

# Regenerating Futures - Faculty Research Group

## Newsletter 2026



RF Newsletter #3 - Tuesday 17th March 2026

Dear Regenerating Futures Colleagues!

What a wonderful event we held last week - as we welcomed our Visiting Scholars to the RF and Deakin. Amanda Glob Nielsen (from CUHRE in Denmark) and Franziska Messenboeck (from Austria) were our guests of honour. Some of us were there IN PERSON as we hosted a gathering sharing treats from our home lands. We had mini pavlova, Franziska made strudel from Austria, and Amanda made pancakes from Denmark.



Amanda presented our second Futures Forum and Franziska will be offering our fourth Futures Forum on the 24th March (see below).

In news this week the RF launches our Incubator strategy - where 14 RF members focus on research strategising in community - a way of understanding co-mentoring. See below for details. Next week we host our first (of four) Regenerators - where we explore what it takes to be a savvy academic - using tools and planning to not only conduct high quality research but to engage broad audiences generating impact. On the 8th April we will host our first Strategiser - devising a 5 year research plan. See details below and calendar invites have been sent.

Tomorrow (18th March) Kate Hunter will present a Futures Forum on her exciting 2025 ASP research project, which investigates attention as a dramaturgical practice.

The Decolonising Reading Group starts again on the 27th March... the group offers a series of 'brown bag lunch' events to provoke rich conversations about decolonising and ignite research. All are welcome...details below.

You will also notice that our calendar of events is bursting with opportunity to engage in innovative thinking designed to ignite new research initiatives... along with the necessary supports to enable you to pursue creative and productive research trajectories.

Best wishes,

*Peta and Jo*

### RF Calendar of Events for 2026

- On Country Days (a single day where we value being together on Country - learning and living in community - all welcome)
  - 1 Willum Warrain [www.willumwarrain.org.au/](http://www.willumwarrain.org.au/) - Thursday 16th April 10.45am - 3pm
  - 2 With RF Retreat/Advance in Geelong city - Monday 1st June 10am - 3pm
  - 3 Melbourne event or cultural institution - Wednesday 16th September 10am - 3pm
  - 4 Sherbrook Forest - Monday 23rd November 10am - 3pm
- Futures Forum (all welcome)
  - ~~1 Ethan Gordon - RF Visiting Scholar - "Faces of Regeneration" - Thursday 26th February @ 11am - COMPLETED - see recording [here](#)~~
  - ~~2 Amanda Glob Nielsen - RF Visiting Scholar - "Role playing with food in a posthuman perspective" - Tuesday 10th March @ 2pm - COMPLETED - see recording [here](#)~~
  - 3 Kate Hunter "Over Hearing: Attention as a dramaturgical practice" Wednesday 18th March @ 10am
  - 4 Franziska Massenboeck - RF Visiting Scholar - "More Than Just Dirt - Exploring Soil Health through Socio-Scientific Modelling in Teacher Education" Tuesday 24th March @ 2pm
- Regenerators (4 yearly - all welcome)
  - 1 The Savvy Academic (social media, conversation, online researcher profiles, scopus, 5 year plan, Deakin strategies (funding, ASP) - Tuesday 24th March - 12noon
  - 2 Slow academic - Self preservation and mindfulness - July
  - 3 Regenerative Leadership - October
  - 4 we will responsively frame the final Regenerator as we see how the year unfolds
- Strategiser (4 yearly - alternate with Regenerator - all welcome)
  - 1 Developing your five year research program (and narrative) - 8th April @ 2pm
  - 2 Actioning the 1 year plan (ARC dates, Faculty funding, other funding sources) - May
  - 3 Building research teams, international connections, and track record (ROPES) - September
  - 4 Industry partnerships and relationship - November
- Decolonising Knowledges Reading Group Zoom
  - Friday 27 March 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 24 April 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 22 May 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 26 June 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 31 July 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 28 August 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 18 September 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 30 October 2026 1:00-2:00pm
  - Friday 27 November 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Incubator - Initial meeting Tuesday 17th March @ 12noon (1 hr)
  - Future events are determined by the group
- Retreat / Advance - Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd June - Waterfront Geelong with On Country #2 and graduation (need convincing... <https://patthomson.net/2026/02/07/why-go-on-a-writing-retreat/>)
- SoE Research Conference - Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June - Waurin Ponds Estate
- Graduate Researcher
  - ~~Welcome to Visiting Scholars Amanda and Franziska - Tuesday 10th March @ 2pm - COMPLETED~~
  - "Postcards" @ Deakin Downtown (more details to come) - June
- Showcase projects - may host events throughout the year
  - CRU project - ARC DP27 full application and ongoing project

- Artefacts of the Futures
- Time to Act
- Events (opportunistically)

### **Congratulations to the RF DECRA's**

The RF was pleased to support two of our colleagues to plan, develop, and submit ARC DECRA applications recently. Ethan Gordan (who just presented the first Futures Forum for this year) and Danielle Hradsky (who is a Research Fellow on the Artefacts of the Futures and Time to Act projects) worked tirelessly through the application hurdles and Deakin supports processes/timelines to successfully submit their full application. Both projects are closely related to the RF and we wish them both well.

#### **Danielle Hradsky - *Truth-Telling and Contemporary Indigenous Theatre in Secondary Education***

*This project investigates how Contemporary Indigenous Theatre can support culturally safe truth-telling in Australian and international secondary schools. Truth-telling in education is an essential yet challenging part of reconciliation. Using qualitative, multi-site research, the study collaborates with teachers, students, and First Nations teaching-artists to examine how learning through performance processes affects engagement with contested histories. The project will generate new knowledge about theatre's role in decolonising education, informing teacher professional learning and curriculum development. It will contribute to cultural healing through education and preparing future generations to build more just and informed societies.*

#### **Ethan Gordon - *The future of biodiversity in agriculture: investigating visions for 2050***

*This project will investigate visions of agriculture in 2050 that address biodiversity loss. This is significant because global science-policy negotiations have identified a gap in imaginative visions of the future, which reduces possibilities for restoring biodiversity. Through practice research, the project will generate new knowledge for how scientists, policymakers, civil society, and farming industries can restore biodiversity in agriculture. Outcomes include publications, educational resources, and an edited volume on the role of imagination in biodiversity research. Translating this into tangible benefits, the project will showcase agriculture's biodiversity potential in global science-policy negotiations and build a roadmap to 2050.*

### **RF Incubator**

Later today (Tuesday 17th March) we begin the RF Incubator program with 14 participants. That is 14 colleagues who are eager to explore strategic trajectories resulting in ARC Cat 1 research pathways. Together we will form a community that co-mentors to support and scaffold as we plan, plot, and strategise towards ARC applications. This is a long term planning strategy that gives us permission to dream big and to create the research futures we want. Our RF Incubator creates a microhabitat within our broader research ecology (*loving these ecological metaphors*) in which our research and researchers grow (germinate) and develop (bear fruit). If we find useful resources and supports we will share via our RF newsletter.

### **RF Regenerator - # 1 The Savvy Academic - Tuesday 24th March - 12noon**

At this hour long event we will consider how the savvy academic manages the many MANY practices involved in research engagement and impact. This includes: social media, The Conversation, online researcher profiles, scopus, seeking funding for engagement and impact, and Deakin support strategies such as Academic Study Program.

See calendar invite and Zoom link [here](#)

### **RF Strategiser - #1 Five year research Plans - Wednesday 8th April @ 2pm**

Developing your five year research program (and narrative) can be a useful strategy to manage expectations, set agendas and to keep it all manageable. In this Strategiser we explore tools and processes that enable strategic planning. We will also consider the supports that are available at Deakin.

See calendar invite and Zoom link [here](#)

### **Decolonising Knowledges Reading Group**

We are delighted to announce that the meetings of our very successful Decolonising Knowledges reading group will recommence this month. The group meets online once per month mostly last Friday of the month 1:00-2:00pm (Lunch bag) from March to November, and all RF members are welcome to join. See your calendar invite - Zoom link [here](#). The dates for 2026 are:

- Friday 27 March 2026 1:00-2:00pm

**First reading:** Sharon Stein - Composting the University Volume 1, Issue 1 (2025), pp. 20-38 Journal of Global Higher Education. [Access here](#)

- Friday 24 April 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 22 May 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 26 June 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 31 July 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 28 August 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 18 September 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 30 October 2026 1:00-2:00pm
- Friday 27 November 2026 1:00-2:00pm

Reading group leaders Llewellyn Wishart and Genée Marks are putting out a call to RF membership and past participants of the reading group for suggested articles, readings and creative works for 2026. Please email Llewellyn and Genée your suggestions.

### **Co-lab for Graduate Researcher Colleagues - Tuesdays from 3 - 4pm**

Co-Lab is a weekly catch up for PhD or Masters by research students. Affiliated with the Regenerating Futures (RF) research group at Deakin University. Attendees may discuss research progress, events, or ideas they are presently working on. It is an informal space for HDR (higher degree by research) students to discuss and collaborate on ideas relating to their research or publications. This space is open to all PhD and Masters by research students enrolled at Deakin University (or not - just attend and Austin can help you join RF as an allied member). It may have an in-person study group component attended by learners/researchers from other campuses including post-doctorate candidates. This is an anti/multi-disciplinary group with converging de-colonial/anti-colonial aims. So far members have identified as queer/gender non-conforming and neurodiverse. The space is open and generative - members may seek to run a specific lesson or reading focused session. It is primarily facilitated by PhD student Austin McBride (education), but may run in their absence by other members.

Please invite any PhD or Masters by research candidates (Deakin or beyond), you feel will benefit from being included in this space. Co-Lab is not gate-kept, eligibility is based on interest, need for scholarly community and joining RF or as an allied member. For more information, please email Austin @

[s219060526@deakin.edu.au](mailto:s219060526@deakin.edu.au)

### **On Country Day #1 Willum Warrain - Thursday 16th April 10.45am-3.00pm**

We are excited to announce our first On Country day for 2026. This time we'll be walking together on Bunurong Boon Wurrung Country and visiting Willum Warrain in Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula.

**REGISTER HERE - we have limited capacity for this event - so please register asap.**

[Willum Warrain](#) is a 100% Aboriginal community-owned bush nursery specialising in local indigenous plants from the Mornington Peninsula. While there we'll follow the Koorie Plant Trail and visit the Pun Pun (billabong) area. We'll be decolonising our practices through yarning with Uncle Peter Aldenhoven, sharing lunch, regenerating vegetation and ourselves by getting our hands into some Indigenous plant propagation, and maybe taking home some Indigenous plants to grow the love.



Willum Warrain ('home by the sea') Aboriginal Association is the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Mornington Peninsula. It is a gathering place where Aboriginal people come together to realise community aspirations and forge shared identity. Managed by an Aboriginal board, Willum Warrain provides information and referral services, charitable support, health and wellbeing programs, art and culture programs, and links between the Aboriginal community and the broader local community. You can watch Gardening Australia's video "Home by the sea" about Willum Warrain [here](#).

RSVP required for this On Country day - limited places. Save the date. *Invitation coming soon.*

### **Futures Forum #2: Amanda Glob Nielsen - RF Visiting Scholar - "Role-playing with food in a posthuman perspective" - Tuesday 10th March @ 2pm. Recording [here](#)**

Grounded in posthumanism and ecofeminism, I would like to discuss how roleplay as a method for perspective shifts, creativity, and ecological reflection can help develop eco-literacy in education. After testing a sci-fi RPG

in Danish schools, I reconsidered how imagination, embodiment, and eco-literacy are supported within current systems. I argue that eco-literacy is not memorizing facts, but cultivating creative, democratic, and emotionally engaged conversations and practices. My research now turns to food as an overlooked yet powerful actor. What can an apple, a pig, or water teach us about interdependence, Indigenous knowledge, and living and dying well together in a more-than-human world?

**Futures Forum #3 - Dr. Kate Hunter “Over Hearing: Attention as a dramaturgical practice”- Wednesday 18th March @ 2pm**

This presentation outlines Kate's 2025 ASP research project, which investigates attention as a dramaturgical practice. Through field recording, graphic scoring, and dialogic inquiry with scholars and theatre-makers across diverse landscapes - from the desert country of the Western Wimmera to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado - the project examines how acts of attending generate new knowledge about place, embodiment, and theatrical presence. Kate presents her fieldwork findings to propose an expanded dramaturgical framework that emphasises felt experience as a profound way of making meaning.



**Kate Hunter** is an interdisciplinary artist working across performance, improvisation, painting, and sound. Originally trained in theatre, she creates miniature immersive installations and site-specific works that explore listening as both dramaturgical device and research method. Her practice employs painted surfaces, hydrophone recordings, and audio composition to examine relationships between human and more-than-human worlds. She is currently Senior Lecturer in Art and Performance at Deakin University, Naarm/Melbourne, Australia.

Zoom link - see [here](#), Meeting ID: 893 9401 8780, Password: 17712555

**Futures Forum #4: Franziska Massenboeck - RF Visiting Scholar “More Than Just Dirt - Exploring Soil Health through Socio-Scientific Modelling in Teacher Education” - Tuesday 24th March @ 2pm**

My doctoral project investigates how soil health can be meaningfully integrated into science education within the framework of One Health Education. Conceptualizing soil health as a socio-scientific issue, the study explores how pre-service teachers and in-service teachers engage with complex scientific, societal, and environmental dimensions through socio-scientific modelling. Using a design-based research approach, the project combines exploratory qualitative studies with iterative development and testing of instructional materials in teacher education contexts. The overarching aim is to support the development of content

knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge while fostering systems thinking and the ability to connect soil health topics to learners' everyday lives.



Franziska Massenboeck holds a degree in Environmental Education from the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education in Vienna, Austria. In recent years, she has worked as a project coordinator for the Teaching Clinic, an action research initiative with in-service teachers, and the One Health Teaching Clinic, which collaborates with subject matter experts to bring pressing One Health topics into schools. She co-organised the Vienna Mushroom Festival, attracting over 5,000 visitors and sparking her research interest in soil health and its interconnections with human and environmental wellbeing. To broaden her perspectives on science education, she came to Melbourne to engage with different educational cultures and research traditions for teaching complex socio-scientific issues.

Zoom link - see [here](#), Meeting ID: 865 1661 0520, Password: 73904963

### **Deakin Research Information**

Attached to this email is the Deakin Research and Innovation plan.

#### **Subject: 2026 Research Culture and Identity in Our Faculty Project- Invitation to participate in an interview**

Colleagues from our faculty are inviting academic staff to participate in a project exploring how research fits into the professional identities and everyday working lives of university staff. The project aims to:

- gain a deeper understanding of our research culture
- understand the role of research in shaping academic identity and the social relationships that support research activity
- how changing workload allocations may be affecting the way research is experienced and prioritised.

**Research team:** Dr David Farrugia (Lead), Prof Linda Hobbs, Prof Matthew Ricketson, A/Prof Victoria Stead, Katrina MacDonald, Trent Brown, Ivan Matovich, Sharanya Menon

**To take part,** you need to be an academic staff member (ongoing, fixed-term or casual) in one of the three Schools involved in the study, with research or scholarship as part of your workload. Perspectives from across all career stages are welcome.

Participation involves two zoom interviews: one in 2025 and one in 2026. Please consider your participation if voluntary and you may withdraw at any stage.

Given that some members of the research team might be part of your research and professional daily environment, and that some of its members hold leadership positions, Dr David Farrugia and Sharanya Menon will be the only ones involved in data collection and management of identifiable data. Members of our team with senior and leadership positions in the Faculty will only be involved in the analysis of de-identified data.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the research project and complete [this survey](#) to check if you are eligible.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will be contacted and provided with a consent form that you will need to complete before the interview.

We hope you will consider contributing your valuable perspective to this important conversation about research culture in our Faculty.

**Shared with us to share with you...**

Please forward links and notes of upcoming events, calls for conferences and papers, and other possibilities such as great articles you have read or recent reports. [regeneratingfutures@deakin.edu.au](mailto:regeneratingfutures@deakin.edu.au)

### New call for a Special Issue of Australian Journal of Environmental Education

#### Growing Local and Global Futures: The Impacts, Imperatives, and Complexities of Food Systems Education

Guest Editors: A/Prof Abbey MacDonald (University of Tasmania), Dr Kim Beasy (University of Tasmania), Prof Sue Kilpatrick (University of Tasmania), Dr Rosie Welch (Monash), Professor Kit Wise (RMIT University), Ms Sarah Brooke (University of Tasmania), Dr Jos Baltra-Ulloa (Material Institute Lutruwita Tasmania)

Timeline: Abstracts due: 15th May 2026 - Email abstracts (300-400 words) to [abbey.macdonald@utas.edu.au](mailto:abbey.macdonald@utas.edu.au)

Full Manuscripts due: 15th September 2026 - Submit to AJEE (See author instructions, 6 – 7000 words)



#### Launch of an important special issue **Beyond the Metacrisis: Educating for the Future World to Come**

Register [here](#). The event is hosted by AJEE and the Special Issue Guest Editors Ruth Irwin (Independent Academic) and Sandra Wooltorton (The University of Notre Dame AU).

At the launch some of the authors from the special issue will explain the common causality of the metacrisis – comprising the crises in each field from health, education, economics, climate, biodiversity, food systems, ocean acidification, and more. By looking at Earth systems as a whole, it's possible to grasp the elements of modern globalisation that are both normative and deeply problematic. Identifying the interconnected problems means we can do something about it. The implication for every Australian and every planetary citizen is that we need to live in ways that regenerate soil, health, climates, and systems of care. It is to educate for regeneration of life, so that we have a future worth living in.

Depending upon the researcher's perspective and cultural/geographic locatedness, there are various ways of explaining metacrisis so that the public can understand the meaning. Connected with this, there are different positions on how education systems need to respond to metacrisis. The big recurring ideas across all the papers are the dualism dividing humanity from nature is artificial and dangerous; integration with the environment needs to be prioritised; relentless economic growth is a problem that causes climate emissions; failure is important information and we need to heed it rather than ignore it; local and indigenous knowledge and care for place is deeply connected with finding meaning and protecting our planet; adaptation involves other species as well as human infrastructure; (individual consumerism showed up very little, as) - the problems are embedded in infrastructure and systems of knowledge; performativity and assessment is closely tied to modern beliefs in progress and growth rather than environmentalism; education is a key site for transition to a healthier way of living.

The metacrisis emerges from those historical ideas that began with colonialism and the Enlightenment, that alienated communities from their lands, assumed humanity was more rational and powerful than nature and set Newtonian scientism as the apex of universal knowledge. The damage of resource use and pollution accelerated in the 1950s when modern societies became overtly committed to economic growth. These fundamentals create the 'success' of modern economics and set up the conditions for all of the polycrises into what is now becoming known as metacrisis.

There will be several presentations and rich discussion. Authors will address ideas in the following ways:

- Critique of neoliberalism
- Indigenous relational ontologies
- Philosophical response to metacrisis, and
- Transforming modern education.

See the growing presentation playlist [here](#).

### Entanglements With Fungi — Life, Death And Renewal

Curated By Dr Felicity Spear - Opens Saturday 21 March 2026 - See details [here](#)

Entanglements with Fungi - Life, Death and Renewal reflects on art, science, history and politics and explores the complexity and diversity of the fungus kingdom and its vital role in the survival of life.

Featured artists include: [Chris Drury \(UK\)](#), [Dr Chris Henschke](#), [Gracia Haby](#) and [Louise Jennison](#), [Vicki Hallett](#), [Sam Leach](#), [Alison Pouliot](#), [Debbie Symons](#), [Dr Felicity Spear](#)

The Forager is an immersive sound art installation that will be featured in the Entanglements with Fungi exhibition. The installation is inspired by my residency at Wangkuntilla-Aldinga Conservation Park, just at the onset of the catastrophic algal bloom in South Australia. In a fenced-off area of the Park, there is a patch of rare Lacy Coral Lichen. Field recordings from the lichen's ecosystem, such as male and female casuarina, and termite dust, are combined with found sound instruments to create a sound work derived from a visual score of the lichen. I have thoroughly enjoyed creating my music score on mycelium leather and I can't wait to explore this medium for future works.

### Reworlding at Sustainability Festival in Dandenong Sunday 22nd March 2-5pm

Looking for a hopeful and imaginative way to spend an afternoon in Dandenong? You're invited to step into Reworlding — a live, interactive climate role-playing experience exploring how Dandenong could thrive as a regenerative and sustainable city in 2050.

Starting at Dandenong Market, we'll explore the city, pausing at Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens and Harmony Square, before continuing to Vespertine Garden where we'll gather to share ideas, connect visions and co-create a community climate future we all want to live in.

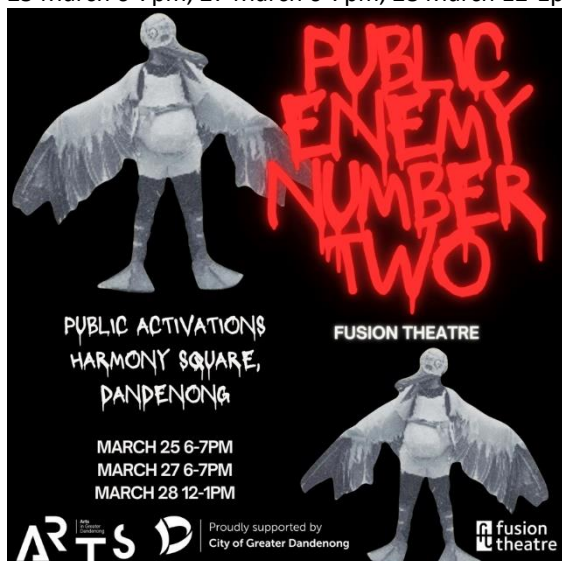
Wander the city as it could be. Follow gentle prompts. Leave hopeful traces in unexpected places. Through playful challenges and creative climate scenarios, you'll explore what a resilient, sustainable, and community-powered Dandenong might look and feel like — and how we can move toward it together.

Reworlding is a fun, future-focused experience imagining bold local climate solutions. This is a free event — to take part, grab your ticket now -[register here](#). 2050 awaits! Note: Dress for comfort and future style. Choose footwear fit for walking.

### Public Enemy Number 2 by Fusion Theatre, Harmony Square, Dandenong

Dandenong is about to experience a joyful outbreak of theatrical mischief as local inclusive company Fusion Theatre launches its new public activation, Public Enemy Number Two as part of Dandy Vibes summer street project. Inspired by the famously cheeky seagulls who roam the streets of Dandenong in search of snacks. Through playful encounters between oversized seagulls and unsuspecting "human chips," the project humorously explores the entangled relationships between people and more-than-human urban dwellers, inviting audiences to reflect on how human behaviours reshape city ecosystems and the creatures that adapt, resist, and thrive within them.

25 March 6-7pm, 27 March 6-7pm, 28 March 12-1pm, Harmony Square, Dandenong.



### **Provocations: What will we eat in the future?**

Wednesday 1 April 6.30 – 7.45pm @ RMIT Storey Hall, 336/348 Swanston Street - Tickets (\$10) see [here](#).

What will our food smell and taste like in the future, and who gets to decide what's on our plates? Join food growers, food lovers, food waste experts and culinary aficionados Uncle Bruce Pascoe, Ben Shewry, and RMIT experts Bhavna Middha (sustainable consumption) and Natalie Jovanovski (health sociology) for a compelling conversation exploring how climate change, population growth, and ecological collapse are reshaping how we produce, distribute, and consume food, and why we need to think outside the (lunch) box to find urgent solution.

*Part of 'Provocations' – RMIT University's Talks and Ideas series*

### **Some great viewing/reading - 5 Crazy Documentaries that Will Help You Advocate for Endangered Species**

See [here](#).

### **The Conversation - Imagine - "Activism can lead to radical policy change"**

When activists lobbed red paint over a Whitehall building in late 2019, I had barely even heard of their intended target: a little-known government agency called UK Export Finance. The agency helps UK-based exporters by providing loans and insurance but, campaigners said, it was funding too many fossil fuel projects. Just two years later, at the UN climate summit in Glasgow, the UK joined more than 30 other countries in promising to stop financing fossil fuel projects abroad. That pledge has driven a 78% reduction in public fossil fuel finance among signatory countries – a cut of more than US\$11 billion (£8.2 billion) each year. Freddie Daley, from the University of Sussex's Centre for Global Political Economy, has interviewed campaigners and policymakers to try and figure out how a campaign around a fairly technical policy was ultimately able to deliver such results.

By framing the government as a "climate hypocrite" ahead of Glasgow, he found, activists successfully pressured UK politicians to implement a unilateral ban which served as a blueprint for others to follow. It "stands out as a genuine success among a litany of failed international climate initiatives", writes Daley. And "its journey – from a small UK campaign targeting export finance to a global coalition of governments – shows that domestic activism can still lead to ambitious and durable policy change."

*Will de Freitas, Energy & Environment Editor*

### **TED Business - What is Economic Value, and Who Creates it?**

Where does wealth come from, who creates it and what destroys it? In this deep dive into global economics, Mariana Mazzucato explains how we lost sight of what value means and why we need to rethink our current financial systems -- so capitalism can be steered toward a bold, innovative and sustainable future that works for all of us. See [here](#)

### **Australian Association for Research in Education Communiqué March 2026 - See more [here](#).**

#### **Toward Greater Impact for Australian Education: The Case for Research, Evidence and 'Truth' Australian schooling sits at a critical juncture**

There is now strong recognition among Federal and State policymakers of the importance of evidence-informed practice and of the role that rigorous, robust, and interdisciplinary research plays in generating that evidence. While this awareness is welcome, the promise of evidence-based education is increasingly constrained by narrow definitions of "evidence" that sideline decades of academic scholarship as well as the professional knowledge of teachers. At a time of heightened concern about students' schooling experiences, well-being and academic attainment, as well as teacher recruitment and retention, the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) calls for renewed commitment to rigorous and context sensitive research, responsible use of data, and systemic support for strengthened teacher professionalism.

### **Beyond Citations: Rethinking Research Impact for the Global South**

Join this free webinar on March 18 | 11:00 AM IST - Register [here](#).

As research institutions expand their global presence and innovation ambitions, traditional citation metrics alone are no longer sufficient to demonstrate true research excellence.

Moving beyond publication counts and raw citations is essential to showcase global influence, technological translation, policy contribution, and societal value. This webinar explores how research evaluation has evolved from simple bibliometrics to more nuanced, responsible, and multidimensional impact assessment —

equipping institutions from the Global South to align with international standards, national priorities, and funding expectations.

Agenda:

- The Global South Research Moment
- The Limits of Traditional Bibliometrics
- How Clarivate Has Already Evolved Beyond Raw Citations: The below 5 points will be covered under this topic
  1. Citation Footprint Analysis
  2. Citation Class & Contextual Citations
  3. Nuanced Metrics (CNCI Impact Profiles, Collab-CNCI, Collaboration Levels)
  4. Patent–Publication Linkage
  5. Policy Citation Tracking
- Moving Beyond Academic Impact: The Societal Impact Framework
- The Evolution Toward Integrated and Holistic Research Evaluation- Introducing Web of Science Research Intelligence

### **Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology Retreat - King Parrot, Victoria, AU**

*“Spiritual ecology is, at its core, achingly simple. It is the recognition of the universal spirit that imbues all living things—a recognition that must be embodied through conscious spiritual engagement with the Earth. It is not about learning something new but remembering something very, very old. Spiritual ecology is as old as humanity itself. Like our common ancestry with all living beings, stemming from the single-cell organisms we evolved from, spiritual ecology was there from the beginning of our human story. It is our beginning.”*

—Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

For millennia our mystical and cultural traditions understood that the Earth is animate, alive, and sacred. Everyday life was imbued with a conscious recognition of this divine presence, and the values of interconnectedness, kinship, reciprocity, compassion and reverence that were rooted in this awareness. But we have forgotten how to live this way. Modern life and its numerous destructive and oppressive systems have separated us from the Earth and led us on a path of causing irreparable harm to our own nature and that of the world around us. Yet within each of us a memory of that primordial way of being in relationship with the living world remains. What will it take to renew our reverence for this ancient bond and learn to live again in communion with Earth?

In October, in the depths of spring, step into a remembrance of the living Earth with Sufi teacher and Emergence founder and executive editor Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee in the Great Otway National Park, located on Gadubanud Country in southern Victoria, Australia. Drawing from the main themes in his forthcoming book *Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology* (Shambhala Publications, June 2026), this retreat will offer a guided framework for awakening the memory of our sacred kinship with Earth, and turning towards an embodied spiritual ecology.

Immersed within the Otway’s ancient eucalypt bushland awash in the call of the kookaburra and the sulphur-crested cockatoo, we will explore how spiritual ecology can be integrated into all aspects of life through simple and transformative ways of finding intimacy with the Earth. Practices involving the breath, heart, walking, listening, time, and prayer will engage participants in tending the threads of grief and love that connect us with the Earth. Each practice is a doorway, inviting you from concept to communion, from observer to participant in the sacred web of life, offering an embodied spiritual ecology that moves beyond ideas into lived experience. This four-day retreat will contemplate the role of engaged spirituality in responding to the challenges of our time, offer practical and metaphysical spaces to remember our place in the more-than-human world, and include lectures, silent and walking meditation practices, and storytelling.

Dates: Thursday, October 1 (check-in from 2-5pm) – Sunday, October 4, 2026 (departure at 12pm)

Location: King Parrot Event Centre, Gadubanud Country, Pennyroyal, VIC, Australia

See more [here](#) - complete EOI form.

### **Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology Workshop - CERES, Melbourne, AU**

For millennia our mystical and cultural traditions understood the Earth as alive and sacred. Everyday life was once rooted in an embodied spiritual ecology: a conscious recognition of the Earth’s spirit and animate presence, and values of interconnectedness, kinship, reciprocity, compassion, and reverence. Amid the destruction and oppressive systems that shape modern life, many of us have forgotten how to live this way. What will it take to find our way into communion with the living world once again?

In deep spring 2026, join Sufi teacher and Emergence founder and executive editor Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee for a weekend workshop at CERES community environment park on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country, where he will offer a framework for awakening the memory of our sacred kinship with the living world. Drawing from the main themes in his forthcoming book *Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology* (Shambhala Publications, June 2026), this two-day event will feature talks, as well as instruction in a series of simple practices involving the breath, heart, walking, listening, and time that will open a space for participants to tend the threads of grief and love that connect us with the Earth. Each practice is a doorway, inviting you from concept to communion, from observer to participant in the sacred web of life, offering an embodied spiritual ecology that moves beyond ideas into lived experience.

Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee is an author, Emmy- and Peabody Award–nominated filmmaker, and a Sufi teacher. He has directed more than twenty documentary films, including *Taste of the Land*, *The Last Ice Age*, *Aloha Āina*, *The Nightingale’s Song*, *Earthrise*, *Sanctuaries of Silence*, and *Elemental*, among others. His films have been screened at New York Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, and Hot Docs, exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum and London’s Barbican, and featured on PBS POV, National Geographic, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times Op-Docs*. His new book, *Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology*, is forthcoming from Shambhala in summer 2026. He is the founder, podcast host, and executive editor of *Emergence Magazine*.