

## OUTPUT 2 — DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A lead story on AIATSIS in ABC TV's Stateline (Canberra) for World Audiovisual Heritage Day 2010.
- Aboriginal Studies Press is working on its first audio book.
- Stanner Award re-focused to promote Indigenous-authored academic writing.
- Aboriginal Studies Press is working on its first phone app.
- Twenty years of the *Koori Mail* newspaper now on the AIATSIS website — a major research resource.
- Family History Research course formally accredited by the Canberra Institute of Technology.
- Community Access visit to the Purfleet community, Taree.

## DISSEMINATION DELIVERABLES

Deliverable Output 2	Result
Developing a strategic Communications and Dissemination Plan.	Increased Aboriginal Studies Press e-newsletter delivery to 1500 people.
Producing a diverse range of quality publications.	Produced six new print/DVD titles and a range of e-publications.
Identifying, encouraging, developing and publishing works by Indigenous authors.	Established the new Stanner Award.
Publishing and promoting research to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and national and international, communities.	Undertook range of marketing activities.
Promoting Aboriginal Studies Press, the publishing arm of AIATSIS, to communities and organisations as a leading publisher of Indigenous works.	Exhibited at Warsaw International Book Fair and took part in the Brisbane and Melbourne Writers' Festivals.
Being proactive in attracting new material for publications.	Established the new Stanner Award which attracted 10 submissions.
Exploring opportunities for collaboration and new initiatives, including joint publications and e-publications.	Contracts signed with national and international distributors for the reselling of e-publications.
Developing appropriate dissemination and marketing strategies for publications.	Created individual marketing/promotional plan for each new title.
Developing the skills of authors and community members through workshops, conference sessions, or media training.	Participated in panel sessions at two national Aboriginal writers/educators conferences and one seminar.  Attended sessions on selling international rights at the Sydney Writers' Festival.
Initiating leading-edge discussion of research questions through major public programs such as conferences, including the AIATSIS Biennial Conference and Native Title Conference, special issue symposia and seminar series.	Native Title Conference 2011 held 1–3 June 2011.  Information Technology and Indigenous Communities Symposium held July 2010.  Identity forum held April 2011.  AIATSIS 50 years retrospective held June 2011.  Two seminar series: Text and Texture; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages in the Public Domain.

Deliverable Output 2	Result
<p>Developing outreach facilities to increase access to AIATSIS library and audiovisual collections.</p>	<p>The Audiovisual Archive conducted a number of community outreach activities, including a visit to the Purfleet community, Taree, and hosted many visits from community members to AIATSIS, including from: Broome, Fitzroy Valley, and Nyikina people, WA, Madi Madi people and Raukkan Murray Bridge, SA, Dalabon women Barunga, Nhulunbuy and Ngukurr, NT, Lake Eyre Basin and Kuku Yalandji, Qld.</p> <p>Contributed more than 300 collection level records to the National Library’s online search facility, Trove.</p> <p>The Library developed an online tutorial to assist other libraries on how to use Indigenous names.</p> <p>The Library’s manuscript finding aids are now searchable through Trove.</p>
<p>Developing events to increase the profile of AIATSIS personnel, collections, research capacity, publications, and community links to all users including particularly communities, the research sector, government and membership.</p>	<p>Community Access visit made to the Purfleet community, Taree, NSW.</p>
<p>Developing collaborative relations and provide national leadership, coordination, and facilitation of access to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections in other institutions.</p>	<p>The Audiovisual Archive has maintained strategic alliances with several organisations, including: NLA, NMA, NFSA, ABC, CIT (see Abbreviations and Acronyms pp. 142–143).</p> <p>An AIATSIS staff member was seconded to the NLA to coordinate the online delivery of the <i>Bringing them home</i> oral history interviews.</p> <p>The AIATSIS Library directly supports the activities of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network.</p>
<p>Encouraging visitation of our premises and consider appropriateness of our building for these purposes.</p>	<p>Some 228 clients visited the Audiovisual Access Unit. Staff upgraded technical equipment for public events in the Mabo Room.</p>
<p>Supporting the activities of community knowledge centres.</p>	<p>The Audiovisual Archive returned materials to the value of \$111,176 to communities, free of charge.</p>

## OVERVIEW

In 2010–11, AIATSIS again increased the amount of information available from its program areas. The corporate goal for dissemination is to create, develop and disseminate a diverse range of publications and services about Australian Indigenous cultures.

AIATSIS disseminates information through:

- the Executive and Communications Unit
- Aboriginal Studies Press, the Institute's publishing arm
- the Research Program and the Native Title Research Unit, which publish peer-reviewed papers and non peer-reviewed reports, and present papers at conferences, seminars and workshops
- the Library and Audiovisual Archive, which provide access to the Institute's collections.

Some material is produced for sale, for example, the Aboriginal Studies Press publication list, while other material is provided free. Available AIATSIS resources, and audience and client demand determine the choice of medium, e.g. print, CD/DVD or online delivery.

## EXECUTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The workload of the small Executive and Communications Unit reflected the increased demand felt across all areas of AIATSIS in 2010–11 in response to growing numbers of community visits, events, media interviews and requests for information generally.

The Unit issued a record fifty media releases during the year gaining coverage not only in specialist Indigenous media such as the *Koori Mail*, the *National Indigenous Times*, the National Indigenous News Service and National Indigenous Television (NITV), but also in the general media.

Highlights include regular interviews on both ABC and commercial radio stations, prompted by specific AIATSIS announcements, some mainstream print coverage of events like the donation of artwork to AIATSIS (see box

p. 71) and coverage by NITV of various AIATSIS achievements. Widespread media coverage was achieved for the Institute's acquisition of a rare 1801 German book containing a letter dictated by Bennelong in 1796 (see box, p. 69).

The Unit promoted Institute-run events and provided positive stories for the *Koori Mail* and *National Indigenous Times*, as well as other publications. It also worked with the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, to jointly launch the Aboriginal Studies Press publication, *Aboriginal Sydney*.

The Unit also reported AIATSIS Chairperson, Professor Mick Dodson's, comments on the Institute's inability to gain ongoing funding to continue digitising its collection.

## VISITS TO THE INSTITUTE

The number and frequency of official visits to the Institute increased significantly during the reporting year. Visitors included groups of Indigenous students from universities and schools, delegations of foreign diplomats, staff and executive officers of Indigenous organisations, and representatives of state and Australian Government agencies.

They included:

- a five-member delegation from the Argentine National Congress
- the Board of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
- the CEO and Deputy CEO of the New Zealand Film Archive
- Dame Meg Taylor, Vice President of the Office of the Compliance Ombudsman, World Bank Group
- Alexander Nalbandov, Deputy Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs, Georgia
- the Eastern States Aboriginal Language Group
- Annabelle Lebethe, CEO of the National Arts Council in South Africa
- Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation
- Dr Russell Bishop, Professor of Maori Education Waikato University, New Zealand

- Dr Hans Sondaal, Chair of the Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, The Netherlands
- Andrew Leach, CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, Vancouver, Canada
- Professor Shane Houston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Services, University of Sydney.

## ABORIGINAL STUDIES PRESS

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

Funding for ASP in 2010–11 totalled \$788,056, all of which came from AIATSIS. Of that budget, 48 per cent was for staffing, with 14 per cent for consultants and sourcing professional advice. This reflects the shift towards using contract staff for some tasks following the previous year's restructure. The balance of 38 per cent covered administrative costs (including copyeditors, proofreaders, map-makers and designers), fees to distributors, freight, royalty payments to authors, book and e-book production, and the costs of marketing and publicity.

Revenue in this period was \$329,034 which was 10 per cent below the budgeted figure. As well as revenue from the sale of books and maps, income came from sales of CDs and DVDs of music and films, subscriptions to the *Australian Aboriginal Studies (AAS)* journal, income from the Copyright Agency Limited and royalties from licensed material. ASP received monies from the Educational Lending Right scheme only, having been advised in December 2010 that it was ineligible to receive further Public Lending Right payments. Turnover was below budget overall, but despite a difficult bookselling market and the collapse of the Borders/Angus & Robertson book chain, ASP maintained its sales budget with its national distributor.

Income from requests to use AIATSIS copyright material, including the Aboriginal Australia language map, amounted to \$6590, which is 4 per cent down on last year. The US distributor's income increased by 6 per cent, and the UK/European distributor's by 113 per cent. However, taken together they represent only 3 per cent of total revenues. Where practical, ASP uses offshore digital printing to top up overseas distributors' orders, rather than shipping hard copies from Australia.

## MANAGING CAPACITY

The restructure of Aboriginal Studies Press in 2010 continued to reap benefits. The ASP Director, along with other ASP staff, mentored the editorial assistant who undertook her first full copyedit of an autobiography, along with a variety of editorial-related work. She also contributed to two significant Indigenous writers' conferences (see box p. 41). ASP also hosted a communications undergraduate intern for six weeks who provided research support, proofreading and manuscript evaluations.

ASP continued to use contract staff for tasks related to book editing, design and production. Depending on demand, and staff resources, it used a contract packer to dispatch orders and continued to use contract staff for sales, permissions clearances and for writing teacher resources (see *New Ventures* p. 42).

ASP also managed the Research Program's contract to study future online publishing, including establishing best practice for digital-rights management, file formats, and print-on-demand. This complements work being undertaken by ASP on e-publications.

It also contributed to the Australian Government's Book Industry Strategy Group's inquiry into the future of books in Australia.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Sourcing a suitable warehouse and fulfilment service was slowed by the need to incorporate several complementary activities. ASP worked with Corporate Services to select a new accounting system to replace the BookNet



ASP's Editorial Assistant, Lisa Fuller, answering questions at Guwanyi Festival, Sydney. Photograph courtesy Gibson Nolte.

## TRAINING-UP IN PUBLISHING

*Meeting so many diverse, accomplished and passionate Aboriginal writers was an exciting and daunting experience — exciting to hear them speak and daunting because I was expected to answer their questions.*

Lisa Fuller, ASP's editorial assistant

Lisa Fuller joined Aboriginal Studies Press in 2010 as part of its long-term strategy to train Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in publishing. During the year she attended and contributed to two important Indigenous writers' festivals, the Guwanyi National Aboriginal Writers Festival in Sydney and the National Indigenous Writers and Educators Conference (NIWEC) in Wollongong.

Lisa, who is a Murri woman from Eidsvold, a small town in rural Queensland, was able to give both a professional and personal perspective as she was published for the first time this year in the anthology, *Etchings Indigenous: Treaty*, along with renowned authors like Lionel Fogarty, Ali Cobby Eckerman and Tony Birch.

Having made connections with a range of Indigenous writers and other publishers, Lisa can now help to improve the material ASP provides. She said:

*Talking to participants has really shown me that you can't take anything for granted, as everyone is coming from different places and perspectives. I can see that ASP needs to be able to respond to both emerging and established authors and continually work to improve ourselves and what we publish.*

The conferences gave Lisa the chance to talk about publishing autobiographies. Lisa said:

*At Guwanyi I read out the first few pages of Doreen Kartinyeri's ASP published biography and I was amazed by the response. I've always known it is a powerful book and that more people should read it, so it was great to see so many people wanting to buy it.*

Lisa also found that people were interested in ASP's work on spoken books, an encouraging sign that strong literacy is not needed for people to hear and enjoy stories that reflect their lives.

bookshop management system. The new system will provide accurate and transparent information, especially for royalty payments, and ties into existing financial accounting packages. It is expected to go live in September 2011. The system will integrate with e-commerce for publication sales, which was trialled in this reporting period. ASP is negotiating with a digital printer to top up ASP's print runs in response to any online sales demand.

As in previous years, most manuscripts were accepted subject to reworking. An emerging trend, which may reflect the current difficult state of academic publishing in Australia, as well as the relationships ASP has developed with authors, is that more well-known and previously published authors are approaching ASP to publish their works. ASP continued to support authors, providing information, as well as email and phone assistance.

Feedback from assessors was provided to selected authors to allow them to finalise their manuscripts to a publishable standard. ASP continued to ensure that appropriate cultural protocols were followed in the creation of manuscripts, as well as in the publications themselves.

Endorsements from a range of academics and readers reflected the high quality of ASP's publications, and were used to market the products.

ASP staff broadened their professional skills by attending vocational courses on subjects such as policy writing, copyediting onscreen, social media networking and metadata.

## NEW VENTURES

ASP's small team of four people plus contractors, embarked on several new initiatives during 2010–11, reflecting the changing nature of publications from print to other formats.

In keeping with the Institute's aim to increase Indigenous authorship, the conditions of the Stanner Award were changed this year. From an award made to a previously published academic book, open to all authors, the award now focuses on Indigenous-authored academic writing. As expected, most entries were MA and PhD

theses. The prize is now \$5000, a glass plaque, and up to fifty hours mentoring and editorial support for the author to create a publishable manuscript. ASP will publish the winning work, and has the right to publish any other entry.

Although the winner of the first new Stanner Award will be announced in July 2011, most of the set-up work occurred during the reporting year. This included setting up the entry and judging guidelines, receiving and logging the manuscripts, checking two referees for each submitting author, and providing administration support to the judges.

Ten manuscripts were received. Aboriginal Studies Press is pleased with the number of entries and expects that once the first winner is announced and publicised, more entries will compete for the next award. Entries were assessed using a rigorous system of blind judging. The award judges were Professors Lester-Irabinna Rigney, Deborah Rose and Jane Simpson.

ASP has started the simultaneous print and e-publication of all suitable recent titles. It will be one of the first Australian publishers offering books through Apple's new fixed format in 2011. *Aboriginal Sydney* was successfully trialled, using Apple's software for fixed-format (highly illustrated) books. ASP staff are now working to create a phone app for the book that could be sold cheaply. While still a relatively new undertaking for book publishers, ASP hopes the app will complement sales of the book.

After ongoing discussions about how to make the Aboriginal Studies Press list of autobiographies cheap and easy to obtain by its target audience of Indigenous readers, ASP facilitated a talking-word book as an MP3 file for one title, *The little red yellow black book*, and the script for another, Bill Simon's *Back on The Block*. It is hoped that the latter, in particular, will mean that any Stolen Generations people struggling with literacy due to their treatment as children, will be able to hear their own stories.

Having created its first teacher resources in the previous year, ASP has now increased its output and range. These notes, which include detailed class plans, provide teachers with ideas



for using particular ASP titles in their teaching. They are available free from the AIATSIS website. Some sets of notes will address the new national curriculum for 2012 (English, maths, science and history), which means incorporating information from up to four titles at a time. Backlist or less recent ASP titles, especially histories and biographies, are a valuable resource for the educational sector. Feedback about ASP's work has been very positive. Most of its marketing is usually directed to the trade and tertiary sectors, but next year it will market these teacher resources to the teacher-educator and schools sectors, and by collaborating with the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

ASP managed a three-month contract to investigate using digital formats and delivery to allow an increase in the number of publications generated by the Research Program. The work included researching and suggesting best-practice models for:

- intellectual property rights
- managing digital rights
- a suitable web-delivery platform that would integrate with the sale of other publications and e-commerce from the AIATSIS site
- a marketing model that would provide the best 'discoverability' of the Institute's research publications.

### NEW PRINT PUBLICATIONS

ASP generally publishes between six and eight titles each year. Continuing this trend in 2010–11, ASP published five titles and one DVD, and cleared space in its publishing and promotion schedule for the preparatory work on the publication of a sports book due for

release in August 2011 which is expected to be widely promoted. The six titles included the scholarly text, *One law for all?* and five general interest publications, including a DVD of the documentary *Contact* which won the Prime Minister's Prize for History as well as other awards. The DVD is now for sale from ASP, and is also packaged with the ASP title, *Cleared out*. Work also started on four forthcoming publications for July, August, September and October 2011.

Most of the books published were collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors (see Figure 5).

A total of twenty manuscripts were submitted for publication, with even more proposals. While fewer than some other years, ASP staff discussed proposals and provided feedback for several other projects that are at different stages of development. Of the seven manuscripts recommended for publication with some reworking, one was published in March, with three others due in August, September and October 2011, respectively.

Eight titles were reprinted in 2010–11 to keep inventories at manageable levels. ASP made available for sale a backlist of almost one hundred titles in print, thirteen music CDs and thirty-one film DVDs. The DVDs in particular are a valuable resource for the educational sector.

During the reporting period ASP received copies of the German translation of one of its popular titles, *Auntie Rita*.

*Australia: William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal life*, which developed from an AIATSIS research grant, was published simultaneously in large-format full-colour

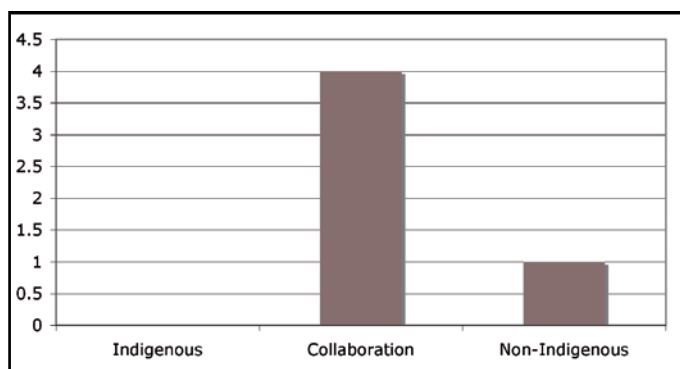
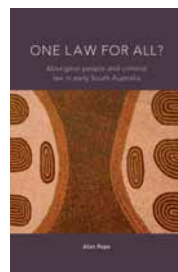
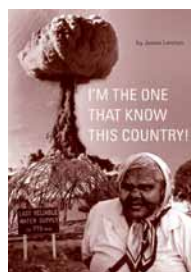
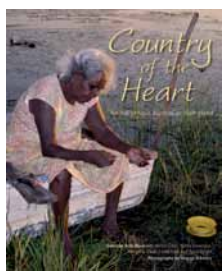
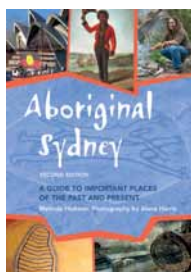
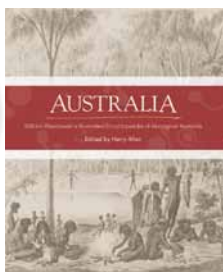


Figure 5: Comparison of ASP authors, 2010–11





paperback, as well as a special edition hardback with cloth/leather binding and slipcase, for the bibliophile market. Both editions have been reprinted (see box p. 45).

A second revised edition of the popular book *Aboriginal Sydney: a guide to important places of the past and present* was produced, and an historical essay was added to *I'm the one that know this country!* to provide background information about the British nuclear tests at Maralinga. The popular *Country of the heart* was redesigned to suit a smaller, more economical format.

### E-PUBLICATIONS

With more than seventy titles available through ebooks.com, Ebook Library, Informit, Amazon and other e-book resellers, a large percentage of ASP publications are now available digitally. Additional titles will be added as released or digitised.

### PUBLISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aboriginal Studies Press's publishing continued to benefit from the advice of the Publishing Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC recommends to the Principal and ASP which of the submitted titles ASP should publish.

Committee members offer academic, community, language and writing and editorial expertise, which complements the knowledge of ASP and the AIATSIS executive.

The committee met twice during the year and recommended four manuscripts for publication, following some reworking.

The committee was refreshed in December 2010 with the Council representatives becoming Professor John Maynard and Mr Dana Ober, and

external members Dr Julie Gough, Mr Steve Kinnane and Ms Jeanie Bell.

Members of the PAC 2010–11 were:

- Mr Russell Taylor — Principal and Chair
- Dr Luke Taylor — Deputy Principal
- Ms Rhonda Black — Director, Aboriginal Studies Press

#### Council representatives

- Professor John Maynard
- Ms Terri Janke, with Mr Dana Ober from December 2010

#### External members

- Mr Bruce Pascoe
- Dr Jakelin Troy
- Ms Sue Abbey, with Dr Julie Gough, Mr Steve Kinnane and Ms Jeanie Bell from December 2010.

### MARKETING, PUBLICITY AND DISTRIBUTION

ASP continued to produce a marketing and publicity plan for each new title, as well as promoting its whole list. It produced its tertiary catalogue in August 2010 and its new trade catalogue in February 2011.

Authors attended writers' festivals in Brisbane and Melbourne, while ASP worked with local partners such as the Palm Island Council, the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and the Melbourne Museum to hold book launches on Palm Island, Townsville, the mid-north coast of NSW, Sydney and Melbourne. Following the launches, ASP established direct selling relationships with several Aboriginal groups. As part of the Brisbane Writers' Festival, ASP took



## UNIQUE ENCYCLOPAEDIA EMERGES AFTER 148 YEARS

A unique early record of Aboriginal life in colonial Australia has emerged from obscurity onto retail bookshelves after 148 years. It almost didn't.

Published by Aboriginal Studies Press, *Australia: William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia* in 2010, only a short time ago existed as a sole surviving complete copy, written in German, and tucked away on a shelf in the State Library in Berlin. Its original title was *Australien in 142 photographischen Abbildungen nach zehnjährigen Erfahrungen* (Australia in 142 photographic illustrations from 10 years' experience).

Funded and published in 1862 by talented explorer, natural scientist and artist, William Blandowski, the book contains 142 illustrative records showing Aboriginal life, its routines, rituals and conflicts observed over ten years in the mid-1800s.

Originally a miner, Wilhelm (William) von Blandowski arrived in Australia from Poland in 1849 to seek his fortune. He explored south eastern Australia, where he made several

expeditions, collecting specimens and working with the Yerri Yerri people. He became an advocate for Aboriginal people and gave talks on his observations in Melbourne where he encouraged the establishment of a museum of natural history. He went on to become a council member of what became the Royal Society of Victoria and was later appointed the first government zoologist in Victoria and the first director of the Melbourne Museum.

However, his erratic behaviour and lack of political acumen caused a fall from grace that prompted him to return home a decade later with his reputation in tatters. When he left, Blandowski took with him a significant record of Australian art, anthropology and natural history.

Until now, Blandowski's contribution to Australian natural history, art and anthropology has remained almost unknown in Australia. His encyclopaedia was rediscovered by Australian anthropologist Professor Harry Allen. Since being released in English in September 2010 his work has been described as a 'sort of visual anthropology of Aboriginal life'. It is now in its second printing.

part in a ‘pitching book ideas’ session with three documentary filmmakers.

ASP contacted the Indigenous centres of most Australian universities to offer information about its list and suitability for use in courses, and to inquire about how courses were taught. ASP increased the reach of its quarterly e-newsletter to 1500 people and sold publications at several conferences, including the National Native Title Conference in Brisbane. ASP successfully negotiated the sale of 2900 books to the Scholastic Books in Home scheme. It also approached the Haddon Museum in Cambridge to sell copies of the new *Australia* publication and displayed a range of ASP titles at the Warsaw International Book Fair in Poland in May. *The little red yellow black book* continued to gain use as a cross-cultural training tool, being used by corrective services in Queensland and New South Wales, the NSW Department of Community Services and General Practice Education and Training, among others.

ASP signed a distribution agreement with Ronin Films to promote and sell their DVDs into the educational sector.

ASP continued to enter books into a range of awards. Unfortunately, the most prestigious-looking production for the year, *Australia*, was ineligible for many major awards because it is an encyclopaedia and because it was originally published in German, under the authorship of William Blandowski. ASP also helped to fund an ACT Writers’ Centre masterclass for Indigenous authors wanting to produce publishable manuscripts.

Again, ASP donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (formerly project). Funds raised by the foundation help purchase and supply culturally appropriate books and literacy resources for more than two hundred remote communities around Australia.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Research Program disseminates the outcomes of research through external peer-reviewed publications, conference and seminar presentations, professional workshops and

forums, in-house publications, information services and via the Internet (see Chapter 1 and Appendixes 1 and 2 for more information).

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

### Native Title Conference

The 12<sup>th</sup> National Native Title Conference: *Our Country, Our Future* was held at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre from 1–3 June 2011. The Turrbal, Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples, traditional owners of the wider Brisbane area, hosted the conference. It was co-convened with Queensland South Native Title Services with Makeeta Ratulevu coordinating the conference and Dr Jessica Weir convening the program.

Almost 600 delegates including 100 speakers attended the conference. The annual Mabo Lecture was given by the Chief Executive of the Lowitija Institute, Dr Kerry Arabena (see box p. 47). Other keynote speakers included: the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland South Native Title Services, Kevin Smith; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda; Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, the Hon. Patrick Keane; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and member of the St’at’imc Nation, Canada, Andrew Leach.

Conference sessions covered a broad range of topics. This year’s program included a new feature — a series of dialogue forums focusing on issues such as negotiating native title claims, managing disputes, economic development, native title proof, case management, native title benefits and constitutional reform. Indigenous talking circles were held throughout the conference and this year the first men’s talking circle was held on the topic of social and emotional wellbeing.

The conference logo was based on artwork by Ugarapul artist, Cecil Anderson. The conference cultural program included a welcome to country by Maroochy Barambah and performances by the Wagga Torres Strait Island Dance Company,





Top (left): Conference Keynote Speaker The Hon. Justice Patrick A Keane, (Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia); Top (middle) Meriam woman, Dr Kerry Arabena who delivered the 2011 Mabo Lecture; Top (right) Mick Gooda (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner), Andrew Leach (CEO of Canada's Aboriginal Housing Management Association and member of the St'at'imc Nation) and Professor Mick Dodson AM (AIATSIS Chairperson).

Bottom (left): CEO of Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) Kevin Smith speaks at the Conference's opening reception; Bottom (right): a member of the Wakka Wakka Dancers during the Welcome to Country opening ceremony. Photographs by Carbon Media.

## TAKING MABO SPIRIT INTO THE FUTURE

What might the native title agenda look like in fifty years?

Chief Executive Officer of the Lowitja Institute and Meriam woman, Dr Kerry Arabena, suggested a greatly expanded agenda when giving the Mabo Lecture at the 2011 Native Title Conference in Brisbane in June.

It was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mabo Lecture. Past speakers have included Noel Pearson, Aden Ridgeway, Galarrwuy Yunipingu, Professor Mick Dodson and Professor Marcia Langton.

Dr Arabena said that Eddie Koiki Mabo had a vision that his Torres Strait island home, Mer, would be there for all its descendents. She suggested that in fifty years native title practitioners could be helping the planet to move from a period of human devastation to one of harmony between people and the earth.

'I could suggest that a future vision might be that the world, in all its magnificence, simply remains here for future generations,' she said.

'This is the natural trajectory for native title, a fluid movement between reconciling people, to reconciling people and the planet.

'Change we must, and change we can. In fact every time a culture has been transformed from what it was before — for better or worse — it has been because of an idea, an insight, a new understanding of how things are, and what is possible.

'Eddie Koiki Mabo's simple idea that the Queensland government didn't 'own' his and his people's Mer Island led to the most fundamental shift in the relationship between coloniser and colonised in Australian history.'

Dr Arabena said that beyond current native title work there was an expanded native title agenda. 'We all have a role and responsibility to protect the health of ecosystems and those who reside in them,' she said.

The 2011 National Native Title Conference was co-convened by AIATSIS and the Queensland South Native Title Services.

the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers and the Wakka Wakka Dancers.

Sponsorship of \$190,000 supported the participation of Indigenous delegates. FaHCSIA was the principal conference sponsor, Newmont Asia Pacific was a major sponsor with other sponsors including the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Resource Management, Indigenous Business Australia, Indigenous Land Corporation, and the Minerals Council of Australia. The National Native Title Tribunal, Reconciliation Australia and the *Koori Mail* were conference supporters.

Presentations from the conference will be made available on the AIATSIS website.

### Information Technology and Indigenous Communities

In July 2010, AIATSIS convened the Information Technologies and Indigenous Communities (ITIC) symposium. The Australian National University (ANU) and the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) co-hosted the event, which was held in conjunction with the National Recording Project's ninth symposium on Indigenous music and dance. The ITIC symposium showcased the variety of ways Indigenous communities use information technology with sessions including mapping and management; digital media and cultural transmission; community collecting and

museum outreach; IT and education; language revitalisation; voice and representation; ICT and creative solutions; the social impact of digital media; placing culture online: opportunities and challenges; safeguarding the virtual world; and media associations and remote communities.

This forum brought together 228 delegates, including 150 visitors to Canberra, eight from overseas. Some eighty-nine organisations were represented at the conference, with sixty-nine presentations from Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, community workers and IT specialists. The final plenary session led to the development of a statement on key issues. For further information about the ITIC symposium, including the key issues statement, and video and audio recordings of many of the presentations, see [www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/symposia/Digi10.html](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/symposia/Digi10.html).

### Changing the conversation

In April 2011, AIATSIS held a second meeting to discuss perceptions of identity, 'authenticity' and the prevalence of deficit discourse within Indigenous communities. The meeting built on key issues identified in an initial workshop in December 2009, and published as an AIATSIS Discussion Paper no. 28, "Will the real Aborigine please stand up": strategies for breaking the stereotypes and changing the conversation'. Co-hosted and co-funded by the Lowitja Institute, the April 2011 meeting was attended by more than 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia.



Christine Eccles, Lyndon Ormond-Parker, Daryl MacIntyre, Russell Taylor and Aaron Corn at the ITIC film screening and reception on the evening of 13 July 2010. Photograph by Gerald Preiss.



Main session at ITIC, held in the Australian Academy of Science adjacent to the ANU. Photograph by Gerald Preiss.

### 50 years: a retrospective

On 8 June 2011, Dr Geoffrey Gray and Dr Jakelin Troy convened a symposium, '50 Years: a retrospective', held in the Great Hall at University House, in the ANU, Canberra. The symposium both celebrated, and reflected on, the significance of the 1961 Research Conference on Australian Aboriginal Studies held at University House in May that year. It was a momentous conference that helped establish the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, and was convened by WEH Stanner, then Reader in Comparative Institutions at the ANU. Ruth Latukefu (Fink), who appeared in the 1961 conference photo, attended the symposium.

The symposium was opened by the Chairperson of the Institute, Professor Mick Dodson, with the keynote address, 'A fight against time: the 1961 conference', being given by Emeritus Professor DJ Mulvaney. The results of the symposium will appear in an edited volume, and a podcast will soon be available on the AIATSIS website.

### AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference

Planning is well underway for the biennial National Indigenous Studies conference, to be held in September 2011. With the theme of 'Young and old: connecting generations', AIATSIS has received more than one hundred abstract submissions and a further ten proposals to convene sessions. A preliminary program is planned for the end of July, with registrations opening in mid-July 2011. The social program will include Indigenous film screenings and a reception at the National Film and Sound Archive, as well as a conference dinner and tour of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander galleries at the National Gallery of Australia. As at June 2011, sponsorship was already double that of the previous conference in 2009.

Audio and video recordings from the 2009 conference, as well as most seminars, are now available online: see <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/communication.html>.

### OTHER WORKSHOPS

AIATSIS researchers Sarah Cutfield and Salome Harris hosted a workshop at the Institute on the Dalabon online corpus in July 2010. The workshop established a work program and set of protocols for the remainder of 2010–11.

Dr Jakelin Troy and Dr Doug Marmion continue their work as co-convenors of the language and Indigenous issues strand of the upcoming Langfest conferences, to be held at the ANU in November 2011.

### AIATSIS SEMINAR SERIES

The second series for 2010, 'Text and Texture', was convened by Dr Jeanine Leane and examined the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and researchers as a counter to mainstream Australian literature. Some sixteen Indigenous authors and poets explored the various layers of the writing process, such as the misrepresentation of Indigenous people by non-Indigenous writers, the fabrication of Australia's past, and the layers of 'convenient truth' that have silenced Indigenous experience and need to be excavated through Indigenous writing.

The first seminar series of 2011, convened by Sarah Cutfield, examined the perceptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in the public domain. Linguists, historians, language workers and anthropologists gave presentations. They explored the underlying assumptions and causes of misconceptions about Indigenous languages as well as the resulting challenges and creative solutions they generate.

Seminars are webcast live with moving image and audio staff providing digital files to make presentations available on the AIATSIS website soon after the event: see <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminars.html>. The venue for the series, the Mabo Room, was refurbished to improve the video and audio quality of presentations. This included upgrading the video projection and conferencing systems to provide more engaging web broadcasts and installing an amplifier which broadcasts the seminar's audio

directly to the hearing aids of hearing impaired staff and visitors.

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS ON THE WEB

To increase accessibility to its public programs, AIATSIS has been live webcasting from seminars and conference sessions, and placing footage on the web for subsequent viewing since February 2009; see <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminars.html>. Archived videos are also available via <http://vimeo.com/aiatsis/videos>. In 2010–11, some 1202 web visitors accessed the footage on the Institute’s website from as far as the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Denmark. The most popular items during the year were from the July 2010 Information Technologies and Indigenous Communities symposium.

### RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The Research Program communicates its research findings through external peer-reviewed publications, conference and seminar presentations, professional workshops and forums, in-house publications, information services and web resources (see Chapter 1 and Appendixes 1 and 2 for more information).

Development of research publications continued throughout 2010–11. This included working on strategies to increase Indigenous authorship and developing *Australian Aboriginal Studies (AAS)* in line with recommendations from the Institute’s Research Advisory Committee. As part of this development the research publication committees were re-organised to include a high level strategic Research Publications Committee, an internal Research Publications Operations Committee and a new Editorial Advisory Board for *AAS*. Members of the new Editorial Advisory Board are:

- Ms Toni Bauman, AIATSIS
- Ms Jeanie Bell, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
- Professor Mick Dodson, ANU
- Associate Professor Pat Dudgeon, University of Western Australia

- Dr Lorraine Gibson, Macquarie University
- Dr Barbara Glowczewski, National Center for Scientific Research, Paris
- Dr Geoff Gray, AIATSIS
- Professor Françoise Dussart, University of Connecticut, US
- Professor Robert Layton, University of Durham, UK
- Professor Colleen Hayward, Edith Cowan University
- Dr Melinda Hinkson, ANU
- Professor Howard Morphy, ANU
- Professor Fred Myers, New York University, US
- Professor Martin Nakata, University of New South Wales
- Professor John Maynard, University of Newcastle
- Dr Yin Paradies, University of Melbourne
- Professor Lester Irabinna Rigney, Flinders University
- Professor Tim Rowse, University of Western Sydney
- Professor Lynette Russell, Monash University
- Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, National Native Title Tribunal
- Dr Patrick Sullivan, AIATSIS
- Dr Anthea-Jo Taylor, Edith Cowan University
- Professor John Taylor, ANU
- Dr Graeme Ward, AIATSIS.

A number of edited volumes are being developed from public programs including the 2009–10 Seminar Series, and the AIATSIS 2009 National Indigenous Studies Conference. These are expected to be published in the first half of 2011–12.

Research grant reports from 2000 onwards are being digitised ready for future publication on the AIATSIS website. It is now a requirement of grant contracts that an abstract of results be provided for web publication.

Substantial progress has been made to set up a web delivery platform to enable research publications to be printed on demand. This is



expected to become available in the first half of the 2011–12 financial year.

### *Australian Aboriginal Studies*

The first issue for the year of the Institute's twice-yearly inter-disciplinary research journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies* (AAS 2010/2) was guest edited by Dr Sarah Holcombe and Dr Michael Davis. It considered 'Contemporary ethical issues in Australian Indigenous research'. Of its nine major articles, four have Indigenous authorship or co-authorship. The first journal for 2011 (AAS 2011/1) is non-thematic, containing papers on a range of subjects including young people and information technology, language maps, housing, Aboriginal literature in Australian audiobooks, and an analysis of Aboriginal-settler relations in the Eurobodalla region of New South Wales.

The University of Sydney is developing a volume of papers, to be delivered in early 2012, for possible publication as a thematic edition of AAS. The volume will focus on policy, with all authors being Indigenous postgraduate students mentored through the publication process by their PhD supervisors and experienced editors.

At the start of 2011, AAS editor, Dr Cressida Fforde, made a submission to the ranked outlets public consultation of the ARC's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012. The submission supported:

- changing the journal's current field of research codes to an overall 'multidisciplinary' category
- re-ranking AAS from 'B' to 'A'.

Following public consultation, the ARC has stopped ranking journals. The future of the field of research code is not yet known. A change to the multidisciplinary category would mean that articles published in AAS from any of the disciplines within the Indigenous studies sector, could be assessed as part of the ERA process.

### Other publications

The revised *Guidelines for ethical research in Australian Indigenous studies* were published on the AIATSIS website in June 2011 following a lengthy review.

### Native title publications

The Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) produces a range of publications, including peer-reviewed discussion and issues papers designed to target emerging themes, extend debate and disseminate native title research. The NTRU employed a publications officer, Lydia Glick, to manage the Unit's publications. Ms Glick worked with both internal and external authors to finalise the publication of three issues papers and two discussion papers. She also oversaw the establishment of a new editorial committee and updated the NTRU style guide.

Current news and information is compiled by NTRU research assistant, Matthew O'Rourke, and published monthly in *What's New* and *Native Title in the News*. Both of these publications are distributed electronically to 568 subscribers (up from 353 for 2009–10) and published on the AIATSIS website. Mr O'Rourke also edits the *Native Title Newsletter*, which is published six times a year. Each edition includes feature articles and a listing of recent Library acquisitions of native title-related materials, as well as incorporating *Native Title in the News* and elements of *What's New*. The newsletter is delivered electronically and in hard copy to 879 subscribers (up from 644 subscribers for 2009–10), and is available free from the AIATSIS website.

The NTRU publishes a number of native title resources on the AIATSIS website, including:

- national summaries of Indigenous land use agreements, native title determinations and registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs)
- the *Native Title Resource Guide* which provides an overview of the native title system
- research resources relating to native title case law and specific NTRU research projects
- national, state and territory toolkits for RNTBCs and RNTBC profiles
- native title research and access service.

The NTRU's native title research and access officer, Grace Koch, provides expert advice, research and access assistance to native title clients on the holdings of the AIATSIS Library

and Audiovisual Archives. See Table 1 for a summary of the transactions for different categories of requests, the percentage of transactions for each category, the number of requests and the number of client visits.

### LIBRARY AND AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVE

The Library is open to the general public for study and reference. Mura®, the Institute’s online catalogue, includes detailed documentation on all catalogued AIATSIS collections materials. The AIATSIS thesauri can be used to browse the collections in depth.

The Audiovisual Archive is open to anyone who wishes to access and research audiovisual materials, although appointments are necessary. On-site access and copying of materials depends on copyright provisions and the conditions determined by depositors and donors in consultation with collection management staff.

Services provided by both the Library and Audiovisual Archive will be reduced in 2011–12 as a result of budgetary constraints.

#### AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVE SERVICES

The Audiovisual Archive (AVA) serves a wide range of clients, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities, academic researchers, publishers, broadcasters, government agencies, other collecting organisations and the general public. This year,

228 clients visited Audiovisual Access to review materials held in the collection.

Most clients are remote users and are helped via email, mail and telephone. During 2010–11 staff received 616 requests (see Figure 6), an increase of 48 from the previous financial year. About 64 per cent of these were from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, compared with 54 per cent during the previous year and 33 per cent in 2008–09.

Of the 616 client requests received, 403 requests were completed during the reporting period (see Figure 7).

#### LIBRARY SERVICES

Library reference staff provide information services and access to the collections both to visitors and to remote clients. For clients in remote areas, content is accessible on the AIATSIS website, including the catalogue, online collections, fact sheets and bibliographies. Remote clients can also access information services by telephone, mail, fax and email.

Demand for the Library’s reference and information services continued previous trends, rising steadily throughout 2010–11 and placing increasing pressure on staff. Table 2 shows use of the Library over the past three years (see p. 54).

During 2010–11, reference staff produced 67 new or updated bibliographies of the Library’s holdings on individual Indigenous languages. The bibliographies are well used, with more

Table 1: Requests for native title research and access services, 2007–11

Request source	2007–08		2008–09		2009–10		2010–11	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous individuals	107	8	93	5	176	10	210	12
Indigenous organisations	404	29	458	27	531	29	443	24
Government	364	26	472	26	432	24	459	25
Consultants/private companies	229	16	372	21	326	18	230	13
Other	289	21	381	21	346	19	485	26
Total number of transactions	1,393	100	1,776	100	1,811	100	1,827	100
Total number of requests	289		301		331		344	
Number of visits	54		63		57		60	

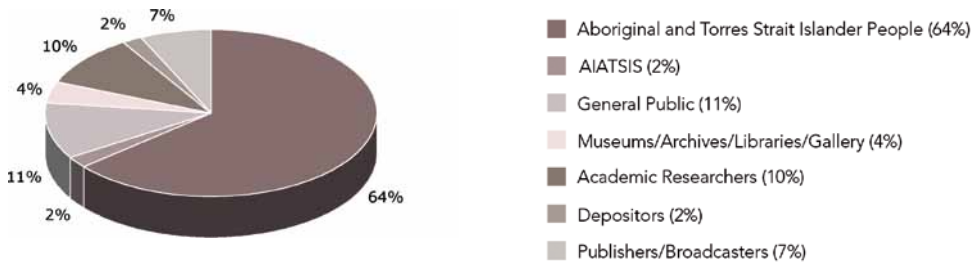


Figure 6: Total percentage of AVA client requests; 616, 2010–11

than 300 available on the AIATSIS website. They complement other AIATSIS language resources such as the language thesaurus, AUSTLANG and the *Collectors of words* online exhibition.

### Family History Unit

The Institute’s Library is responsible for the Family History Unit, which is funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health as part of the national Link-Up program. It works to fulfill the recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report. The Unit assists Link-Up caseworkers around Australia to trace family and reunite Indigenous people who were removed from their families. It provides research support through workshops on tracing families, an enquiry service and case reviews for the Link-Up organisations.

The Family History Unit underwent a strategic review during 2010–11. The Unit’s role and

focus has consequently been realigned to support only the national Link-Up network. The Unit will now provide the program with additional research support activities. Although specialised family history services to the public ended in March 2011, temporary staff have been employed to answer the remaining backlog of enquiries.

Adjusting to the termination of public services meant that considerable time was spent on changing procedures and training the Library’s reference desk staff. The Library is providing reference services for general family history inquiries from the collections, but not for extended inquiries.

The Unit has focused on moving from providing services to the general public to a Link-Up only service model. Activities supporting this transition included:

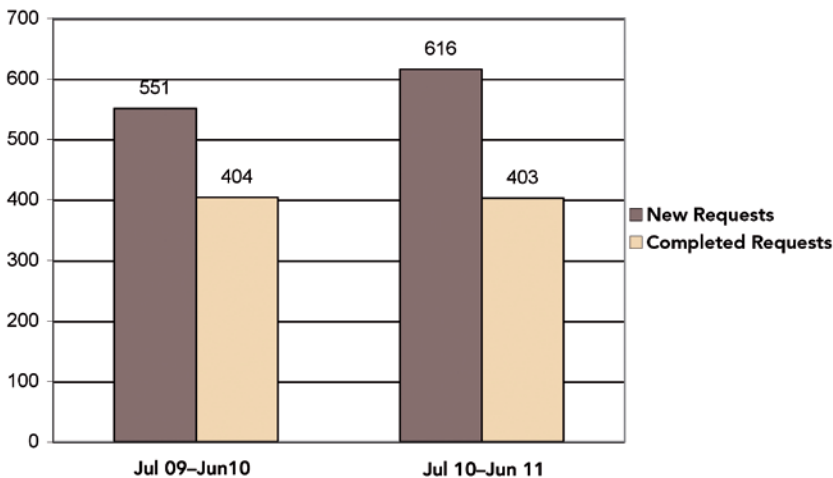


Figure 7: Comparison of AVA client requests, 2009–11

Table 2: Requests for library services, 2008–11

Increases in key areas	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	Increase over 3 years
Advanced queries	524	652	687	31%
Document supply requests	281	462	609	117%

- developing handouts, training and other resources to help the Library’s reference desk staff answer family history queries that are no longer referred to the Family History Unit
- liaising with reference and other staff about the changes, and training reference desk staff to deal with common family history inquiries
- updating web fact sheets in the family history information kit to support a self-help approach
- identifying appropriate team-building opportunities to support family history staff during a period of significant change.

One of the Unit’s major achievements was the accreditation of the family history research course delivered to Link-Up caseworkers. The Unit’s staff worked with the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and its Yurauna Centre throughout most of 2010–11 to redevelop course and accreditation materials. All successful participants will now receive a formal CIT qualification.

The Unit delivered three family history research workshops at AIATSIS to Link-Up caseworkers in July and October 2010, and June 2011. It has now trained more than 215 caseworkers since 1999 when it joined the Link-Up program.

The Unit maintains an extensive Indigenous family history website. Special features include a family history research kit and links to valuable web resources such as record indexes and guides to records. The Unit’s website was redeveloped as part of its new role with a strong focus on self-help in research. The site is well used by Link-Up caseworkers, libraries, archives and the public, with more than a million visits since 2003.

Indexing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) continued in 2010–11 with 13,007 records created or modified. Library staff completed a project to

review all personal name headings in the ABI. This will help clients searching for people in the index.

### VISITS

The Audiovisual Archive visited communities and also hosted visits from many Indigenous individuals and groups. It provided access and copies of material from the collections throughout the year. Archival material, including photos, audio recordings and films, are sought for various reasons, including for deposit in community archives, to revitalise language, or for ceremony, art, native title and family history research.

#### Purfleet community, Taree

The Audiovisual Archive visited the Purfleet community in Taree, New South Wales. Around 400 people from as far away as Kempsey visited AIATSIS staff over three days from 28 March to 1 April 2011. This community access visit generated requests for copies of 1548 audiovisual items and further requests are still being received since staff returned from Taree (see box p. 58).

#### Gooniyandi and Walmajarri visitors

Gooniyandi and Walmajarri people from Western Australia’s Kimberley communities, accompanied by anthropologist Professor Sandy Toussaint, visited the AVA from 6–8 April. The aim of the visit was to educate younger community members about the wealth of information that exists in the Phyllis Kaberry and other AIATSIS collections. Library staff helped the visitors to access genealogies relating to their families (see box p. 55).

#### Nyigina language search

The Research Program assisted two community members, Patricia and Jeannie Warbi from Broome in Western Australia, to visit the Audiovisual Archive. AIATSIS visiting researcher,



Left (standing): Marminjya Joy Nuggett and Jimmy Shandley; (sitting) Russell Topliss and Lillian Chestnut found photographs in the larger AIATSIS Collection of her mother as a young woman. Photographs by John Paul Janke.

## LONG WAY FOR A CLOSE LOOK

Four members of a remote Kimberley community travelled a long way in April to learn more about families and issues close to their hearts.

Three Gooniyandi people and one Walmajarri person journeyed from the Fitzroy Valley in WA to AIATSIS in Canberra to research the field notes, genealogies, maps and photographs recorded in their country more than eighty years ago by anthropologist, Phyllis Kaberry.

Jimmy Shandley, Marminjya Joy Nuggett, Lillian Chestnut and Russell Topliss came to Canberra with the Australian trustee of the Dr Phyllis Kaberry Collection, Adjunct Professor Sandy Toussaint, from the University of Western Australia.

Professor Toussaint described the visit as a 'significant moment for everyone'.

'Family members were able to draw on their knowledge of ancestors, as well as known places and events, and combine this with information recorded eighty years ago by Kaberry,' she said.

Professor Toussaint said that Lillian had found photographs in the larger AIATSIS

collection of her mother as a young woman, while her son Russell found information about his family history. They took this home to Lillian's mother, Topsy Chestnut, who was unable to travel with the group, due to ill health.

She said the visit showed how important it was for Aboriginal people themselves to be able to directly access documented material from the past.

'It is wonderful that Kaberry's field notes, genealogies, maps and photographs, are preserved as part of the substantial collection of archival and contemporary material held at AIATSIS,' Professor Toussaint said.

'For descendants to be able to look at field notes and see photographs helps enormously with family histories, continuing family ties, and associated concerns such as native title issues.

'We have all worked very hard interpreting the material, and it was a long trip here — and it's a long trip back — but everyone has made plain that the trip has been very worthwhile'.



Magali McDuffie, helped the two visitors to access Nyigina language audio material, which they were surprised to discover existed and was being kept safely at AIATSIS.

## RETURN OF MATERIALS TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The Return of Materials to Indigenous Clients (ROMTIC) program provides Indigenous clients with greater access to the audiovisual collections. Through ROMTIC up to twenty collection items are returned to clients at no cost. During the reporting period 2087 items valued at \$111,176 were copied and returned to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients (see Figure 8).

Audiovisual Archive staff worked with the free advertising postcard company, Avant Card, to produce a postcard promoting the AIATSIS Community Access and Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities services. Around 63,300 cards were distributed to cafes, universities, arts venues, museums and other institutions around Australia. Avant Card reported that it was the quickest and most popular uptake they had experienced.

The largest request fulfilled under the ROMTIC program this financial year was for the South Australian Inhaadi Adnyamathanha Ngawarla Language Program. Through this program elders are involved in weekly classes to encourage Indigenous children and youth to better understand culture as they develop language proficiency. Other requests include:

- the Yolngu Multimedia Archive and Production Centre (Muka) in Yirrkala, Northern Territory, last year requested more than 1000 items from the audio, moving and still image collections for return to the community archive. The Archive is receiving many requests like this one, where a group requests everything relating to their community that is held by AIATSIS. Where those materials have not yet been transferred to the digital format, the waiting period to receive the requested items can be long. In this case the materials will be returned to Yirrkala in batches over two years.

- Sound recordings relating to Mithaka, Pita Pita, Wangkangurru and Wangkamana were provided to Traditional Owners of the Lake Eyre Basin area of Queensland. These will help develop vocabulary lists that can then be used to produce language dictionaries. The Traditional Owners will also use the recordings as an aide-memoire for elders to record more language material. Draft pictorial dictionaries will be developed in consultation with elders. The final publication will be supplied to Traditional Owners, libraries, archives and schools.
- The Dharriwaa Elders Group from Walgett, NSW received audio materials of the Gamilaraay language to deposit in the Elders Centre Library. The Dharriwaa elders will manage appropriate access to the language recordings and intend to create educational materials for schools in the Gamilaraay region. AVA staff compiled all Gamilaraay language materials held in the Archive on five CDs. Fifty copies of the five-CD set have been made for the elders and provided under the ROMTIC program.
- Dhanggal Gurruwiwi, from Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory, requested, on behalf of her family, copies of recordings of her father Monyu, who was a respected elder and medicine man in the community. This request is another example of Indigenous people accessing rare and unique materials from the AVA to help the younger generation learn about their family history. Dhanggal also located a restricted film featuring her brother Djalu and their father Monyu performing secret healing rituals.
- The Dawita Cultural Centre has requested all materials relating to Yam and Yorke Islands in the Torres Strait. The requested material will be deposited in the Dawita Cultural Centre Museum's library for all community members to access.
- The Milingimbi community in the Northern Territory has requested 100 photographs and audio material that they intend to use to develop a community website. The staff responded to this urgent request in just two weeks, putting it ahead of more than 200 outstanding requests. This enabled

Dr Louise Hamby from the ANU to take the items with her when she visited the community.

- The Doomadgee State School and Waanyi community in Queensland received Waanyi language audio materials to be used in compiling a Waanyi dictionary for community members and children.

### ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

As part of the launch of the complete backset of the *Koori Mail* newspaper on the AIATSIS website, a collection of front pages spanning twenty years was exhibited in the AIATSIS Library and foyer in May–June 2011.

### ONLINE COLLECTIONS

Through the AIATSIS Digitisation Program, the Library created a major new online collection on the AIATSIS website featuring twenty years of the *Koori Mail* (1991–2011). The online collection is a valuable resource recording two decades of Indigenous history and life. The board of the *Koori Mail* generously made this copyrighted material available to the community (see box p. 60).

Online collections continue to be very successful, with a total of 507,414 hits on all digitisation web pages during 2010–11. The most popular of these was *Dawn* magazine with its thousands of photographs. It received 157,076 hits. The *Dawn* online collection was redesigned along with most of the other collections. Online collections are regularly

updated and anyone interested in contributing new information, or correcting existing material, is invited to email their comments to [library@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:library@aiatsis.gov.au).

### DIGITISATION OUTREACH

#### Digitisation of print collections

The Library Digitisation Unit scanned and preserved 45,384 digital files for preservation and access in 2010–11.

The AIATSIS Digitisation Program funded a staff member to catalogue digital material into Mura®. The material includes books that are out of copyright, archived websites and publications from Australia's web archive, PANDORA, which is managed by the National Library of Australia and partner organisations. This has increased the number of records on Mura® that are linked to electronic format material, and makes these records accessible to remote users.

The Library continued its commitment to PANDORA, which started in 2006. Staff are archiving a limited range of Indigenous websites and individual publications on PANDORA. All archived PANDORA websites are individually catalogued and are accessible on Mura®.

Library staff have been digitally preserving out-of-copyright books and making them accessible through Mura®. To date, more than 400 titles have been added. This has enabled clients to remotely access some of the Institute's rare book collection through its catalogue and website.

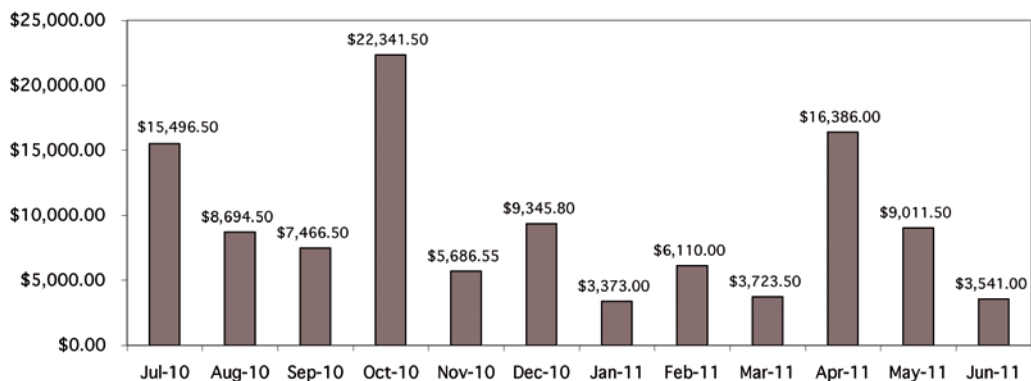


Figure 8: Value of materials returned to Indigenous clients, 2010–11





## ARCHIVAL TREAT FOR TAREE'S PURFLEET COMMUNITY

When you live on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, a visit to Canberra to look up local history records may seem like a great idea, but a remote option.

So a three-day visit by AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive staff in March 2011 to Taree's Purfleet community not only brought the collection up close, but was an eye-opener for the local community.

Around 400 people came from as far as Kempsey to talk to AIATSIS staff and to learn more about the material held by the Institute.

The visit was part of the Institute's Return of Materials to Indigenous Communities (ROMTIC) program and was organised with the support of community representative Ms Katrina Russell, as well as the Biripi Aboriginal Medical Service, the Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation and the Greater Taree City Council.

Pictorial Access Unit staff brought with them relatively recent photographs of community members, but were also able to provide access to the Institute's much wider database of photographs from the surrounding region, including some that dated back more than forty years.

Community members were pleasantly surprised to discover how many photographs, video and audio materials AIATSIS holds about their community and language. Many found photographs of themselves and their families that they did not know existed.

The photographs from the 1988 AIATSIS publication *After 200 years: photographic essays of Aboriginal and Islander Australia today*, also created much interest.

At the venue, staff showed footage of the first Taree Aboriginal Debutante Ball held in the late 1980s. The DVD played continuously and was a huge crowd pleaser, drawing a constant laughing audience of community members, who recognised themselves in their youth and finery.

Many copies of this DVD have been requested along with requests for some 1548 audiovisual items.

Sadly, for 2011–12 the Institute will reluctantly curtail some of its planned regional activities including ROMTIC to divert available internal resources towards its digitisation program which expired on 30 June 2011. The Audiovisual Archive will not be able to undertake any community access activities.



Opposite page: Senior Access Officer Kylie Simpson helping a client from Foster; Top (this page): Warner (left) and Harold Saunders looking at old Taree/Purfleet newspapers; Middle left: Norma Callaghan (left) and Rosalind Clarke looking through photographs; Bottom left: Archive Officer Jeannene Curtis with Purfleet resident Rex Morris; Above: Kyanne Jakal (left) and Leonie Delaney. All photographs by Daniel Walding.



## KOORI MAIL GOES ONLINE AT AIATSIS

A 35,000-page goldmine of recent social and political Aboriginal history can now be tapped into online.

Twenty years worth of stories, photos and cartoons published in the *Koori Mail* have been digitised and uploaded onto the AIATSIS website at [www.aiatsis.gov.au/koorimail](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/koorimail).

It is the first time in Australia's history that a complete run of an in-copyright national newspaper has been made available free online.

The AIATSIS library digitisation team digitised some 35,000 pages dating back to the newspaper's first edition in 1991. Staff worked with partners CAVAL, an Australian not-for-profit company that provides library services to libraries in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, and also with the State Library of New South Wales, which provided the metadata from years of indexing the newspaper.

Issues, including photo captions, can be searched by keywords, name, subject, date and issue number. The *Koori Mail* retains full copyright of its material, so formal permission is still required to reproduce the collection's content.

The newspaper's chairman, Russell Kapeen, said its Bundjalung board of directors had been pleased to support the digitisation project.

'The *Koori Mail* began in 1991 and was Australia's first wholly Indigenous-owned fortnightly newspaper,' Mr Kapeen said.

'Initially we circulated only in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria but we are now a truly national newspaper, read by an estimated 100,000-plus people each fortnight.

'To have all of our editions available online is groundbreaking. We believe the wealth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander opinions and viewpoints expressed in the *Koori Mail* makes an important contribution to the national landscape.

'The collection will be an important research tool for Indigenous people, students and anyone interested in a truly rounded perspective on national debate. We thank and commend AIATSIS staff for their efforts in this important initiative.'

The Library's Digitisation Team with twenty years of the *Koori Mail* now online. From left: James Cahir, Daryl Ciubal, Kylie Martin, Rod Stroud, Jake Smith, Jeana Bajic and Gerald Preiss. Photograph by Kerstin Styche.



## PROMOTION AND CONFERENCES

Several Library and Family History Unit staff attended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network Conference in Adelaide during November 2010.

At the conference AIATSIS staff members Judith Cannon and Jenny Wood co-presented a paper, 'Talkin' names', based on a tutorial that they developed to guide libraries on the best methods of establishing headings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personal names. The tutorial is available on the AIATSIS website at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/talkinames.html>. It includes self-paced modules and practice sessions for hands-on experience. Another tutorial, 'Connecting to country, Australian place names', is nearly completed and will complement the 'Talkin' names' tutorial, adding a further resource for indexers and cataloguers of material with Indigenous content.

Staffer Alana Garwood-Houng presented a paper 'Pathways to Indigenous art', on the AIATSIS Thesaurus and the arts, at the Arts Libraries Society Australia and New Zealand Conference in Darwin in September 2010. Library and Audiovisual Archive staff attended a number of other conferences in 2010–11 including Information Online in Sydney, during February 2011.

Moving image staff filmed vox pop interviews at a meeting of chief executive officers of native title representative bodies for the AIATSIS Native Title Conference, held in June. Staff edited these interviews and gave 100 copies to the Native Title Research Unit to use for promotion and to attract potential sponsors.

## Website

The AIATSIS website is the prime means of promoting the Institute and its work. The website offers webcasts, collections catalogue and guides, and online content to expand public awareness of the Institute's work and achievements.

The Library provides much of the technical expertise for the website's design and layout as well as the online collections.

## STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

During 2010–11, the Library and the Audiovisual Archive fostered close working relationships with many important institutional partners. This section provides an indicative but not exhaustive description of the major collaborations undertaken during the year.

### National Library of Australia

The National Library of Australia (NLA) provides many valuable support services and resources to clients. For AIATSIS, this includes Libraries Australia and Trove.

### Libraries Australia and Trove

Libraries Australia is an online resource that provides access to the national database of material held in Australian libraries. Users can search for any item and locate which library in Australia holds the item.

Trove is a web-based discovery system that includes images, newspapers, archived websites, maps, print materials and audio and photographic materials. Trove also provides access to Libraries Australia.

In 2010–11 the AIATSIS Library increased significantly the amount of its holdings on Libraries Australia. This helps raise awareness of the Institute's collections. In particular this included 7240 original cataloguing records.

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

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

Audiovisual Archive and National Library of Australia (NLA) staff worked together to include catalogue records of AIATSIS audiovisual materials on Trove. Trove is now able to search text from linked caption lists and finding aids as well as from catalogue records.

This greatly increases opportunities for users to locate relevant materials.

Audiovisual Archive staff member Marisa Harris was seconded to the NLA for fifteen months to assist with the online delivery of the *Bringing them home* oral history interviews. The project was a huge success with around 200 interviewees giving approval for their recordings to be made available via the NLA's website. Thirty follow-up interviews were also commissioned.

### PANDORA

The AIATSIS Library is a formal partner in PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive, which is supported and hosted by the NLA.

### ATSIROM

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

### National Museum of Australia

Moving image staff helped the National Museum of Australia (NMA) to prepare and telecine transfer actuality footage of the Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson.

The Audiovisual Archive regularly provides high resolution digitisation services for NMA exhibitions, including *Yiwarra Kujju: The Canning Stock Route*, which ran from July 2010 to January 2011. This was a contemporary art project that looked at the lives and stories of Western Desert peoples. The Archive also provided high resolution images for the museum's new permanent exhibition *Landmarks*, which broadly traces Australia's history since European colonisation in the late eighteenth century.

### National Film and Sound Archive

Moving image staff worked with the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) to compare the quality of data created from the AIATSIS telecine equipment and their own newly-acquired film scanner.

The NFSA's industry liaison officer with australianscreen online, Maddy Kortegast, worked with Audiovisual Archive staff to provide moving image content for the australianscreen website.

### Australian Broadcasting Commission

Following the discovery at AIATSIS the previous year of a filmed interview with Ben Murray, who attended the Killalpaninna mission in northern South Australia, senior moving image curator Tom Eccles worked with ABC staff on a *Stateline* segment highlighting UNESCO's World Audiovisual Heritage Day, Ben Murray's life and the AIATSIS collections.

### Canberra Institute of Technology

Audio staff worked with the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) Music Industry Centre, to orient their students in the technological processes used by the Audio Archiving Unit.

The Family History Unit collaborated with the Yurauna Centre at the CIT to formally accredit the Unit's family history research workshop.

### Other alliances

During 2010–11, the Library and Audiovisual Archive were involved with a number of leading institutional and professional bodies, including:

- Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Committee
- National Archives of Australia Canberra Consultative Forum
- ACT CANHUG Users Group (Catalogue Systems)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive with the University of Technology, Sydney

The Library maintained institutional memberships of:

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

Audiovisual Archive staff maintained professional memberships of:

- Australian Society of Archivists
- SIG Indigenous Archives, a special interest group of the ASA (separately convened)
- International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions
- Association of Computer Machinery (US)
- Australian Institute of Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM)
- SIG Graphic, a special interest group of the AICCM (separately convened).