

## REPORT ON OUTPUTS

### OUTPUT 1 — RESEARCH

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ministerial sign-off on new three-year agreement for AIATSIS native title research and capacity building.
- AIATSIS launched the new AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research.
- AIATSIS research leads to tax reform.
- Researchers built international links.
- Native Title Research Unit led dialogue on joint management of conservation parks and reserves.
- AIATSIS researchers writing the Curriculum for Australian Languages.
- AIATSIS researcher won prestigious Yachad Scholarship.
- Community workshops delivered by AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages.



RESEARCH DELIVERABLES

Deliverable Output 1	Result
<p>Deliver quality research outcomes</p>	<p>Projects identified under the business plan were completed or satisfactorily progressed as per project plans (see text to follow)                      All new projects subject to project design, ethics clearance where relevant, research partnership contracts in place where required                      Good publications results. Peer review standards upheld</p>
<p>Establish AIATSIS as a respected and known Indigenous critical voice in policy by developing a stronger role for AIATSIS in the provision of a rigorous evidence base for policy development.</p>	<p>See Appendix 1: publications and presentation                      Six submissions and two appearances before parliamentary committees                      Three contracts for advice on policy development                      Adhoc advice to government agencies and NGOs</p>
<p>Reflect Indigenous knowledge in our research outputs and fostering Indigenous researchers.</p>	<p>As at 30 June 47% of research staff and 31% of all program staff                      Year total 54% and 43% all program staff                      Seven new fellowships awarded                      Seven fellowships completed                      Review paper and evidence provided to Behrendt review</p>
<p>Position AIATSIS as a hub for collaborative research in Indigenous studies</p>	<p>New projects and partnerships developed:                      2 CRCATSIH funding applications submitted                      2 small housing contracts                      2 large HERDC1 land and water grants                      1 CRN partnership                      4 New funding contracts                      2 ARC institution applications - 2 unsuccessful (1 in top 25%).                      6 collaborative Institution ARC applications (incl 2xIRN) - 2 successful, 4 pending                      Grants Project Manager appointed                      Systems review completed                      ANU Peer review support secured for late 2012/early 2013</p>
<p>Maintain existing partnerships and develop new linkages with key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Increased diversity of funding sources for external revenue                      NTRU contract renewed \$2.6mil/3 years                      Continuing partnerships in Language (PM&amp;C), NHMRC, RIRDC                      \$4.035 AIATSIS external revenue (excluding interest on investment) \$2.936 from research or 73%</p>
<p>Communicating and making accessible the results of our research.</p>	<p>All seminars webcast                      High media interest for Native Title Conference                      Conducted refresh on web site.                      New ALWRC website                      Ethics website redesigned                      New intranet design</p>

## OVERVIEW

AIATSIS was established with an interim Council as a research institute in 1961 with a sole focus on 'Indigenous studies'. Our functions under the AIATSIS Act include many aspects of research, including: conducting and encouraging research; publishing research; training Indigenous researchers; promoting Indigenous studies and a general understanding of Indigenous peoples; and maintaining a cultural collection.

While this seems like a diverse set of functions, these activities maintain their relevance to the different ways that Indigenous peoples engage with research. They may be embarking on their own family history, enrolling in a degree or completing a PhD, retrieving information collected by researchers and governments in the past, searching for good models or arguments to take to current governments or use in their community, or recording or developing new Indigenous knowledge and thinking.

AIATSIS research focuses on six areas of research strength under two themes:

### Indigenous social and cultural wellbeing

- language, arts and cultural expression
- education, history and cultural transmission
- health and wellbeing.

### Indigenous country and governance

- native title and traditional ownership
- land and water
- governance, public policy and development.

Publications and presentations stemming from this research during 2011–12 are listed in Appendix 1.

## BUDGET

Funding provided by government for research has remained virtually unchanged for some years, consistent with other programs. Work to develop external revenue sources to fund increasing and in-demand research continues to be successful with 2011-12 being the fifth consecutive year of record income (See Figures 3 and 4).

An increasing amount of revenue has been sourced externally including for capacity building related activities.

Including revenue carried over from the previous years, the expenditure sourced from revenue increased by 8 per cent to \$5,416,456. Of this 65 per cent was spent on salaries; 10 per cent on grants; 14 per cent on Public Programs; and the balance on other operational costs.

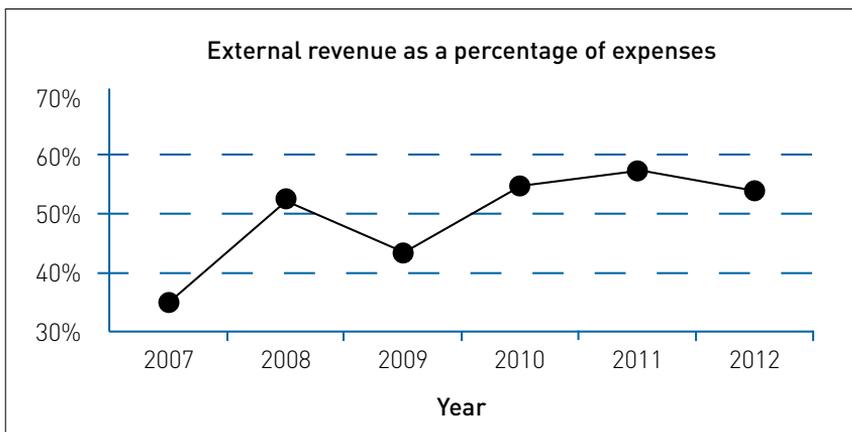


Figure 3: External revenue 2007-12

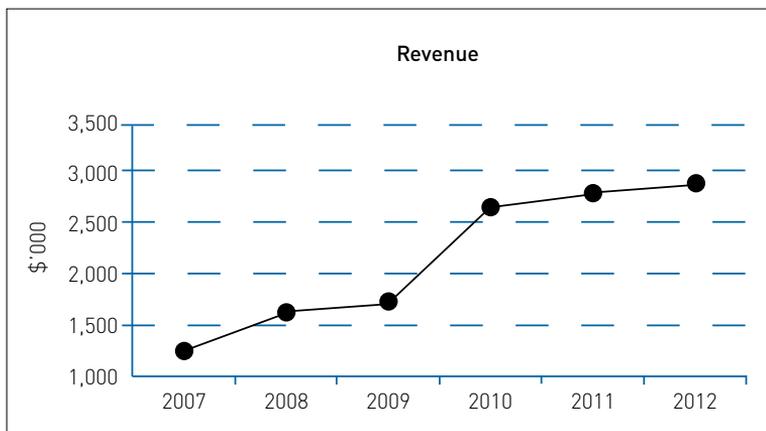


Figure 4: Revenue 2007-12

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### AIATSIS to set new strategic directions for research

During 2011–12, the AIATSIS Research staff, Research Advisory Committee and Council began a consultation process to develop a new Research Strategic Plan for AIATSIS. The plan will be developed to coincide with the new Corporate Plan beginning 2013–14.

Given the breadth of our functions, it is imperative that AIATSIS set priorities for our research that assist management to allocate resources, recruit and manage staff, and measure our performance. After 50 years, it is even more important that we are able to articulate our priorities and the continued relevance of AIATSIS research into the future.

As part of this process, AIATSIS is reviewing the role of the Research Advisory Committee and the Research Ethics Committee, reviewing our core centres of research excellence, and establishing our strategic research priorities for investment.

### Review of Indigenous access to higher education

On 14 April 2011, the Australian Government announced a review into higher education access and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people headed by Professor Larissa Behrendt.

In his role as a member of the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Committee, AIATSIS

Principal, Mr Russell Taylor and Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of Research — Indigenous Country and Governance, gave evidence to the committee. Dr Strelein was invited by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to provide a discussion paper on the AIATSIS initiatives that enhance Indigenous access to higher education and research, in particular the Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowships Program. Dr Strelein provided further information for the report to the government and a companion volume relating to the review, on ethical research practices involving Indigenous communities. Professor Behrendt and Departmental officials met with the AIATSIS Council to discuss the findings of the review and their impact on AIATSIS on 4 June 2012 in Townsville.

### Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies

At every stage, research with and about Indigenous peoples must be founded on a process of meaningful engagement and reciprocity between the researcher and the Indigenous people. The AIATSIS *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* (GERAIS) seek to embody the best standards of ethical research and human rights. The Guidelines were reviewed in 2010 to ensure they remain the highest benchmark.

The Guidelines comprise 14 principles grouped under the broad categories of: rights, respect and recognition; negotiation, consultation, agreement and mutual understanding; participation, collaboration and partnership;

benefits, outcomes and giving back; managing research: use, storage and access; and reporting and compliance.

All research conducted by or facilitated by AIATSIS is required to observe the standards embodied in the Guidelines. The way we conduct research at AIATSIS, and our commitment to community based research, are important elements of our cultural competency. It is therefore important that all staff conducting research have training and mentoring in the conduct of ethical research.

The Guidelines are also applied or referred to by other ethics committees, research organisations and professional bodies as well as some government departments and private companies. AIATSIS will continue to work to promote the adoption of the Guidelines.

The AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee (REC) is concerned with reviewing the ethical aspects of research projects, including ethical suitability and oversight as appropriate during the course of a project. REC now meets four times per year. There are currently three of seven Indigenous members, with the Chair being Indigenous.

The membership requirement for institutional ethics committees constrains selection options for REC members. However, like all governing committees, AIATSIS should assess possible appointees against selection criteria one. Executive should consider if a majority Indigenous membership is feasible and set a timeframe for meeting a target membership.

With the suspension of the AIATSIS Research grants program, REC has recently reviewed its role and how to maintain the position of the Guidelines as the standard within the research sector. AIATSIS has recently undertaken work to develop resources and templates to support the use of the Guidelines.

REC identified a number of strategies for the coming year that could strengthen their role and that of the Guidelines, including:

- developing GERAIS based ethics training and resources, including induction package for staff and external users and online resources
- providing access to REC for external bodies who apply our Guidelines.

In addition, the Executive Board of Management is exploring options for all projects conducted by AIATSIS to be reviewed for ethical consideration and possible referral to REC.

### **Suspension of Research grants program**

For the first time in 40 years, AIATSIS did not invite applications for research grants for 2012. Council took this decision following considerable deliberation concerning the strategic capacity of AIATSIS to undertake, support and commission research. In the context of the changing and increasingly competitive research and fiscal environment within which AIATSIS operates, Council noted the financial revenue growth over recent years of both the higher education and research sectors generally, which does not match AIATSIS' experience. Government funding for AIATSIS has fallen steadily over the past decade, in inflation-adjusted terms.

Internal reviews of the grants program presented to Council in 2010 and 2011 found that the program was not able to meet critical intended purposes for many reasons. Applications from Indigenous researchers and communities were declining; community interest in more practical research did not necessarily result in competitive applications; research costs were rising while the overall pool of grant money was staying static; excellent grants of high cost or major research collaborations could not be supported; and the costs of managing the program relative to the amounts offered were higher than other audited programs. Given the overall pressures on the organisation, AIATSIS was struggling to maintain funding of the program at 7.5 per cent of the total appropriation whereas in the 1970s the figure was close to 24 per cent.

At the same time, AIATSIS had declining capacity to employ research staff, provide research advice to government, and support field research of staff. It also had a declining expertise in important topics, increasing reliance on non-ongoing contract or grant based research, and ad hoc support of Indigenous researchers. In addition, the grants program is no longer eligible for inclusion in the Australian Competitive Grants Register, due to an Australian Government policy decision in 2010.



AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages staff (from left to right) Dr Kazuko Obata, Rhonda Smith, Melissa Crowther, Alexandra Muir, Jutta Besold and Lachlan Russell. Absent: Dr Doug Marmion.

For these reasons, Council reluctantly decided that the grants program could not be funded next year. Instead, the funds will be used to bolster research in priority areas which are critically short of resources.

## INDIGENOUS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WELLBEING

### LANGUAGE ARTS AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

#### AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages

The AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages (ACAL, formerly AIATSIS Language Unit) is partly funded by the Office for the Arts under a three-year agreement. The 2011–12 financial year is the second year. Under the funding agreement, ACAL is committed to deliver a number of projects and activities on Australian languages. The core members of ACAL are: Language Research Fellows **Dr Doug Marmion** and **Dr Kazuko Obata**, Communication and Administration Officer **Rhonda Smith** and Research Assistant **Melissa Crowther**. Several short-term staff members were appointed to work on specific projects. Drs Marmion and Obata alternately manage ACAL, which is overseen by Dr Jakelin Troy, Director of

Research, Indigenous Social and Cultural Wellbeing. Dr Marmion was awarded research funding by Council to carry out documentation work with speakers of Ngajumaya, a language of the Norseman–Kalgoorlie region in Western Australia. In May 2012, he made his first field trip to Esperance and Norseman to discuss the scope of his work with Ngajumaya speakers prior to submitting an application to the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee.

#### AIATSIS Languages Team engagement with the community

One of the projects funded under the Office for the Arts agreement is community language workshops. In 2012, Dr Marmion delivered three workshops in Western Australia in collaboration with local organisations: the Ngalia and Tjuban groups, in Leonora; the Gabrun group in Kalgoorlie; and the Irra Wangga Language Centre in Geraldton. The workshops gave participants an understanding of the AIATSIS collections as well as how to search the collection catalogue and request copies of materials held in the collections. The workshops involved the participants in hands-on use of various AIATSIS online databases, including MURA@ (AIATSIS collection catalogue), AUSTLANG (Australian Indigenous languages



Dr Troy (second from left) and Prof Zuckerman (centre) with teachers at an Ethiopian 'ulpan' – Hebrew language school, Be'er Sheva.

## VISIT TO A TRULY ICONIC PLACE

Between mid December 2011 and mid January 2012, Dr Jakelin Troy, Director of Research, Indigenous Social and Cultural Wellbeing, had the unforgettable experience of spending one month in Israel as the National Australia Bank Yachad Foundation University of Tel Aviv Fellow.

Dr Troy was nominated by colleague and friend Professor Ghil'ad Zuckerman, Chair in Endangered Languages and Linguistics, University of Adelaide.

Dr Troy as the 36th recipient of a Yachad Fellowship joins other scholars such as Professor Marcia Langton and Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan MP.

“Yachad” is a Hebrew word meaning ‘together’ and together Ghil'ad and I explored Israel and shared our common interest in linguistics and human ingenuity in the use and development of languages.

“That part of the world for a person like myself — so interested in other people and particularly languages — is a truly iconic place,” she said.

“I travelled the length and breadth of Israel and experienced its many and varied peoples, languages, cultures and the breathtaking human and natural landscape.”

Dr Troy's purpose in taking up this fellowship was to learn about the language scene in Israel as well as to participate in scholarly events as a lecturer and discussant on the subject of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and initiatives in this country to revitalise and maintain languages.

Dr Troy was also in Israel to observe and participate in, through learning something of Hebrew, the modern miracle of the revitalisation of an ancient language into a modern, vibrant language of everyday communication for millions of people. She had the opportunity to experience first-hand one of the most remarkable linguistic experiments humans have ever undertaken.

This was the re-instatement of the ancient Hebrew language to its current status as the main language of communication in the everyday lives of all Israelis.

Since her return, Dr Troy has arranged events with Professor Zuckerman and other scholars from Israel to share their knowledge about language revival through our AIATSIS seminar series.

database), and OZBIB (linguistic bibliography of Aboriginal Australia and Torres Strait Islands). The workshops also addressed the specific needs of participants in relation to language work. More workshops are planned for the 2012–13 financial year.

Dr Marmion and Dr Troy co-convened a session, *Language and Indigenous Issues*, for LangFest, a set of language and linguistics conferences that took place in December 2011. The session focused on Indigenous languages of Australia and issues in language maintenance, revival, curriculum and pedagogy. The session was well-attended and a number of interesting papers were presented.

As part of LangFest, ACAL organised a Gamilaraay language class. It was delivered by experienced language teacher and Gamilaraay woman Donna McLaren and Br John Giacon, who has been working on the Gamilaraay language for many years. It was attended by over 20 people, including local Aboriginal people, and was well-received by all participants, many of whom expressed the hope that further such classes would be held. AIATSIS is exploring the possibility of offering more language classes in the future in a range of Australian languages. We are working with local communities to develop language initiatives that will assist Indigenous peoples to reawaken and revitalise their languages.

On 26 March 2012, ACAL and the Research Business Team, organised a seminar by Professor Leanne Hinton. Professor Hinton has worked on language revival with numerous Indigenous communities in California, USA, where she helped develop innovative approaches to this work. Her seminar was followed by a panel session with linguists and practitioners of language work. This event is intended to be the beginning of an ongoing conversation about language revitalisation work in Australia.

### **Taking a leadership role in curriculum development**

Dr Troy worked with Associate Professor Angela Scarino of the University of South Australia to develop 'Shape of the Australian Curriculum – Languages' for the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) ([http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/\\_resources/Languages\\_-\\_Shape\\_of\\_the\\_Australian\\_Curriculum.pdf](http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/Languages_-_Shape_of_the_Australian_Curriculum.pdf)) which was released in its final version in early 2012.

Subsequently, Dr Troy, Dr Marmion and Dr Michael Walsh (University of Sydney), were appointed by ACARA as writers of the Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages: Pathways to Learning Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages. Work on this project began in March 2012 and is expected to be completed late 2012.

The project team will develop the draft national curriculum for Australian languages for years P–12. This includes development of pathways, program types, content descriptions, elaborations and achievement standards for the framework. ACARA expects the draft curriculum will be available to the public for comment in November 2012. Trials in a sample of Australian schools will also form part of the project.

Dr Troy was an invited speaker at the 42nd annual symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities 'Educating the Nation: The Humanities in the New Australian Curriculum' on 17 November 2012. She presented a paper on the Australian Curriculum – Languages and the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in the national curriculum.

**National Australian Languages Survey of Australia (NILS2)**

### **National Australian Languages Survey of Australia (NILS2)**

Dr Obata continued managing the Second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2). The project, funded by the Office of the Arts (OFTA), aims to take a comprehensive snapshot of the state of Australia's Indigenous languages, including their number, status and vitality, and to gain some indication of their prospects. This survey follows on from the first NILS, conducted in 2004 by AIATSIS in conjunction with the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL).

In July and August 2011, ACAL consulted with stakeholders to define the parameters of NILS2. Afterwards, OFTA accepted ACAL's proposal that NILS2 be run as two separate surveys – a language activity survey and language attitude survey. In late 2011, **Dr Kara Youngentob**, a researcher and a survey specialist, joined ACAL under a short-term contract to help develop the survey questionnaires. The surveys will begin in July 2012 and run until September 2012. Project

Officer **Jutta Besold** joined ACAL in March 2012 to manage survey implementation following the completion of her PhD thesis on the New South Wales South Coast languages. Further appointments for support positions for survey implementation, **Lachlan Russell** and **Alex Muir**, were made in June 2012.

Jutta Besold is also responsible for the Identifying and Documenting Language Materials project. Under this project, ACAL will identify senior researchers with large, valuable collections of language materials and negotiate with them to deposit these materials at AIATSIS, and assist them with sorting and documentation.

### Digital languages portals

Dr Obata continued working with the InSPIRE centre at the University of Canberra to develop a language portal, and the prototype was completed in May 2012. The Australian Languages Community website will be made available to select test users in July 2012 and further development will follow, based on their feedback. The site is intended to serve as a communication and collaboration tool for people interested in language work.

Under Dr Obata's direction, Melissa Crowther, and indexer Geraldine Triffitt of Naviti Documentation continued updating AUSTLANG and OZBIB respectively. In March 2012, ACAL exchanged a contract with the Research School of Humanities and the Arts at the Australian National University for the modification work to AUSTLANG and OZBIB. OZBIB is currently restricted to academic publications, but once the modifications are made, it will be capable of holding information on any type of resource on Australian languages.

### Engagement with policy makers

As the reporting period drew to a close, Dr Marmion and Dr Obata were invited to present a preliminary briefing to the Inquiry into Language Learning in Indigenous Communities by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

Languages Research Fellow **Sarah Cutfield** completed her PhD on the semantics and use of demonstratives in Dalabon and successfully passed her examination. Dr Cutfield and her research assistant **Salome Harris** completed their fieldwork for a Dalabon ethnobiology project. The materials they recorded have been deposited at the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive. Dr Cutfield organised a two-day session on interpreting and translating for the 2011 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference, which was attended by practitioners, lawyers and Indigenous community people.

Rhonda Smith continued researching her own language, Wiradjuri, as well as managing an email list for linguists and language workers. She has also taken a leading role in developing a communications network for Indigenous linguists.

From May to October 2011, **Lindy Moffatt**, Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow in Health, and **Jonathon Potskin**, a Cree man from Canada and International Research Visitor at AIATSIS, conducted the Language and Wellbeing project. This pilot project examined the issue of the connection between language and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples. The final report found an almost complete lack of research in this area, both worldwide and within Australia. It also noted that most social health researchers feel there is likely to be some connection between wellbeing and language maintenance, and it needs proper investigation. ACAL is seeking potential partners for possible future work in this area.

From late November 2011 to early January 2012, ACAL hosted **Stephanie Jenkins** and **James Bednall**, both from the University of Western Australia, as part of the Summer Research Scholarship program administered by AIATSIS and the Australian National University (ANU). Under the supervision of Dr Marmion, ACAL, and Professor Jane Simpson, Head of School Languages and Linguistics ANU, Ms Jenkins and Mr Bednall conducted research on Nyangumarta and Yinhawangka respectively. Mr Bednall's scholarship included a one-week field trip to Port Hedland funded by the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre. Both scholars presented the results of their research at ANU in January 2012. Mr Bednall has since taken up a position with Irra Wangga Language



Students from Cowra's Koori community (NSW) reading as part of Dr Lawrence Bamblett's primary research project *Read With Me Everyday*. The project engages community members in order to build community capacity to support development of English literacy.

Centre in Western Australia while Ms Jenkins is returning to Canberra to work on the AustKinll project, an ANU project funded by the Australian Research Council. Dr Troy is also a member of the AustKinll project.

In March 2012, ACAL offered scholarships to John Giacon and John Mansfield, both PhD students at ANU, to support their attendance at the Australian Languages Workshop. They gave presentations on their respective PhD projects.

In June 2012, ACAL exchanged a contract with AusAID for funding a joint project with FUNAI (Fundação Nacional do Índio, the National Indian Foundation), the Brazilian Government organisation responsible for supporting the Indigenous languages of Brazil. This project will host visitors from FUNAI to enable sharing of knowledge about approaches to Indigenous languages maintenance and support. AIATSIS researchers will also make a visit to Brazil. The project, to be led by Dr Marmion, will run in 2012–14.

## ARTS

**Greg Lehman** was reappointed as an Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow in January 2012 and he continued his PhD research through the University of Tasmania. Mr Lehman is investigating visual representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and relationships with European thought.

In 2011–12, he published four reviews and a book chapter, as well as completing a series of ten radio portraits of Tasmanian Aboriginal historical figures with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In September, **Grace Koch** co-convoked two sessions at the 2011 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference with Professor Aaron Corn, Australian National University, which dealt with IT issues in Indigenous music and dance. AIATSIS continues its participation in the National Indigenous Recording Project and Ms Koch represented the Principal at the annual meeting of the project in Darwin.

**Jerome Comisari** continued his cadetship at AIATSIS in 2011–12. He commenced work on the AusLit BlackWords Project of which AIATSIS is a project partner. The project is

funded by the Australian Research Council's Linking Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Scheme. Mr Comisari has commenced work on the enormous task of updating the database with AIATSIS Library acquisitions.

### Research funding

Greg Lehman was convener of the Qwestacon Expert Working Group on Indigenous Engagement with Sciences for which AIATSIS was awarded funding in July 2011. The project was part of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research's *Inspiring Australia* initiative, which aims to build strong relationships between science and society, underpinned by effective communication of science and its benefits. He has edited a forthcoming report to be published by Qwestacon.

During October 2011, Mr Lehman undertook research in the USA, where he visited numerous cultural intuitions and presented a seminar, *Through the Rear View Mirror: Visual Identity in Aboriginal Tasmania*, at Columbia University, USA.

### Prestigious Oxford Scholarship

In May 2012, Greg Lehman was awarded the prestigious Roberta Sykes Scholarship to complete a Masters in History and Visual Cultures at the University of Oxford and to continue his PhD research by gaining access to British and European collections housing material relating to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

## EDUCATION, HISTORY AND CULTURAL TRANSMISSION

### Competitive research funding

Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow, **Dr Lawrence Bamblett**, completed contract research for an Australian Research Council funded Discovery Project with Dr Jane Lydon at the Monash Indigenous Centre. Drawing on interviews with senior Wiradjuri women from Erambie Mission (Cowra, New South Wales), Dr Bamblett's project explored the ways that photographs are incorporated into the community's oral history tradition. Overall,

'Aboriginal Visual Histories: Photographing Indigenous Australians' reviewed photographs of Aboriginal people in key collections around Australia and in Europe to produce the first systematic and comprehensive history of photographing Aboriginal people from the time photography was introduced in Australia in 1841 to the present day. The project collaborated with Indigenous researchers to incorporate Indigenous perspectives. It produced valuable resources for Indigenous communities, institutions and researchers, through seminar presentations and an edited collection to be published by Aboriginal Studies Press.

### Addressing community needs

Dr Bamblett continues to work on his primary research project, *Read with Me Every Day*. The project received \$175,000 funding from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to engage members of Cowra's Koori community in order to build community capacity to support development of English literacy. The project exceeded the DEEWR target of engaging 170 of Cowra's 705 Koori community members in capacity building workshops between August 2011 and December 2012. Up to June 2012, 607 people had accessed the program.

Dr Bamblett also published 13 local newspaper articles about his work at Erambie (where the majority of Cowra's Koori community still live) since August 2011. In addition to managing weekly literacy workshops (involving 15–50 people) and major reading promotion events (involving 100–300 people) he continued with a research project to assess the program. Funding is being sought to develop a community garden/healthy eating promotion program at Erambie.

### Influencing national education — advising ACARA on the 'Australian Curriculum — Health and Physical Education'

Dr Bamblett is a member of the writing team for the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority to write Aboriginal histories and cultures into the Health and Physical Education draft paper of the Australian Curriculum.

He also consulted on a forthcoming Raintree publication, *Indigenous Australian Cultures* by Mary Colson (October 2012). He is currently

book reviews editor for *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. In June 2012, he became an adjunct research fellow at the Australian National University.

Dr Bamblett continues to chair the Erambie Advancement Aboriginal Corporation and is a member of a number of Cowra's community organisations including the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

### **Research Visitor at the Max Planck Institute, Berlin**

**Dr Geoffrey Gray**, Research Fellow, History, Tradition and Cultural Transformation, completed another highly productive year, publishing one edited book, several chapters, and several published papers in refereed journals.

Dr Gray is a research visitor at the prestigious Max Planck Institute, Berlin from July to mid-August 2012. The theme of his research during this visit is colonial subjects of health and difference: races, populations and diversities. This theme is part of a major research project, 'Historicizing Knowledge about Human Biological Diversity'.

Dr Gray was invited to present a paper, 'Contesting Ethnographic Authority', to the Australian History Association Regional Conference at the University of Tasmania, Launceston in July 2011. The paper will be published in *Histories of Anthropology Annual* (vol.9, 2013).

In November 2011, Dr Gray presented 'A break with the past' to New Zealand's History Association Annual conference, University of Waikato. The paper examined and discussed changes in the way anthropologists in Australasia presented and constructed indigenous peoples in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Gray co-wrote/edited *Scholars at War: Australasian social scientists 1939-45* in collaboration with Doug Munro and Christine Winter. It is the first scholarly publication to examine the effect World War II had on the careers of Australasian social scientists.



In April 2012, Dr Jeanine Leane, IVRF, was nominated for a Commonwealth Writers Prize in the Best First Book category for her book *Purple Threads*.

### **Commonwealth Writers Prize Nomination**

Dr Jeanine Leane, Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow (IVRF), left AIATSIS in March 2012 to take up a Research Fellow position at the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences. In April 2012, Dr Leane was nominated for a Commonwealth Writers Prize in the Best First Book category for her book, *Purple Threads*. Jeanine was interviewed by ABC Radio about the book, as well as by Hannah Thomas, Commonwealth Writers Association, London, on Aboriginal publishing post 1960s and barriers for Aboriginal writers.

She continued her work on the web-based database *BlackWords* in 2011-12, producing a series of 'education trails'. *BlackWords* trails group texts with similar themes and provide scholarly annotations of the grouped texts. She also attended a seminar at New York University, Centre for Religion, Media and Social Transformation in October 2011. The seminar was titled Reconciling Spirituality and Resistance in Indigenous Australian Art.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**Ray Lovett**, a Wongaiban man from New South Wales, received a further 12-month fellowship to progress his PhD (ANU) which aims to understand problematic alcohol use amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including looking at cultural aspects of attachment or dislocation from country. A former registered nurse and community controlled health sector manager, Mr Lovett undertook his PhD with the support of the IVRF program after he completed a professional Masters in Applied Epidemiology. He plans to submit his PhD in late 2012. Mr Lovett gave a number of seminars and presentations on his research during the period.

In collaboration with the Research Business Team, Mr Lovett submitted a funding application requesting \$75,000 from the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in June 2012. The project, 'Cultural Mediation Approach in Aboriginal Primary Health Care: Impacts on Screen and Treatment for Risky Alcohol Consumption', poses the key question of whether or not culturally relevant screening questions, such as those regarding mob and country, have an effect on the level of disclosure to a health professional. Outcomes from the funding round should be known by September/October 2012.

**Stewart Sutherland**, IVRF, visited New Zealand twice in 2011–12. He attended the Haere TonuNga Moemoea: Continuing the Dream Conference in Otara, New Zealand.

In collaboration with the National Stolen Generation Alliance, Mr Sutherland hosted a parliamentary seminar, Taking the Next Steps: Stolen generations and Australia's universities, in February 2012. The focus of the seminar was embedding Stolen Generations content into university curricula of relevant professions in line with recommendations of the *Bringing them Home* report.

Mr Sutherland and Gillian Brannigan presented their paper, 'Young and Old: Connecting Generations', at the 2011 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference. The theme of the presentation was the removal of children today and the connection to the policies of the past.

**Dr Jill Guthrie** left AIATSIS in April 2012 to take up a research fellow position in the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at ANU. During 2011–12, she continued work on her 'Justice Reinvestment' project.

Dr Guthrie held a workshop in November to reach agreement on the viability of pursuing a justice reinvestment research project for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) with around 25 invitees, including Australian and ACT Government policy makers, non-government organisations, advocacy groups and researchers. AIATSIS proposed a research project that would examine the application of 'JR' methodologies and policy approaches for the ACT, focusing on the justice and social services that offenders engage with. A workshop report and discussion paper were developed from the workshop for distribution to participants.

While hosting of this project will move to ANU with Dr Guthrie, AIATSIS remains a partner through the involvement of Dr Lisa Strelein as a project advisor. Dr Strelein, joined Dr Guthrie and other colleagues to submit an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Indigenous application for the Cowra case study project in April 2012. The ACT Linkage partnership is being developed with a view to submitting an ARC Linkage grant in 2013.

**Ms Samia Goudie**, IVRF, left AIATSIS in December 2011 to take up the role of senior lecturer in Indigenous Health at the ANU Medical School. In 2011, she continued her collaborative research with Pelican expeditions and the Hopevale community. Ms Goudie presented a paper at the RMIT Graduate Symposium on Ethics, which resulted in her being invited to become a member of the RMIT Ethics Advisory Committee. In September 2011, she presented two papers at the biennial AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference.

**Pearl Chaloupka**, a Noongar woman with Ballardong heritage, is undertaking a PhD through the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU. The title of her PhD is 'While you are looking at us, we are looking back at you: four decades of Aboriginal autobiography in Western Australia.'

Ms Chaloupka's PhD will analyse co-authored autobiographies of Aboriginal people in Western

Australia, in 1980s – 2011. Initially the PhD will examine works co-authored by Bruce Shaw, who has published Aboriginal autobiographies over four decades and the work co-authored with Dr Mary-Anne Jebb. Ms Chaloupka undertook academic training and attended a conference and seminars related to her PhD in 2011-12, and applied for a Berndt Museum Research Grant.

## RESEARCH BUSINESS TEAM

Research Business Team (RBT) staff changed substantially in the reporting period. The Director, Research Business, Tony Boxall retired in January 2012 and Dr Cressida Fforde, Public Programs and Publications Manager, took up a position at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at ANU. Mr Boxall was replaced by **Pravin Adip** and **Sally McNicol** replaced Dr Fforde.

**Johann Idriss** joined the team in February as Project Officer with responsibility for administering the AIATSIS Grants Program, updating the Research program intranet and website and publishing audiovisual content from the Public Programs.

Public Programs Coordinator, **Anne-Marie Ridgeway**, joined AIATSIS in February.

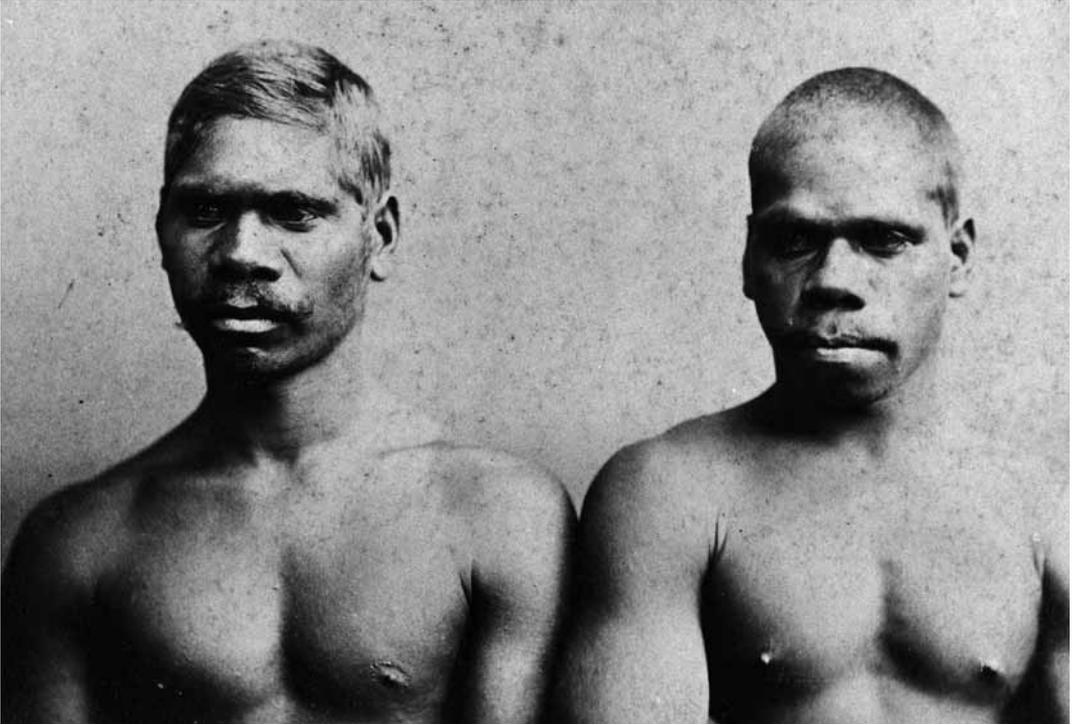
In April 2012, AIATSIS trialled a new position to support our capacity to acquire external research grants. Senior Project Manager, **Dylan Daniel-Marsh**, joined the RBT on secondment from ANU. He has been working closely with the Research program academic cohort to develop funding applications, assess and execute funding agreements and to develop associated policies, systems and tools to better manage external funding compliance and risk.

The RBT had a successful year which saw a number of funding opportunities come to fruition. These included executing funding agreements/contracts for the following grants and consultancies:

- AusAID FuNAI Agreement (\$178,000)
- FaHCSIA Stolen Generations Memorandum of Understanding (\$200,000)
- Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Consultancy Agreements (\$36,000)
- NTRU Funding Agreement (\$2,634,616)
- National Climate Change Adaption Research Facility Project Agreement (\$425,480)

In order to further develop and cement our electronic publishing capacity under the new Research publications imprint, **Pauline McGuire** was appointed as the Research Publications Project Manager, in early June. She is responsible for publication activities across the ICG and ISCW research programs.

For further information about the publications and public programs activities of the Research Program see chapter 2.



Portraits by Harry King, John William Lindt and JW Beattie. [AIATSIS Ref. Mackay.L01.DF]

## INDIGENOUS COUNTRY AND GOVERNANCE

### NATIVE TITLE AND TRADITIONAL OWNERSHIP

#### Minister signs off on new three-year agreement for AIATSIS native title research and capacity building



AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP at the National Native Title Conference in Townsville in June.

AIATSIS has partnered with the Australian Government to support the native title sector since 1993. Entering its 20th year, the Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) provides research, information and resources as well as coordinates activities across the sector, including the flagship native title conference.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) will contribute \$2.6 million over three years, resulting in a program of activities worth more than \$5.6 million over three years.

AIATSIS' reputation for high-quality independent advice has established the NTRU as a leader in facilitating policy debate within the native title system. Our success in moving debates forward and informing critical policy and legislative reform has been exemplified recently in our work on taxation of native title and climate change adaptation.

The NTRU has also played a pivotal role in coordinating information, and developing capacity within the sector. Our continued contribution to the effective working of the native title system can be summarised by the following key roles:

- functioning as a national clearing house: collecting, presenting and distributing information to overcome difficulties of isolation, inexperience and lack of access to resources
- providing tools and resources for induction and ongoing professional education and development informed by national practice
- providing opportunities for native title representative bodies/native title service providers and native title claimants and holders to coordinate and discuss issues at a national level as well as opportunities to take a prominent role in collaborative/system wide forums
- conducting strategic research and analysis on priority issues, and
- promoting understanding of Indigenous perspectives on desired and effective native title outcomes.

In the new agreement, AIATSIS has anticipated the major movements of the sector over the next three years. In particular, we have prioritised support for Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate as these organisations emerge and develop; we have extended our capabilities in agreement making to focus on corporate design and the management of decision-making; and we have consolidated our expertise in knowledge and information management.

#### Commonwealth connection policy research project

Over 2011–12, AIATSIS was commissioned by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department to conduct research into the legal, practical and policy considerations involved in the Australian Government's participation in native title consent determinations.

The research team, Dr Lisa Strelein, Research Fellow **Toni Bauman** and **Nick Duff**, inquired into the various roles, responsibilities and requirements in relation to assessing native title connection when entering into native title



Government staff Australia-wide came together in Alice Springs to discuss different approaches to joint management.

## JOINT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP: TOWARDS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

On 3 April 2012, AIATSIS ran a two-day workshop, 'Native Title and Other Pathways towards a Community of Practice' in Desert Park, Alice Springs. Amidst the stunning desert surrounds, government staff from across the country shared experiences and ideas on how to improve Australia's approach to joint management.

The term 'joint management' broadly refers to an agreement between native title holders and relevant governments regarding the management of national parks and other conservation or protected areas. The Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) has been investigating the concept of a 'community of practice'. Delegates explored this concept and identified practical issues that should be addressed in developing a community of practice.

Issues raised included access to country and the right to care for country, which are increasingly sought after by traditional owners through joint management arrangements. Delegates also discussed the challenges they face in matching the aspirations of joint management partners with their capacities. There were also concerns about multi-tenures of Indigenous Protected Areas, which include national parks.

Each jurisdiction also outlined their current approaches to managing marine areas and the emerging potential for joint management. Despite limited progress in joint management over marine areas to date, there is a growing awareness of the need to address Indigenous interest in sea country management.

This information will now be used to inform the development of a community of practice or learning portal, with the aim of providing cross-jurisdictional support for joint management practices.

Some suggestions for the content included digital information sharing, a range of toolkits, web-based forums for discussion, research to benefit stakeholders, and email networks.

The NTRU will be publishing a report to provide a more detailed account of the workshop, which will be made available through the NTRU Joint Management webpage: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/jointmanagement.html>.



Workshop 3 participants (August 2011, University College, Parkville). Photo courtesy Native Title Services Victoria.

## WORKSHOP SERIES: THRESHOLDS FOR TRADITIONAL OWNER SETTLEMENTS IN VICTORIA

The Native Title Research Unit, AIATSIS, facilitated a series of three workshops involving native title stakeholders in Victoria. They included representatives/staff of the Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Native Title Services Victoria, the Native Title Unit in the Department of Justice, the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office, the Right People for Country Project and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

The workshops were coordinated by a working group comprising representatives of the Department of Justice, the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office and Native Title Services Victoria. The workshops were facilitated by AIATSIS Research Fellow, Toni Bauman, and recorded by Lara Wiseman, NTRU Senior Project Officer.

The aims of this collaborative workshop series were to:

- facilitate dialogue around the nature and processing of threshold statements as required in order to enter negotiations under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)*
- work towards a model for demonstrating thresholds in Victoria
- identify easily agreed issues and those that need further clarification, how and by whom, and
- identify the process for arriving at shared definitions.

Workshop 1: Setting the Scene, held in May, began with a review of the past and present context for processing 'connection' in Victoria within the context of moving from the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth)* to the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)*. Following the workshop the Working Group established cross-agency discussion groups to examine five elements of the threshold statement in more detail, outcomes from these discussions were then considered at Workshop 2.

Workshop 2: Exploring Terms and Concepts, held in July, examined key concepts, terms and issues relevant to creating a traditional owner threshold statement. Discussion focused on: description of the traditional owner group; description of the area; statement of association; negotiation capacity; and the research process overview.

Workshop 3: Shared Processes, held in August, participants discussed process issues identified in the previous workshops. They explored aspects of the threshold statement process including: community education and capacity building; agreement making between traditional owner groups and the potential role of the Right People for Country project; authorisation processes; prioritisation principles; shared, collaborative and traditional owner-led research processes; and the notification process following submission of a threshold statement. Outcomes from the workshop series will inform further collaboration between native title stakeholders in Victoria to develop 'Towards Threshold Guidelines' articulating the requirements of a traditional owner threshold statement.

consent determinations and best practice emerging from alternative settlement processes. The research team conducted consultative interviews with well over 100 individuals from around 50 stakeholder agencies and organisations in nine cities around Australia.

Those consulted included commonwealth, state, and territory government departments, personnel from the Federal Court and National Native Title Tribunal, native title representative bodies and service providers, barristers, anthropologists, industry peak bodies, and others. The results of consultations were combined with desktop research and legal analysis to produce a draft final report, which is expected to be circulated for comment in July 2012 and published later in the year. The final report will provide options and recommendations to the Attorney-General's Department around the processes and considerations involved in entering into consent determinations, to inform a consistent Australian Government policy position on native title connection.

### **Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework**

AIATSIS continued our research collaboration with the Victorian Department of Justice, the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office and Native Title Services Victoria to develop a more streamlined and agreed approach to the processing of connection arising out of the Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework. Toni Bauman facilitated a series of three workshops (one in the previous reporting period) between staff of the Department of Justice Victoria, Native Title Services Victoria, the Right People for Country Project and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and traditional owners to discuss ways of implementing the Connection Threshold statement requirements as set out in the Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework Discussion Paper. The workshops were documented by **Lara Wiseman** and reports circulated to participants.

### **Support for native title anthropology**

AIATSIS continues to support the Centre for Native Title Anthropology (CNTA) at the Australian National University (ANU) and other initiatives funded by the Attorney-General's Department native title anthropology funding grants. Toni Bauman is a member of the Board for CNTA at the ANU and the Advisory Board to the Australian Native Title Studies (ANTS) at the University of Adelaide. In September 2011, she presented to an ANU field school for early-career anthropologists.

As a member of the ANTS Advisory Board, Ms Bauman attended a series of meetings and workshops at the University of Adelaide in June 2011. These included an ANTS board meeting and a meeting of the National Curriculum Development Committee in native title anthropology and a roundtable, 'Society and Governance in Native Title Anthropology'. The aim of the roundtable was to workshop and refine methodological and analytical approaches to 'the society' question in native title anthropology to better inform post-determination challenges and opportunities as well as continuing to satisfy claim determination processes.

**Dr Patrick Sullivan** and Toni Bauman attended the first combined conference of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, the Australian Anthropological Society and the Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa / New Zealand in Perth, 5–8 July 2011. Ms Bauman also assisted CNTA in facilitating a pre-conference assembly of native title anthropologists and Aboriginal cultural heritage practitioners on 4 July 2011. She attended the American Anthropological Association Conference in Montreal, 15–20 November 2011.

AIATSIS continued its partnership with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney in 2011, with Toni Bauman and Dr Gaynor Macdonald co-editing a volume of papers on native title anthropology emerging from a workshop, *Turning the Tide: Anthropology for native title in South East Australia*. Ms Bauman and Dr McDonald also co-facilitated a workshop for anthropologists, *Anthropologies of Change: Theoretical and methodological challenges*, on 25–26 August 2011. They were assisted by **Lydia Glick** and Anna Nettheim and Dr James Weiner acted

as a commentator throughout the workshop. The workshop discussed the theoretical and methodological challenges of 'continuity' and 'change' and included presentations by prominent anthropologists, Professor Emeritus Diane Austin-Broos and Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson. Participants also discussed initiatives directed at establishing a collegial network for ongoing support and strategies for effective mentoring.

### **Music in native title**

The final draft paper, 'We have the song, so we have the land: song and ceremony as proof of ownership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land claims', has been completed and distributed to referees.

Grace Koch and Sylvia Kleinert have edited a book comprising a selection of papers about Indigenous art and film from the 2009 AIATSIS conference. This should appear online by December 2012.

Ms Koch secured funding for digitisation of the booklets accompanying the published recordings of Indigenous music recorded by Alice Moyle in the 1960s. She has updated the booklet for *Songs from North Queensland* and will continue work on the others once they return from the scanning bureau, CAVAL.

### **Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution**

In October 2011, AIATSIS made a submission to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians, drawing on extensive research background of key researchers and Council members. The submission was prepared by Nick Duff, then Legal Research Officer. The submission made eight main recommendations, including:

- support for a statement of recognition in a preamble or the body of the Constitution, but not accompanied by a proviso disclaiming any legal effect
- recommending the repeal of s 25 of the Constitution
- qualified support for the removal and replacement of s 51(xxvi)

- recommending the introduction of a new section prohibiting racial discrimination
- recommending the introduction of a constitutional framework for the making, and incorporation into binding law, of agreements between the Commonwealth and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- recommendations around the timing and process leading up to a referendum.

### **AIATSIS researchers forge stronger links with US universities**

Toni Bauman travelled to Harvard University in September 2011 to take up an appointment as Visiting Scholar at the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. In January 2012, she was Visiting Scholar at the Udall Centre, University of Arizona in Tucson. Ms Bauman was also invited by Professor Lawrence Susskind to participate as Visiting Scholar at the MIT Harvard Public Disputes Program.

During her visit, she gave a presentation on the native title agreement making landscape to an international audience in the 'From Mississippi to Broome: Creating transformative economic opportunity' roundtable and panel at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC, on 29 September 2011(see box p. 39).

Professor Mick Dodson and Ms Bauman also made presentations at Harvard University on issues such as leadership and land justice and Ms Bauman audited courses on nation building and dispute resolution. Her visit was funded through consultancy income and partly self-funded.

### **International collaboration at Indigenous conference**

At the Udall Centre at the University of Arizona in Tucson, between 19–22 January 2012, AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson, and AIATSIS researchers, Dr Patrick Sullivan and Toni Bauman, attended the conference, Common Roots Common Futures: Different Paths to Self-Determination. An International Conversation, which was co-convened by Professor Mick Dodson, as part of his activities



(From left to right) Professor Manley Begay, Toni Bauman, His Excellency the Hon Kim Beazley, Ambassador to the United States of America and Professor Mick Dodson.

## FROM MISSISSIPPI TO BROOME: CREATING TRANSFORMATIVE INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

On 29 September 2011, at the invitation of Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Kim Beazley, Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson, Professor Manley Begay, a Navajo social scientist with the American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona and Co-director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, and Senior Research Fellow, Toni Bauman, participated in a panel at the Australian Embassy in Washington as part of the 2011 Ambassador's Lecture Series.

Professor Dodson who was in the United States as the Gough Whitlam Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University, and Ms Bauman, were visiting the Kennedy School of Government in the Harvard University program on American Indian Economic Development.

The panel compared the Australian and North American experiences of economic development in Indigenous communities. Professor Dodson described the historic Yawuru native title agreement worth \$200 million with the state of Western Australia and the Shire of Broome, allowing the community to progress their plans for land management and development. He said, 'The challenge now is to look at development models that will work. The government approach is too

narrow. We need all four sectors of our economy to come together— private, public, not-for-profit, and cultural'.

Professor Begay noted a shift in North America from self-determination to nation building including questions of governance—how Indigenous nations make decisions and develop culturally appropriate institutions to ensure long-term sustainability. He described the success of the Choctaws of Mississippi who run a portfolio of businesses, can boast zero unemployment, and employ some 7000 people from surrounding towns. He noted how many Indigenous communities in North America are transforming into large employers and drivers of economic endeavour not only for their communities, but also for surrounding non-Indigenous communities.

Ms Bauman described the native title agreement-making landscape in Australia, arguing that without long-term consistency in the policy settings of all governments, Australia's Indigenous communities would struggle to emulate the success of their North American counterparts.

The panel agreed that self-determination is the most important factor determining the prosperity and success of Indigenous communities—be they in Broome, Mississippi or Nova Scotia.

as Chair of Australian Studies, Harvard University and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

Indigenous participants invited from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand examined topics such as self-determination, economic development, the place of culture, governance and capacity and committed to developing an ongoing international forum for such discussions.

Professor Dodson's visit was funded through his appointment to the Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University. The attendance by Ms Bauman and Dr Sullivan was funded through consultancy income.

### **Working with native title holders: Registered native title bodies corporate support project**

The NTRU has continued to work with registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs, commonly known as Prescribed Body Corporates or PBCs) through the RNTBC support project. The project team consists of **Lara Wiseman, Tran Tran, Matthew O'Rourke,** and **Claire Stacey** with support from the research fellows in the NTRU. The team co-convened four regional workshops in the past year (see box p.35), bringing together native title holders in the central desert of Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The aim of these regional workshops was to provide directors, or representatives, of RNTBCs with an opportunity to come together to discuss shared challenges, concerns and achievements. RNTBCs were also able to familiarise themselves with each other's activities, issues, structures, challenges and aspirations. Each workshop was also attended by relevant state and commonwealth government stakeholders to enable a dialogue around the interactions between RNTBCs and government agencies, particularly highlighting the need for programs and services that are tailored to the specific needs of native title holders.

The RNTBC website continues to be a resource for RNTBCs and their stakeholders to access information, research, resources and events of relevance.

As part of a research partnership with the Quandamooka people of North Stradbroke Island, **Valerie Cooms** assisted the Quandamooka people with implementing their native title settlement. This included transition arrangements from the old Land Council to the new RNTBC; joint management discussions with the Queensland Minister and Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Quandamooka elders, including the development of the Cultural Heritage Plan for Minjeeribah and Moreton Islands; and the development of Holiday Parks Minjeeribah Camping Project (two year project, \$7.7 million).

### **Mediation, negotiation and free prior and informed consent**

Toni Bauman and Claire Stacey submitted their final paper 'Agreement-making and free, prior and informed consent in the Australian native title landscape' for publication in the edited volume, *Pacific-Asian Partnerships in Resource Development*.

In partnership with the Central Land Council (CLC), Toni Bauman facilitated a training workshop for researchers and community developers from the CLC on 8–9 May 2012 in Alice Springs to develop staff skills and expertise in facilitation and conflict resolution. Ms Bauman also responded to a request from the CLC for assistance to design and build a conflict management system. A workshop, Developing a Conflict Management Program for the Central Land Council, took place on 20–21 June 2012 and a draft framework is being prepared for broader discussion throughout the organisation and with CLC Executive and Council members.

Valerie Cooms presented and discussed with the staff of the Australian Human Rights Commission, and the office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, the use of traditional decision-making processes in the Quandamooka native title determination application and the Legal Services Strategic Plan from Queensland South Native Title Services as well as its relationship with the concept of 'free prior and informed consent'.



Australia's Attorney-General, the Hon Nicola Roxon during a press conference at the National Native Title Conference 2012 in Townsville in June. (Photograph by Jeana Bajic)

### **AIATSIS research leads to native title tax reform**

A research partnership between the Australian Government Treasury and Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of Research – Indigenous Country and Governance, has resulted in significant reform in the taxation of native title. At the National Native Title Conference 2012, the Attorney-General announced that the Australian Government would introduce legislation to clarify that native title payments are not taxable.

AIATSIS provided initial research and policy advice to Treasury in 2007 and assisted in establishing a comprehensive consultation among native title organisations over the complex tax questions that emerge from the recognition of native title. AIATSIS has continued to play a role in facilitating discussion and providing advice to all stakeholders. The clarification of the tax treatment of native title will help to ensure tax does not become the next litigation battleground for native title holders and will provide security and greater freedom of choice in the way agreements and funds management are structured.

### **Reform for sustainable Indigenous communities**

Dr Strelein, along with colleagues in academia, government, the native title sector and industry, continues to look at further reform to the not-for-profit sector that could benefit Indigenous communities. The interaction of taxation and native title is also a central plank of the ARC Linkage Grant, 'Poverty in the Midst of Plenty', which brings together a group of academic specialists in the field of Indigenous economic development to examine issues critical to the development of communities on Indigenous lands affected by mining. The ARC Linkage Project published the volume *Community Futures, Legal Architecture: Foundations for Indigenous Peoples in the Global Mining Boom* (Routledge), 2012, edited by Professor Marcia Langton and Judy Longbottom.

AIATSIS hosted a meeting of the ARC Linkage project investigators and partners on 13 December 2011. Principal investigators are: Professor Marcia Langton, Professor Miranda Stewart, Associate Professor Maureen Tehan, and Professor Lee Godden from the University of Melbourne; Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh from Griffith University; Professor John Taylor from Australian National University; and Dr Lisa Strelein from AIATSIS. AIATSIS also hosted the re-launch of the updated Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements database which provides information relating to agreements between Indigenous peoples and others in Australia and overseas the same day. Linkage partners are Rio Tinto, Marnda Mia and FaHCSIA.

### **Native title policy reform**

As part of the NTRU's participation in policy debate and review of processes affecting native title, it is continuing its examination of the evolving roles and resourcing of the Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs), with a current focus on FaHCSIA's recently announced review of the NTRBs and its terms of reference. A background report evaluating the funding, capacity and performance of the NTRBs was undertaken by NTRU Project Officer **Dr Christine Regan**, who is currently completing a literature review and discussion paper on the history of the roles and resourcing of the NTRBs. The literature review, discussion paper

and a submission to FaHCSIA's review will be published in the next reporting period.

Dr Lisa Strelein gave evidence to the Attorney-General's Department Review of the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme on 5 October 2011. This evidence was relied on in the final report, in particular the review's proposal for understanding the issue of 'exceptional circumstances' in the context of native title cases involving third parties.

### **Native title law**

The NTRU continues to play a pivotal role in summarising and disseminating the outcomes of court judgments concerning native title. It published native title case summaries in monthly editions of the newsletter *What's New*.

AIATSIS has led debate on the reform of the requirements of proof for native title over the past five years, in particular through the public discussion at the native title conference and subsequent published papers, with a critical volume to be published in the coming financial year, edited by Dr Lisa Strelein, Professor Marcia Langton and Professor Maureen Tehan. Discussions on reform have been reinvigorated by the introduction by the Greens of the Native Title Amendment (Reform) Bill 2011. Dr Strelein, Catherine McLeish, Toni Bauman, and Nick Duff provided a written submission to the Federal Parliament Senate Committee Inquiry in relation to the Bill addressing each of the 14 items it contained. At the National Native Title Conference in Townsville, the Attorney-General announced they would not support the reform at this time, while Federal Court judges, alongside Indigenous leaders, reiterated the need for change.

### **Knowledge management: agreement precedents**

Now in its third year, the Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) knowledge management project continued to expand and improve in the 2011-12 period. The project's objective is to secure better value out of public funds, and better native title outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, by improving knowledge management within NTRBs and native title service providers (NTRPs).

Knowledge management involves capturing and organising the knowledge that staff generate, allowing corporate memory to grow and ensuring that lessons learned are built into future practice. NTRBs have a clear need for knowledge management: staff turnover rates are high; staff-hours are stretched; and the work is complex and rapidly evolving. The NTRB knowledge management project seeks to address this need. It is jointly funded by participating NTRBs and FaHCSIA, and hosted at the NTRU. The project's main output is the NTRB Legal Precedents database, an online database for the exclusive use of NTRBs. The database contains a diverse range of useful NTRB resources such as: examples of agreement clauses; court and tribunal documents; and corporations and trusts documents, together with important contextual information about the background and implementation of those documents. Strict systems are in place to ensure that the database and its users uphold all legal obligations relating to confidentiality and intellectual property.

In October 2011, under the leadership of Project Manager Catherine McLeish, an expanded and upgraded database website went online, covering a wider range of legal precedent document categories, and offering additional functionalities such as the ability to make comments or annotations. This function is crucial for keeping the content up to date and ensuring that implementation information is integrated into the documentary material. By the end of 2011, the number of participating NTRBs had increased to 12 out of the total 15 across Australia, and the new project manager, Nick Duff, is currently negotiating with the remaining NTRBs over their participation in the project. He is continuing to increase and improve the content on the database, and working collaboratively with partner NTRBs to train users and encourage optimal utilisation of the database. The project manager role allows him to act as a central clearing house for NTRB legal staff seeking particular legal precedents, and to bring lawyers around the country together into a virtual community of practice.



Dean Mathews, project coordinator at Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd, shows Nick Duff parts of the monsoonal vine thicket ecosystem at Minyirr Park, outside Broome, that are threatened by weeds such as buffel grass, neem tree, strangling vines and bellyache bush.

Mr Duff conducted in-house work with staff at Queensland South Native Title Services, North Queensland Land Council, NTSCorp, Goldfields Land and Sea Council and the Kimberley Land Council. He also revised training materials for the database.

### **Joint management of parks and protected areas**

The NTRU has an ongoing joint management project that has involved a series of activities and workshops with a range of stakeholders. Its aim is to develop better practice in joint management.

In March 2012, Toni Bauman attended and presented at an Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) Co-Management Meeting in Cairns which was convened by the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC). The workshop, facilitated by Dr Dermot Smyth, focused on IPA groups with dedications over

multi-tenured areas and co-management. Presentations were made by representatives of RNTBCs and other corporations about their current activities and co-management issues and a number of recommendations were made.

The results of the meeting fed into the AIATSIS and Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service co-sponsored workshop of government representatives working in joint management in Alice Springs on 3–4 April 2012. The workshop was coordinated by Toni Bauman, Claire Stacey and **Gabrielle Lauder**. Titled Joint Management of Protected Areas in Australia Workshop: Native title and other pathways towards a community of practice, the workshop was attended by 18 government participants from the Australian Government, Western Australia, Northern Territory, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Participants rated the workshop an average of 4.7 out of 5 in their evaluations. The aim was to share information about how each jurisdiction is approaching joint management outcomes

and identify practical issues that should be addressed in developing a national community of effective joint management practice.

As part of the joint management project, Toni Bauman also convened and facilitated a joint management forum at the National Native Title Conference, and other joint management related conference sessions. AIATSIS is also one of the partners in the SEWPAC National Environmental Research Program: Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Indigenous peoples and protected areas project, being led by CSIRO.

Toni Bauman, Claire Stacey and Valerie Cooms completed a submission to the review by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) of the QPWS draft master plan – Naturally Queensland 2020.

## LAND AND WATER

### AIATSIS Land and Water Research Centre

In 2011, AIATSIS established the AIATSIS Land and Water Research Centre. Much of AIATSIS' collaborative research with Indigenous peoples into their land and water issues has been undertaken through the NTRU. Led by **Dr Jessica Weir**, the Centre for creates the opportunity to bring this work together in one place; and to profile and build our ethically engaged research in this rapidly increasing area of research inquiry and government interest.

As part of AIATSIS policy engagement in this area, Dr Jessica Weir, Claire Stacey and Dr Kara Youngentob completed a report for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, *The Benefits of Caring for Country: A Literature review*. Dr Weir and Tran Tran attended the First Peoples' National Water Summit, Adelaide, 30 March 2012.

### Management of weeds on native title lands

In 2011, the AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research was awarded a research grant with the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), an Australian Government statutory authority, to examine the implications of native title for Australia's weeds management, to explore the weed management priorities of native title holders, and to identify the opportunities and limitations of current weed institutions, policies and programs with respect to native title holders. The research work consisted of a desktop study of the academic literature and legal framework for weeds management in a native title context; a facilitated workshop held in Broome, Western Australia with a published workshop report; and a research report building on the lessons of the desktop research and the workshop.

The workshop, entitled *Managing Weeds on Native Title Lands*, was convened by Dr Weir in October 2011, in partnership with Bruce Gorrington from the Nulungu Centre for Indigenous Studies at Notre Dame University's Broome campus, and with input from the Kimberley Land Council. Workshop participants included Kimberley Indigenous ranger groups, registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs), state and commonwealth government departments, non-government organisations, and the Kimberley Land Council. The workshop was facilitated by Paul Mitchell from EthnoScapes. It aimed to provide an opportunity for non-Indigenous stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the cultural landscape for weeds management on native title lands, as well as the governance and logistical environment of RNTBCs (the corporate entities that hold native title rights and interests under the *Native Title Act 1993 [Cth]*). It also aimed to give RNTBC land managers an opportunity to talk to other stakeholders about effective systems of weed management and issues of funding.

The workshop included a field trip, hosted by Yawuru elder Michael 'Micklo' Corpus and the Yawuru rangers, to Minyirr Park – a coastal reserve adjoining Cable Beach in Broome (see picture). There were also presentations from traditional owner ranger groups, government agencies and other organisations. Participants engaged in constructive discussion around

issues such as legal responsibilities for weeds management; respectful and culturally appropriate collaborative processes; diverse weeds management priorities; the need for better resourcing and capacity-building; and the need for integrated, holistic and coordinated efforts. To round off the workshop, participants broke into groups to design the key elements of a collaborative weeds management plan for native title lands. This activity produced some very useful and practical insights into how the important and difficult task of controlling weeds can be improved. The workshop report was written by Nick Duff.

The final report for the project, written by Nick Duff and Dr Weir, was submitted to RIRDC in May 2012, and contained a number of important conclusions and recommendations arising from the research. Perhaps most significant was the finding that in all Australian jurisdictions, weeds management legislation is not well adapted to the new legal, cultural and practical realities presented by native title landholdings. The authors recommended legislative and policy reform for flexible and negotiated allocation of responsibility, with adequate provision of funding and capacity support. Further research needs were identified, including the need to more fully understand the legal interaction between native title rights and interests and the obligations of other users of native title land (such as pastoral lease holders).

Findings from the research were presented at the National Native Title Conference in June 2012 in a joint presentation by Dr Weir, Nick Duff and Bardi Jawi Ranger Kevin George. Mr George gave the audience an understanding of the cultural landscape and priorities for weeds management on Bardi Jawi country, which was built upon by Dr Weir's analysis of the broader literature about culture and weeds management and Mr Duff's legal and policy analysis.

### **Climate change adaptation and native title institutions**

In 2011, Dr Jessica Weir, Tran Tran, Dr Kara Youngentob and Dr Lisa Strelein successfully applied for \$440,000 in funding under the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program. The grant is for case study research into the institutional dimensions of climate change adaptation on native title lands, to be conducted from 1 July 2011 to 30 December 2012.

Ms Tran completed the first field work trip to Kowanyama, where she met with the directors of the Abm Elgoring Ambung RNTBC and interviewed community members. Ms Tran also collected background and current literature produced in the area and participated in their strategic planning. Dr Weir also visited for one week. It was her first trip to the area where she met with the RNTBC chairperson, manager and community council staff.

As part of this research, a workshop was convened at the National Native Title Conference in June 2012. The workshop, *Changes to country and culture, changes to climate: Reflections on Indigenous resilience and adaptation*, was chaired by Professor Marcia Langton and Dr Weir, with presentations by traditional owners from the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association, Abm Elgoring Ambung and Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (with Sonia Leonard from the University of Melbourne). Dr Weir and Ms Tran also presented on the interrelationships between native title and climate change. Dr Christine Regan is currently writing up the report from this workshop, whose foci included analysis of Indigenous adaptation to climate change; how climate change will affect Indigenous cultural practices; how the general institutional marginalisation of RNTBCs extends to the climate change context; and Indigenous challenges to climate change literature. This workshop report will be published in the next reporting period.

Dr Weir was invited as Visiting Faculty to the 2012 Brown International Advanced Research Institutes, USA to present on cultural water, native title and climate change on 19 June 2012. She presented 'Climate Change and Its Impacts: Water in a Changing Climate'. Brown University funded Jessica's travel costs.



## NATIVE TITLE POST-DETERMINATION: REGIONAL MEETINGS OF NATIVE TITLE HOLDERS

The Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) at AIATSIS has been conducting extensive research into the post-determination environment for native title holders since 2006. As a result, it has developed a strong body of knowledge around the challenges facing Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs), also known as Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs). In 2011, AIATSIS commenced the RNTBC Support Project which aims to support the growing number of determined native title holders, and their RNTBC, to hold and manage their traditional lands and waters.

The RNTBC Support Project will help develop a better understanding of challenges facing native title holder communities post-determination and suggest practical approaches that assist these communities to hold and manage their traditional lands and waters. One of the key activities of the RNTBC Support Project has been regional meetings.

Following national meetings convened in 2007 and 2009, the NTRU convened four regional RNTBC meetings in the past year. They were held in Balgo (WA), Cairns (QLD), Melbourne (VIC) and Port Augusta (SA). Apart from the Balgo meeting, all regional meetings attracted representation from nearly all RNTBCs in the relevant state. The aim of the meetings was to provide directors, or representatives, of RNTBCs with an opportunity to come together to discuss shared challenges, concerns and achievements. RNTBCs were

also able to familiarise themselves with each other's activities, issues, structures, challenges and aspirations. The meetings also provided an opportunity for RNTBCs to meet with relevant state government agencies to explore programs and partnerships that can help to realise their aspirations.

Common issues were shared at all workshops, with many RNTBC representatives speaking positively about the strength and determination of their groups. However, RNTBCs were disheartened by the lack of funding for RNTBCs to allow for effective governance, coordination, administration and to fulfill their statutory responsibilities. Participants from all meetings identified the importance of RNTBCs supporting each other in business and commercial activities and for regular RNTBC national and state or regional based meetings.

It is hoped that through the AIATSIS RNTBC Support Project progress can be made towards national awareness of RNTBC views and greater input from the RNTBC sector to influence policy design in a way that matches the needs of native title communities.

For more information on RNTBCs see: [www.nativetitle.org.au](http://www.nativetitle.org.au).

*AIATSIS acknowledges the funding support of the Native Title and Leadership Branch of FaHCSIA for these workshops.*

Ms Tran presented at the Indigenous Peoples' Governance Conference in Montreal on 17–20 April 2012. Her participation in the conference was funded by conference organisers. She presented on the social and institutional barriers to effective RNTBC decision-making, governance and autonomy.

The team's conference abstract was accepted by the organisers for the 2012 National Climate Change Adaptation Conference in Melbourne from 25–28 June 2012. Dr Lisa Strelein and Ms Tran attended and presented current research findings from the climate change project.

Ms Tran and Dr Weir prepared the AIATSIS submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Regulatory and Policy Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation.

Dr Strelein, Dr Weir and Ms Tran prepared a brief to AIATSIS Council on the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Bill 2011 for the meeting between Council and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in August 2012. Dr Strelein is a member of the Carbon Farming Indigenous Leaders Ministerial roundtable, convened by Minister the Hon Mark Dreyfuss QC MP.

### **Archaeology and cultural heritage**

In partnership with Rio Tinto [Dr John Mulvaney], Dr Graeme Ward worked with French archaeologist Dr Michel Lorblanchet to translate and edit for publication Dr Lorblanchet's research into Aboriginal sites in Dampier, Western Australia, in the 1960–70s. Dr Ward visited the Dampier area in August 2011 to familiarise himself with the sites and landscapes involved.

Dr Ward continued to analyse and prepare for publication results of research into the Indigenous cultural heritage values of places that are, or are proposed as, sites for cultural heritage tourism, and conducted, in previous years, with traditional owners and colleagues in the Wadey–Fitzmaurice region of the Northern Territory. As an off-shoot of the second project he visited museums and colleagues in Adelaide and Perth holding bark paintings from the Port Keats area.

## **GOVERNANCE, PUBLIC POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Cultural governance and heritage management**

In August 2010, following two successful native title claims over the Broome region, the Native Title Tribunal registered an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and an Area Agreement between the Yawuru native title holders and the state of Western Australia. The Area Agreement provides for joint management of the conservation estate identified in the agreement. It required the native title holders to prepare a cultural management plan for coastal reserves and marine parks in the traditional land and waters of the Yawuru peoples. The Joint Management Agreement also provides for identifying restricted and culturally sensitive areas. Dr Patrick Sullivan was commissioned to provide advice on the Identification of Restricted Areas and Protocols for their Management, for the Yawuru Cultural Management Plan – Coastal and Marine Conservation Parks, by Nyamba Buru Yawuru Corporation, from March to August 2011.

Dr Sullivan's report identifies restricted and sensitive areas and recommends protocols for managing them. It:

- describes areas and sites that are excluded from general access
- identifies the individuals and groups that have primary responsibility for the safe use of these sites. Activity on or near these sites must be notified in the first instance to the Yawuru PBC. It should act as a mediator with these groups and individuals where non-Yawuru people are involved. The report suggests how the Yawuru PBC may fulfill this responsibility
- suggests a process for sorting, filing, archiving and providing moderated access to all current descriptive material on these sites and tracks whether in the form of field notes, reports, published document, photographs, audio recording and visual recordings. Moderated access must include protocols for obtaining permission to view

the material, or referring interested parties to the appropriate group or individual for ongoing consultation and monitoring. The material must be securely stored, cross-referenced and able to be retrieved in a timely and efficient manner.

### **The Ngaanyatjarra employment project**

In July 2009, the Australian Government began a series of staged measures to reform the Community Development Employment Projects program (CDEP). The principal thrust of the reforms is to register CDEP participants as Centrelink clients, with mainstream entitlements and access to mainstream employment and/or social support trajectories. One trajectory is for the client to be referred back to CDEP, though receiving Centrelink payments and subject to Centrelink reporting obligations. Another is to transition through training and mentoring to mainstream employment facilitated by private employment service providers through the Job Services Australia (JSA) program of the Department of Employment Education Workplace Relations (DEEWR). A third, unintended, trajectory is for clients to remain on Centrelink benefits and transition neither back to CDEP nor to work or meaningful education and training.

The reforms have had some unintended negative consequences on the Ngaanyatjarra lands which all parties to this project recognised and were committed to address. Dr Patrick Sullivan was invited to conduct research in partnership with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), DEEWR, Centrelink and the Ngaanyatjarra Council.

Dr Sullivan's report proposes a new model for job creation, training, and provision of community services on the Ngaanyatjarra lands. The positive role of CDEP in developing the twelve communities administered by the Ngaanyatjarra Council is discussed in this report. It also points out that CDEP may have reached a point where its shortcomings outweigh its benefits. In particular, it identifies the failure of CDEP to transition workers to permanent, externally-funded, employment, and to provide suitable training and support for those with significant barriers to employment.

The report also describes the deleterious effects of Centrelink welfare payments that de-motivate people towards work, further undermining CDEP, and similar failure of the Job Services Australia (JSA) scheme to deliver training and support or find adequate employment for Ngaanyatjarra people.

The report is clear that significant employment opportunities exist on Ngaanyatjarra lands, and that these lie mostly in the provision of social services, which are largely lacking. Where they do exist, they employ non-Indigenous people. It suggests that marked improvement in employment outcomes can be achieved by governments employing Ngaanyatjarra people to deliver the citizenship entitlements that governments are obliged to ensure. It also recognises that there are opportunities for private and community sector employment.

### **Sustainable Indigenous livelihoods**

Sustainable Indigenous Livelihoods in Three Catchments of North Australia, was a project sponsored by the North Australia Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), from October 2011 to May 2012.

This project was contracted to AIATSIS by NAILSMA and funded by the Australian Government Northern Australia Water Futures Assessment (NAWFA), a division of the National Water Commission. The project team worked within compressed timelines, over an area of considerable geographical reach, and with an ambitious range of subjects to investigate. It aimed to:

*Focus on how well local governments, state governments and the Commonwealth Government cooperate together to assist, encourage and support local self-management. If these three levels of government are not working well with the catchment management groups the project will try to understand why. At the end of the project recommendations will be made about how cooperation can be improved and how sustainable employment opportunities can be supported;*

NAILSMA chose three widely separated river catchments as research sites – Mitchell River (QLD), Daly River (NT) and Fitzroy River (WA). Visits to Aboriginal ranger groups and regional Aboriginal reference groups or representatives were made in each of the catchment areas. These visits informed textual analysis of Indigenous public administration and Cultural and Natural Resource Management in this report.

The report describes how complexity, volatility and diversity require pragmatic experimentalist adaptive ecosystem management at the local and regional scales, within an accountability framework of relational contracting. Rather than criticise the duplication and fragmentation of government programs, the report suggests administrative complexity may be supportive of these goals, providing that Aboriginal organisations have appropriate technical support and equipment to deal with it.

### **Indigenous public policy**

Dr Sullivan promoted his book, *Belonging Together: Dealing with the politics of disenchantment in Australian Indigenous policy*, published by Aboriginal Studies Press, through seminars and public lectures.

Dr Sullivan gave a paper on anthropological approaches to the development of Indigenous public policy through the Council of Australian Governments at the annual conference of the Australian Anthropological Society in Perth on 5-8 July 2011. Dr Sullivan was appointed to the inaugural board of the *Journal of Organisational Ethnography* (UK).

### **Housing and homelessness research**

AIATSIS has continued to consolidate its research effort around housing and homelessness issues by establishing a taskforce of interested researchers who meet regularly to discuss potential research partnerships and funding arrangements, with the objective of addressing identified research gaps and progressing current research in this area. A semester long seminar series on housing and homelessness, coordinated by Claire Stacey, brought together academics and practitioners

from a wide range of disciplines and professions to share their expertise.

AIATSIS entered into a research consultancy with Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council through funding from the Indigenous Coordination Committee, to research the profile of Indigenous community service providers in the ACT region, extending to Yass and Cooma, NSW.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Staff participated in a range of other networking and collaborative activities relating to their specific areas of expertise.

#### **Toni Bauman**

- Member, Editorial Board, *Australian Indigenous Law Review*
- Editorial advisor, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*
- Member, Australian Government Department of the Attorney-General's Papua New Guinea mediation roundtable
- Board member, Centre for Native Title Anthropology, ANU
- Member Australian Anthropological Society, National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council's Indigenous Advisory Committee and Australian Mediation Association
- Board member, Anthropology for Native title Societies, Department of Anthropology, Adelaide University
- Visiting researcher, the American Indian Economic Development program in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Native Nations Institute at the Udall Centre at the University of Arizona

#### **Dr Lawrence Bamblett**

- Chair, Erambie Advancement Aboriginal Corporation
- Member, Cowra Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

**Valerie Cooms**

- Board member, Indigenous Business Australia

**Grace Koch**

- Board member National Film and Sound Archive and Chair, Indigenous Working Group, National Film and Sound Archive
- Member, Research Archives Section, International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives
- Principal's representative, National Indigenous Recording Project
- Grace Koch received a letter of commendation from the Hon Simon Crean MP for her work as a Foundation Board Member of the National Film and Sound Archive

**Raymond Lovett**

- ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee
- Department of Health and Ageing – Departmental Ethics Committee
- ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy Advisory Group

**Dr Lisa Strelein**

- Member of the New South Wales Attorney-General's Indigenous Justice Clearing House and the AIATSIS Executive Board of Management
- Editorial Advisor, *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal
- Adjunct Professor with the National Centre for Indigenous Studies and College of Law, ANU. As part of her academic responsibilities, Dr Strelein provides peer reviews for journal articles and book chapters, examines university theses and supervises PhD students

**Dr Patrick Sullivan**

- Steering committee member, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Funding, Accountability and Reporting project

- Appointed to the inaugural editorial board of the *Journal of Organisational Ethnography* (UK)

**Dr Jakelin Troy**

- Counsellor, Geographical Names Board, New South Wales
- Member, Exhibitions Committee Historic Houses Trust
- Member, Publications Committee Aboriginal Studies Press
- Member, AIATSIS Research Advisory Committee
- Vice President, Visual Arts Network of Educators ACT Committee

**Stewart Sutherland**

- Committee member, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Minister's Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Advisory panel member, Department of Health and Aging Social and Emotional Wellbeing Advisory Panel
- National Stolen Generations Alliance Executive

**Dr Jessica Weir**

- Visiting Fellow with the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University. As part of her academic responsibilities, Dr Weir provides peer reviews for journal articles and book chapters, examines university theses and supervises PhD students
- Advisory Board member, Gender Leadership and Social Sustainability Research Unit, Monash University, Melbourne
- Member of the Institute of Australian Geographers
- Member of the Australian National University Water Initiative
- Founding Member of the Ecological Humanities Group
- Editorial advisor, *Australian Aboriginal Studies* journal