



IN A CLIMATE CRISIS



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Caring for Country Workshop: Indigenous Voices on Culture, Heritage and the Climate Crisis

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MAINA TALIA



Maina Talia is from Vaitupu, Tuvalu. Since 2012 he has attended COP meetings as part of the Tuvalu delegation, organising side events in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, and from 2017 he has been the Pacific Representative to the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IPFCC). He recently completed his doctoral studies at Charles Sturt University focussing on the concept of good neighbours in the context of climate change and geopolitics. Mr Talia has returned to Tuvalu to be reunited with his family. As a climate activist for over ten years, Mr. Talia speaks on topics such as climate change, oceans, sea-level rise, seabed mining, migration, and traditional knowledge. Mr. Talia will continue to speak truth to power and hold the privileged accountable for their actions.



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JASON WILSON



Jason Wilson is Aboriginal man (Murri) of the Kennedy-Morgan and Peter's Families. His Grandfather's country language is Gomilaroi (Barwon River and north-west New South Wales), and his Grandmother's Country language is [U-laroi] Youalaroi (Narran River and North-west New South Wales) in the Northern Murray Darling Basin.

He has worked in Fisheries both State and Federal to incorporate Aboriginal Values into water initiatives and has helped empower Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and Northern Basin Aboriginal Nation, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office as a Local Engagement Officer. He currently enjoys Chairing the Narran Lakes Joint Management Committee with the Office of Environment and Heritage tackling Climate Change Adaptation.

Jason loves his Country and Family. He has dedicated his life to stop the 'intergenerational cultural, spiritual and economic genocide' and to provide equity for Aboriginal People. He has always conducted himself according to the strong traditional values that underpin his Aboriginal customs and beliefs, where he is confident we will make a difference together.



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PANELLIST

CHRISSY GRANT



Chrissy Grant is an Eastern Kuku Yalanji in Cape York and Mualgal from the Torres Straits Elder, operating at international and national levels, with over 35 years' experience working with communities on Indigenous heritage management and conservation and protection of natural resources. As Director of Indigenous Heritage with the Australian Government she oversaw the implementation of the National Heritage List, with Budj Bim being the very first place listed (as Lake Condah) and now Australia's newest World Heritage Area. Chrissy is Chair of the Board of the Wet Tropics World Heritage site and is a founding member, and currently chairs, the independent *International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage* (IIPFWH). Her work focusses on working with Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and the Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples of the Wet Tropics, both World Heritage Areas across her traditional lands and waters.



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PANELLIST

SARAH FORGESSON



Sarah Forgeson is a Māori woman (Ngati whakaue) and the Climate Heritage Specialist of the International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change at ICOMOS. She is also working on the Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe project via ICCROM, and previously worked as part of the CAAL (Central Asian Archaeological Landscapes). Sarah is currently completing doctoral research focused on Indigenous solutions to the impact of climate change of heritage landscapes in the South Pacific. Her areas of interest include cultural landscapes and exploring the Indigenous experience of climate change on heritage, and how to explore and address future climate action and solutions.



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ELIZABETH EDWARDS



Elizabeth Daveta Edwards is a Fijian woman hailing from Nakaile village, Tokatoka, Tailevu of the mataqali (clan) Nataraturaga. Her mataqali are the traditional “Bati” (warriors). She is by profession a Film Director, Producer, Editor and Communicator and has worked in the television and media industry with Fiji TV, Mai TV and Pasifika Communications, and in the private sector advocating for social issues in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Since 2016 Elizabeth has been the Secretary General of ICOMOS Pasifika and Blue Shield Pasifika, and communicating across the Pacific Region on heritage and its protection for Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) to professionals and organizations in the Pacific and Internationally. In 2018, she completed research for the International Research Centre Institute (IRCI) on “The situation of ICH in the aftermath of Tropical cyclone Winston: Preliminary Field Survey in Ra Province” and in 2022-2023 she conducted “Research on ICH Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic”.

A professional grant writer for non-profits, she has recently completed a partnership with the Fiji Arts Council where she secured international and local grants. She is the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme Specialist for UNESCO in Fiji.



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MOEMOANA SCHWENKE



Moemoana Schwenke is a Sāmoan born performance artist, emerging writer and director, environmental advocate and cultural arts tutor at Matavai Pacific Cultural Arts. Her family's cultural centre Matavai promotes the positive fundamentals of Pacific cultures through dance, music, language and creative arts, aiming to reconnect the Australian-Pacific community with their culture and history through the passing down of traditions and art forms. Moemoana has extensive experience with various Pacific cultural arts, heralded as one of few female fire-knife performers in the world. Her central focus is empowering youth to mobilise their talents to counteract the social, political and environmental issues that affect the Pacific. She graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies and Environmental Humanities.