

## Rainforest and reef conservation stories | about our speakers

Ninney Rise, Mission Beach

Thursday 3 – Saturday 5 July

Name	Bio
<p>Gregg Borschmann, ABC Radio National</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p>	<p>Gregg is Environment Editor of the top-rating ABC Radio National Breakfast program, hosted by Fran Kelly. He's spent decades travelling and writing from all corners of remote Australia. For the past 20 years, he's called the big gorge sandstone eucalypt wilderness of the upper Blue Mountains home. It's a country he's only come to know well by wearing out several pairs of walking boots - making a connection of the heart, as much as the head.</p> <p>Gregg started his career in journalism at <i>The Age</i> newspaper in Melbourne in the mid-1970s under the esteemed editor, Graham Perkin. The lesson Perkin taught Gregg was that you could pursue issues with professional and personal passion – but still be fair and balanced. In the early to mid-1980s, Gregg was a constant visitor to and occasional resident of North Queensland. He wrote feature articles for major metropolitan newspapers and specialist magazines such as <i>Wildlife Australia</i> and <i>Habitat</i> on the Great Barrier Reef and the battle over the future of the Queensland Wet Tropics. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, he worked as press secretary to then Federal Labor Environment Minister, Senator Graham Richardson.</p> <p>In partnership with the National Library of Australia, during the 1990s Gregg researched, recorded and produced <i>The People's Forest – A Living History of the Australian Bush</i>. The project was the first national oral history collection of Australia's forests, published as a book, three-part ABC Radio National documentary series and a national travelling exhibition.</p>
<p>Aila Keto AO Australian Rainforest Conservation Society</p>	<p>Aila is co-founder and president of Australian Rainforest Conservation Society – a position she has held for more than 30 years. She led the National Wet Tropics campaign to protect almost 1 million hectares of rainforests as World Heritage and was commissioned by the Australian Heritage Commission to report on the conservation significance of the Wet Tropics.</p> <p>As well as being a board member of the Wet Tropics Management Authority from 1990 – 1997 she was instrumental in negotiating the historic 1999 Southeast Queensland Forests Agreement which resulted in the protection of 725,000 hectares of native forests.</p> <p>Aila has received many national and international honours for her work including Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), Queenslander of the Year, and the international Volvo Prize.</p>
<p>Angi Matveyeff Mission Beach Tourism</p>	<p>Angi Matveyeff has been the CEO of Mission Beach Tourism, a not for profit, local tourism organisation for the past six years and is responsible for leading the organisation's three businesses: Mission Beach Business and Tourism, Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre and the Tropical Fruit Safari. Together, these three symbiotic businesses market and promote the region, develop product and provide community service, visitor service and visitor experience and business connectivity. Having won 11 State and Regional Awards in the past six years, Angi considers herself extremely fortunate to work alongside incredibly talented people in one of the most impressive regions in the world.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>Carol Muller WPSQ Cassowary Coast &amp; Hinchinbrook</p>	<p>Carol Muller has been an active member of WPSQ, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, now known as Wildlife Queensland, since 1980. After arriving at Tully as a high school teacher in the late 70s Carol joined WPSQ Tully and District branch (now Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook) at its inception in 1980.</p> <p>Carol has held many roles in WPSQ branches and has been involved in seeking protection for habitat and endangered species in the Tully area. She became interested in the history of WPSQ through Tully branch members, Margaret Thorsborne (now WPSQ patron) and her late husband Arthur. From Margaret, Carol learnt much about the early history of WPSQ, its outstanding place in conservation history and gained an insight into some of its most respected and prominent earlier members.</p> <p>Moving further south led to Carol actively researching and developing the WPSQ monograph series with the WPSQ History Working Group on the founding and early directions of WPSQ. Here the stories of these very special people sprang to life.</p>
<p>Charlie Veron Marine Scientist</p>	<p>Charlie Veron was the first full-time researcher on the Great Barrier Reef and the first scientist employed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science. He became Chief Scientist of that organisation in 1997, a position he held for 7 years. Charlie was awarded the Darwin Medal for his work on evolution, the AMSA Jubilee Pin for his coral taxonomy, the Australasian Science Prize and other awards for various publications. His last award was for a paper on mass extinctions, where he was made Fellow of the Linnean Society.</p> <p>Charlie has named about one quarter of the world's coral species, and mapped and re-described them all. This work has underpinned most major reef conservation initiatives over the past two decades including the 'Coral Triangle' which he discovered.</p> <p>He has been diving continually since he was 18, logging 6000 hours underwater. He has participated in 67 expeditions to all the major reef regions of the world. He is now working towards the completion of a major electronic product, "<i>Corals of the World</i>" (<a href="http://www.coralsoftheworld.com">www.coralsoftheworld.com</a>), a compilation of all taxonomic and biogeographic information about corals in a sophisticated program for all user groups from children to reef professionals.</p>
<p>Daryl Dickson Wildlife artist and conservation worker</p>	<p>Daryl's passion for Australian wildlife is evident with most of her work depicting the fine detail of Australia's beautiful and unique flora and fauna. She divides her time between art, wildlife rehabilitation and sharing her passion for the natural environment. She has spent much of the past two decades working with the endangered mahogany glider. Daryl's original artworks are held in private collections in Australia, Europe and the USA and her work has resulted in many awards and accolades including Citizen of the Year (Cassowary Coast Regional Council), Wet Tropics Cassowary Award for Art, Cardwell Art First Prize, Hinchinbrook Art Exhibition First Prize and an Australia Day Award for environmental education.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>Dr Adam Smith Marine Biologist</p>	<p>Dr Adam Smith lives next to the ocean and has been dreaming about, researching and managing marine life for 50 years. From an early age he has been inspired by Jacques Cousteau's books and films which led to his vocation as a marine biologist. He is currently President Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (FNQ) and worked as Director (Environmental Assessment and Management) for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 1999-2014. He has extensive regulatory, EIA, policy, project, partnership and communication experience in environmental issues and management..</p> <p>Adam has recently started a company <i>Reef Ecological</i> which aims to work collaboratively with great people to improve the outlook for coral reef biodiversity, coastal communities and marine enterprises through innovation, solution oriented science and partnerships. Adam believes in lifelong learning and has a BSc (Hons) and PhD from UNSW, an MBA from UQ and he is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand. He has authored 40 scientific papers and books on marine life and management.</p>
<p>Dr Helen Larson Emeritus Curator of Fishes, Museum and Art Gallery NT</p> <p>And</p> <p>Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Marine and Tropical Biology, JCU</p>	<p>Dr Helen K. Larson is Emeritus Curator of Fishes, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. She is also a Research Associate, Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville and Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville. Helen is known to some as the Goby Queen or Gobywan Kenobi, and considers that gobies are the most fascinating fishes in the world. She first recognised gobies while snorkelling in the Cocos (Keeling) Atoll lagoon when she was 12, and fell in love with them. A fish that will willingly perch on one's feet deserves special consideration.</p> <p>Her research interests are the taxonomy, systematics, ecology and behaviour of Indo-Pacific mangrove and coral reef fishes, especially gobioid fishes (gobies, gudgeons, mudskippers). Much of her work is on the taxonomy of estuarine and coral reef gobiid fishes, preferably by means of generic revisions. The goby subfamily Gobionellinae is of particular fascination as they have specialised in living in mangrove and estuarine habitats, often in what appear to be very poor conditions. She has been actively publishing on fishes since 1975.</p> <p>Helen retired from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in late 2009 and moved to Far North Queensland where she works on gobies in association with the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Her expertise as a taxonomist/systematist is regularly sought from around the world, whether as a reviewer of manuscripts or identifier of unknown fish species. Helen is now a member of the IUCN's Sciaenidae Red List Authority and is Co-chair of the Goby group of the Marine Fish Red List Authority while participating in Red List assessments of the conservation status of freshwater fishes and other groups.</p>
<p>Dr Jo Wills Museum Development Officer for FNQ Queensland Museum</p>	<p>Dr Jo Wills works for Queensland Museum's Museum Development Officer (MDO) Program as the MDO for Far North Queensland. In this role Jo works with museums and collecting organisations throughout the FNQ region providing assistance on exhibitions, interpretation, collection management, strategic planning, and conservation. Jo has a background in history, heritage, museums and community engagement – and uses these skills to ensure places and collections are preserved for future generations.</p> <p>Jo's association with Ninney Rise began in 2008 when, as a heritage officer for the Queensland Government's Cairns Cultural Heritage Branch, she started work on the nomination to list the property on the Queensland Heritage Register. In the ensuing process, Jo became fascinated with the environment, house and the people associated with the story, as well as the community that still holds it in such high regard.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>Dr Maxine Newlands James Cook University</p>	<p>Dr Maxine Newlands, from James Cook University researches environmental politics and media discourse. Maxine is from the UK, having been a journalist and academic in London before moving to Queensland last year. Maxine's research focuses on environmental politics from emissions trading, carbon tax to environmentalism, activism, protest, social justice, and journalistic practices.</p> <p>Her current research examines the drivers behind the 1967 Save the Barrier Reef in relation to media, politics, John Busst and WPQS. The research has been presented at JCU School of Arts and Social Science seminar, GBRMPA and will be published shortly.</p> <p>Maxine is a regular contributor to the environmental magazine, The Ecologist. Her articles centre on the link between the Great Barrier Reef, Abbot Point development, environmentalists' action, and campaigns. Maxine also contributes to theConversation.com and her work has been published in several books.</p>
<p>Dr Michael Davis Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of History, University of Sydney</p>	<p>Michael is currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of History at Sydney University. For many years before taking up this position Michael worked as an independent scholar, historian and policy analyst with a particular interest in Indigenous knowledge and biodiversity. This earlier work focused on protection and recognition of Indigenous knowledge, including critiques of legal regimes. During that period Michael also worked with some Aboriginal organisations in north Queensland, NSW and the Kimberley. In his postdoctoral research Michael is researching and writing histories of encounters between Aboriginal people and European voyagers, around natural history and environmental knowledge in north-east Queensland.</p>
<p>Frances Thomson Curator – Cultural commentator</p>	<p>Frances Thomson is currently writing a biography of an artist as well as her PhD. Her various roles have included a teacher of pre-literate refugees, family business entrepreneur, museum curator, and director of commercial and public galleries. She chooses to live in north Queensland waking up each day to breathtaking views of Magnetic Island.</p>
<p>Iain McCalman AO Professor, University of Sydney  And  Director, Sydney Environment Institute</p>	<p>Iain McCalman was born in Nyasaland (Central Africa) in 1947, schooled in Zimbabwe and did his higher education at ANU and Monash Universities. His 2001 book <i>The Last Alchemist</i> was translated into 12 languages and many more editions and his 2009 book, <i>Darwin's Armada</i> (Penguin, 2009) won three prizes and was the basis of the international TV series <i>Darwin's Brave New World</i>.</p> <p>A Fellow of three Learned Academies and a former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, he is a Professor in history at the University of Sydney and co-Director of the new Sydney Environment Institute.</p> <p>His current book, <i>The Reef – A Passionate History</i>, was published in Australia late last year and in the USA and the UK in May -June 2014. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007 for services to history and the humanities.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>James Neman Regional Director, QPWS Northern Region</p>	<p>James Newman is the Regional Director for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and is responsible for leading the development and management of on and off park activities. His core business includes terrestrial protected areas and forest estate services, including natural and cultural resource conservation, equitable access to safe sustainable recreational opportunities, multiple use management, and nature-based business development, communication and education.</p> <p>James considers he is fortunate to have landed the best job, in the best region on the planet. The QPWS Northern Region is responsible for over 3.75 million hectares of protected area and forest estate. The region showcases multiple World Heritage properties, vast expanses of remote wilderness, great rivers, rich forests, gobsmackingly beautiful canyons and gorges, impressive wetlands, spectacular waterfalls, and extensive tracts of tropical rainforest.</p>
<p>Jonathan Lamb Andrew W Mellon Chair of the Humanities, Vanderbilt University</p>	<p>Jonathan Lamb has taught English Literature at Auckland, Princeton and (most recently) Vanderbilt, where he holds the Andrew W. Mellon Chair of the Humanities. His most recent books are <i>The Evolution of Sympathy</i> (2009), <i>Settler and Creole Re-enactment</i> (2009, co-edited with Vanessa Agnew) and <i>The Things Things Say</i> (2011). He is currently on a Guggenheim Fellowship finishing a book for Princeton University Press called <i>Scurvy: The Disease of Discovery</i>. It deals with the unevenness both of the epidemiological history of the disease and of its effects on what Thomas Trotter called 'the nervous temperament.'</p>
<p>Liz Gallie Artist, jeweller and cassowary conservationist</p>	<p>For decades, tucked into the rainforest, jewellery artist and cassowary conservationist Liz Gallie has been at the heart of the creative art world, inspired by tropical surrounds.</p> <p>Best known for her unique handmade jewellery made from local lawyer cane and precious metals, Liz adopted Mission Beach as her home in 1974. Her work evolved from basket weaving to jewellery making and was exhibited alongside established and emerging artists including Ben Trupperbaumer, Ray Crooke, Siri Omberg, Michael Pugh, Deanna Conti, Diana Crooke, Susan Kirk and David Stacey.</p> <p>Liz has turned her artistic focus to environmental activism through lobbying, social media, photography and graphics with a special concern for the endangered cassowary. Liz now balances her time between creating her unique style of jewellery and channelling her talents to deliver a powerful conservation message against inappropriate development, which she believes is compromising the unique lifestyle and will diminish cassowary populations.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>Margaret Cohen Andrew B Hammond Chair of French Language, Literature and Civilization, Stanford University</p>	<p>Margaret Cohen holds the Andrew B. Hammond Chair of French Language, Literature and Civilization, and teaches in the department of Comparative Literature at Stanford University. Over the past ten years, her research has rethought the literature and culture of modernity from the vantage point of the oceans.</p> <p>Her most recent book is <i>The Novel and the Sea</i> (UP Princeton, 2010), which received awards from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the International Society for the Study of Narrative, and the American Comparative Literature Association.</p> <p>Margaret has penned an essay recently published on early dive literature <i>Dentation in Alien Environments: The Underwater 'Je ne sais quoi'</i> and also a short essay on surfing, <i>Kairos and the Arts of Action</i>.</p> <p>Her newest research examines the impact on literature and the arts of underwater technologies from the invention of aquariums and helmet-diving in the middle of the nineteenth century until the present day.</p>
<p>Maurice Franklin President, C4</p>	<p>Maurice Franklin was born in Innisfail and after qualifying as a Mechanical Engineer worked in sugar, mining and power generating industries. Maurice is also a Marine Engineer and sailed with P&amp;O servicing Japan, Hong Kong, Philippines and New Guinea. His second degree is in Business Management. His Mission Beach property was brought in 1970 and Maurice has grown organic bananas there since 1986. Maurice has been a Delegate for the Banana Industry, a Director of Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers, the Mission Beach Fire Captain and is the District Fire Warden. Maurice's Mission Beach farm has 40 ha of native vegetation and Maurice is currently President of C4.</p>
<p>Max Chappell Wet Tropics Management Authority</p>	<p>Max Chappell has been with the Wet Tropics Management Authority for over 20 years and is now manager of its Planning and Conservation section – a position he has held since 1997. He commenced his natural heritage planning and management career in 1976 as a national parks ranger in Victoria. Prior to becoming a planner for Victoria's alpine national parks he held the position of ranger-in-charge for a number of years at Port Campbell National Park and Mt Buffalo National Park. Before starting work with the Authority he spent three years in the Northern Territory as manager of the Parks Development Unit based in Katherine which involved preparing plans of management and development plans for national parks such as Nitmiluk, Cutta Cutta Caves, Gregory and Pellew Islands.</p>

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<p>Mike Berwick AO Chair Terrain NRM</p>	<p>Mike Berwick is recognised for his contribution to conserving the Daintree Rainforest wilderness area in Northern Queensland, one of Australia's top three national icons. As an activist during the 1980s he was part of a movement to raise national awareness of the threatened destruction of the rainforest; and as owner of the Port Douglas Gazette he covered the protests against logging and roads through the wilderness, and publicised the unique values of the wet tropics area.</p> <p>His work led to the successful 1987 nomination by the Australian Government of the Daintree as a World Heritage Area.</p> <p>Since then he has organised buyback and conversion to nature reserve of dozens of key properties surrounding the World Heritage Area. To increase his ability to conserve the rainforest, he became Mayor of Douglas Shire in 1991 and became the most effective proponent of assessing urban growth capacity, sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation in Australian local government.</p> <p>Berwick is currently chair of the Natural Resource Management body for the Wet Tropics Region (Terrain NRM), Chair of the Queensland Regional Groups Collective, and Chair of the Australian Tropical Forest Institute. He has been honoured with both the Centenary and Order of Australia Awards and was a key environmental spokesperson at the 2020 Federal planning forum.</p>
<p>Mike Bluett Film Producer</p>	<p>Mike Bluett has been producing television for 25 years in Europe, Australia and the US. He has worked in both factual and drama, long and short forms and a number of genres. He started his career as a factual producer making shows for ITV's arts strand, <i>The South Bank Show</i> and then followed with primetime factual shows for Channel 4, BBC1, BBC2 and BBC3, Channel 5, Discovery and History Channel amongst others. He has produced a number of co-productions with European and US broadcasters. Since arriving in Australia in 2005, Mike has produced shows for Discovery, ABC and SBS and a website he co-produced with Iain McCalman (<a href="http://www.the-reef.com.au">http://www.the-reef.com.au</a>) recently won a Webby award.</p>
<p>Paul Chantrill Manager Tourism and Partnerships, Wet Tropics Management Authority</p>	<p>Paul Chantrill is Manager for Tourism and Partnerships, Wet Tropics Management Authority. Paul has been committed to ensuring that the World Heritage Area is presented to visitors and valued by the community. He has been working on building relationships with the tourism industry, establishing the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program, supporting the Wet Tropics National Landscape program and exploring options for the establishment of a World Heritage Gateway for the region.</p>

Name	Bio
<p>Peter Salleras Forest Fruit Farms</p>	<p>As a kid growing up on a cane farm at Midgenoo just north of Tully, Peter Salleras looked forward to the Sunday drives when he and his brothers jostled for window seats in the station wagon, to see who could be the first to see a cassowary on the bumpy dirt road trip to “the beach”. Bingil Bay was the normal destination, and on one such occasion in the mid 60’s Peter remembers the family visiting the Bussts at Ninney Rise.</p> <p>Peter and his wife Alison bought a 220 acre property between Tully and Mission Beach in 1983 with the intention of growing tropical exotic tree fruits. There have been challenges aplenty with the passing of the decades, particularly those dealt by cyclones Winifred, Larry and Yasi.</p> <p>Peter has done stints with C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) as Rural Agricultural coordinator and chairman, Wet Tropics Management Authority (Community Consultative Committee and Neighbours Liaison Group) and the Rambutan and Tropical Exotics Association and FNQ Rambutan Marketing Group as chairman. A Cassowary Award from WTMA and an Australia Day Excellence Award (for contribution to the fruit industry) have been very flattering recognition of time and effort put in over the years.</p> <p>Increasing interest in the farm from visitors, media and celebrity chefs over the years, and the opportunity to involve children Ben and Skye and their partners, has prompted Peter and Alison to start <i>Fruit Forest Farm</i> tours which showcase cultivated fruits, rainforest and the heritage of the land.</p> <p>With snorkelling and recreational fishing being ‘jewels in the crown’ of living in this place, Peter is often reminded when Ellison reef shows on the boat’s chart plotter that but for the efforts of a handful of visionary people working from Ninney Rise, the marine wonderland reefs closest to our coast could have been just a limestone quarry.</p>
<p>Renate Klein Spinifex Press</p>	<p>Dr Renate Klein is a biologist whose early work focused on ants. She is internationally known for her work critiquing reproductive technologies, and the medicalization of women’s health. She is a former Associate Professor on Women’s Studies at Deakin University, Victoria.</p>
<p>Sigmund Jorgensen OAM</p>	<p>Sigmund has a reputation for having a go at making anything. He once made an out-of-season Chinese gooseberry for an ad agency and made buttons for Dame Margot Fintaine’s tutu. Though he once dreamt of studying medicine, he was drawn to the more magical world of theatre where he gained a reputation for being able to organise, create and stage-manage plays and festivals.</p> <p>After diverse work in theatre, opera and ballet companies in London, his career as the ‘master of Montsalvat’ started in 1969: where he took up after his father tasked with making the place relevant and self-sufficient without losing its creative cutting-edge. Sigmund expanded activities to introduce public performances of music in all its forms plus exhibitions and festivals including the Montsalvat International Jazz Festival.</p> <p>Sigmund served as a Councillor and later as Mayor of Nillumbik Council (Victoria) where he fought many battles with developers and in 2013 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the arts.</p>
<p>Susan Hawthorne Spinifex Press</p>	<p>Dr Susan Hawthorne has written extensively about ecology in works of non-fiction, fiction and poetry. Her books include <i>Wild Politics</i> (2002), <i>Earth’s Breath</i> (2009) and <i>Limen</i> (2013). She is Adjunct Professor in the Writing Program at James Cook University, Townsville.</p>



Name	Bio
Suzie Smith WPSQ Tully	<p>In 1980 the Tully branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld was formed by Suzie Smith and several other teachers of Tully State High School. It was inspired by Suzie's love of Judith Wright, poet and co- founder of the Society in 1962, and a group of senior students who were very interested in environmental issues.</p> <p>Working as Secretary for most of the time since then has given Suzie the opportunity to work with many great conservationists, like Margaret and Arthur Thorsborne, to meet many political leaders and to contribute to the success of campaigns to protect our wonderfully diverse environment. Those campaigns have included Save the Rainforests, Kennedy Bay- Hull River National Park, Cassowary conservation and Mahogany Glider Recovery of Coastal Woodlands and Fight for the Reef.</p>