

floating land

Climate Change & Cultural Knowledge

An Interactive Forum

When: Saturday June 20, 9.30am to 4.30pm
Where: TopTent, Boreen Point,
15 mins north of Noosa, Queensland
Register: Noosa Regional Gallery - 5449 5340
Cost: FREE

Climate Change and Cultural Knowledge brings together academics and people from the Pacific Islands that have experienced first-hand the effects of climate change. The forum will explore climate change and perceptions and responses by indigenous peoples from Pacific cultures. How do the mental models of indigenous cultures provide additional and important sources of knowledge and information for understanding and managing climate change?

Climate and contemporary society

Graeme Taylor, author of *The Evolutionary Edge*, will ask what has been the influence and impact of our contemporary society on climate since the industrial revolution? The discussion will explore our deep and prevailing assumptions about economic growth, consumption, wellbeing, ownership, spirituality and happiness and the role of these assumptions and attitudes towards nature and culture.

Systems Thinking

Professors Ockie Bosch and Kambiz Maani from the University of Queensland will introduce and demonstrate the value of systems thinking principles and applications to address climate change and other complex environmental problems. They will provide an introduction to methods and concepts of systems thinking and the value they bring to constructing mental models about the complex and interrelated world we live in with reference to the global climatic system.

Climate and livelihoods

Speakers will discuss the impact of the weather on indigenous cultures, including Pacific Island nations such as Tuvalu and Takuu (Mortlock Islands). They will give first-hand accounts of problems encountered by communities forced to leave their islands as a result of climate change. What Indigenous cultural, social and scientific knowledge guide their understanding of climate change and provide solutions?

Documentary

New Zealand photojournalist Jocelyn Carlin will join ex-ABC journalist Dr Mark Hayes in presenting for the first time portions of the documentary, *The Disappearing of Tuvalu: Trouble in Paradise*. Ms Carlin has photo-documented the rising seas of the Pacific Islands and the drastic impact of the high tides on the lifestyles of the people.

Discussion

How can challenges arising from climate change be approached given what we know about the relationship between the climate, human cultural systems and mental models? This session teases out the most critical issues from the presentations to distil a body of information to be fed back to the artists working on the *Floating Land* Program, and fed into the remaining *Floating Land* forums – particularly the *Shifting Paradigms: nature and culture* forum.

Climate Change and Cultural Knowledge is only part of the 10-day program of the *Floating Land* art festival. For more information on these or other events visit www.floatingland.com.au or phone 07 5449 5340 to receive a program.



Firings by the Lake, Raoul Slater



Kambiz Maani



Mother and Child,
Solomon Islands Sculpture Group



Stone Paasia



Building the kilns, Adam West

floating land



Professor Ockie Bosch - Head, School of Integrative Systems, UQ

Professor Ockie Bosch has been a practising scientist for 40 years. He is currently Chair of the International Committee for Systems Education, member of the Noosa Biosphere Education and Research & Development Board, and serves on the Academic Board of The University of Queensland. He has published more than 60 articles in scientific journals around the world.

Professor Kambiz Maani - Chair in Systems Thinking and Practice, UQ

Professor Maani's academic and consulting career spans over 25 years in the USA, Asia, Australasia, and South America. He is an internationally acknowledged expert in systems thinking, organisational learning and leadership. He is the recipient of several research and publication awards from international academic journals, has published widely and consulted to numerous organisations in Australasia and around the world.

Dr Mark Hayes - Lecturer, Journalism and Communication, UQ

Dr Mark Hayes is a lecturer in journalism at the University of Queensland where he specialises in Pacific media and journalism contexts and practices. He has traveled to Tuvalu four times between late 2002 and early 2008, to work with Radio Tuvalu's journalists, conduct co-operative research into journalism in and on Tuvalu, and report on the effects of global warming on Tuvalu.



Dr Susan Cochrane - English, Museum and Studies in Art History, UQ

Susan Cochrane is an independent scholar, author and curator whose engagement with contemporary arts and cultures in the Pacific spans over 20 years. Susan has curated major events with Pacific artists including the Sydney Olympics Arts Festival and Asia-Pacific Triennial, and acts as a consultant / guest curator to art galleries and museums.

Jocelyn Carlin - Photojournalist

Jocelyn Carlin is a New Zealand born photographer who has worked internationally on documentary and art projects since the early eighties. She now works as a freelance independent journalist and has been involved in many book projects and group and solo exhibitions. Jocelyn has recently returned to Tuvalu, Fiji, Kiribati and Australia specifically to work on climate change issues.



Neil Davidson - Sustainable Outcomes Analyst

Neil Davidson has a degree in Science (Marine Biology and Geology) with Honours in Marine Sedimentology. He has over 18 years experience in government dealing with among other things Greenhouse Emissions Inventories for the built environment, initiating and managing the Qld Sustainable Technology Development Program, conducting a systems-based analysis of Greywater re-use strategies and industry cluster development (Lighting Innovation Centre) nationally across industry, academic and government agencies.

Sione Paasia - Takuu (Mortlock Islands)

Sione Paasia is from the Ariki (Chief) Clan of Takuu (Mortlock Island) and his father is the current Maatua (Head) of the Clan and Chief of Takuu. Sione grew up on the island before adventuring to Melbourne to complete a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace) and a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from UNITECH. Sione is now a consultant providing technical support in quality & safety for aviation companies within PNG.



Rae Smart

Rae Smart first resided in Bougainville until she and her family were evacuated off the Island due to the Civil War (The Bougainville Crisis). Rae has returned numerous times and was adopted into a Takuu Clan during the 1980's and given the name Kataha. She has close relationships with both the Mortlock Atoll and the Bougainville Main Islands people and still works closely with women and NGOs, including a group that won the Millennium Peace Prize for Women from the UN in 2001.