

# TUCKIAR ON TRIAL AT FANNIE BAY GOAL

In 1934 a young Yolgnu man named Tuckiar was arrested and charged with the murder of a Darwin police constable and faced spending the rest of his life in Fannie Bay gaol. Over sixty years later Fannie Bay gaol will again come alive with his story in a colourful re-enactment of Tuckiar's Trial by the NT Criminal Lawyers Association.

Using slides, music, drama and a script including lines from the original court transcript of the trial the story of Tuckiar's Trial will unfold under the stars on May 19 and 20 as a feature of this year's Law Week.

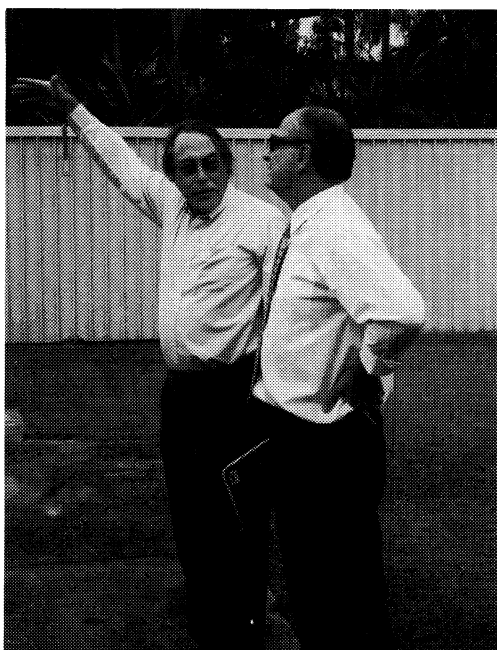
The script is extensively based on materials provided by His Honour Justice Mildren of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and Ted Egan's book *Justice All Their Own*. The Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Rex Wild QC has been the driving force behind the production.

The story of the trial is a tale from a time in the Territory marked by racial tension and hostility.

At the time of Tuckiar's story several murders had taken place, including the killing of Japanese trepang fishermen and the murders of two white men at Woodah Island.

The tension culminated with the spearing of Police Constable McColl on 1 August 1933. A considerable outcry followed the Constable's death resulting in the Administrator at the time calling for a "strong demonstrative force" to quell the unease.

Tuckiar, the accused in the murder of the Constable as well as the two men at Woodah Island, was brought to Darwin by missionaries with his alleged fellow co-offenders for trial. He was eventually tried in the Supreme Court of the Northern



*Mr Tom Pauling QC describes the stage design for the performance of Tuckiar's Trial at Fannie Bay gaol on May 19 and 20 to Mr Rex Wild QC.*

Territory, convicted and sentenced to be hanged. His murder conviction was appealed to the High Court of Australia and the verdict was quashed.

Tuckiar's case is most cited in relation to the obligation of counsel to provide an adequate defence in all circumstances of the case.

A play reading of the Trial was included in the program of the Criminal Lawyers Conference in Bali last year.

The performance prompted a call on the Northern Territory government to urgently establish an interpreter service for Aboriginal Territorians.

Tickets for the play at Fannie Bay goal will be free, though bookings must be made with the Law Society to ensure a seat. Territory students are particularly encouraged to attend the performance on Friday 19 May.

Saturday's performance will conclude with an end-of-play party. Tickets for the party will be available at a cost to be advertised via bulletin and flier shortly.

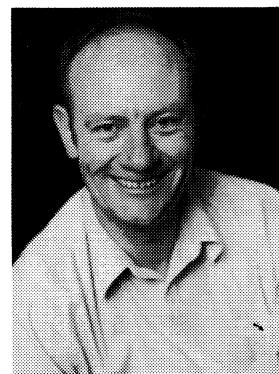
## REV COSTELLO: WHEN JUSTICE & MERCY MEET

*When justice and mercy meet will be the theme of this year's Law Week luncheon address to be presented by one of Australia's 100 National Living Treasures, the Reverend Tim Costello.*

Reverend Tim Costello, lawyer and Baptist minister, is well known in Australia for his stance on social justice issues.

He is the Director of the Urban Mission Unit for the Collins Street Baptist Church in Melbourne, spokesperson for the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce, member of the Australian Earth Charter Committee, a Council member for the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and an Ambassador for the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

Born in Melbourne in 1955, Tim Costello studied law at Monash university and subsequently practised as a solicitor in family and criminal law.



In 1981 he travelled with his wife Merridie to Switzerland to study theology and was ordained as a Baptist Minister in 1987. He worked at the St Kilda Baptist Church, opened a drop-in centre and worked in a legal practice for those for whom the law is normally inaccessible.

He was elected Mayor of St Kilda Council in 1965, and later was presented a Distinguished Citizen Award by the City of Melbourne.

When not involved with church and community activism, Rev. Costello enjoys reading, political and theological debate, films, basketball and football.