

The Human Environment

A 10 x 10 min TV series on the relationship between humans
and their urban, rural and bush environments.



“

all environments are inescapably human

Dr Sophie Webber

”



About the TV Series

Synopsis

This 10 x 10 minute TV series explores the relationship of people to place and nature, primarily within the Australian context. Issues covered include the changing nature of land care, urban planning, mapping our changing use of spaces, new ideas in resources management, and the effect of government and business upon the size and nature of communities. The series will be broadcast by ABC TV and targeted at teenagers.

Project rationale

In this series young Australians will be introduced to current debates in natural resource management, urban planning, economic impact and human movement, so that they can make informed decisions about the major issues of their times. The series is relevant to the geography secondary curriculum and can be used as a teaching tool. The 2019 Mission Australia survey found that the environment and equity, issues discussed in this series, were in the top three issues that concerned young people.

Research also demonstrates (Broockman & Kalla 2016) that people are willing to engage with new and various information on subjects when they have not already formed opinions and beliefs. Teenagers are forming opinions and are at an age where they are open to engaging with key debates to help them make informed decisions. Video is an excellent means of doing this, as it can include discussions with key thinkers, and at the same time can be visually engaging.

The team creating the project

Snodger Media is an award-winning producer of six ABC TV series, all targeted at teenage viewers. Snodger Media is co-owned by Catherine Gough-Brady and Tess Brady.



What outcomes do we hope to achieve by making this project?

That viewers will understand more about the current debates and issues in environmental and geographical knowledge and will be able to confidently make informed decisions.

What are the existing partnerships for this project?

We have established relationships with the broadcaster ABCTV and with the international distributor Kanopy. Film Victoria have funded the development of the series. The series is registered with Documentary Australia Foundation, which means that it has DGR status.

We are currently forging further relationships with key stakeholders in the broad area of environmental humanities and sciences, and with those concerned with specific issues discussed in the episodes.

Timeline

- Preproduction late 2020 - mid 2021
- Production late 2021 - early 2022
- Post production mid 2022 - late 2022
- Delivery of all materials in late 2022- early 2023

How can people watch this project?

ABC TV

The series will be broadcast on ABC TV 3. It will be available free-to-air. It will also be available on iview. It will be played annually for 5-7 years. Often the ABC renew the licence for our content for a further five years. The ABC has also licenced our content to be broadcast into Asia and the Pacific on ABC International.

Kanopy

Kanopy is an international distributor of view-on-demand video content. The general public in Australia can watch their content for free using a local library card. All our TV series are available on Kanopy, and this series will be available on this service as well.

Purpose built website

Our websites for other TV series have received substantial traffic. The associated website will contain all the episodes and teacher's notes to facilitate use of the series in the classroom.

Find out more

www.thehumanenvironment.com

or email Catherine Gough-Brady at catherine.gough-brady@snodger.com.au





Episode Outlines

1 Measurements

How we categorise things influences the way we understand them. For instance, distance may seem like an absolute that can be measured in metres, but it can also be relative, cultural and psychological. One meter may seem a very small distance to walk, but for a low-lying pacific island a one-meter rise in the ocean level is vast and catastrophic. We visit Honiara in the Solomon Islands to examine the way we measure land, including fast changing spaces such as urban fringe dwellings. It becomes clear that the way we 'measure' reflects our power systems in society.

2 Changing Understanding of Place

Humans attribute meaning and use to a particular place. This meaning and use reflects current social systems and values. For instance, how we connect with our urban rivers and wetlands has changed from viewing them as wastelands and sewers, to seeing them as valuable ecosystems and recreational areas. Place names, such as Ayers Rock-Uluru, have also shifted and reveal our changing attitudes to ourselves and our nation. This episode visits a number of locations and looks at the changing way we define place.

3 The Home

In this episode we explore some of the inequalities found in urban environments by examining

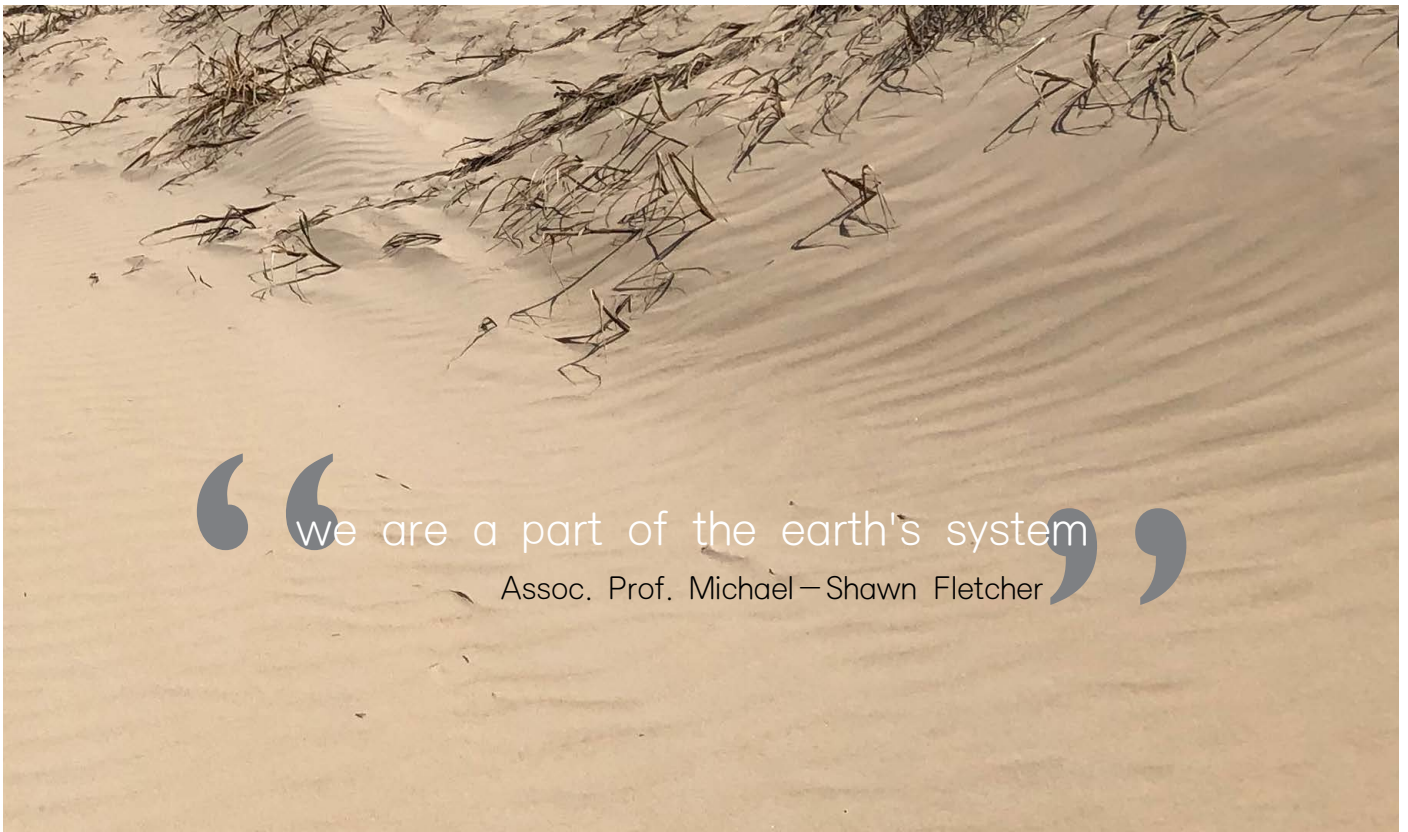
'what is a home?' Attitudes to housing can differ: is it an investment or a home? Is it shared with family or friends? At the extreme end, homelessness is a highly visible example of unequal access to private urban space. The fastest growing group of homeless people are older women, women who are our grandma's age.

4 The Geospace

This episode examines the importance of mapping as the basis to understanding the world around us. We meet people working in Geospatial technologies who are developing the maps of everything from global COVID-19 cases through to unexploded WWII ordinance in the Solomon Islands. We head to the Solomon Islands where fieldworkers are collecting the data used to generate surveys of the bomb locations.

5 Movement, Global and Domestic

People relocate because of the effects of climate change or political conflict, and also for personal reasons such as work, study or family. In the modern era our populations have become increasingly mobile. But the COVID-19 pandemic changed that. International and domestic borders closed and many people lived in lockdown. The restriction on movement had short- and long-term effects. Using archival and contemporary footage, this episode looks at the social and economic



“we are a part of the earth's system”
Assoc. Prof. Michael – Shawn Fletcher

effects of movement, or the lack of movement.

6 The Tourist

The episode explores the growing trend of cultural tourism as a way of diversifying income streams in a community. An example of this is the Victorian Silo Art Trail, which repurposed existing silo structures as works of art. The artworks are used as a way of drawing tourists into small towns and developing local economies in an area that would not otherwise be a tourism destination. This episode will investigate the effect this form of tourism has had on the communities that are a part of the trail and on how these communities form a sense of 'place'.

7 Satellite Cities

The episode examines the relationship between government, business and environment in urban planning. Regional cities have become satellite centres as population grows in Australia and governments decentralise their departments. We visit Geelong to explore how this has been managed by government and businesses, and the effect this has on the communities and the environment.

8 The Fire Organism

This episode looks at the human as a “fire organism” who historically uses fire to shape environments. We meet a geographer who analyses core

samples to determine how fire use has changed over the centuries, and how humans have been using fire to modify environments, for instance turning rainforests into savannas. We encounter Aboriginal ideas of land management using fire, and how this might interact with contemporary practices.

9 Natural Resources

Australia's largest water catchment area is the Murray-Darling River. The river moves through different state boundaries, and different ecosystems. It is used to irrigate farms and stations along the way. The river system is under stress and this episode will explore why this is the case and engage with conflicting and current ideas around river management.

10 Change in Land Use

Land management in Australia has changed significantly since colonisation and the introduction of cattle, sheep and different crop species. This episode looks at how and why some landowners are using alternative land management ideas and indigenous plant species to help manage their land during periods of drought.