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# MONTHS IN REVIEW

## MAY-JUNE

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**30/04** The world's oldest and largest collection of rock art – the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga) – is deregistered as a 'sacred site' pursuant to recently revised *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* guidelines.

**01/05** Thousands protest against the forced closure of remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia in what is said to be the largest Aboriginal protest in history, with more than 60 events held across Australia and around the world.

**06/05** More than 200 hectares of land is handed back to traditional owners at Jawuma (Black Rock Landing) near Borroloola in the Northern Territory.

**13/05** The High Court dismisses an appeal from a decision of the Full Federal Court of Australia, holding that military orders in relation to land made under the *National Security (General Regulations) 1939* (Cth) during WWII, do not have the effect of extinguishing native title rights and interests.

**13/05** Indigenous leaders, including Kirstie Parker from The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, are joined by representatives from Australia's community sector to respond to the 2015-16 Federal Budget in Canberra.

**21/05** A tragic death in police custody of a man arrested under controversial Northern Territory 'paperless arrest' legislation highlights the need for authorities to be accountable for people held in detention.

**21/05** An Indigenous Leaders Roundtable is held in Broome to discuss economic development on native title land. Led by the Human Rights Commission the Roundtable called on governments to commit resources to further economic development.

**26/05** National Sorry Day is observed.

**26/05** The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples says the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being removed has increased by 500 per cent nationally over the past 15 years, and calls on governments to do more to support Indigenous organisations to reunite and help keep families intact.

**27/05** The 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 referendum is observed. The referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the

Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

**27/05** National Reconciliation Week is launched with this year's theme, 'It's time to change it up', calling all Australian's to become active reconciliation participants.

**02/06** Amnesty International's report, *A Brighter Tomorrow*, finds that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10 to 17 are 24 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous youths.

**03/06** The 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the High Court's landmark *Mabo* decision is observed.

**03/06** Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Nigel Scullion, confirms new 'Work for the Dole' measures will be introduced into remote communities on 1 July 2015; and will require job seekers in remote communities to complete 25 hours-a-week of work in their communities to receive welfare payments.

**03/06** Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to examine abuse and cultural genocide in Indian Residential Schools, releases its final report. The report can be viewed at: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca).

**06/06** Around 250 people gather at the Myall Creek memorial to commemorate the 1838 massacre where white settlers murdered 28 Aboriginal men, women and children. Seven of the killers were tried and hanged.

**16/06** The Barkandji people are recognised as the traditional owners of 28 000 square kilometres of land in far western NSW including Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menendee, Pooncarie and Dareton. The native title determination took 18 years.

**29/06** The Australian Law Reform Commission launches the *Connection to Country: Review of the Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) report, the first major review into the law governing 'connection' in native title claims.

**30/06** The final report of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is due to be tabled.