

# Indigenous Knowledge Forum

Newsletter No. 8 September 2016



## Success in the Australian Research Council Linkage Grant Scheme 2016!

After a year and a half of development, the team of researchers and partner investigators listed below were successful in the current Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant scheme. The project has attracted \$244,000 of funding over three years (83% of what we actually sought) to develop the next stage of the protection regime developed in the 2014 White Paper, namely, what form would a Competent Authority take. The title is:

### **Garuwanga<sup>1</sup>: Forming a Competent Authority to protect Indigenous knowledge**

**Abstract** (as summarised by the ARC): This project will work with the Aboriginal Community to identify, evaluate and recommend an appropriate Competent Authority legal structure so Australia can meet the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol. This Protocol calls for a Competent Authority to govern and administer a legal framework that ensures Indigenous communities' informed consent is obtained for access to their traditional knowledge, and that establishes fair and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms for use of that knowledge. This project will work with the Indigenous community to address concerns over the form, independence and funding of the Authority so Indigenous knowledge and culture can be protected and shared.

#### Investigators and Partner Organisations:

Name	Participant type	Current Organisation(s)
Prof Natalie Stoianoff	Chief Investigator	University of Technology, Sydney
A/Prof Fiona Martin	Chief Investigator	The University of New South Wales
Prof Andrew Mowbray	Chief Investigator	University of Technology, Sydney
Mr Gavin Andrews	Partner Investigator	Banyadjaminga Swaag Incorporated
Dr Virginia Marshall	Partner Investigator	Triple BL Pty Ltd
Ms Frances Bodkin	Partner Investigator	D'harawal Traditional Knowledgeholders and Descendants Council
Dr Anne Poelina	Partner Investigator	Madjulla Association

There will be opportunities for involvement so stay tuned.

### **Indigenous Postgraduate Research Scholarship**

Meanwhile an exciting opportunity for an Indigenous Australian student is available. UTS is offering a PhD scholarship to a student with research interests in governance frameworks for protecting and sharing Indigenous knowledge and culture. The successful candidate will be an integral member of the research team on the Garuwanga Project. Expressions of Interest Close 30 September 2016: [Click here for more information](#)

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<sup>1</sup> D'harawal for Dreaming Cycle

## Indigenous Cultural Rights - Perspectives from the US

Until recently, the Indigenous Knowledge Forum has focussed its efforts on exploring recognition and protection for cultural knowledge in Australia, Asia, Africa and the South Pacific. However, we have been increasing our engagement with scholars in North America and to this end we were fortunate to have two US scholars visiting us at the same time. This provided us with an opportunity to organise a roundtable event together with the UTS **Indigenous Justice Research Network** on the issues faced by Native Americans. The Roundtable was held on Friday afternoon, 1 April 2016, at the UTS Faculty of Law. The topics included: *Indigenous Rights to Sacred Geography in the US*, presented by **Professor N. Bruce Duthu (United Houma Nation)**, Samson Occom Professor (and former Chair) of Native American Studies at Dartmouth College, and *Keeping Kuleana: A Hawaiian Perspective on Cultural Rights*, presented by **Associate Professor Sean A. Pager**, Associate Director, Michigan State Intellectual Property, Information & Communications Law Program, Michigan State University College of Law. [Click here for more information](#)

### Contact

If you would like to follow the progress of our research or learn more about the Indigenous Knowledge Forum you can do so at: [www.indigenousknowledgeforum.org](http://www.indigenousknowledgeforum.org)

**Meanwhile, enquiries regarding our research or activities please contact:**

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