



CREATIVE
CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP



CCL Australia 2023



Julie's Bicycle
CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION





All photos by Heidrun Lohr

We proudly acknowledge all First Nations peoples and their rich culture of the country we now call Australia. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge First Nations peoples as Australia's First Peoples and as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to Australian life, and how this continuation of 75,000 years of unbroken storytelling enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards ensuring an equal voice and the equality of outcomes in all aspects of our society.

Table of contents

Tribute to Sēini F Taumoepeau	4
Introduction CCL Australia	5
Foreword by Alison Tickell	6
List of participants	7
Summary of insights	8
Insights - reset	9
Insights - community	10
Insights - collaboration	11
Assessment questionnaires	12
Case Studies	13
About the Programme	16



We dedicate this work to the loving memory of Sēini F. Taumoepeau. Having spent these days in her presence at Bundanon was an immense privilege. Though her absence leaves an immeasurable void in our hearts, her memory will forever be a source of love, laughter, and empowerment for all of us. We honour her through the words she breathed life into in our collective effort to build interspecies principles:

“I have a desire that you return. Be in the world with love, care, reciprocity, and humility. Trust me, to flow through you and to take care of you and us. There are many of us to consider with your decisions. So, make all decisions with all life highest in your mind. Do it with laughter. Have fun, and continue to play with me in the sun, in the river, through the forest. Remember, I’m here to hold you. Cherish the storms, the tensions, the warnings because there lies lessons and also looove. All life moves in cycles. Embrace the change and timely transformation. There’s time and it’s the right time. And then also it’s not. Know the river will flow without you. Renewal and regeneration. Local ecosystems. Looove. Lead with love and duty. Follow when it’s your turn to follow. Practice stillness. Practice quiet and looove.”



Creative Climate Leadership (CCL) is a transformation programme for creative changemakers committed to taking action on the climate, nature, justice crises through the arts and culture. The five-day residential brings together artists, cultural professionals, and creative activists to learn and unlearn together, nurture creative possibilities, strengthen communities of practice, explore what leadership means in the context of a rapidly changing world, and refocus on what the arts and culture can bring to the climate movement.

Creative Climate Leadership Australia 2023 took place from 11–16 September 2023 at Bundanon, New South Wales. It was designed and delivered by Julie’s Bicycle in partnership with Creative Australia, supported by the British Council and co-facilitated with Yorta Yorta Songwoman and Storyteller Ruth Langford. We acknowledge the people of the Dharawal and Dhurga language groups as the traditional owners of the land on which Bundanon is located. In Dharawal the word Bundanon means deep valley.

The programme brought together 23 participants living and working in Australia with a rich knowledge and experiences in music, performing arts, activism, museums, heritage, storytelling, ecological design, community arts, permaculture, cultural policy, reworlding, literature, visual arts, and sound arts. They join a powerful global network of over 250 change-makers with creativity, skills, and vision sowing seeds for transformation across the wider arts and culture sector.



Foreword


Alison Tickell

Founder and Director, Julie's Bicycle

“At times of uncertainty and crisis artists always pick up their tools and get to work. It’s what makes cultural voices so relevant and vital to this particular moment on earth; Creative Climate Leadership is challenging the systems and assumptions that have been carefully crafted to maintain the status quo which is devastating social and natural relationships and causing climate chaos. Cultural stewards, artists and creative imaginaries are disrupting and replacing ideas that are not working with alternative ways of being.

At a critical moment in Australia’s history, with the country about to vote on the Voice to Parliament referendum, CCL brought together some of the best creative minds and warmest hearts making change in their communities to surface the tensions and rethink what climate action is required from them right now. The irony of coming in as outsiders was not lost on many of us; sometimes complexity requires energy from the outside to help unravel it. Our team travelled all the way from the UK bringing lived experiences representing four continents. And we had the honour of holding the space alongside the warm and gifted Yorta Yorta Songwoman and Storyteller Ruth Langford, founder of Nayri Niara.


Almost 30 exceptional creative climate leaders gathered at Bundanon Art Museum and wildlife haven on land traditionally owned by Dharawal and Dhurga people, to exchange, challenge, learn and reflect on our practice, and cultivate relational, responsive and urgent work, linking the local to CCL’s global network of solidarity and action. With flexibility and determination to bring our best, we experienced stretch leadership, creativity and trust. For that I am extremely grateful. As I am to the alumni, who are, quite literally, holding all our futures: I am really looking forward to seeing how their stories unfold.”

Aimee Smith
choreographer and climate change professional



Anna Weekes
artist and creative producer, Darwin Community Arts



Antonia Seymour
executive director, Arts on Tour




Ari Fuller, sustainability and facilities officer, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)




Astrid Edwards
academic, interviewer and writer, University of Melbourne



Beatrice Jeavons
creative producer and climate impact manager, FEAT.Live



Bryony Anderson
lead maker/head of workshop, Terrapin Puppet Theatre



Catherine Polcz
science producer, Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory



Charlie Mgee
songwriter and permaculturist, Formidable Vegetable



Eliki Reade
interdependent producer



Fiona Lee
visual artist and climate justice activist




Grace Nye-Butler
scientist and stage manager, Theatre Green Book Australia



Guy Ritani
human rights defender, Tamborine Mountain Arts Collective




Jen Rae
Creative Research Lead, Centre for Reworlding



Juundaal Strang-Yettica
indigenous emerging artist



Kate Scardifield
artist and co-director, UTS Material Ecologies Design Lab




Keg de Souza
artist




Na'im Fine Fine
composer



Noemie Huttner-Koros
performance-maker, writer, dramaturg & community organiser




Pippa Bailey
producer and director



Sēini F Taumoepeau
regenerative orator and songwoman



Tanja Beer, ecological designer, community artist, senior & co-director, Performance + Ecology Research Lab (CARI)



Vika Mana
storyteller, creative director and organiser

CCL Australia Facilitation Team: Alison Tickell, Farah Ahmed, Zamzam Ibrahim, Thiago Jesus (Julie's Bicycle) and Ruth Langford.

Creative Australia Team: Adam McGowan, Mikala Tai, Sally Piper, Denise Foley.



The Creative Climate Leadership Australia programme encouraged participants to engage in a deeper understanding of their practices in relation with Country and the wider ecosystem. By building on the knowledge and experiences of its participants, CCL mobilised and connected a creative community of change-makers. The programme supported participants in galvanising collective wisdom to develop and scale collaborations on climate action and justice beyond the programme. After the programme, the 23 participants joined the CCL alumni global network of over 250 change-makers across the wider arts and culture sector working in over 30 countries.

Pre-course and post-course self-assessment questionnaires filled out by participants tell of a deep, transformative impact the programme has had on them – inspiring their thinking about their individual practices in connection to Country, gaining knowledge of other participants' work, creating a strong sense of community, seeding new ideas, leading to new projects and action, and starting new collaborations in the knowledge that they have deepened connections and have built community.

The residential surfaced a huge amount of energy to get to work. Julie's Bicycle hosted three webinars focused on collective visioning and strategic planning with the participants and delivered a series of one-to-one sessions. The themes requested included engaging the performing arts sector in climate action, using Creative Climate Tools and approaches to environmental data, mobilising sector divestment, and safeguarding Indigenous knowledge.



Reset

CCL encourages participants to engage in a deeper understanding of their practices in relation with country and the wider ecosystem.

“

The programme was an incredibly immersive and deeply impactful week spent with high level minds. It has accelerated my ability to influence positive change and provided a diverse and supportive network of like minded and intelligent people.

Ari Fuller, sustainability and facilities officer

“

It was so rejuvenating and focusing for me to have this opportunity to do the deep reflective and connecting work that is essential when working at the intersection of creativity, sustainability and transformative change.

Aimee Smith, choreographer and climate change professional

“

I really loved Ruth's facilitation around embodiment and connection to Country. That sort of leadership allowed me to connect in a way that is often forgotten about in climate action work, that can often feel too cerebral/action-centred/dislocated.

anonymous feedback

“

Sessions on connecting to self, land and each other were initially beneficial to set a tone of intimacy and trust. Case studies were fascinating. Hearing from other participants and their work and thinking was a privilege. The brief intro to COP and Zamzam's experience with organising dissent were illuminating.

anonymous feedback



Community

CCL builds on the knowledge and experiences of the participants to mobilise and connect a creative community of changemakers.

“

For me, CCL was challenging, eye-opening and most importantly, fun! I discovered that I'm not alone in advocating for climate and biodiversity through my creative practice and now have an incredible and inspiring braintrust at my fingertips in solidarity!

Charlie Mgee, songwriter and permaculturist

“

CCL allowed me to connect with amazing artists and advocates across the country whose work I have admired for a long time. Learning from the team at Julie's Bicycle who are leaders in this field was inspiring and really invigorated my practice and thinking.

Noemie Huttner-Koros, performance-maker, writer, dramaturg & community organiser

“

I really appreciated the time taken to develop deep relationships with each other, through sessions that connected us to Country, to ourselves, and to each other. Doing this deep work early in the week was really transformative, creating a sense of community that I believe will have a lasting impact on the strength and longevity of this group into the future.

anonymous feedback

“

I have been inspired to drive this part of my work much more. It's given me a 'kick up the butt' in terms of inspiration, but also in feeling connected to others doing this work that I haven't felt before.

anonymous feedback



Collaboration

CCL supports participants to galvanise the collective wisdom to develop and scale collaborations on climate action and justice beyond the programme.

“

CCL provided an invaluable platform for my professional growth and development. The program served as a forum for like-minded individuals, providing a space to collectively grieve the impacts of climate change while towards the end of the week, we grew towards a sense of hope and energy for transformative change. This communal experience was both cathartic and motivating, propelling me towards action and innovation.

Grace Nye-Butler, scientist and stage manager

“

To be with a cohort of like-minded people sharing knowledge and working towards similar goals is rare. It is also valuable. CCL changed my understanding of the work I am doing, refining my ideas and clarifying my focus.

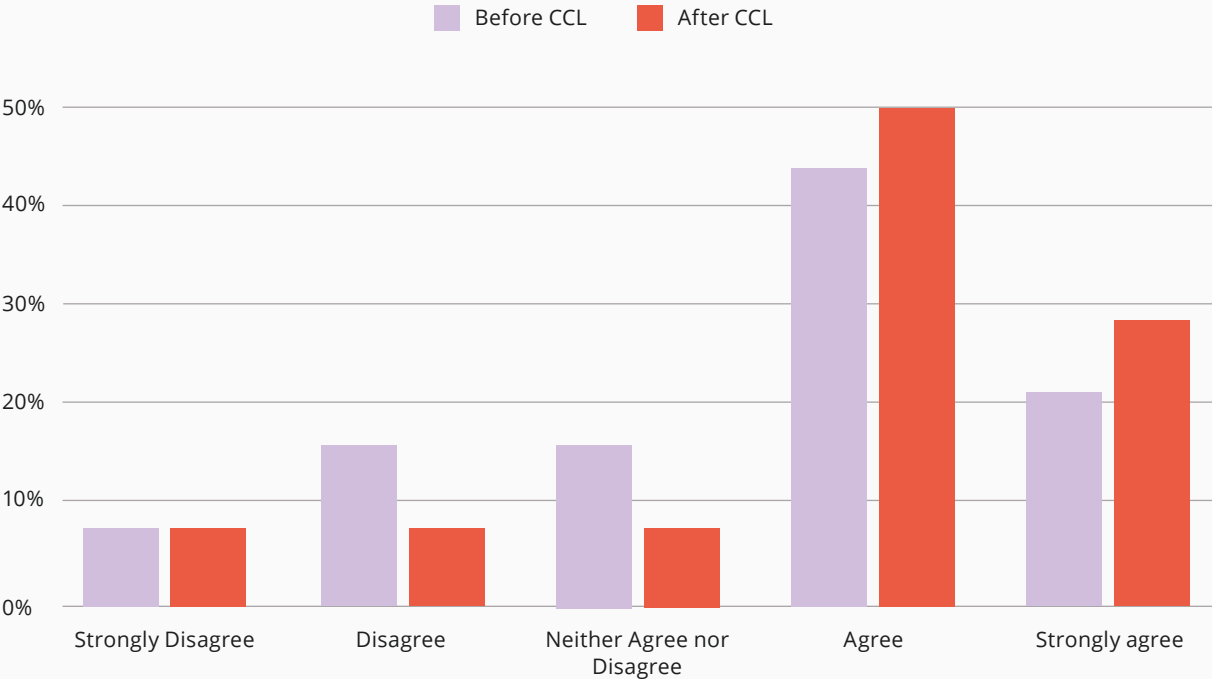
Astrid Edwards, academic, interviewer and writer

“

What a huge undertaking, and a rigorous if not flawless experience. (...) Connecting with a network of people with similar concerns and very different approaches. The whole experience was mind expanding! (...) The overall feeling was of enormous heart. I hope that in years to come the program can sharpen its focus because it has the potential to be incredibly galvanising and powerful.

anonymous feedback

Pre-course and post-course self-assessment questionnaires showed that the Creative Climate Leadership programme has helped participants develop greater confidence in taking creative climate action.



'I have a clear sense of the creative climate action I want to take'

CCL Australia has helped to catalyse and make visible a community of dedicated creative climate change-makers, including a wide range of collaborations and a network of mutual support among participants.

- Participants have increased their understanding of the climate crisis through the lenses of social, political, and environmental injustice.
- Participants gained a greater understanding of how arts and culture contribute to climate outcomes.
- Participants feel more empowered and equipped to take action with authority after participating in the CCL programme.
- Participants feel better equipped to contribute to systemic shifts in their communities, with a focus on advocacy and wider change-making.

A selection of CCL-inspired case studies that thrive beyond the programme:

Antonia Seymour executive director, Arts on Tour

Antonia wanted to take part in CCL to get clearer on what actions she could take to support the performing arts sector in Australia to transition to lower emission practices – specifically around touring – following the publication of Arts on Tour’s [Green Touring Toolkit](#). Since the residency, she has been galvanised to work towards developing and piloting alternative, ‘low emissions, high impact’ touring models, and creating platforms that facilitate building a community of climate conscious creatives.

Outcomes following the CCL Australia include commissioning a report to stimulate conversation about alternative touring models, *Creative Adventures in Sustainable Touring*. The report was authored by **Pippa Bailey**, also a CCL participant, and came out of discussions they had on the residency about finding ways to help practitioners imagine different ways of working and touring. The report features case studies of ‘lower emissions’ touring projects.

A second outcome to date is Arts on Tour’s upcoming [Green Touring Online Series](#): five, one hour online sessions in May/June 2024 that cover a range of topics and perspectives on how we can transition our work practices – both making work and touring work. Many of the guest speakers featured in this series are CCL participants: **Aimee Smith, Tanja Beer, Bryony Anderson, Grace Nye-Butler, and Beatrice Jeavons**.

“

I wouldn’t have been able to put this Series together without making these connections through CCL.

Antonia Seymour

Beatrice Jeavons

creative producer and climate impact manager, FEAT.Live

Bea is a climate impact manager, facilitator, and producer who works with the arts and cultural organisations and professions to decarbonise, regenerate, and take action on climate. 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.

Since the end of CCL, Bea has been working on two projects with [FEAT.Live](#) a world-first initiative for artists spearheading the transition to a renewables-based live entertainment industry: The [Solar Slice](#) initiative, a \$1 or 1.5% surcharge built into the ticket price of concerts, festivals and venues that goes directly to funding action on climate and regeneration through industry decarbonisation, environmental regeneration, cultural climate leadership and climate justice, and the Solar Venue Campaign, designed to drive down the emissions by enabling live performance venues to maximise their energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy.

Bea is also working with Oli and Louis, brothers from the Australian band [Lime Cordiale](#), on the documentary [On the Road to a Better You](#), which is about being on the road and finding new and better ways to tour.

Grace Nye-Butler

scientist and stage manager

After completing the programme, Grace developed her first significant personal project in the climate justice space: [Theatre Green Book Australia](#). An expert in social ecology and circular economy, she was able to launch the project in September successfully and has been incredibly motivated to progress her projects towards meaningful change. The CCL programme facilitated extensive networking opportunities, enabling Grace to connect with individuals from diverse disciplines across Australia and the Pacific. These interactions not only broadened her professional network but also fostered collaborative relationships that continue to enrich her work:

“

One of the most enriching aspects of the program was the opportunity to deepen my understanding of incorporating First Nations practices into my work. This not only broadened my cultural awareness but also enhanced the richness and authenticity of my creative work.

Grace Nye-Butler

Since the Theatre Green Book Australia launch, stakeholder forums have been held in Sydney, with plans for expansion to Melbourne and Brisbane and regional engagement initiatives in the pipeline. According to Grace, CCL provided an invaluable platform for her professional growth and development, not only by equipping her with the necessary skills and knowledge but also by imbuing her with a profound sense of purpose and direction.

Eliki Reade interdependent producer

Eliki Reade is an Interdependent Producer and artist of Kailoma-Fijian (Fijian/European) heritage. Since the end of CCL, they have been considering scale and personal sustainability, pivoting from international tours towards initiating more work locally (in Australia). They have been focusing on collaborations with their campaign [A Climate For Art \(ACFA\)](#), a growing union of arts organisations and workers committed to divesting their banking, superannuation and power providers to cleaner alternatives. Eliki has been involved with a camp at a [decommissioned quarry](#) hosted by [These Are The Projects We Do Together](#) and ACFA, where a group of thinkers and workers looking at rehabilitation and regeneration.

Eliki has also launched [Astrophony](#), a radio show on a Melbourne-based Community Radio station, 3RRR. The programme traverses constellations of arts and culture, history, knowledge, and spirituality through a non-dualistic, story-informed lens on a sonic exploration of jazz, funk, hip hop, and electronic music layered with rhythmic soul. Through these projects, Eliki is interested in tying the threads between storytelling practices, gathering, music, and activism, trying to find ways to embed unionism into their creative outlook and organising.

“

I'm aware of how the military-industrial complex, particularly under Western hegemonic rule, exacerbates climate change and threatens global south efforts towards liberation. I'm acutely aware in our current moment how violent dispossession, subjugation, land, labour and resource extraction is central to colonial domination, the advancement of capitalism, and responsible for climate change.

Eliki Reade

What is the Creative Climate Leadership Programme?

Creative Climate Leadership (CCL) is a transformation programme for creative changemakers committed to taking action on the climate, nature, justice crises through the arts and culture. CCL strengthens the extraordinary climate leadership found across the creative and cultural ecosystem, and champions positive change using an approach orientated towards justice and inclusion. Each iteration of the course is infused with the creative ideas of CCL alumni and adapted with local partners. More than 250 people, working in over 30 countries, have taken part in CCL programmes so far. Our alumni join an evolving international network of creatives taking action and mobilising others.

About the Partners:

Julie's Bicycle (JB) is a pioneering not-for-profit, mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis. Founded by the music industry in 2007 and now working across the arts and culture, JB has partnered with over 2000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, Julie's Bicycle focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate crisis head-on.

Ruth Langford is a songwoman and storyteller of Yorta Yorta lineage with over twenty years of experience across arts, environmental, social justice and youth work. Ruth has gained a reputation as an expert facilitator and coordinator of effective capacity-building programmes, which have as their guiding principles a Connection to Country, Culture, the Self and the Sacred.

Creative Australia is the Australian Government's principal arts investment and advisory body. With artists at the heart of what we do, we invest in creative talent and stimulate the market for Australian stories to be told on a national and international scale, sharing our rich culture with the world. We do this because art and creativity define us, recording what we have been and what we might yet become. As a nation, creativity connects us and benefits us all.

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding, and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

Bundanon is an art museum and a wildlife sanctuary set on 1000 hectares near Nowra, City of Shoalhaven, New South Wales. It was the home of the painter Arthur Boyd. It became a centre for creative arts and education to support the development of arts practice across all disciplines and enable public access to the arts and landscape.