

## Cities Research Institute Newsletter

Issue 1 – March 2023

### A Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues



I'm afraid that again I have to report the death of a friend and supporter of the CRI. Last month Matthew Schneider passed away after being diagnosed with a Stage IV cancer in May 2022. He helped set up and then led the Gold Coast office of Urbis and was an active member of many industry bodies, including the Property Council of Australia and the Planning Institute of Australia, and I was delighted to nominate him to become a Fellow of PIA last year.

Matthew was very proud to be an Adjunct Industry Fellow of Griffith University and always supportive of the work of our Institute, including collaborating with us on city visioning projects for the Gold Coast. Matthew also served as chair of the Industry Reference Group for our planning programs and brought his considerable experience and passion for planning to bear in challenging our students to be bold and rigorous but compassionate as emerging professionals. We have lost a friend and staunch supporter and send our condolences to Sam, Oliver, Louie and Maggie.

Toward the end of last year, we were delighted to learn that several our grant applications had been successful, including one ARC DECRA, one ARC Linkage and three ARC Discovery grants. We also secured major grants from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and the National Recovery & Resilience Agency. Each of these applications benefitted from the support of our excellent Research Project Development Manager, Dr Savindi Caldera and so it is with sadness (but our very best wishes) that we say farewell to Savindi who will be joining the University of the Sunshine Coast as a Lecturer in Environmental Engineering. We are in the process of appointing a replacement for Savindi to continue helping our researchers fulfill their ambitions.

Meanwhile, we continue to build our profile of work on the many and varied aspects of city life and urban development. From helping to prepare better for extreme weather events,

making our buildings more sustainable and pleasant to live and work in, and understanding the new technologies that enable us to move between and around our cities, our research always seeks to engage with the complex realities and challenges of cities. You can read more about some of these exciting new projects in the rest of this newsletter.

Finally, I should note that this will be the last introduction I write as Director of the CRI, as I will be stepping down from the role at the end of March. The University has called for expressions of interest from colleagues who would like to become the next Director and I am confident we will be in good hands for the next stage of our journey. The CRI came into being in late 2016 and was launched by Vice Chancellor Ian O'Connor and Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate in May 2017. Our ambition has always been to support multi-disciplinary research of the highest academic standard that helps make cities better places. Over the last six and half years it has been my pleasure and privilege to help lead the Institute in this mission and I would like to acknowledge the many partners from outside the university who, like Matthew Schneider, have supported our work and its application. I look forward to having some more time over the next couple of years to reflect on this work and perhaps complete at least some of the half-finished papers that draw on that experience.

Regards

Paul Burton

Director, Cities Research Institute

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## Research Highlights

### 2022 Promotions

Congratulations to members of the Cities Research Institute who were promoted in December:

- Professor Sacha Reid
- Associate Professors Benjamin Liu, Dominic Ong, Darren Wishart, and Yong Wu
- Senior Lecturers Zoe Murray and Tingting Liu
- Senior Research Fellow Abraham Leung.

Each is richly deserved; we are very proud of their achievements and look forward to their continued success as researchers in the Institute.

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### Awards Abound

CRI members and students have been very well recognised throughout the 2022 awards season:

## IGEM Research Excellence Award 2022

**Dr Kimberley Reis** was presented with the Research Excellence Award 2022, by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, Queensland Government. Nominated by Sioux Campbell, from the Cairns Regional Council, Disaster Management Unit (CRC-DMU), this award is in recognition of research developed in local food resilience during severe weather and pandemic events. With the CRC-DMU, Kimberley co-developed a 'Local Food Access Model' for decision support in disaster management.

The model embeds a shared responsibility between local government, local business and local communities come together to access locally produced food, keep businesses open and food on the plate. An online Local Food Resilience Hub encourages the Cairns community to access, grow and manage local food supplies and the final report shows how agencies that care for our most vulnerable people can link up with local producers and supplies to get fresh food grown in, and around Cairns.

### Further information:

- **Research article on local food access model** - "Working through disaster risk management to support regional food resilience: A case study in North-Eastern Australia" <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14042466>
- **Online Local Food Resilience Hub** (Cairns Regional Council) <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/sustainability>
- **CRI Final report** - "Towards local food resilience: Key considerations for building local food resilience and contingency plans - A focus on the Cairns region" [https://www.griffith.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0029/1334297/CRI-Towards-local-food-resilience-research-report.pdf](https://www.griffith.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/1334297/CRI-Towards-local-food-resilience-research-report.pdf)
- **Cairns Climate Change Strategy** (see page 23 on strengthening local food supply chains) <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/climate-change/cairns-climate-change-strategy>
- **Project website** - "Enabling action for local food resilience and contingency" <https://www.griffith.edu.au/cities-research-institute/research/digital-earth-and-resilient-infrastructure/food-contingency>



Dr Kimberley Reis

## Connecting Water, Waste, Energy and Food Team

### ARC Linkage Grant Success

In a huge win for the project team led by Associate Professor Cara Beal (pictured) and Professor Rodney Stewart this project will enable the co-design of a resilient water-energy toolbox with Indigenous communities. The team includes Associate Professor Kerry Bodle (Griffith Business School), Professor Brendan Mackey (Climate Action Beacon), Dr Martin Anda (Murdoch University), Mr Damien Postma (WA Water Corporation), Mr Mark David (Torres Strait Island Regional Council), Ms Cheryl Bailey (Indigenous Technology), and Dr Melissa Jackson (CRI and Climate Action Beacon) who will be the lead post doc for the project.



Industry partners include Ergon Energy Corporation Limited, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Power and Water Corporation, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, Centre for Appropriate Technology Limited, Water Corporation, Indigenous Technology Pty Ltd.

The total value of the grant is \$690,378 over 3 years and the project aims to collaboratively create a toolbox of innovative, community-based approaches for water and energy management in remote Australia. It will combine digital and cultural approaches to create a novel set of tested and evaluated tools for engaging both community and service providers in transforming water and energy use practices in remote Indigenous communities. The key output will be an empirically tested and user-friendly water-energy toolbox designed to reduce the currently extreme cost of supplying essential services to remote communities, as well as improving public health outcomes. This will significantly reduce demand on local water sources and diesel-generated energy use while creating a skill base for local employment opportunities.

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### DECRA 2023 Award

CRI researcher Dr Fan Zhang has been awarded a \$435,232 Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) from the Australian Research Council to study the effects of thermal environments on workplace productivity. She hopes to fundamentally refute the widespread myth that a workplace temperature of 22 °C promotes the highest levels of productivity and bring about a paradigm shift in how commercial buildings are managed. This project is expected to produce a brand-new productivity metric, a standard measurement protocol for evaluating the effects of the thermal environment on office productivity, and indoor thermal environmental control guidelines tailored to various types of cognitive tasks in workplaces across various industries. It will offer cost-effective solutions to reduce building energy consumption while maximising worker productivity.

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## GIRLS Team



Green Infrastructure Research Labs (GIRLS) was honoured to receive the [Stormwater Queensland](#) Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation 2022 and thank the Association for the recognition of our research efforts.

The awarded green roof research project investigated the performance of native plant communities and was made possible due to a collaboration with [Northey Street City Farm](#) including then farm manager [Ko Oishi](#).

The multi-year research project built on passionate involvement of various researchers at GIRLS including [Tony Kim](#), [Nathalie Tomson](#), and [Sylvie Chell](#) under the guidance of GIRLS founder Dr [Ruby Michael](#).

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## Transport Team



Our transport PhD students **Madison Bland** (left) and **Christopher Johnson** (second from left) both presented peer-reviewed papers at the 2022 Australasian Transport Research Forum (ATRF) in Adelaide in late September. **Matthew Burke** (second from right) also delivered our student **Sheida Abdoli's** work on her behalf, as she stayed in Brisbane with her young baby. The quality of the team's research was clear with the papers all getting very positive comment. This was the transport team's first interstate/international conference in nearly three years.

Professor Matthew Burke has been continuing his long-standing advocacy to end the private Brisbane Airtrain concession. Matthew's position, now supported by Brisbane City Council, key business associations and much of the general public, continues to gather support and media coverage, such as in this [Brisbane Times article](#)

Professor Burke notes the Airtrain concession gives the operators exclusive public transport rights into and around the airport, prevents a lot of meaningful planning and system improvement, and has users pay a very steep fee for an average suburban train to the city. The concession times out after Brisbane hosts the Olympics and Paralympics in 2032.

**Dr Abraham Leung** concluded his research visit to Finland, supported by the University Jyväskylä Visiting Fellow Programme. Using this opportunity, he has conducted research in Lapland, Central Finland and Pirkanmaa (Tampere) regions and interviewed key stakeholders in the tourism and transport sectors. He has also delivered a series of research seminars and presented at the International Conference of Mobility as a Service (ICoMaaS) from 29 to 30 November 2022. The research activities in Finland are part of the Advanced Queensland Industry Research Fellowship project - *Transforming Queensland Tourism with Micro-Transport*.



Dr Abraham Leung

**Dr Heather Shearer** has given several guest lectures recently.

- She presented a very well received talk to the Researcher Education and Development seminar series, entitled “How “real” is that information?”, This gave a critical overview of some of the ways that fake information is manufactured and communicated, and how to identify it.
- She also spoke at the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, as part of a panel discussion on Brisbane Growth until 2030.
- Finally, she gave a lecture to the Deepdene U3A (Victoria) on rental affordability and the housing crisis.

Heather also gave a number of media interviews about rental affordability and tiny houses and presented on this at this year’s Woodford Folk Festival.

\$30,000 funding from the Climate Action Beacon has been awarded to **Michael Howes**, Andrew Buckwell, **Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes**, Justine Bell-James (UQ), **Johanna Nalau**, and Edward Morgan for the project titled *Climate Change Adaptation: Options for Managed Retreat*

## PIA Awards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee Town Planner Development Program

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee Town Planner Development Program* developed by the Tweed Shire Council, Griffith University and GUMURRI Student Support Unit in collaboration with the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council has received two awards at the Planning Institute of Australia New South Wales Awards for Planning Excellence: a commendation in the Planning for Country category and the President's Award which is judged across all the Awards entries.

The program has been designed to recruit and support an Indigenous student enrolled in the four-year Bachelor of Urban Planning program at Griffith. The Cities Research Institute supports an annual scholarship and Tweed Shire Council provides one day per week paid placement through their cadetship program for four years.

## Awards for Planning Students and Alumni

Griffith Planning students and alumni were well represented among this year's winners of Minister's Planning Awards and [Planning Institute of Australia Queensland Awards for Planning Excellence](#), and the CRI has been pleased to support them through nomination and attendance at events.

## Minister's Planning Awards

Griffith students have dominated these awards for three years running and in 2022 won two of the three awards from among seven Queensland universities. Final year Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning/Bachelor of Science student Georgia Quick won the Female Student in Planning award following in the footsteps of 2021 winner Ruby Stockholm and inaugural 2019 winner Jasmine Divall.



Georgia Quick receiving her award from Assistant Minister for Education Brittany Lauga (Photo credit: The Planning Institute of Australia - 2022 QLD Awards for Planning Excellence).

Recent alumni of the Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning (Honours) Tayla Miller won the Thesis or Research Project Award with her Honours Thesis "Integrating First Nations Values, Perspective and Knowledge into State of Environment Reporting: A Case Study of Queensland State of Environment Reporting".

## Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Queensland 2022 Awards for Excellence

Tayla Miller was one of the big winners of the day as she also won the PIA Queensland Award for Planning Excellence in Tertiary Student Project category with her Honours thesis. This is Tayla's third award after winning the 2022 Planning Institute of Australia and



Queensland Young Planners Student Innovation Showcase back in July. Tayla's Honours project was part of a new initiative of linking Honours research projects to industry placements and was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Science, and was supervised by **Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes**. The judges were impressed with the breadth of engagement undertaken for the project – with collaboration between the researcher, indigenous traditional owner groups and government agencies. The judges were also impressed with the potential for the recommendations to be incorporated across multiple Australian and international jurisdictions - leading to better representation of traditional knowledge in government decision-making.



Tayla Miller receiving PIA Queensland Planning Excellence award (Photo credit: The Planning Institute of Australia - 2022 QLD Awards for Planning Excellence).

Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning (Honours) alumni Ruby Stockham was a runner up for Wendy Chadwick Young Planner Bursary.



(Photo credit: The Planning Institute of Australia - 2022 QLD Awards for Planning Excellence).

Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning (Honours) alumni Tim Beck received a commendation for Young Planner of the Year category for his outstanding contribution to his workplace and the industry in a relatively short time. The judges praised Tim's dedication exhibited through his strong work ethic and technical skills along with the contribution he makes through leading the Queensland Young Planners Group mentoring program.



(Photo credit: The Planning Institute of Australia - 2022 QLD Awards for Planning Excellence).

## Golden Key Scholarship

Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning/Bachelor of Science student Rachael Leeson was recently awarded a prestigious 2022 Golden Key scholarship.

## Digital Earth and Resilient Infrastructure Team



**Dr Kimberley Reis** was invited to present to the Queensland Government's Queensland Future Conversation on Food security and supply chain resilience, hosted by the Honourable Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities.

Kimberley spoke on "Building disaster resilience through local food: addressing food shortages and disadvantage", drawing

on her work described in more detail above.



Professor Paul Burton was part of a panel of experts discussing strategies to address housing challenges and homelessness at a more recent Parliamentary breakfast in this series, hosted by the Honourable Leanne Enoch, MP. Minister for Communities and Housing. Professor Sacha Reid also spoke on the social and affordable housing investment appraisal tool developed with CRI member, Dr Judy Kraatz.

Vice Chancellor and President Professor Carolyn Evans, Dr Kim Reis, Prof Rebecca Ford, Prof Cheryl Desha

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This year has provided some exciting possibilities for Adjunct Research Fellow, **Dr Christine Black** who has been working with colleagues on grants for future research in the UK, US and the Caribbean. Dr Black states: “Most of this year has been assisting my colleague Assoc Prof Vermeylen, Strathclyde University to apply for a Future Leaders Fellowship, UK Gov. The grant is worth approx. \$3 million AUD. If successful I will take up the role as mentor and co-author of a book entitled *Cosmovisions of Space Law*. I am also about to begin a creative work with the director of the Ensayos Collective Research, Camilia Marambio who recently curated the Chilean pavilion at the 59th Venice Art Biennale. This builds on our successful Summer Residency in 2020 at the Museum of Art, New York. (Webinar presentations). Our new project collaboration will be part of a residency offer in Puerto Rico. Funding is being sought from Thyssen Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21), a leading international art and advocacy foundation and our working title for the project is *Cosmovisions from the Caribbean Sea*.”

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## Selected new books and other publications

**Palutikof JP**, Boulter SL, Field CB et al. (2022) Enhancing the review process in global environmental assessments: the case of the IPCC. *Environ. Sci. Policy* 139:118-129. doi: 10.1016/j.envsci.2022.10.012

Cury, R., M. Kennelly, **M. Howes**. 2022. “Environmental Sustainability in Sport: A Systematic Literature Review.” *European Sport Management Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16184742.2022.2126511>

**Scott Baum** (2022) A Socio-Economic Analysis of Polling Booth Catchments at the 2019 Australian Federal Election, *Papers in Applied Geography*, DOI: [10.1080/23754931.2022.2121174](https://doi.org/10.1080/23754931.2022.2121174)

**Scott Baum**, Emma Baker, Amanda Davies, John Stone, Elizabeth Taylor (2022) *Pandemic Cities: The COVID-19 Crisis and Australian Urban Region*, Springer Singapore, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-5884-7>

Cury, R., M. Kennelly, **M. Howes**. 2022. "Environmental Sustainability in Sport: A Systematic Literature Review." *European Sport Management Quarterly*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/16184742.2022.2126511>

**Kim, Tony**, Dong Hwan, Yu, B., Srichandra, J., Low-Choy, S., Michael, R.N. (2022), Water flux and biomass production of native plants at different substrate compactions for landfill phytocaps in Southeast Queensland, Australia, *Ecological Engineering*, Volume 183,106745.

**Abuseif, M.**, Dupre, K., & Michael, R. N. (2022). Trees on buildings: Opportunities, challenges, and recommendations. *Building and Environment*, 109628. doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2022.109628

**Htet Oo, Guilherme Vieira da Silva, Hong Zhang, Darrell Strauss, Rodger Tomlinson** Paper published in *Ocean Engineering: Estimation of Beach Erosion Using Joint Probability Analysis with a Morphological Model*. *Ocean Engineering*. 264 (15).112560.  
doi.org/10.1016/j.oceaneng.2022.112560

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## HDR Scholars Highlights

### The Disaster Challenge 2022

The Disaster Challenge is a national challenge to encourage new ideas, new thinking and new research.

CRI had a team of six PhD scholars plus another from RMIT: **Jane Toner, Sheridan Keegan, Ahmed Qasim, Lynn Lue-Kopman, Yunjin Wang, Manori Dissanayaka** (CRI, Griffith University) and Cris Hernandez-Santin (RMIT).

The proposal – Beacons of Hope – is a process to capture and contribute local knowledge and experience of disaster into Disaster Management Planning that is inclusive of the transient population. The Beacon of Hope is an artistic and interactive structure with both beauty and brains – a creative expression of place and a knowledge bank of local information to fill in the gaps for disaster preparedness. In times of disaster, the Beacon brings real time local information to and from the community by facilitating early warning systems, emergency messaging and feedback loop from community sensors.

The team was supported by their mentors: **Dr. Kimberley Reis, Prof. Anne Roiko, Dr. Nancy Spencer, A/Prof. Jamie Ranse, Dr. Allison Rifai, Dr. Savindi Caldera, Adj Prof. Iain MacKenzie, Prof. Cheryl Desha**. More details of the challenge can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr Ana Paula da Silva who has just been awarded her PhD for her work on Climate Control on Natural Headland Bypassing.

Other HDR scholars who have submitted their thesis for examination include:

- Huong Thu Nguyen
- Benjamin Kaufman
- Thang Nguyen

**Majed Abu-Seif** who is part of the GIRLS team has been busy also:

- [Won the Gold Coast student excellence award](#)
  - Designed the first education rooftop garden in the Middle East region based on my research. You can find more details in this [link](#)
  - Was invited to deliver a course about [tropical architecture and urban design strategies](#)
  - Delivered a course in [urban climate simulation](#).
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## Conferences and Seminars

### **The Housing Affordability Crisis and the Vision for a New Australian Dream**

Visiting Academic Sergio Famiano who has spent 25 years working in the town planning and development industry in Perth Western Australia, presented to CRI members recently on the findings of his work on the crisis of housing affordability.

Recently, Sergio first book was published on the housing affordability crisis in Australia: **'The New Australian Dream: How by rethinking our homes and cities we can solve Australia's housing affordability crisis'**.

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**Michael Howes, Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes, Ed Morgan, Johanna Nalau, Elisa Arteaga, Rebecca McNaught** presented their research on "Transforming Coastal Communities in Oceania to Build Climate Resilience and Sustainability." at the *Sustainability Research + Innovation: Oceania Satellite Event*, in July at QUT, Brisbane.

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The 6<sup>th</sup> international EcoSummit will take place 13 – 17 June 2023 on the Gold Coast, focusing on coastal and marine ecosystems including adjacent terrestrial ecosystems and all habitats that are integrated within those ecosystems, including river networks, wetlands, and catchments. We expect all aspects of environmental modelling, engineering, science, and policy to be covered under the focus of climate adaptation and the need for developing socio-economic and environmental resilience and sustainable prosperity around the world. Further focus will be placed on fragile systems that are more likely to suffer the consequences of climate change and anthropogenic pressure such as islands, coastal

communities, and arid landscapes. Dr Jan Olaf Meynecke is one of three conference chairs and the Scientific Committee includes Professors Paul Burton and Brendan Mackay, Director of Griffith's Climate Action Beacon.

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