Exiled from Country
Deep Listening to the Spirit of Place

Non-indigenous Australians came to this land with their mythologies and ideas brought from other lands. These imported assumptions have not been seriously challenged since colonial times.

Many indigenous people of Australia feel their connection with this place has been compromised by the ways in which non-indigenous people have taken control of this country.

In seeking economic efficiency, all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, have developed ways of surviving that take us away from direct engagement with the land.

While the land sustains our very existence, at times we can all feel disconnected, alienated or dispossessed from it. Many feel a sense of exile from our home, our place.

- How can we deepen our understanding of and spiritual connection to place?
- How do we build genuine relationships across cultures that grow our reverence for the land?
- How do we learn to listen deeply to place?

Conference Details

Where: Whitegums at Honeymoon Gap, Bullen Rd, 18km west of Alice Springs
When: Thursday evening 21st July to Sunday lunch 24th July 2016
Cost: $300 Full Conference (including all meals, Thurs dinner to Sunday lunch incl.) $150 Single Day (Saturday or Sunday - including meals) Please talk to us if you need assistance with the fee
Accommodation: Onsite camping: $20 pp per night. Offsite accommodation available in town.
Contact us: Phone: 08 8955 0851 Mobile: 0418 898 095 (if no answer leave a text) Email: keith.castle@outlook.com

Early registration is recommended as numbers are limited
Our Hope for the Conference

We are keen to reflect on the context and circumstances of our current relationship with the land. Local Aboriginal people are our richest resource here. They are joined by some non-Aboriginal people who are passionately focused on listening to place.

We are excited by the people who will be presenting at this conference. We are particularly privileged to have Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr in attendance, as she has been such a significant Aboriginal voice for many years in the ongoing conversation about Dadirri or deep listening.

We will also be keen to hear the voices of delegates. As with our first conference in 2014, this gathering will be about listening to and learning from each other.

Presenters

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr (AO) is an Aboriginal elder from Nauiyu (Daly River), where she served for many years as the principal of the local Catholic primary school. She is a renowned artist, writer and public speaker.

Miriam-Rose will share her work on Dadirri, which she describes as “inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us.”

Margaret Kemarrre Turner (OAM) is an Eastern Arrernte elder from Central Australia and author of the book Iwenhe Tyerrtye - what it means to be an Aboriginal person. Margaret will be joined by a number of local Aboriginal people whose passion is to teach their own people and non-Aboriginal people the importance of their cultural traditions.

David Tacey is a public intellectual and a recognised international authority on psychology and spirituality and has published fourteen books. His book Edge of the Sacred was in many ways the inspiration for this conference series, in which we attempt to bring things of the spirit into the public arena.

Sarah Bachelard is a Christian philosopher. Her book Resurrection and Moral Imagination draws on the Christian story and envisages a new world that can be perceived without explicit religious belonging.

Graeme Garrett author of God Matters and Dodging Angels on Saturday, and Jan Morgan author of Earth’s Cry, are engaged in a profound eco-theological project which seeks to explore the art of listening to the voice of creation. They will share their work and introduce us to their practice.

FULL PROGRAM TO FOLLOW – to be sent out on receipt of registration

"Dadirri is not just an Aboriginal thing. There is a spring within us, in everyone. Dadirri is also used as prayer, in the sense that we feel the presence of the Great Creator."

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr
Personal Details

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Mobile Phone ______________________________ Alternate phone ______________________________
Email _____________________________________________________________________________________________
Dietary Needs ______________________________________________________________________________________

Travel and Accommodation

Whitegums is located 18kms west of the town of Alice Springs. We are limited to camping facilities at Whitegums. Those not wanting to camp will need to arrange accommodation in town and will require transport to and from Whitegums each day. Please let us know your situation so we can ensure pickups and accommodation work effectively.

Are you flying? Yes/No ______________________________ If so Flight Number ______________________________
Date and time of arrival _____________________________________________________________________________
Are you planning to camp at Whitegums? __________________________________________________________________
Do you need assistance with town accommodation? __________________________________________________________________
Other comments _____________________________________________________________________________________

Payment

Cost

Full Conference: $300 (including meals)
Single Day (Sat or Sunday): $150 (including meals)
Camping: $20 per person per day

Direct Deposit

Account: NAB Keith Castle and Stella Hayes
BSB: 082 309  Account No: 63409 2787

Cheque

Payable to Keith Castle and Stella Hayes
PO Box 449  Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871