

International speakers confirmed

We are delighted to announce that we have two international guests who will give papers at *The Native Title Conference 2002* in Geraldton in September.

Mr Jerald Gomez, senior counsel representing the Orang Asli in the recent *Bukit Tampoi* decision in Malaysia, will be giving a Plenary address. Mr Gomez represented the Orang Asli in their claims for land rights and compensation. The decision in favour of the Orang Asli is seen as a landmark for the recognition of Indigenous peoples' land rights in Malaysia.

Hugh Braker QC is our second international speaker. Mr Braker is a member of the Tse-shaht First Nation of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council in Canada. He has worked extensively on Indigenous issues in British Columbia.

Other Plenary speakers include Geoff Clark, Dr Mick Dodson, Justice Robert French, Prof Marcia Langton, Graeme Neate, Noel Pearson, Daryl Williams, AM QC MP and Hal Wootten AC QC.

For a copy of the brochure and registration form see the web page at - http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ntru_conferences.htm or telephone 02 6246 1161, or email ntru@aiatsis.gov.au

Workshop on Genealogies

AIATSIS is hosting a workshop on the preparation and use of genealogies, especially in applied social science and Australian Indigenous studies. The workshop is being run by Patrick McConvell (Research Fellow) and Grace Koch (Native Title Research Unit).

For more information see the [Provisional Program](#) or contact Patrick McConvell on [<Patrick.McConvell@aiatsis.gov.au>](mailto:Patrick.McConvell@aiatsis.gov.au).

Treaty website

A website outlining the history of the Treaty campaign was launched on July 3 2002 at the AIATSIS. The treaty website details the account of the struggle by Indigenous Australians for their rights to be recognised in the form of a treaty. The website will be a significant contribution to the contemporary Treaty debate and the future relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The website focuses on six areas: the National Aboriginal Conference Proposal for a Treaty of Commitment or Makarrata, the Aboriginal Treaty Committee, the Aboriginal Sovereign Treaty '88 Campaign, the 1981 Senate Standing Committee report *Two Hundred Years Later*, the Burunga Statement, Community Action for Rights, the AIATSIS Seminar Series on Treaty and links to other current debates.

The merger of this important history, as stored in the Institute's collections, and new media technologies has been made possible through an ATSIC funded digitisation program grant. The website marks the beginning of a series of projects which will enable quick comprehensive access for those who wish to learn from history for the benefit of the future.

The website is located at www.aiatsis.gov.au/treaty.htm

Two new Issues Papers

The unit has published two new Issues Papers. The May Issues Paper number 15, 'Preserving culture in Federal Court proceedings: Gender restrictions and anthro-

pological experts' is by Greg McIntyre and Geoffrey Bagshaw. The paper considers how gender restricted evidence in native title claims is often an integral feature required to establish and substantiate connections to country. The authors' argue that the Federal Court has to consider the public interest in respecting the cultural concern of native title claimants. The paper discusses the Federal Court's approach to these issues in two recent cases, *Yarmirr* and *Ward*.

The June Issues Paper, number 16, is by Sir Anthony Mason, AC KBE and is titled 'The international concept of equality of interest in the sea as it affects the conservation of the environment and Indigenous interests.' This paper explores how the claim for collective international exploitation of marine and submarine resources has been associated in more recent times with the concept of the 'common heritage of mankind.' Mason argues that if such a concept is to be used, it would need to be adapted to benefit Indigenous people.

New staff member

We will miss Angela Terrill, Native Title Research and Access Officer, who left at the end of June to take up a grant with the Max Planck Institute on Endangered Languages. She has moved to Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, to work with a team on this exciting project, which is funded for three years.

Grace Koch is the new Research and Access Officer. She has worked AIATSIS since 1975 in the Audiovisual Archives, and has had many positions, including Sound Archivist (Oral History and Music), Manager (Audiovisual Collections) and most recently, in the Audiovisual Access Unit. She has been a Member of AIATSIS since 1982.

Grace's academic background is in musicology, and she has published analyses of Australian Indigenous music jointly with linguists such as Luise Hercus, Paul Black and R.M.W. Dixon as well as a number of encyclopaedia entries on the music of Central Australia, Cape York and the connection

of music with land. The book, *Dyirbal Song Poetry: the oral literature of an Australian rainforest people*, which she co-authored with R.M.W. Dixon, won the 1996/1997 Stanner Prize jointly with the *Bringing Them Home Report*. She has also done work in oral history and was compiler of the book, *Kaytetye Country: an Aboriginal History of the Barrow Creek area*. Grace has lectured on aspects of Aboriginal music and society both nationally and internationally, presenting courses and seminars in Rome, Paris, Vienna, the U.S.A. and Australia.

Grace has been a contract researcher with the Central Land Council for three land claims and the Davenport-Murchison and Hatches Creek Township Native Title Claim. Her work has concentrated on genealogies, women's ritual and songs.

Since 1980 Grace has been active in the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA), serving as chair of two committees and Editor of the Association and, presently, as interim Secretary of the new Research Archives Committee, which will have a strong focus on the protection of Indigenous intellectual property rights as related to audiovisual materials, which is one of her main areas of interest. In 1999, Grace, along with two Indigenous representatives from Australia, was an invited participant to the Unesco seminar, 'A Global Assessment of the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore...' That same year, she was funded by the Ford Foundation to present issues of protection of Indigenous intellectual property at a workshop on research archives held in Manesar, India.

Grace looks forward to helping clients, extending networks and increasing her knowledge of native title issues.

Library news

The Library is a vital part of the Institute with a diverse range of material held in its collections.

Services

The Library is open to the general public for study and reference. Contact the Library on 02 6246 1182 or email library@aiatsis.gov.au. A specialist information service is available for those researching family history. The Family History Unit can be contacted on family@aiatsis.gov.au. A freecall service is available for Indigenous clients. The number is 1800 730 129.

The AIATSIS Library contains one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world. You can search the catalogue on line at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>. The catalogue includes bibliographic details of all Library materials. Assistance in using the catalogue is only a phone call away.

The Collections

The Library welcomes donations of materials, which match the Library's collection policy and which enhance the research value of its collections. Donors may be entitled to take an income tax deduction by claiming their gift of rare or manuscript materials under the Cultural bequest scheme.

The Library seeks unpublished works, such as personal papers, diaries, field notes and other works relevant to Australian Indigenous studies. Collections of papers of organisations and individuals are welcome additions. Recent collections received include the personal papers of Joe McGinness. Should you wish to donate or deposit material, please contact the Library on +61 2 6246 1182 or email library@aiatsis.gov.au.

Monetary donations are also welcome. The Library is keen to establish an acquisition fund which will build up over time and which will facilitate the purchase of rare and unique materials. Dr Barry Cundy attended the auction of the library of Tom Austen Brown on the Australian Aborigines. One of the items on the Library's wish list was sold for \$63,826 unfortunately not to the Library.

The Library houses rare books and manuscripts in a closed stack area under environmental controlled conditions. They are

protected by an electronic security system, and do not circulate outside the Library. A conservator is on staff to undertake work on collections.

Recently the Library added over 600 manuscript records to the Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts web site hosted by the National Library of Australia. RAAM provides researchers with a convenient, centralised register of locations for primary research material. It can be accessed at <http://www.nla.gov.au/raam/>

Library staff welcome your enquiries and look forward to you visiting the Library. The Library is open on Monday, Wednesday to Friday.

Research within Archives

Annie Pratten is a Koori woman now based in Adelaide who spent three years at AIATSIS in the mid 1980s as a trainee in film and video. She has just spent two months at AIATSIS listening to audio archives held at AIATSIS. What follows is an account of her research.

Within the Archives Program, work is underway to provide greater access to archival material. A great deal of the Institute's archive materials are only searchable on a specialised 'shadow catalogue' accessible only by AIATSIS staff. This is the case where materials are not documented or access restrictions are unclear. This may occur, for example, when collections of tapes are donated to the archive without further information. Unshadowing the collections often involves considerable work but provides a greater wealth of material that is accessible and often results in materials being searchable by remote clients via the internet. This in turn gives clients a greater understanding of the extent and relevance of material held by the Institute. In the end, this facilitates more efficient service by the Native Title Research and Access Officer.

I have spent the last eight weeks listening to audio archive tapes from a National Parks

and Wildlife Service Survey into Sacred Sites carried out between 1973 and 1983 and doing associated research in order to provide detailed and accurate documentation for part of this extensive collection. These tapes were recorded primarily by Howard Creamer, a non- Aboriginal Anthropologist and several Aboriginal Site Officers, including Ray Kelly, Glen Morris and Trevor Donnelly.

This research and documentation will greatly assist Koori and Goori peoples from the areas complete their native title and personal research. The documentation completed during this two month contract compliments the field notes made by Howard Creamer for sites in Wangkumara, Dhanggatti, Gumbaynggir and Githabul country.

This research is unfortunately long overdue and having been funded for two months has only just begun. In the light of potential native title claims, there are thousands of hours of archival audio tapes in need of such attention in order to provide more culturally appropriate and equitable access. I hope more funding will be found to continue this work.

Reminder of upcoming Treaty conference

FEATURES

Native Title Business : Travelling Art Exhibition

1 July 2002 - 31 October 2005

by Joan Winter

A new national travelling art exhibition examining the links between Indigenous art and native title was launched at the Queensland Museum during NAIDOC week 2002.

Native Title Business is presented by the Gurrang Land Council in Bundaberg, curated

ATSIC, AIATSIS and ANTaR are co-hosting the National Treaty Conference to be held from the 27-29 August 2002 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The conference aims to inform non-government organisations, bureaucracy, legislature, business and the wider community on the benefits of a concept of a treaty between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Commonwealth of Australia.

Over the last year, ATSIC has taken a leading role in pursuing the treaty debate, by delivering a comprehensive education package on the concept of a treaty to the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia.

Issues that will be discussed at the conference include the sovereignty of the Australian nation; coexistence between Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Australian community; agreement making; and the economic and social value of a treaty to Australia.

Speakers include Dr David Irvine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party in the Northern Ireland Assembly, Dr Mick Dodson, Prof Macia Langton, Mr Michael Mansell, Mr Patrick Dodson, Dr Kerry Phelps and Prof Larissa Behrendt.

by Joan Winter and will tour around 25 venues throughout Australia by the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland.

The artworks in *Native Title Business* are cultural evidence; community substantiation of the past and the needs of the present, in the face of massive ignorance and misrepresentation of Australia's post contact history and of what native title is, where it has come from, and how it effects Indigenous communities.