

Clare Burton Lectures 2004

Australian National University, Canberra, ACT

The 2004 Clare Burton lecture in the ACT was once again supported by the 4 ACT universities (Australian Catholic University, Australian Defence Force Academy, Australian National University and University of Canberra) and was organised by the ANU's Equity and Diversity Unit. The lecture was incorporated in the Women of Influence Lecture Series, an initiative of the ACT universities. The 2004 lecture was presented over dinner in the Great Hall at University House to a capacity audience with Professor John Richards, Master of University House, as the host. The speaker, Professor Larissa Behrendt, presented a very moving and personal exploration of how images of Aboriginal women in popular culture and other environments influence the law, with specific attention to law reform and law and order issues. The impact on the audience and high level of interest in Professor Behrendt's lecture were demonstrated by the number of questions asked by the audience and by subsequent requests for copies of her paper. Ms Susan Biggs, Deputy Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency discussed the work of the Agency in 2004.

Curtin University of Technology, Perth

The Clare Burton Memorial Lecture was held on Friday 24th September 2004 in the Ballroom at the Perth Hyatt Regency. A total of 156 guests from an array of private and government organisations attended this event, with a significant number of attendees from the Department of Justice and senior legal practitioners from the Supreme Court of WA, the Federal Court of Australia and a group of young female aboriginal students from AISWA. Curtin also welcomed once again organisations that have supported this event over a number of years including the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Dept for Community Development, Dept of Premier & Cabinet, Dept of Agriculture, UWA, ECU and Murdoch University as well as staff from all Divisions and areas across Curtin.

Beryl Harp, Noonygar senior from Curtin Centre for Aboriginal Studies, performed a traditional welcome. Stephanie Fryer-Smith, Curtin Business School, introduced Larissa Behrendt and Maria Osman, Director, Office for Women's Policy moved a vote of thanks. Other speakers were Pamela Hass, President of the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, Curtin Legal Counsel and Chair, ATN-WEXDEV Women's Program Implementation Committee and Ms Anna McPhee, Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

The 2004 Clare Burton Lecture, "Law Stories and Life Stories: Aboriginal Women, the Law and Australian Society", was given by Professor Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law and Indigenous Studies and Director of the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at UTS. The QUT lecture was held on Monday 13th September 2004. 60 people from university, public, government and corporate sectors attended the lecture.

Ms Tracey Carpenter, Director of Consultancy and Educational Services, the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency discussed the work of the Agency in 2004. The lecture was enthusiastically received by the audience with many questions and comments afterwards. It was notable that external participants included many from work areas not seen at previous lectures.

RMIT University, Melbourne

RMIT's WEXDEV representatives were joined by RMIT's Indigenous Centre in marketing this 2004 lecture series, resulting in a highly successful collaboration reaching a wider audience with 70 people attending the lecture on 8th September 2004 in historic Storey Hall, and was an inspiring and successful evening. Larissa's natural ability to 'tell a story' while making some relevant and stark observations on indigenous history and issues today engaged the audience totally. All agreed that the topic, delivery and evening was highly successful and thought provoking. Ms Susan Biggs, Deputy Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency discussed the work of the Agency in 2004.

University of South Australia, Adelaide

Hosted by the Human Resources Unit, the annual Clare Burton Memorial Lecture, held at the Mercury Cinema on 24th September, was attended by more than 90 people. Professor Hilary Winchester, Pro Vice Chancellor, Organisational Change and Development, chaired the event, and Ms Josie Agius welcomed the audience on behalf of the Kurna people. Ms Anna McPhee, Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency presented the sponsor's address. The highlight of the evening was Professor Larissa Behrendt, who delivered the 2003 memorial lecture *Law Stories and Life Stories: Aboriginal women, the law and Australian society*. The lecture was thought provoking and a number of guests purchased signed copies of Larissa's book *Home*.

University of Technology, Sydney

The University of Technology Sydney played host to 90 guests for the 2004 Clare Burton lecture. Before the lecture, the recently-formed 'UTS Blue Stockings Women's Choir' entertained the guests with a medley of acappella tunes. Joan Tranter from the UTS Equity and Diversity Unit acknowledged the traditional owners. Dr Susan Tiffin, Director of UTS Building Capability Project and Chair of the ATN WEXDEV Management Committee, welcomed the guests and spoke of the history of the Clare Burton lecture. Colleen Chesterman, Director of ATN WEXDEV, then introduced Larissa Behrendt, whose lecture explored the role of Aboriginal women in influencing the law and drew from her own personal memories and experiences. Several copies of her recently published novel, *Home*, were given away as door prizes. Ms Susan Biggs, Deputy Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency discussed the work of the Agency in 2004 and moved a vote of thanks to Larissa. In the reception following the lecture, the women's choir once again entertained the guests.