

## Encouraging Continuity: The ANU and Attorney-General's Department provide career development opportunities for native title anthropologists

By Pam McGrath, Research Officer, Centre for Native Title Anthropology

The critical shortage of skilled native title anthropologists has been news for some time now. Attracting a new generation of junior anthropologists to native title work and encouraging more experienced anthropologists to continue to practise in what is a challenging and dynamic research environment seems crucial to addressing the problem. Drawing on funding provided through the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department Native Title Anthropologist Grants Program announced in 2010, the ANU has recently established a number of innovative programs aimed at doing just that.

In 2011 the ANU Centre for Native Title Anthropology (co-located between the Institute of Professional Practice and the Arts and the School of Archaeology and Anthropology within the Research School of Humanities and the Arts) will be running a number of programs that provide career development opportunities for native title anthropologists. CNTA is governed by a Board of Directors comprising a number of experienced native title practitioners from university, industry and government, native title representative bodies, as well as self-employed consultant anthropologists. AIATSIS Native Title Research Unit Research Fellow, Ms Toni Bauman, also sits on the CNTA Board.

CNTA has kicked off their program with the announcement in early January of four 10-week Writing Fellowships at the ANU. Away from the day-to-day demands of their usual work environment, these research fellowships provide an opportunity for applied practitioners to make a contribution to native title scholarship through a dedicated period of research, reflection and writing. It is hoped the program will build the kinds of skills, academic

confidence and professional networks that support the development of long-term careers in native title anthropology. Fellows will receive a stipend for the duration of their tenure, and funding is available to assist with travel and accommodation.

Also in the works are three Student Fieldwork Placements providing opportunities for third year or Honours level anthropology students to gain direct experience of native title fieldwork under the mentorship of senior native title anthropologists. Throughout the year CNTA will host a series of workshops exploring both practical and theoretical issues relevant to the practice of native title anthropology, such as key concepts in native title, the professionalisation of native title anthropology, and relationships between legal, policy and anthropological frameworks. And in 2012 CNTA will be running an intensive graduate course in the anthropology of native title.

ANU Enterprise is the other successful recipient of the Attorney-General's Department's Native Title Anthropologist Grants Program for 2010-2011. Drawing on native title expertise located within the ANU, ANUE has plans for two week field-based training program for young anthropologists to be staged in the Northern Territory in June and July 2011. This will be complemented by a classroom-based workshop program located at the ANU in Canberra. CNTA will be collaborating with ANUE to provide participants with what promises to be a stimulating and rewarding opportunity to develop important fieldwork, analysis and writing skills.

For more information about any of the CNTA programs contact CNTA Director, Professor Nicolas Peterson on (02) 6125 4727 or by email at [nicolas.peterson@anu.edu.au](mailto:nicolas.peterson@anu.edu.au).

For more information about ANU Enterprise's field school, contact Andrew McWilliam at [andrew.mcwilliam@anu.edu.au](mailto:andrew.mcwilliam@anu.edu.au).

Information about the Attorney-General's Department's Native Title Anthropologists Grants Program can be found at [http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Indigenouslawandnativetitle\\_NativeTitle\\_AnthropologistGrantsProgram](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Indigenouslawandnativetitle_NativeTitle_AnthropologistGrantsProgram).