



● LEFT: Crew members, from left, Dr Kerry Black, Estelle Kefford and Raf Heale with Dr Randall Lee of the EPA, Yorta Yorta Elder Pam Pederson, skipper Garry McKechnie and Boonwurrung Elder Faye Stewart Muir.

Photo: Natalie Davey

# Close eye on bays



ABORIGINAL Elders and young people are heavily involved in an annual program helping to engage resource managers and the general public on the threats and challenges to two Victorian bays.

Two Bays 09 encompasses Port Phillip and Westernport Bays and was launched at Docklands, in Melbourne, on 10 January with support from Parks Victoria, the Environment Protection Authority, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority and others.

In its third year, Two Bays combines events and scientific research focussed on water quality, and the diversity and richness of the marine life in the areas.

Boonwurrung Elder Carolyn Briggs has been instrumental in inspiring the Indigenous focus of this year's program.

Pelican Expeditions is developing curriculum for Victorian schools that links the marine research from Two Bays with the Boonwurrung creation stories of the bays.

Elders and Koori youngsters will share stories about sea country on the vessel *Pelican1* and over the 2009 and 2010 programs will develop digital stories that record these exchanges.

Two Bays 2010 hopes to incorporate young Koori trainees already engaged in an environmental management pathway in participating over the entire program. Parks Victoria recently announced that it would take on three Indigenous sea country rangers.

While travelling on the Ramsar leg of the program, Boonwurrung Elder Faye Stewart Muir said Two Bays had the potential to impart traditional knowledge about sea country and traditional lands and to get this knowledge out into schools.

"It is also a way of involving Indigenous youth in experiences that they would otherwise not have access to," she said.

"Indigenous Elders will also get the opportunity to work with their youth and hopefully guide them in a career path as environmental managers or sea country rangers."

As part of the project, Dr Randall Lee from EPA is continuing an investigation into the exchange between the saltier, denser waters (hyper-saline) of Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait. This notorious region, known as The Rip, is famous for the ships that have been wrecked in its treacherous waters.

Renowned oceanographer Dr Kerry Black will support Dr Lee on board *Pelican1* to follow up the Two Bays 07 studies in the Western Channel with an investigation into the South Channel.

Port Phillip Bay has been hyper-saline for a number of years now, due to the extended drought, which is thought to be a result of climate change. This means that it is much saltier than Bass Strait.

## Waterfall theory

After the first exchange processes tests in 2007, the *Pelican1* crew theorised that the waterfall, spoken of in Boonwurrung stories and verified by marine mapping, may be running again.

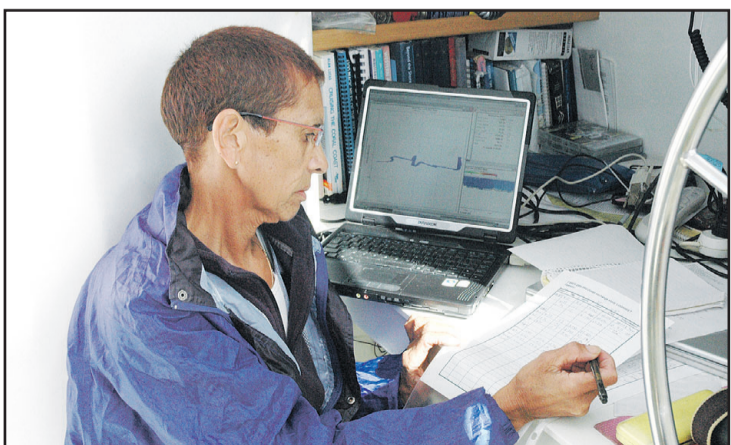
Over 10,000 years ago, when the Yarra extended all the way to Tasmania, a magnificent 90m waterfall crowned the Port Phillip Basin, and showered the Point Nepean area in a permanent mist. The Boonwurrung people were known as the people of the mist and the traditional name for the Yarra was Birrarung meaning 'river of mists'.

Faye Stewart Muir and Yorta Yorta Elder Pam Pederson observed the work of the scientists last week and learned of their recent investigations.

"The story of the waterfall and the science study that I have witnessed today needs to be available for all kids to learn and not just Indigenous kids," Ms Stewart Muir said.

"It appears that the waterfall is now flowing underwater and the story of this place is there to be told by Elders."

The research coincided with an opportunity to calibrate the continuous water quality monitoring equipment on board the *Spirit of Tasmania*. The monitoring is part of the nationally co-ordinated Integrated Marine Observation System (IMOS) within the Ships of Opportunity facility.



Faye Stewart Muir helping with the data being collected on *Pelican1*. Photo: Garry McKechnie

## DO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?

### NSW ABORIGINAL NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CADETSHIP PROGRAM

- Are you an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and studying a nursing undergraduate degree on a full time basis?
- Are you interested in combining your studies and gaining experience in your chosen discipline through work placements in a Justice Health Facility?



If you have answered 'Yes', then a Cadetship may be for you.

A cadetship is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students interested in combining full-time undergraduate nursing study with employment in a Justice Health facility.

Justice Health, which is part of NSW Health is responsible for the provision of health services to people involved with the criminal justice system. The cadetship would involve working in a health centre run by Justice Health located within a correctional centre.

Cadets receive a study allowance of \$600 per fortnight (before tax) during the 40 week academic year and receive a wage for the 12 week work placement period.

Justice Health facilities available for the cadetship program include Cessnock, Kempsey, Wellington, Grafton, Malabar, Western Sydney (numerous locations), Bathurst and Goulburn.



Position: Undergraduate Registered Nurse, Justice Health

Area of Study: Bachelor of Nursing

Closing Date: 27th February 2009

Contact: Ms Lana Shaw, Aboriginal Project Officer

Tel: 02 9391 9607 or

email: [Lasha@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lasha@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)



## NURSING & MIDWIFERY

NO TWO DAYS ARE EVER THE SAME



NSW HEALTH



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

## Indigenous Youth Leadership Program— Request for Applications for Funding



INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations invites Requests for Applications for Funding from potential 'Partnership Brokers' for the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP).

Partnership Brokers, which **may** be organisations including foundations, community organisations, clusters of schools or individual schools, will partner with schools, Indigenous communities and others to ensure Indigenous students, wherever they live, have access to the best available schooling. These brokers will work with schools in awarding scholarships that promote the achievement of Year 12, its vocational equivalent and post secondary qualifications. Brokers will also assist schools with mentoring strategies and in the delivery of practical leadership experiences to help prepare scholarship recipients for potential future leadership roles.

The IYLP is helping to close the gap on Indigenous educational disadvantage while providing leadership development opportunities. IYLP is administered under the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000*, and aims to provide new 3 year scholarships to 240 secondary scholars and 60 tertiary scholars annually. Potential Partnership Brokers should note that some young people in receipt of an IYLP scholarship in 2009 may require transition arrangements to continue with their scholarships in 2010.

The Application Kit is available to Partnership Brokers only following registration at [www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/IndigenousYouthLeadershipProgramPartnershipBrokers.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/Pages/IndigenousYouthLeadershipProgramPartnershipBrokers.aspx). Partnership Brokers must follow the defined application format.

Further information on IYLP can be found at [www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous\\_education/programmes\\_funding/programme\\_categories/iypl/default.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/iypl/default.htm)

Any questions or difficulties with accessing this site should be by email addressed to [IYLP\\_Applications@DEEWR.gov.au](mailto:IYLP_Applications@DEEWR.gov.au)

The deadline for Applications is **Friday 27 February 2009, at 5.00 pm.**