

NEWS FROM THE NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

Staff Movements

Glen Kelly has been appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow for a period of 12 months. Coming from a cultural and natural resource management background and working for some years in the area of Indigenous involvement in the management of protected areas, Glen is developing a research programme which will look at the ways in which native title and traditional law is and can be applied in contemporary times, with an emphasis on the management of national parks and other protected areas.

Kerry Arabena has also been appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow in the NTRU for three months to examine the new arrangements in Indigenous Affairs. Kerry is a Merriam woman from the Torres Strait and has worked in rural and remote Indigenous communities for over 10 years.

Janice Turner has been appointed as the Administrative Assistant until the 30 June 2005. Janice is a Eastern Arrente woman from Central Australia. She comes to the Unit with experience in Aboriginal affairs and has worked both in government and community controlled organisations.

Research Activities

Dr Stuart Bradfield an article for the Australian Journal of Politics and History titled 'Separatism or status quo? Indigenous affairs from the birth of land rights to the death of ATSIC'.

Dr Lisa Strelein has written an article titled 'Culture and Commerce, the use of fishing traditions in proving native title', published in Taylor et al (eds) *The Power of Knowledge: The Resonance of Tradition* ASP 2005. Dr Strelein also gave a paper at the Federal Court National Native Title Workshop, entitled *The*

strategic use of agreement making and the negotiation of agreements under the shadow of the law.

The workshop was held in Brisbane on Wednesday 6 April 2005 and was attended by NNTT registrars and staff working in Native Title.

Claims Management Workshop

The NTRU hosted a Claims Research Management workshop in the Mabo Room on the 12 April for native title representative body staff, where seven NTRBs were represented. An Issues Paper examining some of the questions raised by the workshop will be prepared by NTRU staff.

Native Title Research Forum

The NTRU hosted a forum for native title researchers on Thursday 28 April 2005. The purpose of the forum was to bring together researchers from universities and other institutions and organisations to share information about current native title research projects, identify opportunities for collaboration and discuss future research priorities. A report from the forum will be provided to native title representative bodies and registered native title bodies corporate, who will be invited to identify their particular research needs and priorities. The purpose of this is to increase awareness of current research and promote greater levels of communication and collaboration between researchers and practitioners.

The NTRU would be pleased to hear from researchers who have an interest in native title and would like to participate in this research survey. To register your interest please email ntru@aiatsis.gov.au.

Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) Update

General Practitioners Native Title Mediation Workshop

A workshop for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Native Title Mediation Practitioners was held on the 15 and 16 March 2005 in the Mabo room at AIATSIS with 25 participants. The workshop was aimed at identifying best practice issues and related training needs, including the manner in which the native title legislative framework affects mediation.

Participants included members of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), Registrars of the Federal Court and a range of consultant mediators. Many commented that they particularly appreciated the sharing of difficult mediation scenarios and discussions around best practice methods to deal with them.

A report on the proceedings of the workshop will be available on the IFaMP website.

IFaMP will also produce a combined final report on this workshop and the Indigenous Practitioners Workshop (held in February 2005) which will analyse the issues raised in the workshops and make recommendations.

Federal Court Native Title Forum

Toni Bauman, Visiting Research Fellow, gave a presentation entitled *Learnings from the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project* at the Federal Court of Australia Native Title Workshop.

Understanding the importance of process in arriving at just outcomes and the need for ongoing development of mediation process skills is a significant issue for the

Federal Court in its mediations of native title.

Check the IFaMP Web Site

The following additions can now be accessed on the IFaMP website. Feedback or comments are most welcome.
ifamp@aiatsis.gov.au

Final NTRB Report including executive summary:

Williams, R. and T. Bauman. 2004. *Report on Native Title Representative Body Workshops: Directions, Priorities and Challenges*. Report No. 2 Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project, Native Title Research Unit, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra.
http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ifa/mp/research/research_frameset.html

Final Report of the Survey of Native Title Mediation Practitioners (including executive summary):

Williams, R. 2004. *Native Title Mediation Practice: The Commonalities, The Challenges, The Contradictions* Report No 4 Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project, Native Title Research Unit, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra.
http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ifa/mp/research/research_frameset.html