

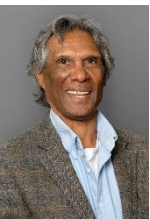
## Aboriginal Tourism Forum speakers



**Natasha McCormack, Master of Ceremonies**  
Owner, Solid Spirit Consultancy



**Hon. Josh Bowden, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality**



**Paul Ah Chee, Aboriginal Tourism Committee Chair and Tourism NT Commissioner**

An Aboriginal man from Alice Springs in Australia's Northern Territory, Paul has been engaged with the tourism industry over the last 26 years. A founding member of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Tourism Advisory Council, Paul's contribution to the tourism sector was recognised with a Northern Territory Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in 2009, and in recognition for his contribution to the Indigenous community received the Centenary Medal in 2003. Currently Paul has representation as a Director on Tourism NT Board, Chairperson Aboriginal Tourism Committee, Director on the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association interim board and currently engaged by NT Major Events company for cultural engagement / advice specifically with Parrtjima (Festival in Light) Paul's goal is to assist by providing opportunities and pathways for individuals or groups to become economically self-sufficient and the ability to make choices about their future and day-to-day living. He also has a passion and strong connection to the creative industry's specialising in music.



**Denise Bowden, CEO Yothu Yindi Foundation & Director of Garma Festival**

Denise Bowden is an Indigenous woman, born and bred on Jawoyn country in Katherine, Northern Territory. Her family ties remain in Katherine today, and through her Mother's family connections stretch back also to the Tagalaka people in Croydon QLD. For upward 13 years she has been the CEO of the Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF) and she also holds a dual position of Director of the Garma Festival, staged annually in North East Arnhem Land. Over 280+ staff each year defer to Denise's leadership, as Garma, through her management has morphed into Australia's most significant Indigenous event on the Australian national calendar. Denise lives in both the uniquely different Yolngu world and our modern Western world, where she combines both learnings to communicate the strengths of the Arnhem region and community pride in Yolngu culture. Denise's has used her extensive influence in driving government policy reform and change through the strong reputation of the Yothu Yindi Foundation. Denise's passion for education is now turning YYF's vision for a world-class regional education hub in northeast Arnhem Land into reality by weaving traditional knowledge concepts into mainstream curriculum. YYF acting as cultural brokers alongside Barker College, in under 3 years the independent Dhupuma Barker school in Gunyangara is now achieving significantly impressive school attendance rates using the influence of grass roots decision making and community empowerment. Denise has been an outspoken advocate for the bush, regional and very remote Indigenous communities, providing advice on the state of horizontal fiscal equalisation and the GST carve-up in the Northern Territory on behalf of disadvantaged Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.



**Rayleen Brown, Founder Kungkas Can Cook & Chair of the First Nations Bushfood and Botanicals Alliance Australia**

Kungkas Can Cook was started by Rayleen and Gina Smith 23 years ago. Though they've since closed their doors, they have now diversified this into Bush Foods Products and Tourism. Kungkas Can Cook is known throughout Australia and many parts of the world where Central Australian bush foods are increasingly receiving their due recognition as unique, speciality, gourmet and delicious. Rayleen has contributed and shared her unique recipes in publications such as: the Great Australian Cookbook (now a tv program on Foxtel) and an ABC publication Australia Cooks, BBC Great Rail Journeys of the World highlighting the journey of the Ghan Adelaide to Alice Springs, and most recently on Channel 10 MasterChef as guest judge. Currently the Chair of the First Nations Bushfood and Botanicals Alliance Australia, Rayleen is committed to helping raise the profile of bush foods, opportunities for people on country using bush foods, and better protection for the ecological knowledge rights of people to the food that has sustained their communities for thousands of years.



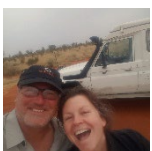
**Kurt Tipungwuti, Tampu King Aboriginal Corporation**

Kurt Tipungwuti is from Wurankuwu (Ranku) outstation on the Tiwi Islands. With a background in tour guiding, having previously worked with Top End Day Tours in Arnhem Land, Kurt is committed to creating opportunities for the Ranku community. In 2023, he took a big step by establishing Tampu King Aboriginal Corporation to continue his grandfather's dream of growth and success for his people and community. Tampu King's vision is to welcome visitors to experience Ranku's unique country and cultural history, creating jobs and an opportunity for people to return home and live in Ranku.



**Nicole Tipungwuti, Director Tampu King Aboriginal Corporation**

Nichole Tipungwuti is from Wurankuwu (Ranku) outstation on the Tiwi Islands. She has spent many years working in administration, gaining valuable experience. Nichole holds the position of Director at Tampu King Aboriginal Corporation. She passionately shares her brother's vision to continue their grandfather's dream and provide opportunities for the people of Ranku. Nichole has played an important role in Tampu King's journey so far, contributing to its achievements and success in its first year of operations.



**Tim Nielsen, Top End Day Tours**

Born in Queensland but brought up in Darwin Tim has worked as a professional touring musician, Curator of Birds at Adelaide Zoo and currently owns and operates a certified organic Apple and Pear orchard in the Adelaide Hills. Tim along with his wife Heather purchased Top End Day Tours just before COVID and enjoy introducing people through our team of wonderful Binninj guides to Aboriginal culture in West Arnhem Land. We are currently working with several traditional owners on new experiences. Ma Bobo.



**Steve Baldwin, President of the Australian Institute of Tourism Officers & Visitor & tourism Services Manager at Uluru-Kata National Park**

Steve Baldwin works as the Visitor & tourism Services Manager at Uluru-Kata National Park and has over 35 years in the Hospitality & Tourism industry including: events management and funding programs, tourism policy development, Visitor Centres, State and National board appointments. As the current President of the Australian Institute of Tourism Officers (AITO) and Chair of Yulara Childcare, Steve spends an extensive amount of time volunteering for community projects and events, and working as a student mentor.



**Rychelle Vines, Indigenous and Community Projects Manager for the Airport Development Group**

Rychelle has over 25 years' experience across the fields of education, Indigenous leadership and tourism. Rychelle moved to the Northern Territory in 1997, where she led 4wd camping safaris for 7 years before qualifying as a teacher. Rychelle established and led the nationally significant Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre's education programs for 5 years. In 2021, Rychelle was appointed Indigenous and Community Projects Manager for the Airport Development Group (ADG). She established ADG's Indigenous Training Academy and is now working to see Darwin recognised as the gateway to Aboriginal Culture and supporting the development of ADG's Indigenous Procurement Charter.



**Tanya Nasir, Tanyah Nasir Consulting Services**

Tanyah is a Garrawa, Djugun-Yawuru woman born in Darwin. She is a descendant of the Stolen Generation's and has family connections with Tiwi people. Tanyah is an educator with over 30 years' experience as a teacher, designer and trainer. Tanyah believes that confidence and belief in self are critical to strengthening personal and cultural identity to create the life one wants.

Tanyah Nasir Consulting Services is a 100% Aboriginal owned company that specializes in designing and delivering bespoke empowerment training and mentoring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. All training is developed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, utilizing deep empathy and respect ensuring learners feel safe to unlock their potential and nurture resilience and hope to inspire social change. We do this through our innovative leadership program Rise UP, Be Your Best, Own Your Future.



**Victor Cooper, First Nations Tourism Specialist Partner and Chair of the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee**

An highly experienced cross-cultural facilitator, educator, Board member and tourism operator, Victor Cooper has a diverse history, growing up in Darwin and working on a range of cattle stations, trained as a carpenter and as a butcher on Croker Island.

When Kakadu National Park was declared in 1979, Victor returned to his Mother's father's country and was appointed as one of the Park's first Indigenous rangers. In 2007, Victor was awarded the Australian Public Service medallion for his outstanding service. In 2009, Victor started family-owned business Ayal Aboriginal Tours Kakadu. As Traditional Owners of Kakadu, the business would provide a way of sharing living culture to visitors from Australia and all over the world. Victor has also undertaken work as a cross-cultural facilitator and consultant, as a Ranger Coordinator for the federally funded Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, Kakadu National Park Board Member, member of the Northern Territory Indigenous Tourism Advisory Council and as the current Chair of the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee.

\* Further speaker information will be included when received.