

working in the fields of Indigenous societies in Indonesia, the Pacific and Australia to address the above questions and others pertaining to non-western law, governance and the intersection of law, culture and politics.

Papers were presented by Colin Filer, Lawrence Kalinoe, Dionisio Soares, Andrew McWilliams, Jeff Sissons, Graham Neate, Tony Connolly, James Weiner, Francesca Merlan, Bruce Rigsby, David Martin, Lynette Blucher, Ben Smith and Susan Phillips. In addition, Ian Keen, Nic Peterson, Toni Bauman and Jon Altman acted in the roles of session convenors.

Although a wide range of topics relating to law and custom throughout the region were examined, there was a focus on recent developments in judicial understandings of tradition in the Australian native title arena. Many of the papers addressed some aspect of the evolving definition of tradition in contemporary Aboriginal land-holding communities.

The workshop was highly successful in its avowed goal—to promote a sophisticated and theoretically informed dialogue between anthropologists and legal practitioners and scholars on the intersection of legal and anthropological contributions to the definition of culture and tradition. The papers are currently being co-edited by Katie Glaskin (kglaskin@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) and James Weiner (james.weiner@anu.edu.au) for submission for publication.

---

### **Archaeology & Linguistics conference, Arcling II, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 1-4 October 2002**

Report by David Nash

The second Archaeology & Linguistics conference, Arcling II, was held at the NMA, 1-4 October 2002. Abstracts and papers are posted at <http://crlc.anu.edu.au/arcling2/>

There were papers in historical linguistics, and archaeology, exploring methodologies and case studies and looking for links between the two disciplines. While none addressed Native Title explicitly, a number of papers deal with themes of relevance to Native Title connection reports and generally evidence of continuity and particular people-land connections.

---

### **Australian Anthropological Society Annual Conference 2002, Anthropology and Diversity: Disciplinary and Practice Perspectives, 3-5 October 2002, ANU, Canberra**

Report by Benjamin R. Smith

This year's Australian Anthropological Society annual conference, on the theme of 'Anthropology and Diversity: Disciplinary and Practice Perspectives', included a number of papers of relevance for Native Title practitioners, and for anthropologists and others working in Indigenous Australian contexts more generally. More details are available on the conference website <http://www.aas.asn.au/2002conf.htm>

The majority of the relevant papers from the three parallel streams of the conference were given in the *Articulating Culture* session co-convened by Melinda Hinkson, David Martin and myself. The session attracted a wide range of papers almost exclusively dealing with Australian material, which sought to analyse the increasingly substantial interweaving of Indigenous and non-Indigenous lifeworlds across Australia, and move beyond the still-widespread anthropological circumscription of Indigenous communities which fails to elucidate the interactions through which these communities are reproduced. The papers presented were of a high quality and we are now seeking to publish an edited volume based on the session.

Papers at the session included a number of contributions from current or former em-

ployees of NTRBs alongside a number of others working as Native Title consultants or conducting academic research on Aboriginal organisations. The papers ranged from theoretical engagement with notions of the 'intercultural' (e.g., Francesca Merlan, Patrick Sullivan), through studies of particular situations of interculturalism, for example, the papers given by Sarah Holcombe on the Luritja management of the state or Julie Finlayson's analysis of case studies of governance issues in Indigenous organisations, to the analysis of interpersonal relationships, including Tony Redmond's paper on mutualities and dependencies in the pastoral north Kimberley region of Western Australia. Many of the papers also provided provocative intellectual challenges to current rhetoric, including Nic Peterson and John Taylor's paper on 'secular assimilation' in New South Wales. Papers from other conference sessions dealt with issues of Indigenous violence, public discourse and current challenges to self-determination (Gillian Cowlshaw) and issues of anthropological

analysis of Aboriginal kinship (e.g., Laurent Dousset, Ian Keen).

Key issues for those interested in Native Title related to the organisation of formal institutions representing Indigenous interests (e.g., David Martin and Bruce White's papers) which highlighted the important role of anthropological analysis in 'practical' or 'applied' contexts and extended current concerns with governance in Indigenous organisations, a theme also developed in Jeff Stead's keynote address to the conference which preceded the conference dinner.

Broadly, the conference pointed to the continuing role of anthropology both in Native Title practice and in the critique of the contemporary situation of Indigenous people within the Australian nation-state, highlighting continuing marginalisation, as well as the growing complexities of Australian Indigenous lives that remain masked by the essentialising ascription of difference.

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

---

### National

The Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum officially opened the exhibition Native Title Business, which will travel around Australia over the next three years promoting understanding, communication and reconciliation. Works include paintings, prints, photography, mixed media, installation, carving, textiles and ceramics. The exhibition was opened by Richard Johnson, executive board member of the Gurang Land Council. *Gladstone Observer*, 10 October 2002.

Around 400 people went to Geraldton in Western Australia for the annual Native Title Conference 2002. The conference hoped to hear from Indigenous communities about the success and failures of the native title process. Aboriginal delegates of the conference spoke of their resentment of the Na-

tive Title Act. They called a meeting exclusively for Aboriginal people, in which they decided to establish a national working party to provide an Aboriginal response to the Act and its problems. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chairman Geoff Clark said that ATSIC would fund the national working party. *Mid-West Times (Geraldton)*, 4 September 2002. *West Australia*, 6 September 2002.

### Northern Territory

In early September the first native title claim over land in a capital city reached the Federal Court. The claim by nine Larrakia families covers 575 sq kms of Crown land in Darwin and Palmerston. The case has been set down for 10 weeks, with Justice John Mansfield to hear evidence from the Larrakia. *Economist*, 7 September 2002. *Geelong Advertiser*, 3 September 2002. *The Australian*, 3 September 2002.