

Exploring Urban Identities and Histories

Exploring Urban Identities and Histories

Edited by

**Christine Hansen
and Kathleen Butler**

Developed from papers presented at the 2009 AIATSIS National
Indigenous Studies Conference 'Perspectives on Urban Life:
Connections and reconnections'

First published in 2013 by AIATSIS Research Publications

© Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 2013
© in individual chapters is held by the contributors, 2013

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act), no part of this paper may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. The Act also allows a maximum of one chapter or 10 per cent of this paper, whichever is the greater, to be photocopied or distributed digitally by any educational institution for its educational purposes, provided that the educational institution (or body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

GPO Box 553, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (61 2) 6246 1111
Fax: (61 2) 6261 4285
Email: research@aiatsis.gov.au
Web: www.aiatsis.gov.au

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Title: Exploring urban identities and histories / edited by
Christine Hansen and Kathleen Butler.
ISBN: 9781922102188 (paperback)

Notes: Chapter authors: Dr Greg Blyton, Dr Kerin Coulehan, WH
(Bill) Edwards, Christopher D Gall,
Waymamba Gaykamanju, Neville Green,
Ross Hoffman, Erin Keenan, Michael
Ingrey, Paul Irish, John Maynard,
Peter Read, Stephanie Lindsay
Thompson, Yuriko Yamanouchi.

Subjects: Rural-urban migration--Australia.
Sociology, Urban--Australia.
Aboriginal Australians--Urban residence.
Aboriginal Australians--Social conditions.

Other Authors/Contributors:
Hansen, Christine, editor.
Butler, Kathleen, editor.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies. Conference (2009 : Canberra, A.C.T.)

Dewey Number: 305.89915

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Title: Exploring urban identities and histories / edited by
Christine Hansen and Kathleen Butler.
ISBN: 9781922102195 (ebook)

Notes: Chapter authors: Dr Greg Blyton, Dr Kerin Coulehan, WH
(Bill) Edwards, Christopher D Gall,
Waymamba Gaykamanju, Neville Green,
Ross Hoffman, Erin Keenan, Michael
Ingrey, Paul Irish, John Maynard,
Peter Read, Stephanie Lindsay
Thompson, Yuriko Yamanouchi.

Subjects: Rural-urban migration--Australia.
Sociology, Urban--Australia.
Aboriginal Australians--Urban residence.
Aboriginal Australians--Social conditions.

Other Authors/Contributors:
Hansen, Christine, editor.
Butler, Kathleen, editor.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies. Conference (2009 : Canberra, A.C.T.)

Dewey Number: 305.89915

Cover design by Inprint Pty Ltd
Typeset in 9.5/13 pt Plantin by Midland Typesetters, Australia

Contents

Contributors	vii
Introduction	1
Christine Hansen and Kathleen Butler	
Part 1 Identity	9
Chapter 1	11
Living with ambiguity: Aboriginal community experience in south-western Sydney	
Yuriko Yamanouchi	
Chapter 2	27
The Tribal Warrior Association: Reconstructing identity	
Stephanie Lindsay Thompson	
Chapter 3	51
Family matters: Yolŋu women and children and rural–urban mobility	
Kerin Coulehan and Waymamba Gaykamaŋu	
Part 2 History	73
Chapter 4	75
Marking their footsteps: Aboriginal people and places in nineteenth-century Sydney	
Paul Irish and Michael Ingrey	
Chapter 5	91
‘The evidence of our own past has been torn asunder’: Putting place back into urban Aboriginal history	
Peter Read	

Chapter 6	101
Adelaideala nyinanytja — Living in Adelaide Bill Edwards	
Chapter 7	115
A research journey documenting TI'azt'en Nation's ancestral history of Yeko Christopher Gall and Ross Hoffman	
Chapter 8	133
'Survival against all odds': The Indigenous population of metropolitan Perth, 1829–2001 Neville Green	
Chapter 9	153
Fred Maynard and Marcus Garvey: Storming the urban space John Maynard	
Chapter 10	161
Stories of continuity, times of change? Māori oral histories of twentieth-century urbanisation in New Zealand Erin Keenan	
Chapter 11	171
Sixteen-pound hammers, fettlers, shanties and railway tents: Demographic movement of Aboriginal people from rural to urban areas of central-eastern New South Wales in the assimilation era, 1940–69 Greg Blyton	

Contributors

Dr Greg Blyton is a lecturer, researcher and editor of *Kulumun*, an online Indigenous journal at the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle. He teaches Indigenous history, health and research methodology and has written several books and journal articles focusing on contact and medical history of Indigenous Australians, with a particular focus on the Hunter region of central-eastern New South Wales. Dr Blyton's Indigenous lineage is drawn from Sydney and the south coast of New South Wales and he is a member of Mimiga Wajaar traditional custodians. Dr Blyton is a strong advocate for reconciliation and recognition of the rich history and heritage of Aboriginal Australia, along with legal justice and social equity. <greg.blyton@newcastle.edu.au>

Kathleen Butler is an Indigenous early career researcher whose research interests centre on the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges in the academy, with an intertwined focus on Indigenising curriculum and Indigenous Research Higher Degree participation. Kathleen is an associate professor at the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle.

Kerin Coulehan's association with Yolŋu communities started with her appointment to Milingimbi Area School in 1974 to support the Whitlam government's Library Grants to Schools program. Following her earlier career in secondary teaching and educational media, from 1989 to 1995 Kerin undertook postgraduate research funded by a Northern Territory Government postgraduate scholarship and tutoring at the Northern Territory University. In 1996 she was awarded a PhD in Anthropology from the university (now Charles Darwin University (CDU)) for her research and thesis 'Sitting down in Darwin: Yolŋu women from north-east Arnhem Land and family life in the city'. From 1996 to 2006, Dr Coulehan held various higher education teaching and applied research contracts at CDU before retiring to concentrate on private consultancy and publication interests.

Kerin's consultant research reports and publications have largely focused on Aboriginal rural-urban mobility and on effective intercultural communication, education and service delivery to Indigenous clients and communities in the

Northern Territory. She has worked with stakeholders that include Charles Darwin University, the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, Menzies School of Health Research, Aboriginal Community Living Areas Tribunal, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, the Office of Aboriginal Development, and the Northern Territory Supreme Court.

WH (Bill) Edwards, a minister of the Uniting Church in Australia, was Superintendent of Ernabella Mission (1958–72), Superintendent of Mowanjum Mission (1972–73) and Minister of the Pitjantjatjara Parish based at Fregon (1973) and Amata (1976–80). He lectured in Aboriginal studies at the Torrens College of Advanced Education (1975), the South Australian College of Advanced Education and, from 1991, the University of South Australia (1981–96). In retirement he remains an adjunct senior lecturer at the university. He interprets in Pitjantjatjara in hospitals and courts. He was awarded a PhD in history at Flinders University for his thesis, *Moravian Aboriginal Missions in Australia*. He is the author of *An Introduction to Aboriginal Societies* (Social Science Press, Tuggerah, NSW, 2nd edn, 2004) and editor of *Traditional Aboriginal Society* (Macmillan, South Melbourne, 2nd edn, 1998). He was awarded membership of the Order of Australia in 2009.

Christopher D Gall completed his Master's in the First Nations Studies Program in 2011 at the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, Canada. During that time, he worked for three years with Tl'azt'en and Yekooche elders to record their oral history and assisted the Tl'azt'en Elders Society with developing an archive to preserve the elders' knowledge. Christopher has gone on to work with Dakelh, Coast Salish, Métis, Inuit, and Anishnabek communities on a variety of community-driven research projects focused on history, culture, and use-and-occupancy mapping. He is currently the Acting Director of Natural Resources for Métis Nation British Columbia and a J.D candidate at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Waymamba Gaykamanju has a long and distinguished career in education in the Northern Territory. She was a teaching assistant at Milingimbi School from 1973 until 1987, when she obtained an Associate Diploma of Teaching from Batchelor College. As a visiting teacher for Homeland Centres, Waymamba continued studies in remote area teacher education at Batchelor College in 1988–89 and was employed at the Curriculum Development Unit of the Northern Territory Education Department in Darwin from 1990 to 1993. From 1994 until she retired in 2008, Waymamba was Lecturer in Yolŋu Language and Culture at Charles Darwin University (CDU). She received a 2005 Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year, and 2007 Vice Chancellor's Award for Exceptional Performance in Research. Waymamba Gaykamanju continues part-time work as a bilingual, bicultural consultant to the School of Education at CDU on the development of a digital archive for use in Yolŋu remote

area education, and with Aboriginal Resource and Development Services and Yolŋu Radio on bilingual media resources to inform Yolŋu of their rights and responsibilities in accessing government services.

Ms Gaykamaŋu has highly developed communication and negotiation skills in English and Yolŋu languages. She is fluent in Gupapuyŋu, Djambarrpuyŋu, and understands Gälpu, Gumatj, Wangurri, Gamalaŋga, and other Yolŋu languages.

Neville Green AM, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD, University of Western Australia and PhD, Murdoch University is a Western Australian historian specialising in Indigenous history. His 11 authored and edited books, like his university theses, have Aboriginal history themes. He liberated himself from Edith Cowan University in 1993 to engage in native title reports for the state and for Indigenous communities. In 2012 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to Indigenous history. <marnev18@y7mail.com>

Christine Hansen has both academic and professional interests in museums and collections. She was a curator at the National Museum of Australia, a member of the editorial board of the journal *Aboriginal History* and a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Environmental History at the Australian National University. She completed her PhD at the Australian Centre for Indigenous History in 2010. Christine is currently undertaking post-doctoral research on the collection of Australian Aboriginal material held in the Museum of World Cultures in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Ross Hoffman is an associate professor in the First Nations Studies department at the University of Northern British Columbia. He has lived for three decades in north-western British Columbia. During that time, he has worked within Wet'suwet'en, Gitksan, Cree and Dakelh communities on a variety of community-based research projects in the areas of education, language and culture, and health and wellness. This interdisciplinary research has included extensive work in the oral tradition with elders and other knowledge holders. Ross is also the Co-Director of the Western Research Centre of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN). The UAKN is a national network of partnerships that facilitates research on the challenges and opportunities experienced by Aboriginal peoples living in Canada's urban centres.

Erin Keenan (Te Ātiawa ki Taranaki, Ngāti Te Whiti) is a doctoral student at Victoria University of Wellington. Her thesis in New Zealand history is a Māori history of Wellington with a special focus on experiences of urbanisation. Erin's research interests include twentieth-century *iwi* (tribal) and Māori history, as well as Māori oral histories. <Erin.Keenan@vuw.ac.nz>

Michael Ingrey is from the La Perouse Aboriginal Community of Botany Bay, New South Wales, and identifies as being from the Dharawal (Botany Bay) and Dungutti (mid-north coast of New South Wales, particularly the Bellbrook area) peoples. After gaining his Higher School Certificate in 2000, Michael completed a Structural Engineer (Aeroskills) apprenticeship with Qantas. Rather than continue in this field, Michael had a desire to work with his community to improve facilities and services, particularly for younger people. He currently works as an information referral officer for the La Perouse Aboriginal community and is a member of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, La Perouse Deadlys Leadership Group, La Perouse Aboriginal Men's Group and Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation. Michael has a strong interest in the heritage and history of both Dharawal and Dungutti people, and in keeping both cultures strong. He has worked on Aboriginal heritage projects around Botany Bay, including archaeological excavations, and has developed a particular interest in the Aboriginal culture and history of south-eastern Sydney. Since 2009 he has worked closely with Paul Irish and members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community to better document this history and heritage. <michael.ingrey@live.com>

Paul Irish has been working as an archaeological consultant specialising in Aboriginal heritage for the past 15 years, since completing archaeological studies at the University of Sydney (BA) and Copenhagen University in Denmark (MA). Over the last decade he has developed a keen interest in the Aboriginal history of the Sydney region, which led to the formation of the Sydney Aboriginal Historical Places Project in 2006. Working together with members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community for a number of years, Paul is now undertaking a PhD at the University of New South Wales to investigate Aboriginal people and their settlements in south-eastern Sydney in the mid- to late 19th century. <paulirish@optusnet.com.au>

Professor John Maynard is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of New South Wales. He currently holds an ARC Australian Research Fellowship (Indigenous). He has worked for many prominent organisations in major positions such as Director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle, Deputy Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), and Deputy Chair (Humanities) of the Australian Research Council College of Experts. Professor Maynard has also served on numerous committees, including the Executive Committee of the Australian Historical Association, the History Council of New South Wales, the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC), the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) and the New South Wales Fulbright Selection Committee. He was recipient of the Aboriginal History (Australian National University) Stanner Fellowship 1996, New South Wales Premier's Indigenous History Fellowship 2003 and an Australian Research Council

Postdoctoral Fellowship 2004 and was University of Newcastle Researcher of the Year 2008 and 2012, and Australian National University Allan Martin History Lecturer 2010. He gained his PhD in 2003 examining the rise of early Aboriginal political activism. He has worked with and within many Aboriginal communities, urban, rural and remote. Professor Maynard's publications have concentrated on the intersections of Aboriginal political and social history, and the history of Australian race relations. He is the author of several books, including *Aboriginal Stars of the Turf, Fight for Liberty and Freedom* and *The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe*. He has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, including documentaries *The Track, The Colony, Vote Yes for Aborigines, Captain Cook: Obsession and discovery, Outback United, Lachlan Macquarie — The Father of Australia* and *The Years That Made Us*.

Peter Read is an Australian Professorial Fellow in the Department of History, University of Sydney, and the Director of the project 'A History of Aboriginal Sydney'. <peter.read@sydney.edu.au>.

Stephanie Lindsay Thompson is a PhD candidate in the Research School of Sociology at the Australian National University. Her thesis, 'Contemporary Indigenous identity in landscape, culture and narratives of history in the Sydney region', is a study of Indigenous identity and Aboriginality as expressed through the work of contemporary Aboriginal visual and performance artists, researchers, writers, historians, curators, sports people, elders and other members of Indigenous communities. The research topic was prompted by Indigenous respondents in her Master of Philosophy study on 'Museums connecting cultures: The representation of Indigenous histories and cultures in the small museums of western Sydney'. Stephanie's earlier migration research included a study of return migration from Australia to Italy (*Australia Through Italian Eyes: A study of settlers returning from Australia to Italy*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1980). The book won the Oxford Quincentenary Award (1978) and the New South Wales Premier's Special Book Award sponsored by the Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales (1980). <Stephanie.lindsay-thompson@anu.edu.au>

Yuriko Yamanouchi is originally from Japan. From 2002, while at the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, she conducted PhD research on Aboriginal people living in south-western Sydney. The topic of her thesis was the sense of community and identity of the Aboriginal people living in that area of the city. Yuriko is currently teaching at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan and is now researching the relationship between Indigenous Australians and Japanese migrants in northern Australia.