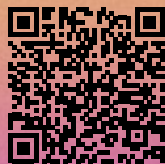


LAW AND HONOUR FIRST NATIONS LANDS



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH OR LISTEN
TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN ROXANNE
MOORE, LANIYUK AND BOE SPEARIM IN FULL.

As part of the Dreamers' trainings, Roxanne Moore (Noongar) hosted a conversation with Laniyuk (Larrakia, Kungarakana, Gurindji) and Boe Spearim (Kooma, Murawarii, Gamilaraay) to discuss the ways that event organisers and facilitators can honour Aboriginal Sovereignty and create the conditions for cultural safety for First Nations young people.

Here are 12 tips that came from that discussion:

1. **Build relationships** with First Nations people and communities over the long-term. Recognise the cultural authority of First Nations people on the lands you live, work and organise. Move at the pace of trusting and reciprocal relationships. Respect the diversity of our people and cultures - like everyone, First Nations people have different opinions and histories. Know that trust is hard won, built over time and easily lost but don't let that deter you from doing the work to build it.
2. **Back First Nations movements** and their efforts for land back, water back, culture back, language back, decolonisation and re-Indigenisation. From the beginning, ask yourself and the people in your movement what role you play in the resistance of colonisation and the respect of Aboriginal Sovereignty, never ceded. Show up and keep showing up. Racism, mass incarceration and climate damage were all brought to these lands through colonisation. If we are going to heal injustice and transform the future, we need to heal the original injustices on these lands and repair the wrongs of the past.
3. **Prioritise the voices, perspectives, vision and values** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in your movement work or event. Just because First Nations people are in a space does not mean that they will be truly heard by others or feel safe to speak up. Make sure First Nations people (on a panel, in the space) are not tokenised or expected to represent all Aboriginal people.



4. **It's important not to extract** from First Nations young people and Indigenous communities. The colony has a history of taking more than it gives. Show up with something helpful to offer. How are First Nations people benefiting from your event? Be mindful of the power and privilege that plays out in every interaction because of historic and ongoing colonisation.

5. **Where you can, cover the material costs** and cultural labour involved in having First Nations young people attend your events and workshops. Offer this support upfront so people don't need to ask for it. Facilitate movement spaces where First Nations young people can bring their Elders, children and community along.

6. **Place is important.** First Nations knowledge of history is long. Think about the space that you create. Is there an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flag? Is there a plaque to acknowledge the Country this venue is on? What is the history of the building you're hosting your event in and is it a space that Indigenous people feel comfortable? Think about what it does to First Nations people emotionally, spiritually and culturally if you're inviting them into a space where wrongdoing and violence has happened to those First Nations communities. It's important to have Blackfulla only spaces within events too.

7. **Always acknowledge** that you are on sacred Aboriginal land. Understand the difference between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country. Make your Acknowledgments of Country meaningful. Understand whose land you're on and the history of those lands and its people.



Ngunnawal Elder Jude Barlow talks about the importance of Country and the difference between being Welcomed to Country and an Acknowledgment

Learn how to acknowledge Country meaningfully through YarnBark's online training.
yarnbark.com

8. **Challenge white supremacy** and the way that it operates in the spaces you create and facilitate. Be mindful of racial, economic, cultural and intellectual hierarchies that whiteness creates and perpetuates and do the work to dismantle them in yourself, your movement and organisations. Value different and accessible ways of sharing information, deep listening and storytelling. Value lived experience. Recognise that for many Aboriginal people, the intersecting issues that our movements focus on are lived, bodily and real - they are not theories for abstract debate.

9. **Pay The Rent.** The idea of Pay The Rent comes from the Land Rights movements of the 1970s. It gives direction for non-Aboriginal people to redistribute wealth and resources towards Aboriginal people as a way to back Aboriginal movements for self-determination. Paying the rent could mean shifting money, coordinating people to take action or sharing your time and expertise with First Nations movements and people. Avoid symbolism and show up in meaningful ways. Independent donations can help enable First Nations movements to speak freely, to build political and economic power that isn't reliant on the government who actively work against Aboriginal people and self-determination being realised.

10. **Focus on systems transformation** over reform and representation. This means actively reversing the legacy of racism and unequal power created and perpetuated by ongoing colonisation. This work differs from diversity and inclusion efforts because of its focus on repairing the harms of colonisation through the shifting back of power, land and resources from colonial institutions to First Nations peoples.

11. **Put on a proper feed (of nourishing food that mob want to eat) and make sure your cup of tea game is good.** Food is an important part of coming together for our people.

12. **Listen, learn, unlearn, reflect, grow.** Always. Start where you are. Work with what you have to the best of your abilities. We all make mistakes and get it wrong from time to time but we can apologise and commit to doing better.

