



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Indigenous History Explored

Professor Rhonda Craven, Centre for Educational Research, and Koori History and Culture researcher Miss Fabri Blacklock, along with fellow UWS researcher Dr Geoffrey Munns are exploring Indigenous Elders' perspectives of Australian history through a three year ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development grant.



'The research will provide a significant contribution to the Ngarabal and Biripi people, as there has been little research into our history' says Miss Blacklock. 'The project aims to contribute to the documentation of Australian history and the impact of this history on current government policies and community attitudes from an Indigenous perspective, to ensure Indigenous historical interpretations and perspectives are voiced.'

"Ngarabal and Biripi Elders" front row left to right: Graham Blacklock, Ray Blacklock, Millie Brown, back row, Frank Brown, Michael Brown, and Eric Glover.

Miss Blacklock, a woman of the Ngarabal and Biripi people, will gather oral histories recorded from her Elders, as well as collecting and reviewing historical photographs, maps and documentation of significant places. These will allow the research team to conduct a multi-method critical analysis of material to illuminate the "missing history" of the Ngarabal and Biripi.

By combining Indigenous oral history techniques with non-Indigenous established methodology, the research will result in the development of innovative research methods. It is anticipated that the new approach can then be used by other Indigenous researchers and communities to critically analyse and document other "missing" aspects of Indigenous history, thus giving voice to a previously unheard people.

As well as being of interest to the wider community, the research will become a valuable record for younger Ngarabal and Biripi generations.

Project Title: *A documentation and multi-method critical analysis of Ngarabal and Biripi Elders' perspectives and experiences of Australian history*

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