



NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA
STRONG WOMEN. STRONG COMMUNITY.
LEADING THE WAY

40 YEARS OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

17th September - 19th September 2024

Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre Nowra NSW

Welcome To All Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Delegates

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About Our Conference

Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation proudly invites you to celebrate 40 years of Aboriginal Women in Leadership as host of the "Strong Women. Strong Community. Leading the Way." conference in Nowra, NSW. Waminda grew from a vision and need Community Women saw to create safe spaces for Aboriginal Women's health and wellbeing on the South Coast. Since its first inception as Jilimi in 1984 and through its transition into Waminda one thing has held true; the privileging of Aboriginal women's voices and the leadership of strong, staunch and nurturing Community Women. This has led to the incredible milestone of Waminda's operation in community for 40 years.

During the conference, Waminda's Chief Executive Leadership team, keynote speakers, Waminda Program Managers and Coordinators, along with Community leaders in the Aboriginal women's health and wellbeing space will take you on a journey of looking back to celebrate how far Waminda has come: whilst giving insight into the now, and inspiring what is emerging in Aboriginal women's leadership, health, and wellbeing from across the country.

We look forward to welcoming you into these spaces and yarns throughout the "Strong Women. Strong Community. Leading the Way." Conference this September 2024.

Waminda Chief Executive Leadership Team



Kristine Falzon, Lisa Wellington, Cleone Wellington, Hayley Longbottom

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Tuesday 17th September



Bulwul Balaang Dancers

Registration Opens • 9am - 10:45am

Register in the foyer of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, Nowra.

Welcoming Address • 11am - 12pm

Welcoming ceremony with our Waminda Chief Executive Leadership Team and Bulwul Balaang dancers.

Lunch • 12pm - 12:45pm

On Country Session • 1pm - 2:30pm

Facilitated by Waminda Chief Executive Leadership Team

On country session is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates.

Imperfect Allies Session • 1pm - 2:30pm

Facilitated by Waminda's Imperfect Ally Leaders

Session is open to all non-indigenous delegates.

Smoking Ceremony • 5:30pm - 6pm

Facilitated by Waminda Chief Executive Leadership Team and Bulwul Balaang, session open to all delegates

Welcoming Dinner • 6pm - 9:30pm

Secure your tickets via www.waminda.org.au/40

Welcome to Country by Aunty Pat Lester. Featuring performances from Jem Cassar-Daley, Miiesha, the Mudjingaal Yangamba Choir, Joyce-Lyn and Maelona, and the Waminda Bulwul Balaang dancers. Keynote speaker to be announced.



Jem Cassar-Daley



Miiesha

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Wednesday 18th September

Registration Opens • 8:30am - 9:15am

Opening Address by Michelle Deshong
• 9:15am - 9:30am

Matriarchal Ways and Decolonising
• 9:30am - 10:30am

Cleone Wellington, Dr Aunty Jackie Huggins, Aunty Emily Carter, Michelle Deshong

Our women are the leaders and nurturers. We honour our staunch, bold and resilient women's leadership. The panellists will speak about their own journeys and experiences of how matriarchal leadership can bring out the change to support mob to thrive in our communities.

Morning Tea • 10:30am - 11am

Spirituality and SEWB • 11am - 11:45am
(Spirituality, Social and Emotional Wellbeing)

Aunty Deb Bowman, Aunty Vicki McKenna, Michelle Deshong

The panel will share their own personal journeys of spirituality. They will discuss Model of Care frameworks that have focused on spirituality and growth, leading to healing and highlighting the importance of being strong within our communities.



Michelle Deshong



Aunty Emily Carter AM



Melanie Briggs

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Dr Aunty Jackie Huggins

Birthing On Country Our Way • 11am - 11:45am

Keynote address by Cleone Wellington and Melanie Briggs

People ask what Koori leadership really looks like. This keynote by Waminda Leaders will explore the development of Birthing on Country. We will talk about decade long journey, from the very first discussions and the barriers we had to overcome, before eventually being able to open the doors to our birth centre.

Healing and Being • 11:00am - 11:45am

Kayshan Berger – Weaving

We need to take the time to sit together and connect through our art and creations. This centres our being and grounds us. Come and meet one of our young local Aboriginal Women from community, who will deliver a weaving workshop, sharing her techniques and creating the space for participants to just 'be'.

Changeover Break • 11:45am - 12pm

Our Future • 12pm - 12:45pm

Marle Ashby, Karakia Hepi, Maddy Hodgetts, Michelle Deshong

Our young women are birthed with leadership and come from a long line of strength and staunchness. Come listen to our upcoming leaders talk about what is important to them and tell us what they want to see change for their futures and for our people to thrive.

Institutional Systems • 12pm - 12:45pm

Dr Aunty Jackie Huggins AM FAHA

What does it look like when First Nations people have a voice and authority in institutional systems to disrupt systemic racism that allow our mob to live self-determined lives. The fabulous Dr Aunty Jackie Huggins will share her journey of giving her life to making change for our people in these institutionalised systems.



Kayshan Berger



Maddy Hodgetts

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Healing & Being • 12pm - 12:45pm

Aunty Deb Bowman - Circle of Connection

The Waminda Circle of Connection is grounded in our cultural ways of knowing, being and doing, the 'Waminda Way' and as a reflective circle practice. We hope to recognise and acknowledge everyone's individuality and uniqueness, their relationships with people who are important to them and themselves - focusing on self-care and wellbeing.

Lunch • 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Keeping Mob Safe • 1:45pm - 2:30pm

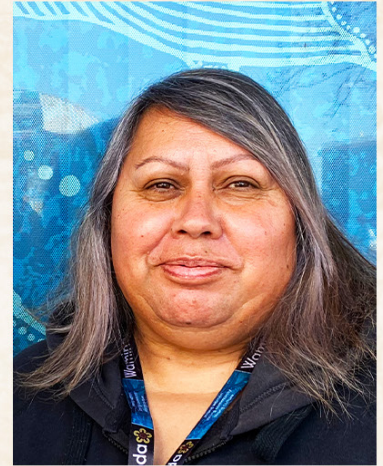
Lisa Wellington, Ashlee Donohue, Theresa Lake, Michelle Deshong

When it comes to our women and their families, they should never have to experience domestic or family violence, but in reality they do. So what is the answer to holding perpetrators to account and what programs can work in our communities to support our women and their families to stay together and feel safe. We will focus on Aboriginal designed men's behaviour change and child centred approaches.

Push Back and Self-Determination • 1:45pm - 2:30pm

Krissy Falzon, Carly Stanley, Lucinda Walder

How do we as people push back on systems that have been created to control and take away our rights? What does self-determination look like and why is it important to our people? Our panellists will speak of relationship building, privileging Aboriginal voices, reclaiming our space and how funding should be allocated to Aboriginal communities to allow them to do this vital work.



Aunty Deb Bowman



Ashlee Donohue



Carly Stanley

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Jarin Baigent

Mob in Media and Blak Business Leadership • 1:45pm - 2:30pm

Shahni Wellington, Jarin Baigent

What is it like to work in mainstream media as a strong Aboriginal woman? This panel will discuss the experiences of working within Australian media outlets. We will listen to their insights in media, fashion and Blak business.

Afternoon Tea • 2:30pm - 3pm

Nation Building/Sovereignty • 3pm - 3:45pm

Hayley Longbottom, Dr Janine Gertz, Janine Dureau, Aunty Juanita Sherwood

Our sovereignty, culture, lore, ways of being, knowing and doing have not been lost, but how do we survive in Two Worlds that collide? Come listen to how our communities are nation building and reclaiming to do things our way and how this creates self-determination, wealth and wellbeing in our communities while still living in western society.



Dr Janine Gertz

Mob Wellness • 3pm - 3:45pm

Professor Yvette Roe, Professor Roianne West, Hayley Longbottom

Way too often, our mob is spoken about in the deficit. In this session, you will hear about Waminda's Model of Care, some of the programs and strategies that have led to better health outcomes, discussion on what is wellness to First Nations people, and what changes need to happen in the western system to allow our people to become well and healthy - the way we were pre-colonisation.



Prof. Roianne West

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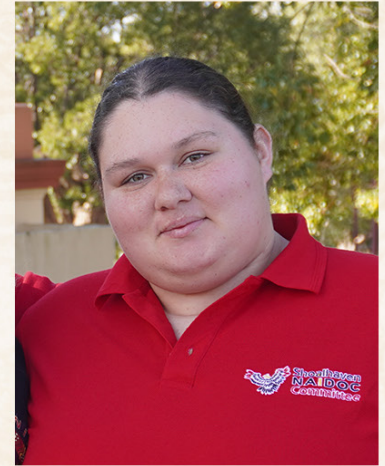
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Wednesday 18th September

Drinks and Canapes • 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Join us in the afternoon for an all delegate gathering.. This event provides a perfect opportunity to unwind, network, and share experiences from the day's extraordinary events. Enjoy a selection of fine beverages and delectable canapés while engaging in meaningful conversations with fellow delegates. Whether you're looking to catch up with old friends or make new connections, this relaxing afternoon will provide the ideal opportunity to foster professional and personal relationships. We look forward to seeing you there!



Marle Ashby



Professor Juanita Sherwood



Bulwul Balaang Dance Group



Janine Dureau

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Thursday 19th September



Aunty June Oscar AO

Welcome and Introduction • 8:45am – 9am

Michelle Deshong MC

Keynote Address • 9am – 9:30am

Aunty June Oscar AO

June Oscar AO is a proud Bunuba woman from the remote town of Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia's Kimberley region. She is a strong advocate for Indigenous Australian languages, social justice, women's issues, and has worked tirelessly to reduce Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.



Larissa Baldwin-Roberts

The Voice, Treaty & Where To From Here • 9:30am - 10:30am

Aunty June Oscar, Dr Aunty Jackie Huggins, Cleone Wellington, Larissa Baldwin Roberts, Hayley Longbottom

The fight continues, but where does it lead us to now? It left the nation divided, but wasn't it always divided? Come listen to the amazing Aunties and Waminda women talk about where to from here with The Voice, Truth and Treaty.

Morning Tea • 10:30am - 11am

40 Years of Waminda - Film Reflection • 11am – 11:15am

Waminda is honored to share its remarkable journey of 40 years of strong women and strong community, leading the way. These short videos acknowledge and honour our women, share our memories, celebrate our achievements and illuminate the journey ahead for Waminda and our communities.



Theresa Lake

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Thursday 19th September

Waminda's 40 Year Journey of Self-Determination and Matriarchal Leadership

• 11:15am - 11:45am

Cleone Wellington, Hayley Longbottom, Lisa Wellington, Kristine Falzon

What does matriarchal leadership look like at Waminda? An open session providing an opportunity to ask the Waminda Chief Executive Leadership team any questions you have about our Shared Leadership Model and how we as women continue to staunchly, unapologetically and boldly lead! We will share details of Waminda's Model of Care, highlighting how it is embedded and grounded in Lore and Culture.



Shahni Wellington

Closing Ceremony and Conference Conclusion

• 11:45am – 12:30pm

MC Michelle Deshong and Waminda Chief Executive Leadership Team

The "Strong Women. Strong Community. Leading the Way." Conference closing ceremony will be commemorated with a performance from the Waminda Bulwul Balaang dance group, and an address from MC Michelle Deshong.



Professor Yvette Roe

For more information about our conference speakers, for ticket registrations and sponsorship, refer to the link below.

Waminda looks forward to seeing you all at the National Conference in September 2024.

www.waminda.org.au/40
(02) 4421 7400 • events@waminda.org.au

Waminda's National Conference Agenda has been created based on information available to us at the time of arranging the conference. We reserve the right to change the event, including the venue, dates, speakers, topics, sessions, activities, times and content as we consider appropriate closer to the event, and during the event. Waminda will not be liable for any such changes. While Waminda will not be liable for any changes, we will endeavour to notify people who have registered for the conference of any changes to the venue and the dates of the event with as much notice as we can reasonably provide.