

Rights of Nature Australia 2018

RONA18 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Tuesday 23 to Sunday 28 October 2018, Brisbane



In October 2018, the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) is hosting **Rights of Nature Australia 2018 (RONA18)**, a week of events that explore and promote the rights of nature to exist, thrive and evolve. Everyone's invited to join us.

- Tuesday 23 October - **Public Lecture: When Rivers and Forests Have Legal Rights**. Museum of Brisbane, City Hall, Brisbane. See Page 2 for details.
- Wednesday 24 October - **Community Earth Rights Workshop**, Griffith Ecocentre, Griffith University. See Page 3 for details.
- Wednesday 24 October - Evening event: **Australian Launch of ELGA**, the International Ecological Law and Governance Association, Spring Hill Reservoirs, Brisbane. See Page 4 for details.
- Thursday 25 + Friday 26 October - **2 Day International Symposium** *Exploring our legal relationship with the living world: Caring for Country, Rights of Nature and Legal Personhood for Nature*, Griffith Ecocentre, Brisbane. See Pages 5-7 for the program.
- Saturday 27 October - **Australian Peoples' Tribunal for Community and Nature's Rights**, Banco Court, Brisbane. See Pages 8 for more details.
- Tuesday 23 - Sunday 28 October - **Rights of Nature National Arts Exhibition**, Spring Hill Terrace, Brisbane. See Page 9 for details.
- During October, Rights of Nature Regional Arts Events will also be held around Australia. See www.eartharts.org.au for more details.

MORE INFORMATION

For all registration details and event links:

WEBSITE

www.earthlaws.org.au/rona18/

FACEBOOK

<https://bit.ly/2OtZFml>

www.facebook.com/pg/AustralianEarthLaws/events/

EMAIL

convenor@earthlaws.org.au



Public Lecture: When Rivers and Forests Have Legal Rights

Tuesday 23 October 2018, 6pm-7.30pm

Museum of Brisbane, Level 3, City Hall, 64 Adelaide St, Brisbane

In the USA, Ecuador, Bolivia, India, Mexico, Colombia and New Zealand, legislation and court decisions have recognised the legal rights of nature to exist, thrive and evolve. How are these laws different to conventional environmental law? What happens when rivers and forests own themselves? Could Rights of Nature laws ever exist in Australia? Everyone's invited to join us for a lively and fascinating evening of talks, which provide an update about the growing global movement to recognise the legal rights of nature. The Australian Earth Laws Alliance wishes to thank Museum of Brisbane for supporting this event.

Doors open at 5.30pm; please arrive by 6pm for a 6.15 start

SPEAKERS



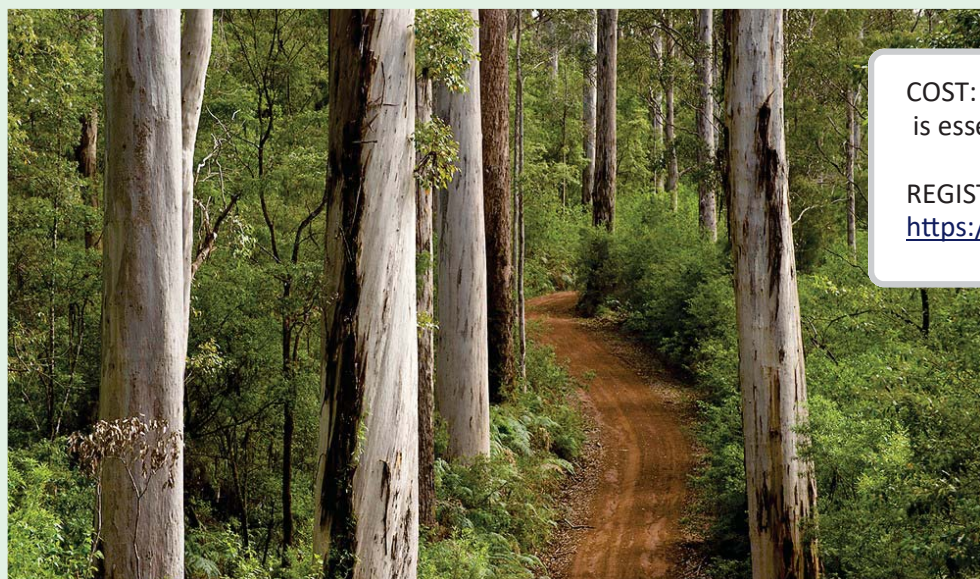
Cormac Cullinan—Lawyer, South Africa and author of *Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice*



Hugo Echeverria—Lawyer, Ecuador. Hugo has led Rights of Nature cases in Ecuador, which have been made possible since 2008's Constitutional Reform that saw the Rights of Nature enshrined in Ecuador's National Constitution.



Dr Michelle Maloney—National Convenor, Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) and Co-founder New Economy Network Australia (NENA).



COST: free, but registration is essential

REGISTER by Monday 22 October
<https://www.trybooking.com/XPSA>



Community Earth Rights Workshop

Wednesday 24 October 2018, 10am-4pm

Griffith Ecocentre, 170 Kessels Rd, Griffith University, Nathan Campus

AELA is hosting a workshop for the growing number of community organisations around Australia who are interested in the innovative legal approaches being used in New Zealand, the USA, Ecuador, Bolivia, India and Colombia. These legal approaches are transforming the way that people are thinking about and protecting the environment.

Please arrive by 9.45am for a 10am start

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

- 10.00 Overview: International and Australian context for Rights of Nature and Earth laws—
Dr Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA)
- 10.30 Wild law and Earth jurisprudence: the global movement—Cormac Cullinan, South Africa
- 11.00 Using Local Laws To Assert Community and Nature's Rights—Mari Margil, Community
Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) , USA via internet.
- 11.30 Rights of nature cases and developments in Ecuador—Hugo Echeverria, Ecuador
- 12.00 Sharing stories from around Australia: Speakers from the Darling River, East Gippsland,
Mt. Wellington/Kunanyi, the Blue Mountains and the Margaret River
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Sharing stories from around Australia continued
- 2.00 Discussions about topics of interest to community participants
- 3.00 Afternoon tea
- 3.30 Summary of the day and next steps we can take together —Dr Michelle Maloney, AELA
- 4.00 Close

COST: \$40 waged, \$20 unwaged/
concession (includes lunch)

REGISTER by Monday 22 October
<https://www.trybooking.com/XPSB>

Below: Griffith Ecocentre, 170 Kessels Road, Griffith University, Brisbane



Public Event: Australian Launch of ELGA

Wednesday 24 October 2018 - 6pm-8pm

Spring Hill Reservoirs, Spring Hill, Brisbane

AELA is pleased to be co-hosting the Australian Launch of ELGA - the Ecological Law & Governance Association. Please join us for an evening of drinks, canapes and fascinating talks. ELGA is a new international network of academics, professionals and organisations committed to tackling the causes, and not just the symptoms, of global environmental degradation. ELGA advocates for an expansion of existing law and practice, so that it encompasses truly ecological thinking and practice. Join us for an evening of presentations about the emerging trends in environmental and ecological law.

This event is also the Welcome Reception for AELA's International Symposium (p.5-7)

Doors open at 5.30pm; please arrive by 6pm for a 6.15 start

SPEAKERS



Professor Klaus Bosselmann, University of Auckland, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) Ethics Specialist Group, Co-founder of the Ecological Law and Governance Association (ELGA)



The Honourable Justice Brian Preston - Chief Judge of the NSW Land and Environment Court



Katy Gwiazdon, Executive Director, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, Florida, USA and Co-founder Ecological Law and Governance Association.



COST: \$20

REGISTER by Monday 21 October
<https://www.trybooking.com/URZQ>

International Symposium: Exploring our Legal Relationship with the Living World—Caring for Country, Rights of Nature & Legal Personhood

Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October 2018

Griffith Ecocentre, 170 Kessels Rd, Griffith University, Nathan Campus, Brisbane

Climate change, biodiversity loss and the global ecological crisis are forcing many people to rethink the legal, economic and governance structures underpinning contemporary industrial societies. People around the world are exploring innovative ways to use the law to better support the health of the living world.

One area receiving growing attention is the use of western legal constructs, such as legal personhood and rights based approaches, to shift the legal status of nature from being objects, and mere human property, to being recognised as *subjects* of the law. These legal approaches are seen by many as a way for human-centred western laws to be transformed towards Earth centred law and governance. 'Rights of Nature' laws now exist in Ecuador, Bolivia and the USA, and legal personhood laws and cases have emerged in New Zealand, India and Colombia. In Australia and the USA, the creation of 'environmental water managers' in domestic law has seen legal rights to water allocated to rivers and wetlands.

But are these 'rights of nature' and 'legal personhood' laws able to transform industrial societies and their legal relationship with the living world? In Australia, and around the world, First Nations Peoples have practiced ancient first laws since time immemorial; laws which have enabled them to care for land and sea country and maintain ecological health for millennia. These governance systems have much to teach the emerging efforts to build ecological laws in the 21st Century. Some First Nations Peoples have used 'legal personhood' laws to create a more pluralist legal framework; others remain concerned that these concepts further separate nature from people.

This conference will bring people together from around the world, to share their knowledge about how ancient and emerging ecological law and governance systems are working in the 21st century, and to discuss how to strengthen ecological governance in the coming decades.

Speakers include:

- Associate Adjunct Professor Mary Graham, University of Queensland & Kombumerri First Nations People
- The Hon. Justice Brian Preston, Chief Judge of the NSW Land and Environment Court
- Cormac Cullinan, South African Lawyer and author of *Wild Law*
- Professor Klaus Bosselmann, University of Auckland, NZ
- Professor Jacinta Ruru, University of Otago, NZ
- Mari Margil, CELDF, USA
- Hugo Ivan Echeverria, Lawyer, Ecuador
- Katy Kwiazdon, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, USA
- Dr Virginia Marshall, ANU & author of *Overturning aqua nullius*
- Dr Anne Poelina, Madjulla Inc and Nyikina Traditional Custodian from the Mardoowarra, West Kimberley region of Western Australia
- Dr Erin O'Donnell, Melbourne Law School, Australia
- Dr Michelle Maloney, AELA

For details about all our speakers, please visit our website www.earthlaws.org.au



COST: 2 day registration
\$180 concession, \$350 standard

REGISTER by Thursday 18 October
<https://www.trybooking.com/URZQ>



International Symposium: Exploring our Legal Relationship with the Living World

PROGRAM Day 1 - Thursday 25 October 2018

Griffith Ecocentre, 170 Kessels Rd, Griffith University, Nathan Campus, Brisbane



- 8.00 Registration opens—tea and coffee available
- 9.00 Welcome to Country
- 9.15 Introduction and Overview of Conference —Dr Michelle Maloney, AELA
- 9.30 Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham, University of Queensland and Kombumerri First Nations People —*Caring for Country and First Nations Governance*
- 10.00 Cormac Cullinan, Lawyer, South Africa—*Wild Law and Rights of Nature*
- 10.30 Morning Tea
- 11.00 The Hon. Justice Brian Preston—*The Legal Status of Nature in Australian Law*
- 11.30 Panel discussion: Mary Graham, Cormac Cullinan and Judge Preston
- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.00 **Legal Personhood for Ecosystems**
 - Professor Jacinta Ruru, University of Otago, *Legal Personhood for Nature in New Zealand*
 - Dr Erin O'Donnell, Melbourne University, *River Rights in India and Colombia*
- 2.00 **Parallel Session 1**

1.1 Caring for Country and First Laws

Panel Discussion (30 minutes) : Adjunct Associate Professor Mary Graham, Professor Jacinta Ruru, Ross Williams

Presentations

- Bruce Lindsay (15 minutes, via zoom) *Recognising the Yarra River: legal recognition of the river as a living being*
- Dr Katie O'Bryan (15 minutes), *Independent Voices – the Yarra River's Birrarung Council and Te Pou Tupua, the human face of the Whanganui River, Te Awa Tupua, compared*
- Video (15 minutes): *First Nations Voices from Ecuador*, by Liz Downes

3.30 Afternoon Tea

4.00 **Parallel Session 2**

1.2 Rights and Legal Personhood

- Michelle Bender and Grant Wilson, Earth Law Center, California (via internet), *Rights of Rivers and Marine Protected Areas*
- Dr Rob White, *Advocates and Authorities: Who should speak for and about Nature?*
- Dr Graham Wood, *Exploring the conceptual foundation of personhood in the context of Earth Laws*
- Dr Marc de Leuw and Miguel Vatter, *Nature Rights as Co-immunity: towards a new legal personhood*

2.1 Bioregional Governance and Ecological integrity

- Kristian Boehringer, *Earth laws & bioregionalism*
- Dr Michelle Maloney, *GreenPrints: a pathway to bioregional governance in Australia*
- Revel Pointon, *What would planning laws look like if we had bioregional governance?*
- Nelson Quinn, *Using ecological integrity to broaden property rights across the community*

2.2 Exploring Rights-based Laws

- Katie Woolaston, *Friends in law? Rights in international wildlife law*
- Manav Satija, *Enforceability of Earth Rights and Responsibilities: Lessons from the International ESC Rights landscape*
- Dr Jane O'Sullivan, *Nature vs Person: can the 'rights' framework really constrain human impact?*

5.30 Close of Day 1 & Charter Bus to Spring Hill Reservoirs

6.00 Conference Dinner & RONA18 National Art Exhibition, Spring Hill Reservoirs

International Symposium: Exploring our Legal Relationship with the Living World

PROGRAM Day 2 - Friday 26 October 2018

Griffith Ecocentre, 170 Kessels Rd, Griffith University, Nathan Campus, Brisbane



- 8.00 Tea and coffee
- 9.00 Opening of Day 2
- 9.10 **Ecological Law and Governance**
Professor Klaus Bosselmann, Auckland University, *International Ecological Governance*
- 9.40 Dr Geoff Garver, McGill University, *Core Principles of Ecological Law and Governance*—via the internet
- 10.00 Katy Gwiazdon, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law (USA) *Ecological Law and Rooted Cosmopolitanism: Protecting Life on Earth through Ethics, Care and the Cosmos*
- 10.30 Morning tea
- 11.00 **Rights of Nature Laws and Cases**
 - Mari Margil, CELDF (USA) *Community and Nature's Rights*, via internet
 - Hugo Echeverria, Lawyer, (Ecuador) *Constitutional Recognition of the Rights of Nature*
- 12.00 **Caring for Country in the 21st Century**
 - Dr Anne Poelina, *The future of the Mardoowarra River*
 - Dr Virginia Marshall, *Aboriginal Water Sovereignty: Australia*
- 1.00 LUNCH
- 2.00 **Parallel Session 3**
- 3.00 Afternoon Tea

3.1 The impacts of legal personhood & the Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand

- Professor Matt Rimmer, *Transpacific Partnership, Indigenous Intellectual Property and the Treaty of Waitangi*
- Dr Christine Winter, *Can nature vote? Te Awa Tupua, Te Urewera and Tara-naki suggest a radical rethink of democratic representation*
- Dr Rogena Stirling, *Kaitiakitanga: The maintenance of mauri, wairua and mana of the living world*

3.2 Exploring rights of nature — Emerging Scholars

- Duncan Wallace, *The Rights of Nature and the Rights of Corporations*
- Jessica Smith, *Should bees have legal standing?*
- Manuela Niehaus, *The ecocentric approach: a chance for Europe?*

- 3.30 **Discussion Panel—Community Perspectives**
Speakers: Sarah Moles, from the Darling River; Jeremy Schroder, from East Gippsland; Denise Goodfellow, NT, Kingsley Lieu from the Blue Mountains and Peta Goodwin and Ray Schwartz, Margaret River
- 4.30 **Discussion Panel—How can industrialised nations build legal systems that support the living world?**
Speakers: Cormac Cullinan, Klaus Bosselmann, Katy Gwiazdon, Anne Poelina, Virginia Marshall, Erin O'Donnell and Michelle Maloney
- 5.30 Conference Closes

Thursday
25th October
6pm-8.30pm

Conference Dinner

Spring Hill Reservoirs
\$50 for food and drinks
Book your ticket:

www.trybooking.com/URZQ

5.30pm charter bus for conference delegates leaves Griffith EcoCentre for Spring Hill Reservoirs

6pm-8.30pm dinner and drinks + viewing of Rights of Nature National Art Exhibition and performances

9pm charter bus takes delegates back to the City, the Griffith EcoCentre and the Comfort Inn, Nathan

Australian Peoples' Tribunal for Community and Nature's Rights

Saturday 27 October 2018

Banco Court, Supreme Court Building, 415 George Street, Brisbane



COST: \$10 per person

REGISTER by Thursday 25 October
<https://www.trybooking.com/THSY>

<https://www.tribunal.org.au>

Join us for an important one day citizens' inquiry into the impact of industrial scale agriculture on Australia's ecosystems and local communities.

For a copy of the Tribunal Program, please visit:
www.tribunal.org.au

The 2018 Australian Peoples' Tribunal is a citizen's inquiry into the impacts of industrial scale agriculture (food, fibre and livestock production), on ecosystems and local communities in Australia.

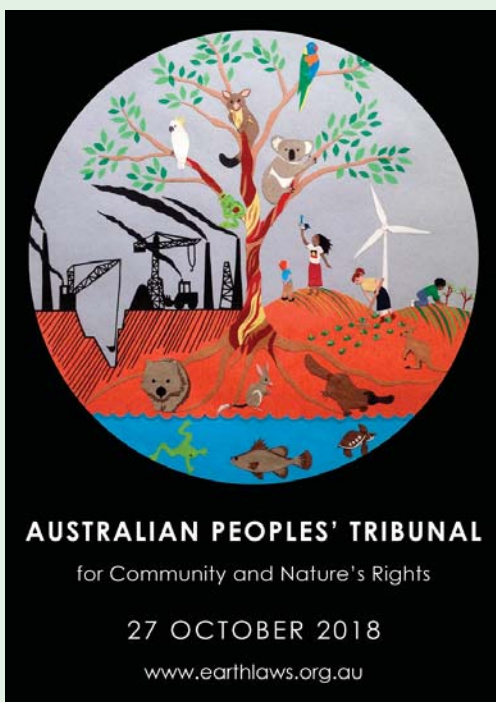
Agriculture is the largest single cause of deforestation, vegetation clearing and biodiversity loss around the world. In Australia, land clearing for grazing has led to significant ecological impacts and large scale irrigation for crops has had a devastating impact on many of our water systems – rivers, streams and groundwater.

The primary focus of the Tribunal is to hear about impacts, solutions and positive ways forward, that restore biodiversity, soil and water systems, embrace compassionate farming practices and support indigenous knowledge systems and ongoing cultural practices. The 2018 Citizen's Inquiry is non-adversarial and is solutions focused.

The Australian Peoples' Tribunal (APT) for Community and Nature's Rights is a unique forum for ecological and social justice in Australia. As a 'citizen's tribunal' the Peoples Tribunal is not a government endorsed activity nor do any of its activities, decisions or recommendations have the force of government-sanctioned law. A Tribunal Panel made up of First Nations Peoples, lawyers, community representatives and eminent scientists, hear Inquiries and Cases, and make independent recommendations for restorative justice, innovative law reform and socio-political reforms that will Care for Country and protect the Rights of Nature.

Participating witnesses and experts include:

- Fred Hooper, Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations
- Charles Massy, author of *The Call of the Reed Warbler*
- Eric Holt-Gimenez, Food First, USA
- Charles Levkoe, Lakehead University, Toronto, Canada
- Carol Richards, QUT, Brisbane
- Michael Croft and Eva Perroni
- And other scientists, lawyers and First Nations speakers



RONA18 - Rights of Nature National Arts Exhibition

23-28 October 2018

Spring Hill Reservoirs, Spring Hill, Brisbane

The RONA18 National Arts Exhibition has been created to promote cultural engagement with the global Rights of Nature movement, and to celebrate the Rights of Nature Australia (RONA) Peoples Tribunal, which is being held on Saturday 27th October 2018 in Brisbane. AELA's intention is to blend the creative re-interpretation of environmental governance with cultural responses to the rights of the natural world to exist, flourish and evolve.

The **RONA18 National Exhibition** connects with the themes of the 2018 Peoples Tribunal, which is examining the impact of industrialised food systems on the living world. The National Exhibition will feature works from artists investigating themes of agency, in relation to existing and future food production and distribution systems. These works will reveal, reflect and critique the current flaws in the western legal system that are disabling us from making purposeful choices and taking action to support the transition to earth-centred governance. The exhibition will also record and celebrate the transformations taking place that are assisting us.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS include: Marian Drew, Renata Buziak, Jude Roberts, Jill Sampson, Aviva Reed, Kay Lawrence and many more.

AELA's Earth Arts Curator, Dr Jenny Brown, has worked with the Earth Arts Collective, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Liquid Architecture and people+artist+place to bring together visual and performance artworks for the program. Inquiries: jenny@earthlaws.org.au

Visit www.eartharts.org.au for more information



Above: Artwork by Renata Buziak

Regional RONA18 Arts Events

Artists and creatives, arts centres, community groups, school groups and interested members of the community are invited to host art exhibitions, plays, storytelling sessions, performances, 'creative conversations' (eg dinner parties, BBQs) and other creative events to celebrate the Rights of Nature in 2018.

Regional participants can live stream the Tribunal to their venue. For more information:
www.eartharts.org.au

Below: Photo—Spring Hill Reservoirs, Brisbane



www.earthlaws.org.au/rona18



australian earth laws alliance