A LISTING OF ABORIGINAL PERIODICALS

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This bibliography of journals, newspapers and newsletters issued by Aboriginal and white interest groups will prove an invaluable resource to students of Aboriginal history.

The list is based on the collection held at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies and was compiled by the Senior Bibliographer, Brownlee Kirkpatrick. Many people involved in Aboriginal affairs will recognise titles amongst the seventy-nine published by Aboriginal and Islander groups and communities and the thirty published by 'white' interest groups.

Students of Aboriginal history will find useful the early publications such as The Aboriginal, or Flinders Island Chronicle and the first 'advancement movement' newsletters, such as Abo Call. These contain the views of Aborigines on their social and political situation, views which were rarely reported elsewhere. Today Aboriginal thought is recorded in widely distributed national publications such as Identity and Aboriginal and Islander Forum. These will be pertinent to students of contemporary Aboriginal affairs.

The publications of Aboriginal organisations sometimes appeared irregularly, or soon ceased to appear. But, particularly in the case of the 'advancement movement' newsletters, many titles disappeared because they were subsumed in another journal. The growth of a national Aboriginal movement meant the unification of many smaller groups, whose views became expressed in national publications such as the annual reports of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATS).

Today many communities publish newsletters, often in the local Aboriginal language, as a resource for the language renaissance which is occurring with the homelands and outstation movement. An example is the Yuruna dhawu from Yirrkala. Gabalgu jorra from Maningrida contains interesting local coverage of the activities of mining companies in the Top End.

The land council newsletters are the major published source of Aboriginal views on land rights. They are written and published in an Aboriginal context — unlike the 'whitefella' media whose coverage of land rights is distorted by cultural concepts such as 'newsworthiness', business interests, and just plain bias and ignorance. Land Rights News, published by the Northern Land Council, has covered most of the land claims lodged from the Top End, and is distributed to all Aboriginal groups in the Council's area.

The Aboriginal context is one of burgeoning consciousness, self-organisation and confidence. The Aboriginal coverage of the meaning and effect of whitefella politics is astute and uncompromising. An example is the North Queensland Land Council's coverage of Aurukun and Mornington Island affairs in early 1978 in N.Q. Messagestick. These newsletters are firstly political resources, keeping Aboriginal people in touch with their organisations and activities and informing their white readership of the subjective Aboriginal point of view.

Other newsletters and journals were published by white interest groups. Often the missionary organs provided only news of the 'success' of the Christian missions to Aborigines, for the white congregations whose donations subsidised missionary activities. Their reports were probably a major inspiration to the white view of Aborigines, and could give insights into Australian racism. Such journals will prove relevant for students of the colonisation of Aborigines.

The periodicals in the second part of this listing are important to Aboriginal history because they include much material written by Aborigines, or information on the lives of individuals and communities which is recorded nowhere else. The church periodicals listed here could be an important historical resource for researchers wishing
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to write community histories and biographies. Until the end of the 1960s government
reports and newspapers scarcely mentioned Aboriginal views and activities. Publi-
cations like the Aborigines' Friends' Association Annual Report, the Aborigines
Protector, On Aboriginal Affairs, Smoke Signals, and Victorian Aboriginal Group
Annual Report gave a relatively well-informed and sympathetic coverage of Aboriginal
opinions and political protest activities from the 1930s to the 1960s.

It concerns me that publications, as written expressions, have a limited value for
the Aboriginal population, which in so many areas is still non-literate or semi-literate.
An increasingly valuable alternative is the use of tape-recordings as news organs. The
Moongoong Darwung organisation in Western Australia, for instance, publishes tapes
and sends them to subscribers.

My own experience, working on various Aboriginal newsletters and newspapers,
has made me understand the importance of simply having the resources and skills for
self-expression in an often hostile white environment which, because it has the power
and resources, has historically defined us. In Redfern, in 1976, the Black Women's
Action Group began to envisage Koori-bina. We firstly needed some means of reply to
the racist slander published in Sydney's afternoon press. Secondly, we were inspired
by Abo Call, published in 1938 in Sydney by an Aboriginal political group. The
descendants of these activists were in 1976 working in Redfern for the same aims as
were articulated in Abo Call almost forty years previously.

As bilingual education and literacy are brought to more communities, especially
remote ones, we can look forward to exciting and diverse expressions.

* The following list of periodicals is divided in two parts: journals published by
Aboriginal communities and organisations, followed by journals published by 'white'-
controlled welfare and advancement associations and institutions. Included in the
first list are some periodicals which were not under Aboriginal control in their early
stages but later were either wholly or partially edited and written by Aborigines and
Torres Strait Islanders. Although editorial responsibility for a few periodicals is
uncertain (such as school journals in Aboriginal communities), they are included here
because they serve an Aboriginal readership. It was thought useful to include journals
published by welfare and advancement organisations whose membership was mainly
non-Aboriginal. Some in this category are included in the first list of Aboriginal
journals due to later changes of editorial responsibility. Journals published after 1969
by the successors to these organisations are omitted.

These alphabetical lists, based on the collection in the Library of the Australian
Institute of Aboriginal Studies, are not complete.

The Senior Bibliographer (P.O. Box 553, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601) would therefore
welcome information on journals not recorded here, and copies of the missing issues
in runs of other listed journals. The Library will photocopy and return rare originals
if owners have no duplicates.

Details are recorded in the following order: title of journal except for organi-
sations issuing journals with common titles such as Bulletin, Journal, Newsletter, in
which case the entry is under the name of the organisation; volume and or issue/part
number; date of first and last issue (if publication has ceased); place of publication and
actual date of publication if different from the date on the title-page; information on
variant titles, irregular numbering and any other relevant details. A dash following the
volume/issue number and date indicates that the journal is published currently. Where
such details are not known, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Library
holdings are noted as a guide.
Part 1: Journals published by Aboriginal communities and organisations

AIM: Aboriginal-Islander-Message.
   no. 1- ; Mar. 1979- .
Glebe, N.S.W.
Absorbed Koori-bina, June 1979, q.v.
1975; Jan.-Apr./May 1976. Glebe,
Tasmania, Aboriginal Information Ser­
vice. Issues for June-Aug. 1976
omitted. Superseded by Black action,
q.v.
AISHRA see Aboriginal and Islanders
Sporting, Health and Recreation Asso­
ciation
Abo call: the voice of the Aborigines.
   nos. 1-6; Apr.-Sep. 1938. Sydney. At
head of title: The Australian . . . No
more published.
The Aboriginal, or Flinders Island
chronicle. nos. 1-[29]; 10 Sep. 1836-
21 Dec. 1837. [Flinders Island], under
the sanction of the Commandant. Title
varies: Flinders Island weekly chronicle.
[Microfilm from originals in the Robin­
son Papers, v. 52, A 7073, pt. 4 in the
Mitchell Library held by AIAS Library.]
Aboriginal Advancement Association of
[Bourke, N.S.W.]
Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Aust­
ralia. Victorian news magazine. [no. 1]-
Aboriginal and Islander forum. v. 1, no. 1-;
Publications Foundation.
Aboriginal and Islander Identity see
Identity
Aboriginal and Islander news: newsletter of the Federal Council for the Advance­
ment of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. v. 1, no. 1; Nov. 1977.
Woden, A.C.T. No more published.
Aboriginal and Islanders Sporting, Health
and Recreation Association (AISHRA).
   Monthly reports. ?Apr., Oct. 1971,
Aboriginal Land Council, N.S.W. see
Koorakookoo
Aboriginal Medical Service. Newsletter.
Aboriginal news: monthly [bi-monthly]
bulletin of the Australian Aborigines' 
League, Victoria. nos. 1-14; Aug.
1963-Nov. 1966. Pascoe Vale South,
North Balwyn, Vic. Sub-title varies:
Dec. 1965, a Newsletter for the Abo­
iginal people of Victoria; Nov. 1966
... & Riverina.
Aborigines Advancement League. (S.A.)
Newsletter. no. 1- ; 1959-. Adelaide.
Aborigines Advancement League. (Vic­
toria). Newsletter. nos. 10-16; May-
Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
Advancement League. Bulletin. Jan-
Alchuringa: official journal of the . . .
National Aboriginal Theatre Founda­
tion and Aboriginal Tourist and Eco­
nomics Development Association. v. 1,
Mar. 1973. [Sydney, Breda Publi­
cations], 1972-3. Incorporates Chu­
ringa, q.v.
Australian Abo call see Abo call: the
voice of the Aborigines
Bambooro: activities news sheet. nos.
New Era Aboriginal Fellowship.
Bamyili School and Community magazine.
1976- ; [1977]- . Katherine, N.T.,
Bamyili School Press.
Banabilla kaban see Bloomfield River
news
Black action. Sep.-Dec. 1976; nos. [1/2]-
Feb./Mar. 1977- . Glebe, Tasmania,
Aboriginal Information Service. Issued
under the auspices of the Tasmanian
Aboriginal Centre. Supersedes AIS
newsletter, q.v. Issue of Jan. 1977
omitted. Title varies: Sep. 1976,
Black reaction.
The black Australian news: the official
organ of the Foundation for Aboriginal
Affairs. v. 1, nos. 1-4: June 1972-
[1973]. Gladesville, N.S.W. No more
published.
Black knight. nos. 1-4; [Aug-Nov. 1975].
Brisbane. Supersedes Smoke signal,
Palm Island, q.v. No more published.
Black liberation. v. 1, no. 1- ; Nov. 1975-.
North Brisbane, Black Resource Centre.
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Bloomfield River news: Banábilla kaban. [no. 1]- ; [Aug. 1978]- . [Bloomfield River, State School, via Cooktown, Qld].


Bundjalung news. v. 1, no. 1- ; Nov. 1977-. Lismore, N.S.W., Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, Institute of Aboriginal Community Development.


Council for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Rights. [Apr. 1973?]. Darwin, N.T.

Dilakkuŋuy daŋwu. no. 13- ; 24 Aug. 1977-. Milingimbi, Milingimbi Adult Education Centre, Milingimbi Literature Centre.

Federal Council for Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Annual Conference on Aboriginal Affairs. [Reports]. 1st-20th; 1958-77. [Canberra, etc.]. Superseded by National Aboriginal and Islander Liberation Movement (NAILM). Title varies: Reports & arrangements; Reports & resolutions; Reports & recommendations; Minutes and proceedings.

Fellowship: monthly bulletin of the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship. v. 1 no. 1-v. 9, no. 4; Apr. 1960-Oct. 1969. Sydney. No more published. v. 8, no. 6 omitted.

Gabalgu jurru. no. 1- ; Apr. 1977-. Maningrida, via Darwin, N.T. Supersedes Maningrida mirage, q.v.


Identity. v. 1, no. 1-v. 2, no. 4; 1971-5. Perth, Aboriginal Publications Foundation. continues:

Aboriginal and Islander Identity. v. 2, no. 5-; 1975-. Perth. Title varies: v. 2, no. 5, Aboriginal and Thursday Islander Identity.


Junga yimi. v. 1, no. 1- ; July 1978-. Yuendumu, N.T., Yuendumu School.


Kirinari: official journal of the Aboriginal Children's Advancement Society. v. 1, no. 4- v. 9, no. 3 and Pictorial issue; Mar. 1969- [Dec.] 1977. Sutherland, Sydney. No more published.


Koori-murri: liaison news and views. no. 1- ; 1979-. Sydney, Parliament, Legislative Assembly, Select Committee upon Aborigines.
Mureena: the Aboriginal student newspaper. v. 1- ; [1975]-. Hawthorn, Vic., Swinburne College of Technology, Community Organisation Course.
NQ Land Council. Newsletter. no. 1- ; Apr. 1978-. Cairns, Qld.
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Widjeri Co-operative Ltd. Newsletter. no. 2; 4 June 1976. [Bourke, N.S.W.]


Yuña dhäwu. v. 1, no. 1- ; Mar. 1976- . Nhulunbuy, N.T.

Part 2: Journals published by 'white'-controlled welfare and advancement associations and institutions


Aborigine welfare bulletin. The: the official organ of the A.B.M. Christian Community Co-operative Ltd. v. 1, no. 1; 1961/2. Sydney, Australian Board of Missions, Christian Community Cooperative Ltd.


Aborigines' protector: official organ of the Association for the Protection of Native Races. v. 1, nos. 1-7, v. 2, no. 1; Dec. 1935-June 1946. Sydney. Publication suspended between v. 1, no. 7 and v. 2, no. 1. No more published.


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continues:
Today, v. 60- ; Sep. 1966- . La Perouse, N.S.W. Vol. nos. irregular: v. 65 (1-2) omitted; zero dropped from vol. number from v. 70, no. 1 (Sep. 1976).


continues:
Co-operative for Aborigines. Newslet ter. v. 2, no. 4, v. 3, no. 1; Jan.-May 1969. Sydney, N.S.W.


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Today see Australian evangel.


