

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

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 Kerryn Phelps and Prof Larissa Behrendt.

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

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.

This exhibition will do much to promote understanding, communication and reconciliation throughout regional centres of Australia during its three year tour. It does this with humour, invention beauty and acknowledgment.

Works include paintings, prints, photography, mixed media, installation, carving, textiles and ceramics, reflecting the dynamic diversity of contemporary Indigenous arts practice.

Native Title Business is accompanied by extensive information detailing land agreements, current negotiations, past and continuing injustices and issues, coming home/back to country and other success stories. This information was researched and written by the staff in the Native Title Research Unit, AIATSIS.

Artists in all stages of their careers, from more traditional communities to urban based, young and older artists are represented. Artists include Fiona Foley, Michael Anning, Ian Abdulla, Michael Riley, Julie Dowling, Michael Nelson Jagamara, Than-coupie and Bronwyn Bancroft.

The meteoric rise of the Australian contemporary Indigenous visual arts movement had its origins deep in the great Western Desert of the Northern Territory just three years before the first Land Rights legislation was enacted there in 1976. The continuing dynamic change and growth of this extraordinary arts movement has been, and continues to be, bound with Indigenous communities' call for acknowledgment, self determination, social justice and the return of some land and sea rights.

Desert painting first developed as a way to teach the young about country. It soon followed as a way to inform our politicians, law makers and those in the general Australian community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples' great need to regain something of their loss, and to show that in many communities, great knowledge and connection to country still exists despite separation and removal.

In 1997 members of the Ngurrara Land Claim were asked to prepare a map for their native title claim. Not schooled in cartography, artist members from Mangkaja Arts Centre at Fitzroy Crossing chose to paint their country in a massive 18 x 12 metre canvas, which each member stood on and pointed to when giving evidence. The painting was then taken to Canberra and ceremoniously danced on to remind those sitting in the High Court of the depth of their claim. Some such examples will be presented in *Native Title Business*, for the use of Indigenous artwork in native title claims has become commonplace. It is an invaluable way for our two cultures to meet.

The development and tour of this exhibition was made possible by the Central Queensland University and the Federal Government's national touring exhibitions funding program, Visions of Australia. Visions of Australia aims to provide all Australians, wherever they live with better access to the nation's cultural heritage.

Other funding support has been received from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fund of the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts advisory and funding body. The exhibition has also received support from the Besen Family Foundation, National Native Title Tribunal, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Gambling Machine Community Benefit Fund, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund, and the Gurang Land Council and AIATSIS.

The exhibition will tour venues in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Noosa, Moree Plains, Port Macquarie, Sydney, Canberra, Wangaratta, Wagga Wagga, Sale, Melbourne, Launceston, Hobart, Horsham, Mildura, Mt Gambier, Port Pirie, Adelaide and more.

Further information

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*Itinerary of Native Title Business
2002*

- Queensland Museum
1 July - 11 August
- Hervey Bay Regional Gallery
10 September - 5 October
- Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum
11 October - 2 November
- CQU Rockhampton/Duaringa Shire Gallery, Blackwater (half show)
8 November - 10 December

2003

- Cairns Regional Gallery
31 January - 16 March
- Perc Tucker Regional Gallery Townsville
21 March - 27 April
- Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
8 May - 15 June
- Noosa Regional Gallery
20 June - 13 July
- Moree Plains Gallery
26 July - 28 August
- Port Macquarie Hastings Regional Gallery
10 September - 19 October
- Boomalli, Sydney
29 October - 30 November
- National Museum of Australia
5 December - 16 February 2004

2004

- The Exhibitions Gallery Wangaratta
20 February - 21 March
- Wagga Wagga Regional Gallery
26 March - 7 May
- Gippsland Art Gallery Sale
14 May - 13 June
- Melbourne Museum
24 June - 7 August
- University Gallery Launceston
13 August - 17 September
- Carnegie Gallery Hobart

20 September - 22 October

- Horsham Regional Gallery
4 November - 9 January 2005
- 2005*
- Mildura Arts Centre
14 January - 27 February
 - Riddoch Gallery Mt Gambier
4 March - 17 April
 - Murray Bridge Regional Art Gallery
22 April - 22 May
 - Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery
28 May - 3 July
 - Walter Nicholas Memorial Gallery
8 July - 14 August
 - Tandanya Adelaide
20 August - 31 October

MaMu Canopy Walk

by Rowan Foley

The development of the MaMu Canopy Walk in the rainforest near Innisfail in North Queensland, will become a major tourism icon based on the MaMu native title applicants' land and culture.

The development of the \$7million MaMu Canopy Walk has involved the signing of an historic Heads of Agreement. The Agreement, written by representatives from the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC), has taken over a year to finalise.

The Heads of Agreement was signed at a traditional ceremony by all the MaMu native title applicants, NQLC, Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QP&WS), Johnstone Shire Council (JSC) and the local Member the Hon Warren Pitt signed as a witness on behalf of the State Government on the 24 March 2002.

In summary, the agreement acknowledges and protects the cultural heritage values of the MaMu native title claimants, binds in good faith the JSC to the State Government acceptance of their native title connection report and ensures an economic stream will flow to the MaMu people who will be on the Trust that will own the development.