

Informit and OA Indigenous-Led Research Initiatives

Laki Sideris, Head of Product, Informit
May 2024

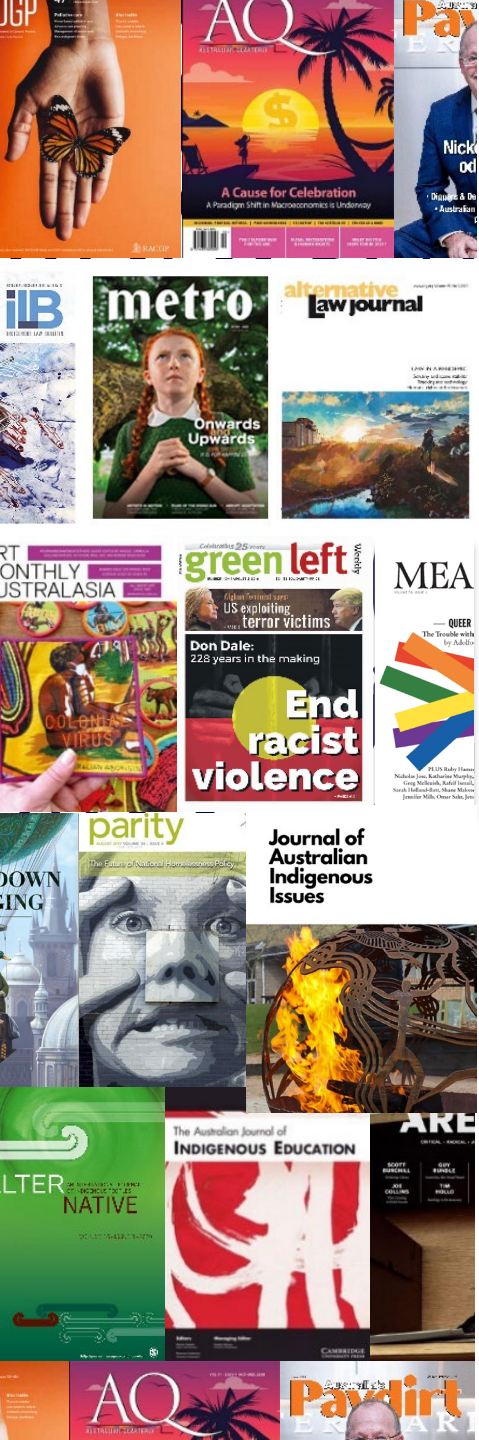


Who is Informit

- **Aggregator** with **the largest collection** of **ANZ** journals, books, grey literature and videos focusing on the humanities and social sciences – including the largest Australian Indigenous collection.
- Began in the **RMIT University library** more than 30 years ago
- Owned by **RMIT University** as **Not For Profit**
- **Subscription based** business
- Accessed by all Australian **universities** and **state libraries** (and increasingly **schools** and **public libraries**)
- **Informit** strategically operates under **3 pillars**:
 1. **Sustainability**
 2. **Customer** satisfaction
 3. **Community**, with a specific focus on **First Peoples**

OA and Informit

- Informit's **mission** is the promotion of **critical thinking** for a better informed and knowledgeable community by fostering **bibliodiversity**
- We support disparate voices from **society publishers** to passionate **academics** for a diverse and sustainable research publishing ecosystem
- We aggregate their works and make them **discoverable**
- Currently over **110 ANZ journals / 24,000 open access** resources (inc grey literature) and growing
- We support publishers by offering **free hosting services** and **DOI** minting via Crossref plus other services at cost rates (or below!)
- We encourage a transition to OA
- Without a **thriving publishing community** Informit would not exist



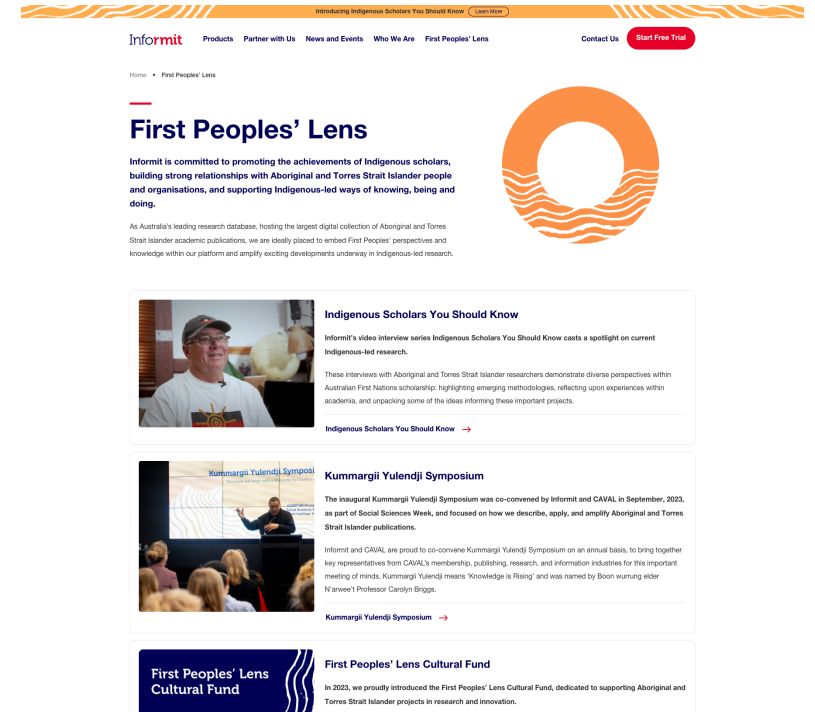
A First Peoples Lens

Integrated into the Informit's **strategy** is the committed to **promoting the achievements of Indigenous scholars**, building strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations, and **supporting Indigenous-led ways of knowing, being and doing**.

Three main foci:

- **Amplification** of First Nations researchers
- **Supporting** Indigenous studies publishers
- Kummargii Yulendji Symposium: highlighting projects attempting to **decolonise Info-management systems**

All First Peoples' Lens initiatives have been developed in consultation with Informit's First Peoples' Lens Steering Committee Members.

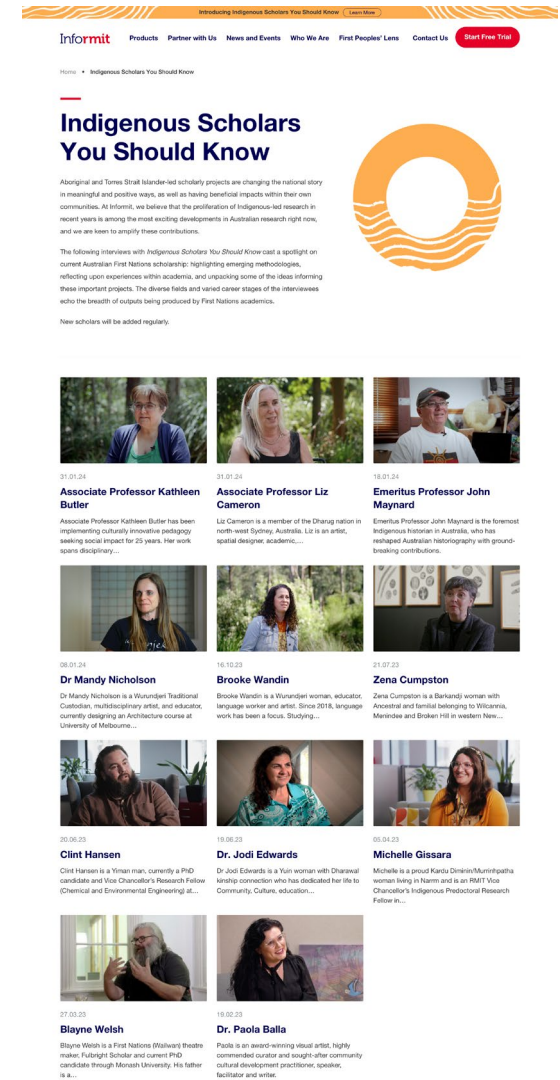


<https://about.informit.org/first-peoples-lens/>

A Indigenous Scholars You Should Know

- **Video series** documenting the work being undertaken across diverse fields by First Nations researchers at varied career stages.
- A platform to articulate their current **scholarly projects**, elucidate emerging **methodologies**, **reflect upon experiences** within academia, and discuss the **ideas and cultural contexts** informing their research.
- Open on **YouTube** and promoted through social media channels
- Soon to be available in **Informit Search** for LMS access

<https://about.informit.org/indigenous-scholars/>














Indigenous Scholars You Should Know

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led scholarly projects are changing the national story in meaningful and positive ways, as well as having beneficial impacts within their own communities. At Informit, we believe that the proliferation of Indigenous-led research in recent years is among the most exciting developments in Australian research right now, and we are keen to amplify these contributions.

The following interviews with Indigenous Scholars You Should Know cast a spotlight on current Australian First Nations scholarship, highlighting emerging methodologies, reflecting upon experiences within academia, and unpacking some of the ideas informing these important projects. The diverse fields and varied career stages of the interviewees echo the breadth of outputs being produced by First Nations academics.

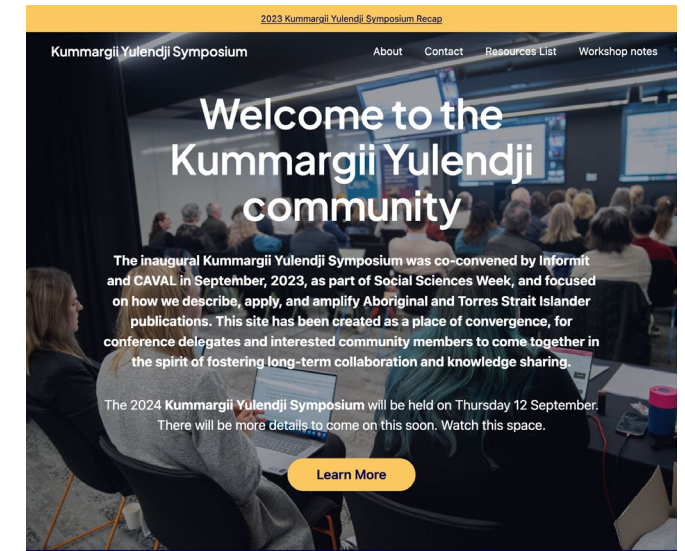
New scholars will be added regularly.

 Associate Professor Kathleen Butler Associate Professor Kathleen Butler has been implementing culturally innovative pedagogy seeking social impact for 25 years. Her work spans disciplinary...	 Associate Professor Liz Cameron Liz Cameron is a member of the Djaara nation in south-west Sydney, Australia. Liz is an artist, spatial designer, academic,....	 Emeritus Professor John Maynard Emeritus Professor John Maynard is the foremost Indigenous historian in Australia, who has reshaped Australian historiography with ground-breaking contributions.
 Dr Mandy Nicholson Dr Mandy Nicholson is a Wiradjuri Traditional Custodian, multidisciplinary artist, and educator, currently designing an Architecture course at University of Melbourne...	 Brooke Wandin Brooke Wandin is a Wiradjuri woman, educator, language worker and artist. Since 2018, language work has been a focus. Studying...	 Zena Cumpston Zena Cumpston is a Barkandji woman with Ancestral and familial belonging to Wilbarra, Merindoo and Broken Hill in western New...
 Clint Hansen Clint Hansen is a Yiman man, currently a PhD candidate and Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow (Chemical and Environmental Engineering) at...	 Dr. Jodi Edwards Dr. Jodi Edwards is a Yon woman with Djaara kinship connection who has dedicated her life to Community, Culture, education...	 Michelle Gissara Michelle is a proud Kardu Djinin/Murrinhgatha woman living in Narm and is an RMIT Vice Chancellor's Indigenous Predoctoral Research Fellow...
 Blayne Welsh Blayne Welsh is a First Nations (Wuthathi) theatre maker, Futright Scholar and current PhD candidate through Monash University. His father is a...	 Dr. Paola Balla Paola is an award-winning visual artist, highly commended curator and sought-after community cultural development practitioner, speaker, facilitator and writer.	

Kummargii Yulendji Symposium

- Co-convened by Informit and CAVAL in September, 2023 and part of Social Sciences Week
- Focused on how to describe, apply, and amplify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander publications and **decolonise Info-management systems**
- Arose from a recognition that the **academic publication space has expanded in exciting Indigenous-led ways.**
- Many organisations within the sector are **starting to address** these inadequacies but may **not yet be pooling insights** from these endeavours.
- The Symposium brought together industry and academic leaders **to present current projects** and discuss the ways we **describe and organise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic outputs**

Kummargii Yulendji meaning 'Knowledge is Rising', was named by Boon wurrung elder N'arwee't Professor Carolyn Briggs



<https://kummargiiyulendjisymposium.org/>

**Kummargii Yulendji Symposium
2024**

Save the date:
**September 12th
Melbourne**

Support for OA:


Example: Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues

- Aggregated on Informit as full text since 2014.
- The title is in the **top 10 titles** on Informit
- This peer-reviewed academic journal was established in 1998 and is a **leading international journal** in Indigenous Studies.
- It publishes articles across a wide range of academic disciplines.
- Informit is **sole host**
- Foundation Editor: **Professor Andrew Gunstone**, Federation University, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor Reconciliation.
- Co-Editor (from 2023): **Professor Dennis Foley**, Federation University, Professorial Research Fellow.
- Informit has begun a project to:
 - **Convert PDF articles to rich HTML** (increase accessibility and usability)
 - **Mint DOIs** via Crossref (increase persistency)



<https://search.informit.org/loi/jaiis/>

Support for OA: Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues



Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues

Volume 26, Issue 3-4

Dec 2023

PDF | Page 1 / 17

[A Monumental Challenge: Indigenous voice and demands for truthful commemorations of Australia's colonial heritage in far Northern Queensland](#)
 by Bronwyn Fredericks, Abraham Bradfield, and Annabelle Sharman*

2020 signalled the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's 1770 voyage along the east coast of Australia, an event often framed in the national imagination as one seminal to Australia's modern heritage. In the same year, we witnessed growing protests about 'Black Lives Matter' and saw large numbers of the public take to the streets and online forums to question Australia's colonial heritage and scrutinize if and how it should be celebrated.

In this paper, we explore Australia's heritage through the contestation and justification surrounding the plaques, memorials, and monuments commemorating colonialism and the figures central to its establishment. Situating our discussion in Cairns, in far northern Queensland, we consider how colonial monuments attempt to communicate a sense of place or displacement through reiterating narratives of history that assert white sovereignty via the shrouding of Indigenous voices and agencies.

Unpacking a case-study in which the public display of a 10-metre-tall statue of Captain James Cook was intensely debated, we argue that through protest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are being reinserted into national dialogues, demanding that Indigenous sovereignty be recognised as part of the living and ongoing heritage of the place now called Australia.

Keywords: Indigenous Australia, Heritage, Captain Cook, Black Lives Matter, Colonialism

* Bronwyn Fredericks PhD is a Professor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) at the University of Queensland. She has over 30 years' experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Indigenous organisations, NGOs, universities, and government agencies. Dr Abraham Bradfield is a non-Indigenous research worker at The University of Sydney. He applies a cross and transdisciplinary approach to his research to explore themes relating to colonisation, decolonisation, identity, and the intercultural. Annabelle Sharman is Summer Scholar, Indigenous Engagement Division, The University of Queensland.

Federation University of Australia

1440-5202

Dec 2023

January 09, 2024

January 2024

1 - 17

Vol 26 Nos 3-4

Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues

1



Search 8 databases

Start new search. Enter phrases | keywords ...

Institutional Login

Log in | Register

HOME | ADVANCED SEARCH | SEARCH HISTORY | DATABASES

ABOUT US | HELP

Open Access | FULL TEXT | Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues | Journal Article | 01 December 2023

A monumental challenge: Indigenous voice and demands for truthful commemorations of Australia's colonial heritage in far Northern Queensland

Authors: Bronwyn Fredericks; Abraham Bradfield; Annabelle Sharman

Abstract | View PDF | Export Citations | Add to Favourite | Tools

Share

2020 signalled the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's 1770 voyage along the east coast of Australia, an event often framed in the national imagination as one seminal to Australia's modern heritage. In the same year, we witnessed growing protests about 'Black Lives Matter' and saw large numbers of the public take to the streets and online forums to question Australia's colonial heritage and scrutinize if and how it should be celebrated.

Download figure | Download PowerPoint

Introduction

In 2020, mass celebrations were planned in Australia to mark the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's 1770 voyage along the east coast of Australia. Although cancelled due to COVID-19, these celebrations involved a replica of Cook's tallship the Endeavour circumventing Australia's coastline in a 6.7-million-dollar government funded re-imaging of its colonial heritage. Originally characterised as a "re-enactment", it was later framed as a "re-tracing", as Cook never circumvented the nation but rather sailed up the east coastline from Botany Bay where he first set foot on Australian shores to Possession Island in northern Queensland where he claimed the great southern continent as the property of the British Crown.

Scattered throughout Australia are numerous statues, monuments, and places that similarly reference Australia's colonial history as part of, and often the beginning of, its national heritage. Like the myth of Cook circumnavigating Australia, they too selectively preference the symbology of what such monuments represent, rather than providing truthful accounts of actual realities. Such symbology however is deeply contested as they often silence Indigenous voices and present an uncontested account of Australia's heritage that privileges white possession and sovereignty. In this paper we discuss the contestation of a statue of Cook in Cairns, far northern Queensland, and consider how through protest Indigenous voices and lived realities are being re-inserted into national dialogues and are forcing the confrontation of the injustices of modern Australia's colonial heritage.

The social construction of heritage

Colonial monuments are social constructions or indexes which expose the complexities, layers, and contestations of settler-colonial histories and heritage (Carlson & Farrelly, 2023). Stephen Muecke (2008: 34) writes that history must be read as existing within a political ecology that is the product of "observers, opinion-makers, teachers, writers, artists, archivists and the builders of monuments, museums, texts, databases, and commemorative events". Public monuments, statues, re-enactments, or memorabilia corresponding to Captain James Cook, and the subsequent arrival of European colonisers in Australia, is interlocked with discussions of national identity, the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and reconciliation (Fredericks & Bradfield, 2023; Moreton-Robinson, 2022). In a settler society that is still attempting to confront its colonial past, we are left questioning – how monumental is Cook, and what place should he hold in the national imaginary and Australian heritage?

Debates concerning the morality of James Cook and his place in Australia's heritage – was he a pioneer, an invader, a diplomat? – do have their place in national conversations. The monuments that celebrate his existence, however, have less to do with judgments of Cook's biography and are more concerned with the conservative colonial regime he symbolises and the ongoing pursuit of nation.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Journal: Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues

ISSN (print): 1440-5202

Publisher: Federation University of Australia

Publisher Location: Ballarat, VIC

Volume: 26 | Issue: 3-4

Date of Publication: December 2023

Page Range: 1-17

Resource Type: Other Journal Article

Language: English

Source: Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues, Vol. 26, No. 3-4, Dec 2023, 1-17

Availability: Informit, Melbourne (VIC)

SUBJECT

Black lives matter movement

Cultural property

Sovereignty

Colonias

Indigenous peoples--Attitudes

Australia

METRICS

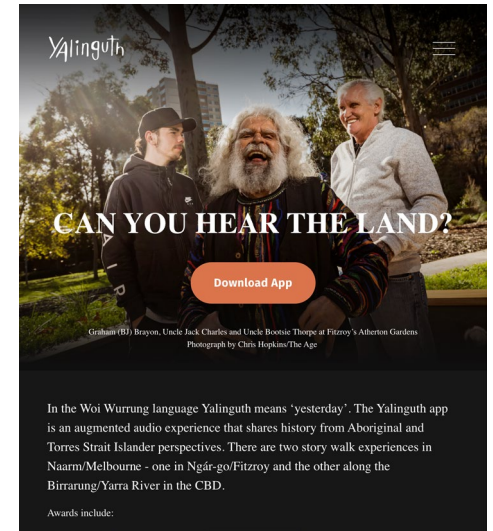
Downloaded 52 times

Cultural Fund

- To support **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** projects in **research and innovation**, with a particular emphasis on the digital **sharing of knowledge**.
- The fund will have a **total pool of \$30,000** to commit to selected projects focusing on **publishing, research or library projects**. Prioritising digital knowledge dissemination.
- Assessment of projects is undertaken by Informit's **First Peoples' Lens Steering Committee**
- EOI is open and closes on **10th May 2024**.

2023 Recipients:

- The **Yalinguth** app: An augmented audio experience that shares history from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. A walk experience in Naarm/Melbourne along the Birrarung/Yarra.
- **The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education (AJIE)**: an open access, internationally refereed journal





Thank you

Laki Sideris
laki.sideris2@rmit.edu.au
about.informit.org

