Welcome!

The Cairns Institute supports JCU’s strategic intent to create a brighter future for life in the tropics world-wide through graduates and discoveries that make a difference. [www.jcu.edu.au/about/strategic-intent](http://www.jcu.edu.au/about/strategic-intent)

The Cairns Institute’s location in tropical North Queensland and proximity to neighbouring countries in the Pacific and Southeast Asia offers unique opportunities to enhance human life in the tropics and contribute to a brighter, more equitable and enriching future for its peoples. The Institute is committed to understanding and informing critical processes of social and environmental transformation in the tropics.

The Institute’s core business of research, training and dialogue is embedded in commitments to excellence, social justice and engagement with the societies in which we work. This core business is organised around five themes:

- Creativity and innovation
- Cultural & linguistic transformations
- Indigenous futures
- Social & environmental justice
- Sustainable development

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From the Director

NAIDOC Week always provides an opportunity to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. But 2017 was always going to be an extra bit special for us with Cairns chosen as host city for the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony and “Our Languages Matter” as the 2017 National Theme. Not only was there a lot happening in Cairns. Quite a lot of it aligned with the interests and activities of Cairns Institute members and staff.

We are more than a little fortunate to be based in what is possibly the world’s most culturally and linguistically diverse region. Couple this diversity with the social and economic dynamism of Northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific and we have what could be described as a unique natural laboratory for research in the humanities and social sciences.

But the aspiration of the Cairns Institute is not to do research on the peoples and communities of the region. It is to do research in, with, for those communities.

“Our Languages Matter” is a useful reminder that while the components of language and their respective roles in cultural expression are intrinsically interesting to scholars, it is their centrality to the identity and well-being of the peoples who own them that make languages matter. As you browse this edition of the Cairns Institute Newsletter you will thus see as much emphasis on education and the provision of resources to communities as you will on language documentation and analysis.

I could say much the same thing about the work Cairns Institute researchers are doing in community development, natural resource management, human service provision, and so on, or from other disciplinary perspectives—sociology, human geography, education, social work etc. Again, keep browsing this edition of the newsletter and you will see numerous examples of research that is both excellent in its own right and making a valuable contribution to those communities with a stake in the outcomes.

Despite the pressure we are under in universities to demonstrate our social and economic worth, the impacts of research, education and collaboration can take years or indeed decades to emerge. And the most profound social changes are seldom ones in which we have played more than a supporting role—JCU’s contribution to legal recognition of native title through the High Court decision in Mabo v Queensland (No. 2) being an excellent case in point. As Director of the Cairns Institute, I was extremely proud we were able to host members of all four plaintiff families at the Mabo Legacy Seminar on 31 May. I hope the conversations we had on that day, and at all the other Institute events reported here, play their own small role in fomenting positive social change.

Distinguished Professor Stewart Lockie
Director
The Cairns Institute
Local language celebrated

James Cook University is celebrating the publication of three volumes devoted to Dyirbal, one of the original languages of northern Queensland.

Each of the volumes includes documentation of the Dyirbal language by renowned linguist R.M.W. (Bob) Dixon, an Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow at The Cairns Institute. The volumes have been compiled by Professor Dixon and published by the Language and Culture Research Centre at JCU.

The three volumes are:

- A two-volume thesaurus and dictionary of Dyirbal, covering ten dialects including Girramay, Jirrbal, Mamu and Ngajan.
- A collection of Dyirbal texts, including legends, stories, autobiographies, conversations and remedies in Jirrbal, Girramay, Mamu and Gulngay dialects.

Bob Dixon began studying the Dyirbal language in 1963 and defended his doctoral thesis on The Dyirbal language of North Queensland in 1968. A revised version was published in 1972. He is an authority on the languages of the region and the Indigenous languages of Australia in general.

The three volumes were launched today by Dr Ernie Grant, elder of the Jirrbal-ngan people.

NAIDOC Week: Languages matter

The theme for NAIDOC week in 2017 is “Our Languages Matter” so on Monday 3 July 2017 My Pathway and The Cairns Institute hosted a panel discussion presented by The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF). The panelists included ALNF Board Member, Professor Tom Calma AO, ALNF Executive Educational Advisor, Eric Brace, and ALNF Early Language and Literacy Trainer, Virginia Chatterton.

The discussion was preceded by a live performance by Mykelle Bingarape, a Yidinji woman singing a Yidinji Kawal in the Gimuy dialect. Mykelle was accompanied by Jaquirah Saylor and Shaiarna Klimm.

Pictures and story will follow in the October issue of our newsletter.
International Day of the Tropics

To celebrate the United Nations’ decision to establish 29 June as the annual International Day of the Tropics a special public lecture was live streamed to The Cairns Institute from James Cook University’s Singapore campus. The 29th of June was selected as it is the anniversary of the launch of the inaugural State of the Tropics 2014 report, the first major output of the State of the Tropics project, which is convened by JCU and draws on the expertise of leading institutions from around the world.

Following the public lecture the Institute celebrated the Anthropological Laboratory for Tropical Audiovisual Research (ALTAR) exhibition that featured two tropical regions, the Amazon and Sepik (see story p. 5).

Live entertainment was provided by Siale, a family group of singers and dancers aged 3+, performing a mix of traditional and contemporary original songs.

For further information about the International Day of the Tropics please see:

International Day of the Tropics video
International Day of the Tropics announcement (DFAT)
International Day of the Tropics brochure (DFAT)

And see the special issue of eTropic dedicated to the International Day of the Tropics.
Life on the river exhibition

During June 2017 the Institute hosted an ethnographic exhibition entitled “Life on the River Sepik and Amazon: Sepik and Amazon – Ambonwari: Murui”, created by Anthropological Laboratory for Tropical Audiovisual Research (ALTAR) members Dr Daniela Vávrová, Kasia Wojtylak and Kristian Lupinski.

The lives of the Ambonwari people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the Sepik and Murui people of Colombia in the Amazon are both defined and made possible by the rivers on which they live. This exhibition explores the idea of life on the river, and the understandings and relationship that we—JCU researchers—have forged with our collaborators and interlocutors in these places.

Both river basins, Sepik and Amazon, share unique but similar ecological features and cultural values. This exhibition showed commonalities and differences through lived experience of life on the river. The themes included canoe making, fishing, hunting, and food preparation, showing how social and ecological domains of people’s lives are tightly interwoven. Through joint collection of photographs, videos, collages, drawings, and personal objects, the exhibition presented fieldwork experiences, research methods, and collaborative approaches, as well as engaging important ecological and social issues happening in the tropics.

This exhibition was concluded with the International Day of the tropics lecture on 29 June 2017.

Sepik and the Amazon Basins - the comparison: The Sepik River is 1,126 km long. The Sepik Basin covers an area of 80,321 km² or about 17% of PNG. The Sepik rises in the Victor Emanuel Range of the central highlands near Telefomin in Sandaun Province and flows north-westward, crossing the border to Papua (Indonesia), then returning back to PNG. It debouches into the Bismarck Sea.

The Sepik is a network of lagoons, lakes, and grass islands. The tributaries and water veins fluctuate with the rain, and there is a large crocodile population. The diverse habitats of the basin rate as globally significant on a number of biodiversity indices.

The Sepik River Basin is a largely undisturbed environment with no large urban settlements. It is home to approximately 430,000 people who depend almost entirely on products from the rivers and forests for their livelihoods. This is, perhaps, the most linguistically and culturally diverse area in the planet with over 300 languages.

The Sepik River is well known for its extensive artistic tradition. The carvings, musical instruments, household objects, men’s houses, and canoe prows can be seen in numerous museums around the world. As of today, there are no dams or mines operating on the Sepik River. The new copper and gold mine on the Frieda River have been postponed, but only until 2020.

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Amazon Basin: The Amazon River is the longest river in the world flowing about 6,900 km. The Amazon Basin covers an area of about 7,500,000 km² or roughly 40% of the South American continent. The Amazon arises in the Peruvian Andes and flows through Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Amazon’s vast river network includes 100,000 km of rivers and streams. It is the largest remaining contiguous block of tropical rainforest on the planet. Its rivers contain the largest number of freshwater fish species in the world, and its forests house at least 10% of the world’s known biodiversity, including endemic and endangered flora and fauna.

The overall number of people of the forest in the Amazon Basin might have numbered about between 2-5 million before the first contact in 1492 (Aikhenvald 2012).

Throughout the last century, this number was reduced to about 200,000 people, caused by introduced diseases, slave trade, and missionisation. Today, the Amazon faces unprecedented development pressures. Dam construction, mining, oil, and gas exploration and exploitation, new accesses, and land-cover changes are increasingly degrading Amazon freshwater ecosystems, disrupting the magnitude and timing of hydrological flows. Across the Amazon, 154 hydroelectric dams are currently in operation, 21 are under construction, and 277 are in the planning stages (WWF 2015).

For more details on the creators of the exhibition see www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/life-on-the-river

Kasia Wojtylak
PhD student, James Cook University
Trauma in natural disaster & conflict contexts

*This story is a follow-up to PhD student Alisa Hasamoh’s research featured in the April 2015 issue of the newsletter.*

My PhD thesis is about trauma resulting from the interrelated social impacts of natural disasters and violent conflict in two sites—Aceh in Indonesia, and the Deep South of Thailand. Aceh had almost 30 years of conflict from 1976 to 2006 and was also impacted by a tsunami on 26 December 2004. The Deep South of Thailand was impacted by a storm surge on 11 November 2010 and has also experienced more than 13 years of conflict from January 2004 until now.

To develop the discipline of sociology, my research aims to compare and contrast the experiences from the two areas. Examining two locations with multiple traumas shows that trauma is not an individual disease, but an experience based on social relationships and marginalisation. Our society does not have sufficient knowledge to cope with multiple kinds of disasters, especially the disasters which happened in the same place and time—natural disaster on top of violent conflict.

The broad aims of this study are to examine sociologically how people experienced and responded to the emotional and mental health impacts of natural disasters on top of violent conflict, including examining people’s emotional and mental health, linked with gender, ethnicity, age, healthcare actor, institutional responses, and so on, all compounding their experience of trauma.

Informed by Actor-network theory, the thesis conceptualises trauma as the product of networks enacted and mobilised by persons both directly and indirectly affected by disasters and conflict in Aceh and the Deep South of Thailand. Trauma is treated as a material-semiotic network effect; deeply experienced through the bodies and effective practices of human action and yet simultaneously conceived and introduced through the professional discourses of medical-psychological sciences, relief agencies, and minority groups in Aceh and the Deep South of Thailand. In doing so, it treats psychological trauma as both a personal and a collective, a material and a symbolic phenomenon.

Descriptive research methods, including semi-structured interviews and observation were used to investigate and describe the experiences of people exposed to natural disasters and who lived simultaneously in a conflict situation. More than 300 participants were interviewed from the two research sites. Visual sociology was also used as a means to explore the emotional experience of trauma, to involve participants who find it difficult to explain their experiences, and to connect across languages.

The results show that the effects of previous violent conflict and other existing social problems such as social inequality, cultural and religious beliefs, are embedded with natural disaster trauma. The results show that Aceh, Indonesia and the Deep South of Thailand shared a common problem—people in both areas experienced violent conflict before the natural disaster. The effects of natural disaster on top of violent conflict on human emotions are complex and varied. The trauma symptoms are hard to classify. Even so, trauma has shared some common symptoms, namely guilt, grief, nightmares, sadness, anger, difficulty sleeping, social withdrawal, forgetfulness, body freezing, shock, panic attacks, anxiety,
helplessness, hopelessness, emptiness, loss, avoidance, and so on.

In the time of disasters, trauma is associated with the changing of roles and responsibilities of family members as a result of family members missing, families separated, death, and physical and mental disablement. Trauma is also related to witnessing or hearing about the death of family members in the disasters. Further, families were often poorly prepared for the grief associated with the sudden loss of family members. For many, the role of parenting was transformed after the death of a spouse and children. Some of them neglected to take care of themselves with the new role of caring for disabled family members and looking after surviving children. Many felt reluctant to share the story of their trauma and the problems associated with the unexpected responsibilities and expectations of family members and society.

For young adult survivors, many of them were just five years old when they experienced the natural disasters—the earthquake and the tsunami. Being separated from parents and caregivers resulted in anxiety for their own security and the safety of family members. Young adult trauma is complex. Many developed symptoms of trauma after seeing adults’ emotional reactions to the natural disaster—crying, panicking, screaming, and seeing people dying. Some children have also experienced sexual abuse or become child soldiers.

My thesis examines the relationship between healthcare actors (local, family) towards people who have mental illnesses. Trauma symptoms were hard to identify due to stigmatisation, social discrimination, stereotyping, local cultural beliefs, and the violent conflict history. I also examined the relationship between disasters, gender, and healthcare, and found that the effects of conflict and natural disaster include both physical damage and psychological trauma. People with disabilities, in particular, reported not only severe physical injuries which affected their emotional well-being but also strained relationships with families and partners.

Themes to emerge from interviews relevant to the relationships between disasters, gender and health included stigma (and associated feelings of shame and weakness), strained family relationships, dysfunctional sexual relationships, family violence, disruption of livelihood, and the creation of single partner households.

While trauma is often treated as the domain of psychology or health, it is a sociological phenomenon and needs to be understood within the context of social relationships and structures. This research shows that trauma is complex and it is different for individuals, communities, and societies.

Alisa Hasamoh
College of Arts, Society & Education
Supervisors: Professor Stewart Lockie & Dr Theresa Petray
A new report by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research presents the findings of a research project designed to find out how remote training programs could be more successful. The rationale for the research was the low completion rates of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners—only 10% of Certificate I commencers complete their training in very remote parts of the country.

Cairns Institute Adjunct, Associate Professor John Guenther coordinated the project for Ninti One Limited, in partnership with a team of five researchers from Batchelor Institute Northern Territory (NT), TAFE SA, the University of Notre Dame Australia, University of New England and JCU. Cairns Institute researcher, Dr Anne Stephens examined the case of a highly successful Aboriginal training college serving communities throughout Cape York and the Torres Strait.

The study used a five site study qualitative design to examine different training programs—68 people were interviewed, included employers, trainers, trainees and non-government organisations. The case study programs included aged care worker training, health worker training, ranger training, an adult literacy campaign, and a community service and mental health training program.

John discussed the implications of the work: “These programs were about as diverse as we could find, but they were all considered successful by the training providers which delivered them.”

The data showed that only two of the five cases could demonstrate success with their course completion data. But John says “Success isn’t always what it seems on the surface.” He pointed to common characteristics found in all the programs examined.

“We found strong outcomes related to foundation skills development, improved personal confidence and strengthened identity.”

The disconnect between what funders want (completion and employability) and what communities want was evident despite the diversity of programs examined.

John notes: “The lesson for policy of course is that one size fits all funding and accountability models will never result in consistent or uniform measures of success”. He added “Success is context dependent. Regardless of retention rates, if a program meets the expectations of local communities it will be advantageous for learners, employers, and whole communities.”

The report can be downloaded from the NCVER website.

About John Guenther

John has worked as a researcher and evaluator in remote Australian contexts—particularly the NT—for the last 14 years on issues related to education, training, families and children, justice, child protection and domestic violence, often in the context of remote Aboriginal communities.

Based at Batchelor Institute in the NT, he is the Research Leader for Education and Training. John describes his role:

“It is about building capacity, doing research that is worthwhile, and has meaningful benefit, particularly for the Aboriginal communities we work in.”

This aim applies to his adjunct role with The Cairns Institute:

“There is strength in working together; it gives us a

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The RES project published numerous findings using ‘red dirt thinking’ as a metaphor to describe new approaches that would improve schooling outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families. John adds “Red dirt thinking gets us away from the false binaries of ‘disadvantage and advantage’ and helps us focus on what’s important to those whose life is embedded in ‘red dirt’ contexts.”

John has a strong interest in adult learning and particularly vocational education and training and continues to apply ‘red dirt thinking’ to these fields of research. John lives in Darwin with his partner, Sue. Outside of work John enjoys swimming, cycling, travelling and playing Scrabble.

Training for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advantage cont.

(Continued from page 9)

competitive advantage when we apply for funding grants and it creates tremendous opportunities to do research for impact.” John is also keen to supervise higher degree research students in his field of expertise.

John has a strong history of working collaboratively with researchers from other institutions. Between 2011 and 2016 he led the Remote Education Systems (RES) project for the CRC for Remote Economic Participation. In the process, he worked with researchers and practitioners interested in remote education and training. He comments: “When you work in such a narrow field, you have to work collaboratively, and you have to find ways of overcoming barriers of distance.”

Reconciliation Awards

The Institute’s Professor Allan Dale and Jennifer McHugh attended the Queensland Reconciliation Awards on 3 June 2017 at The Tanks in Cairns. The evening was hosted by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and recognised businesses, community organisations, educational institutions and partnerships taking positive steps towards reconciliation across Queensland.

Cairns Institute Adjunct and PhD Student Jim Turnour also attended as part of Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation. Jabalbina received a highly commended partnership award with Douglas Shire Council for the Return to Country Local Planning Scheme.

The awards are statewide and enjoy the support of Jonathan Thurston as the awards ambassador. To find out more please visit www.qld.gov.au/about/events-awards-honours/awards/reconciliation-awards/
Joshua Cinner wins Elinor Ostrom Award for Young Scholars

Cairns Institute Fellow Professor Joshua Cinner recently won the 2017 Elinor Ostrom Award for Young Scholars. “The Award, created to honor and develop the legacy of Elinor Ostrom, aims to acknowledge and promote the work of practitioners, young scholars, and senior scholars involved in the field of the commons. According with Ostrom’s large legacy the scope of the Award aims to be broad, including academic and applied work on traditional commons (forests, water bodies, pasture lands, fisheries, etc.), local commons, interlinked commons (forests and watersheds, fisheries and coastlines, etc), global commons, knowledge, cultural and virtual commons” (Elinor Ostrom website elinorostromaward.org/).

The text below from the Elinor Ostrom website describes Joshua’s work and why he won this prestigious award:

“His research explores how social, economic, and institutional drivers shape the ways in which people use, perceive, and govern natural resources. He works closely with ecologists on interdisciplinary research topics such as: defining the conditions that lead to successful governance of marine fisheries; understanding resilience and thresholds in social ecological systems; and examining vulnerability to environmental change. He has worked on human dimensions of resource management in Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Tanzania, and USA.

He has published 115 peer-reviewed journal articles, 1 book, 7 book chapters, numerous policy documents (policy briefs, policy-oriented reports), & other material (e.g., book reviews, popular press articles, scientific proceedings), and serves in the Editorial Board of Conservation Biology, Ecology & Society, Coastal Management and Global Environmental Change. He has been awarded with a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation and the JCU Vice Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence in 2011.” elinorostromaward.org/2017-young-scholars-award
Impact of governance on regional natural resource planning

In 2014, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), the University of Queensland (UQ), JCU, CSIRO and the University of Oregon began evaluating decision-making systems, approaches and tools for regional natural resource planning and management in Queensland. Professor Allan Dale has been the primary JCU investigator for the project titled ‘The impact of governance on regional natural resource planning.’

The aim was to assess the impact of governance arrangements on planning outcomes and natural resource management outcomes in two Queensland case studies involving complex natural resource management (NRM) issues. The project has produced two PhD projects: a PhD student from QUT, Rachel Eberhard, evaluated governance arrangements in the Great Barrier Reef and Murray Darling Basin; and a PhD student from UQ, Jaime Olvera-Garcia, assessed the institutional planning arrangements in the Great Barrier Reef.

PhD update: Ben Menadue

Cairns Institute PhD student and Postgraduate Fellow Ben Menadue has had two publications accepted since our last issue:


Ben has also been awarded a JCU Higher Degree Research grant of $450 to enable him to build a book-digitiser to assist in converting more science fiction magazines into a computer-readable format.

For the recent JCU open week INSPIRE ME PROMOTION, Ben was asked to provide one of the ‘inspire me stories’ as a mature higher degree research student coming back into education to study a subject he had long wanted to follow, but life had gotten in the way.

See Ben’s profile story in our April 2016 issue.
ALTAR film screenings 2017

The first three films in our Anthropocene series were a big success with large audiences from JCU and the community and we are moving into the second half of the series.

We launched the series in March 2017 with the film Anthropocene made by Steve Bradshaw (2015, 97 mins) and with an introduction by Distinguished Research Professor William F Laurance.

In April, we screened Canning Paradise made by Olivier Pollet (2012, 90 mins), a film about the tuna industry in Papua New Guinea and the global fish market. The film was introduced by Dr Simon Foale, JCU lecturer and researcher at the Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change. The director of the film joined us after the film in Q&A. It was great to see many Papua New Guineans in the audience and the debate took nearly an hour after the film.

The third film, screened in May, was Salero made by Mike Plunkett (2015, 76 mins). The film about Bolivian salt harvesters and the changes happening to the largest salt field was an astonishing experience. The film was introduced by the Director of The Cairns Institute, Distinguished Professor Stewart Lockie. In his introduction, we were prompted to think about the ways this environmental issue is tackled. How people around the world bring their own aspirations about environmental change and who listens to them? Debating around the Anthropocene has different results, mainly because it is heavily politically polarised. Film as a medium engages with the issue in a rather affective way in contrast to the written word. Professor Lockie rightly concluded, that the poverty is very photogenic and it is important to present it in a way that is without misunderstanding. We hope to inspire the viewers with all the films of this year and give a reason for a constructive dialogue.

On Wednesday 23 August 2017 we will screen When Two Worlds Collide (2016, 102 mins). The film will be introduced by Dr Simon E Overall who has extensive experience working with the people and their languages in Peru. He is a Research Fellow at the College of Arts, Society & Education as well as the Language & Culture Research Centre. When Two Worlds Collide is a tense and immersive tour de force. The audiences are taken directly into the

(Continued on page 14)
ALTAR film screenings 2017 cont.

(Continued from page 13)

The last film of the Anthropocene film series will be *The Islands and the Whales* by Mike Day (2016, 83 mins). The film will take us to the North Atlantic archipelago of the Faroe Islands. We will hear about the marine pollution and the traditional hunt of the seabirds and pilot whales. The local toxicologist explains, in the film, that eating the contaminated whale meat could have far reaching consequences. More at theislandsandthewhales.com

Please see poster (below) for further details, email contact, and the Facebook page. All the screenings are free to the public, starting at 6:30pm at The Cairns Institute Lecture Theatre, McGregor Road, Smithfield, D3.054.

line of fire between powerful, opposing Peruvian leaders who will stop at nothing to keep their respective goals intact, extracting the oil, minerals, and gas from the Amazonian land. More at www.whenweworldscollidemovie.com

*The Night Parrot Stories* made by Robert Nugent (2016, 89 mins), is a tale of extinction and an elusive Australian bird, and will be presented on 13 September 2017. We will welcome the filmmaker in person! More at nightparrotstories.com

ALTAR Free Film Screening

When Two Worlds Collide

by Heidi Brandenburg & Mathew Orzel (102 mins, 2016)

Wednesday 23 August 2017 | The Cairns Institute D3.054 | 6:30-8:30 pm | All welcome!

In this tense and immersive tour de force, audiences are taken directly into the line of fire between powerful, opposing Peruvian leaders who will stop at nothing to keep their respective goals intact.
Mabo legacy seminar

Over 100 people attended the Cairns Institute Mabo Legacy Public Seminar jointly hosted with The Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Centre. The seminar was a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the landmark decision on Indigenous land rights.

Unfortunately, Gail Mabo daughter of the late Eddie Koiki Mabo was unable to attend due to illness but the plaintiffs’ family was well represented by family members including May Mabo, Ada Mabo, Roseleen Mabo and Millie Rice.

The first speaker, Kevin Smith, has over 20 years’ experience in Indigenous affairs, including senior positions with the National Secretariat of Torres Strait Islander Organisations, the Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the National Native Title Tribunal. Kevin told the personal story of being a young trainee lawyer and being asked to visit the hospital to take instructions from Eddie Koiki Mabo for his last will and testament a few days before his passing. He recalled how taking instructions from an elder who referenced land by the virtue of landmarks, trees and stones was not something he had previously experienced. Since then, he has gone on to have an extensive legal career but acknowledges, “it is important to have knowledge of who you are and where you fit into the scheme of things.” Kevin highlighted the complexities of proving Native Title because we have to ‘prove’ our connection to land – which is often difficult to do.

The second speaker for the evening was actor, Jimi Bani, whose screen credits include RAN (Remote Area Nurse) and The Straits. On stage he has featured in productions including Jandamarra, Romeo and Juliet and The Sapphires. In 2012 he played the lead role in the tele-movie Mabo. Jimi highlighted the spiritual connection Indigenous people have to their land and their ancestors. He talked about the importance of following cultural protocol in the acting/film and television industry. He also talked about the importance of having a cultural advisor to conduct such work, as Indigenous stories must be told correctly. Jimi had the audience in tears when he recalled the emotional journey he went on when he played Eddie Koiki Mabo.

The final speaker was Bruce Martin. Bruce is based in Cairns and is working on a number of projects with his mother’s Wik people. He has worked with the Cape York Land Council and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation on projects including land tenure and management arrangements on Cape York. Bruce presented the long struggle for land rights in Wik country on the Cape. The Indigenous Land Council was established in 1995 and have achieved many important social, economic and cultural goals for their people. Bruce said he was always taught that it is important that “we leave our footprints for the younger generation.” Bruce believes that the Mabo decision laid the foundation for all land rights initiatives in the last 25 years.

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JCU researcher, Dr Felecia Watkin Lui, chaired the seminar and said the seminar reflected on the long struggle by Eddie Koiki Mabo and his fellow plaintiffs, Sam Passi, David Passi, Celuia Mapo Salee and James Rice, who began working on their case against the Queensland Government during the repressive Bjelke-Petersen era.

“Despite the efforts of a state government that had extraordinary powers to control their lives, and which sought to extinguish their claims of ownership of their land, they eventually won—when the highest court in the land acknowledged their sovereignty,” Dr Watkin Lui said.

“It’s from that basis of sovereignty that we can now have the important discussions about recognition, the constitution, and representation that have just taken place at Uluru. For that we thank and honour those plaintiffs.”

In June 1992 the High Court found that the Meriam people did have traditional ownership of their land, and that British possession had not eliminated their title.

The 25th anniversary of the decision also marks the 25th year of the Torres Strait flag and the 25th year since Eddie Koiki Mabo’s death, just months before the High Court handed down its decision.

“This is a time for us to recognise what was achieved in the Mabo case and to revisit that battle, begun in the harshest of circumstances,” Dr Watkin Lui said.

(Continued on page 17)
“But what I think we can all agree on is that it is this case, and this High Court decision, that enables us to look to the future from the standpoint of sovereignty, as the recognised, first-nation owners of this land.”

“It’s also a time to celebrate what progress has been made since, in just two and half decades, as well as looking to the future.

“Many of us are impatient for further change, and there are criticisms from different quarters as to what the Native Title legislation, which followed the Mabo decision, has or has not delivered.

Mabo legacy seminar cont.

(Continued from page 16)
Populations. When it comes to specific mining projects, however, it is usually local or regional indigenous representatives who are responsible for negotiating with globalised mining corporations, who participate in environmental impact assessments, and who manage the positive and negative consequences of development. Even if they are set in different legal contexts, indigenous communities engaging with mining companies tend to experience very similar consequences on their livelihoods. These mining developments create jobs and in some cases help create businesses, thus generating economic wealth, but this new wealth is often connected with the loss of authority over traditional territories and impacts on livelihoods.

The Project Conference in Umeå, Sweden gave the project participants an opportunity to view the work of network members as well as an exchange of ideas and planning for future activities. Fruitful discussions were also held on issues concerning the Scandinavian network’s activities on extractive mining and the work that the team at Laval University have been undertaking for nearly two years on a free online course on Northern Quebec.

Australia’s North goes North

Professor Allan Dale (with his RDA FNQ&TS hat), Jeanie Govan (Charles Darwin University (CDU)), Ruth Wallace (CDU) and Sharon Harwood (JCU) were recently in Sweden as part of the Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods: Cross-Perspectives from the Circumpolar North and Melanesia/Australia (MinErAL) project, of which JCU is just one of many partners.

Other project partners include Laval University Quebec, Aalborg University, Carleton University, Charles Darwin University, McMaster University, Umea University, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, University of Ottawa, University of Southern Denmark, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Aalborg Universitet, Institut Agronomique Néo-Calédonien, Technical University of Denmark, University of Lapland, University of Tromso, Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University, Government of Nunavut Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and the Kativik Regional Government.

The project examines how mineral exploration and extraction is being undertaken on a global scale by multinational corporations that operate in different countries. Indigenous peoples have also been developing a global network with the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. When it comes to specific mining projects, however, it is usually local or regional indigenous representatives who are responsible for negotiating with globalised mining corporations, who participate in environmental impact assessments, and who manage the positive and negative consequences of development. Even if they are set in different legal contexts, indigenous communities engaging with mining companies tend to experience very similar consequences on their livelihoods. These mining developments create jobs and in some cases help create businesses, thus generating economic wealth, but this new wealth is often connected with the loss of authority over traditional territories and impacts on livelihoods.

The Project Conference in Umeå, Sweden gave the project participants an opportunity to view the work of network members as well as an exchange of ideas and planning for future activities. Fruitful discussions were also held on issues concerning the Scandinavian network’s activities on extractive mining and the work that the team at Laval University have been undertaking for nearly two years on a free online course on Northern Quebec.
Young language ambassadors in the Amazon

More than 200 students from Years 5 to 12 and their language teachers have taken part in the 2017 Young Language Ambassador conference Make it Matter: International-Mindedness in Northern Queensland at James Cook University in Cairns (29 May 2017) and in Townsville (31 May 2017). The annual event, co-ordinated by Florence Boulard, is designed to encourage and motivate students from North Queensland in the study of languages.

The young ambassadors heard from many inspiring speakers including the Dean of the College of Arts, Society & Education, Professor Nola Alloway, sociologist, Dr Nick Osbaldiston, language educator, Veronique Ruel, and anthropological linguist at the Language & Culture Research Centre, Kasia Wojtylak.

Together with Kasia, the Young Language Ambassadors embarked on a journey into the Amazon. At one time, more than a thousand languages were spoken in the dense Amazonian rainforest. Today, only 350 languages remain—and more and more cease to exist every year.

This situation is somewhat similar to Australia where more than 215 Indigenous Australian language groups covered the continent at the time of European settlement in 17th century. Today, less than 170 of these languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost as elders pass away.

For Kasia, South American languages are a fascinating field of research. They are thought to have developed for more than ten thousand years in complete isolation from the rest of the world. They belong to many distinct language families and consist of many language isolates and yet-unclassified languages. They have impressive structural complexities that are crucial to the evolution of linguistic theories that enrich our knowledge of the properties of language systems in general.

Today we have a fair amount of information about the indigenous languages of the Amazon but there is still a lot to be done. Nowadays, many of the Amazonian languages are severely endangered, so there is an urgent race against time to document and record those remaining languages.

Kasia Wojtylak
PhD student
College of Arts, Society & Education
James Cook University
The agrifood innovations taking place in the Burdekin range from prawn farming and the cultivation of top quality Cobia through to local growers on the lookout for ways to value-add to their produce through the creation of products where the local produce is bottled, preserved or otherwise packaged.

There is one agricultural innovation that especially captured the imagination of this researcher and led to a subsequent visit to the farm in question: namely, the story underpinning the Achacha operation. Bruce and Helen Hill are well known around the Townsville and Burdekin region for their introduction of a tropical fruit, native to Bolivia, which — after lots of hard work and the innovative use of Biodynamic principles — seems to grow well in the Burdekin. In just over a decade, since the trees were first planted, the Achacha harvest is sold in major Australian cities, exported to China and is also sold at Harrods and Marks and Spencer in the UK. Despite this global reach, Bruce and Helen can often be seen spruiking their fruit at the Sunday Cotters Markets during the Achacha season; and they also make a point of attending the Carriageworks farmers market seven times a year to personally interact with Sydney consumers who might be curious about the Achacha.

When they attend farmers markets, Bruce and Helen show

(Continued on page 21)
Follow the Achacha cont.

(Continued from page 20)

potential customers how to pop the outer skin of the fruit. Their innovative approach to marketing doesn’t stop there. These growers design their own packaging; have commissioned artists and wood turners to produce visual and three-dimensional representations of the Achacha (see photo above); they host educational tours of their farm; and have also moved into Slow Food activism with Helen starting a local ‘convivium’ of this important international gastronomic movement.

Sometimes the Achacha seems to market itself. The Townsville Facebook ‘foodies’ page, Food for Thought, features a recent comment posted about the Achacha by a North Queenslander who had moved to Melbourne: “I miss these so much.” It was quickly followed by postings about where to obtain Achacha in Melbourne. The latest issue of the Myers department store, entitled Emporium, also features the Achacha as a colourful companion to a recipe for ‘Eton Mess-Style Spiced Meringues’. If I were the Hills I would be tempted to patent the colour ‘Achacha orange’!

But why ‘Follow the Achacha’? The title is borrowed from an essay by a team of British geographers interested in the global circulation of ‘papayas’ (we call them paw paws) who undertook their research by following the fruit and collecting the many stories, popular myths, practices and experiences, attached to the fruit (Cook, 2004). Following fruits as they make their way through society might also involve ‘shadowing’ the growers, farm workers, export agents, supermarket and restaurant personnel, chefs and ordinary cooks, as they select, make decisions about and put produce to various types of use.

With the help of the growers themselves, the Burdekin Shire Council, local enterprise bodies, the organisers of food-related events and food activist groups, it will be possible to ‘follow the Achacha’ and produce like it as they make their way through different retail, communal, festive, gastronomic and everyday situations.

As a sociologist who does research on wine told me: ‘One should choose one’s research topics carefully. Research often involves tasting the objects of one’s study’. In this and many other respects, studying the innovations taking place in the local agrifood sector promises to be a very rewarding project to undertake.

Achacha achieved 2017 Producer of the Year Finalist in the prestigious Gault and Millaut guide to all things gourmet.

Reference
**PhD profile: Melusine Martin**

Melusine Martin is a PhD student under a Cotutelle agreement between James Cook University and Paris-Sorbonne Université (France). Her research centres on environmental humanities, environmental philosophy and ecofeminism both in the Australian and American contexts.

Melusine aims to provide a new idea of nature based on a critique of western culture characterised by the human/nature dualism and to analyse how our representations of nature play a role in determining our reality. More specifically, her PhD thesis focuses on nature perceptions in the digital age and the millennials’ feeling of connectedness to their environment in Australia and in the United States in the 21st Century. The millennials—the generation born between 1980 and 2000—are dealing with a new, quickly evolving, relationship to nature on a changed planet. They are marked by an increased familiarity with communications, online media, and digital technologies. The digital age, also called the information age, is regarded as the modern era in which information has become a commodity that is quickly and widely disseminated and easily available especially through the use of computer technology. It has changed the world as we know it. While some positive aspects of the digital revolution include greater interconnectedness and easier communication, negative aspects include information overload, social isolation, and media saturation. Melusine wants to analyse how these aspects change the way we see nature, and to examine what is called the nature-deficit disorder, i.e., how the lack of time spent in nature has a direct impact on our well-being.

She has also directed a short-film about her research entitled *Nature* which was selected for the scientific Short-Film Festival ‘Les Chercheurs Font Leur Cinéma’ and screened at the Cité de la Science in Paris, in November 2016. She is a Postgraduate Research Fellow at The Cairns Institute and a member of the Anthropological Laboratory for Tropical Audiovisual Research (ALTAR). She is currently working on a new film project with Dr Jennifer Deger as her advisor and is also a volunteer at the JCU Community Garden.

Her supervisors are Dr Maxine Newlands and Dr Simon Foale (JCU), and Dr Olivier Frayssé and Dr Yves Figueiredo (Paris-Sorbonne Université).

*Nature* can be viewed online on the Festival’s [Youtube channel](https://www.youtube.com/).
TEDxJCUCairns 2017

TEDxJCUCairns is being held on Saturday 2 September 2017 for the 4th year in a row. This year’s theme, Tropovation, highlights the people and ideas that promote Tropical Innovation.

This year promises to be another exciting line up of speakers, and a variety of topics will be covered including seaweed, drones, bananas, virtual reality, worms and knitting nannas. Speakers for 2017 include:

- Julie-ann Lambourne, CEO, enVizion Group Inc
- Krista & Rob Watkins, Founders of Natural Evolution
- Amy Eden, Coordinator of the Manoora Community Garden
- Yarrabah Big Brass Band
- Michael Smout, Research Fellow, Australian Institute of Tropical Health & Medicine
- Rocky de Nys, College of Science & Engineering
- Ian Atkinson, Professor & Director eResearch Centre
- Karen Joyce, College of Science & Engineering
- Dan Kaggelis, Smithfield State High School
- MaryBeth Gundrum, Knitting Nannas
- Molly Steer, Straws No More

More speakers to be announced soon via our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page and [website](https://www.the Cairns Institute/news)
Introducing Project TEDx

Project TEDx consists of four JCU students collaborating with event organisers to help promote the 2017 TEDx event hosted by JCU Cairns. The project is an integrated learning component of their second year creative media subject.

This year’s Project TEDx team came together for a similar cause—possessing a love for Cairns, living in the tropics, the environment, and tropical innovation. Working on a project such as a TEDx event allows the students to combine and expand their individual skillsets. This gives them invaluable experience working on a project with multimedia and project management aspects that have firm deliverables and outcomes.

Richard Gray, leader of Project TEDx said:

“Desire for knowledge and the craving for change aided our group on the construction of the project that hopes change the lives of many, not just those within Far North Queensland or Australia, but on an international level.

“Tropovation is a revolutionary term and each step taken to sending this project out into the world will give confidence to those in the FNQ region and promote awareness to everyone outside this beautiful tropical land.

“For an event that covers one-day, the thought-provoking video and mind-blowing conversations and sharing of ideas will be a lasting and memorable experience. TEDx events present multiple issues and a diversity of voices from many disciplines.

TEDxJCUCairns
x = independently organized TED event

“TEDxJCUCairns is an event for the community shared with the world. It is such a rich and rewarding experience to be a part of during our tenure at university allowing us to be part of a bigger initiative that can see our work develop onto a bigger platform.”

Other members of the team are Mel Trommestad, Dion Tilema and Epinder Singh.

The team developed the logo for Tropovation under the guidance of JCU Graphic Artist, Cameron LeBherz.
TEDxJCUCairns goes to St Augustine’s

The Cairns Institute was recently invited to visit St Augustine’s College, Cairns, to discuss social justice with year 10 students. Previous TEDxJCUCairns speakers Kate Fern (2016) from The Power of Pallets and Jesse T Martin (2015) from The Streets Movement (TSM) joined Jennifer McHugh in the visit to the school.

Kate, Jesse and Jennifer outlined why social justice was so important for the entire community and for the students moving forward in life. Kate, whose organisation, Power of Pallets, has raised over $75,000 for FNQ charities, discussed how volunteering is not only a great way to help others but can also help individuals gain valuable life and work skills and knowledge.

Jesse spoke of his personal story, about avoiding many of the pitfalls in life and the idea of community responsibility, taking what you know and giving back to the community. Jesse is the CEO of TSM, a community development organisation which provides programs, pathways and opportunities for the disconnected, forgotten and wayward, helping them re-engage with family, education and community. TSM is located in The Cairns Institute Building and TCI researchers are working on a number of projects with the organisation.

Both Kate and Jesse spoke about how helping one person can have a ripple effect—that something that may seem easy to you can have a real impact on others.

Journal’s impact increased

Professor Bob Stevenson is very pleased to report that the Journal of Environmental Education’s (JEE) impact factor for 2016 increased from 1.033 to 1.621 (the 5 year impact factor also increased from 1.569 to 1.731). The journal is now ranked 54/235 in Education and Educational Research and 59/105 in Environmental Studies (was 76/104 last year).

This further confirms our position in the top quartile of educational research journals in the Scimago rankings for both Education and Environmental Studies. It also situates the JEE almost parallel with Environmental Education Research (EER) which ranked 51 in Education & Educational Research.

It is particularly pleasing that from both this result and the diversity of manuscripts we are now receiving, that we are generating increased interest and support from a broader cross-section of both the educational research and environmental studies research communities.

On behalf of the editorial team, Bob thanks all the authors, editors, reviewers, production team and, of course, the readers who have cited the work of our authors.
Collective impact

The Cairns Institute has been working with Collective Impact in the Southern Corridor of Cairns on a project kickstarted in mid-2016 by the Cairns South and Yarrabah Communities for Children. This project aims to improve outcomes for children aged 0-12 years ('Early Years cohort') in a broad range of areas (health, learning, cultural and other inclusion, etc.) utilising a Collective Impact (CI) framework. CI is designed to bring together community members and community-based and government organisations to respond collaboratively to complex social issues, based on an agreed common agenda and relying on data to monitor and evaluate relevant work undertaken. Various CI projects are in place in Queensland and Australia, but the work underway in Cairns South represents the first CI project in Far North Queensland.

The project will use initial baseline data, collated within the State of the Children Report (2016), along with material gathered in February – April 2017 through over 60 face-to-face interviews with key local stakeholders to identify priority areas and strategies for change—designed to ensure children in Cairns South have the best start in life. Stakeholders interviewed included those working directly with and/or likely to have an impact on developmental outcomes for the Early Years cohort in question (primary schools; child care providers; health, disability and family support services; community groups such as Parents and Citizens (P&C) and sporting clubs; as well as local, state and federal government, for instance).

The next stage of the project involves detailed strategic planning, completed in collaboration with stakeholders and based on all information collected to date.

The JCU project team, tasked with bringing all relevant parties together through a CI framework, consists of Professor Allan Dale as project leader, Senior Researcher Fiona Allison, Project Manager Jennifer McHugh, and Cairns Institute Director Stewart Lockie. The project runs until mid-2019.

For more information about this project please contact: collective.impact@jcu.edu.au
PNG/Pacific Connections Forum

‘O arise all you sons and daughters of this beautiful land PNG!’

Papua New Guinea (PNG) will be celebrating its 42nd Independence Anniversary on 16 September this year. At the same time we will be celebrating after the election and formation of the government. In collaboration with The Cairns Institute and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), the JCU PNG Student Association (Cairns) also known as PNG Wantribe will be hosting the PNG/Pacific Connection Mini Conference at The Cairns Institute on Friday 18 August 2017.

According to the JCU Student Association President (Convener), Grace Taga: “The club exists to celebrate and share the PNG culture within the JCU community; in order to provide networking opportunities; and support for PNG students.”

The theme is focused on paving a way forward for PNG: **PNG - A Way Forward: Promoting an understanding of PNG culture.**

Several notable researchers and guest speakers from James Cook University and the University of Papua New Guinea have been invited to present papers on their research work in PNG during the conference. The keynote speakers are Distinguished Professor Bill Laurance and Adjunct Professor Hurriyet Babacan from James Cook University.

We hope to video conference with other PNG students at the Townsville campus as well as the University of Papua New Guinea. Other students and the PNG community in Cairns and Townsville are most welcome to attend.

On behalf of the organising committee we would like to convey our appreciation to Professor Stewart Lockie and The Cairns Institute for supporting us and making available the venue for this conference.

Happy Independence celebration everyone.

Russel Kitau
PhD student
UPNG lecturer
Developing northern Australia

Professor Allan Dale chaired the Developing Northern Australia Conference for the third year in 2017. The conference, held in Cairns at the Pullman International Hotel 19-20 June, focused on initiatives to drive progress, growth and investment in the development of northern Australia.

It has been two years since the release of Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia. With bipartisan and bilateral commitment to implementation of the white paper on developing northern Australia, this conference gave northern Australians and their partners from the south and the wider world a chance to share their vision for the future of the North. Allan Dale that there are: “...big issues and opportunities ahead of us include the need to support Indigenous led-development, the need to resolve landscape scale conflicts, securing energy and water security, resolving labour force issues, infrastructure and services gaps. These are complex issues that need a longer term vision and shared and innovative solutions.”

Allan believes that: "For the first time we’ve got a longer bilateral conversation going on between both the Federal Government, two state governments and the territory government about the future."

Over 500 people participated in the conference and heard a range of speakers including:

- Hurriyet Babacan, CEO, Tablelands Regional Council
- Luke Bowen, General Manager, Northern Australia Development and Trade, NT Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
- Senator the Hon Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia (pre-recorded)
- Mark Coffey, Head, Office of Northern Australia
- Philip Davies, CEO, Infrastructure Australia
- Eddie Fry, Chairman, Indigenous Land Council
- Tracey Hayes, CEO, Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association
- Sandra Harding, Vice Chancellor and President, JCU
- Fiona Jose, Executive General Manager, Cape Operations, Cape York Partnership
- Sheriden Morris, Chair, Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Developing Northern Australia
- Joe Morrison, CEO, Northern Land Council
- Gina Rinehart, Chair, Hancock Prospecting (pre-recorded)
- Bernard Salt AM, Partner, KPMG
- Sharon Warburton, Chair, Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

The Cairns Institute further contributed to the conference with five PhD students working as volunteers to help ensure the smooth running of the event. Thank you to Rebecca Pearse, John Brooksbank, Boe Lahui-Ako, Alex Woodcock and Annette Tranent.
Research and education across all disciplines are essential to realizing global and national commitments to sustainable development. Knowledge, design and innovation are as important to governance, peace, safety, health and environmental integrity as they are to economic growth and poverty alleviation. As ICT, energy and bio-technologies transform the ways in which people interact, move and work, worldwide, new opportunities are emerging, both to utilize and to protect, PNG’s unique human and natural endowments.

Capitalizing on these opportunities will require more though than simply doing more research. At PNG IMPACT, speakers and delegates will consider how research can be designed, coordinated and communicated to deliver more societal benefit. Recognizing that no one approach is relevant across all disciplines and issues, case studies will be presented from a diversity of perspectives, with ample time dedicated to dialogue and networking.

PNG IMPACT will:

- Showcase a cross-selection of active research projects, across the sciences, social sciences and humanities, delivering significant societal benefit for PNG.
- Promote dialogue over how research and research policy can best support aspirations for a safe, inclusive and sustainable society.
- Provide a platform for network-building among researchers, research institutions and research stakeholders active in PNG.

PROGRAM

Day 1. Research Showcase

Day 2. Research Innovation Lab

INFORMATION

vyvyen.wong@jcu.edu.au
The Fourteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability features research addressing the following annual themes.

**THEME 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Studies of sustainability, with a focus on environmental analyses

**THEME 2: SUSTAINABILITY IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

Studies of sustainability, with a focus on socio-cultural and economic analyses

**THEME 3: SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Addressing sustainability agendas and the practices flowing from these in government, corporate and community sectors

**THEME 4: SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION**

On teaching and learning about human relations to the environment, and raising community awareness of sustainability

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**2018 Special Focus - Forging Solidarity: Collective Sustainability Solutions in a Fragmenting World**

- **Call for Papers**
- **Plenary Speaker**
- **List of Accepted Proposals**
- **Submit a Proposal**

**Themes**

- **Scope & Concerns**
- **Presentation Types**
A Guest Lecture in The Cairns Institute
Wednesday 30 August 2017 | 1:30 – 3:00 pm
James Cook University | McGregor Rd, Smithfield QLD | Lecture Theatre D3.054

One of the greatest productions of human art:

John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*

An argument by

Noel Pearson

From the Cape York Institute

John Milton’s epic *Paradise Lost* is one of the greatest productions of literature, equal to Homer, Shakespeare and Tolstoy, in my view greater. In this guest lecture I make argument about the sublimity of this colossal work of poetic genius, share my passion for this greatest of epics, and my contention no greater gift was given humankind than this work of art for which Milton received £5 upon its publication. Why would humans choose to live their allotted three score and ten years without receiving and knowing this gift? Time must come to pick it up again, for to not know Milton is the very definition of spiritual impoverishment and cruel self-abnegation.

Details for these events can be found at: [www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/upcoming-events/](http://www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/upcoming-events/)

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; location</th>
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<td><strong>Frank Oberklaid Lecture and Discussion</strong> Hosted by Mission Australia’s Communities for Children program</td>
<td>14 July 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Bride price and prejudice: A visual anthology of marriage and modernity in Mount Hagan</strong> LCRC seminar by Rosita Henry and Daniela Vávrová</td>
<td>19 July 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Reflexive and reciprocal constructions in Tariana</strong> LCRC workshop by Alexandra Aikhenvald</td>
<td>26 July 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Linguistic features of the languages of the Caquetá-Putumayo River basins in northwest Amazonia</strong> LCRC Seminar by Kasia Wojtylak</td>
<td>2 August 2017</td>
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<td><strong>LCRC International Workshop: Classifiers and genders in Amazonia and beyond</strong></td>
<td>9—10 August 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Andean features in Kawapanan languages</strong> LCRC Workshop by Pilar Valenzula</td>
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<td><strong>PNG Pacific Connections</strong> PNG – A way forward: Promoting an understanding of PNG culture</td>
<td>18 August 2017</td>
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<td><strong>When Two Worlds Collide</strong> Free ALTAR film screening</td>
<td>23 August 2017</td>
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<td><strong>The significance of the incomprehensible in Awiakay and Meakambut songs</strong> LCRC Seminar by Darja Hoenigman</td>
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<td><strong>Guest Lecture by Noel Pearson: One of the greatest productions of human art: John Milton’s Paradise Lost</strong></td>
<td>30 August 2017</td>
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<td><strong>TEDxJCUCairns</strong> The theme for 2017 is Tropovation—celebrating innovation in the tropics</td>
<td>2 September 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Tropics of the Imagination Conference: Living Cities: Tropical Imaginaries</strong></td>
<td>6—9 September 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Creating Futures 2017 Conference (CF17)</strong></td>
<td>18—21 September 2017 Suva, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Native Title Workshop for Mid-Career Anthropologists</strong> Register <a href="https://alumni.jcu.edu.au/NativeTitle">https://alumni.jcu.edu.au/NativeTitle</a></td>
<td>18—22 September 2017 The Cairns Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PNG Impact Conference</strong> Research—Innovation—Society</td>
<td>12—13 December 2017 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic &amp; Social Sustainability</strong></td>
<td>17—19 January 2018 The Cairns Institute</td>
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