

Art, Voice & Justice Exhibition Guide: 'Aquawhen II?'

22 – 25 March 2022

Canberry/Springbank Room, Crawford
School of Public Policy, ANU



ABOUT THE 'AQUAWHEN II?' EXHIBITION

- The Water Justice Hub was formally established on 14 October 2019 as an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance at the Australian National University. The Hub is supported by a five-year Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship that began on 1 July 2020 on water justice, water valuation and resilient decision-making. See <https://www.waterjusticehub.org/>.
- The Water Justice Hub's mission is to respond to water injustice and promote both 'voice' and truth-telling in relation to water.
- The Art, Voice & Justice Exhibition: 'Aquawhen II?' is organised from **22 March to 25 March 2022**. The purpose of the exhibition is to support the 'voice', art and the lived experience of the people living in far western New South Wales in 2019. The exhibition features the words of 33 residents of Menindee and Wilcannia who gave testimonies before the [2019 Citizens' Inquiry on the Health of the Barka-Darling River and Menindee Lakes](#). Their words, and the images that they represent as developed by artists Rix Lee and Tom Horne, are featured in full-sized visualisations.
- The exhibition also includes 9 paintings of [Glenn Loughrey](#); 8 haiku calligraphy pieces (words by Maurice Neville with calligraphy by Jill Robertson); a short film of 2019-20 of the Barka-Darling (created by Otis Filley & Dan Schulz) including the sounds of the Barka-Darling and the relationships between water and life; and 'Justice Posters' based on the selected research of some members of the Water Justice Hub.

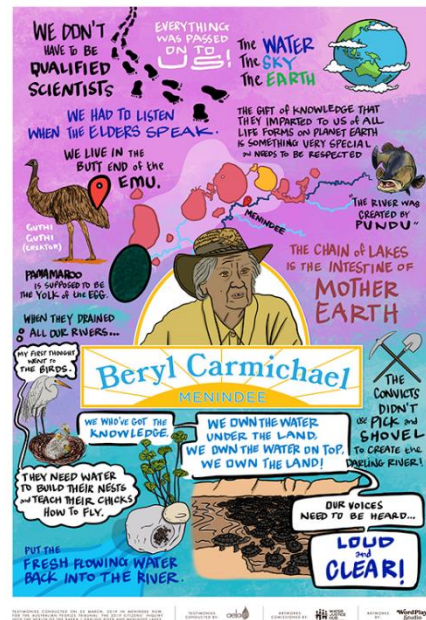
LIST OF ARTWORKS

33 pictorials of testimonies given at the 2019 Citizens' Inquiry on Barka-Darling River

Series of artworks about water based on the Citizens' Inquiry into the Health of the Barka-Darling River and Menindee Lakes. Voices of the people can be found here: <https://tribunal.org.au/hearings/2019-tribunal/about/>.

Artists: Rix Lee and Tom Horne (see <https://www.wordplaystudio.com/>)

MENINDEE



Beryl Carmichael



Steven Cicak



Angela Cicak



John Brereton

MENINDEE



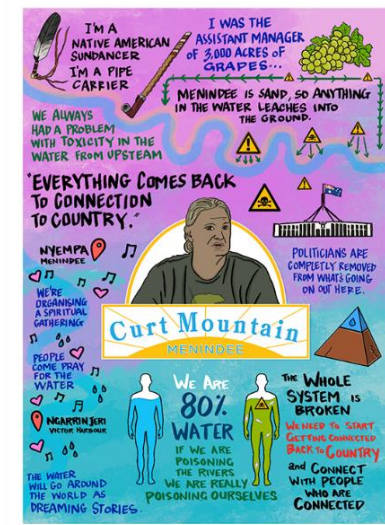
Karen Page



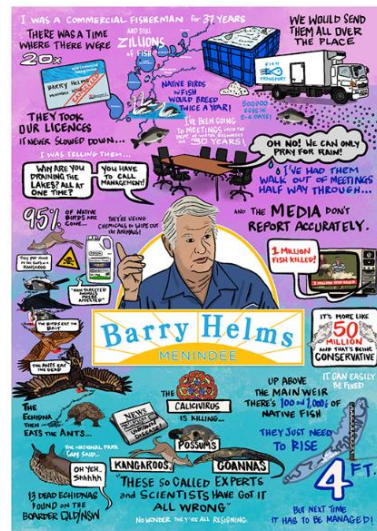
Ross Files



Ronald Slater



Curt Mountain



Barry Helms



John Coombe



Virgean Wilson



Ronald Dutton

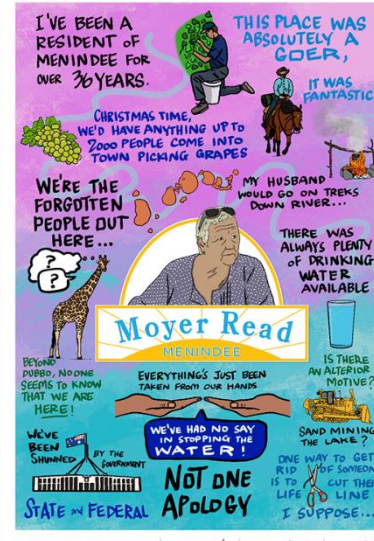
MENINDEE



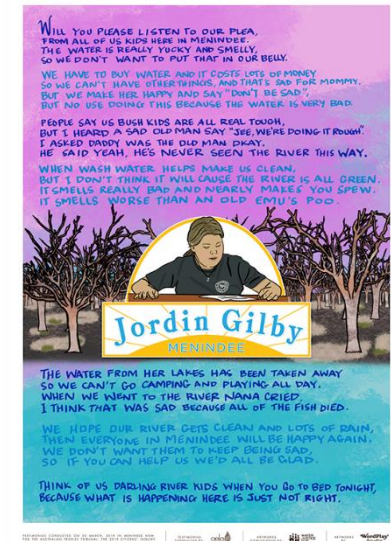
Reena Lombardo



Trevor Woodman



Moyer Read



Jordyn Gilby



Susie Peake



Dick Arnold



Menindee Infographic

WILCANNIA

Bruce Lamey

David Clarke

Patrick O'Keeffe

Paul Brown

Brendon Adams

Cyril Hunter

Will Middleton

James Dutton

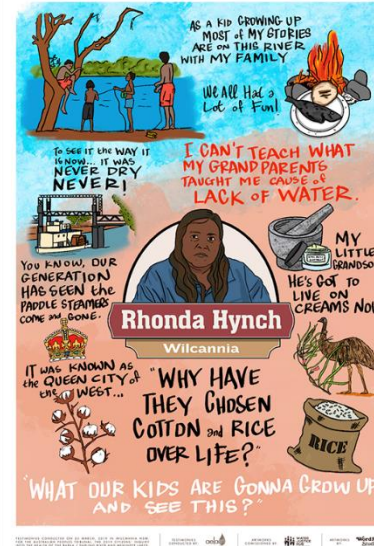
WILCANNIA



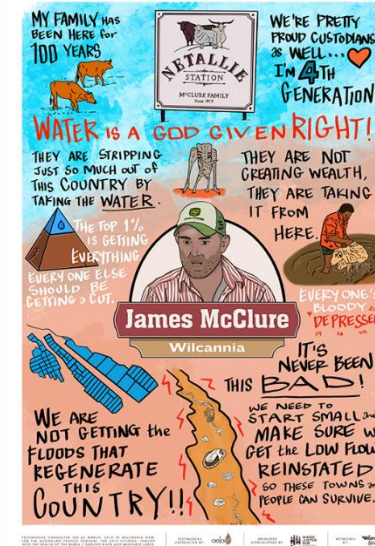
Eddy Harris



Nieves Rivera



Rhonda Hynch



James McClure



Barkindji Man



Greg Cleary



Louise Moriarty



Wilcannia Infographic

Artist: Glenn Loughrey

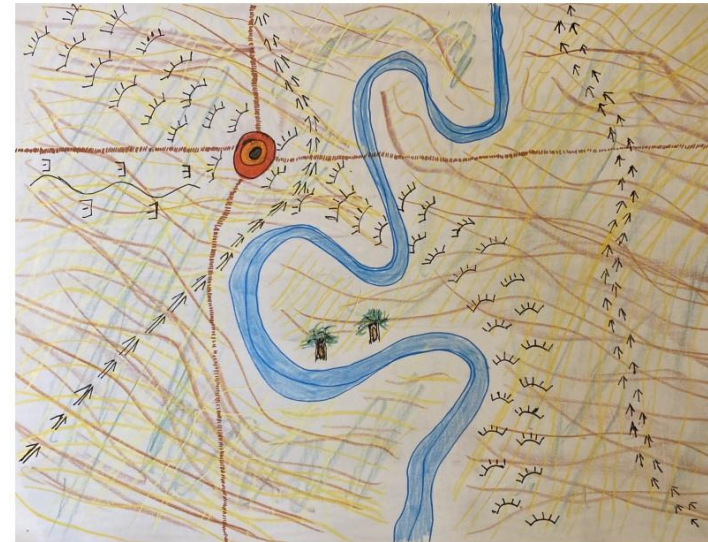


Free the River (Barka), 2021

Artist: Glenn Loughrey



Menindee Lakes



Barkindji On Country - Wilcannia

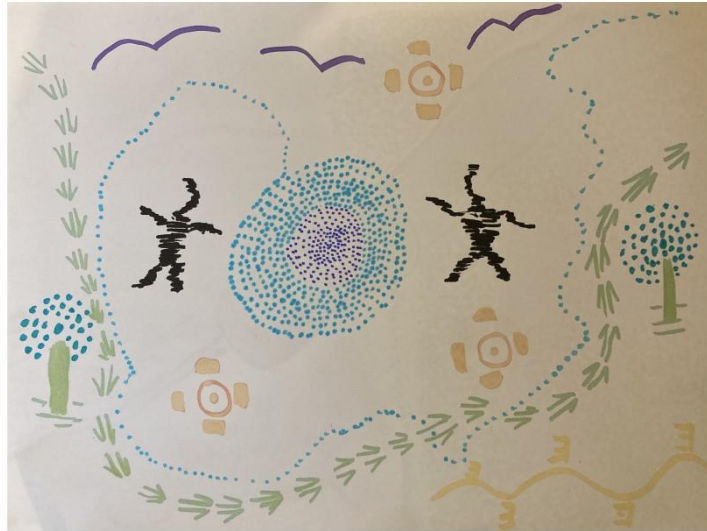


Setting the River Free 1

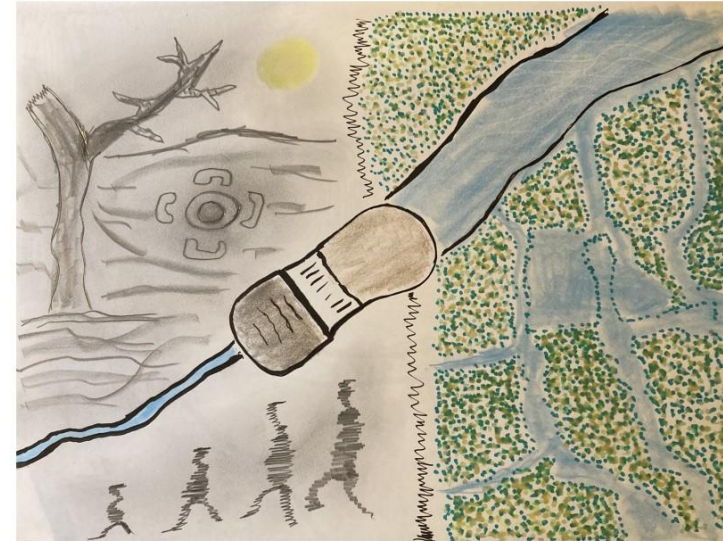


Danced In, Wilcannia

Artist: Glenn Loughrey



Dancing on the Barka



No Water, No Life

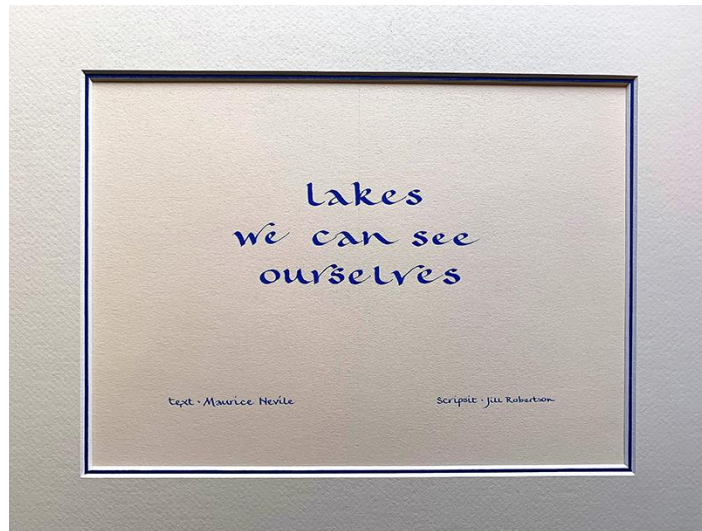


Every Where, When – Living On Country

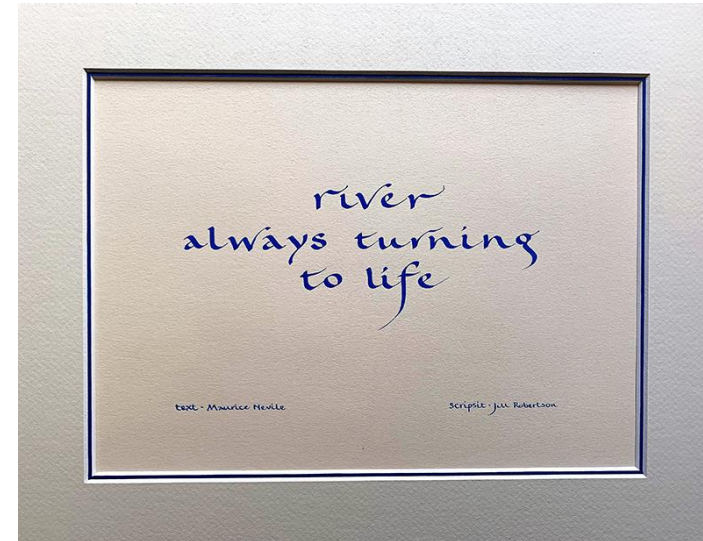


Death on the Banks of the Barka, Wilcannia

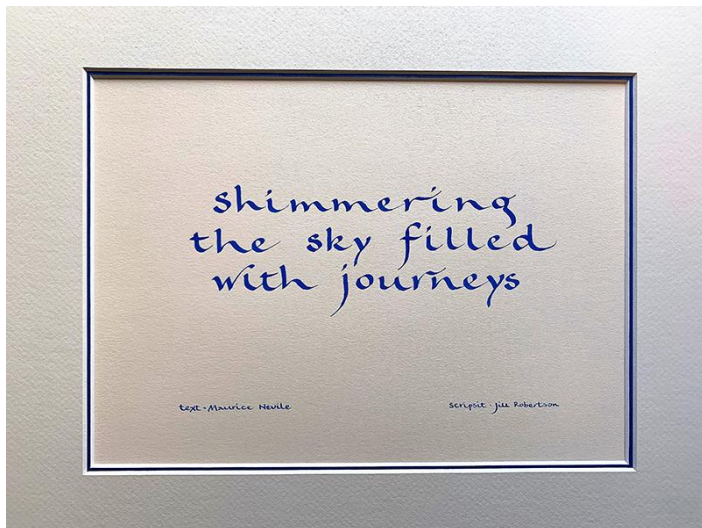
HAIKU CALLIGRAPHY - Maurice Nevile (words) & Jill Robertson (calligraphy)



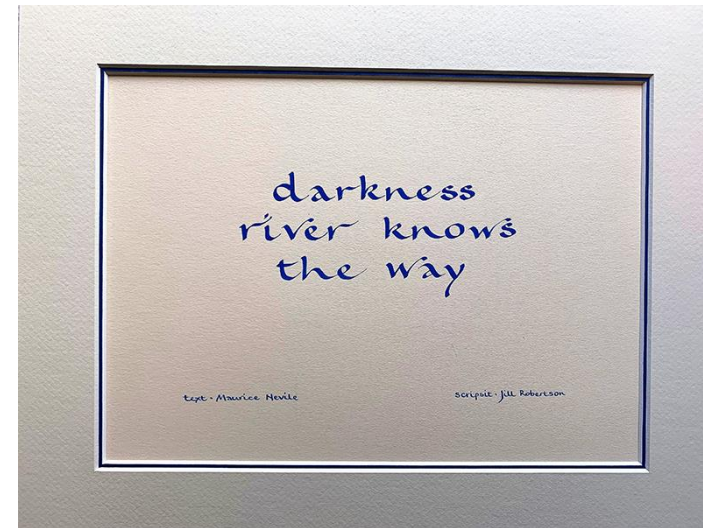
Menindee Lakes



Barkindji On Country - Wilcannia

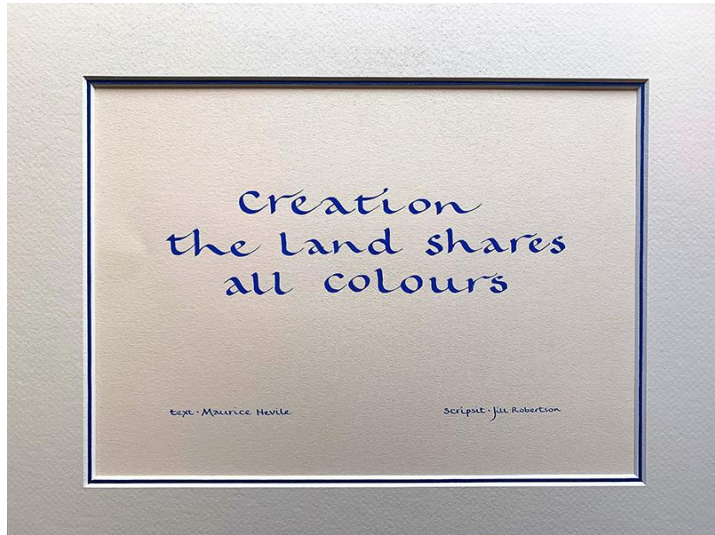


Setting the River Free 1

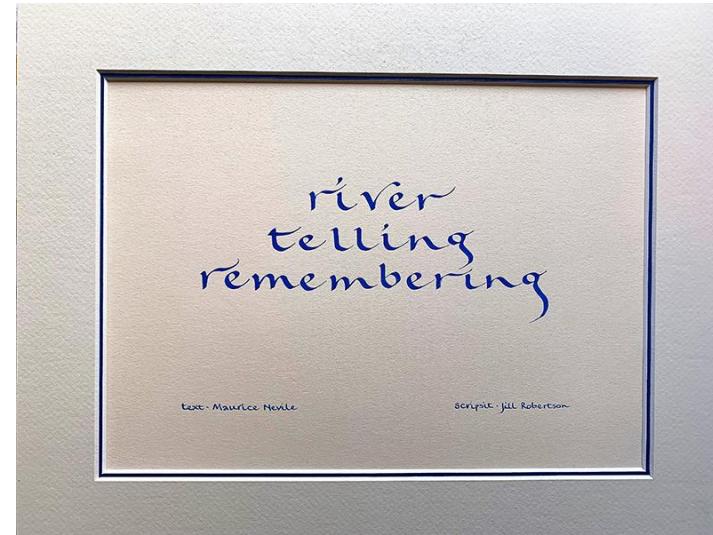


Danced In, Wilcannia

HAIKU CALLIGRAPHY – by Maurice Nevile (words) & Jill Robertson (calligraphy)



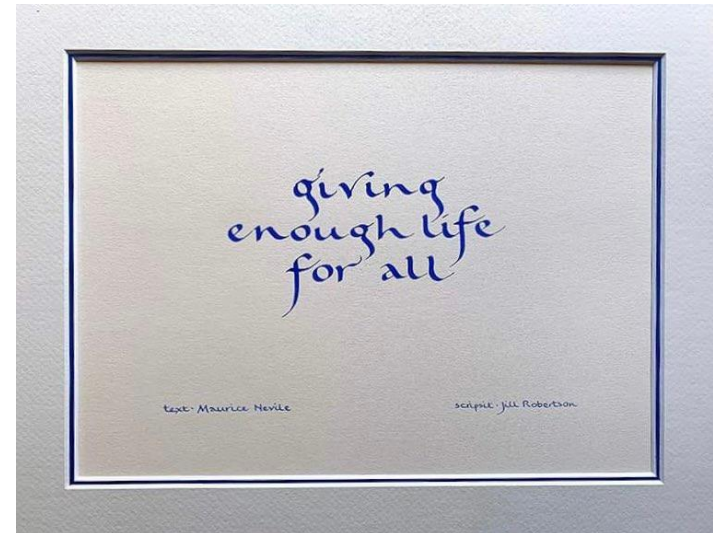
Dancing on the Barka



No Water, No Life



Every Where, When – Living On Country



Death on the Banks of the Barka, Wilcannia

JUSTICE POSTERS – Selected Water Justice Hub Research

Resilience to Hydrological Drought in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin, Australia

ANALYTICAL STEPS

1. Identify the problem
2. Define the research questions
3. Design the study
4. Collect and analyse data

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What adaptive responses should be in relation to declines in streamflow at a minimum, requires an answer to three critical questions: (1) What is the proportion of observed declines in streamflow attributable to long-term meteorological versus direct anthropogenic drivers? (2) What are the impacts of reduced streamflow on ecosystem resilience? And (3), what are the costs and benefits of in-stream water reallocation in response to streamflow and ecosystem decline?

RESULTS

Streamflow Decline (actual reduction & drying trend)

-23% actual trend = drying trend

-53% actual trend = -18% drying trend

Water Reallocation: Resistance & Recovery Time of Waterbird Abundance

KEY FINDINGS

- (1) Over past 40 years, direct anthropogenic drivers other than those associated with long-term meteorological trends, have contributed to more than half of the recent decline in annual mean streamflow on the Barika-Lower Darling River in the northern Murray-Darling Basin.
- (2) Decline in observed annual streamflow significantly and negatively affected waterbird abundance and waterbird resilience (resistance and recovery time) on both the Barika-Lower Darling River and Riverina.
- (3) An Murrumbidgee Lakes, on the Barika-Lower Darling River, (i) waterbird abundance is most sensitive to hydrological droughts and (ii) waterbird abundance recovers more slowly than in the neighbouring Murrumbidgee River Wetlands where there are virtually no water extractions.
- (4) Annual cost of water reallocation, intended to increase streamflow to increase a measure of riparian ecosystem resilience, represents only a small proportion of current irrigation benefits from upstream water extractions.

Water Justice Hub Researchers: R. Quentin Grafton, Long Chu, John Williams, Richard T. Kingsford, Graud Begg

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' VALUES: current knowledge, best-practice and framing questions for future research on non-market valuation

RATIONALE

Non-market valuation (NMV) can be effective to understand the value people place on ecosystem goods and services for which there are no market prices. Over the last 20 years, NMV has increasingly been applied to Indigenous peoples' values, albeit with important conceptual and methodological limitations.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Whose values and which values have been considered by previous NMV studies of Indigenous peoples' values? What are limitations for NMV research of Indigenous peoples' values?

METHODS

We conducted a systematic global review of peer-reviewed literature. We identified 63 studies, undertaking quantitative non-market valuation of Indigenous peoples' values associated with ecosystem goods and services.

RESULTS: CHARACTERISTICS OF REVIEWED STUDIES

Whose values were considered?

- Local population n=22
- Indigenous Peoples n=24
- General population n=17

Which values were considered?

- Multiple n=18
- Non-use n=18
- Direct Use n=23
- Indirect Use n=3

RESULTS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

To guide future research in NMV of Indigenous peoples' values, we propose **seven key questions** that will inform best-practices:

- What is the purpose?
- How are NMV indicators handled?
- What is the expected change for Indigenous peoples?
- Whose values are considered?
- What ethical frameworks are followed?
- How does Indigenous knowledge inform NMV?
- Who benefits?
- What Open Access? QR code

Water Justice Hub local author: Dr Ana Madero

LIVING WATERS, LAW FIRST: Nyikina and Mangala water governance

The 'Living Waters, Law First' water governance framework centres Living Waters, First Law and the health/well-being of people and Country. Developed by Walaakoo Aboriginal Corporation (WAC), the Nyikina and Mangala peoples' RWTC, in the West Kimberley.

Living Waters

Reciprocal relationships with Living Water, permanent waters inhabited by spiritual living beings, water snakes.

Martuwarra Council

is an example of Living Waters, Law First in action, bringing together people from across the catchment. The WJH & the Martuwarra Council are co-designing future research.

First Law

Respecting 'First Law' or 'Indigenous customary Law' for water.

Working towards decolonizing water governance

Previous work shows that the National Water Initiative (NWI) does not support Aboriginal water governance. New comparative analysis of the NWI and 'Living Waters, Law First' highlights key areas for dialogue and reform.

Water Justice Hub researchers: Dr Anna Poellina is a WJH research fellow focusing on earth-restorative regional governance. Dr Rob Taylor is a WJH research fellow focusing on water policy.

The Martuwarra River/Urle

Language groups of the Martuwarra Plains:

This poster is based on the article: Nyikina and Mangala water governance in the Kimberley Western Australia. Australian Journal of Water Resources, 2013, 48, 56. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446758012000008

Drinking Water Quality in Regional and Remote Australia: Measuring the Gaps

RESEARCH AIMS

We reviewed public reporting by 177 utilities and conducted a national assessment of reported exceedances against the health-based and aesthetic guideline values of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). Four definitions of a basic level of drinking water quality were tested to quantify service gaps across regional and remote areas of Australian states and territories in 2018-19.

RESULTS

Locations of non-compliance with ADWG health guideline values

Non-compliance with ADWG guideline values for key aesthetic parameters

KEY FINDINGS

- (1) At least 25,245 people across 99 locations with populations <1,000 reportedly accessed water services that did not comply with health-based guideline values;
- (2) including larger regional and remote towns, the estimated service gap rises to at least 194,572 people across more than 115 locations;
- (3) Considering health parameters and the ADWG definition of 'good' aesthetic characteristics, the reported service gap rises further to at least 827,736 people across 408 locations;
- (4) Monitoring and reporting gaps indicate that actual incidence of non-compliance with the guideline values of the ADWG could be much higher than our estimates;
- (5) The methods and dataset provide a proof-of-concept for an Australian national drinking water quality database to guide government investments.

Water Justice Hub Researchers: Paul Wymond, Ana Madero, Katherine Taylor, Erin Ryan, R. Quentin Grafton

This poster is based on the article: Drinking Water Quality in Regional and Remote Australia: Measuring the Gaps by Wymond, P.W., Madero, A., Taylor, K., Ryan, E. and Grafton, R. Q. Under review for publication.

FIRST PEOPLES AND 'RIGHTS OF RIVERS'

The Indigenous peoples of Australia have a primary, unique and inherent obligation to 'Care for Country' according to the Indigenous rule of law; exercising the protection and management of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environment.

The Indigenous rule of law and the obligation to 'Care for Country' stretches back many millennia, yet Australian domestic laws and policies fail to properly support the exercise of such obligations by Indigenous Australians.

THE LIBERATION OF NATURE? FRACTURING INDIGENOUS INHERENT RIGHTS

WHO SPEAKS FOR COUNTRY? POTENTIAL BENEFIT OR POTENTIAL THREAT FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

WATER IS INSEPARABLE FROM COUNTRY

In many Aboriginal creation stories (not myths) water came first... then the land. Water is sacred and underpins Aboriginal kinship connection in birth, life and death. These traits are exemplified in Aboriginal obligations to maintain waterholes, ensure fire management (burning) practices, and monitor the health of all things within traditional boundaries and care for country.

Aboriginal communities continue to seek to exercise their inherent rights and obligations as sovereign peoples. In spite of continual efforts to undermine Aboriginal property relationships, ownership of resources and ancient knowledge with contemporary Australia.

Water Justice Hub author: Dr Virginia Marshall is the Inaugural Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National University and a key member of the Water Justice Hub.

This poster is based on the published paper by Virginia Marshall 'Removing the Veil from the Rights of Nature? The Dichotomy between First Nations Customary Rights and Environmental Legal Reasoning' in Australian Feminist Law Journal, Volume 45, 2019 | Issue 2.

AquaNormal

By Dan Schulz and Otis Filley



433 Days

This film documents the 2019-2020 summer period during the 433 days of zero flows down the Darling-Baaka River. The filmmakers spent three months walking the dry riverbed daily, capturing the last breaths of a river system. A perfect storm of overextraction, drought and climate change had resulted in a massive local extinction event at Menindee. The Menindee fish kills became international news. Visceral images of masses of dead fish, and weeping grown men holding huge, deceased Murray Cod, populated the news and social media. Although it was effective at creating awareness about the plight of the Darling-Barka, the news cycle soon moved on. This film takes a different approach to the space of ecological disaster. It is about the sustained suffering, and slow death that the people, animals, and ecosystems must live through during these increasingly long and unnatural drought periods in the Murray-Darling Basin. It is ultimately about grief.

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