



Where can the green songs grow?

Sharing perspectives on regeneration for our broken world

Wednesday 18 October 2017

9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C)

Cnr Blackall Street and Kings Avenue, Barton

PROGRAM OUTLINE

with song lyrics

and participants' bios

Program

Our co-facilitators are Janet Salisbury and Stephen Pickard

9.30 – 11.00 Introducing, opening up, exploring

11.00 COFFEE

11.15 – 12.45 Deepening

12.45 – 1.30 LUNCH

1.30 – 3.00 Gathering, assessing

3.00 TEA

3.15 – 4.30 Developing, closing

The Web

dedicated to Dorothy Cameron

Grandmother spinning
Spinning in moonlight
Spinning at daybreak
Spinning the thread

Grandmother singing
Bountiful love songs
Grandmother singing
Songs for new babies

Dream up the crimson web
Dream up the web of song



Grandmother spinning
Spinning a red thread
Spinning a blood cord
Spinning the sacred web

Grandmother singing
'Call to the singers'
Grandmother singing
'Teach them the songs'

Sing up the web of love
Sing up the web of law



After the fire
After all the death
Sorrow's black lace
binds the grieving lovers

Then swell the green songs
Lovers' lays and lullabies
Weaving women
singing up renewal



Call to the spinners
Wind the red rope
Call to the weavers
Bind the sacred knots

Call to the singers
Resound the songs
Call to the dancers
Rebound the dance

We are the spinners!
We are the weavers!
We are the singers!
We are the dancers!



Weave me in water
Weave me in fire
Weave me in wind and in clay

Bind me in tears
Bind me in blood
Bind me in longing and love

Weave me in water
Weave me in fire
Weave me in wind and in clay

Bind me in tears
Bind me in blood
Bind me in longing and love



*Words & music Glenda Cloughley, 2004
originally for 'Websong', a performance
and ceremony work by A Chorus of
Women, arranged for the Wisdom
Conversation ensemble*

*The Web Dance by Elizabeth Cameron
Dalman for the Wisdom Conversation*

Participants

Christine Palmer is a Kngwarraye woman from the Arrernte & Kaytetye people of Central Australia. She has over 30 years' experience working in government and nongovernment social services across Alice Springs and remote central Australia. Trained in family mediation, loss, grief and trauma, and narrative training, she has played a pioneering role supporting therapeutic projects and creative initiatives. She worked as a bringing them home counsellor linking stolen generation families, as senior therapeutic counsellor for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and has been a strong advocate for those affected within the NT judicial system.

David Purnell OAM moved to Canberra as a child with his family straight after WW2. His work has included public service, university administration, the Conflict Resolution Service, and the United Nations Association of Australia. He has had voluntary roles in Australian Frontier, Life Line, and Murringu Canberra (men's centre). He is an active member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and is on the national peace committee. In 1998, he was awarded Order of Australia Medal for his peace work.

Dr Diana James is a senior research fellow at ANU focusing on the dynamic visual and auditory performance space of cross-cultural communication between Aboriginal and Western peoples. Her approach is informed by many years of living with Anangu peoples of the APY Lands. Her latest seven year research project *Alive with the Dreaming! Songlines of the Western Desert* was a collaboration with the elders, artists, dancers and singers of the APY, Ngaanyatjarra and Martu Lands culminating in the current exhibition *Songlines Tracking the Seven Sisters* at the National Museum of Australia.

Dr. Elizabeth Cameron Dalman OAM, Director of Mirramu Creative Arts Centre and Artistic Director of Mirramu Dance Company, is a pioneer of contemporary dance in Australia. She founded Australian Dance Theatre and was its Artistic Director for ten years. From 2004 – 2006 she was Head of Dance at the University of Western Sydney. In 2015 she was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Australian Dance Awards and named Canberra Artist of the Year. Currently she is touring internationally as an actor/dancer with the *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* production by Irish dance/theatre company, Teac Damsa.

Gillian King is a former public servant who brings together people and ideas for game-changing visions and strategies to help us survive and thrive in the face of ecological crises, particularly climate change. She specialises in faith leadership and urban design. She is Vice President of Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and a member of the Public Issues Commission of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn.

Dr Glenda Cloughley initiated the March 2003 Lament for the people of Iraq which was A Chorus of Women's first song. Alongside her Jungian psychoanalytic practice, Glenda's love of stories, bright ideas and musical collaborations with Chorus friends have led to the making of many new songs and our big climate change and peace works, 'The Gifts of the Furies' (2008-12) and 'A Passion for Peace' (2015). Earlier, Glenda worked as a newspaper journalist and public affairs consultant. Her business The Change Agency Pty Ltd specialised in cultural psychology and change.

Dr Janet Salisbury is a member of A Chorus of Women and was the initiator and facilitator for our Canberra Conversations series of public conversations. She was the Founder of Biotext Pty Ltd, a Canberra-based company providing science communication and publishing services, and specialising in biomedical science, health, agriculture and the environment.

Johanna McBride is a founding member of A Chorus of Women and has helped with musical direction since 2003. She has worked as a pianist and choral director for over 30 years. She also worked as a public servant in the Immigration Department for 11 years. As a Hungarian refugee and Austrian migrant she has a keen interest in human rights and international understanding.

Adjunct Professor John Williams, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy, is a founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE) and holds the prestigious Farrer Memorial Medal for achievement and excellence in agricultural science. He has extensive experience in providing national and international thought-leadership in agricultural and its environmental footprint.

Adjunct Professor Jon Stanhope AO is a former Australian politician; he represented the Ginninderra electorate in the ACT Legislative Assembly from 1998 to 2011 and was Labor Chief Minister from 2001 to 2011. From 2012 to 2014, he was Administrator of the Australian Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands). He has been an outspoken advocate for the rights of refugees, particularly those held in detention, and is a professorial fellow in Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra.

Lyn Stephens is an organisational development consultant with wide experience in the not-for-profit sector. Her experience ranges across psychiatric social work, human resources, housing and public sector management. She has a particular interest in dialogue and community consultation and was formerly Director of the Australian Centre for Dialogue at the ANU College of Law. More recently she has been an Executive Officer of Australia21 and is currently a member of the Board.

Dr Maartje Sevenster started professional life as an astronomer and is now using her scientific training toward environmental consultancy. She is board member of the Australian Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Society, a reviewer for the International Journal of LCA, a member of the Canberra Business Chamber Sustainability Taskforce and of the working group on LCA methodology of the International Dairy Federation. She is a classical singer and lover of music and the arts in general.

Martin Royds of Jillamatong, Braidwood is a regenerative farmer. His goal to produce a bountiful nutrient dense food whilst restoring the landscape and his community has been recognised by Major General Jeffery's Soils for Life group as a demonstration farm. He was the founder of The Natural Sequence Association formed to understand and promote the insights of Peter Andrews. The present chair of the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council and chairs South East Landcare Committee, a member NSW Landcare Board, NSW/ACT Weeds Advisory Board.

Dr Mary Murray is a founding member of the global Reimagining Resistance group, the former Global Network Coordinator of ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance, a pharmacist with a PhD in Cultural Psychology, an artist and former fashion designer. She spent 40 years working in many countries and communities to develop and implement National Medicines Policies and improve the use of medicines.

Meg Rigby joined A Chorus of Women in 2003. For over 20 years she was involved in community development, employment creation and social enterprise work in Sydney. The work grew out of intentional community living with shared resources, as well as a rich music and creative arts life. The combination of a core community, music-making and concern for justice remains her passion.

Miriam Pickard is a theatre maker and performer in site-specific ceremonial theatre events. She has a BA in Communications–Theatre/Media (2007) and later trained with master clown and theatre teacher Philippe Gaulier in France. Since 2010 she has been working in Central Australia with Warlpiri elders filming women’s ceremony and tjukurpa (dreaming) and producing educational resources with young girls. In 2014, she joined A Chorus of Women to participate in A Passion for Peace and has continued collaborating with Chorus members.

Dr Nicky Grigg is a senior research scientist at CSIRO, where she brings experience in mathematical modelling and analysis of social-ecological systems to projects about global change and our responses to it. She was a founding member of the local non-profit organisation, SEE-Change, and sang with A Chorus of Women for many years.

Peter Dawson is a Canberra business consultant and writer who came from the corporate sector to serve in the Australian Trade Commissioner Service, in the federal trade and industry portfolios and in government procurement policy before setting up his own consulting practice. He was the first Chairman of the International Business Taskforce of the Canberra Business Council and chaired the ACT Branch of the Australia Indonesia Business Council for two terms.

Sarah Stitt has been a member of A Chorus of Women since 2012. She has a background in arts, art history and exhibition management. In recent years she has run a home-based business, raised three sons and contributed to many community organisations, as a fundraiser, creative developer and project manager.

Right Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard is the Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Professor of Theology at Charles Sturt University, and Assistant Bishop in the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese. He was previously Head of Charles Sturt University's School of Theology; Anglican Bishop, Archdiocese of Adelaide; Visiting Fellow, Ripon Theological College, Oxford; and Acting CEO Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn. He is the author of several books.

Tim Hollo is a musician and environmentalist. He is Executive Director of The Green Institute, and founder and CEO of Green Music Australia, an organisation seeking to help the music scene lead the way to a greener world. He was previously Director of Communications for Australian Greens Leader Christine Milne, and has worked for Greenpeace Australia Pacific, 350.org, Lock the Gate and others. He has performed around the world from the Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall, and has written for national and international news outlets.

Toni Hassan is a Walkley Award winning journalist and adjunct research fellow at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University. She has reported for newspapers and radio and television, worked for non-profit organisations supporting child welfare and Indigenous development and has advised federal politicians. Her current interest is parenting in the digital age. She is studying visual arts at the Australian National University.

Green Songs

THE ORACLE

Black dread will bloom in heart's red blood
Till green songs grow in the gaze of love



CHORUS OF CITIZENS

She said: 'Black dread will bloom in heart's red blood
Till green songs grow in the gaze of love'

Black dread will bloom in heart's red blood!
We're scared of the weather! Desperate for rain!
We're obsessed with death Possessed by dread
How do we stop the climate changing?



Ooh yeah! Some of us party Some of us go arty
But our young people don't want to know what's coming
Old people don't want to know what's coming
We don't want to know what's coming!
We don't want to Don't want to We don't want to know!

Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?
Why don't our leaders fix the problem?
Why don't scientists and engineers?
Why won't the politicians listen to our worries?
How could green songs stop the climate changing?



There's not enough power in kindly hands
Not enough care for mothers and Earth
The climate is changing O Earth! Our children!
Where can we plant the seed of our love?

*Words and music Glenda Cloughley, 2008-12 from 'The Gifts of the Furies'
A Chorus of Women's mythic story-song about people and Earth*

Ubuntu

Ubuntu
I am who I am because of you
We are who we are because of each other
Ubuntu

Words and music Johanna McBride, 2005



Singing Regeneration!

A Chorus of Women is bringing a 14-year commitment to cultural regeneration to the foreground of all our activities.

Our end-of-2016 concert 'Singing Regeneration' combined music and spoken reflections on the laws of regeneration, regenerating humanity, and regenerating the Earth.

Today's conversation, seeking wisdom on regeneration for our broken world, continues the focus.

Working towards political and cultural regeneration is more important than ever. We welcome your thoughts, dreams and active participation in the ways we seek to bring regenerative cultures to life, including ...

- *Artistic work — songs, storytelling, new creative development of our big works on great issues, 'A Passion for Peace' and 'The Gifts of the Furies'*
- *Community musical events — e.g. the annual Anzac Eve Peace Vigil, concerts on vital themes for Citizens Chorus like our 2016 Climate Council fundraiser*
- *Offerings into public discourse — talks, workshops, 'singing papers', public conversations that include artistic expression on community issues*
- *Intergenerational transmission of knowledge, ideas and practice — including via Women's Wisdom Web, our soon-to-be online platform for the regenerative wisdom that's welling up around the world.*
- *Writing and publishing*