



Notre Dame
Nulungu
Talking Heads
Seminar Series

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

Voices for the Mardoowarra

Wednesday 18th September 2019

Venue: UNDA Hall NDB10-101

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Presenter: Dr Anne Poelina

Abstract

The Mardoowarra/ Fitzroy River, at 733 kms is the longest river in the Kimberley region of WA. Its catchment area is almost 100,000km², and the floodplains are up to 15km wide. Management of its catchment is at a crossroad, with diverse and conflicting visions for its future. Today, mining, fossil fuel extraction including unconventional gas, and large-scale irrigated agriculture are some of the invasive development proposals that threaten water security in the Kimberley region. Dr Poelina champions the need to recognise, value and conserve cultural and environmental values of the Mardoowarra by not overdeveloping water resources in the Fitzroy Catchment. The presentation includes a film (30 minutes) to account for the under-recognised and under-counted values of this globally unique River and Indigenous peoples. Importantly, the Mardoowarra's Right to Life, bridging culture and nature starts with explaining and sharing on country; understanding how and why management and protection of the landscape and eco-systems are integral to human heritage and culture. Bringing these threads together, a picture of the River emerges: as a national treasure with ecological, archaeological, heritage and cultural values of global significance.



Biographie

Dr Anne Poelina –Managing Director of Madjulla Inc., Chair Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council; Deputy Chair Walalakoo (Nyikina and Mangala PBC), Master Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Master Education, Master Arts (Indigenous Social Policy), Doctor of Philosophy & Doctor of Health Science Scholar. Dr Poelina is a Nyikina Warrwa Traditional Custodian. Anne is a Peter Cullen Fellow (2011) awarded Laureate Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva) (2017) and recent Board and Councillor with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with Notre Dame University Broome. Her work champions the 'New Economy' opportunities for Indigenous people in relation to green collar jobs in diverse, science, culture, heritage and conservation economies. A vital ingredient is to include Indigenous science - traditional ecological knowledge, First Law and the rights of nature to the solutions for planetary health and wellbeing.

