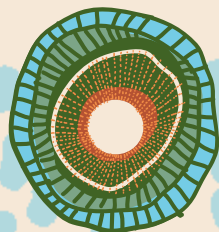


# 2025 Annual Report



Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for

**Indigenous**  
and Environmental Histories and Futures

# Table of Contents

<b>Welcome to CIEHF</b>	<b>1</b>
Acknowledgement of Country	1
Directors' reports	2
Our vision	6
Our mission	7
Principles of CIEHF Research	8
<b>Impact Case Study 1 – The CIEHF Project Implementation Guide &amp; Workbook</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Research</b>	<b>12</b>
Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)	15
Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation (DWAC)	15
Gujaga Foundation	15
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC)	16
Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK)	17
Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC)	18
Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)	18
Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC)	19
<b>Research Training and Ethics</b>	<b>20</b>
CIEHF Mandatory Training	22
Additional Training Offered in 2025	24
<b>Impact Case Study 2 – Working with Country Masterclass</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Education and Engagement</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Impact Case Study 3 – Reconstructing the past to plan for the future with Gunditjmara Country</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>38</b>
Traditional Owner Reference Group	40
Centre Advisory Committee	40
Centre Executive Committee	40
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee	42
Women and Gender Diverse Network	43
Students and Early Career Researcher Committee	43
Chief Investigators	44
Partner Investigators	48
Partner Organisations	51
<b>CIEHF in 2025</b>	<b>52</b>
CIEHF Annual Symposium	54
2025 Publication List	56
Financial Statement	61
Centre Plan for 2026	62
<b>KPIs in 2025</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>70</b>
Centre Membership	70
List of Graduates in 2025	77
Prizes and awards	78
Media summary	80



# Welcome to CIEHF

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples, knowledge-holders, and knowledge-creators of this country. We acknowledge that First Nations people never ceded their lands, seas or skies. We value the knowledge and traditions that reflect the wisdom of ancestors going back 65,000 years and more and recognise the significance of this in the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are custodians of Country. We will continue to learn ways to care for and be responsible for Country, and we will seek to build a future that is based on truth-telling, mutual understanding, hope, empowerment, and self-determination.

# Director's report

CIEHF completed its first full year of operation in 2025, with the full range of CIEHF's research, Research Training & Ethics, and Education & Engagement activities unfolding across the year.

CIEHF exists to support Healthy Land and Sea Country, centred in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, and informed by innovative approaches to cultural, environmental, and historical research.

Our Centre is all about changing the way we do research with Country.

We are a community committed to listening, to acting, to taking responsibility, and being accountable. Our actions reflect our words.

At the heart of our Centre is a partnership with eight Indigenous Partner Organisations – Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation, Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, Gujaga Foundation, Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.

We worked together with Indigenous Partner Organisations intensively across the year to progress co-designed research plans and the underpinning infrastructures that support protection and management of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property and Indigenous Data Sovereignty, now and into the future. Research with Country was undertaken with five of the eight Indigenous Partner Organisations during the year.

The year was filled with wonderful discussions, lots of time with Country, and sometimes challenging conversations working through how to do things in different ways which respect Country and give agency and control to Traditional Owners.

Importantly, as we are transforming the way we work with Country, we are also transforming each other. Through co-design, shared decision-making, training programs and masterclasses, we are learning together – growing in confidence, capability, cultural understanding and trust. We are shaping not just research projects, but our whole CIEHF community. New researchers are being mentored into different ways of working. Long-standing practices are being re-examined. Partnerships are deepening.

The feedback from our training programs and masterclasses is a powerful testament that people feel strengthened, supported and inspired.

This transformation creates a ripple effect well beyond individual projects. As our members carry these learnings into their own institutions, communities and future collaborations, the impact multiplies. The way we work together respectfully, reciprocally and with accountability is becoming part of our legacy.

Many projects underway and under development are using the CIEHF Project Implementation Guide and Workbook. These resources provide a framework to spell out arrangements around deliverables, benefit sharing, capacity-building, resources, data management, ICIP, IDS and personnel. These resources are already being used by researchers and Indigenous organisations beyond CIEHF. They form one small part of CIEHF's growing legacy.

We warmly welcomed many new members to our CIEHF family across 2025 who have enriched our community with their knowledges, experience, expertise and commitment to the mission of the Centre.

More than 100 members came together on beautiful Gunditjmarra Country for our Second Annual Symposium in November to reflect and plan, and to connect us with each other and with Country.

All of the hard work members did across 2025 underscores the importance of our mission and sets us up to support better futures for Country as the Centre grows.

I thank each and every member and friend of the Centre for being part of the journey that has brought us together.

**Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm**  
Director



Sean Ulm on Gabar (Fitzroy Island)  
Gungandji Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

# Deputy Director reports

Our strategy was bold, and our goals were lofty, as I reflected on last year's first annual report. After all this time, it has taken a lot of courage and determination from many people at our Centre and our partners to finally launch a research program that we co-designed, changing the way we do research with Country.

Such a journey could never be a straight line. Deep partnership moves like water through a landscape—winding, responding, pausing, gathering strength. It must listen to people, to Country itself, to weather, to the environment. It grows in its own time.

It has been a joy to witness new research students and early career scholars—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—begin their walk with CIEHF. Watching them step onto Country with Traditional Owners, learning through presence and reciprocity, creating research by travelling together, is nothing short of inspiring.

This year, I have enjoyed working with our partners on new ways of looking at museum and historical collections. Almost every object housed in museums and herbaria around the world is, at its core, cultural—born of Country, often gathered with the guidance and generosity of Indigenous custodians, carrying meanings that cannot be captured by labels or drawers; they are culturally significant in their own right. Our knowledge of past and future Country management practices can be bolstered by these collections. These collections offer quiet wisdom about how Country was cared for, and how it might be cared for again. I look forward to standing with these collections alongside community, letting new narratives grow from old ones.

And it is heartening to see CIEHF continue to gently—but insistently—shift the ground beneath long-standing institutional practices. We are inviting universities and other institutions to rethink their ethics, their governance, and the very nature of research carried out with community and Country.

**Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor  
Lynette Russell AM**  
Deputy Director

This has been a year of growth and development for CIEHF. Working with community to build a future that is healthy for both people and Country takes time and patience.

Looking from the outside into a research centre like CIEHF, the pace looks slow, but for me, this is the right pace, it produces better, long lasting research and impact. We cannot push communities into hard research driven timelines but instead must respect their needs and support their ambitions, while producing quality, impactful research.

Bringing young Indigenous researchers and community members along for this journey has been a highlight for me this year. Working with Indigenous Rangers on Country, bringing the past to life and considering what that means for the future remains a driving force for CIEHF. Bringing researchers, land managers, community members and Elders into the laboratory to understand how we explore the past using chemistry, biology, physics and geology bring more shared understanding, allowing inspiration to flow from all sides.

Something I am looking forward to supporting in the coming years is to rethink how we use and access data collected from Country. Within Australia alone, there are countless databases holding cultural and environmental information that has been collected without formal consent or governance. In the era of big data and open access, it is essential that organisations like CIEHF advocate for a community centred approach, supporting Indigenous sovereignty over data. We will be working with legacy databases to enhance this protection and provide best practice for CIEHF curated data going forward.

This will not be straightforward or easy, but this is a Centre of Excellence, and we should never turn away from difficult questions and processes.

In 2026, we will continue to work with and for community and do research for a healthy and sustainable future.

**Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher**  
Deputy Director

WELCOME TO CIEHF



Directors - Lynette Russell, Michael-Shawn Fletcher & Sean Ulm. CIEHF's Second Annual Symposium, Gunditjmarra Country, Portland Victoria  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

WELCOME TO CIEHF

## Our vision

Our vision is to work for Healthy Land and Sea Country, centred in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander understandings and approaches and informed by cutting-edge cultural, environmental and historical research.

Working with Country Masterclass, Jakal (Palm Cove), Yirrganydji Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## Our mission

CIEHF will set new standards for research and management with Country across Australia. It will be reciprocal, not extractive, and will have the wellbeing of Country and community at its heart. It will recruit, empower and inspire the next generation of Indigenous researchers as well as training non-Indigenous researchers to collaborate in culturally appropriate ways.

Driven by respectful, authentic co-design, and drawing from diverse cultural, environmental and historical records, the Centre will work to enhance Land and Sea Country management, reframed by Indigenous knowledges and science.

# Principles of CIEHF Research

In 2025 CIEHF set out seven overarching research principles. These were developed to guide all research activities and partnerships, ensuring they are grounded in cultural respect, co-design and the aspirations of the Indigenous Partner Organisations. These principles are not designed to be prescriptive checklists, but rather are to prompt thoughtful contemplation and dialogue. They were developed to guide researchers to consider how a project will evolve in partnership with Indigenous communities, how it will uphold the Centre's mission of reciprocal and respectful research and how it will contribute to the wellbeing of both Country and community.

## 1. Projects That Benefit Community and Country

This principle helps to guide CIEHF projects away from outcomes that only benefit researchers, and extractive research methodologies, and towards collaborative, co-designed projects that will help to care for community and Country.

## 2. Community-Driven Timelines

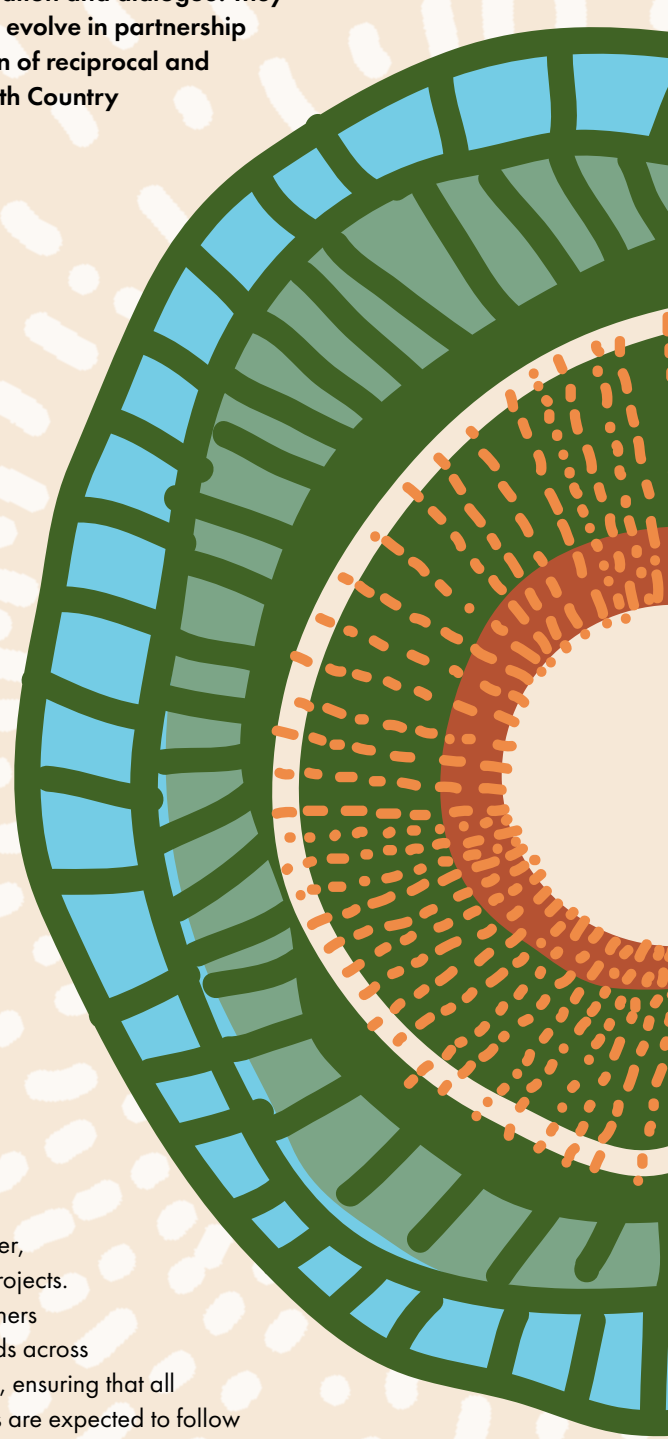
CIEHF projects are co-designed and collaborative. This includes the way that projects are planned and implemented. Timelines for project implementation must be developed collaboratively with Indigenous partners, and include appropriate time for consideration and discussion, ceremony, and other cultural protocols and activities.

## 3. Working Together

CIEHF projects are designed with Indigenous partners, are multi-nodal, involve Partner Organisations and are multidisciplinary. Projects are inclusive and seek to both achieve the stated research objectives and provide opportunities for training, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing. This cannot be achieved without shared power over decision-making, and open dialogue about opportunities for cultural, personal, and professional development.

## 4. Sharing Centre Resources

In line with the principle of knowledge sharing and working together, we support the dissemination of CIEHF resources across teams and projects. CIEHF is committed to providing funding and resources to Indigenous partners to support participation in Centre research. Equity of the distribution of funds across participating institutions and organisations must be thoughtfully considered, ensuring that all project budgeting is developed collaboratively and fairly. Centre members are expected to follow institutional policies and procedures, where applicable. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses will be prioritised, and fair compensation provided for all project work.



## Working with Country, for Country 5.

Fieldwork and data collection are a fundamental part of fulfilling CIEHF's aim to tell the true history of Country, learn from Country, and care for Country and community. It is critical that all fieldwork activities are co-designed with Indigenous partners to ensure that all work with Country, all data collection, transport and storage of material, and the logistics of fieldwork are conducted safely and in a culturally appropriate way. This includes the identification, protection, and management of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), the appropriate handling of collections like artefacts, ecological material, and archival collections.

Fieldwork also presents many opportunities for the transfer of knowledge between project team members, and access to parts of Country that might ordinarily be difficult logistically. CIEHF projects should seek to share knowledge between all team members where appropriate, providing opportunities for upskilling and training in field logistics, team management, and specialised data collection methods and laboratory analyses.


## Control Over Data 6.

CIEHF projects will generate substantial new data and will require access to existing datasets. CIEHF acknowledges the *Maiyam nayri Wingara* communique (2018) definition of Indigenous Data as information or knowledge, in any format or medium, that pertains to and may impact Indigenous peoples collectively and individually. It is paramount that the governance, storage, and management of Indigenous data for CIEHF projects firmly places control in the hands of Indigenous partners. All aspects of data governance, management, and storage should be collaboratively designed, and upon the completion of a project, all data should be transferred to the Indigenous Partner Organisation (IPO) for ongoing management and storage.

## Sharing Our Knowledge 7.

Sharing the results of CIEHF projects is crucial. Authentic co-design and collaboration are essential for developing scholarly outputs and community resources. Projects should include training, capacity-building, participation in data analysis and interpretation, and culturally appropriate sharing of research outputs. An important consideration for all project outputs is language: what language/languages should be used for communication of research results? A comprehensive communication strategy is needed for face-to-face engagements and varied information dissemination methods, including publication and community reports. Respectful collaboration with Indigenous partners and broader community requires acknowledgment of Indigenous Knowledge, co-designed approval pathways for outputs, and inclusive decision-making processes.

# IMPACT CASE STUDY 1

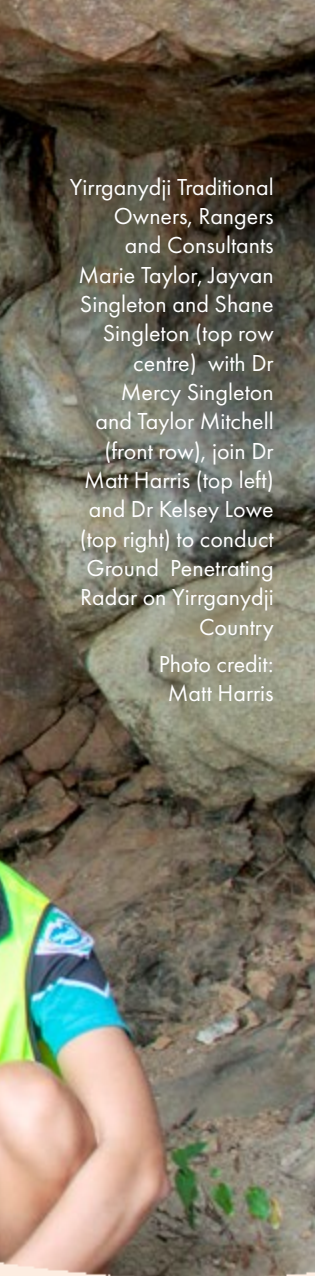


## CIEHF Project Implementation Guide & Workbook

CIEHF is founded on the principle of authentic co-design, and respectful, genuine collaboration between all Centre members and Partner Organisations. This principle represents a genuinely new way of working. Following co-design workshops undertaken in 2024, CIEHF members sought to understand the next steps. Once we have set a path through co-design meetings, how do we move from these big-picture ideas to implementation?

In 2025, CIEHF set out to unpack and articulate how co-design is implemented in the Centre through the development of two key resources – the *CIEHF Project Implementation Workbook* and the *CIEHF Project Implementation Guide*. These resources were developed to work together. The Workbook is a living document that guides a project from initiation to completion by providing a series of prompts, grouped under the seven core principles of a CIEHF project.

The *Guide* is a companion resource, offering in-depth information about ethical considerations, risks, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property, and other topics relevant to the completion of the *Workbook*. While tailored to our Centre, they have been made publicly available to support broader research contexts where ethical, relationship-driven work with Country is essential. Together, these resources offer Centre members, collaborators, and the broader research community a pathway to best practice.



Yirrganydji Traditional Owners, Rangers and Consultants Marie Taylor, Jayvan Singleton and Shane Singleton (top row centre) with Dr Mercy Singleton and Taylor Mitchell (front row), join Dr Matt Harris (top left) and Dr Kelsey Lowe (top right) to conduct Ground Penetrating Radar on Yirrganydji Country  
Photo credit: Matt Harris

These resources draw upon the advocacy, scholarship, and project frameworks developed by Indigenous activists, scholars, and communities globally. The principles that underpin the project framework outlined in the Guide & Workbook are drawn from *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the *AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research*. CIEHF is guided by the *Maiyam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communique*, and the data management frameworks in the *Workbook* and *Guide* recognise the rights of Indigenous Partner Organisations to realise aspirations around data sovereignty. Research principles in these resources follow the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, and existing research principles and guidelines developed by Indigenous Partner Organisations also provided invaluable guidance.

The *Workbook* covers seven core principles of planning a CIEHF project, from project description and objectives, location, timing, and personnel, through to planning fieldwork, data collection and management, training, capacity-building, and outputs.

Projects are never straightforward or executed exactly as they are planned. For this reason, the *Workbook* is intended to be a living document that is continually referred to and updated as the project progresses. Being a living document, the *Workbook* was designed from the ground up to be flexible, and to recognise the sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As such, these resources are intended to act as a starting point, and a roadmap, not a rigid framework. Centre members are encouraged to take the *Workbook* and make it their own, modifying the prompts, structure, and information to suit the needs of collaborators and community.



Swan lake, Gunditjmarra Country  
Photo credit: Fiona Walsh



CIEHF's Second Annual Symposium on Gunditjmarra Country, Portland, VIC. Dr Matthew Harris presents the Project Implementation Workshop  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

# Research



Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre, Gunditjmarra Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette





# Indigenous Partner Organisations in 2025

At the heart of all CIEHF's research activities are eight Indigenous Partner Organisations from across Australia. The enthusiasm, generosity and engagement from these organisations and the communities they represent, is central to how CIEHF does research with Country. Below are some highlights from each of the Indigenous Partner Organisations in 2025.

Ranger Jayvan Singleton on Yirrgandyji Country  
conducting Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Research  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)

Conversations with Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation were ongoing through 2025 as we move towards co-designed research aligned with the priorities established during the 2024 on-Country workshops. This past year was a momentous one, with legal recognition and international adoption of K'gari (the traditional name of Fraser Island)—meaning “paradise”—at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting. This recognition honours the Butchulla people’s unbroken connection to Country and completes a long journey of truth-telling and acknowledgment. As the authorised native title holders, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation are now leading efforts to safeguard K'gari’s tangible and intangible heritage. Their key research priorities include cultural site protection, sea level rise impacts, and the integration of cultural knowledge into land and sea management.

## Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation (DWAC)

Numerous projects are up and running on Yirrganydji Country with the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation.

Yirrganydji Land and Sea Rangers and Associate Investigator Dr Kelsey Lowe undertook preliminary non-invasive investigations across significant cultural places in July 2025. Two geophysical survey areas were defined and using ground-penetrating radar (GPR), an assessment of sub-surface cultural deposits was conducted. Additional LiDAR scanning and environmental mapping of sites was done as part of a more extensive program for developing a chronology for Yirrganydji Country.

In early August, CIEHF hosted a powerful workshop with Dawul Wuru and broader Yirrganydji community members, focused on **Ancestors Coming Home**. At Dawul Wuru’s request, researchers came together from across the Centre to share potential research methods—including ancient DNA, isotopic analysis, bioarchaeology and dating—that might support community aspirations before reburial. Work is progressing on this project with further research and laboratory analyses to commence in 2026.

Wangal Djungay (Double Island) has a deep Indigenous history and holds significant cultural and spiritual values for the Yirrganydji people. A detailed historical analysis of the post-colonial use of Wangal Djungay and the nearby mainland was completed by Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Sarah Collins in collaboration with Dawul Wuru. This preliminary work demonstrated multiple impacts on the island from European settlement but also historical, written evidence of occupation by Yirrganydji people. There have been very few historical and archaeological investigations on Yirrganydji Country and none on Wangal Djungay itself. Wangal Djungay will be a key focus for research in 2026.

## Gujaga Foundation

The Gujaga Foundation continued to work collaboratively within the La Perouse Aboriginal community with Elders, knowledge holders and researchers to advance their research priorities in 2025. Work on ancestral connections and movements, led collaboratively with Associate Investigators Dr Paul Irish, Dr Nick Pitt and Dr Jarrod Hore included conducting detailed historical analysis and community knowledge-sharing sessions aimed at strengthening understandings of family connections and

Dharawal Country with Gujaga Foundation, Sydney.  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



movement throughout the region after European invasion. The Foundation also continued its important smallpox research, focusing on modelling the impacts of early epidemics on coastal communities and drawing together archival, oral and archaeological evidence.

The Language & Identity for Coastal Sydney project advanced, with community linguists and researchers working together to document Dharawal language expressions, place names and cultural concepts that continue support cultural revitalisation within the community.



Listening and learning about Gunditjmarra Country while in Portland, Victoria  
Photo credits: Teresa Carrette

Engagement with Australian Museum collections also deepened this year, with Gujaga representatives undertaking collection reviews and object-based learning activities to reconnect community members with cultural materials held in institutional care.

On-Country work has expanded involving the Gamay Rangers through a sea mammal management initiative, where traditional knowledge and contemporary environmental monitoring are being integrated to better understand and protect marine species central to local cultural landscapes. These collective projects all have shown a strong foundation through 2025 and are set to grow further in 2026.

### Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC)

There was a lot of activity on Gunditjmarra Country in 2025. Several large-scale projects are now well underway with workshops and fieldwork occurring throughout the year.

The first phase of fieldwork for the *Planned Ecosystems* project was completed in November with the Gunditj Mirring Cultural Heritage team and Parks Victoria. The project aims to reconstruct pre- and post-invasion ecosystems and land management. It is explored in detail later in this report. Despite variable conditions across sites, the team successfully collected multiple sediment cores, culminating in the final day laying out **more than 16 metres of sediment cores** from four locations on Gunditjmarra Country – a major milestone for the project and an exciting step forward in this research.

In late August, CIEHF and GMTOAC met on Country to talk about different approaches to understanding **submerged cultural landscapes** on Nyamat Mirring (Sea Country). The workshop explored what Gunditjmarra would like to know, what might be possible, what different types of research involve, and what the implications of various approaches are for issues like cultural heritage management, ethics, sampling, and Indigenous data sovereignty. A project implementation plan has been developed and preliminary modelling work has commenced. In the face of rising sea levels and coastal development, Sea Country will have a central role in Gunditjmarra stories going forward.

Work has also commenced on the repatriation and reanalysis of the Tarragal Cave excavation which took place in the 1970s. Stephen Lovett travelled to Brisbane to collect and accompany the cultural material back to Gunditjmarra Country in November. This material will be reanalysed with modern techniques prior to commencing any future excavations in the area.



GBK board members Torenzo Elisala (Dauanalgaw PBC Chair), Dimas Toby (Malu Kiai PBC Chair) with Cailey Maclaurin at JCU's Nguma-bada Campus, Yirrganydji Country. Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

### Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK)

It was an incredibly productive year for CIEHF and GBK with a total of three face-to-face workshops being held in 2025.

18-19 March was the very first on-Country workshop for Gur A Baradharaw Kod Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation on the island of Masig in central Torres Strait. There have been meetings on the mainland previously, but this was the first time for CIEHF researchers travelling to Country. For this meeting, members had 2 days of experiencing island life, culture and hospitality including

a full day of deep discussions with the members from 22 of the PBCs.

The second workshop for the year was held on Mua in western Torres Strait, and while this had a much smaller CIEHF representation it progressed the ideas and discussions that began on Masig.

For the third workshop, we were honoured to host GBK members on Yirrganydji Country, Cairns. This Research Co-Design Workshop was held on the JCU Nguma-bada Campus 11-12 September.

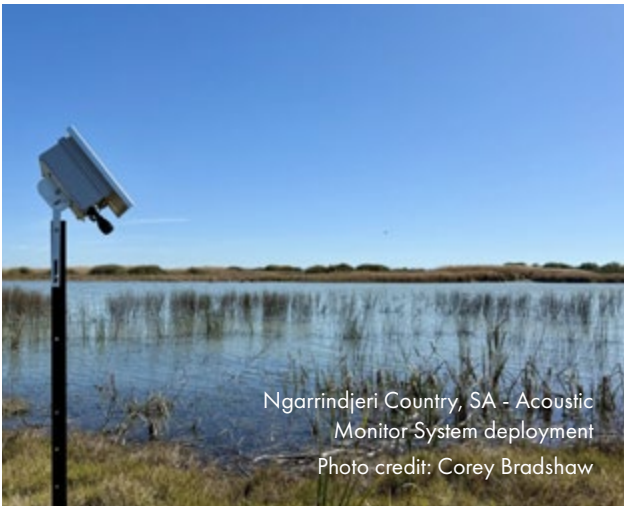


Gathered under the tree of knowledge. First Gur A Baradharaw Kod Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation & CIEHF co-design Workshop on held on Masig. Right image: GBK board members Ivy Faid (Garboi PBC Chair) and Susan Billy (Porumalgal PBC Chair) looking at pollen slides in the Advanced Analytical Centre on JCU's Nguma-bada Campus, Smithfield on Yirrganydji Country. Photo credit: Teresa Carrette.





Rock art depicting what is thought to be a Marrjuru (northern quoll) in Nganjarli, Murujuga National Park  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



Ngarrindjeri Country, SA - Acoustic Monitor System deployment  
Photo credit: Corey Bradshaw

### Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC)

2025 was a momentous year for partners at Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation with the Murujuga community and Traditional Owners achieving a successful UNESCO World Heritage listing of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape. This international recognition honours more than 50,000 years of continuous cultural practice and deep connection to Country by the Ngarda-Ngarli peoples. This World Heritage inscription reflects the tireless work and leadership of Traditional Owners who have long advocated for the protection of these irreplaceable cultural landscapes with support from CIEHF researchers along this journey.

MAC Rangers played a leading role at the Australian Archaeological Association conference in December, curating the powerful session *“Reshaping Heritage Management: Murujuga Cultural Landscape.”* Among the standout presentations was Jordan Churnside’s *“Living systems, digital tools,”* which explored the role of technology in supporting Ngarda-Ngarli knowledge.

Formal CIEHF activities with Murujuga remained low key during 2025 while they navigated their UNESCO listing. Associate Investigator Dr John McCarthy worked closely with MAC to deliver Australia’s first Indigenous led underwater archaeological ranger training. This work included underwater site investigations that brought together cutting-edge science and deep cultural knowledge.

Looking ahead, the first official co-design workshop is scheduled for March 2026 in Karratha, providing an exciting opportunity to deepen collaborative planning and map out shared research priorities on Country.

### Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC)

This year, also saw fieldwork on Ngarrindjeri Country across key projects with many more to come.

Chief Investigators Professor Corey Bradshaw and Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher, have been working alongside the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and the Raukkan Rangers on Country. As part of a growing collaboration, five passive acoustic monitors were recently deployed across the Teringie Wetlands to capture bird and amphibian activity. In addition, sediment samples from the North Basin have been collected for analysis. These programs mark an exciting step in the Centre’s co-designed research and we’re looking forward to the insights that will emerge from this work.

## Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC)

CIEHF researchers, TLaWC staff and the Taungurung community met in February in Nagambie, on Taungurung Country to share experiences and progress the research journey together. Conversations focussed on how research should be done with Country and community. The group also had the opportunity to visit with and listen to Country throughout the two-day workshop including visits to Reedy Lake, the Corop Waterscape and Strathbogie Ranges, which will be the focus of future research.

In early August CIEHF members and TLaWC staff met in Naarm (Melbourne) as part of the development of the Taungurung Indigenist Research Prospectus. It was a

stimulating workshop thinking through how research can be done with Country in the right way. The prospectus not only outlines TLaWC's research priorities and ambitions but also includes Country as a central stakeholder, allowing Country to speak throughout the prospectus and research programs.

A landmark initiative by the Victorian Government was welcomed by TLaWC in October. The Victorian Government will invest in improving access to nearly two million hectares of state forest with a pilot Cultural Reserve in the Strathbogie Ranges (Taungurung Stone Country). Management of this reserve will be led by TLaWC paving the way for shared decision making and collaborative management between local communities, government agencies and TLaWC. CIEHF will partner with TLaWC to develop cultural landscape plan for these culturally significant areas.

Taungurung Country, Central Northern Victoria  
Photo credit: Sonia Hope



# Research Training and Ethics

CENTRE  
INDUCTION  
88%  
Member  
Completion

MENTAL HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING  
TRAINING  
38%  
Member  
Completion

AIATSI CORE  
TRAINING  
49%  
Member  
Completion



**WORKING  
WITH COUNTRY  
MASTERCLASS**

**45%**

Member  
Completion

**DIVERSITY, INCLUSION  
AND NAVIGATING  
UNCONSCIOUS BIAS**

**73%**

Member Completion

**ACTIVE  
BYSTANDER  
TRAINING**

**66%**

Member Completion



Working with Country Masterclass held on JCU's Nguma-bada Campus, Yirrganydji Country Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

Six units of mandatory training were collectively identified as foundational to the Centre, with our aim to train a culturally competent future workforce, fostering a community of practice and supporting our commitment to doing things differently, together.

### Centre Induction

All new members to CIEHF complete a mandatory induction program designed to provide a clear understanding of the Centre's governance, structure, and strategic objectives. The induction introduces members to our central guiding questions, research streams, and roles within the Centre, ensuring alignment with our collaborative vision. The induction also explains the co-design process, communication channels, and where to access resources, fostering an inclusive and informed community dedicated to sustainable environmental planning and Indigenous-led management of Country.

88% of members have completed this training since the Centre launched.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Training

2025 marked CIEHF's delivery of a series of bespoke modules that focused on mental health and wellbeing, designed in collaboration with the mental health trainers, Pola Practice. The modules address key areas including recognising and responding to common mental health concerns, trauma-informed care in culturally diverse contexts, and strategies for improving overall wellbeing of both self and community. Delivered through interactive online sessions, the training combined practical tools with evidence-based approaches. Post-training feedback informs continuous improvement, reinforcing our dedication to creating relevant, impactful professional development opportunities that align with the Centre's values and support the wellbeing of our community.

This course ran twice with capped numbers in 2025 and we have still had 38% of members complete this training.

## Diversity, Inclusion and Navigating Unconscious Bias

In 2025, CIEHF partnered with Polykala to deliver the *Diversity, Inclusion and Navigating Unconscious Bias* training series. These interactive online sessions explore principles of inclusion, encourage appreciation of difference, and challenge systemic barriers to support more equitable and respectful environments.

73% of eligible members have completed the Diversity, Inclusion and Navigating Unconscious Bias training.

## Active Bystander

CIEHF also delivered the *Active Bystander* training through Polykala. Using evidence-based frameworks and real-world scenarios, the program builds confidence and capability to recognise and respond to inappropriate behaviour and advocate for inclusion.

66% of eligible members have completed the Active Bystander training.

## AIATSIS Core Training

All members are required to complete the AIATSIS Core Cultural Learning, an online program developed by the

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to build cultural understanding and capability. This flexible, self-paced course is designed to deepen appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and perspectives. This training supports members in developing tools to work effectively in culturally diverse environments. By fostering dialogue and ongoing learning, this program strengthens our values of inclusion and respect, ensuring members are equipped to engage meaningfully with Indigenous communities and knowledge systems.

49% of eligible Centre members have started, completed or have recognised prior learning of this training.

## Working with Country Masterclass

As the only face-to-face mandatory training within the Centre, the Working with Country Masterclass – featuring presentations, discussions and offering an immersive on-Country experience - stands as one of the CIEHF’s most significant and enduring contributions to research practice. This Masterclass ensures that everyone engaging in Indigenous research does so with a shared foundational understanding of the complexities, accountabilities and responsibilities inherent in working across knowledge systems.

45% of all Centre members attended the two capped face-to-face offerings available in 2025.



Working with Country Masterclass, held on Wulgurukaba Country, Townsville Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## Additional Training Offered in 2025

### sedaDNA Workshop

In 2025, CIEHF facilitated a key capacity-building workshop on sedimentary DNA (sedaDNA), an emerging field that offers powerful insights into past environments and biocultural histories. The workshop focused on foundational concepts and technical workflows, and explored applications, including environmental reconstruction and reference genome development. A critical outcome of the workshop was the identification of key resource gaps and strategies to enhance sedaDNA capability within the Centre. The session was led by Dr Vilma Pérez (CIEHF Postdoctoral Researcher), Dr Jamie Wood (Associate Investigator), Associate Professor Bastien Llamas (Associate Investigator), and Associate Professor Ray Tobler (Chief Investigator). A special presentation by Dr Matt Harris (CIEHF Data Manager) addressed environmental DNA data management and introduced participants to the integration of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility,

Ethics) principles—marking an important step in embedding Indigenous data sovereignty and ethical data stewardship into the Centre’s practices.

### SECR Students and Early Career Researcher Leadership Workshop

Training providers Polykala collaborated with the SECR Committee to design a short course for the group based on developing communication techniques. This was designed to build confidence in navigating a variety of interactions in an academic setting with a negotiative mindset.

### Optimising Your Public Presentations Masterclass

This course was designed to share lessons, tips, and tricks for effective public speaking. It was offered on Nguma Bada Campus and was attended by postgraduate CIEHF students and led by CIEHF Chief Investigator Dr Frédéric Saltré (UTS).



Student and Early Career Researcher Committee Leadership Workshop Gunditjmarra Country, Portland, VIC  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



Optimising Your Public Presentations Masterclass.  
JCU's Nguma-bada Campus, Yirrgandyji Country,  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## CIEHF Mentoring Program

The CIEHF Mentoring Program launched its inaugural six-month program in April 2025, pairing 18 participants across 12 institutions from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Designed to foster cross-institutional and interdisciplinary connections, the program focused on career development and network building.

Participants identified goals spanning professional skill development, research prioritisation, and cultural competency. Feedback from the program was overwhelmingly positive, with fantastic satisfaction scores for coordination and overall experience. Mentees reported significant personal and professional growth, including increased confidence, stronger networks, and improved clarity around career pathways.

With strong retention, flexible meeting structures, and impactful mentor-mentee relationships, the program established a valuable foundation for future capacity-building efforts at CIEHF. It stands as a key achievement in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers, with Indigenous knowledge and leadership at its heart.

## IMPACT CASE STUDY 2

# Working with Country Masterclass



Cattana Wetlands, Yirrganydji Country Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

### A Transformative Legacy in Research Training

The Working with Country (WwC) Masterclass stands as one of CIEHF's most significant contributions transforming research practice. As a mandatory training module for all Centre members, it establishes a shared foundation for engaging in Indigenous research in ways that respect and integrate multiple knowledge systems.

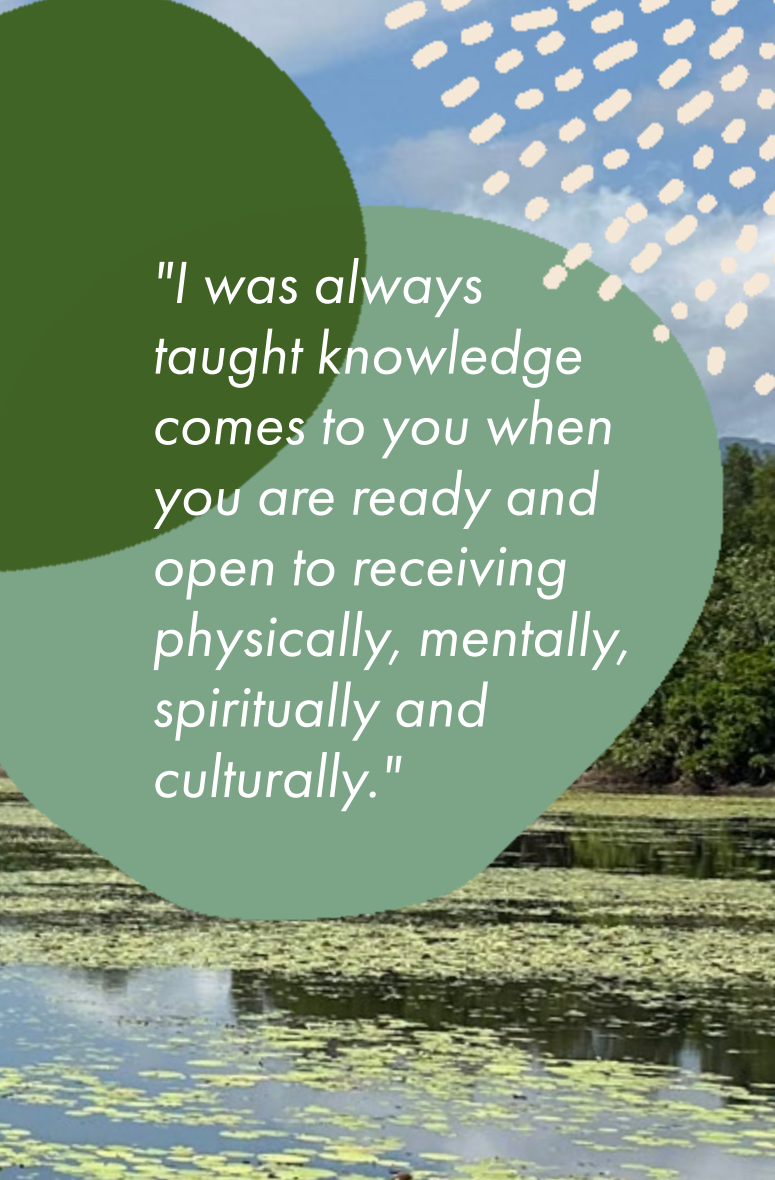
#### Purpose and Framework

The Masterclass introduces participants to the Cultural Interface Theory, a seminal framework developed by Chief Investigator Professor Martin Nakata in *Disciplining the Savages, Savaging the Disciplines* (2007). Rather than prescribing a rigid methodology, this training equips researchers with a critical lens to examine how Indigenous and Western knowledge systems interact, conflict, and potentially transform one another. Central to this is the Co-Discovery Principle, which moves beyond consultation or tokenistic inclusion and towards genuine collaboration on shared challenges.

The Masterclass is designed for all researchers, scholars, partners and staff within CIEHF. This includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers at various career stages. The training recognises that meaningful collaboration requires everyone involved to understand the complex terrain of knowledge interfaces—regardless of their background or discipline.

#### Pedagogical Approach

This program combines theoretical grounding, reflective practice, practical application and honest engagement. Participants explore philosophical concepts, such as Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*, and contemporary references like *The Matrix* to demonstrate how dominant and imposed frameworks have shaped perceptions of "truth". These references make accessible the philosophical journey required to move beyond imposed frameworks and recognise Indigenous knowledge systems on their own terms. Each participant begins this journey by articulating their own research challenges and return to these throughout the training, examining how their understanding has shifted and what uncertainties may remain.



*"I was always taught knowledge comes to you when you are ready and open to receiving physically, mentally, spiritually and culturally."*

The training provides dialogue prompts and assessment frameworks that help researchers evaluate relationship conditions, institutional flexibility, and resource availability before commencing collaborative work. It empowers participants to develop innovative research frameworks that transcend the limitations of isolated knowledge systems. Uniquely, the Masterclass creates space for participants to articulate their concerns, ambivalence, and constraints—recognising that these are valuable starting points rather than obstacles to overcome.

### On Country Experience

Importantly this training takes place wholly in person. A vital component of this course is time spent with Country with local knowledge holders who have generously shared stories and knowledge of Country, allowing participants to listen to Country and learn together. CIEHF would like to acknowledge the incredible contribution to these workshops from Uncle Russell Butler, Uncle Rusty, Ashley Saltner with the whole Wulgurukaba Walkabouts team and Gavin Singleton from Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation.

### Why it Matters

The WwC Masterclass is not just training; it's a cultural shift. It ensures that CIEHF's research culture is built on shared principles: recognising Indigenous agency in knowledge production; embracing productive tensions at knowledge interfaces; and understanding that collaboration demands ongoing learning and institutional transformation. As the Centre continues to address complex environmental and social challenges, this foundational program equips researchers to produce knowledge that genuinely serves shared futures rather than perpetuating historical inequities.

Through this immersive experience, participants leave with the tools to critically reflect, collaborate authentically, and innovate across disciplines making the Masterclass a legacy of CIEHF's commitment and vision for ethical, impactful research.

Two Masterclasses were run in 2025. On Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country (Townsville) in May and Yirrganydji Country (Smithfield) in October.



Working with Country Masterclass. Bindal Country, Townsville  
Photo credit: Sonia Hope



# Education and Engagement



Kewarra Beach,  
Yirrganydji Country,  
- Cultural Heritage  
Workshop with  
Traditional Owners  
Photo credit:  
Teresa Carrette

# CIEHF and Deep Time: Sharing Stories 65,000 Years in the Making



Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation Director Vincent Adams at Lake Poongkaliyarra (Harding Dam)

Photo credit: Margaret Burin

CIEHF was proud to contribute to *Deep Time: Sharing Stories 65,000 Years in the Making*, a major digital storytelling project developed by ABC News Story Lab. The platform shares more than 130 cultural stories from over 65 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and language groups, offering audiences a powerful new way to engage with the depth, continuity and resilience of First Nations histories.

Developed over five years, the project brought together designers, developers, scientists, journalists, and dozens of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge holders.

CIEHF's involvement helped ensure that the final product was respectful, accurate and collaborative. Contributions included reviewing early drafts, advising on appropriate protocols, and connecting the ABC team with relevant community networks.

"We couldn't have done it without the time and knowledge you shared with us... We have had so much wonderful feedback and within the first three days of launching we had reached more than one million page views..."

— Margie Burin, Co-Executive Producer, *Deep Time*

This project reflects the Centre's commitment to supporting high-impact, Indigenous-led storytelling and research translation. It stands as an example of how deep collaboration can support broader public understanding of Country, culture and history.



Budj Bim, Gunditjmara Country  
Photo credit: Margaret Burin

## SING Australia 2025: Empowering Indigenous Leadership in Genomics

In July 2025, CIEHF proudly supported the 5th Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics (SING) Australia, held on Yirrganydji and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Country at James Cook University's Nguma-bada and Bada-jali campuses in Cairns. This Indigenous-led program, administered through the Australian National University and Monash University CIEHF nodes, brings together participants to build capacity, confidence, and community around genomics. With support from sponsors including BioPlatforms Australia, InGENA, Queensland Health, NCIG and Variant Bio, the week-long residential program welcomed 21 First Nations participants from across Australia and Aotearoa. Workshops explored DNA, inheritance, environmental DNA, data sovereignty, and ethical community-led genomics. A highlight was the plant DNA extraction lab at JCU, where spirited teamwork and learning were on full display. More than a training event, SING Australia 2025 was a space for deep connection and empowerment, supporting a growing Indigenous genomics workforce. The dedication of organisers, especially PhD Candidate Dawn Lewis, Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Jacinta Walsh, and CIEHF's own Ann Penny, ensured a truly transformative and seamless experience for all involved.



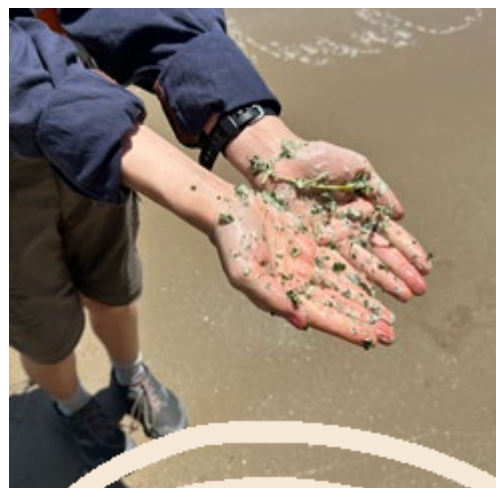
SING Australia 2025 JCU's Nguma-bada Campus, Yirrganydji Country Photo credit: Darren Crayn

## Cultural Heritage Workshop

On 5-6 November 2025 a two-day Cultural Heritage Workshop was held at the JCU Nguma-bada Campus and Kewarra Beach, on Yirrganydji Country. The workshop was co-delivered by Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation and CIEHF.

This short course aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of cultural heritage management and protection.

It provided an opportunity to deepen the understanding of the interconnectedness of Country, people and place. Participants included Dawul Wuru Rangers and CIEHF students.



Cultural Heritage Workshop, Kewarra Beach, Yirrganydji Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

*'From a CIEHF student perspective - participating in the cultural heritage course with the Indigenous Partner Organisation we are working/co-discovering which further enriched the course experience, content and relationships.'*



Traditional Owners attending the Submerged Landscape Archaeology Workshop Photo credit: John McCarthy

## Submerged Landscape Archaeology - Workshop for Traditional Owners

Facilitated by Associate Investigators Dr John McCarthy, Professor Jonathan Benjamin and Dr Chelsea Wiseman (Flinders University).

A half-day workshop on the tangible archaeological evidence of global and Australian submerged cultural landscapes, designed specifically for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, was delivered as part of the Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference in Fremantle in December. This workshop covered the development of submerged landscape archaeology globally, focusing on key regions where the discipline is well-established and the most important discoveries have been made to date, including in the Americas and Europe as well as the Asia-Pacific region. Presenters covered the history of the search by archaeologists to locate and map submerged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeology in Australia. A brief review of published national and local evidence of oral traditions relating to sea-level change, was followed by a presentation on successful management strategies that Indigenous custodians and heritage managers have adopted in Australia and elsewhere. The workshop concluded with an open discussion among presenters and attendees about the major issues in management of submerged Aboriginal heritage and of strategies to ensure proper recognition by the public and offshore developers. The workshop was attended by over 80 Traditional Owners with CIEHF supporting the presenters and representatives from Indigenous Partner Organisations.



Dr John McCarthy leading a session at the Submerged Landscape Archaeology Workshop Photo credit: Jonathan Benjamin

## Indigenous Winter School

Several of CIEHF's Chief Investigators and Associate Investigators contributed to James Cook University's Indigenous Education and Research Centre Winter School, a highly successful outreach initiative that provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students with a meaningful introduction to university life.

In 2025, more than 100 students from across Queensland and interstate participated in the week-long program, exploring disciplines including Marine Biology, STEM fields and Indigenous Knowledge. Through academic sessions, mentoring and peer engagement, students are supported to see themselves as future university students and leaders.

The program plays a critical role in strengthening pathways into higher education by building confidence, aspiration and a sense of belonging. CIEHF will continue to support this program annually.



Annual CoE Summit in Naarm Photo credit: Carl Knox

## Annual CoE Summit

In July 2025, members of the CIEHF Business Operations Team travelled to Naarm (Melbourne) to represent the Centre at the annual ARC Centre of Excellence Summit. Held over three days across multiple locations, the Summit brought together representatives from ARC Centres of Excellence across Australia to share insights, discuss strategic goals, and explore collective challenges and opportunities. Our team delivered updates on the Centre’s progress and proudly showcased the values and vision of CIEHF. The event offered a rich space for connection and collaboration, highlighting the strength of the national network we are proud to be part of, and reinforcing our commitment to building a Centre culture grounded in excellence, reciprocity, and innovation.

## Visit from Malu Gubal Project Participants

In June CIEHF welcomed a group of newly qualified rescue divers to the Nguma-bada Campus as part of the **Malu Gubal** project delivered by **Wakaid Pty Ltd**. The participants from Cairns, Thursday Island, Bamaga and Lockhart River, recently completed their rescue diver certifications through a program supported by the Queensland Government’s Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development grant.

During their visit, the group met with CIEHF researchers and PhD students, who shared information about the Centre’s research and discussed career and study pathways in environmental and cultural research. The visit provided an opportunity for mutual learning and discussions, especially regarding working on and for Sea Country.



(This image and above right) Malu Gubal Project Participants touring JCU’s Nguma-bada Campus, Yirrganydji Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, END-USER BRIEFINGS, PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS

Event/Activity Type	Name	Presenter(s)	Date	Duration (hours)	No. of Attendees
Masterclass	CIEHF Sedimentary DNA Workshop	Wood, J., Perez, V., Tobler, R.	9 March	16	16
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Professor Martin Nakata "Innovating Science Through Indigenous Knowledge"	Nakata, M.	13 March		107
Public Event	What Happened at HASS and Indigenous RDC Summer School 2025: A Webinar	Greenhill, K., Musgrave, S., McLellan, R., Curry, M., Fraiese, L., Harris, M., Hendrickson, L., Clews, M.	25 March	1	15
Masterclass	Optimising Your Public Presentations Masterclass	Saltré, F.	1 April	6	9
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Dr Frédéric Saltré "How species traits shape ecosystem stability in a changing world"	Saltré, F.	3 April	1	28
Seminar	CHIEF Seminar Series: Dr Kelsey Lowe "Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) 101 – Brief overview of the theory and method of how GPR works in Australian Archaeology"	Lowe, K.	1 May	1	56
Public seminar	TEDxSydney: How Many Humans the Earth Can Support	Bradshaw, C.	9 May	1	950
Masterclass	Working with Country Masterclass	Nakata, M., Nakata, S., Watkin Lui, F., Backhaus, V.	19 May	18	42
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Associate Professor Michelle Langley "Lapita Rochia Shell Rings in Vanuatu: Manufacture and Use"	Langley, M.	5 June	1	35
Public Event	Environmental Film Festival Q&A Host	Saltré, F.	6 June	1	100
Private Event	JCU Booth at the International Congress for Conservation Biology	Grech, A.	15 June	24	100
Visiting scientist at Caltech	Visiting scientist at Caltech	Naeher, S.	1 July	1	1
Presentation to Indigenous high school students	Indigenous Winter School	Nakata, M.	1 July	4	6
Private Event	Engagement session with high school students	Saltré, F.	1 July	2	20
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Dr Jacinta Walsh "Ceremonies of Kinship: Celebrating Kimberley Genealogies and Family Histories"	Walsh, J.	3 July	1	40
Seminar	Purposeful and planned: migration pathways of our First Nations ancestor into Australia	Bradshaw, C.	10 July	1	50

## ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, END-USER BRIEFINGS, PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS – CONTINUED

Event/Activity Type	Name	Presenter(s)	Date	Duration (hours)	No. of Attendees
Public Event	JCU open day	Bird, M., Rowe, C., Comley, R.	25 July	6	200
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Dr Leah Jui-Chivizhe "Museum Collections and Repatriating Ancestors"	Lui-Chivizhe, L	7 August	1	43
Public Event	Sydney Science Trail, Australian Museum, Sydney	Saltr�, F.	9 August	40	500
End-user Briefing	Enhancing engagement between JCU and the Reef Authority	Grech, A., Backhaus, V.	11 August	2	20
Public Event	The Science Social	Saltr�, F.	13 August	3	50
Private Event	Science Talk Panel at the Royal Botanic Garden	Saltr�, F.	14 August	2	90
Private Event	Environmental sustainability workshop	Saltr�, F.	26 August	1	30
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Associate Professor Duane Hamacher "The importance of Indigenous Astronomical Knowledge when studying Environmental Histories"	Hamacher, D	4 September	1	33
Seminar	Human population effects on quality of life, equality, extinctions & climate change	Bradshaw, C.	10 September	1	50
Seminar	Future of the planet & human societies	Bradshaw, C.	19 September	1	20
Seminar	Environmental Futures Seminar - Dr Amy Way	Way, A.	26 September	1	50
Seminar	CIEHF Seminar Series: Ms Maddison Miller "Storying Country – co-creating cultural narratives to bring together many ways of knowing"	Miller, M	2 October	1	49
Public Event	Trait-space divergence and the use of non-native mammals in conservation strategies	Saltr�, F.	10 October	1	50
Private Event	Species range shifts workshop	Saltr�, F.	16 October	1	30
Seminar	European Commission Joint Research Centre	Bradshaw, C.	21 October	1	50
Masterclass	Working with Country Masterclass	Nakata, S., Backhaus, V., Lui, G.	28 October	18	44
Short course	Cultural Heritage Training Short Course	Ulm, S., Ross, A., Weisse, A., Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation	5 November	12	16
Seminar	Environmental Futures Seminar - Dr Fr�d�rik Saltr�	Fr�d�rik Saltr�, F.	10 November	1	50
<b>Total</b>				<b>173</b>	<b>2950</b>



## IMPACT CASE STUDY 3

# Reconstructing the past to plan for the future on Gunditjmarra Country

### Implementing Co-Design with Country

Gunditjmarra Mirring (Country) is a complex, connected landscape incorporating four Mirring; Wooroowarook Mirring (Forest Country), Bocara Wooroowarook Mirring (River Forest Country), Tungatt Mirring (Stone Country) and Nyamat Mirring (Sea Country); each with their own unique values, stories, and biocultural systems.

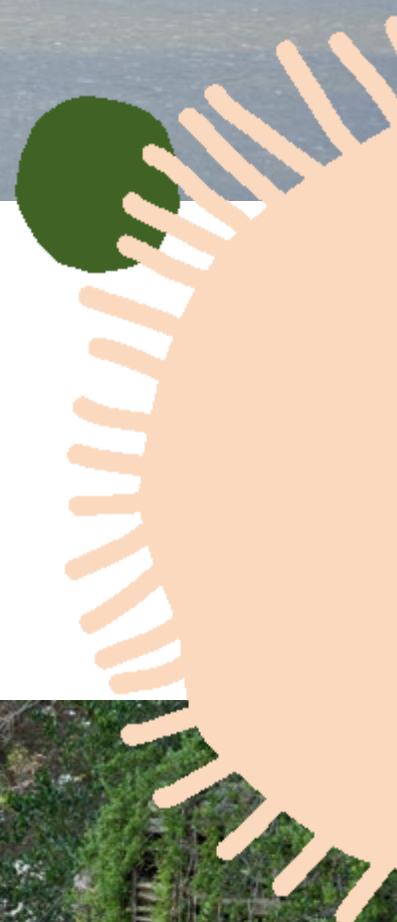
Gunditjmarra histories stretch back longer than 30,000 years and tell of erupting volcanoes, tsunamis, mountains forming, Sea Country rising to cover the land, rivers changing, the relationship between people, animals and plants, abundant natural resources, settlement and aquaculture, and the arrival of other people to Gunditjmarra Country.

Understanding pre- and post-invasion ecosystems and land management by Gunditjmarra Old People to inform future cultural landscape planning and management is a key aspiration of Gunditjmarra people and the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC).

This project is a centre-wide collaboration. Led by GMTOAC and ANU the project team also includes researchers and students UMelb, JCU, UNSW, UWA and Monash. Partner Investigators from ANSTO and Associate Investigators from UAdelaide, UTAS and Nottingham University (UK) are also involved in the project.

Traditional Owners and researchers undertook initial fieldwork for this project in November 2025. Cores were taken from a cross-section of Country from Nelson to Cape Bridgewater, representing thousands of years of Gunditjmarra management and including the impacts of invasion up to the present day.

Using pollen, charcoal, and environmental and sedimentary DNA, analyses will reconstruct vegetation, water regimes, fire management and biodiversity. These data will be examined within the context of Gunditjmarra knowledge and ethnobiological systems to develop a full cultural and environmental picture of this important cultural landscape.



(All images) Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) with researchers and collaborators working together on Gunditjmarra Country at Oxbow Swamp and Swan Lake  
Photo credits: Fiona Walsh

Data from the sediment cores will be combined with photographs, historical images, satellite data, historical records and Indigenous knowledges to create interactive reconstructed landscapes that can be viewed at different time slices.

This research will not only support current GMTOAC cultural fire and biodiversity management but will also provide opportunities for on-Country and laboratory training for students, rangers, cultural heritage staff and community members.

GMTOAC have full ownership of cultural, environmental, palaeoecological and geomorphological data collected for this project.

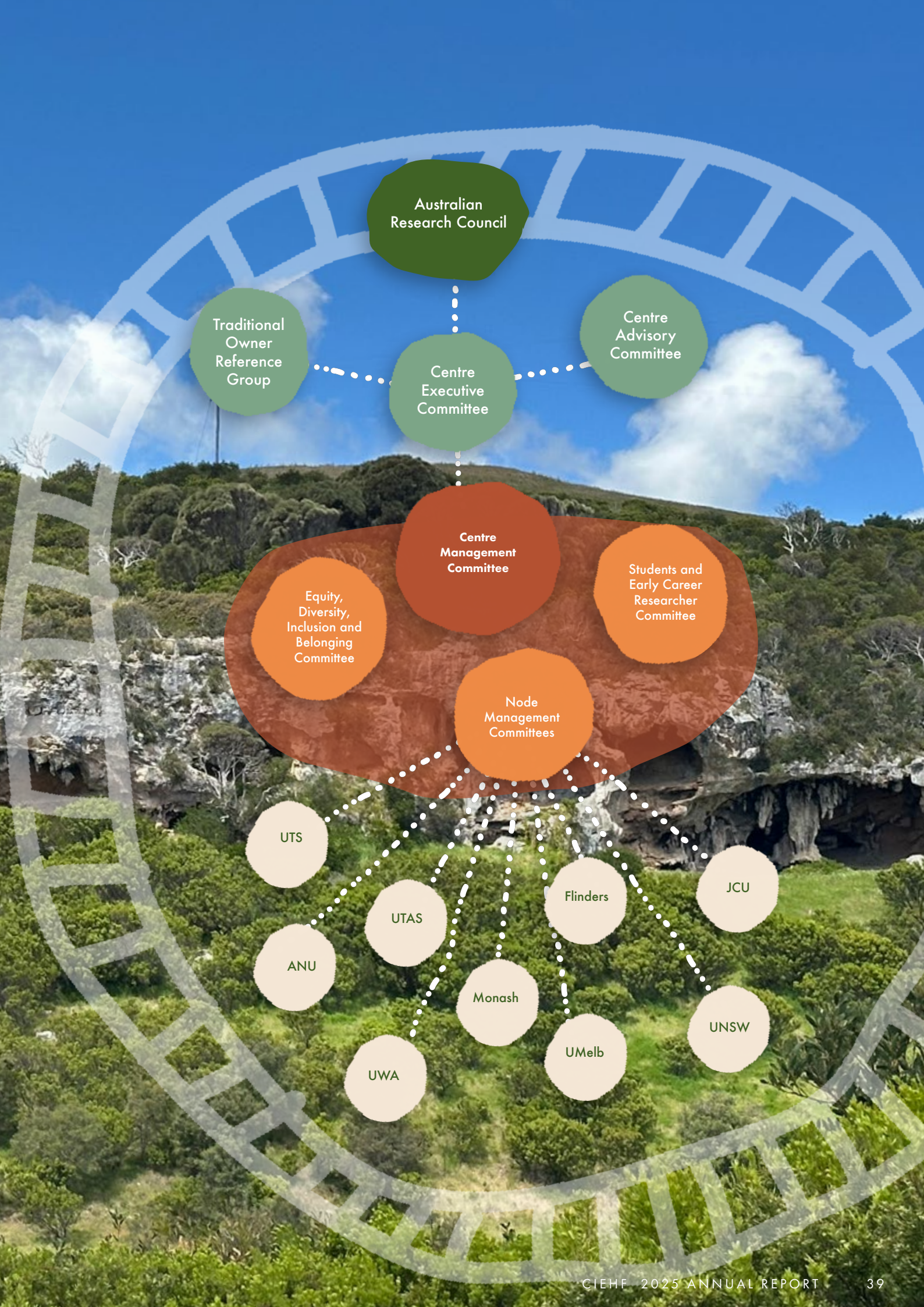




# Governance

Tarragal Caves, Gunditjmarra Country .

Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



## Traditional Owner Reference Group

The Traditional Owner Reference Group (TORG) played an essential role in the strategic and operational direction of the Centre in 2025. Independent from other advisory committees, the TORG provides a dedicated, culturally safe space for Indigenous representatives to oversee and guide the operations of the Centre and ensure they are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner. The TORG is tasked with providing advice to the Centre Executive Committee. When the TORG sits, it includes representatives from each Indigenous Partner Organisation in the Centre. Other Indigenous members attend by invitation.

The Traditional Owner Reference Group met three times in 2025. Two meetings were held in person, in Naarm (Melbourne) in September and Portland in November during CIEHF’s Annual Symposium. An additional online meeting was held in May. The meeting in Naarm was hosted by Museums Victoria who facilitated a behind the scenes tour of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collections.

TORG discussions are largely confidential and cover how work is progressing on Country, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property and research ethics. These meetings provide a platform for Indigenous Partner Organisations to share experiences and develop further collaborations.

## Centre Advisory Committee

An independent Indigenous-majority and -chaired Centre Advisory Committee (CAC) is the peak advisory committee for all Centre operations, comprising eminent leaders drawn from organisations, academia, government and/or industry. The CAC is chaired by Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt who is supported by international experts in governance, Indigenous knowledge and more.

The Centre Advisory Committee met twice during 2025, once online in June and once in person at the Annual Symposium on Gunditjmarra Country in November. The expertise and support provided by the committee has been a huge asset in 2025 and we are pleased all members have agreed to remain on the committee for 2026.

These meetings include broad discussions around the strategy and operations of the Centre. The Committee provided invaluable guidance on research implementation, particularly providing comment on the Project Implementation Guide and Workbook. Another key focus for the committee was the recruitment of research students, particularly Indigenous students. It was under the advice of the Committee that CIEHF has increased the annual HDR

top-up provided to Indigenous students as an incentive for recruitment.

The Committee also provided valuable guidance on the approach that CIEHF will take to legacy datasets. There are a number of Australia wide databases, developed by previous (non-CIEHF) projects that include data that was collected without express consent from community. The Committee will continue to work with the Centre Executive on how CIEHF approaches the ongoing use of these datasets.

### Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt



Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO is an Ewalayai/Gamillaroi woman and an ARC Laureate Fellow at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology Sydney. She has a LLB and B.Juris from UNSW and a LLM and SJD from Harvard Law School. Larissa has a legal background with a strong track record in the areas of Indigenous law, policy, creative arts, education and research. She has held numerous judicial positions and sat on various community and arts organisation boards. Larissa is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She was a member of the University Accord Panel in 2023. Larissa is also an award-winning author, filmmaker and host of Speaking Out on ABC Radio National. She chaired the national review of Indigenous Higher Education in 2012, was the inaugural chair of National Indigenous Television (NITV), has been the Chair of the Bangarra Dance Theatre and was a founding director of Sydney Story Factory (a literacy program in Redfern). In 2021 she received the Australian Human Rights Commission Human Rights Medal and in 2020 she received an Order of Australia for distinguished service to Indigenous education and research, to the law, and to the visual and performing arts. In 2009 she was NAIDOC Person of the Year and 2011 NSW Australian of the Year.

### Professor Katie Holmes



Katie Holmes an environmental historian and environmental humanities scholar, internationally known for her work on how individuals interact with their culture, society and environment. She is interested in how people make sense of the world around them and how this changes over time. Her work has helped transform the field of environmental history in Australia into a mode of understanding the experience of Australian settlement, one shaped by climate and landscape which in turn shapes culture and

policy. Her work in the environmental humanities has been instrumental in bringing interdisciplinary methodologies and approaches to the field, including those of gender, oral history, mental illness, emotions and the history of gardens. Her collaboration with scholars from other disciplines including ecology, geography, business, communications, visual art, literature, sociology and anthropology, has led to successful collaborative environmental humanities research teams. Katie is the Director of La Trobe University's Centre for the Study of the Inland and held the Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Visiting Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University, 2023-2024

### Mr Maui Solomon

Maui Solomon is a well-known Indigenous rights activist, advocate and negotiator in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific and internationally.

Maui is from a family of 13 children and was born in Temuka in 1960. He is married to Susan and they have five children and six mokos (grandchildren). His hokopapa (descent) is from Moriori, Ngāi Tahu and Pakeha (European New Zealanders). He graduated from University Canterbury Law School with a law degree in 1983 and practiced as a Barrister with 30 years of legal experience. He has specialised in Treaty of Waitangi issues, land and fishing claims, civil litigation, cultural and intellectual property and environmental law, and represented Māori tribes from all over Aotearoa New Zealand and other peoples around the Pacific. He represented three of the six Maori tribes in one of the largest claims to come before the Waitangi Tribunal known as the Wai 262 claim to Indigenous flora and fauna and cultural and intellectual rights and obligations. He has played a leading role throughout his adult life in the renaissance of the culture and identity of Moriori, the Indigenous Peoples on Rekohu (Chatham Islands). Maui was CEO for 12 years for his tribal entity, Hokotehi Moriori Trust, and is currently generatively farming the family land on Rekohu which includes ecological restoration of the henu (land). He and his wife Susan have established a native plant nursery on Rekohu and have planted 100,000 native trees to date. Maui has also been active in international Indigenous peoples issues including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organisation and is a past President of the International Society of Ethnobiology. He is currently the Chair and Chief Negotiator for the Moriori Imi Settlement Trust and Co-Chair of the Aotearoa Peace and Conflicts Studies Centre Trust which established Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa, a national peace and conflicts studies centre at University of Otago in 2009. Maui is also a past member of the Indigenous



Peoples Economic Trade and Cooperation Arrangement and current expert adviser to Nga Toki Whakarururanga which is a nationally mandated Maori body established to ensure the New Zealand government complies with its Te Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi obligations to Maori in international free trade agreements and protocols.

### Professor Anne Stone

Anne Stone is a Regents Professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. Her specialisation and main area of interest is anthropological genetics. Her research focuses on population history, how humans and the great apes have adapted to their environments, perceptions of genomic research and forensic applications of ancient DNA methods. This has five main strands: (a) population history, particularly in the Americas, (b) the evolutionary history of the Great Apes, (c) understanding the co-evolutionary history of mycobacteria (specifically *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *M. leprae*, the causative agents of tuberculosis and leprosy, respectively) with human and other animals, (d) examining views of genomic research in small-scale societies in Kenya, and (e) optimising methods for recovering DNA from challenging forensic samples. She has been a Fulbright Fellow (1992-93) and a Kavli Scholar (2007), and, in 2011, she was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2016, she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2022, she was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship. She has served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, the *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Evolution, Medicine, & Public Health*, and *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. She is currently a member of the editorial board of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, series B*.



## Centre Executive Committee

The Centre Executive Committee (CEC) had an extremely busy year as CIEHF introduced a number of new programs and initiatives to keep driving CIEHF's Vision and Mission. Meeting regularly throughout the year, the Executive Committee is the key decision making committee of the Centre. It is tasked with implementing the strategic direction of the Centre and overseeing its operations. The Centre Executive oversaw the development of the Project Implementation Guide and Workbook as well as the development of the Indigenous Research Support program and mentoring program. A number of grants were awarded throughout the year by the Executive, including carer's grants and HDR top-ups.

### Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee (EDIB) is tasked with developing, implementing, and evaluating the Centre's equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging activities. It also oversees the Centre Mentoring Program.

The Committee met four times in 2025, including an in person meeting in November at CIEHF's Annual Symposium. A key activity of the committee in 2025 was the development and implementation of the Centre's Mentoring Program. This program was a huge success and will continue to run each year of the Centre's operation. The Committee is also exploring how to better support the enrolment of Indigenous students into research programs across Centre nodes. Developing more support for neurodiverse members of the Centre will be a key activity in 2026.



*'This gathering was a highlight. The invitation gave a sense of welcome and place.'*



(All images) Weaving at the CIEHF Symposium for the Women Gender Diverse Network group. Gunditjmarra Country, Portland, VIC

Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## Women and Gender Diverse Network

The Women and Gender Diverse Network (WGDN) at CIEHF is emerging as a culturally safe, inclusive community for connection, care and shared experiences. Founded in deep listening and cultural respect, the WGDN is committed to welcoming all Centre members, across all roles, disciplines and organisations into its collective.

A standout moment in 2025 was the weaving session at the Annual Symposium on Gunditjmarra Country, guided by Elder Aunty Eileen Alberts. With over 40 attendees, this gathering explored the theme of Belonging and created a space for reflection, shared stories and cultural exchange. The weaving tutorial became reflective of the connection, guidance and acceptance that was offered up in that space, both to each other and to Country.

Feedback from the event highlighted the warmth, gentleness and inclusion that it nurtured by allowing space for vulnerability and honesty. As the WGDN looks ahead, its trajectory is strong, committed to embedding Indigenous ways of knowing, celebrating diversity, and shaping a more connected and compassionate research community and fostering this deep sense of Belonging.

## Student and Early Career Researcher Committee

As a decision-making body in the governance structure of CIEHF, the Student and Early Career Researcher (SECR) Committee met four times over the course of 2025 to discuss matters related to SECR members of the Centre.

To appropriately welcome and onboard new student and early career researcher CIEHF members, the committee decided to draft and send out a welcome email containing details on the role of new members within the Centre. Discussions during committee meetings this year led to the creation of a dedicated Basecamp space for SECR members, the formation of an informal peer-led reading group, and the formulation of several recommendations to help encourage prospective HDR students to undertake postgraduate studies with CIEHF.

To further encourage professional development and the strengthening of SECR networks in the Centre, several face-to-face events were organised for SECR members during the CIEHF Annual Symposium, including a dedicated social event and a workshop on Communication through Conflict facilitated by Polykala.

# Chief Investigators

**Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm**  
– James Cook University



As Centre Director, Sean provides leadership and strategic vision to make the Centre a global leader in co-designed, transdisciplinary research. Sean has 30 years of experience in Indigenous archaeology, geochronology, and human-environment interactions. He leads strategies to integrate research activities across the Centre and establish clear measures of accountability.

Sean has a proven track record of senior research leadership at the interdisciplinary interface between the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. He is highly regarded for his coordination of large-scale multidisciplinary projects in partnership with Indigenous communities investigating people-environment relationships across Australia.

**Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor Lynette Russell AM**  
– Monash University



Lynette is a Deputy Director of the Centre. With expertise in historical studies, Indigenous knowledges, and anthropological history, Lynette provides strong leadership and vision in the development of an interdisciplinary and Indigenous-led program. Lynette is responsible for overseeing museums research and research with botanical and faunal experts. She works with Traditional Owner groups to co-develop research projects and promote interdisciplinary, and mentors community members and early career researchers into collaborative research.

**Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher**  
– University of Melbourne



Michael is a Deputy Director of the Centre. Michael leads research developing and integrating high-resolution palaeoenvironmental records from across the Southern Hemisphere to provide comprehensive

reconstructions of environmental change, and to document the impacts of cessation of Indigenous land management practices on biodiversity and how their reinvigoration is integral to the future management of Country.

**Distinguished Professor Michael Bird**  
– James Cook University



Michael is responsible for coordination of the program to acquire new records of environmental change and the determination of proxy records of change in climate, water balance, vegetation, and fire regime from key sites across Australia.

Michael will build on existing research to develop a suite of high-resolution records covering key areas across Australia, providing a coherent continent-wide approach to understanding environmental change, and human-environment interactions in the last few millennia.

**Professor Corey Bradshaw**  
– Flinders University



As a multidisciplinary environmental modeller who works across disparate fields, Corey coordinates with other researchers to drive novel combinations of data types from the various disciplines, weaving mathematical techniques to bind the streams together.

Corey has experience in modelling human movements, animal, and vegetation patterns in response to climate shifts, and projecting future trends in human-ecosystem relationships.

**Professor Darren Crayn** – James Cook University and Australian Tropical Herbarium



Darren co-coordinates the Centre’s novel genetics research program, which reconstructs historical landscape usage and exchange networks throughout Australia. Darren is also working towards an understanding of the role of Indigenous land management practices in shaping the assembly of modern Australian flora.

Darren’s expert knowledge of Australian flora, its history, and its relationships to flora in neighbouring countries, will be important in contextualizing archaeological data within the canon of knowledge of Australian vegetation.

**Professor Alana Grech – James Cook University**

Alana uses spatial tools and participatory approaches to answer complex and transdisciplinary environmental research problems. Her work has advanced our understanding of the impacts of multiple threatening processes on species and ecosystems and shown how these impacts can be forecast into the future to inform management.

Alana leads and coordinates research using participatory approaches such as scenario planning to facilitate social learning processes and support decision-making on Country. Alana will contribute to informing on the ground, Land and Sea Caring for Country activities, strategies, and policies by providing a foundation for community discussions about plausible futures, potential trade-offs, alternative solutions, and desired outcomes for Country.



doctoral research, her first book, *Masked Histories: Turtle shell masks and Torres Strait Islander people* (MUP 2022), was highly commended for Australian History in the 2023 NSW Premier's History Awards.

**Professor Jo McDonald – University of Western Australia**

Jo is part of an extensive network of world-leading international rock art researchers and will be mobilising this network, as well as address an arid zone network of Aboriginal communities, to develop new programs in line with the Centre's co-designed research. Jo will incorporate data from a suite of high-resolution occupation sites and numerous systemically recorded rock art assemblages at Murujuga (Dampier Archipelago), to understand environmental change and human-environment interactions in the last few millennia.



**Professor Simon Haberle – Australian National University**

Simon provides leadership and management skills to foster research excellence, guide transparent and supportive management protocols, and ensure high impact. Over the last 25 years, he has led studies of human-environment relationships, climate change, and fire histories across Asia, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and Australia, directing international interdisciplinary collaborations and coordinating collaborations with Indigenous communities engaged with the research. Simon will support the Centre's Research Training and Ethics program by providing management solutions for an Indigenous-focused trans-institutional working environment and assist in creating best-practice approaches to managing data generated through the Centre. He will foster new collaborations and projects related to palaeoecology, fire histories and human environment interactions.



**Professor Ian J. McNiven – Monash University**

Ian is responsible for coordinating field research to acquire new archaeological information on plant and animal (terrestrial and aquatic) resource use over the past 1000 years. Through co-designed, collaborative research partnerships with First Nations communities, this archaeological information will provide baseline data to compare with contemporary Indigenous knowledges on resource use and management to inform and understand changes in environmental use as a result of colonial influences over the past 200 years. Contemporary Indigenous knowledges and archaeological data will be framed by collaborative and complementary research on palaeoenvironments such that palaeoenvironmental records inform past and present cultural records, and past and present cultural records inform palaeoenvironmental records.



**Dr Leah Lui-Chivizhe – University of New South Wales**

Leah is a cultural historian of the Torres Strait Islands. Her current research focuses on how to work with nineteenth century museum collections from the Torres Strait in ways that strengthen Islander connections to our pre-colonial histories of human and more-than-human relations and contribute to decolonial praxis in collector institutions. Based on her



**Professor N M Nakata – James Cook University**

Prof Nakata is a leading Indigenous researcher in Australia and the first Torres Strait Islander to graduate with a PhD. He has had an extensive academic career in the fields of Indigenous education, Indigenous Studies, and Indigenous knowledge. Prof Nakata will guide approaches to the intersection of Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems: (i) supporting researchers, Partner Investigators, and Associate



Investigators to navigate the interface between the Western sciences and Indigenous peoples; (ii) assisting the research training and mentoring of Indigenous and non-Indigenous postdoctoral fellows and Indigenous PhD/MPhil students; and (iii) leading the outreach program in schools to grow educational capacities of Indigenous students to undertake Maths and Science degrees in the future.

**Associate Professor Amy Prendergast – University of Melbourne**



Amy’s research focuses on exploring the relationship between humans and environmental change. She studies how humans and our hominin ancestors responded to rapid environmental changes over the past several million years. She has worked at sites across North Africa, Western Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

Amy employs geochemical records in combination with growth increment analyses (sclerochronology) from biogenic carbonates such as shells and teeth to generate high-resolution records of environmental change and seasonality. She focuses on generating records from archaeological sites to facilitate reconstructions of human-environment interaction. She is involved in both proxy development and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction.

Amy will draw upon her expertise in generating high-resolution records of environmental change from archaeological sites. Amy is coordinating research to acquire new high-resolution records of environmental change from biogenic carbonates (such as shells and fish bones) preserved in archaeological sites using sclerochronology and geochemistry. This program will involve the development and calibration of new proxy records and the use of these proxies at key sites across Australia to reconstruct past temperature, rainfall, vegetation, and seasonal foraging patterns at time-scales directly relevant to human behaviour.

**Dr Frédérik Saltré – University of Technology Sydney**



Fréd is an ecologist specialised in global change ecology and biogeography. His research focuses on how environmental and biological drivers shape the spatio-temporal responses of terrestrial species (vertebrate and vegetation) to past, present, and future climate changes.

Fréd is responsible for working across the Centre’s research

programs to embed robust data capture and curation processes in all research programs amenable to modelling integration. He will build on his previous experience to foster a strong modelling community and create a world-class modelling hub within the Centre.

As part of the Centre his research will focus on providing evidence to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable Land and Sea Country management planning. He will lead, coordinate and co-investigate a broad range of projects that include (but are not limited to): (1) developing interdisciplinary approaches to evaluate the changes in ecosystem integrity to future environmental constraints, (2) identifying causes of regional species extirpation, (3) assessing impacts of invasive species, (4) predicting the optimal predator-control regimes, (5) forecasting species responses to future environmental changes.

**Professor Jason Sharples – University of New South Wales**



Jason is a Bundjalung man, mathematical scientist, and Director of UNSW Bushfire. As an internationally recognised expert in dynamic bushfire behaviour and extreme bushfire development, his research has extensively influenced policy and practice in Australia and internationally. He uses advanced mathematical, statistical, and computational models to understand the dynamics of wildfire propagation and to pinpoint geographic features and weather conditions more likely to generate extreme bushfires.

Jason will contribute research expertise and leadership to the Modelling Stream as well as other research streams in the Centre, especially those relating to Monitoring and Environmental Change.

His team will investigate the deep historical occurrence of extreme bushfire events to help establish an historical benchmark necessary to understand recent and projected future changes in bushfire regimes. The team will also investigate the potential for adapting Indigenous fire management techniques to mitigate the future risk of extreme bushfires under climate change scenarios.

**Professor Janelle Stevenson – Australian National University**



Janelle is responsible for overseeing the acquisition of new records of long-term vegetation and fire dynamics from key sites identified by Indigenous Partner

Organisations.

A key aspect of this role will be overseeing the integration of data from these sedimentary records with contemporary ecological data, historical narratives, and Indigenous knowledge of landscape, to create a more holistic view of environmental change over the last 1000 years.

A key research initiative of the program is to create a monitoring program specific to the needs of palaeovegetation science, such as the deployment of monitoring devices for the estimation of biomass and climate signals in the (palaeo) vegetation record.

**Associate Professor Ray Tobler**  
– Australian National University

Ray co-coordinates the Centre’s novel genetics research, which will reconstruct historical landscape usage and exchange networks throughout Australia through two complementary research strands:

(i) high-resolution landscape genomic analyses of key plant species of economic importance to Indigenous Australians; and (ii) analysis of ancient DNA recovered from Australian archaeological sediments (sedaDNA).

His expertise in population genomics will contribute to Centre research on the fine-scale genetic relationships within plant species of historical importance as food or trade items amongst Indigenous Australians. This work will reconstruct the demographic histories of key plant species and infer the impact of historical exchange networks and Indigenous Australian landscape management practices in shaping their current distributions. Additionally, he will investigate whether Indigenous Australian cultivation practices have impacted the evolution of each investigated plant species, for instance through the propagation of desirable features.



**Professor Peter Veth** – University of Western Australia

Peter has carried out collaborative research with numerous Aboriginal communities and native title corporations across most of Australia and the Torres Strait; as well as groups in the Aru Islands and Timor Leste. He has specialised in the diversity of desert societies across the major arid lands of Australia and internationally, the archaeology of maritime deserts, and the rock art and symbolic behaviours of people from the Kimberley and Western Desert. Peter co-leads the Culture Change theme and the Policy and Transformation hub.



**Professor Felecia Watkin Lui** – James Cook University

As Deputy Leader for the Land and Sea Management Stream within the Centre, Felecia will co-lead research involving Indigenous natural resource management, traditional fisheries management, Caring for Country, and Indigenous wellbeing.



Felecia’s expertise in community-based research and engagement will be applied to the development of the Centre’s Research Training and Ethics program, with a focus on strengthening Indigenous research capacity and education pathways. Felecia is the Centre’s Relationship Partner Manager for Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation (GBK).

**Dr Christopher Wilson** – University of Tasmania

With formal training and expertise in archaeology, cultural heritage, repatriation, and museum ethics, Chris will co-design the Centre’s research framework with the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC), including agreements, planning, and evaluation of projects. In his role as Deputy Theme Leader on Culture Change, he provides research leadership and mentoring, focusing on Indigenous archaeologies, Ngarrindjeri culture and lifeways, and repatriation. Chris is dedicated to capacity-building and supporting Indigenous research priorities, fostering a dynamic and collaborative research environment within the Centre.



# Partner Investigators

**Associate Professor Stefani Crabtree – Santa Fe Institute**

Stefani’s research applies complex systems science modelling methodologies (such as agent-based modelling and network science) to problems in social science and ecology. Current research topics include the human place in ecosystems worldwide, the ability to use the archaeological past to calibrate our understanding of human resilience, and the feedback between ecosystem health and human health. Major roles in the Centre’s research program will be to lead projects in archaeology, ecology, and computational analyses across the Cultural Change, Environmental Change and Integration Streams.



field. In her role at the Centre, Patricia will ensure effective engagement with the organisation and its governance structures, facilitating access to facilities and resources. She actively collaborates with ANSTO technicians and liaises with ANSTO’s Discovery Centre to foster educational outreach and supports internships, nurturing the next generation of scientists.

Patricia will make significant contributions to the Centre’s research program. She will provide instrumental support for the Itrax core scanner, a crucial tool for high-resolution analysis of sediment cores. Additionally, she will assist with the interpretation of fire signals, enhancing our understanding of historical fire events and their environmental impacts.

Her leadership and expertise will not only advance the Centre’s research capabilities but also strengthen its connections within the scientific community and beyond.

**Dr Shannon Faulkhead – Museums Victoria**

Shannon is Head, First Peoples Department at Museums Victoria and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University. Her research concentrates on the positioning of Indigenous Australian peoples and their knowledges within Australian society. Shannon’s role in the Centre will be to contribute to the Indigenous Knowledges, Cultural Change, Historical Change, and Environmental Change Streams, and the Education & Engagement program. Shannon will work with Museums Victoria to ensure the Centre engages effectively with the museum and its governance structures, enable facilities access, engagement with museum staff and networks, and support internships.



**Dermot Henry – Museums Victoria**

Dermot is the Deputy Director of Sciences in the Division of Research and Collections at Museums Victoria. Dermot has experience in the development of multidisciplinary programs involving First Peoples, scientists, educators, and artists, including the development of rapid biodiversity surveys.



Dermot will ensure the Centre engages effectively with the museum and its governance structures, enable facilities access, engagement with museum staff and networks, and support internships. As the largest public museum organisation in Australia, Museums Victoria will play the central role of providing historical resources from its collection and will help to implement methods of immersive on Country learning to map environmental change.

**Patricia Gadd - Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

Patricia leads the Water Resource Sustainability Program within the Environment Research Group at ANSTO. She is a much sought after expert in X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF), known for her extensive knowledge and innovative approach in the



**Dr Quan Hua – Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

Quan is a Senior Principal Research Scientist and the leader of the “Human Activities” project within the Environmental Research group at ANSTO. He has over 25 years of experience in radiocarbon dating and its applications in Quaternary and climate change studies, and archaeology. Quan’s role in the Centre will be ensuring the Centre engages effectively with the organisation and its governance structures to enable facilities access, and engagement with ANSTO technicians. He will also contribute to the Centre’s research programs through his



expertise in radiocarbon calibration, cultural heritage, the linkage between historic societal change and climate variability, and high-resolution proxy records of climate series from corals, speleothems, tree rings and sediments.

**Associate Professor Matthew Leavesley** – University of Papua New Guinea



Matt's research interests revolve around notions of past human adaptation(s) to depauperate/marginal environments with particular reference to case studies in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Matt will contribute to the Centre's research program by developing opportunities for Indigenous groups and scholars in Papua New Guinea to engage with the Centre. As the Relationship Partner with UPNG, Matt will ensure the Centre engages effectively with the university and its governance structures, and will facilitate the sharing of resources, student exchanges, and placement of internships.

**Dr Vladimir Levchenko** – Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation



Vlad is a Principal Research Scientist within ANSTO's Centre for Accelerator Science with extensive expertise in radiocarbon measurements and data analyses and applications to a wide field of research ranging from palaeoclimate and atmospheric studies to anthropology, megafauna, Indigenous studies, and cultural heritage.

Vlad will be the Relationship Partner between ANSTO and the Centre, whilst contributing to the research program in his capacity as a radiocarbon and accelerator science expert, providing co-supervision, training and mentoring in radiocarbon accelerator science for students and interns.

**Dr Geraldine Mate** – Queensland Museum



Geraldine is the Principal Curator, History, Industry & Technology in the Cultures & Histories Program at Queensland Museum. Geraldine cares for collections related to industry, science and technology, transport and social history.

Geraldine's roles in the Centre will be as Relationship Partner with the Queensland Museum and a contributor to the Historical Change and Education & Engagement Streams.

Geraldine has experience in historical archaeological research, examining people's relationships with land and seascapes. She will contribute to historical and archaeological research to examine changing land and seascapes as a result of increasing contact. She will collaborate as part of the program to reveal historical people-based data pertaining to thresholds, transitions, and trajectories of human-based environmental and cultural change.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Michael Slack** – Scarp Archaeology



Michael is one of the nation's leading cultural heritage consultants, specialising in remote and semi-arid environments. He is a Director of Scarp Archaeology, one of the premier archaeological consulting companies in Australia specialising in large, complex projects for major industry. Michael's role in the Centre will be to support field operations providing specialist skills in archaeological excavation and survey, logistical support and liaison with Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders.

**Dr Pauline Treble** – Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation



Pauline is a research scientist within the Environment Research and Technology group at ANSTO, where she works with a multidisciplinary team of atmospheric scientists, hydrologists, groundwater and paleoenvironmental scientists. Pauline will ensure the Centre engages effectively with ANSTO and its governance structures, enabling access to facilities, engagement with ANSTO staff and networks and supporting internships. In her capacity as a researcher, Pauline will contribute to new discoveries, particularly in Environmental Change with construction palaeoclimate and palaeofire records.

**Gerry Turpin** – Queensland Herbarium



Gerry is a Mbabaram man from north Queensland and a renowned ethnobotanist. As an Indigenous ethnobotanist Gerry has a strong cultural commitment to facilitating effective partnerships that support Indigenous communities to protect, manage and maintain their cultural knowledge on the use of plants.

Gerry will contribute to the Centre’s novel Genomics Stream to reconstruct historical landscape usage and exchange networks throughout Australia through two complementary research areas: (i) high resolution landscape genomic analyses of key plant species of economic and cultural importance to Indigenous Australians; and (ii) analysis of ancient plant DNA recovered from Australian archaeological sediments (sedaDNA).

**Adjunct Associate Professor  
Alan Williams – EMM Consulting**



Alan is one of the leading archaeological consultants in Australia, having undertaken work in every Australian State and Territory. Alan has 20 years of experience in cultural heritage management (CHM), specialising in Aboriginal heritage, has acted in a range of public and private sector roles, and worked for clients in the government, residential, mining, energy, transport and infrastructure sectors. Alan will provide critical input and expertise in the fields of Indigenous archaeology, geochronology, and palaeodemography to the Centre. With his primary role in cultural heritage management, he has unrivalled access to a range of archaeological sites, places, and environments across Australia to both test and validate concepts and ideas developed by the Centre; and provide a training ground for interns and early career researchers of the Centre.

**Professor Kristofer Helgen  
– Australian Museum**



Kristofer is the Chief Scientist and Director of the Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI). He has focused his research primarily on fieldwork with living animals and on museum collections to document the richness of life and understand global change.

Kris’s role in the Centre will be to ensure the Centre engages effectively with the museum and its governance structures, enabling facilities access, engagement with museum staff and networks, and supporting internships. He will advance environmental change and genomics outcomes through integrative morphological and molecular studies on mammalian biodiversity and documentation of mammalian extinction, and collections-based studies of environmental change and wildlife and human diseases. He will also work closely with the Indigenous Knowledge’s Stream to further research on traditional knowledge and use of mammals by Indigenous communities



Elder Uncle Russell Butler sharing rock art images  
On Bindal Country, Townsville for the Working  
with Country Masterclass  
Photo credit: Sonia Hope

## Partner Organisations

Australian Nuclear Science and  
Technology Organisation (ANSTO)  
Australian Museum  
Bioplatforms Australia  
Queensland Herbarium  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial  
Research Organisation  
EMM Consulting

Museums Victoria  
Queensland Museum  
Santa Fe Institute  
Scarp Archaeology  
Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network  
Western Australian Museum  
The University of Papua New Guinea



Wind Turbines at Cape Bridgewater, Gunditjmarra Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



# CIEHF in 2025



# CIEHF Annual Symposium

The CIEHF Annual Symposium was held from 17-21 November 2025 on Gunditjmara Country, in Portland, Victoria. This annual event brings together CIEHF members, partners and collaborators from all over Australia and internationally, for a week of connection, reflection and discussion.

The program commenced with a Student and Early Career Researcher Workshop facilitated by Polykala, focusing on adaptive leadership. This was followed by the final Centre Management Committee meeting for the year at the Ngootyoong Mara Cultural Healing Centre. An official

Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony delivered by Aunty Eileen Maude Alberts set an inclusive and respectful tone for the week.

The Symposium's official opening began with addresses from all three directors followed by a Showcase of Year One video celebrating some moments we have shared so far. The Symposium program included a keynote presentation from Maui Solomon, a distinguished Indigenous rights advocate from Aotearoa New Zealand, alongside panel discussions on Working with Country, museum collections, and Indigenous experiences in research.



Gunditjmara Country - Collection of Photo Images from CIEHF Annual Symposium, 1. On Country at Tarragal Caves with Associate Professor Annie Ross. 2. Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre, Lake Condah. 3. Kangaroos at Budj Bim. 4. Portland Golf Club - Symposium venue. Photo credit: Teresa Carrette



The Traditional Owner Reference Group meeting with representatives from CIEHF's Indigenous Partner Organisations meeting on Gunditjmarra Country



1. Key note speaker Mr Maui Solomon with GBK representatives William Misi and Uncle Keri Akiba along with Dr Vincent Backhaus catching up at the Symposium.



2.

2. The Petrified Forest of Cape Bridgewater, Gunditjmarra Country. 3. Coastal succulent Pigface *Carpobrotus* sp. on Gunditjmarra Country. Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

Interactive workshops provided practical insights into the Centre's Project Implementation Framework, while poster sessions facilitated knowledge sharing among students, partner representatives and researchers alike.

A highlight of the week was the On Country day with Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners at Cape Bridgewater and the UNESCO World-Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on a day filled with learning, gratitude, and deep connection to place.

By convening Traditional Owners, researchers and partners in person, these symposia strengthen relationships, extend conversations and deepen connections which ultimately advances our Centre mission to transform the research landscape for a shared future.



3.

# Publications

## Journal Articles

1. Adeleye, M.A., S.G. Haberle, Q. Hua and D.M.J.S. Bowman 2025 Palaeoecological analyses reveal recent fires have destroyed Late-Holocene peat deposits in Tasmania's largest Ramsar reserve. *Austral Ecology* 50(6):e70087. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aec.70087>
2. Adeleye, M.A., S.G. Haberle, G. Williamson and D. Bowman 2025 Spatial heterogeneity in Holocene vegetation dynamics across Bass Strait and its regional paleoclimatic implications. *Quaternary Research* 130:59-69. <https://doi.org/10.1017/qua.2025.10051>
3. Alidoostsalimi, M., A.L. Prendergast, S. Ulm, R.N. Drysdale, J. Brown, R.M. Klæbe, B. Dong, Nguurruumungu Indigenous Corporation and Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC 2025 Sclerochronology and oxygen isotope variations in modern *Conomurex luhuanus* shells: An archive for reconstructing palaeotemperature and shellfish gathering on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 659:112633. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2024.112633>
4. Barker, B., L. Lamb, T. Beni, M. Leavesley, T. Manne and M. Aubert 2025 Marine shell from Walufeni Cave and the origins of the *Kasua*: Implications for Late Holocene socio-cultural interaction on the Great Papuan Plateau, Papua New Guinea. *Australian Archaeology* 91(2):185-196. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2540136>
5. Bessell-Koprek, M., S.G. Haberle, S. Ondeï, S. Harris and D.M.J.S. Bowman 2025 Reconstructing the long-term ecological history of Long Island, Furneaux Group (Bass Strait), Lutruwita/Tasmania. *Regional Environmental Change* 25(1):20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-024-02358-6>
6. Bird, M.I., M. Box, R. Comley, M. Leavesley, N. O'Dea and C.M. Wurster 2025 Carbon and nitrogen isotope composition of Australasian hair and fingernails in a global context. *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry* 39(15):e10058. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rcm.10058>
7. Bird, M.I., M. Brand, R. Comley, X. Hadeen, Z. Jacobs, C. Rowe, F. Saltr , C.M. Wurster, C. Zwart and C.J.A. Bradshaw 2025 A 150,000-year lacustrine record of the Indo-Australian monsoon from northern Australia. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 366:109504. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2025.109504>
8. Bird, M.I., M. Brand, R. Comley, X. Hadeen, N.C. Munksgaard, C. Rowe, C.M. Wurster and C. Zwart 2025 Holocene hydroclimate inferred from alkane isotope and pollen records from monsoonal northern Australia. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 675:113094. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2025.113094>
9. Burnett, G., C. Neal, T. Reid, J. Mason, T. Doelman, A. Frolich, D. Fermor, S. Talbott, W. Mayers and A.N. Williams 2025 An archaeological record of Late Holocene activity and colonial impacts in the New England Tableland, New South Wales, Australia. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 67:105363. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2025.105363>
10. Collins, S.J., S. Ulm, I.J. McNiven, Nguurruumungu Indigenous Corporation and Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC 2025 Not Mary Watson's cottage: A reassessment of the ruined stone building, Jiigurru (Lizard Island Group), northern Great Barrier Reef. *Queensland Archaeological Research* 28:1-11. <https://doi.org/10.25120/qar.28.2025.4278>
11. Dong, B., N. Hausmann, L.M. Otter, R.N. Drysdale and A.L. Prendergast 2025 Visualising and quantifying Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca heterogeneity in the isochronous growth increments of bivalve shells (*Tridacna*). *Chemical Geology* 696:123109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemgeo.2025.123109>
12. Dong, B., R. Kumar, K. Shirai, R.N. Drysdale and A.L. Prendergast 2025 Advances in giant clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.) sclerochronology and sclerochemistry as a high-resolution palaeoenvironmental archive. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 661:112576. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2024.112576>
13. Gurung, S.B., R.J. Wasson, M. Bird and B. Jarihani 2025 Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) performance in mitigating urban flooding in a wet tropical North Queensland sub-catchment. *Hydrology* 12(6):151. <https://doi.org/10.3390/hydrology12060151>

14. Gurung, S.B., R.J. Wasson, M. Bird and B. Jarihani 2025 Impact of climate change on water-sensitive urban design performances in the wet tropical sub-catchment. *Earth* 6(3):99. <https://doi.org/10.3390/earth6030099>
15. Gurung, S.B., R.J. Wasson, M. Bird and B. Jarihani 2025 Assessment of coastal compound flooding in tropical catchment: Saltwater Creek catchment in Australia. *Land* 14(9):1898. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land14091898>
16. Hadeen, X., C. Rowe, M. Brand, R. Comley, S. Das, C.M. Wurster, C. Zwart and M.I. Bird 2025 Comparing pollen and n-alkane carbon isotope records in a tropical lacustrine environment. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 351:109204. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2025.109204>
17. Haig, J., S. Das, J. Sanderman and M.I. Bird 2025 Rainfall and seasonality drive pyrogenic carbon stocks in coarse-textured mineral soils. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* 39(2):e2024GB008240. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GB008240>
18. Herbert, A.V. 2025 The potential of using magnetic susceptibility to identify past wildfires in Australia. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* 34(2):WF24093. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WF24093>
19. Herbert, A.V., S.G. Haberle, H. Munack and A.T. Codlean 2025 Collaborative effort towards a FAIR and OPEN Indo-Pacific Pollen Database (IPPD). *Data Science Journal* 24:5. <https://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2025-005>
20. King, F., A.L. Prendergast, E. Frost, G.L. Stannard, J. Garvey, R. Cosgrove, R.N. Drysdale and N. Hausmann 2025 A key to seasonal shellfish exploitation: Elemental mapping of Mg/Ca ratios in Lutruwita (Tasmania) Cellana limpets. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 674:113023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2025.113023>
21. Liu, Z., A.L. Prendergast, R. Drysdale, K. Long and J-H. May 2025 The effectiveness of oxygen isotopes in *Spinosaurus* tooth dentine for high-resolution palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 668:112908. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2025.112908>
22. Middleby, K.B., R. Jordan, A.W. Cheesman, M. Rossetto, M.F. Breed, D.M. Crayn and L. Cernusak 2025 Local adaptation drives leaf thermoregulation in tropical rainforest trees. *Global Change Biology* 31(9): e70461. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.7046>
23. Montes-Pulido, C.R., M.I. Bird, L.C. da Silva Carvalho, J. Serrano, C.A. Quesada and T.R. Feldpausch 2025 Climatic and edaphic drivers of soil organic carbon and pyrogenic carbon stocks across elevation and disturbance gradients in Colombian Andean forests. *Global Change Biology* 31(7):e70135. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70135>
24. Motta, A.P., S. Ouzman, P. Veth and Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation 2025 Linear naturalistic figures: A new Mid-to-Late Holocene Aboriginal rock art style from the northeast Kimberley, Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 91(1):30-46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2457860>
25. Mulà, C., C.J.A. Bradshaw, M. Cabeza, F. Manca, S. Montano and G. Strona 2025 Restoration cannot be scaled up globally to save reefs from loss and degradation. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 9(5):822-832. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-025-02667-x>
26. Phelps, L.N., E. Razanatosoa, D.S. Davis, J. Hackel, T. Rasolondrainy, G.P. Tiley, D. Burney, R. Cox, L. Godfrey, G.P. Hempson, S. Hixon, T. Andermann, S. Andriambololona, L.R. Andriamiarisoa, A. Antonelli, G. Besnard, C. Birkinshaw, W. Bond, L. Chikhi, V. Fernández-García, L. Gillson, S. Haberle, J. Hansford, G.S. Joseph, C.A. Kull, C.L. Mangut, R. Marchant, V. Montade, K.V. Pham, D. Rabehevitra, U. Radespiel, J. Raharimampionona, M.T. Rajaonah, N. Rakotomalala, T. Ramiadantsoa, B.A. Ramiandrisoa, H.L.T. Ranarijaona, T. Randriamboavonjy, F. Randrianarimanana, F. Randriatsara, J. Ratsirarson, A.H.I. Razafimanantsoa, J. Salmona, K. Samonds, N. Scroxtton, C. Seymour, T.S. Steffens, H. Teixeira, N.R.G. Voarintsoa, P.O. Waeber, L. Wilmé, A.D. Yoder, E.C. Fisher, C. Solofondranohatra, T. van Elst, B. Crowley, K. Douglass, M.S. Vorontsova and C.E.R. Lehmann 2025 Advancing transdisciplinary research on Madagascar's grassy biomes to support resilience in ecosystems and livelihoods. *Ecological Monographs* 95(2):e70011. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.70011>
27. Sanderman, J., J. Haig, S. Das, C. Partida, C. Asanopoulos and M.I. Bird 2025 Comparison of pyrogenic carbon abundance in coarse-textured soil by hydrogen pyrolysis, NMR and dichromate oxidation and MIR-PLSR. *Geoderma* 461:117502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2025.117502>

28. Schneider, L., S. Guerrero, G. Mudd, M.A.A. Lopez, K.K. Beck, R. Sun, S.G. Haberle, M-S. Fletcher, A. Zawadzki, H. Hintelmann, A. Griffiths, C. Cooke and P. de Caritat 2025 The legacy of mercury contamination from colonial nonferrous mining in the Southern Hemisphere. *Environmental Science & Technology* 59(26):13275-13285. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.5c03607>

29. Skelly, R., G. Summerhayes, I. McNiven, B. David, F. Petchey, A. Rogers, G. Skelly, M. Koro and J. Omuru 2025 Late Lapita seafaring networks: Giligilina, a new Lapita site on the Papua New Guinea south coast. *Australian Archaeology* 91(2):164-184. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2545107>

30. Souilmi, Y., A. Oliva, R. Davidson, M.P. Williams, S. Ravishankar, X. Roca-Rada, V. Pérez, R. Tobler and B. Llamas 2025 Lessons learned: Recommendations for reproducible paleogenomic data analyses. *The American Journal of Human Genetics* 112(12):2830-2841. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2025.10.011>

31. Sun, W., E. Zhang, C. Rowe and M.I. Bird 2025 Holocene climate changes in tropical Australasia based on branched tetraether lipid evidence from Girraween Lagoon, northern Australia. *CATENA* 256:109124. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.catena.2025.109124>

32. Turpin, G., K. Yeshe, D. Crayn, K. Guivarra, V. Turpin, S. Motlap and P. Wangchuk 2025 Bush medicine of the Mbabaram Aboriginal community in Far North Queensland demonstrates strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. *BMC Complementary Medicine and Therapies* 25(1):398. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12906-025-05042-2>

33. Ubalde, J., C.J.A. Bradshaw, P.N. Le Souëf and M.A. Judge 2025 Climate change policies fail to protect child health. *Globalization and Health* 21(1):47. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-025-01142-3>

34. Van der Meersch, V., E. Armstrong, F. Mouillot, A. Duputié, H. Davi, F. Saltré and I. Chuine 2025 Paleorecords reveal biological mechanisms crucial for reliable species range shift projections amid rapid climate change. *Ecology Letters* 28(2):e70080. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.70080>

35. Wang, Y., A. Gallego-Sala, M.I. Bird, P. Moss, H.A. McGowan, J.C. Benavides, E.N. Honorio Coronado and T.R. Feldpausch 2025 Wildfire legacies on pyrogenic carbon stocks in Amazonian peatlands. *Communications Earth & Environment* 6:678. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02674-7>

## Other Journal Outputs

1. Fletcher, M-S. 2025 Rewilding and Indigenous-led land care are not compatible ideas. *Conservation Letters* 18(3):e13107. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.13107>

2. Fletcher, M-S. and A. Romano 2025 Challenges in Quaternary sciences: Indigenous rights and the issue of scale. *PAGES Global Changes Magazine* 33(2):91. <http://doi.org/10.22498/pages.33.2.91>

3. Hook, F. 2025 WA's heritage laws are failing—and it's a national problem. *Australian Archaeology* 91(1):93-94. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2472468>

4. Linley, G.D., C.J. Jolly, T.S. Doherty, W.L. Geary, D. Armenteras, C.M. Belcher, R. Bliege Bird, A. Duane, M-S. Fletcher, M.A. Giorgis, A. Haslem, G.M. Jones, L.T. Kelly, C.K.F. Lee, R.H. Nolan, C.L. Parr, J.G. Pausas, J.N. Price, A. Regos, E.G. Ritchie, J. Ruffault, G.J. Williamson, Q. Wu and D.G. Nimmo 2025 'Megafire'—You may not like it, but you cannot avoid it. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 34(4):e70032. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.70032>

5. Pérez, V. 2025 Exploring microbial responses to fire. *Quaternary Australia* 1(42):14-15.

6. Prendergast, A.L., K. Shirai and K. Kubota 2025 Editorial preface to special issue: High-resolution paleoenvironmental reconstruction through sclerochronology and geochemistry. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 679:113262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2025.113262>

7. Richards, M.J. 2025 Why wait until it's too late? A precautionary tale for Indigenous cultural heritage protection in Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 91(1):99-100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2472477>

8. Ross, A., M. Litster, C. Monks, C. Urwin and A. Rogers 2025 Equity in publication is paramount: Editorial. *Australian Archaeology* 91(1):1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2476240>

9. Sharples, J. 2025 Why suppressing all wildfires has made today's megafires worse. *Nature* 644:9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-02455-4>

10. Urwin, C., J.J. Bradley, D. Norman a-Marrngawi, A. a-Karrakayny and Yanyuwa Families 2025 'Shell grit has a song': Disconcerting stratigraphy on Yanyuwa Country. *Australian Archaeology* 91(3):306-307. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2562665>

11. Veth, P. 2025 The case for a new national Indigenous heritage protection act. *Australian Archaeology* 91(1):105-107. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2025.2472483>
12. Walsh, J. 2025 Review of 'Jilya: How One Indigenous Woman from the Remote Pilbara Transformed Psychology' by Tracy Westerman. *Australian Book Review* 477.
3. Harris, M. 2025 Data Management at the Centre for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures (CIEHF): Principles, Aspirations, and Approaches. Paper presented to FunGIS Conference 2025 - Geospatial Science - Let's Get to the Point!, Cairns, 14-15 August.
4. Honeysett, J., J. Honeysett, M.J. Richards, R. Beukers-Stewart, E. Nutman and Z. Mavrogenes 2025 Reconnecting Old and New with Non-Destructive pXRF in Taungurung-Led Research. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.

## Book Chapters

1. Backhaus, V., M. Exell and G. Gower 2025 Consent, copyright, consultation, collaboration, and co-design. In C. Steele, R. Ober and R. Oliver (eds), *Celebrating First Nations Languages and Language Learning in Australian Schools: Stories Across Generations of Language Activism, Advocacy and Allyship*, pp.27-38. Oxford: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003441021-4>
2. Disspain, M.C.F., T. Manne and A. Lambrides 2025 There were plenty of fish in the sea: The archaeology of fish consumption in Australia. In M. Shanahan (ed.), *Archaeologies of Food in Australia*, pp.81-108. Tom Austen Brown Studies in Australasian Archaeology. Sydney: Sydney University Press.
3. Ross, A., S. Hodgetts, T. Howie and J. McDonald 2025 Challenging narratives: Ways of knowing, being, and doing at the Calga Aboriginal women's site, Central Coast, New South Wales, Australia. In M. Bruchac, A. Martindale, G. Nicholas and K. Supernant (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous Oral Traditions and Archaeology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197557686.013.5>
5. Hughes, L., S. Ulm, A. Lambrides, I. McNiven, M. Harris, D. O'Grady, Wellesley Islands Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd, Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation 2025 Mapping and Managing Fishtraps Across Wellesley Islands Sea Country. Paper presented to Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference, Walyalup/Fremantle, 2-5 December.
6. Kneppers, M., A. Lambrides, M. Litster, S. Ulm, I. McNiven, M. Harris, C. Maclaurin, Nguurruumungu Indigenous Corporation and Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC 2025 Testing the Efficacy of Molluscan Quantification Protocols Using Archaeomalacological Assemblages from Jiigurru (Lizard Island Group), Great Barrier Reef. Paper presented to Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference, Walyalup/Fremantle, 2-5 December.
7. Lewis, D.A., V. Pérez and B. Llamas 2025 Archaeological Science has an Indigenous Future. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.
8. Lewis, D.A., V. Pérez and B. Llamas 2025 Co-designing Sedimentary Ancient DNA Investigations at Aboriginal Archaeological Sites. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.
9. McNiven, I. 2025 Numinous Neighbours: Cosmological, Spiritual, and Ritual Dimensions of Cross-Cultural Exchanges Between Indigenous Sea Peoples of Southeast Asia and Northern Australia over the Past 1000 Years. Paper presented to Critical Island Studies Conference, Jeju Island, South Korea, 4-6 August.
10. Pérez, V., D. Lewis and B. Llamas 2025 Integrating Indigenous Knowledges in Ancient Environmental Genomics Research. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.

## Conference Sessions, Papers and Presentations

1. Burnett, G., C. Neal, T. Reid, J. Mason, A. Frolich, T. Doelman, D. Fermor, S. Talbott, W. Mayers and A.N. Williams 2025 Late Holocene Occupation and Colonial Frontier Violence in the New England Tableland, New South Wales, Australia. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.
2. Ferguson, G., I. Moffat and P. Veth 2025 Palaeolandscapes and People in Australian Deserts. Session presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.

11. Russell, L. and L. Stevens 2025 1000 Years of Archipelagic Encounters. Paper presented to Critical Island Studies Conference, Jeju Island, South Korea, 4-6 August.
12. Schauer, M., M.J. Richards, L. Drake, M. Abdelgawad, I. Liritzis, L. Dallai, B. Culturali and R. Doonan 2025 pXRF Without Borders: Building a Global Network for Collaborative Innovation and Best Practices. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.
13. Sharples, J. 2025 Dynamic Fire Propagation and Extreme Wildfire Development. Paper presented to International Academies Partnership Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Wildfire Modelling, Madrid, 17-18 March.
14. Shulmeister, J. 2025. A cultural hypothesis for Wallum? Paper presented to Voices of K'gari: Research, Respect and Responsibility 2025 Conference, Hervey Bay, 10-11 November.
15. Skelly, G., S. Ulm, I. McNiven, F. Saltré and A. Grech 2025 Reframing the Continental Shelf as a Cultural Space in Torres Strait Through Palaeolandscape Modelling. Paper presented to Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference, Walyalup/Fremantle, 2-5 December.
16. Tsang, R., S. Katuk, F-X. Ricaut and M. Leavesley 2025 Material Culture in the Rock Art of Papua New Guinea. Paper presented to World Archaeological Congress 10, Darwin, 22-28 June.
17. Turner, K., Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation RNTCB, Nguurruumungu Indigenous Corporation, A. Ross, A. Lambides, R. Kurpiel, S. Ulm and I. McNiven 2025 Insights into Stone: Approaching Artefact Biographies from Jiigurru (Lizard Island Group). Paper presented to Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference, Walyalup/Fremantle, 2-5 December.
18. Ulm, S. and G. Mate 2025 Digging into the Data: Two Decades of Change in Australian Archaeology. Paper presented to Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference, Walyalup/Fremantle, 2-5 December.

## Popular Articles

1. Bradshaw, C.J.A., C. Rowe and M. Bird 2025 Melting ice will strengthen the monsoon in northern Australia – but cause drier conditions north of the Equator. *The Conversation* 10 July. <https://theconversation.com/melting-ice-will-strengthen-the-monsoon-in-northern-australia-but-cause-drier-conditions-north-of-the-equator-259992>
2. Leon, J. 2025 Beloved beaches were washed offshore by Cyclone Alfred – but most of this sand will return. *The Conversation* 11 March. <https://theconversation.com/beloved-beaches-were-washed-offshore-by-cyclone-alfred-but-most-of-this-sand-will-return-251599>

## Major Reports

1. Le Souëf, P.N., L. Weeda, M.A. Judge, C. Maharani Saraswati, Q. Bassat, N. Prata and C.J.A. Bradshaw 2025 *Fragile Futures: How Underestimating the Risks of Population Pressure Endangers the Health and Lives of Current and Future Children*. London: Population Matters.

# Financial Statement

## Statement of Operating Income and Expenditure

### INCOME

ARC Centre Grant Funding	\$ 5,807,379
Institutional Cash Support	\$2,280,650
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,088,029</b>

### EXPENDITURE ARC and Institutional cash

Personnel (salaries and stipends)	\$2,513,919
Equipment and Facilities	\$ 64,460
Maintenance	\$25,864
Travel and Fieldwork	\$452,689
Research Training and Ethics Program, Education and Engagement & Symposia	\$134,540
Other (including marketing and dissemination)	\$514,572
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$3,706,044</b>

<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$4,381,985</b>
----------------	--------------------

\*These values do not include expenditure from Flinders University.

# CENTRE PLAN FOR 2026

Masig, located in the central Island group of the Torres Straits  
Photo credit: Geoff Lui

<p><b>GOVERNANCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Continue to execute Governance Plan</li> <li>– Five Centre Management Committee meetings</li> <li>– Two Centre Advisory Committee meetings</li> <li>– Three to four Traditional Owner Reference Group meetings</li> <li>– Four Student and Early Career Researcher Committee meetings</li> <li>– Four Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee meetings</li> <li>– Regular Node Committee meetings</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESEARCH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Convene ongoing co-design workshops across Indigenous Partner Organisations for research planning and continuous reporting and evaluation</li> <li>– Continue to implement research program and on Country research activities in partnership with Indigenous Partner Organisations</li> </ul>
<p><b>RECRUITMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Recruit research staff including postdoctoral researchers</li> <li>– Recruit node administrative staff</li> <li>– Recruit Honours and Higher Degree Research candidates</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESEARCH, TRAINING AND ETHICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Deliver mandatory Working with Country Masterclass</li> <li>– Deliver ongoing Centre Induction training</li> <li>– Deliver mandatory training programs on mental health, diversity, inclusion, unconscious bias, and active bystander</li> <li>– Deliver HDR Industry Internship program</li> <li>– Support SING Australia workshop</li> <li>– Implement Indigenous Early Career Researcher Program</li> <li>– Implement second round of structured mentoring program</li> <li>– Implement Indigenous Research Training and Career Development Program</li> <li>– Deliver training on ICIP, Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Data Management</li> <li>– Deliver communication training for Indigenous Partner Organisation staff</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implement communications and media strategy</li> <li>– Maintain Centre website and support strategic communication initiatives across the Centre</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hold 2026 Annual Symposium on Dharawal Country, NSW in collaboration with Gujaga Foundation and La Perouse Community</li> <li>– Support participation of Indigenous Partners in International Society of Ethnobiology Congress 2026</li> <li>– Support participation of Indigenous partners in Australian Archaeological Association Conference</li> </ul>
<p><b>REPORTING</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maintain BaseCamp platform for reporting, governance and administration</li> <li>– Maintain ARC GIS and Sharepoint reporting systems for dynamic and ongoing Centre reporting</li> </ul>



# KPIs IN 2025

Dr. Mercy Singleton & Dr. Kelsey Lowe  
at Turtle Cove, Yirrganydji Country  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Target	2025 Achieved
Number of Research Outputs	Journal Articles	50	35
	Books	0	0
	Book Chapters	10	3
	Creative Works	3	2
	Research/Community Reports	10	1
Quality of Research Outputs	Journal articles in top quartile (Q1) of SJR fields	>82%	87.2
	Average Field-Weighted Citation Impact, last 5 years	>1.75%	1.87
	Average H-Index, last 5 Years, Chief Investigators	>27	30.95
	Average Citations per publication, last 5 Years	>14	19.8
	Student prizes and awards	1	2

## RESEARCH, TRAINING, ETHICS AND MENTORING

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Target	2025 Achieved
Workshops and Conferences	Centre Annual Symposium	1	1
	Co-Design Workshops, On-Country Dialogues and Workshops	4	6
Training Courses and Masterclasses	Industry Internships	10	0
	Shortcourses and Masterclasses	9	5
	Number of Participants	95	107
	SING Australia (activities)	1	1
	SING Australia (participants)	25	28
Mentoring programs	Mentoring programs, activities and events	5	1
	Structured mentoring Program	25	19
	Indigenous Early Career Cohort Program	15	0

CIEHF PEOPLE

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Target	2025 Achieved
Additional Researchers	Postdoctoral Researchers	10	6
	Honours or Masters by coursework students	4	3
	Masters by Research students	2	5
	New PhD Candidates	15	6
	Associate Investigators	20	18
Women in the Centre	Honours, Masters and PhD students	50%	11 (24.4%)
	Postdoctoral researchers	50%	8 (35.7%)
	Chief Investigators	35%	7 (33.3%)
	Partner Investigators	40%	4 (30.80%)
	Associate investigators	50%	19 (49.3%)
	Other research staff (research assistants, technical officers)	50%	4 (50%)
	Business Operations Team (professional staff)	50%	5 (62.5%)
Indigenous Australians in the Centre	Honours, Masters, PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows	25%	9 (13.3%)
	Chief Investigators, Partner Investigators and Associate Investigators	25%	13 (16.3%)
	Other research staff (research assistants, technical officers)	25%	3 (37.5%)
	Business Operations Team (professional staff)	25%	3 (30%)
	Indigenous community member involvement (no. of people)	40	158

## EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Category	Key Performance Indicator	2025 Target	2025 Achieved
Presentations and Briefings	Media coverage online and print	20	136
	Media coverage radio and television	10	1
	Public programs and events	5	4
	Popular articles	5	2
	Exhibitions	0	0
	End-user briefings	5	0
Engagement and Impact	Engagement and adoption of research outcomes by community/ies (no. of instances)	4	0
	Retention of Indigenous Partner Organisations	100%	100%
	Total number of visitors attending/taking part in events	250	2950
	Social media – Facebook (# of followers)	400	409
	Social media - LinkedIn (# of followers)	400	1787
	Social media - Bluesky (# of followers)	100	240
	Unique website hits, readers and downloads	>50,000	67,000
	Research outputs coauthored with non-academic authors (%)	55%	21%

Murujuga Cultural Landscape neighbouring industrial operations,  
Murujuga National Park

Photo credit: Teresa Carrette





# APPENDICES

# Centre membership

## CHIEF INVESTIGATORS

Name	Institution
Michael Bird	James Cook University
Corey Bradshaw	Flinders University
Darren Crayn	James Cook University
Michael-Shawn Fletcher	University of Melbourne
Alana Grech	James Cook University
Simon Haberle	Australian National University
Leah Lui-Chivizhe	University of New South Wales
Jo McDonald	University of Western Australia
Ian McNiven	Monash University
Martin Nakata	James Cook University
Amy Prendergast	University of Melbourne
Lynette Russell	Monash University
Fred Saltré	University of Technology Sydney
Jason Sharples	University of New South Wales
Janelle Stevenson	Australian National University
Ray Tobler	Australian National University
Sean Ulm	James Cook University
Peter Veth	University of Western Australia
Felecia Watkin Lui	James Cook University
Chris Wilson	University of Tasmania

## PARTNER INVESTIGATORS

Name	Institution	Node
Stefani Crabtree	Santa Fe Institute	Flinders University
Shannon Faulkhead	Museums Victoria	Monash University
Patricia Gadd	ANSTO	Australian National University
Kris Helgen	Australian Museum	James Cook University
Dermot Henry	Museums Victoria	Monash University
Quan Hua	ANSTO	Australian National University
Matthew Leavesley	University of Papua New Guinea	James Cook University
Vlad Levchenko	ANSTO	Australian National University

## PARTNER INVESTIGATORS - CONTINUED

Name	Institution	Node
Geraldine Mate	Queensland Museum	James Cook University
Michael Slack	Scarp Archaeology	James Cook University
Pauline Treble	ANSTO	Australian National University
Gerry Turpin	Queensland Herbarium	James Cook University
Alan Williams	EMM Consulting	James Cook University

## ASSOCIATE INVESTIGATORS

Name	Institution	Node
Matthew Barrett	James Cook University	James Cook University
Mitchell Baum	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Jonathan Benjamin	Flinders University	Flinders University
Helen Bostock	University of Queensland	James Cook University
Tom Chandler	Monash University	Monash University
Sarah Collins	James Cook University	James Cook University
Stephanie Duce	James Cook University	James Cook University
Kathryn Fitzsimmons	Monash University	Monash University
Anna Florin	Australian National University	Australian National University
Luke Gliganic	University of Wollongong	University of Western Australia
Joe Greet	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Billy Griffiths	Deakin University	James Cook University
Rachel Groom	Charles Darwin University	James Cook University
Rebecca Hamilton	University of New South Wales	Australian National University
Sarah Hamylton	University of Wollongong	Monash University
Fiona Hook	University of Western Australia	University of Western Australia
Jarrold Hore	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales
Shane Ingrey	Gujaga Foundation	University of New South Wales
Paul Irish	Coast History & Heritage	University of New South Wales
Nathan Jankowski	University of Wollongong	University of Western Australia
Tristen Jones	University of Sydney	University of Western Australia
Jason Kariwiga	University of Papua New Guinea	James Cook University
Emma Kowal	Deakin University	Monash University

## ASSOCIATE INVESTIGATORS - CONTINUED

Name	Institution	Node
Rebekah Kurpiel	La Trobe University	James Cook University
Ariana Lambrides	James Cook University	James Cook University
Mathieu Leclerc	Australian National University	Australian National University
Javier Leon	University of Sunshine Coast	Monash University
Stephen Lewis	James Cook University	James Cook University
Agathe Lise-Pronovost	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Mirani Litster	Flinders University	Flinders University
Bastien Llamas	University of Adelaide	Australian National University
Catherine Longford	University of Sheffield	University of Melbourne
Kelsey Lowe	Up and Under Services	James Cook University
Lydia Mackenzie	University of Tasmania	Australian National University
Michela Mariani	University of Nottingham	Australian National University
Caroline Mather	University of Western Australia	University of Western Australia
Rupert Mathwin	Flinders University	Flinders University
John McCarthy	Flinders University	Flinders University
Ailie McDowall	James Cook University	James Cook University
Maddison Miller	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Kyly Mills	James Cook University	James Cook University
Kieren Mitchell	University of Adelaide	Australian National University
Patrick Moss	Queensland University of Technology	Australian National University
Sebastian Naeher	Lincoln University	James Cook University
Katharina Nargar	CSIRO	James Cook University
Heidi Norman	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales
Damien O'Grady	James Cook University	James Cook University
Michael O'Leary	University of Western Australia	University of Western Australia
Jack Pascoe	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Alistair Paterson	University of Western Australia	University of Western Australia
George Perry	University of Auckland	University of Technology Sydney
Nicholas Pitt	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales
Emily Poelina-Hunter	Monash University	Monash University
Martin Potter	Deakin University	James Cook University
Miri Raven	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales
Daniel Robinson	University of New South Wales	University of New South Wales

## ASSOCIATE INVESTIGATORS - CONTINUED

Name	Institution	Node
Ashleigh Rogers	Monash University	Monash University
Annie Ross	University of Queensland	James Cook University
Maurizio Rossetto	Botanic Gardens Sydney	James Cook University
Michelle Richards	University of Melbourne	University of Melbourne
Rachel Rudd	Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology	Australian National University
Sofia Samper Carro	Australian National University	Australian National University
Larissa Schneider	Australian National University	Australian National University
Ben Shaw	Australian National University	Australian National University
Jamie Shulmeister	University of Canterbury	Monash University
Georgia Stannard	La Trobe University	University of Melbourne
Rebe Taylor	University of Tasmania	University of Tasmania
Melanie Thomson	EMM Consulting	James Cook University
Chris Urwin	Monash University	Monash University
Amy Way	Australian Museum/University of Sydney	Monash University
Anna Willis	James Cook University	James Cook University
Chelsea Wiseman	Flinders University	Flinders University
Jamie Wood	University of Adelaide	Australian National University

## POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Name	Institution
Theresa Cole	Australian National University
Annika Herbert	Australian National University
Shane Ingrey	University of New South Wales
Cody Nitschke	Flinders University
Vilma Pérez	University Adelaide
Natalie Robson	James Cook University
Cassandra Rowe	James Cook University
Georgina Skelly	James Cook University
Chris Urwin	Monash University
Alex Wall	Flinders University
Fiona Walsh	University of Western Australia
Jacinta Walsh	Monash University

PHD STUDENTS

Name	Project Title	Node
Mahsa Alidoostsalimi	Deciphering Seasonal Variations in Climate and Indigenous Seasonal Foraging Practices Associated with Paleo ENSO in Queensland's Great Barrier Reef using Paleoenvironmental Proxies	University of Melbourne
Madeleine Bessell-Koprek	Uncovering Past Landscapes to Conserve a Critical Environment: A Palaeoecological Study of King Island, Lutruwita/ Tasmania	Australian National University
Josh Connelly	Investigating the Constructed Indigenous Seascapes of Jiigurru (Lizard Island Group), Far North Queensland	James Cook University
Mataika Gerrie	Beyond "Broken English": A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole) (YTSC) Mapping its Linguistic Ecology and Status	University of New South Wales
Jade Gould	First Nations Peoples Relationship with the Australian Landscape	Monash University
Eitan Harris	TBA	Flinders University
Lucy Hughes	Constructed Seascapes: Understanding Fishtrap Construction, Use, Condition and Futures in the Wellesley Islands Region, Gulf of Carpentaria. Wellesley Islands Region Fishtrap Project	James Cook University
Thomas Keeble	Sharp Boundaries, Complex Origins: The Role of Anthropogenic Fire in Forest-Grassland Ecotone Dynamics	University of Melbourne
Patrick Kennedy	A Palaeoecological Investigation of the Birrarung Billabongs: Informing Traditional Owner-led Restoration of Urban Billabongs	University of Melbourne
Mike Kneppers	Millennial-Scale Variability in Lizard Island Group Mollusc Exploitation: Studying Mollusc Remains to Understand Past Aboriginal Shellfishing Practices and Reef Resource Use for Future Reef Conservation	James Cook University
Dawn Lewis	Utilising Ancient and Degraded DNA for Indigenous Genomics of People and Country	SING - University of Adelaide
Brigalow McIntosh	TBA	Potsdam University
Leandra Martiniello	Fire-Vegetation Dynamics through Paleocology as Informants of Conservation Strategies for Culturally Significant Species	Australian National University
Victoria Miller	500 Years of Environmental Change in Victoria: Integrating Palaeoecological & Historical Evidence to Understand European Impact on the Landscape	Australian National University

## PHD STUDENTS - CONTINUED

Name	Project Title	Node
Alex Pecenko	A History of South-East Australian Fire Regimes and Vegetation Change Determined Through a Palaeoecological Examination of Charcoal, Pollen and Shell Preserved in Sediments	Australian National University
Anthony Romano	To Heal Country, We Must Know Country: A Palaeoecological Study Across Taungurung Biik (Country)	University of Melbourne
Nicolas Reilly	The Gunditjmarra Way: Archaeological Expressions of Caring for Sea Country Within Sand Dunes along Discovery Bay, SW Victoria	Monash University
Chloe Stringer	Investigating Human-Mollusc-Environment Relationships During the Late Quaternary on Ngintait and Latji Latji Country, South-East Australia	University of Melbourne

## HONOURS STUDENTS

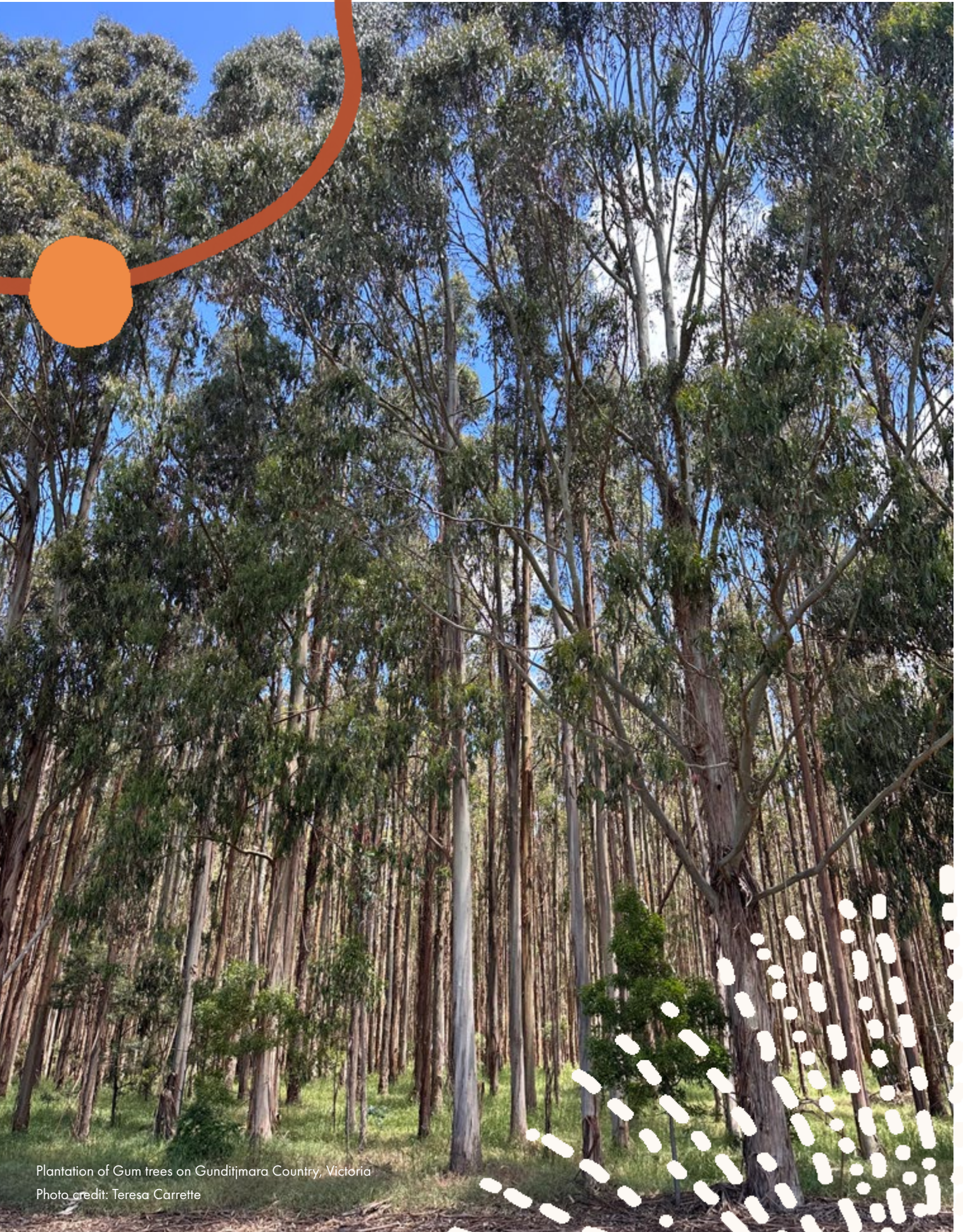
Kayla Turner-Kose	Approaching Artefact Biographies from Jiigurru (Lizard Island Group), Northern Great Barrier Reef	James Cook University
Christian Piironen	TBA	Australian National University
Emma Carey	Exploring the Past Fire and Vegetation Change on French Island, Victoria	Australian National University

## MASTERS STUDENTS

Beatrice Harris	Teringie Wetlands and Ngarrindjeri Knowledge; Palaeoecology to Look Back in Time	University of Melbourne
Tia Ngo Nguyen	Sovereignty in Every Pixel: A Two-Way Knowledge and Geospatial Approach to Understand Coastal Landscape Change on Gunditjmarra Sea Country	James Cook University

## PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS

Name	Role	Institution
Joanne Allen	Node Administrative Officer	Australian National University
Vincent Backhaus	Manager Research Training and Ethics	James Cook University
Teresa Carrette	Media and Communications Manager	James Cook University
Sarah Collins	Research Staff	James Cook University
Rainy Comley	Research Staff	James Cook University
Joe Crouch	Research Staff	Monash University
Rachael-Ann Fletcher	Research Staff	University of Melbourne
Vanessa Goggin	Research Staff	James Cook University



Plantation of Gum trees on Gunditjmarra Country, Victoria  
Photo credit: Teresa Carrette

## PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS - CONTINUED

Name	Role	Institution
Matthew Harris	Data Manager	James Cook University
Sonia Hope	Centre Administrative Officer	James Cook University
Felicitas Hopf	Research Staff	Australian National University
Nyoka Hrabinsky	Research Staff	James Cook University
Fiona Hu	Node Administrative Officer	University of Western Australia
Geoff Lui	Research Staff	James Cook University
Cailey Maclaurin	Research Staff	James Cook University
Harriet Magee	Research Staff	University of Melbourne
Ann Penny	Chief Operating Officer	James Cook University
Tanya Rigney	Community Engagement Officer	Flinders University
Siobhan Singleton	Research Staff	James Cook University
Seumas Spark	Research Staff	Monash University
Dale Stevens	Node Administrative Officer	Monash University
Janet Swanson	Centre Administrative Coordinator	James Cook University
Kayla Turner-Kose	Research Staff	James Cook University

## LIST OF GRADUATES IN 2025

Name	Project Title	Node
Dr Bohao Dong	Using Giant Clam Shell Geochemistry to Understand Past Environmental Change and Human-Environment Interaction in the South Pacific	University of Melbourne
Dr Georgina Skelly	Palaeolandscapes and the archaeological implications of changing landscapes and seascapes in the Torres Strait'	James Cook University



# Prizes and awards

In 2025, several members of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures (CIEHF) were recognised for their outstanding contributions across multiple disciplines.

- Sebastian Naeher 2025 Outstanding Editor Award. Awarded by European Geosciences Union
- Amy Prendergast 2025 Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision. Awarded by University of Melbourne Faculty of Science
- Annie Ross 2025 The Rhys Jones Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Archaeology. Awarded by Australian Archaeological Association
- Jason Sharples 2025 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Scholar Medal 2024. Awarded by Royal Society New South Wales
- Gerry Turpin 2025 Public Service Medal For outstanding public service to Ethnobotany and championing Indigenous science and research.. Awarded by Australian Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Nyoka Hrabinsky, Jacob Wilson and Siobhan Singleton 2025 Awarded the JCU Research Excellence Award



# Summary of Media & Press Coverage for CIEHF Members (2025)

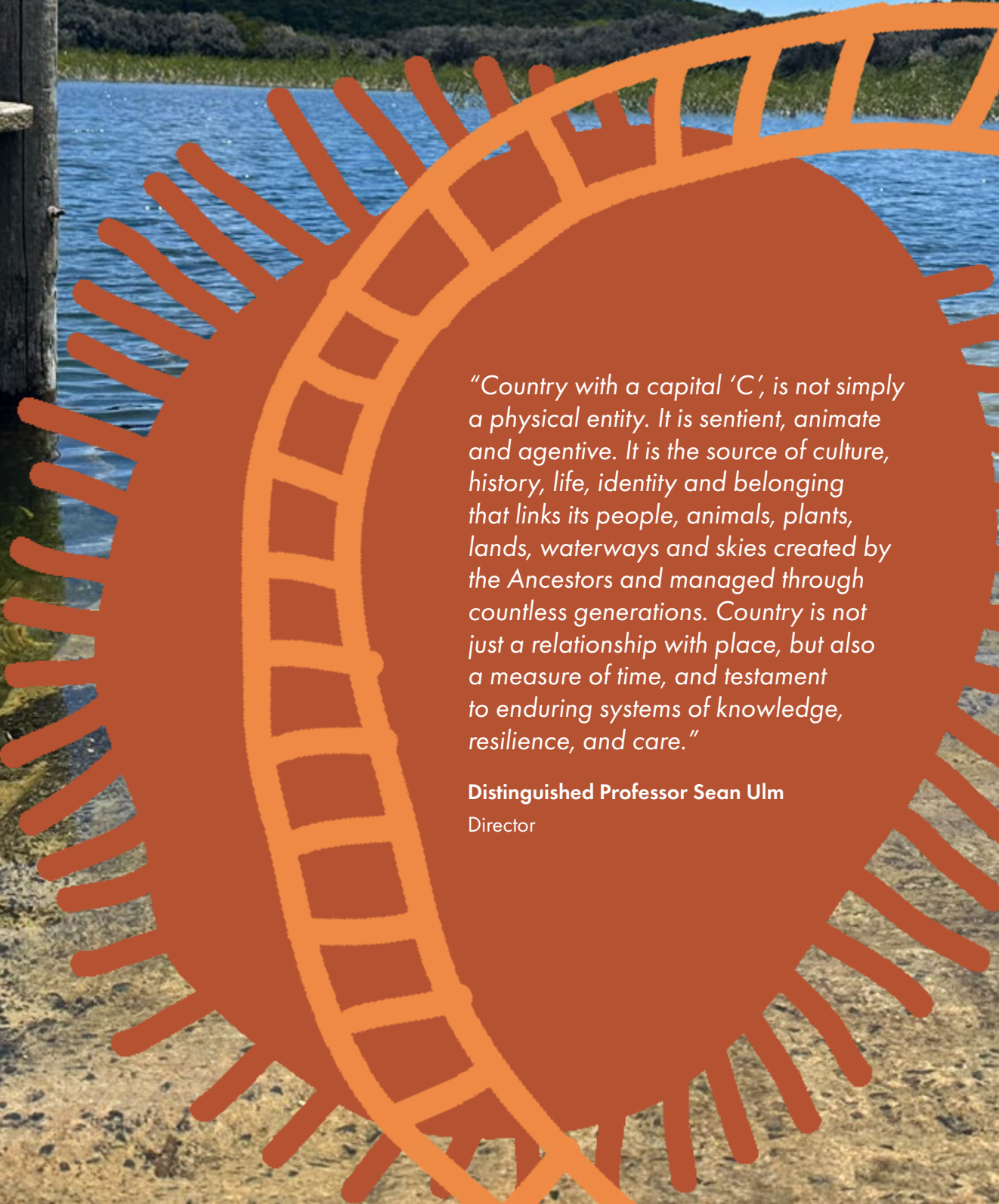
In addition to the formally reported research outputs for 2025, CIEHF members achieved substantial external media visibility, with 136 independently recorded media mentions across news, radio, online, and print platforms. This coverage reflects strong public engagement, broad topical relevance, and high national and international media interest in members’ work.

## TOTAL MEDIA MENTIONS (2025)

Type of Coverage	Count	% of Total
Online	127	92.7%
Print	8	5.8%
Radio	2	1.5%
<b>136 Total</b>		

These additional appearances span:

- Major Australian national newsrooms (ABC, Nine Publishing, News Corp).
- International science and general-interest outlets (Smithsonian Magazine, BBC Science Focus, Forbes).
- High-reach syndication platforms (MSN, Yahoo News).
- Significant Indonesian outlets covering regional biodiversity research (Kompas, Detik, Mongabay).
- Specialty science media (Nature.com, Scimex, Cosmos Magazine).
- Broadcast programs with strong public reach, including ABC Radio National, ABC Radio Darwin, 3CR, Triple R, and JOY 94.9.



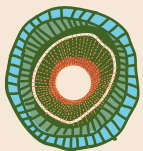
*"Country with a capital 'C', is not simply a physical entity. It is sentient, animate and agentive. It is the source of culture, history, life, identity and belonging that links its people, animals, plants, lands, waterways and skies created by the Ancestors and managed through countless generations. Country is not just a relationship with place, but also a measure of time, and testament to enduring systems of knowledge, resilience, and care."*

**Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm**

Director



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**



Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for  
**Indigenous**  
and Environmental Histories and Futures

James Cook University Cairns  
Nguma-bada Campus, Smithfield

[ciehf.au](http://ciehf.au)

[ciehf@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ciehf@jcu.edu.au)

DOI:10.25903/bj4d-0957

