

Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference 2026

Activity / Entertainment	Speaker
Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country	
Formalities and Welcome	Event Hosts, Raquel Todd, Blackline, Ash Penfold Garlett, Corroboree for Life
WAITOC Opening Address	WAITOC Chair, Darren "Capes" Capewell, Wula Gura Nyinda
WA Government Address	Hon Samantha Rowe MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for Defence Industries; Tourism, Trade and Investment
Tourism Research Australia First Nations Data	Hannah Hansell, Australian Trade and Investment Commission
Session One	
Tourism Australia Presentation and Q&A	Robin Mack, Tourism WA & Rob Taylor, WAITOC
Presentation & Workshop: AI ready Indigenous tourism: how visitors will find, trust and book experiences in 2026	Liz Ward, Tourism Tribe
Session Two	
Building the Missing Structure: Establishing the Northern Territory Aboriginal Tourism Council	Helen Martin, Northern Territory Aboriginal Tourism Council
Panel: Indigenous Women Shaping Tourism, Grounded in Kinship & Community	Mālia Sanders, Mary O'Reeri, Sharon Wood Kenny Natasha Short, Temali Howard
Session Three	
Panel: From Starting Up to Scaling Up	Simon Mendelawitz, Intrepid Travel, Benji Kenny, Western Aranda Culture and History Guided Tours & Briony Arnold, WAITOC
When Story Meets Strategy: Digital Marketing for Cultural Tourism Success	Daina Walker, Diversified Business Skills
Wednesday 4th November	
Session One	
Partnering to build a better product: Journey of Connecting to Country and Culture in Business	Jason Cronshaw & Uncle David King, Scenic World
From Cultural Authority to Commerical Partnership: Dambimangari's Emerging Model for Indigenous Led Tourism Growth	Kim Cream, Rowena Mouda, Robyn Mungulu, Aaron Cooper, Kennisha Waina, Sasha Ngerdu, Leah Umbagai, Jordie Rieniets, Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
Panel & Q&A: Walking Together, A practical Model for Cross Cultural Tourism Collaboration	Monique Boucher, Hidden deTours & Steven Jacobs, In Culture Tours
Session Two	
The Role of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) in Helping Visitors Understand the Diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art	Djubugitj Grace Lewis Djilpin Arts Jo-Anne Driessens, Indigenous Art Code, Chad Creighton, Aboriginal Art Centre Hub Western Australia
Visitor Management in Indigenous Territories: An Indigenous-led Framework for Tourism Governance, Conversation and Territorial Stewardship	Jean-Phillppe Le Moigne, Destination Original Indigenous Tourism
Reframing Indigenous Tourism as a Global Industry, Not a Cultural Product	Sebastien Desnoyers, Yatisa Consulting

Session Three	
Panel- Koort Waalitj: Pathways of Connection Through Cultral Healing	Rohan Collard, Dooga Waalitj Healing
Prioritising Mental Wellbeing in Aboriginal Led Tourism Enterprises	Merle Meyer, TwoOceans Therapeutic Connections
Session Four	
Inclusivity and Aboriginal Cultural Tourism: A story of strength and resilience to show that culture, strength and community can thrive even through life's challenges	Marissa Verma, Bindi Bindi Dreaming
Wednesday 4th November	
Session One	
Reclaiming the Narrative: The Global Opportunity for Indigenous Tourism at Scale	Emeritus Professor Dr Len Collard & Gerry Matera, Weitj Investments
First Nations Led, Climate Smart Food Tourism Case Study from Australia & Pacific Island	Neville Atkinson, Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. Dr Viliamu Iese, University of Melbourne Leanne Miller AM, Outback Academy
Authenticity Matters: Protecting First Nation's Food and Product Identity in Global Tourism	Sharon Brindley, Jala Jala Treats
Session Two	
A Place in Tourism: Aboriginal Corporations Perspectives	Jodi Woods - Indigenous River Tour Guide – Nitmiluk Tours Cameron Costello, Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions Sveva Falletto, Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
WA Investment in Aboriginal Tourism, Destination Development and Developing Infrastructure Projects	Renata Lowe, Tourism WA Madeline Anderson, Beemurra Aboriginal Corporation
Panel - Healing Country Through Tourism Victorian Traditional Owner Operators	Lewis Brown, Visit Victoria Rob Hyatt, Koorie Heritage Trust Charmaine Hopgood, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Joey Saunders, Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Ralph Hume, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Session Three	
Murujuga Rock Art World Heritage Listing and What This Means for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Peter Cooper & Jerome Wachter, Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
Cultural Tours as Pathways to Reconciliation	Mary O'Reeri, Injid Cultral Experiences
Strength in Yumi Next Generation Workshop	Joey Lafoo, Island Stars
Session Four	
Youth and Future Leaders Panel	Kianna Taylor, Volunteering Australia, Tremaine "Buster" Baxter
WAITOC National Body Update	WAITOC - Robert Taylor NATOC - Dwayne Bannyon Harrison QFNTC - Cameron Costello IITOQ - Shawn Wondunna-Foley NTATC - Helen Martin SATOC - Hayden Bromley
Closing Address and AITC 2028 Host City Announcement	WAITOC Chair and Board Members