Executive News

The Smart Green Cities Research Centre was launched by DVC-R Sakkie Pretorius at his weather report town hall meeting on 4th May. So we are official now! We have been very busy in the meantime, including finalising the Executive Leadership team and running two workshops to connect our members and explore research ideas. Thank you to all those who attended the workshops - they had a great buzz and vibe, and it's been wonderful to meet so many new people with aligning research interests.

The Executive Leadership team will now build on the foundations provided by the workshops to develop the Centre's research strategy for the next few years. Meanwhile we have a busy schedule of events over the next months that we hope you will join.

The team have been working with MQ branding and marketing agreeing on the name (Smart Green Cities Research Centre), our Purpose Statement (We create collaborative evidence-based solutions for liveable smart green cities of the future) and our tag (Creating liveable cities of the future).

Remember that the Centre is here for its members, so please send us information and updates on events and opportunities that we can share, and tell us about your latest research triumphs that we can celebrate! If you need help with research partnerships, projects or media, let us know. And don't forget to tag us on: LinkedIn @smart green cities and Twitter: @MQ_SGC
Diary Dates

Upcoming SMART GREEN CITIES activities/events:

Tuesday 16 May 2023 5PM
Smart Green Cities Research Centre: 2023 SGC Development Funds are OPEN FOR APPLICATION.

2023 SGC funding applications/instructions for applicants and the contact list for SGC members/workshop attendees are attached.

Those who attended Workshop 2 are encouraged to keep working on the feasibility of projects discussed, but we also welcome application for other multi-disciplinary research ideas that fit the application criteria.

Any questions about the scheme can be directed to Professor Melanie Bishop or Leanne Price (smartgreencities@mq.edu.au).

Tuesday 23 May 2023, 3-5PM 18WW 185C (MUSE Building)
Smart Green Cities Research Centre: GRA Student Presentations

This session we will hear from our five 2022 SGC funding awardees:

- Waqas Afridi: Field-testing of a developed low-cost Smart Soil Sensing System at Narrabri NSW farm site, to predict a realistic water balance model.
- Reza Behboodian: Nanoengineering of hybrid nanostructures as highly Sensitive UV Photodetectors
- Milena Bojovic: The Future of Dairy Milk Production in Aotearoa NZ (& beyond)
- Jayden Chen: The detection of ethylene gas at ppb-level
- Simran Keshwani: Asia's "Other" Giant: The Political Economy of India's Energy Transition

Please come along to hear about these exciting research projects, support our students and network over light refreshments afterwards.

Macquarie University’s Transforming Energy Markets (TEM) and Smart Green Cities (SGC) Research Centres invite you to come along to hear from a leading international expert on climate change. The public lecture will be followed by a Q&A discussion panel and the opportunity for networking over light refreshments.

Speaker: Myles Allen

Myles Allen is Professor of Geosystem Science in the School of Geography and the Environment and Department of Physics at the University of Oxford, and Director of the Oxford Net Zero initiative. His research focuses on how human and natural influences on climate contribute to observed climate change and risks of extreme weather and in quantifying their implications for long-range climate forecasts.

Myles was the Coordinating Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s Special Report on 1.5 degrees, having served on the IPCC’s 3rd, 4th and 5th Assessments, including the Synthesis Report Core Writing Team in 2014. He proposed the use of Probabilistic Event Attribution to quantify the contribution of human and other external influences on climate to specific individual weather events and leads the www.climateprediction.net/ project, using distributed computing to run the world’s largest ensemble climate modelling experiments.

OTHER activities/events that may interest members:

Thursday 11 May 2023 5.30-7.30PM Back to Security of Supply or Fast-Track Energy Transition RSVP by 9 May

Macquarie University’s Transforming Energy Markets (TEM) Research Centre and the Department of Economics invite you to come along to hear from a leading international expert on the energy transition as well as related risks and opportunities for participants in electricity markets. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A discussion and opportunity for networking.

Speaker: Thierry Bros, Professor at SciencesPo Paris

Dr Thierry Bros’ expertise is in energy markets, policy, climate and geopolitics. Thierry is a Professor at SciencesPo Paris and a contributor to Natural Gas World website. In his 30+ years long career, Thierry was Senior Policy Manager & Lead Analyst for an oil & gas organisation, Vice President Research of a US LNG company, Senior European Gas and LNG Analyst as well as Senior Financial Equity Analyst. Previously, Thierry was in charge of Security of Supply at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance where he liberalised the French gas market and supervised the
European Contingency Gas Plan. On the academic side, Thierry has been a Senior Research Fellow of The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and, in his first book, published in 2012, he rightly forecasted that the surge in US oil and gas production was going to deeply alter the energy and geopolitical landscapes.

Canapes & Refreshments will be served. Spaces are limited so register now to secure your place. For event queries, please contact the: Transforming Energy Markets Research Centre via email: tem@mq.edu.au.

**Member News**

**Lavender Bay Launch for Living Seawalls**

**Professor Melanie Bishop, Associate Professor Katherine Dafforn** and the Living Seawalls team are about to trial their newest design tool with Living Seawalls 'boulders' going into their new restoration project at Lavender Bay. A long-term interest in the Living Seawalls installation at Kirribilli Point encouraged Sydney by Kayak to organise the [SBK conservation fund](#) to support an installation at Lavender Bay where they launch their kayak tours.

If you want to know more about Living Seawalls latest project, you can listen to **Associate Professor Melanie Bishop**, School of Natural Sciences, in conversation about '**Project Restore**'. The multi-million-dollar plan aiming to rewild and restore marine habitats for penguins and seals and seahorses and turtles in Sydney Harbour.

**Australian report: Flood-threatened communities strengthened by their collective insights**

The experiences of people affected by the extreme floods in 2022 are providing vital insights on preparedness, response and the early stages of recovery to help reduce future flood risk. Occupational psychologist **Associate Professor Mel Taylor**, Macquarie School of Social Sciences, was lead researcher and says big-picture issues such as community connection and communication affected how people were impacted by the floods.

**Nature-based management increases river resilience** ([Earth.com & Smart Water Magazine](#))

Nature-based management is currently making rivers more resilient. **Professor Kirstie Fryirs**, School of Natural Sciences, two recent articles point to Wollombi Brook as a good Australian example of sustainable environmental restoration. The articles refer to a recent study led by the University of Melbourne and Macquarie University: Kathryn Russell et al, Evolution of a river management industry in Australia reveals meandering pathway to 2030 UN goals, *Communications Earth & Environment* (2023). [DOI: 10.1038/s43247-023-00748-y](#)
Urban Greening conference, UTS 27 April 2023

Caragh Threlfall and Michelle Leishman attended the Urban Greening conference at UTS along with a broad range of industry professionals and government - there were interesting discussions on valuing urban green spaces, spatial analysis of canopy and urban green space, and community attitudes to urban greening.

Opportunities

New Open Access Issue

Smart Engagement With Citizens: Integrating "the Smart" Into Inclusive Public Participation and Community Planning
Editors: Jin-Kyu Jung (University of Washington) and Jung Eun Kang (Pusan National University)
All articles are available fully open access here:
https://www.cogitatiopress.com/urbanplanning/issue/view/282

Committee for Sydney Action Plan

The Nature Positive Sydney Action Plan has been released to celebrate and strengthen support for Sydney’s world-renowned rivers, parks, tree lined streets and harbours. The report sets out a path to better value our living infrastructure, and create the structural changes needed to enable community, business and government to support and benefit from growing our living infrastructure equitably across the city.
Designing Cities for All Program

My Liveable City (MLC) & Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies (IHS) have organised a one week in-campus limited seat certificate expert program Designing Cities for All at Erasmus University Rotterdam from 10-14 July 2023.

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP)

CCEP Ventures are looking to fund: pilot programs, R&D projects and Direct Equity Investment into Innovations. Projects need to be at a technology readiness level of 3+ (demonstrable TRL3+) and align to their sustainability goals. More details on this including the themes and a simple application form for ventures are provided via this link: https://earthtech.app/ccep-ventures. Interested parties are advised to discuss the related IP with ip@mq.edu.au before making the submission.

Recommended Reading

Doctors for the Environment (DEA) and the World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia released a joint report, Trees. The forgotten heroes for our health, highlighting research on how trees are essential to our health and very survival. The report launches WWF’s ‘We all need trees’ campaign drawing attention to the benefits of trees and the need for Australia to urgently transition from a deforestation hotspot to a world leader in reforestation.


According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), particulate pollution poses one of the greatest environmental risks to health. Two interesting articles from Professor Matthew Peters, Macquarie Medical School in The Guardian. Air pollution: how bad is particulate matter for your health? Offering insight on air pollution and health risks. Australia’s air pollution hot spots hit disadvantaged people harder. Discussing analysis of geographical distribution which shows the effects of airborne particulates compound existing inequalities.

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To make contributions to LinkedIn, Twitter or future newsletters, please email:

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