

Aboriginal Tourism Forum 2025 speakers

Welcome to Country: Nicole Brown, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation



MC: Tamara Giles, Owner, and Managing Director of Indigenous Media NT

Tamara is the Owner and Managing Director of Indigenous Media NT, a media advertising agency that operates on a national platform providing mixed media strategies through a cultural lens. Since 2005, she has lived and worked in the Northern Territory, initially as a journalist for *Imparja* in Alice Springs, where she raised her daughter for over a decade.

Tamara is also the majority shareholder in *Getting Inspired Pty Ltd*, a small consultancy business. This role has allowed her to travel extensively throughout Australia, particularly to regional and remote communities, providing governance and business support. Passionate about showcasing the Northern Territory, Tamara is dedicated to building a strong Indigenous business community to create a solid workforce and *Communicate with Influence Beyond* her professional achievements, Tamara is known for her warm and approachable nature. She loves sharing stories from her travels and is deeply committed to mentoring young Indigenous entrepreneurs. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the natural beauty of the Northern Territory, meeting new people, and reading statistical data on political campaigns.

Hon Marie Claire-Boothy, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality



Marie-Claire grew up in Darwin's northern suburbs in the 1970s and 80s at a time when it was safe for children to ride their bikes across the suburbs and play in the local parks.

Her parents were active members of community service clubs in the Top End, attending community events and fundraisers most weekends. When she left home, Marie-Claire built a home in Palmerston, spent a few years in Darwin city before returning to Palmerston just before her first son was born.

She is passionate when it comes to small businesses, the jobs they create and opportunities they provide Territorians.

For 18 years Marie-Claire was in the leadership team of the Northern Territory's most successful financial advisory firm. She spent 3 years assisting organisations to succeed in the online world through digital marketing initiatives. Her passion for local business led her to be the Chair of *Territory Proud* for 3 years, a membership organisation of nearly 400 NT Businesses who use the brand to identify as locally owned and operated.

Marie-Claire is raising her two boys, in Palmerston and enjoys getting to know the families in the area through the local community, sporting and cultural groups.



James Morgan, Aboriginal Tourism Committee member

James Morgan is a Bininj man with connections to Burringkuy (Nourlangi Rock). The sole trader of *Yibekka and Kakadu Rock Art Tours*, he is also contracted by *Parks Australia* to manage a *Kakadu National Park* campground and was a *Yellow Waters* cruise guide. In 2021, he managed the *Kakadu ranger guide program* (program). For the first time in the program's 25-year history it achieved 100% Aboriginal participation. Previously James held public service positions for eight years. He has also been a member of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Minister's Youth Advisory Council and ACT Road Safety Advisory Board.

James is passionate in growing Aboriginal representation in the tourism sector and to contribute to building capacity in local communities and Aboriginal businesses. He is dedicated and committed for the long term.



Mona Liddy, Aboriginal Tourism Committee member

Mona is a Wagiman elder from the upper Daly River region, Chairperson of Tjuwaliyn Wagiman Aboriginal Corporation, Northern Land Council Pine Creek member and owns a private consultancy business.

Mona's previous roles include Community Engagement Coordinator, Cultural Advisor, Program Management Support Officer and Aboriginal Community Advisor and she has also served as committee member of the Ooloo Water Advisory Committee and Wagiman Joint Management Committee, Board Director of Territory Natural Resource Management and Chairperson of the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group.

Mona's qualifications include a Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Community Management and Development) Curtin University WA, and Diploma of Government (Project Management Specialisation).

Mona's goal is creating pathways to achieve economic stability for Traditional Owners, as well as training and employment through community led sustainable tourism initiatives.

Peter Pangquee, Aboriginal Tourism Committee member



Peter is an Aboriginal man who grew up in Darwin, he is Marrathiel on his father side and Yankunytjatjara on his mother side. Peter is currently an Councillor on the City of Darwin Council and is the City of Darwin Council member on the Executive Board of Management of Tourism Top End, he is also a member of the Development Consent Authority (Darwin) and executive member of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

Previously Peter has held management positions with the Department of Health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce and cultural engagement and is a Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner. Peter was the inaugural Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia and the Principal Aboriginal Health Practitioner Advisor to the NT Department of Health. Peter holds a Bachelor's Degree, Applied Science, Aboriginal Community Management and Development.



Randle Walker, Aboriginal Tourism Committee member

The Chief Executive Officer of Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation (CAIC), a position he has held for the past 15 years. Randle is Chair of the NT Heritage Council and ex-officio Member of the NT Planning Commission.

Previously the President of the Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Northern Territory, Randle has also held positions with Tourism Central Australia, Central Australia Chamber of Commerce and the Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee. Randle's finance and governance experience and skills are extensive and benefit community groups including Chair of the MacDonnell Regional Council Audit Committee, auditor for a range of community clubs and organisations, and Chair of the Alice Springs Meeting Place Foundation.



Brian Lee, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation Chairman

Brian Lee is the Chairman of the Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation and has served this organisation in some capacity for about 25 years. His vision is to build a better future for his people, the Bardi Jawi mob, and to bring about sustainable employment and capacity to deliver programs and services to the community of Djarindjin and the wider Dampier Peninsula. Brian has achieved success and a level of recognition in the broader community as he runs a successful tour business which will operate out of the Djarindjin Roadhouse from 2022.

Nathan Mclvor, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation Chief Executive Officer



Nathan Mclvor is the Chief Executive Officer of Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) and General Manager of Djarindjin Airport Pty Ltd, was honoured as the Businessperson of the Year 2024 by the Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Originally from the Northern Territory, assuming his role in 2019, Nathan has been a driving force behind the organisation's journey towards self-determination, sustainable development, and financial independence. His leadership has been instrumental in fostering growth and empowerment within the Djarindjin community and the wider Dampier Peninsula.

In 2024 DAC received the prestigious Indigenous Governance Award recognising outstanding governance and its role as a model of self-determination and economic sustainability. Nathan's commitment to preserving cultural heritage while promoting economic prosperity has earned him widespread recognition. He attributes this success to the dedication and hard work of his team, whose innovation and commitment have been integral to the organisation's achievements. Nathan's vision and dedication continue to inspire his team to strive for excellence and community empowerment.



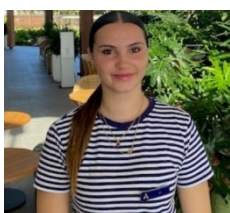
Savana Cooper, Parks Australia

Savana Cooper is the Tourism Visitor Team Officer for Kakadu National Park, as member of the Tourism and Visitor Services team Savana coordinates the management of commercial tourism activities, administration of the park's permit and licensing systems, and engages regularly with Kakadu's Aboriginal traditional owners and a wide range of stakeholders to communicate the Park's key messages and values. Savana is an Aboriginal woman who has grown up in Kakadu National Park and has a strong cultural connection to the area and the Arnhem land region and is passionate about her work in looking after country and helping protect its values.



Dean McAdam, NT Parks and Wildlife Commission

Dean Mcadam is the Director of the Northern Australian Parks of the Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality. I first joined as a trainee in 1984 and have risen through the ranger ranks to my current designation. I love the northern bush and sharing our parks with locals and visitors alike.



Tia Graham, Airport Development Group

After completing high school in Darwin, I was unsure of which direction to take. I was offered an opportunity with the Airport Development Group, Indigenous Training Academy to complete my Certificate III in Hospitality. I absolutely love my role in the food and beverage department and every day get to share my culture with visitors to the Northern Territory.



Taylah Basic, Airport Development Group

Taylah Basic is proud Arrernte woman, who commenced her hospitality journey at Darwin Airport Resort in April 2022, as a casual front of house team member. She was offered the opportunity to be part of the Airport Development Group Indigenous Training Academy working towards securing her Certificate IV in Business. Becoming a part of the academy has provided her with the support to develop her hospitality career and is now enjoy playing an important leadership and mentoring role in the development of new trainees.



Angela Sammon, Banka Banka West Station and Tourist Park

Angela and David Sammon have managed Banka Banka West Station and Tourist Park for a few years, transforming it into a thriving destination. By providing excellent visitor experience, preserving the station's heritage and supporting regional tourism. Angela, a proud Jingili-Mudburra woman, is a director and co-founder of the Mona Aboriginal Corporation. She has been instrumental in empowering today's youth for a better tomorrow. Her passion for community development led her to establish Sammons Contracting Pty Ltd, a 100% Indigenous-owned and managed business based in the Barkly

region. Angela and David's commitment to capacity building and mentoring supports both economic growth and social well-being within the tourism and pastoral sectors.



William Palmer, Standley Chasm Angkerle Atwatye

William Palmer is a proud Arrernte man born and raised in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). His journey in the tourism industry began nearly two years ago, driven by a deep connection to my culture and country.

I started my career in the kitchen at Standley Chasm as a Kitchen Hand, but my passion for sharing our stories and landscapes led him to pursue a path in tour guiding. After completing my Certificate I in Tour Guiding, he stepped into the role of Head Tour Guide, leading visitors through the breathtaking view and land of Standley Chasm. He is currently undertaking his Certificate III in Tour Guiding to deepen his skills and knowledge.

Now, he is working towards building his own tourism business, offering authentic cultural experiences that showcase the beauty and spirit of Arrernte country. His goal is to educate, inspire, and create opportunities for the next generation of Indigenous tour guides.



Brodie Roesch, 100% Finke River Culture and Adventure

Born in Adelaide, Brodie Roesch of Purtame/Luritja heritage spent his early years at his family's Walkabout outstation, where he learned traditional hunting and gathering from his grandparents. This upbringing ignited his passion for sharing cultural knowledge and pursuing a career in tourism, inspired by his family's involvement in ventures like Rainbow Valley Cultural Tours and land management programs. Professionally, Brodie managed camp kitchens on the Larapinta Trail with 100% Finke River Culture and Adventure for a year. He is

studying at Charles Darwin University, working towards Certificates III and IV in Cookery and Kitchen Operations. His next goal is to complete a Certificate III in Tourism to enhance his guiding and business skills. Brodie is dedicated to continuous learning and aims to preserve and promote his cultural heritage through tourism and hospitality.



Rachel Telford, Department of Tourism and Hospitality

Rachel Telford has a diverse background in the tourism sector having worked in public and private sector roles spanning events, marketing, investment attraction and tourism development. With a solid track record in senior business and economic development roles in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, she has an excellent knowledge of the destinations, the networks and importantly the key drivers of success for developing and operating tourism ventures in regional settings. Rachel's qualifications include a Master of Business (Marketing) and a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors flagship Company Directors' course.



John Liddle, J & L Outback

John lives and operates his tourism business, J & L's Outback Experience on his family's homeland, Kurrku, on the former Tempe Downs cattle property. He has a long history of living and working in this area. Raised on a cattle station nearby, John's love for this area was instilled as a child learning from family, elders, and friends.

John's connection to this country is from his mother's father who also grew up and lived in this area. His tribal connection is Luritja, Arrernte, Perteme, Matjutatjarra and Yankuntjatjara and Pitjantjatjara.

John's first language as a child was Pitjantjatjara and still is a regular speaker with family members.

John has a lifetime of association with the local area which has given him a strong knowledge of local plants, animal, seasons, country, and people. John's working life involved being a Stockmen, labourer, tour guide, Fencer, working in administration, CEO, Health Activist, and tour operator.



Lorraine St Claire, J & L Outback

Lorraine was born and raised in Alice Springs and is of Arrernte heritage. Being raised in Alice Springs, it was only natural to develop a love of exploring the bush with her family from a very early age. From learning about bush medicine how to hunt and gather bush food and the relationship and connections Aboriginal people have to their sacred lands. After leaving School, Lorraine worked on and off in the tourism & hospitality industry for over thirty years before moving into the Indigenous education field. Lorraine met John and they now have a daughter, three sons, a grandson and granddaughter who often help out in the business. The connection and practices our ancestors have with the land has been passed down to us to carry on and teach and share with the next generation.



Kristy Rees, Thrive Territory

A trusted and respected business leader in the Northern Territory, Kristy is known for her strong sense of purpose towards inspiring and enabling people from all walks of life to take what they have today and create their best tomorrow.

With a reputation as a strategic thinking partner, Kristy is called upon to work alongside clients either in delivery of their key projects from time to time, or to bridge the gap from strategy to execution in the provision of ongoing strategic support to organisational leaders.

**Abbie Northwood, The Aware Advisors**

Abbie Northwood is a highly skilled tourism professional and the Director of The Aware Advisors, a Darwin-based advisory firm dedicated to meaningful engagement and development across the Northern Territory. With a deep passion for Aboriginal business and experience development, Abbie specialises in supporting tourism enterprises and organisations to create sustainable, culturally rich visitor experiences. Her career spans all facets of the tourism industry, from managing an iconic Melbourne attraction to business events, destination management, trade, and marketing. Since moving to the NT, she has focused on delivering tourism strategies and projects that drive economic, social, and cultural outcomes.

**Benji Kenny, 100% Finke River Culture & Adventure**

Benji Kenny's skin name is Bangata, and his animal totem is Kngoiilya (Wild dog), and is a western Arrarnta man from Hermannsburg (Ntaria). He has been operating his business since 2021, specialising in Simpson Gap Tours, Hermannsburg Mission Tours along with multi day cultural immersion tours and Larapinta guided tours.

**Robert Friel, Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation**

Robert Friel is the Deputy Chair of the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation, based in Katherine, Northern Territory. He has been with the Jawoyn Association since 2023. Prior to this role, Robert served as a Senior Technical Officer at Vista Gold.

The Jawoyn Association, established during the Nitmiluk land claim, aims to unite the Jawoyn people and develop economic independence. The association's success is built on land ownership and asset control, reinvesting royalties to support land management, cultural heritage programs, and sustainable development.

Robert's leadership contributes to maintaining the balance between cultural, environmental, and economic needs, ensuring the Jawoyn people's cultural legacy is preserved while fostering economic growth.

**Andrew Bush, Tiwi Enterprises**

Andrew has committed to Tiwi Enterprises as a director since 2007. His leadership values in community and right across the Tiwi Islands is unquestionable. Andrew has led the 8 strong Directorship into a new and exciting era for Tiwi Enterprises. Evolving and expanding into Tourism has been a major step for the economic development of the Tiwi Islands.

**Scott Simpson, Tiwi Enterprises**

Under Scotty's leadership, Tiwi Enterprises has experienced significant growth in employment, increasing from 27 to 71 employees, with 35 of them being Indigenous. Scotty's strength lies in his ability to bridge the gap between the Directors' aspirations and their realisation.

*Subject to change