

WATER JUSTICE HUB NEWSLETTER

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and pay our respect to the elders past and present.



Water Justice Hub launch

28 September 2020

The [Water Justice Hub](#) was established on 14 October 2019 as an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance at the Australian National University. The official launch of the Water Justice Hub was organised on 28 September 2020, in Canberra, Australia. The ANU-UNESCO Chair is calling for greater water justice, especially for Indigenous Australians. Bringing together leading experts from Australia and around the world, the Water Justice Hub's mission is to respond to water injustice and promote both 'voice' and truth-telling in relation to water. While the Hub will have a primary focus on Australia, especially justice for First Peoples, it will also respond to the global challenges of delivering 'water for all' or Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. The Water Justice Hub responds to water injustice by delivering on three key objectives: ensuring everyone's basic water needs are met; making sure water distribution is fair; and ensuring all people are represented in water decision-making.

Videos of the WJH launch and introduction to the WJH are available at the [WJH's YouTube channel](#).

WATER JUSTICE HUB ON NEWS

ABC News

[New research body seeks water justice](#)

ANU News

[Australia must ensure water justice for all: expert](#)

Global Water Forum

[Delivering Water Justice – Launching the Water Justice Hub](#)

Policy Forum

[Delivering water justice today](#)

Woroni News

[Water Justice Hub launched at the ANU: An interview with Professor Quentin Grafton](#)

Water Justice Hub workshop

29 September 2020 to 7 October 2020

From 29 September to 7 October 2020, the ANU-UNESCO Chair hosted a Water Justice Hub workshop discussing a strategic road map for the five-year Water Justice ARC Laureate project in Canberra, Australia. The workshop was conducted through Zoom with Canberra-based participants attending in person, adhering to COVID-19 safety rules, and participants from Western Australia, Canada and Singapore.

Introduction to the WJH workshop is available at <https://vimeo.com/489240288/482bb41f4>.



Photo: WJH workshop, 2020

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and the ANU Water Justice Hub meet

Dr Kat Taylor, Dr Ana Manero and Prof. Quentin Grafton

On November 26th, the Martuwarra Council met with researchers from the Australian National University (ANU), Prof. Quentin Grafton, Dr Kat Taylor and Dr Ana Manero. The Council members and the researchers discussed collaborating through the Water Justice Hub. Using the Council's new online meeting place, they discussed some research options that might support water justice and the Council's new Conservation and Management Plan. Prof. Grafton, Dr Taylor and Dr Manero were grateful for the opportunity to learn from the elders at the meeting. Council members reported signs that Country is already stressed from climate change and land clearing. Seasonal indicators are out of balance, which can be a warning sign of water, food and medicine insecurity. Mary Aiken, (Bunuba elder woman) emphasised the connected nature of surface and groundwater, and between the Margaret and Fitzroy rivers. For the communities' wellbeing, future generations need to be able to learn about Country. As Gordon Smith Jnr (Ngarinyin man) said, 'truth comes from the ground up'. Dr Taylor and Dr Manero also thanked the Council for the privilege of attending the 'We Love You Martuwarra' event in Fitzroy Crossing on October 31st. The conversation between the Council and the Water Justice Hub researchers will continue.

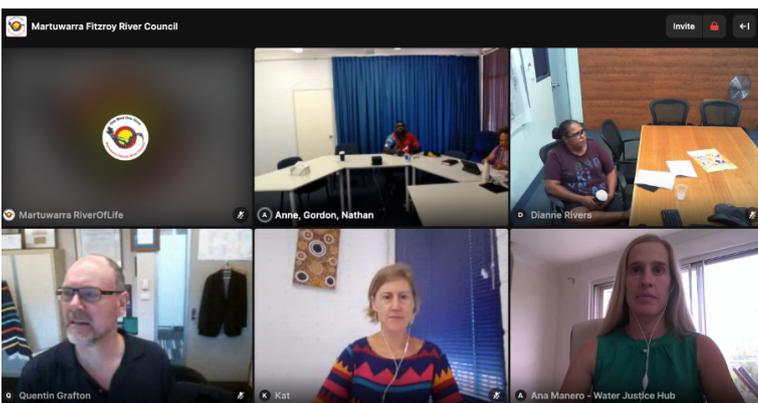


Photo: Dr Alexander Hayes, 2020

Researchers in the News

In December 2020, Dr Virginia Marshall has just been appointed as the Co-Chair of the Australian Government's inaugural Indigenous Water Committee (with Co-Chair Associate Professor Brad Moggridge) and Dr Anne Poelina has been appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Indigenous Water Committee. Virginia Marshall (Wiradjuri Nyemba) is a practicing native title Lawyer, Educator and leading Indigenous academic scholar in water. She is the Inaugural Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National University. Dr Anne Poelina is a Nyikina Warrwa Traditional Owner and a guardian of the Mardoowarra, Lower Fitzroy River in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Anne Poelina is the Managing Director of Madjulla Inc., Chair of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and Deputy Chair of the Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation (Native Title Body Corporate).

THE LAUREATE TEAM



Wiktor (Vic) Lucian Adamowicz



Sonia Akter



Hoang Long Chu



Katherine Daniell



Quentin Grafton



Ana Manero



Virginia Marshall



Mai Nguyen



William Nikolakis



Anne Poelina



Katherine Taylor



John Williams



Paul Wyrwoll

Water injustice is everywhere. Even the most fundamental human right, to have access to drinking in quantities and of quality equal to their needs, is denied to billions.

Thank you and Happy holidays!

Thank you for your support to the Water Justice Hub over the past few months. If you have been following our website, you will see that we have a number of 'water stories' in the form of videos. If you have a water story that you want to share with us, please get in touch and we can either upload and host your story or we can provide a link to an existing water story.

In the coming year we would also like to highlight any research papers (published or as a working paper) or opinion pieces, and also 'water stories', that you may have written on water (and especially on water justice) so long as it is freely accessible through a link. Please send us the link and details (to NhatMai.Nguyen@anu.edu.au) and we will include your contribution(s) on the website.

Thank you again for your continued support. Wishing you all a welcome break over the holiday season and the very best for 2021.

Quentin Grafton

Unless the world's governments can achieve justice in the provision of water, those who are most vulnerable will continue to suffer.