

The Director in Oz – Part Two

Observant souls may have noticed your Director-on-sabbatical trying to remain invisible to his graduate students in Hut B8 at the end of March. Now that I am back in Australia, I can safely admit to having visited the Fisheries Centre, which hosted a workshop on the use of Ecosim and Ecospace for multispecies fisheries evaluation, a meeting that also involved no less than two of our six-member International Advisory Council. One of them, Dr Jim Kitchell from Michigan, has been helping to develop Ecosim 2 together with Dr Carl Walters from the Fisheries Centre and Dr Villy Christensen from ICLARM. The other, Dr Kevern Cochrane, late of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute in Cape Town and now at FAO, Rome, arranged FAO's sponsorship of the workshop. (A Fisheries Centre report will be ready by the end of June; watch for an article in the next *FishBytes*.)

In South Africa, Kevern had been a natural resources and education policy advisor to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and so he was keen to attend a meeting of our Aboriginal Fisheries steering committee, a co-operative venture between UBC First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) and the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission (AFC). We walked together across campus from the Fisheries Centre's sad brown hut to the airy simplicity of the FNHL, with its immense trees, waterfall and Longhouse. I always relax in the gentle atmosphere of the Longhouse, where loquacious scientists are admonished by the carved totems to listen twice as much as they should talk. I think Dr Jo-ann Archibald, the Director of the FNHL (she will step down later this year), should be congratulated for making this a place that truly belongs to First Nations' students, yet encourages productive meetings between our two cultures.

Jo-ann, Nigel Haggan, and Arnie Narcisse and his wife were present at the meeting. Kevern contrasted South Africa, a nation where Indigenous peoples are in the vast majority and where it was only a matter of time before natural rights were re-established, with BC, where First Nations are a tiny minority. He was encouraged to hear that we aim to have Aboriginal people represented, both on campus and in fisheries jobs, at least in proportion to the population. The group, whose partnership

was formalised by the signing of an MOU earlier this year (see *FishBytes* vol. 4 issue 1) has recently persuaded UBC to adopt the endowment of a Chair in Aboriginal Fisheries as an official project.

From what I have seen, koorii (Aboriginal) students in Australia do not yet have such targeted and culturally appropriate support, and, in general, Aboriginal rights are not being easily won in what appears to be a seriously polarised society. We visited an Aboriginal Centre near Merimbula, in southern NSW. With zero government funding, these people run Aboriginal eco-tours in a brave attempt to establish a cultural bridge to other Australians. Their people historically leached cycad plants (removing cyanide to make flour), harvested possums, kangaroos and wombats, built fish-holding ponds, and sailed 10km offshore to Montague Island for fur seals, penguins and mutton bird eggs. All the men of the tribe were drowned in the early 1800s when a sudden storm sank their canoes. It is said that one young ten year old boy with exceptional character re-established the tribe's traditions. Mount Dromedary (named by Cook, who didn't bother to ask the locals what the koorii name was) is representative of the lady who founded the world lying on her side, with Montague Island and a small hill on a peninsula her two sons. Koorii ladies say that when the mountain is covered in mist, the boyfriend is visiting. The cultural centre's shop sold nice didgeridoos, but the switch on Val my wife's anti-didgeridoo campaign was in the 'on' position and I failed to smuggle one back to Vancouver. But bellbirds chiming in the spotted gum/cycad forest, tame 'roos and technicolour rosella parrots nibbling from our hands were a real bonus.

I am trying to understand more of the Aboriginal situation in Australia, and am being helped in that respect by a gem of a library in the New South Wales Fisheries Institute at Cronulla, where my sabbatical is based. The library is small but specialised, houses two immensely helpful librarians, and, unlike similar libraries in UK and Canada, has not (yet) died the death of a thousand cuts. Such a library makes the sabbatical a joy. Administrators should not be allowed to destroy such a valuable facility in the name of

Two Well-Cited Authors By Daniel Pauly

Cornelia Nanen, a friend of mine, recently forwarded to me an email from a colleague who shall remain unnamed and who asked for the initials of an author Cornelia had cited.

This author was 'Anon'. As many young scientists and graduate students do not know of this most prolific author, let me clarify this once and for all: *Anon is the family name of a well-known French polymath of the last century, Pierre Etal, Chevalier d'Anon, whose extensive work in a number of disciplines (including ichthyology and fisheries) caused him to become the most-cited scientists of his time, and indeed of all times to come.*

PS: It is improbable that the 'Anon' in question was the scholar who invented the footnote, who taught at the court of the last Emir of Cordova and whose full name was Ibid al Anon bin Etal.

Third Larkin Lecture Announced

On Thursday February 18, 1999, the third Larkin Lecture be given by Dr Kevern Cochrane, a senior research officer at FAO in Rome with special responsibility for the Caribbean and Southern Africa. Dr Cochrane is also a member of the Centre's International Advisory Council. On the morning of February 19 there will be an open forum with Dr Cochrane at UBC. More details to follow in future issues of *FishBytes*.

penny-pinching accountancy, a fate that the archaeology of Hut B5 suggests may have befallen library of the forerunner of the Centre, the Institute for Animal Resource Ecology, in the early 1980s. Libraries are for the future; their worth cannot be measured in dollars today, as their value lies in what is yet to be built on their store of knowledge.

In my next communiqué from Oz I will look at the status of Aboriginal rights and fisheries, and report on a visit to Hobart, Tasmania to talk at CCAMLR and CSIRO (wait till next time for keys to the acronyms!), the latter the home base of another member of the Fisheries Centre's International Advisory Council, Dr Keith Sainsbury.