

## Native Title Conference 2012: Echoes of Mabo: Honour & Determination

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This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Native Title Conference which will be taking place on Monday 4 June 2012 to Wednesday 6 June 2012 in Townsville.

The Townsville community is planning celebrations during the weekend of 2-3 June leading into the conference. We would like to remind everyone attending the conference that early registration for the conference and early booking for accommodation is essential to avoid disappointment. Information on registration and accommodation is **now available on the Conference website.**

The conference program is now finalised with an impressive line up of speakers. The Public Program and the Pre-Conference Workshops will be available soon from the Conference website.

The conference program includes one day of closed workshops for Indigenous people and their native title representative bodies (4 June) followed by the two day Public Program for registered delegates (5-6 June). The dynamic cultural program will include a Welcome to Country ceremony for all conference delegates at 5.30 p.m. on Monday 4 June.

For further information, see the conference website at: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/NTC12.html>

## Native Title Conference 2012: Artist profile and logo

The Native Title Conference logo design will be created from the work of Alick Tipoti.

Alick Tipoti is a Torres Strait Islander who is guided by the traditional cultural practices of his people. He believes in the Zugubal who were spoken about for many years by his ancestors. He is most diligent about what he sees as his responsibility to document the stories, genealogies, songs and other aspects of his culture so that it is available for future generations to learn, understand and practice.

Alick speaks his native language, Kala Lagaw Ya of the Maluilgal nation of Zenadh Kes. Alick believes that language is the vital ingredient that binds all cultures in the world today. 'Without your language you become a foreigner, lost in another persons culture. Singing and dancing are forms of art that branch out from the centrepiece called language. Everything you do, traditionally

or culturally, evolves from a language. When you know the language, you know your culture.'

The work is entitled *Waru Thurul* which means turtle tracks. After the Solal season (mating turtle), many turtles are seen crawling up beaches of the small islands throughout Zenadh Kes.

In this print Alick depicts the many threats to the life cycle of the green back turtle throughout Zenadh-Kes. Humans and wild pigs, and goanna lizards dig up the turtle nests to feed on the eggs. Fish and birds prey on the young hatchlings struggling to survive on the beach and in the sea.



Waru Thurul by Alick Tipoti