

# WATER JUSTICE HUB NEWSLETTER

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



Photo: Aquawhen?

## Aquawhen?

*Water Justice Virtual Exhibition*

*15-22 September, 2021*



**Prof Quentin  
Grafton**



**Prof Brian P.  
Schmidt**



**Prof Fiona Yap**



**Prof Lorrae van  
Kerkhoff**



**Prof Peter Yu**

From 15 – 22 September, The Water Justice Hub hosted a unique virtual exhibition 'Aquawhen?', focusing on the lived experiences of those in far western New South Wales. The exhibition featured pictorials by artists Rix Lee and Tom Horne, based on the testimonies of Wilcannia and Menindee residents at the 2019 Citizen's Inquiry on the Health of the Barka-Darling River. The exhibition also featured Justice posters that highlighted the research of Water Justice Hub members and short films from Dan Schulz and Otis Filley. The Aquawhen? launch featured guest speakers: ANU Vice-Chancellor Brian P. Schmidt, Water Justice Hub Convener Quentin Grafton, Crawford School Director Fiona Yap, Director for the Institute of Water Futures Lorrae Van Kerkhoff, and ANU Vice-President (First Nations) Peter Yu. Professor Schmidt spoke on the importance of recognising the connection between water and community and expressed his and the university's support for the exhibition and Water Justice Hub's mission.

**Read more:** <https://tinyurl.com/7j59nm44>.

## Voices of the Barka River – World Rivers Day 2021

26 September, 2021

This piece, originally published on *Global Water Forum* and authored by Water Justice Hub members, called for the world to listen to the people of the Barka as they fight to save one of Australia's most important rivers, the Barka or Lower Darling River. In 2019, in large part as a result of over-extraction upstream, the river ran dry causing huge ecological damage. Without urgent action, water mismanagement of this vital waterway will compound the effects of climate change on the communities that rely on the river for their survival.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/4py645ax>



Photo: Quentin Grafton

## Water Justice Course

Dr Ana Manero and Dr Kat Taylor

*What does water justice mean to you?* This was the opening question of the Water Justice Course, convened by Dr Kat Taylor and Dr Ana Manero in early September 2021. Over two weeks of intensive learning, a group of fifteen students explored the meanings and importance of water justice from a wide range of perspectives: from Indigenous water rights in Australia, to lack of safe drinking water in Canada, all the way to transboundary water across central Africa and drought in water-torn Iraq. By drawing from their own experiences and deeply engaging with the literature, the students were able to gain a greater understanding of water justice. As one student put it “this course has opened my eyes”, while another commented “the learnings from this course are not only academic. I now feel I am a better person”.

## Water Justice Hub Researcher Interviews Ep. 2

**Prof John Williams**  
Water Justice Warrior

12 August, 2021

In the second episode of the Water Justice Hub Researcher's series, we spoke with

Prof John Williams. John is an Honorary Professor at the Australian National University and a founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. In the interview, he reflected on his experiences as a water researcher as well as his hopes for the future of water justice.



See more: <https://tinyurl.com/4e29yavp>

## WJH Researchers in the News

**Dr Anne Poelina | A journey down WA's mighty Martuwarra, raging river and sacred ancestor | *The Guardian***

Water Justice Hub member Anne Poelina spoke to the Guardian in June about the importance of the Martuwarra/Fitzroy River, and the different ways Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples value it. Anne emphasised the necessity of understanding the river as a living being, saying "We don't talk about cultural flows, we talk about living water systems and the connectivity between freshwater and saltwater, so it's a very deep relationship over multiple generations."

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/bbajysc>

## External Water Stories

**The Yamuna, India's most polluted river**

Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/4r4yy7u@>

**Why Iraq's great rivers are dying**

Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/9pabceuh>

**What it's like to live through Cape Town's massive water crisis**

Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/yjk5rrxb>

**Are dams killing the Mekong river?**

Find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/2un8etcc>



Photo: Global Water Forum Flickr