



Notre Dame
Nulungu
**Talking Heads
Seminar Series**

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

How does the Pope's teaching in *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* relate to past activities, ones currently being undertaken; and actions practice we could adopt to build on for a better future?

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2022

Venue: NDB11 L13

88 Guy Street, Broome

Please advise if you need any special requirements to attend this event

Time: 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Also available via Zoom: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/9959906372>

Password: 460728

Presenter: Ms Anne Jennings



Abstract

In this extraordinary time of multiple, intersecting crises with compounded costs in social, economic, and environmental degradation, calls for transformative change are emerging from all levels – local to global. Ways people living in regional and remote areas of Australia can apply a global Christian agenda that pursues spiritual and ecological changes within their lives, their parishes and local community, are explored in this paper. Consideration is grounded within Pope Francis' encyclical (teaching letter) *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home. This socio-ecological treatise highlights the damage people are causing to the fabric of the planet, as well as recognising the extent of profound poverty globally, and how these impact humanities' potential. To apply this awareness community development theory and practice is adopted, acknowledging community as the 'home' of regional people, parishes, and their broader ecosystem. The main body of this paper explores and applies practical theology as a relevant process that supports the advancement of creation-centred pathways for parishes embarking on their ecological conversion journey, based on *Laudato Si'*. Case studies provided depict local people moving collectively from theory to practical application. The case studies, positioned in Broome in Western Australia, demonstrate where successful past ventures establish exemplars for future endeavours, before moving on to current active projects. Outcomes generated from these studies are in harmony with those expressed in *Laudato Si'*. This approach encourages parishes to review their historical and current activities to establish the groundwork to move forward, undertaking actions leading to a more ecologically sound future.

Biography

Anne Jennings has been a community development practitioner, lecturer, and researcher in regional Western Australia for over 30 years. This has included working in the Non-Government Community Services Sector; with Local, State and Commonwealth Government; as a lecturer at University, and as a Community Development Consultant. Anne holds a Diploma of Community Development, Bachelor of Social Science in Human Services, and a Master of Arts in Ecologically Sustainable Development. She has recently submitted her PhD thesis, "Community Development supporting Ecological Conversion, as identified in *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home" through the Nulungu Research Institute of The University of Notre Dame Australia, Broome Campus.

Outside of her profession Anne is actively involved with her family of four generations, all living in Broome, plus her extended family across WA and SA. She is currently involved in a range of voluntary positions including as a Parish Council member for Our Lady Queen of Peace parish of Broome and is currently establishing the Living *Laudato Si'* Broome project there. In addition she is a Director and Treasurer on the Board of Broome Community Information Resource Centre and Learning Exchange Inc. (Broome CIRCLE); Vice-President of the national Australian Community Workers Association; an active member of the International Association for Community Development; supporter of the Broome Recovery College (proactive approaches to mental health), and Editor of the Australian Journal for Community Work. All, she explains, associated with her faith/beliefs, connected with community development theory and practice - which she feels provides her with a happy, balanced life.