



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MEDIA RELEASE

Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

Follow Our Tracks

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has established a new 'virtual' place for reading, sharing and enjoying the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Tracks is part of the Aboriginal Studies Press (ASP) presence on the AIATSIS website and features short stories excerpted from full-length works. The writers are of varying ages and backgrounds.

Currently featured on *Our Tracks* are Lorraine McGee-Sippel (Yorta Yorta), Cassandra Lawton (Gungarri), Bill Rosser (QLD), Bill Rutter (Gamilaroi), and Francis Tapim (Murray Island), Joe Sproats and Rikki Mitchell with storyteller Pedro Stevens.

Director of ASP, Rhonda Black, said that *Our Tracks* writers were doing what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had done for thousands of years - telling stories, sharing knowledge and providing entertainment.

"The idea is to create a new and different space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' stories to be read," Ms Black said.

"These stories haven't yet been published in book form, so this is a way for the stories to reach everyone with internet access, Australia-wide. It's a non-traditional approach to the great Indigenous tradition of having a yarn."

ASP hopes that many readers - and potential writers - enjoy and are moved by the stories. Readers can leave their comments at asp@aiatsis.gov.au.

Our Tracks is a pilot project. If it proves successful, ASP will trial audio-on-demand and/or a CD-Rom of the writings involved and possibly a moderated bulletin board.

Visit *Our Tracks* at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/onlinestories/exhibitions.htm>

Further information:

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