THE CAIRNS INSTITUTE
Research in tropical societies

Newsletter
January 2015
Welcome!

The Cairns Institute’s location in tropical North Queensland and proximity to neighbouring countries in the Pacific and Southeast Asia offers unique opportunities to enhance peoples’ lives in the tropics. In this edition of the newsletter you will find numerous examples of the tremendous cultural and linguistic diversity of our region. More importantly, you will find examples of how Cairns Institute researchers are working with communities throughout the region to ensure the vitality and contemporary relevance of their cultural and linguistic heritage.

Congratulations must be extended to Dr Felecia Watkin Lui, Dr Roxanne Bainbridge, Professor Yvonne Cadet-James, Professor Komla Tsey and Dr Janya McCalman for their successful Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Indigenous Grant (page 15); Professor Allan Dale for the publication of his new book, Beyond the North-South Culture Wars (page 11); and to Jennifer McHugh and all the volunteers and speakers involved in TEDxJCUCairns (page 16), a truly mighty effort!

Contents

Welcome 1
From the Director 2
ALTAR’s busy year 3
Visiting scholar: Sigmund Grønmo 5
Firebird Foundation fellowships 6
Designed in Cairns seminars 7
Overseas art installations 8
TTNQ awards 9
Word classes in Miriwoong at Kununurra 10
Elected to Society for Risk Analysis 10
Inaugural lecture: Allan Dale 11
Creating futures 2015 12
Native title for anthropologists EOI open 12
Public consultation 13
Major Projects Forum 13
Care for ageing in NQ 14
The Cairns Institute art space 15
ARC success 15
TEDxJCUCairns 16
Professional development 20
What’s happening? 21

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From the Director

Christmas and New Year ought to be quiet on the news front, a time for puff pieces about Santa Claus and fireworks. Sadly, the holiday period has been anything but quiet for residents of North Queensland and the Torres Strait. I do not want to dwell here on the specifics of the tragic events in Murray Street, Cairns, on 19 December 2014. However, I do wish to extend my deepest sympathy to all members of the JCU community and to any other readers who have been affected.

When compiling the newsletter we tend to focus on positive stories—achievements, interesting research, recent and upcoming events. We don’t, in this format, deal with the detail but it is important to remember that underlying most of these stories are partnerships with real communities and engagement with serious social issues.

For those who haven’t done so, I recommend a visit to the TEDxJCUCairns website (tedxjcucairns.com/) where you will find inspiring presentations about how people have confronted poverty, racism, bullying, mental illness, and more, in our region. None of the speakers claim to have solved the problem; merely, to have made a difference. We hope to be bringing you many more stories of positive social change in 2015.

Professor Stewart Lockie
Director
The Cairns Institute
ALTAR’s busy year

ALTAR was officially launched in July 2014 with the film screening of *Manapanmirr, in Christmas Spirit* made by Miyarrka Media (miyarrkamedia.com). We would like to thank to all those who supported us in our research and for the idea of having an audiovisual anthropological laboratory at the JCU Cairns campus. We have many more ideas and projects to be carried out in the next years.

ALTAR founder, Dr Daniela Vávrová, has successfully completed her PhD and her thesis film has been selected and screened at several ethnographic film festivals, including the Jean Rouch Film Festival in Paris, Festival of Nordic Anthropological Film Association in Iceland, and the Festival of the Society for Visual Anthropology in Washington DC. There are more film festivals coming up in 2015 which have already selected the film.

“Always, when I watch the film, I find myself back in the village at the time of filming. I feel the cracking leaves under my feet when walking through the bush. I smell decaying sago flour in the swamps. I remember the voices and noises surrounding us. I recall the walking with my sister Augustina and holding our hands. I simply relocate myself back there and then,” says Daniela.

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ALTAR’s busy year cont.

Daniela’s film is a complementary part to her written thesis which can be accessed in the JCU library under the title ‘Skin has eyes and ears’, Audio-visual ethnography in a Sepik society, Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Other ALTAR members are busy, with Chiara Bresciani currently doing her fieldwork in Mexico where she will stay for a year. Christiane Falck is in Papua New Guinea to conduct additional short-term fieldwork and further filming, and Kasia Wojtylak and Kristian Lupinski are planning their trip to Colombia in 2015.

In September 2014, we welcomed visiting anthropologist, Dr Allison Jablonko, who went back to PNG fifty years after her initial fieldwork with the Maring people of Simbai Valley. She revisited the place with her granddaughter, Shiva, an artist, and a group of young filmmakers bringing back to people the photographs she took in the 1960s.

You can see more about their project, Across generations at www.pozible.com/project/180502.

Jennifer Deger’s work with the new media collective, Miyarrka Media, also continues to develop in exciting directions. The Miyarrka team have just returned from a six week overseas tour where they launched several exhibitions of their installation art work, as well as participating in film festivals in the US and Denmark (see separate story p. 8).

There are two bigger ethnographic film projects to be completed next year, both happening in Papua New Guinea. One is An extraordinary wedding, a film by Professor Rosita Henry about marriage, modernity and traditional exchange in the Highlands of PNG. Another film, Walkabout store, is a portrayal of a Polish missionary and a reflection upon traditional concepts of exchange and negotiation, disclosing the change-producing elements of religion and commodification. It was recorded by Daniela Vávrová during her fieldwork in 2011.

In 2015, we are also planning new trilogies for our public film screenings as well as thematic seminars where we usually watch and discuss films.

Dr Daniela Vávrová

You can follow ALTAR on https://espaces.edu.au/altar or https://www.facebook.com/groups/AltarFilms/
Visiting scholar: Sigmund Grønmo

My time as a visiting scholar at The Cairns Institute was part of a two year sabbatical after eight years as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bergen in Norway.

As a professor of sociology at the University of Bergen, I am pursuing two long term academic interests. One is economic sociology, in particular structural analysis of business, focused on the development of network relations among large companies. The other interest is social science methodology.

My main activity at the Institute was to work on the revision of a book on methods in social science, which was published in Norway in 2004 and Sweden in 2006. The progress of this work was good, and my intention is to complete the revised book next year when I will be a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Also during my time at The Cairns Institute I worked on two economic sociology papers: I completed a book chapter, which is now being published, and I revised a conference paper, which will be submitted to a journal.

As an adjunct professor at the Sami University College in Northern Norway, I also have an interest in institutional development of indigenous research and higher education. My main responsibilities at the Sami University College are to give advice to the Vice-Chancellor and seminars with the academic staff regarding the further academic and institutional development of the college. With this background I was using some of my time at the Institute to explore the development of indigenous research and higher education in Australia. Obviously The Cairns Institute was the right place to be for observing and discussing this development. I had numerous conversations and discussions on indigenous knowledge, not only at the Institute and JCU, but also at the Queensland University of Technology, at the Batchelor Institute, and at Charles Darwin University, and I gave presentations on the topic at JCU as well as Charles Darwin University. This was very valuable and interesting for me, and it will certainly be useful in my further work at the Sami University College.

I would like to thank The Cairns Institute and JCU for inviting me to spend three months as a visiting scholar at the Institute. I am very grateful to all my Australian colleagues, and in particular the Institute staff, who gave me information, advice, suggestions and support during my time in Cairns.

It was great to be at The Cairns Institute and I had a very pleasant and productive time, and I was enjoying the academic and tropical life every day. It was quite a change to go back to subarctic Norway and to face the cold winter.

Professor Sigmund Grønmo
University of Bergen
Norway
Firebird Foundation fellowships

Juliane Böettger is a PhD student of linguistics at the Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC) at James Cook University. Her supervisors are Professors Alexandra Aikhenvald and Ton Otto, and in 2011 she began her PhD candidature with the goal of writing a descriptive grammar of the Lele language of Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. She subsequently travelled to Manus and spent over nine months with the Lele community to learn, record and analyse their language. The richness and uniqueness of the Lele ancestor stories and legends particularly fascinated Juliane who could see that the use of Lele was in gradual decline due to the rise of the lingua francas, Tok Pisin and English. Juliane says “The oral literature of a language is witness to its people’s history, their culture and not least their language.”

In August 2014, she therefore asked the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research, who have a particular interest in oral literature, for their support. She was grateful to be awarded a Firebird Fellowship which enabled her return to Manus to refine her research, see her Manus kin, and help preserve the Lele language and oral literature.

Dr Simon Overall, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the LCRC, has also received Firebird Foundation funding for an ethnobotanical documentation project in association with the Awajún (also known as Aguaruna) people of north Peru. His goal is to document the traditional knowledge involved in the identification, collection, preparation and use of medicinal plants. The highly diverse flora of the Amazon Basin is of great importance to traditional Amazonian cultures, in particular for medicines and for seeking visions.

Simon will use the generous funding to buy audio and video recording equipment for the project. Simon will train a local team in the use of this equipment, and they will travel to communities to record the elders’ ethnobotanical knowledge. Later, he will help to edit the information and we will then work towards publishing the information in various forms that can be shared with the community.
Designed in Cairns seminar series

The Australian Institute of Architects FNQ Committee Chapter and The Cairns Institute have been co-hosting a popular seminar series—Designed in Cairns. The series aims not only to be of interest to the general public, but provides continuing professional development activities for architects and designers generally in the region.

The first seminar was presented in August 2014 by Andrew and Francoise Lane and titled Reconciliation through architecture. They explained how public buildings can be enhanced when we recognise and embed into the buildings the historical significance of that place, and how that connection to country of the traditional custodians or owners continues today.

Andrew is one of only a few Aboriginal architects registered in Australia, and Francoise is an interior designer who has an ability to draw from people their ideas, plans and motivations which proves valuable in the critical brief development stage.

Their company, Indij Designs, was engaged for the Townsville JCU Indigenous Outdoor Learning Centre. To find out more about Andrew and Francoise go to www.indijdesign.com.au/

The second seminar, titled Cairns architecture: Old, valuable and sometimes lost, was presented by Dr Shaneen Fantin. The seminar gave a brief history of architecture in Far North Queensland. It examined a selection of heritage buildings and the lost architecture of the region, and described how the built environment has affected and contributed to the development of the north.

Shaneen is the Director of POD (People Oriented Design)—a multi-disciplinary architecture, design, research and community engagement practice based in Cairns. Shaneen is also the Chair of the FNQ committee for the Australian Institute of Architects and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at JCU. To find out more about POD please visit www.peopleorienteddesign.com.au

Shaneen’s presentation followed her talk at TEDxJCUCairns tedxjcucairns.com/

The final seminar for the year was Old tricks for new dogs: How new lighting technology enables a return to lighting fundamentals and was presented by architectural lighting designer and engineer, Carl Gray. The seminar was based around the fundamental lighting principle of three layers of light—ambient luminescence, focal glow, and play of brilliants—espoused by the father of modern lighting design, Richard Kelly.

Carl examined how new lighting technologies such as LED have provided designers with the tools and the freedom to apply fundamental principles in new ways.

You can view a recording of the seminar at www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/info/resources/JCU_143219.html

To learn more about Carl Gray of Gray Light please visit graylight.com.au/

The seminar series will continue in 2015. Details are yet to be confirmed but please keep an eye on our Events page at www.jcu.edu.au/cairnsinstitute/events/index.htm.
Less than two weeks later the Miyarrka team opened their second exhibition, *Gapuwiyak calling*, a pop-up exhibition of phone made media from Arnhem Land, installed as part of the *Margaret Mead Film Festival* in New York City. Attracting large crowds of New Yorkers during its four-day run at the American Museum of Natural History, the show was celebrated with a reception hosted by the Australian Consul General. During the festival the team also took part in a special event, *Culture labs: Collaborations with makers, scholars, and communities*.

With barely time to draw breath, the Miyarrka team travelled on to Florida, Washington DC and Charlottesville, Virginia at the invitation of the *Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum* to screen their new documentary film, *Ringtone*, with screenings at the *Virginia Film Festival*, the *Smithsonian Museum of Natural History* and the Winter Park Culture Fest in Orlando.

**Overseas art installations**

During October and November 2014 Jennifer Deger travelled with her Miyarrka Media collaborators to open two major overseas art installations resulting from her Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship, *Digital relations: New media in Arnhem Land*.

The first, *Christmas birrimbirr (Christmas spirit)* is a multi-media work about the power and importance of remembering lost loved ones at Christmas. It was commissioned for exhibition in Denmark by the Institute’s Ton Otto in his role as Head of the Ethnographic Collections at the *Moesgård Museum*. After the official opening, the team joined the Australian Ambassador, Damien Miller, at a special dinner attended by the Queen of Denmark who opened the Museum. Two days later the Museum hosted a special event featuring a screening of Miyarrka’s documentary feature *Manapanmirr, in Christmas spirit* along with a Q&A with the filmmakers.

Images: Jennifer Deger

1. The rumble of the walmi (thundercloud) calls visitors to remember their lost loved ones at Miyarrka’s Christmas birrimbirr (Christmas Spirit) exhibition in the Moesgård Museum in Denmark
2. Miyarrka Media’s Warren Gurruwiwi, Jennifer Deger and Enid Wunungmurra at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington DC, for the public screening of their film, *Ringtone*
3. Mandy Munyarryun, Paul Gurrumuruwuy, Enid Wunungmurra and Warren Gurruwiwi at the screening of Miyarrka Media’s documentary *Manapanmirr, in Christmas spirit* in Aarhus, Denmark
4. Ringtone two screen installation at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City
5. Miyarrka Media with Damien Miller (centre), the Australian Ambassador to Denmark and first Indigenous Australian to head a diplomatic mission, at the opening of the Moesgård Museum in Aarhus, Denmark
6. Gapuwiyak calling mobile phone media installation in New York City
TTNQ business excellence & tropical innovation awards

Professor Neil Anderson, Research Fellow with The Cairns Institute, was invited to give the opening presentation at the Ideas After Dark Innovation Evening, which was part of the Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) Business Awards on 20 November 2014 at the Jute Theatre, Cairns. Professor Anderson spoke about the stages and underpinning strategies associated with design thinking and how these strategies enable the development of the type of innovation that is critical in start-up hatcheries.

Organiser, Bronwyn Voyce, Senior Economic Development Officer at Cairns Regional Council and in the National Top 30 under 30 list of the Australian Institute of Management, said: “This event was all about inspiring attendees to explore their potential as self-starters and innovators and connect into the local ecosystem which is both alive and thriving.”

Other speakers included Jeff McEachern, General Manager at NQ Airports, and Stewart Christie, former CEO of Advance Cairns.

Professor Anderson emphasised the role that JCU has in improving life for people in the tropics by embedding effective strategies for innovation, creativity and problem solving in Australia’s innovation system—including schools, universities, government and business. He illustrated the lead role that JCU is taking in testing existing strategies and developing new strategies with other university partners including Queensland University of Technology, Swinburne University, Edith Cowan University and the University of Tasmania.

This event was all about inspiring attendees to explore their potential as self-starters and innovators and connect into the local ecosystem which is both alive and thriving.

Bronwyn Voyce
Senior Economic Development Officer at Cairns Regional Council
Word classes in Miriwoong at Kununurra

At the invitation of Knut Olwasky, Senior Linguist of the Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring (MDWg), Dr Elena Mihas, from the Language and Cultural Research Centre (LCRC), spent a week at MDWg in November 2014 training its language workers in grammar matters. The focus of the workshop was on Miriwoong word classes, with special emphasis on nominal and verbal morphology.

The eight language workers who participated in the workshop were native speakers of Miriwoong, a highly endangered Aboriginal language from the Kununurra region of Western Australia. Once spoken by thousands of people, it is used today by a fewer than a dozen fluent speakers.

The workshop was part of the revitalisation program aimed at reviving the ancestral language. In the last decade, the Miriwoong people have been conducting a variety of language documentation and revitalisation projects in an effort to save their linguistic and cultural heritage. Among these are the Miriwoong Language Nest which teaches young children Miriwoong, the Master-Apprentice Program which allows fluent Miriwoong speakers to teach learners of any age, Miriwoong radio program, story book production, interpretation services, and grammar and dictionary projects.

Visit www.mirima.org.au to learn about Miriwoong and make a donation.

Elected to Society for Risk Analysis

Dr Catherine Mei Ling Wong, Senior Research Officer in the Cairns Institute, has been elected to the committee of the Society for Risk Analysis - Australia & New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) where she will serve as a Council member and newsletter editor. The purpose of SRA-ANZ is to provide an opportunity for an inclusive, broad-based society that promotes communication between disciplines, a breadth of tools and viewpoints, and platforms for training, workshops, and conferences.

SRA ANZ is sponsored by the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), University of Melbourne, and the objectives of the society are:

- To serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society and other interested individuals and organisations in Australia and New Zealand
- To further understanding, awareness, and appropriate applications of risk analysis, and to promote an exchange of ideas and practical experiences among members of the academic, professional, industrial, and regulatory communities involved in risk analysis and risk management in Australia and New Zealand
- To hold scientific and educational meetings.
Inaugural lecture: Allan Dale

Allan Dale’s inaugural lecture and the launch of his book titled *Beyond the North-South Culture Wars* was held at The Cairns Institute on the 20 November 2014. Speakers included Joann Schmider, a Mamu traditional owner and participant in the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Alliance (RAPA), Bruce Martin of Aak Puul Ngantam, and Professor Sandra Harding, Vice Chancellor of JCU. The event MC was RDA FNQ&TS Chief Executive officer, Sonja Johnson.

Having grown up in the 70s in Trinity Beach, Cairns, Allan never dreamt that he would return and deliver an inaugural professorial lecture just a few kilometres away in a world class university. Although his study and career led Allan south for a number of years, he returned to the far north with his family because he is passionate about northern Australia and helping to get this new phase of northern development right.

Allan’s lecture provided a personalised story of the challenges facing the northern development agenda and he discussed how increasingly, Australia’s agriculturalists are looking to the nation’s north to escape the decline in southern Australia’s water and soil resources. This is often at odds with the south’s conservation sector that would like to see significant conservation outcomes across the region. Both agendas, however, present risks and opportunities for northern Australia traditional owners.

Allan’s lecture and book explore the last 30 years of landscape scale conflict across the north as well as the many emerging opportunities facing future development. With much of the political power and finance supporting changes coming from the south, Allan believes that there is a strong cultural divide between northern and southern Australia. This divide needs to be reconciled if the nation as a whole is to benefit from this next phase of northern development.

To find out more about Allan’s book, go to http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/geography/book/978-3-319-05596-1

Having grown up in the 70s in Trinity Beach, Cairns, Allan never dreamt that he would return and deliver an inaugural professorial lecture just a few kilometres away in a world class university.

Allan Dale
Professor of Tropical Regional Development
The Cairns Institute
Creating futures 2015

In 2012 the fifth Creating Futures conference, which covered a broad territory across mental health, public health, cultural studies and creativity, was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and auspiced by The Cairns Institute. Each day’s proceedings began with a plenary by Vikram Patel, with Martin Prince, a key driver for the Lancet Series on Global Mental Health and author of Where there is no psychiatrist: A mental health care manual. Vikram outlined the mental health burden in low and middle income countries, and his presentations were, in a sense, a precis of the Leadership in mental health course run each year in Goa, India. That course seeks to familiarise participants with affordable, evidence-based approaches that are capable of being effectively implemented and scaled up to address priority mental health conditions in low and middle income nations.

In May 2015, Creating futures will return to Cairns (www.cf15.conorg.com.au) and will be coordinated with the inaugural Leadership in mental health for Pacific Island nations course. Both Vikram Patel and Graham Thornicroft will participate, as will Jagannath Lamicchane, a Kathmandu-based journalist and international leader in advocacy for the rights of people with mental disorders, who is currently Principal Coordinator of the Secretariat for the Movement for Global Mental Health.

In developing and supporting sustained relationships with colleagues in neighbour nations, The Cairns Institute is ideally placed to advance what is a major health issue across our neighbour nations and which we now understand will increase in importance as communicable diseases are more effectively treated, and as populations age in environments that are vulnerable in the face of climate change.

Native title for anthropologists EOI now open

In 2015, The Cairns Institute will again be presenting its week-long intensive Masterclass in Native Title, aimed at providing skills and industry knowledge for anthropologists to work in this exciting and critically important field.

The course we ran in 2014 proved to be our most successful to date and we aim to build on that success to ensure that the course in 2015 will be even better.

If you’re interested in getting a job in native title, this is an ideal opportunity to launch your career as there are full scholarships available that cover tuition fees, accommodation in Cairns with all meals, plus field trips, excursions and special social events during the week.

If you would like to discuss this course or any other professional development requirement, please contact Mark Franks, Professional Development Training Manager, on 0401 392 967 or mark.franks@jcu.edu.au

Participants and presenters from the 2014 Master Title for Anthropologists Class.
Public consultation

Professor Allan Dale was invited to contribute to the November 2014 public consultation for Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The committee included Senator Peris, Senator McKenzie and Senator Siewert. Allan outlined why he feels constitutional recognition is crucial and the importance of constitutional recognition for the equitable development of northern Australia.

“I think we need to recognise that in the postcolonial phase the world needs to look quite differently at how we support traditional owners to genuinely take back control of those returned resources ... It is not the way things used to be in the past, and so the context and the way things need to be governed and thought about is incredibly different. The support that is needed must be cohesive, highly integrated, bipartisan and bilateral so that there is stable and long-term support for traditional owners to see those major improvements in governance and to take real advantage (of economic opportunities).”

A full transcript of Allan’s contribution can be found at tinyurl.com/oh3rwe5

Major Projects Forum

On 24 October 2014 the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning held the sixth annual Cairns and surrounding region Major Projects Forum at The Cairns Institute, JCU. More than 200 guests attended and keynote speakers included Kathy Schaefer, Deputy Director-General, Regional Services, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Steve Appleby, BIM Practice Lead, Australia and New Zealand, AECOM.

For further information and to view the presentations please go to: www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/news-media-events/regional-major-projects-forums.html
The forum introduced current research being undertaken by JCU's Professor Rosita Henry, Dr Michael Wood, and Research Assistant, Ms Nalisa Neuendorf, entitled *Planning for later life among Papua New Guineans in north Queensland*, an Australian Research Council Discovery Project which is in partnership with the University of Manchester, UK (Professor Karen Sykes). Professor Henry and Dr Wood are Research Fellows of The Cairns Institute, while Professor Sykes has recently been hosted by the Cairns Institute as a visiting scholar.

Professor Sykes' current research entitled *The domestic moral economy: An ethnographic study of value in the Asia Pacific region* (funded by the Economic & Social Research Council of the United Kingdom – ERSC-UK), also involves the PNG community in Cairns and North Queensland.

Both studies will provide a broader understanding to the ways individuals and communities mobilise, create and use networks to address key needs within their communities. They also highlight the importance of creating contextually appropriate methods of service provision when caring for the elderly within Cairns and North Queensland.

Follow up feedback sessions, like this forum, will be conducted throughout the life of the project.

Nalisa Neuendorf
Research Assistant, College of Arts, Society and Education
The Cairns Institute art space

Following from the successful exhibition Inside-out of Gimuy, The Cairns Institute hosted another exhibition in October 2014 titled Landed by artist Steve Royster. Steve, who earned a BFA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and an MFA from Indiana University in Bloomington, aims to demonstrate through his work the interdependence of man and nature, and the impermanence of all form. Both the process of its creation and the content of his work address concepts of change and transformation.

For more information about Steve Royster see www.steveroysterart.com/

In 2015 there are already a number of exciting exhibitions in the pipeline including the Gapuwiyak calling exhibition by the Miyarrka Media collective which was recently shown in New York and Brisbane.

ARC success

We congratulate Dr Felecia Watkin Lui, Dr Roxanne Bainbridge, Professor Yvonne Cadet-James, Professor Komla Tsey and Dr Janya McCalman for their successful Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Indigenous Grant—Developing a framework for measuring Indigenous research benefit—with total funding of $612,845 over 3 years.

The proposed project aims to bring together researchers and Indigenous community members to develop a collaborative framework for measuring research benefit. It aims to address two main ‘Closing the Gap’ priority areas—Indigenous health and education—by questioning what constitutes research benefit from an Indigenous perspective, and how can the benefits of research be measured to ensure sustainable outcomes for Indigenous communities. The innovation of this project lies in its methodology which endeavours to unpack the benefit construct from an Indigenous worldview to enable future research projects to be designed with outcomes in mind that are acceptable and valued by Indigenous beneficiaries and be informed by Indigenous knowledges.
TEDxJCUCairns

The Inaugural TEDxJCUCairns was held on 3 October 2014 and the event featured 15 speakers from around the region. All speakers were recorded and can be viewed at the TEDxYouTube site.

Launched in 2009, TEDx is a program of locally organised events that bring the community together to share a TED-like experience. Some of the best talks from TEDx events have gone on to be featured on TED.com and garnered millions of views from audiences across the globe.

Our presenters included dengue expert, Scott Ritchie, reef researcher, Jodie Rummer, architect, Shaneen Fantin, educator, Max Lenoy, 9-year-old Charlie Cooper, author, TJ Clark, economist, Natalie Stoekl, musician and kayaker, Chris Wighton, biologist, Susan Laurance, Napranum community change advocate, Annalise Jennings, JCU’s own spiderman, David Wilson, artist and performer, Bernard Lee Singleton, public health researcher, David MacLaren, musician and Indigenous advocate, David Hudson, and Cairns Institute Director, Stewart Lockie.

TEDxJCUCairns licensee was the Institute’s Project Officer, Jennifer McHugh who said “TEDxJCUCairns was a great opportunity to involve many areas of JCU as well as the broader community. We were fortunate to have students as part of the technical and social media team, as well as one student presenter.”

Jennifer was also extremely pleased with the high production quality which she said was thanks largely to the “skills, expertise and guidance of Russell Milledge from Arts and Creative Media, a unit within the College of Arts, Society and Education.” We also had volunteers from other parts of JCU, including TropWater and the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM).

Being part of the TEDxJCUCairns has exposed me to people who are doing exciting things to change their lives and those of people around them too.

Hansley Gumbaketi

JCU student
The event provided a unique opportunity for student engagement and work integrated learning. Student volunteer and social media curator, Hansley Gumbaketi, said that as well as gaining new skills that: "Being part of the TEDxJCUCairns has exposed me to people who are doing exciting things to change their lives and those of people around them too."

The presenters also gained from being a part of the event. Public health researcher Dr David MacLaren said “TEDxJCUCairns provided researchers like me with an excellent opportunity to spread our ideas and highlight our research. It gave me the opportunity to improve my presentation skills to communicate my research to a general audience. The live recording style of the TEDx was something that was new to me, but was flexible enough to allow me to give the presentation with a toilet as a prop! Since the videos have gone live I have been contacted by researchers from the US, UK and across the Pacific who are also looking at similar issues. I have also been approached by people involved with Engineers without Borders who are also interested in community level participatory approaches to water and sanitation in the Pacific. It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know fellow presenters and volunteers and opened my eyes even further to the diversity and talent that we have in Cairns. I am now collaborating on a new health project with fellow presenter, Shaneen Fantin, after getting to know her work better through TEDx.”
TEDxJCUCairns cont.

Dr David Dahwurr Hudson, who is no stranger to performing and cameras, also enjoyed being a presenter: “I was thrilled to be part of our own TEDxJCUCairns talk. I’ve always been inspired by folks with intellectual curiosity and the courage to take risks. At the end of the day I was motivated enough by the sheer ingenuity and intelligence possessed by my fellow speaker mates.”

The videos have found a global audience and the live audience also included people from as far away as Napranum in Cape York Peninsula. The process of editing the four different cameras took some time with the videos going live between 30 October and 1 December 2014. All of the videos have been well received, but the video of Trinity Beach State School boy, Charlie Cooper (who was bullied at school) had received nearly 70,000 views in early January 2015 and was chosen to be one of the TEDx Talks Editor’s Picks for October 2014. Charlie’s Mum, Carly, has said that they have been overwhelmed with Tweets and interview request and that Charlie has even done radio interviews for Coffs Harbour and Albury, she also said that “although normally shy, being a part of TEDxJCUCairns has really boosted Charlie’s confidence.”

Charlie’s idea to have a buddy bench in every school in Australia is one step closer with a school in Townsville adopting the idea and discussion being had about the concept by schools in the Tablelands. The idea also has global appeal with one person commenting: “Charlie you are really a great inspiration. I did listen. I listened carefully, and a young friend of my daughter also shared with me that she is lonely in school. Hence I am determined to introduce your idea to our local school here in South Germany. You rock!”

To view the TEDxJCUCairns presentations go to http://tedxjcucairns.com/ or join the Twitter conversation @TEDxJCUCairns
TEDxJCUCairns cont.

More photos from the event by Glistening Deepwater and Nalisa Neuendorf.
This masterclass teaches women how to harness inner confidence to be a more effective and authentic leader whilst gaining the fundamental skills for creating focused and productive teams.

To finish off 2014 we are very happy that our friends from PNG’s Department of Justice and Attorney General’s Office returned for phase three of their ongoing management training program—Empowering your team for success—with The Cairns Institute.

Over two days the course covered: the basis of leadership power and how to use it appropriately; developed practical skills in mentoring using a motivational and strengths-based approach; practical skills in negotiation, conflict resolution and assertive communication techniques; effective daily mental and emotional habits that grow personal resilience and strength.

If you would like to discuss this course or any other Professional Development requirement, please contact Mark Franks, Professional Development Training Manager, on 0401 392 967 or mark.franks@jcu.edu.au

Professional development training year ends on a high

In November 2014 we ran a tailor-made masterclass for the Papua New Guinea Department of Justice and Attorney General’s Office—Effective management and good leadership skills—which was delivered by Dr Murray Prideaux from James Cook University’s College of Business, Law and Governance.

Over three days the participants learned about communication, self-analysis, conflict management, leadership, team building and critical thinking that will assist them to become better leaders and managers in their home country.

In December 2014 Dr Elaine Harding hosted a sell-out Women in a leadership role masterclass in Cairns to a range of locally based women leaders. As a former scientist, educator and several-time board member, Elaine has broad experience working in male-dominated, highly technical environments and she now specialises in unlocking the full potential of women leaders to help them achieve success without sacrificing their work/life balance or losing their essential femininity.
Details for these events can be found at: jcu.edu.au/cairsinstitute/events/index.htm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridging linkage in cross-linguistic perspective</td>
<td>25-26 February 2015 Cairns Institute</td>
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<td>LCRC special workshop convened by Valérie Guérin and Simon Overall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commands: The twelfth international workshop</td>
<td>28 September—3 October 2015 The Cairns Institute</td>
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<td>Organised by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDxJCUCairns</td>
<td>2 October 2015 (TBC) The Cairns Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>TASA (The Australian Sociological Association) conference: Neoliberalism and contemporary challenges for the Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>23-26 November 2015</td>
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<td>Designed in Cairns seminar series</td>
<td>Dates TBC The Cairns Institute</td>
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<td>The early years conference</td>
<td>Dates TBC</td>
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<td>Tropics of the imagination conference</td>
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