

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2010
2011



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES



Portrait of Oolunga Panunga, Central Australia, NT c1926. Photograph by Walter Geisler, *The Walter Geisler Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. Geisler.W1.CD-D00008134).



Trevor painting Paddy, Papunya, NT, 1966. Photograph by Ronald Rose, *The Ronald Rose Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. Rose.R4.BW-N7346.05).

About this report

This report continues the direction taken in the last six years' reports in reflecting outputs as they relate to our goals across the organisation, rather than by an individual program area. The corporate goals are listed on p. 6, and the main program areas that implement them are identified.

The Chairperson's and Principal's contributions together provide a snapshot of the Institute's achievements and challenges during the year under review.

Some of the appendixes found in previous annual reports can now be accessed on the AIATSIS website, www.aiatsis.gov.au. We would welcome your feedback on this year's annual report. Please contact:

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This report is also accessible from the Institute's website at www.aiatsis.gov.au/corporate/info.html

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Front cover: (top) Students from St Josephs Primary School looking at the AIATSIS Aboriginal Australia Map; (bottom) Kyanne Jakal holding her younger brother Simon Jakal. Photographs by Daniel Walding, taken during the ROMTIC visit by Audiovisual Archive staff to Taree's Purfleet community.



The Institute logo is taken from a Gu:na:ni [Kunjen] shield from the Gulf of Carpentaria. The shield was purchased by Ursula McConnel in the early 1930s on behalf of the Australian National Research Council and is now part of the AIATSIS collection.



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES

Executive

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*Further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present through undertaking
and publishing research, and providing access to print and audiovisual collections*

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr
Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*,
I am pleased to submit the annual report on the operations of the Australian
Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for 2010–11.

Councillors are responsible, under Section 9 of the above Act, for the
preparation of this report. The report is made in accordance with a resolution
of the Councillors.

Professor Michael Dodson, AM
Chairperson of Council
August 2011

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Jack Wherra (rear) and another Mowanjum artist carving boab nuts, Mowanjum, WA, 1964. Photograph by Neil Tilden, *The John David McCaffrey Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. McCaffrey.J1.BW-N7466.03)



Children playing, Mowanjum, WA, 1964. Photograph by Neil Tilden, *The John David McCaffrey Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. McCaffrey. J1.BW-N7465.05).



Man with Pukumani pole, Snake Bay, NT, 1962. Photograph: Ronald Rose, *The Ronald Rose Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. Rose.R3.BW-N7320.06).

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Aboriginal family, Central Australia, N.T. c1926. Photograph by Walter Geisler, *The Walter Geisler Collection* (AIATSIS Ref. Geisler.W1.CD-D00008160).

INTRODUCTION



Professor Mick Dodson, AM

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Reflecting on AIATSIS over the past year has been bittersweet.

Sweet for the again outstanding contributions made by our staff in keeping our collection safe and in connecting it with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the broader community.

Bitter because the unpreserved, undigitised part of our collection is under threat as a result of current economically straightened times. UNESCO believes that the world has only fourteen years to preserve all of its audiovisual materials. Since 2001 we have been working to beat this deadline and have already transferred more than 800,000 objects onto stable digital preservation formats.

Our funding for this work ended on 30 June 2011, but the decomposition clock has not stopped ticking. At risk are our priceless audiovisual collections of film, sound recordings, photographs and print materials.

We are required under the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* to maintain a cultural resource collection of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. We were unable to obtain funding for the digitisation part of this work in the 2011–12 Budget. This work is central to our purpose so we are reorganising our work priorities and staffing in the short-term so that we can divert existing resources to continue our digitisation program.

This will mean releasing some of our non-ongoing staff and reducing some of the services offered to the public. Our community access and outreach work will suffer. We have had to restrict the opening hours of our publicly-accessible library, cut our community visits, cancel our annual and very popular NAIDOC on the Peninsula celebration for 2011, and the Council will cancel its regular meeting outside Canberra.

The lack of funding for the digitisation project is symptomatic of a much bigger and now critical issue facing AIATSIS. The Institute has had no substantive increase in our budget allocation in fifteen years and annual adjustments to our allocations do not keep up with the CPI. This is compounded by having to meet the efficiency dividend again this year, which will result in the loss of staff positions.

We have reached a point where we are struggling to meet our legislative obligations. We have no fat to cut and are effectively going backwards. Some of our collections are of enormous value and if we cannot preserve them in time they will be lost forever.

I cannot praise too highly the work of our skilled and passionate staff, but I cannot continue to ask them to do even more with even less. I am gravely concerned over the future financial capacity of AIATSIS to effectively manage and preserve its priceless collections.

However, we will keep trying to improve our budgetary position so that we can fulfil our legal obligations as originally intended.

Looking at the Institute's achievements of the past year, we have much to be proud of. The Native Title Conference held in Brisbane in June was a great success. Aboriginal Studies Press again produced some outstanding publications, adding to their impressive list of titles. One of these was so popular it had to be reprinted, *Australia: William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal life*, which provides graphic insights into Aboriginal life in early colonial Australia.

The seminar series remained a popular event for scholars and the community more broadly, and we have now improved our series venue so that it is accessible to those with hearing disabilities. Our visits into communities were warmly received with a trip to the Purfleet community in Taree generating some 1548 requests for material from the Institute's collection. Our research continued to shed light on many aspects of Indigenous life and culture in Australia. During the year, the quality of our family history research course was acknowledged, receiving formal accreditation from the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Our governance arrangements altered during 2010–11 with a change to the composition of the Council. On 19 September 2010, the terms of three appointed Councillors — Eric Bedford, Terri Janke and Dr Mark Wenitong — expired. In November the Minister announced the appointments to Council of Robynne Quiggin and June Oscar and the reappointment of Dr Wenitong. I would like to express my appreciation of the great contribution that Ms Janke and Mr Bedford made to both the Council and the Institute.

On 17 May 2011, a ballot for the four elected places on Council led to the re-election of myself, Professor John Maynard and Emeritus Professor Robert Tonkinson. Adjunct Professor Sandy Toussaint was also elected to Council.

I would like to welcome all of our new Council members and I look forward to their contributions to Council.

At the end of this year, many deserve thanks for their contributions to a strong performing period for AIATSIS. I am very grateful to Minister Carr who continues to support AIATSIS and believes in what we are trying to achieve. I also acknowledge the energy and expertise of Council members.

On behalf of the Council, members and staff of AIATSIS, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Michael Williams for his work and contribution as both an appointed and elected member of the AIATSIS Council. Since joining the Council as an appointed member in September 1995, Michael has been an outstanding and valuable contributor to the work and business of Council, and to the development of the strategic directions and capacity of the Institute.

Furthermore I acknowledge the Principal, Russ Taylor, in continuing to improve the systems and governance of the Institute. I join the Council in thanking our staff, who always give a little more to do the job well.



Professor Mick Dodson, AM
Chairperson



Mr Russell Taylor

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

After the last financially challenging year for AIATSIS, I am more than ever convinced that the enormous will and spirit of our Council and staff have made the Institute a place of remarkable achievement, way beyond its size.

We are not large. We have some 122 staff and an annual budget of \$16,862,000.

We are made up of three interrelated areas all of which hum with energy and commitment. We exhibit all the characteristics of a research institution, a collecting institution and a publishing and outreach body. Our brief is big. Sadly, our budget is not.

Over the years, we have earned an excellent reputation for the quality and rigor of our research into Australia's Indigenous peoples and cultures. This work is carried out by research fellows and other members of staff and often provides significant developmental opportunities for Indigenous researchers entering the field.

Much of our research funding comes from external sources beyond our appropriation. In the past year we secured some 58 per cent of total research expenditure from outside AIATSIS, three per cent more than the previous year. This includes a most welcome contribution of \$500,000 from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to continue the Indigenous Visiting Researchers Fund in 2010–11.

It also includes an exciting development, a new three-year funding agreement with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to create the AIATSIS Languages Unit. This

unit will link for the first time the efforts of Indigenous language organisations, educational and research institutions and government agencies from around Australia.

AIATSIS strives for the highest possible standards in its research. To underpin this, we updated our *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies* during the year. First released in 2000, this revised edition reflects recent developments such as changes to intellectual property laws, protocols between Indigenous people and researchers, and issues relating to digitisation.

The collecting arm of our organisation now holds almost one million items including 650,000 photographs, eight million feet of film footage and some 47,000 hours of audio recordings. The collection continues to grow with some 26,129 audiovisual items alone being offered to the Institute during the year.

Developing our collection is not an ad hoc process. As part of a major review of our policies over the past couple of years we have consolidated multiple program-specific policies into a single Institute-wide Collection Development Policy. This provides a more consistent approach across AIATSIS to developing our collection.

The third arm of the Institute communicates, through its publications and services, a diverse range of information about Australian Indigenous cultures. With a rapidly-changing book market, our publishing house, Aboriginal Studies Press, is keeping pace by starting to simultaneously print and e-publish some of our

recent titles. It has also introduced the Institute's first talking word book for the very popular *The little red yellow black book*, with more titles to come.

The most difficult and urgent challenge facing the Institute is to find funding to continue to digitise the vulnerable parts of our collection before they are lost. This is a reminder to us that we need to integrate digitisation and associated technology into all aspects of our work at the Institute so that it becomes part of how we do business and not an add-on.

Disappointingly, we were unable to secure funding to continue our digitisation project, which ended in June 2011. This work is so important that we have reorganised, and in some cases, downsized work in other areas of the Institute, to be able to continue the program for a further twelve months, buying us time to try to find funding from elsewhere.

Despite a challenging, even tough, economic year, we did well from an operational perspective. We continued to strengthen our governance and organisational processes following an Institute-wide review last year. We have now amalgamated all our policies and procedures into one reference document, *The Principal's Instructions*, which was made available to staff on 1 July 2010. This document helps us to be a more effective organisation especially in terms of managing risks, a major priority today for well-run organisations and businesses. We will continue to put our energy and attention into identifying and managing risks at AIATSIS.

We have also set out our view for the future in the *AIATSIS Corporate Plan 2010–11 to 2012–13* which was published after being endorsed by the Council in 2010. This revised

and multifaceted plan captures the strategic aspirations of our organisation. It is there to guide us so that we make sure we are delivering on the expectations of key stakeholders, including government, the public and the Indigenous community, both nationally and internationally. I encourage you to read this plan on our website.

In the year ahead our primary challenge will be to develop partnerships, not just with government but also with corporations and the philanthropic sector to secure AIATSIS the future it deserves.

Despite the fiscal challenges of the past year, I am proud of the considerable achievements of the Institute during that time. These are due to the dedication and hard work of many, at all levels. My thanks to our Minister, Senator the Hon Kim Carr, for his support throughout 2010–11. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Chairperson, Mick Dodson, and members of the Council for their energy and commitment over a challenging period. To those who make the Institute the high-achieving organisation that it is, our staff and my senior management team, my thanks for a job well done in 2010–11.

I look forward to us continuing to contribute to the wellbeing and social inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through our future work at AIATSIS.



Mr Russell Taylor
Principal

OVERVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS 2010–11

- Creation of the AIATSIS Languages Unit.
- The Institute's policy to seek research funding from external sources continues to be successful, providing 58 per cent of total research expenditure, an increase of 3 per cent on the previous year.
- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research provided an additional \$500,000 to continue the Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowship program in 2010–11.
- The AIATSIS Council awarded 23 research grants, valued at \$564,571.
- AIATSIS established the Land and Water Research Centre and a housing and homelessness task force.
- Aboriginal Studies Press published and then reprinted a large-format full-colour paperback as well as a special edition hardback of *Australia: William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal life*.
- Stanner Award re-focused to promote Indigenous-authored academic writing.
- Twenty years of the *Koori Mail* newspaper now on the AIATSIS website.
- Family History Research course formally accredited by the Canberra Institute of Technology.
- Aboriginal Studies Press started work on its first audio book.
- AIATSIS Collection Development Policy was developed, incorporating both the Audiovisual Archive and the Library.
- Library collection finding aids became searchable on the National Library of Australia's Trove service.
- Significant extensions and upgrades were made to electronics engineering workshop, enabling it to maintain ageing analogue equipment.
- AIATSIS acquired a high-performance file storage system, the Digitised Collection Object Storage System, to manage its rapidly-growing volume of data.
- The *AIATSIS Corporate Plan 2010–11 to 2012–13* was published after being endorsed by the Council in 2010.
- The Institute's policies and procedures were consolidated into a single document, *Principal's Instructions*, and were made available to staff on 1 July 2010.

AIATSIS AT A GLANCE

- The world’s leading research, collecting and publishing institution in the field of Australian Indigenous studies.
- A network comprising a Council and committees, members, staff and other stakeholders in urban, regional and remote areas throughout Australia, and abroad.
- A community working in partnership with Indigenous Australians to carry out tasks that acknowledge, affirm and raise awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories, in all their richness and diversity.
- A team with a vision of worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present.
- A staff of 122 people, headed by the Principal, engaged in a range of endeavours of interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, scholars and the Australian and international public.
- A research team conducting high-quality research and administering research grants for significant projects approved by Council.
- A prestigious publisher, Aboriginal Studies Press, producing and promoting an array of books, CDs, film, videos, reports and the Institute’s journal, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*.
- A Library and Audiovisual Archive managing the world’s most extensive collections of printed, audio and visual materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and societies.
- An accessible source of abundant information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, retrievable by Internet, mail, telephone or email, or by arranging to visit AIATSIS on Acton Peninsula in Canberra.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Institute are set out in Part 3, Section 5, of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (the Act):

- to undertake and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to publish the results of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to assist in the publication of the results of such studies
- to conduct research in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and to encourage other people or bodies to conduct such research
- to assist in training people, particularly Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, as research workers in fields relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to establish and maintain a cultural resource collection consisting of materials relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies
- to encourage understanding, in the general community, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies
- such other functions as are conferred on the Institute by this Act
- to do anything else that is incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the preceding functions.

CORPORATE GOALS

To carry out its functions as defined in the Act, the Institute has adopted the following goals:

1. To provide leadership and excellence in promoting, facilitating and undertaking high-quality research in Australian Indigenous studies.
2. To create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures.
3. To develop, maintain and preserve well-documented archives and collections, and to maximise access to these, particularly by Indigenous peoples, in keeping with appropriate cultural and ethical practices.
4. To manage efficiently and effectively in a transparent, accountable and supportive manner.

Corporate goals 2 and 4 are implemented by all program areas of AIATSIS. Goal 1 is specific to

the Research Program, goal 3 is specific to the Library and Audiovisual Archive programs.

OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

The outcome and output structure was changed during 2010–11 (see Figure 1).

ORGANISATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Institute’s organisational and governance structure is shown in Figure 2.

The **Executive** ensures the smooth transition of **Council** directives through to the business plans of the AIATSIS programs. The Council-appointed Principal is responsible for the Institute’s performance and advises the Council on all operational matters. The Principal is assisted by the Deputy Principal. These senior executive staff are responsible for ensuring that all Council policy and budget directives are implemented. They are also responsible for maintaining high-level relationships with the Institute’s stakeholders and for the performances of program directors. The Executive and Communications Unit staff assist the Council and its committee meetings, liaise with the AIATSIS members, develop the organisation’s media profile, and facilitate senior AIATSIS staff meetings, including those of the Executive Board of Management.

The **Research Program** undertakes multi-disciplinary research, usually collaboratively, in diverse areas of Australian Indigenous studies.

It also contributes to policy formulation in priority areas. In addition, the Research Program supports Australian Indigenous studies, teaching and trainee researchers, and publishes widely in print and on the AIATSIS website. It holds seminars, workshops and conferences and has established a comprehensive set of ethical research protocols. The Native Title Research Unit addresses specific needs arising from the recognition of native title. The Research Program administers the Institute’s research grants program and supports the Institute in providing training, facilities and support for Indigenous trainee researchers and visiting and honorary scholars.

Corporate Services supports other programs by providing financial, personnel, information technology, registry and building management services, as well as secretariat services to a number of the Institute’s committees. It is also responsible for ensuring that the Institute complies with legislation relating to matters such as finance, human resources, occupational health and safety, and building. The Institute is also required to follow good practices in risk management and business planning.

The **Library** contains one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials on Australian Indigenous studies in the world. Through the AIATSIS website, remote users can access the Library’s catalogue, online collections and electronic documents. The Library also provides document delivery, interlibrary loans and reference services. The Family History Unit

OUTCOME			
Further understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present through undertaking and publishing research and providing access to print and audiovisual collections			
OUTPUTS			
Research	Dissemination of research and information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, knowledge and cultures	Cultural collection development and management	Corporate governance, management and accountability

Figure 1: Outcome and output structure

ORGANISATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

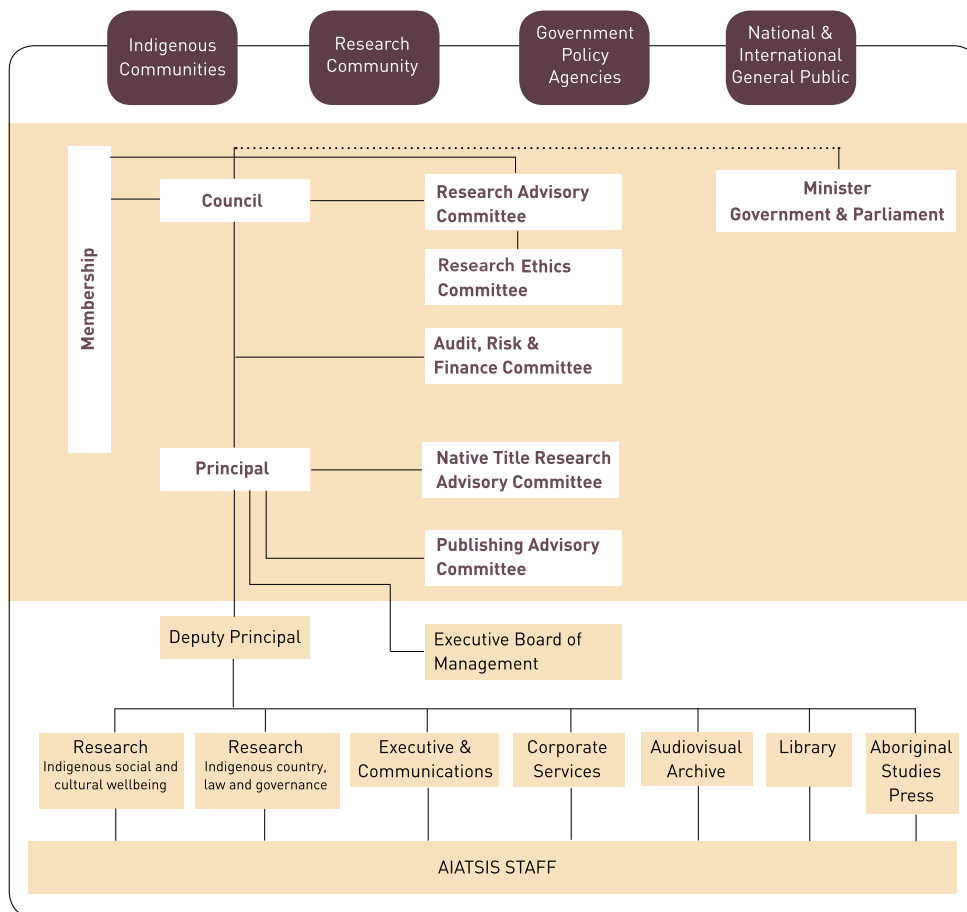


Figure 2: Organisational and governance structure

assists Indigenous Australians with family history research.

The **Audiovisual Archive** holds almost one million items comprising photographic images, works of art, artefacts, audio, film and video in many different formats. The role of the archive is to ensure the safety and longevity of the materials, and to constantly migrate the information onto the latest technologies so that the material remains accessible for future generations of Australians.

Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) publishes up to eight new titles annually in the area of Australian Indigenous studies. Academic books

include history, anthropology, archaeology, land rights and native title, health, education, languages and art, while general books include biography, autobiography and community stories. ASP publishes in print, sometimes with CD-ROMs. During 2010–11 it began the simultaneous print and epublication of all suitable recent titles. ASP is the publisher of the best-selling *Aboriginal Australia* map and, with the Research Program, publishes the journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. ASP runs a small bookshop within AIATSIS and uses national and international trade distributors to disseminate its publications widely.



Professor Michael
Dodson



Professor John
Maynard



Emeritus Professor
Robert Tonkinson

OUR COUNCIL

Professor Michael Dodson, AM, (Chairperson) is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in the Broome area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is the Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University (ANU), a professor of law at the College of Law, ANU and former Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

He is also a Director of Dodson, Bauman & Associates Pty Ltd — legal and anthropological consultants.

Professor Dodson was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and was named 'Australian of the Year' by the National Australia Day Council (2009).

He is a member and the current Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, member of the Publications Committee for the UNSW *Indigenous Law Reporter*, Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia, member of the Lingiari Foundation and a member of the Australian National Archives Advisory Council. He is also a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Professor John Maynard (Deputy Chairperson) is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. He is currently an Australian Research Council

Australian Research Fellow (Indigenous). He was formerly Professor of Indigenous Studies and Director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. Professor Maynard was awarded the Aboriginal History (ANU) Stanner Fellowship (1996), and was the New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History Fellow (2003), the Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow (2004), the University of Newcastle Researcher of the Year (2008) and the ANU's Allan Martin History Lecturer (2010). He gained his PhD in 2003, examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism.

Professor Maynard was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association, the New South Wales History Council and the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council and has worked with and within many Aboriginal communities, urban, rural and remote. He is the author of four books, including *Aboriginal stars of the tuff* and *Fight for liberty and freedom*.

Born and raised in Perth, **Emeritus Professor Bob Tonkinson** took his Honours and Masters degrees in social anthropology at the University of Western Australia, where he later held the Chair in Anthropology (from 1984 until his retirement in 2003). He obtained his doctorate in anthropology at the University of British Columbia (1972), and taught at the University of Oregon (1968–80) and the ANU (1980–84) before returning to WA.

From the 1960s, Professor Tonkinson carried out extensive fieldwork with the Western



Dr Mark Wenitong



Professor Sandy
Toussaint

Desert Martu people and in Vanuatu. He has been published extensively. In addition to four co-edited volumes, and a monograph on his Vanuatu research, he has had two books published, *The Jigalong mob* (1974) and *The Mardu Aborigines* (1978/91). He has also published several edited volumes, and numerous articles on various aspects of Melanesian and Australian Aboriginal cultures. He has been active in land claim research on behalf of the Martu, who gained title to the bulk of their traditional homelands in 2002.

Dr Mark Wenitong is Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Tropical Public Health at James Cook University, and is from the Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland. He is the Senior Medical Officer at Apunipima Cape York Health Council, where he is currently working on health reform across the Cape York Aboriginal communities. He was the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services in Cairns for the previous nine years, and has also worked as the medical adviser for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Canberra.

He is a past president and founder of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and was a member of the National Health and Medical Research Committee. Dr Wenitong chairs the Andrology Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Reference group, and sits on several of the organisation's other committees. He is a member of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council.

Dr Wenitong has been heavily involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce issues and sits on the COAG Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council. He has worked in prison health, refugee health in East Timor, as well as studying and working in Indigenous health internationally. He was a member of the Northern Territory Emergency Response review expert advisory group in 2008.

Dr Wenitong received the 2011 Australian Medical Association's President's Award for Excellence in Healthcare, and the 2010 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council Hall of Fame award.

Adjunct Professor Sandy Toussaint is an anthropologist who has worked with Aboriginal people for almost three decades. She has undertaken both applied and academic research with Walmajarri, Juwaliny-Walmajarri, Gooniyandi and Wangkajunga groups in the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia, and with Noongar groups in the state's south west. Professor Toussaint also worked for inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Aboriginal Land Inquiry, and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. She has lectured in anthropology for eighteen years at the University of Western Australia and has written and reviewed many reports, and published widely in journals such as *Aboriginal History*, *Anthropology Today*, the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, *Oceania*, *Social Analysis*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, *Arena*, *Anthropological Forum*, *Anthropology*



Mr Eric Bedford



Dr Payi-Linda Ford



Ms Terri Janke

News, Meanjin, Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker and Islander Journal and *The Australian Journal of Rural Health*. Her own books include *Phyllis Kaberry and me: anthropology, history and Aboriginal Australia*; *Crossing boundaries: cultural, legal, historical and practice issues in native title* (editor); *A jury of whose peers? The cultural politics of juries in Australia* (co-edited with Kate Auty); and *Applied anthropology in Australasia* (co-edited with Jim Taylor). Professor Toussaint is the Australian trustee of the Phyllis Kaberry Collection (lodged at AIATSIS), co-trustee of the Catherine Berndt Estate, and a member of the Berndt Foundation Advisory Board. She is on the editorial board of the journal *Collaborative Anthropologies*, and is dedicated to the value of collaborative work with Indigenous communities and organisations.

Mr Eric Bedford has strong family and cultural links throughout the Fitzroy Valley in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. He is the Koori Outreach Worker for the Peninsula Integrated Health Service in Victoria. He was previously the manager of the Community Development Employment Project, Marra Worra Worra in Fitzroy Crossing, the chairman of the Malarabah Regional Council, an ATSIC Commissioner and the Executive Director of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre. He has been active in developing concepts and models for regional autonomy for Aboriginal people to enable communities to exercise their right to self-determination, and in promoting economic development projects in the Fitzroy Valley.

Dr Payi-Linda Ford is a senior lecturer with Charles Darwin University's School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Northern Territory. She is a Delyak-Elder of the Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu peoples and Traditional Owner from Kurrindju (Finniss River) in the Northern Territory. Dr Ford speaks several Aboriginal languages. These include Mak Mak Marranunggu, Marithiel, Wagait/Daly River Creole and Aboriginal English. She has been actively involved in Indigenous community organisation businesses. She is acknowledged for her deep understanding and contribution to promoting cross-cultural diversity as well as awareness of, and respect for, Indigenous knowledge systems and the benefit they hold for all Australians. Dr Ford has worked in advisory roles to government and non-government organisations. For the past twenty-four years she has been involved in teaching and learning, delivering mainstream education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians from early childhood through to higher education. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy (Education), Masters in Education (Language and Literacy), Graduate Diploma in Special Education and Diploma of Teaching (Primary) from Deakin University, Victoria.

Ms Terri Janke is an Indigenous arts lawyer, writer and consultant. She was born in Cairns, Queensland, and has family connections with the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula (Meriam, Wuthathi and Yadaighana). Her law firm, Terri Janke and Company, is a Sydney-based specialist Indigenous law firm representing Indigenous artists, writers, filmmakers and



Mr Dana Ober



Mr Michael Williams



Ms Robynne Quiggin



Ms June Oscar

Indigenous businesses across many fields, including copyright and intellectual property issues. Her publications include *Our culture: our future: report on Australian Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights*, the first report of its kind to outline a comprehensive framework for protecting Indigenous cultural heritage; and *Minding culture: case studies on intellectual property and traditional cultural expressions*, written for the World Intellectual Property Organisation. She is also a published fiction author. Her novel *Butterfly song* was published in 2005. Ms Janke holds a Bachelor of Arts/Law from the University of New South Wales and is currently undertaking a PhD in Law at the ANU, focusing on future options for protecting Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.

Mr Dana Ober is from Saibai Island in the western Torres Strait. He is a linguist and has an expert knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture and history. He is currently the chief executive officer of Saibai Council. He was previously a lecturer at the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics at the Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. He speaks three languages fluently: Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Yumplatok and English. His main areas of interest are the development and maintenance of Australian Indigenous languages and human rights, particularly Indigenous rights. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in linguistics and sub-major in anthropology, from the ANU. He is currently undertaking studies towards a Master of Applied Linguistics degree at Charles Darwin University.

Mr Michael Williams is the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at the University of Queensland. He is a member of the Goorang Goorang Aboriginal community from south-east Queensland and has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs for more than thirty years. For most of his career, he has worked in the tertiary education sector, lecturing in mainstream history and maintaining a close involvement with programs that provide support for Indigenous Australian students. His academic interests include Indigenous language use, cross-cultural communication and the field of Indigenous knowledge. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Special Broadcasting Service and on numerous other government, academic and community boards concerned with Indigenous and non-Indigenous issues. He holds a Master of Philosophy (Qual) degree from Griffith University.

Ms Robynne Quiggin is a Wiradjuri lawyer based in Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and a Graduate Diploma in Practical Legal Training from The College of Law in Sydney.

Ms Quiggin has worked as a solicitor, senior policy officer and lecturer in Indigenous legal issues, including Indigenous intellectual and cultural property, use of biological resources, heritage, native title, human rights, consumer issues, media, criminal justice and other social justice issues.

She has participated in several United Nations Indigenous, human rights and biodiversity forums, and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, *Balayi* and the *Journal of Indigenous Social Policy*.

Ms Quiggin ran a legal practice and consultancy in Sydney for seven years. During that time she wrote the Indigenous Women's Business Toolkit, developed the National Indigenous Intellectual Property Toolkit, published articles and chapters in a number of books and journals.

She is currently managing the Australian Securities & Investments Commission's Indigenous outreach program, which assists Indigenous consumers with financial service issues, and liaises with financial service industries to improve services for Indigenous consumers.

Ms June Oscar, of Punuba descent, was born in 1962 at Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia. She was sent to Perth for her secondary education at the John Forrest senior high school. She left school at the age of 16.

After returning to Fitzroy Crossing, Ms Oscar worked for the state community welfare

and health departments. She later became a women's resource officer with the Junjuwa community. She chaired the Marra Worra Worra resource agency until 1991, when she was appointed to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission for a two-year term as a commissioner.

Ms Oscar is a prominent community leader in the Kimberley. She graduated with a business degree from Notre Dame University, she is a director of Bunuba Films, the CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing, and the Chairperson of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, amongst other positions. She is also a leader in a long-term social reconstruction plan for the people of the Fitzroy Valley that involves restrictions on alcohol sales in Fitzroy.

Ms Oscar has been involved in the Jandamarra project since the 1980s, and despite her hectic schedule, has never wavered in her commitment and input. *Jandamarra*, the story of a Bunuba resistance fighter in the Kimberley, was presented by the 2008 Perth International Arts Festival by Black Swan Theatre.

