

Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

First Law - Multispecies Justice & the Wellbeing of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River and All People

Date: June 16th

Venue: NDB11 and online at:

<https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/88257495248?pwd=RFZ6a1Z6QmV6WXY5MHhzekZBYWhFdz09>

Time: 12.30pm



Presenter: Professor Anne Poelina

Abstract

First law is the spirit that connects all things and promotes multispecies justice through a unity pathway for collaboration, cooperation, and the sharing of information to ensure peace, harmony, balance, and wellbeing. The Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council encapsulates collective guardianship responsibility and original Australians' authority to protect Martuwarra's right to flow as a sacred living entity for generations to come. Through 'cooperation, unity, organisation and cultural synthesis, First Peoples are decolonising through an earth-centred regional governance approach. This approach focuses on improving cultural wellbeing and resilience, and requirements for the transition to justice, hope and freedom. We seek pathways for cooperation, for collaboration and for sharing information so we can collectively, as 'family', co-design the world we want to leave to our children and their children's children for generations to come. In this presentation, the first half hour is a film about First Law - Multispecies Justice. Dr Poelina will then share how the Martuwarra, RiverOfLife as the authority is guiding our work and building and strengthening "A Coalition of Hope" to ensure Martuwarra Fitzroy River *Always was Always Will Be!*

Biography

Dr Anne Poelina is a Nyikina Warrwa (Indigenous Australian) woman who belongs to the Mardoowarra, the lower Fitzroy River in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Poelina is an active Indigenous community leader, human and earth rights advocate, filmmaker and a respected academic researcher, with a Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Master of Education, Master of Arts (Indigenous Social Policy) and currently submitted a Doctor of Philosophy (Health Science) with thesis title: *'Martuwarra First Law Multi-Species Justice Declaration of Interdependence: Wellbeing of Land, Living Waters, and Indigenous Australian People'*.

She is currently an Adjunct Professor and Senior Research Fellow with Notre Dame University, a Visiting Fellow with the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, Canberra Australia in the development and implementation of the Water Justice Hub and a Research Fellow with Northern Australia Institute Charles Darwin University. Her current work explores the entrepreneurial 'New Economy' opportunities for Indigenous people along the National Heritage Listed Fitzroy River, in relation to green collar jobs in diverse, science, culture, heritage and conservation economies.

She is a 2011 Peter Cullen Fellow for Water Leadership and is a signatory to the Redstone Statement that she helped draft at the 1st International Summit on Indigenous Environmental Philosophy in 2010. As the Inaugural Chair of the National First Peoples Water Engagement Council in 2011 and later the same year she was elected to the Broome Shire Council and became Deputy Shire President in her first term of office. In 2017, she was awarded a Laureate from the Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva) and in the following year of 2018 she was elected Chair of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council.