

# PROFILE

John Heath was recently appointed to the position of Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies. With 10 years part time experience as a Director/Cultural Officer/Administrator with the Awabakal Co-op. He brings valuable knowledge of the local Aboriginal community. Coinciding with these years is 9 years in the Commonwealth Public Service which provides experience of working with bureaucrats.

John was the first student under the Aboriginal Study Grants scheme to graduate from Newcastle University and is only the second Koorie to obtain an academic appointment in Newcastle.

He had 6 years as a member of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (one year as president) and is currently a member of the National Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. His national activities also include membership on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Australian Council of Churches which continues to actively campaign for justice for our people.

Born in Taree and brought up around Maitland John has a firm commitment to Aboriginal advancement and believes strongly in the words of the late Alice Briggs, that "the only answer is to give them back their land rights and let the Aborigine try and rectify what the white man has done Because A White Man'll Never Do It" Title of a book by Kevin J. Gilbert, Angus and Robinson 1973

