



SEMINAR SERIES 2022

On the shoulders of Gurindji Giants

PRESENTER	Dr Sue Stanton (Gurindji), Elder Academic: Batchelor Institute
DATE & TIME	Thursday 25 August 2022, 11am - 12 noon ACST
LOCATION	Lunch Room, Purple 10, Batchelor Campus,
WHO	All staff, students and members of the general public are invited. Please share this invitation among your networks.

ABOUT THE GURINDJI PEOPLE Freedom Day or the anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off is the commemoration of that time in August 1966 when Gurindji people, along with Mudpurra, Warlpiri and other Aboriginal people, stood up against the cruel and unjust treatment metered out to them on a northern colonial frontier known as Wave Hill Station (Jinparrak). This was only one of many sites throughout the Northern Territory that subjected Aboriginal people

ABOUT THE SEMINAR Today's presentation will speak about the significance of the Freedom Day event whilst acknowledging Gurindji people and their leadership in the struggle for rights and justice for Aboriginal people. The Wave Hill Walk-Off of 1966 was to provide the catalyst for all Aboriginal people, not only in the Northern Territory, but Australia-wide to have their traditional lands recognised and for those lands to be returned to them.

This significant time is celebrated as Freedom Day as it marks the time in Australian history as the birth of the land rights movement. On 16th August 1975, now 47 years ago Gough Whitlam poured that Dagaragu sand into Vincent Lingiari's hand, he declared: Vincent Lingiari, I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof in Australian law that these lands belong to the Gurindji

to a methodical and meticulous campaign of destruction and utter desolation. That is, until Gurindji, led by Vincent Lingiari, stood up and challenged those who exploited them. He walked his people and other followers from Wave Hill Station to Wattie Creek (Dagaragu) and delivered the message: "You can keep your gold, we just want our land back".

people, and I put into your hands part of the earth as a sign that this land will be the possession of you and your children forever. The anniversary of the event is now celebrated every year at Kalkarindji.

As we recall the events and the actions that followed the walk-off we also honour the heroes and sheroes of that movement. This year is dedicated to the Gurindji women in particular as they are remembered for their outstanding contributions - in the struggles before and after 1966, and who continue to give strength and inspiration to the present day.

Gurindji remind ourselves that if we are now able to see further than others, it is because we stand on the shoulders of giants - the Gurindji giants of 1966.

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