





CONFERENCE TITLE AND THEMES

This year's title 'Living with Native Title, from the Bush to the Sea' attracted speakers from native title backgrounds including claimants, rights holders, PBC directors, lawyers, researchers and traditional owners to present and share stories from the broader range of native title.

The conference was attended by staff and executive members of every Native Title Representative Body in the country and a large number of Prescribed Bodies Corporate and Indigenous people involved in native title and related areas of land management, governance and economic development. It attracted judges, and Court registrars, National Native Title Tribunal Members and staff, state and federal government officials in native title and other areas, members of various industry groups, in particular mining and business development. The media were also a presence at the conference this year, with follow up coverage.

AIATSIS is proud of the strong Indigenous traditions of the conference, including the Welcome to Country ceremony, Indigenous Talking Circles, the Mabo Lecture, and preconference workshops for native title groups and their representative bodies. The conference embraces cultural diversity within Indigenous society and values dynamic intercultural conversations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous conference delegates.

The National Native Title Conference is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors. We take this opportunity to provide you with feedback on the outcomes of the conference.

WELCOME AND OPENING

The 15th Annual National Native Title Conference was co-convened by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and NTSCORP Limited, and hosted by the Gumbaynggirr people, the traditional owners of the Coffs Harbour region. The Conference was held at Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort from Monday 2 – Wednesday 4 June 2014.

This year, the conference attracted over 600 delegates over the three day program. Half of the delegates identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The conference promotes native title as an agenda for justice for people and country, including the broader relationships between traditional owners and country.

The 2014 conference program included one day of closed workshops (NTRB and PBC Closed Program) for Indigenous people and their native title representative bodies and service providers, followed by the two-day Public Program for registered delegates.

The dynamic cultural program included a Welcome to Country for all conference delegates on NTRB and PBC Program, the Conference Welcome Reception, and on the first public program day. Gumbaynggirr Traditional Owners Uncle Gary Williams, Annika Rotumah and Uncle Larry Kelly gave conference delegates a warm welcome including a smoking ceremony at the Official Welcome Reception which was held Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort Bay Marquee.



Gumbaynggirr Elders Choir performing at the official welcome reception. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Wajad Ngaarle dancers performing at the official welcome reception. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS

Conference Convenors



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is the world's premier institution for information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present. The Institute undertakes and encourages scholarly, ethical, community-based research across all aspects of Indigenous studies. AIATSIS also holds a priceless collection of audio, the world's largest archives, visual and printed materials relating to Australia's Indigenous peoples' history and culture, and has its own publishing house, Aboriginal Studies Press. AIATSIS' activities affirm and raise awareness among all Australians, and people of other nations, of the richness and diversity of Australian Indigenous cultures and histories.

AIATSIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This concept is inspired by the idea of traditional Songlines, lines that travel across the length and breadth of the country. These songlines are determined by knowledge of country, culture and belief systems. The concept references traditional land boundaries, initiation and ceremonial sites.

The multitude of colours represents the diversity of landscapes within Australia; i.e., Desert, Bush, Freshwater, Saltwater. There is a vibrant energy to this concept. It is aimed to excite and inspire all people to become involved in the AIATSIS community and support the preservation and celebration of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.



NTSCORP LIMITED

NTSCORP Limited is the Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Our vision is to promote social justice and economic, cultural and social independence for the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas and waters.

Our purpose is to achieve our vision in assisting Traditional Owners achieve these aims through native title and other related purposes.

NTSCORP offers assistance to Traditional Owners in the following areas:

- Facilitation and assistance of native title claims;
- Dispute resolution;
- Notification of Future Acts activities;
- Agreement making; and
- Research.

To achieve our vision and purpose it is essential that the values of NTSCORP are not only stated, but actively pursued. Our values are:

- Respect for elders and other members of the community;
- A commitment to achieve positive outcomes for Traditional Owners and community;
- Advance the capacity of self-determination and community building for Traditional Owners;
- To act in a professional, honest and accountable manner at all times;
- To provide efficient, fair and transparent performance of our functions; and
- To provide a safe, diverse and trusting workplace.

NTSCORP is located on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Dharug Nation. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.



Conference Hosts

GUMBAYNGGIRR TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The People

Almost 5500 Indigenous Australians call Gumbaynggirr Country home. The vast majority of these people are Gumbaynggirr People proudly living on Country. Gumbaynggirr People have fought hard to remain on and protect their traditional lands, waters and seas. Some of the very earliest Aboriginal reserves in NSW were created in response to the demands for security made by Traditional Owners. In 1937 the only Aboriginal Protection Board Station in Gumbaynggirr Country was closed and the residents were ordered to move south to Burnt Bridge in neighbouring Dunghutti Country. However, many families resisted and either remained on Country, whether at the church-run missions, family farms or unofficial camps, or returned as soon as they could. Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council, at the southernmost edge of Gumbaynggirr Country, was one of the first organisations in Australia to apply directly to ATSIC for funds to commence native title research. Gumbaynggirr People have successfully secured the establishment of the Gaagal Wanggaan National Park at Nambucca Heads, which they own through their Local Aboriginal Land Councils and manage jointly with National Parks and Wildlife. Gumbaynggirr People, together with NTSCORP Limited, are currently in settlement negotiations with the NSW Government in relation to two native title applications. The first located at Nambucca Heads is intended to be resolved by consent determination and ILUA and will be the first determination of native title over land held by a Local Aboriginal Land Council in NSW. The second located at Urunga is intended to be resolved by ILUA securing tenure over a traditional Gumbaynggirr camp site.

Gumbaynggirr People have proudly represented their community in various social, political and cultural forums over the years and continue to do so. Gary Foley and Gary Williams, who was one of the first two Aboriginal people to attend Sydney University, helped to organise and lead the Freedom Rides in 1965. Gumbaynggirr man Aden Ridgeway was NSW's first Aboriginal Senator in the Federal Parliament. His uncle, Cr Martin Ballangarry, is the first Goorie to sit on the Nambucca Shire Council. Emily Walker and the Muurrbay Language Centre have done extraordinary work to preserve and teach Gumbaynggirr language: Gumbaynggirr is the only Aboriginal language in NSW to be taught to HSC level. Singer Emma Donovan is a proud Gumbaynggirr woman incorporating language in several of her songs.

Hip-hop artist MC Wire calls Bowraville home and country legend Troy Cassar Daley traces his lineage back to South Grafton.

Gumbaynggirr artists such as Sandra Buchanan, Les Murdock and Sharon Smith have been popularising traditional and contemporary designs. St Mary's Catholic School won an award of \$20, 000 for 'Excellence in Education' and Bowraville Central School received the Inaugural Cohesive Community School Award from the NSW Department of Education. Orara High School is committed to the preservation of culture through dance and performing arts with the establishment of 'Wajad Ngaarle'.

The Language

In 1986 a group of Goories of Gumbaynggirr descent came together to share language and culture. By the end of 1988 they had worked out an orthography, collected language and oral histories from Gumbaynggirr Elders, provided free language kits to interested members of their community, held weekly adult language classes, begun teaching Gumbaynggirr in schools, collated prior research and written a collection of Gumbaynggirr stories and plays. What followed was the establishment of the Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative at Nambucca Heads, with its primary goal of gathering and studying Gumbaynggirr language and culture resources and developing teaching materials. Since then, Muurrbay have published a number of books, produced an on-line dictionary and various other teaching resources and are now assisting neighbouring communities such as Yaegl to do the same. Gumbaynggirr is the only Aboriginal language in NSW to be taught up to HSC level at schools.

The Country

Gumbaynggirr Country stretches from Yarrahapinni near Scotts Head in the south, north to Corindi, inland and further north to south Grafton and west to Nymboida and Ebor. It includes Bellingen; Coffs Harbour; Dorrigo; Glenreagh; Nambucca Heads; Eungai; Nymboida River; Red Rock/Corindi; One Tree Point; South Grafton; Urunga; Woolgoolga, Bowraville and Macksville.

Gumbaynggirr Country encompasses some of the most beautiful coastline in NSW as well as estuaries, mountains, several rivers and some tablelands.



Keynote Events

The National Native Title Conference has built a reputation for attracting powerful and passionate speakers. This year was no different.

OPENING PLENARY, DAY 1 (CLOSED PROGRAM)

THE HON. NIGEL SCULLION

MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND LEADER OF THE NATIONALS IN SENATE NATIVE TITLE ORGANISATIONS: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Over the National Native Title Conference's 15-year history, policy makers, governments and the judiciary have come to know the event as being well organised and successfully executed. Governments have regularly used the conference as a key event to deliver legislative and policy messages to Indigenous people.

This year's Opening Plenary for the Closed Program was given by Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Leader of the Nationals in Senate, the Hon Nigel Scullion. His speech focused on economic opportunities in the native title space and the future of land tenure.



The Hon. Nigel Scullion. Photographer John Paul Janke, AIATSIS



Welcome to Country by Gumbaynggirr traditional owners. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Welcome to Country by Aunty Elaine Turnbull and Mark Flanders. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Welcome to Country by Gumbaynggirr traditional owners. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



2014 MABO LECTURE

DR WEN-CHI KUNG

PRESIDENT, TAIWAN INDIGENOUS SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

LACKING THE 'MABO WONDER' BUT STILL STRIVING FOR IT: THE HARD STRUGGLES FOR INDIGENOUS SELF GOVERNMENT AND LAND RIGHTS IN TAIWAN

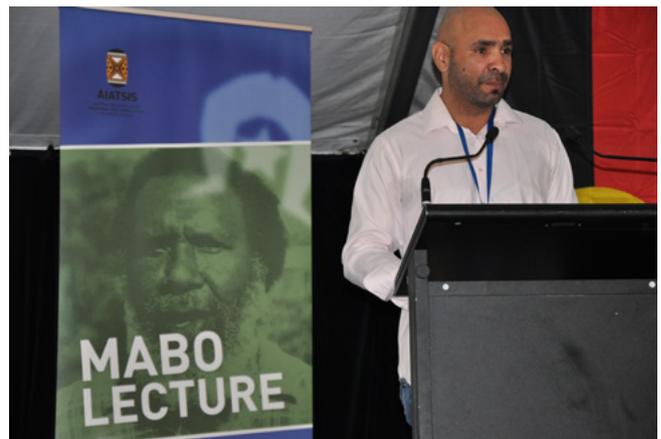
A highlight of this year's conference was the Mabo Lecture, which is held at the Conference each year to honour the legacy of Eddie Koiki Mabo and the Meriam people whose determination and commitment changed the face of Australian law. This year the Wagga Torres Strait Dance Company performed traditional dancing and singing of the Torres Strait to open the official Mabo Lecture. Introductory remarks were made by Ezra Mabo, who shared his story of his upbringing and his time with his late father Eddie Koiki Mabo.

Dr Wen-Chi Kung was the International guest speaker at the first day of the Public Program and delivered this year's Mabo Lecture. Dr Kung is a member of the Tayal Tribe of Taiwan and an elected Member of the Legislative Yuan (National Parliament of Taiwan).

In his lecture Dr Kung outlined aspects of his people's journey towards securing land justice and political liberalisation. Their experiences attempting to securing political recognition, territorial security and self-government run parallel to those of Indigenous Australians, and Dr Kung's lecture brought home the extent to which Indigenous Taiwanese and Indigenous Australians share histories and destinies that are deeply embedded in colonialism.



Dr Wen-Chi Kung. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



Ezra Mabo. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dancers. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dancers. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



KEYNOTE LECTURE, DAY 2 (OPEN PROGRAM)



BRIAN WYATT

CEO NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE COUNCIL

NATIVE TITLE AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS POLICY

Brian Wyatt is a Churchill Fellow with almost 40 years' experience in administration of Aboriginal Affairs, and is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Native Title Council (NNTC). Brian's keynote on the second day of the Public Program was a response to Nigel Scullion's opening address, and discussed the changes in native title and the Indigenous Affairs policy. Mr Wyatt raised some of the issues he thinks should be the focus of efforts in order to improve the operation of the native title system, and emphasised his belief that achieving outcomes for Traditional Owners should be the key driver of Indigenous policy. Mr Wyatt also spoke about the recent government Review of Native Title Organisations and highlighted the urgent need for support for Prescribed Bodies Corporate, many of which are under-resourced.



Brian Wyatt. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



Matthew Jones-Rotumah, Uncle Martin Ballangarry and Jannali Futcher. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



Michael Bennett and Grace Koch, Public Program Day 2. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Fiona Gregory, Lynette Shaw, Gordon Cole, Frank Davey, Bernadette Angus, Rosanna Angus. Public Program Day 2. Photographer John Paul Janke, AIATSIS

Program Highlights

- **NATIONAL PBC MEETING**

For the second year running, the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS hosted a National PBC Meeting immediately prior to the conference. Based on recommendations from PBCs at last year's meeting and other national PBC meetings held in 2007 and 2009, the 2014 meeting offered PBCs a safe space to network and discuss shared concerns and issues. It was attended by over 50 PBC representatives from WA, QLD, NSW, VIC and SA. The meeting was facilitated by Gordon Cole, a director on the board of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Presentations were made by Tony Lee (Yawuru PBC), Murandoo Yanner and Terrence Taylor (Gangalidda and Garawa PBC), Ned David (Torres Strait Sea and Land Council), Janine Coombs (Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners) and Aboriginal barrister Tony McAvoy. Discussion focused upon sharing experiences and success stories, as well as ways that PBCs might be able to work together and collaborate in their respective regions, as well as nationally.



National PBC Meeting delegates. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



National PBC Meeting. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS



National PBC Meeting. Photographer Andrew Turner, AIATSIS

• NTRB AND PBC CLOSED PROGRAM SESSIONS

The NTRB and PBC Closed Program featured presentations on a diverse range of topics including:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| law reform | economic development |
| authorisation and agreement making | land and water management |
| information and risk management | cultural heritage management |
| governance for regional PBCs | international jurisprudence |
| native title claim research | carbon farming |
| compensation | native title settlements |
| national representation | |

A number of Indigenous Talking Circles were also held.

Major topics of discussion included the Federal Government's new Indigenous policy framework and the findings of the Review of Native Title Organisations. An opportunity was also provided for NTRB and NTSP Board Members to meet and discuss these and other developments in the native title sector.

• FORUM ON ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Recognition and sovereignty were also on the agenda. Chaired by Chief Executive Officer of the NNTC, Mick Gooda and facilitated by Indigenous Barrister Tony McAvoy who delivered the forum to consider options for the development of an Assembly of First Nations and the need for a treaty framework.

• OPEN SPACE WORKSHOP

Brendan McKeague and Toni Bauman facilitated an Open Space workshop around the question 'How Can We Work Better Together so that Decisions are Meaningful and Agreements Stick?' Around 35 conference delegates participated in the process with eight participants nominating topics that were discussed in break out groups over two 90 minute sessions.

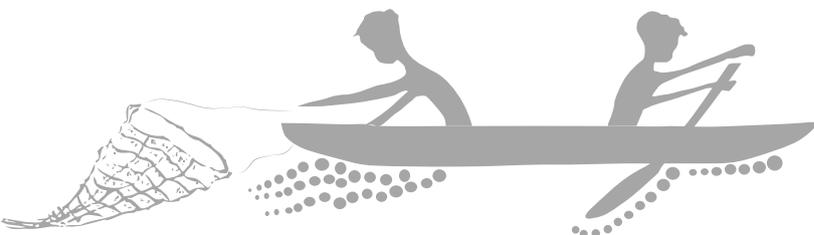
The workshop emerged from an embryonic community of practice formed out of the 2013 Native Title Conference in Alice Springs and previous work of AIATSIS in the Indigenous Facilitation and Mediation Project (IFaMP).



Open Space Facilitation Workshop. Photographer Bryce Gray, AIATSIS



Michael Meegan leading discussion on the use of Open Space principles. Photographer John Paul Janke, AIATSIS





• **NATIVE TITLE – THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

A long established tradition of the conference, this year's 'Native Title Year in Review' was presented by Mishka Holt (Principal Solicitor of Mishka Holt Legal Practice) and Hema Hariharan (Manager, Strategic Development NTSCORP). This presentation recognised and celebrated the achievements of native title groups over the past twelve months.



Mishka Holt. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Hema Hariharan. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS

• **EMERGING ISSUES IN INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**

As part of the 2014 National Native Title Conference the AIATSIS Centre for Land and Water Research convened a half day workshop to identify emerging issues in Indigenous land and sea management across Australia and future research and resource needs.

Convened by Dr Rod Kennett and Dr Tran Tran from AIATSIS and facilitated by Dr Dermot Smyth, the workshop was held in response to the significant expansion of Indigenous land and sea management initiatives over the last decade and the ongoing demands from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to regain control of land and undertake responsibilities to care for country.

The workshop provided opportunities for over 60 Indigenous land managers, Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs), Native Title Representative Bodies and Service providers, state and federal government departments and researchers from Australian states and territories to share ideas on emerging issues in land and sea management.



Melissa George. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Geoff Buchanan. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



- **INDIGENOUS TALKING CIRCLES**

The role of women and men in native title was the focus of the two Indigenous Talking Circles. The Women's Indigenous Talking Circle was lead by Jodi Neale, Doris Eaton and Robyne Bancroft. The discussion 'Women, Leadership and Native Title' touched on women playing a significant role through diverse roles in native title matters and related consultations and negotiations amongst Aboriginal groups around the country. In the presentation the ladies shared their experiences and the different kinds of difference through leadership roles women take on in the Pilbara groups.

The Men's Indigenous Talking Circle was facilitated by members of the NTSCORP Board, Chairperson Michael Bell, Member and Directors Allan Lamb and Jim Wright. This session provided the opportunity for Indigenous men to meet, share and discuss issues of specific concern to them.



Women's Indigenous Talking Circle. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Women's Indigenous Talking Circle. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS

Cultural Program

CONFERENCE ARTWORK

WAY OF LIFE (2014)

ANTHONY (TONY) HART

The conference logo was based on artwork by Anthony (Tony) Hart. Tony is a proud Gumbaynggirr/Dhan-gadi man and is a self-taught artist. All of Tony's paintings and ceramic works flow from his intimate knowledge and love of his country. Each individually created piece reflects the abundant diversity of plant and animal life of the region as well as the natural beauty and vibrant colours of the ocean, river and rainforest landscapes which feature in the create stories of the Gumbaynggirr and the neighbouring Dhan-gadi people. Tony's beautiful images were created in response to this year's conference theme and were featured on all conference materials including program booklets, t-shirts and banners.



Anthony (Tony) Hart. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Way of Life artwork

TRADE FAIR

Sponsors were given the opportunity to set up a stall on all three days of the conference and were provided with an exhibition space to promote their organisation and network with delegates. Once again the trade fair proved an ideal forum for engaging with large numbers of native title stakeholders and provided store holders with a unique opportunity to have face-to-face conversations.

This year the conference welcomed local Indigenous artists and crafts people. Throughout the conference delegates were able to browse and purchase goods from the conference Trade Fair which enabled local Indigenous people to exhibit, display and sell art, craft and other products.



NTSCORP staff and trade stall. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS

CONFERENCE DINNER

The conference dinner presents an unparalleled opportunity for delegates to network in a relaxed atmosphere. This year the conference was held in the Maamgaduying ('meeting place') Marquee on the grounds of Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort.

The Conference entertainment hosted the Buddy Knox Blues Band from Tamworth in NSW. Described as 'Australia's own BB King', Buddy Knox has notched his blues belt with some of the biggest music festivals in Australia. Also performing were the Bell River Band who originate from Central West NSW. The band has extensive years of experience within the live music industry performing at various NAIDOC events around Australia, overseas and are regulars at formal functions and charity events. The Bell River Band got delegates on their feet dancing to their classic rock, country, country rock, pop, reggae, motown and R'n'B hits.

John Paul Janke and John Roe from AIATSIS had the honour of being the Master of Ceremonies for the Conference Dinner, keeping the proceedings moving along while creating a fun and vibrant feel throughout the conference dinner.



Buddy Knox Blues Band. Dinner photobooth



Luke Ah-See, Bell River Band. Photographer, John Paul Janke AIATSIS

SPONSORSHIP

EXPOSURE FOR SPONSORSHIP - REPORT ON 2014

SPEECHES

AIATSIS Chairperson Professor Mick Dodson and NTSCORP Chairperson Mr Michael Bell thanked and outlined each of the Conference's sponsors at the official welcome and opening of the Conference. Sponsors are thanked and introduced according to their level of sponsorship, beginning with Principal Sponsor and following through to conference supporters. Sponsors were also outlined, acknowledged and thanked during Chair Dodson's address to attendees at the conference's formal end of conference dinner.

The official welcome and opening and closing plenary sessions are conference highlights, attracting large audiences and featuring prestigious keynote speakers – with the scene set by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural performances that open the day's session.

As always, the conference attracted media coverage before, during and after the conference. AIATSIS also provided sponsors only banners displayed in the lobby of Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort, and on stage in the Maamgaduying ('meeting place') marquee, which hosted the plenary sessions each morning of the conference.

Sponsors logos were prominently displayed on LCD screens placed throughout the Maamgaduying marquee, and on large screens in the breakout rooms, as well as during break in the main lobby area of the venue. Sponsors appear and remain on screen for certain measured time periods according to their level of sponsorship. The process begins with the acknowledgement of Principal sponsor whose logo stands alone on the screen and following through to conference supporters which share a screen.



AIATSIS Chairperson Mick Dodson and NTSCORP Chair Person Michael Bell at the Official Welcome Ceremony. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS



Delegates at the Official Welcome Ceremony. Photographer Brigitte Russell, AIATSIS

CONFERENCE MATERIALS

Sponsors were also promoted throughout conference materials, including the conference booklet and program. All conference delegates received these items in their conference packs – many collect and keep the booklet due to the high quality of its content and design.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Sponsors are featured on the conference website – with logos and a brief description and website link displayed on the dedicated “sponsors” page.

OUR VALUED SPONSORS

The conference attracted \$165,000 sponsorship to support the participation of Indigenous delegates. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) were the principal sponsors. The Attorney-General’s Department (AG’s) were the major sponsor, followed by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), CSIRO, Abbott Trustee Solutions, Newmont Asia Pacific, Whitehaven Coal, Reconciliation Australia as the Sponsors and Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), Australian Executive Trustees (AET) and Perpetual as the conference supporters.

AIATSIS would like to acknowledge and thank all sponsor and supporters of the 2014 National Native Title Conference. Without the contribution of our sponsors the conference wouldn’t be as successful as it is.

We look forward to you joining us again in 2015, in Port Douglas QLD.

FUTURE SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in working with AIATSIS to sponsor the 2015 National Native Title Conference, please contact Shiane Lovell.

SPONSORSHIP CONTACT

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AIATSIS staff celebrating 50 years of AIATSIS. Photographer John Paul Janke, AIATSIS



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