



PIONEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MONDAY 22 MAY 2017 | TADAM LOCKYER, IRCA CHAIRPERSON

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this country, the Arrente people. Thank you to Kumalie Riley and her dance troupe for the very special welcome. We all feel safe being here on your country now.

Welcome to all our members and friends to the Converge Summit, IRCA's first gathering in its new role as national peak body.

Thank you for the time and effort you have put in to be here, to help us to forge the direction for the sector, to update the policy that guides our sector's development from the grass roots, and to set the role and direction for IRCA as your peak body.

Before doing this, however, it is important to acknowledge that we are not doing something new here. We are building upon the work done by many pioneers and leaders of our sector over the last 40 years, who have struggled for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to create our own media – to have our voices heard on the airwaves, our faces and stories on film and TV, and our journalism and images in print and online. Many of those people have passed on now and they are greatly missed.

I would like to have a minute silence to acknowledge those from our sector, our communities and our families who have passed on.

(ONE MINUTE SILENCE)

Thank you. We are the new custodians, we are walking in the footsteps of the pioneers to ensure our industry keeps growing and evolving to achieve its full potential.

Tonight, we have invited our members to acknowledge the pioneers from their organisations and regions, some passed, some still going, some still contributing to the sector's ongoing development. We have had a lot of interest in sharing these stories. As we have to finish at 7.30pm tonight, we will hear some stories tonight and hear some more tomorrow night over dinner.

However, I would like to start by introducing one of the pioneers of this sector and of Aboriginal music, theatre, film and TV in the Kimberleys, a true legend, Stephen Baamba Albert. Baamba is going to share some songs and stories Kimberleys style to start us on this night of celebration and memory.

CLOSING SPEECH:

Thanks to everyone for your presentations tonight. It's been great remembering all the pioneers and work that's been done to help us get to where we are. We look forward to hearing more acknowledgements at dinner tomorrow night.

Thanks again to Kumalie Riley and her team for tonight's welcome. And a big thanks to our wonderful MCs Lola Forester and Patrick Ah Kit.