



Building on the traditions of the past to create a better future.

Fremantle Broome Sydney

## Kimberley Transitions: Collaborating to Care for Our Common Home

May 2019, Edition 2.

Welcome to the second edition of the *Kimberley Transitions* Newsletter. *Kimberley Transitions* is based at Nulungu Research Institute, located on Yawuru Country, Broome. Kimberley Indigenous cultural knowledges, traditions, languages and caring for Country wisdom – and revitalisation – are central to *Kimberley Transitions* work.

*Kimberley Transitions* now involves five PhD projects. The overall project is framed within transition theories and critical Indigenous methodologies, aiming to focus on wisdom, knowledges and ways of knowing overlooked by many mainstream economists and developers.

The research uses the United Nations document entitled: [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (2015) and [Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home](#) (Pope Francis, 2015). At the heart of the message is the question: “*What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?*” Kimberley Transitions is part of a [movement of communities](#) coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world – locally and globally.

### \*Kimberley Transitions overarching project.

#### Assoc Professor Sandra Woollorton

A Senior Research Fellow with the Nulungu Research Institute, Sandra is Project Leader for the Kimberley Transitions project, based in Broome.



### \*Community Development for ecological conversion

**Anne Jennings** will be presenting her research at the World Community Development Conference in Dundee, Scotland, in June 2019.

### \*Transformative learning on sacred ground.



**Jacqui Rémond's** research explores Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* as it applies to learning about spirituality and place in both local and global contexts.

The project will study how 'Integral Ecology' manifests with a school community in the Kimberley and within individual people in diverse educational settings.

### \*Transformative discourses for climate hope.

**Louisa Stedwick's** doctoral project has been developed collaboratively with Caritas Australia. The focus of her research is to build understanding of the fundamental socio-cultural requirements for effective transitions.



She will produce case-studies from the Kimberley, and international communities, to identify critical language, cultural and socio-environmental ways of articulating and enacting hope on climate.

### \*Cultural actions: sustaining Aboriginal lives, livelihoods, landscapes.



#### Dr Anne Poelina

Anne's second doctoral project is identifying 'knowledge gathering and sharing' to strengthen capacity for sustainable life for Aboriginal people and their communities along the entire

length of the Mardoowarra Fitzroy River Catchment. The intention is to honor the Mardoowarra as the life-force for cultural, spiritual, environmental health and well-being of its people, whilst promoting the River as having a right to life. This is the story of New Zealand's [Whanganui](#) River which now has the legal status of a person.

## \*Economic, social and cultural sustainability for West Kimberley's Indigenous communities.



### Arjati (Ari) Schipf.

Ari is working closely and collaboratively with Fitzroy Valley Indigenous groups alongside the local Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALaCC).

Her doctoral research focus is on the future cultural, economic and social sustainability of life in remote settings; examining government policy, legislation and service delivery.

## Kimberley Transitions – SNIPPETS.

- **Kimberley Transitions Website** – Designers are currently finalising the new site and it's looking great! Watch out for notice of the launch and the link to it.

- **Broome Research Week** will be in the last week in June – to discuss research and present "Talking Heads" public lectures. Adjunct Professors Sandy Toussaint and Stephen Muecke

will be in Broome, along with Fulbright Scholar [Dan Sherrell](#). Most of the *Kimberley Transitions* researchers will also be in Broome. Sandy will visit Fitzroy Crossing for research meetings the following week.



- Kimberley Transitions, Incredible Edible Broome and Environs Kimberley presented a film night screening *A New Economy*, with a successful Q&A panel discussion. The film explored the question - What if working together for the good of all was the most common business model? It showed organisations that strive towards building a more cooperative future – by putting humanity before the bottom line.
- The community development research is involved with Broome Waste Management Group and Plastic Free Broome - who have now merged to become *Clean Broome*.
- Sandra presented a 'Talking Heads' seminar on the project last year, describing transitions theory and how all the PhDs will fit with the international Transitions Network ideals.

A paper written by Kimberley Transitions researchers has been submitted for review.

- Funding and other sources of support for the project's research and activities has been provided by:
  - The Diocese of Broome
  - The University of Notre Dame Australia
  - The Knights of the Southern Cross WA
  - Catholic Education WA
  - Caritas Australia
- Anne Jennings has been successful in gaining a donation of \$5,000 from Catholic Church Insurance (CCI) to run a creative and innovative 'World Café' research activity that involves knowledge sharing, where groups of people discuss a topic (ie. *Kimberley Transitions*) across several tables that have been set up like a Cafe. Information is shared at the end of the day with all involved. It will be held on the 18th September this year, and aims to establish strong community-university linkages to strengthen practical action towards the project goals. All welcome - Keep the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept free.
- To date both Anne Poelina and Anne Jennings have published peer-reviewed academic research on behalf of the project.
- Last month *Kimberley Transitions* and Broome CIRCLE House/Clean Broome hosted the film *Rubber Jellyfish* - in collaboration with. (Balloons turn into rubber jellyfish: avoid them!).
- In addition to her PhD studies Anne Jennings is *Kimberley Transitions* Project Coordinator, working on the overarching project at Notre Dame Broome, 1 day per week.

Partners in this collaboration are University of Notre Dame, Nulungu Research Institute, Environs Kimberley, the Catholic Diocese of Broome, Knights of the Southern Cross WA, Incredible Edible Broome, St. Mary's College, Madjulla Inc, Kimberley Catholic Education Office, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, and Broome CIRCLE House.

Kimberley organisations and groups are invited to participate in the movement, and supporters from anywhere in the world are welcome!

For more information relating to *Kimberley Transitions* please email: [anne.jennings@nd.edu.au](mailto:anne.jennings@nd.edu.au)