Henrietta Fourmile Marrie, a Gimuy Walabura Yidinji person, and direct descendant of Ye-i-nie King of Cairns, was born in Yarrabah south-east of Cairns. She has worked for many years as an academic with over 30 publications to her credit on issues relating to the protection of Indigenous cultural heritage, intellectual property, the bush food industry, and access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

Henrietta has served on a number of government committees and inquiries, and acted as a consultant to government bodies including Environment Australia, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wet Tropics Management Agency. In 1997 she became the first Indigenous Australian to gain a senior position with a United Nations agency, serving with the UN Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, based in Montreal, Canada for 6 years.

In September 2003 she accepted a position as Program Manager for North Australia with The Christensen Fund, a California-based private philanthropic body which makes grants to Indigenous and local communities in a number of regions around the world. The Christensen Fund has made over $20 million in grants to support Indigenous initiatives in Australia, which include grants to support some of Indigenous Australia’s leading events such as the Dreaming and Garma festivals. Henrietta has also made grants to support local Indigenous artists and exhibitions, environmental management, and recording of traditional knowledge and languages. Henrietta is also working to establish the United Nations University Institute for Traditional Knowledge in northern Australia. Henrietta has also secured the establishment of the Wungal Environment Foundation, an Aboriginal organization that will assist traditional owner groups to manage and secure country.

From 2005 to 2009 Henrietta co-chaired Philanthropy Australia’s Indigenous Affinity Group. She continues to keep a close connection with her traditional Gimuy-Walabura clan country, the area south of the Barron River on which the City of Cairns now stands.

Henrietta has a Masters Degree in Environmental and Local Government Law from Macquarie University, as well as teaching qualifications and a Post-graduate Diploma in Arts (Indigenous Studies) from the University of South Australia.

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**2010**

**Oodgeroo Noonuccal Public Lecture**

**Presents**

**MS HENRIETTA MARRIE**

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Date: Wednesday, 29th September 2010

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Venue: QUT Lecture Theatre N Block Room N515 Ring Road Kelvin Grove

RSVP: 1st September 2010 to Ms Naomi Franks on 07 3138 8719 or email: nb.franks@qut.edu.au or Ms Sonya Hunter on 07 3138 3610 or email: sr.hunter@qut.edu.au