

# Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme

## Aims and eligibility

The aim of the Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme is to attract Visiting Indigenous Fellows and Summer Research Scholars to visit CAEPR on short term secondment, to collaborate with researchers at CAEPR. The scheme provides opportunities for Indigenous research capacity building and enhanced engagement and collaboration between CAEPR research staff and non-CAEPR Indigenous researchers and leaders.

There are no eligibility restrictions in this scheme. Applicants must have an internal mentor/supervisor at CAEPR.

The period of the fellowship will not exceed three months and the number of fellowships offered within any one year will depend on financial resources.

## Management

The CAEPR Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of:

- Professor Jon Altman, Director, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research
- Dr John Taylor, Deputy Director, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

CAEPR's Executive Officer manages the day-to-day coordination of the Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme and is an officio member of the Steering Committee.

## Funding

The precise level of financial support for the Fellowship will be negotiated on an equitable case-by-case basis. The Fellowship will provide support for return travel to Canberra, accommodation and options for stipend depending on the employment status of the fellow.

## What does CAEPR offer?

CAEPR has a track record of collaborating with and mentoring Indigenous researchers. While a high level of community based collaboration has always been a part of CAEPR's culture, with larger staff establishment, better infrastructure and enhanced organisational security, opportunities to host Indigenous researchers at the Centre have increased.

CAEPR remains a unique university-based Indigenous policy focused research centre. It has critical mass and an ever-increasing intellectual capital generated by a relatively steady and committed staff establishment; it has a track record and research credibility; and it offers a genuinely multi-disciplinary social sciences research environment. All these features make it an attractive location for Indigenous researchers. Its location at the ANU and Canberra also provide Visiting Indigenous Fellows with opportunities to engage with federal politicians and senior policy makers.

## Centre facilities

CAEPR is located in the Hanna Neumann Building, which is closely situated to the hub of The Australian National University campus. All visiting fellows are offered excellent office space, administrative and infrastructure support, networked computers, access to our in house library and a collegial environment.

## CAEPR's expectations

Visiting Fellows are expected to participate in the Centre's programs, meet regularly with other staff, commit to an agreed research outcome and participate in CAEPR staff meetings and seminars.

## The Application Process

1. Contact and liaise with an internal mentor at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research to initiate the development of a research proposal.

2. The research proposal must include:

- an outline of intended research and activity
- proposed length of fellowship (2 weeks up to and not exceeding three months)
- identify a proposed research outcome ie. Seminar, workshop, journal publication or written report
- estimated project costs such as details of travel requirements and accommodation needs; please note that the stipend component of the application will be considered and recommended by the Steering Committee and will depend on the employment status of the fellow
- a brief Curriculum Vitae
- a brief supporting statement from a CAEPR staff member or organisational referee.

3. The application must be submitted to:

The Executive Officer  
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research  
The Australian National University  
CANBERRA ACT 0200

Fax: (02) 6125 9730

E-mail:

4. The application will be forwarded to the steering committee for consideration.

5. A formal offer will be sent to the applicant from the ANU Human Resources area after endorsement with the funding amounts specified.

6. Please note that there are **no deadlines** for this scheme, however the number of Visiting Fellowships appointed will depend on the availability of funds.

# CAEPR Visiting Indigenous Fellows 2009

## Jack Green and Donald Shadforth



**Mr Jack Green and Mr Donald Shadforth**, Senior Garawa traditional owners, came to CAEPR as Visiting Indigenous Fellows in April and presented a seminar which described community efforts to build a Caring for Country program to tackle threatening ecological processes, create employment in remote areas and assist Waanyi and Garawa people return to their country to keep culture strong. Jack and Donald took the opportunity to engage in wider discussion with academics and government representatives on the challenges facing communities with little funding for rangers to continue their work on a longer-term basis, or to undertake broader cultural and environmental management.

Jack and Donald spoke about the development of the Garawa and the Waanyi/Garawa Caring for Country Programs, which were established in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria in 2005. They focused on Garawa and Waanyi connections to country and how this underpinned the CFC program. They told how the initial efforts of their land management program were focused on fire management on both the Waanyi/Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust and the Garawa ALT, some 20,000 square kilometres of country which contains bio-regions of national significance. Since traditional owners moved off the Waanyi/Garawa ALT - because of the lack of provision of basic services (health, housing and

education) that they should enjoy as a citizenship entitlement - their country has experienced large-scale late dry season hot fires. In some years these fires burn in excess of 16,000 square kilometres, beyond the land trust area. The long-term result of these uncontrolled hot fires is evident across much of the land trust, where vast areas of country have lost significant areas of vegetation. The loss of this vegetation means the loss of feeding and breeding habitats for many native, especially endemic threatened, species.

Jack and Donald are collaborating with Jon Altman and Seán Kerins on the People on Country project. This applied research project focuses on Aboriginal land and sea management in the tropical savannah of Top End and Gulf Country of the Northern Territory. The full title of the research project is 'People on Country, Healthy Landscapes and Indigenous Economic Futures', and it is largely sponsored by the Sidney Myer Fund, but also by the ANU and the Australian Research Council. Under this project a small team of researchers collaborating with a number of community-based Caring for Country projects in the Top End of Australia are exploring ways to enhance natural resource management and poverty reduction on the Indigenous estate.