

# CHAPTER 1

## Research



### Highlights 2005–06

- completion of major research projects with government departments and universities
- publication output increased by a further 10 per cent
- significant external grants sourced, representing over 50 per cent of the research budget
- Native Title Conference had highest attendance ever, with more than 100 papers presented
- nearly 60 per cent of successful grantees were Indigenous researchers, as sole workers or in collaboration

### Role of the Research Program

AIATSIS is the premier national, multidisciplinary, research institution focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. It has a special mission to mobilise this knowledge and increase understanding about Indigenous cultures and societies within Australia and internationally. AIATSIS has responsibility for a multitude of research programs and services. It engages in numerous partnerships with research institutions and Indigenous regional alliances, communities and individuals. It aims to offer an ideal research environment, increasingly for early- to mid-career Indigenous scholars.

The Research Program is divided into two functional sections—the Research Section and the Native Title Research Unit (NTRU)—under the overall supervision of the Deputy Principal, Research and Information, Dr Luke Taylor. The Research Section conducts research in all areas of Indigenous studies and is primarily structured around the work of its key research personnel. The section is supervised by the Director of Research, Dr Peter Veth. The NTRU conducts research projects and develops resources on native title and related areas of land, law and policy. The unit is managed by Dr Lisa Strelein.

The Program maintains wide-ranging expertise in Indigenous studies and policy research. It has established projects in social health, regional organisation,

intellectual property, education, Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous governance and natural resource management, history, linguistics, archaeology and cultural tourism, cultural heritage management, native title, facilitation, mediation, agreement and decision making.

## Research advisory bodies

The quality, independence and ethics of the research activities of AIATSIS and its grantees are subject to oversight by the statutory Research Advisory Committee, the Native Title Research Advisory Committee and the Research Ethics Committee, which make recommendations to the AIATSIS Council. Individual projects often have their own reference group, for example the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) Reference Group. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a major role to play as members of these and other committees (see also the Publishing Advisory Committee, page 46).

The **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** assesses applications made to the Institute for research grants, and makes recommendations to the Council in relation to research matters and applications for membership of the Institute. The committee comprises three members of the Council appointed by the Council; eight members of the Institute, elected by members of the Institute in accordance with the Institute rules; and the Principal.

During 2005–06, the eight elected members of the RAC and their areas of expertise were:

Mr Kim Akerman – archaeology

Ms Jeanie Bell – linguistics

Ms Brenda Croft – arts

Professor Ann Curthoys – history

Dr Gaynor Macdonald – social anthropology

Emer. Professor Garth Nettheim, AO – public policy, politics and the law

Dr Colin Pardoe – health and biological sciences

Mr Lester-Irabinna Rigney – education and cultural transmission

Council representatives on the RAC were Professor Larissa Behrendt, Professor Martin Nakata and Mr Michael Williams. The committee met twice in 2005–06 and its meetings were chaired by the Principal, Mr Steve Larkin.

The **Native Title Research Advisory Committee** provides advice to the Principal on the NTRU's research program. Committee members are appointed by the Council for terms of two years. A new committee was established in late 2004.

The committee met twice in 2005–06.

During 2005–06, the members of the Committee were:

***Council members***

Professor Michael Dodson, AM

Mr Michael Williams

***Ex officio members***

Mr Steve Larkin (Principal)

Dr Luke Taylor (Deputy Principal, Research and Information)

***Experts in the field of native title***

Mr Robert Blowes (Barrister)

Mr Tony Johnson (CEO, Gurang Land Council)

Dr Kingsley Palmer (Consultant Anthropologist)

Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, AM (Member, National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT))

***Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OIPC) representative***

Greg Roche (Acting Group Manager, Land and Resources Group)

The **Research Ethics Committee** is concerned with the clearance of ethical aspects of community-based research proposed by the Institute's staff (including fellows, visiting research fellows and consultants) and grantees as well as external collaborative research projects to be carried out with AIATSIS staff under the auspices of the Institute. Members of the committee are appointed by the Council in line with categories established by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The committee is required to meet four times a year, with additional meetings held as required.

The members of the committee in 2005–06 were:

Bishop George Browning Minister of religion or Aboriginal Elder  
or equivalent

Ms Jenny Clarke Lawyer

Mr Graeme Evans Layman

Ms Christine Grant (Chair)

Mr Mark McMillan Person with knowledge of, and current  
experience in, areas of research regularly  
considered by the committee

Dr John Thompson Person with knowledge of, and current  
experience in, the care, counselling or treatment  
of Indigenous people

Dr Laga Van Beek Laywoman

## Research output

### Overview

Research Program staff continued to achieve a high output in 2005–06. Outputs included reports in peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed publications, seminars, lectures, workshops, and the planning and hosting of national conferences. The extent of these outputs highlights the productivity and competitiveness of the Institute's research staff by national research standards. This year, the Research Program published over 130 papers, chapters and books, and prepared numerous manuscripts for reports, presentations, workshops and seminars. A full list of each researcher's published work and presentations is at Appendix 1. This level of output represents high productivity from the 30 per cent of the AIATSIS appropriation that is allocated to the Research Program.

The range of the Institute's research activity reflects the breadth of research staff interests and the diverse audiences for which outputs are produced, including Indigenous communities and organisations, academic bodies, government agencies and policy makers. The number of requests from all these sectors continues to escalate.

Significant engagement with external grants and consultancies topped up funds allocated to recurrent salaries by over 50 per cent during 2005–06 and helped underwrite high levels of field engagement (e.g. travel, interviews, accommodation) by Institute staff.

Among the work completed through external relationships coming to a close in this reporting period were:

- the report on Indigenous interests in the South-west Marine Region for the National Oceans Office of the Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH)
- the final published report of the National Indigenous Languages Survey (with the Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (FATSIL)) for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA)
- the Good Policing Practices Report (with the Australian Institute of Criminology) for the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)
- the three year partnership with the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia (IPRIA) (University of Melbourne) on legal understandings and protocols surrounding national cultural collections and intellectual property

- the three year Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP), which had partnerships with the OIPC and NNTT.

As well as its biannual seminar series and workshops, AIATSIS coordinated two national conferences. Information about the national Native Title Conference 2006 and 'Strangers on the Shore: a conference on early coastal contacts with Australia' is provided on page 39 and page 43 respectively.

## Research Section activities

The following comments highlight some of the research projects and outputs of the research fellows and staff of the Research Section.

**Dr Jane Anderson** completed her major report, *Intellectual property and Indigenous knowledge: access, ownership and control of cultural materials*, a collaborative project between AIATSIS and IPRIA. The outcomes from this project include a significant research report, *Guidelines on the legal implications of intellectual property for cultural institutions*, and a *Framework for protocols for IP and Indigenous communities*. The framework for protocols addresses practical community needs and expectations around intellectual property (IP) law, and control of knowledge between individuals, communities and external researchers. These reports were launched at AIATSIS on 16 June 2006 and at the University of Melbourne on 19 June 2006. Dr Anderson also worked on two other related areas of research: access to knowledge and creative commons movements; and the emerging social authorities generated through IP law. She was awarded a fellowship at the International Centre of Advanced Studies at New York University in New York. Dr Anderson completed her tenure at AIATSIS in July 2006.

**Ms Kerry Arabena** significantly added to the Health Team's already impressive portfolio of research and public education activities. Ms Arabena, on behalf of the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Clinic, was awarded \$100,000 in funding from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Department of Health for collaborative research on resilience, wellbeing and diversionary initiatives for the new ACT prison. She delivered numerous public lectures concerning Torres Strait Islander social indicators in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, the new arrangements for Indigenous service delivery in Australia, public health issues and reciprocal arrangements. Ms Arabena is investigating the fundamental building blocks for health and wellbeing in the full exercise of Indigenous citizenship. She began work on a PhD at the Australian National University's (ANU) School of Resources, Environment and Society in April 2006, which will inform activities in the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program of

the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH), and lead to peer-reviewed publications and presentations at key conferences.

History Fellow, **Dr Geoffrey Gray** served as a member of the editorial board of *Aboriginal History* and the editorial committee of *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. He co-convened (with Mr Steve Kinnane) the successful seminar series held by AIATSIS during the second semester of 2005. Dr Gray completed his major manuscript concerning an historical overview of the role of anthropologists in the study of Australian Indigenous cultures. He presented four invited papers in Australia and had eight papers accepted for publication. He provided high levels of mentoring to grantees in the areas of social and family history. Dr Gray took a lead role in the processing of books for the Stanner Award<sup>1</sup> and provided editorial advice across a range of topics in the Research Program.

**Dr Graham Henderson**, Visiting Research Fellow in Health, was closely involved in a range of topics including his CRAH-endorsed in-kind research on Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing in collaboration with the Muuji Regional Centre for Social and Emotional Wellbeing. The Muuji project progressed, with the survey questionnaire piloted in Wagga Wagga, Narooma, Bega, Batemans Bay and Canberra. Dr Henderson was a key driver in the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program (NTEHP) History Project. Five seminars about the NTEHP were delivered as part of the AIATSIS seminar series. Dr Henderson was involved closely with preparations for the new ACT prison—the Alexander Maconochie Centre—which began in September 2005. Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Clinic, which provides health services to the Aboriginal people of the ACT, recruited Dr Narrelle Poroch to assist with this work. Dr Poroch has been given visiting scholar status at AIATSIS.

**Mr Steve Kinnane** progressed his research into contemporary land and sea management alliances and integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into resource management regimes in northern Australia. His work focused on the research engagement between international Indigenous environmental networks, international sustainability, Indigenous rights movements and northern Australian Indigenous stakeholders. He intends to investigate and

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1. AIATSIS established the Stanner Award in 1985 in recognition of the significant contribution of the late Emer. Professor WEH (Bill) Stanner to the establishment and development of the Institute. The Stanner Award comprises a certificate and a prize of \$1,000 to the author of the successful publication. One award may be given each year for the best published contribution to Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander studies that is considered by Council to be a significant work of scholarship in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander studies and which reflects the dynamic nature of Professor Stanner's life and work.

document three case studies in each biocultural region of saltwater country (West Kimberley), desert country (Central and East Kimberley) and freshwater country (East Kimberley), completing three reports by late 2007, and contributing towards a monograph detailing Indigenous visions for sustainability within the wider region. One of the outputs will be a conclusive and detailed sustainability strategy for the region based on Indigenous visions of sustainability toward the creation and support of culturally appropriate regional economies. He is also working towards the completion of and a draft sustainability assessment toolkit for the Kimberley Land Council. In February 2006, Mr Kinnane was awarded the prestigious Stanner Award (2004) for his book, *Shadow lines* (Fremantle Arts Press).

**Dr Patrick McConvell** worked on a large number of domestic and international projects. He brought considerable resources into the Research Program's language stream through funds from the Volkswagen Foundation for collaborative studies on languages from the Victoria River District in the Northern Territory. He was a key author for the National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) report, published in January 2006, and is a member of the Aboriginal Child Language Acquisition Project (ACLA). Dr McConvell was responsible for supervising students, writing papers, and convening workshops and meetings. As part of the project titled 'Ethnographic electronic research (EthnoER)', he is serving as a Chief Investigator on a one-year Australian Research Council (ARC) project developing shared resources for web digital video annotation. Dr McConvell presented five papers to international conferences and had four peer-reviewed chapters and papers accepted.

**Dr Patrick Sullivan** worked on his current visiting research fellowship in Indigenous regional organisation and governance. One theoretical paper was published in *Oceania*; another was accepted for future publication in *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*. AIATSIS intends to publish Dr Sullivan's work on appropriate governance processes for Aboriginal Australia. His involvement in the Indigenous Community Governance Project of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at the ANU reached a milestone with submission of a working paper on whole-of-government policy, shared responsibility agreements and regional partnership agreements. Dr Sullivan contributed a paper on government support for hybrid economies to a workshop convened by the Australian Conservation Foundation. Dr Sullivan's research evolved from its concentration on Aboriginal community governance processes to the wider governance environment of public policy and whole-of-government service delivery. Significant progress was made in finding external

support for this research evolution. Dr Sullivan acted in the position of Director of Research for two periods in early 2006.

**Dr Jo Taylor**, Visiting Research Fellow in Education, progressed her project, which involves conducting an ethnography through a focus group of Indigenous children and tracking their progress through kindergarten, pre-primary and year one to identify what spaces exist for cultural transmission and cultural reproduction in the mainstream school in urban settings. This project seeks to identify and understand important points of potential implicit and explicit tension for Indigenous children in this socio-cultural interface. The study is focusing on three interrelated aspects of cultural transmission—language, interaction style(s), and power and authority. It aims to discern cultural understandings in the communicative language, literacy and interaction of Indigenous students, their parents, the Aboriginal and Islander education workers (AIEWs and ALOs) with whom they associate, teachers and non-Indigenous children. A particular goal of this project is to develop ways to make findings and resultant understandings accessible and of practical use to education practitioners.

**Dr Luke Taylor**, Deputy Principal, Research and Information, has oversight of the Institute's Research and Publishing programs. Dr Taylor co-supervised a number of externally funded AIATSIS research projects and conducted research with Aboriginal artists in Arnhem Land. He completed fieldwork in June 2005 to support the development of the exhibition, '*rarrk—John Mawurndjul: Journey through Time in Northern Australia*', shown at the Museum Tinguely, Basel (September 2005 to January 2006) and the Sprengel Museum, Hannover (February 2005 to June 2006). Dr Taylor made two presentations on Kuninjku art in the 'Semiology of form' seminar series at the ANU's Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR); gave a seminar to museology students at the CCR; and taught a postgraduate course in Aboriginal art at the ANU. Dr Taylor co-supervised two PhD students in Aboriginal art through to completion.

As Director of Research, **Dr Peter Veth** administered the program and the Research Grants Program. He supervised, edited and contributed to a range of studies and reports prepared by staff of the program. Dr Veth co-hosted the International Quaternary Association's Australasian node concerning 'The human diaspora: Africa, Asia and Australia'. He co-convened and presented at the joint AIATSIS, ANU and National Museum of Australia (NMA) conference, 'Strangers on the Shore: early coastal contacts with Australia'. He completed one book, an edited volume, eight peer-reviewed chapters and papers, and presented four invited papers to conferences. He co-authored two reports documenting the significance of the art and cultural heritage of the Dampier



Archipelago towards potential addition of this area to the National Heritage List. Dr Veth is currently working on two books concerning early contacts by colonial powers with Indigenous Australians and the archaeology of the Montebello Islands. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in November 2005 and an Adjunct Professor of the ANU in July 2006.

**Dr Graeme Ward** continued his work on cultural heritage tourism involving Indigenous Australian places. His focus concerns potential costs versus benefits to Indigenous communities, and assessment of the impact of tourism on heritage places, especially sites with rock markings. In a series of fieldwork- and desk-based projects, he is exploring recent developments where cultural heritage tourism is under way or planned. The aim is to develop an understanding of the Indigenous group's perception of the scope, likely benefits and costs, and their rights and responsibilities in engaging in cultural heritage tourism; the likely effects of visitation upon cultural heritage places and the requirements for their management; and to monitor these and other aspects as planning and development takes place. Dr Ward is liaising with tour operators based in Darwin who are interacting with groups in the Wadeye area. In train are reports to the Wadeye community, academic articles about the management of cultural heritage places relating to tourism developments in the Wadeye area, archaeological potential and management requirements of sites surveyed, and collaborative conference papers on results of recent research.

## **Native Title Research Unit activities**

The NTRU was established in 1993 after the High Court decision in *Mabo v Queensland [No. 2]* (1992), which legally recognised Indigenous rights and interest in land under native title. The NTRU plays a central role in facilitating the recognition and protection of Indigenous land rights by contributing to the capacity of claimant communities and their representative organisations, producing timely research, coordinating information and promoting policy debate within the native title system.

The NTRU provides independent research and policy advice on current issues in the native title claims process through its research projects, reports, seminars, workshops and ongoing publications. The unit maintains a comprehensive website that provides summaries and links to research resources. It produces the bimonthly *Native Title Newsletter* and publishes *Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title*, which contains peer-reviewed issues papers. These publications are available electronically, providing a greater range of researchers and

practitioners with access to insightful, accurate and timely information. The unit also actively supports the annual Native Title Conference.

The NTRU's work in 2005–06 coincided with the extensive program of reforms to the native title system proposed by the Australian Government, the expansion of the Family and Community Services portfolio to include Indigenous affairs, a series of key native title determinations and the current emphasis on agreement making. The following sections report on the NTRU's activities according to major themes.

## Native title agreement making

**Dr Stuart Bradfield** completed his fellowship at AIATSIS in January 2006. His research examined the notion of 'comprehensive' approaches to settling native title claims as well as the nature of native title agreements. Dr Bradfield worked in partnership with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council on a longitudinal case study of their comprehensive agreement process and developed a book chapter that will be published later in 2006.

Building on the work conducted by Dr Bradfield, **Ms Krysti Guest** coordinated a project to benchmark practice in the negotiation and implementation of large-scale agreements between Indigenous peoples and state governments. Three key agreements were targeted including the Miriuwung Gajerrong peoples' Ord Stage II agreement, the Burrup Peninsula agreement, and Wotjobaluk/Wimmera agreements. The project was informed by a workshop involving the principal Indigenous negotiators, their negotiating teams and representatives; the state governments and their negotiators; and additional representatives from Indigenous and government organisations. Ms Guest gave presentations to Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and government representatives from around the country.

As part of an ARC linkage grant, **Dr Lisa Strelein** began a three-year collaboration with the University of Melbourne, Rio Tinto and the OIPC to examine the implementation of agreements and treaties with Indigenous and local peoples in postcolonial states.

## Native title jurisprudence

In May 2006 **Dr Strelein** launched her new book, *Compromised jurisprudence: native title cases since Mabo* (Aboriginal Studies Press). The book provides a succinct account of the most significant native title cases since the *Mabo*

decision. It includes an annotated comprehensive case list prepared by staff of the NTRU. Dr Strelein produced a number of papers, articles, and book chapters, including reports on authorisation and native title group definition, and gave numerous presentations examining particular aspects of native title law. Dr Strelein also examined and supervised PhD and Masters students in law, philosophy, history and geography.

## Native title sector reforms

The NTRU responded to the various reforms and reviews of elements of the native title sector announced throughout 2005–06. The unit completed submissions to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005; the Attorney-General's Native Title Claims Resolution Review; the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title; and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund Native Title Representative Bodies Inquiry. The NTRU also prepared a commentary on the Government of Western Australia's consultation paper on an alternative settlements framework, to be published in the *Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title* series. A preliminary investigation of the operating environment and needs of 'prescribed bodies corporate' will be continued in the next financial year, building on the review by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

## State connection requirements

State government connection frameworks have an increasing role in driving processes and, in particular, determining the case management practices of NTRBs and claimant groups. **Ms Tran Tran** completed interviews across the native title sector and a review of the policies and practices of state connection requirements. The draft report was being reviewed and further developed at the end of the reporting period, for publication in August 2006.

## The management of connection material

The Native Title Research and Access Officer, **Ms Grace Koch**, provided expert advice to native title clients on the holdings of the AIATSIS Library and Audio-visual Archive. The NTRU continued to work with NTRB research and information managers to formulate a plan for NTRB native title services to establish standards and develop skills for the proper documentation and secure storage

of connection material and other original documents generated by the native title process. Ms Koch developed an information kit for NTRBs and an ongoing study into the future of connection material. A workshop for NTRBs was held at AIATSIS in June 2006 to construct a best practice framework addressing database structure and content, as well as ethics and protocols for access and use of connection materials. Twenty-three representatives from thirteen NTRBs attended the workshop. The workshop led to a series of recommendations for the construction of databases, and guidelines for access and use of materials held in collections at NTRBs.

## Indigenous knowledge and environment

The NTRU also conducts research more broadly in areas of law, public policy and land management. Reflecting this broad research agenda, **Mr Glen Kelly** worked extensively on country management. He completed a report for the Land and Heritage Unit of the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) on Kimberley Indigenous history, the history of Indigenous land movements and involvement in natural resource management (NRM) in the Kimberley area, population analysis and consultation processes performed by the Land and Sea Management Unit of the KLC. Mr Kelly was also involved in a program of work set out by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the status and trends regarding traditional knowledge. He completed a report on threats to traditional knowledge in the Asia and Australia region. In addition, staff of the NTRU were involved in the National Oceans Office project to examine Indigenous interests in the South-west Marine Region (see page 40).

## The new arrangements in Indigenous affairs

**Ms Kerry Arabena** and **Dr Stuart Bradfield** provided timely research papers on the new arrangements in Indigenous affairs. Ms Arabena completed a commentary on the new arrangements in Indigenous affairs. As part of a series of commentaries on the changing policy landscape, Dr Bradfield contributed an explanation of the key concepts, actors and issues in the national debate over the privatisation of communal lands: 'White picket fence or Trojan horse? The debate over communal ownership of Indigenous land and individual wealth creation', published in the *Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title* series. **Ms Diana McCarthy** and **Professor Michael Dodson** also engaged in a significant discussion of the communal lands debate for an international symposium on land tenure, to be published in the AIATSIS Discussion Paper series.

## Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project

The Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP) finished in June 2006 after a highly successful three years. The project focused specifically on native title agreement making, but the lessons learned apply to many other programs and Indigenous community initiatives including natural resource management, health, housing, education, and substance abuse.

**Tom Calma**, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, praised IFaMP saying it, 'highlights key issues relating to the capacity of Indigenous communities to be able to participate on an informed and equal basis in the new arrangements'. State Attorneys General and other ministers have commended the proposal for a supported network of Indigenous mediators and facilitators. A significant body of work has been developed, including an extensive website <<http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/ifamp/index.html>>.

A critical IFaMP conclusion was that these processes need to build on existing Indigenous capacity in an environment of mutual respect, and to incorporate capacity building as an integral aspect of design. Additionally, that agreement-brokering processes be followed by considered implementation phases.

**Ms Toni Bauman**, in her roles as an anthropologist, mediator and facilitator, made a unique contribution to IFaMP. She and consultant mediator, **Ms Rhiân Williams**, facilitated a number of workshops for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mediators and facilitators. These included an introductory dispute-management training pilot with Native Title Services Victoria and the Central Land Council, and a workshop on Indigenous decision making and conflict management for the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) Certificate II course. Ms Bauman's keynote address to the NSW Aboriginal Community Justice Centres in December emphasised the importance of a fully supported network of Indigenous facilitators, mediators and negotiators.

Ms Bauman also delivered conference papers to the National Mediation Conference and the Native Title Conference. These drew on a case study in best practice mediation and facilitation carried out in Katherine in relation to an Indigenous land-use agreement under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

## Visiting Scholars Program

AIATSIS is a centre for research excellence. To foster this excellence, AIATSIS has pursued a vigorous intellectual environment and sought to maximise the benefits of developing networks of academics, practitioners and thinkers in Indigenous studies. To this end AIATSIS encourages people in the field to join the Research Program for academic sabbaticals, short stays and short-term fellowships. The value of this approach is two-fold: the professional

development of both staff and visitors; and the contribution of papers, seminars and research outcomes. AIATSIS encourages a diversity of visitors through its International Indigenous Fellowship Program in the NTRU, the Indigenous Scholars Program for postgraduate scholars, short-term visiting fellowships (of one to three months), and honorary visiting fellowships appointed by the Council. It also provides opportunities for seminars and workshops to be presented by occasional visitors.

**Dr Gordon Briscoe** led the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program (NTEHP) History Project, which will produce a book-length manuscript on Aboriginal involvement in this groundbreaking, remote-area, health-delivery program.

**Professor Colin Tatz** continued his tenure as an honorary visiting fellow, working on a reference work titled, 'The politics of property: Aboriginal land policies 1966–2006'. He used his residence to complete a co-edited volume (with Dr Peter Arnold and Dr Sandra Tatz) and to carry out a visit with medical colleagues to the Northern Territory to examine aspects of Indigenous health.

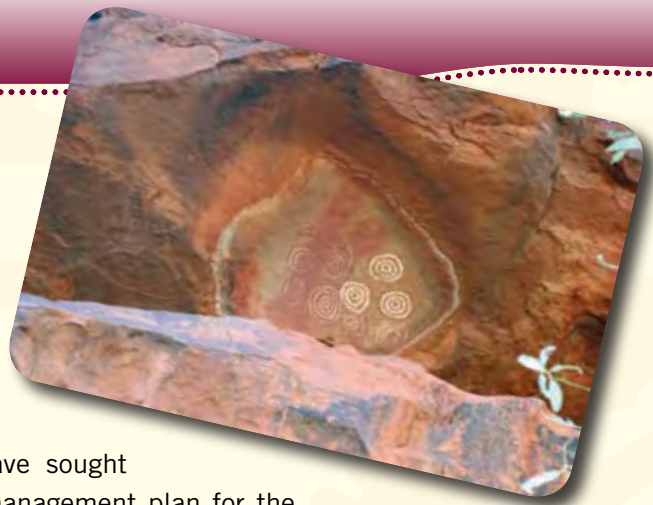
**Dr Les Hiatt** continued his work as an honorary visiting fellow on a number of research projects relating to Arnhem Land and Tasmania, as well as sorting and cataloguing his extensive collection of papers for deposit in the Institute's archive.

The NTRU hosted a number of students placed under the Aurora Program (Ms Nerida Mulvey, Monash University); the Australian National Internships Program (Ms Tran Tran, University of Technology, Sydney); and the National Indigenous Cadetships Program (Mr Glen Fairfoot, James Cook University). Visitors hosted by the NTRU included the following Indigenous scholars and experienced native title practitioners: Ms Krysti Guest, Senior Legal Officer with the Kimberley Land Council; Ms Megan Davis, who is completing her PhD in Law on Aboriginal women in liberal democratic societies; and Ms Donna Oxenham, a Masters by Research student at the University of Western Australia, who is examining Indigenous governance and identity.

## Indigenous researchers and scholars at AIATSIS

AIATSIS was successful in attracting a number of established Indigenous scholars to work at the Institute in 2005–06, including Ms Kerry Arabena, Mr Steve Kinnane, Mr Glen Kelly and Ms Donna Oxenham (see above for an outline of their respective work). The NTRU also undertakes collaborative research projects with a wide range of Indigenous researchers and organisations, including NTRBs. Indigenous researchers and practitioners were strongly represented in the seminars, workshops and conference convened by the NTRU and in the Institute's seminar series.

## Managing ancient cultural land: the Canning Stock Route



Custodians of one of the largest cultural areas and natural desert landscapes in Australia, the Canning Stock Route, have sought assistance in developing an integrated management plan for the route in the face of a rapid and uncontrolled increase in tourism.

AIATSIS Director of Research, Dr Peter Veth, is developing a major ARC Linkage project in collaboration with Ngaanyatjarra Land Council, the Kimberley Land Council and seven other state and federal industry partners. Australian Research Centre Linkage provides competitive research funds for applied projects.

The stock route runs for 1,800 kilometres between Wiluna and Halls Creek. As late as 1975, some of the last Aboriginal groups to make contact with white settlers lived in the vicinity of the route.

Since then, many of these peoples, including Martu, Walmajarri and Wangajunka speakers, have returned and formed communities and outstations at places like Mulan, Kunawarrigi (Well 33) and Parnngurr (Cotton Creek).

Increased numbers of site visits, as well as sustainability issues, have led the custodians of the country to ask for a management plan.

They also want to see the implementation of a ranger scheme, training initiatives, a permit system and effective site protection. The project aims to address the need for management and interpretation of Aboriginal sites (especially art sites and Dreaming places) along the route, including recognition that this is Aboriginal land. There will be postgraduate scholarships, training modules, fieldwork expenses and Indigenous research capacity funds built into the project for custodians from the Western Desert and Kimberley.

AIATSIS Councillors, staff and members have long-term relationships with the custodians. They include Professor Bob Tonkinson, Deputy Chair of the Council; Dr Veth; and Dr Mike Smith of the National Museum of Australia. The film *Rabbit Proof Fence* is based on people from this area. AIATSIS grantees, Ms Sue Davenport, Mr Peter Johnson and Yuwali, have written a prize-winning book, *Cleared out*, which is set in the region (see page 48 for more information).

## National Research Priorities

Table 2 summarises the actions recommended for greater engagement with national research priorities (NRPs) arising from the AIATSIS Implementation Plan 2005. Significant progress was made in 2005–06 towards achieving these outcomes. The Institute’s National Research Priority Report to the Standing Committee of National Research Priorities is at Appendix 3.

Table 2: AIATSIS contribution toward national research goals

National Research Priority Goal	Proposed AIATSIS contribution to outcomes
<i>Responding to climate change and variability</i>	Increase research focus on issues relating to Indigenous land management, co-management plans and ATSI natural resource knowledge banks Foster research on the history of human/landscape relationships
<i>Strengthening Australia’s social and economic framework</i>	Support project <i>Facilitating Indigenous Decision and Agreement Making and Managing Disputes in Land Issues</i> Prioritise activities of the Research Fellows in Health towards outputs in the CRC for Aboriginal Health Use role of AIATSIS on the CRC Board to initiate further research links with industry and community Continue emphasis of research into the environmental and social causes of ill-health (with research partners) Mobilise Fellows’ work on governance to address the provision of health servicing to Indigenous clients
<i>Promoting an innovation culture and economy</i>	Increase research outputs on Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property Maintain focus and increase outputs on Indigenous success stories (both community and industry) Focus on current and future projects that enhance understandings of cultural transmission, education and cultural heritage
<i>Understanding our region in the world</i>	Foster research that has a bearing on regional and international treaties/agreements and protocols Increase focus on historical trends by which Indigenous communities increasingly become profiled in international portrayals of wider Australian society



In February 2006 the Institute received a report on its implementation plan and progress prepared by the National Research Priorities Standing Committee, chaired by the Chief Scientist. The report noted the Institute's numerous positive actions towards realising actual outcomes in a range of NRP areas. The Standing Committee specifically made the following points, which are direct quotations from the report.

- The primary focus of research funded by AIATSIS is, and should be, research that promotes the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians, and the Committee commends AIATSIS on the provision of a well-focused report.
- The Committee believes that AIATSIS has demonstrated good awareness of the NRPs and used them to support its own priorities and objectives...there has been greater alignment of research effort to NRPs evidenced by strategic appointments, new projects and increased outputs.
- The Committee notes that AIATSIS has welcomed the move to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), noting that many research links and synergies have already been established between AIATSIS staff and managers and researchers within DEST. AIATSIS integrates research and leverages its impact through collaborations with fifteen universities, eight Australian Government departments, over fifty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) communities and its extensive network of international links.
- The Committee commends AIATSIS for its willingness to integrate the NRPs into its research framework, and for its strong commitment to building effective research collaborations nationally and internationally.

## Grants awarded

In 2005–06, the AIATSIS Council awarded monies to the value of \$680,000 to a total of thirty-one projects through the Research Grants Program. The full list of grants awarded is at Appendix 2.

The closing date for grant applications was 16 December 2005. Approximately 100 applications for a total of \$2.8 million were received. There was a noticeable increase in the number of applications that engaged with the special emphasis categories identified by the Research Advisory Committee, such as Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

A high number of Indigenous researchers applied for grants in this round, with Indigenous researchers involved in well over half of all applications. There was also a strengthening trend towards more collaborative research, and a high level of successful Indigenous participation, with Indigenous researchers involved in over half of all monies awarded. Mentoring of Indigenous applicants

by staff was a priority. Research staff provided individuals, communities and organisations with feedback on eligibility and proposed research projects, and facilitated access to resources and networks. They actively fostered familiarity with the Institute's research programs on the part of grant applicants through personal contact and by encouraging involvement in the Institute's research workshops, seminars and conferences. Audiovisual Archive staff offered grantees training in audiovisual techniques to support quality project outputs.

In 2006–07, the grants team will also host a grants-writing workshop in Canberra, at which aspiring (particularly early-career) researchers can receive mentoring, training and feedback on developing competitive applications and projects. After substantial revision of the application form and guidelines in 2005–06, further attention will be given in 2006–07 to the intellectual property provisions in the application form, the guidelines to grants, and the *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies*.

## Strategic research alliances

### International alliances

Many research fellows were invited to engage in international projects or deliver papers to international conferences during 2005–06. Engagements included a Rockefeller Fellowship based at the Smithsonian Institution on cultural information and intellectual property (Dr Jane Anderson); work at the Max Planck Institute, Leipzig, on Aboriginal languages (Dr Patrick McConvell); work at the University of California, Berkeley (Dr Peter Veth); and at the Museum Tinguely, Basel, on Aboriginal art (Dr Luke Taylor). Invited papers were delivered in the United States and Canada by Dr Lisa Strelein and Ms Kerry Arabena, in Europe by Dr Patrick Sullivan, and in India by Dr Graeme Ward. There were research alliances with Indigenous peoples and research units on all other continents and with some twenty international universities. In June 2006, Ms Toni Bauman participated in a two-week governance study tour to the United States and Canada sponsored by the Kellog Foundation, which was organised by Reconciliation Australia in partnership with the Native Nations Institute (NNI) for Leadership, Management and Policy (NNI) of the University of Arizona.

### Institutional partners in Australia

#### Native title

The NTRU continued to give strategic advice to NTRBs and government departments. The NTRU was integral in supporting NTRBs in developing a national

forum to share information and respond to reforms and policy issues within the native title sector. Dr Strelein was invited to sit on the Attorney-General's Department Native Title Consultative Forum. She developed relationships within government to ensure continued funding for the NTRU, securing a base funding level of \$500,000 for four years (2005–06 to 2008–09) from the OIPC, which will be augmented by other project and consultancy funding and revenue sources.

Ms Bauman was a member of a steering committee with Ms Louise Anderson, Native Title Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia, and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, National Native Title Tribunal and National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee member, for a scoping study funded by the Federal Court to identify the range of case studies that would provide information on best practice Indigenous dispute resolution.

### **ARC linkage grant**

Dr Strelein is part of an ARC linkage grant (as a Partner Investigator) with researchers from the University of Melbourne, to examine the implementation of treaties and agreements with Indigenous peoples in post-colonial states. The \$1.5 million project will build on existing research into agreement making by Indigenous peoples, including ongoing development of the Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements Database, and look more specifically at the implementation of agreements. The research extends beyond the native title sector and includes comparative study in South-East Asia, Africa and North America. The project team held its first workshop with industry partners, the OIPC and Rio Tinto Mining, to identify potential case studies for in-depth analysis over the three-year study.

### **Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health**

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH) is a 'virtual' organisation bringing together in collaboration research users, research providers, policy makers and service delivery agencies. The Principal of AIATSIS, Mr Steve Larkin, continued his role as a member of the CRAH Board. Three AIATSIS activities are officially endorsed as in-kind projects for the CRAH. These are:

- 'Governance as a social determinant of Indigenous health' (Dr Patrick Sullivan)
- 'Fundamental building blocks for health and wellbeing in the full exercise of Indigenous citizenship' (Ms Kerry Arabena)

- ‘Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing and what we can do to improve it: Muuji Regional Centre Research Project’ (Dr Graham Henderson).

Two further projects were approved by the CRAH in 2005–06 as in-kind projects. These were:

- the ‘National Trachoma and Eye Health Program (NTEHP) History Project’ (Dr Geoffrey Gray, Dr Gordon Briscoe, Dr Peter Veth)
- ‘Research on the policing implications of cannabis, amphetamine and other illicit drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities’ (Dr Peter Veth). This project was completed.

### **National Indigenous Languages Survey**

The National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) Report, a collaborative venture between AIATSIS and FATSIL for DCITA, was successfully completed and distributed to all interested parties. The report provides an extremely valuable summary and analysis of the survey, completed in 2004, on the vitality, status and resources of Indigenous languages. The report considers the key issue of language endangerment and identifies a worrying trend of increasing rates of language loss Australia-wide. The report also provides valuable sources and references that can be used to support the learning of languages and their revival. The report is proactive in identifying a number of carefully reasoned (and urgent) policy and program recommendations to address varying language needs of different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### **Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre**

Involvement with the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (DKCRC) was consolidated with Dr Patrick Sullivan becoming a project manager for one of the major research nodes and AIATSIS subsequently becoming an affiliate. AIATSIS staff members, Drs Veth and Sullivan, have been invited to participate in the 2006–2010 Planning Workshop of the CRC to be held at the ANU in September 2006. DKCRC has confirmed by contract that Dr Sullivan will take up leadership of a research team in the federal jurisdiction. This team will consist of Dr Sullivan, a researcher seconded from and based in the OIPC, and a PhD student. The DKCRC will fund just over one-third of Dr Sullivan’s salary.

### **The National Trachoma and Eye Health Project**

The National Trachoma and Eye Health Project is due to finish its draft manuscript this year, with the first semester AIATSIS research lecture series being based on the Indigenous participants and their experiences during the

national eye program. The project applied for and obtained discretionary monies of \$25,000 from the Fred Hollows Foundation, underwriting the final stage of interviews, drafting and editing of the manuscript.

### **Australian Collaboration: 'Success in Indigenous organisations, Stage 2'**

Dr Julie Finlayson was engaged as lead researcher in September 2005 to conduct field-based research combined with desktop studies on ten case studies of Indigenous organisational success nationally. Nine case studies were completed by June 2006. In February 2006 Ms Joanna Lunzer was appointed as research assistant on the project. Funding for the project was provided by the Australian Collaboration. Professors Larissa Behrendt, David Yencken and Geoff Scott provided oversight of the project. AIATSIS supported the project by hosting the researchers, administering the project and providing in-kind support. Participating funding bodies included the Victorian Government, Reconciliation Australia, and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. Some funding bodies nominated specific Indigenous organisations to participate in the study, while others stipulated that case studies must include state-based examples.

- Case-study organisations in Victoria were the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA); Brambuk Cultural Centre, the Gariwerd-Grampians National Park; Worn Gundidj's cultural tourism enterprise at Tower Hill, Warrnambool; and Rumbalara Aboriginal Medical Service, Shepparton.
- New South Wales case studies included Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council, Awabakal Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd, and Murdi Pakki Regional Enterprise Corporation in Coonamble.
- Other case studies were Bama Ngappi Ngappi Aboriginal Corporation, Cairns; South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) in Bunbury; and Wunan Foundation, Kununurra.

The range of Indigenous organisations surveyed was diverse. Differences were evident in organisational size and structure, incorporation statute, objectives and purpose. The organisational types included cultural tourism ventures; a job placement, apprenticeship and training organisation; an umbrella organisation delivering social, educational and health services; two medical services; a local land council; an economic development foundation; and a lead agency in child and family welfare. Following the field visit, each organisation received a confidential field report for internal purposes. A report outlining successful organisational processes is due for publication in April 2007.

A related component of this project will occur between July and December 2006 with three studies of Aboriginal sole and joint management of national parks. This part of the project is funded by the Poola Foundation and will also be included in the final publication. Papers outlining and discussing themes emerging from the project will be given in the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research seminar series at the ANU and at the 'Governments and communities in partnership' conference at Melbourne University in September 2006.

## International Union for Quaternary Research

Every four years the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) community gathers together for the INQUA Congress. The first domestic INQUA Congress was held at Canberra in November 2005. It was coordinated by Dr Veth and Professor John Dodson (University of Western Australia and Brunel University). Eight nodes of researchers from Australia and overseas were established to present major papers to the Global INQUA Congress to be held in August 2007 at Cairns. The congress will attract some 6,000 registrations. As noted on the INQUA website, 'Rising greenhouse gases are driving climatic boundaries beyond the Quaternary envelope; rising tides of humanity are pushing the ecosphere towards an impoverished and uncharted state. In uncharted seas, sailing directions are taken from historical knowledge. Never has the need to understand Quaternary history been greater: history of climate, the biosphere and humankind'. AIATSIS is taking a lead role in the human and environmental themes of the 2007 INQUA Congress.

## AUSTLANG

An AUSTLANG Project Plan has been developed which outlines four future stages of tasks to be completed by the Language Officer in conjunction with programmers. These include:

- adding additional information, a function to search Mura®, an external links page and additional edit functions
- integration of OZBIB (the Australian Languages Bibliography) and National Indigenous Languages Survey data sets
- addition of Tindale's and Oates' language names, improved map interface and an improved query page
- language profile linked to map sheets and numbers, outline of current language work in the region and addition of ABS census data.

Information about AUSTLANG is available at <<http://austlang.aiatsis.gov.au>>.

## Aboriginal art on the world stage

Luke Taylor, the Deputy Principal, Research and Information, recently assisted with the launch of the exhibition, *rarrk—John Mawurndjul: Journey through Time in Northern Australia*, at the Museum Tinguely, Basel. This was the first major retrospective of the work of a living Aboriginal artist to be held outside Australia. The exhibition was also shown in Hannover.

Mr Mawurndjul also developed an installation of his work at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris. This museum, opened in June 2006, features major works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists as well as works from Oceania, Asia and Africa. Australian curators, Ms Brenda Croft (National Gallery of Australia) and Ms Hetti Perkins (Art Gallery of New South Wales), arranged for the installation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art as part of the fabric of the walls, ceilings, glass frontages, and columns of the building.

Dr Taylor and anthropologist Professor Jon Altman have worked with Mr Mawurndjul and his family for many years, and both wrote essays on the artist's development and creativity for the exhibition catalogue. Mr Mawurndjul and his wife Kay Lindjuwanga travelled to Basel for the opening and participated in a number of public programs, including an interpretive walkthrough and a two-day academic symposium.

European art historians and anthropologists joined in the symposium discussions in which consideration was given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art as contemporary art on a world stage, as well as the current Australian Government policy framework for managing Indigenous affairs.



John Mawurndjul at work at Milmilngkan outstation.

## Kimberley Appropriate Economies Roundtable research paper

Mr Steve Kinnane attended an Appropriate Economies Roundtable held in Fitzroy Crossing on 11–13 October 2005. This roundtable provided a platform for discussions to explore sustainable economic activities and opportunities in the Fitzroy and Canning Basins that are consistent with, and incorporate, cultural values. The forum included the presentation of technical papers across a range of topics geared to provide further understanding of potential and current sustainable industries.

The Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) committed to funding research that provides a critique and analysis that will complement the Appropriate Economies Roundtable forum. The research will contribute to a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities in the area and provide enhanced information for use in decision-making processes with relation to sustainable economic development. The report will provide an opportunity for all sections of the community and industry to gain a greater understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities faced in addressing a sustainable future for the Aboriginal people of the region. Mr Kinnane has been approached by the KDC to carry out the project. This work is directly relevant to Mr Kinnane's research plan and potentially offers considerable resources to carry out extended fieldwork, interviews and data collection as well as a highly efficient portal into several NRM, sustainability, and governance study sites in the Kimberley. The opportunity also makes the visiting fellowship outputs directly relevant to Indigenous communities, regional stakeholders and other industry groups.

## Conferences

### Native Title Conference 2006

The annual national Native Title Conference held at Darwin on 24–26 May 2006 was again extremely successful. The conference remains the leading Indigenous policy conference in Australia and a flagship event for AIATSIS. The conference was co-convened by the Northern Land Council (NLC) and the conference hosts, the Larrakia Nation. This year's conference also coincided with NLC's celebration of thirty years of land rights in the Northern Territory. Over 500 participants and over 100 presenters attended this nationally significant forum. This year also saw the involvement of 270 staff from NTRBs and a large number of 'prescribed bodies corporate' and native title holders and claimants, as well as all of the government institutions and programs involved in native title and the management of native title lands.



## Marine report charts the complexity of Indigenous interests

Australia's South-west Marine Region (SWMR) covers around a million square kilometres of ocean between Kangaroo Island, off South Australia, and the Indian Ocean coast of Western Australia. The Nunnga, Nyungar and Yamatji Indigenous peoples are the traditional owners of this diverse and resource-rich region.

AIATSIS was commissioned by the National Oceans Office, part of the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) to identify how these peoples connected with this vast sweep of coastal water, what their interests were, and how they might be involved in the development of a regional marine plan. The resulting report, *Sea countries of the south: Indigenous interests and connections within the South-west Marine Region of Australia*, found that Indigenous communities and individuals often either did not have adequate access to these resources, or did not benefit from them.

'Despite being the subject of numerous reports and policy statements espousing principles of increased participation in both resource management and industry participation, tangible benefits for Aboriginal people have yet to be realised', former ATSIC Commissioner, Rodney Dillon, is quoted as saying.

'*Sea countries of the south* reveals the complexity of Indigenous interests and values in the SWMR, and documents the plethora of programs and regional management regimes that are currently in place or being negotiated', says AIATSIS Visiting Research Fellow, Steve Kinnane, a member of the team that produced the report.

'Indigenous peoples within the SWMR are currently engaged in a host of environmental, native title and regional governance structures with overlapping areas of interest and responsibility', he says.

'DEH has a key role to play in developing and supporting recognition of Indigenous interests. This will require active engagement with Indigenous peoples in the creation of the SWMR Plan, to create tangible benefits for them.'

The Report made 26 recommendations for addressing these problems. The report will now be used by the DEH in the completion of the South West Marine Bioregional Plan.

The theme for the conference was 'Tradition and change, culture and commerce' focusing on the dynamic processes by which Indigenous people adapt to a changing world while maintaining the traditions that underpin their societies. The theme also reflected the history of land rights and native title and the current reforms. Within this overall theme, sessions focused on land rights and its influence on native title; towns, communities and development; sea rights; and the creation of economic opportunities.

The conference attracted support from a diverse range of sponsors from both the public and private sector who are interested not only in native title but also in economic development, employment and growth in Indigenous communities. Sponsors included the OIPC; Newmont Mining; the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR); Indigenous Business Australia; the Attorney-General's Department; the Northern Territory Government; the Department of Education, Science and Training; Reconciliation Australia; Plan B Trustees; and ENI Resources.

The importance of economic issues within the conference program reflected the influence of two trends in native title: economic responsibilities associated with native title claims and the growth of agreement making. Social Justice



Elsie Gosam, North Queensland Land Council. Photo by David Coltman



Kemberi Dancers perform at the Native Title Conference. Photo by David Coltman

Commissioner, Mr Tom Calma, ran a workshop on ‘Economic development on Indigenous land’. Sessions on the practical implications of agreement making were also popular and included a workshop on ‘Structuring native title agreements: taxation, trusts and distribution of benefits’.

Nationally significant presentations from keynote speakers included the annual Mabo Lecture introduced by Mrs Bonita Mabo and given by Mr Galarrwuy Yunupingu. Keynote presentations were also given by Justice John Basten, Professor Marcia Langton, and Senator Nigel Scullion delivered on behalf of Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock. NLC Chairperson, Mr John Daly, also gave plenary presentations throughout the conference.

A special presentation from the NLC saw a rare interview with former Land Commissioner, Justice Edward Woodward, followed by comments from land rights legal pioneers, Mr Ian Viner QC, Justice Howard Olney, Mr Graeme Neate, Mr Graham Hiley QC and four representatives of the NLC Board.

The conference involved a diverse range of events and activities to reflect its dynamic array of delegates and themes. Events included the NTRBs pre-conference workshops, which enable frank and open discussion on a national scale among an otherwise atomised sector; Indigenous talking circles; and a meeting of ‘prescribed bodies corporate’, which was the first of its kind.

The annual conference book launch profiled a home-grown publication and author, as Justice Tony North launched the Aboriginal Studies Press publication *Compromised jurisprudence* by Dr Lisa Strelein. The launch included a welcome

and comments from Ms Rose Parfitt of the Larrakia Nation and remarks from Ms Monica Morgan of the Yorta Yorta Nation. Significantly, applicants or their families from most of the cases highlighted in the book were present at the conference.

These events were extremely successful and the conference had a number of positive outcomes. As usual, the cultural events and Indigenous involvement were an important part of the conference, with performances from local Larrakia singers and dancers, an exhibition of Larrakia art, performances by visiting dancers from Blue Mud Bay in Arnhem Land and Timber Creek near Kununurra. The Larrakia artists who displayed their artworks during the conference were also approached by a commercial outlet and offered permanent gallery space for their artwork.

### **Strangers on the Shore: a conference on early coastal contacts with Australia**

AIATSIS co-convened 'Strangers on the Shore: a conference on early coastal contacts with Australia', a national conference held at the National Museum of Australia (NMA) on 30–31 March 2006. This conference was linked to the national initiative, 'Australia on the Map', which was launched by the Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage at the NMA on 29 March 2006.

This two-day conference provided the only national forum to explore Indigenous experiences and narratives on the nature of contact with outside cultures during the 400-year commemoration of the Dutch vessel *Duyfken* landing on Australian soil. The high quality of the papers and discussants and contributions from registered attendees provided the basis for a published volume from the proceedings. This is planned to be completed by 2007; it will be edited by Dr Peter Veth, Dr Ian Keen, ANU and Professor Peter Sutton, University of Adelaide. More information on the conference can be found at <[www.strangersontheshore.com.au](http://www.strangersontheshore.com.au)>.