

NEWS FROM THE NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

The Native Title Conference 2003

We are delighted to announce that we have an international guest who will deliver a paper at *The Native Title Conference 2003: Native Title on the Ground*.

Associate Professor of Law, Christine Zuni Cruz, is from The University of New Mexico. A member of the Isleta Pueblo, Zuni Cruz helped establish the South West Indian Law Clinic in 1993 which provides students with an opportunity to practice Indian law. She has served as a tribal judge and a tribal gaming commissioner. In her research and teaching, Zuni Cruz explores the interface between law and culture, including the impact of law on Indian families, the practice of Indian law and the internal and modern law of Indigenous peoples nationally and internationally.

In addition to our international guest, the conference will open with the Mabo lecture, which will be presented by Noel Pearson. His paper, "The implications of the developing native title law for Indigenous land rights" will consider the consequences of the misinterpretation of the Native Title Act by the courts.

Other plenary speakers at the conference include Richie Ahmat, Fred Chaney, Murray Chapman, Geoff Clark, Mick Dodson, Bill Jonas, Murray Jones, Marcia Langton, Bonita Mabo, Shirley McPherson, Monica Morgan, Graeme Neate, Darryl Pearce, Aden Ridgeway, David Ross, Warwick Soden, Russell Taylor, Pat Turner and representatives of the Lhere Artepe.

For a copy of the brochure and program, follow the links on the AIATSIS webpage at <www.aiatsis.gov.au>.

New Issues Paper

The April Issues Paper has been published. Issue number 22, "Abandonment or Maintenance of Country? A Critical Examination of Mobility Patterns and the Implications for Native Title" is by Dr Peter Veth. In this paper, Dr Veth argues that studies of patterns of historical mobility illustrate that it is normal for groups to practice different kinds of 'abandonment' over time. This is for a variety of social and historical reasons. Thus Dr Veth suggests that these well-documented and long term historic processes should inform the legal standard for continuity of occupation and use of country.

Video Archives of Federal Court Judgment Summaries

In an effort to improve public access to Federal Court cases, live and archived broadcasts of judgment summaries are available through the Federal Court website in audio/video narrowband and broadband formats. Four native title judgments are available. These are: *De Rose v State of South Australia* [2002] FCA 1342; *Meriam People v State of Queensland* [2001] FCA 697; *Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Community v State of Victoria* [2000] FCA 45; *State of Western Australia v Ward* [2000] FCA 191. These are available at:<www.fedcourt.gov.au/judgments/judgmts_video01.html>.
