



A Pedagogy for Becoming Family with Place

Abstract

In this presentation, we show how Indigenous-led Transformative Sustainability Education (TSE) links with one of the oldest continuous environmental education systems in the world. We explain the pedagogy we call: *becoming family with place*. We emphasise that because of its 60,000+ year history, Australian environmental education carries an obligation to support Indigenous cultural resurgence through TSE, and we describe what this might look like in the context of environmental education. Because every Australian landscape is Indigenous and storied, all Australians have an inherent right to learn that joy in place, along with the responsibility to care for place and its narratives. Teaching and learning a relationship with place as family, is one way that environmental education can lead a movement for change. The pedagogy integrates four ways of learning, which are experiential, creative, propositional and participative – a way of knowing for human flourishing. It is for celebrating a love of place and for coming *home* to Country.

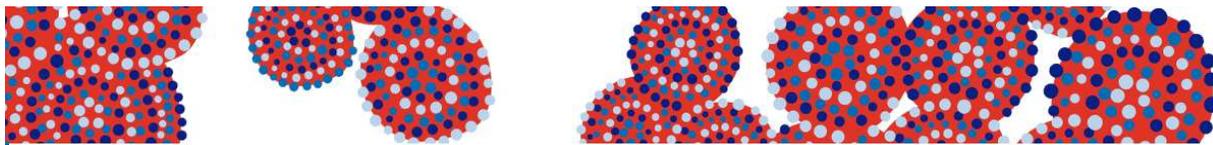
We pay respect to the Bindjareb Noongar elders and custodians of Mandurah, Bindjareb Boodja, kura, yeye, boorda. We acknowledge the significance of their socio-environmental knowledge for regenerative futures.

Speaker Profile

[Associate Professor Sandra Wooltorton](#) is a Senior Research Fellow with the Nulungu Research Institute, at the University of Notre Dame Australia's Broome Campus. She leads inter-and transdisciplinary research on topics including environmental education, social change, climate hope, cultural actions for eco-health, Indigenous-led sustainability and transformative learning.

[Professor Pierre Horwitz](#) is at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. His research and teaching have included an ecosystems approach to the relationships between biodiversity, culture and human health and well-being, with a particular interest in *karl* and *gabi* in Noongar *boodja*.

[Dr Anne Poelina](#) is a Yimardoowarra marnin: an Indigenous woman from the Mardoowarra, Fitzroy River who is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the Nulungu Research Institute in Broome. She has been a research consultant and research fellow for various universities for more than 28 years.



[Dr Peta White](#) is a science and environmental education Senior Lecturer at Deakin University. She has worked in classrooms, as a curriculum consultant and manager, and as a teacher educator in several jurisdictions across Canada and Australia. Peta's passion for initial teacher educator, activist environmental education, and action-orientated methodologies drives her current teaching/research scholarship.

[Professor Len Collard](#) is with the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. Len has a background in literature and communications and his research interests are in the area of Australian Indigenous Studies, including Nyungar interpretive histories.

[Barbara Bynder](#) is a Ballardong, Whadjuk Noongar Yok. Barbara is a sessional academic at Curtin University, teaching Culture to Cultures and Australian Aboriginal Art. She is undergoing her Doctorate with the University of Notre Dame Australia. Barbara's passion is to educate the wider community to the richness and diversity of Australian Aboriginal culture, heritage and people using art to break down barriers, develop mutual respect and understanding and promote acceptance of contemporary forms of Indigeneity.

[Dr David Palmer](#) is a Senior Lecturer in Community Development at Murdoch University. He has been researching community-based projects throughout WA and other parts of the country, and partnering for research with Indigenous organisations for many years.

[Catrina Aniere](#) is CEO of Millennium Kids Inc., a not for environmental youth organisation. She has extensive experience working with young people using a skills for life process to co design youth led solutions to sustainability challenges.

[Sandra Harben](#) holds a Bachelors degree with a double major in Industrial Relations and Geography. She is a Whadjuk and Ballardong Nyungar with special interests in Nyungar language, culture and history.

Website links

→ <https://www.notredame.edu.au/research/transitions>

→ <https://works.bepress.com/sandra-wooltorton/>