

THE CAIRNS INSTITUTE
Research in tropical societies

Newsletter

Issue One | 2024

Cairns
Singapore
Townsville





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.

The Cairns Institute's location in tropical north Queensland and proximity to neighbouring countries in the Pacific and South East 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.

As the world's tropical zones face immense social, economic and environmental challenges, the Institute aims to provide innovative research with local, national and global applications. The Institute's core business of research, training and dialogue is embedded in commitments of excellence, social justice and engagement with the societies in which we work. Our unique profile is built on the following key concerns:

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

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Ty'a Dynevor



Ty'a Dynevor reflects on cadetship with the Institute

It has been over 12 months since Bachelor of Science student Ty'a Dynevor joined The Cairns Institute (TCI) as a casual Research Assistant (RA) through a cadetship opportunity. Her reflections on her experiences are shared below.

My cadetship involves supporting the development of Traditional Owner activities and engagement across Crown of Thorns Starfish Research and Management on the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Trust Partnership, James Cook University (JCU) and other stakeholders who are the primary associates involved in this project. I am a TCI Research Assistant and my direct supervisor is Dr Vincent Backhaus.

I have been able to maintain my studies and I work one day a week where I have assisted with producing reports, data entry, analysis, and interpretation, meaningful stakeholder relationship management, especially with reef Traditional Owners and note taking, transcribing and utilising Microsoft and Adobe software. The cadetship relates to my degree and area of interest as I have gained knowledge on how to conduct professional co-research methods with Traditional Owners, particularly on Sea-Country and understanding Marine Ecosystems from a Traditional Ecological Knowledge perspective. This allows both academic researchers and Traditional Owners to co-operate and receive recognition for their work and be followed for future scientific practices. The role has added to my professional skills such as Critical thinking, Active Learning and Listening, Researching and Cultural sensitivity.

An objective that aligns with my RA role is supporting my supervisor in submitting and writing JCU's Ethics and Research Integrity in June 2023. I also supported this process by writing and submitting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Ethics Application Supplement, Information Sheet, and Informed Consent Form.

What I have found most challenging throughout my cadetship is balancing my personal circumstances; caring for my Mum, and handling my other subjects alongside with my cadetship. I feel I have overcome this challenge through perseverance and a supportive and understanding supervisor and team.

The RA experience has set up my future career pathway by maintaining professional relationships with all stakeholders involved in this project, especially with Traditional Owners. This cadetship also links in with my Zoology and Ecology majors as I have gained working experience in research through a Traditional Ecological perspective.

It has given me an opportunity to give back to communities in a meaningful, and proactive way, especially in the Social Science, Marine Science and Ecology Science community. I am proud to be the first undergraduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research assistant that JCU has employed at The Cairns Institute.

The Cairns Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cadetships provide undergraduate and honours students enrolled at JCU the chance to undertake a paid research placement related to their degree and professional development goals.

As part of the cadetship, students receive employment with the Cairns Institute one day per week, reimbursement for study expenses up to \$1000, access to professional development and networking opportunities, and credit towards degree completion, contingent upon meeting entry and assessment criteria for relevant work integrated learning subjects.

Find out more about The Cairns Institute's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cadetships and [register your interest here](#).



Shell money of power and the money of deceit

The colonial economy and its impact on social relations in the Aitape area of Papua New Guinea have been for a number of years investigated by Dr Maria Wronska-Friend, anthropologist and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at The Cairns Institute. Of particular interest is a group of small coral islands, situated several kilometres offshore of Aitape. Although land-poor and with limited means of subsistence, in the pre-colonial days the islands were an important centre of economic production.

Their prosperity was due to the skills of local women who utilised reef resources by developing a specialised production of diverse shell goods. Of paramount importance was the production of rapa shell rings, drilled from the shells of giant clams. Although at times the rings used to be worn as personal ornaments, principally they functioned as currency units, traded by men to mainland communities in exchange for sago flour, timber for the construction of richly decorated cult houses and canoes, and various commodities. The women of the Aitape islands therefore operated a type of shell currency mint, and by controlling the supply of *rapa*, they were able to control the local economy.

The situation changed drastically towards the end of the 19th century, with the arrival of German administration and the Divine World missionaries. In a short time, the shell currency was replaced by ceramic replicas of shell rings that were mass-produced in Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The uncontrolled, large-scale introduction of those fake objects into the local economy resulted in the rapid devaluation of shell valuables and greatly affected the pivotal position of local women as economic producers.

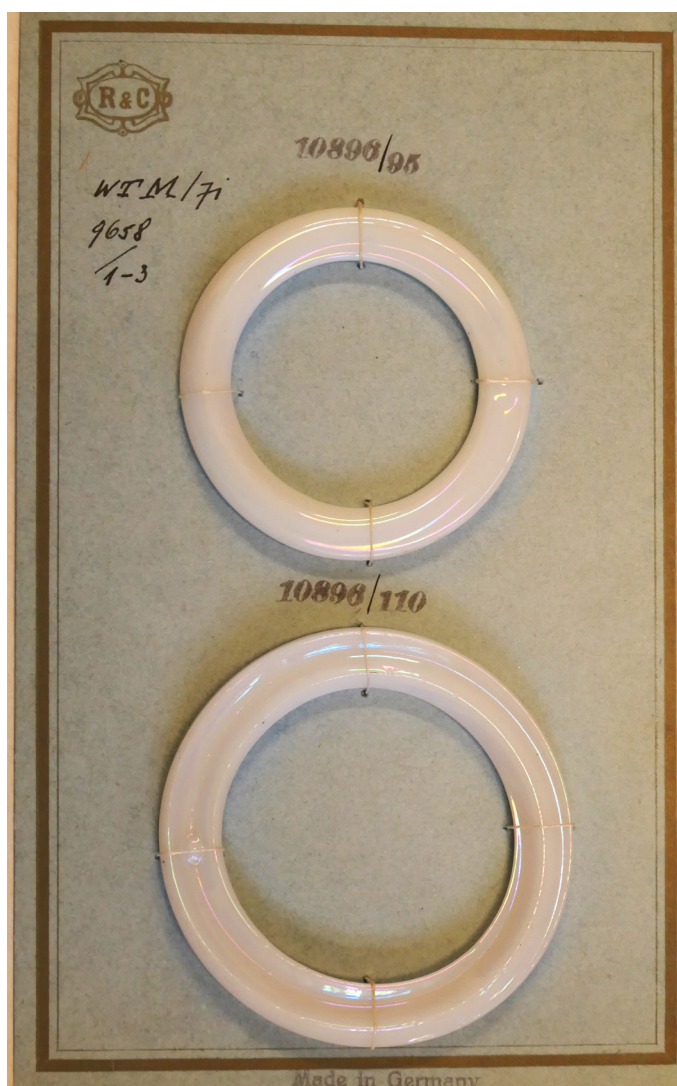


Image: (above) Dr Maria Wronska-Friend (right) examining collections at the Mission Museum at Steyl, The Netherlands.

Credit: M. Wronska-Friend



continued.



Last year, Dr Maria Wronska-Friend visited the Headquarters of the Society of the Divine Word at Steyl in the Netherlands where, in the Mission Museum's holdings, she found an exceptional collection of samples of ceramic shell-rings produced by a button factory at Herzogenrath in Germany. Some of those samples match very exactly items that were collected by Dr Wronska-Friend during her fieldwork in villages in the Aitape area.



Image: (above) Industrial imitations of rapa shell rings, produced in a German factory in the 1920s. Collection Mission Museum Steyl, The Netherlands, and (right) Shell ring rapa, produced from a clamshell on Seleo Island in the late 19th – early 20th centuries. Collected in 1992 by Dr Maria Wronska-Friend. British Museum Oc1992.01.161

Credit: M. Wronska-Friend

The findings of this research have been presented in the recent paper 'Shell Rings of Power: Gender Relations in Material Culture Production on the Aitape Islands' published in open access in Pacific Arts Journal, see <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6172k5f8>



Dr Leigh-ann Onnis



Developing a Manager's Toolkit for rural and remote health services

Dr Leigh-ann Onnis, a Fellow of The Cairns Institute, has been researching health workforce sustainability in rural and remote northern Australia for more than ten years. With many businesses in north Queensland experiencing workforce shortages, industries that traditionally face recruitment challenges and high turnover are looking for innovative approaches to workforce retention. Dr Onnis is working with human resources (HR) professionals and health service managers to identify management solutions tailored to the specific needs of their health services.

In 2023, Dr Onnis and Tahalani Hunter, both from JCU's College of Business, Law and Governance started working with North and West Remote Health's HR Manager, Trina Matthews, on a research project aiming to improve remote health workforce sustainability through evidenced-based workforce interventions that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual health services. This industry collaboration is supported by research project seed funding from the Centre for Research Excellence for Strengthening Systems for Indigenous Health Care Equity (CRE-STRIDE).

Over the past few months, the research team have been examining workforce interventions that have been implemented and evaluated to identify interventions that have shown promise for improving health workforce retention. The study has identified several promising practices (e.g. programs or interventions that show signs of being effective for improving workforce retention) but there were few implemented or evaluated in rural and remote Australian health services.

The scarcity of evidence about interventions that work in this context prompted the research team to develop a Manager's Toolkit of promising practices which will provide guidance and resources for managers working in rural and remote health services. Building on Dr Onnis' previous research about remote health workforce sustainability the Manager's Toolkit will focus on people, practice and place. This project also responds to a call for tailored management development and support for clinician-managers in rural and remote Australia.

For further information about the project, contact Dr Onnis on leighann.onnis@jcu.edu.au



Image (above): Tahalani Hunter, Leigh-ann Onnis and Trina Matthews in the foyer of The Cairns Institute. Credit: L. Onnis



Dr Brian Fairman



Halal supply chain competencies

The Cairns Institute Researchers Dr Adam Voak and Dr Brian Fairman working with Dr Wahyuni in the Faculty of Business and Law at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo, Indonesia have recently published an article titled: Halal Supply Chain Competencies-A Framework for Human Capability Development published in James Cook University's Journal of Resilient Economies · Dec 31, 2023.

Associate Professor Taha Chaiechi's review of the article states: "In the landscape of the global Halal industry, guided by ethical principles and dietary laws, this study, authored by Voak, Fairman, and Wahyuni, unfolds a significant narrative.

Their work introduces a formative framework designed to cultivate human capabilities within the intricate tapestry of the Halal supply chain. The authors, attuned to the complex challenges faced by individuals operating in this specialized sector, meticulously craft a framework spanning four pivotal dimensions—Assurance, Socio-Cultural and Ethical, Technical and Operational, and Market-Related."

"This structured approach emerges as a beacon for competency development, providing organizations with a roadmap to design effective training programs, assess existing capabilities, and strategically nurture their human resources. The study's emphasis on resilience stands out, underscoring its commitment to ensuring the Halal supply chain's ability to deliver high-quality products on a global scale. This dedication to resilience aligns seamlessly with the overarching goal of sustainable growth and prosperity. Importantly, the authors navigate this journey without compromising the ethical principles inherent in Islamic practices".



Image: Indonesian colleagues gather with Dr Hana Catur Wahyuni who is on the far right of this photo. Credit: J. McHugh



RACQ's mobile response after floods

Prof Allan Dale was able to gain support from James Cook University (JCU) to enable the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland's (RACQ) Mobile Response Vehicles to be located The Cairns Institute's carpark immediately after the flooding in December. This enabled RACQ to support their members in the area to lodge claims and answer any questions they may have.

RACQ Group CEO David Carter stated that by 12:30pm December 19, RACQ Insurance had received 299 insurance claims; 216 were for home and contents policies and 83 were motor vehicle claims since Tropical Cyclone Jasper first hit the region.

"Our Mobile Member Centre has been at James Cook University's Smithfield campus since last Friday and continues to support members in the area to lodge claims and answer any questions they may have," Mr Carter said.

Allan said he was pleased that The Cairns Institute could provide a space to make it easier for those flood-affected residents to gain support. 'With so many in FNQ having been devastated by the impact of record flooding, every little bit helps. Access to supports are essential and hopefully having the RACQ van on campus has made it a little easier.'





Cairns airport, December 2023



Sub-committee to focus on economic recovery

To facilitate a coordinated approach to community recovery, the Cairns Local Disaster Committee recently stood up four recovery subcommittees covering economic, environment, human and social and infrastructure.

Prof Allan Dale had been asked to sit on the Economic Recovery Sub-Committee (ERS-C) which focuses on the task of restoring tourism and economic activity to normal levels. Cairns Regional Council's Rhonda Coghlan, chair of the Recovery Committee, stated, "We know that the tourism and hospitality industry employs about one in five people in the region's workforce, and we have businesses who have not traded since mid-December. But it's not just about tourism. The aim of the Economic Recovery Sub-Committee is to develop an economic recovery plan to ensure all of our business sectors are supported and can bounce back from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Jasper."

The first meeting of the ERSC was held on the 4th January.



Images: (above) Holloways Beach suburb where the floodwaters forced their way under and over Casuarina Street creating its own path to the sea. (left) Members of the public and neighbours supported affected residents by rendering assistance to remove contaminated household goods.

Credit: Cairns Regional Council



Visit the [Cairns Disaster Dashboard](#) for more information recovery and other assistance available.



Tony Matchett



Putting farmers at the centre of industry innovation

As the world's population grows there is increasing pressure on the agriculture sector to produce safe, high quality food in production systems that are climate smart, transparent and sustainable. In recent years there has been an explosion in the number and complexity of new technologies available and an expectation that farmers will jump in to adopt them.

Despite the hype, the reality is that farmers often find the selection and integration of new technologies to be confusing and overwhelming. Similarly, technology developers do not always understand what the real problems are or how to communicate with producers, and advisors are struggling to keep up in this rapidly emerging field.

With this in mind, agrifood tech company Farmers2Founders (F2F) developed F2F TEKFarm®, an initiative that supports primary producers and advisors to engage collaboratively with Agtech providers and confidently adopt fit-for-purpose solutions in a de-risked manner.

To tackle the current and emerging industry challenges, F2F General Manager Dr Ben Baghurst believes farmers must be at the centre of innovation. Farmers2Founders purpose is to deliver innovative products and services to support Australian farmers to become more profitable and sustainable.

Involvement in F2F TEKFarm® involves exploring opportunities, deciding whether the initiative is potentially a good fit for the intended Agtech business, through to evaluating the Agtech solution against the specified selection criteria, and upskilling to



Image: Dr Ben Baghurst,
Farmers2Founders

build capabilities to interact effectively with primary producers, their advisors, and integrating the Agtech solutions into their businesses.

Further activities include introductions and site visits to participating primary producers to explore and establish business natures, structures, technology readiness, "pain points", and development of an Agtech Adoption Plan.

Once the Agtech is deployed in collaboration and with support from F2F TEKFarm® Agtech adoption facilitators, there are also evaluations of the value and benefits delivered by the Agtech solution. Participants are provided the opportunity to share the learnings widely with interested producers and agricultural advisors, giving them the knowledge and confidence to adopt your Agtech solutions within their businesses and assist others to adopt Agtech.

To obtain the full Expression of Interest documents, please contact Tony Matchett, Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Program Lead - Agricultural Innovation & Commercialisation
e: tony.matchett@jcu.edu.au

Prof Stewart Lockie

IASNR returns to Australia

The International Association for Society and Natural Resources were to convene in 2020 in Cairns for their annual meeting. However, when the pandemic was declared, the organisers pivoted to a virtual conference, and have finally made their way back to Far North Queensland. This year, it will be held June 23-27 at the Shangri La Hotel and Conference Centre at The Pier in Cairns.

The Australian co-convenors are The Cairns Institute's Professor Stewart Lockie and Professor Tom Measham; Research Director of the Sustainable Minerals Institute.

Prof Lockie confirmed the theme as *Re-creating Landscape and Culture in a Time of Global Change*. The theme 'recognizes the interconnections between people and places across scales from local to global. At one level, the theme is about the resource

extraction and economic activity affecting ecosystems as areas of profound natural beauty and traditional culture. At another level, the theme recognizes that landscapes are in a continuous state of change. The pace of change may vary considerably from place to place, with some locations experiencing rapid transition and others being re-created slowly through the ways they are represented variably as places of nature, recreation, culture, beauty and production and wilderness.'

Organisers stated that this year's theme is built upon previous IASNR Symposia themes and has brought together a suite of interconnected sub-themes.

For further information about IASNR, visit www.iasnr.org
[Earlybird registrations are available until March 31.](#)





Symposium brings reef stewards together

As the world races to slow global heating by reducing carbon emissions, coral reefs around the world are already struggling to cope with the rate of environmental change. Ignoring their decline is not an option. How can we best support the resilience of these ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them, in the coming decades?

This Symposium will enable reef stewards of all kinds; practitioners, managers, researchers, engineers, Traditional Owners, industry leaders – to share and discuss recent events, new knowledge and innovations, and how we might work more effectively to meet current and future challenges.

Taking place in Cairns Queensland April 16-18 at Pullman Reef Hotel, the program of ~120 speakers is currently being finalised and the Symposium will open for registration soon. For those unable to attend in-person, the event will be livestreamed globally, with options for virtual participation via a free app.

This is a FREE event made possible by generous organisers and funding from the Australian Government.

For further information, visit www.reefresiliencesymposium.org or contact info@reefresiliencesymposium.org





Prof Hurriyet Babacan



Planning for drought resilience

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) works with states and territories to support regions to develop drought resilience plans which enables stakeholders to identify vulnerabilities and develop strategies to reduce risks and potential regional impacts: building resilience across four key areas such as people, culture and community. The joint initiative is the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP).

Working in partnership with Far North Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC), Terrain and Gulf Savannah Natural Resources Management, Professors Hurriyet Babacan and Allan Dale have been conducting extensive consultations in the Wet Tropics and Gulf Hinterland regions about the impacts of drought and strategies for resilience.

The Regional Forum Wet Tropics & Gulf Hinterland took place November 23 last year and was hosted by the Development in the Tropics team, led by Professor Hurriyet Babacan.

Over 25 stakeholders attended the forums and explored questions around the following:

- The economic, social and environmental impact of a major heatwave
- The economic, social and environmental impact precipitation deficit
- The impact of before or after incidents of cyclones, floods combined with heatwave/low precipitation

RDRP plans are being finalised and will be presented to FNQROC and the Australian Government by June 2024.



Image: The forum participants at The Cairns Institute. Credit: J. McHugh



Showcasing Indigenous food and business

Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience and Innovation Hub's Sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise (SATSIE) program was pleased to be a partner organisation for the Indigenous Food and Business Expo (IFBE) on 15 November last year at The Pier Marketplace Cairns. The inaugural event was held in 2022, attracted 51 exhibitors, over 1200 attendees and included a full program of events and radio media with Bumma Bippera Radio (BBM).

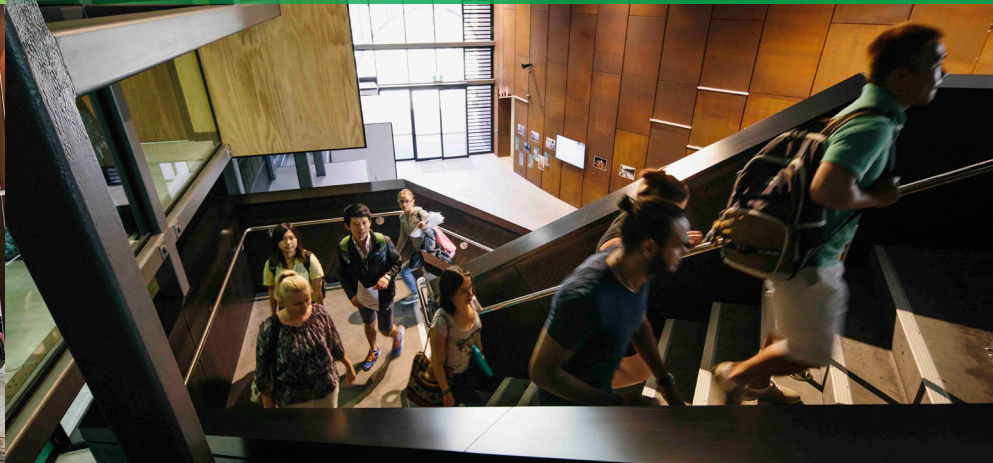
In 2023 the event continued to showcased indigenous business owners, artists, native foods and programs that help support business owners and provides an opportunity for Indigenous owned businesses to showcase their products and services, to meet corporate, government and local buyers, to build business capabilities, and to hear about factors impacting on the Indigenous business sector. It also created opportunities for stallholders to sell to the public in the lead up to the Christmas season. IFBE2023 also featured performances from the Cape York AFL House Cultural Dancers who are students from all across Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands.



In addition, the SATSIE program's original Art Piece entitled *Bana Mundu* (Water is a Spirit), by Bernard Lee Singleton was on display (pictured above).

Images (top inset): Jennifer McHugh interviewed by the BBM Radio team, Trevor Tim and Atalia Davey. Below: stallholders. Credit: V.Wong





Showcasing Indigenous food and business



Images: (above) Trevor Peckham, (below) stallholders and (right) the students performing are from AFL Cape York House. Credit: V.Wong





Judging panel



Students challenged to develop solutions

On Friday 8th December 2023, Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience and Innovation Hub (TNQ Hub) hosted the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Challenge Showcase at the Ideas Lab on Nguma Bada campus at James Cook University (JCU). First-year engineering students from Australia and New Zealand gathered to compete in solving engineering challenges.

Professor Allan Dale said more than 10,000 first-year university students across Australia and New Zealand participate in the EWB Challenge each year. He explained that "students work in teams to develop solutions to challenges identified by EWB Australia's community-based partners."

In 2023, the community-based partners are the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation (DWAC) and for the first time a second country community-based partnership with Pu Ngaol Village in Monduliri province in Cambodia. Chanrika Keo, Program Support Officer in Cambodia said Pu Ngaol village is home to a remote, Indigenous community. They have faced many challenges such as access to water for agriculture, water storage, lack of agriculture tools and access to sanitation. In spite of these challenges, many community members don't want to leave Pu Ngaol," she said.

Students were tasked with finding solutions that addresses issues such as agriculture, water supply and storage and sanitation and hygiene. In Cairns the students were tasked with designing solutions to assist the Yirrganydi people with caring for country. Professor Allan Dale said it's great to be able to host EWB showcase as part of the TNQ Hub. "The ability to work with Traditional Owners to hear their concerns and issues firsthand and then be able to design on-ground solutions is invaluable," he said.

Judges Gavin Singleton (Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation), Sam Horseman (JCU Innovation) and EWB Australia in Cambodia were very impressed with the finalist pitches.

The award winners are as follows:

- *Showcase Pitch Award – First Nations context: University of Western Australia – Modular container system*
- *Community Partner Award – First Nations context: Curtin University – Solution to Bush Tucker Degeneration*
- *Showcase Pitch Award – Cambodia context: Canterbury University – Producing waste bricks as a solution to the waste management problem in Pu Ngaol, Cambodia*
- *Community Partner Award – Cambodia context: Auckland University of Technology – Infrastructure to enable safe river access*
- *Best Stall Award: Curtin University – Solution to Bush Tucker Degeneration*
- *Industry Reviewer Award: RMIT – Ground water detection system to aid in flood response*

Further information, email jennifer.mchugh1@jcu.edu.au

Image: (left) Winning students Credit: J. McHugh.





Prof John Hamilton



AI and Precision Analytics in Financial and Medical Services: A Recent Conference Perspective

Six James Cook University (JCU) research delegates attended the global 23rd International Conference on Electronic Business (ICEB) which was held across October 19 -23 last year, in Chiayi, Taiwan.

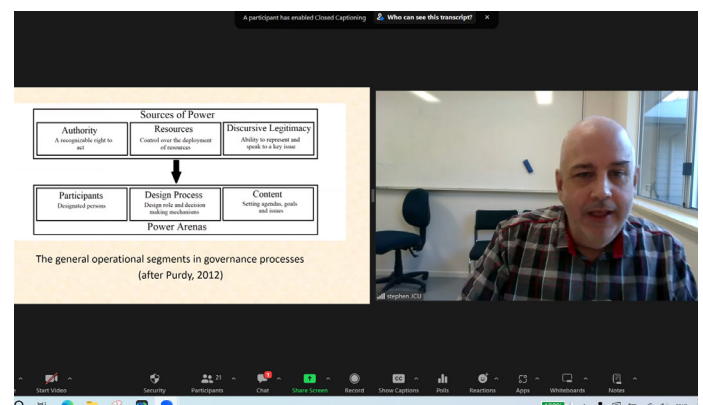
Adjunct Professor John Hamilton advised that seven papers were presented. This conference is today's worldwide top academic Electronic Business conference.

It is ISSN: 1683-0040 EI-Compindex/Scopus (since 2005), overseen by the International Consortium for Electronic Business (<http://icebnet.org/>) editorial board, and affiliated with the Association of Information Systems.

The 2023 conference included seven outstanding global scholar or journal editor keynote speeches. It was hosted by the College of Management, National Chung Cheng University (CCU), Chiayi, Taiwan and supported by Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Hong Kong (HKU), S.A.R. China and co-sponsored by International Consortium for Electronic Business, Journal of Business and Management, and International Journal of Electronic Business.

The following published JCU researchers' conference papers are also available at ResearchOnline@JCU, and at <https://aisnet.org/>.

- Marino, S. (2023) *Delivering Smart Warehousing in Australia*.
- Pont, S., Hamilton, J. R., Maxwell, S. J., & Tee, S. (2023). *Employee demographics in the human resource Space in a religious not-for-profit organization in Australia: Understanding for organizational retention rates*.
- Maxwell, S. J., & Hamilton, J. R. (2023). *Towards understanding university governance within Australia*.
- Alharbi, H., Hamilton, J. R., & Maxwell, S.J. (2023). *COVID 19 and information technology: a systematic review*.
- Hamilton, J. R., Maxwell, S., & Tee, S. (2023). *AI and Firm Competitiveness*.
- Hamilton, J. R., Maxwell, S. J., & Lynch, R. P. (2023). *Prioritizing AI for smart, self-learning, autonomous, humanoid robots*.
- Hamilton, J. R. & Maxwell, S. (2023). *Artificial Intelligence (AI), Rio Tinto and Firm Leading-Edge AI Competitiveness Model*.



Images: (above) CEB2024 group and (right) JCU's Stephen Maxwell presenting via zoom from Australia. Credit: ICEB2023



Dance Rites at Sydney Opera House



Deadly dancing

Under the The Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience and Innovation Hub (TNQ Hub), the Sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Enterprise Program (SATSIE) was extremely proud to be able to support the AFL Cape York House Aboriginal & Torres Strait Cultural Dance Teams on their dream to perform on the steps of the Opera House at the Dance Rites Competition.

Not only did they achieve the dream of travelling to Sydney, both the Torres Strait Islands and the Aboriginal teams competed in the Top 10 Finals event with the Aboriginal Dance Team receiving runner up.

AFL Cape York House is a not-for-profit organisation assisting young people to transition from remote communities across Far North Queensland by working with families and individuals. They provide educational, employment and training opportunities for Indigenous youth from across Cape York and the Torres Strait.

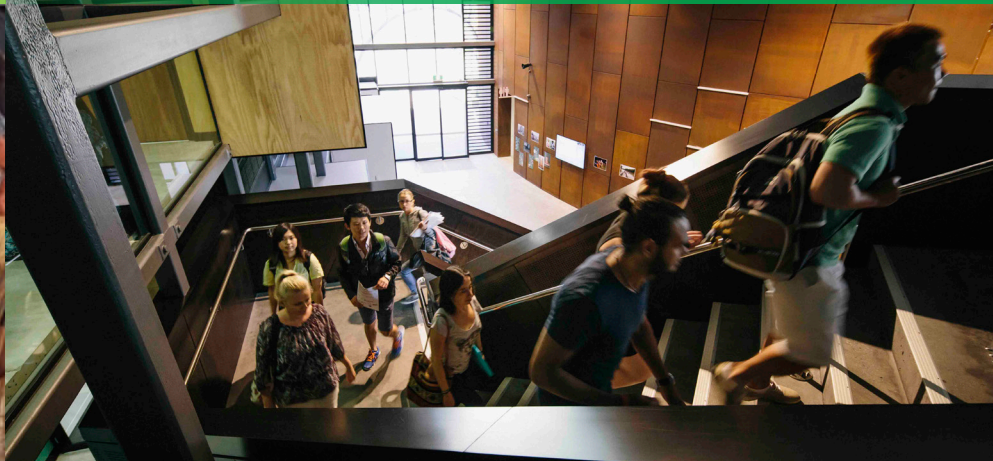
The Cultural Dance Program was established to encourage the preservation and celebration of cultural traditions among Indigenous youth. "Education is a key ingredient in building community resilience. This is why the hub has proudly supported this program. It allows young Indigenous people to maintain a strong connection to culture while improving educational and training outcomes," said Professor Allan Dale, Program Lead for the hub's SATSIE Program.

Dance Rites 2023 is Australia's national First Nations dance competition and was held November 25-26 in Sydney. It is a festival of live dance, music and community that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and was held at Bennelong Point; a First Nations meeting place for tens of thousands of years.





Dance Rites at Sydney Opera House



continued.

AFL Cape York House Cultural Support Officer Bernard Singleton said the competition was an opportunity for the young people to go out with a bang at the end of the school year before many of them head home for the school holidays. "Dance Rites came right after the end of the football season and right before they all start flying home to community, so a lot of moving parts were required to make this happen," he said.

"We've had amazing support from the AFL Cape York Foundation and we have a great team in the office, but ultimately it was up to the boys and girls to perform and put the icing on the cake."

"Both the Aboriginal Dance Team and Torres Strait Islander Dance Team performed amazingly well." (AFL Cape York, Bernard Singleton, 2023). "The young people were extremely proud to be there, but also their families and communities over the last couple of days have just shown so much support and pride," AFL Cape York Girls House boarding manager Sean Hunter said.

"This was the first competitive event our dancers have participated in and it was an opportunity for them to build on their confidence, engage in culture, and show off their cheeky character as they performed. "We are so grateful to the AFL Cape York Foundation, JCU, and Cairns Airport for their sponsorship and support."

The triumphant group was welcomed home by around 50 friends and family at Cairns airport. You can watch the video [here](#).



Images for this story are kindly provided by the AFL Cape York House.

What's happening in the Institute?

Details for these events can be found at: www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/upcoming-events/

Events in 2024	Date & location
International Womens Day - Morning Tea & Women Leaders Speak IWD2024 The Cairns Institute	8 March Cairns
Reef Resilience Symposium 2024 RRS2024 Pullman Reef Hotel and Virtual	15-18 April Cairns
On behalf of the living Film Premiere The Cairns Institute	2 May Cairns
Early Years Conference 2024 EYC2024 Cairns Convention Centre	15-16 May Cairns
International Association for Society and Natural Resources IASNR2024 Shangri La Hotel & Conference Centre	23-27 June Cairns
The Chinese In Papua New Guinea Book Launch The Cairns Institute	To be advised, Cairns
My Country, My Eyes Art Exhibition Launch The Cairns Institute	To be advised, Cairns



The proud students of AFL Cape York House with their Runners Up prize. Credit: AFL Cape York House