



## National Centre of Biography News

May 2024

Ahead of National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June), in this newsletter we share news from the ADB's Indigenous Working Party; showcase the Quest for Indigenous Recognition project; and highlight a new entry from the *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Read all this, plus the usual news and notices, below.



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)

### Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration



A/Prof Steve Kinnane

On 3 May Associate Professor Stephen Kinnane delivered the prestigious Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration by the Nulungu Chair of Indigenous Studies in Broome.

His talk - 'Beyond the Land of Promises: The Long Road to Self Determination' - was presented in honour of Miriwoong, Gajirrawoong and Jaminjung Elder, Ruby Nangala Thoornbeliny.

Alongside serving as co-chair of Indigenous Studies at the Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame, Steve is an incredibly valued member of the NCB community. He is an ADB editorial board member and chair of the Indigenous Working Party, as well as an ANU PhD candidate.

More information about Steve's talk will be posted on the NCB's website in due course. In the meantime, read the full abstract of the oration [here](#).

### News & notices from the NCB



#### Biography Workshop

Dr Karen Manton, CASS visiting fellow, will speak about her work on the life of landscape artist Eugene von Guérard in this month's Biography Workshop (30 May). In person and online, no RSVP required. More info [here](#).



#### Heritage award for PhD candidate

Earlier this month PhD candidate Tim Adams received a heritage award from Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council. This award recognises Tim's outstanding contributions to and promotion of heritage, particularly his work interpreting the social history of Riverside Cemetery. Listen to him talk about his work on ABC Canberra (from ~1:08:09) [here](#). Well done Tim!



#### 50 years of service

A hearty congratulations and our warmest thanks to Dr Chris Cuneen who has recently marked 50 years of service with the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Chris joined in 1974 as a research fellow and from 1982-1996 was deputy general editor. He continues to serve on the NSW Working Party and holds the honour of being fourth on our authors' roll of honour with 83 articles (and counting) to his name.

### The Quest for Indigenous Recognition Project

In 2023 the ADB/NCB launched The Quest for Indigenous Recognition Project, a series of 23 essays by historians and other prominent Australians explaining key historical events in the long journey to the 2023 Referendum on the Voice.

The project provides well-informed and reliable historical information that is easily accessible online, and serves as an important educational tool to better inform all Australians who seek to understand the long struggle for Indigenous rights. Each event is linked to relevant documentary, audio and visual sources, as well as biographical articles in the ADB of associated subjects.

Explore these historical moments via the ADB website [here](#).



Wiradjuri walamira (clever man)  
Nangar/Jimmy Clements in foreground  
of Parliament House, 1927 (NLA)



### PNG Dictionary of Biography

On 9 May the first board meeting of the Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Biography took place at the Department of Pacific Affairs (CAP). Dr Malcolm Allbrook has been invited to join the board on behalf of the ADB. The initiative rejuvenates a previous iteration of the biographical dictionary and picks up the work of the ADB's former PNG Working Party which included past ANU scholars such as the late Hank Nelson and Jim Griffin, Bill Gammage, and Diane Langmore. It complements the work of the ADB's Indigenous and Oceania Working Parties. The project has secured start-up funding which will support workshops in PNG, editorial work, and publication at the end of 2025 of a first volume of 50 PNG nation-makers. We congratulate Dr Theresa Meki, Dr Keimelo Gima, and Dr Nicholas Hoare (a former ADB research editor) on their success in getting this long-awaited venture off the ground. Read more [here](#).

### ADB feature entry

Each month we highlight a new addition to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

This month we shine the spotlight on Joe Croft, a man of Mudburra, Gurindji, Chinese, and Irish descent. His important and fascinating life story is told by his daughter, Brenda Croft, in the *Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography* [here](#).



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