

# INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR

27 September 2016

## SPEAKERS

### **Uncle Bob Anderson OAM**

Uncle Bob Anderson is a Ngugi Elder from Mulgumpin in Quandamooka, South East Queensland. He has been a Family Representative on The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, QYAC.

He is well known for both striving to progress and protect the rights of workers through the trade union movement and for his efforts to maintain and promote the reconciliation process as a member and delegate of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

Known as Uncle Bob, he served as a trade union delegate and State Organiser for the Building Workers Industrial Union from 1951 to 1978 and has been recognised as an Honorary Member of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union.

He is the Patron of the TJRyan Foundation.

### **Professor Margaret Reynolds**

Margaret Reynolds has had a lengthy career in education and public policy. As a teacher she initially specialised in working with children with disabilities and expanded her professional interests to include cultural diversity and Aboriginal education.

She was elected to the Townsville City Council in 1979 and to the Australian Senate in 1983. She was a Minister in the Hawke Government 1987-1990 and was appointed the Australian Government's Representative on the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation 1991-1996.

Since leaving Parliament, she has taught Human Rights and International Politics at the University of Queensland, been National President of the UN Association of Australia and is currently State Manager of National Disability Services, Tasmania.

She is a Research Associate of the TJRyan Foundation.

### **Professor Henry Reynolds**

Henry Reynolds is the nation's leading authority on the history of Australia's Indigenous people. His seminal book, *The Other Side of the Frontier*, published in 1981, was the first to see history from an Aboriginal perspective. Although a graduate of the University of Tasmania, he spent the bulk of his academic career at the James Cook University of North Queensland. His work there on Indigenous oral history connected him with Eddie Mabo and greatly contributed to the High Court's recognition of land rights.

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**Emeritus Professor Roger Scott**  
**Executive Director**  
**TJRyan Foundation**  
<http://www.tjryanfoundation.org.au>

He is now based back at the University of Tasmania where he has added to his many books with studies of Tasmanian and Australian war history.

He is a Research Associate of the TJRyan Foundation.

### **Kevin Smith**

Kevin Smith is a descendant of the Meriam Peoples of the Torres Strait with traditional connections to Ugar (Stephen Island) and Erub (Darnley Island). Kevin has over 20 years of professional experience in Indigenous affairs, including senior positions with the National Secretariat of Torres Strait Islander Organisations, the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the National Native Title Tribunal, the National Native Title Council and Aboriginal Hostels Limited.

In 2008, Kevin successfully led the amalgamation and incorporation of the former Gurang and Greater Mount Isa Native Title Representative Body areas into Queensland South Native Title Services where he now holds the position of Chief Executive Officer.

### **Cameron Costello**

Cameron Costello is a Quandamooka man from Moreton Bay off Brisbane in South East Queensland. He is the CEO for the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation - established for the native title determination over Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). He is also the Chair of Minjerribah Camping, a joint venture business between the Quandamooka People and Indigenous Business Australia.

He is a law graduate from the University of Queensland and holds a Bachelor of Leisure Management. He has worked previously in the legal industry and over 15 years in local and state governments delivering Indigenous policies and programs.

### **Heron Loban**

Heron Loban is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Griffith University. She was born on Thursday Island and is a Torres Straits Islander woman with family ties to Mabuiag and Boigu Islands. Heron has been Chairperson of the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network in Cairns, Deputy Chairperson of the Centre for Appropriate Technology in Alice Springs and a Director of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network in Sydney. Her research focuses on Indigenous law and justice issues in consumer law and criminal justice.

### **Marcus Waters**

Marcus Woolombi Waters is a Kamilaroi First Nation Australian Aboriginal. In 2014, Dr Waters won the Australian Multicultural and Indigenous Media Award for Best Editorial Reporting. His writing for the Conversation, the National Indigenous Times and the Koori Mail has led to his becoming one of the most read Indigenous social commentators in Australia. His writing focuses on traditional ceremony, cultural maintenance and he often writes in his own Kamilaroi First Nation Aboriginal language. His writing remains critical of neoliberal policy and austerity politics that continue to have devastating effect on Aboriginal peoples and their communities across the world. A published playwright, screenwriter, journalist and academic, Dr Waters is the Convener of Open Learning and teaches Sociology at Griffith University.

He is a Research Associate of the TJRyan Foundation.