Welcome!

The Institute is pleased to welcome members of our new External Advisory Board, and grateful for their time and contributions. Members include Debbie -Anne Bender, Acting CEO, Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Dr Phil Flint, Area Manager North Queensland, Mission Australia, Margaret Gurney, Regional Director, Department of Education and Training (Cairns), Chris Le Serve, Director, Jobs and Regional Growth for FNQ, Glenys Schuntner, CEO RDA Townsville and North West Qld, and Carole Sweatman, CEO, Terrain NRM.

We also welcome Hurriyet Babacan, former Director of The Cairns Institute, who is joining us as Professor of Regional Development. Hurriyet will be contributing to, among other things, the Regional Economies Centre of Excellence, a collaborative initiative involving JCU, the University of Southern Queensland, Central Queensland University and the University of Queensland, with financial support from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

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researchers, students and our broader community of stakeholders. No institution has a monopoly on ideas, and it is a basic principle of social justice that people get to have a say about the things they value.

One of the most rewarding aspects of hosting TEDxJCUCairns since 2014 has been the opportunity to meet and showcase genuine social innovators – people who have imagined better futures for their community and taken real (and sometimes brave) steps to realise those futures. Facilitating development of a social enterprise network for Northern Australia is the next, concrete step for us in promoting social innovation across the region.

Innovation (noun). The introduction of something new. A new idea, method, device etc.

I recall being told several years ago that the university I was working for didn’t do much innovation. Being a research intensive university we were, very demonstrably, coming up with new ideas all the time. Creative and performing arts programs were also producing consistently thought provoking work. On what basis could anyone claim there was a deficit of innovation?

The answer, of course, lay in the difficulty we had demonstrating impact outside the university. When people say ‘innovation’, often what they really mean is commercialisation. Sometimes they’ll accept adoption by policy-makers. Other times they mean something high tech. Or ‘disruptive’. Seldom do they mean fundamental science or participation in the intellectual and cultural life of the community.

Absent from a lot of rhetoric about innovation is any kind of moral imperative.

But we do need to look beyond the prevailing rhetoric. New ideas and approaches are needed to meet the social and environmental challenges of our time. And universities have a crucial role to play in the development, evaluation and dissemination of new ideas and approaches.

There is certainly plenty of creativity evident in the activities of Cairns Institute researchers. Perhaps more important though is the collaboration evident between Institute researchers, students and our broader community of stakeholders. No institution has a monopoly on ideas, and it is a basic principle of social justice that people get to have a say about the things they value.

One of the most rewarding aspects of hosting TEDxJCUCairns since 2014 has been the opportunity to meet and showcase genuine social innovators – people who have imagined better futures for their community and taken real (and sometimes brave) steps to realise those futures. Facilitating development of a social enterprise network for Northern Australia is the next, concrete step for us in promoting social innovation across the region.
Jennifer Deger is an anthropologist, filmmaker, and occasional curator who has built a research career committed to promoting non-traditional forms of scholarship and social engagement. Originally trained as a journalist, with experience as a documentary and radio producer with the ABC and BBC, Jennifer cares deeply about communicating beyond disciplinary boundaries and, indeed, beyond the academy. Both her written and digital work experiment with form and content in order to tell lively stories about social transformation and struggle without simplifying or otherwise imposing pre-made categories and expectations.

Jennifer’s ongoing research with Yolngu media makers, which began in the early 1990s in the days of SuperVHS and mini discs, is probably the most long-term study of Indigenous media ever undertaken. As a co-founder of Miyarrka Media, an arts collective based in the Yolngu community of Gapuwiyak, NT, Jennifer has collaborated on a number of award-winning exhibitions and documentaries with Yolngu colleagues. In 2014, Miyarrka Media curated and installed a pop-up exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Later that year they installed the show, Gapuwiyak Calling: phone-made media from Arnhem Land, in The Cairns Institute. In 2017 Miyarrka Media were commissioned to create an interactive touch screen artwork called Warwuyun (worry) for the Group Therapy exhibition at UNSW Galleries in conjunction with the Big Anxiety Festival in Sydney; they also participated in an exhibition on experimental ethnography in Taipei. These and other collaborative research outputs with Miyarrka Media show how a combination of creativity and collaboration can provide the basis of a research ethos that allows for new kinds of scholarship for the digital era.

Jennifer’s most recent collaboration, an online project called Feral Atlas, takes her interest in new directions to explore the more-than-human Anthropocene. For the past four months, Jennifer has been based at Aarhus University, Denmark working with the Nils Bohr Professor, Anna Tsing, and the AURA team (Aarhus University Research on the Anthropocene), designing a website that aims to make a novel contribution to the environmental and digital humanities. Feral Atlas is about the violent folly of human aspiration to mastery as it takes form through infrastructural processes and landscape modification projects. To be published by a university press as a peer-reviewed, open-access website, Feral Atlas will feature more than sixty entries by leading scientists, humanists and artists sharing field-based observations of the ecological damage caused by human-enabled ‘feral entities’ such marine plastics, radioactive blueberries, and, of course, cane toads.

Jennifer Deger joined JCU as an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and a Tropical Leader in the College of Arts, Society and Education in 2014. The following year she established the Video, Digital, Material Research Group with Professors Rosita Henry and Ton Otto which now supports a flourishing cohort of PhD students working with experimental ethnographic methods. In 2017, together with Robyn Glade-Wright and Maxine Newlands, Jennifer established the Creative Ecologies Research Group, which earlier this year curated the popular Plasticene Marine exhibition at The Cairns Institute.

Jennifer is also President-elect of the Australian Anthropological Society. She is co-convening this year’s annual anthropology conference, at The Cairns Institute in December with the theme, Life in an Age of Death.

In her final year of high school Jennifer was advised to drop art and instead take up an additional unit of economics. She regrets this decision to this day.
UPNG Twinning goes from strength to strength

The Twinning Partnership continues to go from strength to strength in delivering cross-institutional benefits to the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and James Cook University (JCU).

The Twinning Partnership is a product of UPNG’s and JCU’s desire to work together to expand cooperation and the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and expertise in areas of mutual interest. The partnership is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Palladium’s Education Capacity Development Facility.

On 14 May 2018, UPNG and JCU signed an Agreement to extend the project from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. To reflect the joint-institutional agreement it was decided to rename the Twinning Project the ‘UPNG/JCU Twinning Partnership’.

The Agreement for Stage 2 of the Twinning Partnership is the outcome of the MOU signed on 13 December 2017, which endorsed UPNG and JCU’s continued collaboration in areas of mutual interest and to work together to promote, sustain, and strengthen quality assurance and accreditation agenda in the provision of higher education in PNG and the Asia Pacific region.

Since its inception in 2015, JCU and UPNG have been delivering programs and activities in cooperation with each other that are assisting UPNG improve its teaching and learning capability whilst expanding JCU’s teaching, research, and learning base in PNG.

Through the project, JCU and UPNG have established a closer relationship between academic, professional, and technical staff. These relationships have continued to be of benefit to both institutions and countries in terms of ongoing collaboration and attracting research and other funding to sustain momentum in the goals of the partnership.

As a result of the partnership, 22 UPNG staff now hold a Graduate Certificate of Education (GCE) Academic Practice qualification from JCU. Informal discussions with graduates have highlighted the significant value of developing a scholarly and research informed approach to teaching in discipline, with sustainable benefits for building teaching capability and student learning. Capacity building undertaken during the delivery of the GCE has enabled UPNG staff to deliver a similar qualification to their staff (Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education). To enhance these strengths, further support for the development of a community of practice in quality teaching will be provided in Stage 2 to ensure the sustainability of benefits.

A key initiative of the Twinning partnership was the PNG IMPACT Conference in December 2017, attended by 377 people including 130 presenters. Hosted by the UPNG and JCU, PNG IMPACT showcased a cross-section of research projects, across the sciences, social sciences and humanities, delivering significant societal benefit for PNG. Equal numbers of women and men presented at the conference and a relatively equal gender balance was also evident among participants more broadly. Non-university sectors, public and private, were well represented. The partners believe the conference was successful in promoting cross-disciplinary dialogue and awareness of the social benefits of research, and are committed to co-hosting similar events in future.

The success of Stage 1 has provided a solid foundation for partners to continue to collaborate to strengthen teaching, learning and research outcomes in PNG and the broader Asia Pacific Region. The second stage of the UPNG/JCU Twinning Partnership continues to go from strength to strength in delivering cross-institutional benefits to the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and James Cook University (JCU).
Partnership will continue implementing a longitudinal and systematic approach to enhance research and teaching and learning. The proposed scope strongly aligns with the Australian National Strategy for International Education 2025, as well as PNG’s National Higher and Technical Education Strategic Implementation Plan (2017-2038) and will further assist the UPNG to meet international quality standards in both teaching and research.

For more information on the Twinning Partnership, please contact the Project Manager, Dr Jennifer Gabriel.

UPNG Twinning cont.

(Continued from page 4)

Jackson Clark: Casual event assistant

Some of you may have seen Jackson Clark around the Institute. Jackson joined us as a casual event assistant last year. So far, Jackson has been given a wide variety of duties from arranging giant letters for a photo shoot, taking notes at meetings, assisting with AV and general event set up.

Others may be familiar with Jackson as he is a member of the Yarrabah Brass Band which last year gave a TEDxJCUCairns performance. Jackson plays the trumpet and has a deep love for music. Jackson is a creative media student at JCU and also works as a ‘trolley boy’ part time.
ALTAR news

Anthropological Laboratory for Tropical Audiovisual Research (ALTAR) continues in its fifth year with public screenings at The Cairns Institute. The films of the last year initiated conversation about the Anthropocene—the new geological epoch. The 2018 film screenings continue to portray the theme and engage the audience in reflecting upon the ideas of many who are not ignorant to the shattering matters and consequences of human consumerism, waste pollution, and greed.

The first film in 2018, Albatross was screened in conjunction with the exhibition Plasticene Marine. A great visual ethnography about the birds at a remote Pacific island presented by Chris Jordan, it makes a powerful statement about the plastic pollution faced by the species who do not understand the reasons of their dying. The second film, Age of Consequences directed by Jared P. Scott, argues that the social, political, and economic instability of many places around the world is caused by the climate change, which makes the conflicts more probable. An example being the long-lasting conflict in Syria which started with a drought. The shortage of water, which has become a problem in Syria and also in Africa, led to crisis and consequently to political conflicts. Water becomes an instrument of war, unrest leads to poverty, and poverty leads to migration. People have to re-adapt and they are becoming more resilient and resistant as well.

The third film, Donna Haraway: Story Telling for Earthly Survival is an audio-visual experiment and in the same time a narrative classic and a film portrait. In the film, Haraway brings together her home environment, her thoughts and concerns about earthlings and their future. She is one of the people debating the name of the new geological era, suggesting chthulucence to be the name; a mixed assemblage of climate refugees, elder gods and nature deities living together.

On 22 August 2018 we will screen Plastic China. Directed by Jiu-Liang Wang (2017), the film explores how the work of recycling plastic waste with bare hands takes a toll not only on health, but also the dilemma of poverty, disease, pollution and death. All of this to eek out a daily living.

Watch for dates at JCU Events, TCI Events, emails, and ALTAR films Facebook and/or Twitter. Also email us at altarjcu@gmail.com

Many scholars debate the name of the new geological epoch. Should we call it chthulucence, plasticene, or capitalocene? The general public, however, does’t really care what it is called, but does understand the necessity and urgency to do something. But what is that something precisely? The term, Anthropocene, is everywhere. It became a virus; the most used word of 2014. In a fact, the term came about by thinking of anthropology as one can learn from the documentary by Steve Bradshaw, Anthropocene the movie.

The Anthropocene as a Gift to Anthropology? This may sound funny, but it was brought to light by French philosopher Bruno Latour in his speech at the American Anthropological Association conference in 2014. He names IT a Gift to Anthropology because the issues currently discussed by scientists of other disciplines in relation to climate change, landscape, and socio-cultural conflicts have always been in the centre of anthropological focus.

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ALTAR news cont.

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Latour talks about the features where anthropology meets Anthropocene. One of them is the anthropocentric view, which is normal for anthropologists, but it is quite shocking for geologists. All other disciplines try to make bones and divinities work together, which is a long-debated issue among anthropologists in relation to understanding life through deities and spirits embedded in the landscape. Another feature is responsibility. The Anthropos are pushed into the centre and are no more a passive entity in natural history. This human, however, is not one united agent shaping the Earth, but many and with different intensity and responsibilities. The final element to mention here is urgency and political relevance; that is the sense of doing something. The whole academic world pushes the issue of climate change to the forefront, to assemble the humans on newly defined territories. Latour says “exactly the problems raised by anthropologists long ago!”

Thus, is this Gift an opportunity to finally re-define human and non-human relationships? Is it a capacity to change the course of distraction by diplomacy, negotiation, and gift-exchange? And lastly, making of anthropological accounts finally politically relevant? Well, it is all of these, and the responsibility is not only of the anthropologists! As Christian Parenti says “we owe it ourselves and the next generation inheriting the mess!” The Cairns Institute brings the innovative ideas to the light and to the public through community engagement and variety of disciplines.

Daniela Vávrová
ALTAR

ALTAR film and research

Skin has Eyes and Ears: An Audio-visual Ethnography in a Sepik Society (2014, 83 mins), a film made by ALTAR’s Daniela Vávrová, has been screened at yet another ethnographic film festival in Poland, Eyes And Lenses 2018, 4–6 May in Warsaw. The film trailer can be watched, and her PhD thesis bearing the same title can be accessed through the JCU website. Considering ALTAR’s aims to promote practice-led research, Vávrová’s film is a unique research outcome.

The film, An Extraordinary Wedding: Marriage and Modernity in Highlands, Papua New Guinea (2018, 55 mins), by Rosita Henry and Daniela Vávrová, has been finalised and released for distribution to ethnographic film festivals. It will also be used in teaching of undergraduate students in anthropology at JCU. Two years of editing the film was a complex process as it was discussed back and forth with the participants in the film. Henry and Vávrová published an article about making the film in the journal Anthrovision.
Aboriginal settlement in Australia was no accident

James Cook University researchers working to solve the mystery of how Aboriginal people first reached Australia say the earliest people didn’t get here by accident, but made deliberate voyages to reach the new land.

Scientists have combined sophisticated deep sea mapping, voyage simulation techniques, and genetic information to show that the first arrivals were made by sizeable groups of people purposely voyaging between islands.

The new research, from a multidisciplinary team of experts at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH), which includes JCU researchers, shows the first people to arrive in this country are unlikely to have drifted by accident across the seas to the north of Australia.

Rather, they appear to have been skilled maritime people who deliberately targeted islands to reach our shores.

Using sophisticated modelling, similar to techniques used to search for the wreckage of missing Malaysian Airlines plane MH370, the research team simulated hundreds of voyages to track likely routes of vessels leaving three sites on the islands of Timor and Roti. They took many factors into account, including winds, ocean currents and paddling.

“Our results show that colonisation of Australia was no accident,” said lead researcher Professor Michael Bird of James Cook University. “The modelling shows that accidental drifting was unlikely to lead to successful crossings and that arrival on the now submerged northwest coast was the result of deliberate boat journeys.”

The study provides new evidence that the first Aboriginal people to colonise the continent before 50,000 years ago, did so via planned and coordinated marine voyaging.

Genetic results suggest that more than 100-200 people made the voyage to a string of more than 100 habitable but now submerged islands strung off the Kimberley coast of northwest Australia.

Professor Sean Ulm, Deputy Director of CABAH, said the research, published in the leading journal Quaternary Science Reviews, means we need to re-think the maritime capabilities of our human ancestors.

“Purposeful voyaging on this scale relied on advanced cognitive, linguistic, symbolic and technical capabilities,” he said. “It would have required construction of watercraft and well-developed navigation technology as well as planning and information sharing ahead of an open ocean voyage lasting up to a week.”

CABAH brings together expertise from diverse academic disciplines to answer fundamental questions about the natural and human history of our region, including how and when people first came to Australia.

Resources: See multimedia content and an animation of the simulated sea voyage.
Getting connected

Getting connected in the bush: Connectivity and digital inclusion in Far North Queensland agricultural communities.

Dr Amber Marshall has joined the Institute as an Adjunct Research Fellow to investigate consumer needs and issues relating to the provision and use of internet services in rural and remote Australia. Specifically, she’s looking at digital inclusion on remote cattle stations in the Northern Gulf, Far North Queensland.

Fieldwork commenced with her attendance at the Basalt Bash, a rural women’s event held in Mount Surprise from 29-31 May 2018 by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (partner to the project) and AgForce Queensland. Here, Amber engaged remote women in interviews and focus groups about their experiences of internet accessibility, affordability and digital literacy.

Amber gained her doctorate from the University of Queensland Business School in 2016. She has a passion to empower bush-based organisations and individuals to convert connectivity into meaningful social and economic outcomes, and thereby develop regional Australia. Amber is no stranger to living in the bush, having recently spent four years in Chillagoe (Far North Queensland) and Kings Canyon/Watarrka (Central Australia, NT).

Professor Allan Dale is supervising the project which is funded by the Australian Consumer Communication Action Network (ACCAN). He’s keen to help policy makers and communication advocates understand how rural and remote consumers’ lives and livelihoods are enabled/constrained by (lack of) connectivity and digital ability.

This research is one of the first qualitative investigations of the reality of digital in/exclusion in rural and remote areas. It will give a voice to consumers who are among the most isolated and digitally excluded in Australia.
Unserdeutsch documentation project

The Unserdeutsch Documentation Project is a JCU collaboration with the University of Augsburg, Bavaria. In the 1970s, Cairns Institute Adjunct Professor Craig Volker was a high school German teacher on the Gold Coast and a master’s student in search of a thesis topic. He found his topic when a new student transferred from Rabaul, Papua New Guinea (PNG), speaking German with a perfect accent but a very strange grammar. When he found out that she had never studied German at school, but had learned it as a home language, he knew he had his topic—the world’s only known creole based on German, Rabaul Creole German or Unserdeutsch ("Our German"). His master’s thesis was the first description of the language and became his introduction to describing languages in PNG, where he continues to live.

Three decades later, Professor Péter Maitz at the University of Augsburg learned of this work and that with the dispersal of the once tightly knit community from PNG to various cities in Australia, Unserdeutsch is no longer being passed on to children and is in danger of becoming extinct with only Volker’s thesis to record it. With funding from the German Research Foundation, Maitz invited Volker to work with him to record a corpus from the remaining 100 speakers of the language in Australia and PNG, all aged over 50. Together, they began to prepare a more thorough phonological, grammatical, and sociolinguistic description of the language. During the project’s three years, Volker visited the University of Augsburg three times, where he taught classes in Tok Pisin and other subjects relevant to the project, while Maitz visited The Cairns Institute twice, the second time with graduate students from the project who presented a seminar about their work in Cairns.

According to Maitz, for many years the existence of a German-based creole and a Melanesian-German community was ignored by scholars in Europe. Volker says that this project is a contribution towards overcoming what he calls "Germany’s colonial amnesia".
Out of the Blue Box Innovation Challenge

The Cairns Institute co-hosted Hack the Reef in April 2018, and the event identified a number of innovative ideas on how to reduce marine plastics were formed. One of the event partners, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), has developed an Out of the Blue Box Innovation Challenge in partnership with Tiffany & Co. Foundation, the University of Queensland and SecondMuse.

They are on a global search for ideas that have the potential to support coral reef recovery, with the chosen idea/s awarded up to $300,000 of funding.

Out of the Blue Box are looking for solutions through a lens of technology or finance, or through a unique way of approaching the world. Applications close 3 September 2018. For more information visit www.outofthebluebox.org

Thinking Beyond Borders Conference

With support of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and sponsoring bodies, the Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation held the 2018 regional Indigenous Protected Areas & Economic Development Conference: Thinking Beyond Borders at the Cairns Institute, JCU on 19-20 June 2018.

The focus of the conference was to provide a platform for sharing and creating meaningful economic and social impact from thinking beyond borders, and investing in land, people and culture through the development of Indigenous owned businesses.

The demographic area for the conference extended from Townsville upwards to the Torres Strait and west to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The conference was opened by the Hon Curtis Pitt MP, and JCU Honorary Doctor David Hudson was MC, introducing the broad range of experts including:

- Dale Mundraby, Executive Director, Djunbunji Ltd & MYAC
- Helen Tait, EO Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji PBC
- Josh Walker, Principal Planning, Ethos Urban Planning
- Steve Keating, Department of Innovation, Tourism, Industry Development & the Commonwealth Games
- Dr Natalie Stoeckl, JCU Adjunct Professor
- Joann Schmider, Mamu Traditional Owner
Collective Impact forum

On 2 July 2018, researchers from The Cairns Institute working on the Collective Impact (CI) project in Cairns South, ran a forum at the Institute with a number of researchers from across Far North Queensland (FNQ). Researchers attending worked within JCU’s College of Arts, Society and Education, College of Healthcare Sciences, and College of Public Health, Medical and Vet Sciences in both Cairns and Townsville. Researchers also attended from Central Queensland University’s (CQU) Centre for Indigenous Health Equity Research, located in Cairns.

The project which gave rise to the forum is applying a CI framework in Cairns South. CI is designed to facilitate and strengthen collaborative efforts between government, non-government and community members to address a particular complex social issue in a specific location or community: in this instance, improving outcomes of the Early Years Cohort (0-12 year olds) in the southern corridor of Cairns.

The goal of the forum was to develop potential research partnerships between stakeholders engaged with the CI project, including organisations working in and with the community of Cairns South, and researchers with expertise in issues identified through the project as likely to impact on outcomes of the Early Years Cohort.

The forum provided an opportunity for the CI team at The Cairns Institute to give participating researchers an overview of CI and the CI project in Cairns South, and of research and development priorities emerging within the project to date. Potential research issues are broad ranging: from schooling, physical and mental health of children and their parents, to issues that affect the wellbeing and cohesion of the community as a whole (civic values, cultural inclusion, and housing security, for example). The focus of this forum, however, was on community priorities for system reform and the addressing of gaps in budget allocation that leave community needs unmet. The latter priorities have been identified by the project through extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community. The forum represented a first start on aligning these priorities with researcher interests and knowledge and in developing targeted and long-term research collaborations within the region.

Read the latest CI news in the July 2018 Newsletter.
Three outstanding, professional women headlined a public discussion at The Cairns Institute to celebrate NAIDOC week. The free event focused on the invaluable contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait women in line with this year’s NAIDOC theme, *Because of Her We Can*.

Speakers included Torres Shire Council Mayor, Vonda Moar-Malone, Energy and Water Ombudsman Qld Indigenous Outreach Officer, Francine O’Rourke and Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) Director, Libby Lyons.

The event was held in partnership between The Cairns Institute, the Indigenous Education & Research Centre and My Pathways.

Kenny Bedford, a member of the National NAIDOC Committee and My Pathway Associate Director said this year’s NAIDOC week encouraged people to connect with women’s contributions to Indigenous communities and cultures.

“NAIDOC week 2018 provides a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait women to be supported and respected for their role in shaping our Indigenous communities."

“Acknowledging the strength of all women throughout our nation’s history, promotes understanding and paves the way for a more unified and inclusive community” he said.

Everyone in the room was moved by the strength, resilience and inspiration from many generations of Indigenous women. The Institute’s Theme Leader for Indigenous Futures, Dr Felecia Watkin Lui, highlighted Indigenous women as being major change-makers in our community who deserve greater acknowledgement.

“Indigenous women are powerful, resourceful and determined. We have a positive impact across all facets of society from government, education and employment, to maintaining and celebrating our cultural ties,” she said.

The speakers all had very powerful stories and memories of people that they believe “because of her we can.” Francine O’Rourke finished with a powerful poem by Marianne Williamson, that her Mother gave to her.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?” You can view a video of the event [online](#).
Resilient cities

The Cairns Institute co-hosted a seminar and workshop titled *Urban Resilience: how to adapt, survive and thrive in challenging times* with the Cairns Regional Council and supported by the Australian Institute of Architects. The workshop (video linked to Townsville) attracted attendees from Council as well as town planners, architects, academics and community groups.

Maree Grenfell, who presented the workshop, has for the past three years been Melbourne’s Deputy Chief Resilience Officer for the 100 Resilient Cities program—pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, developing and now implementing Melbourne’s first resilience strategy. Prior to this Maree was with the Cairns Regional Council.

The seminar and workshop held on 12 July 2018 explored how we can work differently and more effectively across diverse sectors to respond to future challenges in a strategic and collaborative manner. Resilience is extremely important when we consider we are living in unprecedented complex times where the challenges facing our urban environments range from rapid population growth, urban expansion, cyber-attack and growing social inequity to name a few. Globalisation, urbanisation and climate change are significant global trends being experienced locally, where solutions are often applied in an isolated and reactive manner.

The workshop looked at opportunities for driving resilience across various urban systems, as well as identifying the major risks and stresses to Cairns. It then looked at how we could apply the qualities of resilience in the Cairns Region.

“Globalisation, urbanisation and climate change are significant global trends being experienced locally, where solutions are often applied in an isolated and reactive manner.”

Graph adapted from [www2.deloitte.com/](http://www2.deloitte.com/)
The CRCNA’s 2017/18 open funding call, attracted 115 Expressions of Interest, requesting more than $110m in funding. With several submissions received from stakeholders across the cropping sector, the CRCNA saw an opportunity to bring this group together to discuss synergies and project opportunities for developing the northern Queensland broadacre cropping sector.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting with others joining via video link from the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Key industry priorities were discussed and the group has been invited to work collaboratively on building projects to be considered by the CRCNA.

Broadacre cropping in northern Queensland

The Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) recently hosted a meeting at the JCU Townsville City Campus for key stakeholders of northern Australia and northern Queensland broadacre cropping sector. Facilitated by Allan Dale, JCU’s Professor of Tropical Regional Development and attended by CRCNA CEO Jed Matz and Project Officer Kristin Nunn, the meeting aimed to forge a clear strategic approach for industry development and the establishment of research priorities.

The CRCNA is investing $75m of Commonwealth funds over ten years to support industry-led research collaborations. The funding will develop new technologies, products and services which address industry issues in northern Australia within three areas; agriculture and food, northern health service delivery and Traditional Owner-led business development.
Visiting linguist

David Felipe Guerrero-Beltran, an MA student in Linguistics from the National University of Colombia (UNAL), recently completed his Visiting Fellowship at the Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC) at JCU in Cairns. Whilst working under the supervision of Distinguished Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald and Dr Kasia Wojtylak, David has begun to unravel how space is expressed linguistically in Karijona, an endangered Cariban language from Northwest Amazonia.

As a Visiting Fellow, David gave a number of talks at the LCRC. Topics included: ‘Karijona number system’ (28 March 2018), ‘Karijona postpositions’ (9 May 2018), and ‘Fieldwork experiences among the Karijona’ (6 July 2018).

The main outcome of David’s fellowship is a paper entitled ‘Placing, feeling, and knowing: the system of postpositions in Karijona (Cariban, Northwest Amazonia)’. Co-authored with Dr Wojtylak, in July it was submitted to the specialised peer-review journal, Lingua. Together with Dr Wojtylak and Prof Camilo Robayo (Professor in Linguistics at UNAL), in June, David submitted a research grant application to the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research to document Karijona oral literature.

David’s visit at the LCRC will undoubtedly leave a mark on his personal and professional life. Thanks to the valuable feedback from his advisors, he has significantly expanded his knowledge of descriptive linguistics. From Prof R.M.W. Dixon, Dr Luca Ciucci, Dr Alexander Walker, and Mr Firew Girma he learned not only about the linguistics, but also about the life of a linguist.

David’s research at LCRC was supported by the Australian Linguistic Society Research Grant and the Merit Fellowship for Postgraduate Students of the UNAL.
Bama IP framework for Mossman Botanic Garden

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live, work and learn and pay our respects to the Kuku Yalanji Elders past, present and future."

Mossman Botanic Garden (MBG) is a Mossman initiative with the vision to demonstrate globally the crucial role that rainforests, including Australia’s tropical rainforests, play in humanity’s future prosperity and survival of life on earth within the guiding theme of the world’s oldest living rainforest and the world’s longest surviving culture.

MBG has purchased 20 acres of cane land in the heart of Mossman through a federal government grant and has developed a Master Plan (see vimeo.com/163780245 for a virtual flythrough). It is now at the strategic planning stage before seeking funding for the actual building of the garden. The strategic plan has at its core the mission that MBG will provide a leading, living-display of biodiversity to enable and advance scientific and cultural knowledge capture, skill development and understanding of the crucial role these forests play. This is complemented by communicating the extraordinary relationships between the world’s most ancient living rainforest and humanity’s longest surviving culture.

Communicating these authentic relationships, and providing unique experiences will consequently need to be underpinned by strong foundations of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Biocultural Knowledge (subsequently referred to as Bama IP). If the garden is to offer connection and enable visitation success, it is recognised that the involvement of the Indigenous Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Bama) is a valued and integral component of the garden. Consequently, MBG offers a platform for social and economic development and can lead to unprecedented opportunities for the Bama. Recognising this, Cairns Institute Adjunct Rebecca Pearse is working voluntarily with the MBG Eastern Kuku Yalanji subcommittee’s Chair, Linc Walker, and advisor, Sheryl Burchill. Simon Towle, also a Cairns Institute Adjunct, is supporting Bama interests through his position on the Board of MBG. Also involved in an informal capacity is Darren Crayn (Australian Tropical Herbarium), Gerry Turpin (Tropical Indigenous Ethnobotany Centre) and John Locke (BioCultural Consulting).

The development of MBG Strategic Plan is considered an opportune time to lay out a framework for the identification, securitisation and development of Bama IP. These interested parties recently convened at a meeting hosted by The Cairns Institute to discuss how to implement the Bama IP Framework.

The identification, securitisation and protection of ethnobotanical intellectual property is the first step towards determining any use of Bama IP by MBG. The second step is to negotiate the use of appropriate Bama IP through a licence and royalty arrangement. After this, ethnobotanical research can begin and products can be developed. As well as ensuring the garden design is informed by traditional knowledge and practiced custom, the use of Bama IP will facilitate education and knowledge transfer, procure employment opportunities, and ensure Bama economic and social development.

Rebecca Pearse and Simon Towle
Cairns Institute Adjuncts
Next year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of *The Journal of Environmental Education*. To mark this occasion we are publishing a 50th Anniversary special double issue edited by Paul Hart and Bob Stevenson (Cairns Institute Adjunct Professor), titled “A 50 Year Retrospective on Environmental Education Inquiry: Recognizing the past and challenging the future.” Our intent is to acknowledge what has been learned from those 50 years of environmental education (EE) research as a means to explore new ways of looking forward to where the field might and should be heading. Fourteen internationally renowned scholars who have either lived the history of the field, or who are recognised as already moving into the future of the field, have been invited to contribute to this special issue.

For much of its history, beginning with founding editor, the journal only published empirical-analytic or positivist methodological research as the dominant approach in the pure and applied sciences. As reflected in the 40th Anniversary special issue, the field of environmental education research, especially in the United States, has largely been concerned with studies of changing or measuring (individual) environmentally responsive behaviours. In the last 10 years the current executive editors (Bob Stevenson, Paul Hart and Hilary Whitehouse) have made a concentrated effort to broaden the scope of research published in the journal across diverse theoretical and methodological developments in re(conceptualising) educational and social science research. Accordingly, the statement of Aims and Scope were changed to reflect new beginnings:

The *Journal of Environmental Education* (JEE) is a research-oriented, refereed periodical intended to provide a forum for critical and constructive debate on all aspects of research, theory and practice in environmental and sustainability education (ESE). Publication of diverse theoretical and methodological approaches and perspectives for international audiences is aimed at improving the quality of research and practice in the fields of ESE. Articles are encouraged that focus on methodological issues, challenges to existing theoretical discourses, conceptual work that links theory and practice and that crosses disciplinary boundaries.

To be published submissions must advance the contemporary theory and/or practice of environmental or sustainability education. Papers are judged on their merit as demonstrations of sound scholarship across diverse methodological and representational approaches for broad audiences of scholars, policymakers and practitioners.

Given dramatic changes in climate(s), shrinking polar ice and melting permafrost, and growing sociocultural inequalities that may foreshadow a disruptive and fractured ecological and social order, theory and praxis in social and educational research is also changing. Researchers are facing unprecedented issues of complexity, uncertainty and contestation. These global and research contexts present challenges and opportunities for ESE.

Invited authors have been asked to draw from their own perspective(s) to first explore the extent to which current theory and/or practice of environmental and sustainability education has and/or has not been advanced over the past 50 years, addressing the following related questions:

- How should the field of ESE research and practice respond to the ecological and socio-cultural imperatives around the globe in view of the (post)human and non-human condition?
- How might we (re)think about EE/ESE research in view of current challenges and critiques of the field?

This special double issue will be published in mid-2019.
Global Dialogue on Relational Leadership

The Cairns Institute hosted the Fourth Global Dialogue on Relational Leadership and Learning for Hopeful and Sustainable Futures, with a strong focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals on 9 and 10 July 2018, with a field trip to Yarrabah on 11 July.

The aim of this dialogue, the fourth in an annual series, was to inspire, explore and challenge educators to explore the primacy of relationships in learning and leading, the need to be hope filled in all they do, and to develop polices, practices, and living arrangements that are accessible, fair and sustainable regardless of culture, politics, or race.

The three-day event attracted senior educators from across Australia and around the world committed to progressing a greater role, significance and place for relational leadership and learning in education and vocations of all kinds, in communities, in personal and professional contexts, with nature and the built environment.

The first dialogue convened in Santa Fe, focused on describing and defining Relational Leadership and Learning and its critical importance in uncovering a way forward in an increasingly challenging, globalising world.

The second gathering, at Flinders University in Adelaide, honoured local South Australian stories and their global connections, and confirmed that humans are engaged in a process of reclaiming relational knowing.

Dialogue creator, Prof George Otero from the University of New Mexico said that educators are starting to access the

(Continued on page 20)
“space between” as a relational space, a place of learning, of growth and of love. These practices had been discarded by western society, but have been maintained by traditional Indigenous communities throughout the world. The global term for honouring the space between us is ceremony, which is our point of departure for the upcoming dialogue.

To most people, ceremony is an event consisting of prayer, dance, music, and singing. Educators, however, have come to understand it as the practices we engage in daily, collectively and intentionally, to honour our presence in each other’s lives, to give thanks for the gifts the universe bestows and to nurture all relationships. “Relational leadership and learning is now the language of our work” (George Otero, 26/7/16).

The third dialogue held in New Mexico in July 2017, shared practices from a variety of contexts including community organising and development, school and family partnerships, Indigenous and traditional movements, environmental, economic and social justice, and early childhood education.

In Cairns, the fourth dialogue centred on four questions:

- Who am I?
- Who are we?
- What’s worth learning?
- How can we learn this together?

Keynote speakers included Prof George Otero and Assistant Professor Sheri Williams from the University of New Mexico who spoke on relational leadership in New Mexico and Australia.

Emeritus Prof John Halsey from Flinders University led a discussion on relational leading and learning in rural and remote contexts, presenting the results of a year-long national study.

Distinguished Professor David Giles, also from Flinders University, explored the primacy of relationships in leading and learning, while Tammie Meehan, Principal of Willaura Primary School shared her experience on ‘intuitive leadership’ in rural Victoria.

Ms Prue Gill shared her experience from developing sustainability programs at a boarding school in Uganda.

Following a Welcome to Country by Mr Gavin Singleton on behalf of the Yirrganydji people, the dialogue was opened and closed by Distinguished Professor Stewart Lockie, Director of The Cairns Institute.

Critical discussions were led and facilitated by Cairns Institute Adjunct Senior Research Fellow Dr Roxanne Bainbridge and Adjunct Research Fellow Simon Towle, who with Mr Torres Webb from CSIRO Cairns campus, led the field trip to Yarrabah.
TEDxJCUCairns 2018

This year’s TEDxJCUCairns, the fourth annual event, will be held on Saturday 27 October 2018, but there are also some lead-up events.

TEDxJCUCairns at Open Day

TEDxJCUCairns will also be a part of the JCU Cairns Campus Open Day [www.jcu.edu.au/open-day](http://www.jcu.edu.au/open-day)

If you are like many who watch TEDx talks and feel a little disappointed that you can’t ask questions about the idea or the presenter, well now is your chance. On Sunday 26 August 2018 we are fortunate enough to have three previous TEDxJCUCairns speakers from 2017 to answer your questions.

- **Krista Watkins** shared with us her family’s amazing journey that has seen them turn waste into a high demand global product, Green Banana Flour. Krista’s innovation and drive won her the [2018 Queensland Agrifutures Australia Rural Women’s Award](http://www.jcu.edu.au/) and she is in the running to be the National Rural Woman of the year.

- Also joining us from 2017 is **Zoe Pertiwi**, a 16 year old student and slam poet from Cairns State High. Zoe will show her talk and if we are lucky, she may even perform another poem.

- **Andreas Kupz**, a National Medical Research Council (NHMRC) CJ Martin Research Fellow within the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM) at JCU, will talk about his research trying to find a way of stopping TB, a disease that has killed millions of people.

More details can be found on the [Open Day](http://www.jcu.edu.au/) website, and there is always plenty to do and see at Open Day. You can catch Krista at 11.30am, Zoe at 1pm and Andreas at 2pm.

Pitch night

TEDxJCUCairns this year hosted a Pitch Night to members of the community to present their big ideas. The Pitch Night was held at the Salt House in Cairns on 31 July at 6.30pm with Adam Stephen from ABC Far North the host. It was not a competition, just a chance to share an idea with the community. Some of these ideas might end up on the TEDxJCUCairns stage on Saturday 27 October. It was a great way to test an idea in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, with only three minutes to make an impression!
TEDxJCUCairns 2018 speakers

We are very excited to announce two of this year’s TEDxJCUCairns speakers. They will join over 50 speakers who have graced the stage of TEDxJCUCairns since we started in 2014, generating around half a million Youtube views worldwide.

**Gavin Singleton** was born in Cairns and has family connections to Cairns (Yirrganydji), Cape York (Umpila) and Central Queensland (Kalkadoon). In 2018, Gavin received a Community Champions Cassowary Award from the Wet Tropics Management Authority and was selected as a baton bearer for the Queen’s Baton Relay at the Commonwealth Games.

As a graduate from Curtin University, with Honours in Applied Science, Gavin is a passionate cultural, environmental, and community development practitioner. Gavin has attended, presented and performed at events across the globe including the Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum in India, IUCN World Parks Congress in Australia, United Nations Oceans Conference in New York, and the Convention on Biological Diversity Pacific Regional Training Workshop in New Zealand.

Gavin currently works in Cairns as a Project Officer for the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation managing the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Program.

**Dr Sandip Kamath – AITHM NHMRC Research Fellow** is one of the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine’s (AITHM) key researchers working in the field of allergy. His work focuses on identifying novel methods to understand allergenic proteins to help reduce food allergies in humans.

From an early age, Dr Kamath had a deep fascination with science. A school lecture on how genes translated to proteins resulted in his passion for biotech research, with a focus on translational mechanisms. He also had a strong desire to see his work help people.

After graduating in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Mumbai, and a year working for a pharma consultancy, Dr Kamath moved to Australia in 2006 to complete a Masters in Biotechnology at RMIT. He later joined Professor Andreas Lopata at JCU in Townsville to establish the Molecular Immunology Research Group in the College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences. Dr Kamath joined AITHM as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in 2015 where he has developed collaborations with institutes in Norway and Canada. In 2016 he was awarded an NHMRC Fellowship to continue his work.
Social Entrepreneurship Forum

A public forum on Social Entrepreneurship in Far North Queensland was convened at the Cairns Institute in May 2018 by Dr Narayan Gopalkrishnan, Fellow with the Cairns Institute and Course Coordinator of the JCU Bachelor of Social Work.

Cheryl Kernot, former Democrats Senator from Queensland and leader of the Australian Democrats, was a keynote speaker at the event which brought together over 80 social entrepreneurs, non-governmental agencies, policy makers, academics and students. Hosted by the Cairns Institute, Cairns Regional Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Centacare FNQ, Mission Australia, Ignite, and enVizion, the event was focused towards exploring the potential for social entrepreneurship in Far North Queensland and to identify future directions.

The forum also showcased a number of social enterprises, including enVizion, The Power of Pallets, The Streets Movement, Clean Care Cairns and Centacare’s CentaOne, just to name a few. The catering was also provided by social enterprises including ARC Café Connect Catering and Mission Australia’s Café One.

Another highlight of the day was the presence of the enVizion bus that enabled participants to experience virtual reality and its application to training and recruitment purposes.

Key future directions identified from the forum included:
1. The establishment of a Social Enterprise Network for the Tropics (SENT) that would support and grow social enterprises and entrepreneurs in the region, while also enabling broader national and international collaborations
2. The development of an online portal to further these activities
3. The need for marketing and other support activities such as mentoring for social entrepreneurship
4. Research and policy advocacy for social entrepreneurship in FNQ.

Contact Narayan Gopalkrishnan narayan.gopalkrishnan@jcu.edu.au if you are interested in this initiative.
Creative Ecologies workshop

On 16 March 2018 the Institute hosted a one day workshop on art, science and community collaboration in the Anthropocene Exhibition. The workshop was preceded by the Plasticene Marine exhibition opening (see page 27).

Guest speakers included:

- **Professor Iain Duncan McCalman AO**—Co-Director, Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney and Research Professor in history at the University of Sydney. Professor Iain McCalman is a Fellow of four Learned Academies and is a former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He was Director of the Humanities Research Centre, ANU, from 1995-2002 and is a former Federation Fellow.

- **Dr Lucas Ihlein**—University of Wollongong, Chief Investigator, Sugar vs the Reef? Lucas Ihlein is an artist and ARC DECRA Research Fellow in Creative Arts at University of Wollongong. His research uses socially-engaged art to explore cultural innovations in farming, principally in the sugar cane industry in Central Queensland.

- **Kim Williams**—artist and HDR candidate, University of Wollongong. Kim Williams is a practising artist of over thirty years’ experience, working with multimedia installation, sculpture, drawing and printmaking. She is a current PhD candidate at the University of Wollongong, where she completed a Research Masters in Creative Arts (2012), looking at the impact of climate change on the Darling River.

- **Gavin Singleton**—Yirrganydji Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger. Gavin Singleton is from the Yirrganydji (Djabugay) Traditional Owner Group of the coast between Cairns and Port Douglas, North Queensland. He is a Project Officer for the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation who are administering the Yirrganydji Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) as well as the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection’s Crocodile Management service for the Cairns Region.

- **Dr Helen Ramoutsaki**—poet, story-teller and Adjunct Research Fellow, The Cairns Institute. Helen Ramoutsaki is a performing poet, storyteller and educator based in Far North Queensland, where the unique environment of the Wet Tropics region has become one of her great fascinations. Her poetry-in-performance project, *Wet: an appetite for the tropics*, synchronises spoken word with photojournalistic images to evoke the experience of living among sugar cane farms, rainforests and crocodile rivers through the shifting moods of tropical wet and dry seasons.

The workshop was funded by JCU Division of Tropical Environments and Societies.
Early Years Conference 2018

The 2018 Early Years Conference — Today’s Children Tomorrow’s Future, was sold out with over 410 delegates attending. The conference is a collaboration between Mission Australia, the Benevolent Society, QLD Department of Education and Training — Early Childhood Education and Care, the Department of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services, Queensland Health and The Cairns Institute, JCU. This holistic and cross-sectional collaboration provides a unique opportunity to have a strong state and regional focus on the importance of birth to 12 years in regards to evidence based planning with a community collective impact.

Speakers included:

- The Assistant Minister for Children and Families, David Gillespie, MP
- Professor Richie Poulton, Director of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
- Professor Kerry Arabena, Executive Director, First 1000 Days Australia. Director, Indigenous Health Equity Unit and President, International Association of Ecology and Health, The University of Melbourne
- Bob Perry, Emeritus Professor in the School of Education at Charles Sturt University and Director, Peridot Education Pty Ltd.
- Professor Ross Homel, Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, Brisbane
- Dr Charlene Smith, Policy Program Director, Mitchell Institute, Melbourne
- Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Melbourne.
#Me Too A Hypothetical Journey

Bringing back a popular genre of public debate from the eighties, The Cairns Institute in conjunction with the Colleges of Arts, Society & Education, and Business, Law & Governance, hosted a ‘Hypothetical’ discussion event on the topic of the #MeToo movement.

Local Cairns Magistrate, Sandra Pearson, and Special Counsel at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Naomi de Costa, compered a “Geoffrey Robertson” style hypothetical discussion with an eminent panel of Cairns cross sectoral representatives to explore the issues the #MeToo campaign has raised.

There was nothing hypothetical about the guest comperes and panelists assembled from the Cairns community for the event. Comperes questioned members of our community as a story, they had no prior knowledge of, unfolded.

The tone was set by the powerful young slam-poet, Cairns High Student, Zoe Pertiwi, and was supported with design, photography and videography skills by JCU Creative Arts and Media students.

We were delighted to have on the panel:
- Julianne Steer, Cairns Business Women’s Club
- David Warner, Star FM broadcaster
- Barry Courtney, Smithfield State High School Principal
- Professor Lee Stewart, Dean, JCU College of Healthcare Sciences
- Richie Bates, Cairns Councillor
- Jesse Martin, The Streets Movement
- Ruth Venables, QLD Anti-Discrimination Commission
- Casia Betros, JCU 3rd year Law Student.

Over 110 people attended, including teachers, lawyers, health workers, doctors, counsellors, high school students, JCU staff and students, and Cairns Regional Council staff.

We received exceptional feedback from participants and audience members who found it entertaining, but not trite, thought provoking but not maligning or haranguing, and engaging to the point where they were disappointed when it came to an end.

All the panelists would like to repeat the event. Councillor Richie Bates would like to see the Cairns Regional Council be involved again. Similarly, Barry Courtney, Principal of Smithfield High, wants to see this modality taken into schools to generate conversation and explore the issues of bullying. It seems a large percentage of the audience and participants are hoping that, at the very least, this becomes an annual event.

Co-organiser of the event, Dr Anne Stephens said they were very happy with how the event worked on the night. “We have never run an event quite like this before. But the feedback has been extremely positive with several members of the audience wanting to know when and how they can be involved in the next one.”

Watch the event video.
Plasticene Marine Exhibition

During March and April 2018, the Institute foyer featured the Plasticene Marine Exhibition. The impact of plastics on the marine environment which threatens the survival of marine life underpins the current work of artists Robyn Glade-Wright and Barbara Dover. Both artists engage with ecological concerns and aesthetics in a distinctive manner for similar ethical purposes, bringing a sense of disquiet to their artwork. Their aim in making art is to engender reflection about the kind of life (and death) we impose on sentient marine creatures and plant life, and the impact of human agency on the habitat of living species. The deep moral concerns about the ever-increasing amount of plastic that has ended up in the oceans, at play in their works of art, belie the works’ appealing form. Glade-Wright and Dover’s works of art respond to the ecological crisis, drawing on science in their considerations of aesthetics and ethics. These deliberations inform their conflation of beauty and dread, and allure and anxiety and provoke further contemplation of these terms and the effects of plastic on the planet.

Dr Barbara Dover | JCU Alumni: PhD 2008, Master of Creative Arts (cum laude), 2004 | Practicing artist

Barbara’s work investigates our relationship with animals and, more broadly, the natural world, at the intersection of aesthetics and ethics. Her multidisciplinary contemporary art practice examines the familiarities and intricacies of human-animal relations within the understanding of animals as sentient individuals whose moral status, interests and lives matter.

Associate Professor Robyn Glade-Wright | Practicing artist and JCU lecturer

Robyn seeks to create a sense of disquiet in her works of art to engender reflection about the kind of life (and death) we impose on sentient creatures. Robyn’s works of art respond to the ecological crisis of the Anthropocene in a form that conflates beauty and dread, and allure and anxiety to provoke contemplation of these terms in an effort to foster a sustainable future for life on this small planet.
Fourth Developing Northern Australia Conference

The fourth Developing Northern Australia Conference was held in Alice Springs in June 2018. Cairns Institute’s Professor Allan Dale was the Conference Chair and provided the opening address. Keynote speakers included Austrade’s CEO Stephanie Fahey, Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for the Queensland Government, Dr Beth Woods, and Luke Bowen, General Manager of Northern Australia Development and Trade for the NT Government.

The annual conference is hosted by the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc, and this year attracted over 330 delegates. Last year the conference was held in Cairns.

Planning is underway for the Conference’s first visit to Western Australia, with Karratha as the host city in 2019.

Allan Dale said: “This conference provides an excellent opportunity for key stakeholders to come together and focus on Northern Australia. It allows for further discussion on how to best implement and refine the government’s white paper on Developing Northern Australia. Getting the foundations right on how we manage and structure development in Northern Australia is vital.”
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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