

AIATSIS
SUMMIT
KABI KABI COUNTRY

30 MAY
03 JUNE
2022



AIATSIS



QSNTS

Queensland South Native Title Services

2022 AIATSIS Summit Report
Navigating the spaces in between

The AIATSIS Summit 2022 was held on Kabi Kabi Country, Sunshine Coast, Queensland. It was the most successful conference to date.

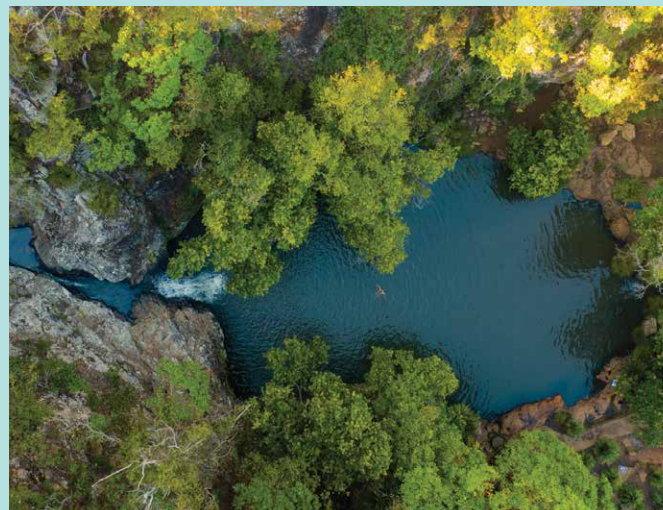
Co-convened with Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS), the summit provided the environment for open discussions between representatives from the academic, research, native title, GLAM, legal, community and public policy sectors. Over 1,200 delegates gathered in person and virtually to discuss significant and evolving challenges and opportunities to support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and governance.

Building on the success of the inaugural AIATSIS Summit held in 2021, the theme of this five-day event was 'Navigating the spaces in between'. This foregrounds the brilliance and value of Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing and being in the world.

The summit provided the opportunity to bring things from the periphery into focus, recognising that within these spaces there are opportunities for innovation but also risks and complexity. The theme spoke of the importance of relationships and connections, of bonds and trust and reciprocity. It focused our attention on the journey and the destination and required all to reflect on where they have come from.

The final day of the 2022 AIATSIS Summit marked the 30th anniversary of the 1992 *Mabo* decision by the High Court of Australia. AIATSIS Council Chair, Jodie Sizer, delivered the *Mabo* Lecture and received a standing ovation for her heartfelt presentation.

The highlight of the summit was the attendance of newly-appointed Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, who provided a closing address to delegates on the final day. Her presence was warmly received.



Kondalilla Falls in the Kondalilla National Park, Montville.
Photo: Visit Sunshine Coast

Cover: Gubbi Gubbi dancers.

About AIATSIS

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is Australia's only national institution focussed exclusively on the diverse history, cultures and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

We care for a growing collection of more than one million items including films, photographs, audio recordings, art and objects, printed and other resource materials.

We conduct research to the highest ethical standards, directly benefiting the communities we work with.

We publish award-winning books and content that engages people with the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

Our partnerships span the globe, including government, academic, corporate, cultural and community sectors.



Smoking ceremony performed by Maurice Mickelo on the lawns of the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre, Kabi Kabi Country.

The hosts

Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation

The Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation is the Prescribed Body Corporate for the Kabi Kabi native title holders. They protect and advance the interests of Kabi Kabi People and Kabi Kabi Country.

Their purpose is to build on native title rights and interests to strengthen cultural knowledge, economic opportunity and their authority as Traditional Owners on Country.

Kabi Kabi land takes in the eastern part of the coastal ranges including the volcanic Glasshouse Mountains and the great Mary River valley that runs from the Conondale Ranges to the sea near Maryborough.



The co-convenors

Queensland South Native Title Services

QSNTS began operating in July 2005.

Covering a diverse blend of urban, remote and regional communities, the QSNTS service area spans nearly two-thirds of Queensland.

As well as providing native title services at all stages of the journey, QSNTS advocates for reform and improvement of the system.



Left: Brian Warner from the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation.

Right: Queensland South Native Title Services CEO Kevin Smith and Chairperson Pele Ware.

AIATSIS SUMMIT

30 MAY
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2022

KABI KABI COUNTRY



Attendance and engagement

Delegates, speakers and exhibitors

1,229

delegates

78

virtual attendees

351

presenters across the five days

850

people attended the gala dinner

20

exhibitors

Social media snapshot

264 total posts published

420,447 impressions

26,436 engagement

4,642 post link clicks

1,058 audience growth

81% positive sentiment

@AIATSIS and #aiatsisSUMMIT

mentions across the week

13.1M impressions

1.8M impressions per day

2,559 total volume

793 unique authors

11.46K engagement

1,637 engagement per day

Summit website and EDMs

29,078 website views

27 email campaigns

92,743 emails delivered

60,691 email views

43,976 content clicks

Media

The 2022 AIATSIS Summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Mabo decision in the High Court and it drew widespread media interest with particular attention paid to the native title discussions.

In addition to coverage by local print and radio outlets, three reporters from the ABC's Indigenous unit and a camera operator were onsite for three full days during the summit and they fed a daily stream of stories into ABC TV and radio news programs and to the ABC news website. AIATSIS once again sponsored the attendance at the summit of two journalists from the National Indigenous Radio Service, and they supplied daily reports to the 120 NIRS-affiliated stations across the country.

Program

The 2022 AIATSIS Summit program featured more than 120 presentations (including workshops) from over 351 presenters, with two presented online. Over 70 per cent of presenters were Aboriginal/and or Torres Strait Islander people.

Among these were keynote addresses by the Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon Linda Burney MP; AIATSIS CEO Craig Ritchie; filmmaker Rachel Perkins; QSNTS CEO Kevin Smith; Eddie Cubillo from the University of Melbourne; CEO of the National Native Title Council Jamie Lowe; Acting Northern Territory Treaty Commissioner Tony McAvoy SC; Dr Josephine Bourne of the University of Queensland.

Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner Helena Gulash presented a statement on behalf of Gail Mabo and AIATSIS Chair Jodie Sizer presented the 2022 Mabo Lecture.

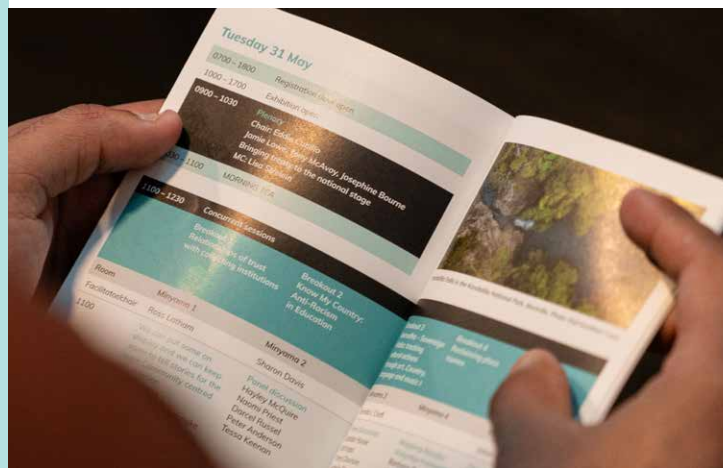
In addition to the presentations there were several workshops, including Indigenous Women's and Men's Talking Circles, the Ngurra Project, AIATSIS Ethics workshops and a Youth Forum. Each day of the summit began with a smoking ceremony from Maurice Mickelo, a respected Kabi Kabi Elder.

Over five days the presenters, panels and workshops reflected on the over-arching theme 'Navigating the spaces in between', foregrounding the brilliance and value of Indigenous ways of knowing and seeing the world.

- Belonging and identity
- Connection and interaction
- Becoming

Left: 2022 AIATSIS Summit program.

Right: The Hon Linda Burney MP delivering her keynote speech.



A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consisting of several thick, wavy, teal-colored lines that flow from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and organic shape.

Program breakdown

Day 1	Chair and opening remarks: Helena Gulash Summit opening address: Craig Ritchie Keynote: Lyndon Davis <i>Behind Beeyali: Seeing Sound and Hearing Images</i>
Day 2	Chair: Eddie Cubillo Jamie Lowe, Tony McAvoy SC, Josephine Bourne Plenary: Bringing Treaty to the National Stage
Day 3	Plenary: Kevin Smith Re-imagining Australia through First Nations leveraging native title and broader rights Keynote: Rachel Perkins
Day 4	Chair: Jayne Jagot Plenary: Truth, Trauma and Triumph from 30 Years of Native Title and the Path Ahead Monica Morgan, Dr Valerie Cooms, Chris Griffiths, Ned David, John Mansfield, Tony North, Tony McAvoy SC
Day 5	Commemorating 30 years of Mabo decision – Mabo day Chair and introductory remarks: Robert French AC Statement on behalf of the Mabo family: Helena Gulash Mabo Lecture: Jodie Sizer

Day 1

Monday 30 May

Day 1 began with a smoking ceremony from Maurice Mickelo, a Kabi Kabi Elder. The first morning's plenary session started with a warm Welcome to Country from the Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe and opening remarks by Helena Gulash of the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners. Helena highlighted how the summit allowed for the meaningful exchange of knowledge between attendees and the Kabi Kabi peoples. Local Kabi Kabi artist Lyndon Davis followed, sharing his mesmerising work *Behind Beeyali: Seeing Sound and Hearing Images*.

Dhunghutti and Biripi man and AIATSIS Chief Executive Officer, Craig Ritchie, gave his keynote address on the summit theme, 'Navigating the spaces in between', in which he stated:

'The fundamental motivation for the summit goes to the institutes role in knowledge construction

and facilitation of dialogue, it speaks to our role of bringing people together and fostering relationships and interactions where knowledge and insights are shared'.

The summit showcased some of the key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research from across the country. Presentations covered topics such as arts, education, Indigenous languages, Indigenous data, history, research policy and cultural heritage. Day 1 also provided the opportunity for the AIATSIS Ngurra team to engage with those attending on the future of AIATSIS and the development of the Ngurra Cultural Precinct.

The evening event provided an intimate way to re-convene after a full day. There was a performance by the Gubbi Gubbi dancers and a Welcome to Country by Aunty Helena Gulash and Uncle Mick Douglas.



Left: Kabi Kabi artist Lyndon Davis performing at the opening plenary.

Right: Panel discussions.



Day 2

Tuesday 31 May

The Day 2 plenary session was chaired by Eddie Cubillo with panel discussants Jamie Lowe, Tony McAvoy SC and Josephine Bourne. The panel explored lessons learnt from state and territory treaty processes including those in Victoria, the Northern Territory and Queensland and the next steps for a treaty at the national level.

The program on Day 2 built on many of the discussions from Day 1. Presentations focused on topics relating to designing better school curricula; panel discussions on cultural tracking through art, Country, language, and music; the mapping

cultural heritage innovative led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that offers insights into the tremendous importance, value, and breadth of Indigenous knowledges.

AIATSIS entered the Australian schools' landscape, with the release of new education resources on Day 2. The educational suite, 'First Fighters', recognises the impact made by Indigenous warriors and soldiers and re-thinks traditional narratives of Australia's involvement in war by positioning the Frontier Wars as the first major conflict on this land.

Left: ACARA CEO David de Carvalho and AIATSIS CEO Craig Ritchie in discussion at Breakout 2: Designing better school curricula.

Right: Discussing the future of AIATSIS and the development of the Ngurra Cultural Precinct.



Day 3

Wednesday 1 June

The summit's biggest day began with a smoking ceremony from Maurice Mickelo and a Welcome to Country from Kabi Kabi co-host and Traditional Owner Brian Warner.

During the morning plenary session Kevin Smith, CEO of QSNTS, presented a keynote address on the potential of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in leveraging native title and broader rights to re-imagine Australia. Kevin reflected on his moments as a young trainee lawyer when meeting with Eddie Koiki Mabo:

'He spoke of our giz (our root) to those ancestral islands and that we remain connected to it no matter how far we travel . . . we spoke about family and he scolded me several times on my own rendering because he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of family connections and he insisted upon accuracy even in my own family tree. It didn't occur to me until much later that he was teaching even at his most vulnerable and being so generous with his limited time to a virtual stranger made kin by deeper connections that I didn't understand at the time. He was being an Elder, duty bound to explain family, traditional law and custom and spiritual connection to home that my prapa big head, white man's law training didn't comprehend at the time.'

Rachel Perkins followed with a keynote address that discussed legislation aimed at protecting cultural heritage.

Later sessions included a panel discussion on the Yoorrook Justice Commission and discussions on cultural heritage reform, truth-telling, and strategies for fostering strong communities. Another highlight of the day was the book launch for *Am I Black Enough for You?* by Wiradjuri woman Anita Heiss AM.

Day 3 interwove threads from the program with those of the native title sessions. They included caring for country, self-determination, and governance and treaty. In the evening, delegates were able to unwind and connect while enjoying entertainment by the Adam James Trio.



Rachel Perkins gives her keynote address.

AIATSIS SUMMIT
**YOUTH
FORUM**
KABI KABI
COUNTRY

Future leaders

The day-long Youth Forum on Wednesday 1 June was open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates between the ages of 18 and 35.

Chaired by Wiradjuri woman Dora Bowles (AIATSIS), it drew together native title holders, students, community organisers and advocates to reflect on individual and collective experience. Young mob with a shared interest in native title had the opportunity to form networks to support one another along the journey. The day included presentations from Wiradjuri man Kieren Murray (AIATSIS) and representatives from the National Indigenous

Youth Education Coalition — Saibai Island woman Renee Phillips and Darumbal and South Sea Islands woman Hayley McQuire.

During the youth talking circle, led by Kabi Kabi and Wakka Wakka man Tyrone Bean, the forum discussed the varying challenges for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We shared in our collective exhaustion, but also in our excitement for the future. The willingness and number of young people to take action has the potential to effect positive intergenerational change, in and outside of the native title sector.



Left to right: Youth Forum talking circle led by Kabi Kabi and Wakka Wakka man Tyrone Bean; presentation by National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition representatives Saibai Island woman Renee Phillips and Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman Hayley McQuire; Youth Forum delegates.

Day 4

Thursday 2 June

Day 4 opened with a discussion on 'Truth, Trauma and Triumph from 30 Years of Native Title and the Path Ahead'. This was facilitated by Jayne Jagot with panellists Monica Morgan, Dr Valerie Cooms, Chris Griffiths, Ned David, John Mansfield, Tony North, Tony McAvoy SC. Speakers reinforced the importance of navigating the way forward together, by reflecting on our communal journey with native title.

During the day, AIATSIS was proud to launch Yumi Sabe, a platform for knowledge exchange that helps Indigenous communities, researchers and policy makers to access and use data to inform

and improve policy. Yumi Sabe demonstrates the complexity and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' research and culture.

Day 4's program was situated firmly in the native title landscape and included a wide range of topics. Presentations and discussions ranged across native title rights and economic use, sea Country, post-determination realities, Indigenous fire management, and regional approaches to land and sea management. A national community of leaders, spokespeople and industry leaders shared their knowledge of native title and strategies for navigating the native title system.



Day 4 opening: 'Truth, Trauma and Triumph from 30 Years of Native Title and the Path Ahead'.

Day 5 – Mabo Day

Friday 3 June

The final day of the 2022 AIATSIS Summit was held on Mabo day, commemorating 30 years since the 1992 Mabo decision by the High Court of Australia. It started with performances from the Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe and Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Company. This display of culture, storytelling, and performance set the tone for Mabo Day and the final day of the summit. It was followed by introductory remarks from Robert French AC who reflected that:

‘What matters more than constitutional change is the cultural change which underpins it — the acknowledgment of Australia’s First Peoples as the bearers of the great sweep of our continental history and the authors of the oldest stories of its land and waters and with that their status as the bearers of an authority over land and waters which is recognised morally and can be recognised legally.’

A statement on behalf of the Mabo family followed, presented by Helena Gulash. The Mabo Lecture was presented by Djap Wurrung/Gunditjmara woman and AIATSIS Council Chairperson Jodie Sizer. Jodie reflected that the fight for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land rights did not start with Mabo and has not ended. She said that the next chapter will continue to be tough on the local and national level, but we must ensure we create safe spaces to debate but importantly to listen.

The Day 5 closing plenary keynote was given by the Minister for Indigenous Australians the Hon Linda Burney MP in her first official speaking engagement since her appointment. The Minister captured the attention of those present with a focus on nation-building.

Left: AIATSIS Council Chairperson, Jodie Sizer, presenting the Mabo Lecture.

Right: Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Company performance.



Gala dinner

The finale of the 2022 AIATSIS Summit was the gala dinner, a magnificent showcase event with 850 guests, held on the 30th anniversary of the Mabo decision, Friday 3 June.

The event was hosted by Jay Wymarra, an actor and stand-up comedian who was a crowd favourite. He is a unique voice and a staunch activist for the rights of people across all spectrums. The evening commenced with a performance by the Gubbi Gubbi Dance Troupe. Led by Lyndon Davis who captivated the audience with his storytelling, the dancers gave several traditional performances.

The decorative theme for the dinner was based on the artistic project *Beeyali 2021*, generously provided by Kabi Kabi artist Lyndon Davis and his collaborators Dr Leah Barclay (sound) and Dr Tricia King (photographer). Ever-changing audio and video snippets played around the

room to transform the space and captivate the audience. Details of the artwork were incorporated into the table decorations.

Beeyali 2021 was originally commissioned for Adelaide's New Light 2021 festival that showcased experimental and diverse moving image works by contemporary First Nations artists. AIATSIS and QSNTS were extremely appreciative for the opportunity to join the collaboration on this occasion.

The highlight of the gala dinner was the performance by Christine Anu, her daughter Zipporah Corser-Anu and Raymund Shek. The dance floor was packed to overflowing as Christine sang and told stories of her youth.

Local Kabi Kabi band CKNU closed out the evening and kept everyone dancing and singing until late into the evening.

Left: AIATSIS CEO Craig Ritchie presenting at the gala dinner.

Right: Host Jay Wymarra and the team from the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation.





MC Jay Wymarra entertaining guests.



The gala dinner included a live performance by Christine Anu, her daughter Zipporah Corser-Anu and Raymund Shek.



Lyndon Davis and Gubbi Gubbi dancers.



Local Kabi Kabi band CKNU closed the evening.

Sponsorship

AIATSIS would like to thank all of its sponsors whose contributions made this summit a success. With 15 sponsors we raised \$575,000 in support.

Sponsors were acknowledged throughout the five-day program, including the plenary sessions, welcome and conference dinner. Sponsors were promoted prior, during and after the conference through the delegate app, conference signage and online materials.

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