
MONTHS IN REVIEW

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

Compiled by Rebecca Gallegos

01/11 The Yir Yoront, Koko Bera, Kunjen and Koko Berrin peoples near Cape York Peninsula, Queensland are granted the final determination in a native title claim covering Kowanyama, Errk Oykangand National Park and several pastoral holdings.

03/11 The controversial Crown Lands Amendment (Public Ownership of Beaches and Coastal Lands) Bill 2014 ('NSW') is withdrawn by the Baird Government. The withdrawal came the day after 500 Aboriginal Land Council members gathered outside NSW Parliament House to protest against the changes.

05/11 Former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam AC QC is farewelled at a public memorial service in Sydney. Speaking at the service, Noel Pearson said 'Without this old man the land and human rights of our people would never have seen the light of day.'

06/11 The Standing Committee for Law and Justice delivers its report into the inquiry of the deaths of three Aboriginal children in Bowraville, NSW. Among its 15 recommendations it said the Crimes Act should be reviewed to address discrepancies about a definition in double jeopardy laws, so that the three murders could be tried together.

11/11 Western Australian ('WA') Premier Colin Barnett reveals plans to close between 100 and 150 of WA's 274 remote communities. The move sparked an outcry from the community with Aboriginal Elders protesting outside WA State Parliament the following day.

12/11 Professor Mick Dodson addresses the National Press Club in Canberra, calling for community and government support to help preserve the largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories at AIATSIS. Prof Dodson also criticised the Federal Government, in particular saying the Northern Territory ('NT') land rights act was under threat.

18/11 The 2014 *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report is released. It showed an increase in adult imprisonment rates; and no change in the high rates of juvenile detention and family and community violence.

18/11 The documentary series *First Contact* is aired on SBS and NITV. The program follows six non-Indigenous Australians as they immerse them into "Aboriginal Australia" for the first time.

20/11 Australia and France agree to work together to help return the remains of Aboriginal people held in French public collections.

20-23/11 Corroboree Sydney is held.

24/11 The grand jury in the case of Michael Brown returns its decision on whether or not Ferguson (Missouri, USA) police officer, Darren Wilson should face criminal charges for shooting and killing the unarmed teenager. The jury voted not to indict Mr Wilson, meaning that he will not face charges over the August 9 shooting.

26/11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, releases the 2014 Social Justice and Native Title Report.

27-28/11 The National Freedom Summit is held in Alice Springs, NT. The national First Nations summit was called to discuss the formation of a new national council to represent the rights and interests of First Nations people and communities.

28/11 The Anangu people of the APY Lands raise concerns over changes to the APY Land Rights Act, saying the changes will mean the SA Government 'can seize control of the APY Lands at any time and without regard to the wishes of Anangu, who own the land.'

01/12 NSW Premier Mike Baird declares his support for a federal referendum on Indigenous constitutional recognition, alongside Opposition leader John Robertson.

01/12 Fred Chaney AO delivers the ANU Reconciliation Lecture in Canberra. In his speech Mr Chaney said the rates of Indigenous imprisonment were the result of a 'continuing, shameful, failure to meet our aspirations in practical reconciliation'.

10/12 Human Rights Day is observed. The 2014 theme *Human Rights 365* encompasses the idea that every day is Human Rights Day.