

## Presenters' Details

**Geoffrey Bagshaw** is an Adelaide-based consultant anthropologist who has specialised in the study of traditional land and sea tenure, working on native title claims and site-protection projects in a wide variety of locations. He has also had significant long-term involvement in the identification and repatriation of Aboriginal sacred objects from institutional collections within Australia. He has worked extensively with Burarra-speaking people of coastal north-central Arnhem Land, and in 1999 he conducted intensive fieldwork in the Yalangbara area of north-east Arnhem Land as the principal researcher on a project developed and led by Banduk Marika. The aim of this family-based local initiative was to comprehensively document the area's cultural, historical and environmental significance for the purposes of securing permanent heritage protection under the provisions of existing federal legislation, and included visits to locate Yalangbara artworks in Australian museums and art galleries. This project resulted in the Yalangbara area being formally listed on the Register of the National Estate of Australia in 2003.

**Jennifer Isaacs AM** is an Australian writer and art consultant who is well known for the role she has played in educating Australian policy makers and the general public through her seminal books on Aboriginal culture. Her career in the arts has spanned over thirty years, beginning as a foundation staff member in the early days of the Australia Council. Her field of expertise is broadly encompassed in her twenty books, which cover various aspects of Australia's culture, particularly Indigenous arts and Australian women's art and history. In 1995, Jennifer published *Wandjuk Marika: Life Story*, the autobiography of one of Australia's greatest statesmen and Aboriginal leaders. *Wandjuk Marika* was short listed for the National non-fiction award and literary awards in three states. Currently she concentrates on art consulting, writing, coordinating projects for remote Aboriginal communities, and publishing ventures. She is the overall series editor for a new landmark series on Indigenous art for Melbourne University Press.

**Banduk Marika** is the daughter of Mawalan I Marika and sister of other well-known artists Wandjuk and Dhuwarrwarr Marika. She was born at Beach Camp, Yirrkala, in 1954 and, after living in Darwin for six years, she relocated to Sydney where she began printmaking in 1983. Since returning to Yirrkala in 1988, Banduk has pursued her printmaking and various cross-cultural programs concerning education, employment, health, and intellectual property rights. She is represented in all major collecting institutions in Australia and in 2002 she was awarded the prestigious Australia Council's Red Ochre Award. In 2005 she won the Telstra Bark Painting Award at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, acknowledging her successful move into the medium of bark painting. Because of her wide range of talents and expertise, Banduk is in demand from both government and non-government organisations and is a board and committee member for many organisations.

**Howard Morphy** (BSc, MPhil London, PhD ANU, FASSA, FAAH, CIHA) is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Research School of Humanities at the Australian National University. Previous appointments include the chair in Anthropology at University College London, and curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford. He is an anthropologist of art and visual anthropologist having co-edited two of the main source books in the respective fields: *The Anthropology of Art: a Reader* and *Rethinking Visual Anthropology*. He has written extensively on Australian Aboriginal art with a monograph of Yolngu Art, *Ancestral Connections*, a general survey, *Aboriginal Art*, and most recently *Becoming Art: Exploring Cross-Cultural Categories*. He has also produced a pioneering multimedia biography, *The Art of Narritjin Maymuru*, with Pip Deveson and Katie Hayne. His involvement in e-research and in the development of museum exhibitions reflects his determination to make humanities research as accessible as possible to wider publics and to close the distance between the research process and research outcomes.

**John Stanton** has a PhD in Anthropology and, since his appointment as Curator (now Director) of the Berndt Museum of Anthropology in 1980, has had extensive experience and involvement in Aboriginal arts. He collaborated in several publications with RM and CH Berndt and has maintained ongoing research programs in the Kimberley and Western Desert regions of north-west Western Australia and the south-west of the state. His work includes community assistance to establish local

keeping places and cultural centres, training of Aboriginal people in curatorial and exhibition techniques, oral history recording, and other related projects central to the Museum's outreach program. Annually he delivers the course *Aboriginal art and society* for the discipline of anthropology and sociology at the University of Western Australia. He has also curated a number of exhibitions, which were accompanied by published catalogues and monographs, of which the most recent have been *Aboriginal Artists of the South-West: past and present* (2000) and *On Track: Contemporary Aboriginal art from Western Australia* (2004).

**Dr Nancy Williams** arrived at Yirrkala in 1969 and was incorporated into the Rirratjingu clan as Roy Marika's sister. Her mentors in Yolngu relations to land and sea included Mathaman I (until his death in 1970), Roy, Milirrpum, Dhunggala and Wandjuk Marika along with other Rirratjingu yothu yindi, gutharra, and other relatives including Daymbalipu, Gawirrin, and Galarrwuy. The latter two and others, including women who were practising artists, continued in that role and have wanted Yolngu art understood as expressions of the sacred bestowal of their estates. Nancy Williams' research with Yolngu in north-east Arnhem Land continues to focus on land and sea tenure and resource management, and the way they are practised. Her publications include *The Yolngu and Their Land: a System of Land Tenure and the Fight for its Recognition* and *Two Laws*. Edited volumes include *Traditional Ecological Knowledge* (with G Baines) and *Resource Managers* (with E Hunn). Her present position is Honorary Reader in Anthropology, School of Social Science, University of Queensland.