Welcome to the 2005 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit Annual Report. This report is a brief summary of Unit activities during the 2005 calendar year. The Unit provides personal and academic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and specifically aims to increase the recruitment, retention, academic performance and graduation rates of Indigenous students. The Unit also administers schemes to help Indigenous students gain access to, and receive support in, tertiary studies such as the Alternative Entry scheme and the federally-funded Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS). The Unit is also the focus for teaching and research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at the University of Queensland.

Enrolments 2005

The total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at the University of Queensland increased slightly from 230 in 2004 to 231 in 2005 (Fig 1). Approximately 60% (139) were women, 26% (n=61) were commencing students and 16% (n=37) were postgraduates.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were represented in every University faculty (Fig 2). Arts had the most students, accounting for 30% (70), followed by Health Sciences at 20% (47).

Of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in postgraduate programs, 12 were undertaking Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees (Fig 3).
Graduations 2005

56 Indigenous students graduated in 2005 from the following Faculties – Arts; Health Sciences; Natural Resources, Agriculture and Vet Science; Social and Behavioural Sciences; Business, Economics and Law; and the University Graduate School.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

The Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the interdisciplinary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies major and double major offered in the Faculty of Arts. Unit staff directly co-ordinated 10 undergraduate courses in the program, one postgraduate course and an undergraduate Education course. During 2005, 10 students graduated in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, six completing the double major.

Courses Co-ordinated by Unit Staff 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABTS1000</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABTS2000</td>
<td>Torres Strait Islander Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABTS3010</td>
<td>Aboriginal Women</td>
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<td>ABTS2020</td>
<td>Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Approaches to Knowledge</td>
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<td>ABTS2040</td>
<td>Black Australian Literature A</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABTS2050</td>
<td>Black Australian Literature B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABTS2080</td>
<td>Independent Project in A&amp;TSIS I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABTS2090</td>
<td>Independent Project in A&amp;TSIS II</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABTS3000</td>
<td>Aboriginal Politics &amp; Political Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABTS3020</td>
<td>Working with Indigenous People</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABTS7000</td>
<td>Introductory Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Studies for Australian Studies Postgraduates</td>
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<td>EDUC2090</td>
<td>Indigenous Knowledge &amp; Education</td>
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Unit Permanent Staff 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Michael Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Jackie Huggins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Sam Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Associate Professor Ian Lilley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Lecturer</td>
<td>Dr Elizabeth Mackinlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>Dr Norm Sheehan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>Dr Sean Ulm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Mary Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant – Student Support</td>
<td>Georgina Baira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sue Randell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAS Co-ordinator (maternity leave)</td>
<td>Lesa Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting ITAS Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Nellie Tripp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Support Secretary</td>
<td>Colleen Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Cadetship Officer</td>
<td>Kym Kiltroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor – Birra News</td>
<td>Nathan Woolford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant – Publications</td>
<td>Jan Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Visiting Fellow</td>
<td>Dr Anna Shnukal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Research Adviser</td>
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Highlights & Milestones

- Sorry Week 2005: Journey of Healing – 21-28 May 2005
- UQ Union/ Goorrie Berrimpa Sorry Dinner 27 May, 2005, with guest entertainer Troy Cassar–Daley
- Prayer for Reconciliation, 13 October, 2005
- Norm Sheehan was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled Indigenous Knowledge and Higher Education: Instigating Relational Education in a Neocolonial Context. He also received the University of Queensland Varghese Prize for the best thesis in Comparative Education
- Sean Ulm was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled Investigations Toward a Late Holocene Archaeology of Aboriginal Lifeways on the Southern Curtis Coast, Australia. Sean received a 2005 Dean’s Commendation for Outstanding Research Higher Degree Thesis 2004, and the Best Student Poster Prize (with Daniel Rosendahl) from the Australian Archaeological Association Inc.

The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education

The Journal is now an annual publication. Volume 34, the 2005 edition, was entitled Thinking Place: The Indigenous Humanities and Education and guest edited by Marie Battiste (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada), and Cathryn McConaghy (University of New England, Armidale, Australia). This volume has 15 papers which present a special focus on international issues in Indigenous education. Check out the website at www.atsis.uq.edu.au/ajie/

Student Support

The Student Support function at the Unit was reinvigorated in 2005 with the appointments of Stephen Corporal as Senior Student Support Officer, at St Lucia and Judith Dale as Student Support Officer servicing the Ipswich and Gatton campuses. Georgina Bairia, who provides student support at St Lucia and Herston, attended the annual Bamaga and Thursday Island Career Market from 11-15 July, 2005 to promote the University of Queensland and tertiary education to secondary school students in the region.
**Staff Professional Leadership 2005**

**Michael Williams**  
- Council Member, AIATSIS  
- Council Member, University of the Sunshine Coast  
- Member, Queensland Museum A&TSI Consultative Committee  
- Board Member, Dreaming Festival, Woodford (Qld Folk Federation)

**Jackie Huggins**  
- Co-Chair, Reconciliation Australia  
- Director, Telstra Foundation  
- Director, Australian Centre of Indigenous History, ANU  
- Council Member, AIATSIS  
- Editor, *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*  
- Member, Indigenous Advisory Board, Queensland Centre for Family Violence Research, CQU  
- Indigenous Advisory Board, State Library of Queensland

**Sam Watson**  
- President – Yelangi Indigenous Pre-School / Indooroopilly  
- President – One Tribe Indigenous Youth Outreach Program / Inala  
- President – The Murri Watch Indigenous Diversionary Program / South Brisbane  
- Vice President – The Musgrave Park Cultural Centre Corporation  
- Senior Member – Sacred Treaty Circles / Minjerribah

**Ian Lilley**  
- Executive Member, Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association  
- Secretary, World Archaeological Congress  
- Member, ICOMOS (UNESCO)

**Elizabeth Mackinlay**  
- Committee Member, Queensland Chapter, Musico logical Society of Australia  
- Council Member, Queensland Chapter, Australian Society for Music Education  
- Co-Editor, *Music Education Research and Innovation*  
- Editor, *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*  
- Review Team Member, National Review of School Music Education

**Norm Sheehan**  
- Member, Indigenous Dialogues, SEED Open University  
- Member, Purga Aboriginal Elders & Descendants Development Committee  
- Committee Member, Design Research Society (Sheffield University, UK)  
- Plenary Panel Member, Future Ground Conference, Monash University, November 2005

**Sean Ulm**  
- Junior Representative, World Archaeological Congress  
- Chairperson, Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. Queensland Chapter  
- Editor, Australian Archaeological Consultancy Monograph Series  
- Co-Director, Oceania Marine Reservoir Dating Project  
- Member, Joint Implementation Standing Committee on Archaeology Teaching and Learning

**ITAS**  
The Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) is a federally funded program that offers academic assistance to Indigenous Australian students. It was previously called ATAS (Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme). During 2005, a total of 1242 individual tutorial hours were provided to 32 Indigenous students. 28 casual tutors were employed, including many senior Indigenous students, to support students at St Lucia, Herston, Ipswich, Gatton, Townsville, Cairns and Thursday Island.

**Research Grants 2005**  
- Sean Ulm – e-Archaeology: Towards an Australian Archaeological Data Grid: $77,428 (2005-6)

**National Indigenous Cadetship Program (NICP)**  
The National Indigenous Cadetship Program (NICP) provides opportunities for Indigenous Australians to gain the professional qualifications needed for a range of jobs in both the public and private sectors. It assists in matching students who intend studying full-time in an undergraduate degree, and in some circumstances postgraduate students, with employers who can give them work skills and professional employment experience. In 2005, Kym Kilroy, the Unit’s Cadetship Officer, has been very successful in placing 12 of our students into Cadetships with a wide range of organisations, including the Department of Child Safety, Department of Emergency Services, CSIRO Marine Research and ACCOR. These cadetships range from one to three years in length.
Publications by Unit Staff 2005


