



Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Researchers celebrate with launch

THE Lindt Research Group is set to celebrate through the launch of the publication *Photographs Are Never Still* at the Grafton Regional Gallery on November 2.

Photographs Are Never Still presents the story of the search for the identity of the Aboriginal people in John William Lindt's photographs held in the gallery's collection. The Lindt Research Group has been the integral force in this search, driving the research and investigations into the Lindt photographs.

The search began when the Cullen family donated 37 portrait photographs by John William Lindt to the gallery in 2004. Thirty three of the photographs portrayed Aboriginal people of the Clarence Valley. It is the identity of the Aboriginal people the Lindt Research Group has been seeking and through this search five people have been identified and many stories and histories of the people revealed.

The Lindt Research Group is a diverse group of people including Elders Irene Daley, Robyne Bancroft, Deborah Taylor, Elizabeth Smith, Ron Heron and Rosie Vesper, as well as Matthew Smith, Sharon Sullivan and Pam Fysh. Jannay Daley, Jo Randall, Rod Williams, Roberta Skinner, Andrea Brown, Ken Bancroft, Nola Mackey, Ken Orchard, Sam Cullen, Janet Cullen and Jennifer Feller attend and support the group when they can. There is also a group of 27 Aboriginal people in the Clarence Valley who maintain direct contact with the group's activities. The group has been meeting at the Grafton Regional Gallery up to six times a year for the past 12 years and the production of the book is a major achievement for this community group.

Yaegl Elders chair and long-term group member, Elizabeth Smith, said the journey of the Lindt Research Group was significant over the years, and leading the direction of the research was hugely important for the project's success and cultural importance.

Photographs Are Never Still opens with a poem by Irene Daley, titled *The Journey*, followed by Deborah Taylor's welcome and introduction. Dr Kate Gahan has written the history of the Aboriginal people in the Clarence Valley and collated research against each of the Lindt portrait photographs.

She said the Lindt Research Group and project was an inspirational process, and the important work that came out of the project and the publication of *Photographs Are Never Still* had inspired continuing work with cultural heritage, language, and the move to educate younger generations and the wider community about the importance of Aboriginal culture.

Photographs Are Never Still was made possible with the support of The Gallery Foundation, University of New England and Clarence Valley Council.

Photographs Are Never Still will launch at the Grafton Regional Gallery at 10am on Thursday, November 2, at the Big Day of Culture. Four Elders of Bundjalung, Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr who are also long-term members of the Lindt Research Group, Robyne Bancroft, Irene Daley, Deborah Taylor and Elizabeth Smith, will welcome everybody to country.

The celebrations will be in full swing with dancing from local dance groups, music, as well as poetry reading, food, art displays, craft stalls, cultural activities and more until noon. Entry is by gold coin. To book to attend the launch, contact the gallery on (02) 6642 3177.

Members of the Lindt Research Group and Grafton Regional Gallery director, Jude McBean, are available for interview upon request.

Release ends.



Caption: Mary Ann Williams (1849 - 1939) by John William Lindt featuring Mary Ann Williams nee Cowan, one of the five people identified.



Image Caption: Chair of Yaegl Elders and long-time Lindt Research Group member, Elizabeth Smith.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.