropology, gender studies and post-colonial theory. Her most recent book, *Hidden Hands and Divided Landscapes: A Penal History of Singapore’s Plural Society* (University of Hawaii Press, 2009). She teaches design in both the undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
Antecedents to Health

11.00 – 12.30
Room 0102

Chair: Graham Gee

AH1: Indigenous Health Education – Closing the Gap, or Just Making Us Feel Better?
Shaun Ewen and Gina Bloom

In order to determine the purposes and impacts of including Indigenous health curricula in the professional training of health care service providers, we conducted a systematic international literature review of the published literature relating to Indigenous health curricula in university health science courses.

The review identified an assumption in the literature that having better educated health care practitioners will result in improved health outcomes for Indigenous populations, and specifically that improved or increased exposure to the issues which contribute to the disparity in health between Indigenous and other populations is enough to help ameliorate these disparities. Indeed, the Indigenous health curriculum literature reviewed shows no direct link between particular medical education curricula activities and positive shifts in health outcomes.

We conclude that the challenge for curriculum developers is to begin to design methods that focus on evaluating the impacts of Indigenous health curricula on patient outcomes.

Shaun Ewen is the inaugural Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) at The University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, (Acting) Director (Academic) of the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Health and Society. He has extensive experience as a clinician and an educator, including developing and delivering varied Aboriginal health curricula in Australia, and international roles, including the oversight of the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) project. Shaun’s doctoral research focuses on Australian medical educators’ understandings of cultural competence and cultural safety in medicine, and he has published widely in relation to Indigenous health pedagogy.

Gina Bloom (BA (Hons), University Medal, Sydney), M.Phil (Cambridge), Graduate Certificate in Statistical Computing (UNSW), BA Holistic Counselling (Phoenix Institute, part time, in progress), Grad Cert in Visual Arts (VCAM, part time, in progress) has worked in the field of health care research since the early 1990s, conducting large-scale studies for organisations including the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Medicare Australia, the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Divisions of General Practice, NGOs and pharmaceutical and medical device companies. Her knowledge in regard to the Australian health care context comes through conducting research with the gamut of Australian health care professionals and consumers in relation to diverse issues, conditions and initiatives. She specialises in the fields of mental health and Indigenous health and is particularly interested in how a mutual sharing of experience and wisdom can improve both Indigenous health outcomes and Western health care practices.
Gina is based jointly at the Australian Health Workforce Institute (AHWI) and the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, working on the Education for Equity Project, an international collaboration between Australia, New Zealand and Canada, funded for four years under an International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership grant (ICIHRP).

**AH2: Colonisation and the Indigenous Child Health Gap: Fact or Fiction?**

Jane Freemantle

The measurement of infant and childhood mortality is considered an important indicator of a population’s health status and progress and overall social prosperity, given that many causes of infant and childhood mortality such as infections are preventable. An accurate picture of mortality informs a society of its social progress at a national and/or community level, reflecting social and economic conditions.

British colonisers landed in Australia in 1788 to be greeted by Australia’s First Peoples. History reports, however, that tumultuous times followed for Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is well argued that the sequelae of colonisation is still being experienced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia today and are evident in the reported ‘gap’ in the measure of antecedents to premature mortality among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This paper will consider some of the sequelae of colonisation and suggest how we might better respond to the current disproportionate burden of ill health being experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

**Associate Professor Jane Freemantle** is a paediatric epidemiologist working with total population linked data describing the mortality and morbidity of Indigenous infants, children and young people, nationally and internationally. Her work also seeks to improve the identification of Indigenous populations in statutory and administrative data-sets through linking and validating population data. Professor Freemantle is currently leading research programs that will focus on ensuring more accurate and complete reporting on Indigenous child health within a local and an international context.

She holds a position as Principal Research Fellow within the Centre for Health and Society at The University of Melbourne and is an ARC Fellow.
AH3: Socioeconomic Status and Chronic Disease Prevalence in Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Adults
Joan Cunningham

There is a large and growing body of evidence that socioeconomic status is associated with health status, across a wide range of health conditions and populations. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely than other Australians to be of low socioeconomic status and to have poorer health status. However, little is known about the relationship between socioeconomic status and health status within the Indigenous population, or whether any such relationships are similar in magnitude to those in the non-Indigenous population.

This presentation will provide highlights of an extensive program of work exploring socioeconomic patterning of five National Health Priority Areas – diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, arthritis and mental health – in Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults aged 18–64 years, using data from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey and the National Health Survey, which were conducted in parallel by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2004–05.

Professor Joan Cunningham is Senior Principal Research Fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin, and an honorary member of The University of Melbourne’s Centre for Health and Society. Her broad research interests are the social determinants of health and equity in health and health care. Recent research foci include the health of Indigenous people in urban areas, the health impacts of discrimination, the social determinants of end-stage renal disease and other chronic diseases, health system performance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer, and improving the quality, availability and use of routinely collected data about Indigenous Australians.

AH4: National Review of Core Indigenous Public Health Competencies Integration into MPH Curricula
Leanne Coombe

This paper will provide an outline of the review the integration of Indigenous health content and core competencies. At the 2006 National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Workshop in Sydney, six core Indigenous health competencies required by all Master of Public Health (MPH) graduates nationally were identified, and are now included within the Foundation Competencies for Public Health Graduates in Australia. The review will specifically identify what is working well in the Indigenous component of MPH programs; what could be improved and how that can be achieved; describe key innovations to integrate and enhance Indigenous public health content; and disseminate examples of good practice to academic MPH programs nationally. Dissemination of the review outcomes will contribute to building institutional and workforce capacity in the Indigenous public health system. The first of these reviews has been conducted at the University of New South Wales, and the preliminary findings will be discussed.

Originally trained and qualified as an Oral Health Therapist, Leanne Coombe has since worked in a range of public health executive management roles for the Australian Government and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. She then branched into international consultancy work and has continued to specialise in Indigenous public health projects, before taking up her current position at Onemda Vichealth Koori Health Unit. Leanne currently leads the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project and coordinates the Indigenous Health specialisation in the Master of Public Health program.
AH5: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Program
Laura Hart

In 2007, the Mental Health First Aid program began adapting its training course for use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. To ensure that the adaptation was culturally appropriate, a research program developed consensus-based guidelines for providing mental health first aid to an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

A panel of experts in Aboriginal mental health participated in eight independent Delphi studies to develop guidelines on how a member of the public should provide assistance to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian experiencing: depression, psychosis, suicidal thoughts and behaviours, deliberate self-injury, trauma and loss, problem drinking or problem drug use. An eighth guideline on cultural considerations was also developed: these guidelines are now widely available on the Internet and through beyondblue.

The Delphi method was a useful research tool for consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health experts and should be considered for future investigations of culturally appropriate health practice.

Dr Laura Hart is a non-Aboriginal person with a background in psychology. She recently completed her PhD at University of Melbourne. In 2007, Laura began working as a Research Assistant with the Mental Health First Aid team. Her work focused on developing culturally appropriate guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She was also involved in the evaluation of the first edition Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training program and the development the second edition, which incorporated the evidence developed in the guidelines studies. Laura now works for Mental Health First Aid Training and Research as a Program Coordinator.

AH6: Trauma: Whose Criteria?
Terry James

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychobiological response to a traumatic event characterised by physiological and psychological re-experiencing of the event, avoiding stimuli perceived to be associated with the traumatic event, and elevated and persistent arousal. DSM-1V criteria for PTSD denotes an actual or witnessed death, serious threat, or injury to one’s physical integrity. However, rarely are race-related events understood as a catalyst of PTSD or related symptoms unless life threatening.

For minority populations, vicarious experiences and exposure to microaggressions may be experienced as subjectively traumatic particularly where this suffering remains generally invisible and unacknowledged by powerful others (broader society, GPs, counsellors, researchers, etc.). Where limited avenues for redress are available many adaptive behaviours (positive or negative) such as perseverative cognition (worry, rumination, anticipatory stress) may be engaged but have potentially deleterious impacts on psychophysiological wellbeing. This research explore the meanings of these events for Indigenous Australians.
Terry James’s academic background is in psychology and community development. She is presently employed as a Research Assistant with the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control at The University of Melbourne. She has a long-standing interest in Indigenous service delivery, having worked in policy development and program implementation roles in the non-profit and government sectors at all levels. Having completed studies in Social Science and Community Development, she is now completing her PhD in Psychology. Terry is a proud mother and grandmother and lives in Melbourne.
PF1: Indigenous Housing with Indigenous People
David O’Brien

Top-down procurement structures have been the mainstay of the Government’s approach to Indigenous housing in Australia. However there is evidence that housing projects driven by both ‘self-build’ and ‘supporter’ ideologies can offer outcomes in tune with community aspirations and at lower cost. This research argues that self-build and supporter driven programs should also become part of the overall Indigenous housing strategy sponsored by the Commonwealth and Territory Governments and that a long-term view of Indigenous housing procurement must be supported with a raft of new policies and funding opportunities. Although any new programs would require a sustained effort over many years – rather than the shorter ‘burst’ of activity such as those recently undertaken in the Northern Territory – they are framed to produce cost-effective, sustainable and positive outcomes for Indigenous communities.

Dr David O’Brien has twenty years’ experience teaching and working in community development projects in rural Thailand, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea and in remote Australia. He forms teams of postgraduate students to consult, design and build community infrastructure projects alongside community groups, government agencies, aid workers, builders, engineers and sociologists.

PF2: Learning from the Media Box: Delivering Infrastructure Projects in Darwin’s Indigenous Town-camps
George Stavrias and Silas Gibson

This paper critically investigates the role of community consultation and participation, cross-cultural exchange and skill sharing, employment and training, stakeholder management, the role of architectural design, and what benefits the university can offer in the processes that lead to the delivery of community infrastructure projects in Darwin’s Indigenous town-camps, using the Media Box project as a case study.

The Media Boxes are Internet-enabled computer labs and multi-purpose spaces designed and built in 2009/2010 in two communities on the outskirts of Darwin as part of the Bower Studio by the authors along with other students from the Master of Architecture course, in partnership local Aboriginal service providers, and financed by the Federal Government.

We conclude that key to their success is the engagement of the community and especially its leaders, well-defined stakeholder roles, the inclusion of long-term social benefits such as jobs training, and ongoing follow-up of the facilities.
George Stavrias is a recent graduate of the Master of Architecture program at the Melbourne School of Design. First as a student and now as a research assistant, he has spent the past two years working with Dr David O’Brien on the Bower Studio projects, designing and building community infrastructure in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. His design thesis investigated possibilities for upgrading the infrastructure at Bagot Community in Darwin. In a previous life, George completed Honours in Arts in Cultural Studies, conducting research and authoring an article on hip hop and Indigenous youth.

PF3: Coranderrk: We Will Show the Country and the Minutes of Evidence project
Julie Evans, Nesam McMillian and Giordano Nanni

This paper introduces the Minutes of Evidence project, a new ARC Linkage collaboration between The University of Melbourne’s School of Social and Political Sciences and nine Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners: Ilbijerri Theatre Company; La Mama Theatre; the Koorie Heritage Trust; VicHealth; Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Wannik; Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc; Arts Victoria; Regional Arts Victoria; State Library Victoria.

The Minutes of Evidence project revolves around the verbatim theatre production Coranderrk: We Will Show the Country [http://ilbijerri.com.au/whats-on/coranderrk/], which tells the little-known story of the 1881 inquiry into Coranderrk reserve near Healesville. In bringing together the worlds of theatre, education, community and research, the project hopes to increase public awareness of Aboriginal history in Victoria and to promote public conversations around structural justice. Collaboration outcomes include curriculum modules for Victorian schools, a series of public forums, publications on structural justice, research training for Indigenous policy officers and an Indigenous PhD scholarship.

Julie Evans teaches in the School of Social and Political Sciences at The University of Melbourne. Her teaching, supervision and research interests focus on the intersections between Western law, history, race and colonialism. She is a Chief Investigator on the ARC Linkage project ‘Minutes of Evidence’, which is the subject of the paper.

Dr Nesam McMillan is a Lecturer in Global Criminology in the School of Social and Political Sciences. Her research focuses on international crime, justice and responsibility and she is currently working on a project concerning the imagery, identities and geographies associated with international criminal justice. She is a Chief Investigator on the ARC Linkage project ‘Minutes of Evidence’, which is the subject of the paper.

PF4: Vindicating Rover Thomas
Suzanne Spunner

Suzanne Spunner has been researching the life and work of Kimberley Indigenous artist Rover Thomas (1926–98) for the past four years and is about to complete a PhD entitled Vindicating Rover Thomas. It aims to establish the evidence that supports the assessment of the provenance of works attributed to Rover Thomas. He has been one of most successful Indigenous artists and regularly commands record-breaking prices on the secondary or auction market but there is no Catalogue Raisonné of his work.

Suzanne Spunner is a playwright and she also writes on the visual and performing arts.
PF5a: What Happened before Dreamings?: The Early Exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Art in America
Kira Randolph (3M)

In three minutes Kira will consider the value of historic exhibitions of Australian Aboriginal art in the United States: why early representations are more relevant than one may believe and their legacy.

Kira Randolph is a third-year PhD student in Art History at The University of Melbourne. She is researching exhibitions of Australian Aboriginal art in the United States of America that pre-date Dreamings: the Art of Aboriginal Australia at the Asia Society Galleries in New York City in 1988. In 2009 she co-founded the School of Culture and Communication Australian Aboriginal Art Reading Group with her supervisor Dr Susan Lowish, and established the accompanying blog: http://aboriginalartreadinggroup.wordpress.com

PF5b: (Under)Mining a Culture: Can’t We Do Better Than This? The Need to Recognise Transformative (Educative) Values in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Laws in Australia
Darren Parker (3M)

Culture is intrinsic to all humans. Culture is present, whether a person consciously or unconsciously acknowledges it; culture is an integral part of being human. Given its vitality to all humans, it is axiomatic that culture(s) finds legal embodiment throughout the plethora of legal paradigm(s). However, as humans vary across ethnicity, geography, language, spirituality, etc.... so too does culture(s) and this obviously include the same legal embodiments that (attempt to?) reflect such cultural variations. Nevertheless, despite such attempts, a cultural impediment is manifest when a culture seeks to assert its dominance whilst simultaneously legislating ‘for’ the ‘benefit’ of another culture. It is such a cultural impediment as found within the Aboriginal cultural heritage (“ACH”) laws in Australia that requires a re-configuring of both form and substance, so that better understandings, and thus the resulting approaches, are able to be arrived at which actually are of benefit to both cultures without allowing an undermining dominance – perhaps even though unintentional – to subsist.

Darren Parker is a Ngunnawal man, a Melbourne law school graduate and current PhD candidate researching in the area of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
PF5c: Aboriginal Community-Control: Self-determination and Liberal Democracy
Michael Hemingway (3M)

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) was established in 1973, it was the second Aboriginal community controlled health service in Australia. The social and political context out of which the service arose, and in which it has since developed, are complex yet all rooted in a history of colonisation and Aboriginal people’s struggle against and within its structures. This presentation provides a brief overview of a study that seeks to document this struggle. *Aboriginal Community Control: Self-determination and Liberal Democracy* tracks the establishment and development of VAHS and, more broadly, that of the community controlled health sector in Victoria and nationally. It does so against a backdrop of the institutional reforms and policy developments of Aboriginal affairs since the 1970s and within an exploration of the multitude of issues that have defined Aboriginal people’s contemporary relationship with the liberal democratic settler-state since that time.

**Michael Hemingway** is a third-year PhD candidate. Michael completed his undergraduate degree in 2007 at La Trobe University. After working and undertaking a study with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Michael commenced his graduate studies working on a project with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

PF5d: Digitisation and Indigenous Communities: The Development of Online Collections
Lyndon Ormond-Parker (3M)

Aboriginal communities in Australia have adopted new information technologies in innovative ways. These communities are seeking the return of documents, photographs and film from institutions around the globe to populate local community digital archives as a way of preserving and transmitting knowledge to future generations.

**Lyndon Ormond-Parker** is a PhD Candidate with the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, The School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and the Centre for Health and Society, School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne. His PhD is entitled *Digitisation and Indigenous Communities: a study of the development of ‘online collections’.*
DH1: Overview of Research Projects Relating to National Indigenous Tobacco Control
Viki Briggs

This paper will present an overview of research projects relating to national Indigenous tobacco control: Talking about the Smokes Project with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Menzies School of Health Research; Australian Secondary School Alcohol and Drug Project; and Evaluation Handbook.

Viki Briggs is a Yorta Yorta woman from Northern Victoria. She is Director of the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC), a national tobacco research, policy and advocacy program that seeks to increase knowledge and capacity in this area. She is also a Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Health Promotion at The University of Melbourne.

DH2: Researching Child Language Acquisition in Indigenous Australia: A Longitudinal, Linguistic Study
Gillian Wigglesworth and Debbie Loakes

The Aboriginal Child Language Acquisition project is a longitudinal study that has been running since 2004. Early work focused on language input to pre-school aged children in three remote communities. We now have detailed information on the variety and complexity of the language situations in which children in these areas are being raised, and we present some of these key findings. More recent work focuses on what happens to Indigenous children as they enter the school system. We are currently documenting how Indigenous children manage the major change from a home environment, in which Standard Australian English is not the dominant language, to the school environment, where it is. We present some recent findings about how the national NAPLAN (literacy and numeracy) tests, specifically disadvantage Indigenous children through cultural knowledge and language barriers. We conclude by highlighting the implications of our findings to date.

Professor Gillian Wigglesworth works in The University of Melbourne’s School of Languages and Linguistics, of which she was head from 2005–10. She is currently Associate Dean (Research) in the Arts Faculty, and is also a member of the Australian Research Council College of Experts. Gillian is an expert in analysis of multilingual linguistic data, and has authored numerous articles focusing on Indigenous child language acquisition. She is also the editor of a book entitled Children’s Language and Multilingualism (with Jane Simpson), which focuses on the linguistic issues faced by Indigenous Australian children.

Dr Debbie Loakes is a postdoctoral researcher at The University of Melbourne. She is currently working on languages in Australia, including Indigenous languages and Australian English. She works on the Aboriginal Child Language Acquisition project, as well as on phonetics and phonology of Indigenous languages (Mawng, Warlpiri and Bininj Gun-Wok).
DH3: Helping to Eliminate Trachoma with the Trachoma Story Kit
Hugh Taylor

Trachoma is an infectious eye disease, the world’s leading cause of preventable blindness. Australia is the last developed country with trachoma where it exists only in remote Aboriginal communities, contributing to 9 per cent of blindness in adults. This is entirely preventable. Environmental factors that contribute to the spread of trachoma include access to safe and reliable water supply and a reduction in overcrowded housing, but they really revolve around poor personal and community hygiene. Some communities have had recent improvements in housing which will help. However, keeping every child’s face clean is the final common pathway in the interaction of all environmental risk factors for trachoma, and is central to all trachoma elimination strategies. To support trachoma elimination programs in Australia, and increase the uptake of the newly developed culturally appropriate resource ‘The Trachoma Story Kit’, a multi-media social marketing campaign may help establish clean faces as the social norm.

Professor Hugh Taylor leads the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at The University of Melbourne and is a Melbourne Laureate Professor. Before taking up this appointment in 2008, he was the Professor of Ophthalmology and Head of Department at The University of Melbourne from 1990–2007, and the Managing Director of the Centre for Eye Research Australia, which he founded in 1996. Hugh is a passionate advocate for Indigenous health and is committed to the elimination of trachoma. His research focuses on blindness prevention strategies, infectious causes of blindness and the intersection between medicine, public health and health economics.

DH4: Colonisation of Otitis Media Bacteria in Aboriginal Children – Is Probiotic an Answer?
Mary John and Stephen O’Leary

Aboriginal children in Australia have one of the highest incidences of middle ear infection in the world. High amounts of bacteria colonised in the nasopharynx (space behind the nose), acquired early in life is considered as one of the main reason for this high incidence. Probiotic, a safe microorganism with health benefits and used widely offers promising results in decreasing this high nasopharyngeal bacterial load. Our study, in a systematic way is exploring whether probiotics, will inhibit pneumococcus (one of the main bacteria which causes middle ear infection). The results at the end of initial experiments show that probiotic inhibit pneumococcus in a laboratory setting. Further studies are planned to look at the effect of probiotic on nasopharyngeal colonization of pneumococcus and otitis media in a mouse model and later a clinical trial. We also aim to look at the optimum dose, time and mode of delivery of selected probiotics.

Mary John is from India. She completed her postgraduate ENT training at Christian Medical College, Vellore, India in 2006 and joined the Department of ENT as faculty. In the next three years, Mary helped the department to set up ENT practice in three peripheral units at the College that cater to the underprivileged population. She developed a special interest in ear disease during this time seeing the high burden of such diseases and decided to do further study. Currently, Mary is on study leave from Christian Medical College for three years, undertaking a PhD from November 2010.
Stephen O'Leary holds the Chair of Otolaryngology at The University of Melbourne. He obtained his PhD at The University of Melbourne under the mentorship of Professor Graeme Clark in 1994, and completed surgical training in Ear Nose and Throat – Head and Neck Surgery in 1998. Professor O'Leary has undertaken postdoctoral research at Oxford University, UK and the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has worked as both a surgeon and a medical researcher at The University of Melbourne and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, since 1999, and holds an honorary appointment with the Bionic Ear Institute. He currently serves the hospital as Chairman of the Senior Medical Staff.

Professor O’Leary is recognised internationally for his clinical and research activities in ear disease, hearing and balance, and particularly for contributions to cochlear implantation, and the protection and regeneration of the inner ear regeneration. Professor O’Leary has led the development of a virtual reality simulator to train ear surgeons in collaboration with CSIRO, and this system has recently been licensed for commercial development to an Australian company, Medic Vision. He was elected to the Collegium Otorhinolaryngologicum Amitciae Sacrum in 2006 in recognition of his contributions to Otolaryngology.

Professor O'Leary is also leading a NHMRC funded muti-centred clinical trial to assess the efficacy of surgery for otitis media in Indigenous children. In addition, he has more than 12 years’ experience in treating chronic otitis media through long-standing links with the Rural Ear Foundation in Thailand.

**DH5: The Impact of Hepatitis B on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health**

Benjamin Cowie and Jennifer MacLachlan

The high prevalence of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) in Indigenous Australians has been known since the virus was discovered in the 1960s. Despite being targeted for vaccination for over two decades, the prevalence of CHB in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities remains unacceptably high, as does the incidence of complications including liver cancer. Access to health care for CHB, including antiviral therapy that can prevent liver disease and cancer, is particularly poor for Indigenous Australians.

This presentation will discuss recent clinical and epidemiological research demonstrating the importance of CHB to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and outline current and proposed research and health programs in which our unit is involved. The dual objective of these activities is to better describe the burden of CHB and related conditions in Indigenous Australians, and to take action to reduce the impact of CHB on those affected, their families and communities.

Benjamin Cowie is an Infectious Diseases Physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and an Epidemiologist at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, designated in 2010 as the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Hepatitis B. He is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine (RMH), The University of Melbourne.

Ben serves on numerous national committees related to hepatitis B policy, including the Commonwealth Government’s Ministerial Advisory Committee for Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections, and he recently joined the Hepatitis B Expert Resource Panel of the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organisation.
Jennifer MacLachlan is a final year Master of Science (Epidemiology) student at The University of Melbourne School of Population Health, with an interest in infectious disease and particularly blood-borne viruses. She is currently undertaking a research project in the area of hepatitis B under the supervision of Dr Ben Cowie.

**DH6: Good Health and Koori Youth: Findings from the Young People’s Project**

Joanne Luke

This paper uses data collected in 1997/9 by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) as part of the Young People’s Project to explore the determinants of good health for 172 Koori youth aged 12–30 years. Associations between self reported ‘good health’ and social, cultural, emotional and behavioural determinants are reported. Statistical analysis attending school with other Kooris, understanding history, eating healthy, sport, not smoking, strong emotional wellbeing, caring family and friends, and safe home were the determinants significantly associated (at the p=0.05 level) with ‘good health’. These findings suggest that policies and practices that encourage strong Koori families and communities are essential in creating strong Koori youth.

Joanne Luke is an Aboriginal research assistant at VAHS. She holds a Bachelor in Science and a Masters in Public Health. Joanne has a keen interest in community-based research. In addition to her involvement with the analysis of the VAHS Young People’s Project data, Joanne is working on other projects around comprehensive primary health care and cardiovascular disease.
Sally Godinho and Ken Winkel

The conceptual framework of the project is to build an interconnected multimedia depiction of local Indigenous environments emphasising ecological context, biodiversity and science literacy. Collaboration with Educational Services Australia provided initial field-testing of a website template enabling students to develop individual and group webpages using images, illustrations and written text and now extended into a series of books generated from the students and the Community, to be coordinated by the College’s Literacy Coordinator and an Indigenous Teacher and Ranger. The University Team will build a data base for images for the local community server and outstations, present demonstration lessons and assist with digital production of the books and website. The project will harness the National Broadband Network and allow students to gather data and interact with scientists from the AVRU and Physics Department, the Melbourne, Darwin and Queensland Museums, the Melbourne Zoo and clinicians from the Epworth Hospital Emergency Department.

Sally Godinho is a senior lecturer at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Her research interests include curriculum development, pedagogy and oral literacy. She has participated in a range of national and international school projects around cross-disciplinary curriculum, inquiry-based learning and boys’ education. Her publications include teacher references with a particular emphasis on multimedia and digital resources. She is currently working on an interdisciplinary project to support the development of science and multimodal literacies in a remote Indigenous school community.

Dr Kenneth Winkel has been Director of the Australian Venom Research Unit, Department of Pharmacology, The University of Melbourne, since 1999. He graduated, in 1991, with Bachelor’s of Medicine, Medical Science and Surgery from the University of Queensland. This has since been expanded upon with a PhD in Immunology in 2000 (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne) and study towards the Masters of International Health (Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel). Dr Winkel’s research, which has taken him from the jungles of PNG through to the continent of Antarctica, is focused on understanding the mechanisms of venom action, improving anti-venom treatment, as well as venomous injury prevention (both terrestrial and aquatic).

Dr Winkel is Past President of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine; he became a Fellow of the College in 1998 and won the 2007 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to Tropical Medicine. He is a member of several journal Editorial Boards (Journal of Venom Research, Australian Prescriber and Journal of Rural and Remote Environmental Health) and reviews for an additional nine journals. He also has served as grant reviewer for Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council and several international research councils.
He is the recipient of a number of grants, with current funding alone amounting to more than one million Australian dollars. Dr Winkel has been an invited speaker to many international conferences and has presented over 80 abstracts and posters. Presently teaching at The University of Melbourne, James Cook University and two Papua New Guinea Universities, Dr Winkel has successfully supervised a number of postgraduate students. He has also published nearly 90 scientific papers and book chapters (including in The Lancet, Immunity and Blood), co-edited a textbook on bites and stings, appeared in numerous television shows and documentaries (including David Attenborough’s Animal Crime Scene), as well as newspaper and magazine articles (such as The Smithsonian Magazine).

**LAD2: It Is the Story of all of Us: Learning from Aboriginal Communities**

Meredith Kiraly and Cathy Humphrey

This presentation will describe a nested study in a research project on family contact in kinship care that was dedicated to exploring issues for Aboriginal children in kinship care in Victoria. There were two parts to this study. Consultations were held in three Aboriginal services (two rural) with 13 kinship support workers and caregivers. A mainstream survey contained specific questions for caregivers of Aboriginal children; these were completed by 54 caregivers of 109 Aboriginal children. The imperative for Aboriginal children to be connected to their families and culture is discussed in relation to issues for casework with Aboriginal families, including the impact of the Stolen Generations, cultural issues in family assessment and support, the use of criminal records checks, and racism. Skills in family support evident in Aboriginal communities are described, and provide pointers to good practice everywhere.

Meredith Kiraly is a psychologist with more than 30 years’ experience in child and family welfare, specialising in out-of-home care. She has a Master of Behavioural Science gained by major thesis and is approved to enrol in PhD by Publication in 2012. Meredith spent four years as an Academic Visitor at The University of Melbourne and is currently working at the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner. She is engaged on a kinship care research project with the Child and Family Welfare Research Program at The University of Melbourne’s Department Of Social Work.

**LAD3: Consultation – A continuous Learning Framework for Development**

Allison Stout

The successful communication of architectural ideas to clients is a challenge. This challenge is exacerbated when designing with groups from differing culture and language. As designers we understand buildings to be imagined and inhabited in a particular way that emanate from generations of cultural living practices. However, Indigenous Australians have their own ideas of inhabitation based on their own inherent cultural practices. These Indigenous imaginings have also been shaped by a long-standing history of pressures from dominant ‘outsider’ culture.

The paper documents the consultation processes that took place during developments with Indigenous communities from across Australia. It presents key lessons learned for parties involved and the ways various stakeholders negotiated the process. The paper demonstrates that respectful and thorough consultation can empower individuals and communities alike and at the same time significantly improve outcomes. It highlights a series of key aspects of the consultation process that enabled participants to voice their ideas and embody a stronger sense of ownership.
Allison Stout has practiced as a designer in the United States and United Kingdom before returning to obtain her Masters in Architecture at The University of Melbourne. During her studies, Allison’s passion for sustainable and socially aware design has been focused on Indigenous housing and architecture. For the past three years she has worked directly with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, Southwest Victoria, Western Australia and Papua New Guinea. She was awarded a University of Melbourne Knowledge Transfer Award in 2009 to continue her consultations with Indigenous town-camp communities in the Northern Territory. She is currently working as a research assistant at The University of Melbourne and as a graduate architect at DP Toscano Architects.

LAD4: Technology Talks: Aboriginal Youth in Victoria and their Use of Mobile Phones
Fran Edmonds and Christel Rachinger

The State of Victoria’s Children, 2009 report indicated that the Aboriginal community in Victoria were among the highest users of mobile phones in the state. It also reported that the Aboriginal community continues to have among the lowest school retention rates. By embracing the use of mobile technology to enhance Aboriginal education, this project is collaborating with key organisations in Aboriginal education, technology and cultural practices to determine how and why Aboriginal youth are using mobile phones. The intention is to provide evidence that supports the use of mobile technologies in ways that respond to the needs of the Aboriginal community, and can potentially be included in a culturally inclusive education curriculum. Initially, the research will work with Aboriginal young people to centre their ‘voice’ in the research, to determine their story of mobile phone use, and suggest future implications for the implementation of mobile technologies for educational purposes.

Dr Fran Edmonds is currently employed in the Australian Indigenous Studies program as a Research Fellow. She is a collaborative researcher with a background in Aboriginal histories, anthropology and education. Her research has focused on developing collaborative methodological approaches to working with and in the Aboriginal community in southeast Australia. Her previous research focused on working with the Aboriginal arts community to tell the story of southeast Australian Aboriginal art, from colonisation until today, and its connection to community identity and wellbeing. She continues to work with many artists involved in the reclamation of southeast Australian Aboriginal art practices today.

Christel Rachinger is currently studying Bachelor of Arts at The University of Melbourne, majoring in Australian Indigenous Studies and Anthropology. Has been assisting Dr Fran Edmonds’ research project on Aboriginal youth in Victoria and their use of mobile phones, within the Australian Indigenous Studies Program, as part of an internship program.
**LAD5a: Digital Archiving Aboriginal Art**
Susan Lowish (3M)

This paper describes some current record keeping practices for Aboriginal Art and debates some of the positive and negative aspects of centralized, regional and remote art archives. Existing examples from the public, private and community spheres are compared and contrasted and some of the practical and ideological issues of each are addressed. The paper asks: what and who benefits from the digital archiving of Aboriginal art?

Susan Lowish is Lecturer in Australian Art History at The University of Melbourne. She has a PhD from Monash University (awarded 2005) focusing on the 19th century reception of Aboriginal Art. Her most recent publications are in the international *Journal of Art Historiography* and the special issue of *Artlink: Beauty and Terror*.

**LAD5b: The Postcolonial Moments of Nature-Culture Entanglement on the Murray River**
Jacob Otter (3M)

According to Helen Verran, a postcolonial moment is one in which a ‘useful sameness strengthens separations’, rather than dissolves, difference. It is the negotiation of a ‘useful symmetry, one which allows epistemic asymmetries to stand’. E. camaldulensis has been a long suffering species in the Murray-Darling Basin. In conjunction with the Yorta Yorta nation, the Barmah-Millewa Collective (BMC) at Friends of the Earth-Melbourne started a campaign in 2000 to make the plight of E. camaldulensis public, with the aim of achieving governmental protection from logging and grazing, and returning River Red Gum country to the control of Traditional Owners. This paper will give an overview of my research on the entanglements of a) Traditional Owners and their notions of country and connectivity, b) the legacies of notions of wilderness and destructive human nature negotiated by the BMC, and c) the agency of the E. camaldulensis in gathering allies to ensure its survival.

Jacob Otter is a PhD candidate in the School of Culture and Communication. He is researching aspects of postcolonialism by thinking with the Eucalyptus camaldulensis on the Murray River and with taonga in the Wai 262 claim to the Waitangi Tribunal in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**LAD5c: How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students’ Experience their Undergraduate Candidature at The University of Melbourne**
Penelope Smith and Paul Stewart (3M)

As part of the requirements of the Master of Public Health (Social Health) at University of Melbourne a small qualitative project was undertaken by the student. This project involved interviews of six University of Melbourne Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates who had completed an undergraduate degree after 2000 and prior to 2010. Using a semi-structured interview schedule participants were asked about their experience whilst undertaking their degree.
**Penelope Smith** holds two Bachelor degrees from Deakin University: Education (Secondary) and Applied Science (Psychology), and an Applied Science Diploma in Health Statistics from Swinburne University. She is one class and one assignment away from successfully completing her Master of Public Health (Social Health) at The University of Melbourne. She has worked as a research assistant in mental health (Cognitive Neurospsychiatry); stroke; trust and risk in collaborations, partnerships and networks; and risk communication. She also has experience as a Research Officer to Professor Vivian Lin, as secretariat for the Australian Network of Academic Public Health Institutions, and has taught at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels as a Health Promotion Associate Lecturer. Penny previously worked as the CRCAH Link Coordinator (2008–2009) and also as the CRCAH Link person for La Trobe University (2006–2009). Currently she is the Stakeholder Management Officer for the Lowitja Institute (National Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research).

**Paul Stewart** is a Taungurong man who has 10 years’ experience of working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and government agencies in Victoria.

Paul works as a Project Officer and has been with Onemda at The University of Melbourne since April 2002. Previously, Paul worked with the Aborigines Advancement League in a Family Support role before moving to the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) as a Health Promotion Officer. During his time at the VAHS, Paul also worked as a Research Assistant on a longitudinal study (Young Peoples Project) that focused on the health and well-being of Koori urban youth from the ages of 12–25 years of age.

Paul has a Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion (University of Sydney, 1998) and more recently completed a Master of Public Health (Deakin University).

**LAD5d: The Experiences of Aboriginal Families who Have a Child with a Disability in Melbourne**

**Jasmine Angus (3M)**

The aim of this study was to understand the experiences of Aboriginal families living in Melbourne who had a child with a disability including: how these families understood and perceived disability; their family and community support networks; and their experiences of early childhood services. The results of this research will contribute to inform service provision for Aboriginal children who have a disability and their families.

Aboriginal children who have a disability are said to experience ‘double disadvantage’. However, research pertaining to childhood disability from both a caregiver and service provider perspective in the Aboriginal population is limited. Access to early intervention for these children is vital for their development. However, Aboriginal families remain underrepresented at disability services.

A qualitative research design was used in this study. Three groups of participants were recruited: a primary caregiver group, a service provider group (semi structured, in depth interview method) and a support group (focus group method). All participants were asked questions relating to how Aboriginal families who had a child with a disability understood and perceived disability, how they were supported by extended family and community and what were their experiences of early childhood services. Interview transcripts were analysed using thematic analysis.
Results: Three primary caregivers and four service providers were recruited to participate in interviews. No caregivers were recruited to the support group. The key themes that emerged were: disability was not a priority for families due to competing demands, family acceptance of disability, the importance of support networks, fear of negative outcomes associated with accessing services the importance of positive relationships and cultural safety in service delivery.

The study concluded that for families experiencing a complexity of social problems, their child’s disability and developmental needs are largely overshadowed by more urgent priorities. However, services providers need to be more aware of Aboriginal history and culture in order to form positive relationships with Aboriginal children and families to support access to services. Additionally, Aboriginal services need to improve their knowledge and awareness of disability issues.

**Jasmine Angus** is a Master of Population Health student with a background in physiotherapy.
HT5: Limitations of Community-level Indicators for Victorian Aboriginal Populations
Scott Winch and Kevin Rowley

Research has emerged from Canada showing an association between indicators of cultural continuity and the incidence of suicide in discreet First Nations communities. These observations have important implications in terms of defining how cultural continuity and self-determination impact on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous populations throughout the world. A feasibility study was undertaken to investigate whether the Canadian research can be replicated in the Victorian Aboriginal community context, with respect to suicide and other health outcomes.

While there are a number of indicators that may be analogous to those used in Canada (community control of health, education and other services, self-government, land title), a difficulty in the Victorian context is the lack of geographically-discreet Aboriginal communities: Aboriginal people in Victoria are a small minority widely dispersed within a dominant mainstream. This creates difficulty both in defining ‘community’ and for measuring the impact of Aboriginal cultural continuity while accounting for the influence of mainstream society.

Scott Winch is a Wiradjiri man from Wollongong. He is a PhD student at Onemda, looking at the protective and risk factors for Victorian Aboriginal children aged between 5–12 years of age related to their health and social outcomes. Prior to commencing his PhD, Scott completed a Master of Applied Epidemiology degree at the Australian National University. Scott worked for about four years at Sydney South West Area Health Service as the Service Manager of the Aboriginal Health Unit, largely focusing on service planning and development. In 2004, Scott spent a year working for the National Health Service in the United Kingdom as the Service Development Manager for Birmingham Dental Hospital.
HT6: Indigenous Child Health Within an International Context: How Comparable Are the Data?
Jane Freemantle

Trends in mortality and related statistics further demonstrate the changing health status of a population and provide a base for accurate life expectancy estimates. This is particularly important given many causes of infant and childhood mortality such as infections are preventable, and low birth weight and preterm birth, which have lifelong consequences, are partially prevented with good health care and antenatal interventions.

Currently, there is no mechanism with which to accurately compare the rates and causes of infant and child mortality between Indigenous communities of colonised countries. Despite wide acknowledgment of significant disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, specific, consistent and comparable data describing Indigenous births and deaths are lacking nationally and internationally.

This paper will consider these issues in the context of an International Indigenous Infant Mortality Collaboration (IIIMC). The IIIMC will provide the first opportunity for transparent ‘community to community’ data comparisons. It will utilise complete and accurate data describing cause-specific mortality of Indigenous infants and children from communities selected from four colonized countries of the world – Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America.

HT7: Songs that Need to Stay: The State of Indigenous Australian Performance Traditions and New Directions in Ethnomusicological Research
Sally Treloyn

There is broad recognition of the significance of Indigenous Australian performance traditions, encompassing their role as vehicles for social and personal wellbeing, as vehicles for language maintenance and transmission, as vehicles for knowledge creation and transmission, as well as for national and world cultural heritage. Until very recently, however, there has been very little recognition that many if not most traditions are critically endangered, presenting a crisis for stakeholders in those traditions as well as for Australia and the world as a whole. This presentation will outline efforts to bring greater attention to this situation by collaborative groups such as the National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia and will provide an overview of current associated research projects that are addressing cultural maintenance from an ethnomusicological perspective.

Dr Sally Treloyn is a John McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow in Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. She received her PhD from The University of Sydney in 2007 in ethnomusicology. She now holds an ARC Linkage Project grant in partnership with the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre examining strategies to sustain endangered Aboriginal Australian performance traditions and is Acting Coordinator of the National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia.
HT8: The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision for Indigenous Australians
Hugh Taylor

Indigenous Australians have six times the levels of blindness of mainstream populations and vision loss contributes to 11 per cent of the health gap. The focus of our research is to Close the Gap for Vision. The 2008 National Indigenous Eye Health Survey established the current status of eye health for Indigenous Australians. We have looked at the provision of clinical services and found that good co-ordination of both the patient journey and the delivery of services are critical for successful patient outcomes. Our current research explores barriers and enablers for Indigenous people accessing eye health services. We have held consultations with AHSs, Governments, eye health providers, hospitals and others involved in the delivery of eye care services across the country and spoken to patients through focus group discussions in Victoria. This presentation will draw on our research to show how the gap for vision can be closed for Indigenous Australians.

HT9: Federal Constitutional Reform and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
Dylan Lino (5M)

Reform of the Australian Constitution to better recognise and protect the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has long been a feature of public discussion and political activity. Most recently, the Gillard Labor Government has committed to pursuing formal constitutional recognition of Indigenous people through a referendum to be held at or before the next federal election. But to what extent are amendments to the Constitution capable of producing just outcomes for Australia’s first peoples? Through an investigation of Indigenous constitutional reform in its various contexts – legal, political, theoretical, social, cultural and historical – this research project seeks to reveal both the positive potential and the limitations of such reform in advancing the cause of justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Dylan Lino commenced his PhD at the Melbourne Law School in July 2011 on the topic of federal constitutional reform and Indigenous people. He has taught in the areas of Australian constitutional law and Indigenous legal issues at UNSW and the University of Western Sydney. Dylan is also undertaking a research project at the Indigenous Law Centre with Professor Megan Davis (UNSW) into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Constitution.
HT10: Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution
Marcia Langton (5M)

The Government has committed to pursue recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

This process requires:

- the building of a general community consensus;
- the central involvement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people; and
- collaboration with Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum.

The Government has established an expert panel in order to ensure appropriate public discussion and debate about the proposed changes and to provide an opportunity for people to express their views. The Expert Panel will report to the Government on possible options for constitutional change to give effect to Indigenous constitutional recognition, including advice as to the level of support from Indigenous people and the broader community for each option by December 2011.

Professor Marcia Langton, AM is a member of the expert panel and will briefly discuss her views on Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.
The University of Melbourne’s Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research is awarded to the following Summer School graduates by Mr Willie Hensley, Alaskan Inuit leader from the University of Alaska, Anchorage:

**Kim LaVerne Bellear** (University of New South Wales)  
**Kerrie Doyle** (University of Canberra)  
**Kathryn Gilbey** (Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education)  
**Simon Graham** (University of New South Wales)  
**Sharlene Leroy-Dyer** (University of Newcastle)  
**Rodney O’Brien** (Curtin University)  
**Rebecca O’Brien** (University of Sydney)  
**Janet Turpie-Johnstone** (Australian Catholic University)  
**Della Yarnold** (Flinders University)  
**Christine Young** (University of Southern Queensland)

**Applications now open for Professional Certificate In Indigenous Research**

Every year, Murrup Barak holds a highly-regarded 5-day intensive Summer School where students develop their skills in Indigenous research within a culturally respectful learning environment. We are now inviting applications (selection criteria and a quota apply). Costs are subsidised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. For Frequently Asked Questions and detailed instructions on How to Apply go to Murrup Barak (www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au), under ‘Courses for Indigenous students’.

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