

## NEWS FROM THE NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

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### Upcoming NTRB Conference

AIATSIS and the Yamatji Land and Sea Council and their collaborators are convening the third Native Title Representative Bodies conference. With major funding support from ATSIC the conference will be held in Geraldton, Western Australia, from 3–5 September 2002. The conference will be targeted to a broad cross section of NTRB staff – legal and policy issues, research and practice, and leadership and capacity building. For more information, see the enclosed flyer, or find it at <[www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)>.

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### Native Title Research Unit Access service: What we can do for you

The Access Officer accepts all requests for information about materials held at AIATSIS from people undertaking research for native title applications. Requests must be in relation to a particular native title claim.

For researchers who know what material they need, and just require copies sent, we retrieve the material and organise any clearances and permission needed from depositors, the head of the Library, or the Principal of AIATSIS as necessary.

For other clients who have not yet identified what material would be useful for them, we undertake research to compile specific bibliographies which identify relevant materials.

Many clients like to come and visit the AIATSIS Library themselves to carry out their research. We explain how to use the Library, retrieve any closed-access materials and generally assist in research as needed. Contact the Access officer for our information sheet and list of costings on phone 02 6246 1103, fax 02 6249 7714, or <[ntss@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ntss@aiatsis.gov.au)>.

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### Issues Papers

The unit has published issues paper number 13 titled 'Recent Developments in Native Title Law and Practice: Issues for the High Court' by John Basten. The paper is thematically arranged around connection to country, content, extinguishment, and exclusive possession. John Basten is a Queen's Counsel and has appeared in numerous native title proceedings in the Federal and High Courts.

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### NTRB web site posted by ATSIC

ATSIC have posted a website to assist NTRBs at <[www.ntrb.net](http://www.ntrb.net)>. The website has recent news, the Native Title Services Guide, calendar of events, resource directory, and further reading (see further the feature article on page 6).

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### AIATSIS Seminar Series

The Monday lunchtime seminar series for 2002 focusses on pastoralism, land and resource use issues. The program for first semester will shortly be available at <[www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)> by clicking on the 'Seminars' link.

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### New staff members

Christine Ratnasingham has joined us part-time to undertake copying work for the National Native Title Tribunal, who fund her position. She is a final-year law honours student at the Australian National University.

We have also been joined by Jane Anderson as the new part-time Research Assistant. Jane is also completing a PhD in Law at the University of New South Wales on governance, intellectual property, and Indigenous knowledge.