

MEDIA ALERT

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

**** For Monday, 22 November 2004 ****

Top Indigenous Thinkers Sharing the Space

Some of the world's most influential thinkers on Indigenous rights will join top scholars, academics and hundreds of other delegates at the **AIATSIS Conference 2004** in Canberra this week (22-25 November inclusive).

With a theme of *Indigenous Studies – Sharing the Cultural and Theoretical Space*, the conference will be held at the Manning Clark Centre at the Australian National University.

Keynote speakers at this significant event will be:

- Chair of AIATSIS, and Chair of the ANU's Institute for Indigenous Australia, Professor Mick Dodson, *AIATSIS: Forty Years of Excellence* (9.30am to 10.30am, Tuesday 23 November);
- Chairperson of New Zealand's Waitangi Tribunal and head of the Maori Land Court, Chief Judge Joe Williams, *Great Expectations: The Treaty Settlement Process in New Zealand* (9am to 10am, Wednesday 24 November); and
- Director of the Tribal Lands Program of the Trust for Public Land in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Mr Alvin Warren, *Becoming Our Cartographic Masters* (9am to 10am, Thursday 25 November).

The AIATSIS Conference is held every two years. More than half of the speakers at this year's conference are Indigenous people. To view the full conference program, including speaker abstracts, go to: www.aiatsis.gov.au/conf2004.htm.

Conference sub-themes or streams include:

- Indigenist research;
- Making space for Indigenous cultural expressions of well-being in Aboriginal health research and culture;
- A theoretical and practical framework for dealing with culture and conflict;
- Innovation and sustainability in Indigenous tourism;
- What is a Knowledge Centre? A contemporary approach to Indigenous cultural resource management;
- Repatriation: Return of Indigenous remains and objects of cultural significance;
- Sharing land and the politics of property;
- Mapping the shared terrain: Indigenous and non-Indigenous concepts of landscape;

- Towards a National Strategy for Intellectual Property and the protection of Indigenous knowledge;
- National and World Heritage nominations and the impact of native title and agreement making; and
- Sharing Language: Making dictionaries for Indigenous languages.

Other highlights of the week will include:

National Voices: Representing Indigenous Peoples in Canada and Australia

Professor Leroy Little Bear, founding member of the Native American Studies Department at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, and Professor Mick Dodson join in public conversation to discuss national representation and social inclusion of Indigenous communities in Canada and Australia. Presented by the Canadian High Commission in conjunction with the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZS) and AIATSIS.

From 7pm, Tuesday 23 November, Manning Clark Centre, ANU

Presentation of the Stanner Award 2003 to Professor Ann Curthoys for her book 'Freedom Ride: A Freedom Rider Remembers'. The Stanner Award is given annually to the publication in Australian Indigenous studies considered to best reflect the life and work of Professor Bill Stanner who helped to establish and develop AIATSIS. Professor Curthoys will receive her award from Chief Justice of NSW, the Hon. J J Spigelman AC.

5.15pm to 6.15pm, Wednesday 24 November, Manning Clark Centre, ANU

NOTE

The Institute welcomes media attendance and coverage but respects the right of individual speakers to decline to be recorded. For further information or to register to attend the conference, telephone Kirstie Parker of AIATSIS on (0412) 646 926 or (02) 6261 4225.

As the Manning Clark Centre is set up primarily for lectures rather than conferences, media access to audiovisual equipment/support will be limited. For more information, contact Paul McLeay of the ANU's audiovisual unit on 0416-249 318.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by speakers at the AIATSIS Conference 2004 do not necessarily reflect those of AIATSIS.