

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.



The Barka/Darling River

Photo: John on Flickr

Voices of the Barka won't be forgotten

Prof Quentin Grafton and the Water Justice Hub

World Rivers Day, 27 September 2021

In this important opinion piece, the Water Justice Hub reflected on the key theme of 2021's World Rivers Day – the importance of clean, fresh water for all. This goal is unfortunately still a dream for many around the world, not least of all for the Indigenous peoples of Australia. The Water Justice Hub calls for us all to step back and consider the many different ways of valuing our rivers and waterways. In particular, we must pay greater heed to Indigenous values and kinship grounded in customary laws and traditions as exemplified by the Traditional Custodians of the Barka/Darling River.

Water Justice Podcast Ep. 3 | America – Eroded Trust in Corroded Pipes

Dr Kat Taylor, Timothy Whiffen, Prof Maura Allaire, Dr Sri Vedachalam, Monica Lewis-Patrick, Dr Travis Brown.

30 October 2021

Inequitable access to drinking water is a problem worldwide, including in the so-called 'Global North'. The United States of America, for example, is a wealthy country; yet many people lack access to clean, safe, and affordable water. Water infrastructure is complicated and expensive, and the governance of water in the USA is fractured. Join us in the third installment of the Water Justice Podcast as Dr Kat Taylor and Tim Whiffen talk with experts about some of the challenges the USA faces and the pathways to water equity.

Bending towards water justice: pathways for truth, reconciliation, inclusion, and transformative actions

Prof Quentin Grafton, Safa Fanaian, Gabriela Sacco, Luis Liberman

03 December 2021

Introducing the *International Journal of Water Resources Development's* special issue on water justice, Prof Quentin Grafton, Safa Fanaian, and their colleagues call for all who read and think about water justice to become part of the solution. They emphasise that equality will only be achieved through the 'collective actions of individuals, institutions, and communities working together with a commitment to common goals and the means to effect change.' This searing call to action is essential reading for those that are ready to take the first steps toward a better water world.



Photo: Global Water Forum on Flickr

Water Justice Hub Researcher Interviews Ep. 3

Dr Ana Manero | Water Justice Warrior

7 November 2021

In this episode of the WJH Researchers Interview series, we talk with Dr Ana Manero. Ana is a research fellow at the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, whose current research is focused on improving the understanding and valuation of water resources for resilient decision-making and greater water justice. She brings a wealth of diverse experiences to the Water Justice Hub, having studied and worked in France, Italy, and the USA. In the interview, Ana talks about her love of water and her hopes for the future of water justice.



The Water Justice and Security Endowment Fund

Late last year, WJH launched the Water Justice and Security Endowment Fund. The intention of the fund is to support water initiatives including (but not limited to): community water partnerships, water training and learning (especially in partnership with Indigenous communities), and special initiatives in relation to water vulnerable communities.

External Water Stories

As the Climate Bakes, Turkey Faces a Future Without Water

Facing drought, fires, and the hottest temperatures in almost 60 years, Turkey is at the coalface of the world water-climate crisis. But even as the alarm bells ring, the government is spending more and more on water-intensive agriculture and development. In this piece from Yale Environment 360, we learn why this once fertile country is looking at a dry future.

Africa's largest dam powers dreams of prosperity in Ethiopia – and fears of hunger in Egypt

As the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam nears completion, those in Ethiopia see it as a sign of future prosperity, powered by the massive amounts of hydroelectricity the project offers. However, downstream in the Nile delta, Egyptians fear that the project heralds a loss of control over the waters on which their country depends for food and life. This dichotomy serves as a stark reminder of the give and take of water injustice, and of the conflict it can ferment.

Aral Sea: The sea that dried up in 40 years

The Aral Sea was once a source of life for Central Asia. Lying between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, it was the fourth-largest inland sea in the world and a hub for countless fishing communities. However, in the 1960s the Soviet government redirected two tributary rivers that flowed to the Sea to irrigate farmland. Since then, it has steadily shrunk to only 1/10th of its original size. In this video, BBC reporters talk to locals affected by this environmental catastrophe and investigate the mismanagement that allowed it to get to this point.

Publications

Dr Paul Wyrwoll, Prof Quentin Grafton | Reforming for resilience: delivering 'multipurpose hydropower' under water and energy risks | *International Journal of Water Resources Development*

Writing in the *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, Dr Paul Wyrwoll and Prof Quentin Grafton analyse how multipurpose hydropower reservoirs can most effectively deliver fair outcomes for all. Despite regularly being framed as water security and climate change solutions, new hydropower governance approaches are needed for reservoirs to efficiently and fairly reallocate water. They present three potential reforms to ensure the resilience of these systems: periodic relicensing, water tariffs, and hydropower sustainability performance bonds.

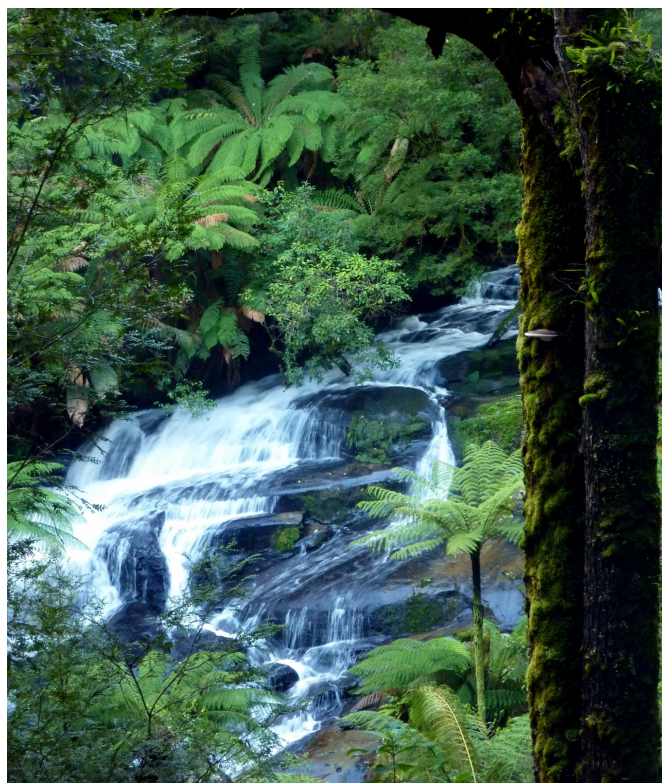


Photo: Global Water Forum Flickr