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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 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.

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 to 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 & linguistic transformations
- Indigenous futures
- Social & environmental justice
- Sustainable development

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Policy Paper Launch

Walking the Talk: Is Australia’s Engagement with the Pacific a ‘Step-Up’ or a Stumble?

The Cairns Institute launched its second policy paper at the Australian National University on Wednesday 14 November 2018. The event was attended by foreign embassies, including Indonesia and China, and viewed by 350 on live stream.

The release of Australia’s 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper had been much anticipated, not least because it was the first such paper in over a decade. Responses to the White Paper have been mixed. Australia’s choice of representation in the region is often mismatched, leading to squandered opportunities to establish and develop key relationships.

In the policy paper author Dr. Tess Newton-Cain presents her analysis of the White Paper and examines the nature of Australia’s engagement with the Pacific region since its publication to see what its impact may have been so far:

- The Foreign Policy White Paper is notable for its inclusion of a chapter dedicated to engagement with the Pacific (including Timor Leste)
- The White Paper has a strong security focus and this extends to the material that is presented in relation to the Pacific island region
- Pacific island countries are under-represented in key diplomatic initiatives such as the New Colombo Plan
- Australia’s choice of representation in the region is often mismatched, leading to squandered opportunities to establish and develop key relationships
- Proposals that support integration of Pacific island states with Australia should be treated with caution, given experience of pooled service delivery and sovereignty concerns in the region
- Assumptions that New Zealand will maintain a lockstep with Australia in relation to Pacific-focused policy are likely to prove flawed

An improved political engagement strategy in and with the Pacific island region is required in Australia.

Dr. Tess Newton-Cain, a TCI Adjunct, has a degree in Law and a PhD in Law and Criminology from the University of Wales (Cardiff). She has lived and worked in the Pacific Islands region for over 20 years and is a recognized expert in Pacific politics, policy and development with a particular focus on governance issues and the mechanics of Pacific regionalism. With an extensive network of contacts and associations throughout the region Tess is often called on to provide research, analysis and strategic advice to policy makers, regional organisations and development partners.

Download the policy paper
researchonline.jcu.edu.au/55672/
The artist, Associate Professor Robyn Glade-Wright, a Cairns Institute Fellow, is a creative arts lecturer with several of her artworks gracing the halls of JCU. Robyn compiles her work to generate awareness of environmental challenges of the tropics. ‘Beauty and the eco-sublime are investigated in my creative works as strategies to articulate my concerns for the preservation of the tropical environment and to create haunting messages’ says Robyn.

View Robyn’s profile: research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/robyn.gladewright/

Microplastic Found in Human Embryo

Throughout December 2018 and January 2019, the Cairns Institute building became a backdrop for Robyn Glade-Wright’s artwork ‘Microplastics Found in Human Embryo’.

Constructed with one thousand recycled plastic drink bottles, cable ties and paint, the aim of the artwork is to magnify the impact of plastic on life forms and the delicate systems which support life on Earth.

It has been demonstrated that plastic particles can pass through the placenta and the blood brain barrier. Plastic particles can be taken up in the gastrointestinal tract and lungs, potential sites where harm can occur including immune-toxicological responses, altering gene expression, and causing cell death.
Can You Hear Me?

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) has been working with the Cairns Institute to shine a light on the reality of internet connectivity in remote agricultural communities in Far North Queensland.

Dr. Amber Marshall, a TCI Adjunct, has been working with the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG) talking to cattle property owners and workers about their experience of bush internet and how it enables and constrains their lives. Amber has been shadowing Kathy Rowling (NGRMG) in her role as Drought Ambassador, attending events and visiting properties across the Northern Gulf.

The research builds on findings from the Australian Digital Inclusion Index which shows Far North Queensland is one of the least digitally included areas in Australia. The project aims to help understand how low levels of digital inclusion—which is particularly apparent in the farming sector—impacts individuals, families and communities across all aspects of life: business, social life, education and health.

Amber recently shared some preliminary findings with representatives from industry, government, education and community sectors at the Australian Regional Development Conference in Tweed Heads, NSW. Contrary to her expectations, Amber has found the most disgruntled consumers are not necessarily those who live in the most remote areas.

The research suggests consumers on the cusp of urban areas are the most frustrated. These consumers “layer-up” on several services in the hope one of them will work at any given time. This means people are paying for three or more unreliable services, including Telstra/Optus mobile, NBN fixed wireless, a landline, satellite phone services and others (e.g., two-way radio). On the other hand, in very remote areas where there is no promise of mobile service, consumers seem to be relatively content with NBN SkyMuster satellite, notwithstanding data caps and slow down/upload speeds.

It is hoped the findings of this research, supported by QUT’s Digital Media Research Centre, will help inform government and industry policy at local, state and federal levels regarding provision of affordable internet access. It will also advocate for funding and programs to support remote consumers to access and use the internet to their advantage.

Download the ACCAN submission on the NBN Rollout in Rural and Regional Areas: accan.org.au/our-work/submissions/1501-nbn-rollout-in-rural-and-regional-areas
At the 2018 annual Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science (TESS) meeting, Dr Colin Macgregor and Dr Kearrin Sims, Cairns Institute Adjunct, successfully pitched a new TESS research flagship on ‘Capacity Building and Engagement for Sustainable Development’ (CBE4SD).

The flagship seeks to address human-environment interactions from an ethical-ecological standpoint which brings together social and environmental sciences to promote inclusive capacity building and strategic engagement activities.

As emphasized by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), sustainably advancing human dignity and wellbeing within our planetary boundaries demands interdisciplinary thinking, multi-sectoral participation, and intersectional processes.

Accordingly, research projects aligned with this flagship will advance sustainable development agendas in Northern Australia and the Tropical World across a range of sectors, including: Governance and Policy; Indigenous Futures; Education for Sustainable Development; Sustainable Urbanism; Inclusive Growth; Gender Equity; Sustainable Livelihoods; and Public Health.

The flagship will also drive JCU’s commitment to support and promote the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through teaching, research and university practice.

The Cairns Institute will be hosting a monthly seminar series from March – August 2019 on: ‘Demonstrating impact on the SDGs: From Local to Global’. This series is also supported by TropEco and State of the Tropics. More details coming soon.

Congratulations Felecia Watkin-Lui

TCI Theme Leader for Indigenous Futures, Felecia Watkin-Lui received a well deserved academic promotion to Associate Professor in late 2018. Felecia Watkin-Lui is a Torres Strait Islander woman from Erub, Mabuiag and Badu Islands. She is also a senior lecturer in the Indigenous Education and Research Centre (IERC) at JCU.

Felecia had additional success late last year, receiving an Australian Research Council; Discovery Indigenous 2019 Grant for her project ‘Knowledge Integration for Torres Strait Sustainability’. The project aims to support sustainable development in the Torres Strait through the development of practical, locally-relevant strategies for collating, generating and integrating knowledge relevant to the management of intersecting social, economic and environmental challenges. The project seeks to generate new knowledge about how Torres Strait Islander people construct the idea of sustainable development by integrating participatory and quantitative methodologies to support research evaluation and decision-making in a way that supports community aspirations.
Collective Impact: Cairns South

It has been another good year building the foundations for a strong Collective Impact approach to improving outcomes for children from 0 to 12 in Cairns South.

Collective Impact is a framework for facilitating collaborative, evidence-based effort across many stakeholders to address complex social issues: in this instance, those issues impacting on children in Cairns South. The approach has been initiated by Mission Australia to encourage everyone to work together to tackle the many complex concerns facing our children. The approach, supported by JCU as the backbone organization, brings together community members, government, businesses, philanthropic and non-profit organisations in the Cairns South area. The project is focused on developing better action strategies in Cairns South as the area has grown significantly in the past twenty years, and growth in community services has not kept pace to meet the challenges facing our children. In particular this year, we have:

- Started to build the collaborative foundations for tackling complex issues and opportunities in the community through five strategic change projects;
- Been increasing partnerships between the community and service sectors with research providers in this region to resolve priority problems;
- Worked hard in starting to negotiate state and federal contributions to ramp up the foundations required for implementing outcomes from our initial analysis of the system of decision making influencing outcomes for children in Cairns South.

While we are focussed on the bigger strategic picture, we also like to celebrate quick wins progressed by others in the community along the way. This year it has been great to see:

- Some 20 researchers come together to explore the potential for them to become more involved in partnering the community in solving local problems;
- Mission Australia’s formalization of the community governance arrangements for progressing the Communities for Children Program in Cairns South;
- The recent community-led establishment of the ‘Southern Cairns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organization for Families and Youths’ by key Indigenous leaders in Cairns South;
- The Queensland Department of Education developing the ‘Whatever it Takes’ campaign aimed at improving outcomes for children in the school system;
- The ‘Building Better Brains Begins Before Birth’ – 6B’s Project emanated from a meeting of Mission Australia’s Cairns South Communities for Children (CfC) steering committee in June 2018.
- Design and development of a new initiative by Detective Senior Sergeant Marty Ots (Qld Police Service) aimed at improving social and emotional wellbeing of young people in Cairns through sports-based activities.

We celebrate these and the many other great deeds initiated and progressed by community members, organisations and services, Council and key departments in the Cairns South area. The JCU Cairns South Collective Impact Team also passes on its continued gratitude of the efforts of Mission Australia (via Margaret Osmond’s team), the State Department of Communities and the Commonwealth’s Department of Social Services.

We are all looking forward to continuing to work with the Cairns South community into 2019 and beyond.

Project Leader
Professor Allan Dale

For more information visit: www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/newsletters/collective-impact-newsletter/
Courtenay Lecture 2018

How Did the Lucky Country Get Here?

Held in conjunction with Anti-Poverty Week, 14-20 October 2018, this year’s Courtenay lecture titled ‘How did the lucky Country get here?’ was presented by Basil N Varghese.

Basil has over 20 years’ experience working on the front line of poverty alleviation with The Brotherhood of St Laurence, as an Ambassador for National Education and Employment Foundation (NEEF) and International Ambassador for Sports Education Development Australia (SEDA).

Basil has had the privilege of promoting the vision and mission of ‘Bridging the Gap of those who have and have not’ to thousands of people in all sorts of settings: students, teachers, academics, educators, community groups, unions, churches, business groups, bureaucrats and even politicians from the various parties.

During a group discussion the audience was able to have an in-depth discussion about the root causes of poverty, including the links to mental health, racism, sexism, poor health and many other factors.

The Courtenay Lecture was established in October 1996 by a donation from the Cairns Trinity Junior Chamber. The annual lecture consists of a public presentation on a current issue by a prominent Australian or international person.

The Courtenay Lecture annual series is intended to be a contribution to the ability of the Cairns community to participate with leading edge issues and people. The lecture is named in honour of Professor Philip Courtenay, former Rector of the James Cook University, Cairns Campus.
Life in the Age of Death Conference

The 2018 Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) held their Annual Conference at TCI on 3-7 December 2018.

Current AAS President and TCI Theme Leader for Creative Ecologies, Associate Professor Jennifer Deger, co-convened the event which specifically encouraged non-traditional forms of scholarly presentations. ‘We scheduled films, performances, and labs as central features of the program, giving equal weight to our keynotes and performances. This created a level of energy and interest amongst the delegates that we thought was vital, especially given the sometimes difficult topics under discussion,’ said Jennifer.

Around 240 national and international delegates attended the conference which was themed around ‘Life in the Age of Death.’ The conference aimed to embrace this moment in history in all its roiling complexity, challenge, and specificity, taking on subjects from environmental peril, the plight of asylum seekers, the death of languages, and the roles of robots in contemporary society.

Keynotes included Lucas Bessire from the University of Oklahoma, Don Kulick from Uppsala University in Sweden and Kathleen Richardson from UK’s De Montfort University.

Delegates were overwhelming positive about the conference with one delegate stating the conference was an “inspirational shot in the arm” that renewed their sense of anthropology’s reach and significance.

The Conference was opened by a performance featuring EMBERYEWEN West Papuan musicians and singers based in Darwin and Papua and also featured a performance from the Torres Straits. Leah Barclay, an award-winning Australian sound artist, researcher and acoustic ecologist provided an immersive surround sound performance which explores the past, present and possible futures of the Great Barrier Reef. PhD Candidate, Fiona Wirrer-George Oochunyung, presented a multi-modal performance about the on-going process of repatriation of her ancestors’ hair samples from a Victorian museum back to Country, for which she received a standing ovation.
Bragge Collection

In 2018 JCU was the fortunate recipient of a substantial donation of Papua New Guinea artefacts and memorabilia from Lawrence W. Bragge. A TCI Adjunct, Lawrence was an Australian Government Officer (Kiap) who lived and worked in Papua New Guinea in the 1960s and 70s.

The collection of official diaries and reports, recorded and transcribed interviews and book manuscripts on Sepik history, will be housed in the JCU library special collections.

The PNG material artefacts which includes masks, spears, shields and pottery, will be exhibited at The Cairns Institute. An official launch will be held later in 2019 when the collection has been fully curated.

Lawrence notes, ‘The Sepik elders were willing to reveal the depths of their oral histories for two reasons:

1. Every time an elder died so did some of the oral history. I would record it, it would not be lost.
2. With the approach of self government and independence it was clear the Sepik people believed they were approaching a critical stage in their history and before that was reached the needed fulfilment, they needed the secrets of the “cargo”.

Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm

Congratulations to Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage’s (CABAH) Sean Ulm being awarded the title of Distinguished Professor.

To be eligible for appointment as a Distinguished Professor, an individual must have an international reputation for exceptional research and scholarship, and enjoy professional peer recognition for their significant achievements at a state, national and international level.

Sean’s research focuses on persistent problems in the archaeology of northern Australia and the western Pacific where understanding the relationships between environmental change and cultural change using advanced studies of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental sequences are central to constructions of the human past.

Sean joins Cairns Institute Distinguished Professors:

- Stewart Lockie (Director Cairns Institute),
- Alexandra Aikhenvald (Director LCRC), and
- Michael Bird (CABAH).

View Sean’s full research portfolio: research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/sean.ulm/
Held on 27 October, 2018’s TEDxJCUCairns was a full day of inspiration and entertainment. This is the fifth year The Cairns Institute has hosted and sponsored the event.

‘Each year TEDxJCUCairns brings together inspiring speakers to share their ideas, expertise and insight from the tropics,’ Jennifer McHugh said. ‘This year’s theme of “WE-ME” reflects the social, environmental, cultural and economic problems the world is facing, which we need to approach with a combination of individual initiative, cooperation and mutual support.’

TEDx speakers are drawn from diverse backgrounds with a range of ideas worth spreading. 2018’s speakers included:

- Gavin Singleton—Manager, the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Program
- Dr. Alexandra Trollope - Epigeneticist
- Anna Fredericks - Director, Domestic Recruitment and Engagement, JCU
- Jessica McKechnie-Hart - Poet
- Mike Berwick - Senior Advisor, Green Collar Group
- Peter James - Comedian
- Raquel Peel - Psychologist and recovering romantic self-saboteur
- Rochelle Pitt - Singer/songwriter
- Sandip Kamath - Allergan researcher
- Professor Wei Xiang - Internet of Things expert
- Suzanne Bayliss - Writer and advocate for people living with dystonia
- Gill Mailman – Proud Bidjara woman and entrepreneur
- Rebecca Youdell - Bonemap, a creative interactive dance and light performance featuring dance artist

Event hosts included Deputy Vice Chancellor Tropical Environments and Societies, Professor Iain Gordon, ABC Rural radio’s Charlie McKillop and HIT FM’s Peter James.

The day was further enhanced by author and artist in residence Fiona Wirrer-George Oochunyung. Fiona is a freelance performer, cultural educator, writer and choreographer descending from the Mbalwum/Troj, Alngith/Lininigithi Wikway and Wik Apalich Nations of Western Cape York. Currently in her second year of PhD studies, Fiona is also a casual on-line lecturer, author of five publications and three stage plays. Her works have been showcased both nationally and internationally.

The WE-ME logo designed by creative media student Karen Hallard, highlights how these two simple two letter words mirror each other and reflect the importance of working together and supporting each other.

However, nothing was possible without the dedicated team behind TEDxJCUCairns:

- Jennifer McHugh from The Cairns Institute - Event licensee and curator
- Russell Milledge from CASE - Technical curator
- Alex Carter from TropWater - Stage manager
- Lisa Jones from the Australian Society for Parasitology - Speaker mentor
- David Burston from Toastmasters - Speaker trainer
- The dedicated team behind the scenes

TEDxJCUCairns 2018
Delicious coffee was provided by Mission Australia’s Café One, a social enterprise program providing paid work experience and assistance to vulnerable people in Cairns wanting to develop skills and confidence to enter the workforce.

Mungalli Creek Dairy provided amazing samples of their products for the fifth consecutive year.

Cairns and District Bee Keepers association were on hand to explain how to ensure your honey is local and showcased a live hive.

Love Wraps demonstrated how to avoid using plastic wrap on food by making container coverings from bees wax.

Visit tedxjcucairns.com for 2018 talks and previous years talks.
Farewell: Dr. Anne Stephens

Cairns Institute Adjunct, Dr. Anne Stephens has accepted a position with Respect Victoria as the Senior manager of research and evaluation commencing February. Respect Victoria is a statutory authority established by Victorian Government in response to the Victoria Royal Commission into family violence. Anne will work with a dedicated team aiming at reducing the incidence of family violence in the Victorian Community.

Anne started with TCI in 2011 working with Komla Tsey before taking on a Post Doc with the Northern Futures CRN under Allan Dale. As a lecturer in Education, Anne continued her research into inter-personal violence prevention and gender responsive evaluation methodology.

Anne has been a consultant with the Independent Evaluation Office of UN Women since 2016 leading evaluations across the tropical world. Her most recent book, *Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for Gender equality, Environments and Marginalized voices: a new approach for the SDG era*, was published with UN women in October 2018.

Anne said while she is sad to leave the region, she was ‘grateful to have had an amazing early research career at JCU with fantastic mentors at The Cairns Institute.’

The Cooktown Ten — Violence Prevention

Late in 2018, TCI Adjunct Dr. Bill Liley met with the Family and Community Violence prevention teams at the Prevention Institute in Oakland, California, the Asia Pacific Institute against Gender Based Violence and at Futures Without Violence in San Francisco, to discuss his work on a framework for clinicians and educators to use in primary care settings for the prevention of violence amongst people with prior relationships.

Much of Bill’s work is the subject of a report titled *The Cooktown Ten: A Problem Structuring Model for Violence Prevention*. The model grew from Bill’s medical practice in primary care on Cape York. While in the USA, Bill attended the National Centre for Shaken Baby Syndrome conference in Orlando where he discussed his model with international experts from Europe, Asia, Oceania and the USA. There is significant interest and encouragement for his work as the model is unique in its adaptability and applicability for clinicians in their individual circumstances.

Bill was instrumental in establishing Violence Prevention Australia (VPA), a not for profit organization, dedicated to making readily available clinical effective resources for primary violence prevention aimed at primary care clinicians and educators. The prevention of violence model gained traction in the FNQ region with Bill outlining the methods to the Department of Defense and the QLD Police Force in Townsville. Bill outlined some of the approach in his 2016 TEDxJCUCairns talk, titled ‘Gentle hands won’t hurt, our last chance to prevent domestic violence’.

After six years in Cooktown as a GP and a Senior Medical Officer at QLD Health, Bill is relocating to Melbourne where he will take up a position with Co-Health, which has a strong outreach objective for marginalized and hard to reach patient populations, including refugee groups.
Rural Economies Centre of Excellence

The Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE), brings together some of Queensland’s best economic analysts, rural economic development specialists, and policy developers with the aim to improve the lives of rural and regional communities.

TCI, a partner of the collaborative project, was pleased to host the RECoE Steering committee meeting at JCU Cairns City Campus on 29 November. JCU RECoE leads, Professors Allan Dale and Hurriyet Babacan, have a strong commitment to working collaboratively with local industry sectors and the broader community.

The Steering Committee toured the Tablelands region, meeting with council and local agricultural representatives including NQ Tropical Seeds in Walkamin, where Maryann Salvetti outlined the need to diversify and adapt. This was followed by Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Joe Morro discussing the history and current water issues in the region. The group also met with Tablelands Regional Council Mayor Joe Paronella before traveling to Malanda to visit the proposed Northern Australia Tropical Agricultural Precinct (NATAP) and meet with other key rural sector stakeholders, including representatives from Mareeba Shire Council, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State Development. Wendy Morris from Tropical Tourism North QLD and CEO of Advance Cairns, Nick Trompf presented a number of regional perspectives and issues to the group.

The Steering Committee was pleased with the experience they had in Cairns, especially the opportunity to meet and hear from key regional stakeholders. Steering committee attendees included: Prof John Cole (Chair); Assoc. Prof Ben Lyons (RECoE Director); Prof Allan Dale (JCU); Prof John Rolfe (CQU); Prof Jim Cavaye (USQ); Dr Delwar Akbar (CQU); Prof Hurriyet Babacan (JCU); Prof Stewart Lockie (JCU); Dr Jason West (UQ) and Mr Richard Routley (DAF).
Social Enterprise Network for the Tropics

Recognised as an innovation, the Social Enterprise Network for the Tropics (SENT) was formally launched at the Tropical North Queensland Innovation Awards on 22 November 2018. Chair of SENT, Dr. Gopalkrishnan spoke on the occasion about the mission of SENT and the role of JCU in this context.

Social entrepreneurship is emerging across Australia as a promising approach which addresses socio-economic and ecological issues, creates social wealth, brings social transformation and innovation and helps develop a strong social economy.

SENT was established as result of a research focus on social entrepreneurship at the Cairns Institute, a focus which has emerged from a strong local industry-JCU collaboration and engagement. The network involves social enterprises, community organisations, government, academics and other stakeholders with the purpose of building a thriving social entrepreneurship community in the Tropics. This is particularly of value in Far North Queensland and in Northern Australia where JCU is taking leadership in developing cross-sectoral applied solutions to address the major challenges of the regions.

Dr. Narayan Gopalkrishnan from the Cairns Institute and Social Work, has been involved in social entrepreneurship work in the Asia Pacific and brings global experience to this area of research. He has been instrumental in bringing together key stakeholders in Northern Australian social entrepreneurship to form the Social Enterprise Network for the Tropics.

Yarrabah Band Festival

Jackson Clark, a TCI casual event officer and trumpet player with the Yarrabah Brass Band, performed at the Yarrabah Band Festival held at Jilara Oval on 03 November 2018.

Jackson first started playing the trumpet four years ago with the band featuring in a 2017 documentary titled ‘Brass Against the Odds.’

Along with a fantastic local line-up, the festival also included the legendary Paul Kelly, Vika and Linda Bull, Black Image, Mau Power and KLP. Although James Morrison is an honorary member of the band he was unable to make this year’s festival.

Jackson and other band members relished playing with Paul Kelly. Jackson said, ‘The festival was an amazing opportunity to meet and perform with a hero such as Paul Kelly, and to share Yarrabah with so many people. So many talented people being so generous with their time and sharing their knowledge is such an inspiration.’

Stewart Lockie and Jennifer McHugh were fortunate to attend seeing many familiar faces despite the rain.

Yarrabah Brass Band TEDxJCUCairns talk.
The Listening Post

The Listening Post is a new installation for presenting sound art on the first floor of TCI. Collaboratively curated by anthropologists from the Visual, Digital, Material Research Group, it aims to promote the art of deep listening amidst the non-stop noise of the digital world.

Listening is an active process. The Listening Post is a means by which we offer you, the listener, an opportunity to shift your attention towards worlds of sound and sonic relationship in the tropical north. As you listen, try to focus on one sound at a time, then tune into the soundscape as a whole. As you move between the whole and its parts, what do you hear? How do individual sounds interact with each other? How do these sounds contribute to the character of each place? How does deep listening affect your other senses? How might it retune your attention to everyday life?

Take the opportunity to, sit down and listen. Be patient. Be present. Spend a little or a lot of time. All welcome!

Currently playing: Nightscapes of Cairns (runtime 26:40) by Matthew Buttacavoli and Sebastian J. Lowe.

Humans mostly think of the night as a quiet time meant for rest. But, when the sun starts to go down and the daytime tourist locations around Cairns start to empty, a new energy arises. A nocturnal orchestra takes over.

This work takes you on a sonic tour of the Cairns region over the course of a night. We begin with the sounds of the Spectacled Flying-foxes waking up and stretching their wings outside of the Cairns City Library at sundown. Next we travel to the Crystal Cascades to listen to the nightly insect symphonies merging with the flowing waters. We then return to the city centre to take in the nightlife on Shield Street. As that party winds down, we move to the mangrove swamps by the Cairns International Airport to tune into the otherworldly sounds of crustaceans in the mud. Finally, at daybreak, we dive under the jetty at Palm Cove to hear the crackling of snapping shrimp and the grunts of fish waking up to sing in their morning chorus.

For suggestions or comments:

Matthew Buttacavoli
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Sebastian Lowe
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Deep listening is listening in every possible way to every thing possible to hear no matter what you are doing.”

Pauline Oliveros
On a Lighter Note...

14 Lesson from an Amateur Tropical Gardener

Dr. Kearrin Sims is the program convenor of JCU’s Master of Global Development and a Cairns Institute Fellow. Here he shares his 14 development lessons of the amateur tropical gardener.

Two years ago I moved to the beautiful Far North Queensland city of Cairns, to begin a lecturing position in Development Studies. Over the past two years, I also started a family, bought a family home and... became a gardener! Gardening in the tropics is a joy. There are plenty of creatures in the far north that can kill you, but if you put this minor detail out of your mind you can have a great time. Below I offer 14 lessons an amateur tropical gardener can provide for development practice

1. Learn before you leap. Your garden is a complex ecosystem that you will never fully understand. Do your homework, and keep up to date with new ideas and ways of thinking.

2. Ask the locals. They know the lay of the land much better than you do. They can tell you what not to do (or plant), based on the lessons of the past.

3. Respect place. Don’t assume what worked in your last garden will also work in your new garden. Get to know the place where you are. Find out where the sunny and shady spots are, and where the run-off flows.

4. Learn the seasons. You do not know a place until you have lived through its seasons. In the Wet Season everything in your garden will grow at hyper-speed. Don’t make the 'dry-season bias' mistake of thinking you know your garden if you have only cultivated it in the dry season.

5. Knowledge exchange with experts. Go to your local nursery and ask questions. Take time to listen to those with far more experience than you.

6. But... also be creative. Don’t believe everything that you are told. If you have done your research, try things out that others have told you won’t work, or that have not been tried before.

7. Climate changes everything. Climate change is real. The seasons are becoming more unstable and less predictable. Drought happens in the tropics, and it is getting hotter. You and your plants will need to be resilient.

8. Protect yourself. In 2015 there were 212 million malaria cases worldwide. You are in the tropics, so watch out for mosquitoes that might be carrying dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, Ross River fever, Zika, etc. And watch out for heatstroke while you are at it.

9. Water is precious. Access to clean drinking water – which your sprinklers are showering on your lawn daily – is a right that is deprived of millions of people around the world. 3 in 10 people still lack access to clean drinking water.

10. Consume responsibly. Many of us in high-income countries are consuming well beyond our fair share of

(Continued on page 18)
14 Lessons cont...

(Continued from page 17)

the earth’s resources. We are also often consuming single-use packages that have been shipped halfway around the world. Your garden is an opportunity to reduce your waste and consumption - use it to compost and grow edibles. In our family garden we grow tomatoes, guava, avocados, lemons, limes, oranges, starfruit, jackfruit, rollinia, chillies, turmeric, mulberries, lemongrass, bananas, passionfruit, kaffir lime, peppercorn, dragonfruit, and jaboticaba.

11. **Acknowledge your achievements.** Working in the tropical heat can be demanding, and you will need to work hard to be successful. At the end of the day, sit back and be appreciative of the big and small seeds of change that you have planted.

12. **Know your enemies.** You have enemies in your garden. There are nasty critters waiting to attack you and your plants. There are self-interested creatures out there that will destroy what you and others have worked to achieve. These parasites will take relentlessly from your garden. They do share the same values of you and they do not play fair.

13. **Be wary of technocratic fixes.** There are costs and benefits to the decisions that you make. Pesticides may kill weeds more quickly, but they may also harm your healthy plants. In fact, they may even harm you, native animals, and your friends and family. Fertilizers might help your plants grow more quickly, but the run-off from your garden may pollute local marine systems. Don’t be afraid of low-cost traditional methods that have proven effective for generations.

14. **Persevere.** Your garden will never be finished. New weeds will emerge where old weeds have been pulled out. The job of the gardener is a lifelong commitment. You will experience wins and losses, and if your garden is to continue improving you will need someone to continue caring for it once your time has come.

Kearrin Sims
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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<thead>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Bragge Collection Official Launch</td>
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<td><strong>Introduction Adjective Class</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCRC Workshop by Bob Dixon and Alexandra Aikhenvald</td>
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<td><strong>The Adjective Class in Munya</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCRC Workshop by Bai Junwei (Abe)</td>
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<td><strong>Travel and Trade in the Aitape Area, Northern Coast of Papua New Guinea</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCR Seminar by Maria Wronska-Friend</td>
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<td><strong>Topic First, But What Comes Next? Predicational Features Expressed in Second Position in Australian Languages</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCRC Seminar by David Osgarby</td>
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<td><strong>Adjective Classes in Some Formosan Languages</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCRC Workshop by Chia-Jung Pan</td>
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<td><strong>Island of the Hungry Ghosts</strong>&lt;br&gt;ALTAR Free Film Screening</td>
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<td><strong>Toward the Publication of Ignace Chome’s Old Zamuco Dictionary</strong>&lt;br&gt;LCRC Seminar by Luca Ciucci</td>
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<td>TARL Seminar Series commencing 01 March&lt;br&gt;For details view: <a href="http://www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/upcoming-events/">www.cairnsinstitute.jcu.edu.au/upcoming-events/</a></td>
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