

# REPORT ON OUTPUTS

## OUTPUT 1 — RESEARCH

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) celebrated 20 years.
- AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages (ACAL) researchers were the lead writers for the *Australian Curriculum: Languages – Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages*, the framework to include Indigenous languages in the Australian Curriculum.
- ACAL completed the second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2).
- Australian Research Council (ARC) grants awarded as a collaborating organisation for:
  - National Indigenous Researchers and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN)
  - the *BlackWords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers and Storytellers* project.
- Health Research Fellow Ray Lovett won the Lowitja Institute's 2012 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Award, and named 2013 ANU Alumni Student of the Year.
- Researchers attended the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC).
- AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research (ACLWR) completed a National Climate Change Research Adaption Facility (NCCARF) project.
- Awin Udnum climate change and healthy lifestyle workshops in Kowanyama brought together AIATSIS knowledge and expertise in research, dissemination and collections.
- AIATSIS Ethics Committee trialled provision of an external ethics clearance service.
- NTRU launched a national survey of native title holding organisations.

(For the AIATSIS reporting framework, see Figure 1: Outcome and output structure, p.13.)

## RESEARCH DELIVERABLES

Deliverable Output 1	Result
<p>Promote, facilitate, and conduct research of excellence in areas of relevance and priority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIATSIS ethics website redesigned to promote use of Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS) as a resource for internal and external researchers</li> <li>• First online streaming of 18 seminars on the AIATSIS seminars website with 3,139 views recorded of the seminars</li> <li>• 697 delegates attended the 2013 Native Title Conference in Alice Springs</li> <li>• AIATSIS was a collaborating organisation in the National Indigenous Research and Knowledge Network (NIRAKN), and received a major Australian Research Council (ARC) Strategic Research Initiative grant</li> <li>• Successful bid for an ARC Linkage, Infrastructure and Facilities grant for <i>BlackWords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers and Storytellers</i>, as a collaborating organisation</li> <li>• Essential Participant – Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</li> <li>• Project Partner – Ninti One Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation</li> <li>• Participant in the Humanities Network Infrastructure project to combine Australia’s most significant cultural datasets to build a national virtual laboratory</li> <li>• Representation on the Publicly Funded Research Agencies (PFRA) Research Impact Working Group</li> <li>• ACAL researchers were the lead writers for the <i>Australian Curriculum: Languages – Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages</i>, participated in national consultations and sit on the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Languages Curriculum Advisory Group.</li> <li>• Initiated four new major native title research projects</li> <li>• Completed a major project on climate change governance, addressing knowledge gaps in research literature and policy</li> <li>• Number of submissions to legal and policy reviews doubled [see following KPIs]</li> <li>• 69 conference and seminar papers presented [see KPIs and Appendix 1]</li> <li>• Appointed five eminent adjunct scholars as Visiting Fellows</li> </ul>

## 1. RESEARCH

Deliverable Output 1	Result
Maintain highest standards for research governance and ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Research Ethics Committee held two meetings where 11 ethical clearances were approved, including two external applications under the new service offer</li> <li>• All new AIATSIS research projects submitted for review received ethical clearance</li> <li>• 2 Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings held in 2012–13 – 34 project proposals or progress reports reviewed</li> <li>• AIATSIS, in partnership with the Lowitja Institute awarded a tender to review the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ethics guidelines</li> <li>• Revised GERAIS is relied upon by many research agencies and researchers as a guide for ethical research in Indigenous studies</li> </ul>
Provide learning and development opportunities for staff and Indigenous researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 Indigenous research program staff in 2012–13 (32%)</li> <li>• Appointed 3 Indigenous visiting research fellows and one Indigenous intern from the Aurora Project</li> <li>• 300 Indigenous delegates participated at the National Native Title Conference</li> <li>• 17 research program staff currently enrolled in further study</li> </ul>
Participate in the competitive research grants scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued participation in existing research collaborations, including one Collaborative Research Network (CRN) project and two Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage projects</li> <li>• Awarded 7 contracts in 2012–13, compared to 3 contracts in 2011–12</li> <li>• Completed NCCARF Project</li> <li>• New projects and partnerships developed:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 successful Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health proposals</li> <li>- 1 successful ARC Strategic Research Initiative scheme application as a collaborating organisation (NIRAKN)</li> <li>- 1 Successful ARC Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities application as a collaborating organisation (<i>Blackwords</i>)</li> <li>- 2 Successful linkage project applications as a collaborating organisation (Indigenous veterans and repatriation)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Grow our research capacity through business development, including consultancies and grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reputation for expertise in the areas of cultural competency and language and culture revitalisation programs through provision of consultancy services</li> <li>• New grants benefit AIATSIS research</li> <li>• Three contract research tenders received:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- culture and law consultancy for Banara Pty Ltd</li> <li>- Framework for Australian Languages for ACARA</li> <li>- review ethics guidelines for the NHMRC with Lowitja Institute</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## RESEARCH KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Result
Maintain number of quality research papers and publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 peer-reviewed publications published in 2012–13, compared to 23 in 2011–12</li> <li>• 42 other publications published, nearly 4 times the output of 2011–12 (11)</li> <li>• 9 reports published, an increase on previous year (7)</li> <li>• Policy and reform submissions doubled from 6 to 12 See Appendix 1 for details</li> </ul>
Increase number of Indigenous researchers/collaborators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous research program staff numbers maintained at 13 between 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013.</li> <li>• 3 Indigenous visiting research fellows, 1 Indigenous intern from the Aurora Project and 1 Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations Indigenous cadet</li> <li>• Increased ASP collaborations with Indigenous authors</li> <li>• Indigenous researchers employed from NCCARF grant funds (though Notre Dame University)</li> </ul>
Maintain participation in key Indigenous seminars/conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members of research staff participated in internal and external seminars and workshops throughout the year</li> <li>• Indigenous research partners participate in conferences and seminars</li> <li>• Convened the National Native Title Conference with over 697 delegates</li> <li>• 69 lectures, seminar and conference presentation by staff in 2012–13 compared to 48 held in the previous year</li> <li>• AIATSIS staff, including research staff, have participated in:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congress Lowitja</li> <li>- Garma Festival</li> <li>- National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Node Leader – History, Politics and Culture for NIRAKN (National Indigenous Research and Knowledge Network)</li> </ul>

## OVERVIEW

AIATSIS was established as a publicly funded Research Institute in 1961 with a sole focus on 'Indigenous studies'. Our functions under the the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989* (AIATSIS Act) include many include many aspects of research, including conducting and encouraging research, publishing research, training Indigenous researchers, promoting Indigenous studies and a general understanding of Indigenous peoples, and maintaining a cultural collection. While this seems like a disparate set of functions, these activities maintain their relevance to the different ways that Indigenous peoples engage with research, whether embarking on their own family history, enrolling in a degree or completing a PhD, retrieving information collected by researchers and governments in the past, searching for good models or arguments to take to current governments or use in their community, or recording or developing new Indigenous knowledge

and thinking.

Given the breadth of our functions, it is imperative that AIATSIS sets priorities for our research that assist management to allocate resources, recruit and manage staff, and measure our performance.

AIATSIS research focuses on six areas of research strength under two themes:

### *Indigenous social and cultural wellbeing*

- language, arts and cultural expression
- education, history and cultural transmission
- health and wellbeing.

### *Indigenous country and governance*

- native title and traditional ownership
- land and water
- governance, public policy and development.

See Appendix 1 for publications and presentations stemming from this research in 2012–13.

## NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

As a mission-based research institute (one with a specific focus, defined in its legislation), AIATSIS has a statutory role to undertake and promote research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Nevertheless, AIATSIS has also contributed to the National Research Priorities which guided Australia's research agenda in 2012–13.

The Institute supported the priorities of promoting and maintaining environmental sustainability and good health. In 2012–13, sustainable water use, solutions to land degradation, and responding to climate change and variability were addressed in climate change adaptation projects in Kowanyama and Karajarri country. These addressed the relationship between native title and water use outcomes, and pathways to joint management of protected areas and conservation reserves.

Contributing to the priorities of a healthy start to life for children, preventive healthcare and strengthening Australia's social and economic fabric, AIATSIS' research projects have included culturally mediated health screening in Indigenous primary health care, English language literacy for Indigenous children, and the development of an evidence base about the Stolen Generations.

The National Research Priorities will be replaced by the Strategic Research Priorities (SRPs) in 2013–14. AIATSIS was consulted and contributed to the SRPs. These include a specific priority to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through research identifying ways to improve access, utilisation and engagement with health, education and social services in partnership with urban, rural and remote communities. AIATSIS will continue to monitor its contribution to these priorities.

## RESEARCH BUDGET

Funding provided by government for research remained unchanged in 2012-13. Work to develop external revenue sources to fund increasing and in-demand research continued to be successful though challenging. The year saw the first decline in external revenue (-9 per cent) after five consecutive years of increase in income (see Figures 3 and 4). Externally sourced expenditure, including capacity building related expenditure, stood at 52 per cent and

continued to be higher than expenditure against appropriations.

Total expenditure in 2012-13 (\$5,117,730) decreased by 5 per cent on the previous year, largely due to the inability to secure ongoing funding for the Indigenous Visiting Research Fellows program. Of this, 77 per cent was spent on salaries, 13 per cent on public programs, and the balance on other operational costs.

Figure 3: External revenue 2012-13.

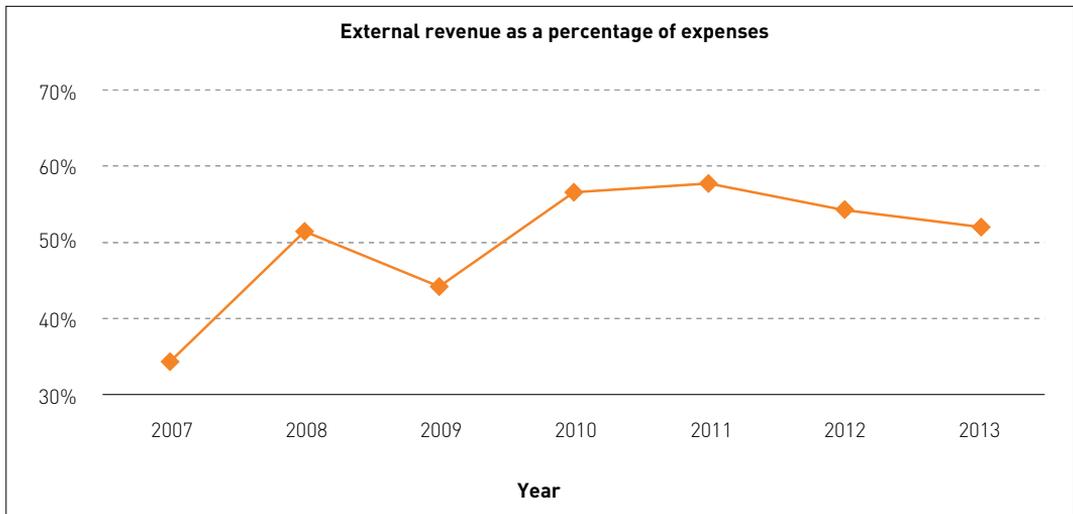
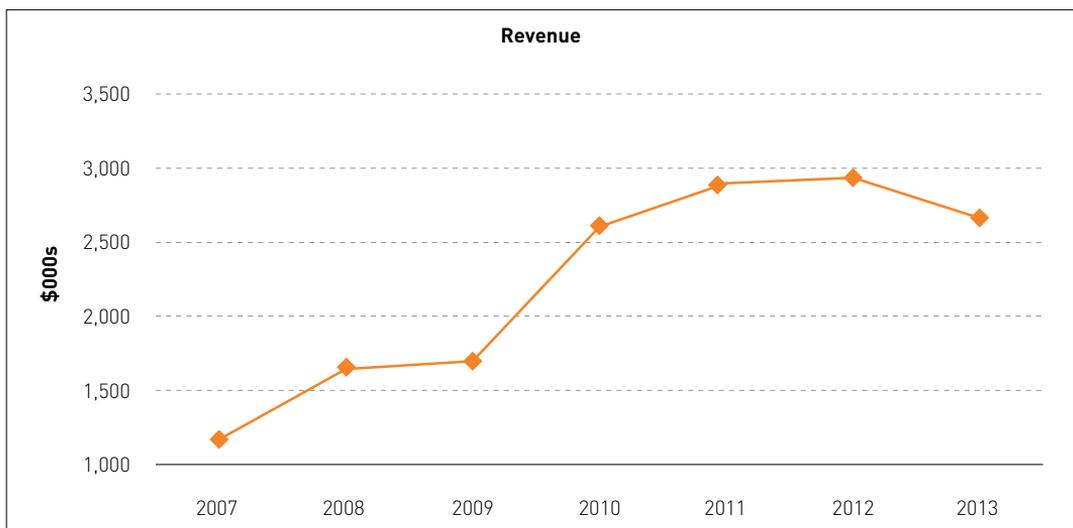


Figure 4: Revenue 2012-13.



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Leading the way on ethical research

The AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS) were revised in 2012–13 to reflect developments in critical areas that have emerged since the guidelines were first published in 2000. These include changes to intellectual property laws and rights in traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the establishment of agreements and protocols between Indigenous people and researchers. The revised guidelines also take into account the impact that digitisation of data and information management has on research and other aspects of Indigenous studies. The new guidelines have ethical clearance resources such as guides to securing informed consent and a plain English statement on a research project.

Following a review of the role of the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee, it was decided to open the committee's clearance processes to external researchers seeking ethics approval for projects impacting on Indigenous people. This new development has been well received by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research community and has attracted ethical clearance applications from various Australian research organisations.

A new AIATSIS ethics website, together with the revised edition of GERAIS, was launched in February 2013, with the aim of promoting the use of GERAIS as a resource for internal and external researchers.

### Research publications and public programs

The Research Program disseminates the outcomes of research through external peer-reviewed publications. This includes the recently established AIATSIS Research Publications, imprint of AIATSIS' publishing arm Aboriginal Studies Press (see Output 2, ASP), and the AIATSIS journal *Australian Aboriginal Studies*. Other avenues for the dissemination of AIATSIS research output include conference and

seminar presentations, professional workshops and forums, in-house publications, information services and web resources (see Appendix 1 for full list of research publications and presentations).

## INDIGENOUS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WELLBEING

### LANGUAGE ARTS AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

#### AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages and the Second National Indigenous Languages Survey

During 2012–13, the AIATSIS Centre for Australian Languages (ACAL) completed the survey stage of the second National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS2). Two surveys were conducted during the second half of 2012.

The first one sought information on language activities across Australia, while NILS2 surveyed Indigenous people's attitudes to Australian languages. Seventy-five organisations participated in the Language Attitude Survey, providing information on 86 language activities and 79 individual languages and 288 individuals participated. Analysis of these surveys and the writing of the report were undertaken during the first half of 2013 and the final report of NILS2 was submitted to the Office for the Arts (OFTA) in June 2013 for comment. Following OFTA's final comments, the report will be made available on the AIATSIS website. The report is highly significant and is likely to inform and underpin policy directions for Australian languages in years to come.

#### Building an international profile on language documentation and change

Director of Research ISCW Dr Jakelin Troy, and Senior Research Fellow Dr Michael Walsh, presented papers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC) at the University of Hawaii on 28 February–3 March 2013. Dr Walsh spoke about his experiences in locating Australian language materials in a



## WORKSHOP HELPS REVIVE BARNGARLA LANGUAGE

On 12 February 2013, AIATSIS welcomed a delegation (pictured) from South Australia's Eyre Peninsula who are working to revive their language, Barngarla. It is a daunting task to breathe new life into a disappearing language, especially in this case because the community are working from only the recollections of elders and a nineteenth century dictionary compiled by a Lutheran missionary. AIATSIS offered its archival resources and expertise in linguistics and helped establish connections between the delegates and local people running their own successful language programs.

AIATSIS partnered with the Yurauna Centre at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Yass Aboriginal community to offer the Eyre Peninsula delegates a three-day program. It began with a Welcome to Country at Yurauna, where the delegates were able to exchange ideas with Ngunnawal elders and CIT staff working on language and culture programs. The visitors met language and culture teacher, Ron Simpson, in Yass and heard his stories of learning Wiradjuri and passing it on to young people.

One of the remarkable aspects of the visit was the connection made between past and present, young and old. At the public forum held at AIATSIS, distinguished

guests included Aboriginal language practitioners Stan Grant (Wiradjuri, NSW), Ray Kelly (Dhangatti, NSW), and Vicki Couzens (Keeray Wurrong, VIC), who shared how they are working to revitalise their own languages. The forum canvassed a wide range of approaches, including Vicki Couzens' possum skin cloak project, in which traditional crafts are not only a vehicle for healing but a conduit to forgotten elements of Aboriginal life, including language.

Linguists Dr Luise Hercus, Dr David Nash and Dr Jane Simpson met separately with the delegates in order to share their work on Barngarla, undertaken several decades ago. In Dr Hercus's case, this work included recordings she made in the 1960s when some of the delegates were young children.

The visitors also spent two mornings in the AIATSIS Library and Audiovisual Archive and were excited and enthused by the Barngara material they found among the audio, photographic and manuscript records. They later spoke movingly of their successes and setbacks in revitalising Barngara, the pride they felt in being able to speak their language—even a few words—and the importance of language for self-identity.

large archive of Australian books and other items, the NSW Mitchell Library. Dr Troy's paper discussed the processes involved in developing the Australian National Curriculum Framework for learning Australian Indigenous languages. This conference has become a focal point for those interested in documenting and conserving Indigenous languages around the world. Many of the conference participants are Indigenous and presented accounts of language activities. Drs Troy and Walsh were able to extend ACAL's research networks by making contact with scholars and activists who could be potential collaborators in future research and publications.

Following ICLDC, Dr Walsh delivered 11 presentations at a series of conferences and workshops at universities and research centres in British Columbia and Alaska. A highlight of his speaking tour was attending the North Island Language Conference: Alumas Watdamala, a gathering for community-based language revitalisation program stakeholders held at Fort Rupert, Vancouver Island. Dr Walsh gave three invited presentations at this conference and interacted with around 150 First Nations language activists, laying the groundwork for visits by academics and language activists.

### **Connecting with community: Injinoos language workshop**

In December 2012 Dr Kazuko Obata travelled to the northern tip of Australia at the request of the Injinoos Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC). The visit combined an information session on the AIATSIS collection and a community language workshop. Injinoos is one of five communities in the Northern Peninsula Area of Australia (NPA), and the language situation in the region is complex. Workshop participants identified the language of everyday communication as Torres Strait Creole, because of the large number of Torres Strait Islanders who have moved to the area over a period of time, while Gudang, Yadhaykenu, Angkamuthi, Atampaya and Mpakwithi are also spoken to a lesser degree. Traditional languages are principally used for songs, welcome to country, ceremonies, hunting, and when people are out on country.

At the workshop, the participants identified goals and strategies for future language work in the NPA and requested AIATSIS' continued involvement and support as they implement these new steps.

### **Connecting with community: the Ngajumaya language project**

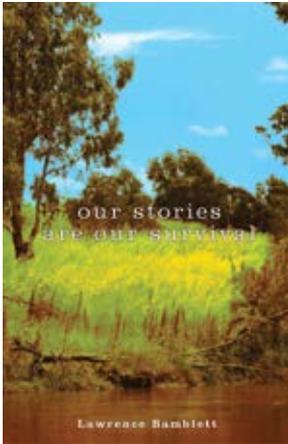
In 2012–13, Dr Doug Marmion worked with speakers of Ngajumaya—a language of the Norseman–Kalgoorlie region in the south-east of Western Australia—to assist in revitalising their language. The project involved returning important language documents to the community, including early audio recordings made by CG von Brandenstein in the 1960s, and working with older speakers to get young people involved in learning and maintaining the language. Dr Marmion has worked with elders to analyse the returned material and collaboratively create additional documentation on the language. The project helped the community choose a standard writing system for their language, and has supported young people to learn their language.

It further increased the value of the Ngajumaya language materials in the AIATSIS collection.

## **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL TRANSMISSION**

### **National recognition for Indigenous languages**

In 2012–13, AIATSIS championed the inclusion of Indigenous languages in school curriculum. As a result, for the first time in Australia's history, learning an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language will be recognised and respected nationally from 2014. Nationally, as many as 30,000 students have been learning an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language through state and territory educational jurisdictions. But the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Languages Framework will potentially provide a unified option for children in school education from Foundation to Year 10 across Australia.



## STORIES HIGHLIGHT STRENGTH OF CULTURE

### *Our Stories Are Our Survival*

AIATSIS Research Fellow Dr Lawrence Bamblett's book, *Our Stories Are Our Survival*, was published by Aboriginal Studies Press in March 2013 (see chapter 2). The book centres on the continuity of Wiradjuri culture. It is a celebration of storytelling and the joys of life within an Aboriginal Australian community, the Erambie Mission.

It offers an alternative to the commonly told stories of Aboriginal disadvantage. Using sport as a lens, the book focuses on the continued strength of Aboriginal culture. It places contemporary representations of Aboriginal people and

communities into historical context and calls for readers to rethink what they know about Australian Indigenous communities. Bamblett places a high value on Wiradjuri storytelling and includes testimony from within the community. As a member of the Erambie Aboriginal community, near Cowra, NSW, he was given unparalleled access to stories and photographs. His love of community shines through. This publication is based on his doctoral thesis and was developed when Dr Bamblett was awarded an Indigenous Visiting Research Fellowship with AIATSIS in 2011–13. It was Highly Commended in the 2011 Stanner Award.

Dr Bamblett continued to work with the Erambie and Cowra Aboriginal community through the *Read With Me* project. *Read With Me* is a case study that uses a strengths-based approach to English literacy development within a Koori community. The research method is to highlight cultural advantages within the community in order to influence engagement with local schools. The approach begins with the assumption that representations of identity influence engagement. The intent is to change the way that schools and communities engage and monitor Koori student achievement in standard testing, as well as through observations and discussions with teachers, parents and local education organisations.

This project is an ongoing process that has proved effective in improving English literacy and community engagement with schools. Past projects in the *Read With Me* program had an immediate impact on the community's engagement with schools. Changing the way the schools and community interacted has also led to improved results in English literacy for Koori children.

Feedback from schools in Cowra indicates that the *Read With Me* program is working. Schools are reporting outstanding performance by Koori kids in key areas of reading and writing. Dr Bamblett and the Cowra/Erambie Koori community are also sharing the program with other Koori communities. *Read With Me* is ranked in the top 10 of DEEWR's Indigenous Parental and Community Engagement projects.



Dr Jakelin Troy and Stewart Sutherland, centre, at meetings with the Taiwan Council of Indigenous People and with academics working on Indigenous languages.

Director of Research ISCW Dr Jakelin Troy, and her colleagues Dr Michael Walsh and Dr Doug Marmion, worked with ACARA in 2012–13 on developing the *Australian Curriculum: Languages – Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages* draft, which was released for public consultation on 20 May.

In learning one of the 250 or more Australian languages, all students gain access to a foundational knowledge and understanding of Australia that can only come from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander perspective. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, learning their own language can have a positive impact on their overall learning and achievements. It can enable them to develop a wider recognition and understanding of their language, culture, land, sea, country and place, and this contributes to their sense of identity and wellbeing.

The draft Framework caters for all Australian languages, irrespective of whether the language is currently in use, being revitalised, or a creole that has developed from language contact. The diversity of student needs and the status of different languages are accommodated in three learning pathways, as first, revived or second language.

Community consultation meetings about the draft Framework took place throughout Australia in May–July. Dr Troy and Dr Walsh attended a meeting in Alice Springs on the 14 June, which drew a large number of people from the region.

Because of the strong community interest in the Framework, the Alice Springs Language Centre hosted a workshop the day before the meeting so that people from communities were fully briefed and could provide carefully considered feedback on the day. The reaction to the draft Framework was extremely positive. In particular, people said how pleased they were that their own ongoing language activities were now being accorded nationwide recognition and respect. Feedback from the community consultations will inform the revision of the ACARA Languages Framework, which will be finalised and be available for use in schools in 2014.

### Our researchers forge international relationships

In September 2012, Director of Research ISCW, Dr Jakelin Troy, and Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow Stewart Sutherland, travelled to Taiwan to attend a range of in-country meetings about Indigenous language education and research.

They also attended the 2012 World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) Conference in Hualien at the College of Indigenous Studies, National Dong-Hwa University. The trip was funded by a grant provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

AIATSIS is a member of WINHEC and our research and initiatives in mentoring higher degree Indigenous research fellows are well

appreciated in the WINHEC community. The conference is held in a different country each year and provides an excellent opportunity to build relationships between AIATSIS and other research and higher education organisations in a global Indigenous context. Issues of particular interest to WINHEC members include promoting and protecting Indigenous knowledge systems, embedding culture and language within education systems, and improving Indigenous access to education, particularly tertiary education.

The most important outcome from attending the conference was the forming of international networks, many of which are relevant to current research projects being undertaken at AIATSIS. Dr Troy's work on developing the Australian Curriculum Languages Framework was of great interest to educators focusing on Indigenous languages education in their home countries, while Mr Sutherland was able to extend his networks with Indigenous researchers in Canada, Hawaii and New Zealand in relation to his research on Stolen Generations people in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

In the week preceding the conference, Dr Troy and Mr Sutherland met with influential institutions concerned with Indigenous matters in Taiwan, and investigated research themes for future collaboration. For example, the Director of the Institute of Ethnology at the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, is keen to see an exchange program established between AIATSIS and Academia Sinica, to give researchers experience in other countries and expand their skills and intellectual horizons. Academia Sinica has similarities in function to AIATSIS, operating as both a collections and a research institute, and has an excellent ethnographic museum and program of publications.

At a meeting of the Taiwan Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Director of the Department of Education and Culture was very interested in AIATSIS' research into identity and language issues. This is a key research field for the Council, which is supporting the Indigenous tribes of Taiwan to maintain and revive languages, particularly through school education programs.

## Successful Australian Research Council bid for *BlackWords*

AIATSIS successfully bid for an ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) competitive grant for 2013, as a collaborating organisation in the *BlackWords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers and Storytellers* project. Director of Research ISCW, Dr Jakelin Troy, is the Chief Investigator for AIATSIS' role in the project. Dr Troy, in collaboration with Research Business Development Manager, Mr Dylan Daniel Marsh, and Education and Cultural Transmission Associate Research Fellow, Dr Christine Regan submitted the project proposal and multi-institutional agreement for participation in the 2014 LIEF grants scheme for the project. Dr Troy is also the National Coordinator and cultural custodian for *BlackWords*. She is supported in this project by Dr Regan and by AIATSIS Indigenous Cadet Mr Jerome Comisari, whose four-year cadetship with AIATSIS concluded in June 2013. *BlackWords* is a component of *AustLit, The Australian Literature Resource*, and AIATSIS is part of the *AustLit* consortium, which also has research communities in universities across Australia. AIATSIS' main current project in *BlackWords* is 'Storytelling in or using Australian Languages', which will encourage the role of stories in supporting living Indigenous languages and in reawakening sleeping tongues. It will stimulate research, and provide educational aids to support integration of Indigenous literature and perspectives across the humanities and social sciences curriculum.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Culturally mediated screening in Aboriginal health care

AIATSIS Health Research Fellow, Ray Lovett, has developed and is now testing the impact of a cultural mediation approach to primary health care, including the administration of screening instruments for alcohol and mental health problems in Indigenous populations. This process involves a general practitioner spending two minutes with a patient at the



## GREG LEHMAN THE FIRST INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN TO GRADUATE FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY

AIATSIS Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow Greg Lehman (pictured) is the first Indigenous Australian to complete a degree at the University of Oxford. In October 2012, he began fieldwork examining some of the most significant art collections in Europe. His PhD research project through the University of Tasmania examines how European art traditions have influenced Australian perspectives on Aboriginal history and identity.

Since commencing his European research, Mr Lehman has worked with material from the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* in Paris, the British Museum in London, and

Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford to complete a Master's degree at the University of Oxford, the first university in the English-speaking world. This fieldwork was made possible with the assistance of the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation, which awarded him a scholarship to complete a Master of Studies in History of Art and Visual Cultures at Balliol College. The resulting dissertation on the artwork of Benjamin Duterrau will complement Mr Lehman's broader PhD project. Along the way, he became the first Indigenous Australian to complete a postgraduate degree at Oxford.

Mr Lehman was also appointed as an honorary research fellow at the ANU's Humanities Research Centre, where he is supporting the development of *Encounters*, a potential blockbuster exhibition to be presented in Canberra and London in 2015 as a joint project of the ANU, the National Museum of Australia and the British Museum. *Encounters* will reconnect Indigenous communities with some of the most important holdings of the British Museum, including material from Cook's 1770 voyage to Australia, along with contemporary highlights from the National Museum of Australia.

In January 2013, *The Griffith Review* published an essay by Mr Lehman entitled 'Tasmanian Gothic: the art of Tasmania's forgotten war.' The essay examines the context of Tasmania's experience of Aboriginal genocide and the role of art and conciliation in social recovery. An edited version of the essay was published in the online journal *The Conversation*.

Mr Lehman is descended from the Trawulwuy people of North East Tasmania. He commenced his research career in 1991 as a research officer for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and was the inaugural Secretary of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and as part of the Premier's Working Group, negotiated the Tasmanian Government's *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*. A previous Director of Riawunna, Centre for Aboriginal Education at the University of Tasmania, he has worked in Aboriginal education and heritage management for over 25 years.

beginning of an appointment to find out about the patient's cultural background, including about their 'mob' and 'country'. The purpose of culturally mediated screening is to promote a holistic approach to primary care for Indigenous Australians and develop evidence to support good practice in screening for alcohol and mental health problems.

Alcohol problems are a major cause of death and disability among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Identifying alcohol misuse is fundamental to addressing these problems. At present, few screening instruments have been validated for use among Indigenous populations, and these instruments are often administered in a way that fails to elicit accurate health information from Indigenous patients because of the overly clinical approach taken to their administration. This is inconsistent with the holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians advocated by relevant bodies. Consequently, there is a need to assist general practitioners to administer the screening instruments in a manner that ensures accurate information about alcohol consumption is obtained from their Indigenous patients.

In the first half of 2013, significant progress was made in introducing culturally mediated screening in Aboriginal health care by training the general practitioners at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Medical Service in Canberra in the use of the alcohol and mental health screening instruments. Training has also been provided to the general practitioners on how and what questions to ask Aboriginal and Islander clients about 'mob' and 'country' in order to increase the level of disclosure about alcohol consumption and other health issues to the health professional. The data collection is continuing and the report will be completed by the end of 2013.

### **NHMRC ethics review consultancy**

AIATSIS partnered with the Lowitja Institute, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, on behalf of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to evaluate two

guidelines about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research to inform a future revision of the guidelines.

The guidelines, *Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research 2004* and *Keeping Research on Track: A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about health research ethics 2005*, are widely used by people and groups working in areas of Indigenous health, including Aboriginal health services and their boards, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, researchers and human research ethics committees.

The project commenced in April 2013 with the development of a consultation methodology that includes 12 community consultations, written submissions and a survey instrument. Consultations will take place across Australia during the second half of 2013 with the final recommendations to be provided to the NHMRC in late 2013.

### **Developing an evidence base on the needs of the Stolen Generations**

AIATSIS commenced a research project on the Stolen Generations in November 2012. Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the project aims to establish an evidence base available to government and services to inform future policy and program development for Stolen Generations. The project will consolidate existing data sets on the number, location, need and use of services, and will inform government and service providers on the intergenerational impacts of the policy of forced removals, such as the high representation of families in the corrections and child protection systems.

The Stolen Generations research project team includes Dr Jakelin Troy (Director of Research ISCW), Drs Malcolm Allbrook and Mary-Anne Jebb (lead researchers for the project), Lachlan Russell (research assistant) and Stewart Sutherland (project advisor). It is envisaged that four working papers on the Stolen Generations will be delivered to FaHCSIA by the conclusion of the project in early 2014.



## INDIGENOUS VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW RAY LOVETT – ADVANCING INDIGENOUS HEALTH

The 2012–13 financial year was a stellar one for Ray Lovett, (pictured) AIATSIS Health Research Fellow, including the recognition of his academic work with two prestigious awards. In late 2012, he was presented with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Award at the Lowitja Institute's annual congress in Melbourne, and in March 2013 he was named the ANU's Alumni Student of the Year. Mr Lovett also recently submitted his PhD, which is now with the examiners, and will complete the year with his graduation in December 2013.

A Wongaibon man from far west NSW, Mr Lovett joined AIATSIS in 2010 as an Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow (IVRF). His fellowship provided him with a solid platform for his PhD studies through the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at the ANU. Mr Lovett is the Centre's first Indigenous PhD candidate. His dissertation examines risky alcohol consumption among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and in particular the effectiveness of a cultural mediation approach to primary health care and general practice interventions that deal with a patient's connection to, or dislocation from country.

The success of Mr Lovett's doctoral study resulted in receiving \$75,000 funding from the Lowitja Institute to continue the project with general practitioners at the ACT's Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service. Work on the extended study began in January 2013.

Mr Lovett drew on his nursing background and connections to convene the AIATSIS Seminar Series in first semester 2013. The series captured the diverse experiences of nurses and midwives from across Australia, blending presentations on policy and the current state of the sector with personal reminiscences and freshly uncovered stories about Australia's early Indigenous nurses.

Beyond AIATSIS, he supports and promotes Indigenous health in a range of government, academic and community roles. He has been a member of ACT Health's Human Research Ethics Committee since 2011 and is an active member of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT. In 2012, Mr Lovett was also part of a research team commissioned by ACT Health to review alcohol and other drug rehabilitation services in the ACT. He is especially passionate about his work at Winnunga Boxing, where he is manager and coach. The club provides sport and recreation for about 200 young men and women while informally promoting a healthy lifestyle and strong social connections.

When he joined the IVRF program at AIATSIS, Mr Lovett became one of a distinguished cohort of Indigenous academics. The program's alumni include Professor Megan Davis of the University of NSW Indigenous Law Centre; Professor Kerry Arabena, Director and Chair of Indigenous Health at the OnemdaVicHealth Koori Health Unit; and Dr Jeanine Leane, Postdoctoral Fellow at the ANU's Australian Centre for Indigenous History and author of the story collection *Purple Threads*, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize in 2012. The IVRF program supports Indigenous researchers to undertake a period of residency in Canberra to conduct their research full time, access national collections of research materials, and engage with policy-making organisations and their representatives.

AIATSIS' IVRF program is predicated on the belief that Indigenous people must be involved in delivering the answers to Indigenous disadvantage. Mr Lovett's extraordinary success in 2012–13 is a small but significant correction to the underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous knowledge in the Australian research and innovation sector.



## NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT TURNS 20

The Native Title Research Unit in the Indigenous Country and Governance Research program of AIATSIS was established in 1993 in response to the Mabo High Court decision. Originally a collaboration between AIATSIS and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), in 2012–13 the NTRU's activities were supported through a funding agreement with FaHCSIA.

For the past two decades, the NTRU has provided high-quality independent research and policy advice to promote the recognition and protection of the native title of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. It was established through the efforts and advocacy of a number of people, most significantly the then Chair of AIATSIS Board, Professor Marcia Langton and AIATSIS' current Chair Professor Mick Dodson, who at the time was a member of the Council.

Shortly after it was first established, the Unit published the first of our research series, *Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title*. This peer-reviewed title, now in its fifth volume, has published over 90 articles by leading academics, Indigenous leaders and public intellectuals. They have made a major contribution to public debate and have significantly influenced broad understandings of the real world impacts of native title and its potential to act as a vehicle for social change. In addition, the NTRU has published more than 15 monographs and edited books,

25 research discussion papers, and a regular newsletter.

The NTRU facilitates access to the Institute's collections for native title claimants and holders. In the first half of 2013, the Unit responded to more than 100 inquiries from native title claimants, Aboriginal organisations, government departments and native title researchers.

Over the past 20 years the NTRU has formed important research partnerships with native title claimants and holders around the country. These collaborations create valuable opportunities for all involved for information sharing, learning and influencing of policy development.

The unit has adapted its research focus to ensure it remains relevant to the particular concerns of Indigenous groups and responds to what is a rapidly changing socio-political and legal landscape.

Current areas of research include investigating native title in relation to water rights, cultural heritage management, housing, co-management of protected areas, corporate governance, climate change, mediation and facilitation, tax and housing. The NTRU anticipates the major movements of the sector and will prioritise support for Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate as these organisations emerge and develop. The NTRU's website, [www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru), contains a wealth of information and resources on native title.

### **Doctoral candidate Stewart Sutherland undertakes international field work on the impact of government policies of forced removal of Indigenous people**

Mr Stewart Sutherland, doctoral candidate and AIATSIS Indigenous Visiting Research Fellow, visited New Zealand in late 2012 and Canada in early 2013 to conduct fieldwork research for his doctorate on the impact of government policies of forced removal of Indigenous people. Stewart's intensive fieldwork has provided invaluable research material for his dissertation, especially the opportunity in New Zealand to observe at first hand the Waitangi Tribunal, and meet with its supportive management and staff. In Canada, Stewart was privileged to interview many Indigenous people affected by the past Canadian government policies of forced removal. He also met with a range of First Nations and Métis non-government organisations, strengthening transnational relationships formed through other international meetings, and with several national bodies including the Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, The Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society and the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## **INDIGENOUS COUNTRY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **NATIVE TITLE AND TRADITIONAL OWNERSHIP**

#### **Native Title Research Unit**

AIATSIS' reputation for high-quality independent advice has established the Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) as a leader in facilitating policy debate within the native title system. Our success in moving debates forward and informing critical policy and legislative reform was exemplified in 2012–13 in our work on taxation of native title and climate change adaptation.

For 20 years, the NTRU has played a pivotal role in coordinating information and developing capacity within the sector. The Unit functions

as a national clearing house, providing tools and resources for education and development informed by national practice; opportunities for Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and Native Title Service Providers (NTSPs) and native title claimants and holders to coordinate and discuss issues; conducts research and analysis on priority issues; and promotes understanding of Indigenous perspectives on desired and effective native title outcomes.

The 2012–15, NTRU business plan anticipates major movements of the sector and prioritises support for Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBC). As these organisations emerge and develop, we have extended our capabilities in agreement-making to focus on corporate design and the management of decision-making. We have also consolidated our expertise in cultural heritage and information management. Our senior staff present at six-monthly forums of NTRB and NTSP CEO and Senior Policy Officer Forums convened by FaHCSIA in order to share findings of our research and consult on forthcoming projects. Highlights of NTRU activities in 2012–13 follow.

#### **NTRU input to law and policy reform**

The NTRU made submissions to legal and policy reform reviews in 2012–13, including:

- Comments on Attorney-General's Department ALRC Review of *Native Title Act 1993* Terms of Reference
- Submission to the Treasury on the Exposure Draft, Charities Bill 2013
- Submission to Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012
- Submission to Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012
- Comments on Exposure Draft, Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012
- Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Courts and Tribunals Legislation Amendment (Administration Bill)

- Submission to Attorney-General on proposed amendments to the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of Research ICG, and AIATSIS colleagues gave evidence before the following forums:

- House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee public hearing on the Inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate (20 September 2012)
- Committee Hearing of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for the Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012 (22 January 2102)
- Round Table of House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012 (8 February 2013)
- Round Table of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (30 April 2013).

## Native Title Organisations Review

An important focus of the 2012–13 year has been FaHCSIA's Native Title Organisations Review, which will examine whether the statutory roles and functions of native title representative bodies (NTRBs) and native title service providers (NTSPs) are meeting the evolving needs of native title claimants and holders. Deloitte Access Economics is conducting the Review and the public consultation period opened in early June.

The Review recognised AIATSIS in the scoping documents as an important source of information and research about the aspirations of Indigenous Australians in relation to the role and use of native title. The NTRU provided background research to the Review team, facilitated two sessions on the Review at the National Native Title Conference in June, and distributed information about the Review through our PBC Support Officer Network, PBC Working Group and Native Title Newsletter (April 2013). The Unit has used the term PBC in place of RNTBC as this expression is the one most commonly used by the traditional owner groups.

Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of Research ICG, was appointed to the Reference Group for the Review and attended its meetings in February and May. AIATSIS will make a submission to the Review by the end of the public consultation period scheduled for 30 September 2013. The development of a national AIATSIS 2013 RNTBC Survey incorporated the collection of RNTBC perspectives and experiences to coincide with the compilation of an AIATSIS submission to this review (see p.40).

## Tax arrangements and native title organisations

Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of Research ICG, continued to provide advice to the Attorney-General's Department, FaHCSIA and Treasury on tax reforms. Following the original research partnership established with Treasury in 2005 as well as workshops and submission over the subsequent years, legislation amending the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* to confirm that native title payments are not assessable for income tax purposes passed the Senate on 25 June. This outcome was influenced by AIATSIS' rigorous research and persuasive policy advice.

## Native title and water

This project focused on the existing legal avenues through which native title rights can be used by traditional owners to achieve water-related outcomes, such as the protection of significant sites or important ecosystems, the ability to extract water for commercial development, or the ability to take part in decision-making affecting water issues. The project draft report is expected to be completed in July 2013 by Nick Duff and co-author Sam Stapleton, and published later in 2013.

Also, Dr Tran Tran from the AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research successfully defended her PhD thesis titled 'Water is Country, Country is Culture: the translation of Indigenous relationships to water into law'. Her thesis focused on the interaction between Indigenous and non-indigenous legal traditions in the context of water management in the Canning Basin. This research was carried out with the Karajarri, Nyikina and Mangala,

Tjurabalan and Ngurrara traditional owners and the Kimberley Land Council. Dr Tran's thesis was examined by Professor Lee Godden from the University of Melbourne.

### THE NTRU PBC SUPPORT PROJECT

In 2012–13, the NTRU's Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Support Project continued to provide research and information services to traditional owner groups whose native title has been recognised. Each of these groups is required by law to establish a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC or PBC) that manages native title matters on behalf of their members. Many groups struggle to find the resources and skills they need to successfully navigate the complex legal and corporate landscape created by a determination of native title, let alone to pursue other cultural and economic aspirations.

The PBC Support Project aims to provide a better understanding of the challenges facing native title holder communities after their native title determination, and to suggest practical approaches that assist these communities to hold, manage and enjoy the potential benefits of their traditional lands and waters. The project team has achieved a great deal in 2012–13.

Existing information resources such as the PBC Funding and Training Guides, which are produced for each state source as well as nationally, were revised and redesigned. So too was the PBC website ([www.nativetitle.org.au](http://www.nativetitle.org.au)), an online resource for information on relevant legislation and policy, events, resources and publications, training and running a RNTBC. An email network for RNTBCs continued to be looked after by AIATSIS and a network of practitioners working to support RNTBCs was established through the RNTBC Officers Network that convenes via teleconference to discuss topical issues and share information. This group met five times in 2012–13.

Facilitating forums that bring together RNTBC representatives to discuss emerging issues and share experiences and information is a key part of the NTRU's PBC project. In June 2013, immediately before the 2013 National Native Title Conference in Alice Springs, the NTRU coordinated a national meeting of RNTBCs. This half-day meeting was facilitated by Dr Valerie Cooms (Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee RNTBC, National Native Title Tribunal Member) and Mr Ned David (MaganiLagaugal RNTBC). The meeting, which was attended by 50 representatives from 29 RNTBCs and four native title claim groups from across the country, raised concerns about a chronic lack of funding



Undertaking the pilot RNTBC Survey were (left to right): Claire Stacey (NTRU), Teddy Bernard (Chair of Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corp), Tasha Lamb (NTRU), Rodney Whitfield (General Manager of Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corp), Joseph Edgar (Chair of Karajarri Traditional Lands Association) and Gabrielle Lauder (NTRU). Photograph by John Paul Janke.

for RNTBCs (it is estimated that approximately 70 of the now 107 RNTBCs have no assets or income), and the need for a national peak body to represent RNTBC interests. The meeting resulted in the revitalisation of a national RNTBC working group first established in 2009. With ongoing assistance from AIATSIS, this working group will work towards staging a national conference of RNTBCs within the coming year.

Conducting research to better understand the RNTBC sector is also an important part of the NTRU's PBC support Project. In April 2013, the Unit launched a national survey of RNTBCs that aims to collect comprehensive information about the work of these unique organisations, their social and economic aspirations, and the challenges they face delivering outcomes for their members. The results of the survey will be used to inform future research and information services, and will provide crucial background for an AIATSIS submission to a FaHCSIA review of native title organisations that is currently underway.

## **Getting PBCs off the ground**

### *PBC Support Officer Network*

The PBC Support Project team convened two RNTBC support officer network meetings on 18 April and 19 June 2013. These meetings continued the discussion around sharing information between practitioners and building a community of practice. A drop box was established for NTRB/NTSP staff as a document sharing platform and some exchanges of material has occurred between NTRBs and NTSPs, including a comparative table of RNTBC decision-making structures drafted by Native Title Services Victoria. Permission was also granted to AIATSIS to distribute a PBC focused small business handbook commissioned by the Torres Strait Regional Authority, called *New Horizons*, which was distributed to RNTBCs and RNTBC Support Officers.

### *National PBC Working Group*

A National PBC Working Group first established in 2007 was reinvigorated with the support of NTRU staff during the 2013 National Native Title Conference. During the conference they met with the National Native Title Council and raised issues of PBC advocacy with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. The National PBC Working Group will continue to meet with informal secretariat support by the NTRU. Current priorities for this group are seeking funding for a national conference of PBCs, as well as compiling a national PBC submission to FaHCSIA's Native Title Organisations Review. A PBC Working Group teleconference was held on 28 June 2013.

### *PBC capacity survey*

The PBC Support Project team (Claire Stacey, Tasha Lamb and Geoff Buchanan), together with Pamela McGrath, rolled out the AIATSIS 2013 PBC Survey in early April. Eighteen responses were received of which 11 were drawn from interviews conducted at the 2013 Native Title Conference. The majority of PBCs who responded to the survey, or indicated that they are participating, have chosen to complete the survey in written form.

### *PBC training*

In March, PBC Support Project Manager Claire Stacey worked with staff from the Aurora Project to deliver a session on a new style of training designed for NTRB staff working specifically with PBCs. Titled *PBC Support for NTRBs*, the event was held in Perth and attracted over 25 participants. The NTRU was also invited to deliver a session at a North Queensland Land Council PBC workshop in May 2013, which was designed and delivered by Claire Stacey and Tasha Lamb.

A key management tool for the NTRU PBC Project has been the development of a PBC Client Management System to manage and record communication with PBCs, as well as keep a record of past activities such as PBC workshops.

### **Joint management and conservation reserves**

This ongoing project draws on a number of partnerships with communities and NTRBs and this year delivered a major research publication, AIATSIS Discussion Paper *Pathways to the co-management of protected areas and native title in Australia*, edited by Toni Bauman, Chris Haynes and Gabrielle Lauder. The NTRU has established a joint-management email network of more than 160 people working in co-management Australia wide, to assist in developing a community of practice that draws together the networks developed over the course of project.

### **NTRB knowledge management database**

The NTRB Knowledge Management Project and Legal Precedents Database has been improved and expanded. Ongoing work on this project involves the sourcing, redacting, approval and uploading of new documents across all document categories: resource agreements, intra-indigenous agreements, NTRB agreements, co-management materials, court documents, tribunal documents, corporate and trust documents, and legal advices. Approximately 50 new documents were added, and an equivalent number of documents of up-to-the-minute relevance have been identified for future contribution. There was also an increase in the number of 'clearing house' requests that were managed. NTRB lawyers contact AIATSIS with requests for documents or information, which are then relayed to the broader NTRB system and the replies collated. Senior Project Manager Nick Duff conducted formal in-house visits at four NTRB/NTSPs to train staff in the use of the database, raise awareness of its potential benefits, and identify gaps and future needs in database's content. He pursued other avenues for consulting with database users and contributors including the National Native Title Conference, the Aurora Legal Masterclass, and CEO/SPO Forum.

### **Native title research and access service**

Grace Koch is part of a team exploring repatriation issues which was awarded a Linkage Grant from the Australian Research Council. The project, 'Return, Reconcile, Renew: understanding the history effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future', will provide scholarly and public outcomes that empower community-based research and practice. This project is directly relevant to dissemination of NTRB materials to NTRBCs and other Indigenous organisations.

### **AIATSIS LAND AND WATER RESEARCH CENTRE**

#### **PBCs and climate change**

Dr Tran Tran and Claire Stacey finalised community reports from the climate change project which are now available on the project website:

- AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research, Climate change adaptation on Kowanyama Country, community report (2013) <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/lw/documents/kow.pdf>
- AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research, Climate change adaptation on Karajarri Country, community report (2013) <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/lw/documents/ktla>

### **GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY**

#### **Constitutional recognition**

Having provided substantive submissions to the Expert Panel on the Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians in September 2011, AIATSIS continued its involvement in this important area of reform in 2012-13. The Expert Panel delivered its report in early 2012, and one of the government's responses was to introduce the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012, which contained a Parliamentary statement of recognition as



## AWIN UDNUM WORKSHOPS COMPLETE A CIRCLE

An initiative in Kowanyama country, Far North Queensland, in 2012–13 showed how AIATSIS as a knowledge sharer can help communities manage issues and the challenges that confront them.

Program activities focused on connecting with country, adopting healthier lifestyles, adapting to climate change and bridging generational gaps. Links between community, policy and desired outcomes were achieved, underscoring the value of AIATSIS for families, communities, country and humankind.

Abm Elgoring Ambung was formed in September 2009 after a successful determination of native title over the traditional lands of the Yir Yoront, the Kokoberra and Kunjen, in *Kowanyama People v State of Queensland* [2009] FCA 1192. Kowanyama has a long history of asserting its independence and practicing 'sovereignty' in its decisions about land management, research, and the development of community capacity and resources. Established in 1990, the Kowanyama Natural Resources Land Management Office facilitates and supports Aboriginal people's management of the natural and cultural resources of Kowanyama country.

AIATSIS worked with Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corporation on building Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) capacity through the role that they play in climate change decision-making. Abm Elgoring Ambung had participated in the first state-wide meeting of Queensland PBCs in October 2011 facilitated by AIATSIS. Since then they have participated in case study research on social-institutional barriers in climate change adaptation, focusing on the role of native title holders as decision-makers over their traditional lands.

Building on this research collaboration, in July 2012 Abm Elgoring Ambung invited the NTRU to participate in the *Awin Udnum ('Good Path') Project*, a series of workshops that commenced in Kowanyama and its surrounding areas. The *Awin Udnum Project* was developed in collaboration with the community,

who determined that 'getting out on country' was central to Aboriginal wellbeing. On 15 August 2012, Gabrielle Lauder participated in a two-day bush workshop held on Kowanyama country at Patha Pakalin ('The Crossing'). This workshop facilitated the sharing of traditional knowledge, community cultural engagement, and intergenerational activities, including fishing, hunting, gathering and preparing bush foods, medicines and natural resources. An outcome was to establish a partnership with the Audiovisual Archive (AVA) at AIATSIS with the aim of having AVA staff attend a subsequent *Awin Udnum* workshop series to document it in photographs and video.

On 25–29 February 2013, John Roe, Andrew Babington and Andrew Turner took over 3,500 photographs and seven hours of footage in a week of the *Awin Udnum* program, which included workshops on: growing your own vegetables in Kowanyama; healthy cooking classes using bush tucker; and traditional art classes. All activities focused on connecting with country, adopting healthier lifestyles and bridging generational gaps. The photographs and footage will be used by the community and also deposited into AIATSIS' collection.

Andrew Turner and Andrew Babington are producing several short videos in consultation with the Kowanyama community to promote the *Awin Udnum Project* and healthy lifestyles within the community. The Kowanyama community was very grateful for AIATSIS' donation of five portable Zoom audio recorders and five Panasonic handy cams. This equipment will help preserve local tradition and custom for future generations and facilitate training and opportunities in multimedia production.

Abm Elgoring Ambung, with the Karrajarri Traditional Lands Association (KTLA) gave a presentation and seminar at the AIATSIS Native Title Conference and with Dr Lisa Strelein Director of Research ICG also gave a presentation to the Planning Institute of Australia's National Congress master class on 'Native Title & Planning'.

well as setting out a plan for progress towards a referendum. AIATSIS made a written submission in relation to the Bill in January 2013, and the Principal and Mr Nick Duff followed up with oral evidence to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Sydney. These submissions were broadly supportive of the Bill, but expressed concerns that the framework it proposed largely duplicated earlier work of the Expert Panel and did not set concrete commitments towards building support for constitutional change. In April 2013, Mr Duff coordinated a brief submission outlining AIATSIS' response to the Expert Panel's recommendations, and Dr Strelein gave oral evidence to the Joint Select Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in Sydney.

### **Administering the Aboriginal community controlled health sector for public value and robust accountability**

Dr Patrick Sullivan was awarded a \$74,000 project grant by the Lowitja Institute Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health to undertake a research project investigating new approaches in public administration and their application to Aboriginal community controlled health areas. The study and report is to be completed in December 2013.

### **Research outputs database for AIHW Closing the Gap Research Register**

Dr Christiane Keller collated AIATSIS research dissemination of all departments from 2009 to mid-2013. With the previous audit of research publications from 2000 to 2010 there is now a consistent record of research publications for the past 13 years. The AIATSIS research output register 2009–2013 records all dissemination of research results, not only publications. This register was established to help prepare a submission to the Research and Evaluation Register of the Closing the Gap Clearing House website, an initiative of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), as well as to

provide a tangible record of AIATSIS research dissemination for the current AIATSIS review. Dr Keller also developed a draft paper to progress the register into a database for all of AIATSIS to allow for easy and accessible continuous entry into the register.

### **Native Title Research Advisory Committee (NTRAC)**

Three new members were appointed to NTRAC following the resignation of long-serving members Dr Gaye Sculthorpe and Kevin Smith. The new members are:

- Brian Wyatt (NNTC)
- Louise Anderson (SSAT)
- Natalie Rotumah (NTSCorp)

The next NTRAC meeting is scheduled for 3 August 2013.

### **Appointment of visiting fellows**

The appointment of two leading scholars as visiting fellows to the Indigenous Social and Cultural Wellbeing research program has enhanced AIATSIS' research profile in the areas of linguistics and health.

Dr Pat Dudgeon is from the Bardi people of the Kimberley and is a founding scholar in the areas of psychology and Indigenous people, as well as a leading researcher in the fields of Indigenous women, and Indigenous people and social justice. Dr Dudgeon is well known for her role in Indigenous higher education and was Head of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University. The recipient of many projects, grants and awards, she is currently an associate professor and a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Western Australia. Dr Dudgeon is actively involved with the Aboriginal community and has a strong commitment to social justice for Indigenous people.

Dr David Nash is a leading linguistics scholar and has a long-term research interest in Australian languages, mostly in the central Northern Territory, in language–land relationships, and in the history of the study of Australian languages. He has provided expert evidence



Picture 1: (left to right) Director of AIATSIS Indigenous Country and Governance, Dr Lisa Strelein, NTRU research fellows Jessica Weir, Anna Dwyer and Claire Stacey at Nulungu Research Institute in Broome. Picture 2: Members of the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association.

## COMING TO TERMS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

The AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research concluded an 18-month research project working directly with the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (KTLA) based in Bidyadanga, Western Australia and Abm Elgoring Ambung Aboriginal Corporation (Abm Elgoring Ambung) at Kowanyama, Queensland. The project explored how Indigenous groups interact with laws, policies and processes to assert their knowledge in climate change adaptation activities.

Funded by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's competitive Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program and administered by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, AIATSIS received \$425,000 to carry out fieldwork and community workshops, to enable sponsorship of Indigenous delegates to attend policy forums, and to develop Indigenous and early career researchers.

The project identified significant 'blockages', not previously understood, that disable the ability of native title holders to manage and administer their vast land holdings. It also identified policy, legislative, funding and community enablers contributing to the ability of native title holders to adapt to the challenges of climate change. The project found that:

- current practice does not recognise that community development is consistent with climate change adaptation priorities
- greater opportunities need to be created to renegotiate governance arrangements and funding access *within* Indigenous communities, especially where RNTBCs are perceived to displace existing institutions
- the exclusion of native title holders from water and land use planning risks the under-representation of the unique needs and priorities of remote Aboriginal communities.

These findings are based on a series of community visits and workshops carried out over a period of 14 weeks by Dr Tran Tran, Dr Lisa Strelein, Dr Jessica Weir and Claire Stacey.

Two cooperative research partnerships were negotiated with case study partners, enabling the direct involvement of native title holders in project methodologies, scope and outcomes. AIATSIS also provided project partners with a unique opportunity to engage in policy contexts that would otherwise be inaccessible by bringing state and federal government stakeholders together.

A specific workshop was held at last year's National Native Title Conference in Townsville, 2012 where case study partners were able to directly access decision-makers who impact on their land and water management work. AIATSIS also hosted KTLA and Abm Elgoring Ambung representatives Joseph Edgar, Gordon Marshall, Teddy Bernard and Rodney Whitfield in Canberra in March 2013 where they presented at the climate change final project seminar and at the Planning Institute of Australia's planning master class at the University of Notre Dame with Dr Strelein. Anna Dwyer, a Karajarri woman, based at the Nulungu Research Institute was also supported to carry out a series of community interviews in Bidyadanga, the findings from which were presented with Dr Tran and Dr Weir at the National Climate Change Adaptation Conference in June 2013. AIATSIS is working towards the publication of Anna Dwyer's work as an AIATSIS Discussion Paper.

Greater understanding of the institutional barriers faced by RNTBCs in carrying out their land management role has also had important implications given that native title now comprises 20 per cent of the Australian continent. The project builds on a sustained history of tracking the aspirations and development needs of native title holders through the NTRU.

relating to land claims. Dr Nash is also a Visiting Scholar in the School of Language Studies at the ANU.

AIATSIS' research profile in the area of Indigenous land management and governance was strengthened with the appointment of three eminent researchers as visiting fellows to the Indigenous Country and Governance Unit.

**Professor Jon Altman** is well recognised as a leader in the field of Indigenous economic participation and land rights. He is a research professor in anthropology/economics at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) ANU. He is also a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences and an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Among his recent publications is a co-edited book *People on Country, Vital Landscapes, Indigenous Futures* (2012, Federation Press, Sydney). Professor Altman will collaborate with NTRU researchers to investigate issues around native title law and the evolution of Indigenous land holdings.

**Greg Marks** is an expert in international human rights law and policy and is widely published in the area of governance, Indigenous rights and social justice. His current research interests include looking at the meaning, scope and significance of the definition of 'Aboriginal Land' under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976*, and the history of excision communities on pastoral leases in the NT. His work with the NTRU will focus on the nature of the 'Aboriginal Land' title held under the ALRA.

**Ed Wensing** is an experienced urban and regional planner and policy analyst. He has held many positions in government, the private sector and academia, and over the last 17 years he has worked extensively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, principally on native title, land tenure and urban and regional and environmental planning matters. Mr Wensing is a PhD candidate at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU and his research interests are in the just accommodation of customary land rights in conventional land tenure and contemporary land use planning systems.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Staff participated in a range of other networking and collaborative activities relating to their specific areas of expertise, including through organisational memberships, fellowships and board positions. These activities are listed in **Appendix 2**.