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Newsletter / Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
Western Australia. [Perth: Dept. of Aboriginal
Affairs]

Western Australia. Parliament. Legislative
Council. Report on the Police Force in Western
Australia. Perth: Govt. Printer, 1872-1898

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NTRU

STAFFING

Ms Jessica Weir joined the NTRU as Conference Co-ordinator in March. Jessica is taking a three month break from her PhD which she is completing at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at The Australian National University. Jessica's PhD thesis 'Cultural Flows: Negotiating Indigenous relationships with the Murray River' engages with the recognition of the cultural identity of the traditional owner in the management of water in the Murray Darling Basin. This project is supported by a research agreement with the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN). Prior to commencing her PhD, Jessica worked for the NTRU for three years so will be a familiar face to many of you who join us in Darwin for the Native Title Conference 2006. Jessica will be with the Unit until 30 June 2006.

Mr Adam Shipp who was working as our part-time Administrative Assistant succeeded in getting a traineeship in the Audio Visual Archives of AIATSIS. Adam finished up with the NTRU at the end of March 2006.

Ms Amy Williams replaces Adam as the NTRU's part-time Administrative Assistant commencing 20 April 2006.

Ms Donna Oxenham and Mr Glen Kelly have returned to Western Australia. Donna is completing her work on the PBC research project over the next couple of weeks and Glen completed his 12 month Visiting Research Fellowship in April 2006. Glen will be taking on the role of Chief Executive Officer at the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Ms Angela Philp, who has recently submitted her PhD in Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Research, at the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University (her dissertation was titled 'Museums and the public sphere in Australia: between rhetoric and practice'), is working part-time on NTRU publications while

Project Officer Lara Wiseman is on maternity leave.

RESEARCH PROJECTS


Tran Tran is currently undertaking a Report on Native Title State Connection Requirements. The Native Title Research Unit is researching State-based native title connection frameworks as a key project for 2005-2006. This is a qualitative research project aimed at exploring the views of key stakeholders involved in claims management. The emphasis of the project is to explore the ways in which the guidelines can be made more effective for all relevant stakeholders. In order to understand this further the project is directed towards looking at how the guidelines operate in practice, receiving comment on any current flaws and possibly suggest ways in which they can be improved.

Grace Koch, Native Title Research and Access Officer, visited the Kimberley Land Council and Native Title Services, NSW, as part of the Future of Connection Materials project. She discussed aspects of ownership, intellectual property, dissemination and conservation of material generated as part of the native title process and plans for future storage of information. There will be a session on the project and issues arising at the Native Title Conference in Darwin. For more information see http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/connection_material.html.

Native Title Representative Bodies will have received a mailout with information on the Community Heritage Grant Scheme, which provides grants up to \$10,000 for conservation and assessment of collections. See <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg/> for details and application forms.

WORKSHOPS

The comprehensive agreements workshop convened by Ms Krysti Guest and scheduled for late March was postponed until early May 2006.



The workshop was part of the AIATSIS research project into comprehensive agreements concerning native title and related issues.

The aim of the agreements project is broadly two fold:

- to assess the role of 'comprehensive agreements' and 'alternative settlements' in Australia in expeditiously progressing indigenous and government aspirations concerning native title and related issues; and
- to identify agreed principles, aims and benchmarks (in relation to both process and outcomes) for comprehensive agreements in Australia in order to assist NTRB/NTSs and governments and in the future negotiation of such agreements.

The project is therefore focused on practical outcomes.

The workshop was part of the 'active' research and included principals, governments, experts and relevant institutions (such as the Federal Court and the NNTT). The first day was for the Indigenous principals of the three agreements, their negotiating teams and invited experts to discuss common and different views on and experiences of agreement making; the second day was for all invited participants to enable informed dialogue to the principles, aims and benchmarks of comprehensive agreements, using the outcomes of Day 1 as a starting point.

NTRU RESEARCH & ACCESS SERVICE

Native Title Research and Access Officer, Ms Grace Koch has assisted visitors from Native Title Services Victoria and Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation to identify and locate relevant items held in the AIATSIS library and Audio Visual Archive collections. During April Grace visited the Kimberley Land Council as part of the Future of Connection Materials project.

She discussed aspects of ownership, intellectual property, dissemination and conservation of material generated as part of the native title process and plans for future storage of information. For more information on the project, see

http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/connection_material.html.

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Hard copies of all NTRU Issues papers are available. The list of papers is available on the NTRU website on http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/publications/issue_papers.html.

IFAMP Evaluation Toolkit

The draft *Evaluation Toolkit: Training and Service Delivery in Decision-Making and Dispute Management Processes in Native Title* prepared by Social Compass is currently being edited by IFaMP following a review and re-drafting.

Training

Toni Bauman attended a one day workshop in Sydney convened by Resolve Advisors entitled 'Polishing the Mirror: self-awareness as a tool for group process.' Toni's attendance supported one of IFaMP's aims – to identify and develop the necessary skills for professionals working in decision-making and agreement building processes.

National Network of Indigenous Facilitators and Mediators

A number of participants in IFaMP's October 2005 Indigenous Facilitators and Mediators Workshop have written to Federal, State and Territory Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers of Indigenous/Aboriginal Affairs, heads of Departments of Indigenous Affairs, Attorneys-General and others seeking support for the establishment of a national network of Indigenous facilitators and mediators. The letters have been accompanied by IFaMP's October workshop report (*Making a Difference: towards establishing national networks of Indigenous process experts in a whole-of-government approach*) and background papers prepared for the workshop. A number of supportive responses have been received and are being considered in relation to IFaMP's future beyond the June 2006, when Stage 1 of this 3 year project concludes.

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