



Anniversary marked with special DVD

LAST 3 June marked 15 years of native title in Australia. To celebrate the occasion, the National Native Title Tribunal worked within a strict budget to produce a DVD documenting the history of this complex part of Australian law.

The DVD production, *15 Years of Native Title*, aired on National Indigenous Television this week.

It will soon be part of the Tribunal's suite of products and publications available to the public.

The DVD explores the four native title determinations of Mabo, Wik and Wik Way, Yorta Yorta and Noonkanbah.

In October 2007, a film crew travelled to Noonkanbah Station, in the Kimberley, Aurukun Shire, in Cape York, Cairns and Melbourne to film testimonials given by participants from each determination following the Mabo decision.

Archival footage was used to show what impact the Mabo decision had on the country, how it did away with the concept of terra nullius and what attitudes the wider community had on native title.

Participants included legal

representatives, a pastoralist and claimants who recollected their experiences of being part of the native title process.

Their stories testify that in some communities there has been a definite change in attitude towards native title over the past 15 years.

Both the archived footage and the testimonials showed how a lack of knowledge about native title and the Indigenous people's rights to land and waters in the past allowed negative attitudes to form. In some cases, these attitudes created unwanted controversy and hindrances for the native title system and for reconciliation. However, the DVD also shows that across Australia there now is a better understanding of native title. It demonstrates that through agreement rather than litigation, lasting outcomes and relationships between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can be achieved.

As mentioned in the DVD, more than

100 native title decisions have been made over the past 15 years, with three-quarters of those decisions finding that native title exists.

Of those findings, more than 80 per cent have been made by agreement.

Orders for the DVD can be placed online at www.nntt.gov.au or by freecall within Australia on 1800 640 501.

Native Title and You

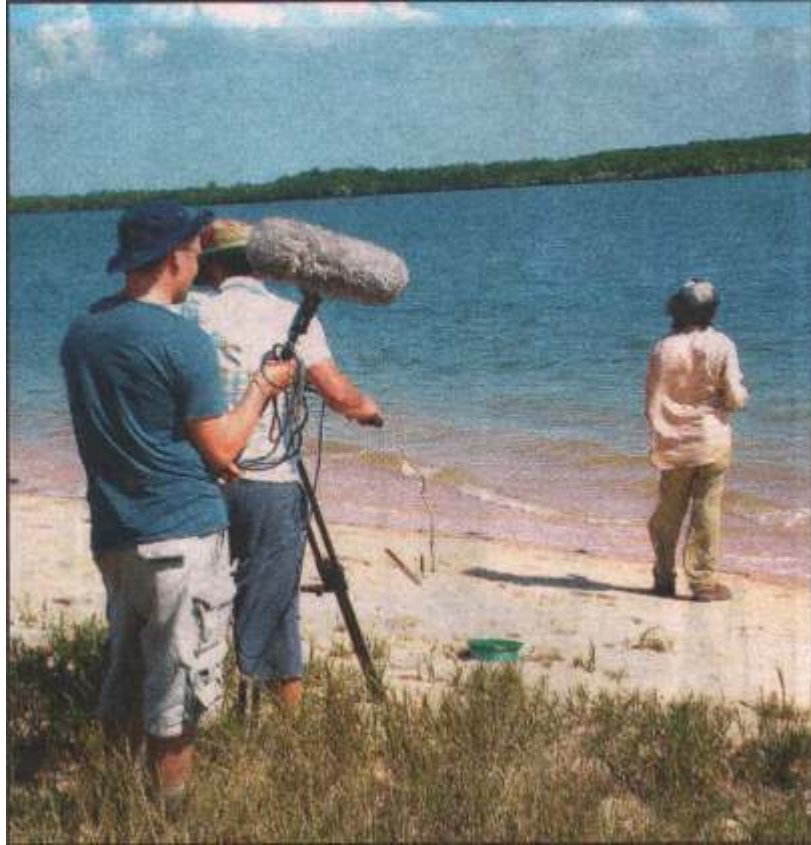


**With National
Native Title
Tribunal
Acting
Registrar
FRANKLYN
GAFFNEY**

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A Rebel Films crew taking footage for the native title DVD at the Aurukun Shire community in north Queensland.