



NOONGA
Reconciliation Group

GREAT ABORIGINAL DEBATES

An initiative of Noonga Reconciliation Group Inc.
Patron: Aunty Ruth Hegarty

My sacred space is more important than yours!

What does 'sacred space' mean to you? Do you have a 'sacred space'? What kinds of places shape and nurture our spirit?

ABC Radio broadcaster and host of 'The Conversation Hour', Richard Fidler, will lead a number of eminent thinkers in a controversial discussion about the competing needs and views of place from standpoints including religion, culture, national pride, celebration and tragedy.

We welcome your views too, so pipe up on the night and react to the speakers. Tell us your sacred spaces and what peeves you about people who don't respect them! Any perspective is fair game. Here are some questions to start with:

- Is it arrogant for Aboriginal people to think that only they have a significant connection to land?
- What lengths will we take to claim, protect and honour common sacred spaces – Jerusalem, Mecca, Uluru?
- Why do spaces steeped in tragic memory still draw us – Auschwitz, Gallipoli, site of the Myall Creek massacres, car accident sites?
- Can sacred spaces be created in an urban setting like Brisbane?

Speakers

- Cr Bob Abbot - Mayor, Noosa Shire Council
- Getano Bann - Music Therapist
- David Bentley - Cantor Temple Shalom, Camp Hill
- Debra Bennet - Manager, ATSI Program Qld Community Arts Network
- Mary Graham - Aboriginal Lecturer, Administrator & Trainer
- Right Rev Jonathan Holland - Bishop, Northern Region Diocese of Brisbane
- Dale Kerwin - Coordinator, Gumurrii Centre, Griffith University (Logan Campus)
- Gai Lemon - Gaian Activist, Witch, Celebrant & Trainer
- Jeff Poole - Co-owner of Brisbane's first sustainable house
- Christine Rimene - Maori Advisor Indigenous health, education & environment
- Grant Sarra - Aboriginal Consultant & Facilitator
- Dr Tariq Syed - Muslim scholar & Imam, Bald Hills Mosque

Come early and enjoy the Songlines Choir as they inspire us with their powerful harmonies

Venue: Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
119 Lamington St, New Farm (Ample on street and off street parking)

Dates / Time: **Tuesday 15 August** 6:45pm - 9:00pm

Cost: Entry by donation

Contact: Bev on 3256 3508

Master of Ceremonies: Linda McBride, Principal Policy Advisor Dept Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy

Sponsors: Councillor Faith Hopkins Brisbane City Council (Marchant Ward), Australian Labor Party (Baroona Branch), Bendigo Bank, Corpus Christi College, Tukka Restaurant



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Is our education system completing Aboriginal cultural genocide?

What is behind this impression? Racist teachers? Institutional racism within the education system? Just ignorance?

How are schools faring in delivering quality public education? There is much anecdotal evidence that contemporary school models are failing a number of groups including Indigenous, African and Pacific Islander communities.

What are implications for the education system if we concede that in a rich, first world country like Australia, we cannot provide quality education for all?

Peter O'Beirne, Queensland Coordinator of the National Dare to Lead Project, will lead a lively panel of students, teachers, senior education personnel and parents as they debate what's going wrong and what could be done to address injustices in education.

Speakers

- Gina Archer - Qld Teachers Union & School of Distance Education
- Tiga Bayles - General Manager Murri Radio & Chairperson Murri School
- Mariya Coblenz & Andrew Dungan - Home schooling parents
- Mayrah Dreise - Aboriginal Educator & Activist
- Barry Malezer - Coordinator, Ngutana-Lui ATSI Cultural Studies Centre
- Colleen Mitrow - Principal, Southside Education
- Karen Nielsen - Teacher, Cherbourg State School
- Ken Smith - Director-General, Department of Education & the Arts
- Dr Phil Standen - Principal, Holy Rosary School Windsor
- Dr Merv Wilkinson - Senior Officer Indigenous Education Leadership Institute
- Students from local schools

**Come early and be entertained by the fabulous eCCOs, folk singers
extraordinaire from Corpus Christi College**

Venue: Corpus Christi College (Ample street parking)
Buckland Road (beside Prince of Wales Hotel) Nundah

Dates / Time: **Wednesday 30 August** 6:45pm - 9:00pm

Cost: Entry by donation – supper will be served

Contact: Bev on 3256 3508

Master of Ceremonies: Linda McBride, Principal Policy Advisor Dept Aboriginal & Torres Strait
Islander Policy

Sponsors: Councillor Faith Hopkins Brisbane City Council (Marchant Ward),
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