

Editorial

This is the first Journal for 1999. The delay in its publication has been due to a “changing of the guard”. Jackie Huggins, the previous editor, has been seconded by the Council for Reconciliation on a full-time basis to organise and participate in community comment on the Draft Reconciliation Statement. She will be employed in this position for 12 months and in the meantime the Acting Editor will be “yours truly”.

Two articles in this Journal comment on the learning processes of Indigenous Australian students, one at a tertiary level and one at the school level. The third article talks about the operations of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support and Parent Awareness (ASSPA) Committee, while another article is based on a play about an Indigenous Australian story.

A new section has been created entitled *Students' Perspectives*. This section has been established to provide an opportunity for students, pre-school to tertiary, to publish papers, art work, poems and the like in the Journal. In choosing any piece of work from a student, the Editors seek material that makes an important contribution and is judged to be of good-to-high quality by the student's teacher or lecturer. Anyone who has something they wish to share with readers are invited to send material to the Editors, clearly marked, and we will endeavour to print it. We will not ask for re-writing and will only make minor editorial adjustments if necessary. The work will not be ‘refereed’ in any sense and will therefore represent the views of the student. As with all other articles published, the Editors and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit do not accept any responsibility for views expressed.

I would also like to encourage comment on articles and this will require the establishment of a “Letters to the Editor” section in future issues.

Some criticism has already been received regarding the Book Review section. Authors have been disappointed with reviews of their books by people chosen by the Editorial Committee. As Acting Editor, I apologize to authors who have felt uneasy or angered by a book review. While Acting Editor, every attempt will be made to ensure that book reviews are written by Indigenous Australian peoples. I am sure, however, that there will be instances when book reviews will be submitted by non-Indigenous Australians. To safeguard the integrity of the Book Review section, all reviews will be submitted to the Editorial Committee for approval.

NAIDOC Week has just been completed in most States. Are there any stories, events and experiences worthy of sharing? If so, please submit them. Until next time.

John Budby
Acting Editor