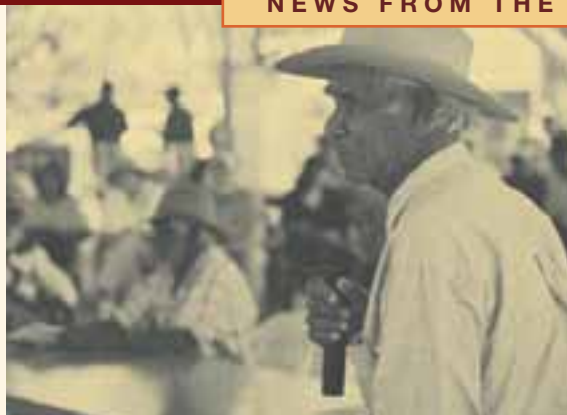
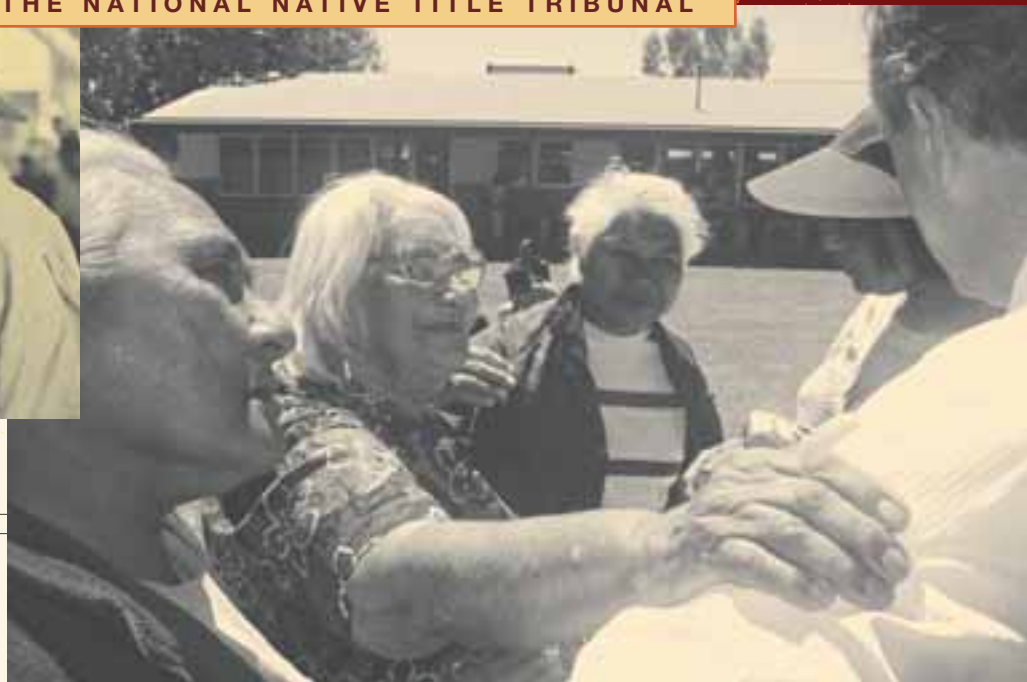


# TALKING NATIVE TITLE

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL



**Above:** Donald Grey, Karajarri native title holder.



**At right:** Karajarri native title holders Amy King, Nita Marshall and Elma Bin Rashid with Mrs North and Justice North following the determination.

## Kimberley groups welcome Karajarri determination

**Nita Marshall, Karajarri woman from Western Australia's remote Kimberley region, is no stranger to the media spotlight.**

She recently fronted cameras and film crews at Bidyadanga, 200 kilometres south of Broome, describing her people's efforts to have their native title rights recognised over 30,358 square kilometres in the Kimberley. Stretching from the region's southern coastline into the Great Sandy Desert, this area holds stories and memories and an unbroken connection for the Karajarri.

On 8 September 2004 Justice North of the Federal Court acknowledged this connection when he made a determination recognising the Karajarri people's rights and interests over 5,647 square kilometres. Made with the consent of pastoralists, fishers and governments, this finalised the Karajarri people's native title claim — it followed another consent determination made in 2002 which recognised their native

title rights over the other 24,711 square kilometres.

Much had taken place since she sat before another film crew on a white sandy beach near Bidyadanga in March 2003, during the filming of the National Native Title Tribunal's video *Native Title Stories: Rights, Recognition, Relationships*. In the video, she described their experience of the native title process, including visits to traditional sites with the judge to prove their connection to

the country, saying: 'Seven years, we worked so hard and we went smoothly together'.

In the second determination area, they have non-exclusive rights to use the land and waters in areas of pastoral lease, reserve and unallocated Crown land that was previously subject to a reserve. Their rights over pastoral leases coexist with those of pastoralists. The court also recognised their non-exclusive rights in the inter-tidal zone and other areas of tidal waters.

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*Talking Native Title* is produced quarterly by the Public Affairs team of the National Native Title Tribunal. Letters to the editor can be sent to: Media Unit, National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Perth WA 6848 or by email: media@nntt.gov.au. If your contact details have changed, please let us know.

Photographs in this issue courtesy of: Kimberley Land Council (pp. 1 and 3), Marian Lester (p. 4), Robin Sharrock and the Australian Heritage Photo Library (p. 5), Lesley Johns (p. 6), Francine Chinn, NT Government (p. 7) and Tribunal staff.

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In Tennant Creek in July, case manager Kaye McGuinness (*left*) assisted President Graeme Neate (*centre*) and Member Dan O'Dea (*right*) in a mediation conference involving five native title claims.

## Focus shifts to relationship-building

### People come to grips with native title in different ways.

Those facing their first native title claim or mining negotiation have a steep learning curve in working out what to do, who to talk to and what to talk about.

Others have plenty of experience in negotiating agreements. They understand enough about the law and the process to know what to do. They know what works and what does not.

If you are working in a remote area or are new to native title matters, you might think your experience is unique and that no one else has to face the problems that you confront.

But, as the old saying goes, a burden shared is a burden halved.

I have been to various conferences in recent months where people from a range of backgrounds have shared their experiences, and have learned how others deal with native title across Australia.

I have noticed that the emphasis has shifted from technical legal matters to what works on the ground. The focus is on making and building relationships, including partnerships.

Examples of that shift were described at sessions of the native title representative

bodies' conference and the Minerals Week seminar in June this year.

In conference papers and informal conversations, people shared their satisfaction about agreements that have been negotiated and the positive developments in industry practice.

The emphasis on agreement-making between the mining industry and Indigenous communities was highlighted in June this year with the publication of the Australian Minerals Industry Indigenous Relations Statement.

The statement vision refers to a 'thriving minerals industry working in partnership with Indigenous communities'.

Also discussed in the statement is the promotion of the negotiation of 'mutually beneficial and sustainable agreements' to achieve 'sustainable relationships and partnerships' between minerals companies and Indigenous communities.

In July 2004 the Australian Government published its Minerals Exploration Action Agenda (MEAA) which includes 'engaging effectively with all stakeholders with interests in native title'.

The document explaining the MEAA states that, in recent years, there has been a 'refining of relationships' between exploration and mining companies and local Indigenous communities. The partnerships that have been established in a number of cases 'are, increasingly, being recognised and promoted as best practice initiatives'.

This emphasis on trying to reach agreements is reflected by results in the field, some of which are featured in this issue of *Talking Native Title*.

But is it enough for people to just sign an agreement? What happens in the months and years after the ink is dry?

Some people are now looking to see what makes a 'good' agreement, and whether it is possible to identify the factors that make some agreements strong and enduring while others do not work out as the parties had planned.

To help parties negotiate sound agreements, the National Native Title Tribunal commissioned a research report about the *Implementation and resourcing of native title and related agreements*.

That research showed, among other things, the importance of:

- clarifying the goals of an agreement
- taking account of factors relevant to Indigenous communities
- building relationships
- having an implementation plan (including providing review mechanisms, resources for implementation, dispute resolution and possibly staged implementation), and
- adopting a holistic approach to agreement-making.

The report can be read or downloaded from the Tribunal's website at [www.nntt.gov.au/metacard/research.html](http://www.nntt.gov.au/metacard/research.html).

The Tribunal works with people to reach agreed, just and enduring outcomes. The report is another tool to help us help you. ■



< Continued from page 1

**Tribunal Deputy President Fred Chaney, who mediated the Karajarri people's native title claim, addresses the gathering at the Federal Court's hearing.**

The National Native Title Tribunal, Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) representing the pastoralists, and the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) representing the Karajarri People, welcomed the determination, but also acknowledged that there are many challenges ahead.

KLC executive director Mr Wayne Bergmann said: 'In order to effectively manage and benefit from native title, it is essential that traditional owners be provided with resources for their prescribed body corporate (PBC). Not only is this important to the wellbeing of the Karajarri, it also has a great impact on the activities of third parties.'

PBCs are legal entities required under the Native Title Act that take responsibility for native title on behalf of the native title holders, and which third parties must deal with in order to undertake any activities on the land.

Tribunal Deputy President Fred Chaney, who mediated between the parties, said the first step for native title claimant groups was to have their native title rights recognised, preferably through agreement.

'After this the native title rights must be used and enjoyed and this is a challenge for native title holders across Australia,' he said. 'PBCs must be adequately funded to enable the native title rights to be exercised and so that aspects such as access for miners and developers can be facilitated.'

PGA native title committee chair John Clapin said a set of coexistence principles to guide negotiations between the native title holders and pastoralists had been agreed, including those regarding the right to conduct ceremonies and gather resources for domestic uses. ■

## Remembering the potential of native title

by Sandy Toussaint

***Crossing Boundaries*, a book devoted to cross-disciplinary practice in native title, is dedicated to the memory of Bobby Pingarri Kogolo. Pingarri was a Walmajarri man committed to the land rights struggle.**

Listed as a claimant on the large Ngurrara claim, which extends across the southern Kimberley and the northern Western Desert regions, Pingarri also acted as interpreter between Ngurrara claimants and members of the National Native Title Tribunal.

In addition to working on the claim and cultural heritage projects, Pingarri was chair of the Walmajarri Corporation, an executive member of the Kimberley Land Council, and a former stockman on several Kimberley cattle stations. He died prematurely from a complex heart condition in 2002.

Post-*Mabo* and both prior to and after the implementation of the *Native Title Act 1993*, Pingarri was always 'talking native title'. He often expressed frustration about the slowness of the process. He also indicated that those involved in native title should talk and work more openly and collaboratively with each other. In part, through these and other concerns, linguist John Henderson and I convened a cross-disciplinary conference in 2000 on ways in which anthropologists, lawyers, historians and linguists could more effectively work together. Papers from that conference were then revised in accordance with later decisions and appeals, and published in *Crossing Boundaries*.



Focusing on claims and appeals such as those associated with the Arrernte, Miriuwung-Gajerrong, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi, Nharnuwangga, Wajarri and Ngarlawangga, and Yorta Yorta, *Crossing Boundaries* shows that while a concentration on the entitlements and aspirations of Indigenous claimants will always be definitive, there is also room for professionals who 'talk native title' to further explore the potential of cross-cultural as well as cross-disciplinary practice.

*Crossing Boundaries* includes chapters by practitioners with legal expertise, such as Justice Robert French (Federal Court judge) Fred Chaney (Tribunal Deputy President), Carolyn Tan, David Ritter and Frances Flanagan (Yamatji Land and Sea Council), and anthropologists including Wendy Asche (Northern Land Council), Will Christensen (Curtin University, formerly Aboriginal Legal Service) and David Trigger (The University of Western Australia). They canvass a range of views on how anthropologists and lawyers might foster legal and cross-cultural frameworks, such as procedures relating to the reporting of genealogical and ethnographic evidence. Linguist Patrick McConnell (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), discusses the need to ensure that language and linguistic issues are incorporated into research for and presentation of claims. Historian Mandy Paul (Central Land Council) emphasises the value of re-defining historical interpretation and representation. Alongside others, these authors build on their experiences with the aim of sharing knowledge. Finding a comprehensive means to labour more effectively in a complex field of inquiry that crosses customary and state law is the intent of *Crossing Boundaries*.

Sandy Toussaint is editor of *Crossing Boundaries: cultural, legal, historical and practice issues in native title* published by Melbourne University Press (2004). ■

# Single cultural group recognised in Wanjina–Wunggurr Wilinggin determination

**After 59 days of hearings and three years of process, Justice Ross Sundberg of the Federal Court leaned forward from behind a makeshift bench and told 300 expectant people that he had made the sixth determination of native title in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.**

In it he granted the Wanjina–Wunggurr Wilinggin group the right of exclusive possession in places where native title has not already been extinguished.

He also recognised their native title rights on areas covered by current or historical pastoral leases, mining leases and over some public reserves. These include rights to hunt, fish and gather on pastoral leases which have not been enclosed or improved.

Justice Sundberg delivered his determination at an ‘on country’ court hearing at Mt Barnett, 300 kilometres east of Derby. The determined area covers 67,000 square kilometres of land including pastoral leases, crown land, national parks and rivers.

Tribunal Deputy President Fred Chaney, who had mediated the claim, welcomed the

finding, particularly the court’s recognition that the different language groups represented in the determination area belonged to one cultural group which shares laws, customs and beliefs.

Mr Chaney said he hoped certainty created by the decision would allow other claims in the region to be determined by agreement.

‘Through this court decision and a number of others in the Kimberley in recent times, we have learned much about people’s history and deep connection to this country,’ he said. ‘Rather than covering similar ground again in litigation, we should be able to use that knowledge to settle other claims in the region.’

The decision was also well received by both the Kimberley Land Council (KLC), representing the claimants, and the WA Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA), representing the majority of pastoralists in the region.

KLC executive director Mr Wayne Bergmann said: ‘This is a strong recognition of people’s native title rights under Australian law. This

recognition is a great outcome for the Wanjina–Wunggurr Wilinggin traditional owners. The court clearly accepted that these peoples make up a united cultural bloc.

‘We hope governments will now recognise the strong native title rights of Aboriginal people right across the Kimberley. It is time to agree that Kimberley Aboriginal people, with their strong, clear, and continuing connection to country, need not go through long legal battles to justify themselves in court. We have been saying for some time that there is a better, quicker, less expensive and more respectful and certain way to recognise native title.’

PGA native title committee chair, Mr John Clapin, said the decision affirmed certainty to pastoralists who have leases covered by the claim, by recognising their ongoing rights to manage, develop and maintain their leases.

He said it would give pastoralists more confidence to develop access arrangements with Indigenous people, based on the good neighbourly relations between pastoralists and Aboriginal people in the region. ■



**Left to right: Kimberley Land Council principal legal officer, Ian Irving, and executive director, Wayne Bergmann, with Tribunal Deputy President Fred Chaney at the Mount Barnett hearing.**



**Kimberley elders take part in celebrations following the determination.**

**Ms Pansy Nulgit leads local children in a dance to celebrate the determination which covers the Wanjina–Wunggurr Wilinggin and Ngarinyin claims, brought by members of the Wunambal, Worrorra and Ngarinyin language groups.**





## Lake Condah first indigenous site on National Heritage List

Lake Condah image courtesy Robin Sharrock and the Australian Heritage Photo Library.

**One of Australia's earliest aquaculture ventures, built thousands of years ago by the Guditjmara people, is the first indigenous heritage area to be placed on the new National Heritage List\*.**

The Guditjmara people nominated the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape at Victoria's Lake Condah for National Heritage Listing so that they could share its remarkable story with all Australians — and they're not stopping there. The group is now working to secure world heritage listing.

Australian Government Minister for Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, announced the national listing in July 2004. He said it offered an important opportunity to discover an aspect of indigenous life centred on sophisticated cultural use of the environment.

'At Budj Bim thousands of years ago the Guditjmara people built a highly sophisticated system of weirs, channels, water races and fish traps so they could grow and harvest fish, particularly eels,' Senator Campbell said.

'This complex piece of engineering remains visible today and covers an area of more than 100 square kilometres. It includes groups of circular stone huts: these show

**The Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape includes Mt Eccles National Park (pictured), Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission, Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area, Muldoons Aboriginal Land and Allambie Aboriginal Land.**

that rather than being a nomadic people, the Guditjmara provided food for a large settled population.'

Victoria's Lake Condah Sustainable Development project manager Damein Bell said the listing would provide all Australians with an opportunity to experience and learn from the Guditjmara people about this nationally significant cultural landscape.

'The Guditjmara people will now ensure that a management plan will be in place that sets out the area's heritage significance and details the appropriate management policies so that its values are retained for future use and appreciation,' he said.

One of the priorities of the Lake Condah Sustainable Development Project is to gain world heritage listing of the area. ■

*\* The new National Heritage List came into place on 1 January 2004 replacing the Register of National Estate. The list can include natural, indigenous or historic features or a combination of all three. Places on the list are protected to the full extent of federal government powers.*

## Benefits lead to ILUA increase

**Increased recognition that native title issues can be worked out without resorting to litigation resulted in a record number of indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) last financial year.**

The 46 new ILUAs registered by the Tribunal over 2003–04 surpassed the record-setting figure of 35 the year before — a 24 per cent increase on the number of ILUAs finalised in 2002–03.

There are now 135 ILUAs in place around Australia, covering industries and issues such as mining, infrastructure and access to traditional country. Indigenous land use agreements were created through amendments to the Native Title Act in 1998. They are voluntary agreements primarily about the use and management of land made between a native title group and other parties.

More than half of the ILUAs registered last financial year (30) were developed in Queensland. There were 13 developed in the Northern Territory and one each in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

Tribunal President Mr Graeme Neate said the level of growth in the number of agreements finalised over the year indicated a growing acknowledgement of the effectiveness of ILUAs on the ground.

'We are seeing real benefits flowing to communities all around Australia through the negotiation of indigenous land use agreements,' he said. 'More and more people are realising that native title issues can be worked out in a mutually beneficial way that does not involve expensive and gruelling litigation.'

Among the ILUAs finalised through the year were three agreements between a developer and nine traditional owner groups from north Queensland about cultural heritage protection during the construction of a 390-kilometre gas pipeline.

An ILUA between the Eastern Guruma people of Western Australia and Hamersley Iron enabled continued exploration and development of iron ore reserves while securing a range of social benefits for the Aboriginal community. In the Northern Territory, a number of community living areas in remote areas were finalised using ILUAs. ■



**Left to right: ATSI Commission for Western Australia South West, Mr Farley Garlett, Mr Ray Blackwood and The Hon. Ernie Bridge pictured at the Tribunal's NAIDOC Week celebrations in July. The event was organised by Indigenous staff in Perth and included presentations by five Martu native title holders, including Linda Dorendorff, the deputy chairperson of the Martu prescribed body corporate. Ms Dorendorff spoke of the pride that the Martu people feel to be formally recognised as native title holders of a 136,000-square-kilometre area of the Western Desert in the Pilbara region of the state's north.**

**Left to right: Jim Wright of the NSW Native Title Board, James Gaston of the Central Queensland Land Council, Bonita Mabo, Russell Blair of the Central Queensland Land Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority chairman Toshie Kris and at front, Abe Marita.**



AIATSIS images courtesy Lesley Johns

## Conference hears of Yorta Yorta struggle

**At the last session of this year's native title conference — organised by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) — an elder from the Yorta Yorta nation, Henry Atkinson, got up to speak.**

After three days in Adelaide, during which more than 450 people heard over 60 presentations from lawyers, judges, anthropologists, government ministers and traditional owners, the packed hall fell silent when Mr Atkinson told his story.

He spoke of the effect of the Federal Court's judgment with the now famous words from Justice Olney: that the Yorta Yorta people's ties with country had been 'washed away by the tides of history'.

'This had a devastating effect on the elders; people of a good age who had struggled for so many years and then to not even be recognised as people in their own land,' he said.

'It was history being re-visited, a repeat of days gone by and shows that for all of our years of struggle, we are still classified as not "being".'

Mr Atkinson said Indigenous people thinking of entering the native title process needed a very strong base of support. 'The joy of winning such a claim would be great but if the claim was rejected, your people will need this support; for it will affect so many, not only the elders but the younger generation.'

Through the creation of a corporation working under the Yorta Yorta umbrella, the

effort for recognition continued after the Federal Court's decision and the subsequent unsuccessful High Court challenge. As a result, the Yorta Yorta came to an agreement in June with the Victoria Government about the management of the Barmah Forest which covers 7,000 square kilometres of red gum forest and waterways. It recognises the Yorta Yorta as the traditional owners of country, includes Yorta Yorta people in its management and involves training and skill development for Yorta Yorta youth.

Conference coordinator and manager of the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS, Dr Lisa Strelein, said the Yorta Yorta experience had shown that the native title process was an important one, symbolically as well as functionally.

'Native title will continue to play a central role in political settlement because, for better or worse, it now provides a framework within which non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people conceive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, and it



**Professor Mick Dodson speaking at the AIATSIS Native Title Conference.**

provides the bulwark against which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can build their claims for greater recognition,' she said. ■

*Papers from the conference are available on the AIATSIS website at: [www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/conf2004/papers/papers.html](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/conf2004/papers/papers.html) .*

**Left to right: Professor Mick Dodson with traditional owners from South Australia, David Brown, Ian Crombie, Dean Ah Chee and Rhonda Agius.**





Larapinta image courtesy Francine Chinn, NT Government.

## Larapinta agreement jumps final hurdle

**An indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) that will allow the first significant release of residential land in Alice Springs in almost 10 years passed its final hurdle on 12 August when the Tribunal formally registered it.**

Under the agreement, the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation (LAAC) surrendered native title to the Northern Territory Government to enable the creation of freehold blocks of land and roads in the Larapinta Valley subdivision, west of the Alice Springs town centre. Up to 20 hectares of land will be released under the deal.

Native title was recognised over the Alice Springs area in May 2000. The LAAC is the prescribed body corporate that holds

**Left to right: Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne and NT Chief Minister Clare Martin with the chairperson of the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, Mr Brian Stirling, and deputy chairperson Ms Betty Pearce signing the agreement in April.**

native title on behalf of the Arrernte people.

The Central Land Council assisted Lhere Artepe to consult hundreds of native title holders from the three estate groups — Antulye, Mparntwe and Irlpme — in the Alice Springs area, that would be affected by the agreement.

The resolution of native title issues has been critical to countering housing shortages and increasing land prices in Alice Springs in recent times.

The Tribunal's Northern Territory manager Mr Tony Shelley said the Larapinta ILUA was a key example of how native title groups and governments could come together to benefit the whole community. ■

## Meeting confirms national approach to indigenous fishing

**A meeting involving Indigenous groups, fishing managers and industry bodies, convened by the Tribunal in Adelaide, has confirmed the move towards a national approach to managing the customary fishing practices of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders with the fishing activities of other users.**

A major outcome of the meeting of the National Indigenous Fishing Technical Working Group on 1 June was an agreement to develop a set of nationally endorsed principles to guide policy and strategy in relation to the fishing activities of Indigenous people.

The principles are currently being drafted and, if adopted and implemented, will have great potential for guiding the future development of indigenous fishing strategies within the context of sustainable fisheries management.

The technical working group, comprised of experts from the seafood industries, recreational fishing, indigenous fishing, native title, and state and federal government natural resource managers, was established following a resolution passed by more than 70 Indigenous delegates in October last year at the national indigenous fishing rights conference.

The resolution, which was further endorsed by the full conference plenary, says that local, regional, state and national structures need to be established to coordinate indigenous fishing strategies.

Working with the authority of their respective organisations, the representatives at the meeting agreed that the next step to progress this resolution was to develop the guiding principles.

Input has now been received from all stakeholders, and it is envisaged that agreement on the full set of principles will be reached within the next month.

For more information about the National Indigenous Fishing Technical Working Group, go to the 'Current Projects' section of the Tribunal's website ([www.nntt.gov.au/media/Projects.html](http://www.nntt.gov.au/media/Projects.html)) and subscribe to our 'Indigenous fishing bulletin'. ■



**Traditional Aboriginal owners of north-western Victoria met at Lake Boga near Swan Hill on 3 and 4 August to discuss a regional resolution of their native title claims. The meeting was one of the largest gatherings of traditional owners in the region since their involvement in the native title process. Tribunal Member Doug Williamson is pictured at the event with some young Indigenous performers, keeping warm in a possum skin cloak.**

## Project looks at decision-making in Indigenous communities

**Over the past few months, groups involved in native title have been discussing the decision-making, dispute management, facilitation and mediation practices of and for Indigenous communities.**

In May and June 2004, a series of workshops was conducted by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) as part of its Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP).

The project aims to identify the range of decision-making and dispute management processes available and, from these, develop best practice information. AIATSIS held workshops in Bundaberg, Cairns and Perth with staff from the Gurang Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Central Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, North Queensland Land Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority and Yamatji Bana Baaba Marlpa Land and Sea Council.

A fourth workshop was held with chief executive officers from native title representative bodies in June 2004 (just prior to the Native Title Conference in Adelaide). The project coordinators presented their findings from the first three workshops and sought advice from the CEOs about possible future directions for the project.

Once the project reference group has commented on the draft summary report, the report will be revised and made available on the website.

The project team is planning more workshops for Indigenous mediation practitioners, general mediation practitioners and one to develop an evaluation protocol for training.

As part of the project, it will also set up an email network for Indigenous facilitators and mediation practitioners: the first discussion will be about the establishment of a register of indigenous practitioners which raises questions about access, criteria for inclusion and maintenance of the list beyond the life of the project (June 2006).

Indigenous facilitators or mediators who wish to be added to this preliminary list can email [ifamp@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ifamp@aiatsis.gov.au) or for general information, visit the website: [www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ifamp/project/theproject\\_frameset.html](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/ifamp/project/theproject_frameset.html) ■



**New Tribunal member, Mr Robert (Bob) Faulkner PSM.**

he received a Public Service Medal for outstanding service in the delivery of improved services to Indigenous communities.

Together with his Tribunal responsibilities, Mr Faulkner is manager of the Indigenous Coordination Centre based in Tamworth.

Mr Faulkner is a custodian of Aboriginal sites in the Moonbi area north of Tamworth and conducts cultural tours of the bush and national parks. He is also an authorised marriage celebrant and Justice of the Peace. ■

## New part-time member appointed

**The National Native Title Tribunal has a new part-time member — Mr Robert Norman (Bob) Faulkner PSM, an Anaiwon man from northern New South Wales.**

Mr Faulkner has had a long career in the Australian Public Service and has extensive experience in advising governments on indigenous affairs.

In the 2003 Australia Day Honours

## Tribunal video wins coveted award

The Tribunal's information video *Native Title Stories: Rights, Recognition, Relationships* has won a prestigious industry award. It topped the Best Indigenous Resource category over four finalists in the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Awards, which were presented in Melbourne on 2 July. Mr Michael Tear, director of Bearcage Productions which produced the video, said the ATOM awards were highly prized within the industry, being sponsored by agencies such as SBS Independent, the Australian Film Commission and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. The video, shot in two stages in 2003, looks at six different communities around Australia and the ways people have handled the challenges of the native title process. Since its release in February, it has become a popular information tool, with around

1,500 videos and DVDs distributed to native title representative bodies, industry groups, government departments and libraries around the country. Copies can be ordered from the Tribunal's website: [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au) under 'Information and Publications'. ■



**Tribunal media manager Elisabeth Mealey holding the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) award.**