

MEDIA RELEASE

ISLANDS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

February 28 2017

July 2017 is fast approaching and with it will come the 15th Islands of the World Conference to be held on Kangaroo Island, and on South Australian soil for the first time.

The international spotlight is sure to shine on the island from July 2 to 7, with the committee announcing that the keynote speaker will be the Hon Christopher J Loeak, who was president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 2012 to 2016. Mr Loeak is a major player in the United Nations for climate change.

The group of atolls that comprise the Marshall Islands in the northern Pacific are under serious threat from rising sea levels, and Mr Loeak formed a consortium of more than 40 nations to present a united front at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The topic of the Kangaroo Island conference is 'can small islands provide useful models for global survival' and Mr Loeak is sure to engage the audience speaking on his experiences leading a small island nation (including Nauru) with an uncertain future.

Other speakers will include Dr Margi Prideaux, an author and wildlife policy specialist, with a PhD on the development of international wildlife policy and law. Margi is a Research Associate with the Indo-Pacific Governance Research Centre and she serves as the Policy and Negotiations Director for Wild Migration.

Dr Claire Ellis has worked in tourism for more than 35 years in Indonesia, Vietnam and USA, as well as Australia. Claire focuses on destination and tourism experiences and their capacity to contribute to sustainable long-term outcomes for communities.

Angela Hazebroek is a strategic and social planner. She founded Urban and Regional Planning Solutions 14 years ago, and through her work, has developed a respect for Kangaroo Island. She was engaged to prepare a Community Housing Strategy for the island, and in 2015, working for the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island, Angela facilitated four community forums to provide input on the priority initiatives for strengthening the island's economy.

Papers have been accepted from Fiji, United Kingdom, America and Greece and organisers are delighted with local response as well, with papers to be presented on the Kangaroo Island Farm Stewardship Program – Supporting Sustainable Food Production; How Islands Shape Farming Systems – the KI Story; Human Health and Ecosystem Benefits of Environmental Volunteering on Kangaroo Island and Managing an Endangered Species on an Isolated Island.

“This conference will bring an amazing opportunity to both our visitors and our local community,” Conference Convenor Jayne Bates said.

“The conference is being purposely built to ensure a week of extraordinary learnings, community connections and world class speakers. The island community is honoured to host this international gathering of experts and we are working hard to create a week to remember.”

Conference Chair Peter Clements agrees.

“For one week in July 2017, Kangaroo Island will be on centre stage, seen through the eyes of many of the world’s academic elite. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase who we are as a community and to contribute to being part of the main conference outcome, A Model for Global Survival,” he said.

Registrations are open – with early registration extended to March 31, 2017, for \$AU375, late registrations after that date at \$AU475, and one-day participants at \$AU75.

More information is at www.kangarooisland2017.com .

This media release has been prepared with support from the Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island.



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