Mirning People Customary Practices and Contact History Report

Western Australia

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Introduction

The Tribunal’s Research Unit prepares bibliographies as a ready reference for anyone wanting to locate readily available, published material about Indigenous Australian people within a particular region or locality. The bibliographies are produced for general library use from reports prepared by the Tribunal for parties to native title mediations. The bibliographies are not exhaustive reference lists about any particular Indigenous group, nor is the published material necessarily an accurate or insightful report of Indigenous society. The Research Unit may update bibliographies from time to time, usually because a new research report has been produced.

It should be noted that the contents and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are often prepared in four to eight weeks by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and Tribunal librarian.

Disclaimer: The bibliographies are a list of materials that have been used by the Research Unit of the Tribunal to provide background information for native title mediations. The Tribunal forms no view on the accuracy, completeness, or relevance of the reference material cited in these bibliographies. Most of this material is held at libraries and is available to the public. The Tribunal library may be able to assist in lending or locating items.
Mirning Customary Practices and Contact History Report

The Mirning Customary Practices and Contact History report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Mirning native title claim. The Report consists of extracts from publicly and readily available literature which describes customary practices and/or contact between Aboriginal and European people within the W.A. Mirning People's application area since the time of European settlement. It is not an exhaustive history of the Mirning people as there are undoubtedly many events and people known through family histories and oral tradition which have not been recorded, or made publicly available. However, this account draws together the main threads from the published sources available within the time constraints.

Research Method

The content and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are usually prepared by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and a Tribunal librarian.

The material is derived largely from a search of the AIATSIS on-line catalogue. As this library has limited resources available to supply material care is taken to request only that
material which appears relevant to the scope of a particular report. The Tribunal Library also has substantial holdings of reference material which is used where appropriate.

This report contains summaries of information that is publicly available and relevant to the W.A. Mirning people. It includes summaries of published accounts of customary practices as well as aspects of the history of contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans. The primary focus was on the identification of Mirning people within the native title application area.

The research method of searching the AIATSIS catalogue and the Department of Environment and Heritage library was the same as that applied for the Area Identity Report but additional general history texts for Western Australia held in the NNTT Library were also consulted.

Each record was examined to determine its likely relevance or usefulness. Materials with access restrictions were omitted as were foreign language materials, obvious duplications, apparent cataloguing errors, microforms, audio material and material that appeared to deal with technical aspects of language or education curricula.
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