



national science week 2018

Media Release / Alert

Let's Talk Indigenous Science during National Science Week *Indigenous Science Conversations,* *Wednesday 15 August, Questacon, Canberra*

WEDNESDAY 15 August – 3:15PM AND 5:45PM, Japan Theatre, Questacon King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600

Better science happens when Indigenous knowledge is part of it.

“Indigenous people have been caring for Country for thousands of years - this National Science Week the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) acknowledges the contribution that First Nation Peoples’ knowledge and practice contributes to this environmental research program,” Brad Moggridge, Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

Today’s ecologists, hydrologists and climate scientists are finally catching up with Indigenous knowledge, consolidated over thousands of generations of custodianship.

Embedding Indigenous knowledge in environmental science delivers better information for Australia’s environment, while making or enhancing respectful relationships between researchers and Indigenous communities and providing training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people.

On **August 15**, the Australian Government’s National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is co-hosting two Indigenous-led discussions on Indigenous knowledge, practice, and perspectives in science.

Held at event partner Questacon, First-Nations panel members from five of the NESP research Hubs will discuss opportunities for and approaches to incorporating Indigenous knowledge into climate science, biodiversity, threatened species recovery, urban planning, land use and marine ecology.

“These events mark a commitment from NESP Hubs to explore ways to meaningfully embed Indigenous knowledge in environmental science,” Duane Fraser, Tropical Water Quality Hub.

“These discussions will explore challenges in ensuring Indigenous knowledge is honoured in scientific research and will hopefully encourage ways to facilitate more Indigenous-led scientific research,” Maddison Miller, Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub.

These events are free, but ticketed. There are a few tickets left for the [3:15pm session](#) but the second conversation at 5:45pm has **sold out**.

Event Hosts: [Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub](#), [Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub](#), [NITV](#), [Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub](#), [Threatened Species Recovery Hub](#), [Tropical Water Quality Hub](#) and [Questacon](#)

The [National Environmental Science Program](#) (NESP) is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government to environment and climate research. NESP projects deliver collaborative, practical and applied research to inform decision making and on-ground action.

Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre and its programmes are administered within the [Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science](#) 

[National Science Week](#) is Australia's annual opportunity to meet scientists, discuss the hot topics, do science and celebrate its cultural and economic impact on society. National Science Week 2018 will run from 11-19 August.

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Speakers Available for media: Brad, Maddi, Duane

Speaker Biographies:

Brad Moggridge

Brad Moggridge is a proud Murri from the Kamilaroi Nation (North-West NSW), who grew up in Western Sydney on Darug land and now lives in Canberra on Ngunnawal land. Brad is currently a PhD Candidate (full-time) at the University of Canberra's Institute for Applied Ecology. To support his PhD with a young family Brad is a part-time *Indigenous Liaison Officer* for Threatened Species Recovery Hub as a part of National Environmental Science Program (NESP), which allows him to engage researchers and Aboriginal communities aiming to protect threatened species through research.

Brad has qualifications - Masters of Science (Hydrogeology and Groundwater Management) from UTS and Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) from ACU. Brad was recently awarded by ACU the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumni Award for 2017. He was previously employed by NSW DPI Water as the Team Leader Aboriginal Water Initiative (AWI), and was honored to lead the then only dedicated Aboriginal water unit in Australia for nearly 5 years.

Maddi Miller

Maddison Miller is a Darug woman and archaeologist. She is the co-chair of the Indigenous Advisory Group to the Clean Air and Urban Landscape Hub. Maddison's work has centred upon heritage and archaeology in urban areas, advocating for recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge in cities and urban spaces. In 2017 Maddi was selected to take part in the inaugural Joan Kirner Young and Emerging Women Leaders Program.

Duane Fraser

Duane Fraser is a Wulgurukaba and Bidjara man from Queensland. He is Co-Chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Expert Member of the Reef Integrated Monitoring Program – Heritage, Member of the Commonwealth Environment Indigenous Advisory Committee and Member of the Great Barrier Reef Advisory Committee. Duane stands proudly on the shoulders of those that led before him and has spent the last three years solidly elevating the struggles and empowerment of Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef. Duane was a critical driver for inclusion of Traditional Owner perspectives within the landmark Reef 2050 Plan, and is particularly focused on inspiring the next generation of leaders for the Great Barrier Reef and marine systems, advocating for greater participation of Indigenous youth, especially young Indigenous women, in decision making structures.

Taleah Watego-Piggott

Taleah is a Bundjalung woman, whose family originates from the Byron Bay area, based around Wategos beach. She grew up and still currently resides in Brisbane. She has always had a passion for wildlife, particularly threatened species so she studied a Bachelor of Science, majoring in wildlife biology. From this she worked as a wildlife officer with the Department of Environment and Science, mainly focusing on the

conservation of koalas and public awareness around the species, as well as looking after 6 resident koalas at the Daisy Hill Koala Centre. Taleah is currently working as a project officer on the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub's arid zone monitoring project which is collating all existing track-based data, which is collected by indigenous trackers around Australia, which will be analysed to describe the distributions of desert threatened species and their threats.

David Hudson

Dr David Hudson has worked on a NESP Northern Hub project evaluating Indigenous land management programs in the Gulf. He recently shared his experiences of creating new cultural and economic opportunities on [Ewamian](#) country in north Queensland in Canberra during Reconciliation Week. David is a Ewamian-Western Yalanji man and is an outstanding musician and performer. David Hudson's life reflects his love and belief in Aboriginal culture. David has travelled extensively throughout Australia and the World, including Europe, Asia, Oceania and the USA as a solo artist with Greek composer Yanni and world renowned dance troupe "Tjapukai", which he co-founded. He promotes awareness of Aboriginal culture and tradition where he travels. His work is considered "contemporary" yet has a very definite traditional influence. David is inspired by all the natural elements of his environment and with each work he creates, he wholeheartedly gives a part of himself and his culture.

Luke Briscoe

Yalanji man Luke Briscoe (Junjirra Wawu Kaitbal) has worked professionally in the arts, cultural, education and policy sectors including NITV/SBS, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, The Australia Council, Metro Screen and Youth Arts Queensland. Mr Briscoe has developed and delivered a range of groundbreaking arts and media programs including an arts business training program and setup the Indigenous Media RING employment program and in 2015 Mr Briscoe founded INDIGI LAB which is an award winning change management agency that provides consultancy in the areas of Digital Inclusion, Indigenous STEM Education and Indigenous led Sustainable Development. Luke is on CAUL Hub's Indigenous Advisory Group.

Ben Wilson (MC for the event)

Ben is a Jagera man from the south of Brisbane, and has cultural connections through Ngemba men in Brewarrina and the NSW Central Coast. He has worked in the Australian education system for over ten years as a teacher, facilitator, consultant, and researcher. He currently works at the Australian National University as a Research Associate at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies and is pursuing his PhD exploring the pedagogical approaches of Indigenous Australians.