Precious poles preserve cultural stories

Cranes stand tall on threatened species’ list

All in the game – whether it’s Alice or the Arctic

The art of restoring hope

Stress test spells out male teacher shortage

Arts, science merge in micro-world
Patrick Nelson catches up with former Australian Olympian Mitzi Ferguson, who is now living in the Red Centre from where she is examining the impact of sport and recreation on people’s wellbeing in remote regions of Australia and Canada. In other stories, Patrick investigates a collection of rare Warumungu language stories, recorded by a linguist 50 years ago. And always with a camera at the ready, Patrick’s images can be found throughout this edition of Origins.

Katie Weiss returns to the classroom to investigate the reasons behind a shortage of male teachers that is sweeping the nation. She also explores an endangered Top End ecosystem that is drawing together artists and scientists. Katie also was present at the installation on Casuarina campus of three sacred Pukumani poles that tell a story dating back to the beginning of time.

Leanne Miles explores an extraordinary program that employs art to improve the health and wellbeing of people who are dealing with cancer. She speaks with both the CDU researchers and the women who have joined the program, and discovers the difference the program is making to their lives. Leanne also speaks with a PhD candidate, who is undertaking his research in Cambodia to aid the future conservation of the globally threatened Sarus Crane.
Commemorating 50 years since long, historic walk

Tuesday 23 August 2016 marks an historic anniversary not only for Indigenous people of Australia, but also for the entire nation. This day marks 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk-off, which proved a watershed for the Aboriginal land rights movement in this country.

Wave Hill Station, then owned by Vesteys – a British pastoral company – and located 600 km south of Darwin, was the scene in 1966 of a walk-off of its Aboriginal stockmen and their families. Gurindji elder and the station’s head stockman, Vincent Lingiari led around 200 Aboriginal stockmen, servants and their families off the station to protest their wretched work and pay conditions, and pastoralists routinely seizing Aboriginal land.

The men, women and children left Wave Hill and walked to the east for about 30 km and set up camp on their traditional land at Daguragu on the banks of Wattie Creek. This was the beginning of a strike that would last almost a decade and, ultimately, pave the way for Aboriginal land rights in Australia. The Gurindji people sought the return of some of their traditional land to develop their own cattle station. They waited, they lobbied, and they never gave up hope in the ensuing years.

The break came when Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister in 1972 and negotiated the hand back of more than 3000 km² of land to the Gurindji people – by any measure, it was an historic moment in this nation’s history.

At Daguragu, Prime Minister Whitlam transferred leasehold title to the Gurindji, symbolically handing soil to Vincent Lingiari. The Gurindji campaign was an important influence on the events that led to the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976.

Charles Darwin University commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-off during our annual Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture in August. The university has a long and proud record of working with Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory in the areas of research, education, training and capacity building.

In these pages of Origins you will learn more about how the university and Indigenous communities work together. You will learn about the restoration and reinstallation on Casuarina campus of three Pukumani poles, which tell the Tiwi Islander people’s story of Creation.

You also will read about how an endangered Indigenous language, which was recorded 50 years ago just when Vincent Lingiari was leading the Wave Hill Walk-off, is being translated into English, with the assistance of descendants of the people whose voices were captured on the tapes.

I hope you enjoy these and other stories about CDU’s impacts and interests in this edition of Origins.

Professor Simon Maddocks
Vice-Chancellor
Northern Territory community leaders and interstate guests joined Charles Darwin University staff and governing Council members for the installation ceremony of Mr Neil Balnaves AO as the third Chancellor of the university.

The event began with an academic procession and a smoking ceremony by Larrakia elders, and involved the outgoing Chancellor, The Honourable Sally Thomas AC, handing over the university’s ceremonial mace to Mr Balnaves, symbolising the transfer of power and authority to him as the new leader of the University Council.

The ceremony was officiated by the NT Administrator, His Honour The Honourable John Hardy OAM.

Mr Balnaves, who now leads the 15-member University Council, took over from Ms Thomas, who had completed two terms in the position. The first Chancellor of CDU was Mr Richard Ryan AO.

CDU appoints first Larrakia academic-in-residence

A respected Larrakia elder, who is acknowledged internationally as a community communicator, healer and teacher of the ancient wisdoms of Aboriginal spirituality and healing, has been appointed as Charles Darwin University’s first Larrakia academic-in-residence.

Bilawara Lee has more than 30 years of experience in the areas of education and health and is an internationally published author.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership Professor Steven Larkin said the position recognised the importance and respect given to the custodians of knowledges in Indigenous societies and demonstrated the commitment to Indigenous knowledges in CDU’s learning, teaching and research.

“The Larrakia academic-in-residence will be responsible for providing a range of culturally informed guidance, direction and support to CDU’s Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, staff and stakeholders,” Professor Larkin said.

He said the position was part of a range of commitments at CDU to formally acknowledge the Larrakia people as the traditional owners of the land on which Casuarina campus, the headquarters of CDU, is built.

The position is part of an historic memorandum of understanding signed to strengthen the relationship between CDU and the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Larrakia Development Corporation.

Ground-breaking accounting course goes global

The university has launched a bilingual Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for people across the globe who wish to improve their knowledge of accountancy.

The MOOC, entitled “Who’s Counting: An interactive introduction to everyday accounting”, was developed by CDU in partnership with China’s Anhui Normal University (ANU). It is partially in Chinese (Mandarin) and fully in English and aims to provide anyone from high school students to business owners with an interactive and immersive experience.

Associate Professor in Accounting Wendy James said the course was structured to give people a taste of accounting in an innovative way with the flexibility to complete it when and where they wanted.

“The course is an introduction to accounting and includes films, music and interactive exercises covering the three modules of basic accounting, financial accounting and management accounting,” Dr James said.

The course was developed by the CDU Business School in collaboration the Economics and Business School at ANU in Wuhu, China and demonstrated a growing and important partnership.

ANU is one of the partner universities in CDU’s Confucius Institute, which has a focus on teaching Chinese language and culture through innovative new media and creative arts technologies.”

Larrakia elder Bilawara Lee is CDU’s first Larrakia academic-in-residence.
ACADEMIC RECEIVES FULBRIGHT HONOUR

A prominent Charles Darwin University academic is the first woman to be awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Agriculture and Life Sciences Scholarship.

Northern Institute Director Professor Ruth Wallace will travel to the United States this year to build on her research, which seeks to engage remote communities in biosecurity surveillance.

Professor Wallace’s research focuses on marginalised learners’ identities and the intersections with educational systems in regional and remote areas of Northern Australia, and is predominantly undertaken with Aboriginal people.

Her time in the US will contribute to the “Biosecurity Policy at the Margins Project”.

“The Biosecurity Policy at the Margins Project is an opportunity to build on research in Northern Australia,” Professor Wallace said. “The focus is on engaging regional and marginalised communities in biosecurity identification and response systems, at a national and local scale.”

Professor Ruth Wallace is the first woman to be awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Agriculture and Life Sciences Scholarship.

Book tracks desert country hand-back

The native title claim and the subsequent hand-back of a remote pocket of desert country to the Warlpiri people in Central Australia is the subject of a new book by Charles Darwin University historian Emeritus Professor Alan Powell.

“Desert Country: A History of Newhaven” documents a historically significant period in Central Australia, detailing the history of the area and the connection of the Ngaliya Warlpiri traditional owners to the land.

Professor Powell was commissioned to research and write the history of European contact with Newhaven by the Central Land Council as part of its successful 2010 Native Title determination.

“The area, approximately 300 km west of Alice Springs, was so remote it escaped ownership by cattlemen until the 1960s,” Professor Powell said.

The book provides a valuable contribution to the understanding of the history of Central Australia, and an insight into the background to what has become a significant part of Australia’s conservation estate, jointly managed by the Ngaliya Warlpiri traditional owners and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

“It covers the period of the early explorers’ first visit to the area in the late 1850s, through to the establishment of mission stations and government depots, and the granting of pastoral leases over the estate in the mid-20th Century,” Professor Powell said.

Singer takes Greek message to world

A world-renowned Greek artist has been appointed as Charles Darwin University’s first ambassador for its Greek Studies program.

Singer Nikos Kourkoulis said he would use his appointment to promote the program, including in concerts nationally and overseas.

Mr Kourkoulis moved to Darwin in the Northern Territory in 2015 with his wife and children and said that both the Greek and wider communities had helped the family feel at home.

“For some people Darwin is the end of Australia, but for me it is the beginning,” he said. “I can do something and start something here that I am very passionate about.”

Mr Kourkoulis has released more than 10 albums in 30 years and is performing in the United States this year.

The singer has rich ties with CDU and has invited students on the CDU Greek In-Country Language Program to visit his Greek home town of Kavala during the program. The town was also home to the king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon, Philip II of Macedon, who was also the father of Alexander the Great.
A group of Charles Darwin University students traded a day in the classroom for a day in the world-heritage listed Kakadu National Park – and it’s one they won’t forget.

Trainer Lance Poulton said the hospitality and tourism students saw crocodiles in the East Alligator River, ancient Aboriginal rock art and an abundance of local flora and fauna.

“An Indigenous guide showed us how to use a woomera to gain extra distance when throwing a spear.”

Mr Poulton said the field trip was designed to demonstrate some of the characteristics of managing a hotel in an isolated environment. An excursion such as this provides them with a richness that is not possible in the classroom,” Mr Poulson said. 🌟

Patricia Nelson

Kakadu turns on a postcard perfect day as PATRICK NELSON joins a group of adventure-loving students.

1 Trainer Lance Poulton (front) with students from the hospitality and tourism course.
2 Crocodiles are a regular sight in the East Alligator River.
3 Fascinating geology near the banks of the East Alligator River.
4 A lotus in bloom (Nelumbo nucifera).
5 Ancient Aboriginal rock art at Ubirr gallery.
6 A sulphur-crested cockatoo cools off on a hot day.
7 Eastern great egret at Cahill Crossing on the East Alligator River.
Above Tiwi Islander artist Eymard Tungatalum creates a highly decorative Pukumani pole.

Left A smoking ceremony is held before the unveiling of the Pukumani poles at the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education on Casuarina campus.

Bottom Dancers perform as part of the celebrations to welcome the restoration of the Pukumani poles.
Precious poles preserve cultural stories

Tiwi artist EYMARD TUNGATALUM restores Creation stories to Casuarina campus.

Secured within the wood and paint of three totem-like poles in the Top End of Northern Australia is the Tiwi Islander people’s story of Creation.

While these Pukumani poles were first installed at Charles Darwin University about 23 years ago, they encapsulate a history that points back to the beginning of time. And along with acknowledging the past, these hand-carved poles also point to the future by symbolising the university’s ongoing commitment to enhancing Indigenous education.

Melville Island artist Eymard Tungatalum said he learned to create Pukumani poles after many years spent observing his family members doing just that in their homeland surrounded by the Arafura Sea.

“I think about the old people; they come to me when I paint,” Mr Tungatalum said. “They all passed away, but their teachings are still in my mind.”

He said tradition ran through the wooden veins of these poles, which he created for CDU in 1993 and stand taller than an adult man. At the time, Mr Tungatalum was a student at CDU’s predecessor, the Northern Territory University, in its Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

He said each pole was carved in a distinct way to symbolise a character in the Tiwi Creation story about how rituals were created to help the dead enter the spirit world. Mr Tungatalum said one pole was “Tapara” the moon man, another represented a man named “Purukuparli”, and the third was his wife who later transforms into a curlew, named “Wayai”.

“I teach these stories to the younger generation,” he said. Mr Tungatalum said he hoped the poles would inspire discussions about Indigenous culture and traditions. He was commissioned to revitalise the poles earlier this year, in an initiative led by the CDU Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership (PVCIL).

PVCIL Professor Steve Larkin said the poles were relocated from within Casuarina campus to the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education precinct to reflect their cultural and educational significance.

“They all passed away, but their teachings are still in my mind.”

He said the poles captured the histories of both Tiwi Island and Larrakia people, on whose land the poles were installed, along with CDU’s own campus history. And within their wooden fibres is a pledge to ensure that these histories are celebrated and preserved for future generations.

Author: Katie Weiss

Images: Kate Freestone

Artist Eymard Tungatalum with the completed poles.
Cranes stand tall on threatened species’ list

ROBERT van ZALINGE is documenting the globally threatened Sarus Crane in Cambodia in a bid to improve understanding of its conservation needs.

Robert van Zalinge has lived in Cambodia for almost a decade, working towards the conservation of birds.

The cranes have an impressive wingspan of nearly 2.5 metres at full stretch.

TEXT
Leanne Miles

IMAGES
Robert van Zalinge
Kate Freestone
The elegant Sarus Crane (Grus antigone) is the tallest of the flying birds. Standing up to 1.8 metres, it calls the wetlands of the Indian subcontinent, South-east Asia and Northern Australia home. It’s a sight to behold with its conspicuous head glowing red against its light grey frame; its pink-tinged legs trail behind an impressive wingspan of nearly 2.5 metres at full stretch.

For PhD candidate Robert van Zalinge, the plight of this charismatic species holds more than professional interest. It is also personal. Robert has lived in Cambodia for almost a decade, working towards the conservation of this and other birds. “I have always liked cranes,” he said. “They are big, beautiful birds with these absurdly loud calls.”

I knew their continued presence in the Cambodian landscape was not a given.

A wetland conservationist, Robert first travelled to Cambodia as a volunteer with the Wildlife Conservation Society in 2006. Two years later he was coordinating national crane counts. And just before starting his PhD research at Charles Darwin University, he was assessing management needs for two important Sarus Crane wetland conservation areas in conjunction with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Despite the work that the Cambodian Government and conservation organisations have undertaken, including nest protection and the creation of three new protected areas in the country to encompass important dry season foraging sites, Robert said the population of Sarus Cranes in Cambodia had not increased.

“I would hear them frequently while doing fieldwork in the Tonle Sap floodplain or in the Mekong Delta region and it would comfort me to know they were around, but I knew their continued presence in the Cambodian landscape was not a given.”

He said that many of the threats to cranes were due to human impacts such as conversion of natural wetlands for rice farming. Aside from losing their habitat, cranes are often considered a pest as they returned to their traditional feeding grounds in search of food.

“There is still a lot of hunting and capture of young cranes for zoos, to be kept as pets, or simply for food,” he said. “The forests where cranes build their nests are also rapidly declining in extent.”

But the lack of a detailed picture of the birds’ movements throughout the year meant researchers did not have the information necessary to conserve the population effectively.

There is still a lot of hunting and capture of young cranes for zoos.

Robert said he realised that a larger and more comprehensive study was needed, a study that would take place throughout the year and over several years. “There were still many unanswered questions, especially related to what cranes needed ecologically, and also determining the main threats to their survival,” he said. In 2014, Robert began a PhD with the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University to study sites across Cambodia in the Tonle Sap floodplain, the Mekong Delta region and the Northern Plains (forests of Preah Vihear province).

He began tracking the birds to find out more about their movements in both breeding and non-breeding seasons.

Aside from losing their habitat, cranes are often considered a pest.
Cambodia has a long and severe dry season; as the season progresses the majority of cranes aggregate at a few sites with suitable conditions,” he said. “With so few alternatives at the height of the dry season, understanding factors influencing resource-use and availability by cranes is important.”

Robert also investigated the nesting behaviour of the cranes. “In the wet season, we wanted to understand what ecological criteria cranes use when selecting a location to build their nests, to provide a basis for future research around conservation and management of breeding areas.”

We didn’t have any information on what factors were limiting population growth.

Cranes using the Mekong Delta originate in breeding sites in the north and north-east, while all cranes from Ang Trapeang Thmor and Stoung bred in the north. “The Northern Plains seems to be the most important breeding area for cranes in Cambodia.”

Although he has yet to analyse fully all the data collected, Robert has found that cranes focus on different habitats at different times of the year. “Groups of cranes may differ in the way they use a certain type of habitat,” he said. “Families will differ from non-breeders and adults without young in the amount of time spent in particular habitats. Juveniles, when abandoned by their parents after approximately nine months of rearing, may differ in habitat preferences from their parents during the breeding season.”

He said that, unfortunately, cranes and juveniles in particular often used rice fields when rice grain was abundant, particularly in post-harvest and sowing stages, but also when rice fields were inundated.

“Such a reliance on agricultural areas puts them at great risk, especially when they move away from conservation areas and this is definitely one of the major factors leading to mortality of individuals.”

Robert said it would be a great loss for Cambodians if their population of Sarus Cranes disappeared. “It is a globally threatened species and the population is vulnerable to collapsing if a special effort by people is not made to ensure they can continue to find a place in human-dominated landscapes,” he said.

The results of his project will feed into an action plan that will be prepared after an international workshop in Phnom Penh to be held this year.

Robert’s work is supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Charles Darwin University, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Rufford Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

Something Robert van Zalinge did not anticipate when he began his research is that he would help rescue cranes from the clutches of illegal traffickers.

“While tracking one of the cranes, I realised it had not moved for some days,” Robert said. “I investigated further and had a fairly good idea that the crane had been captured, so I alerted the authorities.”

The police swooped on the house and found not one, but two Sarus Cranes being held in cages illegally by a dealer in Kampong Thom Province. The birds were confiscated by the Forestry Administration and had a short period of rehabilitation at the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity.

“Unfortunately one of the birds did not recover, but we were able to release the surviving bird back into the wild with another rescued bird that I had been tracking,” Robert said. “That crane had ended up in the hands of local farmers around the same time and after being handed over to authorities had been kept at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre. We released both cranes in close proximity to a group of other cranes, including a juvenile I was tracking.”

The Sarus Crane is a threatened bird species and listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with the South-East Asian population being the lowest in number. Due to a dramatic decline in range, this population is now largely restricted to Cambodia, with some birds moving into southern Vietnam in the dry season.
Doctoral candidate Mitzi Ferguson may give the Olympic Games more than a sideways glance when the action kicks off in Rio de Janeiro in August. She is, after all, a former Olympian, having competed at the Moscow Games, which was notable for being contested amid international tensions stemming from the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

“They were tumultuous times,” said Mitzi, who now lives in Alice Springs. “There was a lot of pressure on our athletes to join the international boycott.” Australia was not technically part of the US-led boycott, but pressure from the Federal Government to not go deeply divided the country’s sporting community. Mitzi was one of 120 Australians who competed.

As a member of Australia’s three-member fencing team, Mitzi won three bouts in the women’s individual foil, although she lost to Poland’s Barbara Wysoczanska, who won the bronze medal. She did, however, win medals at other international events, including a team bronze at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, and a gold medal at the prestigious Helene Mayer tournament in the US. At the peak of her powers, she was ranked 14th in the world.

Mitzi said that as a child growing up in Melbourne, she was an all-round athlete and her life might have taken any number of directions, but ultimately she chose an academic path.

“Despite first impressions, they share certain commonalities,” she said. “Both are government service centres for large isolated sparsely populated regions, subject to climatic extremes.”

Mitzi said topics and indicators within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) framework for measuring social progress had given her ideas about how she might measure wellbeing.

“There is room within the OECD framework for the inclusion of a new topic – sport and active recreation – with its own specifically designed indicators for capturing data, which could contribute to a deeper understanding of a community’s wellbeing.”

Mitzi said that while she expected her findings would eventually have policy implications, perhaps in terms of increased participation rates in Alice Springs and Yellowknife, there was potential that other remote communities around the world also might benefit.

Mitzi is undertaking a three-year, full-time PhD program with Charles Darwin University’s Northern Institute. She is investigating the impact of sport and recreation on people’s wellbeing in remote regions. It is taking the form of a case study that contrasts Alice Springs with the remote Canadian town Yellowknife, about 400 km from the Arctic.
Up to 6000 unemployed Darwin residents have the potential to boost the Northern Territory economy, according to researchers at the Northern Institute.

Workforce Development Researchers Alicia Boyle and Dr Golebiowska cite the figure in their recently published Darwin case study: “How to mobilise the ‘untapped’ labour force for Northern development?”

Research Fellow Dr Golebiowska said the mobilisation of Darwin’s “untapped labour force” would enhance government objectives to develop Northern Australia. “The Territory’s capacity to seize opportunity is limited by a tight labour market that is characterised by a small and mobile workforce, low unemployment rate, recruitment and retention difficulties and skills shortages,” she said.

“Part of the solution may rest with the untapped workforce, whom we’ve identified as comprising migrants and refugees, people with a disability and people aged 50 years and older.”

These people held post-school qualifications and were not in the labour force at the last Australian Census. Some were discouraged job seekers, some were marginally attached to the labour force, while others were employed, but at a level below their formal level of qualification.

One of the challenges is to connect the untapped labour force with the jobs market.

Dr Golebiowska said she believed that small and medium-size businesses were well placed to benefit from untapped labour.

“We know this from having surveyed 75 small and medium-sized enterprises in Darwin, many of whom reported numerous benefits from having employed people from these groups. Many indicated they would seek to employ more in the future, noting that retention levels were good or excellent across the three groups.

“Importantly, the benefits also extend to the individual, whose economic and social wellbeing would improve, and to government, which would have a smaller welfare bill and a larger tax base.”

Dr Golebiowska said the Territory Government’s Framing the Future document presented a vision where just about everyone who wanted to could participate in the NT’s society and economy. “Labour market conditions are forecast to be favourable for several years in sectors as diverse as construction, education, health, accommodation, food services, retail trade and others,” she said.

“One of the challenges is to connect the untapped labour force with the jobs market. We found that word-of-mouth and an individual’s own social network were the most effective methods for finding out about job opportunities.”

An electronic research brief with the study results is available at: cdu.edu.au/northern-institute/ni-research-briefs

This project was funded by the CDU Faculty of Law, Education, Business and Arts Research Grants Panel.
The art of restoring hope

TEXT
Leanne Miles

IMAGES
Kate Freestone
A collaboration between Northern Territory-based artists and researchers is providing life-changing relief to people dealing with cancer.

The benefits of the arts to health and wellbeing are widely assumed, but proving their effectiveness qualitatively for inclusion in the health system remains a grey area for researchers and health professionals alike. There is, however, no doubt in the minds of the people who are dealing with cancer and taken part in the “HeART” Artful Wellbeing program. The art-based workshops have aided their recovery with some reporting that their experiences have been life-changing, particularly in relation to their mental health.

For the past two years the program has brought together artists, academics and health professionals to conduct creative workshops with people who are dealing with cancer. The workshops aim to impact lives positively while investigating the benefits of employing art to help restore the health and wellbeing of Northern Territorians who are dealing with cancer.

Darwin-based artist and founder of HeART Fiona Carter developed the idea for the program when she was being treated for cancer at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre in 2013. “It started when some of my friends wanted to do something for me while I was ill,” she said. “One came to visit and started juggling while I was in the chemotherapy suite; another came in and took photographs, which later became part of an exhibition; while another played ukulele and sang.”

As she recovered from her treatment, Ms Carter said she began to consider how she could give back by drawing on her background as an artists manager.

“I thought about how I could share the same positive experience I had enjoyed with other people dealing with cancer and came up with the idea of an arts and health diversionary project,” she said. But she also wanted to give the project added meaning by researching the benefits of art in healing.

Ms Carter approached Charles Darwin University Social Work and Community Studies Lecturer Dr Gretchen Ennis, who also had an arts background and a strong interest in investigating how a creative environment might benefit people dealing with cancer.

“Being a social worker, I am interested in people and their environment and how their environment impacts their wellbeing, particularly when they are in a time of need or stress,” Dr Ennis said. “Very little research had been done on the benefits of using art to improve the wellbeing of those dealing with cancer, and no research had been conducted in the Northern Territory at all.”

Supported by the nurses and staff at the Alan Walker Centre in Darwin and with funding from the Regional Arts Fund, Dr Ennis and Ms Carter gathered a small group to take part in the “HeART” pilot program, involving creative workshops in art, writing, music and film over several weeks.

One of the pilot participants, Ms Sue Stewart, said the workshops had been life-changing in her experience with cancer, particularly in relation to her mental health. “I have never been a big writer, but during the workshops I found my feelings pouring out on to the paper,” she said. “It drew everything out. I was able to better understand my thoughts, deal with my situation and explain it to family and friends.”

Dr Ennis said the pilot had been an overwhelming success, with the hospital-based arts activities providing a positive distraction for patients and enhancing their feelings of wellbeing.

“We also found that community-based arts programs for cancer survivors provided mutual support, creative enjoyment, and gave participants a sense of purpose,” she said. “Participants also felt less need to go to mental health specialists while they were attending the workshops.”

For Ms Carter, the success of the pilot program had been validating. The next step was to expand the program. As luck would have it, Professor Marilyyn Kirshbaum, who has specialised in cancer care nursing for more than 30 years, had recently moved to Darwin to take on the role of head of nursing at CDU. A renowned expert on exercise and cancer-fatigue related research, Professor Kirshbaum’s most recent research has veered towards looking into options such as Reiki and Attention (Energy) Restoration to improve wellbeing.

“Fatigue is a common and debilitating effect of cancer treatment,” Professor Kirshbaum said. “My recent research on...
non-drug treatments for managing fatigue focuses on restoring energy through enjoyable, fascinating, nurturing and uplifting activities.”

The wellbeing of all participants increased.

Collaborating with Dr Ennis, Professor Kirshbaum gained funding for a project entitled “An experiential arts-based program in promoting wellbeing for people diagnosed with cancer in the Top End.” It would investigate how arts programs might promote wellbeing during or after cancer treatment and would build on the pilot study, bringing together a team of artists and researchers to build a case for this art and health nexus.

“People diagnosed with cancer often experience fatigue, isolation, physical pain, emotional pain, anxiety, depression, anger and denial,” Professor Kirshbaum said. “We wanted to investigate how a series of art workshops could make a positive impact on their lives.”

At the centre of the project was an eight-week arts workshop program held in late 2015, facilitated by local artists – Aly de Groot, Linda Joy and Merrilee Mills – who engaged participants with music, drama, poetry, singing, painting, bowl making, silk dying, weaving and jewellery making.

The team’s findings supported the initial aims of reducing fatigue, improving wellbeing and enhancing support networks. “Overall the wellbeing of all participants increased,” Professor Kirshbaum said. “The major themes that came through were that participation in the program was expansive, interactive, nurturing, purposeful and stimulating, drawing them away from issues with something re-energising.”

Wellbeing is a difficult concept to measure.

Dr Ennis said she had observed a huge impact on the people involved the workshops. “It was very exciting to see the impacts of the workshops, not only because of the creative expression, but also the impacts participants made on each other,” she said. “It was a safe and nurturing environment, which wasn’t about treatment. Many of the participants felt this was the key to their attendance.”

While the team is consolidating the findings, the information they have garnered will add to a growing knowledge area. “Wellbeing is a difficult concept to measure, but this information will help to address the theoretical gaps and capture the benefits for integration into practice,” Professor Kirshbaum said. “What we can say is that there are definite benefits to wellbeing and there is a real need for programs like this.”

Reflecting on the program, Ms Carter said the experience had not only helped her regain control of her life, it had also opened the door to new possibilities and learnings through the research. “When I was told I had cancer my life changed completely overnight,” she said. “From being healthy one day to the next day everything being focused on my illness and treatment options.”

When I was told I had cancer, my life changed completely overnight.

She said the growth and success of the program had been more than she could have imagined. “It is exciting to think that others might draw on this research. It could have a much broader and global reach.”

The project is a collaboration between CDU’s School of Health and HeART Arts in Cancer Care Program, with assistance from the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre (Royal Darwin Hospital) and the NT Cancer Council.
DISCOVERING INSPIRATION

For most of the women who took part, the workshops were a source of inspiration; the act of creation and learning delivered a feeling of achievement. A sense of satisfaction also grew as the women helped others who were in the same situation and developed the ability to move on with their lives.

- **Fri** said that learning to see things differently had resonated with her. “Exposure to artists taught me to see things differently; to see the beauty, texture and colour in everything. While weaving, my thoughts would come out and into the piece I was creating.”

- **Lyn** was usually an active marathon runner who had not thought of drawing since high school. “I have loved every minute [of the workshops]. Not only for the joy of learning and creating, but also for the friendships I formed. No one talked about being sick; we were just having fun and doing something together.”

- **Samantha** said that chemotherapy had affected her memory and brain function. “I had trouble remembering things and that was depressing. Creating artwork is something you can do to keep the brain going, and make something useful.”

Linda Joy was one of several local artists who worked with the women during the creative workshops.

“Right from the pilot workshops, it was amazing to see what came spilling out of the participants,” she said. “Art can be expressive, even if it’s not verbal.”

Ms Joy said that much of society had forgotten about the benefits of just sitting down and finding time to do something expressive, such as art.

“The workshops have been validating to me to see the impact on people,” she said. “Many have taken the skills away and want to pursue them more fully as part of their lives.”

SURPRISE RESULTS

Artist Aly de Groot works with participant Lyn.

Artist Linda Joy guides Fri through an artistic process.

Linda Joy guides Fri through an artistic process.

Samantha looks rightly pleased with her artistic efforts.
Bright spark’s power play

Territory tradie TAYLOR FISHLOCK has not looked back since making the switch to a career in electro-technology.

Taylor Fishlock: “… A lot of commercial and industrial work, not just domestic.”
The arrival of a palette load of air-conditioners has guaranteed another busy week for Taylor Fishlock. Each year there’s a spike in orders as the heat and humidity rise and the clouds and thunder roll across the Top End’s tropical skies. But before the 18 air-conditioners can be installed, the site will need to undergo a major power upgrade, a task well within the capacity of Taylor, the only qualified female electrician in the Northern Territory town of Katherine.

“It’s hot and we’re flat out at the moment,” she said. “The boss and the boys are working on a few big projects, which leaves just me. Not that I mind.”

Taylor says she was “pretty lucky”, having an opportunity to “cover pretty much everything” in the four-year electrotechnology electrical apprenticeship she undertook with M & K Electrical.

“I’ve done a lot of commercial and industrial work, not just domestic. I’ve installed a lot of air-conditioners, laid new cables, assisted with power upgrades, done trenching and worked on high voltage cable installations and terminations. And on the theoretical side of things, I’ve completed a Certificate III course at Charles Darwin University, which involved visiting Darwin for two-week training blocks four times a year.”

Surrounded by a partner and a brother who are electricians, and an uncle who once gave the idea serious thought, it is little wonder that Taylor also became one, even though for a long time she thought she was headed for a career in the pastoral industry.

“I grew up on Sturt Downs, a pastoral lease 70 km south of Katherine with mum and dad and (later) my two younger brothers. It was a big unfenced property with nothing on it when we first arrived.

“When I was a bit older, I helped with the fencing, mustering, yard work, and prepared and ran the rodeo bulls, which involved desensitising them. I would sit on them to get them used to having a rider on their back.”

Taylor remembers one particularly ferocious looking bull with big horns that bore the ominous name Trashman. “The announcer would always talk him up to the crowd, saying things like how this bull would ‘dig your grave’. But really he was a big sook.”

Taylor has mostly fond memories of growing up on the station, although mixed among them is a tragic memory from her teenage years.

“Dad passed away in a helicopter accident at the Mataranka rodeo in 2008. At the time I had not long returned home from college in Adelaide; just six weeks. I had been there for a year and a half, but I became homesick for my family and the animals. I’m grateful for those six weeks, but they were a really rough couple of years.”

Taylor remained connected with the pastoral industry, presuming it would provide her with a career, at least until the Australian Government’s 2011 live export ban prompted a change in her thinking. “Mum always said she wanted us to have a qualification of some sort. I gave thought to becoming a heavy diesel mechanic, and also considered doing an apprenticeship as an auto electrician.

“I didn’t know it at the time, but my brother applied for the same apprenticeship.

“But I ended up applying for an electrotechnology apprenticeship with M & K Electrical,” a fortuitous occasion that Taylor recalls with some mirth. “I didn’t know it at the time, but my brother applied for the same apprenticeship. He didn’t turn up for the interview. I did, and I got the job, and in doing so became their first apprentice.”

The apprenticeship was punctuated on two occasions that speak volumes about Taylor’s talent and character.

The first of these unfolded in 2014, when she became the first female to win the National Electrical and Communications Association’s Industrial Apprentice of the Year excellence award. Among the spoils was a trip to Germany for the Hannover Messe, one of the world’s major trade fairs for industrial technology.

“It was huge. There were 27 exhibition halls, the smallest of which was bigger than a rugby ground. I visited suppliers and met factory representatives and saw how electrical components were made. One of the coolest things was a 3D printer that was making human figurines. And there was a robot, which demonstrated how it could scan and sort different coloured beads.”

The second occasion involved last year’s NT Training Awards. Taylor’s win in the Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year category was the eighth in as many years by a Charles Darwin University student. It gave her passage to the gala Australian Training Awards presentation in Melbourne where she collected the runner-up prize in the Apprentice of the Year category.

Taylor has good cause to be optimistic about her future. Awards such as the ones she’s won have brought forth job offers, including one she’s accepted in Cairns, with an electrical engineering products firm.

“I’ve considered job opportunities in Europe and Queensland and may enrol in an engineering degree, because if I don’t keep learning I’ll become bored,” she said.
CDU research shows that male pre-service teachers' stress levels increase with age.
A shortage of male schoolteachers has been sweeping the country for more than three decades. While the issue has been ongoing in Australia since the 1980s, the focus on what the cause might be has shifted.

Males made up less than 30 per cent of the nation’s 290,854 schoolteachers according to the most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data, released in 2011. Charles Darwin University acting Associate Professor in Pedagogy and Learning Dr Gretchen Geng said it was popularly believed that men were turning away from the profession due to social stigmas surrounding males working with children.

Dr Geng said only recently had there been investigations into other potential causes for the shortage, such as the stressful nature of the job and a lack of understanding and support for male teachers in society.

“This issue is ongoing despite so much research being done over so many years, so we are eager to find a solution,” she said. “This is why we decided to explore how to build the resilience levels of male pre-service teachers, during their university years before they become teachers.”

Dr Geng and CDU Professor of Health in Education Richard Midford surveyed 55 male and 255 female pre-service teachers to compare their stress levels, based on a questionnaire and the world-recognised Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). She said the results were surprising.

Dr Geng said the average PSS score for all male and female participants was 21.45 out of 40, compared with the normal range of between 14.52 and 17.73. She said the average score for females was 20.87 and that for males was significantly higher, at 22.69.

The males ... would go into fight-or-flight mode rather than seek support.

“I was expecting the female group to have higher or similar stress levels because females tend to have higher stress levels in the general population,” Dr Geng said. “But this was not the case among teacher education students.”

She said the male pre-service teachers’ stress levels also increased drastically with age. The males’ average stress levels increased from 17.25 (18 to 25 years old) to 27.75 (50 years and older), while the females’ stress levels did not have a significant relationship with their age.

Perhaps this is due to the social roles for males, that they have to be the breadwinner of the family and that pressure might encourage them to change careers,” Dr Geng said. She said the study showed females tended to seek support from their peers and mentors, which could be the reason for their lower stress levels, unlike the men. This indicated that women were more socialised for interpersonal interaction than males.

“The females would form support networks with their peers, lecturers and mentors, while the males preferred to deal with their stress themselves than talk about it to others,” she said. “The male pre-service teachers also appeared to be more competitive and would go into fight-or-flight mode rather than seek support.”

Dr Geng said the survey suggested men and women responded differently to the current support system available to pre-service teachers and that males would benefit from a system that addressed their unique needs. She said she and her colleague were developing support guidelines to assist male pre-service teachers and build their resilience for when they entered the workforce.

“The stress in teachers and pre-service teachers is quite different, but there is a link,” Dr Geng said. “By addressing this early on the students can develop tools to cope with the stress of the job.”

She said the nation relied on good quality teachers to foster good quality children, and that quality should be measured by both individuals’ physical and mental states of health.
Rare voice tapes speak life into endangered language

SAMANTHA DISBRAY decodes rare Dreamtime stories recorded in the Warumungu language 50 years ago.

Warumungu language workers Sandra Morrison and Ronald Morrison travelled to Adelaide last year to meet Dr Prithvindranath Chakravarti and hear stories about his recording trip to the Barkly in the 1960s.
are sound recordings of traditional Indigenous stories “in language”, which were made in the 1960s, continue to be the source of fascination for a long-term Central Australian linguist.  

Senior researcher at Charles Darwin University’s Northern Institute Dr Samantha Disbray said she began working with Warumungu speakers and descendants on the language recordings last year.

“It’s a treasure trove of information about law, culture and history in a language that is seriously endangered,” Dr Disbray said.

“They contain wordlists, sentences and conversations about country, hunting, bush tucker and how to make things. Of particular interest are a number of old words that have fallen into disuse and some speech patterns and storytelling styles that we no longer hear among today’s speakers. There are several Dreamtime stories, including some exciting children’s stories.”

One such story features a greedy grandmother, made of stone, who meets a grim end, while another tells the tale of a bloodthirsty arantji, or devil man. He walks backwards, sings backwards and swings his stone axe to slaughter children and anyone else who’s around, until – spoiler alert – he too meets a grim end.

“Some are stories that in the Western tradition might fit the horror genre, but as far as Warumungu language workers are concerned, they’re ‘fun stories’, that they tell to their children without reservation.”

Dr Disbray said 30 tapes were recorded by Dr Prithvindranath Chakravarti, a linguist from Calcutta, who travelled through Central Australia and the Barkly as a research fellow for the Institute of Aboriginal Studies (now Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) in 1966.

“He recorded 26 speakers during the course of his travels to Warumungu country, almost all of whom have now passed away.” Dr Chakravarti deposited the tapes at the Institute in Canberra, from where Dr Disbray, in collaboration with Warumungu language workers, has attained digital copies for the project.

“I am working with a small team of linguists, including local Warumungu language specialists, whose family members were recorded on the tapes. These include Michael Jones, Rosemary Plummer, Sandra Morrison, Ronald Morrison, and also Professor Jane Simpson from the Australian National University. We have begun transcribing the Warumungu recordings and translating them into English,” she said.

It’s a treasure trove of information … in a language that is seriously endangered.

“We have also started the complex task of repatriating the material to family and begun talking to them about their future use.

“It is important that we identify who within a family may make decisions about the material, especially where the content may be of a sensitive or delicate nature. This has included questions about access and distribution, the type of delivery mode and what conditions might be needed for some material.”

Dr Disbray said there was excitement about the material’s potential in an educational context. "E-books, talking books, animated stories, paper-based books and an expansion of the Warumungu dictionary with audio links, are all project ideas on the table. The recordings are precious to the Warumungu people and for future generations and may be used for teaching children about culture and language.

“We anticipate developing materials for publication later this year, which would be timely, given that it is exactly 50 years since Dr Chakravarti first made the recordings.”

Northern Institute senior researcher Dr Samantha Disbray has undertaken ground-breaking linguistic work throughout Central Australia for almost 20 years. In that time she has documented the new language variety, Wumpurrarni English, spoken in Tennant Creek, and worked with speakers of Warumungu to document their traditional language.

Dr Disbray compiled the Warumungu Picture Dictionary, including its second edition, published last year. The picture dictionary is regarded as a valuable resource for Warumungu speakers wanting to learn Warumungu literacy, and for anyone wanting to learn about the Warumungu language.
The Howard Sand Plains is one of the rarest ecosystems in Northern Australia. The threatened *Utricularia hamiltonii*. Sarah Pirrie and a group of artists visit the site during springtime. Grass plant species, *Eriocaulon schultzii* and carnivorous plant, *Drosera petiolaris*. Rare plants and animals live among sedges at the sandplains. Artist Sarah Pirrie created “*U. hamiltonii* environs” as part of the exhibition.
B
ushwalkers could be forgiven for walking straight past one of the rarest ecosystems in Northern Australia without realising it.

At first glance, the site east of Darwin gives the impression of a common grassland area, but below a layer of grassy sedges is a micro-universe of diverse and endangered species. Carnivorous plants, toadlets and native flowers are among the secret occupants of the Howard Sand Plains in the Howard River region of the Northern Territory.

At this spot, Charles Darwin University (CDU) visual arts lecturer Sarah Pirrie said she saw art reconciling with science. “As a citizen scientist, I wanted to know more,” she said. “Rather than work in our separate silos, we need to find a new language to talk about our world as a shared environment and that really requires us to be able to talk to each other.”

Collaboration between artists and scientists is not a new concept. The growth of the environmental art movement took off in the 1960s and 1970s, with Western artists and scientists collaborating to raise awareness about globally significant issues. But Ms Pirrie said contemporary artists appeared to be more interested in localised issues, such as the conservation efforts for the Howard Sand Plains.

She said her scientific education assisted her from the moment she arrived at the sand plains and her shoes sank into the tractable sandsheet heath. “The thing that came through was the absolute fragility of the site, to the point that we almost felt we were damaging the site as we passed through,” Ms Pirrie said.

She and a group of artists and scientists visited the site in springtime when its carnivorous plants, known as bladderworts (*Utricularia*), were in flower. The tiny plants of various colours feast on microscopic aquatic animals after capturing them in sacs attached to their roots and stems.

The group visited the site as part of an initiative led by Nomad Art Gallery in Darwin, with its director Angus Cameron, in collaboration with Greening Australia to raise awareness about the sand plains through an art exhibition and workshops.

**I think contemporary art and science are following a similar path.**

Ms Pirrie said she used her plant identification skills while at the site and was aided by her scientific knowledge about earth science, biodiversity and soil analysis. “I can now look at the site with a much more intense eye,” she said. “And it does give you a deeper perspective, because you’re not just looking at a pretty picture or a flower arrangement.”

Since experiencing the scientific value and artistic beauty of the site, Ms Pirrie said she would continue to advocate for its conservation and help establish a Friends of the Howard Sand Plains group. She said she also planned to revisit the site each year. And as with trips to the sand plains, Ms Pirrie said collaborations between art and science were opportunities not to be missed.

Sarah Pirrie said her science education helped her view the sand plains with an intense eye.
ANDREW CAMPBELL was a farm boy who fell into forestry before becoming one of the leading proponents of sustainable agriculture in the country.

[Q] What impact did growing up on the family farm in western Victoria have on you personally and professionally?

The farm, which my family settled in the 1860s, is bedrock for me. My childhood was typical of farm kids in our district: cycling down gravel roads to catch the bus to primary school, feeding stock, mustering sheep and cattle, working in the shearing shed, making and carting hay, catching rabbits and selling the skins for pocket money, and as we got older, “borrowing” the ag bike to head off through the back paddocks to the bush, where my cousin and I would explore fire trails, develop our motocross skills and frighten the wildlife (all illegal of course as we were too young to have a licence and our farm bikes were unregistered in any case). We experienced terrible droughts in 1967 and 1982, with empty dams, starving stock and needing to cart water for survival.

Without consciously thinking about it, I was aware of the contrast between our 500 hectares of carefully managed farmland – which, despite my father’s hard work, always seemed somewhat precarious economically given our lack of control over markets and weather – and the wild magnificence of the Grampians National Park just a mile or so from our back fence. I loved the bush and the constant but ever-changing backdrop of the mountainous horizon to our east.

My last year of secondary school coincided with a collapse in wool prices, and my father made it very clear that if I wanted to go to university it would have to be on my own steam. My grandfather saw an advertisement in “The Age” for studentships at the Victorian School of Forestry in Creswick that offered full board and tuition and a guaranteed job on graduation. I thought foresters worked in the bush, so that sounded OK and I applied and got an interview. When a rolled up certificate arrived in our farm mailbox with a red wax seal and a signed letter of offer of a scholarship from the Minister for Forests (that my 17-year-old self assumed the Minister had written personally), the decision was easy.

I can’t say that studying forestry was a carefully evaluated option, but it suited me. The course was about land management for multiple uses and values, combining botany, ecology and geology with management and economics. The Creswick Diploma was very practical; we students managed a large area of State Forest, and fieldwork was compulsory three afternoons a week, as was employment by the Forests Commission during semester breaks. I found insights from my forestry training that seemed applicable back home on the farm, including unsettling questions about the long-term sustainability of traditional agriculture.

[Q] You’ve been Executive Director of Land & Water Australia and were instrumental in the development of Landcare, among other senior environment-related roles. Did you ever have an “ah-ha” moment that meant there was no turning back on a career in this field?

Vacation work at the end of first semester in first year forestry involved measuring growth rates in pine plantations, which had been established on former bushland. I realised quite quickly that the industrial side of forestry held no appeal for me – neither native forest logging nor pine plantations. Luckily, the Hamer Government in Victoria at the time was initiating the Garden State program and promoting the re-establishment of trees on farms, out of concern about emerging salinity problems and land degradation more generally. This was new territory for foresters but it seemed natural to me and I moved quickly in that Landcare direction. So I guess my “ah-ha” moment was the realisation that I was much more interested in planting trees on cleared land than cutting down native forests.

[Q] What do you consider to be the biggest environmental issues facing Australia?

Climate change is the biggest overarching issue. But it is important to recognise that we have significant underlying problems with loss of biodiversity due to over-clearing, over-grazing, habitat loss and fragmentation, changing fire regimes and the introduction of pests and weeds. We also have a major underlying problem with over-allocation and over-use of groundwater and surface water resources. Both our water and biodiversity challenges are amplified and exacerbated by a warming, drying climate with more extreme weather events and consequent fires, storms and floods. We need to tackle those issues more seriously than ever before, while at the same time shifting our energy production from fossil fuels to renewables and reversing the loss of native vegetation. We are currently the world’s highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases, but we have tremendous natural advantages in solar and wind (and potentially tidal and geothermal) energy and sophisticated technological capacity. So we should be ahead of the curve in decarbonising our economy, which will be a critical element of competitive advantage as this century unfolds. There is, however, enormous inertia vested in the status quo. The fossil fuel sector remains politically potent, understandably self-interested and seemingly determined to slow the uptake of renewables for as long as possible.

We should be ahead of the curve in decarbonising our economy.

So in my view, the single biggest environmental challenge facing Australia is to break free from the shackles of a 20th Century worldview that posits environmental health and economic health as competing and mutually exclusive public policy goals.
Decarbonising our economy is a huge growth opportunity. Australia is well-placed to lead in one of the fastest growing sectors of the global economy, creating high-quality jobs and high-value export opportunities.

Q: How do you spend your time outside work?

A: Cycling and associated coffee adventures with a bunch of MAMILs (middle-aged men [and women] in lycra), dining, camping and bushwalking with friends and family, photography and travel. Unfortunately, I don’t get to spend as much time on my farm as I would like.

Q: What makes you laugh?

A: Australia’s political cartoonists are exceptional. I love First Dog on the Moon, David Pope, Cathy Wilcox and David Rowe, and I very much enjoy political satire. Working Dog has produced masterpieces in The Hollowmen and Utopia, and I think John Clarke (The Games, and Clarke and Dave) is a genius.

Q: What are you reading at the moment?

A: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel. I enjoy good political biographies, Scandinavian crime thrillers, and Peter Fitzsimons’ historical fiction re-imagining epic events and people in Australian history. Wolf Hall has elements of all of these genres.

Q: Who or what inspires you?

A: I’m inspired by what Don Watson calls “the noble art of rhetoric”, which unfortunately is all too rare these days. Noel Pearson’s eulogy at Gough Whitlam’s funeral is a fine example, as are the best speeches of Barack Obama and Paul Keating. Of course there is no guarantee that rhetoric will translate into ultimate achievement, as we can see with respect to both Keating and Obama (although I think that, like Whitlam, their legacies will grow in stature with passing decades). But I’m a sucker for well-crafted rhetoric and soaring, eloquent delivery, and remain convinced that inspiration is a critical ingredient in the mix for human progress.

Professor Andrew Campbell, Director of the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods.
Heaven and Hell

The family of Mr Christopher Hill (1944–2014) has made the exceptional donation of 30 Balinese artworks to the Charles Darwin University Art Collection. Chris was a collector and scholar of Balinese art and a respected member of the arts community of Fremantle, where he lived.

Most of the donated artworks were featured in his Masters thesis, which was undertaken at Murdoch University, Western Australia, under the supervision of Professor Carol Warren. He later published his research findings in *Survival and Change: Three Generations of Balinese Painters*, Pandanus Books and ANU Press, 2006.

The donation to the CDU Art Collection includes works by I Ketut Liyer, (of *Eat, Pray, Love* fame), I Dewa Putu Mokoh, I Gusti Putu Sana and I Wayan Rajin. The donation includes five temple cloths dating from 1939 to 2002. Chris traced the genesis of Balinese modern art back to temple cloths, which were the dominant painting form in Bali before the introduction of foreign painting mediums in the early to mid 20th Century. The Balinese adapted their painting to the mediums of Chinese ink on paper and painting with acrylic on canvas. In time they established regional oeuvres of art, including the Bantuan, Kamasan and Ubud styles, which continue today.

Heaven and Hell

I Dewa Putu Mokoh (1936–2010)
1998
Pengosekan, Bali, Indonesia
Chinese ink and acrylic on canvas
80 H × 70 W cm
Gift of Mrs Mary Harrison Hill, 2016
Charles Darwin University Art Collection
The Salon des Refusés, a companion exhibition to the prestigious National and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA), showcases artworks that are submitted but not accepted into NATSIAA.

This year is the first time the exhibition is hosted by the CDU Art Gallery. It is being presented by Darwin’s Paul Johnstone Gallery and Outstation – art from art centres.

The Salon des Refusés is generally an exhibition of works rejected by the jury of official awards but it is most famously used to refer to the Salon des Refusés of 1863, which was sponsored by the French Government and saw artists protesting the Salon jury’s rejection of more than 3000 works, far more than usual.

“Wishing to let the public judge the legitimacy of these complaints,” said an official notice, Emperor Napoléon III decreed that the rejected artists could exhibit their works in an annex to the regular Salon.

The CDU Art Gallery is open 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Friday and 10am to 2pm Saturday, and located in building Orange 12 on Casuarina campus.

Above A glimpse of Salon15.

www.cdu.edu.au/artgallery
An Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking
T. Brian Mooney (CDU), John N. Williams, Steven Burik

This book aims at equipping you with 21st Century key life skills that will drive your future employability, promotion and career success. These are required for effective reasoning, writing and decision-making in changing, evolving environments. If you work your way carefully through this book you will become better at reasoning both in terms of understanding and clarifying other people’s arguments and also at producing increasingly sophisticated and compelling arguments of your own. You will learn how to recognise common but often seductive mistakes in reasoning and so be empowered to avoid making these mistakes yourself. Your writing and oral presentations will improve and you will hone your ability to define crucial terms in argument, debate and discussion. As this book is specifically written with everyday language considerations in mind, it is a valuable tool for anyone to understand, evaluate and construct arguments in ordinary language.

Demography for Planning and Policy: Australian Case Studies
Edited by Tom Wilson (CDU), Elin Charles-Edwards, Martin Bell

This edited collection shows how demographic analysis plays a pivotal role in planning, policy and funding decisions in Australia. Drawing on the latest demographic data and methods, these case studies in applied demography demonstrate that population dynamics underpin the full spectrum of contemporary social, economic and political issues. The contributors harness a range of demographic statistics and develop innovative techniques demonstrating how population dynamics influence issues such as electoral representation, the distribution of government funding, metropolitan and local planning, the provision of aged housing, rural depopulation, coastal growth, ethnic diversity and the wellbeing of Australia’s Indigenous community. Moving beyond simple statistics, the case studies show that demographic methods and models offer crucial insights into contemporary problems and provide essential perspectives to aid efficiency, equity in public policy and private sector planning.

NORTHERN EDITIONS — STOCK SALE

A vibrant selection of limited edition prints, created at the Northern Editions Print Studio, Casuarina campus, will be on sale over the coming months.

The prints have been created by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists from central Australia and the Top End. The university has appointed Ms Kellie Joswig to the role of Northern Editions Project Officer.

“There are some stunning prints and they will be for sale at extremely affordable prices. My role is to develop some pop-up sales outlets around Darwin. We are hoping to have a presence at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, the CDU Waterfront Building and at Casuarina campus. The prints include screen-prints, linoleum cuts, etchings, lithographs and even wood block prints, in the Japanese!”

Although Northern Editions ceased print production in late 2014, the remaining stock includes some exceptional artworks. The university continues to use the printmaking facilities at CDU, Casuarina campus for Visual Arts teaching. Future plans for Northern Editions Print Studio will be announced early in 2017. In the meantime visit the Northern Editions website: www.northern.editions@cdu.edu.au to find our pop-up sales locations or contact Kellie Joswig: kellie.joswig@cdu.edu.au