



**THE CAIRNS INSTITUTE**

Research in tropical societies



# Mabo Legacy Public Seminar

A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the landmark decision on Indigenous land rights

Wednesday 31 May 2017 | Cairns Institute building D3 | McGregor Road, Smithfield, QLD |

Arrive at 3:00pm for light refreshments and entertainment in the foyer. Keynote speech and presentations 4:00-6:00pm

Keynote by **Gail Mabo** followed by **Felecia Watkin Lui** chairing presentations from **Jimi Bani** (Actor), **Kevin Smith** (CEO Queensland South Native Title Services Limited) and **Bruce Martin** (Community Development Worker).

Please register at [alumni.jcu.edu.au/TCISems](https://alumni.jcu.edu.au/TCISems)

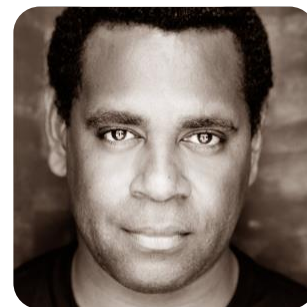
The event is sponsored by the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre and The Cairns Institute, James Cook University

## Speaker Biographies



**Gail Mabo** is the daughter of Eddie Koiki Mabo. For Gail, 2017 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of two significant events. On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia upheld the land rights claim led by her father. Poignantly, Eddie had died just months earlier on 21 January. The significance of these events is enhanced by occurring 25 years after the 1967 referendum that succeeded in removing from the constitution two references discriminating against Indigenous Australians. As an artist Gail's new works and earlier pieces are a reflection of the changes witnessed over this passage of time in a broader sense, but also of her own personal growth as an artist.

**Jimi Bani** – A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Jimi Bani's credits include the SBS series RAN (Remote Area Nurse) which was shot in northern Australia, and a leading role in the ABC drama The Straits. In 2012, he appeared in the lead role for the tele-movie Mabo. Jimi also appeared in Redfern Now in late 2012. Since graduating from WAAPA he has performed in several theatrical plays including the lead role in Jandamarra for Black Swan Theatre Company in WA, Romeo and Juliet for the Sydney Theatre Company, Yibiyung for Company B Belvoir in association with Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne, and Krakouer! for Deckchair Theatre in Perth. He has also performed in the theatrical play The Sapphires for both the Black Swan Theatre Company and Company B, touring to both London and Korea. Jimi has received acclaim for his performances, including a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for Yibiyung and a WA Equity Foundation Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance in Jandamarra.



**Dr Felecia Watkin Lui** is a Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre, and affiliated with the Cairns Institute at James Cook University (JCU), Cairns. She graduated with a PhD from JCU in 2010. She is a Torres Strait Islander woman with giz from Mabuiag, Badu and Erub.

**Kevin Smith** is a descendant of the Meriam Peoples of the Torres Strait with traditional connections to Ugar (Stephen Island) and Erub (Darnley Island). Kevin has over 20 years of professional experience in Indigenous affairs, including senior positions with the National Secretariat of Torres Strait Islander Organisations, the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the National Native Title Tribunal, the National Native Title Council and Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL). In 2008, Kevin successfully led the amalgamation and incorporation of the former Gurang and Greater Mount Isa Native Title Representative Body areas into Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS). Kevin holds qualifications in both law and business management from the University of Queensland. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1994.



**Bruce Martin** is completing a Bachelor of Arts degree through the Open University. He is currently based in Cairns, working on a number of projects with his mother's Wik people in Aurukun, western Cape York. He has experience working with the Cape York Land Council and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation on a number of projects, including the Wild Rivers legislation, and land tenure and management arrangements in Cape York.