

media release

2 December 2021

Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration **The National Museum of Australia brings together prominent Australians** **for an online learning program for teachers and students**

The National Museum of Australia in Canberra, with the generous support of Gandel Foundation, is bringing together well-known speakers from across the country for an online learning program.

Aimed at teachers, students and those interested in education, Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration will launch on 24 January 2022. The program aligns with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and will count towards teachers' professional learning for 2022.

Tina Brandt, Head of Visitor Experience and Commercial Operations at the National Museum, said: "In 2020 the National Museum launched [Australia's Defining Moments Digital Classroom](#), which offers a range of free online learning resources for teachers and students, aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Its purpose is to ensure access equity for schools across Australia."

"Within the Digital Classroom there is an evolving timeline of key events in Australia's history that have impacted and shaped our nation. To further explore these defining moments, we have created Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration, the first digital professional learning program for teachers of its kind," said Ms Brandt.

"Gandel Foundation is delighted to see the continued growth and reach of Australia's Defining Moments Digital Classroom (ADMDC) Project," said Mr John Gandel AC and Mrs Pauline Gandel AC. "Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration – the new online learning program – will enable teachers to take part in an important professional development series aligned to the ADMDC, so they can continue to teach with renewed enthusiasm in their classrooms."

Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration is based on first-person narratives that can be used for teachers' professional learning and in the classroom. It will include keynote addresses from three prominent Australians: comedian, commentator, actor and proud Indigenous woman Steph Tisdell; author and historian Professor Clare Wright OAM; and author Saroo Brierley, whose bestselling autobiography *A Long Way Home* was adapted into the feature film *Lion*. These speakers share stories of the defining moments that have shaped their lives and identities.

The program will also include three sessions that delve deeper into the three program themes: First Nations, gender and migration. Each session will focus on a theme and feature one of our guest speakers: Nathaniel Tamwoy, Nevo Zisin and Professor Munjed Al Muderis. These sessions will also include panel discussions with Australian teachers and students and Museum experts examining the content's relevance to the Australian Curriculum and classroom practice.

"The National Museum's online professional learning program aims to address what an inclusive classroom looks like in the 21st century, how we can incorporate multiple perspectives into our teaching of Australian history, and how we can build students' empathy, intercultural understanding and respect for viewpoints other than their own," Ms Brandt said.

“The Australian Perspectives series will support and strengthen lesson planning, providing teachers with a broad scope of views that they can take into their classrooms and share with students. We are proud of our partnership with, and the proactive approach of, the National Museum in equipping our educators with new skills and knowledge. We are confident that learning opportunities such as this can inspire and assist teachers across the nation,” said Mr Gandel.

On Monday 24 January 2022, participants will hear Steph Tisdell, Clare Wright and Saroo Brierley tell their stories and respond to questions sent in by teachers around Australia. During this session, Museum educators will be online to answer questions about how this valuable content can be used in the classroom. The three sessions exploring the program themes will be available immediately following the keynote addresses.

Register now at: digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/australian-perspectives

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

OVERVIEW

Every classroom is filled with diverse learners – each with their own story, identity and perspective. The National Museum of Australia, with the generous support of Gandel Foundation, is bringing together speakers from across the country for an online learning program – **Australian Perspectives: First Nations, Gender, Migration**.

Join us on 24 January 2022 to hear keynote speakers Steph Tisdell, Professor Clare Wright OAM and Saroo Brierley reflect on their own journeys and the defining moments that have shaped them.

Exploring multiple perspectives on Australia’s history is the key to creating an inclusive classroom. It helps build students’ empathy, intercultural understanding and respect for viewpoints that are different from their own. It is also an opportunity for more students to see themselves represented in Australia’s stories. This can foster a sense of belonging and pride in their own personal and cultural identities.

The program is open to all, but it is particularly designed for teachers and those interested in education.

ACCESS TO THEMED SESSIONS

In addition to the keynote addresses, participants will gain access to three sessions focusing on the themes of First Nations, gender and migration.

Hosted by Virginia Haussegger AM, these sessions delve deeper into the themes. They include additional stories and panel discussions exploring the content’s relevance to the Australian Curriculum and how to incorporate it in the classroom. Panels will comprise a guest speaker, a teacher, a student and a Museum expert.

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

First Nations keynote – Steph Tisdell

Steph is a comedian, commentator, actor and proud Indigenous woman. Before discovering comedy, her interest in politics and advocacy saw her enrolling in law. Her formidable intelligence and sense of social justice now permeates her material. As a Yidinji woman, she loves to share her culture and she hopes that her visibility will empower other Aboriginal artists. A luminescent presence on stage, her performance

on ABC TV's 2019 *Oxfam Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala* saw her invited to host in 2020. Steph has appeared on the Comedy Channel and on television shows such as *Hughesy*, *We Have a Problem* and *The Project*.

Gender keynote – Professor Clare Wright OAM

Clare is a historian, author, broadcaster and public commentator. She is a Professor of History, Principal Research Fellow and ARC Future Fellow at La Trobe University, and is the author of the award-winning *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*. Clare hosts the ABC Radio National series *Shooting the Past*, and has appeared on *Q+A*, *The Project* and *Behind the News*. She created, wrote and presented *Utopia Girls* and created and co-wrote *The War That Changed Us*, both for ABC TV. Clare is a co-founder and co-convenor of A Monument of One's Own, a not-for-profit campaign promoting commemorative equality. In 2020 Clare was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to literature and to historical research.

Migration keynote – Saroo Brierley

Saroo is the author of the international bestselling autobiography *A Long Way Home*, which was adapted into the feature film *Lion*, nominated for four Golden Globes and six Academy Awards. After living on the streets of Calcutta alone for weeks, Saroo was placed in an orphanage and adopted by an Australian family. He lived in Hobart for the next 25 years. Unable and unwilling to forget his childhood, Saroo embarked on a virtual odyssey. After many hours searching Google Earth, armed only with his memories, he found his hometown and his mother. Saroo's is a remarkable and touching story of survival and determination.

Host – Virginia Haussegger AM

Virginia is an award-winning journalist and gender equity advocate. Her extensive media career spans 30 years, and she has reported around the globe for prime time current affairs programs. She anchored the ABC's flagship TV news in Canberra from 2001 to 2016. In 2017 she established the 50|50 by 2030 Foundation at the University of Canberra. She currently hosts BroadTalk, a podcast about women, power and the wayward world, and writes regular commentary for Australian news media. In 2014 Virginia was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. She was also the 2019 ACT Australian of the Year.

First Nations guest speaker – Nathaniel Tamwoy

Nathaniel is a proud Argun man from Badu Island in the Torres Strait. He is currently completing his final year of an occupational therapy degree at the University of Sydney. Education has been a critical component of Nathaniel's journey. However, smooth transitions have been rare. This was particularly the case when he left Country, community and culture to attend secondary school in Queensland. He formed relationships of love and trust with very few teachers – but there were some. He now has an education consultancy business called Ripple Effekt Consulting, in partnership with one of these educators. Nathaniel believes that his achievements are grounded in the history of his people and that their stories define who he is.

Gender guest speaker – Nevo Zisin

Nevo (they/them) is a queer, non-binary, Jewish writer, performer, activist and public speaker. They run workshops in schools and professional development training in workplaces focusing on transgender identities. They are the author of the award-winning *Finding Nevo*, a memoir on gender transition, and *The Pronoun Lowdown*, a useful guidebook on all things related to pronouns. They were named one of Out for Australia's 30 Under 30 for 2019 and are a mentor for the Pinnacle Foundation, an ambassador for both Wear It Purple and the Victorian Pride Centre, and a member of the cast of *Gender Euphoria* – Australia's largest all trans and gender diverse show on a main stage.

Migration guest speaker – Professor Munjed Al Muderis



Munjed is an orthopaedic surgeon, clinical lecturer and author. As a first-year resident, Munjed was forced to flee Iraq as he refused Saddam's regime's brutal orders to surgically remove the ears of soldiers who had escaped from the army. He ended up on a flimsy wooden boat heading to his new home – Australia. His story is the subject of his 2014 book *Walking Free*, and his life's mission is to enable the disabled, restore mobility and give hope to the weak and vulnerable around the world, regardless of their creed or ethnicity. He is an ambassador for the Australian Red Cross and Amnesty International Australia, and a patron of the Asylum Seekers Centre. Munjed was the 2020 NSW Australian of the Year.