

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Cultural Impact of Indigenous Musicians

Indigenous Scholar Peter McKenzie from the Centre for Educational Research, along with Professor Michael Atherton from the College of Arts Deans Unit and Professor Rhonda Craven from the Centre for Educational Research, is critically analysing the contributions made to culture by Aboriginal musicians, through a three year ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development Grant.

'As a person from the Anaiwan Nation, I am interested in exploring the significance that Anaiwan musicians from the New England area of NSW have had on the understanding and development of Aboriginal music and culture' says Mr McKenzie. 'There has been very little research into this aspect of my people's history, so this project aims to develop a conceptual understanding and documentation of Australian history from an Indigenous perspective, to ensure that Indigenous historical interpretations and experiences are voiced in critical academic analyses of Australian history. Anaiwan musician's stories are yet to be told, and their significantly different life histories and the impact of their music contributions on their own and the wider community will contribute to an engaging public history.'

Using oral history case studies of Indigenous musician families collected through semi-structured interviews, the research team will track the history of musical developments, the life history and current musical endeavours of the musicians, and the impact their music making has had on the cultural identity and cultural revitalisation of family members and other Indigenous people in their community. Photographs and video recordings will also be collected to form a comprehensive documentary



record of the past and current musical culture and life history of the Anaiwan musicians.

This project will contribute to strengthening Australia's social and economic wellbeing by adding new knowledge of Aboriginal music, culture and life experiences to the field of Australian history, thus challenging traditional historical perspectives, and providing Indigenous people with a sense of pride in the achievements of Aboriginal musicians.

Project Title: Hidden talent: A critical analysis of the contributions of Aboriginal musicians of the New England Tablelands to contemporary Aboriginal culture and cultural revitalisation

Funding has been set at: \$105,000

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