

Dr Birut **Zemits + Panel**

Charles Darwin University

Stream D: Indigenous Futures and Cultural Response

Title: Environmental Philosophy in the Anthropocene with a North Australian perspective
Birut Zemits and Panel

Abstract: This age, when humans influence many of the events in the natural world, is being tagged as the Anthropocene. It is a time when the human imprint on earth and sea is argued to be irreversible. Philosophies that place humans above the natural world have been blamed for such an outcome where the rights of the more than human world have been neglected. Environmental thinkers across continents, such as Mahatma Gandhi in India, Henri Thoreau in North America and Val Plumwood in Australia, have explored different ways to perceive the human relationship to the natural world. How can other ways of thinking and seeing, including Indigenous philosophical perspectives, as highlighted in the writings of Bill Neidjie, help to create the mind shift needed in this current time on planet earth?

Bio: Dr Birut Zemits is interested in areas linked to language, environment and cultural issues. Her PhD titled 'Ethno-eco dialogue: Filmmaking for sustainability' brought together these interests. She continues to read in environmental philosophy while working as a Lecturer at Charles Darwin University. She is also active in the local community garden where native edible plants share a space with introduced food.