



WHAT'S NEW IN NATIVE TITLE

FEBRUARY 2014

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1. Case Summaries

[Congoo on behalf of the Bar-Barrum People #4 v State of Queensland \[2014\] FCAFC 9](#)

21 February 2014, Extinguishment of Native Title, Full Federal Court of Australia, Brisbane (Via Telephone Link to Darwin)

NORTH, LOGAN AND JAGOT JJ

This was an application for a determination of native title by the Bar-Barrum People (the **applicants**) over land on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland. During the Second World War (**WWII**), extensive portions of that land were subject to five successive military orders (the Orders), made pursuant to the National Security Act (the NSA) and its Regulations. The issue was whether these Orders impacted on the applicants' native title.

This matter was made a special case in the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia to determine:

1. Whether Military Orders made under the National Security Regulations was an acquisition of the property of the Bar-Barrum People otherwise than on just terms contrary to s 51(xxxi) of the Constitution;
2. If yes, whether the Regulations underpinning the Military Orders constitute "past acts" under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (the NTA) and, if so, whether those past acts were validated under the NTA; and
3. Whether making the Military Orders extinguished native title rights and, if not, whether being in occupation pursuant to the Military Orders, extinguished native title rights and interests.

The conclusion of the majority of the Full Court, with Logan J providing his own dissenting judgment with respect to the issue of extinguishment, was:

1. No
2. Unnecessary to answer
3. (a) No
(b) No

In coming to this conclusion, the majority judgment of North and Jagot JJ considered:

- a. The Statutory Scheme;
- b. The question of extinguishment; and
- c. The question of acquisition on just terms.

Statutory Scheme: North and Jagot JJ considered various provisions and secondary material of the National Security Act, which included the power to acquire any property **other than land** in Australia. The power to acquire land is provided by s 51 (xxxi) of the Constitution and the *Lands Acquisition Act 1906* (Cth). Their Honours also looked to the Regulations in force when the military orders were made which included:

- an authority to take possession of land, if necessary or expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defence of the Commonwealth (Cth) or the efficient prosecution of the war;
- once in possession of the land, the Minister of State for the Army could use or direct the use of the land to the same extent as if holding an unencumbered fee simple estate in the land and to go beyond those rights and prohibit or restrict the exercise of other rights and interests, such as rights of way; and
- a regime for paying compensation for damage or loss sustained by the owner or occupier of land by reason of the taking of possession of the land.

Extinguishment: The majority accepted the submission by the Applicants and the Cth that the operation of the scheme in place under the National Security Act was not to confer a right of exclusive possession, such as to leave no room for the continued existence of native title rights and interests, but rather that those rights continued to exist while the scheme operated so those rights simply could not be exercised during that period.

This construction was based on the general principle that:

a statute ought not to be construed as extinguishing common law property rights unless no other construction is reasonably open ([Akiba v Commonwealth \[2013\] HCA 33](#) (*Akiba*) French CJ and Crennan J at [24]).

The State of Queensland (the **State**) and the Northern Territory (**NT**) proposed that native title rights and interests are not equivalent to other rights and interests in land and, if the rights granted under the NSA scheme were inconsistent with native title, then native title was extinguished.

The State and the NT considered [at 30] that native title was extinguished because:

(t)he provisions in the military orders for the enjoyment of the rights of an estate in fee simple and the exclusion of all others, and the exercise of any right over the land, were not confined to any particular purpose. Hence, it was submitted, the orders “are not analogous to leases limited by specific purposes such as mining purposes or pastoral purposes”.

North and Jagot JJ considered these and other competing arguments about extinguishment and applied a range of leading cases in native title. In considering the joint judgment in *Fejo (on behalf of Larrakia People) v Northern Territory* ([1998](#)) [195 CLR 96](#) [at 41] North and Jagot JJ discussed that, once ended, native title rights would not spring

forth again when the land came to be held again by the Crown. Nevertheless, North and Jagot JJ considered that the Commonwealth had no objective intention to extinguish native title rights and interests [at 52] because it:

took for itself exclusive possession, for a limited purpose for a limited time on the objectively ascertainable premise apparent from the legislative scheme that all underlying rights and interests should continue. [at 53]

Their Honours considered that the Commonwealth's exclusive possession precluded the exercise of native title rights and interests. However, that did not lead to the conclusion of an objective intention to extinguish native title rights and interests [at 57]. Therefore, the making of the orders and being in physical occupation of at least some of the special case land pursuant to the Orders did not extinguish native title rights and interests.

Acquisition on Just Terms: The Full Court considered, if there was an acquisition of property, it was on just terms because the NSA scheme considered the application of compensation for loss suffered by reason of its exercise of power.

Although their Honours considered [at 66] that determining whether there was an acquisition of property was moot, North and Jagot JJ applied principles from *Minister of State for the Army v Dalziel* (1944) 68 CLR 261 [at 75], and determined that property was acquired.

[Watson v State of Western Australia \(No 3\) \[2014\] FCA 127](#)

24 February 2014, Application to limit participation in proceedings, Federal Court of Australia – Perth

Gilmour J

Background

This matter concerns the claim by the Nyikina Mangala claim group (the applicant to this proceeding) and the engagement by one of the parties to the matter with respect to a connection report, prepared by Dr Palmer, an expert anthropologist acting on behalf of the claim group, in consultation with Dr Martin, an expert anthropologist acting on behalf of the State, between February 2006 and December 2012.

The hearing of the claim was set down by the Federal Court to commence on-country on 2 July 2013.

OBL and the Connection Report

In 2007, Oil Basins Limited (OBL) and Backreef Oil Pty Ltd (Backreef) jointly applied for a petroleum exploration permit (the Permit) over land that had a 67.23% overlap with the Nyinkina Mangala claim area (the Overlap Area). The application for the Permit was successful and, on 30 January 2008, the State gave notice of the grant of the Permit as a future act, under [s 29](#) of the Native Title Act 1993 (NTA).

From early 2008 until May 2012 OBL, Backreef and the applicants undertook negotiations, under the NTA's right to negotiate, which did not result in any agreement. On 29 May 2012, OBL and Backreef lodged a future act determination application, under [s 35](#) of the Native Title Act 1993 (NTA) for a determination that the Permit could be granted, which was granted by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) on 1 February 2013.

On 15 February 2013, OBL were joined as a respondent party in the Nyikina Mangala claim. Counsel for OBL submitted that, in her experience, which was not inconsiderable, parties such as OBL "take very little part in the proceeding and that such part as they play, does not significantly add to the length or cost of a trial".

On 18 March 2013, OBL wrote to the solicitor for the Nyikina Mangala claimants, raising a number of issues relating to the connection. The Nyikina Mangala claimants explained by return letter to OBL that connection issues had been discussed at length between Dr Palmer and Dr Martin and that the State was satisfied connection was capable of being established on available evidence.

On 19 March 2013, OBL filed a notice of its intention to participate in all the hearings (the Commonwealth, Telstra and two pastoral companies also filed notices of intention to participate).

Following mediation on 5 April 2013, a “non-unanimous request” was made that a mediation report be provided. This was provided to the Court on 19 April and set out that the State was prepared to resolve the matter by way of consent determination of native title and that the Commonwealth, Telstra and the two pastoral companies were willing to be guided by the State.

On 30 April 2013, OBL challenged the Nyikina Mangala claim group about various aspects of the connection report. OBL did this without reference to any assessment of the evidence within the connection report by an anthropologist or any other related expert. OBL also sought guidance from the applicant as to whom it ought to consult in order to comply with the [Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972](#) (WA).

On 30 April 2013, the applicant filed a Witness Proposal, listing 18 Nyikina Mangala witnesses to be called to give evidence at the 2 July 2013 on-country hearing, if connection was contested.

Removal Hearing – 15 May

On 6 April 2013, the applicant filed an application to remove OBL from the proceedings.

On 8 May 2013, the applicant sought OBL’s agreement to an order to limit participation in the proceedings, offering that the applicant would not press for an order that OBL be removed as a party. However, OBL responded on 10 May 2013 that it was unable to suggest how the currently proposed hearing of connection evidence may be reduced.

On 15 May 2013, at the first hearing of the removal application:

- the State confirmed that, on the merits of the evidence and not for any other purpose, it accepted connection;
- OBL claimed it had sought that information from the State but without response and that this was the first time it had been made aware of the State’s position; and
- The Judge in the removal hearing application [at 30] stated that:

Of course, OBL well knew by this date that the State was not putting connection in issue. OBL knew as at 18 February 2013, from the SSO email of 30 January 2013, that the State was considering entering into a consent determination.

During this Hearing, OBL relied on a draft connection report, prepared by Dr Martin for the State (prepared for the purposes of mediation and subject to privilege) and an earlier report that Dr Palmer had co-written with another anthropologist (produced for mediation purposes and was subject to confidentiality restrictions). Counsel for OBL asked to amend its Response to the Removal Application and the Court adjourned the proceedings to 22 May 2013.

On 20 May 2013, OBL filed certain court documents, including a statement that OBL was solely concerned with “the area of overlap between the prospective Permit area and the Nyikina Mangala Claim Area ... and ... Extinguishment Issues within that Overlap Area. The content of one of these documents, Gilmour J stated [at 35]:

... was a concession by OBL that connection would no longer be an issue.

Removal Hearing – 22 May

The applicant advised the Court that it was seeking an Order that OBL’s participation in the proceeding be limited to matters listed in [s 225 \(c\) and \(d\) NTA](#). The applicant identified that OBL had not narrowed its response and OBL would, necessarily on the facts, be involved in a connection issue. The Court provided OBL with leave to provide further Court documents, to clarify the concerns raised by the applicant.

Removal Hearing 18 July

OBL explained that it had opposed entering into a consent determination because it was aware of information that showed serious deficiencies in the applicant’s case. OBL also submitted that it had various communications with the State and the applicant, where it had actively but unsuccessfully sought information to satisfy itself that connection need not be in issue.

OBL referred to the 1 February 2013 Future Act Decision by the NNTT and submitted that the evidence did not show a native title claim strong enough, on the balance of probabilities, to establish native title in the Overlap Area.

OBL also relied on the following statement, made in an email sent by the State Solicitor to the respondents on 30 January 2013 (and sent to OBL on 18 February 2013):

Whilst we do not agree ...that there was one Nyikina Mangala society at the time of sovereignty, given the dearth of early ethnography for either group the State will consider, *as a matter of pragmatism*, a consent determination in favour of the Nyikina Mangala people, with no reference to one society at sovereignty and no demarcation of Nyikina or Mangala areas.

The Hearing was adjourned to allow OBL to put further affidavit about its conversations with the State and for the State to put a response affidavit.

Removal Hearing 18 August 2013

Affidavit evidence presented by the State identified written communications between the State and OBL, including the approach by the Court when anthropological evidence is not strong with respect to an element of a connection report. This included whether there was a “society” at sovereignty and where there is a reasonable basis for the claim and the State has no evidence to present in opposition. These discussions also included advice to OBL that some early linguistic data existed, but no early anthropological material.

The connection report was accepted by the State, on senior counsel’s advice that the claim would succeed in a contested hearing, as evidence of connection. All parties to the matter, except OBL, were willing to follow the State.

Gilmour J considered [at 54] that submissions made by OBL disclose its fundamental misconception about the role of and obligations of the State in Native Title matters. His Honour stated:

The State acts in the capacity of *parens patriae* to look after the interests of the community generally. Here the State took, as it should have, a real interest in the proceedings in that capacity. It was involved in negotiations and mediation meetings with the applicant over many years. It had carefully analysed and assessed the applicant’s connection material.

The earlier views of Dr Martin, expert anthropologist for the State, were unsure as to the situation with regard to “society” and were expressed in his report and during discussions with Dr Palmer. Dr Palmer then undertook further field work and presented what Gilmour J describes [at 56] as “an impressive report by a leading expert”. His Honour went on to state:

It is little wonder that, in light of this, the State altered its position, on advice from the State Solicitor-General to concede that connection would likely be made out.

OBL had Dr Palmer’s connection report since December 2012. OBL took no steps to obtain its own anthropological report and, instead, submitted that if the matter went to Court, it would rely on cross examination of the expert. Gilmour J did not accept this and stated [at 57] “I do not accept that OBL had a real issue with the matter of connection.” Furthermore, His Honour stated [at 59]:

There was no acceptable adequate reason for OBL to have put the whole of the applicant’s connection case in issue in circumstances where all other parties were prepared to enter into a consent determination. The State had assured OBL that it had carefully assessed the whole of the evidence and on proper advice considered that there should be a consent determination. It was also unreasonable in that OBL completely dropped its opposition to connection without providing an adequate explanation. OBL knew, as I have mentioned, by 1 March 2013, that the State had a genuine basis for contending that there should be a consent determination.

Decision to Limit Participation

The Court ordered that OBL’s participation in the proceedings be limited to those matters listed in [s 225 \(c\) and \(d\) NTA](#). Gilmour J considered this would provide certainty in the proceedings, particularly given OBL’s earlier changes in direction on the issue of connection.

Decision as to Costs

[Section 85A](#) NTA requires each party to a proceeding to bear his or her own cost, except:

... if the Federal Court is satisfied that a party to a proceeding has, by any unreasonable act or omission, caused another party to incur costs in connection with the institution or conduct of the proceeding, the Court may order the first-mentioned party to pay some or all of those costs.

After considering a range of case law with relation to costs, indemnity costs and the reasonableness of the parties, Gilmour J concluded that OBL's conduct was unreasonable and warranted the making of a cost order that:

1. OBL pay the applicant's costs of the interlocutory application dated 6 May 2013 including for the period since 19 March 2013 costs thrown away by reason of OBL changing its position on the issue of connection; and
2. The costs, the subject of Order 2 be paid on an indemnity basis forthwith.

[Chippendale on behalf of the Wuthathi People #2 v State of Queensland \[2013\] FCA 1401](#)

5 December 2013, Application to Remove Respondent Party, Federal Court of Australia – Brisbane

Greenwood J

This matter is a decision that Mr Isaac Savage be removed as a respondent to the matter of *Chippendale on behalf of the Wuthathi People #2 v State of Queensland* [\[2012\] FCA 310](#) (the Chippendale case) (a case summary of this decision can be accessed at [What's New in Native Title, April 2012](#)).

Mr Savage, Mr Muen Lifu and Mr George Pausa sought joinder in a "representative capacity" on behalf of the Gudang Yadhaykenu People, to the Chippendale case. However, the Court did not accept that footing and they were each joined as respondents as individuals.

Mr Savage's ancestors have since been recognised in the genealogies relevant to the claim of the Wuthathi People (the applicants in the Chippendale case).

Greenwood J stated [at 3] that:

It is simply not possible for Mr Savage to be a member of the claim group ... and at the same time a respondent party to such a claim.

Greenwood J made orders that Mr Savage cease to be a party to the proceeding.

[Brown v State of Victoria \[2013\] FCA 1457](#)

17 December 2013, Dismissal of Application for Determination, Federal Court of Australia – Melbourne

North J

This matter was a decision by North J to discontinue the Bunerong application for a determination of native title over the area of Port Phillip Bay in the State of Victoria, filed on 15 June 2006.

The Bunerong people had engaged in discussions and negotiations with the Boon Wurrung peoples, intended to resolve the application (including discussions facilitated by the Victorian Government's Right People for Country project) and, following a break down in discussions brought an application to discontinue the application. North J made orders to discontinue with no order as to costs.

[Atkinson v State of Victoria \[2013\] FCA 1460](#)

17 December 2013, Dismissal of Application for Determination, Federal Court of Australia – Melbourne

North J

In this case, the Dja Dja Wurrung people sought and were granted orders to discontinue four applications for a determination of native title (applications 6006 of 1998, 6001 of 1999, 6003 of 1999 and 6001 of 2000).

The Dja Dja Wurrung people and the State of Victoria reached a settlement agreement which was contingent on an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between the parties being registered. Clause 14 of the ILUA required that the four native title determination applications be withdrawn as soon as practicable after registration of the ILUA. This was authorised by the Dja Dja Wurrung people at a meeting on 16 March 2013 and the ILUA was registered on 24 October 2013.

The applicant's solicitor attempted to contact all but one of the 400 (or more) respondents in writing, providing the proposed consent orders and indicating that if no answer was received to the letter, it would be taken that the particular respondent consented to the orders. No respondent contacted the solicitor with an objection to the orders.

Mr Gary Murray and others filed an objection against the application to register the ILUA. Mr Murray also appeared at the hearing and objected to the orders being made, on behalf of an indeterminate number of people whom he said form part of the Dja Dja Wurrung clan group. Mr Murray also stated that those individuals did not consent to the settlement under the NTA.

North J considered that the objectors did not appeal against the registration of the ILUA and stated [at 13] that the time for doing so had now passed. His Honour also considered that the authorisation at the meeting on 16 March 2013 superseded the objection. On this basis, North J was satisfied to make orders to discontinue the four applications.

[Harradine v State of Victoria \[2013\] FCA 1458](#)

17 December 2013, Dismissal of Application for Determination, Federal Court of Australia – Melbourne

North J

This matter concerns an application for a determination of native title by the Latji Latji people over an area of land in the north-west of the State of Victoria, filed on 19 July 2000.

The resolution of the matter was interrupted over the years by:

- negotiations for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), which itself was stalled while the alternative framework in the [Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010](#) (Vic) was established;
- a boundary dispute between the Latji Latji people and claimants in the Robinvale area (which continued from 2006 until 2012, when the Robinvale application was discontinued); and
- in 2013, consideration of a wider north-west regional claim that was intended to subsume the existing Latji Latji application.

On the basis that the Latji Latji people wish to replace this application with the wider north-west regional claim, North J struck out the application for determination of native title.

2. Legislation

Aboriginal Land Trust Act 2013 (SA)

The Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill 2013 was introduced by the South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation on 11 September 2013. The Bill passed both Houses of Parliament with the Governor giving assent to the legislation on 5 December 2013.

The Governor made the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013 Proclamation on 6 February 2014. The Proclamation provides that the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013 will come into effect on 1 July 2013. This will repeal the Aboriginal

Lands Trust Act 1966 and reform the structure and focus of the South Australia Aboriginal Lands Trust. The new legislation provides foundation for the Aboriginal Lands Trust to operate independently and professionally as a land holding body, and provides a new process for Aboriginal community involvement in decision-making, as well as supporting new opportunities for future cultural and residential development.

For more information, or to download the new legislation, see the South Australian [Aboriginal Affairs](#) website.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013 (Qld)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013 (Qld) received assent on 19 February 2013. The Act repealed the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985 on 20 February 2014.

The 1985 legislation provided for the grant of leases in perpetuity and other title in land to members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps, recognised the inadequacies of the 1985 legislation in clarifying residential and infrastructure boundaries, which hindered the delivery of social housing, the transfer of land and homeownership in indigenous communities. Of the 625 lease applications under the 1985 legislation, the Queensland government granted 238 leases.

The 2013 legislation has amended provisions in the following Queensland Acts and Regulations:

- Aboriginal Land Act 1991
- Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Land Court Act 2000
- Mineral Resources Act 1989
- Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009
- Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991
- Wild Rivers Act 2005
- Wild Rivers Regulation 2007
- Vegetation Management Act 1999

For more information, or to download the new legislation, see the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs [website](#).

Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Bill 2014

The Western Australian Government published on 18 February 2014 its draft of the Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Bill 2014. The bill provides recognition to the Noongar people as the traditional owners of lands in the south-west of the State as part of the South West Settlement.

The draft bill contains the Western Australian Parliament's recognition of the living cultural, spiritual, familial and social relationship that the Noongar people have with the Noongar lands; and the significant and unique contribution that the Noongar people have made, are making, and will continue to make, to the heritage, cultural identity, community and economy of the State. The bill does not propose to create any right, title or interest in law or equity, or give rise to or affect any civil claim, action or proceeding, or give rise to or affect any right of review of an administrative decision; or affect the interpretation of any law of, or that applies in, the State.

The significance of the offer as a Bill demonstrates an intention by the Government to be bound by its obligations. It is a significant gesture by the Government. The progress of the Bill through the Western Australian Parliament will depend on the decision of the Noongar people in relation to the South West Native Title Settlement offer.

For more information on the Noongar settlement, visit the [website](#) of the Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet, or the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council at noongar.org.

3. Indigenous Land Use Agreements

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) within AIATSIS maintains an [ILUA Summary](#) which provides hyperlinks to information on the [National Native Title Tribunal \(NNTT\)](#) and the [Agreements, Treaties, and Negotiated Settlements \(ATNS\)](#) websites.

Between 1 February 2014 and 28 February 2014, 1 ILUA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

Registration date	Name	Tribunal file no.	Type	State or Territory	Subject matter
19/02/2014	Mirning People ILUA	WI2013/007	Area Agreement	WA	Co-management, Extinguishment, Government, Residential

4. Native Title Determinations

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) within AIATSIS maintains a [determinations summary](#) which provides hyperlinks to determination information on the Austlii, [NNTT](#) and [ATNS](#) websites.

Between 1 February and 28 February, 7 native title determinations were handed down.

Short Name (NNTT)	Case Name	Date (NNTT)	State	Outcome	Legal Process	Type
Adnyamathanha No 1 - Stage 2	Vincent Coulthard and Ors v State of South Australia and Ors (unreported, FCA, 25 February 2014, White J)	25/02/2014	SA	Native title exists in parts of the determination area	Consent determination	Claimant
Adnyamathanha No 1 - Stage 3	Vincent Coulthard and Ors and Edward Lander and Ors v State of South Australia and Ors (unreported, FCA, 25 February 2014, White J)	25/02/2014	SA	Native title exists in parts of the determination area	Consent determination	Claimant

Karingbal People #2	Kevin Albury & Ors on behalf of the Karingbal People #2 v State of Queensland & Ors [2014] FCA 93	21/02/2014	Qld.	Native title does not exist	Litigated determination	Claimant
Bidjara People	Brendan Wyman & Ors on Behalf of the Bidjara People #6 v State of Queensland & Ors [2014] FCA 93	21/02/2014	Qld.	Native title does not exist	Litigated determination	Claimant
Brown River People	Charles Stapleton & Ors on Behalf of the Brown River People v State of Queensland & Ors [2014] FCA 93	21/02/2014	Qld.	Native title does not exist	Litigated determination	Claimant
Brown River People #2	Charles Stapleton & Ors on Behalf of the Brown River People #2 v State of Queensland & Ors [2014] FCA 93	21/02/2014	Qld.	Native title does not exist	Litigated determination	Claimant
Karingbal People #3	Kevin Albury & Ors on behalf of the Karingbal People #3 and State of Queensland & Ors [2014] FCA 93	21/02/2014	Qld.	Native title does not exist	Litigated determination	Claimant

5. Future Acts Determinations

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) within AIATSIS maintains summaries of Future Acts Determinations summary which provides hyperlinks to information on the [National Native Title Tribunal \(NNTT\)](#).

Between 1 February and 28 February, **10** Future Acts Determinations were handed down.

Determination date	Parties	NNTTA number	State or Territory	Decision/Determination
28/02/2014	Raymond William Ashwin, June Rose Ashwin, Geoffrey Alfred Ashwin and Ralph Edward Ashwin on behalf of the Wutha People (WC1999/010) (native title party) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Duketon Consolidated Pty Ltd (grantee party)	NNTTA 22	WA	Objection – Expedited Procedure Applies

27/02/2014	WF (Deceased) on behalf of Wiluna (WC1999/024; WAD6164/1998) (native title party) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Lynsay Norman Masters (grantee party)	NNTTA 21	WA	Objection – Expedited Procedure Applies
24/02/2014	Native title parties as listed in the attached schedule (native title parties) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Grantee parties as listed in the attached schedule (grantee parties)	NNTTA 20	WA	Objection - Dismissed
20/02/2014	Leedham Papertalk and Others on behalf of Mullewa Wadjari (WC1996/093) (native title party) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Harold John Stokes (grantee party)	NNTTA 19	WA	Objection – Expedited Procedure Applies
18/02/2014	Cyril Barnes & Ors on behalf of Central East Goldfields People (native title party) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Aphrodite Gold Limited (grantee party)	NNTTA 16	WA	Objection - Dismissed
18/02/2014	Native title parties as listed in the attached schedule (native title parties) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Grantee parties as listed in the attached schedule (grantee parties)	NNTTA 17	WA	Objection - Dismissed

13/02/2014	Doyles Creek Mining Pty Ltd (grantee party) - and - Scott McCain Franks and Robert John Lester on behalf of the Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People (first native title party) Desmond Hickey, Margaret Ann Matthews, Warren Stanley George Taggart, Gordon Griffiths, George Edward Sampson, Luke Matthew Hickey, Warren Frank Schillings, Allen Stuart Paget and Timothy Peter Smith on behalf of the Wonnarua Traditional Custodians (second native title party) - and - The State of New South Wales (Government party)	NNTTA 18	NSW	Future Act - Dismissed
11/02/2014	Native title parties as listed in the attached schedule (native title parties) - and - State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Grantee parties as listed in the attached schedule (grantee parties)	NNTTA 15	WA	Objection - Dismissed
10/02/2014	Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (as Trustee for, and on behalf of, the Yindjibarndi People) (native title party) - and - The State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - FMG Pilbara Pty Ltd (grantee party)	NNTTA 14	WA	Objection – Expedited Procedure Applies AND Objection – Expedited Procedure Does Not Apply
03/02/2014	Native title parties as listed in the attached schedule (native title parties) - and - State of Western Australia (Government party) - and - Grantee parties as listed in the attached schedule (grantee parties)	NNTTA 13	WA	Objection - Dismissed

6. Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate & Prescribed Bodies Corporate

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) within AIATSIS maintains a [RNTBC summary document](#) which provides details about RNTBCs and PBCs in each state/territory including the RNTBC name, RNTBC type (agent or trustee) and relevant native title determination information. The Summary can be found on the [NTRU webpage](#).

Information on RNTBCs and PBCs including training and support, news and events, research and publications and external links can be found at nativetitle.org.au. For a detailed summary of individual RNTBCs and PBCs see [PBC Profiles](#).

Additional information about RNTBCs and PBCs can be accessed through hyperlinks to corporation information on the [Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations \(ORIC\) website](#); case law on the [Austlii website](#); and native title determination information on the [NNTT](#) and [ATNS](#) websites.

7. Native Title in the News

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) within AIATSIS publishes [Native Title in the News](#) which contains summaries of newspaper articles and media releases relevant to the native title sector.

8. Related Publications

Books, Journals and Reports

Hunter E, Onnis L and Pritchard J – AIATSIS Research Discussion Paper

‘Gardens of discontent: Health and horticulture in remote Aboriginal Australia’

Preventable chronic diseases are largely responsible for the high rates of death and illness among Indigenous Australians, and poor nutrition, particularly in early life, is a major contributor to those chronic diseases. One approach to the problem which has an appealing logic is to improve nutrition in remote settings through local cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Many projects have begun; however, despite a history of horticulture in remote mission and pastoral settlements across northern Aboriginal Australia, sustained and substantial improvement has been elusive. This paper focuses on Cape York in remote northern Australia, and the community of Lockhart River in particular, to outline the historical and contemporary factors that have undermined, and continue to undermine, horticulture’s contribution to improving Aboriginal health.

Available for download from the [research discussion papers webpage](#) on the AIATSIS website.

Hansen H and Butler K – AIATSIS Research Publications

‘Exploring urban identities and histories’

Exploring urban identities and histories was developed from papers presented at the 2009 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference, where presenters considered a range of questions facing Indigenous people living in urban and semi-urban / regional areas of Australia.

While many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have witnessed cities and towns grow up around them through the course of generations, many have migrated to urban areas. This book considers urban identity, the history of urbanisation, demographic mobility and diverse community experiences.

Available for download from the [books and monographs webpage](#) on the AIATSIS website.

Zander, K, Austin B and Garnett T – Human Ecology

‘Indigenous Peoples’ Interest in Wildlife-Based Enterprises in Northern Territory, Australia’

This article is a documentation of a quantitative analysis of Australia Indigenous people interest in wildlife based enterprises. Research has shown that Indigenous communities share a high level of interest in wildlife-based

industries, with the level and type of interest differing between communities and reflecting difference in history and culture. Those who have employment in Ranger positions as land and sea managers were more likely to express interest in enterprise involvement. It suggests that wildlife based enterprises need to be tailored to the community for which they are being designed.

Zander, K, Austin B and Garnett T. 'Indigenous Peoples' Interest in Wildlife-Based Enterprises in Northern Territory, Australia', 42(1) *Human Ecology* 115, February 2014

Tiwi Land Council

The Tiwi: News for Traditional Owners

The Tiwi Land Council has released its newsletter for the February/March 2014 period. The publication highlights the achievements of the Tiwi Land Council over the previous 2 months. This includes details of the Tiwi Plantations Corporation agreement with Mitsui for the trade of woodchips, and updates of the Port Melville Port Corporation.

Download the full newsletter at [Tiwi Land Council online](#).

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

News for Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) has released their *quarterly* newsletter. The publication highlights the achievements of the YMAC over the previous 3 months. It includes details of the ILUAs with the Budina people, agreements involving the Badimia, Kurama and Marthudunera people, and the finding of an important artefact attributed toMalgana heritage at Monkey Mia.

Download the full newsletter at [YMAC online](#).

Media Releases

Prime Minister of Australia

'Statement to the House of Representatives – Closing the Gap'

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott addressed the House of Representatives on 12 Feb to give a speech on Closing the Gap.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs

'ABA Funding Strengthens Remote communities in the North'

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Senator Nick Scullion announces that the Northern Territory would receive almost \$2.5 million in funding support from the Australian Government through the latest Aboriginal Benefit Account funding round. The funding will be used to create infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities and fund scholarships.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs

‘New homes for residents on Palm Island’

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Senator Nick Scullion announces that a partnership between the Australian and Queensland Governments will result in new housing and refurbishments on Palm Island. Minister Scullion said that through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH), the Australian Government is working with States and the Northern Territory to address overcrowding, homelessness and housing shortages in remote Indigenous communities.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs

‘New projects to protect Indigenous languages’

Minister for the Arts, the Hon Senator George Brandis QC, and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion announced the community groups that will receive a share of \$2.6 million in funding for new language preservation projects. The funding will support 42 additional activities and enable communities to develop culturally appropriate learning resources across a range of new media and through partnerships with schools, cultural organisations and libraries.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy

‘Surprise Oil Field Go Ahead’

Minister for Mines and Energy, the Hon Willem Westra Van Holthe, has approved a Production Licence for Central Petroleum’s Surprise Oil field project. The development area is located west of Alice Springs near Kintore. The 25 year licence approves the first onshore oil and gas project in the Northern Territory since the introduction of the Native Title Act in 1993.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Goldfields Land and Sea Council

‘Esperance Nyungar Determination – Here at Last’

Traditional owners in Western Australia’s Goldfields will have their native title recognised on 14 March by the Federal Court. This is the first official recognition of right to country in the Goldfields and Esperance Region for Aboriginal people.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Central Land Council

‘Land Councils conclude talks in Canberra’

The Central and Northern Land Councils concluded three days of talks in Canberra with federal politicians and officials. The talks centred on the federal government plans to permanently devolve the Land Councils’ powers to

smaller Aboriginal Corporations and create 99-year township leases which would be held by a Commonwealth official.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

National Native Title Tribunal

‘Tribunal continues to provide high quality Geospatial resources’

The National Native Title Tribunal recently published new Geospatial information on its website, known as the Determined Outcomes Dataset. It is available to assist those who need to identify and locate outcomes for a native title determination.

See [Media Release](#) for more details

Government of Western Australia

‘Draft Noongar Recognition Bill for comment’

The Premier of WA, the Hon Colin Barnett and WA’s Attorney General, the Hon Michael Mischin have released a statement concerning the Draft Noongar Recognition Bill. Premier Colin Barnett said the Bill was the centrepiece of the offer, made in July that will settle native title claims across Perth and the South-West with a mixture of land, funding and other benefits to the Noongar community. A Noongar Recognition Act would be a defining moment for the whole community, not just the up to 40,000 people with Noongar ancestry.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Western Australia Minister for Environment

‘Pilbara marine ecosystem study to begin’

The marine ecosystem of the Pilbara region in Western Australia will be surveyed over a period of 5 years. The WA Minister for Environment Albert Jacob has stated that the unprecedented survey and research work will provide a scientific basis for government decisions in relation to environmental protection.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

Western Australia Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

‘Kimberley Aboriginal people take control of land’

The WA Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Peter Collier formalised an agreement to transfer the land in Bidan back to Bidan Aboriginal Corporation. The land stretches 73 hectares along the Great Northern Highway. There are plans to construct new houses in the area over the next 5 years.

See [Media Release](#) for more details.

News Broadcasts and Podcasts

SBS News

'The Native Title Act, 20 years on' – 28 February 2014

Darren Mara engages in a discussion with Indigenous representatives, academics and a representative from the Minerals Council of Australia about the effectiveness of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Available at [SBS Online](#).

ABC News

'End of an era for Indigenous land and sea group' – 5 February 2014

Carmen Brown discusses with Joe Morrison his resignation as CEO from North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, and his new role as the CEO of the Northern Land Council.

Available at [ABC online](#).

ABC News

'The Aboriginal community the law forgot' – 18 February 2014

Ben Collins and Vanessa Mills discuss the Djarindjin Aboriginal Community with Gus Tampalini and Brian Lee of the Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation (DAC). They report of the legal issues facing the community and the efforts the DAC have gone to in order to improve the health and safety of the Djarindjin Aboriginal Community.

Available at [ABC Online](#).

National Indigenous Radio Service

'Noongar offer close to release' – 28 February 2014

Michelle Tuahine discusses the offer with Glen Kelly, the Chief Executive of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Glen Kelly reports the decision about whether or not to accept the billion-dollar offer will be made by the six Noongar Native Title claim groups at meetings to be held in the middle of this year. He says the council will work to ensure that all Noongars eligible to vote at authorisation meetings are as informed as possible.

Available at [NIRS online](#).

National Indigenous Radio Service

'TSRA flags Saibai to receive sea wall works first' – 28 February 2014

Warren Barnsley discusses with Joseph Elu, Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, the newly announced sea wall restoration funding. Saibai Island will be the first to benefit from the Federal Government 12 million dollars funding for critical revitalisation work. Joseph Elu told Torres Strait Radio 4MW some of the six targeted islands will receive works before other.

Available at [NIRS online](#)

National Indigenous Radio Service

'Greens: changes to Racial Discrimination Act will send wrong message' – 27 February 2014

The Australian Greens say the Federal Government is sending the wrong message to the public through its plans to change the Racial Discrimination Act. Attorney-General George Brandis confirmed the Federal Government is planning to repeal Section 18C, which makes it unlawful to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate a person based on race.

Available at [NIRS online](#).

9. Training and Professional Development Opportunities

The Aurora Project

See [The Aurora Project: 2014 Program Calendar](#) for information on training and personal development for staff of native title representative bodies, native title service providers, RNTBCs and PBCs. Programs currently on offer include:

- Foundations of Native Title
- Achieving Informed Consent
- Structuring Entities to Achieve Group Aspirations
- Community Development Projects; and
- Participatory process for PBC decision making
- Management Development; and
- Community facilitation training

ABC Rural Entry Level Radio Rural Reporters

ABC Rural has vacancies open for an Indigenous entry level reporter. Successfully applicants will have the opportunity to work across the country and report for regional, state and national broadcasts and online. Applicants that demonstrate a strong potential in broadcasting and knowledge of the issues affecting primary industries and rural communities are encouraged to apply. Applications close on the 26 March 2014, and more information regarding selection criteria and how to apply can be found at [ABC online](#).

Empowering Aboriginal Communities Conference

Informa is presenting its first Empowering Aboriginal Communities Conference, taking place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd May at the Sydney Harbour Marriott. The conference will focus on the topics of Indigenous Health, Education, Employment, Economic Empowerment and Justice. The conference will discuss issues that continue to challenge development, design and implementation of national policy and the success of ongoing strategies, policy and the direction of future developments.

An information brochure containing a list of speakers, agenda and ticketing information can be downloaded [here](#).

Buku'tjuwu Miyarriya Rom: Understanding Connections in Caring for Country

The Buku'tjuwu Miyarriya Rom offers a small group, professional development program based on the real-life experiences of Aboriginal people Caring for Country where they live. The program is tailored for groups of either 7 or 14 and is targeted towards government employees, postgraduate students and others working in the fields of Aboriginal land management, heritage management and Indigenous economic development.

The program is delivered as a 4 day intensive program at Blue Mud Bay in East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. It offers an opportunity to directly experience and explore the underlying issues of land and heritage management

from the perspective of Aboriginal people on their own country, and improve mutual understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people involved in land and heritage management.

Detailed information regarding the course program, travel arrangements and dates can be found [here](#).

The Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award

Applications are open for the Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award 2014. The Foundation has committed \$20,000 to an annual award for a new theatre play written by an Indigenous playwright. Applications close on **28 March 2014**. Guidelines for entry and application forms can be found on the Belvoir [website](#).

The Minoru Hokari Scholarship

The Minoru Hokari Scholarship is offering a \$3000 scholarship that is intended to assist a postgraduate student to conduct fieldwork or related research in Australian indigenous history. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must be currently enrolled in a postgraduate research based project at any University or have successfully completed a postgraduate research based program at any University in the past three years. Applications close on 1 April 2014.

Detailed information about the scholarship and the selection criteria can be found on the Australian National University [website](#).

National Library of Australia - Community Heritage Grants

Applications are open for not-for-profit organisations, multi-cultural and Indigenous groups to apply for a 2014 Community Heritage Grant. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to assist in preserving cultural heritage collections of national significance. Heritage Grants are funded through the National Library of Australia; the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney General's Department; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia. Applications close on 2 May 2014.

For detailed information about the activities supported by the grant and to access an application form, visit the National Library of Australia [website](#).

University of New South Wales Indigenous Law Centre - Australian Indigenous Law Review

The Australian Indigenous Law Review (AILR) is welcoming submissions to be considered for inclusion in both general and thematic issues. Submissions for the general issue can be on any legal topic of special relevance to Indigenous peoples, in Australia and around the world. The thematic issue is on 'Formal Equality, Substantive Equality and Special Measures', and aims to cast fresh light on the challenges related to Indigenous peoples' differential treatment under the law and bring new insights to the debate.

To read about how you can contribute to this publication please refer to the AILR [contribution page](#). To subscribe you can download the [subscription form](#) and return it to the AILR. Contact the Indigenous Law Centre team on (02) 9385 2252 or email ailr@unsw.edu.au for further details.

University of South Australia Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues

The [Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues \(JAI\)](#) invites submissions of articles and commentaries. JAI invites submissions from disciplines including politics, public policy, education, history, cultural studies, law, art and health. Contact the JAI team on (08) 8302 0473 or email Andrew.Gunstone@unisa.edu.au

James Cook University Masterclass in Native Title

[James Cook University](#) is pleased to announce it will be holding a unique eight day masterclass in Native Title in 2014. The course is designed to help launch early career Anthropologists into this fascinating and important field of work. Support is being provided by the Australian Government Attorney General's Department.

For more information including registration, contact Mark Franks: mark.franks@jcu.edu.au or (07) 4042 1897

10. Events

Grow the Music Gala Dinner

Celebrating musical expression and understanding in remote Australia

Date: Sunday 23 March 2014

Time: 6.30pm

Location: National Arboretum, Canberra

Grow the Music provides Programs in Music and the Arts that are designed to build confidence and self-esteem and bring communities together for regular concerts. They are holding a Gala Dinner at the National Arboretum, Canberra on Sunday 23 March at 6.30pm. This is a three-course dinner and drinks event, and tickets can be purchased from the Grow the Music [website](#).

The Gagudju Man

Lorrkkon Ceremony

Date: Tuesday 25 March 2014

Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Location: Reconciliation Place, Parkes (Between Questacon and the National Portrait Gallery) King Edward Terrace, Canberra ACT

As part of the AIATSIS 50 Anniversary Celebrations, the sacred Lorrkkon Ceremony will be performed at Reconciliation Place in Canberra. This ceremony has never been performed in public or outside Kakadu. This sacred Lorrkkon Ceremony features 30 dancers, singers and ceremonial elders and is the continuing journey of Big Bill Neidjie.

Further information can be found on the [AIATSIS website](#).

National Indigenous Studies Conference

50 Years On: Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking

Date: 26-28 March 2014

Location: National Convention Centre, Canberra, ACT

In 2014, AIATSIS will be celebrating its 50th year. To celebrate this milestone, AIATSIS will be holding its biennial National Indigenous Studies Conference with the theme '50 years on: Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking'. The conference will celebrate how far we have come in the area of Indigenous studies in Australia in the past 50 years. It will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the legislated establishment of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (now AIATSIS) as well as 50 years of leadership and excellence in Indigenous studies by AIATSIS.

For more information including Call for Papers and Registration, please see [AIATSIS website](#) or contact Alexandra Muir: (02) 6261 4223

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

CAEPR Seminars 2014

Date: Weekly Wednesday event, finishing on 4 June 2014

Time: 12.30pm – 2:00pm

Location: Hanna Neumann Building Room G058, Australian National University, Canberra

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) is a unique national and international centre, a leading research think-tank on Indigenous policy issues, and operates in a complex political arena. CAEPR presents weekly seminars on various topics of relevance to Indigenous Australians and those involved in areas of native title. To register and attend a seminar, contact Centre Administrator on (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au

Further information regarding the seminar topics can be found on the [CAEPR website](#).

National Sorry Day

Sorry – Still Living on Borrowed Time

Date: 26 May 2014

Time: Various

Location: National

The Australian Parliament passed a motion in 2010, recognising May 26th as National Sorry Day. National Sorry Day is an annual commemoration that aims to achieve greater healing for the Stolen Generation. National Sorry Day is scheduled for the **26 May 2014**, and events are held across the Country. Information about the events taking place in each State and Territory can be found on the [National Sorry Day Committee](#) website.

National Reconciliation Week

Let's talk Recognition

Date: Tuesday 27 May 2014 – Tuesday 3 June 2014

Time: Various

Location: National

Each year National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians. It's the ideal time for people to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how to turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

National Reconciliation Week takes place from the 27th May – 3rd June. The week commemorates the anniversary of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court decision on Mabo in 1992. Events are taking place across the country during the week, and details can be found on the [National Reconciliation Week](#) website.

Reconciliation Australia - Indigenous Governance Awards

Identify, celebrate and promote effective Indigenous governance

Date: Applications close 30 May 2014

Time: TBC

Location: Melbourne

Reconciliation Australia is seeking applicants for the 2014 Indigenous Governance Awards. The Awards recognise and celebrate the hard work Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, projects and initiatives put into changing their communities for the better. Applications close 30 May 2014. The shortlist and 2014 finalists will be announced in July 2014. The winners will be announced at the Awards presentation event in Melbourne in late October 2014

For more information, see [Reconciliation Australia website](#).

National Native Title Conference 2014

Living with Native Title: From the Bush to the Sea

Date: Monday 2 June 2014 – Wednesday 4 June 2014

Location: Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, Queensland

Registrations are now open to attend the 2014 National Native Title Conference. This year the event will be co-hosted by AIATSIS and NTSCORP Ltd on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people at Coffs Harbour. In addition to the conference, AIATSIS is hosting a 'National PBC Meeting' to give PBCs the opportunity to network and discuss issues at a national level, and offer opportunities for PBCs to discuss PBC business in a closed session. More information about the conference program and registration details can be found [here](#).

2014 World Indigenous Legal Conference

Remembering the past and looking to the future

Date: 23-27 June 2014

Location: Queensland University of Technology, Garden Point Campus, Brisbane

The 2014 World Indigenous Legal Conference is a biennial conference that brings together Indigenous lawyers, academics and interested parties to discuss issues of critical importance to Indigenous people. The conference will consider a range of topics including relationship to land and waters, Indigenous knowledge, women and children, recognition of first nations' peoples, economic independence and human rights.

Enquiries: For more information including the latest updates and registration, see [Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc.](#)

The Coming of the Light Festival

Coming of the Light

Date: Tuesday 1 July 2014

Location: Torres Strait and various Queensland locations

The Coming of the Light Festival marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait and introduced Christianity to the region. This is a significant day for Torres Strait Islanders, who are predominantly of Christian faith, and religious and cultural ceremonies across Torres Strait and mainland Australia are held annually.

For more information about events near your area, visit the [TSRA](#), [Queensland Museum](#) or [Queensland Governments Indigenous Events](#) websites.

NAIDOC Week 2014

Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond

Date: Sunday 6 July 2014 – Sunday 13 July 2014

Time: Various

Location: National

NAIDOC Week 2014 celebrations begin across the country on **Sunday 6 July – Sunday 13 July**. This year's theme is *Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond* and aims to honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country. Celebrations take place across the Nation throughout the week, so check your local calendar for details.

If you wish to hold a local NAIDOC event, funding is available with the next funding round currently open. For information about how to apply for NAIDOC funding join the [NAIDOC mailing list](#) to receive announcements.

More information about National NAIDOC week and events can be found on the NAIDOC [Facebook](#) page or [website](#).

National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony

Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond

Date: TBC

Time: TBC

Location: Gold Coast, Queensland

The National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony and Ball will take place this year on the Gold Coast, with the official venue to be confirmed. Tickets to the ball are yet to be released, with updates to be posted to the NAIDOC [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Applications are open for the 10 National NAIDOC Award categories. Entries for the National NAIDOC Awards **close on Wednesday 23 April 2014**.

Application forms and further information can be found on the NAIDOC [website](#)

United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

A High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly

Date: Monday 22 September 2014 – Tuesday 23 September 2014

Time: Various

Location: New York and National

The UN General Assembly is holding a World Conference on Indigenous People on the 22-23 September 2014 at the UN Headquarters in New York. It aims to share perspectives and best practices on the realisation of the rights of Indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The UN General Assembly has encouraged Member States and Institutions of Indigenous peoples to organise side events and other relevant thematic and cultural activities in New York and in Member States that would add to the value and visibility of the Conference.

If you are an Indigenous person or organization from the Pacific region and you want to know more about the regional organizing for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, please contact the Pacific Region GCG Representatives at: pacific@wcip2014.org. For additional information and updates about the Conference, visit the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples [website](#).

2014 National Indigenous Women Conference

Sharing information and empowering Indigenous women

Date: 13 – 15 October

Time: 8.30am – 4.30 pm

Location: Pullman Cairns International, Cairns

Indigenous Conference Services and M.E.E.S Australia have announced the details of the 2014 National Indigenous Women Conference. The event provides a platform for Indigenous women to celebrate achievements in their homes, families, communities and workplaces. Topics discussed at the conference are to include women's health, family violence, women and education, and the achievements of Indigenous women, and presents an opportunity to participate in an event focused on sharing information. Indigenous women and those in supporting roles are encouraged to attend the event.

For more information including [Registration](#), see the [Indigenous Helath](#) website.

2014 IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney

Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions

Date: 12-19 November 2014

Time: Various

Location: Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, NSW

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is pleased to announce the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, 2014. Taking the theme; *Parks, People, Planet – Inspiring Solutions*, the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will advance an ambitious agenda that will inspire solutions for today's most pressing global challenges. As a prestigious global gathering of protected area leaders and professionals and the wider cross-section of society, with a legacy of collaboration and innovation dating back to the inaugural event in 1961, this World Parks Congress promises to build a dynamic foundation for achieving conservation and development goals for the decade to come.

For more information including [Registration](#), see [IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014](#) website.



The Native Title Research Unit produces monthly publications to keep you informed on the latest developments in native title throughout Australia. You can subscribe to NTRU publications online, follow @NTRU_AIATSIS on Twitter or 'Like' NTRU on Facebook.

