



**Garma**  
4-7 August 2017

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## MICHELLE GUTHRIE TO SPEAK AT GARMA 2017

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The Yothu Yindi Foundation is pleased to announce that the Managing Director of the ABC, Michelle Guthrie, will be a special guest speaker at Garma 2017.

YYF CEO Denise Bowden said Ms Guthrie would address about 450 guests at the Garma Corporate Dinner on Saturday, 5 August.

“Leading the national broadcaster is a demanding job, particularly in the fast-changing media landscape that we’re seeing now,” Mrs Bowden said.

“As we seek to persuade Australians of the merit of the substantial reforms to Indigenous affairs outlined recently at Uluru, the role of the media in shaping informed debate has never been more important.”

Mrs Bowden also said she was delighted to confirm that the ABC’s popular current affairs program, Q&A, would return to Garma this year.

“The Q&A episode filmed at Garma 2014 was an historic first; the first to be broadcast from remote Australia, and the first with an all-Indigenous panel.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to share with the nation the important conversations and discussions which take place at the Garma Key Forum.”

A number of other ABC programs, including Radio National’s *Drive* program will also be broadcast live from Gulkula for the first time.



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Ms Guthrie said she was honoured to be invited to speak at Garma and represent the ABC.

“This is an important year for our Indigenous peoples given the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 referendum and the Uluru Statement From The Heart issued from this year’s National Constitutional Convention,” Ms Guthrie said.

“The ABC has a strong tradition in sharing and reporting the issues and conversations that matter to all Indigenous Australians and our support for Garma reflects this relationship with our Indigenous peoples and their cultures.”

The theme for this year’s Garma, which centres around the Yolngu concept of a *makarrata*, a healing, will be the major focus of the Key Forum, which is now recognised as the number one platform for policy debate and discussion of Indigenous issues in Australia.

Garma 2017 will take place from 4-7 August at the Gulkula ceremonial grounds in northeast Arnhem Land.

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