

# Biographies

## **BILL SYNNOT**

Bill Synnot is the Managing Director of Bill Synnot and Associates, a world-wide management consulting company, based in Brisbane.

After growing up on a mixed farm in regional Victoria and on beef and sheep properties in South Australia, Bill qualified as an agricultural scientist and economist at Adelaide University before developing his highly successful career as a specialist in organisational change management. His expertise and experience in this and allied fields such as executive coaching and conflict resolution has taken him throughout the Pacific and South East Asia as well as to Papua New Guinea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Europe, and the USA.

Since 1993, Bill has built a team of key associates. Together, they now service more than 700 Australian and international clients in all sectors of the economy. In addition to publishing in professional journals and speaking at many conferences, Bill has co-authored a training book, *The Toolbox for Change: a practical approach*, which is now in use world-wide.

## **DR ALBERT HOLT**

Dr Albert Holt (known as Uncle Albert or Murringoo) is a highly respected Aboriginal Elder from Inala. His father is from the Bidjara nation and his mother from the Yiman and Wakaman nations of the Taroom/Dawson area and Atherton Tableland.

He was born in 1936 after his family was forcibly removed from their home country, near Springsure in Central Queensland, and grew up in Cherbourg (Barambah Mission), near Murgon.

He has overcome adversity to become an important role model, locally and internationally, and is recognised and respected by a wide range of people from different communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as a person of great wisdom. Acknowledgements received include an Honorary Doctorate from the World Indigenous Nations University last year, and

Most of his life, he has been passionately committed to promoting inclusiveness between different cultures, races and ethnic groups and to encouraging students to maximise the educational opportunities available to them.

During his working life, he contributed to numerous advisory committees, educational working groups, ministerial policy forums, and parliamentary reviews. He also helped establish Queensland's Murri Courts, was one of the founders of the Inala Family Education Centre, and has chaired boards of several bodies including Searchlight Education and Hymba Yumba Community School in Springfield. He helped establish Inala Indigenous Health Centre and Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care. He also served as one of the first Queensland Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers and has been a vital community support contact for people in correctional facilities.

Since retiring from full-time work at the end of 2001, he has concentrated on community work and his extended family. Now in his early eighties, he frequently welcomes visitors to country at conferences and speaks with students in schools.

He has written an autobiography, *Forcibly Removed*, as well as *Murri on a Mission: Gunnedah*, a book that explores the deeper meaning of Aboriginality. He is one of the three wise men featured in *Goondeen: understanding Australia*.