

CCL Australia 2023 participant biographies



Aimee Smith

(she/her)

Choreographer and Climate Change Professional

Aimee Smith is an award winning choreographer and climate change professional working for 20 years at the intersection of these two fields.

As a choreographer Aimee has created over 15 professional productions including *Borderline*, *Wintering*, *Accidental Monsters of Meaning* and *The Futures Project*, and has an extensive community arts and cultural exchange practice. She is inspired by the capacity of art and creative experiences to hold spaces for dialogue about the issues of our time, and to imagine the kind of future(s) we want to create.

With a Masters in Sustainability and Climate Policy, Aimee has also worked as a climate change professional across government, business and academia. She has supported arts companies and festivals to develop and implement sustainability strategies and climate action plans, and co-founded Arts and Cultural Workers for Climate Action (ACWCA) to mobilise WA artists & cultural workers for the global student climate strikes.

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)





Anna Weekes

(she/her)

Creative Producer and Executive Officer- Darwin Community Arts

Anna Weekes is a parent, activist & artist with a CACD practice, working both in Australia and internationally on arts projects for social and environmental justice. Anna has previously worked in Cambodia with an arts organisation, and remote Vanuatu with a women's group.

	<p>Anna has spent the last 14 years working in the Northern Territory. Anna is one of the Creative Producers and Executive Officers at Darwin Community Arts, is a recipient of the Kirk Robson CACD Award, Future Leaders, and Australian Progress fellowship alumni.</p>
	<p>Antonia Seymour <i>(she/her)</i> Executive Director</p> <p>Antonia is an arts leader living and working on Gadigal land. She has a rich knowledge of the performing arts sector and the national touring landscape, and is passionate about the transformative impact of arts experiences as well as working collaboratively to lead on change. In her current role as Executive Director of Arts on Tour, she has led on, and is deeply committed to, supporting the transition to environmentally sustainable touring, launching in 2022 the award-winning Green Touring Toolkit. In 2024 Arts on Tour will launch a carbon neutral touring service.</p> <p>Antonia has held senior management roles in marketing, producing and development at companies large and small, including Urban Theatre Projects, the Australian Theatre Forum, Performing Lines, the Lyric Hammersmith in London and Sydney Dance Company. An alumna of Adaptive Leadership Australia, past Board roles include Co-Chair of PYT Fairfield and Chair of De Quincey Co.</p> <p>Website LinkedIn Facebook Instagram</p>
	<p>Ari Fuller <i>(he/him)</i> Sustainability and Facilities Officer</p> <p>Ari Fuller is Facilities Management Officer at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) in Brisbane, Queensland. With 20 years of invaluable experience at QAGOMA, Ari has emerged as a driving force for museum sustainability practices. Leading the sustainability portfolio since 2015, Ari has implemented comprehensive initiatives that have positioned QAGOMA at the leading edge of Australian museum sustainability.</p>

Drawing on a strong background in museum operations and armed with dual arts degrees, Ari brings a unique blend of artistic sensibility, operational expertise and personal influence to his role. His commitment to institutional carbon reduction strategies has earned him recognition in and beyond the art gallery community. With a vision of carbon neutrality, Ari continues to shape the future of museum operations, leaving an indelible mark on QAGOMA's sustainability practices and contributing to the preservation of art and culture for generations to come.



Astrid Edwards

(she/her)
PhD Researcher

Astrid Edwards is a teacher, interviewer and critic. Her PhD at the University of Melbourne investigates potential and perceived barriers to publishing and selling climate fiction in Australia. She hosts The Garret, a podcast exploring the Australian writing and publishing industry, and teaches in the Associate Degree of Professional Writing and Editing at RMIT University. She is the former Chair of Melbourne Writers Festival and former Deputy Chair of Writers Victoria.

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Threads](#)




Beatrice Jeavons

(she/her)
Creative Producer & Climate Impact Manager

Beatrice is a Facilitator, Creative Producer and Climate Impact Manager. For the best part of the last decade, Bea has worked with festivals, events, arts organisations and touring musicians to reduce emissions and take action on climate.

Bea has worked with Green Music Australia, the Off-Grid Living Festival, Slingsby Theatre Company, the Adelaide Festival, Tim Minchin and Lime Cordial.

Last year Bea co-produced Climate Crisis and the Arts, a free one-day event as part of the Adelaide Festival. Bea also co-curated and produced Australia's first Culture and Environment Roundtable, a collaboration with Julie's Bicycle,

	<p>British Arts Council and Australian Council for the Arts.</p> <p>In November 2022, Bea launched Creative Climate Action, an environmental action course to build frameworks and set goals for sustainability in the live music and arts sector.</p> <p>Bea is currently working with FEAT.Live, spearheading a new climate action strategy designed to reduce the emissions of live entertainment by unlocking sustainability funding through ticket sales.</p> <p>In between projects, Bea leads multi-day hiking trips and outdoor adventures around Australia.</p> <p>Website Website LinkedIn Instagram Instagram</p>
	<p>Bryony Anderson <i>(she/they/he)</i> Lead Maker / Head of Workshop</p> <p>Bryony Anderson has been a maker, designer and creative director of participatory artworks for 26 years, creating high calibre works with salvaged materials for puppetry, performance and exhibition. Her work has toured nationally and internationally with many of Australia's leading performing arts companies. Currently heading Terrapin's workshop team in Hobart, Tasmania, she has led the company's move towards carbon neutrality. She has held over 120 workshops in rural, desert, and urban communities and is currently training emerging makers in sustainable practice.</p> <p>Bryony and her family spent 15 years living in an off-grid shed in the forests of NSW, where they experienced first-hand the upheavals of extreme climate events. Her work is dedicated to raising awareness of the preciousness of resources and ecosystems, coupled with the potential of imagination to motivate and illuminate.</p> <p>Website LinkedIn</p>



Catherine Polcz

(she/her)

Science Producer

Catherine Polcz is a curator and creative producer working across museums and media specialising in climate and the natural world. Drawing on her background as a botanist and ecologist, she has conceived and produced content for science festivals, events and panel discussions and has exhibited her own work at artist centres in Canada, US and Australia. Since 2018, she has been science producer at the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory. She is the curator of 100 Climate Conversations, the new Powerhouse climate solutions exhibition, program and podcast featuring 100 weekly conversations with Australian climate leaders.

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



Charlie Mgee

(he/they)

Arch-Muppet

Charlie Mgee is a songwriter, ukulele-player, permaculturist and founder of the world-renowned ecological funk/swing band, Formidable Vegetable. Growing up in a tin shed with a veggie garden, rainwater tank and one 100W solar panel for power in the south-west of Western Australia, Charlie lived the low-impact lifestyle from a young age, using a dunny that didn't flush and hanging out with his chickens for entertainment, which made him realise early on that you don't need a lot in life to be happy.

Later on, Charlie went off to study permaculture and soon after, formed Formidable Vegetable – a band based entirely around principles of regenerative living and being good to the planet, with the hope of inspiring people everywhere to grow better gardens/lives/communities and generally make the world a nicer & more ecologically just place.

His music has been acclaimed by the United Nations and the band has performed not once, not twice, but thrice at Glastonbury Festival alongside such acts as Ed Sheeran, Dolly Parton and The Rolling Stones, inspiring the creation of many a backyard, frontyard and community garden, among other things.

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)



Eliko Reade

(they/them)

Interdependent Producer

Eliko Reade is an Interdependent Producer and artist of Kailoma-Fijian (Fijian/European) heritage. Eliko is intrigued by many forms of storytelling and the ways it is creatively embodied, engaging with work that centres the practice, creating critical connection. Centring relationships in the work that they do and not tied to form, their producing practice covers various forms across performing and visual arts including live music, parties, poetry and spoken word performance, workshops, exhibitions, experimental and digital art. Put simply, ‘they like making cool stuff with their mates’.

They wear multiple creative hats including Program & Events Coordinator at MPavilion, co-instigator with Lana Nguyen for A Climate For Arts commissioned by Diasporas, Co-Creative Producer for Listening Across Faultlines, Pacific Drift—Crenulations & Oceanic Refractions with AM Kanngieser and Mere Nailatikau supported by Australia Council’s International Engagement Fund and VACS, Cultural Advisor for Museums Victoria’s Culture Makers Program, and Co-Chair with Lana Nguyen at SEVENTH Gallery, among many other personally fun and exciting projects and loves.

Eliko is a recipient of the Creative Victoria’s Unlocking Capacity grant (2022-24) and is currently developing a working methodology and manifesto, applying iTaukei / Indigenous Fijian knowledge in intercultural collaboration.

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#)



Fiona Lee

(she/her)

Artist and changemaker



Fiona Lee (b. 1981 Vancouver) is a visual artist and the government relations advisor for Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action (BSCA). A graduate of Newcastle Art School and the University of Newcastle (with class one honours in sculpture), Fiona's journey merges her art practice with her dedication to climate activism.

The line between protest, installation and campaigning is blurred, with a constant focus on challenging the social license of fossil fuels by highlighting the personal costs of climate change. Her involvement in grassroots social justice and climate organisations across the country spans two decades, including her recent coordination of the Gas Free Hunter Alliance.

A pivotal moment in her campaigning work was her participation in Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action's landmark court win in 2021. The NSW Land and Environment Court ruled that the NSW Environment Protection Authority take significant action on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. This groundbreaking decision marked the first time an Australian court had directed a government agency to address climate change, setting a precedent for targeted climate policies across Australian states.

Following the devastating loss of her home in the 2019-20 bushfire crisis, Fiona embarked on a 12-month Bushfire Affected Artist residency at The Creator Incubator in Newcastle. From the remnants of her scorched home, Fiona crafted unapologetic and political artworks that addressed her personal loss and the impact of climate change on us all. Her resulting solo exhibition, *Carbon Tax*, toured Maitland and Manning Regional Art Galleries, CLIMARTE Gallery Melbourne, was featured on ABC Artworks TV and in *The Art of Protest* at Newcastle Art Gallery.

In 2024 her public artwork *High Tide*, a collaboration with architectural designer Aaron Crowe, is set to be installed at Yapang Sculpture Park within the Museum of Art and Culture Lake Macquarie.

	<p>Instagram</p>
	<p>Grace Nye-Butler <i>(she/her)</i> Scientist and Stage Manager</p> <p>Grace is a scientist and stage manager with a unique blend of expertise. Currently pursuing her PhD in social-ecological systems, Grace held a previous career as a stage manager, touring nationally and internationally. Driven by her love for both theatre and the environment, Grace has undertaken a mission to promote sustainability within Australia's theatre industry. With a strong background in research and science communication, Grace founded Griffin Theatre Company's Green Griffin program and Bump Out Sydney. Her current project is the creation of The Theatre Green Book Australia. Grace firmly believes that sustainability should be accessible to all and that everyone can contribute to positive change. Her research centres on cultivating and strengthening stakeholder networks across Australia to advance sustainability in the creative and cultural sectors. By understanding the intricacies of the professional theatre industry, and the science behind climate change and sustainability, Grace combines her dual passions to help arts organisations create and maintain greener theatrical practices.</p> <p>LinkedIn Twitter Instagram</p>
	<p>Guy Ritani <i>(la/they/them)</i> Human Rights Defender</p> <p>Guy Ritani is a proud Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kahungunu & Macnamara takatāpui Māori artist, activist, designer and teacher currently living on Kombumerri Country. Co-founder of PermaQueer, Pacific Climate Warrior & community organiser, Guy's work is within the growing edge of our systemic ecological relationships to Whenua/Country, building food systems, economic</p>

support systems and housing that aligns to our planetary limits. Guy is the President of regional arts council Tamborine Mountain Arts Collective and is passionate about social systems and climate justice. Their practice it within storytelling and uses the whatever medium is available and most appropriate to tell stories needing to be told.

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)



Jen Rae
(she/they)
Creative Research Lead

Dr Jen Rae is an award-winning artist-researcher of Canadian Scottish-Métis (Indigenous) descent based in unceded Djaara Country/Castlemaine, Victoria. Jen's practice-led expertise is situated at the intersections of art, speculative futures and climate emergency disaster adaptation + resilience – predominantly articulated through transdisciplinary collaborative methodologies and multi-platform projects, community alliances and public pedagogies. She is a Co-founder and Creative Research Lead of the Centre for Reworlding.

[Website](#) | [Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Instagram](#)



Juundaal Strang-Yettica
(she/her)
Indigenous Emerging Artist

A Bundjalung-Kannakan woman and emerging artist, Juundaal lives on Wodi Wodi land of the Dharawal nation and returned to visual arts study at the University of Wollongong in 2018. Her work functions within the discomfort of decolonisation frameworks to actively negotiate tensions, investigate strength in vulnerability and contribute to empowering the non-Indigenous and Indigenous relationship in addressing climate crisis. Healing, cultural connection and learning inextricably fuel and co-exist within her work within an intersectional environmental and Aboriginal cultural revitalisation context. As an emerging artist with a disability, her mentors and space for diverse expression in the arts, are also integral to her creative practice.

[Website](#) | [Wordpress](#) | [Blog](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



Kate Scardifield

(she/her)

Dr Kate Scardifield, Artist and Co-Director, UTS Material Ecologies Design Lab

Dr Kate Scardifield is an artist and researcher living and working on Gadigal Land. Her practice is cross-disciplinary, collaborative, and focused on charting materials and material systems through states of transformation. Her works span large-scale installations, adaptable textiles, sculpture, and video. Her current projects are investigating algae-based biopolymers, designing with biomaterials for carbon capture and storage, and working with textiles as instruments for navigation, transmission and communication. She is co-founder and Co-Director of the Material Ecologies Design Lab at the University of Technology Sydney. MEDL is a creative practice and interdisciplinary research lab committed to transforming waste and transitioning material systems for a post-petrochemical world. She is a member of the Algal Biosystems and Biotechnology group in the UTS Climate Change Cluster, working closely with marine scientists and biotechnologists on the design and development of algae-based materials for fashion, textiles and architecture.

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)







Keg de Souza

(she/her)

Artist

Keg de Souza is an artist of Goan ancestry who lives and works on unceded Gadigal land in Sydney. Architecturally trained, she creates social and spatial environments, making reference to her lived experiences of squatting and organising with projects that use and food politics, temporary architecture, publishing and radical pedagogy. Keg draws from personal experiences of colonialism –

	<p>from her own ancestral lands being colonised to living as a settler on other peoples unceded lands – to inform her layered projects that centre marginalised voices and lesser-known stories for learning about Place.</p> <p>Instagram</p>
	<p>kelli mccluskey (she/her) chief executive artist</p> <p>kelli is an artist and co-founder of boorloo based experimental art group, pvi collective. their work is renowned for being socially engaged and participatory, seeking to empower audiences to step out of their comfort zones.</p> <p>kelli is a passionate advocate for experimental practice and its continued growth in australia. kelli is an ozco peer, a member of #feminist educators against sexism, a climate champion for better futures australia and a trouble-maker at heart – good trouble, that is 😊</p> <p>Website LinkedIn (company) LinkedIn Facebook Instagram</p>
	<p>Na'im Fine Fine (they/them) Composer</p> <p>Na'im lives and works on stolen Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Country. They're a settler non-binary disabled queer neurodiverse radical composer, ecologist & sound artist. Their practice, identity & values are indivisible. Their work explores environmental and social justice, & personal experience using traditional notation, sonifying data, live-composing with objects, video scoring, field-recordings, hand-drawn graphic scores, & collaboration across artforms.</p> <p>Na'im has been commissioned & had works performed in Australia, Aotearoa, U.K., U.S., Hong Kong & China. They've had residencies at Tilde New Music Fest (Naarm, Aus) & Lijiang Studio (Yunnan, China). In 2022 they created the soundtrack to Zoë, A Good Catch Circus's response to the climate</p>

	<p>crises.</p> <p>Art is for everyone and it's integral to growing change. Na'im wants to empower access to ecological & marginal knowledges, radical futures imagining, and weird enriching art experiences.</p> <p>Website</p>
	<p>Noemie Huttner-Koros <i>(they/them)</i> Performance-maker, writer, dramaturg & community organiser</p> <p>Noemie Huttner-Koros is a performance-maker, writer, dramaturg and community organiser based between Whajuk Noongar country and Wurundjeri country. Their practice is driven by a deep belief in the cultural and civic role of art and in engaging with sites and histories where queer culture, composting and ecological crisis occur. Shows include: Mother of Compost (M1 Singapore Fringe Festival), The Lion Never Sleeps (Australian Book Review's Arts Highlights of 2019) & Democracy Repair Services (The Blue Room Theatre 2023). Noemie has a Bachelor of Performing Arts, Performance Making (WAAPA) and a Master of Theatre, Dramaturgy from Victorian College of the Arts. They have worked with companies including: Mammalian Diving Reflex, Australian Theatre for Young People, DADAA, Propel Youth Arts WA and is currently the Graduate Dramaturg at Red Stitch Actors Theatre. They were the winner of the 2020 Venie Holmgren Environmental Poetry Prize & 2021 WA Young Environmentalist of the Year.</p> <p>Website Instagram</p>
	<p>Pippa Bailey <i>(she/her)</i> Producer/ Director</p> <p>Pippa Bailey is an independent producer/director/consultant based on Wangal Land in Sydney. She is committed connecting artistic practice to plans for fairer future where Climate Justice leads.</p>

Pippa started her career as an actor and reporter/producer with SBSTV. She held leading roles in the UK including The Museum Of on London's South Bank, oh!art at Oxford House in Bethnal Green, The World Famous - company of pyrotechnicians and Total Theatre Awards at Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Since 2013 Pippa has worked as Senior Producer with Performing Lines, Sydney Festival and in the First Nations team at Carriageworks. As Director/Producer for ChangeFest 2019-21, she worked in collaboration with Elders and communities to create events that imagine systems change and rehearse fairer futures.

Pippa co-convenes the Cultural Gardeners – Australian Cultural Alliance for Climate Action, is a coordinator with Culture Declares Emergency UK, member of Collaborative Futures and a board Director of IETM – International Network for the Performing Arts.

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [ArtsFront](#)



Sēini F Taumoepeau

(she/her)


Regenerative Orator Songwoman

Sēini 'SistaNative' Taumoepeau is a Regenerative Orator & Songwoman, Faivā practitioner (performance of space). A voice of Modern Australia - Sēini is an inter-disciplinary Artist, Storyteller & Founder of OceaniaX, Pacific Wave & LELEI Wellness.

Commissions include: Sydney Opera House, ABC Australian Broadcast Corporation & Museum of Contemporary Art. Sēini is a veteran of the Arts, Media, Culture, Educational & Personal Development sectors with an Intersectional Oceanic-Pacific lens & First Nations focus.

She carries medicine in her presence, hands & voice, commanding an aesthetic in harmony & rhythm, working with the invisible & intangible.

Connecting with global communities, Sēini is known as: SistaNative, Napangardi & Cantora - origins from

	<p>Kingdom of Tonga, an Australian veteran with a career spanning more than 30+ years as a Performance Artist, Presenter/Broadcaster & Creative Industries professional.</p> <p>Facebook Facebook Facebook Instagram Instagram Twitter Twitter</p>
	<p>Tanja Beer <i>(she/her)</i> Ecological Designer, Community Artist, Senior Lecturer in Design (QCA) & Co-director, Performance + Ecology Research Lab (CARI)</p> <p>Dr Tanja Beer is an ecological designer and community artist who is passionate about co-creating social gathering spaces that accentuate the interconnectedness of the more-than-human world. Originally trained as a performance designer and theatre maker, Tanja’s work increasingly crosses many disciplines, often collaborating with landscape architects and urban ecologists to inspire communication and action on environmental issues. Her most celebrated project is The Living Stage: a global initiative that combines spatial design, permaculture and community engagement to create recyclable, biodegradable, biodiverse and edible event spaces. Tanja’s extensive career as a designer, educator and researcher builds on more than 20 years of practice. Her pioneering concept of Ecoscenography has been featured in numerous programs, exhibitions, articles and platforms around the world. Tanja is Co-director of the new Performance + Ecology Research Lab (P+ERL) and Senior Lecturer in Design at Griffith University (Brisbane). She is the author of Ecoscenography: An introduction to Ecological Design for Performance (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021).</p> <p>Website Website Website Instagram Twitter LinkedIn</p>
	<p>Vika Mana <i>(they/she)</i> Storyteller, Creative Director and Organiser</p> <p>Vika Mana, is a Torres Strait Islander and Tongan storyteller that takes many forms. They are from the Zagareb and Dauareb tribes of Mer Island and the village of Fahefa in Tonga. They perform poetry,</p>

write criticism and breathe life into worlds whilst doing their best to protect this one. Vika excels in a variety of storytelling mediums, all of which centre sovereignty and justice.

[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)