

Keynote speakers:

Aunty Joan Hendriks

Welcome to country and Opening ceremony

Keynote Speaker Monday evening

Joan Hendriks is a descendant of the Ngugi people of Moreton Bay Queensland and maintains a deep sense of identity with family and place of belonging. Her family is central in her life and her spiritual connections are deeply embedded in the land and waters of Moreton Bay; place of belonging for Ngugi people.

Joan is an active member of her local church community and is currently involved in the delivery of Religious Education at the community school. She is committed to bringing about change towards justice for all peoples in Australia. Joan believes that the first steps towards reconciling differences begin with the understanding of cultural differences and how this has impacted on living relationships between peoples. She believes sharing our cultures, spiritualities and ways of living with the land can be the stepping stones to a united Australia where justice and equity prevails.

Intertwined in her deep cultural identity and spirituality has been an enthusiasm to engage in interfaith dialogue. In 2006 Joan was one of nine participants from different religions invited by the Arbor Foundation to share in a *Spirit of Religion* Inter-religious dialogue discussion.

In 2007 'Aunty Joan' was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Australian Catholic University National and was also honoured with the 2008 Indigenous Research Award for her research study *A Dialogue between Christian Theology and Indigenous Spirituality*, with specific reference to Aboriginal Traditional Ancestry.

Joan has been a member of the Council of Australian Catholic Women for a number of years and currently holds the position of Deputy Chair.

Associate Professor Nerida Blair

BA(Melb) DipEd (MelbStateColl) MArtsEd (Hons) (UOW) PhD(UoN)

Key note speaker Tuesday Either (9 am or 11 am)

Nerida is a Wakka Wakka woman currently living in Darkinjung country on the Central Coast of NSW. Her PhD topic 'Sweet Potatoes, Spiders & Waterlilies: Privileged Australian Indigenous Knowledges. Epistemological Consequences of Knowledge Production', has earned three awards – a University of Newcastle Research of Excellence Award, the Newcastle Institute for Educational Research 2009, and the NSW University for Educational Research Beth Southwell Award for outstanding thesis, 2010. Nerida has spent three decades working in higher education institutes in NSW and Victoria and over one decade in the Public Service Canberra: Department of Education and Department of Foreign Affairs

and with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Sydney.

Connecting and Forging Relationships with Indigenous Peoples, Cultures and Issues in Australia

The power of story in connecting people, in forging reciprocal relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples in Australia goes beyond political correctness to a deeper understanding and valuing of the different systems of knowledge, the different ways of knowing. Story embedded in country can take us all on a journey that shares and engages all Australians in the oldest surviving cultures in the world. This is a journey that cannot help but instil national pride and a stronger sense of Australian identity. Religion and spirituality become major players in the story process.

Mark Elliott is currently Principal Education Officer, Religious Education for the schools and colleges in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. Mark has had wide experience in teaching and leadership at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. His main interest areas are in Scriptural Theology, Gifted Education and curriculum design and development. Mark holds two Masters degrees in Religious Education (ACU) and Educational Studies (University of Queensland). He was recently awarded a Gandel Scholarship to study Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem International School, Jerusalem.

TOPIC: Life in All Its Fullness: Addressing a Spirituality of Fear

The fear of God is an attitude to religious practice advocated in many religions, most notably the Abrahamic religions. Having the fear of God is most often considered to be a positive sign of spiritual well-being. How do fear and Religion relate? Is fear the motivation for accepting religious views and is the relationship exploited by governments and religiously oriented organisations? Is "fear induced" acceptance sustainable? How is fear or its absence a motivating factor in the lives of young people today? These are some of the questions that have emerged from the presenter's recent study in Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem International School and the ensuing project on *Religion and Ethics* currently being developed for the Catholic schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Dr David Kirchhoffer

Keynote speaker Thursday morning

David Kirchhoffer grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, and did his doctoral studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. He lived in Stuttgart, Germany, for a year after completing his doctoral studies before moving to Brisbane, Australia, to take up a post at the Australian Catholic University.

David Kirchhoffer's primary research focus is on the meaning and relevance of the concept of human dignity, and contemporary understandings of the human person in contemporary ethics, in the fields of biomedical ethics, business ethics, social ethics, and personal ethics.

Discussion with Dr Kirchhoffer has been after the order of the language of ethics and a chaplain's role in such dialogues: particular emphasis has been on the dignity of the human person. Given Dr Kirchhoffer's commitments fair latitude has been extended him and the ultimate choice will be his but I am sure we will be wholly engaged by his contribution.

Professor Rodney Wolff

Foundation Ombudsman Queensland University of Technology

Mathematician

Keynote Speaker Friday 30

Discussion with Professor Wolff has been around the area of evolving the role of Ombudsman and the intersection with support services, including Chaplaincy. Secondly, we have discussed mapping potential pathways in the role of chaplaincy within a large, secular university. His experiences of Australian and English universities are likely to feature. Do note that Professor Wolff may well surprise us with allied thoughts.

Excursions include:

North Stradbroke Island via water taxi – an Indigenous experience – a beautiful stretch of water and awe inspiring scenery awaits.

Sirromet Winery, Mount Cotton (hide your credit card – their wines are winning acclaim)

City sights including QLD museum, art gallery and may even include

Each excursion will be hosted by a local so the very best of what might be wrung from the experience is assured.