

# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## JULY–SEPTEMBER

compiled by Jason O'Neill

### JULY

#### 08/07

- The winning design for the Queensland Indigenous War Memorial was unveiled during NAIDOC Week in Musgrave Park, South Brisbane. The memorial will be installed at ANZAC Square in Brisbane. It will be the first memorial to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women in Queensland.

#### 20/07

- The Federal Court finds that the Yindjibarndi were entitled to exclusive native title rights and interests over all of the unallocated Crown land in their claimed area and the Yandeyarra Reserve, except for the land occupied by the Tom Price railway. This includes land occupied by the FMG Firetail mine, which entitles YAC to pursue FMG for compensation.
- A study giving complete control over excavation and curation to the Mirarr traditional owners of Madjedbebe in the Northern Territory, published archaeological findings in *Nature* that confirms Aboriginal people lived in Australia at least 65,000 years ago.

#### 21.07

- The man who ran over and killed 14-year-old Elijah Doughty with his ute was found not guilty of manslaughter, and convicted of dangerous driving causing death.

#### 31.07

- The National Justice Project in Sydney successfully fundraises \$62,000 to launch the Copwatch program to train people in Aboriginal communities about using mobile phones to document harassment by authorities.

### AUGUST

#### 05/08

- Bill Shorten declares Labor's support for the recommendations of the Referendum Council at the Garma Festival. Malcom Turnbull is more equivocal, announcing only that he will consider the recommendations.

#### 10/08

- The Recognise campaign for Indigenous constitutional recognition is quietly abandoned after five years and tens of millions of dollars in funding.

#### 15/08

- Yarra City Council in Melbourne votes unanimously to stop referring to January 26 as Australia Day and to cease holding citizenship ceremonies on the date.

#### 17/08

- Frank Young, Unrupa Rhonda Dick, and Anwar Young win the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Prize with their work *Many Spears—Young Fella Story*.

#### 21.08

- Darebin City Council in Melbourne joins with Yarra City Council, and votes to unanimously stop referring to January 26 as Australia Day.

#### 22/08

- Stan Grant calls for a plaque on James Cook's statue in Sydney's Hyde Park saying that he 'discovered this territory 1770' to be changed.

### 23/08

- First Nations People in Peru have seized oil facilities operated by Frontera Energy Corp, demanding that the government apply an Indigenous rights law before signing a new contract with the Canadian company.

### 25/08

- Malcolm Turnbull makes a post on Facebook condemning the vandalism of statues of Lachlan Macquarie and James Cook in Sydney's Hyde Park as a 'cowardly criminal act' that was 'part of a deeply disturbing and totalitarian campaign to not just challenge our history but to deny it and obliterate it'.

### 26/08

- Michael Gunner, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory and president of the Australia Day Council calls for a change to Australia Day celebrations. Gunner describes Australia Day as a 'day of mourning'. Gunner also expresses a desire to seek out local agreement and policy arrangements with Aboriginal communities, and adopt local Aboriginal place names.

### 29/08

- The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines announces that ten localities containing the N-word will have their names discontinued and changed. The decisions will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette in late September.

### 31/08

- The Yaegl People of the north coast of New South Wales become the first people in NSW to be granted water rights over the ocean after a 20-year battle for native title.

## SEPTEMBER

### 01/09

- Malcolm Turnbull announces that the Cashless Welfare Card trial will expand to communities in the Goldfields region of Western Australia early next year.

### 03/09

- Clinton Pryor arrives in Canberra a year after departing Perth on his 5,581km across the country. Clinton calls on Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten to meet with him and listen to the First Peoples' calls for treaty.

### 06/09

- Clinton Pryor meets with Malcolm Turnbull at Parliament House, and turns his back on Turnbull after feeling 'disrespected' by the Prime Minister.

### 11/09

- UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz releases a report detailing her concerns on the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and arguing that Australia's progress on Closing the Gap is 'woefully inadequate'.

### 06/09



- The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### 10/09

- Turnbull government asks Heritage Council to place several statues of Captain Cook on the National Heritage List. Persons caught vandalising such statues would be liable for seven years jail.