



Caring For Country Webinar 1: "OCEANIA WISDOM FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE" Wednesday 4 August 2021, 12.00 noon AEST

in the ICOMOS WEBINAR SERIES

(Webinar duration approx. 1 hour 30 mins)

Please Register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rZT69IjTSKGL1eEBdR3RXg

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Join us for the first Webinar in the Caring For Country Webinar Series rescheduled to 4th August 2021. This Webinar Series has been organized by the [Caring For Country Committee](#), a Working Group of Australia ICOMOS with members from Australia ICOMOS, ICOMOS New Zealand, ICOMOS Pasifika and Non-ICOMOS members from Oceania.

‘Oceania Wisdom for a Climate Chance’, brings together a group of distinguished First Nations Australians, Ni Vanuatu, and Australian South Sea Islanders, who will present their insights on the impacts of climate change on their respective domains of land and water and the Indigenous responses to these.

Co-ordinated by (Waskam) Emelda Davis, Dr Anne Poelina and Dr Marie Geissler, it highlights the ‘climate chance’ that now exists, as a window of opportunity for governments and outside agencies seeking sustainable and long-term solutions from the impacts of climate change, to work alongside First Nations people. Through this process they will be informed of the ancient wisdom traditions and intimate knowledge of lands and their interconnected biospheres and seasons that First Nations peoples hold. This knowledge draws on thousands of years of successful natural resources management of country by First Nations peoples, where practices for land stewardship are highly individualized and responsive to the different circumstances of each habitat. Elders to speak include Aunty Shireen Malamoo, (Waskam) Emelda Davis, Dr Anne Poelina, Uncle Ben Harry, Pastor Ray Minniecon and Samson Vivil Fare. Dr Marie Geissler will give the introduction to the webinar.



Aunty Shireen Malamoo (nee Henaway), is distinguished Australian South Pacific Islander leader and activist. A Biri/Birri Gubba woman, she was born in 1938 in Ayr in northern Queensland and her early years were spent in the town camp in the Birrigubba Lands of Plantation Creek in Ayr. A third generation Australian, both her parents were born in Ayr in Queensland. Her father's mother was from the Birrigubba people from Barack in the Burdekin, and her mother's mothers' family were indentured labourers brought from Tongoa in Vanuatu to work on sugar plantations in Queensland.

Aunty Shireen has served on many government boards representing the interests of indigenous people in areas relating to human rights, ethics, culture, health and education. She was a Commissioner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) from 1991 to 1993 and on the NSW Parole Board for nine years. She is the Chair of the Australian South Sea Islander Association (Port Jackson) in Sydney. Aunty Shireen is an accomplished jazz singer and professional artist.

(Waskam) Emelda Davis is a second-generation human rights activist for Australian South Islanders. She holds a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Technology Sydney for her work on Children of the Sugar Slaves, and from 2009 she has been the President of the Board of the Australian South Pacific Islander Association (Port Jackson) (ASSI-PJ) in Sydney. ASSI-PJ was voted the official representative voice as the ASSI National Secretariat in 2012, and since then has been a vehicle that ensures full, fair and transparent participation for communities at large and Australian South Sea Islanders on a state, national and global scale. <http://www.assipj.com.au/>.



Emelda's landmark achievements include the 2013 NSW Parliament bipartisan support in the name of social justice for ASSIs. Emelda as a director with four other women has formed The Lillian Crombie Foundation (TLC) to assist Indigenous and broader communities facing hardship. In 2015 ASSI.PJ received the NSW Council for Pacific Communities Award in the 'Community Events' and 'Stronger Families' category. In 2016 Emelda was been nominated for NSW Women of the Year by her local member for Sydney Alex Greenwich in furthering the plight of her people.

Emelda is a founder of the working group for The Black Collective AU of 2018 and on the Pacific Cultures Advisory Panel at the Australian Museum. For her advocacy work she has received many awards including in 2020 the NSW Premiers Multicultural Community Medal. She was recently appointed to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore's representative team.



Dr Anne Poelina is a Nyikina Warrwa (Indigenous Australian) woman 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) recently submitted a PhD (Health Science) titled, *'Martuwarra First Law Multi-Species Justice Declaration of Interdependence: Wellbeing of Land, Living Waters, and Indigenous Australian People'*. Signatory to the Redstone Statement 2010 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 onto the Broome Shire Council and became Deputy Shire President in her first term of office.

Anne is a 2011 Peter Cullen Fellow for Water Leadership. In 2017, she was awarded a Laureate from the Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva), elected Chair of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council (2018), Adjunct Professor and Senior Research Fellow with Notre Dame University and a Research Fellow with Northern Australia Institute Charles Darwin University. Poelina is a Visiting Fellow with the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, Canberra Australia Water Justice Hub to focus on Indigenous Water Valuation and Resilient Decision-making.

Professional website: www.martuwarrafitzroyriver.org
-ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6461-7681> -
Personal website: www.majala.com.au

Pastor Ray Minniecon is an elder Indigenous statesman, and a descendant of the Kabi Kabi nation and the Gurang Gurang nation of South-East Queensland. He is also a descendant of the South Sea Islander people from Ambrym Island. He graduated in Arts from Murdoch University, Western Australia and since has been a distinguished local and international Indigenous leader through his successful advocacy for the self-determination of Australian Indigenous culture and law. He has also been a driving force in the movement to recognise Indigenous contribution to the Australian armed forces. In 1995 he made an intervention at the UN in Geneva on behalf of Indigenous Peoples at the first hearing of the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous peoples.



He is a Director of Bunji Consultancies, which supports leadership, business initiatives and community development projects; a current Board Member of NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community, which is an accredited international Indigenous University, offering post graduate degree programs; a Council member of St Andrew's Cathedral School. Founder of Gawura Private Aboriginal School; a Board member of Red Dust Role Models; and a Board Member annexed to aged care services. Ray was World Vision leader for their Indigenous programs in Australia for over twelve years. In the Anglican Diocese of Sydney Ray is the Pastor of Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries at St. John's Anglican Church, Glebe NSW. He is currently working locally and internationally on climate advocacy issues on behalf of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Samson Vilvil Fare is the High Commissioner of Vanuatu based in Canberra. He was appointed in August 2019. In this role, he represents his government's interests in the bilateral relationship with the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and its partners, including international organizations (U.N. and NGOs) based in Australia. H.E. also works closely with other Foreign and Diplomatic Missions (40 of them) based in Canberra with cross – accreditation to Vanuatu.

Prior to his appointment to this position, His Excellency occupied several significant international development roles for over 10 years in Europe. His Excellency's experience is informed by his academic background in Sciences, Biodiversity and Conservation (Honors) and Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, having completed studies at the master's level (2 Master's Degrees) in Paris, France (Master of Economics and Social Sciences at Institut Catholique de Paris, Paris France, Master of Sciences: Biodiversity and Conservation: Sorbonne Université, Paris France).

Under his work with UN Agencies, H.E. Mr. VILVIL FARE was instrumental in transforming key Small Island Developing States (SIDS) portfolios as well as conceptualization and implementation of SIDS initiatives, such as *"Food Security and Nutrition for Small Islands Developing States strategy"*, *"Blue Growth Strategy for SIDS"* and successful introduction of Blue Fashion initiatives for SIDS. As the Technical Expert for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (UNFAO) based in Rome; he worked collaboratively with Small Island Developing States (across the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea [AIMS], Caribbean and the Pacific), a total of 52 countries, as well as with key donors - Bilateral and Multilateral - and development partners including International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), European Union, Nordic Council of Ministers and World Bank and, etc.

Prior to his role with UNFAO, His Excellency was employed as the Intra ACP Agricultural Policy Programme Coordinator, an African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union joint institution in the Netherlands. During his tenure, he successfully managed a 26 million Euros Program over 4 years and coordinated work programs at policy and technical level between the Caribbean and the Pacific Island regions with cross learning experiences from Africa and Indian Ocean.

Prior to that, His Excellency was Vanuatu's Deputy Permanent Delegate to U.N.E.S.C.O (between 2011-2013), where he ensured that Vanuatu's interests in the area of Education, Culture, Sciences and Social Sciences, including World Heritage were prioritized effectively. Concurrently in his capacity as a Vanuatu diplomat in Europe, His Excellency also provided technical expertise to support the work of the Embassy of Vanuatu in Brussels on thematic areas relating to Climate Change, Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.

Dr Marie Geissler is an academic writer and curator of Indigenous Australian contemporary art and was an Honorary Associate Fellow at the University of Wollongong, Faculty of Humanities, Law and the Arts from 2019-2020. She is an Investigation Team Member of the Indigenous Knowledge Forum, at the Law School at the University of Technology Sydney (<https://www.indigenousknowledgeforum.org/>), a research advisor to Emelda Davis, the chair of the Australian South Sea Islander Association in Sydney (<http://www.assipi.com.au/wantok-strategy-team/>) and to Dr Anne Poelina Chairman for the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council in Western Australia ([http:// https://martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/about](http://https://martuwarrafitzroyriver.org/about)).



Her recent publications include 'Contemporary Indigenous Australian Art and Native Title Land Claim'. *Arts* 2021,10, 32. <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts10020032>, Ulli Beier, The Aboriginal Arts Board and Aboriginal Self Determination'. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Art*, December 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14434318.2020.1837380>.and The Making of Indigenous Australian Art. Arnhem Land Bark Painting 1970-1990, 2021 Cambridge Scholars, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom.