

University Of Notre Dame

# Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



*A New Partnership*, William Roe, 1994

## The Past Is In Front of Us: A Deep Human History?

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, 3:00pm

**Professor Ann McGrath**

The time-shallow national anniversary traditions premised upon imperial 'firsts' continue to divide 'history' from the long duree of Australia's human past. This talk will first consider the 1901 re-enactment of Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay, which represented an effort to reify the first British arrivals. Yet it arguably became a demonstration of multiple sovereignties. Secondly it will consider whether it possible to bridge these barriers, especially without the device of clear-cut 'arrival event' or landing dates? In other words, how might the 60,000 year span of human experience in Australia enter the realm of 'history' – if indeed it should? While sacredness and sovereignty are integral to conversations around nation, law and identity, only European sacred time is allocated historical dates.

If historians are to contribute to understanding the long history of Indigenous Australia, the profession will need to collaborate with Indigenous knowledge holders and work closely with other disciplines, including archaeology and linguistics. Such research will require different kinds of techniques, approaches, sources and possibly a different kind of periodization. We hope to attempt some of this in our recently commenced Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate program 'Rediscovering the Deep Human Past: Global Networks, Future Opportunities'. By holding annual symposia and workshops on themes that include time, language, rock art and Indigenous memory narratives, the Laureate team aims to test a range of potential methodologies.

**Professor Ann McGrath is a multi-awarded historian with the ANU School of History, and is Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History. See more here:**

[history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/acih/people/professor-ann-mcgrath](http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/centres/acih/people/professor-ann-mcgrath).

**Venue:** The University of Notre Dame Australia,  
L11 (Building 2 second storey), 88 Guy Street, Broome, WA

For further information: **08 9192 0614** | [Sandra.Wooltorton@nd.edu.au](mailto:Sandra.Wooltorton@nd.edu.au)



## Nulungu

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

Fremantle

Broome

Sydney

[nd.edu.au/nulungu](http://nd.edu.au/nulungu)