



*The ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network presents:*

## **"Lessons learnt for leading transdisciplinary centres and programs"**

*A dialogue between Peat Leith and Lorrae van Kerkhoff*

**Peat Leith**  
CSIRO  
Australia



**Lorrae van Kerkhoff**  
Australian National University  
Australia



**February 27, 2026**

*The 60-minute webinar will be followed by a 30-minute open discussion - a "Talanoa" - where you can connect with others across Oceania who are passionate about inter- and transdisciplinarity.*

### **Webinar Details**

Date: Friday, February 27, 2026

Time: [Convert to your time zone](#); Perth: 9.30-11am, Canberra: 12.30-2pm, Fiji: 1.30-3pm, New Zealand: 2.30-4pm

[Register at Humanitix](#) (Zoom link sent to registered participants)

### **Description**

Leading transdisciplinary centres and programs comes with a range of challenges, including supporting researchers and students to navigate across, between and beyond disciplines, building relationships and engagement methods with a range of stakeholders, collaborators and decision makers, and embracing knowledges and knowledge systems that are diverse, and sometimes divergent. Peat Leith, outgoing Director of the Valuing Sustainability Future Science Platform at CSIRO, and Lorrae van Kerkhoff, Director of the ANU Institute for Water Futures, at The Australian National University, will each share 5 lessons from their experience, in brief scene-setting presentations. They will then engage in a dialogue, which will be broadened out to include the audience. Moderation will be by Giedre Kligyte of the Transdisciplinary School at the University of Technology Sydney. This hour-long webinar will be followed by a 30-minute open discussion – a Talanoa – where you can connect with others across Oceania who are passionate about inter- and transdisciplinarity. A recording of the webinar will be available from the [ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network](#) web page after the event.



## Speakers

**Dr Peat Leith** is a Principal Research Scientist in CSIRO's Agriculture and Food Research Unit. His research focuses on the application of transdisciplinary science to the design of institutions and processes for sustainability transitions and transformational change. Peat has a long research history in climate adaptation across agriculture, fisheries, coastal zone management and natural resource management. This has always involved participation with diverse knowledge-holders and decision-makers. His background in Geography and Science and Technology Studies provides a variety of adaptable methods which he has used in both projects and leadership. Most recently, Peat led CSIRO's 5-year investment in transdisciplinary sustainability science – the [Valuing Sustainability Future Science Platform](#). This program developed and implemented seven diverse yet connected projects that sought to build new measures and capabilities to catalyse sustainability outcomes through value chains, improved innovation approaches, and collaborative work with diverse groups. Peat has led and co-authored many papers that address various aspects of these challenges and is the lead author of a book focused on [Enhancing Science Impact](#). Peat's current work is focused on socio-technical transitions to advance multiple outcomes in agriculture, food systems and regions. [Online profile](#).

**Dr Lorrae van Kerkhoff** is a Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, and Director of the [ANU Institute for Water Futures](#) at Australian National University. She is a transdisciplinary leader and researcher whose research focuses on knowledge governance and its relationship to social-ecological change, with particular attention to how institutions shape the use of scientific knowledge. Her work brings together concepts from Science and Technology Studies with Sustainability Science. She has published extensively on integrative and transdisciplinary research concepts and methods, knowledge governance and 'future-oriented' approaches to conservation, and regularly evaluates for transdisciplinary research funding programs. Lorrae teaches third year undergraduates and Masters students in a capstone course "Complex Environmental Problems in Action", as well as supervising graduate students. [Online profile](#).

## ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network

Inter- and transdisciplinarians often have a hard time finding each other to share insights and experiences. The [ITD Alliance Oceania Regional Network](#) provides regular online networking opportunities (talanoa), following stimulating webinars that aim to showcase some of the best educational and research practices in the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia. We also ensure that the unique characteristics of the Oceania region are represented on the global stage. [Visit the network web page](#) and subscribe for notice of future activities.

We are grateful to [NITRO-Oceania](#) (Network of Leaders of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Organisations – Oceania) for support.

[Register to participate](#) in the "**Lessons learnt for leading transdisciplinary centres and programs**" webinar, February 27, 2026.