

ORIG INS

2005 EDITION 1



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Welcome to Origins

Diversity and multiculturalism are the hallmarks of Charles Darwin University.

With campuses at Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs and centres in Jabiru, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek, Charles Darwin University spans the Northern Territory and offers educational experiences in a range of climatic zones from wet tropics to desert.

This diversity is reflected in the range of courses offered through the university, which is one of the few bi-sector institutions offering courses in Higher Education (HE) or Vocational Education and Training (VET). At Charles Darwin University, students can begin studying at certificate level and pursue their

education to a Masters or Doctorate. Charles Darwin prides itself on being the university that dares to be different and believes in removing the barriers between students and their desires to gain qualifications.

If you have a commitment and a will to learn, Charles Darwin University staff will work with you to find ways to ensure that chosen study paths are achievable. This personalised approach to teaching is supported by small class sizes and easily accessible academic staff, both face to face and online.

Along with that diversity comes the experience of studying with students from many nationalities and cultures. Charles

Darwin University strongly reflects the multicultural nature of the Territory, with a range of courses that focus on the region's unique cultural, economic, environmental and industrial education requirements. The student body of over 16,000, ranging in age from school leavers to retirees returning to study, represents more than 60 nationalities. ☺

Vice Chancellor,
Professor Helen Garnett

vice chancellor's comment

comment

new faces,

“

This new position will

bring a national focus

to the diverging paths

of Indigenous tourism...

NEW FACES AT CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

Joc Schmiechen

Indigenous tourism is poised for a new direction with the appointment of Joc Schmiechen as Senior Research Fellow in Indigenous Tourism at Charles Darwin University.

"This new position will bring a national focus to the diverging paths of Indigenous tourism and to achieve practical outcomes for Indigenous people 'doing the business' (tourism)," Joc said.

"It is all about sitting cross-legged in the sand talking to people in the place where it counts, not just in air-conditioned offices in the city.

"The main role or objective of this position is to have practical expertise and knowledge of Indigenous tourism and to try to forge stronger links with the academic research world."

Joc will be based in Alice Springs - a symbolic and logically appropriate hub of Indigenous tourism - with his role taking a significant national position, backed by the University and linked with Australian Cooperative Research Centres in Sustainable Tourism, Desert Knowledge and Tropical Savannahs.

Joc was a key speaker at the 15th annual Council for Australian University Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE) Conference at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. It is the first time the event, one of the world's leading tourism and hospitality research conferences, has been hosted in the Northern Territory. More than 200 educators, researchers and industry personnel from Australia and overseas have attended.

Delegates have shown a strong interest in Indigenous tourism in Central Australia. "The conference has provided a great opportunity to begin networking with the key players; to put forward ideas; and to discuss and set directions of where we should be going," he said.

Joc has had a lengthy career in Indigenous tourism, with more than 30 years involvement in outdoor education, expedition leadership, Aboriginal education, environmental management, cross-cultural and eco-tourism encompassing remote locations in Australia and Antarctica. He recently completed a two-year project on heritage tourism in the Lake Eyre Basin.

Peter Perrin

It's the Sound of the Territory and it has a new Station and Network Manager.

Community broadcaster TOP FM has recruited broadcast professional Peter Perrin to its team as Station and Network Manager.

Mr Perrin has worked in television and radio for the past 27 years. He has lengthy experience in broadcast management and has been responsible for turning around some of Western Australia's most popular stations, including the North West Radio regional stations in Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome and more than 50 of their sub-regional and remote broadcast sites in Western Australia. As Program Director then General Manager at 6KY in Perth he was responsible for the successful conversion to the FM band of the station, making it number 2 in the ratings overall.

Working overseas he achieved a massive seven per cent rise in ratings in less than 12 months as Program Manager for Radio Corporation of Singapore's news/talk station, Radio 1.

Mr Perrin is also experienced in the hands-on aspects of broadcasting, being a former number 1 rating announcer. He is also former prime-time news and weather presenter for Channel 9 and Channel 10 in Perth.

continued>



Left -Right

Joc Schmiechen

Peter Perrin

Professor Eric Valentine

Professor Lynne Hunt

"The opportunity to join Charles Darwin University and be responsible for its radio license is a honour. It's obvious that TOP FM is a part of day to day life of Territorians and I'm delighted to be taking the station to the next level." he said.

Top FM broadcasts on 104.1FM and throughout the Territory on network.

Professor Eric Valentine

Charles Darwin University and the Power and Water Corporation announced the appointment of Eric Valentine as Foundation Chair of Civil Engineering.

Professor Valentine joined Charles Darwin University in April with a wealth of experience in the UK and New Zealand. He was appointed ahead of several leading academics of national and international standing.

Power and Water Corporation is sponsoring the position for an initial three-year period.

Professor Garnett said the partnership with Power and Water complemented a commitment to continue unlocking the University's potential for the further benefit of the community.

Power and Water Managing Director, Kim Wood, said the sponsorship reflects Power and Water's commitment to Charles Darwin University and its aspirations to build the intellectual capacity of the Northern Territory. This sponsorship agreement means we can work with Charles Darwin University to

build professional capacity in the Northern Territory and also to find out more about our unique harbour," Mr Wood said.

Professor Valentine has conducted significant research in river and coastal hydrodynamics and has made contributions to environmental hydraulics, particularly pollutant dispersion and sediment transport.

He has also consulted widely in the UK, New Zealand and several developing countries in Africa and Asia. Projects have ranged from river flood control through irrigation to the hydraulic design of water and sewage treatment plants, including the leading-edge Tees Environmental Effluent Scheme (TEES) in England.

He has strengths in working with practising engineers and invests particular energy in bringing research outputs to practice and imbuing his teaching with the authority of practical experience.

Professor Lynne Hunt

A leading West Australian academic, winner of the 2002 Prime Minister's Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year, has been recruited by Charles Darwin University to drive the development of teaching and learning. Lynne Hunt, formerly of Edith Cowan University, took up her appointment as Leader, Teaching and Learning Development, in April.

Professor Hunt was Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Computing, Health and Science at Edith

Cowan. She won three Edith Cowan awards for teaching excellence and the 2002 Australian Award for University Teaching in the Social Science category. She publishes in the fields of women's health and tertiary teaching and received the 2002 Merit Award for Best Paper on Authentic Learning from the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA).

She is a HERDSA Fellow, a member of the Board of the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education and the newly formed International Society for Scholarship in Teaching and Learning. Her teaching career includes social science, education and health science courses in Australia and the UK.

Professor Hunt said she sees her appointment as being a fitting outcome of her teaching and learning career. "It provides an opportunity to share knowledge and networks gained from international study and lecture programs in Europe, Canada, the USA and Asia".

"I have a passion for student learning and I'm convinced that to reorientate universities to a focus on learning it is necessary to address both process and culture. To have a culture that promotes learning it is important to acknowledge teaching as well as research in appointment and promotional positions at universities. It is also necessary to have processes that enhance quality teaching and learning such as teaching awards, and effective research on teaching and learning". ☺

MARUTTO



A new Mobile Adult Learning Unit (MALU) unveiled by Charles Darwin University will ensure more remote students than even before have access to trades-based education.

The \$320,000 MALU, the third to come online for the university, was officially commissioned this year by Charles Darwin University Vice Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett.

Designed and built in the Northern Territory for local environment and conditions, MALU 3 began delivering courses from the start of term two.

The unit will travel about 2,000 kilometres each year and have about 30,000 teaching hours per year delivered from its six welding booth, six computer area teaching configuration.

The MALU is equal to the largest double axle trailer manufactured in Australia and Project Coordinator David Reilly explained: "When it comes to mobile training facilities, bigger is definitely better."

Charles Darwin University's other MALU units each travel to four remote locations

[continued>](#)



malu #3
online

per year for 10-week blocks as part of Charles Darwin University's commitment to taking education and training to the community.

"The MALU units are independent learning spaces," Mr Reilly said. "Delivery can be done anywhere that is required in the Territory."

"The units are very popular with the communities, which often make requests for their return. At this time, this may take up to three years."

Communities have been strong supporters of the MALU concept, as they prefer training to take place on site. This ensures that the community has control of their trainees and the program.

Principal Deb Williams, from Laramba School, said the introduction of the third MALU was greatly appreciated by people in her area.

"The young people of this area appreciate the opportunity to learn and develop their skills in the trade fields of welding, steel fabrication and automotive provided by MALU 1," Ms Williams said.

"The availability of a third MALU will help meet local demand from local secondary aged students for trades and computer studies, providing students with two pathways not available to them previously."

Mr Reilly said the MALUs were economically viable and provided more practical solutions. "Communities do not have to spend money on building or maintaining classrooms that may not be used continuously due to lack of staff and programs," Mr Reilly said.

"MALU now gives these students the opportunity to complete their VET certificate and then use this to complete their Northern Territory Certificate of Education or they can go on to a Traineeship or Apprenticeship."

Charles Darwin staff have been working closely with remote school teachers. Teachers work with students before MALU arrives and can therefore deliver far more hours in the limited time MALU is available. The teachers then continue with their program once MALU leaves.

"Whole communities are coming on board. For example, with Retail delivery, it's not

just theory; students are provided access to the community store for further training."

MALU 3 will also be used for Trades delivery and for other multi-purpose applications.

Built by Alice Springs company Mick Murray Welding, MALU three is 13.7 metres in length, 2.5 metres wide and has an internal height of 2.9 metres.

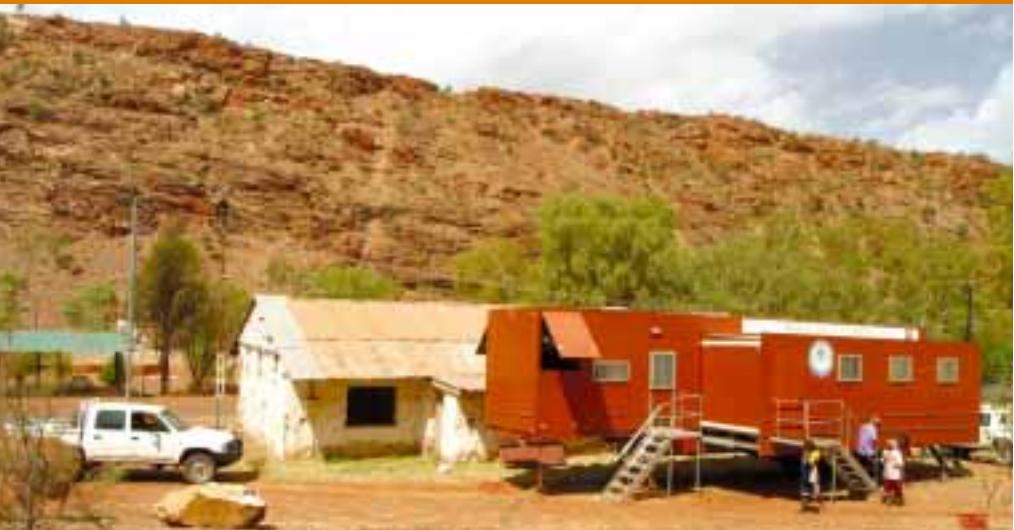
It has a stage platform that lowers as a floor using hydraulics to create enclosed spaces for multi-purpose use. The gooseneck section has refrigerated air-conditioning with an Interactive Distant Learning (IDL) Unit provided by OPTUS Communications recessed into the roof, with the underneath section having ample room for six laptop workstations.

The IDL unit will allow access to after hours teaching from the School of the Air Studio in Alice Springs. The rest of the trailer, fitted with evaporative air-conditioning, opens out into an extra large classroom with teaching space for the second lecturer.

"By rearranging the swivel doors, the classroom can also be reconfigured to create an auditorium incorporating sound and lighting equipment when teaching contemporary music," Mr Reilly said.

MALU 1 was introduced in 1986 and has so far delivered about 15,000 hours of welding training.

MALU 2 began operating in 1998 and has delivered 40,000 hours in Local Government, Literacy and Numeracy and IT training. Since the inception of the program, about 3,500 students have used the MALUs. ☺



ABOVE L-R

David Reilly, Project Manager CDU; Steve McBurnie, MALU Lecturer, and Andrew Cole, Co-partner Mick Murray Welding alongside the first stages of construction of MALU 3.

“Our job is to teach them the right way of mustering and how to use the horse properly.”

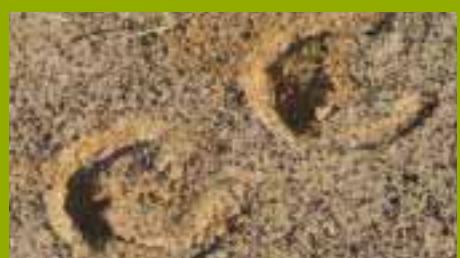
saddling UP

It's the stuff of Aussie Outback legends ... and for nearly 30 budding jackaroos and jillaroos the reality hit home earlier this year.

The group, employed by the Consolidated Pastoral Company, undertook a two-week induction at the Northern Territory Rural College of Charles Darwin University before heading to outback properties across the Territory and Western Australia in time for the mustering season.

They were taught basic riding techniques, cattle handling, mustering, basic vehicle maintenance and operation, chemical safety and usage, an introduction to Occupational Health and Safety issues and a senior first aid course.

This is the third year that new staff from CPC, the pastoral division of Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd, have been trained at the Rural College, 16km north of Katherine. continued>





Packer's jackaroos ... CPC staff after their Rural College induction.

NT Rural College horse instructor Jeff Toomby said many students arrived for the course thinking they would be charging off into the scrub chasing cattle. "Our job is to teach them the right way of mustering and how to use the horse properly."

NTRC Director Dr Brian Heim said for jackaroos, knowledge on issues such as maintaining hydration, what to do when you become stranded in a vehicle and safety when working around animals and machinery can mean the difference

between life and death. "Training and Safety are critical issues in our industry".

Geoff Warriner, Pastoral Inspector for CPC, fully supported the training as safety is critical issue in the grazing industry. "Investing in training keeps our staff safer and increases their value as an employee. That is important to us at CPC."

CPC has 17 pastoral properties totalling five million hectares throughout the Territory, WA, Queensland and NSW. It is

one of Australia's largest privately owned pastoral companies, producing high quality beef cattle for the South-East Asian and local domestic markets. CPC employs about 150 people, including nearly 65 station hands, jackaroos and jillaroos.

After their two-week stint at the NT Rural College, the new CPC staff headed out to properties stretching from Newcastle Waters Station near Elliot in the Northern Territory to Carlton Hill Station near Kununurra in WA. ☺



They are three of the best . . . they are the face of Charles Darwin University's Alice Springs campus . . . and they are part of a tradition in the Central Australia oasis.

Thalia Cheung, Evans Kabwe and Dianne Wardenaar were among about 100 university students from Central Australia who received formal recognition of success in their Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training studies at a graduation ceremony at the Alice Springs Convention Centre in June.

All three completed Bachelor of Business degrees last year, majoring in accounting, and all three have fulltime employment in Alice Springs - two of them, Thalia and Dianne, at accounting firm Deloitte and Evans at Centrelink.

The trio joined an excited crowd of graduands, family and friends and

university academics and staff for the ceremony. Welcoming addresses were given by the University Chancellor Richard Ryan, AO, and the Vice Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett.

Thalia had more reason than most to be a little nervous beforehand - she had been asked to give the graduand response, traditionally an honour awarded to one of the greatest achievers of the year.

All three students are part of a tradition in Alice Springs in which local accounting firms and the public sector employ CDU business students and graduates, supporting the students in their studies and, in turn, benefiting from their growing expertise as they complete their degrees.

Course coordinator and lecturer Maritana Richards paid tribute to the trio and said it had been a fulfilling experience to watch

them develop, not only professionally, but personally, during their studies.

She added: "The Bachelor of Business degree course has been operating here since the early 1990s and is one of the most popular in Alice. We offer majors in marketing, management and accounting. We currently have about 60 students studying for business degrees."

"Most accounting firms and government offices in Alice have either past or present business students working for them, so the links are very strong."

Thalia, an analyst with Deloitte for the past two years, studied part-time over the past five years while fulfilling her employment obligations. Previously she worked at law firm Povey Stirk, where she handled conveyancing, and before that the ANZ Bank where she was in senior management.

Graduates part of an Alice tradition

“They are three of the best . . . they are
the face of Charles Darwin University's
Alice Springs campus...”

Thalia, 28, has been an Alice Springs resident for the past 17 years and completed her schooling at the Centralian College. “I had no idea why I was asked to deliver the graduand response,” she said, “but it was a great honour. I did win a few annual awards, so perhaps that's why I was chosen.”

Thalia said she had recently started the CA Program, a two-year postgraduate diploma, which is necessary to obtain the Chartered Accountant qualification.

Dianne, a qualified chef, decided a few years ago to change careers and opted for the business degree. Originally, she intended to major in management, but switched to accounting, and is now working alongside Thalia at Deloitte.

“Actually, I had always wanted to go into accounting, but after completing Year 12 in Victoria, where I grew up, I deferred for a

year. I came up to Alice for two weeks, stayed and ‘fell’ into cookery. That was back in '88 and I've been here ever since.”

Dianne, 35, completed a Certificate in Commercial Cookery at the School of Hospitality and then worked at several restaurants in town, including the casino, and also had the lease at the Feds Sports Club.

“When the opportunity came up to do accounting, I jumped at it,” she said. “It's been a lot of hard work and late nights, but well worth it. Without the support and help of Brian, my partner, I don't think I would have done it.”

Evans, originally from Zambia, moved to Alice in 2001 after spending seven years in South Africa. He worked with PFA Chartered Accountants for a year and now handles disability claims and sickness benefits at Centrelink.

“Both employers were very supportive of my studies,” he said. “Most of the staff at PFA had been or were still studying at the CDU and gave me a hand - they knew what was involved.”

“The opportunities in Australia are endless. In four years I already have a degree. If you want to study, the onus is on you: the options are there, the goals are achievable and then you can enjoy the privileges.” ☺

higher education cadetship for indigenous students

cadetship

“...I want to be a role model for Indigenous students and show them that it is not too hard to achieve your goals.”



ABOVE Lorraine Martin with Vice Chancellor Helen Garnett, and Professor MaryAnn Bin-Salik.

Lorraine Martin, a single, supporting mother of three, is the inaugural recipient of a Charles Darwin University \$60,000 four-year Higher Education cadetship for Indigenous students.

Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett presented the cadetship to Ms Martin. “This cadetship underpins Charles Darwin University’s commitment to improving Indigenous Australians’ access to higher education and employment in University management,” Professor Garnett said.

“It is a genuine career development opportunity and very generous in terms of academic and employment mentorship both during and after completion of tertiary studies. I am sure Lorraine will enjoy her time here at Charles Darwin University. She shows great promise in her chosen field and I wish her all the very best as she strives to achieve her goals.”

Born in Darwin, Ms Martin has “articulated” to Higher Education through Vocational Education and Training. She will study for a Bachelor of Governance (Public Sector Management), having completed a Certificate IV Project Officer’s course at the Charles Darwin University’s School of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

She said she felt very lucky to have been awarded the cadetship. “My main goal is

to complete the undergraduate degree and keep studying,” she said.

“I am interested in policy and research, especially education and Indigenous education, and in achieving better outcomes. I want to be a role model for Indigenous students and show them that it is not too hard to achieve your goals.”

Ms Martin, who has lived in the Territory all her life, has worked as a clerical trainee with ERA and also with the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. She is interested in a career as a lecturer within the tertiary education sector.

Under the terms of the cadetship, Ms Martin will receive ongoing academic mentoring and coaching and Professor Garnett will take a personal interest in her progress, meeting her regularly to track and guide her development.

The cadetships, open to all high-achieving Indigenous Year 12 students in the Northern Territory, also include paid university employment during major semester breaks. Ms Martin will also engage in University life by attending a range of student and University-organised functions.

Successful completion of the degree will position Ms Martin to gain graduate employment in one of the diverse areas of university management. ☺

prominent territorians



NT Womens awards

ABOVE Mrs Nancy Giese, AO, OBE
RIGHT Mrs Janie Mason

Former Chancellor of the Northern Territory University Nancy Giese and Charles Darwin senior lecturer Janie Mason were among five prominent Territorians named in the annual Tribute to Northern Territory Women awards.

Charles Darwin University Vice Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett said she was delighted that two prominent members of the Northern Territory community with strong associations with the University had been recognised in this manner.

"Nancy Giese is a wonderful and widely respected Territorian whose name is synonymous with the development of tertiary education in the Territory," Professor Garnett said.

"Janie Mason played a major role in the transfer of nursing education from hospitals to tertiary education in the 1980s, helping to ensure that nursing was available from VET to Higher Education level for Territory students. Today, nursing studies is the biggest single award at the University.

"It is most fitting that Nancy and Janie have been honoured and it is a tribute to the role and importance of the University in Northern Territory life that Charles Darwin University is providing two of the five recipients of the award this year."

Mrs Giese has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in education, dating

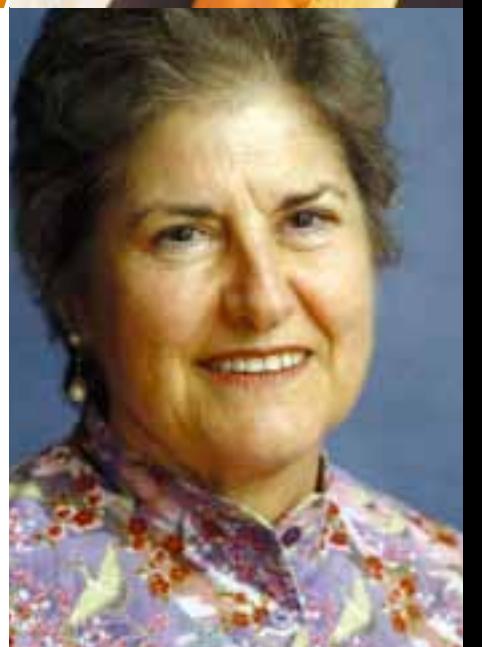
back to 1936 when she graduated as a physical education teacher in Queensland.

She was elected Chancellor of the NTU in February 1993 and served in that position for 10 years, until the NTU became the CDU in 2003. Mrs Giese is a Patron of the CDU Foundation, and retains an active interest in University life, attending many University functions and events, and performances by the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs Giese was awarded the Membership of the British Empire (MBE) in 1971, which was superseded by the award of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1977. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queens Birthday Honours List in 1997.

Ms Mason, a lecturer at CDU since 1983, was honoured for her contribution to nursing, education and the union movement in the Northern Territory.

Ms Mason spent the first 20 years of her career in the acute care (surgery), renal and midwifery fields. She worked in remote Indigenous communities, mining towns and community health clinics. She began teaching at the Darwin Hospital Nursing School in 1976 before becoming a High School teacher in Science and Mathematics. At Charles Darwin, Ms Mason has lectured in nursing, biology and health studies and is now a senior lecturer in Community Health and Health Sciences.



Ms Mason is serving her fifth year on the University's Academic Board, and recently completed six years on the University Council. She also completed a four-year term as the first woman President of the Northern Territory Trades and Labour Council in October 2004.

Within the union movement, she represented the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and the National Tertiary Education Union. She was made a life member of the NTEU in 1997 and was awarded a Centenary Medal for service to Australian society in union leadership in 2003. ☺



“

There are many opportunities for employees to strengthen their professional practices and knowledge; enhance their professional development, accelerate progress towards qualification and to build a sustainable vision for personal and organisational development and change.

”

High praise for teachers

Two early childhood lecturers at Charles Darwin University have won a national award for a two-year pilot child-care project, Turning Points - an innovative approach to professional development and training of child-care staff and organisations.

Ruth Wallace and Kathie Mair received the Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) New Researcher Paper of the Year 2005 at a presentation night in Brisbane.

Ms Wallace and Ms Mair, from the University's Centre for Learning Research, developed the project, funded by the Department of Health and Community Services. The project involved a series of workshops and meet-

ings and ongoing support services to staff from four Darwin child care centres: Darwin Family Day Care, Charles Darwin University Child Care Centre, Manunda Terrace Out of School Hours Care, Mitchell St Child Care Centre.

"The idea of the project is to help develop a self-sustaining, service-based cluster of children's services workers engaged in their own professional and organisational development," Ms Wallace said.

The main goal, identified by the Department, was to increase the number of people in the cluster, qualified or nearly completed a qualification in the children's services profession, by a minimum of 10 per cent annually over a two-year period.

"Happily, we exceeded that target. We worked closely with the staff to help them generate a learning culture and we believe this method has wider applications that could be used in other areas in government and the private sector."

"There are many opportunities for employees to strengthen their professional practices and knowledge; enhance their professional development, accelerate progress towards qualification and to build a sustainable vision for personal and organisational development and change."

ABOVE LEFT

Ruth Wallace and Kathie Mair with the AVETRA award. ☈



ahoy

Associate Professor Ibtisam Abu-Duhou

“Despite this national tragedy, there was little information available on what might constitute the best buys for education investment...”

global role for educator

A Charles Darwin University academic has been invited to work with a United Nations advisory body to help improve education systems around the world.

Associate Professor Ibtisam Abu-Duhou, has been elected to the International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP) Governing Board as a Consultant Fellow. IIEP was created by UNESCO in 1963 and people are invited on the basis of their contributions to various fields of educational planning.

Associate Professor Abu-Duhou said she was honoured to be working for IIEP indicating that it will dovetail into her new role at Charles Darwin University.

“The IIEP is an international centre for training and research specialising in educational planning and management. At its core the Fellow role is essentially a global focus of what I am doing at Charles Darwin,” she said.

Palestinian born Associate Professor Abu-Duhou joined Charles Darwin University in 2004 as the inaugural Ian Potter Foundation Education Economist bringing to the institution a remarkable background in researching and evaluating education systems in the Middle East, France, Pakistan, Malaysia, the USA and Australia.

Additionally she has worked with international organisations such as AusAID, the World Bank; UNESCO; UNICEF and the EU.

Her research has related to the economics of education, specifically the allocation of resources, cost-effectiveness, budgeting and review of expenditures on education, policy and planning at both national and international levels, comparative studies in socio-economic and cultural aspects of schooling as well as numerous comparative studies of education systems.

“A large part of my role at Charles Darwin is a focus on the cost effectiveness of different interventions aimed at redressing the achievement gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school students in both the Northern Territory and Australia, through an understanding of the main contributors to this gap,” she said.

“For example, an outcome of 2002 testing in the Northern Territory saw 20 per cent of remote Indigenous students achieved the numeracy benchmark at the Year 5 level, compared to 61 per cent urban Indigenous students and 91 per cent non-Indigenous students.



“Where the national average percentage of students reaching reading benchmark was 90 per cent, 26 per cent of Indigenous students reached this standard in the Territory.

“Despite this national tragedy, there was little information available on what might constitute the best buys for education investment if there is to be significant turn around on these appalling outcomes.” ☎

graduates succeeding in the territory

grads



Cory Capogreco, Nickolaos Miaris and Alison Quin

Three young teachers trained at Charles Darwin University have produced a definitive 68-page Teachers' Guide for use by junior secondary school teachers throughout the Territory.

The kit, Building a Nation: The East Timor Story, is being distributed to Territory schools with the support of the Asia Education Foundation and the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

It was compiled by Alison Quin, Cory Capogreco and Nickolaos Miaris as part of their final-year studies towards a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education.

Education lecturer at Charles Darwin University Ms Iolanthe Sutton said she was "enormously proud" of the teachers' achievement which, she said, was coordinated by Doreen Rorrison and developed as part of the IR Unit in Transformative Education, (TE) part of the Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education.

Ms Sutton said the Teachers' Guide addressed the History and Governance content of the Band 5 History, Governance Time, Continuity and Change SOSE outcomes from the NT Curriculum Framework and as well as National Studies of Asia Curriculum outcomes. Their document sets out workshop ideas, power point presentations and study options using the contemporary issue of nation building in East Timor.

"The TE program shows people that they can innovate, make significant changes and improve learning opportunities for students. It means that any teacher can now innovate - and that requires a shift in thinking."

"The Teachers' Guide is not prescriptive; it gives teachers an indication of how they might apply teaching techniques. It's flexible and it provides significant links to a wide range of other sources of information."

"We're trying to model Transformative Education at Charles Darwin University so our teacher education is cutting edge.; it's really setting us apart. Because our demography in the Territory is so different we have the opportunity to think about how we deal with and teach in remote communities."

"Despite their lack of experience, these three pre-service teachers produced a resource that has the potential to be of great benefit to the teaching community."

"This is the underlying philosophy of the Graduate Diploma: teaching students what they can do. The sky is the limit."

Mr Miaris is now teaching at Sanderson High School, Mr Capogreco is teaching at Nightcliff High, and Ms Quin is employed by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training in Canberra. ☺

teach teach teachers teach teach teach

liberating an icon

icon

There are few places in the Top End where fishermen can catch barramundi in a crocodile-free environment - but thanks to Charles Darwin University students, one of those spots will continue to be a popular recreational fishery.

Just after this year's wet season, aquaculture students released about 300 mature barramundi into Manton Dam, 80km south of Darwin. The fish, each measuring about 20 - 30cm and weighing up to 500g, are about six months old.

The fish were taken to Manton Dam by truck in a specially designed fibreglass

tank, holding about a tonne of water. Students monitored the tank's oxygen and ammonia levels throughout the trip."

Aquaculture course coordinator and lecturer Shaun McCarthy said the students were studying for a Certificate II in Seafood Industry (Aquaculture).

"Students are learning about managing intensive fish rearing systems, water quality and handling live fish," he said. "They are also responsible for the basic care of the fish as they grow, including their feeding and the cleaning of the tanks.

"The 300 barra are surplus to our needs. They were supplied as larvae by the Darwin Aquaculture Centre and students have reared them over the past few months as part of their studies."

"Our students also rear and study prawns and freshwater crayfish. We offer Certificates II and III in Seafood Industry (Aquaculture) and this leads to employment in the industry as farmhands or technicians." One of the fastest growing industries in the NT, especially in remote communities. ☺



Students Robbi Jones and Mathew O'Keefe introduce some of the barra to their new Manton Dam home.

partnership in east timor

A Charles Darwin University project to rehabilitate the agriculture faculty of the National University of Timor Leste and help re-develop its agricultural curriculum has been praised by the Australian Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery.

Charles Darwin University was commissioned with the job of reconstructing the agricultural laboratories and facilities at the National University's farm located at Hera, 12km east of Dili.

The facilities were destroyed in the post-election violence of 1999.

The Governor-General inspected the new buildings at the National University and remarked upon the achievement and cooperation being devoted to the project.

"This building we are in represents a partnership between many different players, both here and in Australia. With the involvement of the National University of Timor Leste it shows how we are

focusing on building the capacity of this young country for the future," the Governor-General said.

Funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Charles Darwin University undertook the project in collaboration with Curtin University and the University of Queensland.



easttimor



The project is funded until December 2005 and is currently focused on curriculum development using the skill of the three universities involved.

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"The building cost \$250,000 to reconstruct and new equipment has been supplied for the laboratories. Equipment has also been donated from Charles Darwin University, Energy Resources of Australia Ltd's Ranger Mine at Jabiru and Curtin University," said Tania Paul, project officer and horticultural lecturer at Charles Darwin University.

"The project is particularly remarkable as the reconstruction of the labs and facilities on the farm was completed with a tight budget yet achieved great results."

The project is funded until December 2005 and is currently focused on curriculum development using the skill of the three universities involved.

"This year, animal science lecturers from the National University are working in collaboration with David Foulkes at Charles Darwin University's NT Rural College in Katherine to design new units of study as well as getting some hands-on experience," Ms Paul said.

The agriculture faculty re-development project is one facet of greater links established between Charles Darwin University and Universidad Nacional Timor Lorosa'e. ☺





BIG Picture Research



These are incredibly exciting times for the Top End and many of the developments are a great opportunity for the region to mature beyond being a financially dependent outpost.

The pursuit of sustainable development across Australia's north lies behind Charles Darwin University's application for a five-year \$24 million Commonwealth Government grant to determine how various development pressures are affecting the region's landscapes and biodiversity.

Dr David Bowman, who directs the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management at Charles Darwin University, said that accelerating development in the Top End is dramatically increasing environmental pressures in the region.

"There is a great sense of urgency to ensure that the 'nation building' development sweeping across Australia's rich tropical north does not replicate the environmental pitfalls that have stained a lot of development benefits down south," Dr Bowman said.

"These are incredibly exciting times for the Top End and many of the developments are a great opportunity for the region to mature beyond being a financially dependent outpost. However, there is a desperate need to ensure that the energy being devoted to economic development by Northern Territory and national governments, is at least duplicated for environmental planning."

"The region is currently experiencing increased mining pronounced by the multi million dollar expansion at Nhulunbuy together with a mushrooming of smaller resource activity in gold and mineral sands."

"Savannah forest is being cleared to grow cotton and other thirsty crops and there are increasing industrial and urban development pressures."

"When you tie in invasive pests such as cane toads, weeds and feral animals, we are literally looking at an entire ecosystem being transformed under our feet."

"The value behind our proposal is a broad multi-discipline approach to help understand the big environmental picture so that the region's economy can grow in a sustainable way."

"A successful proposal will see ecologists, historians, medical practitioners, meteorologists and economists among others, collaborating on biodiversity and landscape change across northern Australia."

"It will allow us to undertake new research and examine existing research through a more faceted prism. Some of the major environmental breakthroughs will be coming from knowledge gained by integrating the different tools and approaches of distinct disciplines."

In an indication of what may come, Charles Darwin University has teamed up with one of the world's leading forest research centres, the Centre for International Forestry (CIFOR).

"With CIFOR having offices in Indonesia, Brazil, Cameroon and Zimbabwe, this places Charles Darwin University at the

centre of a global network of scientists investigating forest and livelihood issues," said Professor Bruce Campbell, Director of the University's new Research School of Environmental Studies.

Professor Campbell, who has built a career on natural resource issues in Asia and Africa, said that under the University-CIFOR arrangement scientists from both institutions will work on themes related to balancing conservation and development, and to improving human well-being from natural resources.

"The Northern Territory has much to contribute to and learn from the global network, given the dominance of savannas and woodlands here, and much of the land under native title," Professor Campbell explained.

"Such agreements are not only advantageous for Charles Darwin University, but also for the Territory, by further strengthening its bonds with South East Asia and increasing regional awareness of the range of expertise and skills the Territory has to offer." ☐

ABOVE
Professor David Bowman and
Professor Bruce Campbell



Trish on Midden

Digging up the past

Darwin Archaeology: Aboriginal, Asian and European Heritage of Australia's Top End. Edited by Patricia Bourke, Sally Brockwell and Clayton Fredericksen (Charles Darwin University Press).

Chinese and European settlement of the Darwin region dates back only 150 years, but earth mounds on the Adelaide River coastal plains reveal aspects of the lives of the Aboriginal inhabitants who were here 4,000 years ago.

Archaeological research of the Top End, much of it in Arnhem Land, has been conducted since the late 1920s, but Darwin and its environs have been largely ignored. Charles Darwin University has redressed the balance with the publication of the first collection of archaeological research for the Darwin region, Darwin Archaeology:

Aboriginal, Asian and European Heritage of Australia's Top End.

The authors are former and current staff and postgraduate students of Charles Darwin University, and the papers have been edited by CDU anthropologists Dr Patricia Bourke, Dr Clayton Fredericksen and Dr Sally Brockwell of the Australian National University, Canberra. Dr Bourke said: "The studies cover both 'pre-historic' (before European or Asian contact with Aboriginal people's) and historic (post-contact) times. In our opinion, it is particularly inappropriate to partition these two periods in the culturally rich and diverse Top End. We prefer to view the past of the north as a continuum."

"The aim is to make the results of this research accessible to the general public, as well as to archaeologists and historians."

The papers extend from mid-Holocene times (4,000 years ago) to the World War Two era. Some expand on former research on Aboriginal subsistence and settlement of past millennia, while others are groundbreaking in their treatment of the material remains of the very recent past.

Subjects covered include:

- Aboriginal settlement on Adelaide River earth mounds from about 4,000 years ago to the late 1800s;
- The Bayview Haven shell mound, destroyed in the 1990s by housing Development, and other Aboriginal shell mounds and middens around Darwin Harbour and Hope Inlet;
- Bynoe Harbour, site of tin, tanta lite and gold mining in the 19th century, mainly by the Chinese community;
- The Single Men's Quarters at Fannie Bay Gaol: an archaeology of hard drinking and mateship;
- The Brisbane shipwreck: remains of a steamship that foundered in October 1881 at the entrance to Darwin Harbour;
- World War Two: Catalina flying boat wreck sites at East Arm and Livingstone airfield. ☺



“... a friendly, comfortable environment that is conducive to learning. We recognise that students learn in flexible ways and are proud that we can give them, not just extra computers, but access to information support services...

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Students at Charles Darwin University are using computer facilities that are second to none in the Northern Territory.

A new state-of-the-art \$1 million Learning Precinct on the Casuarina Campus enables almost 90 students to study, research and compile assignments on computer at any one time.

The precinct has been packed almost every day since it opened for business at the start of the current university year, with a regular turnover of students, most of whom use it for a couple of hours at a time.

Students are able to choose from 70 desktop computers and 18 express computer kiosks. There are also plans to have 20 Tablet PCs available for loan within the building, and access to a wide range of software, including multimedia programs.

The precinct is open up to 13 hours a day during the week, and all day on weekends and most public holidays during semester. There are plans to extend the hours to midnight during the second semester this year, with long-term plans of 24-hour availability.

continued>

DUCKTIVE

state of the art learning

Director of Library, Information and Access Ms Ruth Quinn said the facilities were equivalent to those offered by larger universities, including new facilities installed at the Universities of Newcastle and Wollongong.

Ms Quinn said the precinct has been designed to support 'flexible' learning, recognising not only the varying hours that students need to study, especially mature-aged students, but also the fact that so many students these days study online or take part in online lessons.

"We also wanted to portray a friendly, comfortable environment that is conducive to learning. We recognise that students learn in flexible ways and are proud that we can give them, not just extra computers, but access to information support services and a friendly, safe area in which to study," she said.

The precinct includes a large, open-plan area for individual study and research; an express zone for quick catalogue and

information searches; a laptop lounge and a collaborative zone in which small groups of students can work and study together.

For more information about Charles Darwin University library services in Alice Springs, Palmerston and at the Casuarina campus please go to <http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/>

The library is available to staff, enrolled students, external students. Teachers in the Northern Territory and members of the public may join for an annual fee. ☺



new frontier

New frontier for tropical studies



The inaugural Director of Charles Darwin University's new Research School of Environmental Studies says a more integrated research approach is needed to account for the multi-faceted nature of environmental issues in tropical Northern Australia and Southeast Asia.

"A growing population, increasing development and global change in tropical regions around the world is placing ever increasing pressure on the environment," the School's Director, Professor Bruce Campbell, said.

"Darwin is one of the few regions that combines easy access to the tropics and the resources to support research, together with a remarkable diversity of countries at its doorstep. It is a logical location for a new research school focused on the environment."

While the new School has a postgraduate research focus on biodiversity and landscape science, water resources, and policy and livelihoods, it emphasises that all three focus areas collaborate on projects in tropical areas - particularly in northern Australia and Southeast Asia.

"Environmental problems are multi-dimensional and the only way to address them properly is by combining strong ecological science with an

understanding of the cultures, politics and economics of the people who live in the places of impact," he explained.

While Professor Campbell's continuing involvement with his previous employer, the Centre for International Forestry Research in Indonesia, also connects Charles Darwin to a global program with work in 18 tropical countries, it was his work in Africa - where he was the Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies and Chair of Botany at the University of Zimbabwe - that convinced him of the importance of integrated research.

"I started as an ecologist working for a decade in South Africa and Zimbabwe but came to realise that this discipline, especially as practised in most universities, had little to do with the realities of the problems in natural or agricultural systems," he said.

With this insight, Professor Campbell broadened his study to focus on how people used their natural resources, how policies affected this and how economics affected the policies. ☺

LEFT Director of the Research School for Environmental Studies Professor Bruce Campbell.

"A growing population, increasing development and global change in tropical regions around the world is placing ever increasing pressure on the environment ,"

Bushfire threat palms



Bushfires and feral animals are continuing to threaten an endangered species of palm restricted to rainforests near Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Dave Liddle, research associate at Charles Darwin University's Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management, said that in the NT, Darwin Palm (*Ptychosperma*) occurs in the wild in only eight monsoon rainforest patches in the Howard River and Adelaide River catchments. Dr Liddle, who is also a Wildlife Officer with the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment, said the palm grows in the understorey of spring-fed rainforest patches, has feather-like leaves and an attractive clumping habit.

"The species, which is listed as endangered under Northern Territory legislation, has been monitored since the early 1990s. In that time, there has been a decade of decline. The Darwin Palm population has collapsed at a site on the Howard River in response to wildfire," he said.

The species, which is listed as endangered under Northern Territory legislation, has been monitored since the early 1990s. In that time, there has been a decade of decline. The Darwin Palm population has collapsed at a site on the Howard River in response to wildfire

Dr Liddle recently completed a major study on the impact of fire on cycads and he is continuing to explore the underlying causes for the changes.

"Introduced buffalo, cattle and pigs have also had an impact, although there are positive signs of young palms surviving in some areas where feral animals have declined due to the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC) and changes in land use."

"It is possible that changes in land use and hydrology in the catchment have already had an impact on this endangered palm and are likely to have a significant impact on the long term maintenance of a mosaic of rainforest patches to the east of Darwin." ☈



birds birds of papua



Dr Richard Noske

Charles Darwin University is playing an important role in the development of research and training programs in Papua, one of the world's last tropical rainforest wildernesses.

Papua, formerly known as Irian Jaya, occupies the western side of New Guinea, the largest and highest tropical island in the world.

Charles Darwin University biologist Dr Richard Noske has visited Papua for talks on proposed activities for a new Papuan Biodiversity Centre, to be built on one of the Raja Ampat Islands, off the western tip of Papua.

Construction will start later this year with funds from Conservation International, which heads the initiative. Charles Darwin University will also be collaborating with Antioch University, of New Hampshire in the United States and two Papuan universities.

Antioch has a Centre for Tropical Ecology and Conservation, similar to Charles

Darwin's Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management.

Dr Noske said Charles Darwin University stands to benefit considerably from an increase in international profile as a university situated right beside a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

"Papua is only one hour by direct flight from Darwin," Dr Noske said. "Biologically, it has an extraordinary diversity of ecosystems, ranging from towering coastal mangroves and tropical rainforests to mountain glaciers at nearly 5 000m above sea level."

"It is the main home of the amazing birds-of-paradise, most of the mound-building megapodes, the most architecturally-talented bowerbirds and three cassowaries, as well as the world's largest pigeons."

"It has about the same number of birds (800 species) as Australia but is almost one-tenth the size."

"Until recently, Papuan forests had escaped the devastating destruction typical of Indonesia's western provinces but between 1993 and 1997, forest cover in Papua decreased by 10 per cent, mainly due to logging, plantation agriculture, mining and human settlement, all threatening to destroy much of Papua's unique biological heritage."

Dr Noske said the Raja Ampat Islands' reefs were also extraordinarily rich in marine life, with more than 1 000 species of fish and half the world's coral species.

He said the new biodiversity and research centre would attract international researchers, particularly from North America and Europe, who would share their knowledge and skills with local scientists, land managers and community groups. ☈

Green ants - those much-maligned little critters that Territorians love to hate - may soon be responsible for increased profits in the mango industry.

Scientists at Charles Darwin University have developed techniques for using green ants (also known as weaver ants) as biological control agents in tree crops, such as mango and cashew.

"They annoy fruitpickers and for many years growers have been doing everything possible to get rid of them. Now, however, we have discovered that this so-called pest can actually help growers produce a better product."

Dr Peng said ants not only irritate fruitpickers, but they secrete formic acid that causes spots on the fruit.



Preliminary results of research conducted on several mango orchards in the rural area show a potential increase in production - and profit - for growers of about 70 per cent.

The news has enormous implications for the mango industry, the most important fruit tree crop in the Territory, worth millions of dollars every year.

It would reduce the use of chemical pesticides, cut costs, increase yield and quality, and allow mango growers to market their produce as organically grown, ensuring a steady price for their product each season.

The research has been conducted over the past 10 years by Dr Renkang Peng, Associate Professor Keith Christian and Associate Professor Karen Gibb from the School of Science and Primary Industries.

"Our biggest challenge (in selling the idea to mango growers) will be overcoming the perception that green ants are a pest," Dr Peng said.

"However, our research has shown that this happens when different colonies of ants are present in the same area. Ants are territorial and will fight to protect their colony from a rival colony."

"The trick is to separate colonies from each other: one colony can colonise an area large enough to support about 15 mango trees. And the simple way to avoid irritation for fruitpickers is to spray the ants with water. They simply quieten down or go back to their nests," Dr Peng said.

The ants were extremely effective in reducing the numbers of leafhoppers, red-banded thrips, seed weevils and fruit flies - all pests with the capacity to damage crops.

"We found that some soft chemicals, such as potassium soap and white oil, are still needed, but growers can still classify their mangoes as being organically grown." ☐



Green ants a mango marvel

Consultancy not a gamble

A research team from Charles Darwin University, headed by Dr Martin Young, has won a \$375,000 Territory Government grant to undertake research into the effects of gambling in the Northern Territory on behalf of the Territory Government.

It is the second grant to undertake research into gambling awarded to Dr Young in the past four months. He is also conducting a three-year \$87,000 research project into the impacts of commercial gambling on Indigenous communities in northern Australia, announced last

November by the prestigious Australian Research Council.

The Territory Government grant is the first to be awarded under a new gambling research program.

The CDU team, from the School for Social and Policy Research, was chosen from a number of high-calibre applicants from around Australia.

Dr Young, a Professorial Research Fellow, is being assisted by Professor Tony Barnes and Associate Professor of

Educational Economics, Ibtisam Abu-Duhou, all from the School for Social and Policy Research, and Dr Mary Morris, Head of the School of Health Sciences.

The CDU team has joined forces with ACIL Tasman, one of Australia's largest economic consulting practices, to undertake the research. ACIL Tasman is represented by executive director Jeffrey Rae and associate consultant Dr Peter Johnson.

Dr Young joined Charles Darwin University early last year and has

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What we need is a clear idea of gambling by Territorians - who gambles, how much they gamble and on what, and who is at risk of problem gambling.

”



No gamble the CDU team at the launch of the project.

previously conducted gambling research in the UK. He said he was "delighted and immensely proud" that he and his team had been awarded the contract.

"There is little doubt a thoughtful, structured, and longer-term gambling research program is critically needed in the Northern Territory," he said.

Dr Young said the CDU team was concentrating on the nature and extent of gambling across the Territory, categorising it by age, socio-economic status, cultural background, location etc.

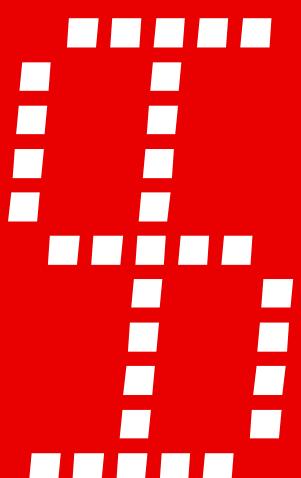
The ACIL Tasman team is studying the economic impacts of gaming machines.

Racing and Gaming Minister Syd Stirling said the : "A major advantage of having CDU conduct this research is that it lays the foundation for developing local gambling research expertise.

"This will be crucial to our efforts now and into the future to maximise the social and economic benefits of gambling while minimising the harm that it can cause," Mr Stirling said.

"What we need is a clear idea of gambling by Territorians - who gambles, how much they gamble and on what, and who is at risk of problem gambling. This information will form the basis for developing and implementing targeted strategies to minimise harm caused by gambling in the Territory."

Dr Young is also conducting a three-year research project into the impacts of commercial gambling on Indigenous communities in northern Australia on behalf of the Australian Research Council.





Charles Darwin University reported its best result in delivering Vocational Education and Training courses in 2004, with particular success in identified skill shortage areas and also in delivery to Indigenous clients.

"Almost two and a half million student hours were delivered in VET training at Charles Darwin University last year," Mr Bob Nixon, Director VET Quality and Planning, said.

"The total - 2,436,518 - was more than 200,000 higher than in 2003 and substantially more than the 2,059,706 recorded in 2000, if you combine all the institutions that now comprise the Charles Darwin University.

"It is the best result in terms of student hours and the best result we've ever had in terms of meeting the agreed outcomes as determined in conjunction with the Department of Employment, Education and Training."

Mr Nixon said VET course enrolments at Charles Darwin in 2004 were 14,600 - the equivalent of 4,686 full-time students.

He said it was particularly pleasing to report a growth in identified skill shortage areas. "A total of 233 apprentices studied for certificates in electrical trades including airconditioning refrigeration; 77 apprentices studied retail baking and commercial cookery, and 70 studied engineering fabrication," Mr Nixon said.

"Charles Darwin met its targets in improving VET delivery in the skilled shortage areas and also in delivery to Indigenous clients. It is a sign of the community's confidence in Charles Darwin that so many students are taking VET courses.

Mr Nixon said Charles Darwin also had recorded a very satisfactory year in general training programs (those not linked to apprenticeships), supporting and providing opportunities for qualifications for people entering the workforce or already in it.

"In that context, too, we achieved our outcomes, particularly in conservation and land management, horticulture, agriculture, art, hospitality, tourism and community services. Programs across the university are well supported, allowing us to achieve the targets as set by industry."

Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Helen Garnett said: "This is a wonderful result and many, many people have worked very hard to achieve this. It reflects a successful year of transition during which we brought together campuses from around the Territory to work together.

More than 3,300 Indigenous students across the Northern Territory - almost 25 per cent of the total students - took Vocational Education and Training courses at Charles Darwin University last year.

"There has been a big jump in the Top End," said Mr David Reilly, Director Regional and Remote at Charles Darwin. "It's been a very positive time, with 325 Indigenous apprentices across the Territory - this is up more than 100 on the previous year, representing almost a 100 per cent increase."

Mr Reilly said a total of 1,246 Indigenous students in the traditionally strong southern region (including Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Yulara) took VET courses through Charles Darwin University last year, representing about 30 per cent of the student total for that area.

continued>

results Vet results the best yet

Vet results the best yet



"Charles Darwin met its targets in improving VET delivery in the skilled shortage areas and also in delivery to Indigenous clients"

Territory and Commonwealth governments and the Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn.

"The retention rate was fantastic and it is a credit to the University teaching staff and training staff that they did so well. Most of the students have accepted employment in the area," Ms McGrath said. ☺

In the northern region there were 2,114 Indigenous students, representing about one in four of the student cohort.

Mr Reilly said: "There have been strongly subscribed supporting programs in Indigenous art, contemporary music, local government and literacy and numeracy. Trades and primary industries, essential services and building and construction have also featured strongly."

Some VET courses to extremely remote areas were also now being delivered by satellite, via the Interactive Distance Learning system, from the Alice Springs School of the Air.

Morag McGrath, Head of the School of Tourism and Hospitality, said one particularly good VET outcome had been at Jabiru where 21 Indigenous students completed hospitality and tourism training courses at the Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn.

Seventeen students completed the Certificate II in Hospitality (Operations) and four students completed the Certificate II in Tour Guiding. The 13-week course was supported by the Northern





VET travel

have VET
will travel

Charles Darwin University lecturers will go to great lengths to bring VET programs to the people ... in this case, to the remote community of Lajamanu, about 600km south-west of Katherine.

Lecturers from the University's Katherine Campus and Darwin campuses conducted a series of VET Weeks in Lajamanu earlier this year and, as part of the program, students from Lajamanu stayed at the NT Rural College in Katherine, studying horse handling and undergoing additional rural industry training.

Katherine Campus Leader Bronte Cooper said the formal training program brought significant benefits to many young people who had been at risk of losing direction in their lives, after having dropped out of mainstream education.

"Two CDU lecturers, Chris Pech from the NT Rural College and Lorraine Docherty from Darwin, travelled to Lajamanu to deliver Business and Small Engine Maintenance programs for about 25 students," Mr Cooper said.

"At the same time, 18 students who had taken part in an initial horse-handling program last year travelled from Lajamanu to the NT Rural College to undertake additional rural industry training.

"Most Lajamanu students studying other CDU programs were given the opportunity to visit the Katherine Campus to enhance their learning experience in our Practice Firm Business Centre and other campus facilities including the Rural College."

Mr Cooper said six or seven VET Weeks would be held in Lajamanu throughout the year. Other courses planned include Certificate I programs in Retail, Tourism, Hospitality, Conservation and Land Management, Horticulture and the Arts.

It is anticipated the skills learnt by many of the students will help the community introduce new business initiatives.

Mr Cooper said Louise Carey, a senior teacher at the Lajamanu Community Education Centre, had contacted him last year seeking VET training for the youth in the community.

Ms Carey said the community was very keen to implement a VET Week on a regular basis throughout the year and provide young people with quality nationally accredited training that would lead to the development of useful skills to benefit the community.

Mr Cooper visited Lajamanu last October and undertook a comprehensive study of youth training needs. A pilot Certificate I in Rural Operations program was also delivered, providing young people with the chance to develop horse-handling skills. ☚

ABOVE Lagamanu students handling horses at the Rural College.

Alliance focus on bush tucker

A strategic alliance signed in Alice Springs aims to grow specialist industry knowledge by providing nationally endorsed training for horticultural students in the central Australian region.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry, Resources and Development (DBIRD) provides for training in the cultivation and marketing of a range of vegetables including specialty bush tucker foods.

"Under the arrangement DBIRD will provide one hectare of land at the Arid Zone Research Institute in Alice Springs to cultivate these specialty crops and the University will deliver training at the site for students from all over the Alice Springs region," DBIRD's Regional Director for Central Australia, Phil Anning explained.

"We see this as a very positive collaboration as sustainable commercial development of horticulture has an important role in the regional development. Also bush foods are attaining a higher profile in the culinary world due in part to the efforts of DBIRD's Food Group who have been promoting it to chefs the world over," he said.

Charles Darwin University horticulture lecturer Wayne Tregea described the new alliance as a uniquely integrated outcome for all parties concerned.

"Remote students will be able to come into town, interact with each other, learn a range of growing techniques and adopt some of these techniques for their communities and outstations located within the wider Alice Springs region," Mr Tregea said.

"In turn, University lecturers will visit communities training the students in setting up suitable projects in their remote locations. As part of the training, students will be collecting data from field trials which will provide useful information for communities wanting to develop vegetable/bush tucker enterprises in the Central Australian region.

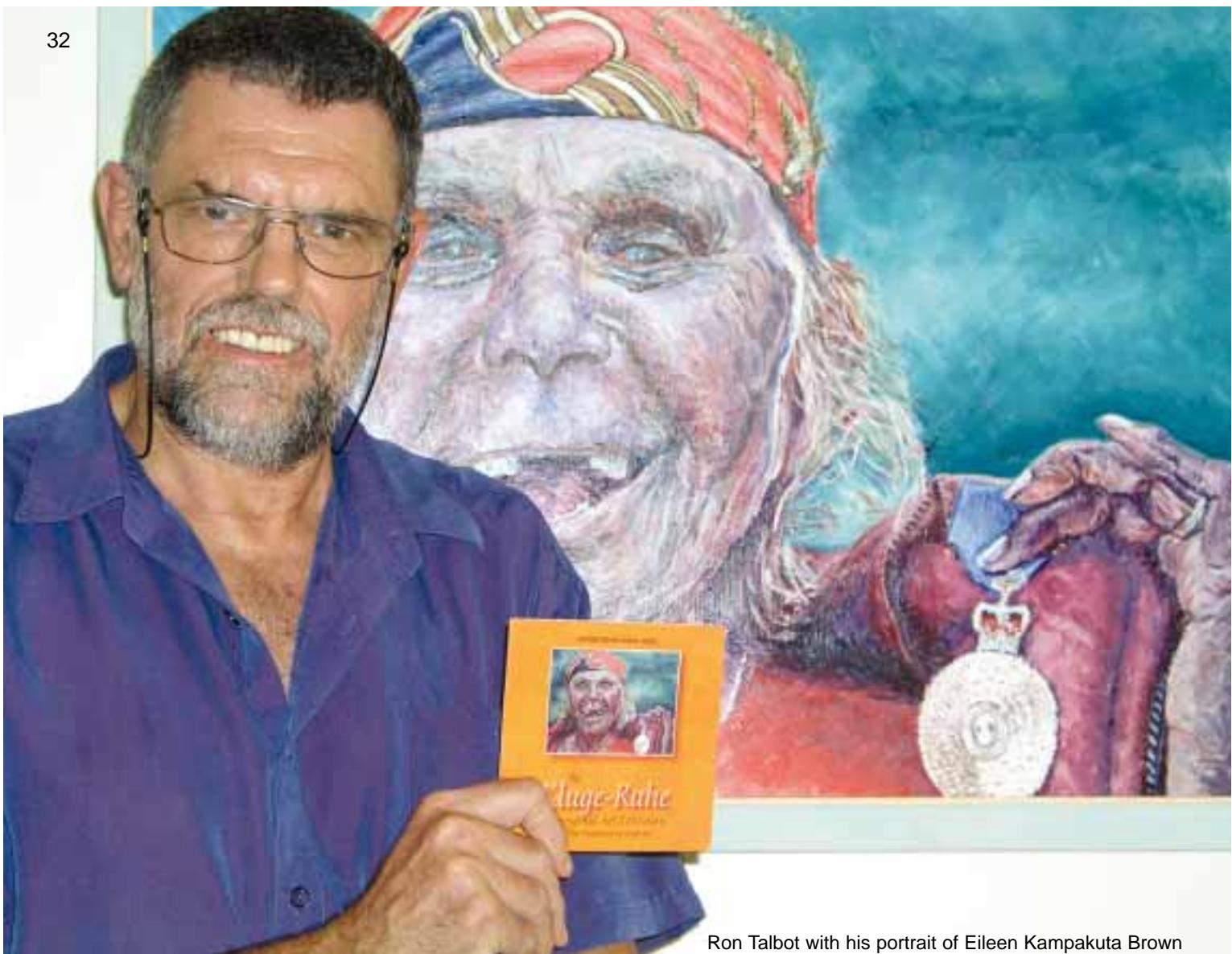
"Additionally, students will visit organisations involved in the supply and marketing of produce and develop networks essential for the success of horticultural enterprises," Mr Tregea said.

Mr Anning added that bush foods have huge growth potential as many niche markets around the country and the world come on line, and appreciate what the Central Australian region has to offer. ☺

Growing market...Horticulture lecturer Wayne Tregea with remote students.



"Remote students will be able to come into town, interact with each other, learn a range of growing techniques and adopt some of these techniques for their communities and outstations..."



Ron Talbot with his portrait of Eileen Kampakuta Brown

Artist on the world stage

A Charles Darwin University art student who has only been painting for three years gained international recognition this year when one of his portraits was exhibited at an internationally renowned gallery in the United States.

Ron Talbot, 60, was invited by the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia to exhibit one of his portraits at an exhibition, *Seeing the Other: The human image by Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Artists*.

Director and curator of Kluge-Ruhe, Margo Smith, chose Ron's painting Eileen Kampakuta Brown OAM while she was visiting Central Australia last year.

"Margo saw my portrait of Eileen at the Advocate Art Awards and left me a note. I couldn't believe it. This is only my second or third portrait. I had to read her note 10 times to make sure I wasn't dreaming!"

"Kluge-Ruhe has a great sense of history and many influential patrons and I'm aware I still have so much more to learn on my artistic life journey," Ron said. "To be exhibited at this highly respected, internationally recognised venue is humbling, but a huge thrill. But I was a bit disappointed I couldn't attend."

Ron, who is employed at the Centre of Appropriate Technology, attends art classes at the Alice Springs campus once a week and credits Charles Darwin University lecturer Rod Moss with helping him develop his skills so quickly.

"Rod and the team at the uni have been inspirational," Ron said. "Having just turned 60, being able to take in Rod's wealth of knowledge and his ability to develop raw talent has let me start my life journey. I would never have done this without his influence and the easy access to the wonderful campus facilities."

The inspiration for the painting was a photograph of Eileen Kampakuta Brown receiving her Order of Australia medal.

Ron said: "I saw this aspiring, interesting face full of vitality and joy and wanted to portray this. I've worked with Indigenous people for 25 years and want to express their culture and country. I want to connect the faces and the land together. My next step is painting in-situ."

"I sought Eileen's permission to paint her portrait. She was thrilled with the results and has a photo of the finished painting on display in her home."

"I suggest to anyone, no matter what their age or how they perceive their own level of ability to give it a go. The reactions and enjoyment I get from painting makes me wonder why I left it so late!" ☺



Ridgy-didge American

Ridgy-didge American

It's a long way from San Diego, California to Yirrkala in Arnhem Land but that's the journey Randin Graves has made in his study of an Australian icon: the didgeridoo.

Randin Graves, a keen musician, is in Arnhem Land on a year-long Fulbright scholarship to gain a Master's degree by studying the globalisation and commercialisation of the didgeridoo.

Mr Graves, 30, is conducting his research with the School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems at Charles Darwin University. He is living in Yirrkala, Northeast Arnhem Land, and working in association with Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre.

He is working closely with Yolngu people, the Art Centre, his supervisor Associate Professor Dr Michael Christie, Yolngu elder and world famous didgeridoo maker Djalu' Gurruwiwi and Milkayngu Mununggurr, original didgeridoo player with Yothu Yindi.

Amazingly, he says, there are didgeridoo players all over the world -

300 didge fanatics turn up to play the instrument at a festival in the Californian desert every year.

"The didgeridoo, or yidaki as it is known to Yolngu people, has grown drastically in worldwide popularity over the past two decades and is now found in many varied contexts far removed from its traditional origins," Mr Graves said.

"In a 1999 Yidaki Statement, Yolngu declared their concern about globalisation and commercialisation of the instrument, and called for a new, more respectful relationship between Aboriginal knowledge holders and outside didgeridoo enthusiasts. As an American didgeridoo player and recording artist, I am a product and promoter of that globalisation and commercialisation.

"I have initiated this project to open communication between Yolngu and the outside 'didgeridoo scene', to collaborate with Yolngu on projects that reflect and promote their intentions and hopefully inspire increased awareness and respect among the outside didgeridoo world."

Mr Graves said he was concentrating his work on didgeridoo players, targeting enthusiasts on online forums, and had conducted an online survey of 127 didge musicians about the level of their knowledge of and interest in the traditional origins of the instrument.

"There are thousands of web and fan sites related to the didgeridoo; it's a very big scene overseas," he said. ☐

LEFT Fulbright scholar Randin Graves



Imagining Childhood: Children, Culture and Community

What we say about our children says a lot about who we are, and the kind of society we want. What is our vision for society and its members? What demands are we imposing on children, and what does this say about us?

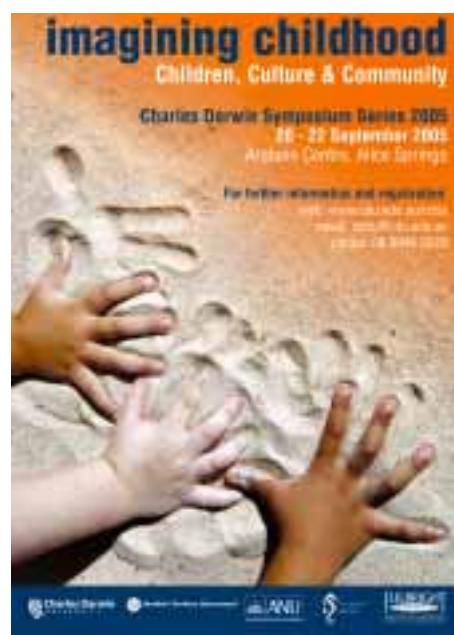
Who is vulnerable in our society and what do we do to help them? How can our children reach their potential in a changing world?

These questions and more will be addressed in a challenging symposium on children and childhood at Alice Springs in September.

International speakers from the United States of America and the United Kingdom, with leading Australian researchers and policy makers will come together with community members and practitioners to explore these themes at Charles Darwin University's second symposium of 2005.

Speakers will include Christina Toren and Allison James, leading British childhood researchers, and Courtney Cazden, Shirley Brice Heath and Jill Korbin from the United States.

**To be held at Araluen
Centre, Alice Springs, on
20-22 September 2005**



Other speakers include Jenny Buckland, on children and the mass media, Steve Zubrick and Sven Silburn, Ann Sanson and Jacqueline Goodnow, all leading researchers in child developmental health and wellbeing.

Imagining Childhood: Children, Culture and Community will focus on the diverse experiences of childhood across social and cultural contexts. It will present recent work on children's art, play and imagination and explore their significance for learning and development.

The program will examine key institutions affecting children's growth and development: in the area of child protection and child welfare, schooling and childcare, critically exploring current systems, policy and practice.

This symposium series places a high value on audience feedback and participation. Each day's program will culminate in panel discussions in key areas of research and practice: understanding childhood development, art and imagination; early intervention, systems of welfare and the community; and education. continued>

2005 charles darwin university symposium



20:20 Vision:

**Facing health challenges over the next
20 years. Celebrating 20 years of
Menzies School of Health Research.**

The aim of the Charles Darwin Symposia discussions is to create stimulating and enriching debate which will enable people of differing perspectives, disciplines, vocations and contexts to signpost policy and research issues relevant to imagining and managing our future. It enables people to begin conversations and discussions they can then take to other contexts, igniting actions and thoughts that extend the influence of ideas in unexpected directions.

The Charles Darwin Symposium Series is designed to mark the university as a space where diverse ideas about contemporary life and issues can be debated by a broad cross-section of the community.

Charles Darwin University's first symposium of 2005, 20:20 Vision, was held in association with Menzies School of Health and examined health challenges likely to be faced over the next 20 years.

Over 250 delegates heard a range of speakers discuss such topics as would obesity and chronic disease epidemics continue to escalate and the effects of climate change, air travel and drug resistance on our health.

Dr Norman Swan chaired the symposium which brought together an exiting array of health professionals and specialist researchers to engage practitioners, policy makers and academics in discussion and debate on current emerging health issues affecting our region.

Speakers included Mr Geoffrey 'Jacko' Angeles, Menzies School of Health Research (The Evolution of Indigenous Health Research); His Excellency Mr Imron Cotan, Indonesia's Ambassador to Australia (The Indonesian/Northern Territory Partnerships in Public Health); Professor Alan Lopez, School of Population Health, University of Queensland (The Challenge of Non-Communicable Disease in our Near Neighbours), Professor Paul Zimmet AO, International Diabetes Institute (Obesity and Diabetes: The Escalating Epidemic in Australia and the World); Professor Garry Egger, Centre for Health Promotion and Research (How Bill Gates Makes us Fat); and Professor Lesley Barclay, Charles Darwin University (Indigenous Birthing Stories: Illuminating Risk and Extending Evidence). ☺

20: vision

vents

Coming Events

September 22-24 Charles Darwin Symposium Series:
Imagining Childhood: Children, Culture and Our Community

September 25 World Solar Car Challenge starts

October 4-6 Australian Academy of Science Think Tank:
Innovative Technology Solutions for Northern Australia

October 14 Graduation, Darwin

This list is a small selection of "what's on" at the Charles Darwin University. There are weekly seminars, visiting speakers, musical events, sporting events and orientation days (and evenings) for new students. Members of the public are welcome on campus to attend events, visit the Info Shop just drop into the cafeteria and have lunch with our students and staff.

A full schedule of events, and details of those events, is available at
www.cdu.edu.au/whatson/events.html



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