FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

SNAPSHOT

CDU PROFESSORIAL LECTURE SERIES 2015

Q AND A

CDU PUBLISHING ACHIEVEMENTS

LIMITED EDITION

FORGING FRIENDSHIP ACROSS FAULT LINES

WATERFRONT COMPLEX OPENS FOR BUSINESS

INDIGENOUS STORIES OF THE PASTORAL KIND

THE SECRET LIVES OF SALTIES

A PROTECTED SPECIES AT PESST PROPORTIONS

THE TIES THAT BIND US
Origins magazine is produced by Charles Darwin University’s Office of Media, Advancement and Community Engagement (MACE).

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Opinions and views expressed in this edition do not necessarily reflect those of Charles Darwin University.

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Charles Darwin University
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Australia

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Cover: Hans Bentzen, Shutterstock.com
Inside cover: Birds of a feather – a flock of budgerigars perches momentarily allowing the vivid plumage to contrast with the earthy waters of Ormiston Gorge in Central Australia. Image: Patrick Nelson, January 2015.

Contributors

LEANNE MILES

Science communicator Leanne Miles goes on something of a wildlife safari as she covers research into two iconic protected species in the Territory. She looks into the private lives of one of Australia’s most voracious predators and reveals previously unknown behaviours that crocodiles exhibit from day one. This knowledge could help to preserve the species, both in captivity and in the wild. Leanne also talks to a researcher who is trying to resolve the long conflict between pastoralists and wallabies in Northern Australia.

PATRICK NELSON

Long-term Territorian Patrick Nelson is based at the campus of story-rich Central Australia from where he has filed an account of Delnya Baxter’s investigation into the Indigenous contribution to the pastoral industry. Patrick ventured up the Stuart Highway to Ti Tree to talk with mathematics evangelist Dr Ian Roberts at the annual Maths Enrichment Camp, and into the MacDonnell Ranges where he captured a striking image of a flock of budgerigars at Ormiston Gorge.

JANE HAMPSON

With the opening of CDU’s purpose-built Business School in Darwin’s Waterfront Precinct, Special Projects Writer Jane Hampson talks with Professor Giselle Byrnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts about the exciting future directions of business studies at CDU. Jane also interviews bilingual specialist Assistant Professor Vasilia Kourtis-Kazoullis about bilingualism and language learning, and discovers insights into why and how the Greek diaspora has managed to maintain its culture across generations.

KATIE WEISS

In her second contribution to Origins, Katie Weiss explores what lies within the commanding paintings of a talented emerging artist. Katie is a former arts writer and investigates how CDU visual arts Honours graduate Serge Ah-Wong uses paint to connect with his Papua New Guinean–Australian identity. Katie is also a former journalist with the mainstream media and her writings have featured in a range of publications both nationally and internationally.
Charles Darwin University has always shouldered a range of responsibilities that are asked of few other Australian universities. As the only university based in the Northern Territory, we have a special role in supporting the social, economic and cultural development of the NT. This we do through targeted research, by providing training and higher education to build a skilled workforce, and by pursuing partnerships that provide new opportunities both for the Territory and for CDU.

As part of our commitment to the Territory and to provide our current and future students with a state-of-the-art facility, this year we expanded the university’s footprint in Darwin when we opened a five-storey Business School at the Darwin Waterfront precinct. The Business School, which brings together our vocational education and training, and higher education offerings, has been relocated from Casuarina campus on Darwin’s northern beaches, into the heart of the city.

It’s a terrific location with government departments, private businesses – and the ocean – right on the doorstep. Ultimately, we will have 600 students studying at the school, in programs ranging from Certificate level right through to PhDs, and more than 40 staff. It is a location that is easily accessible for Top End residents to attend public lectures given by our own and visiting specialists, to upgrade their skills or to engage with research opportunities. We give you a preview of the new facility and our vision for the Business School on page 10 of this edition of Origins.

We also look at the close connections the university has with Greece. Darwin has attracted waves of Greek emigrants during the past 100 years, who are still very engaged with and proud of their Greek heritage. As a result, the Greek diaspora of Darwin directly supports the provision of Greek language and culture study at CDU, and in this edition of Origins we explore language, culture and identity.

We cover the work of one of our PhD candidates, who is gathering the stories of Indigenous people to develop a more complete account of their contributions to Australia’s pastoral industry during the 20th Century.

And we talk with a professor of philosophy whose childhood in Northern Ireland during the “Troubles” provoked his academic interest in love and friendship.

Once again, I hope you enjoy this edition.

Professor Simon Maddocks
Vice-Chancellor
SNAPSHOT

Project targets Indigenous speakers and the law

A CDU researcher in Central Australia has begun work on a project to help Indigenous people better understand Australian law.

Linguist Dr Samantha Disbray, from CDU’s Northern Institute, said the “Language and the Law Project” would help Aboriginal speakers of three distinct Central Australian languages understand legal words and their implications.

“The legal system is fertile ground for controversy about words and their meanings and who understands what in the context of criminal trials and other legal interactions,” Dr Disbray said.

“For example, in Aboriginal varieties of English the word ‘guilty’ can be an expression of remorse, or it can indicate legally established culpability. And the word ‘to kill’ can mean committing a violent act that results in a death, but is also a synonym for ‘hit’ or ‘beat’.”

Dr Disbray said the research project would inform the legal profession and justice system about “what could be done” to resolve some of the misunderstandings relating to the language and the law.

“I have already visited Tennant Creek to identify communication issues specific to speakers of the Warumungu language and the related and widely used new language Wumpurrarni English.

“Two other language specialists will undertake similar work in relation to the Alyawarra and Pitjantjatjara languages. If we can improve the interaction between Aboriginal people and the justice and legal systems we might be able to reduce the alarmingly high incarceration rate in the Territory.”

Other members of the research team are CDU Professorial Research Fellow Professor Rolf Gerritsen, lawyer and former police officer Tom Svikert, education researcher and Pitjantjatjara speaker Sam Osborne, and linguist, court interpreter and Alyawarra speaker David Moore.

The project is funded by a grant from the Law Society Public Purposes Trust.

World opens up to new engineers

Charles Darwin University is the first university in Australia to receive EUR-ACE® accreditation for its Bachelor of Engineering Science. CDU also has received the accreditation for its two-year Masters program.

The accreditation means that graduates of these programs will have their qualifications recognised in most of central and western Europe. Head of the School of Engineering Professor Friso De Boer said the German accreditation body, ASIN, awarded the EUR-ACE® label system, which identifies high-quality engineering degree programs in Europe and abroad.

“This is an extraordinary achievement for such a relatively small Australian university,” Professor De Boer said. “This means that our future graduates can travel almost anywhere in the world and have their qualifications recognised.

“In countries where the engineering profession is regulated, EUR-ACE® labelled programs meet the educational requirements for becoming a registered or chartered engineer.”

Professor De Boer said the EUR-ACE® accreditation was in addition to the Washington Accord provided by Engineers Australia, which included accreditation for CDU engineering programs in the UK and the USA.

Baker beats the best

The Northern Territory’s Deborah Trebilcock is Australia’s best Apprentice Baker following the national Excellence in Baking 2014 competition.

The CDU Certificate III in Retail Baking student beat five apprentice finalists from throughout Australia to take home the title and trophy.

“It was a huge honour to win and to be recognised at the national level not only for myself but also for the CDU lecturers who are so passionate and have encouraged me the whole way,” she said.

Originally from Alice Springs, Deborah said she had always loved baking and decided to pursue her interest after moving to Darwin and enrolling with CDU.

This is the second consecutive year that a CDU student has won the national competition for apprentices.

Baking student Deborah Trebilcock, winner of the Apprentice Baker category at the national Excellence in Baking 2014 competition.

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Baking student Deborah Trebilcock, winner of the Apprentice Baker category at the national Excellence in Baking 2014 competition.
Endangered sawfish show wild instinct

A researcher is exploring the conservation benefits of displaying critically endangered Largetooth Sawfish and Speartooth Sharks in public aquariums.

CDU PhD candidate Kate Buckley is also investigating whether sawfish can integrate into the wild after being released from aquariums when they grow larger than about two metres.

Ms Buckley monitored the survival rates of five Largetooth Sawfish after they had been held in captivity for six months and released into the NT’s Adelaide River. She said these sawfish showed similar movements to other wild sawfish in the river, which indicated they might not have lost their wild instincts after being held in captivity.

$24m environmental research hub for the North

Sustainable development in Northern Australia and practical solutions for the region’s major environmental challenges are at the core of a new environmental research program being hosted at CDU.

The Australian Government is investing almost $24 million over six years to establish the Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub, as part of the National Environmental Science Programme.

It is one of only six hubs to receive Commonwealth funding and director Professor Michael Douglas said it would support sustainable development. “Our research will deliver new knowledge, tools and partnerships to support the management of Northern Australia’s natural resources,” Professor Douglas said.

“The focus will be on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity, catchment and coastal planning and Indigenous natural resource management across Northern Australia.”

CDU leads the hub, in partnership with researchers from James Cook University, the University of Western Australia, Griffith University, CSIRO, the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, and WA, NT and Queensland government agencies. Research will begin mid-year.

The hub is located in CDU’s Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods.

CDU tops class in international education

Charles Darwin University’s record in international education has been acknowledged with a prestigious national award for excellence at the Australian Export Awards. CDU became the first Northern Territory exporter since 2009 to win an Australian Export Award.

The Education and Training Award recognises CDU’s long-term strategy to engage with international education, develop research partnerships and for the support of academic staff to be involved directly with international activities and exchanges.

International Strategy and Development Director Monica Turvey said she was delighted that CDU had been acknowledged for its international success. “In 2013/2014 CDU recorded a growth in excess of 40 per cent in international student enrolments compared with the previous year.”

Ms Turvey said that in the past 12 months CDU had grown its market share of students from India and Nepal, expanded recruitment activities to Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and signed an education and training contract with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance.
The portrait of Serge Ah Wong’s brother, Jamie, features a large headdress to symbolise his status in the family as an older sibling.

The portrait of Serge’s cousin, Sadie, features a smaller headdress as she is a younger family member.

Artist Serge Ah Wong plans to learn the art of traditional headdress making when he travels to PNG later this year.
Identity proof is in the painting

Growing up in Australia is part of Serge Ah Wong's identity, but it is only one part. Serge uses painting as a means of exploring his Papua New Guinean heritage and to advocate for a revival of traditional PNG customs, such as tribal tattooing.

The Charles Darwin University Visual Arts graduate's recent Honours exhibition, entitled "Hebouhebou" or "Join together and talk", featured paintings of his relatives decorated in traditional PNG tribal tattoos and headdresses.

"Tattoos symbolise identity," Serge said. "Even though my family lives in Australia, we still hold that identity." He said he painted his subjects in poses similar to those in Western colonial paintings so they appeared proud and prestigious.

Later this year Serge plans to travel to his family's tribal villages of Hanuabada, Tatana, Hula and Dora to learn more about his heritage and about traditional headdress-making.

Serge has drawn inspiration for his exhibition from cultural objects, such as a traditional PNG dagger made from cassowary bone.

The artist paints tribal tattoos over portraits of his family members as part of his exhibition.

Serge symbolically embraces his cross-cultural background by attaching native Australian bird feathers to a traditional PNG headdress.
Forging friendship across fault lines

Above The Coldstream Guards on mobile patrol in Argyle Street, Belfast, 1970–72, during the “Troubles”.

Left Professor Brian Mooney says story-telling can be a powerful strategy for cutting through an intellectual debate and overcoming stark philosophical disagreements.
Philosopher BRIAN MOONEY argues that story-telling is a valuable strategy for overcoming radical disagreement. Here he illustrates the point by drawing on two stories from his childhood.

It was Christmas Eve and a typically wet Belfast winter night. Schoolboy Thomas Brian Mooney had placed a glass of milk near the fireplace and went up to bed knowing that Santa only visited children who were asleep.

But he was too excited to sleep and soon he crept to the stairs and peered down to an alarming sight. It was the first time that he had seen his father crying, upset for having been laid off from his job and unable to buy his family the Christmas presents he had hoped to.

For Brian, this was the day that Santa Claus died. “At the time this was deeply confusing and even frightening for me,” he said. “Not only had I seen a side of a man who was always emotionally restrained, but I had learnt that Santa Claus was not real.

“As a young person, the effect of this double revelation was traumatic. It marked the beginnings of an initiation into a sense of bigotry, of identifying with an economically, politically, educationally and socially deprived tribe.”

Brian grew up in a Catholic family of modest means in an area surrounded by Protestant and Loyalist districts during the “Troubles”, an ethno-nationalist conflict that raged for three decades. “Ours was an oppressed minority who were discriminated against in terms of jobs, education and housing. In our area, there was for some time an unemployment rate among Catholics of 80 per cent. More broadly there were daily murders in the streets and bombings were almost a daily occurrence.”

One such blast rocked the family home when Brian was about 12 years old. The explosion happened at the Drumkeen Hotel, which was frequented by British parliamentarians and located over his back fence.

“It came as a shock but not a surprise,” Brian said. “Police had received a tip-off that an explosion was imminent and had moved in to evacuate houses in the surrounding area. I was walking down the street with my parents and siblings at the moment of detonation. We would have been just 30 yards away when it exploded.

“People were knocked off their feet and women were screaming. Fortunately no-one was seriously hurt, but it caused extensive damage to the hotel and structural damage to our house. Naturally we were stunned by the ferocity of the violence and its proximity to our home, but in reality there were very few people in Northern Ireland who were untouched by the Troubles in a serious way.”

Brian said it was easy to be swept along in the emotion of the time, and difficult to make sense of his society from an objective standpoint, but he remembers from an early age developing a sense of solidarity with what was essentially his tribe: anti-British, anti-loyalist, pro-republican.

“The sense of demanding justice in a situation that was institutionally stacked against you led to a sense that the only appropriate responses were legitimate acts of violence. Looking back on it I’m somewhat saddened to think that I acquiesced in a culture of murder. It wasn’t until later that I developed a more holistic perspective and a viewpoint that violence was not the way to see things through.”

Brian’s bid for an understanding of society and circumstance prompted an interest in philosophy, virtue and justice, that in 1993 led to the completion of his PhD entitled “Perspectives on the Philosophy of Love and Friendship in Ancient Greece”. He examined matters of friendship, identity, loyalty and “the self” and questions such as “what one needs to think about and do when there is radical disagreement”.

He discusses this question in the co-authored book Responding to Terrorism, arguing the importance of the narrative and story-telling as a strategy to overcome stark philosophical disagreement among combatants pressing, for example, their ideological causes along rationalist lines.

“Feelings and emotions such as those we have when we affectively participate in stories and narratives … are often more important than reason and indeed often enough reason follows in their wake,” he said.

“Story-telling and appeals to the pathemata (the experiences that fatefully happen to us and which are universally shared as part of the human condition) can rekindle existential communicative bonds, and that some strategy of this sort is required if we are to deal with moral and philosophical disagreements and … effectively deal with terrorism.

“The full force of a narrative based in experience can cut through an intellectual debate and open the possibility for resolving disagreement.”

While some of Professor Brian Mooney’s contemporaries chose to participate in acts of violence, he preferred to follow a path of cultural resistance and took up Irish traditional music. As a talented folk musician, he represented Ireland at several international festivals and in concerts in Europe, America, Asia and Australia. When time permits, he still plays guitar, fiddle, concertina, banjo, mandolin, harmonica and tin whistle.
With a new facility in Darwin, CDU’s business education and research is poised for expansion. **GISELLE BYRNE** explains.

**TEXT**
Jane Hampson

**IMAGES**
Peter Butler
Main image courtesy of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation

We are already growing our strong connections in Eastern Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts, Professor Giselle Byrnes has helped orchestrate CDU’s first foray into the heart of Darwin.
Business is booming at Charles Darwin University and it has a new home at one of the most desirable locations in the Northern Territory’s Top End: the Darwin Waterfront precinct.

With views across the Timor Sea and its back to the vine-covered cliffs that hug Darwin’s CBD, the five-storey purpose-built CDU Waterfront Business School is located in one of the most dynamic spaces in the Territory capital.

Home to hotels and apartments, restaurants, shops and vast recreation areas, the Darwin Waterfront now boasts a significant education complex. Just months ago after construction was completed, the CDU Waterfront Business School welcomed the first of an anticipated 600 domestic and international students who will study at the facility in the coming few years.

One of the team who has overseen the transition of the Business School from CDU’s Casuarina campus to the Waterfront is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts, Professor Giselle Byrnes.

She has helped to orchestrate CDU’s first foray into the heart of Darwin, which brings together the university’s two business teaching arms – Vocational Education and Training, and Higher Education – into the one venue.

As a result of this amalgamation, students will have available to them a full menu of courses, from short courses and VET certificates to Bachelor degrees and PhDs.

“The university is taking a staged approach to transitioning classes across to minimise disruption for students,” Professor Byrnes said. “It’s a mammoth task, but it is close to completion.

“Our aim is to bring all our business learning, teaching and research into the heart of the city over a period of time,” Professor Byrnes said. “It will be ‘business as usual’ while we complete the transition from Casuarina campus, with new courses being introduced from 2016.”

Professor Byrnes said she expected a particularly multi-cultural student profile at the new Business School, given its strong attraction for international students. With Darwin located geographically closer to seven major Asian cities than any Australian capital, the CDU Business School embodies the university’s unique position as a dual-sector university that is a “gateway to Asia”.

“Business is one of CDU’s most popular courses among local students and our location in Australia’s North gives us particular opportunities in Asia. We are already growing our strong connections in Eastern Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines, and there are new opportunities in countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore.”

Plans for the building were unveiled in March 2013. Designed by Melbourne architects Bates Smart and built by the TOGA Group, the five-storey purpose-built facility has a capacity for 600 students and more than 40 staff.

It is open plan with water views and an abundance of natural light. Among its many features are flexible learning spaces, a grand central staircase and student areas with kitchen facilities. There is a 130-seat amphitheatre-style lecture theatre and the ground level reception area also boasts a café and a commercial gallery space, which will feature works from CDU’s Northern Editions printmaking studio.
Indigenous stories of the pastoral kind

Outback researcher DELYNA BAXTER pieces together a big picture view of life among Aboriginal Australians in the pastoral industry.

The contribution of Indigenous Australians to building and sustaining the country’s pastoral industry has been fairly well acknowledged – but never in their own words.

A Charles Darwin University researcher has travelled thousands of kilometres through the Outback on the hunt for stories about Aboriginal Australians who were the backbone of the country’s pastoral industry.

Delyna Baxter has spent about two years visiting dozens of towns, communities and cattle stations listening to hundreds of people share their memories and reflect on their experiences.

“I have listened to stories of courage and hardship and heartbreak, and others that made me laugh,” said Ms Baxter, who is basing her PhD in cultural anthropology on an analysis of the stories she’s heard.

“It was a purely delightful assignment that I hope will shed light on an under-told area of Australian history. There has been some academic research, but it’s the Aboriginal voice that makes this project different. I wanted them to tell me their stories from their perspective.”

The project took form in 2011 when Ms Baxter was contracted by the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame in Longreach, Queensland, to undertake an ethnographic research project for a new exhibition that celebrated the lives and contributions of Aboriginal people in the pastoral industry.

“Some of the stories will be presented as part of the exhibition, which is scheduled to open sometime this year. But there is only so much you can say in an exhibition. I felt that with the themes, opinions and conflicting views within the stories there was more that could be done, so I sought permission from the Hall to use the information to create a PhD.”

Ms Baxter said the stories would help her explore issues about exploitation and acculturation, and to build a bigger picture of what life was like in Northern Australia between 1900 and 1968. “But I haven’t done the analysis yet; I haven’t teased out the themes.”

She said that while some of the people she interviewed were shy, there was nothing like a cup of fresh billy tea to put them at ease and draw out some insights.

“I drank a thousand cups of tea. Biscuits and fruit cake, and so much tea I thought I was going to turn into a cup of tea. Once you get to know them they are very funny people. Aboriginal people have a magical sense of humour that was just golden. And yes, I actually did receive a couple of marriage proposals by men in their 80s.”

Aboriginal people have a magical sense of humour.
Ms Baxter said that the stories of some of the men and women were particularly sad: “Boys of a young age having to go to work to support their families because their fathers had gone to war … children of Aboriginal mothers and white fathers who were not accepted by their fathers … stories like that, which were quite sad.

“Some were able to use their heart-breaking start to life to propel them to success later in life. There was a man in Queensland who opened a music venue where they raised money for the [Royal] Flying Doctor [Service], and another in Western Australia who established a successful tourism business.”

Ms Baxter said that the people interviewed seemed to enjoy sharing their stories. “Most were positive about their time as pastoral workers; most enjoyed their life on stations and some reflected a sense of pride that they were regarded as very good stockmen.

“All the drovers have heard about the Stockman’s Hall of Fame. They were tickled pink to think they might get their photo and story in the Hall.”

Ms Baxter is a student of both Charles Darwin University’s Northern Institute and the Australian National University. Her PhD research is funded by the Collaborative Research Network.

1. Delnya Baxter (right) interviews stockwoman and fence builder Agnes Abbott, east of Alice Springs.
2. Delnya Baxter and Don Rowlands at Birdsville, Queensland. Don was born and raised in Queensland’s Channel Country and maintains strong links with the Simpson Desert.
4. Ken McKellar from Cunnamulla, Queensland … rodeo champion.
The secret lives of salties

Saltwater crocodiles are born with a natural instinct to fight.
After a decade of intense observation, MATTHEW BRIEN reveals what it is that makes saltwater crocs tick.

Uncovering previously unobserved behaviour of young crocodiles has, not surprisingly, required an enormous amount of stealth on the part of the researcher. And Matt Brien’s patience and ingenuity are paying off.

The results of his PhD research at Charles Darwin University provide a comprehensive portrayal of the complex behaviour and survival of hatchling crocodiles not only in Australia but also around the world.

Matt first encountered the prehistoric reptilian in 2003 while volunteering with Nile crocodiles (Crocodylus niloticus) in Botswana, Africa. He soon returned to Australia to undertake an Honours program at the University of Queensland in which he radio-tracked saltwater crocodiles (C. porosus) in North Queensland. Since then he has travelled in North, Central and South America, working as a wildlife biologist on the conservation of crocodiles and snakes.

His deep interest in large reptiles led him to what is arguably the croc capital of the world, the Northern Territory, and to local crocodile experts Grahame Webb and Charlie Manolis, who run Crocodylus Park, a crocodile farm and park on the outskirts of Darwin. Inspired by the work of Grahame and Charlie, Matt began a PhD through CDU in 2011 and carried out research at the park, focusing on the behaviour, growth and survival of hatchling saltwater crocodiles in captivity.

“Over four years, Matt’s PhD research also led him to the Madras Crocodile Bank in India to look more widely at juvenile and hatchling behaviour of other species including the Indian Gharial, Siamese Crocodile (Asia), Dwarf Caiman (South America) American Alligator, and Papua New Guinea freshwater crocodile.

“This helped me further understand and compare the level of tolerance between species,” he said. “Species vary in their tolerance of each other. Saltwater crocodiles are highly intolerant of each other, while species such as the American alligator and Gharial are very tolerant. This has consequences for how you raise them in captivity.”

Much of the previous research looking into survival in captivity had been based on American alligators. Armed with his findings about tolerance, Matt looked more closely at the two species found in Australia.

“Saltwater crocodiles have the most valuable skin, but they can also have a high mortality rate in captivity,” he said. “Salties have a mortality rate of up to 20 to 30 per cent in the first year, while the American alligators have a mortality rate of only five to 10 per cent.”

Along with observing the nocturnal behaviour of the hatchlings, Matt looked into other factors that may affect growth and survival, such as temperature, diet and feeding. With the help of the team at Crocodylus Park, he had access to everything he needed: animals, equipment and enclosures.

“Reptiles are very sensitive to their external environment because they have to regulate their temperature through behavioural means,” he said. “Their optimum temperature was thought to be 31°C to 32°C, but the impact of other factors such as feeding or time of day on body temperature hadn’t been looked at for hatchlings in a captive setting.”

“We looked at the preferred body temperature of hatchlings by feeding them a small temperature device known as an ibutton. Crocodiles eat rocks to aid with digestion, so the internal thermometer played the part of a small rock and logged body temperature every hour for several days.

Matt Brien had access to everything he needed: animals, equipment and enclosures.
Matt Brien used infrared CCTV cameras to record never-before-seen behaviour of crocodile hatchlings. His research will assist managers to tailor a management plan to a specific species.

“His research will assist managers to tailor a management plan to a specific species,” he said. “Understanding species-specific traits in agonistic behaviour and social tolerance has implications for the controlled raising of different species of hatchlings for conservation, management or production purposes,” he said.

His thesis is entitled “Growth and survival of hatchling saltwater crocodiles (Crocodylus porosus) in captivity: the role of agonistic and thermal behaviour.” The research was conducted in collaboration with Crocodylus Park, with support from the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Board and Crocodile Specialist Group, and an ANZ Trustees of the Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment.
The internet is delivering wide-ranging rewards to universities and the accessibility of research is one of the leading beneficiaries.

Charles Darwin University has embraced open access policies to research and its work in this area has been showcased at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions World Library and Information Congress in Lyon, France.

CDU’s Library Research Services Coordinator at Casuarina campus Ms Jayshree Mamtora collaborated with counterparts from two of South-East Asia’s leading universities to present their paper entitled “The Development of Open Access Repositories in the Asia–Oceania Region: a Case Study of Three Institutions”.

Ms Mamtora wrote the paper in conjunction with Ms Tina Yang, from the University of Hong Kong Libraries and Dr Diljit Singh from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The paper focused on open access and institutional repository development at each of the three institutions, the various approaches that the universities took and a host of guidelines based on their experiences.

“Research can have a much bigger impact when it’s freely accessible, with an increasing number of studies demonstrating the strong relationship between open access works and citations,” Ms Mamtora said.

The institutional repository at CDU, which is managed by the Library, is known as CDU eSpace. It is now university policy that all scholarly outputs be uploaded into the open access repository.

Ms Mamtora said the development of open access was one of many changes occurring around the way researchers communicated their findings. In addition, social media tools were beginning to play a part in the visibility and impact of open access materials.

The use of tools such as Twitter and blogs, and sites such as Academia.edu and ResearchGate, hastened the research communication and collaboration processes. In comparison with the traditional method of publishing in journals, the impact was much more immediate, she said.

“Traditional journal publishing still has an important role to play, but the combination of social media and open access that is putting the author, rather than the publisher, in the driver’s seat. This presents unprecedented opportunities for researchers to get their work seen and read; to contribute, collaborate and reach a broad audience.”


Research can have a much bigger impact when it’s freely accessible.
Ecologist Dr. Miguel Bedoya-Perez: “In some areas of intensive pastoral land ... populations were as high as 870 animals per km².

Dr Bedoya-Perez said that Tasmania, which was dealing with a similar issue with Bennett’s Wallabies and Pademelons, turned a conflict into an economic benefit. “Stakeholders have been working together in Tasmania for more than 30 years harvesting Pademelons for their skins, and Bennett’s Wallabies for their meat and bones,” Dr Bedoya-Perez said. “A combined effort in the NT could not only be an opportunity to find a solution, but also create a new enterprise that may benefit Indigenous communities.”
With wallaby populations in the Top End costing the pastoral industry millions of dollars a year, MIGUEL BEDOYA-PEREZ is determined to find a solution.

The conflict between the Agile Wallaby (*Macropus agilis*) and agriculturists in the Northern Territory’s Top End has been ongoing since the 1960s, with some pastoralists labelling the protected species a pest. Now ecologist and Research Fellow in the School of Environment Dr Miguel Bedoya-Perez is leading the first study of its kind in the NT to investigate pastoral areas and the link between intensified pasture production and wallaby population.

Working with Meat and Livestock Australia in the five-year, three-stage project that began in 2013, Dr Bedoya-Perez said he hoped the research would contribute to a broader plan for the future management of NT Agile Wallabies.

"With ongoing pressure to expand agricultural production in Australia’s north, it is vital that we find a balance, not only for those in the pastoral industry, but also for the welfare of this protected species and its potential impacts on native vegetation," Dr Bedoya-Perez said.

He began his investigation with monthly surveys of wallabies on pastoral leases across the Top End at Mataranka, the Douglas Daly and the Victoria River District. "Firstly we wanted to assess the extent of the problem," he said. "We began working with pastoralists and other stakeholders to assess wallaby numbers and to find out further information about the costs associated with their management.

"The impact of wallabies on farm production in the Top End was perceived by farmers to have almost doubled since 2004. A conservative estimate based on 2004 figures of the cost of wallaby control and lost income due to wallabies for the Top End was just under $2 million. This figure may have more than doubled since 2004 and is likely to be close to $5 million per year."

Along with surveying pastoralists, Dr Bedoya-Perez used motion trigger cameras to capture wallaby movements, and worked in the field counting wallabies, and their tracks and scats within transects to assess current numbers accurately.

"During the late 1980s and early 1990s, numbers of Agile Wallabies in the NT varied between eight individuals per square km in Adelaide River, up to 185 individuals per square km in Berry Springs," he said.

"The numbers we found were astounding," he said. "In some areas of intensive pastoral land, such as the Douglas Daly, populations were as high as 870 animals per square km. This is in contrast with a naturally occurring population of around eight individuals per square km on non-improved land. This is around 100 times more animals found in intensive pastoral areas.

"In other areas such as Katherine, populations were not as high with around 200 animals per square km, but still much higher than naturally occurring density. This was the first time we had really known the extent of the wallaby populations," he said. "We now wanted to find out why there were so many."

A number of factors could underpin the increase in numbers such as access to water throughout the year and improved pastures.

"We looked into the relationship of pasture intensity and wallaby population size," he said. "As you would expect the more intensive pastoral land, the higher the populations of wallabies. We also found that the highest densities were counted during the dry season when the pastures were scarce and the animals concentrated in the few areas that still offered some food. We think that during the wet season, when resources are abundant, wallabies distribute themselves across the landscape, appearing in lower densities."

Using the current numbers, Dr Bedoya-Perez was able to create a model that could be used to estimate population growth on farms affected by wallabies.

"This model enabled us to estimate wallaby populations and their grazing pressure. In general we have estimated that 24.5 wallabies were the equivalent to one head of cattle. This will assist with estimating the costs associated with wallabies.

Preliminary evidence supports the perceived high abundance of Agile Wallabies by pastoralists. Costs to production are still to be determined directly, but estimates from landholders’ questionnaires suggest that the costs are very variable and complex, ranging from $6.70 to $857 per square km per year, resulting in a reduction of livestock carrying capacity of between 6.5 per cent and 13 per cent per year. In the Douglas Daly region, with an average reduced carrying capacity of 12 per cent, this is the equivalent of losing one head of cattle per four square kms."

Dr Bedoya-Perez said that understanding the costs would assist pastoralists with creating management plans specific to their situations.

"The third stage of the project will be to work with stakeholders to develop a management plan," he said. "For some pastoralists with large numbers of wallabies, current culling or fencing methods are futile and costly. This project will offer clearer insights to the problem of high wallaby densities and the causes of these high densities, as well as developing management strategies to cope with high densities."

The project is funded by Meat and Livestock Australia, with support from stakeholders and pastoralists at Mataranka, the Douglas Daly and the Victoria River District.
An emerging seafood enterprise in a small community off the coast of West Arnhem Land is helping to feed vulnerable residents there. LINDA FORD is working with the community on the project.

Waruwi, the main Indigenous settlement on South Goulburn Island located about 300 km east of Darwin, is set in an extraordinary environment that is rich in wildlife. The Arrakpi people of Waruwi have ownership rights over the seafood harvested from the intertidal zone on their shorelines and they are working to make the most of the resources.

The community is engaging with a number of researchers to establish a commercial seafood industry, including Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC), Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC), Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation, the Northern Land Council, local government, and education and commercial organisations.

Charles Darwin University’s Northern Institute senior researcher Dr Linda Ford was invited to join the Waruwi Aquaculture Project in April 2013 to help determine the Indigenous knowledge and cultural goals of the aquaculture project with the Arrakpi people. Dr Ford’s role was to negotiate with the Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation about the importance of the Indigenous knowledge used to describe their cultural connections to their sea country and what the proposed aquaculture farming would mean for their organisation.

The three species that the DAC identified as of particular interest were the black-lipped oysters, fluted clams and sandfish. The Arrakpi refer to the sandfish as trepang, which formed the basis of a thriving international export industry for several hundreds of years for the Macassan traders from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Dr Ford, who is Mak Mak Marranunggu from Kurrindju of the Finniss River in the Northern Territory, has built a relationship with the Arrakpi, who accepted her invitation to meet with the traditional owners, Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation directors, members and administration manager. The directors identified two areas they wished addressed: the knowledge partnership program and their small women’s enterprise development program.

Initially attempting to start a bush kitchen to process and cook oysters, crabs, trepang and fish harvested from the Arafura Sea, Dr Ford quickly identified several cultural barriers and that there were minimal resources to start the project.
She worked with traditional elder Jenny Inmulugulu to identify community women to establish the Warruwi Women’s Healthy Tucker Program (WWHTP) committee. The committee’s role is to create a social enterprise focusing on harvesting healthy seafood from their sea country to provide meals to the locals once a week.

The committee reports back to Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation and applied for an Aboriginal Benefit Account grant to fund their program. Through the Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation, the local women won a grant to buy a small 12-seater bus, tractor, a boat and trailer to provide the transport needed to move between local beaches to harvest the healthy seafood, which supplements the community’s nutritional needs.

The program is working with the WWHTP committee, through Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation, to map their aspirations into a feasibility plan for a small social enterprise at Warruwi to provide local healthy wild harvest seafood tucker to older people and disadvantaged families in the community.

The women involved receive Centrelink payments as a supplement for participating in the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), through Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation. Yagbani, which is the host provider of RJCP for the WWHTP, builds and coordinates training opportunities to help develop personal capacity and skills for the women involved. Training includes licensing to drive the new bus, tractor and boat as well as food handling, cooking and aquaculture units. CDU delivered coxswain training in April through its Vocational Education and Training program.

Dr Ford said Darwin Aquaculture Centre has invested a lot of resources and FRDC grant funds into this project, which was coordinated by Dr Ann Fleming, and they were researching the viability of the three species for wild harvest and initially farming them commercially in small quantities, from the Goulburn Islands.

Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation has plans to apply for further funding to expand on its commercial and social enterprise interests to create jobs in the aquaculture industry at Warruwi for the local Arrakpi.
Very northern hemisphere summer for the past eight years, Assistant Professor Vasilia Kourtis-Kazoullis, a bilingual specialist at the University of the Aegean on the Greek island of Rhodes, has brought her understanding of language learning to students visiting Greece as part of CDU’s Greek In-Country Language Program.

As a daughter of the Greek diaspora who grew up in mid-west America and returned to live in Greece as an adult, she has a deep personal connection with her area of expertise: bilingualism and bilingual education.

“My family migrated from Greece to Ohio in the United States and since I went to school I soon learned to speak English better than my parents,” she said. “I became the family translator for simple things like trips to the supermarket. It led to a fascination with language and bilingualism.

“Language and culture are so closely entwined that it is impossible to learn one without the other,” Dr Kourtis-Kazoullis said. “And the more you learn about one, the more you learn about the other. That’s why immersion experiences such as the CDU [Greek In-Country Language] program are so valuable.”

The CDU Greek In-Country Language Program is unique in Australia. As part of the university’s Modern Greek Course, students spend July in Greece in intensive academic and cultural studies.
“It is hard work, but the rewards for the students are enormous. It’s designed as a total immersion experience and they all make incredible progress,” said Dr Kourtis-Kazoullis, who visited Darwin with the support of the CDU Greek Guardians.

While many of the students on the CDU program are learning Modern Greek as a second language, they all have the potential to be bilingual, Dr Kourtis-Kazoullis said. It all depended on circumstances. “Language proficiency is not a fixed, perfect state. It can be either balanced or imbalanced and this can change throughout time according to circumstances,” she said. “A person may be able to easily read and write in two languages, but if they’re in Greece, their Greek may be stronger because they’re using it more, or if they’re in Australia, their English may be stronger.”

Culture is connected to language acquisition and it plays an important role in language preservation among immigrant communities. Dr Kourtis-Kazoullis said that the success of immigrant Greek communities in preserving language and traditions beyond the borders of Greece has been influenced by two factors: the importance of family in Greek culture, and the way immigration occurred in the 20th Century.

“Greek culture is grounded in a strong sense of family, which is a foundation for village structure. Traditionally, this is how society was moulded in Greece. It was very functional, people supported each other and they were networked. When people migrated they carried this with them.”

The other factor saw people from the same village or island migrate to the same place and maintaining their networks and connections. The migration from the Greek island of Kalymnos to Darwin was a case in point: a major wave of migrants came in the early 20th Century, first the men, and then their families. The island and the city share a sister city relationship and street names in both places honour the connection.

This has been reflected at CDU in the strong commitment by the Darwin Greek community in the Greek Language and Culture program. Over 10 years, through donations and volunteer efforts, the CDU Greek In-Country Language Program is now renowned.

“Everybody on Kalymnos has relatives in Darwin, and there’s a street named ‘Darwin Street’. When I tell people I work with Charles Darwin University, they’ve all heard of it,” Dr Kourtis-Kazoullis said.

“Greek culture is strong in Darwin because they’ve kept the language and culture alive and kept ties with Greece itself. With the advancements being made in ICT Language Learning these connections will only get stronger.”

Charles Darwin University enjoys strong ties with academic institutions in Greece.

Last year, during the eighth Greek In-Country Language Program, a new memorandum of understanding was signed between the Rector of the University of Macedonia (UM), and CDU Vice-Chancellor Professor Simon Maddocks.

This is in addition to the MoU signed with the University of the Aegean in 2008, and provides for greater collaboration and the extension of CDU’s program in Greece by adding access to the UM campus at Thessaloniki. The agreements provide opportunities to work together in postgraduate studies and the potential for staff and student exchanges.

Greek culture is grounded in a strong sense of family.
Discussions about establishing a dedicated health research centre in the Northern Territory began in October 1980 during the first national conference of the Menzies Foundation in Melbourne. A candid speech by the Foundation’s Northern Territory representative, Dr Harry Giese, energised a key group of players who threw their weight behind his call for a dedicated centre for the Territory.

With the backing of the Northern Territory Government and the Menzies Foundation, and academic recognition from the University of Sydney, the Menzies School of Health Research opened its doors in June 1984, and research started just six months later. The new cooperative venture appointed Professor John Mathews as its Foundation Director with early areas of research and education focusing on heart disease, trachoma, chlamydia, hepatitis B, alcohol-related diseases, nutrition and infectious diseases.

Fast forward to 2015, Menzies research continues to grow and diversify, along with its international reputation for scientific discovery and public health achievement.

Menzies Director Professor Alan Cass said the 30th anniversary year provided a key national platform for the organisation to broadcast the impact of its research and to celebrate the contribution of Menzies researchers, working in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

A former Menzies PhD candidate and today one of Australia’s leading kidney specialists, Professor Cass said that Menzies’ three decades of research and translating research findings were making a difference to the lives of many people both in the Northern Territory and globally.

“The remarkable staff and students of Menzies have the knowledge, experience, established relationships, and, above all, a passionate and unwavering commitment to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

“This year, 2015, sees Menzies proudly celebrate 30 years of research, innovation and education with its key partners, stakeholders, supporters and the Territory community – all of whom have played an important part in our journey.”

Visit the 30th anniversary website to learn more about Menzies’ history, achievements and a wide range of celebratory events planned for the year.

W: Menzies.edu.au/30years.
Biologist GABRIELA ARCOVERDE investigates what the ant can tell us about the environmental health of ecosystems affected by cattle grazing.

Researcher Gabriela Arcoverde has been stirring up ant nests from one end of the Territory to the other. The PhD candidate has collected tens of thousands of these industrious insects from more than 100 species as part of a project to determine the impact of cattle grazing on ants in various geographic regions.

Ms Arcoverde, who is working to determine ants’ resilience and their capacity to adapt to a disturbed habitat, has collected specimens in high and low rainfall areas and from ungrazed to heavily grazed sites.

“Habitat is the primary factor influencing the number and diversity of species,” Ms Arcoverde said. “We are predicting that the impact of grazing is higher for ants in high rainfall areas, because dry areas are already more open.”

This year the project also will involve an analysis of ants in Ms Arcoverde’s homeland, Brazil. “The evolutionary history of savannas in Australia and Brazil are very different,” she said. “Australian savannas evolved in arid conditions, whereas in Brazil they have evolved in association with rainforest.”

Ant species derived from rainforest were not so well adapted to open habitats. “I expect to find that Australian ants are more resilient to disturbance,” she said.

Ms Arcoverde said that the richness and abundance of ants, their importance in the ecosystem and the fact they were easy to sample, made them an ideal faunal group for study.

“They are a great bio-indicator for environmental health and are widely used to assess the sustainability of land management practices,” she said.

Ants are a bio-indicator for environmental health.

Gabi Arcoverde is investigating the capacity of ants to adapt to disturbed habitats.
Outback students take robot to the edge

The little robot seemed destined for doom as it raced to the edge of its world. But in the nick of time, it stopped, did an about-turn, and retreated to a safe place at the Ti Tree Maths Enrichment Camp.

The robot was observing a set of instructions given to it by students at the annual Maths Enrichment Camp at Ti Tree, about 200 km north of Alice Springs. The trial, on a classroom table, had demonstrated the success of a simple programming exercise and the efficiency of tiny on-board sensors that allowed the three-wheeler to respond independently to its environment.

It was the first in a series of activities in Robot World, one of several “worlds” where primary and middle school students explored fundamental mathematical ideas during the two-day camp.

Charles Darwin University Fellow and co-organiser Dr Ian Roberts said students travelled many hundreds of kilometres from Yulara, Utopia and Hermannsburg to engage in “fun, thinking and friendship”, the theme of the camp.

“The students rotated through Museum World, Colour World, Cubic World and Robot World, and some through Challenge World, which we introduced for those who wanted to be stretched a little,” Dr Roberts said.

“It’s important that we keep students interested and excited in mathematics and encourage them to develop an understanding of the world from a quantitative and logical perspective.”

Annual maths camps at Ti Tree and Batchelor (100 km south of Darwin) grew from a CDU project grant six years ago.
16 JUNE 2015

GLOBAL INSTABILITIES: ONE HUNDRED AND ONE YEARS AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORLD WAR I
Professor Wayne Cristaudo

Far from being “the war to end wars”, 101 years after the outbreak of World War I, the precariousness of our geopolitical situation today still owes much to a number of the forces that led into that devastating war, as well as to its fallout in World War II, the Cold War and beyond. This lecture considers our contemporary geopolitical situation in light of that cataclysmic event that forever changed the world. It will explore the geopolitical differences between 1914 and today, and it will consider the “worst case” scenario for peace in our time.

Professor Wayne Cristaudo lectures in the School of Creative Arts and Humanities at CDU. He has held positions at the University of Adelaide and the University of Hong Kong. He has also lectured in Europe, the USA and China. He has written and edited 17 books (one of which has been translated into Chinese) and special journal issues on areas as diverse as political philosophy, religion and politics, revolution, love and evil, metaphysics, literature, and European identities. He is presently writing a book on philosophy in the social sciences and the social circulation of ideas.

22 SEPTEMBER 2015

LIVING AND WORKING IN CONSERVATIVE TIMES: IS THERE A ROLE FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVISM?
Professor Sue Shore

The issues discussed in this lecture draw on Professor Shore’s years of engagement with learners, workers and communities across vocational, community and higher education. Much of this work has investigated responses to educational disadvantage at the same time as she has challenged the judgmental labels assigned to poor and marginalised learners. A claim that one is working for “social justice” must work with these entanglements. The recent focus on growth and prosperity through regional development in Northern Australia provides some context for this view. School systems often guide our understanding of learning, yet a substantial amount of learning occurs between adults, in workplaces, between professional agencies, in communities and on streets. Moreover, learning is central to regional development but the compulsion of metropolitan centres to assert ownership over defining regional problems and how they should be solved is rarely examined. Academics working in these spaces are often asked to engage in evidence-based research to resolve complex issues, yet that engagement involves working with increasingly conservative policy mandates and under-resourced community and industry groups. This public lecture follows Professor Shore’s engagement with academic activism over the past 25 years as she tracks how this “other work” rubs up against working life in a university.

Professor Sue Shore is Professor of Education at Charles Darwin University in the International Graduate Centre of Education. Since 1979 she has worked, taught and researched issues associated with vocational, post-compulsory and higher education. Her research program addresses the extent to which education reform agendas shape educational knowledge practices. She is completing a co-edited SUNY Press volume Lives on the Periphery, which illustrates the everyday work associated with engaging and examining lifelong and lifewide learning in the 21st Century.
I was also born into a system that condoned class inequality.
JESWYNN YOGARATNAM lectures in corporations law, contract law, and consumer and competition law, but perhaps his greatest passion lies with international human rights law as it affects refugees and asylum seekers.

What was it about the law that first captured your imagination?
As a child I was a fan of the TV series “Paper Chase”. It set the scene for law school and life: the drama, the triumphs, disappointments, scandals, rebellion, justice, poetic justice, cinematic affairs with the law, romantic notions of legal philosophy and pulp fiction legal advocacy. At the same time my grandfather, who was an astute property developer, was surrounded by lawyers who were enraptured by his vision while I was curious by the lawyers’ outrageous wit and nicety. It seemed to be the profession for the genteel people with “good manners and decorum”. This was also a time, in Malaysia, where being third-generation Sri Lankan Tamil meant I was still classified as “others”. I began to see the law for “others” unravel as a convenient social contract. While others became complacent about it, this other was to become outrageous for want of equality, respect and dignity and went on to his “Paper Chase”.

Did you always intend to move into teaching law?
No. I was dabbling in the second certainty of life – tax as a revenue law practitioner – before a reminder to self of the “Paper Chase” series and the on-show character, Harvard contract law instructor Professor Charles W. Kingsfield Jr. (played by John Houseman). Professor Kingsfield is a poignant reminder that there is more nobility, if not notoriety, in being a law academic than a revenue law practitioner. I endeavour to be a notoriously noble law academic one day …

You received the NT Human Rights Award (Fitzgerald Diversity Award category) in 2014. How did you come to be involved in human rights issues?
I was fortunate to have been born to an affluent family in Malaysia, but this meant I was also born into a system that condoned class inequality. We had domestic staff of all sorts – cleaners, drivers, gardeners, etc. who were living within our ivory tower but living an alternate reality to us. This bothered me immensely as the other woman who fed and clothed me (aside from mum) had no life of her own aside from ours. The duality of human rights within home was chillingly abrasive due to the fact that we were Sri Lankan Tamils in Malaysia and we were “others” after all, creating a class of “others within others”.

The childhood observations resonated later in life when I was a budding lawyer in Malaysia and learnt about the plight of the indigenous people in Malaysia, the Orang Asli, who were striving for customary interest in land à la “Mabo”. The journey in human rights began in advocating for the rights of the Orang Asli.

What do you do find is the greatest challenge working in the human rights space?
Funding, support, trust and getting off the soap-box.

What has been your most rewarding experience working in human rights?
Working with a luminary urban elder, The Hon Michael Kirby, and spirited remote community elders (Aunty Rosalee Kunoth-Mons and Aunty MK Turner) when contextualising human rights education resources for some remote community schools in the NT.

What do you anticipate will change in international human rights law during the coming five years?
International Human Rights Law (IHRL) will not change in five years, but more protocols and customary international law principles may develop to deal with emerging human rights expectations in gender identity/orientation, climate change, refugees/asylum-seekers and the delicate balance between freedom and security.

We must be careful about the international community pressuring developing/third world countries to sign-up to such obligations for the benefit of developing countries.

If you were not a law lecturer, what would you be?
A bard by day … and Latin-American/Jazz dance extraordinaire by night (to the tunes of Buena Vista Social Club and Pink Martini).

What interests you outside your work?
Writers’ festivals, Indigenous and surrealist art, designing shirts with Indigenous fabric, cooking a mean curry for a table of six, dark chocolate, reading biographies, neuro-plasticity, Q&A on ABC, looking for good coffee in Darwin, David Marr’s writing, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, a paleo diet, cross-fit workout, good linen, Parap Fine Foods, Australian Human Rights Commission, Ipoh (a tin-mine town where I grew-up in Malaysia) …
**What is the best advice you have received and who offered it?**

*A spiritual mentor:* Mahatma Gandhi: “Be congruent, be authentic, be your true self.”

*A law mentor:* Billings Learned Hand: “Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it …”

*A revolutionary mentor:* The Hon Michael Kirby: “You should also have the right to marry and share your life with a partner.”

**What are you reading at the moment?**

*The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera and “That Sinking Feeling” by Paul Toohey (*Quarterly Essay*).

**Who or what inspires you?**

*Who:* The Sista Gals of Tiwi Islands. They know where liberty lies even when at odds with societal norms and culture – let be …

Chandra Muthu Kley (mum), T. Yogaratnam (dad) and the late Mr and Mrs E.S. Muthu and Mr and Mrs Thambaiyah (grandparents).

Maha Sinnathamby (uncle), a prolific visionary who built the Greater Springfield City and shared his journey in *Stop Not Till You Reach Your Goal*.

*What:* The Alparra High School out in Utopia.

Failure and adversity.

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**WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH?**

The wet season
Memories of grandma powder puffing us
Me playing golf
Skyping my two-year-old nephew Hunter
The Bolt Report
Maggie Beer’s burnt caramel fig ice-cream
*The Migration Act 1958.*

Jeswynn Yogaratnam
A Natural History and Field Guide to Australia’s Top End

Penny van Oosterzee (CDU), Ian Morris, Diane Lucas, Noel Preece (CDU)


An essential guide to Australia’s Top End, written and compiled by renowned naturalists and photographers.

The book covers a wide range of topics including the geology, geomorphology, wetlands, forests, coasts, plants and animals found in this outstanding region. It is split into two parts, one covering the region’s natural history and the second part a field guide to the fauna and flora commonly found in the area. The richly illustrated natural history features landscapes, seascapes and skyscapes. This is a beautiful companion for any person living in or visiting Australia’s tropical north.

Monty C. Turtle Learns to Swim

Kara Lauder and Dr Mick Guinea (CDU)


Set on an island beach off the coast of Western Australia, Monty C. Turtle Learns to Swim is a heart-warming picture book about a late-hatching baby turtle who wakes up to discover he has slept in on the “big day” and finds that his brothers and sisters have already left for the ocean. In his journey to learn how to swim and join his siblings, he encounters various Australian sea creatures and ultimately learns that, in order to swim, he has to embrace his own unique abilities.

Writers Kara Lauder and Dr Mick Guinea both work in turtle conservation and research, and are passionate about educating very young children about Australian sea creatures and the marine environment.

Many of the creatures such as Sammy the Sea Snake and Perron the wise old Pelican will be familiar to children. However, the authors have included the less known Douglas the Sand Dollar as part of their desire to educate as well as entertain.

Sunshine Herbert’s beautiful watercolour illustrations complement the tale perfectly.


Felicity Gerry QC (CDU), Catarina Sjolin and Lyndon Harris


The law and procedure relating to sexual offences is notoriously complex. Since the advent of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the law (both as to the offences and as to sentencing) changes depending on when the offence was committed, the age of the parties involved and the nature of the act committed. The new edition covers all the law, practice and procedure in all cases involving historic and recent sexual offences, providing a step-by-step approach from the perspectives of both prosecution and the defence.
Lance is a Pitintjarra man from Kaltukatjara (Docker River). He has been painting at Mwerre Anthurre Artists Studio for the past seven years. While he still lives in Docker River, he comes to Alice Springs for respite. There is great movement and strength in his work. Lance has been painting horses, cowboys, bulls and landscape since he was a little boy. He paints “Kaltukatjara”, the country around Docker River.

Northern Editions Printmaking Studio and Gallery
W: northerneditions.com.au

Lance James
Horse at Docker River
(2nd edition)

CREATED
2014 (Edition of 30)

MEDIUM
Etching, drypoint aquatint

IMAGE SIZE
20 X 20 cm

PRINTER
Glynis L. Lee

COLLABORATORS
J.F. Gribbin/G.L. Lee

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