

Where First Nations voices share ideas, research, and stories.

Background:

The First Nations Speaker Series (FNSS) provides an exclusive platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, authors, artists, professionals and curators to share ideas about history, heritage, and culture.

The FNSS was established in May 2021 by GML Heritage (Dr Charlotte Feakins and Sharon Veale) and the Research

Centre at ANU. Talks are monthly and co-produced among GML Heritage, Sydney Living Museums, University of Sydney, and the Research Centre for Deep History at the Australian National University.

The series represents a successful model for genuine co-design and decolonisation across theory and practice.

Aims:

- Facilitates holistic, community-led and thought-provoking discussion
- Supports truth telling through providing a platform for First Nations storytelling
- Supports interdisciplinary collaboration among cultural institutions, academia and industry
- Acknowledges the ongoing impacts of colonisation
- Supports and promotes social and cultural justice
- Promotes and represents genuine co-design and collaboration
- Extend best practice beyond compliance in History and Cultural Heritage
- Provides an enduring resource with recordings available to re-watch on the Sydney Living Museum website (visit Sydneylivingmuseums.com.au for more information)

Key outcomes:

- 14 First Nations presenters and 12 in person events to date.
- Around 3000 have attended in person, online or have re-watched on YouTube.
- Broad range of topics including:
 - Cultural responsibilities and repatriation in the Torres Strait
 - Archaeology, First Nations community engagement and public art in Sydney
 - Designing with Country
 - Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP)
 - Multidisciplinary practice-led research on Gurindji Country
 - Creating change within institutions and ourselves
 - Science and Culture: Aboriginal rock art project in the Blue Mountains

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