

Telling a culturally inclusive human and environmental history of Australia

**Senior Professor Amanda Lawson**, *University of Wollongong*, **Ms Chantal Knowles**, *Monash University* and **Dr Geraldine Mate**, *Queensland Museum*

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) has set out an ambitious 7 year research program to tell Australia's 'epic story', reaching back over the past 130,000 years to discover the complex, interconnected histories of humans, animals, flora, landscape and seascape that have led to the contemporary world we inhabit here. Alongside the rich research questions that CABAH is pursuing – involving much ground-breaking interdisciplinary collaboration – are a set of strategic objectives aimed at developing new generations of researchers and, most importantly to this paper, engaging broad public interest in the research processes and findings through our Education and Engagement program (E&E).

CABAH's E&E program encompasses curriculum and education work in the primary and secondary sectors, developing innovative approaches to science communications, and engaging diverse audiences through museum partnerships. At the heart of our work is a commitment to recognising and deepening understandings of Australia's Indigenous knowledge systems, and situating them in an equal dialogue with scientific discourse.

Queensland Museum is CABAH's major museum partner. Together we are working on a suite of programs and events – from World Science Festival Brisbane to loan kits to a major museum exhibition – designed to bring cutting edge scientific research to broader audiences, and testing the way people engage with different ideas about science and the past.

In this paper we discuss our approach to developing engagement strategies and 'products' which address CABAH's core objectives, bring its research to light in lively and innovative ways. We consider how multiple ways of knowing of science and culture can be woven together through objects, art and technology. We also map out our how we will deliver on our commitment to evaluation and assessment as fundamental to achieving our goals.