

NULUNGU NEWSLETTER



JULY 2026



Photo from the Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum 2026

Message from the Director, Assoc Prof Melissa Marshall

It's hard to believe it's been six months since our last newsletter, finding ourselves at the mid-year point in Barrgana season here in Rubibi (Broome). We seem to have found a way to deliver almost a full annual research program in these opening months of the year - building on our community engagement platform inclusive of the launch of the Talking Heads Seminar Series and the Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration of the Chair of Indigenous Studies; support for Marrugeku's In Conversation event about 'Cut the Sky', alongside development of their newest performance 'Ngurragabu'; the team delivered the Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum in partnership with Aarnja Ltd and the First Nations Clean Energy Network; as well as the Climate Adaptation Implementation Forum. In a first this year, we also hosted the Kimberley Aboriginal Fashion Textile Arts (KAFTA) collective in preparation for their runway event. Throughout all of these activities, research continued to be showcased through the seminar series and a huge program for Research Week (aligned with National Reconciliation Week), alongside scaffolded professional development opportunities. We have staged three of these courses already and continue to deliver cross-cultural community-led transdisciplinary research endeavours producing multiple publications and products. With so much activity, innovative thinking of the wonderful Jo Wilkins has seen the advent this year of the Nulungu Monthly Update via email, to keep everyone updated more regularly. Right now though, grab a cuppa and relax as we showcase further many of these events and research activities in the coming pages of this newsletter.

About the artwork
Galgaruru janyba
ngan-ga (Kookaburra
sharing stories) by
Maxine Charlie.

The artwork represents
the different Countries
of the Kimberley:
saltwater, ranges,
desert and river.

The bird is a
kookaburra, travelling
across the region,
keeping stories alive
and people
connected.

Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series Launch

On Wednesday April 1, Gillian Howell and Annika Moses (Tura) along with partners and Educators from Baya Gawi Buga Yani Jandu Yani U, launched the Talking Heads Seminar Series with a presentation entitled 'Buga Yanu Junba: Strengthening First Languages and wellbeing through collaborative songwriting'.

The presenters collectively shared the journey of the collaborative development of the recently-released Buga Yanu Junba, a songbook and companion album of 22 original songs in Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri, and Kimberley Kriol. Developed in partnership with Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre (MWRC), Indigenous Literacy Foundation, the University of Melbourne and Tura, the talk focused on the three-year participatory arts-based research project they had completed as part of Tura's ongoing SoundFX program.

The research pursued a number of interconnected goals: to increase the number of early childhood songs in local languages, strengthen cultural knowledge among young children, and support intergenerational transmission of knowledge from Elders; and to investigate—through participatory action research and the Most Significant Change methodology—how songwriting in First Languages can support healing and wellbeing for educators, children, and families.

The presentation included performances by songwriters from Buga Yanu Junba and discussed research findings about the wellbeing impacts of language songwriting and singing. The project's distinctive contribution is its focus on early childhood educators—a key cohort for sustaining intergenerational language transmission—and how creative collaboration centring local languages supports wellbeing for all participants alongside language strengthening. A phenomenal interactive experiential soundscape awaited all in attendance and was thoroughly appreciated by all.

Emily Carter, (pictured below) CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre gave a powerful opening speech about the projects distinctive contribution being its focus on early childhood educators sustaining intergenerational language transmission.



The full presentation can be viewed [here](#)



The 2026 Talking Heads Seminar Series is now half way through our sixteen presentations scheduled and what a phenomenal year it has been so far. We have had presentations from June Oscar, Thomas Saunders, Willi Lempert and Andy Redfern just to name a few! The recordings are now available for viewing. If you have missed any of these, you can also see the remaining schedule on this page [Talking Heads](#)

Soft Launch of the Wake Up the Snake Exhibition (Great Western Woodlands)

Article by Prof Sandra Wooltorton

A soft opening of the 'Wake up the Snake' exhibition to offer family members guided tours and check final details, took place on the 27th and 28th June 2026. Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People, participated in the activities. The hard launch of the exhibition will be held on the 14th August, when publications of the Great Western Woodlands (GWW) project will also be displayed, and the launch will be widely advertised.



Figure 1 Catrina Aniere, Krystal Donaldson, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Betty Rose Parker and Sandra Wooltorton, at the Wake up the Snake Exhibition at the Kurl-Kurti Gallery, Coolgardie.



This exhibition – part of the ARC project: *Intergenerational Cultural Transfer of Indigenous Knowledge* – was first launched at the WA Museum on 10th December 2025. When it closed on 1st June, the materials were transferred to Coolgardie where they will remain for three years.

Figure 2 (left) Betty Rose Parker was an exhibition tour guide.

Figure 3 (below from left) Clem Donaldson, Krystal Donaldson, Tamara Donaldson, Elder Betty Logan and Betty Rose Parker



This photo is very special, as each of these people participated in the GWW project's start up, and have been participating for the 13 years the 'Kids on Country' group have been working together with Catrina Aniere of Millennium Kids. Betty was the Elder who invited Catrina to start the project, and monthly visits to various parts of Kalamaia Kaprun Country have taken place. Each visit was with at least one (and usually several) Elders sharing language, cultural and family stories. Clem was four when the project started, and Betty Rose was just over a year old. Sandra Wooltorton became part of the project in 2018, and this is the third Nulungu project with the group. It is wonderful to celebrate Kids on Country with this exhibition of the young people's work with Elders.

Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration of the Chair of Indigenous Studies

Each year the Nulungu Oration is dedicated to an individual Aboriginal Elder who has led and contributed to Kimberley Aboriginal Knowledge and culture throughout their lives. The Oration is shared alternately by Nulungu Chair's, Professor Anne Poelina and Associate Professor Steve Kinnane.

Dedication

This year it was Steve Kinnane's turn, and he dedicated the 2026 Nulungu Oration to a legendary Juwaliny-Walmajarri woman Elder who passed away suddenly in late December, 2024 - a cultural boss, leader, interpreter, educator, and community advocate. Because her passing was within the last 18 months, but following two Wet Seasons, her family provided permission for her to be referred to by her initials: AK. Nulungu staff were humbled and pleased to support the attendance of AK's brother, husband and niece from Fitzroy Crossing, to attend and represent her family.

AK is recognised for her incredible contribution to the preservation of Kimberley Aboriginal Languages, her dedication to Interpreting language to support people dealing with mainstream systems of government, law, education and daily life, and her role as an inspiring mentor and educator. AK assisted others to have a voice and to tell truth to power. 'AK passed away on Kimberley Country doing what she loved with people she loved.'



Steve Kinnane

Reckoning

In the fourth Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration, Chair of Indigenous Research, Steve Kinnane, explored one of the central tenets of the Uluru Statement of the Heart, 'Truth Telling,' within a framework of Reckoning. Having been engaged in truth telling as researcher, an oral historian, author, film-maker, curator and documenter of cultural rejuvenation on Country for almost 40 years, this idea, ideal and ethic of Truth Telling has underpinned his work.

After decades of collective Truth Telling that has informed our historically cumulative goals of equality, self-determination, recognition, equal rights, inherent rights, respect for cultural governance and the much-lauded hope of Reconciliation, Steve questioned, where is the Reckoning within this work?

Truth Telling involves great courage in giving voice, and ideally is responded to by respectful listening. From this dialogue it is hoped that respect, understanding, recognition and meaningful relationships will follow.

Reckoning can involve an act of calculation, a settling of accounts, often including some form of judgement – the revealing of consequences – justice. Examining personal and historical accounts of Truth Telling across a range of fronts, focused particularly on the Kimberley region, Steve reflected on what it takes to achieve Reckoning, for our collective communities.



Welcome to Country provided by Yawuru Elder Di Appleby

Reckoning can have two sides

'AK's life's work was completely bound up in truth telling. I've seen and felt it's power within our communities, its ability to bridge divides and to transform relationships. AK had this effect on people, all the time. Her generosity with complete strangers, but also her caution, deep knowledge and certainty of her cultural authority, disarmed people. It was in building these relationships, plying the art of an interpretation, translating voice, revealing evidence, meaning, value and emotion, that AK created impact. And that impact was shared by people being able to listen.'

In sifting over decades of efforts to deliver truth telling, Steve found that there are many small reckonings – in courtrooms where someone is actually not only heard, but understood; in school groups who find themselves welcomed into the Kimberley on school-trips; kartiya questioning what it means to live on unceded Aboriginal lands and waters; in people working at the front-line of service delivery, upholding native title rights, generating cultural economies on Country – in Aboriginal questioning of our own leadership against values bound in culture.

Reckoning is more like a makarrata – a coming to terms to cease hostilities, to carry out rituals of cleansing, offer forgiveness, release people from obligation, begin anew – to refresh.



Lucy Ngarbal Marshall's relative, Sharna Palmer, and Steve Kinnane.

AK's husband, Mr Leo Thirkell and Linguist, Thomas Saunders.

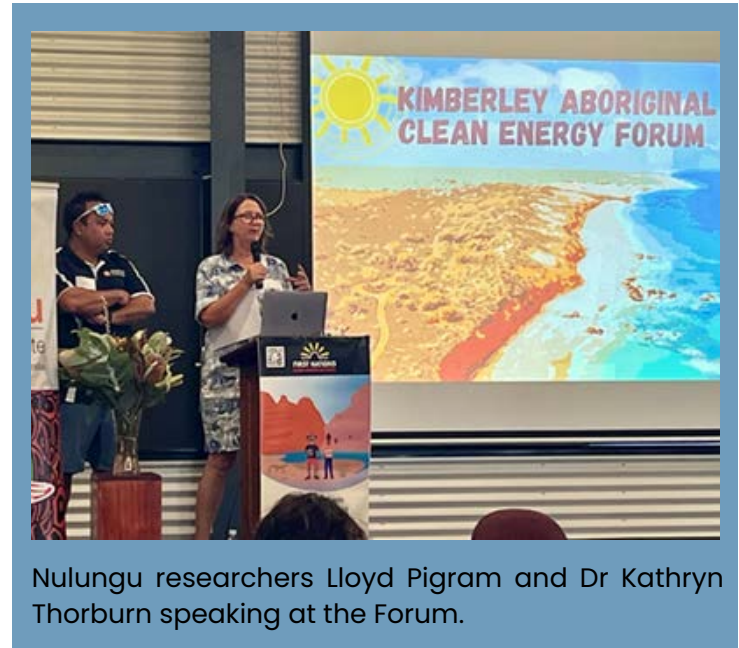
The 2026 Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration can be viewed here;
ResearchOnline@ND – Workshops and Presentations: 'Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration by the Nulungu Chair of Indigenous Research'

KIMBERLEY ABORIGINAL CLEAN ENERGY FORUM

The Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum took place on the Broome Campus of UNDA from March 19 – 20 and was attended by over 170 participants over two days from across the Kimberley, and nationally. The forum featured about 30 keynote speakers from Kimberley First Nations' leaders driving local renewable energy development, alongside Professor Anne Poelina (Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council), Professor Peter Yu (First Nations Portfolio, Australian National University), Tyronne Garstone (Kimberley Land Council, CEO) and Krystal Skinner (Horizon Power, CEO).



Aarnja CEO, Cherie Heslington delivering a Keynote Presentation at the Forum.



Nulungu researchers Lloyd Pigram and Dr Kathryn Thorburn speaking at the Forum.

The forum was co-convened by Aarnja, a regional peak Aboriginal community controlled organisation for Kimberley Aboriginal people, The First Nations Clean Energy Network, the Nulungu Research Institute, and with considerable support and engagement from Original Power.

The idea of the forum arose from ongoing research and advocacy discussions in a range of scenarios, where it was identified that a major gathering of Kimberley Aboriginal people was required. The clean energy team at Nulungu have participated in a range of projects, and led discussions, in the lead up to the Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum.

- Investigating edge of grid renewable energy opportunities for Fitzroy Crossing Communities (Nulungu Research Institute), Alinga Energy and the Centre for Indigenous Policy Research, ANU – 2023/2024)
- Research on pre-paid meter usage in Indigenous communities nationally (University of Western Sydney, Original Power, Nulungu Research Institute, The University of Western Australia – funded by Energy Consumers Australia – 2025)
- The formation of the Kimberley Indigenous Clean Energy Working Group (Aarnja)- 2025
- Convening a Kimberley First Nations Affordable Clean Energy Workshop, funded by a successful Big Ideas Grant from UNDA, which took place at the Broome Campus on the 16-17 of September 2025



Krystal Skinner, the CEO of Horizon Power in conversation with Tyronne Garstone, CEO of the KLC



The Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Network in March, 2026, sought to;

- Strengthen Traditional Owner leadership in the energy transition in the Kimberley, exploring community ownership and co-investment models
- Highlight the lived experience of energy use in the Kimberley. Exploring the impacts of unreliable power, extreme heat, high costs, and why change is urgent
- Create pathways for economic development and self-determination, including co-ownership of future energy systems
- Explore the impact of current government and energy utility approaches on energy affordability, families and communities
- Showcase First Nations leadership that is already driving solutions through case studies from Western Australia and across remote communities around the country
- Encourage innovation through genuine collaboration, bringing together the energy retailer and remote communities together to create solutions
- Establish the Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Alliance, building a strong and empowered Aboriginal-led voice shaping the region's energy future.

Key themes included energy affordability, harnessing clean energy to combat extreme heat, gaps in research and the importance of strong partnerships to support clean energy development. Conversations also explored the tools and processes needed to ensure communities are at the centre of decision making and the need for accessible capital to support First Nations clean energy developments.



Left: Nyikina community participant, Mark Coles Smith, Nulungu Researcher Ms Vennessa Poelina, and Nyikina Partner of Nykbar Consulting, Mr Charles Prouse engaging with key issues at the Forum.



Right: The Australian National University's Vice-President (First Nations) Professor Peter Yu highlighted the opportunities that present when First Nations people have 'control, equity, investment and capital in renewable energy projects.'

“Clean energy and critical minerals projects are increasingly important. When you look at critical mineral deposits and potential clean energy projects in Australia, they are 60 to 80 per cent on Aboriginal land. There is huge potential for economic growth in these regions. Economic empowerment and self-determination must come through institutional and structural change’ (Professor Peter Yu)

Nulungu Research Institute's Dr Kathryn Thorburn said the forum was an enormous success;

“The most powerful conversations happened over cups of tea or outside under the trees, where First Nations people, developers, energy experts and others made connections and started talking about solving real-world problems. We have kicked off a conversation and shone a spotlight on the issues of First Nations energy affordability and energy ownership. Now we must maintain this momentum, and that will require resources. It will require commitment and political will to work together, to solve problems and overcome barriers. We are just getting started.’

The Kimberley Aboriginal Clean Energy Forum was generously supported with funding from the following organisations and departments;

- **The Kimberley Development Commission (KDC)**
- **Boundless**
- **Horizon Power**
- **Energy Policy WA**
- **One anonymous donor through Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.**

TWO-WAY RESEARCH: COLLABORATING THROUGH INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGIES

The Nulungu Research Institute offers three short courses focused on practical, evidence based and community engaged research;

- 1) Aboriginal Research Methods for Aboriginal People (Stages One and Two)
- 2) Introduction to Cultural Heritage Management, and
- 3) Two-way Research: Collaborating Through Indigenous Methodologies.

The fifth delivery of the Two-Way Research short course took place on the Broome Campus of UNDA and at Nyamba Buru Yawuru's (NBY) Liyan-ngan Nyirrwa Cultural Wellbeing Centre, Rubibi, between May 5 – 7 and was attended by participants from the Kimberley, Pilbara and Perth. Over five semesters we have delivered the Two-way Research course to over 40 participants across a range of disciplines and experiences; land councils, land and sea management coordinators, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, government departments, university lecturers, PhD candidates and education providers.

The course is designed for small classes that get to focus on people's own research interests and projects as they learn from experienced researchers and case examples. Nulungu Researchers Anna Dwyer, Gillian Kennedy, Lloyd Pigram and Stephen Kinnane coordinate and deliver the course with each speaking to a host of recent and ongoing projects employing two-way methodologies. Nulungu's own experience and expertise is further enhanced through engagement with leading Aboriginal research practice being undertaken at NBY (through place-based learning), and guest presenters from a range of organisations including the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, and NBY's Land and Sea Management Unit.



The Two-Way Research course was recently nominated for the 2026 Excellence in Health Promotion Award, although the course ranges across a number of disciplines and seeks to tailor delivery to the needs of participants once registrations have been confirmed. We would also like to congratulate the Majarlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health, also located on the Broome Campus of UNDA, who were the ultimate winners on the night.



Students are pictured here receiving their graduating certificates and also with NBY's Bart Pigram at the Liyan-ngan Nyirrwa Cultural Wellbeing Centre discussing Indigenous Data Sovereignty and how their programs focused on language, culture, archival and curation projects are empowering NBY in delivering for their people.

The final delivery of the Two-Way Research course for 2026 will occur from the 25 – 27 August.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES
PLEASE SEE OUR [WEBPAGE](#)

RESEARCH WEEK 2026

Nulungu Research Institute continues to highlight community-led research during 2026 Research Week.

The University of Notre Dame's Nulungu Research Institute is proud to continue its ongoing commitment to community-led research, meaningful collaboration and valuing Indigenous knowledge during their annual Research Week.

This year's program brought together researchers, community leaders and partners for a collaborative series of discussions and presentations that focussed on real-world impact.



Held across four days, presenters included researchers from the University of Notre Dame Australia, the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (KAHRA), the University of Sydney and the Lowitja Institute, who came together to share reflections on research journeys and updates on current ongoing projects.

This week showcased the depth of researchers working in Indigenous contexts and the range of topics that are being addressed through community-led research.

Each session welcomed fellow researchers, university staff members and students into the audience to advance collaborative conversations.

Nulungu Director, Associate Professor Melissa Marshall, said collaboration and community were what drives Research Week each year.

“Research Week continues to be a forum for important discussions; we will continue to facilitate this important event and next year welcome more students and researchers to join the conversation between academia and community,” she said.

Quote by Kristen Keating from *Lowitja Institute*

“Research Week creates space for people to connect, share ideas and learn from one another. Those connections are essential to strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research and ensuring research continues to be led by community.”

Presentations can be viewed at https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/nulungu_researchweek/2026/

NULUNGU RESEARCHERS PRESENT AT ANZSIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 'NAVIGATING STORMY SEAS' JULY 1ST-3RD, 2026



ANZSIL Panel on the BBNJ Agreement: L-R Joanna Mossop, Ethan Beringen, Gina Heathcote, Lloyd Pigram and Karen Scott.

Nulungu Research Institute Research Fellow, Lloyd Pigram, along with Nulungu Adjunct Professor, Gina Heathcote, presented their work under the Leverhulme Trust funded project 'Saltwater Law' at the annual conference of the Australia and New Zealand Society of International Law at Victoria University, Wellington in Aotearoa New Zealand in July. The co-authored presentation was titled 'On Listening to Indigenous People and Local Communities in the BBNJ Agreement'. The presentation questioned the gap between international legal developments and place-based coastal management models with a view to understanding the role of Indigenous communities in impacting future governance on the High Seas.

ND Tax Clinic Broome/Derby Outreach Trip

Reflection by: Kate Scalise, 3rd Year Bachelor of Laws / Commerce Student

Leading up to our trip to Broome, we undertook extensive preparation through taxation training, research and client meetings. Having never been to Broome or Derby before I had no idea what to expect, but I was excited to be able to apply the knowledge I gained at university while being able to help members of the local community with their taxation needs.

During our time in Broome and Derby, we met with clients facing a wide range of taxation concerns, from simple enquiries to more complex small business issues. We also had the opportunity to network with local businesses and visit two Broome high schools. There, we shared basic taxation knowledge to help improve financial literacy in younger generations in the Kimberley. Networking with the local businesses provided us with a greater insight into the needs of the community and how the tax clinic can continue to make a positive impact.

Working directly with clients was the most rewarding part of the trip. Being able to provide guidance and reassurance to people who were feeling overwhelmed by the taxation system was incredibly fulfilling. Seeing the difference our assistance made was a highlight of the experience. The trip strengthened my practical taxation knowledge, communication skills and appreciation for the important role the Notre Dame Tax Clinic plays in supporting regional communities.

Students Kate and Lilli joined Kerrie and John in travelling to Broome and Derby to run the Notre Dame Tax Clinic program, an initiative designed to improve access to tax assistance for individuals, small businesses in financial hardship and other vulnerable groups across Australia.

Services are delivered by School of Law and Business taxation students supported by Nulungu Research Institute staff while under the supervision of a qualified and experienced tax practitioner.

This model provides students with valuable real-world experience while delivering meaningful support to the community.

Vennessa Poelina assists the team on this project, supporting and introducing them to local financial councillors, businesses and individuals requiring the free tax support service.



L-R: Kerry Mellick, Kate Scalise, Lilli Jennings and John Tretola

Need assistance?



Follow the link to find out more
notredame.edu.au/tax-clinic

Email us at taxclinic@nd.edu.au

Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies



This year's class of five students together with GCAS Coordinator Maxine Chi, Nulungu Research Fellow Lloyd Pigram and Nulungu Senior Admin Officer Jo Wilkins camped at Divers Creek (Cygnet Bay) for the 3-day Cultural Immersion.

Students studying *The Silent History* get the feel of being on Country with Aboriginal guest presenters and get the chance to learn about the history of their culture, stories and their ancestors.

"On our first night around the campfire under the stars on Bardi-Jawi Country, Dilleye Wiggan shared his father's story of being swept out to sea on a raft, and how a rai spirit brought his exhausted father freshwater to strengthen him for his journey back to shore. Dilleye also recounted how this story has become a dance that he has taken on tour around the world along with a raft handcrafted in keeping with their seafaring tradition" (as recalled by student Catherine Schwerin)



We visited Beagle Bay, Lombadina and Ardyaloon Aboriginal Communities. Bardi-Jawi man Bolo Angus guided us on an inspirational journey through his traditional Country, 'Lullumb' and his family greeted us with fresh damper, fish, oysters and shells cooked over coals on our return from the walk through mangroves, paperbark forests, salt plains, creeks and a sacred freshwater spring.

On our last day after breaking camp at Borrgoron (Cygnet Bay), Bardi man, Terry Hunter, talked to us about the history of Aboriginal People in the pearl industry, the carvings in pearl shell 'Riji' and the way the pearl shell was traded with other language tribes in Australia.

ENROL NOW FOR 2027



Welcome

Nulungu PhD students



ARABELLA DOUGLAS
(MINYUNGBAL/BUNDJALUNG)
(SHE/HER)

Arabella Douglas is a Minyungbal/Bundjalung lawyer, researcher and Founder of Currie Country Social Change. She joins Nulungu as a PhD candidate after completing a Master of International Law at Griffith University, where she received the Award for Academic Excellence.

Her PhD explores Aboriginal women's governance of water through the lens of Sovereign Knowledge, examining how Indigenous jurisdiction can transform environmental governance, economic systems and decision-making for future generations.

As a Bundjalung woman from the east coast, Arabella is honoured to now begin this next chapter of her journey with Nulungu in the Kimberley. Her research reflects a deep respect for the enduring relationships, leadership and knowledge shared by Aboriginal women across Aboriginal Nations, and bloodlines, and her hope is to contribute to strengthening those connections for future generations.

Alongside her research, Arabella works nationally and internationally with Sovereign focussed Traditional Owners, governments, universities and conservation organisations to advance Indigenous-led, First Nations science and systems approach to water, climate, biodiversity and environmental governance. She is looking forward to learning from Kimberley communities, building lasting relationships through Nulungu and becoming part of the Broome community.



PHILIPA DUTHIE

Philipa Duthie is a transdisciplinary researcher, storyteller and engagement professional. Her PhD research looks at how River-led poetic inquiry can further onto-poetic engagement with Country and revitalise Place-relationships.

Drawing on feminist, Indigenous and post-humanist theoretical framings, her work explores River-led inquiry as a co-creative praxis of listening and repair – a relational methodology through which people of all ancestries may weave themselves back into the storied lifeworlds of Place. Philipa is also the co-host and producer of the [Coming Home to Life](#) podcast (formally known as ReGeneration Rising) with Dr Daniel Christian Wahl.

CONGRATULATIONS

Nulungu were thrilled to sponsorship the Education Award at the recent 2026 Derby NAIDOC Ball. We want to take a moment to congratulate the recipient Alis Hart and recognise the support of Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation in hosting the event.

About the 2026 NAIDOC Education Award Winner:

For more than 25 years, Alis Hart has dedicated her life to education, helping shape the lives of countless children and families across the Kimberley. She began her journey as a Teacher's Aide before completing her teaching degree and pursuing a career in the classroom — a testament to her determination, passion and belief in the power of education.

Throughout her career, Alis has taught at Holy Rosary School, Bindoon, Swanview Secondary School and now Derby District High School, where she continues to inspire and support students every day. Her impact reaches far beyond the classroom. She is committed to creating culturally safe learning environments and works closely with graduate and new teachers, guiding them to better understand cultural responsiveness and how to build respectful relationships with Aboriginal students, families and community.

The Education Award recognises not only her remarkable career as an educator, but her lifelong commitment to nurturing young people, strengthening cultural understanding and creating opportunities for others to learn, grow and succeed. Her legacy can be seen in the many students, teachers and families whose lives she has touched over two decades of dedicated service.



L-R: Executive Chairperson of Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation Robert Watson and award recipient Alis Hart

Life at the water's edge: a Lancet Commission on sea-level rise, health, and justice



New Commission brings together a global group of 26 experts to examine the health impacts of sea-level rise and advance equitable, evidence-based responses

Seoul, 8 April 2026 — The Lancet Commission on Sea-level Rise, Health and Justice will be announced in a Lancet Comment on 8 April 2026, bringing together leading experts from around the world to address the growing health impacts of sea-level rise.

Sea-level rise poses an urgent and escalating threat to health and wellbeing, equity, global ecosystems and planetary health, with disproportionate impacts on coastal and low-lying communities. This Commission is the first to examine these intersecting challenges through a health lens.

Driven by anthropogenic climate change, rising sea levels are already contributing to displacement, food and water insecurity, and changing patterns of infectious disease, while threatening the

sustainability of human cultures, settlements and economies.

The Commission is convened with support from the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ACE).

The Commission aims to generate evidence-based, science-led policy recommendations to mitigate health risks, strengthen adaptation and resilience, and ensure equitable and ethical responses to sea-level rise.

It brings together 26 Commissioners, including its Co-Chairs, from across disciplines and regions, combining scientific expertise with policy insight, community perspectives and diverse knowledge systems. The Commission will contribute to global dialogue and decision-making processes, including engagement at key international platforms.

Congratulations on your remarkable appointment Anne.

Nulungu Publications

Taylor, K., Poelina, A., Woods, G., Fanaian, S., Williams, J., Grafton, Q. (2026) Grounding human rights-based approaches in First Law: Martuwarra Fitzroy River, Kimberley, Western Australia. Water Policy 2026; wp2026226. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/wp.2026.226>

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MEET THE NULUNGU TEAM



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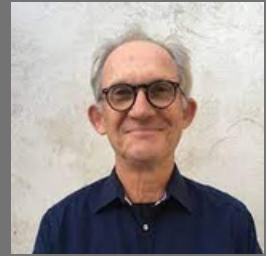
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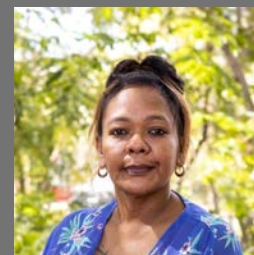
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Dr Martin Porr

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The Nulungu Way is based on relationships of trust, openness, respect and recognition of Indigenous rights, values, culture and governance and upholding values of social justice.



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