APRIL 2014

NintiNews

In this Edition:

- Our researchers star
- First nations unite
- SmartNinti
- Slideshare success
- Congrats Dr Jen
- Rangelands Workshop
- Wrap Around Services
- Annual Researcher Meet
- Desert art
- VET support
- Kimberley ties
- Student training and tourism workshop
- Congrats!

Remote Diary / Publications / Contact Details  Forward to a Friend
Ninti One's Aboriginal Community Researchers (ACRs) were well received at the recent 2014 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra. Explaining the program our Chair, Dr Tom Calma AO, said “Having a team of skilled Aboriginal people within a community provides a resource for the delivery of a variety of education, economic development, health and governance projects.

“They can deliver better quality research outcomes than most external researchers because of their unique competitive advantage based around location and local knowledge. This leads to collection of better information, which can translate into more efficient services, more appropriate infrastructure and the building of community capacity.” He illustrated this with examples of the work of ACRs in programs designed to reduce tobacco use and combat diabetes in remote communities.

“The ACR program can assist in health research and delivery programs. It also has potential to ignite entrepreneurship and business development. It fosters community engagement and participation, creates local employment and builds research capacity in remote Australia. It ensures local solutions. It must continue to grow,” he said.

Dr Calma’s talk was followed by ACR team member Tammy Abbott who described in particular how ACRs contribute to CRC-REP’s Interplay Between Health, Wellbeing, Education and Employment research project.

First nations unite

Ninti's Principal Research Leader Mike Dockery, from Curtin University, who leads CRC-REP's Population Mobility and Labour Markets research project teamed up with NZ researcher Dr Carla Houkamau from Auckland University at the AIATSIS Conference to present a paper on the relationships between cultural identity and wellbeing for Maori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
psychological wellbeing and other socio-economic outcomes when they have a stronger attachment to, or identify more strongly with, their cultural origins,” they said.

The team used Self-Determination Theory to explore and contrast the post-colonisation experiences of Maori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, with a focus on the role afforded to culture in the two countries’ approaches to addressing Indigenous social and economic disadvantage, and the implications for socio-economic outcomes and psychological wellbeing. They plan to test the theory using survey instruments to capture the dimensions of identity and cultural engagement for Maori and Aboriginal people.

SmartNinti

All that brilliant info about remote Australia is now at the tips of your fingers! Ninti One is moving with the information revolution, with the launch this month of our new mobile-ready platform. Designed for use with smartphones and tablet computers this ‘cut down’ site gives quick access to the full suite of Ninti research and information in a clean, easy-to-use format suited for people on the go. Give it a try by entering nintione.com.au on you mobile device. We welcome your feedback.

Slideshare success

Slideshows shared by Ninti One’s top staff are proving an instant hit with our far-flung audiences via the internet. Over the month to mid-April there were a total of 1556 views of presentations from various conferences and events, including our acclaimed camel forum in Canberra – and the number of views per day has increased fivefold. Topping the slideshare chart this month is John Guenther’s popular and thought-provoking ‘Red Dirt Thinking on Educational Disadvantage’, with 799 views in total – watch it and you'll see why. Close behind is Tim Acker’s highly informative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies presentation. And there is a host of others. I invite you to immerse yourself in some of the cutting-edge thinking about how we grow Remote Australia. There are now more than 50 excellent presentations.
Congrats Dr Jen

Congratulations to Dr Jen Cleary who graduated recently at the University of South Australia with a PhD in which she explored the growing importance of Aboriginal bush foods in the Australian diet, which drew significantly on research she carried out at Ninti One.

In her thesis ‘Cultural Icons and Cash Commodities: The two-world story of Australian bush foods’ she explores how uniquely Australian flora and fauna, known as ‘bush food’ or ‘bush tucker’, plays an important role in the daily lives of many Aboriginal peoples, particularly those living in remote Australia. “Bush food has many roles – it makes a valuable contribution to diet, and is also a mechanism for passing on traditional knowledge about caring for country and being part of country,” she says.

“Products derived from bush foods are now the basis of a growing Australian industry where domestic and international markets are creating increased demand for raw supply from both wild-harvest and cultivation of many species of plants and animals. My
tomato and wattle seed value chains in Central Australia as case studies.”

Her research finds that what constitutes ‘value’ in relation to bush foods differs according to cultural worldview. It makes a unique contribution to developing new knowledge through the development of a framework that incorporates the domains of land, actions, relationships and commodities in bush food value chains. Her thesis concludes by exploring what we need to know to develop models of economic development that fit the socio-cultural needs of remote Aboriginal peoples.

I had the pleasure of delivering the keynote graduation speech for this ceremony at the Whyalla Campus, University of South Australia - which was really well received.

Rangelands Workshop

Regional natural resource managers (NRM) and climate change researchers from the Rangelands Cluster met for a workshop in Adelaide earlier this month. All seven NRM regions were represented at the meeting: Rangelands WA, Territory NRM, Desert Channels Qld, South West NRM Qld, Western Local Lands Services NSW, SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM along with CSIRO, the Australian Government, the University of Canberra and Ninti One. Mary-Anne Healy, our Engagement Manager, coordinated the workshop.

The researchers are preparing information and tools to assist the NRM regions with planning for climate change and adaption. They presented the direction of their recent research and some of the findings, while the regional planners updated the group on how they are going about their planning and how they will use the information provided. Everyone agreed it was a valuable opportunity to share information, agree on what
Wrap Around Services

Ninti One has recently started working with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education on a Wrap Around Services Demonstration Model project funded by the Northern Territory Government Department of Business. The project will inform government program managers about the ‘wrap around services’ that contribute to successful training to employment programs, especially for people living in remote Aboriginal communities.

The ‘wrap around services’ approach recognises that overcoming barriers to training and employment are sometimes outside of the scope of services that a school or training institution can deliver. Identifying other community organisations that can overcome these barriers and putting the job seeker in contact with them, greatly increases the likelihood of a person completing training and transitioning to employment.

The Wrap Around Services Demonstration Model project aligns closely with the CRC-REP Pathways to Employment Program and shows how strong collaborations and whole of system approaches to research and program delivery can lead to better outcomes for residents of remote Australia.

> More information: CRC-REP Pathways to Employment Program
Annual Researcher Meet

We held an energetic annual research performance review in Alice earlier this month. For the first time all CRC-REP and NintiOne research projects came together, in a highly successful performance review sharing of knowledge, information and ideas. What was most pleasing to me was the range and depth of the results which are starting to flow from research across the board, the obvious confidence as our researchers grow into their projects, the strength of end user engagement and the evidence of strong teamwork in all projects.

Perhaps the most important outcome from reviewing all our projects in both organisations and hearing from their Principal Research Leaders was the growing sense of synergy which we are able to generate from the cross-fertilisation of ideas and results between all our different programs and projects. This is proving so promising that I have asked Judy Lovell to co-ordinate the synthesis side of our work. Essentially this means bringing projects closer together where their results are most able to reinforce one another. I have one word to describe the outcomes we are starting to see: absolutely fabulous – keep it up, team!

Desert art

CRC-REP’s Art Economies team were partners and key players in a recent Desart event in Alice Springs. Jessica Booth spoke about the understanding of consumers of the business of Aboriginal Art, with particular focus on provenance and ethics, and how this
an extensive survey of Art Business production and sales from both national and international perspectives, and PhD candidate Kim Peterson set the framework for a workshop exploring options for sustainable practice across ecological, social and cultural dimensions within an Art Centre.

> The Stakeholder Updates handed out at the event are available here: How buyers perceive industry issues in the primary market for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and Buyer behaviour in the primary market for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

VET support

Two Ninti One Scholarships are still open for Vocational Education and Training studies at Batchelor Institute. The scholarships are worth $1000 and can be used to purchase course materials and equipment, such as an iPad. Applications close in June. Enquiries can be made to our student coordinator, Iona Matthews, on 0408 896 715

Kimberley ties

Dr Steve Blake, General Manager Research, Quality and Innovation, and Professor John Guenther, our Principal Research Leader Remote Education Systems, were in the Kimberley recently to cement the strategic partnership between CRC-REP and the University of Notre Dame's Nulungu Research Institute, which is based in Broome. Partnership discussions were followed by one of John's famous 'Thinking Outside the Tank' sessions on remote education, which also involved the Catholic education principals, who happened to be in town. Steve took the opportunity to renew links with a wide range of tourism operators from the Dampier Peninsula with a view to working with them in future. Of the partnership, he says, “It is a real pleasure to be working alongside the people from the Nulungu Institute. They think and operate very similarly to the way we do in Ninti One and CRC-REP”.

> More information: CRC-REP Remote Education Systems
Thirty staff and students of CRC-REP took part in a workshop at Iga Warta in the Flinders region of SA in late March. Despite being almost washed out by a severe cloudburst, the weather did nothing to dampen the spirit of cross-project collaboration. The Tourism workshop was also an exceptional cross-cultural experience in keeping with the tradition established by our Iga Warta hosts. Partners with our Cultural Enterprise project also attended.

Day 1 included a visit to a special place where participants learned about the Journey of the Creation of the Eagle, Crow and Magpie, a Yura Muda (Journey of the Creators) story of the Land and Life forms told on country by an Adnyamathanha Elder. This creation journey is about how the magpie and crow disrespected their Elder the Eagle and serves to remind us about the importance of respecting our elders, the environment and one another.

On Day 2 the group visited the ochre pits and learned about the trading system between Adnyamathanha and other Aboriginal groups as well as the meaning of red, white, yellow and purple ochre and how they represent respect for mother earth and our spiritual connection to land. Staff and students were painted with ochre so they could be connected to the land and acknowledge and respect themselves and mother earth.

The workshop culminated in an evening storytelling session around the campfire, amid song, tales and fellowship – a wonderful way to complete the experience.

**Congrats!**

Finally, we would like to congratulate our committed Chair, Dr Tom Calma AO for his latest accolade, an Honorary Doctorate from one of partners, Flinders University. Flinders University said the Honorary Doctorate was in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in the areas of health, education, economic development, human rights and social justice on behalf of Aboriginal people.
Remote diary

3rd Broadband for the Bush Forum
April 30, 2014 - May 1, 2014

Innovating with Asia 2014 Conference
May 20, 2014 - May 21, 2014

The Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law Colloquium
June 21, 2014

Digital Rural Futures Conference
June 25, 2014 - June 27, 2014

2014 NIRAKN Members Meeting and Conference
July 14, 2014 - July 18, 2014

29th International Horticultural Congress
August 17, 2014 - August 22, 2014

Australian Implementation Conference
September 17, 2014 - September 18, 2014

2014 Climate Adaptation Conference
September 30, 2014 - October 2, 2014

IUCN World Parks Congress
November 12, 2014 - November 19, 2014

Innovation in the Rangelands - 18th Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society
April 12, 2015 - April 16, 2015

Beef Australia 2015
May 4, 2015 - May 9, 2015

Publications

Book Chapters/Journal Articles/Conference Presentations


Graduation speech to students at the Whyalla Campus of University of South Australia. Whyalla. 4 April. Ninti One Limited. Alice Springs.

Buyer behaviour in the primary market for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Ninti One Limited. Alice Springs.


Theses