



MEDIA RELEASE - SYDNEY - 30 MAY 2018

Based on her PhD titled: "The road to Eldership: How Aboriginal culture creates sacred leaders" Tjanara Goreng Goreng is bringing her research and insights to Australia's business community in Sydney, 19 June 2018.

"This is about transformation; transforming ourselves, our workplaces and the planet." – Tjanara Goreng Goreng

Our leaders are struggling. Public trust in government, media and business is at an all time low.* Many of our institutions, including our banks and churches, and the environment are in crisis.

A new approach to leadership is needed - one grounded in respect and responsibility. Could Australia's Indigenous hold the key to a better and sustainable world?

Tjanara Goreng Goreng is a Waka Waka Wulli Wulli traditional custodian, accomplished global business woman, corporate leadership consultant and academic. She observed that the top stages of adult development, identified by experts such as Robert Kegan and Erik Erickson and achieved by visionary leaders such as Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama, had been reached by Elders in her community. This inspired her PhD research into how Aboriginal culture creates sacred leaders.

Hosted and curated by Talkpoint, and co-designed with Mark Spain from Global Learning, Tjanara is now ready to share her findings and leadership insights with Australia's business community. On The morning of Tuesday, 19 June, In the elegant theatre of the Art Gallery NSW, Tjanara will introduce us to Dadirri (deep listening) and Kanyini (the principle of harmony and connectedness) alongside the findings from her research including knowledge that has been passed down orally in Australia for tens of thousands of years.



The morning experience will be enhanced by music, art, storytelling and a bespoke performance from two students of the Bangarra Dance Theatre, choreographed specifically for this event. There will also be time for personal reflection and Q&A. Following the morning session is an optional working lunch across the road at The Pavillion Restaurant. This “so what” workshop will provide an opportunity to apply the learnings from the morning session.

As explained by Tjanara: “Sacred leadership is at the top of consciousness, it’s a way of thinking, acting and being that inspires and motivates others. In Aboriginal communities in Australia, Elders have always been considered leaders because of similar qualities to those espoused by Kegan and other western sacred and visionary leadership theorists. My research helps us to understand more deeply the oral teachings and learnings of an ancient culture, as well as showing how this information can be applied to leadership development and theory in the present modern world across cultures and communities.”

Talkpoint founder, Robyn Katz, said: “We do not need international experts to teach us about leadership in Australia. We have always had everything we need right here. Tjanara’s gift is her ability to integrate, embody and transcend the wisdom from both our western and Indigenous cultures. She has a lot to teach us and we have everything to gain by listening.”

*Edelman’s Trust Barometer: <http://cms.edelman.com>

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About Tjanara Goreng:

Tjanara is a Wakka Wakka Wulli Wulli Traditional Custodian. She was born in 1958 in the outback at Longreach in central western Queensland and has had a fascinating, at times challenging, life plus a diverse and accomplished career. Her professional background includes: being an academic researcher; teacher; psychotherapist; artist; community development worker; senior policy director at the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and corporate transformational leadership consultant. Tjanara is an Adjunct Assistant



Professor and Research Scholar in Eldership - Sacred Leadership at ANU and she has just completed her Doctorate entitled "The road to Eldership: How Aboriginal culture creates sacred leaders". Her autobiography "A Long Way From No Go" is scheduled to be published in September 2018.

Additional resources:

- Video: Tjanara Goreng Goreng and Robyn Katz on Eldership (2 mins)
<https://youtu.be/xp18PjklPVg>
- Web Page: Sacred Leadership Event Information
www.talkpoint.com.au/sacredleadership/
- Web Page: Tjanara Goreng Goreng Bio
<https://www.oneinmaglobal.org/about-tjanara>
- LinkedIn Pulse: Tjanara Goreng Goreng on her PhD:
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/road-eldershiphow-sacred-visionary-leaders-created-goreng-goreng/>
- Video: Mark Spain on Sacred Leadership (90 secs)
<https://youtu.be/xL5xW-0o8Bc>
- Web Page: Mark Spain Bio
<https://globallearning.com.au/about-global-learning/mark-spain/>

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About Talkpoint:

Talkpoint curates, facilitates and produces connective, peer-to-peer learning experiences designed to #humanisework. We create spaces for conversations that matter and generate courage to lead wholeheartedly.