



## Country and Climate Yarning Circle

*Climate and Land – A DSF 2022 Symposium*

### Delegates

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
**10:00am – 3:00pm**

*Witchetty's Artspace, Araluen Arts Centre*  
*Larapinta Drive, Araluen*

The Arrernte people are the traditional owners of the Mparntwe, Antulye and Irlpme estates.

They have been here since time began.

According to Traditional Owners this country was shaped by caterpillars, wild dogs, travelling boys and many other ancestral figures. Some of the first Dreaming stories ever recorded, were those of the Arrernte people of Central Australia. We acknowledge the Arrernte and all Traditional Landowners and Custodians across Australia and recognise and respect their rich cultural heritage, beliefs and ongoing connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to Arrernte Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*Country and Climate Art Design - Narida Yeatman-Morgan, Yorta Yorta*



Country and Climate Yarning Circle  
Climate and Land: A 2022 DSF Symposium



## Speakers and Delegates



**Tiahni Adamson, Kaurareg, (she/her)**  
*Uluru Youth Network & CH4 Global*

Tiahni is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman descended from the Kaurareg Nations of Thursday Island. As a Wildlife Conservation Biologist, she works on a variety of projects to nurture country, find solutions to our climate crisis and advocate for First Nations justice and land rights. Tiahni leans on her special connection with our land to educate, advocate and nurture sustainable living practices on country. Tiahni is the Lead Community Engagement Officer for CH4 Global - who research and foster sustainable seaweed aquaculture to positively impact climate change and have a goal of zero methane agriculture. She also lectures for UniSA, embedding First Nations knowledges into STEM careers; is the state coordinator for Seed - a First Nations only run climate youth activism group, and Uluru Youth Delegate, aiming to uplift a constitutionally enshrined First Nations voice into Parliament. In 2019, she was

trained by Al Gore as a Climate Reality Leader, and regularly speaks to large audiences about First Nations justice and environmental issues.



**Patricia Ansell Dodds, Arrernte**  
*Elder, Undoolya Artist, Educator, Community Advocate*

Undoolya, just east of Alice Springs, is my father's country. It is part of the Arrernte Nation. My mother's country is Central Mount Stuart north of Alice Springs, it is part of the Anmatyerr Nation. Both are my ampere or home. Perrurle is my skin name, this name gives me a connection to everybody within my cultural region, it is a complex system that determines how I relate to others and my role, responsibility or obligation in relation to others. I have been developing my artwork for well over 16 years. I had occasionally done some art and craft previously, but it was only after the death of my youngest brother that I became immersed in the art world as a tribute to him and healing for me. To be able to tell our stories in a way that only we can, as the first people of Australia. I have had many challenges during my life but have also had

many achievements that I would never have dreamed of doing, considering where I began. Leaving school in yr 7 as was done back in them days, returning to study at various times I was eventually able to gain a university qualification with a Bachelor of Arts at the age of 50.

My passion is my culture, getting involved in our pursuits of social justice, tourism and cross-cultural awareness training have all allowed me to share my passion with others. In 2016 I received the Executive Dean's Teaching Excellence Award from Flinders University after working with health professionals for a number of years and presenting cultural awareness sessions. I have had a number of exhibitions both on my own and collaboratively with other family members sharing in our successes. From logos for National meetings held in Alice Springs, artwork for the Alice Springs Town Council, local and interstate art exhibitions, the Partjima festival, World Conferences and my painting projected onto the Sydney Opera House, an amazing journey that is definitely just as exciting as when I started.





**A/Professor Margaret Ayre**

*Rural Innovation and Adaptation, FVAS, University of Melbourne*

Margaret is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She works within the field of applied social science where she contributes new knowledge and innovative frameworks and approaches for enabling innovation and adaptation in agriculture and cultural and natural resource management (CNRM). She has over 20 years' experience in collaborative, Indigenous-led, community-based cultural and natural resource management (CNRM) and research.



**Anna Boustead**

*CEO, Indigenous Carbon Industry Network*

Anna is an environmental communications and policy specialist based in Darwin, Larrakia country, with 18 years' experience in the Indigenous land management and community environment sector; including roles with NAILSMA, Environment Centre NT, Environment Victoria and Landcare NT. Through these roles, Anna has worked to support many different community organisations and Indigenous groups to promote their important work caring for country and advocate for better policies in the areas of Indigenous water policy, economic development, climate change and environmental management. She is particularly passionate about supporting greater recognition of the incredible expertise held by the Traditional Owners of Australia, including the hard work by Indigenous land managers to manage their country and supporting Indigenous-led economic development. This brought Anna to her most recent role as Coordinator of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network, supporting knowledge sharing and networking across Indigenous organisations engaged in the carbon industry. Anna holds a Masters of Tropical Environmental Management and a Bachelor of Arts (Eco-Communication). In 2009, as part of her Masters research Anna co-authored a report with Prof Pascal Tremblay assessing the potential impact of climate change upon tourism in Kakadu National Park.

Anna also has a passion for music and storytelling and is a published singer-songwriter with local band After the Rain.



**Dr Jayne Brim Box**

*Aquatic Ecologist, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, NT Government*

Jayne Brim Box is an aquatic ecologist with the NTG. She has spent 17 years working with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal ranger groups, national parks and other stakeholders to monitor and restore water places across central Australia.



**Sarah Brown AM**  
*CEO, Purple House*

Sarah Brown AM is the Chief Executive Officer of Purple House, working with its board of Indigenous directors to run the organisation since its inception two decades ago. She was recognised with an Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List "for significant service to community health, to remote area nursing, and to the Indigenous community". In 2017 she was Hesta Australia's Nurse of the Year and in 2018 made the AFR BOSS magazine's 'True Leaders' list. A fearless advocate for high quality, community-led healthcare for Indigenous Australians, Sarah has invested three decades of her life in this work across Australia. She holds a Master of Nursing, a Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal Education and a Graduate Diploma in Health Service Management. Prior to joining Purple House, Sarah worked as a remote area nurse in communities as diverse as Cape Barren Island (TAS), Balgo (WA), Yuelamu and Harts Range (NT). She has

also been an Aboriginal health service manager in the Kimberley and a university lecturer. Sarah paints, has exhibitions across Australia and overseas, has 3 grown up kids and drives a 1959 Morris Minor. She thinks 'work/life balance' is irrelevant if you love what you do!



**Bridget Cama, Wiradjuri** (she/her)  
*Co-Chair, Uluru Youth Dialogue*

Bridget Cama is a Wiradjuri and Pasifika Fijian woman who was born and grew up in Lithgow, New South Wales and has connections to the Cudgegong River just outside of Mudgee. Bridget graduated with a Bachelor of Laws/Arts with Distinction in Indigenous Studies from UNSW and has been working with the Uluru Dialogue since March 2019 towards implementation of the reforms called for by the Uluru Statement from the Heart - Voice Treaty and Truth. Bridget works in the legal team that support the work of the Uluru Dialogue and is the Uluru Youth Dialogue Co-Chair alongside Allira Davis, providing a national platform for First Nations youth voices to be heard in the Uluru Statement from the Heart movement and in First Nations affairs more broadly.



**Jimmy Cocking** (he/him)  
*CEO, Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA)*

Jimmy has lived in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) since 2008 and has extensive experience working with local community-based and regional organisations. His skills, professional experience and local knowledge strengthen DKA's efforts to advance Central Australia, and advocate for the region and its people. Over the past two decades, Jimmy has held senior positions at organisations working to create better outcomes for remote and regional Australia. He has extensive experience in ecological sustainability, community development, and creating economic opportunities for people living in Australia's arid zone.





**Oliver Costello, Bundjalung (he/him)**

*Oliver Costello, Bush Heritage Australia*

Waybar Bundjalung Jagun Lisa Sorgini Photo

Oliver is a Bundjalung man from the Northern Rivers and has been actively engaged in Cultural Land Management projects. He believes strongly in the role of Aboriginal culture as a keystone to maintaining livelihoods, supporting identity, connection to Country and enabling healthy and regenerative communities to care for Country. Works parttime for Bush Heritage Australia as a Project Manager Traditional Knowledge on Conservation Futures. Was an Indigenous Contributing

Author to the Extreme Events Chapter of the 2021 State of Environment Report. Started the Firesticks Initiative and was a founding Director of both the Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation and Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation. Is a board director of the Natural Hazards Research Australia and Vice President of the Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. Holds a Bachelor of Arts in Adult Education and Community Management from the University of Technology, Sydney and has a broad range of experience in Natural Cultural Resource management, cultural fire practices, Aboriginal Joint Management partnerships, Culturally significant species and threatened species management. Oliver works to support a range of research, policy, advocacy, education and on ground projects. He is passionate about Aboriginal leadership, empowerment, partnerships and recognition of cultural knowledge and practice.



**Djarra Delaney, Quandamooka (he/him)**

*PhD Candidate, University of Melbourne*

Djarra is a Quandamooka person from Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island, Mulgumpin, Moreton Island, and the surrounding land and Sea Country. Djarra Delaney is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, examining climate change adaptation within Indigenous contexts. In a prior professional capacity, Djarra managed the Indigenous Weather Knowledge website at the Bureau of Meteorology, working with community groups to host seasonal weather calendars with the support of the Bureau. His research is grounded in an understanding of climate change as a consequence of colonialism. Adaptation action takes place within colonial systems of power, and to be effective must be grounded in decolonial principles if it hopes to achieve positive adaptation outcomes for Indigenous peoples.



**Professor Richard Eckard**

*Director, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre, University of Melbourne*

Professor Richard Eckard is a world authority on sustainable agricultural production, with a focus on carbon neutral agriculture and agricultural adaptation to climate change.

He developed the first greenhouse gas accounting tools for agriculture and his research provided the science basis for six carbon offset methods in Australia.

He is a science advisor to the Australian, New Zealand and UK governments, the International Livestock Research Institute, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the European Union, providing advice on climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. He is also the Australian representative on the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.



**Rowan Foley, Wondonna-Badtjala**  
*CEO, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation*

I am a Ranger by trade, first coming to Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park – shortly after hand back in 1989. I later returned with my family, to once again live at Mutitjulu, this time as the Park Manager. Working with the Board and park staff we successfully developed the [\\$21m sunrise area](#), established the Mala (Hare Wallaby) paddock and introduced the summer seasonal closure of the climb. In between time at the rock, I worked for the Kimberley Land Council in 1995 as their first Land Management Officer where I negotiated the first Indigenous Protected Area at Paruku (Lake Gregory) in WA and with a National Heritage Trust Co-ordinator established their Land and Sea Management Unit. As the CFI was being developed in 2010-11, I worked with a dedicated team of people to ensure Indigenous interests were acknowledged and supported through the establishment of the \$22m Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund, a co-benefits report and Indigenous Negotiation Roundtables with the Australian Government. I come from the Wondunna clan of the Badtjala people, Traditional Owners of Fraser Island (K'gari) in Queensland. I live in Alice Springs.



**A/Professor Payi Linda Ford, Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu**  
*Principal Research Fellow, Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University*

Dr Payi Linda Ford is Aboriginal and identifies as Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu, from Kurrindju, on the Finnis River, in the Northern Territory and is currently a Principal Research Fellow at Northern Institute at CDU, with whom she has a long association. Her knowledge, expertise and research in working with Indigenous groups is clearly invaluable to the Northern Institute. Dr Ford graduated with her PhD (Education), 2006 from Deakin University.

Linda understands and is familiar with Indigenous epistemological practices and its application to her research projects. Her knowledge and experience have informed her research practises to include ways of being, knowing and ability to lead and contribute to local, national and international research projects. The Indigenist research methodologies are applied to her research projects.



**Dr Ann-Maree Graham (she/her)**  
*Climate Change Program Manager, PICCC, University of Melbourne*

Ann-Maree is the Climate Change Project and Program Manager at the University of Melbourne Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre. She manages national and state-wide projects and programs addressing climate change challenges which promotes positive incremental and transformational change. This includes delivering research, conferences, F2F and remote training, webinars and educational tools for a diverse range of stakeholders across many foci including mitigation and adaptation, carbon farming and extreme events. She is a Fellow of Melbourne Climate Futures, a mentor for the Melbourne Indigenous Professional Employment Program and a long-term volunteer to Arts Organisations including The Australian Boys Choral Institute and The Australian Ballet School. Her outside interests include filmmaking and in 2021 she received awards for her first films: 'Behind Murmuring' (Best Female Filmmaker – California Indies, Most Inspirational Film – Sandbar International Film Awards) and 'Murmuring' (Best Dance Film (OpenVision Film Festival – Moscow).



**Professor Mark Howden** (he/him)

*Director, Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions, Australian National University*

Professor Mark Howden is Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at The Australian National University. He is also an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and is the Chair of the ACT Climate Change Council. He was on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment, was a member of the Australian National Climate Science Advisory Committee and contributes to several major national and international science and policy advisory bodies. Mark has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles. Issues he has addressed include agriculture and food security, the natural resource base, ecosystems and biodiversity, energy, water and urban systems.



**Amelia Lisbeth Joshy** (she/her)

*The Australian National University*

Amelia is a research assistant at the Australian National University. Over the past 3 years she has worked across various research groups within the Population Health space. The projects she has been involved in include synthesising evidence on COVID prevention measures for health experts, creating a National Climate Change and Health Action Plan for the Republic of Marshall Islands and studying PFAS exposure across communities in NSW, ACT and NT. She is currently on two HEAL satellite projects CE4HEAL and Healthy-Air. The CE4HEAL project focuses on promoting solar energy adoption in rural/remote Central Australian and South Indian communities. The Healthy-Air project aims to disseminate culturally appropriate health advice and resources to Aboriginal and Arabic speaking communities in Australia adversely impacted by air pollution.



**Wynona Karena, Arrernte,** (she/her)

*First Nations Clean Energy Network Project Officer, Original Power*

Wynona is a descendant of the Arrernte People of Central Australia. As Original Power's Project and Administration Officer, she brings over 11 years of business development, marketing, communications and strategy experience across a multitude of sectors including Aboriginal broadcasting, transport and renewable energy. Wynona contributes her breadth of skills and unique understanding of First Nations issues to assist in the initial development and implementation of the First Nations Clean Energy Network, as well as support the ongoing projects of Original Power.



**Professor David Karoly FAA**

*Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne*

David Karoly is internationally recognised as a world leader in climate change science. He was Leader of the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub in the National Environmental Science Program, funded by the Australian government, during 2018-21. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. David has been active in the communication of climate change science to business, community groups, government at all levels and to the public.





**Michael Liddle, Alyawarre**

*Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Program Manager-Desert Knowledge Australia*

I am very keen to progress the region of the Sandover (Alyawarre people). For far too long this area has been neglected in all aspects of service providers.

Health, education are all high priorities.

I believe that in order to move, Aboriginal people have to be responsible for our actions and develop change, whilst also having the tools to maintain identity and connection to each own's country. This is the hard part.



**Dr Simon Marsland (he/him)**

*National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Systems Hub, CSIRO*

Simon leads the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Systems Hub. His team developed Australia's ACCESS model submission to the international Coupled Model Intercomparison Project. He has developed global ocean and coupled models of the Earth's climate system for 25 years. Marsland has over 20 years cumulative experience serving expert panels of the World Climate Research Programme, including membership of Working Group on Coupled Modelling, and Co-chair of the Ocean Model Development Panel. He was a Review Editor for the recently released (2021) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th Assessment Report. Simon is

committed to bringing climate science expertise to deliver tangible solutions for society's climate adaptation challenges. Through the Climate Systems Hub he is proud to foster Indigenous engagements through-designed research initiatives with Traditional Owner communities.



**Dr Supriya Mathew (she/her)**

*Menzies School of Health Research*

Dr Mathew is a senior research fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research. Her doctoral research developed a climate adaptation decision-making tool for local governments in India and Australia. The tool is used by local governments' nationally and internationally to prioritize adaptation options for extreme weather events. Her recent research focus is in developing innovative solutions to assist rural and remote communities adapt to climatic changes. She is leading the 'Air in Alice' project that aims to crowdsource air quality and temperature data in Alice Springs to improve environmental health surveillance.



**A/Professor Veronica Matthews, Quandamooka (she/her)**

*University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney*

Veronica is a Quandamooka woman from Minjerribah who lives and works on Bundjalung Country at the University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney. Her work centres on improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander holistic health care systems (incorporating environmental, social and cultural determinants of health) through systems-thinking and community-based participatory research. She co-leads the Indigenous Knowledges theme within the Healthy Environment and Lives (HEAL) National Network and the Centre for Research Excellence in Strengthening Systems for Indigenous Health Care Equity (CRE-STRIDE). Both collaborations are multi-jurisdictional and transdisciplinary networks of service providers, policymakers and researchers working to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and methodologies into inter-sectoral research to achieve health equity.





**Peter McDonald** (he/him)

*A/Director Species Management, Flora and Fauna Division of NT Government*

Peter is an Acting Director in the Flora and Fauna Division and has been based in Alice Springs since 2006. He has worked on a range of threatened species recovery, biodiversity monitoring and pest animal management projects across the NT and in the Pacific Islands region. Peter is particularly passionate about conserving the threatened and endemic species of the MacDonnell Ranges.



**Lauren Mellor** (she/her)

*Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Northern Territory, Original Power*

Lauren Mellor has close to two decades experience working in community development and organising capacities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Northern Territory and Queensland to implement self-determined solutions to complex community needs. She has led programs and teams of people in the design, implementation and assessment of community-driven projects and has experience delivering community energy planning scenarios, standalone and grid-connected solar and battery storage projects and renewable energy law and policy reform to ensure First Nations people play a leading role in the clean energy transition.



**Damian Morgan-Bulled, Yorta Yorta** (he/him)

*Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board*

Damian is a proud Yorta Yorta man based on the Dhungala (Murray) River at Echuca-Moama on the Victoria-NSW border, within Yorta Yorta Country. Damian has worked within the Cultural Heritage and Natural Resource Management field for more than 25 years including stints with the Murray Darling Basin Authority based in Canberra and the Department of Sustainability & Environment, Victoria. He currently works as the Executive Officer for the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board which oversees the implementation of the Joint Management Plan for the Barmah National Park in conjunction with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.

Damian has represented the Yorta Yorta Nation on several key negotiating teams and committees at a Regional, State and National level. Recently, Damian Co-Chaired the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change Steering Committee that co-designed the protocols and agenda for the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change. Damian is considered a senior leader within the Aboriginal community of Echuca-Moama and has well established networks that has seen him present First Nations Peoples issues in Climate Change at both the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (National) and Knowledge Exchange for Climate Adaptation Platforms (International) forums. His ability to communicate from both an historical and present perspective offers a level grounding with focus on ethical consideration. His involvement on a range of local, State and National platforms means Damian's personal experience is wide-ranging through matters related to Cultural-Environmental Heritage and climate change. His input is a cross-pollination of knowledge and ideas that reflects his broad experience.



**A/Professor Ben Neville** (he/him)

*Deputy Director, Engagement, Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne*

Ben Neville is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management & Marketing, Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Ben researches and teaches in the area of sustainable business, including corporate social responsibility, business ethics, ethical consumption and social entrepreneurship. His work investigates how business can be a force for both harm and good, including from strategic, ethical, political and critical perspectives.

At the University, Ben is co-Deputy Director of *Melbourne Climate Futures*, the University's interdisciplinary initiative to accelerate the pathway to a positive climate future. Ben is also the Gourlay Fellow of Ethics in Business, the Sustainability in the Curriculum Fellow for the Faculty of Business and Economics, Coordinator of the Governance, Policy and Markets Stream in the Master of Environment, and Program Director of the new Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business. He is also the Chair of the University's Fair Trade Steering Committee.



**Dr Michaela Spencer**

*Research Fellow, Charles Darwin University*

Michaela is a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University. Her background is in environmental science, sociology, geography and Science and Technology Studies (STS), with her doctoral studies focusing on recent practices of environmental management and governance in Tasmania. Her current research involves working from the '[GroundUP](#)' with Indigenous knowledge authorities, and differing traditions of knowledge and governance. This involves collaborative research for policy development, and engaging with government, service providers, university staff and Indigenous people in remote communities. So far this research has been focused around issues such as disaster resilience, emergency management, governance and leadership, remote engagement and coordination, volunteering and women's health and wellbeing. Michaela also

facilitates the [Indigenous Community-based Researcher Micro-credential](#) program/s.

This work drives her current interest in how social science may recognise itself as an active participant in contemporary governance practices, and as working at the interface of differing means for knowing and governing Australian people-places.



**Dr Rebecca Spindler** (she/her)

*Director, Conservation Futures, Bush Heritage*

Rebecca has been engaged in the Australian and international conservation science sector for over 20 years with experience in USA, China and South America when working for the Smithsonian Institution and in Australia in government and non-government agencies. After 10 years as Head of Science and Conservation at Taronga Conservation Society she joined Bush Heritage Australia as Executive Manager, Science and Conservation. Her team guides conservation and knowledge building strategies, facilitates

inclusive planning and generates collaborative approaches to science, conservation action and best practice impact reporting. Rebecca is a co-founder of the Conservation Futures project with Prof Brendan Wintle from University of Melbourne.



**Dr Lisa Stefanoff** (she/her)  
*Menzies School of Health Research*

Dr Lisa Stefanoff is Senior Research Officer at the Menzies School of Health Research and Coordinator of the 'Air in Alice' Citizen Science/ Environmental Health project. A cultural anthropologist, media producer, curator, writer, social justice activist and mother of two young children, Lisa has experienced climate, ecological and social changes in the central desert region over two decades. She has worked extensively in Indigenous-directed collaborative research and community projects that support first languages, knowledges and voices, from film to books, exhibitions to mental health-focused Virtual Reality *tjukurpa*. She takes from this work keen attention to how researchers and artists can work together to design proactive, collective and locally appropriate solutions to shared challenges. She respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners, custodians and ancestors of Mparntwe and tries to tread lightly in this beautiful country.



**Morris Stuart AM**  
*Director, Desert Song Festival*

Morris Stuart is the Director of the Desert Song Festival, an annual festival of music staged in the desert heart of Australia celebrating the singer, the song, the instrument and the 'country', and characterised by cultural diversity and artistic brilliance. He brings 30 years of experience in conducting community choirs and producing and presenting festivals. He and his wife Barb- an accomplished artist- have over many years, been spending their winters in Central Australia making music within the community, delivering workshops, presenting performances and staging art exhibitions. Their work in remote communities has seen the emergence and stellar rise of the award-winning Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir. Their connection with First Nations remote communities in Central Australia goes back across 28 years. Morris founded the Desert Song Festival in 2013 and has guided its artistic development. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, its Festival theme this year is critical, timely and matches his passion for sustainable living on this planet. Morris and Barb's four children and 10 grandchildren sharpen their focus on *Our Climate, our Planet and its Future!* Their two daughters are deeply involved in supporting the Desert Song Festival.



**Suzanne Thompson, Iningai**  
*CEO, Yumbangu Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development Aboriginal Corporation*

Suzanne was born and raised in Barcardine. Her custodial connection to country has been continuous and carries on the work of her father the late David Thompson, Great Grandparents David and Clara, all of which had traditional custodial links to the lands of the Kunngerri/Iningai & Bidjera peoples. Suzanne has returned to country after two decades of working within Government agencies and private business enterprises. For the most part she worked in the areas of: Youth and policy Development, Community Development, Indigenous Business Advisor; Volunteering commitments - Board Member of the Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Board, Noosa Bio Sphere Board, Committee Member for the Desert Uplands Committee (Landholders), founding member of Yumbangu Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development Aboriginal Corporation. Suzanne is the National Co-Chair for the Statement from the Heart Working Group and sits on the QTIC First Nations Tourism Plan Working Group. She owns and manages her own gallery and with her husband runs a successful 'Wood Fired Pizza' business called the 'Lounging Emu' in Barcardine. Suzanne sees these enterprises as a key opportunity to share the stories of her ancestral knowledge and practices to the tourist and locals. She has teamed up with landowners of the district to work in partnership to further develop relationships with both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous. She is passionate about the opportunities that both cultures can create into the future as new industries for outback communities.





**Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis**

*National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University*

Sotiris Vardoulakis is a Professor of Global Environmental Health at the Australian National University, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, where he leads the Environment, Climate, and Health Research Group. He is the Director of the Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) National Research Network, and co-leads the International Consortium for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability (Healthy-Polis), and the Clean Environment and Planetary Health in Asia (CEPHA) network. Previously he was Director of Research at the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, and Head of the Environmental Change Department at Public Health

England. His work focuses on sustainable solutions to protect human health from climate change, air pollution, temperature extremes, and other environmental and occupational hazards, and improve the resilience and sustainability of the health system and communities.



**Alex Vaughan**

*Policy Officer, Arid Lands Environment Centre*

Alex Vaughan is the Policy Officer at the Arid Lands Environment Centre in Mparntwe/ Alice Springs. Alex’s research and advocacy is currently focused on water policy and large-scale groundwater extraction (for example, the Singleton Station water licence), the emergent fracking industry in the Beetaloo Basin and weed issues contributing to biodiversity decline across Central Australia. Alex has a geography, environmental studies and plant science background. He presented at the national drinking water conference 'Voices for the Bush' earlier this year.



**Kris Vine**

*University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney*

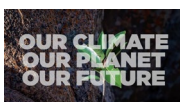
Kris is a research Fellow at the UCRH. Centre research priorities are rural health services, public health and rural workforce, with Aboriginal health, maternal and child health, chronic disease, environmental and mental health running through these topics. We strive to do research that makes a real difference to regional communities and service providers. Collaborations are multi-jurisdictional and transdisciplinary networks of service providers, policymakers and researchers working to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and methodologies into inter-sectoral research to achieve health equity.



**Professor John Wiseman**

*Melbourne Climate Futures, University of Melbourne*

Prof John Wiseman is a Senior Research Fellow with [Melbourne Climate Futures](#) and Adjunct Professor at the [Melbourne School of Population and Global Health](#) at the University of Melbourne. He is also a Research Fellow at the [Centre for Policy Development](#) and a Board member with [The Next Economy](#). His current research and writing focuses on actions needed to rapidly phase out fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to a just and regenerative safe climate future. His most recent book is [Hope and Courage in the Climate Crisis: Wisdom and Action in the Long Emergency](#) Palgrave 2021. \_





### **Jessie May Wright**

*Singer Songwriter, Fiddler/ Violinist and Music Educator OLSHC*

Jessie May hails from Armidale NSW and now resides in Alice Springs as a Music teacher and regularly performs around the town, and the Northern Territory. Jessie studied Music Education and Violin at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she developed her passion for song writing. In 2020, Jessie received an Australia Day Award with the National Council of Women, NSW, recognising her to be a future leader in her field, encompassing all things Music Education and performing. While new to recording her own tracks Jessie is prolific

performer and multi-instrumentalist whose work as a music teacher was recently featured by Paul Kelly, showcasing her school choir performing a rendition of 'Sleep Australia Sleep' in a spectacular clip filmed in the West Macdonell Ranges with recording, mixing, vocals & guitar by Jessie. She also recently performed with Kasey and Bill Chambers out at Hermannsburg on her fiddle. Whether she's playing with local chamber music ensembles or rocking it out at open mic night playing rocking folk bangers, Jessie's performances are captivating, a feat recognised by MusicNT's 'Create and Release' grant which, with support from Spotify, has allowed her to team up with Alice Springs's producer Ross Muir to record her debut EP, released in Jan 2022. In October 2022, Jessie will be performing as Concertmaster for the World Premiere of Anne Boyd's Olive Pink Opera. She will also be the Children's Choir Director for the Gap Kids Chorus, who are members of her school choir, the OLSH Traeger Choir.

Jessie hopes to begin touring her Music in 2023 and continue songwriting, violining and inspiring the next generation of musicians through Music Education.

[Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#), [ABC Alice Springs](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple Music](#), [Tone Deaf Article](#)



### **Jessie May and Traeger Choir**

*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College*

**OLSH Traeger Choir** began under the leadership of Jessica Wright in late 2019. In 2020, Traeger Choir filmed and recorded Paul Kelly's *Sleep Australia Sleep* on Arrernte Country, which was recognised by Paul and his team and shared into the world through his socials, in early 2021. The 2021 Centralian Eisteddfod saw Traeger Choir win the *Taps, Tubs and Tiles Trophy*, placing first in their section.

Traeger Choir performed as part of the 2021 Mini Desert Song Festival. In October 2022, members of the Traeger Choir will be performing as the children's chorus as part of the World Premiere of Anne Boyd's

*Olive Pink Opera*, collaborating with local musicians, Shakuhachi player Riley Lee and *The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir*. [Sleep Australia Sleep - OLSH Traeger Choir](#)

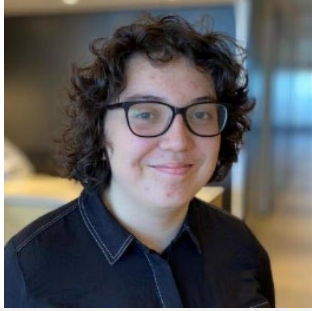


### **Narida Yeatman-Morgan, Yorta Yorta (she/her)**

*Community Engagement, Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development*

Narida is the Schools and Community Liaison Officer at the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development. A proud Yorta Yorta woman, Narida's expertise in community outreach fosters healthy student engagement and trust via positive community relationships. Narida is passionate about supporting and empowering prospective and current Indigenous students in pursuit of their artistic practise at the Faculty. Narida realises her passion by promoting pathways and opportunities which support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students throughout their application,

admission and induction. Narida's drive to deliver an engaging student life experience at the University gives students a sense of belonging and enables them to establish connection with peers and the University at large within a culturally safe and inclusive community.



**Brydie Zorz, Wiradjuri** (she/her)  
*Student, University of New South Wales*

Brydie Zorz is a proud Wiradjuri woman from Central West NSW currently studying a Bachelor of laws/arts at UNSW. Brydie is a member of the Uluru Youth Dialogue and other student collectives including the UNSW Environment Collective.