



RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Regeneration: Environmental Education from the Heart

Sandra Wooltorton, Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame Australia
(Broome Campus)

Abstract

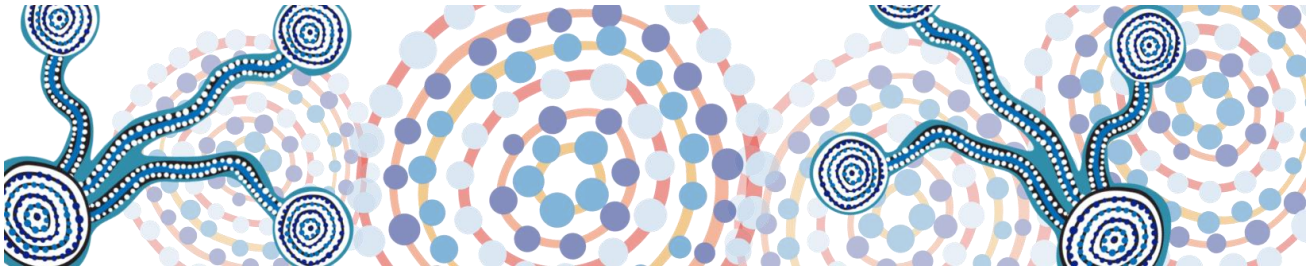
In this presentation, we build upon the pedagogy called: becoming family with place, an approach to environmental education – and life – with First Nations wisdom at its heart. This is a regenerative approach to ways of knowing, being and doing. As per the NAIDOC 2021 theme, Healing Country means embracing First Nation's cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. It means truth telling about our past, and redressing historical injustice. Every Australian landscape is Indigenous and storied, and all Australians have an inherent right to learn that joy in place. This is our responsibility to care for place and its narratives, its histories and stories. It is the heart of Australian environmental education, our obligation to our Country, our people and our planet. As part of this presentation, we will describe some new directions in our environmental education research and practice: a regenerative approach.

Acknowledgement

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.
- [Adjunct Professor 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.
- [Professor Mindy Blaise](#) is a Vice Chancellor's Professorial Research Fellow, in the School of Education, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Western Australia. She is a Co-director of the Centre



for People, Place & Planet. Her background in the early years, interest in feminist and 'post' theories, and her identity as a white settler woman influences how she approaches research.

- [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.
- [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 education, activist environmental education, and action-orientated methodologies drives her current teaching/research scholarship.
- [Catrina Aniere](#) is CEO of Millennium Kids Inc., a not for profit 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.

Website links

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

