



# Shaping the future

NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE • 2013

ALICE SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTRE, 3–5 JUNE

## By Jennifer Jones

We are pleased to announce that Professor Robert A. Williams Jnr from the University of Arizona will be the International Keynote Speaker at the 2013 conference. Professor Williams Jnr is an American lawyer who is a notable author and legal scholar in the field of the Federal Indian Law, International Law and Indigenous Peoples Rights, and Critical Race and Post-Colonial Theory. Professor Williams teaches at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law, serving as the E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and American Indian Studies and Director of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. He is also the project leader of Arizona Native Net, a virtual university devoted to the higher educational needs of Native Nations.

We are also proud to announce that Miles Franklin Award winner Alexis Wright is the Keynote Speaker on Mabo Day. Alexis is a member of the Waanyi Nation of the southern highlands of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Her writings include the novels *Plains of Promise*, *Carpentaria*, *The Swan Book*, non-fiction book *Grog War*, and she is the compiler and editor of *Take Power*. Her latest novel, *The Swan Book*, will be published in August 2013. Alexis is a Distinguished Research Fellow in the Writing and Society Research Group, University of Western Sydney.

Alexis' Mabo lecture will be accompanied by members of the Black Arm Band on stage to perform excerpts from *Dirtsong*, music inspired by Alexis' words. The performance features songs performed in 11 different Aboriginal languages by some of the most extraordinary musicians in the land.

Since its beginnings in 2006, over 50 different artists have performed with the The Black Arm Band. They have performed to audiences of over 100,000 people, in remote communities and in every state and territory in Australia as well as on the world's foremost stages across the globe. The Black Arm Band have recently returned from New York where they made their USA debut.

Partnered with The Fred Hollows Foundation, The Black Arm Band Company undertakes tours to and works in remote and regional Indigenous communities. Using the power of music, full-scale performances and workshop programs they aim to promote and enhance holistic community health and wellbeing.

More keynote speakers will be announced over the coming month, so keep up to date via our conference website, Facebook and newsletters leading up to the conference. Our Facebook page is updated with photos and current information as it comes to hand, so make sure you visit this page. We look forward to feedback from you.

Preparations for the conference are now underway at full pace. The conference team visited Alice Springs from Tuesday 12 March to Thursday 14 March to meet with our co-conveners, Central Land Council and our hosts for the conference, Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation.

While there Lisa Strelein, Jennifer Jones and Shiane Lovell visited the Alice Springs Convention Centre to finalise logistics for the conference. We were also invited to visit the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. It was great to meet with staff and students to learn more about their work.

The Program Committee is busy with over 100 call for papers submissions received. We have closed the call for papers, but if you are interested in submitting a paper, please contact the conference team as soon as possible as we are currently making decisions about submissions received.

The three days will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends, network and participate in sessions of interest. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information and to register, visit our conference website at:

<http://wired.ivvy.com/event/ntc13/>