CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Australian Indigenous Governance Institute

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

15TH - 18TH MARCH 2020
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA
THE CONFERENCE THEME AND PROGRAM

“Self-Determination Through Self-Governance”

A sustainable future for our people relies on our capacity to imagine and pursue true Self-Determination driven by our own priorities and nation/community interests. The practice of good governance will be the fundamental building block that will help to sustain a prosperous future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Brisbane where the event is located, the Turrbul People and the Yuggera. We honour and celebrate their Elders past and present.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) is an Indigenous led national centre specialising in governance knowledge and excellence. AIGI supports the economic, social and cultural aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by connecting them with world-class governance practice, research, thought leadership and educational resources. We work in collaboration with Reconciliation Australia to deliver the Indigenous Governance Program and Awards.

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

Reconciliation Australia was established in 2001 and is the lead body for reconciliation in the nation. Reconciliation Australia are an independent not-for-profit organisation that promotes and facilitates reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Indigenous Governance Program, in partnership with the BHP Foundation and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI), aims to progress reconciliation through recognising, supporting and celebrating strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance and self-determination.
CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION
The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI), alongside Reconciliation Australia (RA) will convene an International Indigenous Governance Conference in March 2020. The Conference will bring together 200 delegates from various regions Australia wide, along with International delegates. The event will see a combination of guest speakers, presentations and interactive workshops on areas of Indigenous Governance.

It will cover themes such as Self – Governance, Self – Determination, Treaties – Development and Innovation, Indigenous Women in Governance, Technology - new knowledge, Nation Building and succession planning. It will cover critical areas in Indigenous Governance.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Date: Sunday 15th March 2020  
Time: 5:00pm – 8.00 pm  
Venue: Brisbane State Library  
Details: Networking Event, Opening of the Conference and Launch of 2020 Indigenous Governance Awards

Date: Monday 16th March 2020  
Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm  
Venue: Queensland University of Technology  
Details: Information panels, Workshops, Guest Speakers

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2020  
Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm  
Venue: Various Locations  
Details: Site visits of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses / Organisations

Date: Wednesday 18th March 2020  
Time: 8:30am to 10:30pm  
Venue: Queensland University of Technology & Dinner location (Howard Wharves)  
Details: Information panels, workshops, Guest Speakers and Closing Dinner
Here are some of our speakers for the program. An updated program will be available closer to the event.

**PRESENTERS**

**MICHELLE DESHONG**

Michelle Deshong is from Townsville, North Queensland and draws her connection to Kuku Yulanji nation. She has completed a BA with First Class Honours in Political Science and Indigenous studies and is completing a PhD. Michelle is currently the CEO of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute.

Michelle has worked in both the Government and NGO sectors, and has held many senior leadership roles and in 2013 Michelle was named in the Australian Financial Review/Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards.

In 2016 Michelle is undertook research in the USA and Canada as part of her Fulbright scholarship to develop strategies for Nation building, leadership and gender equality. She was also named as the 2015 National NAIDOC Scholar of the Year.

**KAREN MUNDINE**

Karen Mundine is from the Bundjalung Nation of northern NSW. As the CEO at Reconciliation Australia, Ms Mundine brings to the role more than 20 years’ experience leading community engagement, public advocacy, communications and social marketing campaigns.

Over the course of her career she has been instrumental in some of Australia’s watershed national events including the Apology to the Stolen Generations, Centenary of Federation commemorations, Corroboree 2000 and the 1997 Australian Reconciliation Convention. Ms Mundine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Technology Sydney and is a Director of the Gondwana Children’s Choir Board.
KAREN DIVER

Karen Diver is currently serving as the Director, Business Development, Native American Initiatives at the University of Arizona, which is a joint appointment between the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy Native Nations Institute and the James E. Rogers College of Law Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

She was an appointee of President Obama as the Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs. As part of the Domestic Policy Council, Ms. Diver assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American Tribes. Karen served in this position from November 2015 until the end of the Administration. Karen served as Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa from 2007 -2015. This position is elected and serves as chair of the tribal government and CEO of the reservation’s corporate boards.

PROFESSOR DARYLE RIGNEY

Professor Daryle Rigney is a citizen of the Ngarrindjeri Nation and the lands and waters of the Lower River Murray, Coorong, Lakes and southern Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia. Daryle is currently Dean of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement, Flinders University.

For many years he has worked on nation-building with Ngarrindjeri leaders and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc (NRA). Daryle currently serves several Ngarrindjeri organisations including the board of the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, the NRA’s Research, Policy and Planning Unit and as a Director on the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation for Native Title.

Daryle is also a member of the University of Arizona’s, Native Nations Institute’s International Advisory Council, co-chairs the United League of Indigenous Nations and is a former Director of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI). In 2013 Daryle was named NAIDOC South Australian Aboriginal person of the year.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MERA PENEHIRA
Ngāti Raukawa ki Otaki; Rangitaane

Mera began her academic career as a kindergarten teacher in the late 1980’s, and graduated from Taranaki Polytechnic with Te Tohu Mōhiotanga (reo Māori) in the early 90’s. Mera completed her masters in educational psychology at the University of Auckland. Her doctoral research centred on Maori women’s health and traditional healing practices, in particular moko, traditional Māori skin carving. Mera is now Associate Professor at the School of Indigenous Graduate Studies at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi where she leads the International Indigenous Doctoral Programme.

She teaches and supervises native doctoral candidates in Aotearoa (Waikato- Tainui College for Research and Development), Hawai‘i (University of Hawai‘i Maui College) and Washington State (University of Washington Tacoma). She has a 15-year-old daughter and is a board member of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Hoani Waititi Marae in West Auckland. Mera is a founding member of Te Wharepora Hou, a Māori and Pacific women’s organisation committed to political actions that support Māori and Indigenous women, children and whānau to achieve and maintain rangatiratanga.

DR ROBERT JOSEPH

Robert is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and was a senior research fellow for the Te Mātāhauariki Research Institute at the University of Waikato under the leadership of Judge Michael Brown and Dr Alex Frame. Dr Robert Joseph was the second Māori in New Zealand - and the first Māori male - to graduate with a PhD in Law in 2006.

Robert’s research interests are many and varied: the realisation of the Treaty of Waitangi rights and responsibilities, the interface of traditional Māori knowledge systems and western science; internal self-determination rights and responsibilities of Indigenous institutions; Canadian and North American Indigenous studies; treaty processes and post-settlement development; dispute resolution processes, particularly with respect to resolving disputes between different cultures; and Māori and Indigenous Peoples’ governance in settler nation-states. He is currently writing a biography of his paternal tupuna (ancestors), who fought at the famous 1864 Battle of Orakau during the Waikato Wars.
JANINE MOHAMED

Janine Mohamed is a Narrunga Kaurna woman currently residing in Melbourne, and Interim Chief Executive Officer at The Lowitja Institute.

Over the past 20 years Janine has worked in nursing, management, workforce and health policy, and project management in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. Many of these years have been spent in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector at state, national and International levels.

‘When I have met with First Nations peoples across the world I have learned that we are facing many of the same challenges in our respective countries. We are all committed to continuing to honour our cultural traditions and knowledges and acknowledge our extraordinary stories of survival and resilience in the face of colonisation, and its historical and contemporary consequences.

EDDIE CUBILLO

Mr Eddie Cubillo is an Aboriginal man with strong family links in both the urban and rural areas throughout the Northern Territory. His mother is of Larrakia/Wadjigan descent and his father is Central Arrente. Eddie has been a judge on the Indigenous Governance Awards since 2008.

He obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree and in was admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. Mr Cubillo was also Chair of both the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee.

In 2010 Mr Cubillo was appointed the Anti - Discrimination Commissioner of the Northern Territory and following his term, took on the role of Executive Officer with NATSILS. In 2015 Eddie was named the National Indigenous Legal Professional of the year. He is currently undertaking a PhD with the University of Technology of Sydney.
SELWYN BUTTON

Mr Selwyn Button is a Gungarri man from South West Queensland, raised in Cherbourg. Mr Button has extensive experience in Queensland health and education sectors. From 2014 to 2018 he was Assistant Director-General of Indigenous Education in state schools, where he oversaw significant improvements in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Prior to that he was CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC); chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane Limited; and director of the Indigenous health policy branch within Queensland Health. He is a former teacher and worked as a Queensland police officer.

Mr Button has served on numerous councils and committees including Oxfam Australia, the Queensland South Native Title Services, Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, and Queensland Council of Social Services. He remains a director of The Lowitja Institute; Australian Children’s Education and Quality Care Authority; and Queensland Rugby Union.

IVAN INGRAM

Ivan is a Wiradjuri and Filipino man from Parkes. He’s currently Manager at PwC Indigenous Consulting. He recently practiced in the area of native title, with a background in both native title determination applications, future acts and cultural heritage.

Ivan is currently undertaking a full-time Doctor of Juridical Science candidature with the University of Arizona. His research is focused on Australian native title law and how that domestic statutory regime measures against the articulation of land rights in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ivan is active in raising awareness of the important role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal professionals play in the practice of law, and particularly in those areas that impact on Indigenous peoples. He has served a number of terms on the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland as the association’s Treasurer and currently sits on the Queensland Law Society’s Reconciliation and First Nations Advancement Committee, which looks at advancing the status of Indigenous people’s rights in the development of Queensland laws.
RENEE BROWN

Renée Brown is a Nunuccal Woman from North Stradbroke Island with bloodline connections to North West Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland. Renée has worked in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations for over 18 years and currently works with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health as an Organisational Development Project Officer. In this role, Renée leads the development of the IUIH’s Cultural Integrity Investment Framework; alongside Senior Community Members, to challenge and address dominant systems and ensuring processes, policies and programs reflect Aboriginal Ways.

CARLA MCGRATH

Carla McGrath is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman. Born and raised on the Australian mainland, Carla now lives in Cairns in Far North Queensland. Carla is currently the Program Director for the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity. In addition, Carla is an independent consultant specialising in community engagement and consultation, for-purpose organisational sustainability, program design and development and facilitation.

Carla was previously Head of Sustainability at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in Redfern, Sydney. Prior to that she worked as Relationship Manager at AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience).

Carla is a Chair of Blakdance and Deputy Chair of GetUp. Her previous board and governance roles include Co-Chair of the Management Committee of the NSW Reconciliation Council, Vice Chair of AYAC (Australian Youth Affairs Coalition), Board Director of Shared Path Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Flashpoint Labs and the George Hicks Foundation, Delegate to the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, Member of the AIME Corporation, Member of The Smith Family Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, and Public Member of the Australian Press Council.

KEY CONTACTS

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