



PIONEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MONDAY 22 MAY 2017 | DOT WEST

Firstly, I would like to pay my respects to the Arrente people, the Elders both past and present. I also extend my respects to all Elders who are here with us tonight. I acknowledge and pay my respects to all of you who've come so we can meet together about our media industry and hopefully move in one direction towards our goals. Some of these goals were set for us some 40 odd years ago by our earlier pioneers in this industry. Tonight, I pay my respects and acknowledge the hard work they had done at the national level to set the ground work for us to continue this great industry of ours.

However, this national summit is going to feel a bit strange for me and most probably for many of you. This will be my first national meet without Mr Bayles, I will miss his large presence and booming voice. He was a man who had contributed so much to this sector, a man, who was there from the beginning in the development of our industry. I pay my respects to his family and colleagues.

Another person who has been at the forefront of community radio for our sector and who intended to be here with us, but unfortunately due to health reasons couldn't, is Jim Remedio, another big presence at our national meetings and a person who has also helped the development of our sector. I wish a speedy recovery to him.

Another person I wish a speedy recovery to is a woman I've admired and was fortunate enough to catch up with last year, Freda Glynn. She along with others helped to set the groundwork.

There are so many people who played an important role at the national level for our industry and forgive me if I fail to mention all, but my brainbox is getting old and my memory isn't what it used to be.

I'd like to make mention of the late Mr Bonner who was instrumental at the ABC board table in getting support for our voices to be heard on their radio channel and supporting this work on the ground was Graeme Steele and later Patrick Malone. This work in the 80's assisted the birth of some of our licenced radio stations we enjoy today. On the ground providing training and support to our budding radio stations was Bill and Mick Thaiday along with Wayne Bynder. These men inspired many of our people to become radio broadcasters.

During the late 80's and early 90's I was fortunate enough to work at the national level with some of our industry greats – those that I've already mentioned along with Mr Macumba, Dennis Eggington, Owen Cole, Cheryl Vickery, Aven Noah, Vince Coulthard, Chris Lee, Ella Geia, the Doolans, Brett Leavy, Kenny Reys, Big Frank, Cathy Craigie, Wayne Wharton, Lola Forrester, Lester

Bostock, Ross Watson, Pearl Davern, Jenny Enosa, Burrie Butler, Eileen Torres, Francis Kelly and Mr Granites and others from Warlpiri Media, Pantjiti McKenzie and her husband Mr McKenzie and EVTV crew, and Noeli Roberts and Belle Davidson from Irrunytju Media.

But whilst radio was developing, we also had print and screen content being developed. I would like to mention people like Wal Saunders, Lester Bostock, Sally Riley, Rachel Perkins and Kirstie Parker just to name a few who worked hard in other sectors of our industry to help get our voice, our stories, our cultures and our languages heard and seen.

Our industry comes from a long line of great pioneers and without their hard work we wouldn't be here today to talk about the future of our sector we want to leave our children, grandchildren and great children. May we tread in their footprints with purpose and respect over the next two days and beyond.