

Print Page

Close Window

Ceremonial sitting to mark the 175th anniversary of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

17 May 1999

Aunty Ali Golding

Thank you your Honour. At this time I would like to take this time to welcome the distinguished guests and also the judges of the Supreme Court and to the ladies and gentlemen. As Justice Spigelman announced me as Aunty Ali Golding, I am from the north coast, Taree. When I came to Sydney and lived in the Aboriginal community they adopted me, took me under their wing. So everywhere I speak, all around Sydney, in welcoming, it is always a great honour to do so. It is a great honour here, today, to speak. And I want to thank you for the possibility for having an Aboriginal person here to do the welcoming and to participate in the wonderful celebration of your 175th birthday.

Just standing here thinking, 175 years, and what the day represents, right up to the 175th anniversary of the Court, law and order, and as an Aboriginal, I think on the same land that we are standing on now, before 175 years ago, before that time, there was a great, strict discipline, law and order in practice then with our Aboriginal people; so to me it is - I grew up also in my time in a great discipline of law and order.

I would like to say that wherever the number of the people are, wherever I do a welcome, it doesn't matter how many numbers there are in this room here today, there are many more numbers which I call the unseen guests, and that is my ancestors. They are here today too. This is not new to them because, as I said, they practised law and order too.

So I want to thank the acknowledgment, thank you for the invitation once again, and distinguished guests and the judges of the Supreme Court and ladies and gentlemen, I take this wonderful pleasure and wonderful time to welcome each and every one of you to the Eora homeland.
Thank you.