

Wise Women's Council



Maria Maguire

Maria Maguire of Unfolding Futures has worked as a consultant and educator in Australia for the last 25 years, with a focus on facilitative leadership development. Affirming and growing purpose, participation and partnership is essential to all her work and on all levels. She and husband Richard build on the wisdom of many disciplines, approaches and technologies they have learned since university days and ever since. They include science and information systems as well as philosophy and religion, literature and psychology, management and adult education, sustainability and overseas development.

Maria and Richard have worked in the business, government and community sectors and are deeply touched by the wisdom and plight of the Indigenous peoples of this land. They have personal and professional experiences on all continents, and in particular in their background countries of USA and Germany.



Elsie Heiss

Elsie Heiss was born into the Wiradjuri Nation and spent most of her early days in Cowra and Griffith in NSW. Married to her much loved Josef for 45 years (Joe died in November 2005) and is the mother of five children and seven times a grandmother. However, this picture of a wife, Mum and Grandmother, proud in her identity, is just the front cover of a life story of strong faith, dedication to change, and a woman of action and challenge. In a lifetime of hard work and commitment Elsie has helped bring about justice for her people and recognition, respect and action from the Catholic Church, in regard to acceptance of Indigenous cultures and practices.



Maggie Hamilton

Writer and publisher Maggie Hamilton gives regular talks, lectures and workshops; writes for magazines; and is a keen observer of social trends. She is an outspoken critic of the commercialisation of childhood and the sexualisation of our boys and girls, and the pornification of our culture. In her spare time Maggie loves silence and to travel off the beaten track. She has a great love of desert scapes. Passionate about life and creativity and beauty, she sees her life mission as finding the extraordinary within the ordinary. Her many books include *Coming Home: Rediscovering Our Sacred Selves*, *Love Your Work*, *Reclaim Your Life*, *Magic of the Moment* and *A Soft Place to Land*.



Alison Yiangou

Alison is participating in the SlaM Conference with partner Peter Yiangou. Alison studied Physics at Bristol, entered the business world practising industrial relations and is currently responsible for HR and financial management in Yiangou Architects, an award winning practice in the UK. Peter and Alison have studied at Beshara School in England since 1972. Its programs are focused on the principles of unity and inter-connectedness, and study of the great wisdom texts such as Rumi and Ibn'Arabi. They are involved in the Self Knowledge Global Responsibility Project, which aims to combine the personal and the

global, contemplation and action. For the past 10 years, they have been facilitating courses in the USA, Australia, Indonesia, Greece and Tanzania.