



KEYNOTE

Martuwarra River of Life

Adj Prof Dr Anne Poelina, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council

Abstract

The Martuwarra (Fitzroy River) is an iconic, river system of global value and significance. For Australia's original peoples of the Martuwarra, the River was formed in the beginning of time. These environmental and cultural values are recognised in both the Western Australian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and National Heritage Listings. The presentation will showcase the coming together of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council to create positive change through environmental education, along with innovative, practical, and effective tools for change-making. The presentation will include a short film 'River of Life' (10 minutes). The film showcases *River of Life* and her peoples as "living examples, of resilience theory, of 'Bookarrarra', past, present and future's dialogue for transformational change. Martuwarra River of Life is the cultural authority to uphold our *First Law* of obligation to protect our sacred ancestral serpent beings right to life, to live and flow ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6461-7681>

Acknowledgement

Anne acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

Speaker Profile

Dr Anne Poelina is a Nyikina Warrwa (Indigenous Australian) woman who belongs to the Mardoowarra, the lower Fitzroy River in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Poelina is an active Indigenous community leader, human and earth rights advocate, filmmaker and a respected academic researcher, with a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Master of Education, Master of Arts (Indigenous Social Policy) and currently Doctor of Philosophy (Health Science) with thesis title, 'Cultural Determinants of Indigenous Health and Wellbeing'.

Website links

→ <https://martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/>



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Mandjoogoordap: Changing Tides
Mandurah, Western Australia

