

Spiritual Song of the Aborigine

*I am a child of the Dreamtime people,
Part of this land like the gnarled gum tree,
I am the river, softly singing,
Chanting our songs on my way to the sea.
My spirit is the dust-devils,
Mirages that dance on the plain,
I am the snow, the wind and the falling rain.
I am part of this land like the red desert earth,
Red as the blood that flows in my veins,
I am eagle, crow and snake that glides
Through the rainforest that clings to the mountainsides.
I awakened here when the earth was new,
There was emu, wombat, kangaroo,
No other man of a different hue.
I am this land and this land is me.
I am Australia.*

Hyllus Maris

2007 Hyllus Maris Annual Memorial Lecture



Hyllus Maris (1934 - 1986)

*2007: Delivering on the promise
of the 1967 referendum for
Indigenous Australians*

Speaker: Mr Tom Calma

**Tuesday 21 August 2007
6:00pm at Union Hall**

For reproduction of all materials we thank the Briggs family and the Molly Dyer family.

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CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
1967-2007

About the Lecture...

The Hyllus Maris Annual Memorial Lecture is the first memorial lecture in honour of an Aboriginal woman on an Australian university campus. The Lecture honours Hyllus Maris' visionary work in Aboriginal education and also honours the contribution and participation of Aboriginal people in higher education generally in this country. The Lecture is an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to meet at the University and share in a celebration of mutual significance.

The Lecture was an initiative of the former La Trobe University Women's Studies Program, in collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, La Trobe University Aboriginal Liaison Unit and Koorie Women Mean Business. The Lecture is sponsored by the Office of the Director, Indigenous Education.

About the Speaker...

Mr Tom Calma is an Aboriginal elder from the Kungarakan tribal group and the Iwaidja tribal group whose traditional lands are south west of Darwin and on the Coburg Peninsula in Northern Territory, respectively. He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and worked in the public sector for over 30 years.

Mr Calma has broad experience in public administration, particularly in Indigenous education programs and in developing employment and training programs for Indigenous people from both a national policy and program perspective.

He served three terms as a Director of Aboriginal Hostels Ltd and as a Company Director for a private tourism and hospitality venture in the Northern Territory.

Until his appointment as Commissioner, on 12 July 2004 for five years, Mr Calma managed the Community Development and Education Branch at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) where he worked with remote Indigenous communities to implement community-based and driven empowerment and participation programs. In 2003, he was Senior Adviser Indigenous Affairs to the Minister of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

From 1995-2002, he worked as a senior Australian diplomat in India and Vietnam representing Australia's interests in education and training. During his time in India, he also oversaw the management of the Australian international education offices in Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

He moved to Canberra in 1992 and undertook various assignments, including Executive Director to the Secretary and Senior Executive of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA).

In the early 1980s, Mr Calma and Indigenous colleagues established the Aboriginal Task Force (ATF) at the Darwin Community College (which later became the Darwin Institute of Technology), which provided second chance education programs for Indigenous people. He became a senior lecturer and head of the ATF for six years.

Mr Calma has also been appointed as acting Race Discrimination Commissioner for a one-year term.

Since 2005, Commissioner Calma has been a White Ribbon Day Ambassador. White Ribbon Day is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Commissioner Calma is also a national patron of Wakakirri National Story Festival.

Program

Performance
One Fire Dancers

Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country
Ms Lois Peeler

La Trobe University Welcome
Professor Paul Johnson, *Vice-Chancellor*

2007: Delivering on the promise of the 1967 referendum for Indigenous Australians

Speaker
Mr Tom Calma
*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
and
Acting Race Discrimination Commissioner
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission*

Response and Vote of Thanks
Mrs Sylvia Walton, *Chancellor*

Performance
One Fire Dancers

Refreshments