

DISASTER READY TOGETHER

SUMMIT Northern Rivers



RESILIENT
LISMORE

Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW

PROGRAMME 2024



Australian Government



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GOVERNMENT



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NSW Council of Social Service



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NSW Regional
RESILIENCE CENTRE



INVERCAULD
house

Disaster Ready Together is supported through the Community Sector Disaster Capability project led by NCOSS with LCSA and AbSec. Funded jointly by the Australian and NSW Governments through the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund.

DAY 1 Thursday 7 March, 2024

8:00	REGISTRATION OPEN		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE		
9:00-9:45	OPENING CEREMONY MC: Elly Bird (Resilient Lismore) Welcome to Country: Aunty Thelma James (Bundjalung Elder), Widjabal Wiabal Dance Group Janelle Saffin (Member for Lismore), Megan Nicholson (NCOSS), Joanna Quilty (NSW Reconstruction Authority)		
10:00	KEYNOTE: Disaster Recovery: Where are we and what comes next? Dr Kate Brady - Senior Research Fellow UNSW, Advisor Australian Red Cross		
10:45	Morning tea		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE	U231	A205/206
11:15-12:00	International perspectives on resilience and recovery Joanna Quilty (NSW Reconstruction Authority) Bec McNaught (University Centre for Rural Health)	Learning from trials of community-led resilience innovations Chair: Professor Briony Rogers (Fire to Flourish) Panel: Helen Duroux (Tenterfield) Pamela Denise (Clarence Valley)	Voices of children and young people living in the NR: Recovery, resilience and hope for the future Chair: Zoë Robinson (NSW Advocate for Children and Young People) Presenters: Xanthe Foster & Elle Jackson (ACYP) Panel: Young people with lived experience
12:15	An overview of emergency management in the Northern Rivers Sgt Mark Johnston (Deputy LEOCON NR LEMC, Richmond Police District)	Community-led disaster response: the Nimbin experience Natalie Meyer (Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre) Virginia Waters (Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group)	Staff wellbeing in the context of disaster Lisa McPhie (P/T independent social worker, P/T Men and Family Centre) Linda Fitzpatrick (Social Futures)
13:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:45	KEYNOTE: Cultural capitals enhancing disaster resilience - Aboriginal perspectives on the Northern Rivers floods Mr Bhamie Williamson - Euahlayi Man, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Project Lead, National Indigenous Disaster Resilience		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE	U231	A114/115
15:00-15:45	Working effectively with Aboriginal communities during and post-disasters Chair: Bhamie Williamson Panel: Local indigenous recovery workers	Evacuation Centre Overview Amanda Causley (Dept Community & Justice) Feargus O'Connor (WeIFAC) Panel: Pathways to volunteering	Flood mental health two years on Chair: Emma Schubert (Head to Health) Panel: Local mental health workers
16:00-16:45	Learning from Country Oli Costello (Jagun Alliance) Rob Boota (Githabul Rangers)	Look ahead Lismore: Thinking about the future together Dan Etheridge (Living Lab NR)	Community-led resilience Jean Renouf (Plan C), Dr Jo Longman & Emma Pittaway (UCRH)
17:00-18:30	SCU PLAZA		
	Networking function (Sponsored by SCU)		

DAY 2 Friday 8 March, 2024

8:30	REGISTRATION OPEN		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE		
9:00	OPENING DAY 2 MC: Jenny Bird (Resilient Lismore) Ben Roche (Southern Cross University)		
9:15-10:00	KEYNOTE: Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP): Everybody needs a plan! Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve – Deputy Director, Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney		
10:15	A Conversation with Sprung Dance Theatre Ensemble MC: Katie Cooper-Wares		
10:30	Morning tea		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE	U231	Y2.11
11:00-11:45	Conversations for preparedness: Using and adapting the P-CEP approach Luke Barbagallo (City of Coffs Harbour) Tracy Crompton (Monaro Family Support Service) Lea Hine (Kyogle Together)	Building organisational resilience Renae Harvin (Resilient Ready)	
12:00	Leading staff in emergencies Matt Rahmate (Kyogle Together) Samantha Albertini (Social Futures)	Early childhood Chair: Sharleen Keleher (Children's Health QLD) Panel: Local early childhood centres	NGO sector's role in disasters: Advocacy and approach - an interactive session Cara Varian (CEO - NSW Council of Social Services) Megan Nicholson & Eleanor Harris (NCOSS)
12:45	Lunch		
	WHITEBROOK THEATRE		
13:30-14:30	PANEL: Working Together Chair: Elly Bird (Resilient Lismore) Panel: Bhiamie Williamson (National Indigenous Disaster Resilience), Joanna Quilty (NSW Reconstruction Authority), Mark Johnston (Richmond Police District) & Bec McNaught (UCRH)		
14:30-14:45	CLOSING SESSION MC: Elly Bird (Resilient Lismore), Dayna Hayman (Dayna Hayman Design Studio)		
RESILIENT LANE BOOTHS Birdie's Tree, SES, NSW Legal Aid & NR Community Legal Centre, Monday.com, NRCF, Red Cross, The Healing Hub – Weaving Circle			

Opening Ceremony

When: 9am-9.45am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

MC: Elly Bird, Executive Director, Resilient Lismore

Welcome to Country: Auntie Thelma James, Bundjalung Elder, Widjabal Wiabal Dance Group

Janelle Saffin, Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery

Megan Nicholson, Director, Community Sector Disaster Capability Project, NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

Joanna Quilty, Head, Preparedness & Recovery, NSW Reconstruction Authority

KEYNOTE: Disaster recovery: Where are we and what comes next?

When: 10am-10.45am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Dr Kate Brady, Senior Research Fellow, UNSW, Advisor, Australian Red Cross

In the opening address Dr Kate Brady will set the 'big picture' of the long arc of disaster recovery. She will discuss what we can expect 2-5 years after a disaster and will share research and resources that can help organisations plan for long-term recovery operations.

International perspectives on resilience and recovery

When: 11.15am-12 noon

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Joanna Quilty, Head, Preparedness & Recovery, NSW Reconstruction Authority

Bec McNaught, Research Fellow, Rural and Remote Health, University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney

In 2023 Joanna Quilty travelled to disaster areas in the USA, New Zealand and Canada on a Churchill Fellowship. She toured New Orleans, Puerto Rico, Florida, New York City, California, Christchurch and Toronto. Rebecca worked for 18 years internationally as a climate change and disaster advisor to the UN, Red Cross, governments and NGOs across the Middle East, Asia and Pacific Islands regions. Her recent PhD research investigated collaborative forms of disaster and climate change governance in the Pacific Islands. Joanna and Rebecca will share international perspectives and experience on collaborative approaches to disaster management and risk reduction that prioritise equity and recognise NGOs and communities as essential partners.

Learning from trials of community-led resilience innovations

When: 11.15am-12 noon

Where: U231

Chair: Professor Briony Rogers, CEO, Fire to Flourish, Monash University

Panel: Helen Duroux, Tenterfield Community Lead, Fire to Flourish

Pamela Denise, Clarence Valley Community Facilitator, Fire to Flourish

Innovation is needed for community-led resilience practice to be taken up at scale. Fire to Flourish is experimenting with new models, methods and tools for bringing diverse community members together to share knowledge, connect with Aboriginal culture, create hopeful visions, identify collective priorities, and make funding decisions to implement transformative resilience projects on the ground. Fire to Flourish team members will share experiences and insights from these trials and draw out lessons for other communities and places.

Voices of children and young people living in the NR: Recovery, resilience and hope for the future

When: 11.15am-12 noon

Where: A205/206

Chair: Zoë Robinson, NSW Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP)

Presenters: Xanthe Foster, Program Manager Recovery Youth Support Service, ACYP

Elle Jackson, Senior Youth Specialist, Recovery Youth Support Service, ACYP

Panel: Young people with lived experience

At this session ACYP will formally launch their report from a consultation of 635 children and young people living in the Northern Rivers. The presentation will focus on children and young peoples' experiences of disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery. The report findings demonstrate the importance of actively collaborating with children and young people as they offer a unique perspective on disaster resilience. By creating an interconnected inclusive environment children and young people can bring their strengths to the benefit of the whole community. There will be a Q&A session with a panel of remarkable young people from the Northern Rivers who will share their perspectives on flood recovery, preparedness planning and their hopes for the future.

An overview of emergency management in the Northern Rivers

When: 12.15pm-1pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Sgt Mark Johnston, Deputy LEOCON NR LEMC, Richmond Police District

As the Deputy Local Emergency Operations Controller for the Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee, Sgt Mark Johnston sits at the heart of the emergency management system in the Northern Rivers. In this presentation Mark will offer an overview of emergency management services in the NR: who's who, what all the acronyms mean, structures, functions and communication systems.

Community-led disaster response - the Nimbin experience

When: 12.15pm-1pm

Where: U231

Natalie Meyer, Manager, Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre

Virginia Waters, Member, Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group

This session will outline the community-led response in Nimbin during the 2019 bushfires and the 2022 floods and how these events led to the formation of the Nimbin Disaster Resilience Group, the development of the Nimbin Disaster Plan and in particular the Community Response and Recovery Plan. The role of local NGO Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) will also be discussed as an example of the central role that NGOs play in place-based disaster planning.

Staff wellbeing in the context of disaster

When: 12.15pm-1pm

Where: A205/206

Lisa McPhie, P-T Independent social worker/ P-T Men and Family Centre

Linda Fitzpatrick, Team Leader, Service Delivery, Social Futures

Staff in community services often carry multiple impacts of trauma, loss, and disruption as they navigate the long recovery journey after disasters - not only with their clients and their communities, but for themselves, their families and friends. This session explores ways that organisations can look after their staff and how staff can look after each other. How can small organisations with few resources create supportive workplaces for their staff? And what sorts of support structures can larger organisations wrap around their staff? This session focuses on recovery. There is a companion session on Day 2 titled 'Leading staff in emergencies' which looks at how organisations (again both small and large) lead their staff through the short, immediate emergency phase.

KEYNOTE: Cultural capitals enhancing disaster resilience - Aboriginal perspectives on the Northern Rivers floods

When: 2pm-2.45pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Mr Bhiamie Williamson, Euhlayi Man, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Project Lead, National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

Bhiamie will reflect on the impacts of disasters on Aboriginal people and the unique strengths and perspectives Aboriginal communities bring to disaster responses. Reflecting on research with Aboriginal residents throughout the Northern Rivers following the floods, Bhiamie will highlight the cultural capitals possessed by Aboriginal people that promote and enhance resilience. He will finish by reflecting on pathways to embed Aboriginal leadership in emergency response and disaster recovery, and how embedding Aboriginal leadership will enhance the resilience for all Australians.

Working effectively with Aboriginal communities during and post-disasters

When: 3pm–3.45pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Chair: Bhiamie Williamson, Euahlayi Man, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Project Lead, National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

Panel: Leonie Jefferson, Support Worker/Counsellor, Flood Recovery Support Service, Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service

Sonia Syron, Recovery Support, Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation

This panel session will explore the place of Aboriginal community organisations in disaster response and recovery. Reflecting on the experiences of panellists, it will identify common themes and future directions to enhance Aboriginal community response and resilience.

Evacuation Centre overview

When: 3pm–3.45pm

Where: U231

Amanda Causley, Regional Senior Disaster Welfare Officer, Northern NSW & Mid North Coast, Department of Communities and Justice

Feargus O'Connor, Executive Director/State WelfAC, Department of Communities and Justice

Leanne Gollan, Northern NSW/WelfAC, Department of Communities and Justice

Panel: Carrie Brandon, Red Cross NSW and ACT Community Mobilisation Team

Owen Grey, District Coordinator, Anglicare

Maryanne Sewell, Disaster Manager Northern NSW Local Health District, NSW Health

The session will comprise an overview of evacuation centres, lessons learned from the 2022 disaster, services delivered within an evacuation centre and frequently asked questions. DCJ Community Partner reps will give an overview of their services in an evacuation centre and how to register as a volunteer.

Flood mental health two years on

When: 3pm–3.45pm

Where: A114/115

Chair: Emma Schubert, Clinical Services Manager, Psychologist, Head to Health

Panel: Cath Bird, Community Engagement Manager, Lifeline

Simone Balzer, headspace Services Manager, Social Futures

The two year anniversary of the 2022 disasters across the Northern Rivers offers a timely opportunity to take a reading of mental health issues in our communities. Join a panel of local mental health workers who will speak from a variety of perspectives about what 'two years on' looks like for their clients.

Learning from Country

When: 4pm–4.45pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Oli Costello, Director, Jagun Alliance

Rob Boota, Githabul Rangers

Listen to Oli and Rob, two Bundjalung men who work closely with Aboriginal communities in the Northern Rivers, particularly isolated communities, share stories about the challenges Aboriginal communities face in disasters, particularly the structural racism that continues to exist in emergency response and recovery systems. Oli and Rob will also talk about ranger programmes, how Country can teach us how to live more safely, and what opportunities there are to engage with cultural knowledges and practices.

Look ahead Lismore: Thinking about the future together

When: 4pm–4.45pm

Where: U231

Dan Etheridge, Engagement Director, Living Lab Northern Rivers

Living Lab Northern Rivers is in the process of developing future scenarios for the flood impacted sections of Lismore. This important planning and visioning work is following a process that brings together lived local experience and place based knowledge with the relevant technical expertise of planning and design disciplines. While we very much agree with the idea of a "community led recovery" we also acknowledge that many of the issues we face in Lismore require specialised expertise to navigate successfully. In this session we will look at the process currently underway in Lismore, and some examples from elsewhere so we can critically interrogate how best to proceed.

Community-led resilience

When: 4pm–4.45pm

Where: A114/115

Jean Renouf, CEO, Plan C

Dr Jo Longman, Senior Research Fellow, University Centre for Rural Health
University of Sydney

Emma Pittaway, Research Assistant, University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney

This session will explore the community-led disaster organising landscape, and opportunities for collaboration between the informal and formal community sectors. Recent research conducted by UCRH sheds light on the way communities self-organise in response to disasters and the critical role played by the informal community sector. Plan C's Community Carers and Responders project has fostered a network for informal disaster and resilience organising across the Northern Rivers and provides insights into the strengths and challenges of community-led disaster resilience.

Opening Ceremony

When: 9am–9.15am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

MC: Jenny Bird, Coordinator, Disaster Ready Together Project, Resilient Lismore
Ben Roche, Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Education Impact, Southern Cross University

KEYNOTE:

Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP): Everybody needs a plan!

When: 9.15am–10am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve, Deputy Director, Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney

Using story-telling, this keynote address offers an orientation to the P-CEP approach – a process and a toolkit that ensures that those at greatest risk (including people with disability, people experiencing homelessness, aged/elderly, children, and CaLD communities) are protected when disasters strike. Through the presentation you will learn how P-CEP connects to the bigger picture of inclusive emergency management and disaster recovery planning for all. During the presentation, you will take stock of your own readiness through a self-assessment of your own preparedness, strengths and support needs. You will hear about developments to establish a P-CEP community of practice across the Northern Rivers and how you can bring P-CEP into your work with your clients and your communities.

A Conversation with the Sprung Dance Theatre Ensemble

When: 10.15am–10.30am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

MC: Katie Cooper-Wares

The Sprung Dance Theatre Ensemble develops original dance and theatre works through collaborative and disability-led processes. Katie will facilitate a conversation with ensemble artists about their new work 'Sprung News' which was created in response to the 2022 flood event/s.

Conversations for preparedness: Using and adapting the P-CEP approach

When: 11am–11.45am

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Luke Barbagallo, Community Resilience and Recovery Coordinator, City of Coffs Harbour
Tracy Crompton, Project Officer, Community Sector Disaster Capability Project, Monaro Family Support Services. Lea Hine, Co-General Manager, Recovery Support Services, Kyogle Together

Hear from three people in the field about how they are delivering/planning to deliver P-CEP with their clients and in their communities. Lea from Kyogle Together sees P-CEP as an opportunity to transition highly vulnerable clients off current RSS services. Luke has established a community of practice called P-CEP Connect Mid-North Coast and Tracy has been running community-based group preparedness sessions with communities in the Snowy Mountains.

Building organisational resilience

When: 11am-11.45am

Where: U231

Renae Harvin, CEO + Founder, Resilient Ready

This session is presented by Renae Harvin from Resilient Ready and will be delivered by Zoom. Resilient Ready is a social enterprise that focuses on helping organisations (both business and not-for-profit) thrive before, during and after disasters. Renae will speak about why communities need resilient and ready community organisations. The session aims to help community organisations to “think different” and “do different” using 10 micro-steps that all organisations can take to be resilient and ready.

Leading staff in emergencies

When: 12noon-12.45pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Matt Rahmate, Manager, Recovery Support Services, Kyogle Together

Samantha Albertini, Senior Manager, People and Culture, Social Futures

Gain insights from two local organisations about their experience leading staff through the immediate aftermath of the 2022 flood emergency. Sam and Matt explore the lessons and learnings this experience brought to both organisations shaping preparedness for future events, and how people worked together to ensure future resilience for the staff and communities. Social Futures is a local organisation with origins in Lismore, and now operates across 80% of NSW, with many offices in the Northern Rivers. Kyogle Together is a local community development organisation that nurtures community leadership and holistically works towards a connected and inclusive community, based in Kyogle NSW.

Early Childhood

When: 12noon-12.45pm

Where: U231

Chair: Sharleen Keleher, Early Education and Care PIMH Statewide Coordinator, Children's Health Queensland

Panel: Alexis Smith, Director, Lismore Preschool

Deb Mitchell, Centre Director, Goodstart Early Learning, Goonellabah

Suzie Carey, Centre Manager, Coraki CWA Preschool

Children, particularly those under school age, are vulnerable in disasters, yet are often overlooked in disaster recovery efforts. Early childhood services exist in even the smallest communities and are a crucial hub of social connectedness. They play an important role in emergency management and recovery. This session focuses on stories from local early childhood educators' experiences working with young children after the 2022 floods, and how they used the resources created by the Birdie's Tree project at the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health.

NGO sector's role in disasters: Advocacy and approach - an interactive session

When: 12noon-12.45pm

Where: Y2.11

Cara Varian, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

Megan Nicholson, Director, Community Sector Disaster Capability Project, NCOSS

Eleanor Harris, Senior Program Officer, Community Sector Disaster Capability Project, NCOSS

This interactive session is an opportunity to discuss NCOSS's advocacy role and its approach to embedding the role of the social service sector in all phases of disaster, including planning and preparedness. This is informed by learnings from the Community Sector Disaster Capability project, which is trialling an approach and gathering evidence about how to build the sector's role. Hear from the NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) CEO and the Community Sector Disaster Capability (CSDC) project team and share your ideas on the roles of NGOs in disaster.

PANEL: Working Together

When: 1.30pm-2.30pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

Chair: Elly Bird, Executive Director, Resilient Lismore

Panel: Bhiemie Williamson, Euahlayi Man, Senior Research Fellow Monash University, Project Lead National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

Joanna Quilty, Head, Preparedness & Recovery, NSW Reconstruction Authority

Sgt Mark Johnston, Deputy LEOCON NR LEMC, Richmond Police District

Bec McNaught, Research Fellow, Rural and Remote Health, University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney

The definition of a disaster is that everything stops working at almost every level. Given this, how do we work together to start to put it all back together? How can government work alongside the community sector and communities themselves and how can NGOs and communities better work together? How can we support the development of empowered and self-determined communities that are better prepared for disasters and better able to look after themselves, with support from government, when they happen. The Panel discussion that closes and completes the Summit will draw together community, government, emergency services, research and indigenous voices to discuss these questions and explore pathways forward for increased collaboration between all sectors.

CLOSING SESSION

When: 2.30pm

Where: Whitebrook Theatre

MC: Elly Bird, Executive Director, Resilient Lismore

Dayna Hayman, Dayna Hayman Design Studio



Keep Cups are cool and cool people use them!

You too can be cool!



Refillable water bottles are sexy!

Hydration is a youth elixir so drink up!



Wildlife are wild and should remain so - please keep your distance, stay quiet and don't move fast around them.

We have a colony of koalas here at SCU - keep an eye out.



27-28 degrees

Overcast with sun forecast.

Slip, slop, slap but then you'll mostly be indoors so just hydrate.



Police:

Always call 000 or Lismore Police on 6626 0599



Hospital:

Always call 000 or Lismore Base on 6624 0200



First Aid:

Robyn Kelly 0418 272 685



Summit Organiser:

Aliison Kelly 0428 216 079

DISASTER READY TOGETHER

SUMMIT Northern Rivers



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSORS

The **NSW Reconstruction Authority** is proud to support the Disaster Ready Together Summit as part of its commitment to the recovery after recent disasters in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The NSW Reconstruction Authority supports the role that community services play in disaster recovery and preparedness.

Southern Cross University proudly supports Resilient Lismore as part of our enduring commitment to collaborate with the community, offering resources and expertise in the ongoing journey of flood recovery. Our profound reflection following the 2022 crisis and rebuilding experience has strengthened our resolve to stand with the community we've been a proud part of for 30 years.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore is proud to support the initiative of Resilient Lismore by providing accommodation at Invercauld House to the keynote speakers and presenters coming from out of town. The Diocese welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with its community as we navigate the rebuilding of Lismore after the 2022 floods.

Community sector organisations have played a pivotal role through recent disasters and are now bringing their knowledge, skills and networks to disaster preparedness and planning. The Disaster Ready Summit is an important opportunity for learning, sharing strategies and building the networks which are essential to disaster resilient communities.

The summit is an initiative of the Community Sector Disaster Capability project in the Northern Rivers, led by **Resilient Lismore**. **The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)**, with the **Local Community Services Association (LCSA)** and **NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation (AbSec)** are delighted to be collaborating with **Resilient Lismore** and their local partners: **Rekindling the Spirit, Kyogle Together, Nimbin Neighbourhood Centre** and **Mid-Richmond Neighbourhood Centre**.

The Community Sector Disaster Capability project is funded under the joint Australian Government – NSW Government National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction.

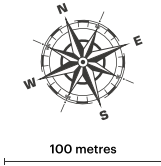
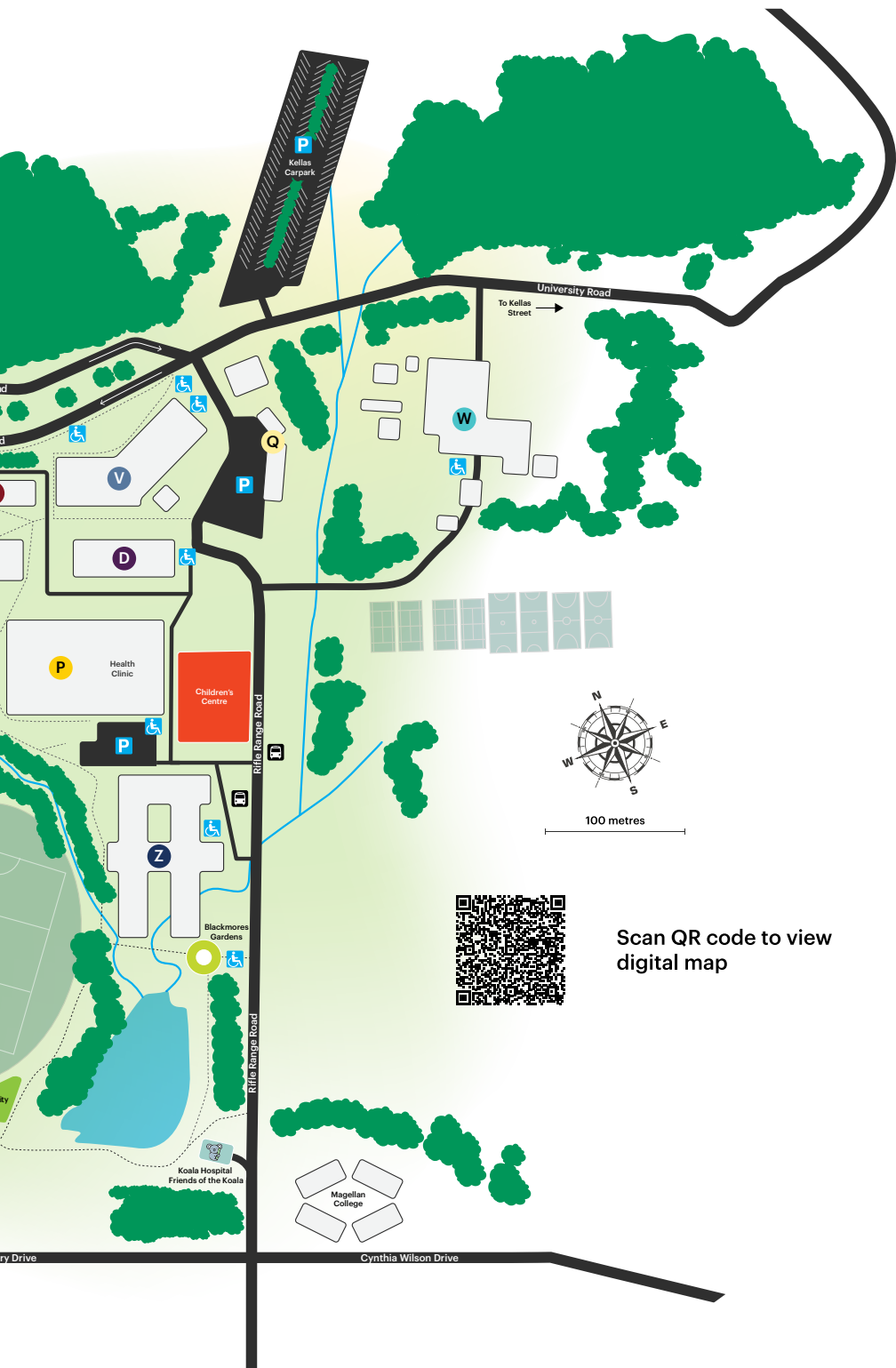
The DRT organisers are grateful for all the support, love and goodwill we have received from everyone in the sector, the Resilient Lismore staff, volunteers and our friends and family.



Southern Cross University

DISASTER READY TOGETHER CONFERENCE SITE MAP





Scan QR code to view digital map

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands of the Bundjalung Nation. We recognise their enduring connection to Country. We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and that this always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Jingi walla!

