

## Dissemination of information

### HIGHLIGHTS

Aboriginal Studies Press increased its revenue by 66 per cent to more than \$480,000. As well as books and maps, ASP sold CDs and DVDs of music and films, journal subscriptions, and earned income from rights.

The Library's online exhibitions received over 4.5 million web hits, an increase of one million over 2007–08.

The 10th annual Native Title Conference was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in June 2009. It attracted over 700 delegates, making it the largest to date.

The Audiovisual Archive provided extensive material to broadcasters and publishers. This included a major contribution of images and film footage for the award-winning documentary series *First Australians*, aired on SBS TV.

AIATSIS made more information available from its various program areas. Some of the additional funding now available to the AIATSIS Research Program is supporting wider publication of research results.

AIATSIS publication *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* and its companion website were shortlisted for the Australian Book Publishers Association Educational Publishing Awards.

A major online exhibition was launched on the first anniversary of the federal government's Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples. It includes a comprehensive online collection of audiovisual and printed materials.

The Audiovisual Archive facilitated the return of collection materials to their traditional owners in communities at Lajamanu, south-west of Katherine, and Elcho Island off the coast of Arnhem Land.

In 2008–09, AIATSIS increased the amount of information available from its program areas. The corporate goal for dissemination is to create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures.

AIATSIS disseminates information through:

- Aboriginal Studies Press, the Institute's publishing arm
- the Research Section and NTRU, which publish peer-reviewed papers and non-peer reviewed reports and present papers in a range of conferences, seminars and workshops
- the Library and Audiovisual Archive, which provide access to the Institute's extensive collections.

Some material is produced for sale, for example, the Aboriginal Studies Press list; however, other programs provide material as a free resource. The choice of medium—print, CD/DVD or online delivery—is shaped by the available AIATSIS resources and audience and client demand.

## ABORIGINAL STUDIES PRESS

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) facilitates and promotes high-quality research, and an understanding of Australia's Indigenous cultures, through its publishing program. During the year, ASP published a vital and varied list of both scholarly and general-interest books.

One outcome from ASP's publishing program was the release of a documentary, *Contact*, by film-makers Martin Butler and Bentley Dean, which was co-winner of the Sydney Film Festival's documentary award. The film was based on the award-winning 2005 ASP publication *Cleared Out*, which itself derived from an AIATSIS grant.

Funding for ASP in 2008–09 totalled \$729,370, and all came from AIATSIS. Of that budget, 64 per cent was allocated to staff costs, with less than 10 per cent to consultants and sourcing professional advice. The balance

comprised administrative costs, fees to distributors, freight, royalty payments to authors, book and e-book production and the costs of marketing and publicity.

Revenue in this period was \$481,283, which was 66 per cent above the budgeted figure. Much of the increase was due to sales of the new edition of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book*. As well as revenue from the sale of books and maps, income came from sales of CDs and DVDs of music and films, subscriptions to the *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal, income from the Copyright Agency Limited and the Public and Educational Lending Right schemes, and royalties from licensed material. Income from requests to use AIATSIS copyright material, including the Aboriginal Australia language map, was \$8,582. This was the first full year of revenue deriving from the distributor in the UK and Europe, and a new distributor began work for ASP in the United States and Canada in February.

The ASP Director has responsibility for ASP as a whole, shaping the publication list and working with authors prior to acceptance of their manuscripts. The Deputy Director then manages the creation of the books, with responsibility also for the production of the AIATSIS journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, and manages the day-to-day work of the ASP staff. Both the Director and Deputy Director provide support to intending authors who require advice.

The ASP Graphic Designer produces the ASP titles and the *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal. Thirty per cent of her time is given to designing and producing work for other parts of the Institute.

The Publishing Assistant provides administrative support to all ASP staff, as well as maintaining the website and producing ASP's marketing materials. She also has responsibility for processing and despatching ASP's own sales, and handling stock movements.

ASP employed contractors for its direct-selling initiatives, publicity and media, and copy-editing and indexing of its publications. All full-time staff and some contractors are involved in

supporting authors at launches, conferences, festivals and the NAIDOC booksale.

All ASP staff and managers undertook vocational training as required by their performance agreements.

### Publishing Advisory Committee

The Publishing Advisory Committee provides advice to the Principal about which titles ASP should publish. ASP managers work closely with authors submitting their manuscripts and develop a list of manuscript assessors, taking into account ASP's human and financial resources. ASP aims for 50 per cent of assessments to be performed by Indigenous authors and/or academics.

Four of the five AIATSIS Council and external members of the committee are Indigenous. The committee members bring academic, community, language, and writing and editing expertise, which complements the knowledge of the ASP managers and the AIATSIS executive.

The committee met twice during the year, in July and November 2008, and recommended three manuscripts for publication, subject to revision. All authors resubmitted their manuscripts; one was published in May, one is scheduled for August 2009 and one for early 2010.

### Publishing Advisory Committee members, 2008–09

Mr Steve Larkin	Principal and Chair (to end of December 2008)
Mr Russell Taylor	(from 25 March 2009)
Dr Luke Taylor	Deputy Principal
Ms Rhonda Black	Director, Aboriginal Studies Press
<b>Council representatives</b>	
Professor John Maynard	
Mr Dana Ober	(to February 2009)
Ms Terri Janke	(from February 2009)
<b>External members</b>	
Mr Bruce Pascoe	
Dr Jakelin Troy	
Ms Sue Abbey	

### Submissions and author support

In 2008–09 ASP received nineteen unsolicited manuscripts and several fully developed proposals. Continuing the trend from the past few years, the quality of material submitted for publication was of an increasingly high standard. AIATSIS website data shows that there were 3,930 hits on the ASP-produced *Information Kit for Indigenous Authors*, and 7,236 copies of the ASP-produced *Publishing Style Guide for Authors and Editors* were downloaded.

ASP provided anonymised assessors' reports to authors who were offered publication to allow them to reshape their work to meet ASP's publishing and contractual requirements.

The ASP Director and Deputy Director gave direct phone or email counsel to more than ten authors regarding publication. In addition, ASP provided advice to some Indigenous authors to help them find a direction for their proposed manuscripts, which included providing external reports and information about available writing support. ASP maintained regular contact with its contracted authors, and all authors published during the year expressed satisfaction with the process and the level of support received.

ASP's largest publication in terms of staff time, though smallest in terms of format, was the new edition of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book*, written by Bruce Pascoe with AIATSIS. A complementary website was created with a comprehensive set of teachers' notes written by ASP's publishing intern (see breakout box p. 19).

All design work was carried out by ASP staff, and the work of Indigenous photographers and illustrators was used wherever possible.

### Book publishing in print

ASP's annual publishing output has remained steady at between six and eight titles per year for the past several years. In 2008–09 the list was a little different in that five books and one website were published, in the areas of art, anthropology, autobiography and general Indigenous studies. One title was co-published with a German publisher, with ASP taking

Australian and New Zealand rights. The book was an edited collection that included authors with expertise in Aboriginal art and curatorial processes. Work was also undertaken in this period to reformat a selection of the backlist children's titles into a pack as part of a program to encourage booksellers to engage with NAIDOC week, to be held in early July 2009.

Of the five titles published, three were scholarly and two were general-interest. The scholarly books received widespread media coverage in prestigious and mainstream publications like the *Australian Literary Supplement* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. One author was Indigenous, there was one collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors, and three publications were by non-Indigenous authors (Figure 3).

ASP continued to sell a backlist of about 90 book titles in print, and 12 CDs of music and 30 DVDs of film, which are now individually produced to meet customers' requests. Reprints of five titles were undertaken using short-run digital printing, and some formats of the Aboriginal Australia map were reprinted. A print-on-demand option is not yet available in Australia that is suitable for use by ASP, but ASP continued to investigate the options.

### Electronic publishing

ASP employed a contractor to work on the electronic publishing program. Her research identified 25 backlist titles that can be licensed to third-party publishers. For some of the older

backlist titles, further work will be required to identify the copyright ownership status. In addition, further work will be undertaken to determine which of the titles with larger file sizes are suitable for electronic publication.

Research was also undertaken into which file formats were evolving (for example, PDF files with text captured in XML), which will allow the licensing of ASP material onto the different reading devices that are competing in the marketplace now (including PCs and the range of hand-held devices, such as Kindle and iPhones), and those that might establish themselves as market leaders in the future. ASP will adapt its file creation and storage processes as much as possible so that it can take full advantage of these new forms of publication.

Research was also undertaken to enable ASP to make an informed decision about its position on the settlement Google made with book publishers regarding the scanning and uploading of their materials.

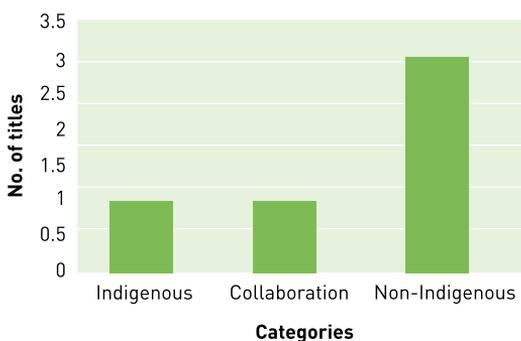
### Journal, print and online delivery

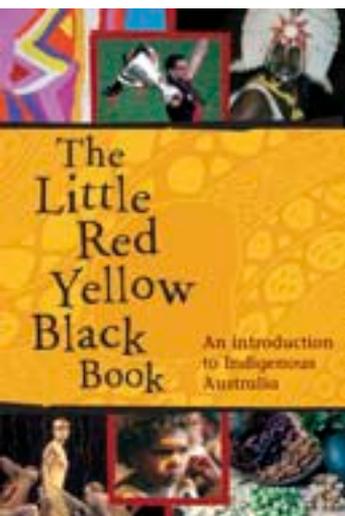
ASP, with the Research Program, published two editions of the Institute's multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. The journal is distributed nationally and internationally in print and electronic form. It has been licensed to Informit Pty Ltd and an international aggregator, EBSCO Information Services. The National Library of Australia's online Australian Public Affairs Full Text, the Attorney-General's Information Service and ProQuest include it in their indexes and databases.

### Marketing, publicity and distribution

The new edition of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* and the companion website were shortlisted in the secondary teacher reference section of the Australian Book Publishers Association Educational Publishing Awards. As ASP does not publish directly to the educational schools sector, this was a rewarding result. Bruce Pascoe's work on the publication was

**Figure 3:** Comparison of ASP authors, 2008–09





### Who are We?

#### Our Past

When our people were asked by white colonists where we came from this was our response: we have always been here. New archaeological discoveries reveal the truth of this statement, with occupation dates being pushed further back. Researchers now say that we lived on the Torres Strait islands for more than 10 000 years and have lived for over 60 000 years on the mainland — 60 000 years is longer than modern humans have been in many parts of Europe and the Americas. Some people suggest that we have been here even longer, but these suggestions need more scientific testing. We believe ours to be the longest existing continuous culture in the world.

Cave art and stone petroglyphs (carvings or inscriptions in rock) in Australia may be the first representations of that type of art anywhere in the world. Some ways of making ground-stone axes probably began in the Australian continent earlier than elsewhere and, along with other technologies, there were sophisticated developments and adaptations over time.

It will be fascinating for young black and white Australian researchers to further examine this history, an ancient heritage that should be a source of pride for all Australians. (See p. 00)

#### What We're Called

In keeping with our respect for each nation's lands, culture and languages (about 250) there has never been a single name for all of us.

Aborigine is from the Latin phrase *Ab origine* meaning *from the beginning* while *Indigenous* means *originating in and characterising a particular region*.

An *Aboriginal person* is defined by the Commonwealth government as a person who is a descendant of an Indigenous inhabitant of Australia, sees himself or herself as an Aboriginal and is recognised as Aboriginal.



Bardi dancers at Stonehenge

4

## Second edition sweeps the pool

It might be small, but it packs a punch. The long-awaited new edition of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* has been received very positively, with 26,000 copies in print just six months after publication. The book is reaching as wide an audience as AIATSIS had hoped: adults, teachers and schools. It's also lived up to its subtitle: An introduction to Indigenous Australia.

The book was marketed to schools, teachers, trainers, NGOs, government departments, Indigenous organisations and others, and, unusually, has been received positively by all, with reviews in a range of publications.

'Just got my copy of Little Red Yellow Black Book. What a great resource!' from General Practice Education & Training Limited.

A complementary website, <http://lryb.aiatsis.gov.au>, complete with a 40-page set of detailed teachers' notes, allows the educational sector to use the book—and other free AIATSIS resources—with confidence. The book and website were shortlisted for the Secondary Teachers Reference section of the Australian Publishers Association Educational Awards.

also commended in the 2009 Manning Clark House Awards.

ASP continued the work of previous years in developing a unique marketing plan for each title. For most titles this included:

- creating e-kits for authors to help promote their own books
- producing flyers for teaching academics, AIATSIS members and people on the ASP mailing list
- inclusion in the ASP quarterly newsletter
- securing space for authors at speaking events (writers' and book festivals)
- providing review copies to the media and relevant journals.

At least two endorsements were sought for most books from key Australian and overseas academics for use in marketing. The employment of contracted publicists for most titles resulted in radio interviews and reviews in both mainstream and Indigenous media.

Newly published authors appeared at launches and events in Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. These events helped ASP to establish productive relationships with a range of cultural organisations and bookshops and enabled the books to reach a wide national audience.

It is not possible to determine the total number of reviews across all media. However, where reviews were noted, excerpts were included on the AIATSIS website and used in ongoing marketing of the relevant titles.

ASP created an annual catalogue that was direct mailed to 5,000 individuals and organisations, including public and university libraries.

Contact was made and information shared with Indigenous publishers Magabala Books in Broome and IAD Press in Alice Springs.

As a contribution to the Indigenous Literacy Day in September 2008, ASP again donated \$1,000 from sales of the Aboriginal Australia map. The

event is an initiative of the Indigenous Literacy Project ([www.worldwithoutbooks.org](http://www.worldwithoutbooks.org)), and funds are used to provide books and literacy resources for remote Indigenous communities. In 2008, Australian booksellers, publishers and supporters raised just over \$300,000 for this worthy enterprise.

A part-time direct-sales consultant was employed to complement ASP's marketing activities, to improve the use of ASP materials in Indigenous organisations, and to increase ASP's sales. The publication of the much-needed new edition of *The Little Red Yellow Black Book* and website provided a strong impetus. The book was marketed to more than 75 government agencies and departments, non-government organisations and other organisations with an Indigenous constituency or clientele.

Customers interested in parts of ASP's diverse list were contacted and advised about other publications in the area. This personal approach to customers allowed ASP to gain qualitative feedback about its publications, their value and their use, which can help in the sale of its titles to other customers. Just as importantly, this feedback can help ASP shape the frontlist and make informed choices about the backlist: what books to reprint, what books to reformat, what books to update. A particular focus of the consultant's work is widening the use of ASP titles as academic texts. Initial contacts made in the year will be followed up during July to September when books that will be used as academic texts are selected for the following calendar year.

ASP continued to maintain and add content to its part of the AIATSIS website, but will wait for the finalisation of the new site before undertaking any new initiatives (see Chapter 4, page 53).

ASP continued to seek a suitable warehousing and fulfilment service, with e-commerce functionality, to provide for storage of ASP publications which are normally stored by AIATSIS, as well as packaging and despatch services for ASP sales.



Bill Simon talks with Thérèse Rein and co-author Jo Tuscano about what having his book published means to him. Photography by Alex James, AIATSI

## On Sydney's Block

A deluge of Sydney proportions wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of the more than 150 people who came to the Block to hear Thérèse Rein speak at the launch of Pastor Bill Simon's book, *Back on the Block*. The audience, a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, broke into spontaneous applause when Ms Rein entered the room, genuinely pleased to see her there. Singing group Mirror Child set the tone with a song about children taken from their mothers, and it was a visibly moved Ms Rein who spoke about her responses to reading Bill's book.

'There are some things, many things in fact in this book that people will find very hard to read. But Bill's story must be told and it must be retold so we don't forget.'

She said she hoped never to hear the word 'Kinchela' again; that no mothers would see their children taken away, and that no such violence would be perpetrated on children.

Audience members wiped away tears as Bill read from the early part of his book. He told of his early childhood memories of living a poor but happy life, surrounded by family on Purfleet Mission, unaware until later years of the restrictions and challenges faced by his and other Aboriginal families. Of his life in Kinchela Boys' Home he said, 'I was number 33. Not Bill, not even Simon. For the next eight years I was number 33.'

The MC, Mick Mundine, spoke warmly, acknowledging how positive people felt about honouring Bill's life, and also noting that there were others in the room who had also had hard lives.

At the end of the ceremony people crowded to the front to congratulate Bill. Autographs were sought from both Bill and Ms Rein, while photos were taken on cameras and mobile phones.

Several audience members later said it was the best launch they had ever attended. It was certainly a very successful first.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Research Program disseminates the outcomes of research through external peer-reviewed publications, conference and seminar presentations, professional workshops and forums, in-house publications, information services and web resources (see Chapter 1 and Appendices 1 and 2 for more information).

A significant component of the additional funding now available to the Research Program (see Chapter 1) is being allocated to widening the publication of research results. Dr Cressida Fforde was appointed from January 2009, with responsibility for an expanded Research Discussion Paper series, development of the conference and seminar series, and digitising research reports for online access through Mura®, the AIATSIS online database. This program is starting to show results, and a significant increase in the publications available online is expected through 2009–10.

Four discussion papers were published during the year (previous year: 1)

### Native title publications

The Native Title Research Unit produces a range of publications to disseminate native title information and research published by the NTRU and by external organisations and individuals involved in native title. Current news and information is published monthly in *Native Title in the News* and *What's New*, which are distributed electronically. Information from these two publications also appears in the NTRU's *Native Title Newsletter*, which also includes feature articles and a listing of recent acquisitions by the AIATSIS Library of native title-related materials. The newsletter is published six times a year and is available in both printed and electronic versions.

The NTRU publishes peer-reviewed issues and discussion papers. During 2008–09 it published two discussion papers examining holding title and managing land in Cape York and process issues in negotiating native title agreements. The NTRU published two research monographs

examining the 2007 amendments to the Native Title Act and the Gunditjmara people's struggle for land justice (see page 7). The NTRU also published a research report examining the importance of country to Indigenous health and wellbeing.

The NTRU publishes a number of native title resources that are available from its website, including:

- national summaries of Indigenous land use agreements, native title determinations and registered native title bodies corporate
- the *Native Title Resource Guide*
- research resource pages relating to native title cases and issues
- national, state and territory toolkits for registered native title bodies corporate
- profiles of prescribed bodies corporate
- resources relating to specific NTRU research projects.

## Conferences, workshops and seminars

### Native Title Conference

The tenth annual Native Title Conference was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 3 to 5 June 2009, returning to the city in which the first national Native Title Conference was held in 1999. The conference was co-convened by the NTRU and Native Title Services Victoria and hosted by the Wurundjeri people. The theme of the conference was 'Spirit of Country: Land, water and life'.

This year delegates were encouraged to step back from the day-to-day processes of the Native Title Act and consider what drives claimants to seek resolution through a native title claim. Delegates discussed how to respond to traditional owners' rights and aspirations creatively, bringing constructive, pragmatic approaches to the difficult conversations that are intrinsic to Indigenous land settlements.

As in previous years, the first day of the program was reserved for native title claimants, native title holders and their representatives. The

public program commenced with a Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elders.

Conference topics included strengthening communities; respectful engagement; rivers, lakes and sea country; economies, ecologies and ideologies; and connecting throughout diversity. The 2009 Mabo Lecture was given by Mr Les Malezer, founder and Chair of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action. Plenary addresses and additional keynote addresses were given by Mr Graham Atkinson, the Hon. Robert Hulls MP, the Hon. Robert McClelland MP, Ms Eleanor Burke, Mr Ned David, Justice Tony North and Professor Marcia Langton.

The primary sponsor was FaHCSIA. Major sponsors were the Victorian Departments of Justice, and Sustainability and the Environment; DEEWR; the Attorney-General's Department; and Newmont Asia Pacific. Sponsorship funding is used to increase the number of Indigenous delegates by covering conference registration costs for local traditional owners to attend the conference, and covering the travel, accommodation and registration costs of native title claimants, native title holders, and other traditional owners from across Australia.

The 2009 Native Title Conference attracted over 700 delegates, making it the largest conference to date. The conference cost \$395,376 to run, offset by income totalling \$376,321.

(Right) Eip Karem Beizam (Deep Water Shark) dancers from the Torres Strait performing at the Native Title Conference 2009; (Bottom) Opening conference plenary, Members' Dining Room, MCG. Photography by Gerald Preiss, AIATSIS



## AIATSIS Indigenous Studies Conference 2009

Planning is well underway for the 2009 AIATSIS Conference, to be held at the ANU from 29 September to 1 October 2009, with the theme 'Perspectives on Urban Life: Connections and reconnections'. Sub-themes will deal with urban identity and the urban experience, demography, health, education, culture and heritage, cultural expression, and urban histories. The draft program includes more than 150 papers.

## AIATSIS Seminar Series

The seminar series for Semester 2, 2008 was jointly run with Charles Darwin University. Dr Patrick Sullivan convened the series, with the theme 'Indigenous Public Policy: Responses from the ground'.

The series for Semester 1, 2009, titled 'Giving an Account of Ourselves: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander philosophy, knowledge and view', was convened by Ms Kerry Arabena. The series was the first at AIATSIS to be delivered solely by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who came from all states and territories. Speakers also made themselves available for media interviews, and papers from the series will be published as an edited volume to be launched at the 2009 AIATSIS Conference.

AIATSIS is currently investigating improvements to technology to provide better broadcasting for future seminars, including streaming for public access. Seminars are now filmed and, while audio recordings are placed immediately on the web, options for web broadcast of the entire filmed seminar (both live and on-demand after the event) are currently being researched.

#### Symposium on bilingual education

AIATSIS launched a new series of research symposia. The first symposium considered research on the benefits of Indigenous languages at schools in communities where they are children's first languages, with specific reference to bilingual education in the Northern Territory. It concluded that a properly supported bilingual education program is important to maintaining Indigenous cultures, and called on governments to support further research into the benefits of these programs.

#### Australian Languages Workshop 2009

Dr Kazuko Obata convened the Australian Languages Workshop, co-hosted by the ANU and AIATSIS, in March 2009. The workshop was very successful with nineteen papers, four show-and-tell presentations and a book and map launch. Attendance was higher than in the previous year, at thirty-six participants (2008: 26). Dr Obata will be organising the workshop again next year.

AIATSIS research fellow Sarah Cutfield presented a paper on Dalabon demonstratives and emotional deixis at the workshop.

#### IASA Conference 2008

Ms Grace Koch was a co-convenor of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) annual conference held in Sydney in September 2008. Ms Koch was awarded a Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to IASA and the Australasian Sound Recordings Association award for services to sound archiving and Indigenous collections.

Twelve Audiovisual Archive, Library and Native Title Research Unit staff attended the conference. Audio technical staff presented a paper on AIATSIS workflows and processes. On return to Canberra, staff hosted the IASA delegates on a tour of the archive's facilities. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for staff to network and share information.

### LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVE

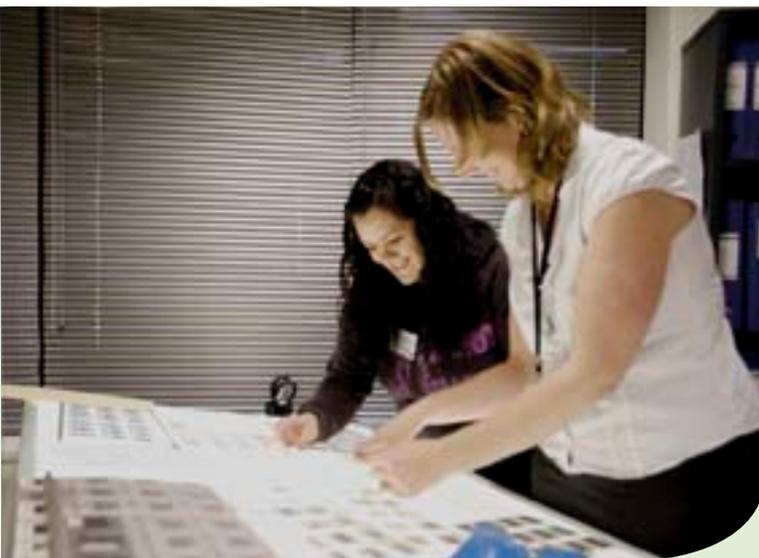
The Library is open to the general public for study and reference. Mura®, the Institute's online catalogue, includes bibliographic details of all catalogued AIATSIS collections materials. The AIATSIS thesauri can be used to browse the collections. The Audiovisual Archive is open to anyone who wishes to access and research audiovisual materials. Because of the size of the collection, appointments are necessary.

On-site access to and copying of materials is provided in accordance with copyright law and the conditions determined by depositors and donors in consultation with collection management staff.

#### Audiovisual Archive services

The Audiovisual Archive serves a wide range of clients, including Indigenous individuals and communities, academic researchers, publishers and broadcasters, other government agencies and the general public. Clients regularly visit the Access Unit to review material held in the collection. Requests from clients who are unable to visit the unit in person are processed via email and phone. During 2008–09 over 500 requests were received, approximately 33 per cent of which were from Indigenous clients.

The Audiovisual Archive provided copies of material for a number of books, exhibitions, documentaries and television series throughout the year. These included a large contribution of images and film footage for the award-winning documentary series *First Australians* which screened on SBS TV in late 2008. Material was also provided for another television production



Rhea Stephenson (left) and Alison Haines (AVA, AIATSIS) looking through some of the images drawn from the audiovisual collections of AIATSIS for the *First Australians* series

## AIATSIS collection supports major media projects

When SBS aired the landmark television series *First Australians*, it included many visual images—some never before seen in public—of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. A large proportion of these images were drawn from the audiovisual collections of AIATSIS.

The seven-episode series, which SBS says will return to the screen in the not too distant future, was six years in research and three years in production. Much of that research time was spent at AIATSIS in Canberra, delving into the precious holdings of rare and remarkable images that are under the Institute's custodianship.

This is just one—albeit a major one—of several broadcasting and publishing projects in which AIATSIS has played a pivotal role in recent times. Another involves episodes of the SBS series *Who Do You Think You Are?* in which individual Australians trace their family history.

'We've had really great support from AIATSIS', said Rhea Stephenson, Blackfella Films' production coordinator for *First Australians*.

In return for its cooperation, the co-producers of Blackfella Films, Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale, donated a large amount of material used in production of *First Australians* to the Audiovisual Archive. This includes all the footage used in the production, a database of several thousand images, and interview transcripts. Much of this material could not be included in the final production but is of great interest to AIATSIS.

screened on SBS TV, *Who Do You Think You Are?* Part of this series was filmed at AIATSIS and followed the subject on their journey to find information about their family. The producers of both series said that they greatly appreciated the commitment and support they received from Access Unit staff.

The Audiovisual Archive supplied the photographer John Ogden with fourteen images for inclusion in his book *Portraits from a Land without People: A pictorial anthology of Indigenous Australia 1847–2008*. Archive staff also assisted the author in locating individuals or Indigenous community representatives from whom he needed approval to use the images. This high-quality publication is the most comprehensive anthology of Indigenous photographs ever produced. All sales proceeds will be donated to the Jimmy Little Foundation, which aims to help improve kidney health in Indigenous communities across regional and remote Australia. The Audiovisual Archive waived the standard publication fees for the images it provided.

Dr Maïa Ponsonnet visited the Access Unit for four days in early September. Maïa is an AIATSIS grantee and French national who works at Université Paris 8. The purpose of Maïa's visit was to review all sound collections containing Dalabon language in order to establish what recordings currently exist. The Dalabon language is severely endangered, with only six remaining speakers. Maïa is working with the community to protect their language through documentation, translation and transcription.

Audiovisual Archive staff also provided over 200 hours of technical support to other AIATSIS programs. They recorded in-house events such as the AIATSIS Seminar Series, memorial services for Dr Marika and Les Hiatt, NAIDOC on the Peninsula, a dance performance by NAISDA students, and a number of visits by politicians and dignitaries.

## Library services

The Library's reference staff provide information services to visitors and access to the collections. Providing services to remote clients is an equally important aspect of the Library's information services. To assist remote clients, the Library provides accessible content on the AIATSIS website, including the Mura® catalogue, online exhibitions, fact sheets and bibliographies. Remote clients can also access information services by telephone, mail, fax and email.

During 2008–09, reference staff produced over fifty new or updated bibliographies of the Library's holdings on individual Indigenous languages. The bibliographies are well used, and more than 250 are available on the AIATSIS website. They complement other AIATSIS-created language resources—the language thesaurus, AUSTLANG and the Collectors of Words online exhibition.

Indigenous studies centres in Australian universities were kept up to date on the Library's activities and its services to remote clients through regular mail-outs. The centres are a target group for the Library as potential long-term users of its services. Table 1 summarises the Library's use statistics over the past three years.

**Table 1:** Library use statistics, 2006–07 to 2008–09

Activity	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Entries in visitor's book	1,048	1,162	1,071
Group visits	31	34	31
Advanced enquiries	570	530	524
Reference Desk enquiries	1,441	1,225	1,673
Items used	10,273	9,036	8,851
Telephone enquiries	936	753	831
Document supply requests	299	347	347
Formal client education	478	460	399

## Family History Unit

The AIATSIS Library is responsible for the Family History Unit, which is funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) as part of the Link-Up Program and the response to the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report. The unit assists Link-Up caseworkers around Australia in family tracing and reunions for Indigenous people who were removed from their families. Assistance is provided through family tracing skills workshops and an enquiry support service.

The unit delivered three family history skills workshops at AIATSIS to Link-Up caseworkers in September and November 2008 and May 2009. The unit has trained 174 caseworkers since 1999, which is indicative of both the turnover of caseworkers and the increased funding of the Link-Up Program following the Apology to the Stolen Generations by the Australian Government.

To further strengthen the unit's training capacity in family history tracing skills, four staff completed the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment course.

In 2008–09, the Family History Unit continued its focus on supporting Link-Up organisations, in particular with enquiries and referral services.

Unit staff attended the annual National Link-Up Forum in Broome, convened by OATSIH, where staff made a presentation on the unit's work and priorities. The unit is providing additional training and support to Link-Up caseworkers with the increased funding for the Link-Up Program over the next three years.

The unit maintains an extensive Indigenous family history website. Special features include a family history kit and links to hundreds of web resources such as record indexes and guides to records. The site is well used by Link-Up caseworkers, libraries, archives and the public, with 858,902 visits since 2003.

The unit also provides a family history information service to Indigenous clients all around Australia via email and freecall telephone. The service is highly valued,

especially by the many clients who live in regional and remote areas with little or no access to the libraries and archives in the capital cities.

The backlog of family history enquiries is 671. The absence of similar Indigenous family history services in many states as recommended by the *Bringing Them Home* report has placed a large workload and a persistent backlog of enquiries on the unit. The unit encourages people to pursue their own research wherever possible supported by the staff's referral and advice services.

Indexing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) was resumed in 2008–09 after a temporary cessation to direct more staff resources to answering enquiries.

A workshop was held to discuss the purpose and development of the ABI. The workshop was attended by staff from all parts of AIATSIS as well as staff from the National Archives of Australia and Indigenous family history researchers. One product of the workshop was an ABI selection policy, which will assist both staff and researchers in making best use of the ABI.

Table 2 summarises the Family History Unit's use statistics over the last three years.

### Native title research and access service

The NTRU's Native Title Research and Access Officer provides expert advice, research and access assistance to native title clients on the

**Table 2:** Family History Unit use statistics, 2006–07 to 2008–09

Statistics	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Number of enquiries received	310	444	510
Telephone enquiries	1,252	1,542	1,673
Number of Link-Up workshop participants	22	18	26
Number of visitors	55	67	61
Number of website hits	149,863	200,905	208,902

Link-Up coordinators, caseworkers, OATSIH staff and AIATSIS Family History Unit staff at the National Link-Up Forum, Broome, May 2009.



## Family History Unit assisting members of the Stolen Generations

Putting the pieces together: that's the motto of a special unit in the AIATSIS Library in Canberra, which for many years has been helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians find family.

The Institute's Family History Unit has been operating since the 1970s, and in recent years has been funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health as part of the Link-Up Program set up under the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report.

Many of the people assisted by the unit, either directly or through the Link-Up program, were forcibly removed from their families.

The unit's highest priority is to assist Link-Up caseworkers in various parts of Australia in helping members of the Stolen Generations trace their families. The unit has also trained 174 caseworkers in the past decade through its family history skills workshops. Increased funding for the Link-Up program over the next three years will allow the Family History Unit to provide additional training and support.

However, the unit can assist anyone of Indigenous heritage with their family history research. It maintains a specialised family history website offering a range of sources and tools for individual research, and responds to family history inquiries by email and freecall telephone. More than 2,100 inquiries were handled during 2008–09.

holdings of the AIATSIS Library and Audiovisual Archives. Table 3 provides a summary of the sources of requests for this service and the number of requests received, as well as visits by claimants and researchers hosted by the Access Officer.

### Onsite group visits

Onsite visits are the ideal way to access the AIATSIS collections. While only very small parts of the collection are digitised, most of it is not, so by visiting us clients are able to access large volumes of material.

AIATSIS hosted a number of groups during the year, which included:

- Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership Programs, July 2008
- Tranby Aboriginal College, September and October 2008
- International Association of Sound Archivists delegates, September 2008
- National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) Dance College, May 2009

Visitors from the Kyogle National Parks and Wildlife Service reviewed a number of photographic and sound collections. The purpose of their visit was to gather information on audio and photographic material that can be used to revive and maintain language and culture. It is intended that this collection will form the basis of a keeping place within country.

Several members from the Wogonga Land Council made two visits to the Access Unit to research material from the New South Wales south coast. This group travelled from Narooma to review audio and photographic materials with a particular emphasis on historical images, oral history recordings and other Yui language material.

A combined list of groups visiting the Library, Family History Unit and Audiovisual Archive is available on the AIATSIS website at [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au).

### Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities

Access to the audiovisual collections for Indigenous clients is enhanced through the Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) program. ROMTIC provides for copies

**Table 3:** Native title research and access statistics, 2006–07 to 2008–09

Requestor	2006–07		2007–08		2008–09	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous individuals	57	4	107	8	93	5
Indigenous organisations	400	29	404	29	458	26
Government	314	22	364	26	472	27
Consultants/ private companies	330	23	229	16	372	21
Other	317	22	289	21	381	21
Total number of transactions	1,418	100	1,393	100	1,776	100
Number of requests	330		288		301	
Number of visits	50		54		63	

of up to twenty items from the collections to be provided free of charge to Indigenous clients. During 2008–09, material to the value of \$13,105 was copied and returned to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals.

Depositor Kay Quisenberry returned to Elcho Island in November 2008 with digital copies of 130 audio and film items that she first compiled in 1970–71 as part of her research. The material provides a snapshot of ceremonial life on Elcho Island at that time and she was able to play the items at community functions. Her visit generated much interest in the material and she brought back thirteen requests for copies under the ROMTIC program. Kay has recently been working with Senior Film and Video Technician Tom Eccles to synchronise the separate audio and film components of the Djang'kawu ceremony footage in preparation for her return visit to the island. Eventually copies of this and the other audio material will be provided to the Gawa School, Shepherdson College and numerous families on the island.

Another depositor, Dr Stephen Wild, supplied copies of his photographs to the Lajamanu community where he worked in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In the process, he obtained further documentation relating to this material.

The Audiovisual Archive encourages the return of collection materials by depositors to the communities with which they worked. If the material has been digitised as part of the preservation project, copies can be readily supplied for this purpose under the ROMTIC program.

### Onsite exhibitions

Two photographic exhibitions were hung as part of the Institute's NAIDOC Day activities in July 2008. The *After 200 Years, 20 Years After* display in the Rom Gallery consisted of images from three communities featured in the original project from which the exhibition takes its name: Fitzroy Crossing, Brewarrina and Cherbourg. Black and white photographs from 1988 were complemented by images taken by AIATSIS photographers during community access visits undertaken by Audiovisual Archive

staff in recent years. This exhibition was AIATSIS's contribution to the Vivid National Photographic Festival. A separate but related exhibition was installed in the Mabo Room featuring a selection of photographs from the exhibition *Kundat Jaru Mob* by Jon Rhodes and the Kundat Jaru community. The exhibitions were launched by Penny Taylor, who coordinated the After 200 Years project.

In September, archive staff assisted with the installation of an art exhibition displayed in the Mabo Room which was curated by students from the Ngunnawal Centre, University of Canberra. Featured artists included Mick and Dale Huddleston.

In October 2008, archive staff assisted with the planning and installation of a highly successful exhibition, *Juparulla in Canberra: Glass artistry and traditional painting* by Sam Juparulla Wickman, held in the Rom Gallery. More than 500 visitors viewed the works over the three weeks they were on display, and several items were sold.

Archive staff worked closely with Indigenous photographer Wayne Quilliam in obtaining and installing his exhibition *Sorry: More than a Word*. The exhibition consists of images taken by Wayne and Mervyn Bishop during the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples on 13 February 2008. The exhibition was on display in the Rom Gallery for four months and generated a great deal of interest.

### Online exhibitions

As part of the AIATSIS Digitisation Program (see Chapter 3), the Library created a major new online exhibition to commemorate the first anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples. The online resource features links to stories from the Stolen Generations, photos from around Australia on the day of the Apology, and videos, music and media articles. A video from the highly acclaimed SBS series *First Australians* includes footage that was not featured in the television broadcast. The exhibition enables Australians to recapture the mood of the day of the Apology and to reflect on its significance (see breakout box).



Crowds gather on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House for the historic National Apology, 2008. Photography by Bill Thorman

## Online exhibition captures the mood of the National Apology

Where were you when the Prime Minister of Australia apologised in the Parliament—and on national television—to the Stolen Generations? This is a memory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians will share through generations, together with many other members of our national community.

They will recount the stories of pain and heartache, of separation and loss, of indignity and degradation—the most intense grief imaginable. But many will also share memories of reunion, hope and reconciliation.

The National Apology to the Stolen Generations at the opening of the 42nd Parliament on 13 February 2008 signalled a new era in reconciliation for all Australians. And the mood of this momentous event has been captured in *We say Sorry*, an AIATSIS online exhibition marking the first anniversary of the Apology, and which enables Australians to revisit, research and reflect on the Apology with the aid of a comprehensive collection of video, audio, still images and text.

Visitors to the website can watch video of the Prime Minister delivering the National Apology, and the historic Welcome to Country speech by Ngambri Elder Matilda House, the day before the Apology.

Here are links to first-hand stories of members of the Stolen Generations and their families, photographs of the thousands who celebrated, media coverage and music.

Video from the acclaimed SBS series *First Australians* gives background on the ‘protection era’ that led to the Stolen Generations. AIATSIS made a substantial contribution to the series.

The exhibition can be viewed at [www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/apology/home.html](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/apology/home.html).

The online exhibitions continue to be highly successful, with a total of 4,536,720 hits on all digitisation web pages in 2008–09, an increase of one million over 2007–08. In particular, the *Dawn* magazines, rich in family history information with thousands of photographs, were the most popular single resource receiving 559,626 hits.

Online exhibitions are regularly updated; anyone interested in contributing new information or offering correction is invited to send an email to [library@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:library@aiatsis.gov.au).

### Digitisation outreach

The Tiwi Land Council contributed funding for the digitisation of Tiwi genealogies contained in the papers of CWM Hart. A total of 5,895 individual sheets were treated and digitised. The full set of genealogies was returned to the Tiwi Land Council in 2008–09. This was a powerful example of the value of repatriating collections back to communities. The Tiwi Land Council will be developing a database of Tiwi people from the genealogies.

The Library Digitisation Unit hosted a visit by Noeline Briggs-Smith and Donna Briggs, from the Dhiyaan Indigenous Centre of the Northern Regional Library, Moree on 14–15 July 2008. The Dhiyaan Centre has received funding to set up a digitisation project, and AIATSIS provided advice and guidance on the equipment, systems and processes that would suit their working environment.

More information on the AIATSIS Digitisation Program can be found in Chapter 3.

### Promotion and conferences

#### Presentations and papers by collections staff

Prue McKay presented a paper, titled *Research project investigating the benefits or otherwise of white cotton gloves in the handling of paper-based materials*, at the 5th Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials Book, Paper and Photographic Materials Symposium, held in Canberra in July 2008.

Alana Garwood-Houng and Rod Stroud presented papers at Dreaming 08, the Australian Library and Information Association Biennial Conference, held in Alice Springs in September 2008. Alana talked about the development of protocols for Indigenous materials and service provision, and Rod's paper explored the potential of the digital world as keeping place for the future.

Terrilee Amatto represented AIATSIS at the Gathering for the Aboriginal Government Employees Network in September 2008. During her session, Terrilee provided an overview of the Institute's services and discussed the role of the Access Unit.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research Network Conference

In April 2009, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research



Participants in the annual ATSLIRN conference, held in Broome in April

Network (ATSILIRN) conference was held in Broome at the Notre Dame University. The theme was 'Rising to the Challenges: Information services for Indigenous Australians'. AIATSIS Library staff were closely involved in organising the conference.

The conference was a great success, due in part to the support of the staff from the Notre Dame University Library. The conference included papers by Family History Unit staff members Judy Martin, PJ Williams and Nicole Wighton, together with Link-Up Victoria caseworker Koora Cooper.

The ATSILIRN conferences maintain and strengthen the connections between libraries and archives with Indigenous staff and collections. AIATSIS supports the network by hosting its website. Our association with ATSILIRN enables us to promote both the Library and the Audiovisual Archive to many of our core clients.

#### **Other conferences attended by collections staff**

Library and Audiovisual Archive staff attended a number of other conferences in 2008–09, including:

- Sixth International Indigenous Librarian's Forum, Aotearoa/New Zealand, February 2009
- Information Online Conference, Sydney, January 2009
- Innovative Ideas Forum, National Library of Australia, Canberra, March 2009
- Pragmatic mapping for the humanities, University of Sydney, April 2009
- Australasian Sound Recordings Association two-day technical seminar, From Manual to Mass, Canberra, March 2009
- Australian Public Service Commission National Indigenous Employees Conference, Brisbane, June 2009.

#### **Strategic alliances**

During 2008–09, the Library and the Audiovisual Archive fostered close working relationships

with many important institutional partners. This section provides an indicative but not exhaustive description of the major collaborations undertaken during the year.

#### **Libraries Australia**

Libraries Australia is an online resource that provides access to the national database of material held in Australian libraries. Users can search for any item and identify the library in Australia that holds the item. In 2008–09, the AIATSIS Library greatly increased the amount of its holdings on Libraries Australia, which helps to raise awareness of our collections. In particular this included 519 original cataloguing records.

More Australian libraries are adding their holdings to records using terms from the AIATSIS thesaurus, ensuring more appropriate access to Indigenous collections.

The AIATSIS Library is an active participant in Libraries Australia Document Delivery, an Internet-based system for interlibrary lending and document delivery managed by the National Library. The AIATSIS Library borrows, lends and copies materials to and from other Australian libraries.

#### **PANDORA**

The AIATSIS Library is a formal partner in PANDORA—Australia's Web Archive, which is supported and hosted by the National Library of Australia. The Library has increased its commitment to PANDORA since 2006. Staff now archive a wide range of Indigenous websites and individual publications on PANDORA. Additionally, all archived PANDORA websites are individually catalogued and are accessible on Mura@.

Due to staff changes in 2008–09, the Library concentrated on updating existing archived sites and archiving individual publications on to PANDORA. Specific topics covered included Indigenous Protected Areas, Indigenous employment and education.

## **ATSIROM**

The AIATSIS Library regularly adds collections records to the ATSIROM database maintained by the commercial service Informit, part of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. ATSIROM brings together an extensive collection of significant Australian databases containing selected bibliographic records from the country's leading sources, relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## **Other alliances**

During 2008–09, the library was involved with a number of leading institutional and professional bodies, including:

- National State Libraries Australasia's Working Group on Indigenous Collections and Services
- Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Committee
- National Archives of Australia Canberra Consultative Forum
- ACT CANHUG Users Group (Catalogue Systems)
- Copyright in Cultural Institutions Group.

The Library maintained institutional memberships of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Research Network
- Australian Library and Information Association
- Australian Society of Archivists
- Australian Government Library and Information Network
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers.