native title applications in court; they positively obscure and unnecessarily complicate the process of adjudicating evidence in native title hearings. But for anthropologists to prise these moments of argumentation away from our resultant assessments of fact and evidence would be to relinquish the very perspective that differentiates anthropology from jurisprudence.

What can either of these two observations contribute to promoting the desired synergy between lawyer and anthropologist? Sackville J has not indicated that he understands the nature of anthropological evidence in *Jango*. It is necessary for the lawyer to advise the anthropologist as to how to make his/her evidence address the requirements of the *Native Title Act (1993)* and the *Commonwealth Evidence Act (1995)*. But the anthropologist still has to construe the evidence for the nature and function of Aboriginal social institutions and to adduce such evidence towards interpretations of the cultural world within which those institutions acquire meaning and reality.

Honour Among Nations? Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous People

By Marcia Langton, Maureen Tehan, Lisa Palmer and Kathryn Shain (eds), Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2004.
Book reviewed by Stuart Bradfield.

This book represents a detailed and comprehensive contribution to a subject of national and indeed international importance – relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia. In 19 chapters, as well as several commentaries, the book addresses a diverse range of issues which arise from the interaction between Indigenous Nations and settler peoples.

After a detailed introduction from the editors, Part 1 (of 4) gives a historical overview of agreement making and governance. Marcia Langton and Lisa Palmer look at treaties and agreement making as mechanisms used to recognise Indigenous peoples as 'polities', or political communities. International perspectives are offered by Bradford Morse and Julie Evans, while in Australia, Noel Pearson looks at the failure of native title to fulfil the promise seen by many following the Mabo case. Aaron Corn and Neparrna Gumbula then provide fascinating detail on the historical development of one of Australia's more politically assertive peoples, the Yolngu.

Part 2 looks at issues of recognition and resolution in treaty making in settler states. Long time visitor to Australia, and Canadian Royal Commissioner, Paul Chartrand, describes how the reality and relevance of treaty relationships was central to the findings of the comprehensive Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Also included are two chapters on the British Columbian treaty process by Ravi de Costa and Maureen Tehan, as well as an analysis of treaty making in Aotearoa/New Zealand by the Chief Justice of the Maori Land Court, Joe Williams.

Part 3 then looks specifically at (and beyond) native title. Graeme Neate points to the possibilities of agreement making under the Native Title Act, while Lisa Strelein looks beyond the limits of the law, identifying positive case studies where Indigenous peoples are using the idea of native title to move negotiations towards 'self-government'. Other chapters look in detail at the process of statewide negotiations in South Australia, as well as questions of customary marine tenure, and the increasing role of industry in native title agreement making.

As Lisa Palmer suggests in the introduction to this section, part 4 assesses the emerging culture of agreement making in Australia, in the diverse areas of health, race relations, publishing and mining. Ian Anderson praises the development of health framework agreements, while Hannah McGlade and Michelle Grossman suggest that agreements have had fewer successes in areas of racial discrimination and copyright, respectively. Following Ciaran O'Fairchellaigh's chapter on evaluating the outcomes of native title agreements, the book concludes with a timely contribution on negotiation of the Timor Sea Treaty between Australia and East Timor by Gillian Triggs.

With respect to native title, agreements tend to be lauded by all sides as the preferred mechanism for ordering relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Yet, Australians still have limited experience of making agreements with Indigenous peoples, and no tradition of treaty making to call upon. The editors and their team are to be applauded for producing a work which not only adds immeasurably to our knowledge, but instantly becomes the benchmark volume on agreement making in Australia.
[For details and to purchase the e-book, go to http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au/ebooks/0-522-85132-0/index.html
The Agreements Treaties and Negotiated Settlements project database is at http://www.atns.net.au]

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

National

National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) President Graeme Neate believes the resource sector is becoming increasingly committed to working with native title processes to build relationships with local Indigenous communities. Mr Neate has credited a growing body of expertise and experience that has better equipt the industry to work through the native title processes. *Mining Chronicle, pg 30*. N.D-Jul-04.

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Mr Robert Faulkner has been appointed as a part-time member of the National Native Title Tribunal. Mr Faulkner has extensive experience in Indigenous affairs and is currently the manager of the Indigenous Co-ordination Centre based in Tamworth, New South Wales. *NNTT Media Release*. 22-Jul-04.

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New South Wales

The Federal Court has rejected an appeal to strike out a native title agreement signed by Wiradjuri people over the Lake Cowal gold mine in NSW. Neville Williams, also a Wiradjuri person, claims the wrong Indigenous group has signed the agreement with Barrick Gold. *ABC Online*. 12-Jul-04. The Wiradjuri People claim.

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The Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council has put forward a proposal to the NSW Government saying that The Rock Nature Reserve should be designated as an Aboriginal place. Residents in the area are concerned that this new designation may encourage native title claims on the popular landmark. At the public meeting which was attended by about 20 people, Dr Colin Killick, the National Parks and Wildlife Service area manager, stated that if the proposal is approved it would only acknowledge the importance of the reserve for Aborigines. *Daily Advertiser, pg 3*. 10-Aug-04.

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The Byron Shire Council recently approving the re-zoning of a parcel of land near Tallow Beach which will allow the Arakwal people to establish an Aboriginal cultural centre. The centre will co-ordinate Indigenous tourism activities including a visitor centre/museum, training facilities, an outdoor theatre and office spaces for the Arakwal Corporation, NPWS, Marine Parks Authority and Cape Byron Trust. The Council had originally approved the cultural centre in 1998, but plans were deferred in 2003 to resolve contamination issues as the land had been used as a garbage dump by the Council in the 1970's. The next step for the Arakwal people is to find funding for the project which is estimated at $2 million. *Northern Star, pg 5*. 11-Aug-04.

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Eleven Aboriginal men will face court in Narooma, charged with illegally taking abalone. If convicted, these men may face jail terms. The men have admitted to taking abalone but maintain that they were exercising their traditional rights. The New South Wales Native Title Services (NSWNTS), the representative of native title claimants in NSW, has recently made a submission to the NSW Government, which is currently reviewing its