

KINDRED PEOPLE

A large, stylized pink tree graphic that serves as a background for the lower two-thirds of the page. The tree has a thick, rounded trunk and several branches. The branches are adorned with various types of leaves: some are simple, elongated, pointed shapes, while others are more complex, resembling starbursts or clusters of small, rounded leaves. The overall style is modern and minimalist.

Festival Guide 2026

We acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional Custodians of the unceded land on which our festival takes place, the Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. We extend that respect to the Elders and Ancestors of all First Nations Peoples of our global Indigenous community.

AWAKEN MURRUP

the spirit

Kindred People is an Indigenous-led gathering of global First Nations artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders, students and community, coming to Monash University on Boonwurrung Country.

Guided by culture, the festival centres Indigenous knowledges, creativity and connection through ceremony, performance, dialogue and time spent together on Country. It is a space to listen deeply, to learn, and to experience Indigenous creativity as living, relational and grounded in place.

Taking place across Monash campuses, Kindred People brings together communities from Australia and across the world in a shared invitation: to gather with care, and to engage with Indigenous voices, stories and ways of knowing.



Welcome from Senior Boonwurrung Elder and Kindred People Elder in Residence, Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM

Womindjeka—Welcome to Boonwurrung Country.

For thousands of generations, this has been a place of gathering, learning, storytelling and exchange. Country holds the memory of those who walked before us, and it continues to guide how we care for one another and the world around us.

Kindred People is grounded here, on Boonwurrung Country. While the festival brings together First Nations artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders and communities from many places, it begins with place. It begins with Country (*biik*).

As you move through the festival, I encourage you to take the time to listen deeply—not only to the artists and speakers you encounter, but

also to the stories held within the land itself. Indigenous knowledges are living knowledges. It is carried through language, culture, relationships and responsibilities that continue across generations.

This gathering is an opportunity to come together in a spirit of deep respect (*djilbruk*), curiosity and understanding. It is a chance to learn from one another, to honour diverse Indigenous experiences, and to strengthen the connections that sustain us all.

I warmly welcome you to Country and to Kindred People.

Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM
Senior Boonwurrung Elder and Kindred People Elder in Residence



Welcome from Monash University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Sharon Pickering

Welcome to Kindred People and to Monash University.

It is a privilege to host this Indigenous-led gathering on Boonwurrung Country. I would like to acknowledge and thank Senior Boonwurrung Elder Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM for her leadership, guidance and generosity in shaping this festival and ensuring it is grounded in Country, culture and community.

Kindred People reflects Monash University's commitment to advancing Indigenous leadership, knowledge and creative practice. Across the festival, artists, thinkers, Elders, Knowledge Holders and communities come together through performance, visual art, music, dialogue and exchange.

As a global university, we have a responsibility to create opportunities for learning, connection and cultural understanding for First Nations communities. We are proud to support a festival that centres Indigenous voices and creates space for meaningful engagement with diverse ways of knowing.

We are delighted to welcome you to our campuses and hope your experience with Kindred People is both inspiring and enriching.

Professor Sharon Pickering
Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University



Welcome from Kindred People Creative Director, Tom Molyneux

Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay, Welcome to Kindred People.

This festival has been built through relationships, and a commitment to supporting the breadth of our knowledges to rise up together — *"kummargi yulendj gadhaba"*. It's a gathering of extraordinary Indigenous voices from across Australia and around the world, brought together through performance, music, visual art, ceremony and conversation.

There are innumerable people to thank, but I express my particular gratitude to N'Arwee't Aunty Carolyn Briggs AM, our Indigenous Steering Committee and all the artists and collaborators whose generosity has shaped this festival. Monash University has committed to reciprocating this generosity, and I thank the many contributors across the university for embracing this opportunity to think and work differently.

I hope you follow your curiosity, discover something unexpected, and find time to connect with the people and stories around you. Take care, and walk softly during your time here on Boonwurrung Country.

Wuuwook,

Tom Molyneux
Gunditjmara Creative Director, Kindred People



Language and cultural guidance

The language and concepts that shape Kindred People have been developed in close collaboration with senior Boonwurrung Elder Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM, whose cultural guidance grounds the festival in Country, language and protocol. Boonwurrung language is woven throughout the festival as an expression of place, respect and continuity—reflecting the living cultural knowledge that sits at the heart of Kindred People.

Indigenous leadership and governance

Kindred People is guided by an Indigenous Steering Committee, ensuring the festival is led with cultural integrity, care and accountability. The Steering Committee brings together First Nations leaders, artists and Knowledge Holders from a range of backgrounds, including:

- Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM (Elder in Residence) *Boonwurrung*
- Professor Tristan Kennedy (Chair) *Noongar*
- Aaron Wyatt *Noongar*
- Kylie Belling *Yorta Yorta/Wiradjuri/ South Sea Islander*
- Josef Tye *Yorta Yorta/Boonwurrung*
- Jamil Tye *Yorta Yorta/Boonwurrung*
- Dr Neil Morris *Yorta Yorta/Dja Dja Wurrung*
- Amanda Haskard *Gunai/Kurnai*
- Dr Blayne Welsh *Wailwan*

Creative direction is led by Tom Molyneux (*Gunditjmarra*), an award-winning actor and playwright and Head of First Nations Programming and Engagement at Monash University Performing Arts Centres. The development of Kindred People has been informed by the cultural and strategic guidance of the William Cooper Institute at Monash University.

We would like to acknowledge the dedicated commitment of the delivery teams at MPAC and MUMA for their significant contribution to Kindred People.

Seasonal identity and living design

The visual identity of Kindred People draws on the six Boonwurrung seasons, offering a way of seeing and understanding time that is grounded in Country.

Developed in collaboration with Gumbaynggirr artist and activist Aretha Brown and under the guidance of Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM, the identity brings together cultural symbolism, contemporary design practice and deep connection to Country.

Accessibility

Monash is committed to ensuring Kindred People is accessible and welcoming to all audiences. Accessibility information for venues, facilities and services can be found on the MPAC website including details on mobility access, assisted listening and other support services. [Learn more](#)
mpac.monash.edu/accessibility

Monash University

Monash University is proud to support Kindred People as part of its commitment to advancing Indigenous leadership, knowledge and creative practice. As a global university, Monash recognises the importance of creating platforms for Indigenous voices, and of fostering meaningful engagement with the communities on whose lands it operates.

PROGRAM 1—5 SEPT

The Scarecrow & Waa World premiere <i>Circus</i>	1 September, 6.30pm George Jenkins Theatre	\$20—\$55
Tanderrum dambali <i>Ceremony</i>	2 September, 4pm Weelam Ngulut (Our Place)	Free event
He Huia Kaimanawa Australian premiere <i>Dance/ Theatre</i>	2 September, 7pm 3 September, 7pm Alexander Theatre	\$20—\$65
Marlene Cummins <i>Music</i>	2 September, 7.30pm The Count's	\$15—\$30
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba <i>Knowledge Sharing/ Workshops/Symposium</i>	3 September, 10am 4 September, 10am The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts	\$0—\$120
UPU Victorian premiere <i>Theatre</i>	4 September, 7.30pm Robert Blackwood Hall	\$20—\$50
Djeembana yalinwa (community day) <i>Community Market/Music</i>	5 September, from 1pm Monash University Clayton Campus	Free event (ticketed)
Blakademia World premiere <i>Theatre/Ceremony</i>	5 September 1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm & 3.15pm The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts	Free event (ticketed)
Decolonising the Bells World premiere <i>Music</i>	5 September 2pm & 4pm David Li Sound Gallery	\$20—\$35
Two Blood 雙血 Victorian premiere <i>Dance</i>	5 September, 7.30pm Alexander Theatre	\$20—\$65
Syncretic Wilds: Phasmahammer and Natasha Tontey <i>Visual Arts</i>	18 July — 19 September Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA)	Free event

Monash University Clayton Campus

C1 – Alexander Theatre

The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts
Monash University Clayton Campus
48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton 3800

Events:
He Huia Kaimanawa
Two Blood 雙血

C2 – The Count’s

The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts
Monash University Clayton Campus
48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton 3800

Events:
Marlene Cummins
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba

C3 – David Li Sound Gallery

The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts
Monash University Clayton Campus
48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton 3800

Events:
Decolonising the Bells

C4 – Robert Blackwood Hall (RBH)

Monash University Clayton Campus
49 Scenic Boulevard, Clayton 3800

Events:
Djeembana yalinwa (community day)
Tanderrum dambali (opening ceremony)
UPU

C5 – MPavilion

Monash University Clayton Campus
26 Ancora Imparo Way, Clayton 3800

Events:
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba

C6 – William Cooper Institute

Monash University Clayton Campus
Building 6/29 Ancora Imparo Way
Clayton 3800

Events:
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba

C7 – Campus Centre Cinema

Monash University Clayton Campus
21 Chancellors Walk, Clayton 3800

Events:
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba

C8 – Ceremonial lawn and
Chancellory Colonnade

Monash University Clayton Campus
The Chancellory, 27 Chancellors Walk
Clayton 3800

Events:
Djeembana yalinwa (community day)

C9 – Weelam Ngulut (Our Place)

Events:
Tanderrum dambali

C10 – The Ian Potter Centre for
Performing Arts

Monash University Clayton Campus
48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton 3800

Events:
Kummargi yulendj gadhaba
Djeembana yalinwa (community day)

Monash University Peninsula Campus

George Jenkins Theatre

Monash University Peninsula Campus
47–49 Moorooduc Highway
Frankston 3199

Events:
The Scarecrow & Waa

Monash University Caulfield Campus

Monash University Museum of Art
(MUMA)

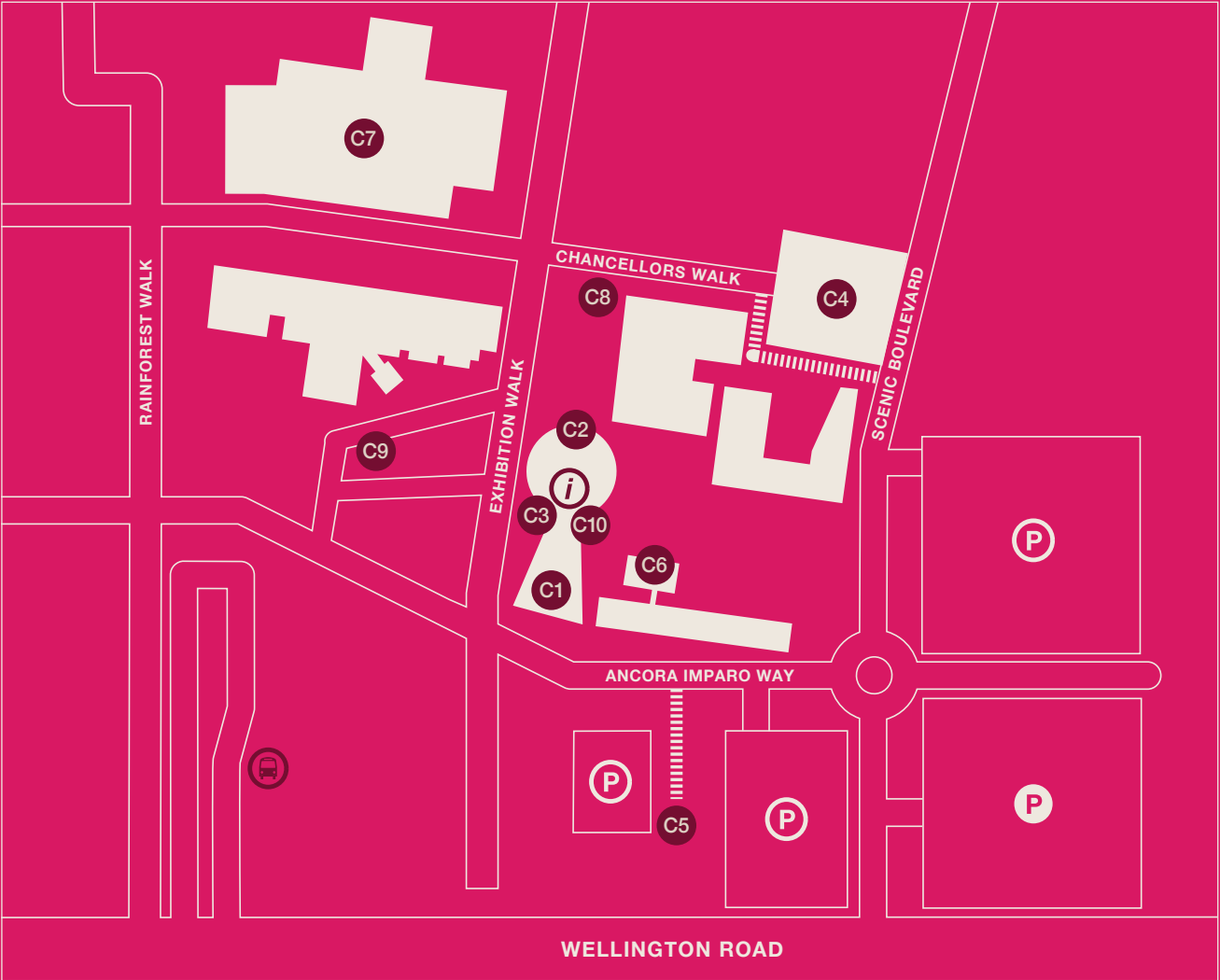
Monash University Caulfield Campus
Building F, 900 Princes Highway Service
Road, Caulfield East 3145

Events:
Syncretic Wilds: Phasmahammer
and Natasha Tontey

-  Parking (Weekday visitor)
-  Parking (After hours/weekend)
-  Bus stop
-  Information point



Scan QR for further
information on our
event locations



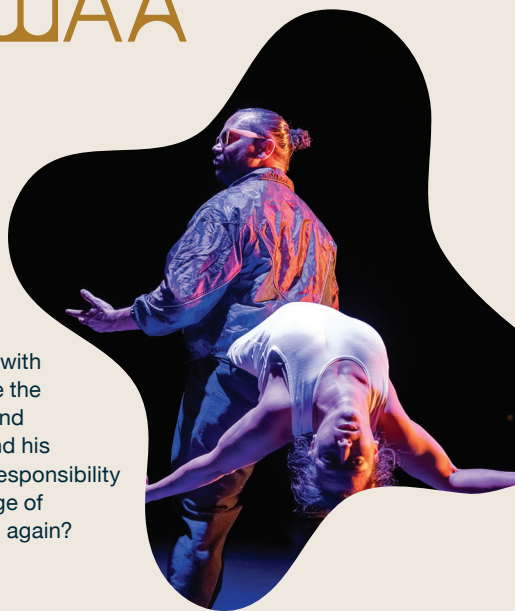
THE SCARECROW & WAA

World premiere
Witty and dangerous
First Nations circus

The Scarecrow & Waa is a Blak comedic circus tragedy crackling with wit and danger. Suspended above the audience, Waa the cheeky crow and a restless scarecrow looking to find his purpose, clash over inheritance, responsibility and renewal. In a world on the edge of collapse, what must burn to begin again?

\$20—\$55

Tuesday 1 September, 6.30pm
George Jenkins Theatre
Monash University Peninsula Campus



TWO BLOOD 雙血

Victorian premiere
Powerful dance
of lineage & identity

From the embers of forbidden loves comes a sprawling tale of belonging that cracks into the core of Australian identity. *Two Blood* sees the blush of early romance collide with the violence of our history in an explosively physical work from three of Australia's most visionary artists.

\$20—\$65

Saturday 5 September, 7.30pm
Alexander Theatre
Monash University Clayton Campus



HE HUIA KAIMANAWA

Australian premiere
Vivid dance theatre
honouring Māori language

A poignant and affecting synergy of movement, voice, spatial design and virtual technologies. Led by choreographer Bianca Hyslop and designer Rowan Pierce, *He Huia Kaimanawa* responds to the resurfacing, reclaiming and honouring of te reo Māori.

\$20—\$65

Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3
September 7pm
Alexander Theatre
Monash University Clayton Campus



BLAKADEMIA

World premiere
An intimate, powerful
encounter with truth-telling

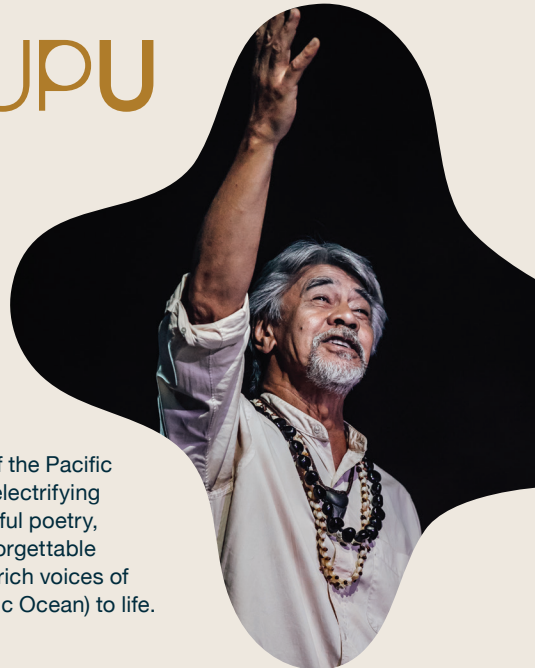
A river that began its flow at New York University's Verbatim Performance Lab in 2019, *Blakademia* is 21st-century orality, decolonial doing and Indigenisation in action. Join an intimate Truth-telling ceremony in which Monash students share the stories of First Nations scholars and community members.

FREE TICKETED EVENT

Saturday 5 September
1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm & 3.15pm
The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts
Monash University Clayton Campus



UPU



Victorian premiere Electrifying Pasifika poetry & performance

Immerse yourself in the heart of the Pacific with *UPU*—an award-winning, electrifying theatre experience. With powerful poetry, compelling storytelling and unforgettable performances, *UPU* brings the rich voices of te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (the Pacific Ocean) to life.

\$20—\$50

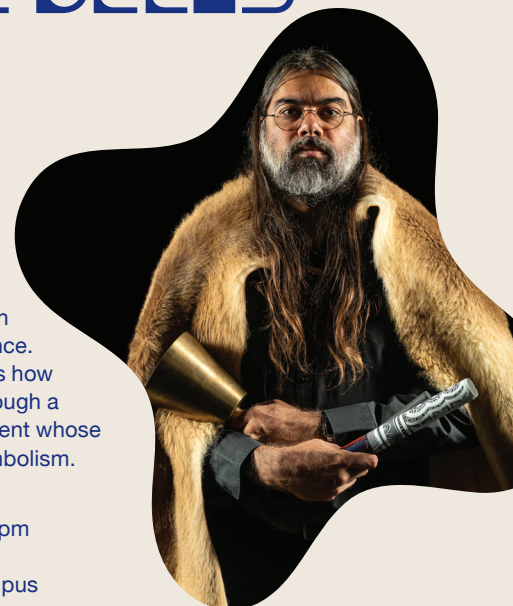
Friday 4 September, 7.30pm
Robert Blackwood Hall
Monash University Clayton Campus



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DECOLONISING THE BELLS



World premiere Reimagining sound, memory & colonial symbols

The world premiere of Noongar composer and viola player Aaron Wyatt's exquisite audio experience. *Decolonising the Bells* questions how and what we commemorate through a reimagining of a familiar instrument whose sound carries deep colonial symbolism.

\$20—\$35

Saturday 5 September, 2pm & 4pm
David Li Sound Gallery
Monash University Clayton Campus

SPEAK
PERCUS SION



MPAC



MARLENE CUMMINS LIVE @THE COUNT'S

Festival exclusive Blues, soul & powerful storytelling

A Kindred People exclusive performance from iconic blues Elder, proud Guguyelandji and Woppaburra woman Marlene Cummins. Joined by Carolyn Packer on piano and Hammond organ, expect blues anthems and soulful stories of vulnerability, strength and survival.

\$15—\$30

Wednesday 2 September,
7.00pm
The Count's
Monash University
Clayton Campus



SYNCRETIC WILDS: PHASMAHAMMER & NATASHA TONTEY

Festival exclusive Speculative futures & ancestral storytelling collide

MUMA brings the work of Phasmahammer and Natasha Tontey into conversation to rethink history and myth, generate speculative fictions and centre the storytelling of Southeast Asia. Bringing together performance, film and installation, the exhibition explores alternative ways of remembering, relating and world-building.

FREE OPEN EVENT

18 July—19 September
Tuesday to Friday: 10am—5pm
Saturdays: 12—5pm
Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA)
Caulfield Campus



MONASH
University

MUMA



OJEEMBANA YALINWA

Community Day—Music, markets and community celebration

Join us on Boonwurrung Country for a free day of live music presented with Songlines Aboriginal Music, First Nations market stalls curated by Kinya Lerrk, food by Pawa Catering, family-friendly activities and community gathering as part of Kindred People. Bring your friends. Bring your family. Spend the day exploring, listening, connecting and celebrating.

FREE OPEN EVENT

Saturday 5 September
Monash University Clayton Campus
From 1pm

Full program and
registrations



A powerful celebration of contemporary First Nations music featuring three of Australia's most exciting artists.

Multi-award-winning **Electric Fields** create a striking and haunting merging of living traditional culture with electronic music. Featuring the extraordinary voice of Zaachariah Fielding—who often sings in his traditional languages of the Anangu people—with the brilliance of producer Michael Ross—Electric Fields music ranges from soulful pop to epic-scale electronic works, through to intensely intimate story-songs.

This ARIA and NIMA award-winning duo has performed all across Australia and the world, including at Eurovision, the Sydney Opera House, and with the Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland Symphony Orchestras.

Velvet Trip is the psychedelic music project of Wiradjuri man Zeppelin Hamilton, born and conceived in Gadigal Country. Blending psych-rock, indie-pop and soulful groove, Velvet Trip has emerged as one of Australia's most exciting and forward-thinking new voices. Since releasing their album *Harmony Blooms* in 2024, the band has achieved ARIA chart success, triple j high rotation, and #1 on the AMRAP Metro Charts, alongside major editorial support across Spotify and Apple Music.

Alice Skye is a multi-award-winning musician unbound by any artistic parameter, her body of work sparkling with harmonic sensitivity and maturity well beyond its years. Once-private bedroom scribbles are presented as articulate lyrics on love, loss and life, offering a looking-glass into the world.

Recipient of Music Victoria's 'Best Pop Act' award in 2021, the Wergaia/Wemba Wemba woman continues to openly synthesise her own life and times with profound finesse, offering raw and beautiful pieces of reflective music to her growing listener base.

FREE: REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

Robert Blackwood Hall
Monash University Clayton Campus
From 4pm



Top: Electric Fields
Left: Alice Skye

KUMMARGI YULENDJ GADHABA

Knowledge rising up together

Kummargi yulendj gadhaba is the knowledge exchange component of Kindred People, bringing together First Nations artists, Elders, Knowledge Holders, researchers, students, allies and community from Australia and around the world.

Over two days, participants are invited into conversations, workshops, presentations and cultural exchange exploring creativity, language, leadership, education, health, storytelling and the future of Indigenous knowledge systems.

Guided by Indigenous ways of knowing, *Kummargi yulendj gadhaba* creates space for ideas to be shared across generations, disciplines and cultures. It is a place where academic knowledge sits alongside cultural practice, lived experience and ancestral wisdom.

MC: Shelley Ware Yankunytjatjara, Kokatha, and Wirangu.

Full program and
registrations



Featured keynotes

Paths Forward in a Treaty Era

Indi Clarke and
Jedda Atkinson-Costa
*Wemba Wemba, Mutti Mutti,
Boonwurrung, Trawlwoolway,
Lardil / Wemba Wemba, Yorta Yorta,
Mutti Mutti, Barapa Barapa*

Two elected members of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria explore the opportunities, responsibilities and possibilities emerging through Treaty and what meaningful self-determination could look like for future generations.

Wayfinding: Language and Cultural Revitalisation in Hawai'i

Dr Leilehua Lanzilotti
Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian)

Marking 50 years since the first voyage of Hōkūle'a, this keynote explores language revitalisation, wayfinding traditions and the role of creative practice in sustaining Indigenous knowledge and cultural resurgence.

'Laka weerreekanan ngeerang woorroong-ngeeye' Talk all about our mother tongue

Associate Professor
Dr Vicki Couzens
Gunditjmarra / Keeray Woorroong Elder

Dr Vicki Couzens shares insights into language revitalisation, cultural resurgence and the enduring strength of First Nations knowledge systems.

Circle of Elders

Professor N'Arwee't Carolyn Briggs AM, Tūi Matira Ranapiri-Ransfield and Ricky Baldwin
Boonwurrung / Ngāti Ohomairangi, Te Arawa (Aotearoa) / Gunai Kurnai

In a special closing conversation, respected Elders reflect on Country, culture, leadership and the responsibilities of carrying knowledge into the future.

Also featuring

Professor Georgina Stewart
Emma Holgate
Letila Mitchell
Iane Atalifo
Dr Desiree Hernandez Ibinarriaga
Sione Liafail Maileseni
Rachel Shields
Donna Quinn
Maylene Slater-Burns
Daniel Riley
Bianca Hyslop
Emele Ugavule
Lisa Grocott
Kahlil Grocott
Marlene Cummins
Brenda Gifford
Jacob Boehme
Lynette Newchurch
Associate Professor Bhiemie Williams
Dr Jacinta Walsh
Dr Blayne Welsh
+ more

Top: Dr Leilehua Lanzilotti



Kindred People is made possible through the generosity, trust and collaboration of our partners, sponsors and supporters. We are deeply grateful to those who have contributed their time, expertise and resources to help realise this gathering.

Government partners



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, received funding from the Victorian Government through the Suburban Rail Loop East Community Projects Fund and is presented with the support of Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

Philanthropic partners

Jane & Stephen Hains



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Monash University

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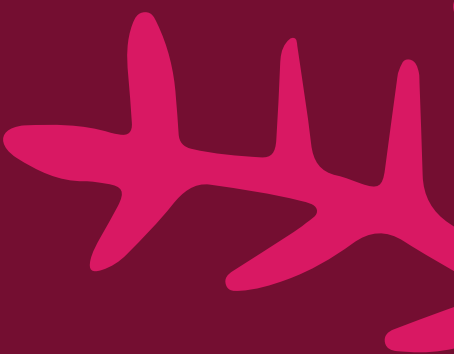
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CULTURES AND LINGUISTICS





Tickets on sale
kindredpeople.monash.edu

