

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Kaiela Institute and The University of Melbourne  
present  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dungala Kaiela Oration**

**What: Annual Dungala Kaiela Oration**  
**When: Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 5.30pm**  
**Venue: Rumbalara Football Netball Club, Mercury Drive, Shepparton.**

**From the Margins to the Mainstream: Indigenous Recovery in Rural Australia**

## **Empowered Communities: Ambitious but necessary reform**

This year's Dungala Kaiela Oration, Professor Marcia Langton will address the Empowered Communities initiative which has set an ambitious but necessary reform agenda.

Professor Marcia Langton, Associate Provost Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies Unit, said the Aboriginal leaders who have embarked on this road to recovery have an understanding of the history of the exclusion that led to our disempowerment and the need to accelerate policy reform to reach parity in Aboriginal socioeconomic status," Prof. Langton said.



"During that long period when Australian governments were determined to 'assimilate' Aboriginal people, and regarded those of us who lived in rural areas as 'outcasts,' the damage caused to our societies might have seemed irreversible, a destruction so prolonged that any recovery seemed impossible. Since 1972, with the official end to those genocidal policies, a resurgence of Aboriginal agency has led to the growth of Indigenous organisations and social enterprises, and recently, Aboriginal-owned businesses."

The Dungala Kaiela Oration is a major annual event that brings all Shepparton and the wider community together. It continues to promote social and economic prosperity in the Goulburn Murray as well as addressing from the margins to the mainstream: Indigenous recovery in rural Australia which will be the subject of Marcia's keynote speech.

## MEDIA RELEASE

Also, featuring on the evening will be:

- Paul Briggs, OAM, Executive Director of Kaiela Institute & President of the Rumbalara Football Netball Club
- Deborah Cheetham with the Dhungala Children's Choir

In her oration abstract, Prof Langton said with the migration of non-Indigenous people from rural areas to the cities and large urban centres, the growth of the Indigenous sector has been an important part of the rural economy. Far from being a burden on the public purse, the economic benefits of government investment in the Indigenous sector, if they were measured, could be seen as an investment in nation building.



“The attitudes from the assimilation era that cast Aboriginal people as permanently on the margins are changing slowly, as more Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians come to understand that rural Indigenous populations are permanent and growing and Indigenous owned service bodies provide essential services that sustain rural Australia, socially and economically.”

“The next phase of Indigenous empowerment will depend on increasing inputs in education and enterprise development, by professionalizing the Indigenous workforces and developing of Indigenous sector as a core component of the economy of rural Australia.”

**BIOGRAPHY:** Professor Langton B.A. (Hons) ANU, PhD Macq. U., A.M., F.A.S.S.A. has held the Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at The University of Melbourne since February 2000. As an anthropologist and geographer, Professor Langton has made a significant contribution to government and non-government policy as well as to Indigenous studies at three universities. She has produced an extensive body of knowledge in the areas of political and legal anthropology, Indigenous agreements and engagement with the minerals industry, and Indigenous culture and art.

Her 2012 Boyer lectures titled 'The Quiet Revolution: Indigenous People and the Resources Boom' is one of her recent contributions to public debate, and have added to her influence and reputation in government and private sector circles. In 1993, she was made a member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her work in anthropology and the advocacy of Aboriginal rights. Professor Langton is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of Trinity College, Melbourne and an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College at The University of Queensland. In 2016 Professor Langton is honoured as a University of Melbourne Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor. In further recognition as one of Australia's most respected Indigenous Academics Professor Marcia Langton AM has in 2017 been appointed as the first Associate Provost at the University of Melbourne.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **EVENT and TICKET INFORMATION:**

Tickets are free and they can be located on the Eventbrite Website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dungala-kaiela-oration-2017-tickets-35158766818>

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

---

To arrange an interview with Mr Paul Briggs, OAM, or media coverage of the Dungala Kaiela Oration, please contact:

Katrina Mohamed, Executive Assistant  
Email: [katrina.mohamed@kaielainstitute.org.au](mailto:katrina.mohamed@kaielainstitute.org.au)  
Mobile: 0411 355 424

To arrange an interview with Professor Marcia Langton, please contact:

Shane Bawden  
Phone +61 3 8344 3541  
Email [shane.bawden@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:shane.bawden@unimelb.edu.au)