



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 4073

Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

Contents

Collection Summary _____	3
Cultural Sensitivity Statement _____	3
Use of the material _____	3
Language _____	3
Deceased persons _____	3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content _____	4
People & Organisations _____	4
Country _____	4
Collection Overview _____	5
Scope and contents note _____	5
Provenance _____	5
Material separated from the collection _____	5
Related material _____	5
Access to the Collection _____	6
Access conditions for this collection _____	6
Access and use conditions - further information _____	6
Copying and quotation _____	6
Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions _____	6

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

Preferred citation	6
Administrative history note	7
Archivist's note	7
Series 1, 28 August 1981 - 30 August 1981	7
Box List	10

Collection Summary

Collection no:	MS 4073
Title:	Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations
Creator:	Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations
Date range:	1981
Extent:	0.2 linear metres (1 x Type 1 archival box).
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Reference code:	N/A

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, hearing recordings, seeing images or the names of deceased persons may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural beliefs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

People & Organisations

Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family or organisations that are associated with this collection (individuals or groups who have contributed to, performed in, or are mentioned within this collection). Please note that there may be additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that are not included in this Finding Aid, as they have not yet been identified. If you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this please contact us at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Bernie Button
Louise Caupus
Les Collins
Roberta Felton
Albert Geia
Delphine Geia
Granny Dolly
Stephen Hagan
Cherie Imlah
Kenny Jacobs
Flo Kennedy
Chris Kirkbright
Kevin Kitchener
Eric Kyle
Marcia Langton
Edward 'Eddie' Koiki Mabo
Les Malezer
Darwin Metawinti
Paul Richards
Bob Weatherall
Helen Stannard Williams
Kevin Wynam

Country

Bentinck Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-02)
Cape York Peninsula (Qld SC54, SD54, SD55)
Cherbourg / Barambah (SE Qld SG56-10)
Mer / Murray Island (Qld TSI SC55-05)

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)

Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10)

Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05)

Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14)

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

The collection includes transcripts of papers, statements and discussions from the Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations Conference, held at James Cook University, Townsville, 28-30 August 1981. The conference brought together land rights activists, Indigenous community leaders, lawyers, and historians as speakers.

As a direct result of this conference, Edward 'Eddie' Koiki Mabo, Flo Kennedy and David Passi from Mer, with legal backing from Greg McIntyre and other Conference attendees, began steps to mount a case for Native Title. This eventuated in the successfully argued cases of *Mabo v Queensland (No 1)* in 1988 and *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)* in 1992, and the codifying of native title rights with the *Native Title Act 1993* in Australian law.

Two copies.

Provenance

Collection of unknown provenance, most likely transferred to AIATSIS prior to 1999 by a member of the joint Conference organisers - the Townsville Branch of the Aboriginal Treaty Committee, James Cook University of North Queensland Students Union and James Cook University Politics Society.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

B 0435.91/B1 *Black Australians; the prospects for change*, edited by Eric Karl Olbrei; Townsville, Qld, James Cook University Students Union, 1982

BF C748.20/L1 *Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations, 1981*

TCAE_01 Audio recording of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6246 1111

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Open access - reading.

Copying permitted for private study. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Access and use conditions - further information

Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#) if they have been digitised. AIATSIS Manuscripts are not available for Inter-library loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

Permission may need to be sought prior to access being granted. In cases where permissions are required please contact Collections staff for further information: Email Collections staff at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

Copying and quotation

Copying of, and quoting from, unpublished material may be subject to the conditions determined by Indigenous communities and/or depositors of the manuscripts. In accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#), materials are only provided for private study and use.

Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions

In cases where these permissions are required they must be obtained in writing and must be signed. Please contact collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

Preferred citation

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

Session Three: Islanders and Land Rights, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 4073, Series 1, Folder 3.

Administrative history note

The Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations Conference was held at James Cook University, Townsville, 28-30 August 1981, and organised by the Townsville Branch of the Aboriginal Treaty Committee, James Cook University of North Queensland Students Union and James Cook University Politics Society.

References

AIATSIS Corporate file 1983/00030

Archivist's note

The description of this collection has been transcribed and/or devised based on information on the material.

Series 1, 28 August 1981 - 30 August 1981

Folder

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| MS 4073/1/1 | <p>Introduction and Session One: History of white settlement and the experience of contact between white settlers and Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Conference Introduction presented by Erik Olbrei and Mike Reynolds.</p> <p>Session 1</p> <p>Chairperson: Alec Hillan.</p> <p>Presenters: Henry Reynolds; Noel Loos</p> <p>Conference attendee contributions from: Dr. Shar Gorder; Cherie Imlah; Bob Dernon; Bernie Button; Kevin Kitchener.</p> |
| MS 4073/1/2 | <p>Session Two: Federal policies on land rights, an overview of the seventies.</p> |

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

Chairperson: Les Collins

Presenters: Lyndall Ryan; Dr. HC 'Nugget' Coombs

Conference attendee contributions from: Dr. Shar Gordern; Greg McIntyre; Bertie Button.

MS 4073/1/3

Session Three: Islanders and Land Rights.

Chairperson: Margaret Reynolds

Presenters: Edward 'Eddie' Koiki Mabo; Nonie Sharp

Conference attendee contributions from: David Passey.

MS 4073/1/4

Session Four: A case for a Treaty.

Chairperson: Les Collins

Presenters: Dr. HC 'Nugget' Coombs; Les Malezer

Conference attendee contributions from: Chris Kirkbright; Paul Richards; Edward 'Eddie' Koiki Mabo; Jenny Christenson; Flo Kennedy; Stephen Hagan; Bob Weatherall; Dr. Shar Gordern.

MS 4073/1/5

Session Five: Queensland Government Policies.

Presenters: Professor Garth Nettheim; Senator Jim Keefe

Conference attendee contributions from: Cherie Imlah; Les Collins; Dr. Shar Gordern; Nonie Sharp

MS 4073/1/6

Session Six: Federal Policy in action, the Northern Territory Case - Land Rights in the Northern Territory.

Presenters: Bob Collins; Shorty O'Neill

Conference attendee contributions from: Les Collins; Wendy Mansfield; Gordon Dean; Dr. Shar Gordern; Kevin Wynam; Tommy Bland; Helen Stannard Williams; Bob Collins.

MS 4073/1/7

Session Seven: Life on Queensland Reserves.

Presenters: Bertie Button; Kenny Jacobs; Darwin Metawinti; Delphine Geia; Eric Kyle

Conference attendee contributions from: Flo Kennedy; Roberta Felton.

MS 4073/1/8

Session: Possibilities for Commonwealth action.

Presenters: Al Grassby, Granny Dolly; Garth Nettheim

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

- Conference attendee contributions from: Marcia Langton; Greg McIntyre; Bertie Button; Louise Caupus; Dr Shar Gordern; Delma Benson; Noel Loos; Albert Geia.
- MS 4073/1/9 Session: Action taken by Torres Strait Islanders in relation to the repeal of the Torres Strait Islanders' Act.
Presenters: Ben Mills; Phillip 'Phil' Mills
Conference attendee contributions from: Michael Rossa; Edward 'Eddie' Koiki Mabo; Les Collins.
- MS 4073/1/10 Session: A possible court test case for traditional Aboriginal title.
Chairperson: Shorty O'Neill
Presenters: Barbara Hocking; Greg McIntyre
Conference attendee contributions from: Dr Shar Gordern; Marcia Langton; Judith Wright; Nonie Sharp; Bob Collins.
- MS 4073/1/11 Session: International lobby.
Presenters: Marcia Langton and Judith Wright
Conference attendee contributions from: Dr Shar Gordern; Delma Benson; Bob Collins; Greg McIntyre; Les Collins; Bertie Button.
- MS 4073/1/12 Copy of MS 4073/1/1.
See MS 4073/1/1.
- MS 4073/1/13 Copy of MS 4073/1/2.
See MS 4073/1/2.
- MS 4073/1/14 Copy of MS 4073/1/3.
See MS 4073/1/3.
- MS 4073/1/15 Copy of MS 4073/1/4.
See MS 4073/1/4.
- MS 4073/1/16 Copy of MS 4073/1/5.
See MS 4073/1/5.
- MS 4073/1/17 Copy of MS 4073/1/6.
See MS 4073/1/6.
- MS 4073/1/18 Copy of MS 4073/1/7.

MS 4073: Transcripts of Conference on Land Rights and the Future of Australian Race Relations

See MS 4073/1/7.

MS 4073/1/19 Copy of MS 4073/1/8.

See MS 4073/1/8.

MS 4073/1/20 Copy of MS 4073/1/9.

See MS 4073/1/9.

MS 4073/1/21 Copy of MS 4073/1/10.

See MS 4073/1/10.

MS 4073/1/22 Copy of MS 4073/1/11.

See MS 4073/1/11.

Box List

Series	Folder / Item	Box
1	1-22	1

Finding aid compiled by Grace Turner, February 2023.

[Back to top](#)