

SPEAKERS

Mr Tony Harris

Biography

Tony Harris has worked for Commonwealth and state governments - mostly in the treasury portfolio - for nearly 30 years. He specialised in studying government influences on economic development, for good or for bad. As auditor-general for NSW, he wrote several reports about the difficulties of private sector participation in public services, to no avail.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Business Administration. He was a Commissioner on the Commonwealth's Industry Commission, a professorial fellow in finance and administration at Wollongong University and a fiscal expert for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Now as a columnist for the Australian Financial Review (AFR), Tony likes to stimulate discussion.

Abstract

Topic: What is Economic Development?

The world is not your oyster. But if you have the basic resources (skilled staff, location, an environment which supports your industry, investment and employment) you have the makings for economic development. Another essential ingredient is entrepreneurial skill: the capacity to see (or sometimes create) an unmet need and to provide the wanted service or product.

Australia's improving terms of trade show that the world wants Australia's energy resources, its nature, its education industries and its agricultural products.

The Northern Territory is perfectly placed to meet those wants, but there are many temptations which Territorians have to avoid.

Mr David Rumbens

Biography

David Rumbens is an Associate Director with Access Economics.

Access Economics is well known in the Territory via its regular macro-economic forecasts and commentary. David is a leading member of Access Economics' forecasting and modelling team.

David is the author of *Retail Forecasts*, a regular examination of trends in consumer spending around the country, and *Investment Monitor*, which provides detailed coverage of current and prospective project investment, which of course forms a mainstay of the Territory economy.

David has also contributed assessments of the economic impact of many major investment projects around the country. He prepared the *Assessment of the Northern Territory Economy* report provided in the Summit's papers.

Abstract

Topic: Northern Territory Economic Assessment

The Northern Territory is a small, resource rich economy of considerable longer term potential. The short term outlook for the Territory economy is excellent as the Territory's resource sector gears up to meet stronger global demand (driven by China), and its housing construction sector is gearing up to meet the associated improvement in population prospects.

Among potential opportunities and constraints for the NT are the Territory's location, which results in cost disadvantages in supply from southern Australian markets (but also implies an opportunity given the Territory's location on the doorstep of fast growing Asia); finding and retaining skilled employees; reducing volatility in economic performance; harnessing productivity growth, engaging Indigenous Australians, and strengthening ties with the Asian region.

Professor Neville Norman

Biography

Neville Norman has delivered over 5000 addresses to mainly business finance and government groups in Australia and more than 30 other countries. A graduate of Melbourne and Cambridge Universities¹, Neville has published and lectured widely. He also works closely with business and finance groups, as an expert witness and media commentator. His forté is communicating relevant technical/economic details in plain language.

Neville was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to his profession and is presently President of the Economic Society of Australia. Neville guarantees at least one new provocative encouraging thought, two good new jokes (and at least one bad one) and three positively disturbing statements in every address.

Abstract

Topic: The global situation

The Territory economy is 1% of the Australian economy, which is 1% of the world economy. While 1% of 1% is correct maths, it demonstrably under-counts the Territory's role and prospects. Growth means the (percentage) expansion in the physical-equivalent of production. Development embraces all that growth is, together with every social, ethical, cultural, environmental and humanistic embodiment of progress. Debates about growth are easily resolved by measurement. Debates about development can only be understood, let alone resolved, when values and weights are assigned. The paper shows how to do this and paints prospects for the world and Australian economies in 2015, whilst provoking insights, thoughts and actions.

¹ MA (Econ)(1stHons); BComm(1st Hons)(Melb.); MA, PhD(Cambridge UK)

Mr John Ah Kit

Biography

John Ah Kit was born in Alice Springs in 1950. John completed a Certificate in Community Development from the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT) in 1977 and went on to graduate from an Associate Diploma in Social Work in 1978. In 1978 he became a District Officer with the Department of Social Security (DSS) in Katherine, responsible for delivery of DSS services across the region. During this time he became President of Katherine's Kalano Community Association. In 1981 he began training for the role of Coordinator for the Kalano Community Association.

In 1984 John was appointed Director of the Northern Land Council, a position he held until 1990 when he resigned to unsuccessfully contest the seat of Goyder for the Labor Party. In 1991 he was appointed Executive Director of the Katherine-based Jawoyn Association, holding the position until August 1995 when he resigned to successfully contest the October by-election for the seat of Arnhem left vacant by the resignation of Wesley Lanhupuy.

John Ah Kit held the seat of Arnhem from October 1995 to June 2005 and in 2001, as part of the Territory's first Labor Government John was appointed as the first Aboriginal Minister in the Northern Territory. During this time John held Ministries which included:

- Minister for Community Development
- Minister for Housing
- Minister for Local Government
- Minister for Sport and Recreation
- Minister for Regional Development
- Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Indigenous Affairs.

John is currently Acting Executive Director of the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation.

John Ah Kit is the Patron of the following associations:

- Darwin 8Ball Association
- Darwin Football Club
- NT Cricket Umpires Association
- NT Touch
- The Katherine Club
- NT Badminton Association
- Vice Patron – Royal Surf Life Saving
- Co-Patron Dragon Boat

Abstract

Topic: The challenges and opportunities for NT Indigenous economic development - "It's sink or swim time".

John Ah Kit's presentation will provide a brief history of the Jawoyn Elders' struggle to obtain formal recognition of their traditional lands. He also paints a clear picture of the Jawoyn vision for employment and training opportunities on the road to economic independence through sensible decision making.

To quote "I am not saying that throughout the period of the Association's expansion into economic activity that it was all smooth sailing, and that mistakes were not made. Far from it. As has been pointed out, engagement in capitalism is an essentially risky enterprise."

Finally John's presentation offers five points that he believes are necessary for serious consideration because "Indigenous economic development in the Territory is not Blackfella versus Whitefella business. It is everyone's business".

Economically we must all participate in the creation of wealth, within our part of the Commonwealth of Australia and take our place as a result of that wealth creation; financially, socially and environmentally as the seventh State of our Federation.

Ms Christine Charles

Biography

Christine is the Group Executive – Environment & Social Responsibility with Newmont Australia. Newmont is the world's largest gold mining company, with headquarters in Denver USA, and operations at 22 sites across five continents. Christine's role covers operations across Australia and New Zealand.

Christine has worked in community, public, academic and private sectors, over the past 30 years. She has been active in a wide range of policy areas and is a member of a number of local and national groups. Christine joined the South Australian public sector in 1992, from teaching at the Flinders University of South Australia, and working with community organisations. Originally from Victoria, she has lived in South Australia since 1984 after spending 10 years in the Northern Territory.

Christine was the Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Human Services from 1997 to 2002. Prior to that she headed the South Australian Cabinet Office for four years after holding a number of senior government positions. In 2003 she worked for the World Health Organisation as a senior consultant based at the International Centre for Health Systems Development, Kobe, Japan.

Christine has strong personal and professional interest in public policy and the public/private/community interface. Positions currently held are:

- Chairperson of the Mining Board of the Northern Territory
- Board of SA Business Vision 2010
- SA Business Ambassador
- Co-Chair Reconciliation SA
- Trustee for the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Board Member of Beacon Foundation
- Member of Environment & Social Policy Committee – Minerals Council of Australia
- Member of Sustainable Development Extension Working Group – Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)
- Chair women in Mining Dialogue MCA
- Chair of Advisory Board Sustainable Minerals Institute

SESSION PARTICIPANTS

Session One Chair – Mr Steve Margetic

Steve's experience within the construction industry has been gained since 1978 working in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Steve commenced as a building cadet and has progressed through a number of roles before becoming Managing Director of Sitzler Bros (Darwin) Pty Ltd in early 1988. In this capacity Steve has continued to focus on the design management of various development projects ranging from \$3M to \$100M.

As Managing Director of Sitzler Bros (Darwin) Pty Ltd, Steve is responsible for managing all aspects of the company's operations, comprising direct responsibility for developing and implementing estimating, administration, accounting, operational and quality systems including risk management, industrial relations, HR and safety.

Steve Margetic's other activities have included over twelve months on the working party established by the Northern Territory Government to implement a process of contractor accreditation for its capital works and maintenance budget which resulted in him being appointed a founding director to the Northern Territory's Contractor Accreditation Limited in July 1995. Once CAL was successfully up and running Steve Margetic resigned from the Board in January 1996, however he remains a member of CAL's Peer Assessment Panel.

In March 1995 he was asked by the then Chief Minister, the Honourable Shane Stone QC, to sit on the board of the Department of Industries and Development's Centre for Business Innovation, which was a joint venture enterprise between the Northern Territory Government, the Northern Territory University and the private sector. The Centre for Business Innovation acted as a facilitator and networker for new and existing business similar to Technology Parks in other states.

In 1997 the Federal and Northern Territory Governments along with the Territory Construction Association, provided funding for a comprehensive review of the NT construction industry with the objective of developing a detailed Construction Industry Plan for the NT. A steering committee consisting of Federal and NT government representatives along with private sector construction representatives was established late 1997 and Steve Margetic was appointed chairman of this body.

The Northern Territory Construction Industry Plan was presented to all stakeholders in September 1998 and the implementation of its recommendations and strategies continue today.

Steve Margetic served as vice president of the Territory Construction Association and chairman of its IR committee during the 1990's and was president of TCA from 2000 to 2003.

In July 2003 the Northern Territory Government established the Land Development Corporation, which is responsible for the Darwin Business Park as well as to develop and manage the industrial estates at East Arm, Middle Arm, and in the future Glyde Point and Gunn Point Peninsula on strategic land use. An advisory board was established in January 2004 and Steve Margetic was appointed Chairperson.

Session Two Chair – Mr Des Rogers

Des is the founding Director of Red Centre Produce. This Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable business based in Alice Springs is the largest in Central Australia. Red Centre Produce has a vision to improve the access to quality, variety and price of fresh produce for Indigenous people in remote areas. Des was instrumental in the NT Department of Health and Community Service's Health and Nutrition Policy, Store Book and Store Video.

Des also owns Indigenous Perspectives, a consultancy firm providing professional assistance to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This firm provides diverse facilitation of information to all parties with total understanding of issues and out-comes. He was the Indigenous Relations Manager for the catering company on the Alice Springs to Darwin railway and achieved 35% Indigenous employment. Des has also been engaged to provide professional mentoring support to the new Executive Officer and the new Board of Arrernte Council.

Des is currently researching and developing a concept for an Indigenous Hospitality Academy, Indigenous Restaurant/Cafe and the export of Indigenous cuisine under the banner of his new business PepperedBLACK.

Des is an active member of the Indigenous community and has participated on many committees and boards. He has been:

- Alice Springs ATSIC Regional Council - Chair
- Alice Springs Town Council - Alderman
- Indigenous Housing Authority of the N.T. - Chair
- Desert Knowledge Australia - Interim Board Member
- Development Consent Authority - Board Member
- Community Harmony - Member

Currently he actively participates as;

- Central Australian Congress - Cabinet Member
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education - Deputy Chair
- Bill Raby Diabetes Fellowship - Governor
- Wallace Rock-Hole Community Government Council - Council Member
- Indigenous Reference Group – Charles Darwin University

Session Two Participant – Ms Julie Newton

Chairman of the Katherine Regional Development Board, Julie Newton has lived in the Territory since age 7 years and has spent all her working life in Darwin or the Katherine Region.

Julie has been a Nurse, Laboratory Technician, Cook and Station Manager's wife, and since 1994 has managed her family business Geoff Newton Saddlery in partnership with her husband. She has represented the interests of business women as a member of the NT's Business Women's Consultative Council and was the winner of the 2002 NT Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award.

Julie is an advocate for business people in Regional Australia and is a former executive member of the Katherine Region Tourist Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Julie's interest in regional development lead to her becoming the Katherine Region's representative on the NT Area Consultative Committee in February 2003 and in September 2003, she was appointed the Chairman of the inaugural Katherine Regional Development Board.

Session Two Participant – Mr Oscar Datjarranga

Oscar was born and raised on Elcho Island, which is situated North East of Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem Land. He attended Shepparton College, the local school at Galiwink'u, and then went on to complete an apprenticeship in Carpentry and Joinery at Darwin Community College, now Charles Darwin University.

Oscar is a past Chairman of the Galiwink'u Council, serving a two year term from 1994 to 1996. Oscar is now General Manager of Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre.

Oscar is the current Chairman of the East Arnhem Regional Development Board and as such recognises the region's potential for developing and sustaining industries such as aquaculture and tourism. Supporting the development of Indigenous enterprises through training and mentoring is important to Oscar.

Oscar has a keen interest in the aquaculture industry and is currently researching the viability of establishing a Mud Crab Hatchery at Elcho Island. It is envisaged that this project will provide training and employment opportunities for local Yolngu, as well as increased tourism to the region.

Session Five Chair – Mayor Fran Kilgariff

Fran Kilgariff was born and grew up in Alice Springs. Her family has been in the town since the 1920s. She has 5 grown-up children.

Fran's early education was in Alice Springs and completed at Boarding School in Adelaide. She trained as a radiographer on leaving school and later gained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New England, majoring in Prehistoric Archaeology with a minor in Geography. She has a Diploma of Education from Murdoch University and taught at a local private school for eleven years.

Fran was an Alderman on the Alice Springs Town Council for six years. She was elected as Mayor of Alice Springs in May 2000 for a four year term, and was re-elected in May 2004.

Fran currently represents Council on the Alice Springs Masters Games Advisory Committee and chairs the Committee meetings for the Alice Springs Town Council & Tangentyere Council Steering Committee and the Alice Springs Town Council and Lhere Artepe Partnership Committee. She is also a Commissioner on the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

Fran is on the Board of the YMCA of Central Australia and vice-President of the National YMCA. She is also on the Board of the St. John Ambulance of the NT and patron to a number of other community organisations.

Session Six Co-Chair with the Hon Paul Henderson MLA – Mr Greg Haigh

Greg is a third generation Darwin business owner and is passionate about small business in the Northern Territory.

Greg is the Managing Director of Air & Gas Systems Pty Ltd and winner of the 2005 Telstra and NT Government Northern Territory Small Business Award. Other activities include:

- Chairman Director of Regional And Northern Maintenance Services (RANms)
- Director of Accrete Training Pty Ltd
- Chairman of the Manufacturers Council of the NT
- Director of the Chamber of Commerce NT
- Board member of the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network.

Greg lives at Howard Springs with his wife Judy and he has two children and two grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys good fishing and bad golf.

FACILITATORS

Mr Carey Ramm BEc (Hons)

Carey is the Chairman and Principal Economist of the AECgroup. Carey was formerly a Federal Ministerial Adviser on Transport, Communications and Economic Development issues. Prior to this, he was a research economist with the Queensland State Model Project, specialising in economic forecasting.

Consulting Australia-wide, Carey's interests include economic and industry development, feasibility studies, government relations and market research. Carey has extensive hands-on experience in undertaking economic development consultancies as well as numerous industry development strategies. Carey also has practical experience in establishing businesses including horticulture and aquaculture, construction, hospitality, brewing and manufacturing.

Mr Russell Galt MBA, MMgt, FAIM

Russell is a Senior Consultant with the AECgroup. He brings over 20 years senior practical management experience to this role as well as a depth of consulting practice.

As well as having over ten years experience consulting to private sector organisations across a wide spectrum of industries, he also has extensive public sector experience. In this capacity he has worked with organisations such as the Department of the House of Representatives, Attorney General's Department (ITSA), Australian Film Commission and the NSW Bi-Centennial Park Trust, undertaking organisational diagnostic activities and developing strategic plans.

In addition to expert facilitation skills, Russell has developed a unique expertise in diagnosing and interpreting an organisation's position on a lifecycle model that clearly establishes the "growing" or "ageing" behaviours being employed within the organisation. The ever-growing database that has been created from this research process provides clients with an invaluable "benchmarking tool". Through a combination of research, consultation and facilitation processes, Russell assists organisations develop structures that match their desired vision and manage the change processes usually associated with such endeavours.

Being actively involved in executive development and coaching, Russell has worked with The Executive Connection (TEC) organisation as a member, chairman and resource speaker and is a Faculty Member of an international business school (IMC) and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Mr Ben Pace MBA, AFAIM

Ben is the Manager of Stanton Partner's Darwin office. Ben has provided strategic and practical business, IT and management consulting services to a broad range of clients and industries. Ben has more than 20 years of professional experience and holds a Masters of Business Administration. Ben is also a member of the Australian Institute of Management, Institute of Management Consultants and the Knowledge Management Leadership Forum.

Areas of specialisation include business performance improvement, strategy development, business case preparation, IT strategies and project reviews, business analysis and project management.

Ben has a strong customer focus and has worked at all levels within an organisation. Ben's experience crosses several industry verticals including Government, Utilities, Healthcare, Resources, Transportation and Insurance.

Ms Gail Humble

Gail has consulted within and from the Territory for the past 10 years where she has delivered consultancy services to businesses on a range of human resource, management, marketing and community communication issues. She has facilitated community engagement and conflict resolution processes on behalf of Ministers and participated in many public speaking events including debates for charity and presentations at national conferences.

Prior to moving to Darwin, Gail consulted to major national organisations in the UK, including British Coal, Powergen and British Telecom. She has held management appointments with Marks & Spencer, and also in the education, legal and counselling industries.

Ms Samantha Miles LLB (Hons)

Samantha is a consultant with Clayton Utz in Darwin. She has had a varied career in both public administration and the law. She was a manager and training officer for the Department of Social Security (now Centrelink) from 1982 until 1988 while undertaking her studies in law. She taught extensively at the former Northern Territory University from 1991 until 1997.

Since being admitted as a solicitor she has acted in a wide variety of commercial and litigious matters, in recent years focussing on the Workplace Relations Area. From 1997 until 2004 Samantha was a partner in Clayton Utz.

Samantha acts in respect of all employment related matters from contracts and dismissals to occupational health & safety, discrimination, confidential information and complex litigation. Samantha is an able advocate, qualified mediator and accredited small groups trainer.