



THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

# CONTACT

into the  
**blue**  
creative walks

25 August - 1 September 2012

A Law Society of NSW Reconciliation program designed for lawyers. Walk and talk with the Traditional Owners and indigenous people of Central Australia. UNDERSTANDING STARTS WITH CONTACT.

# CONTACT - 2012

The CONTACT program combines a world class walk into some of the most beautiful parts of Central Australia with the opportunity to meet and talk with the traditional Western Arrernte people of Hermannsburg. Indigenous Australia is contained, for the most part, in the parallel universe of communities, outstations and on the margins of white society. Communication usually exists across the interface of professional services such as welfare, health and law. CONTACT seeks to facilitate communication at the human level, as people walk together and chat around a fire at night. Communication must be a two way process whereby all people emerge with a greater understanding of the other.



The Reconciliation working group of the Law Society of NSW is working in partnership with Into the Blue Creative Walks, a desert based company who operate programs that include Western Arrernte people as both guides and hosts. This relationship has produced some fascinating cultural interactions and deepened the awareness between both cultures. CONTACT allows you to walk on *country* in order to better understand the sense of connection that aboriginal people feel to their homelands and how that relates to Aboriginal Law.

Fireside chats with different aboriginal and non-aboriginal people, conducted in an easy conversational way, will loosen the barriers that exist between the cultures. Dot painting will be used as a device to understand dreaming stories and their relationship to culture. Traditional Owners will talk across a range of issues, fielding questions and sharing their deep personal experiences. Non-indigenous people with a lifetime of working in communities will join us at night to expand on their experiences. It is a simple truth that understanding starts with CONTACT. A workshop curriculum can be viewed below.



Sat	Assemble at 2pm in foyer of the Alice Springs Resort - visit Araluen Arts Centre - final briefing in the evening. Dine at the Alice Springs Resort.
Sun	Introduction to desert walking along sections of the Larapinta Trail from Serpentine Chalet to Ochre Pits. Transfer to our private desert camp at Davenport Creek in the foothills of Mt Sonder. FIRESIDE CHAT-1 [4-5 hours easy/medium grade walking]
Mon	Walk the mesmerizing Ormiston Gorge. FIRESIDE CHAT-2 [4-5 hours easy/medium grade walking]
Tues	Break camp and walk from camp for lunch under Mt Sonder Travel to Ipolera via Tyler's Pass with a view of the extraordinary Tnorala [Gosses Bluff]. We will be met by our hosts, Traditional Owner Herman Malbunka and Custodian Mavis Malbunka. FIRESIDE CHAT-3. [3-4 hours easy grade walking]
Wed	Enjoy a day on country. Walk the Tjilpa Valley with young Arrernte guides and spend some quiet time in this beautiful place. Evening meal with the Malbunka family. FIRESIDE CHAT-4. [3 hours easy grade walking]
Thur	Break camp and travel to Palm Valley for a short walk with Arrernte guides. Return to the township of Hermannsburg, a place steeped in the history and drama of the Central Australian story. We will camp in the old Mission Cultural Precinct and spend the evening with local people. [2-3 hours easy/medium grade walking]
Fri	Break camp and wind our way back to Alice Springs via a magic walk through Standley Chasm, a twisting maze of gorges and inspiration. Participate in a celebratory evening meal at the Resort. [2 hours medium/hard grade walking- easy option available]
Sat	Breakfast at the Resort and then personal time in Alice Springs before shuttle return to airport.

## TOTAL COST OF \$2990 INCLUDES

- 2 nights accommodation at the ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - twin share - [single upgrade available] - includes cooked breakfasts.
- 4 nights desert camp under the stars with all camping equipment provided.
- 1 night accommodation in the historic township of Hermannsburg
- All coach transport on the trail.
- Formal & on-track workshops with facilitator.
- Licensed guided Larapinta & Ilpurla Trail walks with lead guide, support vehicle & camp manager.
- All cooked breakfasts, morning & afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, snacks on the track.
- Araluen Arts Centre & the Namajira Galley on first Saturday.
- Private camps and indigenous interactions.
- First aid, satellite phones, all National Park fees etc.
- Surprises that you will just have to take my word for.

### EXCLUSIONS:

- airfares - flight options can be viewed on the website
- evening meals in the Alice Springs Resort
- alcohol

THE CONTACT PROGRAM REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 8 PAX TO PROCEED. PLEASE CONFIRM THE NUMBERS PRIOR TO BOOKING YOUR FLIGHT.

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$600 WILL SECURE YOUR BOOKING.  
ALL TRIP NOTES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE  
[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au)  
or call 0414 929768

# CONTACT - 2012

## OVERALL

**Into the Blue** designs your itinerary around the capacity and objectives of the group. The itinerary seeks to blend all elements such as indigenous culture, interpretation and art. Please note that the itinerary may change due to weather, aboriginal cultural imperatives or simply to better suit the objectives of the group.

## WORKSHOP CURRICULUM

This program is designed to stimulate continuing professional and personal growth in the context of a diverse cultural, racial and linguistic community: a community which continues to change at a rapid rate. At its core, CONTACT seeks to allow participants an opportunity to understand indigenous culture at the most basic yet important level, one to one communication.

The curriculum is not intended to be rigid, but to respond to the issues individual participants wish to raise in the collegiate atmosphere which will be engendered by the location and by being in a group of colleagues. By virtue of the close contact with the Arrernte community, the program provides an unparalleled opportunity to examine the impacts of diversity and equality while exploring issues relating to the Australian legal system and Aboriginal traditional law. Aspects such as how Aboriginal traditional law works, who administers it, how laws are known within Aboriginal society will be discussed.

The program will take place in the beauty and majesty of Arrernte land. The location and fellowship of legal practitioners will foster discussion around the factors which impact on the work of the individual lawyer, the positives and frustrations of legal work and how the frustrations can be approached and managed. It will provide an intellectual framework to consider the “why” and “how” of our work.

Apart from the cultural aspects, the main component of the curriculum will focus on well-being. We will examine the values which effect our professional performance and how we deal with the myriad impediments (such as time constraints, pressure of work, unrealistic expectations) to our working at our optimum level.

As part of this topic, we will discuss:

- strategies and techniques for dealing with the pressures of legal work
- how to optimise and enrich our legal lives
- how to build a ‘work/life balance’ into our futures
- how to revitalise and refresh our working lives

## FITNESS

The walking component of CONTACT allows you to feel the landscape around you. The walks will not be compulsory and alternate activities can be found, however, the walking will allow you to appreciate remote places. Please contact Into the Blue to discuss any fitness issues. If you decide to walk you will carry a simple day pack that includes water, jacket, lunch, camera etc.

## CAMP LIFE

Our two nights under the stars will be a highlight of the trip. Whilst the facilities are basic there will be a composting toilet & hot solar showers available. Sleeping will be in comfortable mosquito-proof bivvy bags and or tents. All camping gear is supplied. You will be expected to share some tasks around the camp such as rolling your sleeping bag etc.

## HERMANNSBURG

You will have an option to sleep in a permanent tent or inside in one of the old buildings. Both are comfortable and you can decide when you arrive. There are showers and flushing toilets available during our stay at the Hermannsburg Precinct.

## CLIMATE

Expect cool nights and warm, clear days. This is generally a magnificent time of the year in the Australian desert with everything that crawls soundly asleep and no or few flies.

## WHAT TO BRING

A printable equipment and clothing list is provided on the website under the CONTACT journey. There is a separate list for art equipment on the website

## FLIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION

A printable list of flights and pre-trip accommodation options is provided on the website under the CONTACT journey.

## ALCOHOL

There will be no alcohol whilst on aboriginal land. Otherwise walkers can purchase supplies in Alice Springs

## UPON BOOKING

A representative of the Into the Blue shall call you upon booking. Final payment is due one month before your departure. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you might have.

