

statutory right to judicial review over decisions made by the State-based commission and measures to protect the independence of the commissioner. (*Aus, 20 Nov, p6*)*

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory has passed validation legislation in accord with Commonwealth amendments to the NTA. They have also passed legislation to change the right-to-negotiate regime to a right to consultation and to establish a Lands and Mining Tribunal to administer this. Mediation of claims is being left to the NNTT. (*WAus, 14 Nov, p11*)

GENERAL NATIVE TITLE ISSUES

International

A delegation of officials involved in the negotiation of the Nisgaa Agreement in British Columbia, will visit Canberra as part of a world tour to explain the treaty. The Nisgaa have just ratified the treaty, which is now expected to pass through the British Columbian and Federal Parliaments. The treaty delivers the Nisgaa people around eight per cent of Crown land, self-government and about \$C500 million in compensation. (*FinR, 12 Nov, p16*)

A delegation of Aboriginal people from the Kimberley region of Western Australia have talked to British diplomats and MPs because they are concerned that the NTA, as amended, will adversely affect Indigenous peoples in Australia. They are in Europe for a United Nations debate over the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Spokesperson, Kumanjayi Yu, said that he had been informed through a briefing by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, that the Australian commitment to Article 3 of the draft declaration, which relates to self-determination for Indigenous people, has changed. This follows a Cabinet resolution that repeals the commitment to self-determination for Indigenous people in Australia and elsewhere. (*CT, 29 Nov, p2*)*

National

ATSIC Chair, Gatjil Djerrkura, says reconciliation will not be possible before land rights issues are resolved fairly. (*WA, 22 Oct, p26*)

Australian Local Government Association delegates gathered for an Indigenous issues briefing ahead of the National General Assembly of Local Government. Delegates discussed issues relating to planning, coordination and delivery of services to Indigenous communities. Association President, Cr John Campbell, said that local government has been leading the way in seeking to bring about an understanding of native title in local communities with a program that centred on developing local agreements. (*ALGA Media Release, 8 Nov, p1*)

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, Mr Daryl Williams, is now responsible for native title policy. He is taking over from Senator Nick Minchin, who was responsible for native title during the development and passage of the recent amendments to the NTA. (*Attorney-General Media Release, 26 Nov*)

The Second World Indigenous Peoples Pathways conference is being held in Toowoomba. Speakers at the conference come from all over the world and include West Indian Viv Richards, a personal envoy from President Nelson Mandela, Makhenkesi Stofile, president of Eastern Cape, Senator Margaret Reynolds, Murrandoo Yanner and Samora and Humelo Biko, sons of South African freedom fighter Steve Biko. Participants are here to discuss issues of

reconciliation, multiculturalism, land rights, health and education among other things. (CM, 30 Nov, p2)

Victoria

A sign acknowledging prior Aboriginal ownership of freehold land, has been erected at a farm at Wando, Victoria. The property owners, Paul and Cathie Haw, see the sign as grassroots action towards reconciliation. The sign says; 'We are proud to acknowledge the Dja Dja Wrung people as the traditional owners of this land'. They hope this sign will be the first of many similar signs to be erected across Australia. (Weekly Times, 4 Nov, p35)

Queensland

A conference will be held in Cairns to discuss native title issues. The conference is aimed at raising awareness about possible effects on the sugarcane industry. (Herbert River Express, 10 Nov, p2)*

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government has called for submissions about what it should do with Crown land on Flinders Island. Legal Manager for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Michael Mansell, says that the Aboriginal community were hoping for the return of significant areas of Crown land. He believes that Government moves to sell off this land will jeopardise reconciliation. (Examiner, 21 Oct, p30)*

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (Not AIATSIS Publications)

Talking Common Ground

Rural Landholders for Coexistence (RLC) have published a guide to making agreements called *Talking Common Ground*. Speaking at the launch, Justice French said the first important step in any lasting agreement was getting the relationship right. Justice French said he was confident the guide would become a useful resource for landholders who want to negotiate coexistence arrangements with their Aboriginal neighbours.

Towards Common Ground includes a case study of the agreement between pastoralists and the Western (Sunset) Yalanji people on Karma Waters Station, the first formal recognition of native title on a pastoral property. This agreement involved a pastoralist and Indigenous people drawing up detailed arrangements to recognise and respect both their interests in land. (NNTT Media Release, 17 Nov)*

Finlayson, Julie 1998 *Negotiating the Registration Test for native title claims: A manual for Anthropologists working with Native Title Representative Bodies*. ATSIC, Canberra.

Summary: At a Canberra workshop entitled 'Native title workshop for anthropological practitioners', it was suggested that a practical working guide to the anthropologist's role in the registration test process be written and circulated. The manual is intended to help anthropologists preparing claims for Native Title Representative Bodies with the necessary knowledge and background to meet claim registration.

The manual is available from ATSIC in Canberra and is on their website at:

<http://www.atsic.gov.au/native/anthorego.htm>

Film

About Us: Walking With My Sisters, SBS Television

A documentary focusing on three sisters from the Arakwal people and their fight to have their native title recognised through the processes of the NTA. (Age, 14 Oct, pA27)