

# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

06/11

- The High Court of Australia hands down its judgement in *Karpany v Dietman* [2013] HCA 47. The Court unanimously held that the applicants' native title rights had not been extinguished by the Fisheries Act 1971 (SA). It further held that the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (SA) did not prohibit the applicants, as native title holders, from gathering or fishing for undersize abalone in the waters concerned.

10/11

- Governor-General Quentin Bryce opens Australia's first official war memorial dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women. It's hoped the memorial, located in South Australia at Adelaide's Torrens Parade Ground, will be given a national status.

12/11

- Australia's first Aboriginal woman to be elected into Federal Parliament, Nova Peris OAM, is sworn into Parliament in Canberra.

13/11

- The Supreme Court of the NT finds that the Australian Broadcasting Corporation ('ABC') and former Country Liberal Party candidate, Rebecca Healy, defamed Aboriginal Elder Rosalie Kunoth-Monks. The defamation case was over comments broadcast on ABC's Radio National program (and website) in which Miss Healy stated that Mrs Kunoth-Monks OAM had 'stirred up the trouble' and referred to the community of the central NT as 'racist' while speaking at the Tent Embassy's 40th Anniversary celebrations on Australia Day, 2012.

14–24/11

- The inaugural *Corroboree Sydney* cultural festival is held over 11 days at 'Corroboree Central' in Walsh Bay.

15/11

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics ('ABS') releases its latest data relating to the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The 2010-12 figures show a slight improvement in life expectancy rates, with Indigenous men living to an average of 69.1 years (10.6 years lower than non-Indigenous men); and Indigenous women living to an average of 73.7 years (9.5 years lower than non-Indigenous women).

18/11

- State and Territory winners for the 2014 *Australian of the Year Awards* are announced. Notable winners include Adam Goodes

for his commitment to community programs; Suzy Wilson, founder of the *Indigenous Literacy Foundation*; linguist Denise Smith-Ali; community constable Dean Walker; singer-songwriter Shellie Morris; reconciliation advocate Fred Chaney AO and Indigenous community advocate, Klaus Helms.

23/11

- Prime Minister Tony Abbott MP announces the membership of his Indigenous Advisory Council. The 12 member Council, chaired by Warren Mundine, includes a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members with experience in the business and public sector. Visit [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) for full details.

26/11

- The New South Wales ('NSW') Government votes unanimously in support of an inquiry into the murders of three Aboriginal children who disappeared from Bowraville in the early 1990s.
- Australia's first Indigenous House of Representatives MP, Ken Wyatt, accepts the appointment by the Prime Minister to chair the committee responsible for delivering a referendum for the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

28/11

- The Legislative Assembly of the NT passes legislation aimed at deterring alcohol related crime. The *Alcohol Protection Orders Act 2013* allows police to issue an Alcohol Protection Order to any adult who they believe to be 'affected by alcohol' while being 'arrested, summonsed or served with a notice to appear in court'. An Order prohibits the adult from consuming alcohol, possessing alcohol or entering licensed premises.

02/12

- The Federal Court approves a native title claim by the Bandjalang people for an area covering over 2750 square kilometres on the NSW north coast. The Bandjalang people aim to use the court's recognition as the basis for protecting important cultural sites including Dirawong Headland, Gumma Garra and areas of Black Rocks. Negotiations on an Indigenous Land Use Agreement are also underway.

05/12

- Nelson Mandela, 95, dies at his home in Johannesburg. Mandela led the African National Congress to power in 1994, after spending almost 30 years in prison on Robben Island. The Nobel Peace Prize winner leaves behind a legacy of peace and reconciliation in South Africa and across the world.