

INVITATION TO A FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

DATE: THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020

The First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee of Quakers Australia, and the Committee on Racial Equality (ACT) invite you to join a FORUM on the theme
AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS HERITAGE.

It will be held via zoom on **THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2020 at 8pm Eastern Daylight-Saving Time, 7.30pm Central Time, 7pm Queensland Time, 6.30pm NT Time and 5pm Western Australian and Kuala Lumpur Time.**

Forum Speakers

- Dave Johnston (ANU Archaeologist, from Queensland Indigenous background, Founder of Indigenous Australian Archaeologists Association).
- Shane Mortimer (Ngambri Elder Mingku, Canberra, who is campaigning with Canberra residents to preserve the Ainslie volcanic site where an ancient petroglyph has been found).
- Professor Dr Jakelin Troy (Ngarigu Woman from Snowy Mountains, Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research at University of Sydney).
- Pastor Ray Minniecon (Aboriginal pastor in Sydney, with connections to the Kabi Kabi and Gurang-Gurang nations and Ambryn Island)
- Dr Muhamad Hassan Ahmad (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, International Islamic University Malaysia, and has a long association with the ANU).

Q and A

After the contributions from the speakers, there will be an opportunity for questions and comments from other participants. The meeting is expected to last no longer than two hours.
Attending the Forum.

If you wish to attend the Forum, please contact Gedda Fortey at gtfortey@gmail.com with a Cc to Shane Mortimer at shanemortimer@gmail.com by Monday 12 October to receive the details of the *Zoom link*.

Background

There have been ongoing examples of Indigenous heritage sites being damaged or disturbed by development, urbanisation and adverse use of land. This has occurred sometimes as a result of deliberate government policies, sometimes by insensitive and ignorant intrusion by corporations and councils, and sometimes by accident. There is a strong sense of exploitation and despair among First People for the loss of significant sites and disruption of cultural practices.

The Forum arises from the view that Indigenous heritage is a vital part of Australia's heritage and needs to be valued more fully. Policies need to reflect this respect for what Indigenous people have given to our shared heritage.

Further details of the speakers:

Archaeologist Dave Johnston

“Australia’s Indigenous Heritage belongs to all of us. It provides the foundations that can define us as a nation of people who are proud of who we are and of this beautiful land. It is Australia’s greatest unrealised asset”. Conserving the nation’s Aboriginal heritage is Dave’s passion. As a consultant archaeologist for 27 years he has worked on more than 2,000 heritage projects. In 2014, he was awarded the Sharon Sullivan National Heritage award for his outstanding contribution to the Indigenous heritage environment and his continuing influence. He is the director of the Australian Indigenous Archeological Association. His contributions have been recognised internationally. He was involved in the development of a code of ethics for the World Archaeological Congress. <https://www.anu.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/spotlight/david-johnston>

Ngambri Elder Guumaal Ngambri Mingku aka Shane Mortimer

Shane established the international legal precedent on Allodial Title of ALL first people. He is fighting to protect a men’s business site at the foothills of Mount Ainslie (Canberra) which is about to be cleared for a residential development.

The developers and the ACT Government were aware as early as 2013 that the site’s rocky outcrops are significant to local First People. Neither the developers nor the Government ever consulted First People, elders or groups about the site. Shane can trace his Aboriginal Ancestry to the woman who first led Scottish settler James Ainslie to Mount Ainslie in 1826.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-22/tennis-court-apartments-to-be-built-over-sacred-aboriginal-site/12372466>

Professor Dr Jakelin Troy

Jakelin Troy is a Ngarigu woman from the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales, and Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research at The University of Sydney. Professor Troy’s research and academic interests focus on languages, linguistics, archeology, anthropology and visual arts. Professor Troy is Editor in Chief of [ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations and First Peoples’ Cultures](http://www.historyofemotions.org.au/about-the-centre/researchers/jakelin-troy/) <http://www.historyofemotions.org.au/about-the-centre/researchers/jakelin-troy/>

Pastor Ray Minniecon

Pastor Minniecon is an Aboriginal pastor with connections to the Kabi Kabi and Gurang-Gurang Nations in Queensland and Ambryn Island. He lives in Sydney and has dedicated his life to supporting members of the Stolen Generations of First People who were forcibly removed from their families by government agencies and church missions in an attempt to assimilate them into the culture of white Australia. <https://www.theforgivenessproject.com/stories/ray-minniecon/>

Dr Muhamad Hassan Ahmad

He is an Assistant Professor at the Civil Law Department, Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah (Faculty) of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia. He holds Bachelor of Law (LLB), Master of Comparative Laws (MCL) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law. He has special interest in Public International Law; Private International Law; Islamic Banking & Finance, Alternative Dispute Resolution; Comparative Law, Jurisprudence and Online Legal Education. He is an author of three books and a number of research articles published in various academic journals. He has a long association with Australia, including a Visiting Fellowship (2016-2018) at the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences, Australian National University.

<https://www.iiu.edu.my/staff/show/8116>