
MONTHS IN REVIEW

JULY–AUGUST

Compiled by Kate Bonser and Rebecca Gallegos

25/06 The final report of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is tabled.

25/06 Native title is granted to the Yeaghl people from the Lower Clarence region on the NSW north coast. The claim took 18 years and was the longest-running native title claim in the state.

25/06 The NSW Legislative Council votes unanimously on a motion to establish a parliamentary inquiry into reparation for the Stolen Generations.

01/07 The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre ('TAC') legal service is set to close with the body announcing it will drop its fight to restore Federal Funding, leaving hundreds of cases in limbo.

02/07 NSW Environment Heritage Minister Mark Speakman declares six NSW locations as 'Aboriginal Places' under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

02/07 In a first for NSW, the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council has transferred 1600 hectares of land to a local government utility to improve water supply for the broader community while still retaining cultural access to the site.

06/07 The Prime Minister and Opposition Leader meet with 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Sydney to discuss constitutional recognition. A statement released by the group of Indigenous attendees called for substantive reform and an ongoing dialogue between Indigenous peoples and the government.

05-12/07 NAIDOC Week is celebrated around the country with the national theme: 'We all stand on sacred ground: learn, respect and celebrate.'

10/07 Rosalie Kunoth Monks is named 2015 NAIDOC Person of the Year.

17/07 The first budget under Queensland's Labor Government assigns \$32 million for the reinstatement of the Murri Court (cut in 2012 under the Newman Government).

21/07 Communities are outraged over the sentence given to a 23-year-old man responsible for a hit-and-run that killed an eight-year-old boy in the Palmerston suburb of Moulden, NT in November

2014. The man was given an 18-month suspended sentence and six months home detention.

31/07 Support for AFL player and Australian of the Year Adam Goodes builds following his decision to take leave in response to suspected racist 'booing' by spectators during a Hawthorn and Sydney match.

31/07 – 03/08 The Garma Festival is held in North East Arnhem Land.

03/08 A proposal put forth to Prime Minister Tony Abbott to fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constitutional conventions is rejected. Indigenous leaders vow to push on despite the rejection.

03/08 Under a Federal Government agreement, Ceduna (located in Western SA) becomes the first remote community to introduce an income management card for Centrelink income support recipients. The measure was said to be introduced 'to control spending on gambling and alcohol and to curb resulting violence.'

04/08 Rallies are held around the nation to mark the one year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Ms Dhu who died in a police custody in the Pilbara, WA. A coronial inquest is expected to begin in November.

04/08 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is observed.

05/08 Edward Fry is appointed Chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation for a three year period.

09/08 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed. Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Prof Megan Davis, presides over UN commemorative service in New York.

13/08 Nine Tasmanian Aboriginal corporations are united to the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Community Alliance

13/08 A 15-year native title claim over 5432 square kilometres of Wullli Wullli country west of Bundaberg, Qld is finalised in the Federal Court.

20/08 Prime Minister Tony Abbott reverses his decision not to fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constitutional conventions. The conventions will reportedly run concurrently with mainstream meetings over the next 12 months under the supervision of a referendum council.