



MAROOCHY BARAMBAH

Elder, Songwoman and Law-woman of the Turrbal People

INTRODUCTION

Songwoman Maroochy is the Songwoman and Law-woman of the Turrbal People, the original inhabitants of Brisbane, and the Dippil people of the Sunshine Coast area. She is a direct descendant of Daki Yakka – Chief of the Old Brisbane tribe.

Songwoman Maroochy has a long and successful history in performing arts and was the first Indigenous Australian to perform on the Australian operatic stage.

She is Australia's first Aboriginal Dramatic Arts graduate – graduating in 1979 from the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne.

In 1993, Songwoman Maroochy became the first Australian to perform at the United Nations in New York in honour of the *International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples*.

She has received many awards (both in Australia and overseas), including an Honorary Senior Fellowship of the University of the Sunshine Coast in 2000 for her outstanding and sustained contributions to the community.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY PERFORMANCE

In welcoming guests / delegates to the Turrbal ancestral homeland, Songwoman Maroochy will sing ***Monda Barita*** – a traditional prayer or blessing asking the Almighty and the ancestors to be with all those at the gathering. It is performed in Turrbal language.

In addition, Songwoman Maroochy will sing a ***Brisbane River Dreaming*** song and share a brief history of the Turrbal people in Brisbane with the guests/delegates.

Total performance is approximately 8-10 minutes.