



From the Acting Director

It has been an eventful three months since the last newsletter. We moved into our new building and had two openings. On Monday 8 July 2013 over 250 people attended the celebration of the new building. Because of changes of Ministers in Canberra and a Cabinet meeting on the 8 July, the Minister was unable to attend. We were welcomed to the new building by Ms Jeanette Singleton, Traditional Owner of the Cairns region. A warming was given by members of the Yirrganydji as people entered through smoke pots at the entrance to the building.

The Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir sang in different Indigenous languages in front of dignitaries including the Member for Barron River, Michael Trout, the Mayor of Cairns, Mr Bob Manning, the Vice Chancellor, the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Mark Damant, the architect. Also attending were members of the Rainforest Aboriginal People's Alliance, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea, Professor Albert Mellum, members of the International Advisory Board: Dame Carol

Kidu, Mrs Margo Chapman, Ms Joann Schmider, Professor Jon Jonassen, Associate Professor Tarcisius Kabataulaka, and JCU members of the Board.

Three pieces of artwork by renowned artists Mr Joe Nalo from Port Moresby, Ms Gail Mabo, Townsville, and Mr Bernard Singleton, Cairns were commissioned for the building.

The same day the Indigenous Arts Centre Alliance opened an exhibition entitled "Kinship" which will run until the end of July on the Knowledge Walk upstairs in the Cairns Institute.

This celebration was followed by the Official Opening by the Minister for Higher Education, Senator Kim Carr on the 17 July 2013.



Meanwhile our work goes on as you can see in this newsletter.

Sue McGinty
Acting Director
The Cairns Institute

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THE CAIRNS INSTITUTE
Researching tropical societies



July 2013

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Constructing our new building

Photos from the building construction.

James Cook University received \$19.5M funding from the Commonwealth Government (Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research) and contributed a further \$5.5M of its own funds to develop the Cairns Institute building.

Building timeline

- Oct 2011: Site clearing, site & access establishment, civil works
- Nov 2011 – Apr 2013: Building construction & fit out
- June 2013: JCU occupation of building
- July 2013: Official opening





@TCI
The Cairns Institute News

Opening celebrations



Photos: L—R

Project Manager, Rachel Argent, explaining the features of the building.

Professor Sue McGinty addressing the opening crowd.

Jim Turnour, Professor Chris Cocklin & Professor Sandra Harding.

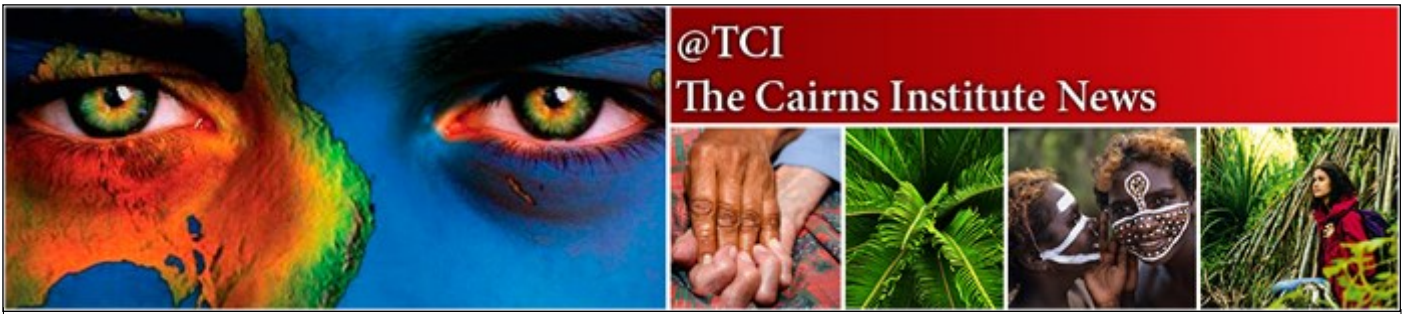
Bernard Singleton, artist, dancer and musician.

Professor Sue McGinty, Professor Sandra Harding & Leah Talbot.

Gondwana National Indigenous Children's Choir.

Pam Bigelow, Solomon Booth & Professor Chris Cocklin opening the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance art exhibition.

Crowd in the ground floor foyer at the opening festivities.



Official opening by Minister Carr

On 17 July the new Cairns Institute building was officially opened by Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Higher Education, Kim Carr.

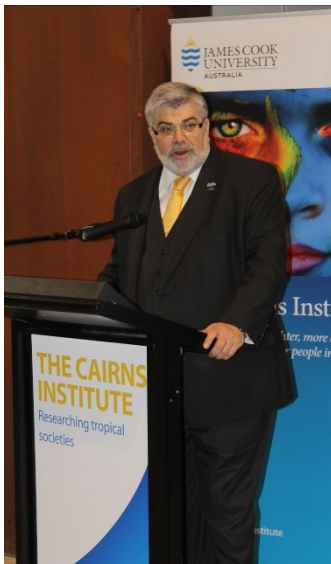
He said the building had given scientists, researchers, academics and students “world-class facilities to carry out world-class science”.

“It is attracting leading academics and significant financial investment,” Senator Carr

said at the opening.

Human Services Minister, Jan McLucas also attended the opening and said the Institute consolidated JCU’s expertise in all matters tropical.

Professor Colin Ryan and Professor Hurriyet Babacan were both acknowledged for the important roles they played in the establishment of the Institute and it’s wonderful new building.



Minister Kim Carr



L to R: Minister Kim Carr & Vice Chancellor Sandra Harding unveiling the plaque



L to R: Minister Kim Carr, Senator Jan McLucas, Billy Gordon, candidate for Leichhardt

RAPA partnership

As part of the opening week celebrations for the new building an important partnership agreement was made between the Cairns Institute and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ Alliance.

The partnership is designed to encourage increased engagement between RAP Tribal Owner Groups and the broader JCU research, training and development capabilities.

The partnership will progress a number of initiatives including:

- documenting and preserving cultural knowledge within a capacity building framework

- leveraging the academic expertise within the Cairns Institute to develop and strengthen the strategic vision for building the social capital of the RAP in the wet tropics region
- positioning and supporting RAPA as the cultural and natural resource management brand for Rainforest Aboriginal peoples.

The partnership is based on joint leadership, respecting and valuing diversity, openness and transparency of processes, decision-making and operations, sharing of research knowledge, co-lead agreed projects, mutual knowledge transfer, and honesty and mutual understanding of each partner’s boundaries and abilities.





The Cairns Institute building video

The Cairns Institute, as part of the opening celebrations, commissioned two important video projects. Production designer was third year creative arts student, **Tai Inoue**, who specialises in audio and visual production. Tai was supervised and guided by Russell Milledge, School of Creative Arts, who directed the video and is Fellow in Residence at the Institute this semester.

The first video focused on the building itself and interviews were conducted with Professor Hurriyet Babacan, the Foundation Director of the Cairns Institute, Mark Damant, the architect, Richard Lawrence, the builder, and various others involved with the construction, design and fit out. This video was shown on the day of the buildings celebration on 8 July and at the official opening by Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Minister for Higher Education on 17 July 2013.

The second video involved interviewing all of the Tropical Leaders and the Acting Director, Sue McGinty. Although originally planned to be a short 15 minute video, all of the Tropical Leaders provided such interesting comments about the Cairns Institute and their research that despite extensive editing the video ended up being a 35 minute production.

Tai and Russell must both be commended for the extremely high level of professionalism and quality they brought to this project. Tai is a clear example of the high class and industry ready students JCU can produce.

We expect to hear great things about Tai in the future.

“Tai is a clear example of the high class and industry ready students JCU can produce”



Third year Creative Arts Student Tai Inoue who also runs a nature based field recording business based in Cairns <https://soundcloud.com/nature-sounds>



Visiting scholar: Greg Acciaioli



[Dr Greg Acciaioli](#), from the University of Western Australia, was a visiting scholar from April—June 2013.



"Seeing my own research sites in Borneo and Sulawesi right in the middle of the huge map of the tropics that one encounters when entering the new building gives me a feeling of belonging to a truly global enterprise that can really make a difference in the lives of all people in the Tropics"

When one moves one's eyes to the Cairns campus link on the James Cook University portal webpage, one confronts the epithet: 'Where rainforest meets reef'. This designation marks the campus as a locus of intersection, but also of transition, and my own experiences as a Visiting Scholar at the Cairns Institute from April to June of 2013 can best be characterised by the terms intersection and transition, in both institutional and personal senses.

It has been a privilege to be here during the move to the new Cairns Institute building. Seeing my own research sites in Borneo and Sulawesi right in the middle of the huge map of the tropics that one encounters when entering the new building gives me a feeling of belonging to a truly global enterprise that can really make a difference in the lives of all people in the Tropics. Working in the midst of walls and partitions that evoke the plaited split bamboo used in houses in the highlands of these areas certainly makes me feel right at home.

My academic work here has also been an experience of intersection and transition. I have written three articles about the revitalisation of local customary law as the basis of new community resource management schemes drawing upon my previous field work in the forested highlands of Central Sulawesi. I gave a seminar on how the indigenous To Lindu people have managed to gain recognition of their customary territory as a new conservation subdistrict in the context of regional autonomy in Indonesia. I co-authored an article for the journal *World Development* which seeks to analyse the ways some local peoples have been able to design and constitute new institutions for conservation of forests and fisheries in tropical nation-states like Indonesia, Zambia, Mali and Bolivia from the bottom-up rather than having the terms of their participation

imposed from above. It has been exciting to bring this bottom-up perspective to the interpretation of national and global-level GIS data in working with the project 'Land change modelling in Indonesia' being run by Oscar Venter and Peter Wood in the School of Marine & Tropical Biology at JCU Cairns campus—a collaboration we hope to develop further.

Much of my work while here has been preparing for new fieldwork on the impact of the recently established Tun Sakaran Marine Park off the coast of eastern Sabah, Malaysia, upon the Bajau Laut who ply the seas between this region and the Sulu Archipelago of the southwestern Philippines. Many of these 'sea nomads' have neither Malaysian nor Philippine citizenship, and have been unable to make any claims to traditional fishing territories or places of traditional temporary settlement in the bays and coves of the islands now encompassed by the park. All my previous work in Indonesia has been in studying how disputes between local peoples and national park officials over terrestrial resources have been resolved through such mechanisms as co-management. Now I have begun orienting myself to the rigours of working with sea-dwellers as they face the new challenges of No-Take Zones and other state-imposed marine protections. Of course, what better place to begin this transition than Cairns, where snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef has given me a vivid appreciation of the marvels of marine environments. Working with colleagues like Mike Fabinyi from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at JCU has sharpened my sense of the challenges of balancing biodiversity conservation with sustainable livelihood enhancement for populations dependent upon the sea. 'Where rainforest meets reef' has certainly characterised my personal experience of academic transition and intersection while at the Cairns Institute.



Inaugural lecture: Komla Tsey

Professor Komla Tsey's inaugural lecture was held at the Pacific International Hotel, Cairns, on 17 April 2013 and was attended by 120 people.

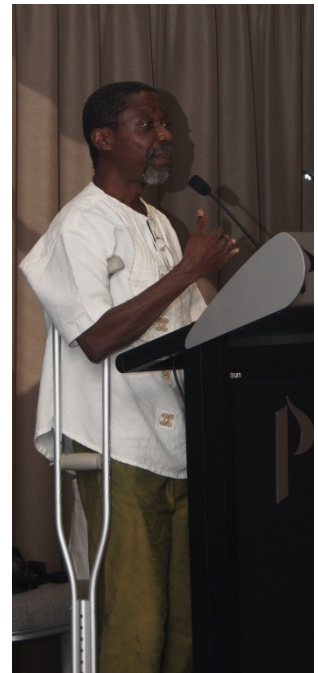
The purpose of this lecture was to share with the audience stories about engaging communities in research. This is important in Komla's work at JCU because he believes it is central to promoting healthy, sustainable communities in the tropics. It is also one of the three pillars of universities - teaching, research and engagement. But what does engaging communities actually mean? Who is the community? What are the costs and benefits of community engagement? How can universities capture both the tangible and the less tangible benefits of engagement?

In this lecture, Komla drew upon 30 years' experience in community development and related empowerment and wellbeing promotion research across rural Ghana, Indigenous Australia and Papua New Guinea. His aim was to illustrate some of the challenges and opportunities involved in engaging communities in research, and some of the outcomes. In particular, Komla explored the roles of narrative or story-sharing as powerful tools in engaging communities in research. The implications of this experience for building healthy, sustainable communities were discussed.

Komla Tsey is Tropical Leader and Research Professor of Education for Social Sustainability at The Cairns Institute, JCU. He is also Program Leader for the Lowitja Institute's Research Program 2: Healthy Communities and Settings. Komla was born in Ghana and studied at the University of Ghana and the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Komla now lives in Australia, researching and learning about Aboriginal development, education, health and well-being. He continues to undertake long-term development research in his native rural Ghana.

Komla has authored numerous articles on development and related topics, which have been published in journals including the *Social Science and Medicine*, *Community Development Journal*, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, *British Medical Council Public Health*, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, *Health and Social Care in the Community*, and *Global Health Promotion*. He is the author of *Re-thinking Development in Africa*, published by Langaa Publishing (Mankon, Cameroon) in 2011, and *From Head-loading to the Iron Horse* (Langaa, 2013), which examines British railway building in colonial Ghana and the origins of tropical development.



Komla Tsey (on crutches) addresses the audience at his Inaugural Lecture on 17 April 2013



L to R: Cath Brown, Sue McGinty and Nola Alloway after the event

"... what does engaging communities actually mean? Who is the community? What are the costs and benefits of community engagement? How can universities capture both the tangible and the less tangible benefits of engagement?"



Training

In May this year, the Cairns Institute was very proud to welcome 25 delegates from the Papua New Guinea Department of Justice and Attorney General for a week long program of Professional Development training in Cairns.

The delegates came from a broad range of divisions from within the Department, including Correctional Services, Probation and Parole, Juvenile Justice and the Village Courts system.

The training program was developed by experts from the Cairns Institute and JCU, and specifically tailored to suit the needs of the client after extensive discussions and working party consultations. The course covered subjects as diverse as conflict resolution and interview skills to report writing and case management, so the delegates were faced with a challenging schedule that really stretched their own abilities and left them wanting more.

"I was able to speak out and find solutions to problems that have challenged me for a long time" said one delegate, with another saying "We have to have training here and in PNG so that we may create more understanding between our two countries in terms of the jobs we do and to compare and find ways to improve to effectively deliver services to the people of both nations."

In our exit survey, 100% of delegates stated that they would now like to send their own staff from PNG to attend training with the Cairns Institute and JCU.

In addition to the classroom presentations and workshops, they attended an all-day field trip to the new Correctional Facility at Lotus Glen. Here they were welcomed by the facilities' General Manager and several of his senior staff who took time out of their very busy schedules to ensure that the delegates from PNG were made to feel welcome whilst experiencing one of the most modern correctional facilities in Australia.

The delegates spent the final day of training at the Boathouse at JCU where they were proudly presented with Certificates of Completion after a very interesting talk by Gabrielle Payne, Regional Manager of Probation and Parole Far Northern Region and Jason Leon, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services Manager of the Lotus Glen Correctional Facility.

The training program was voted to be a great success and we look forward to working with our friends from PNG for many years to come.

"I was able to speak out and find solutions to problems that have challenged me for a long time"



Participant receiving her certificate from Professor Chris Cunneen



Participants visiting Lotus Glen Correctional Facility



Kinship exhibition

The Kinship exhibition is a presentation that showcases the finest work from member art centres of the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA). This exhibition conveys the strength of Indigenous art across Far North Queensland.

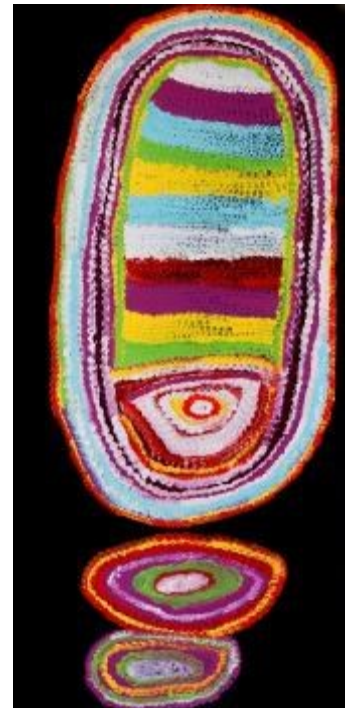
The immense geographic sweep of Far North Queensland, from the Torres Strait Islands, through the Cape to Cardwell in the south, is a diverse and complex region. Artistic expression is helping to bring this diversity together, binding Indigenous artists across FNQ through an affinity with land, sea and their cultures. This is kinship, an alliance of Indigenous art centres connected by a desire to create art with integrity.

The Kinship exhibition will begin at JCU as part of the new Cairns Institute Building opening on 8 July and then move to the [Tanks Art Centre](#), to join the [CIAF Presents 2013](#) events 15-18 August. This is the very first collection of works presented by IACA, the peak body for the art centres of the far north.

Curated by experienced art centre manager, Jeannie Heynatz of Yalanji Arts, the exhibition displays paintings, prints, sculpture as well as woven and ceramic objects. Kinship is a selling exhibition.

Other events presented by IACA during CIAF Presents 2013 include the Kinship IACA Symposium at the Centre of Contemporary Arts and the Kinship Indigenous Art Market at the Tanks Art Centre.

- Kinship at the Cairns Institute
8 July – 2 August 2013
- CIAF Presents 2013, 15-18 August 2013
- Kinship Exhibition, 9 – 21 August 2013, Tanks Art Centre
- Exhibition opening, Thursday 15 August 2013, 7pm, Tanks Art Centre
- Kinship IACA Symposium, Wednesday 14 August 2013, 9-2.30pm, Centre of Contemporary Art, Cairns
- Kinship Indigenous Art Market, Sunday 18 August 2013, 9-2pm, Tanks Art Centre



Birrmingathi Maali Netta Loogatha
My Country
2012
Synthetic Polymer Paint on Linen
136 x 60cm
Mornington Island Art
Photo: Alcaston Gallery



Emma Gela & Nancy Naawi
Erub Garden Ladies
2012
Ghost net | 600mm high
Photo: Lynette Griffiths



Ellarose Savage
Mackeral
2012
Wood Fired Ceramic & Ghost Net | 120cm
Erub Erwer Meta (Darnley Island Art Centre)



"The aim of the Act for Kids Safe House program is to stop children being sent away from their community and connections with family, country and culture"

Making a difference: Act for Kids

Recently, Act for Kids Safe House carers from Napranum, Aurukun and Kowanyama spent a week each completing the first stage of a Family Wellbeing program delivered by James Cook University. In a flexible arrangement based on the needs of each Act for Kids employee group, the Napranum and Aurukun carers were trained in Cairns, whilst a JCU trainer travelled to Kowanyama. The Healing Foundation provided funding for the carers to participate in the program.

Professor Yvonne Cadet-James said she had been involved in Family Wellbeing for 13 years. "This is a program where we work with individuals, groups and communities" she said.

"It's a structured program which allows people to identify their own issues and also their own practical solutions to those issues."

The aim of the Act for Kids Safe House program is to stop children being sent away from their community and connections with family, country and culture. The children reside in a safe house while family support workers try to resolve care issues with parents and families.

Yvonne said: "They're related somehow to people in the community; they're related to the children, so there's more than a vested interest, if you like, in making the program work than if they were just looking after other children in some other situation. They're very much part of the community themselves."

The Act for Kids SafeKIDS program has now established five safe houses on Cape York: at Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and Doomadgee in the Gulf country. The Safe House workers from Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee will also receive the Family Wellbeing training. A total of 40-50 workers are expected to participate.

Evaluation of the FWB training aims to determine a) the changes in participant wellbeing before and after the FWB initiative; b) the cost of implementing the FWB program; and c) the cost-effectiveness of FWB as workforce capacity enhancement tool.

Acknowledgement: Story by Christine Howes adapted from *Koori Mail*, Lismore, 10 Apr 2013.



Family Wellbeing program activities

Flexible learning options for disenfranchised youth

Professor Sue McGinty, Acting Director of the Cairns Institute has a new Australian Research Council Linkage grant: *Gauging the value of flexible learning options for disenfranchised youth and the Australian community*. Team: Riccardo Welters, Brian Lewthwaite, Valda Wallace & Hurriyet Babacan, JCU, Katarina Te Riele, Victoria University, with industry partners Dale

Murray, Edmund Rice Education Australia, David Murray, Vic Dept of Education & Early Childhood Devt, Eva Lawler, NT Dept of Education & Children's Services, Mary Retel, Catholic Education Office, WA, George Myconos, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Anthony McMahon, Centacare Townsville.



PhD student profile: Ellen Field

Ellen Field is a PhD candidate working within the School of Education and the Cairns Institute. She began her studies at JCU in July 2011 after leaving a busy city life in Toronto, Canada working on several sustainability education initiatives. For her PhD research, Ellen is conducting a global study of about 30 young leaders engaging in peer-to-peer environmental learning and activism through social media networks.

In 2012, youth aged 16–18 years of age and actively using social media to teach and communicate with others about the most pressing environmental issues were invited to complete a survey on their social media usage and the issues upon which they are working. The survey also asked them to indicate their participation level in both online and face-to-face groups access to internet-enabled devices, and locations (home, school, after-school programs) where they engaged in online peer-to-peer learning and activism. The survey was shared through many global and regional environmental youth organisations and resulted in responses from 20 different countries.

The survey has been used to identify several 16–18 year old environmental leaders and activists who are participating in a 3 month virtual-ethnographic study in their chosen social media site. The ethnographic study will culminate in a case study which will show the substance, structure, and dynamics of how youth engage in self-directed environmental peer-to-peer learning and activism within social media sites.

This case study will develop multiple narratives from different youths' perspectives, map characteristics of these informal networked ecologies, explore mechanisms of engagement, and result in recommendations for both the policy and practices within formal

education systems and programming strategies for informal education systems. As an exploration of a new and important area of research, this project also has the potential to reveal considerations for empowering youth to take action on our contemporary ecological and social crises.

Beyond her PhD studies, Ellen is also a founding member of [Mawimbi](#), an online sustainability portal which connects youth from around the world and facilitates project-based learning through a suite of online-collaborative tools. Mawimbi offers the tools to expand the impact of classrooms that want to make a difference in environmental issues both locally and globally by providing customised curricula, fundraising tools, and project management support for classes.

Ellen's PhD supervisors are Dr Bob Stevenson, Tropical Leader, Education for Environmental Sustainability, The Cairns Institute and School of Education, Dr Raoul Adam, School of Education, and Dr Leesa Fawcett, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Canada.

Ellen's PhD research is funded by a doctoral fellowship with the [Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada](#) and a JCU International Research Scholarship.



PhD student Ellen Field





University of Papua New Guinea visitor

Mr Russell Kitau, Acting Head of Public Health Division, University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), visited the Cairns Institute in June 2013.

Russell will also be working with Professor Sue McGinty towards renewal of the JCU-UPNG Co-tutelle MOU under which UPNG students are exempt from JCU international student fees.

Following a successful pilot of the Family Wellbeing Empowerment program in 2009, it became a core part of graduate diploma public health training at UPNG.



L to R: Dr Mary Whiteside, formerly JCU, now La Trobe University, & Russell Kitau

In 2012 Dr Mary Whiteside secured a \$10,000 La Trobe University early career research grant to build on the initial collaborative work by piloting and evaluating Family Wellbeing as potential tool for inter-personal violence prevention in the context of Papua New Guinea.

Russell, who is hoping to enrol in a JCU doctoral studies, will be working with Dr Whiteside, Dr Susan Jacups and Professor Komla Tsey analysing the pilot data.



Back: Komla Tsey
Front: L to R: Susan Jacups, Russell Kitau

Lowitja Institute visitor

Ms Diane Walker, Coordinator of Knowledge Exchange at the [Lowitja Institute](#) visited the Cairns Institute on 4 June 2013.

Dianne held discussions with Professor Komla Tsey and other researchers. Komla is Research Program Leader for Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH) Program 2 - [Healthy Communities and Settings](#). The discussions focused on knowledge exchange plans for current Lowitja funded projects as well as the future of the Lowitja Institute which recently secured a \$25 million over five years from the Federal Government.

"The discussions focused on knowledge exchange plans for current Lowitja funded projects "



L to R: Roxanne Bainbridge, Janya McCalman, Diane Walker, Komla Tsey



Homelessness in Far North Queensland

The Far North Queensland Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Homelessness Project was funded by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs over 2012-2013. The key researchers were **Associate Professor Glenn Dawes** and **Dr Narayan Gopalkrishnan** who conducted the project in collaboration with the Department of Communities (Child Safety and Disability), Centacare Migrant Services (Cairns) and the Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS).

The major aims of the study were to explore the extent of homelessness among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Cairns and surrounding districts, identifying barriers faces by CALD communities when attempting to access housing, and identifying ways to improve the access to services by people from CALD backgrounds.

Data was primarily qualitative in nature following an in depth literature review on homelessness across Australia. Initial data was collected through a community forum with 34 participants from countries such as Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Interviews were held with members of the CALD community as well as professionals from service organisations who assist in providing accommodation for those at risk of becoming homeless.

An analysis of the data identified three major themes relating to homelessness in the Cairns region as experienced by CALD people:

- the nature of homelessness
- the impacts of homelessness
- the causes of homelessness.

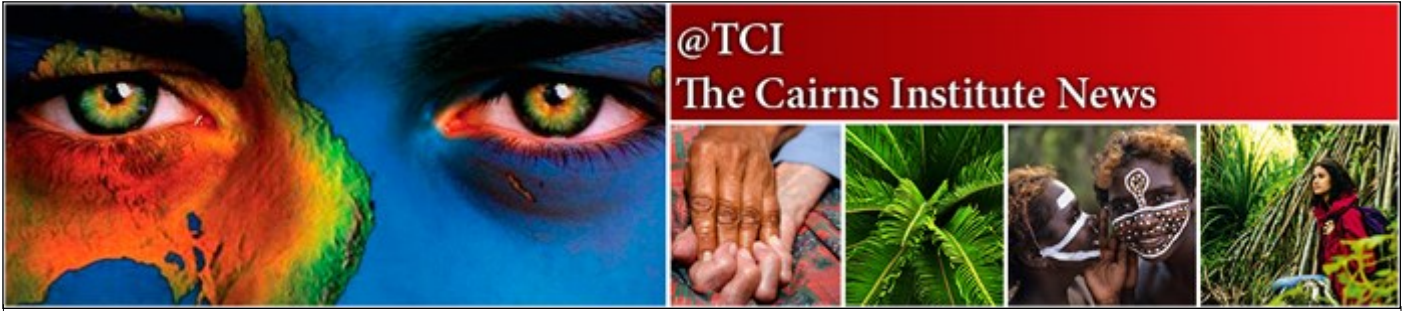
Major findings of the project included the identification of hidden homelessness resulting in severe overcrowding often resulting in the breakdown of relationships among CALD families. In addition it was found that there is a lack of housing to accommodate large families and that many families were unaware of services in the Cairns region. The gaps in service provision and difficulties in interacting with real estate agencies was another major finding.

The study made a number of key recommendations including:

- establishing a Pacific Islander Community Task Force in FNQ to address homelessness
- the provision of suitable accommodation for large CALD families
- more flexible approaches to service delivery in the region
- strategies to re-engage CALD youth back into education as a result of family dislocation due to overcrowding.



The researchers, Glenn Dawes (top) and Narayan Gopalkrishnan (bottom)

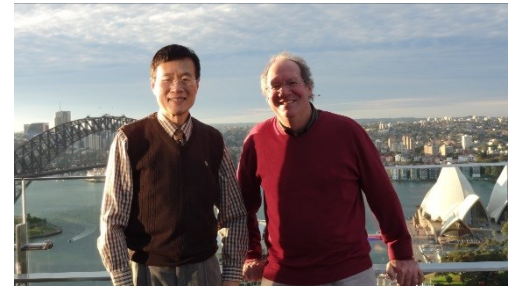


Design thinking frameworks

"Design thinking frameworks have become very influential in leading universities"

Professor Neil Anderson and **Professor Ton Otto** are leading a national study that examines the use of design thinking frameworks to enhance the creative and innovative capacities of undergraduate and graduate students at Australian universities. The cross-disciplinary team includes Dr Raoul Adam, Dr Theresa Petray and Dr Pauline Taylor. This study includes information sharing workshops in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Darwin and involves input from numerous universities in the key locations. It will also produce four case studies of design thinking use in different faculties at JCU and a critical literature review of design thinking use in higher education. Design thinking frameworks have become very influential in leading universities. For example, the Harvard MBA was redesigned to include two subjects that introduce and extend design thinking skills and University of Queensland, recently added a design thinking subject to their engineering degree.

In 2012, Neil received the Taiwan government visiting scholar grant for Australia, "which aims to promote independent or collaborative research on Taiwan-related subjects by Australian scholars." Taiwanese universities are currently introducing design thinking in their curriculum and as part of this process



Professor Anderson receiving the Taiwan Visiting Scholar grant for Australia, in Sydney, with Mr Yuri Chih, Head of the Economic and Cultural Office in Canberra

Neil delivered lectures and workshops at the Taipei Medical University, Kaohsiung National Normal University and the National University of Science and Technology.

In 2013, Neil has secured a visiting scholar grant through the Australian Malaysian Institute, and the Malaysian Prime Minister recently announced the foundation of the Malaysian Institute of Design Thinking in Kuala Lumpur and flagged this as a very high priority for the Malaysian government. The Institute was funded by the philanthropist, Hasso Plattner who also funded the Stanford D-School and the Potsdam University, School of Design thinking with grants exceeding \$80 million.

Artist Bernard Lee Singleton in front of his painting



Ngandjin bulmba jina-la galin

Bernard Singleton's beautiful painting was commissioned for our new building and it is displayed on the ground floor. It depicts four stories from his Djabuguy and Yirrkandjii country. The main story of Damarri and Guyala tells how his ancestors used to live. The next story of Damarri and Ganyarra explains how the crocodile was given teeth. The third story of Budadgi and the Three

Birdmen show the trade of Mia Mia (nautilus shell) with the carpet snake. The last story depicts the Great Flood and how Damarri stopped the waters by throwing hot rocks into the sea making steam rise and taking the flood waters away, leaving behind the black rocks that are scattered along the coastline to our north.



A cautious approach to justice reinvestment

Professor Chris Cunneen, Tropical Leader, Justice & Social Inclusion, was a keynote speaker at the NTCOSS conference *Growing the NT fairly: Changes and challenges* in May 2013. In his paper "A cautious approach to justice reinvestment". In his paper Chris provided an introduction to justice reinvestment as it has developed in the United States and considered its applicability in Australia, particularly in relation to Indigenous people. His view is that we are broadly supportive of justice reinvestment as a strategy to reduce imprisonment rates and to reinvest in impoverished communities where offending levels are high and the use of imprisonment is a regular occurrence. However we are also acutely aware of the pitfalls and problems that surround justice

reinvestment, many of which are already manifest or emerging in the US experience. The paper reviewed the gap between the theoretical ideas that underpinned the justification for and early development of justice reinvestment with what appears to be the current experience of a pragmatically-driven criminal justice reform agenda largely devoid of a commitment to genuine community development. The final section of the paper related both the ideas and critiques of justice reinvestment to its potential developments for Indigenous people. He specifically considered some of the problems that need to be considered in how justice reinvestment might be applied to benefit Indigenous people, using the Northern Territory as a case study.



Professor Chris Cunneen

Book launch: Ecofeminism and systems thinking

On 11 July 2013 Senator Larissa Waters launched the new book by **Dr Anne Stephens**, *Ecofeminism and Systems Thinking*, published by Routledge.

This book brings together two vitally important strands of 20th-century thinking to establish a set of simple and elegant principles for planning, project design and evaluation. It explains the backgrounds of cultural ecofeminism and critical systems thinking, and what we find when they are systematically compared. Both theories share a range of concepts, have a strong social justice ethic, and challenge the legacy of modernity. The book takes theory into practice. The value of the emergent principles of feminist-systems thinking are described and demonstrated through four chapters of case studies in community development

settings. The principles can be used to influence project design and outcomes across a range of disciplines including project management, policy, health, education, and community development. This book has much to offer practitioners who seek to create more socially just and equitable project and research outcomes.

Anne Stephens is a sociologist and systems thinker. Working in community development, public health and education, she applies holistic and integrated approaches to improve the social outcomes of interventions. She holds a post doctoral position at the Cairns Institute.

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L to R: Sue McGinty, Anne Stephens, Senator Larissa Waters



Tjapukai visit

An open day at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park recently provided an opportunity for new, visiting and current international scholars from the Cairns Institute to experience the two distinct cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Post-doctoral Fellowship holder Dr Angeliki Alvanoudi & Visiting Fellow Dr Azeb Amha of the Language and Culture Research Centre, PhD student of Anthropology, Chiara

Bresciani, PhD student of Law, Signe Dalsgaard, and Empowerment Research Program staff member Cath Brown, spent the day with their families at Tjapukai for the start of National Aboriginal & Islander Day of Commemoration (NAIDOC) week.

Pictured below are L to R: Alessio, Chiara, Azeb, Angeliki, Haran (Torres Strait Island Dancer), Signe, Nicola, Helen, Cath



Papua New Guinea artist Joe Nalo

A painting was commissioned for the new Institute building by renowned Papua New Guinea (PNG) artist, Joe Nalo. The painting which hangs in the staff room on the first floor depicts the legend of the sunken island of Liep, located near the south east coast of Manus Province. It tells a story of diamond sail canoes, clan chiefs, sharks and the mermaid who controls the reef and protects the rich and unique marine life.

Joe has been a full time artist since 1991 and enjoys great success in PNG as well as abroad with his detailed drawings, watercolours and oil paintings that tell traditional stories from his homeland.



The artist, Joe Nalo, in front of his painting



Visiting scholar: Andrew Searles

Associate Professor Andrew Searles, health economist from the University of Newcastle, NSW, was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute in May 2013. Andrew is part of a team of health economists including Professor Chris Doran working in partnership with Professor Komla Tsey and a range of JCU and partner organisations to build economic evaluation into complex social health programs and services. The team is also developing methodologies for assessing the impact or benefits of research

During his visit, Andrew strengthened and developed the ongoing collaboration between Komla and his team at the Cairns Institute. Andrew is sharing his knowledge on the use of economic evaluations with researchers focused on Indigenous health and wellbeing. At the same time he is learning about the issues affecting the lives of Indigenous people living in remote north Queensland.

During his visit Andrew met representatives from Indigenous primary health care providers to speak about the use of economic evaluation techniques. The representatives were from organisations such as Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services and Apunipima Cape York Health Council.

Using his economics background, he has also worked closely with Komla on an initiative delivered through the Empowerment Research Program at James Cook University, the Family Wellbeing program. Andrew has contributed an economic perspective and considered demand and supply-side issues that are likely

to influence the program over the next five years. He also mapped the type of benefits that participants in the program are likely to receive. These include improved levels of subjective wellbeing, an increased likelihood of participants making healthy lifestyle choices and an increased likelihood of engaging with further learning. Identifying these benefits is one step toward a broader economic analysis that can compare the cost of delivering a program against the benefits. The aim is to eventually develop a framework for applying financial values to the benefits so that a 'return on investment' can be calculated.

As part of the Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Andrew will be returning to the Cairns Institute late in 2013. He will be delivering a seminar to introduce and explain some common types of economic evaluations. The seminar will also identify how these evaluations can determine whether a program actually does what it aims to do, and whether a program is value for money. The use of economic evaluations is critical for providing information into decisions on how limited public funds should be spent.

"Identifying these benefits is one step toward a broader economic analysis that can compare the cost of delivering a program against the benefits. The aim is to eventually develop a framework for applying financial values to the benefits so that a 'return on investment' can be calculated"



L to R: Andrew Searles, Emma Burchill, Community Development Executive Manager, Thomas Hudson Apunipima Cape York Health Council Chairperson, Komla Tsey, Cairns Institute, Lorraine Ahmat, Administration Officer



Acquired brain injury project



L to R: Jennifer Cullen and Anne Stephens at Wujal Wujal

“We truly believe it will change people’s lives for the better across Australia”

The Cairns Institute, Brain Injury Australia and Synapse (Brain Injury Association of Queensland) have teamed up to help change the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with an acquired brain injury (ABI) in Australia. The three organisations joined together on the national Practical Design Fund project to develop a culturally appropriate assessment process under DisabilityCare Australia (DCA) – the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS).

Dr Anne Stephens, Senior Researcher at the Cairns Institute, said the project, funded by the Federal Government, aims to ensure that for the first time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians living with an ABI have the same access to DCA-funded support as any other Australian with a disability.

“DCA could change the lives of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are living with an ABI, but they will only get the support that they need if they are given the right kind of assessment,” said Anne.

“The majority of these people living with an ABI will not yet have received a culturally acceptable and/or valid assessment of either their disability, or their care and support needs.

“This project helps DCA to offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with an ABI the right kind of support, possibly for the first time, and in a way that respects both their culture and the correct assessment methods.

“In the short term, the eligibility and support needs of these people living with an ABI will need to be assessed using ‘standard’ assessment tools.

“However, our project gives DCA assessors best practice guidance and a support framework. Once our prototype toolkit has been validated, DCA will be able to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with an ABI with an assessment that is culturally acceptable and scientifically reliable.

“We truly believe it will change people’s lives for the better across Australia.”

During their research, the project team spoke to more than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with an ABI, and/or their carers and service providers, from communities in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Queensland.

Jennifer Cullen, Chief Executive Officer at Synapse, said there had been many challenges in developing the project.

“We had to build trust with communities, overcome the historical distrust of assessments, and educate people about the DCA and acquired brain injuries,” said Jennifer.

Jennifer said significant positive impacts include:

- several rehabilitation facilities focused on ABI and neurological conditions already stated they want to integrate the toolkit into their services
- the uptake from the allied health field was over and above what was expected
- several regional and remote communities have indicated they would be happy to take part in any future validation work
- the project has led to an increased understanding around ABI.

The project team will now work with communities and services across Australia to pilot, refine and validate the instruments in community, rehabilitation and disability settings.





Accounting for agriculture in place-based frameworks for regional development

The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) have established a project focused on the contribution of agriculture to regional development. Agriculture is important to many regions of Australia contributing directly to regional economies as well as indirectly making social and environmental contributions to regional sustainability. To continue to make this significant contribution agricultural industries have had to adjust to changes in markets, cost structures, government policies and technology as well as environmental risks including drought and natural disasters. How agriculture responds to these changes, however, varies from region to region with some industries remaining static or declining while others have evolved and adapted more readily to change.

It has long been known that regions grow at different rates and this project builds on recent international research that supports a regional development approach that seeks to maximise the growth potential of all regions in Australia. Understanding how to maximise agriculture's contribution to regional development requires questions to be answered regarding:

- how agriculture fits within a regional development context
- what factors underpin agriculture's contribution
- how agricultural industries evolve and develop in regions
- how to make the most of opportunities for agriculture to benefit regional economies and communities.

Understanding the trends and issues that agricultural and related industries face in this regional 'place-based' context can better inform regional and national policy by providing insights into how issues play out in a 'place'. These insights may assist to identify and address constraints to industry development, but also opportunities to facilitate agriculture's contribution to regional development. The project will result in the development of an agriculture development framework to guide policy and practice and the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland has been identified as a pilot region for the project.

Project Team: Jim Turnour, Allan Dale, Connor McShane, Michelle Thompson, Bruce Prideaux, Margie Atkinson.

For further information contact:

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Jim Turnour

"... agricultural industries have had to adjust to changes in markets, cost structures, government policies and technology as well as environmental risks including drought and natural disasters"

Impact of governance on regional natural resource planning

Cairns Institute researcher **Associate Professor Allan Dale** has a new Australian Research Council Linkage grant: *The impact of governance on regional natural resource planning*. The team includes Doug Baker, QUT, Neil Sipe, Griffith University, Severine Mayere, QUT, Karen Vella, Griffith University, with industry partners: Bruce Taylor, CSIRO, Richard Margerum, University of Oregon, Allan Dale, JCU, Andrew Drysdale

Qld Regional NRM Groups Collective, Lucy Richardson, Condamine Alliance, Kathryn Fletcher, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, Elyse Riethmuller, Elyse Riethmuller Consulting, Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated, David Hinchley, Terrain Natural Resource Management, Patricia Gowdie, NQ Dry Tropics.



Allan Dale



Indigenous research conference

The **Sustainable International Leadership in Indigenous Research Conference: pathways, potential and practice** was held on 9-10 July 2013 at the Cairns Institute. The international conference featured many Indigenous academics, researchers and students and addressed how research can be used to help build strong, healthy and sustainable Indigenous communities.



Conference convenor, **Dr Felecia Watkin-Lui**, who is Director of Research Training at the School of Indigenous Australian Studies at JCU, said the conference created the opportunity to showcase genuine partnerships with Indigenous communities and celebrate quality Indigenous-led and controlled research.



Artworks by Bernard Singleton

The keynote speakers included:

- Professor Shane Houston, University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services)
- Henrietta Marrie, Director, Bukal Consultancy and Adjunct Senior Fellow, United Nations University
- Dr Karen Martin, School of Education and Professional Studies, Griffith University
- Associate Professor Linda W Nikora Te Kura Kete Aronui University of Waikato, Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato, New Zealand
- Associate Professor Margaret Kovach, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Keynotes and panel members were presented with original works of art by local artist, Bernard Singleton. While each piece was significant in itself, when placed together, Bernard had cleverly portrayed the rainbow serpent in the background of each painting. Although given at random the individual animals often represented a speaker's totem.

Congratulations goes to Michelle Deshong who won the student presentation award. Her presentation 'Our seat at the top: Enabling Aboriginal women's representation in public and political life in Australia' was judged by a panel of academics to be the best student presentation.

The conference concluded by bringing together an expert panel of both local and international Indigenous peoples, that engaged in a discussion that challenged people to think about new ways of working with Indigenous knowledges. Following the panel the celebration continued with a free NAIDOC community event that featured the award winning band, Zennith, traditional food, and market and information stalls.

The conference was extremely well attended and exceeded organisers' expectations. Feedback from the conference has been overwhelmingly positive.





Tropics of the imagination conference

The third Biannual Tropics of the Imagination Conference was held at the Cairns Institute on 4-5 July 2013. Conference convenor and Deputy Head of JCU's School of Arts and Social Sciences, Associate **Professor Stephen Torre**, said creative papers involving performance were presented alongside traditional academic papers.

"Literature tends to be dominated by the Northern Hemisphere and its four seasons, so this conference provides a forum for the distinctive culture of the tropics to be presented through research into writing and the arts," he said.

"Tropics of the Imagination is in response to the tropical agenda set by the Cairns Institute and is the only conference devoted to creativity and the imagination in the tropical world."

At this year's conference, and in addition to the keynotes, there were 24 presentations including a session from Singapore delegates via a video-conference linkup with James Cook University Singapore. The range of subjects was quite broad and included an historical paper on blackbirding, a marine biologist who has created music with the sounds of the Great Barrier Reef, and a paper discussing how migration has influenced creativity in the tropics.

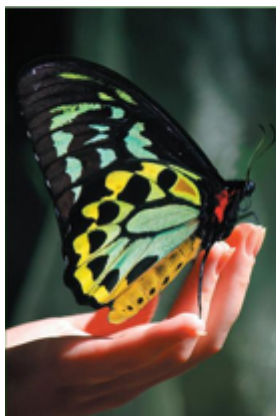
The keynote speakers were:

- Professor of Design (Urbanism) at RMIT University, Professor Paul Carter: "Archipelago consciousness: Traditions and transformations of 'worlding' in the maritime tropics".
- Australia's leading expert and a world expert on cinema, Professor Barbara Creed: "The tropical exotic: Nénette at the Jardin des Plantes Ménagerie".
- Professor of Literature and Women's Studies in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History at The University of Queensland, Professor Carole Ferrier: "Jean Devanny's contestation of patriarchal whiteness in her fiction set in North Queensland from 1936".
- Adjunct Professor in the School of Journalism, Australian and Indigenous Studies at Monash University, Professor Peter Pierce: "Australian literature of the Pacific".

The papers will be submitted to [etropic](http://www.jcu.edu.au/etropic), an electronic journal of studies in the tropics.

For more information go to: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/etropic/TOI/index.htm>

"Literature tends to be dominated by the Northern Hemisphere and its four seasons, so this conference provides a forum for the distinctive culture of the tropics to be presented through research into writing and the arts"



The Cairns Institute in association with the School of Arts and Social Sciences, James Cook University present

Tropics of the Imagination
a conference on writing and the arts in the tropics

Thursday 4 July – Friday 5 July 2013

The Cairns Institute, James Cook University,
McGregor Road, Smithfield, QLD 4878