

# Kate Cranney

Communications specialist, scientist, artist

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## Summary

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As a subject matter expert in science communication and sustainability, I synthesise and communicate complex information, manage projects, build and maintain stakeholder engagement, and connect people, ideas and organisations for positive impact. I also have a track record of successfully training technical professionals to communicate their work to diverse audiences. I have 18 years' experience across research, industry, academia, government and not-for-profits, with a recent focus on industry partnerships in the energy sector.

## Skills

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### Exceptional written and verbal communication skills

- Proven ability to develop and implement communications strategies, identify key messages and target audiences, and to pursue high-impact opportunities to broadcast content across multiple platforms.
- Writing: Strong internal and external communications skills. At CSIRO I created engaging, accessible stories for 800+ scientists working across diverse, often contentious topics. I was also co-editor of CSIRO's blog.
- Media: Demonstrated success pitching stories and building media networks. I wrote 35 issues-rich media releases at CSIRO, resulting in high pick-up. One [announcement on turtles and AI](#) won a Mumbrella Award.
- Training: I created and delivered training on storytelling, media and social media to 300+ staff at CSIRO, including senior executives and scientists. I received highly positive feedback on this work.
- Public Speaker: I am very comfortable speaking to large crowds, with an engaging [presentation style](#).
- Creativity: I am also a [visual artist](#), and I bring this creativity and attention to detail to my professional work.

### Subject matter expert on the interface of science, industry and community engagement

- Post-graduate qualification in science, majoring in botany, communications and statistical modelling.
- Solid knowledge of both Commonwealth and state environmental law and policy. I studied law while working for four years with the Queensland government's Water Allocation and Planning legal team.
- Wide-ranging networks across industry, research, government and not-for-profit, in Australia and abroad. For example, I brokered relationships between government funding bodies, Torres Strait Islander rangers, university researchers and private consultants, leading to the ranger program's continued expansion.
- Coached 30+ scientists on talking to the media. Many of these experts became regulars on TV and radio.

### Demonstrated stakeholder liaison and people management skills

- Ability to engage with highly-diverse stakeholders. For example, in my work with the NGO Bush Heritage, I showcased the work of farmers, shooters, philanthropists, Indigenous rangers and research scientists.
- At CSIRO, I built and maintained positive relationships with 800+ scientists. In 2021, I was awarded five extraordinary performance bonuses from internal clients: recognition of the flow-on impact of my work.

### Excellent project management skills

- Accustomed to handling multiple tasks and tight deadlines, and to prioritising with little supervision.
- Self-starter with strong organisation skills. For instance, I led CSIRO's five-month, multifaceted social media campaign for the Apollo 11's 50th anniversary. I was the roving reporter during the open weekend event at Parkes Observatory, where 19,500 visitors toured Murriyang (The Dish). The social media posts I created were viewed 4.1M+ times by 2.7M+ people. I also helped to facilitate the 3400+ media stories.
- Tech savvy: I can quickly and easily pick-up new communications tools and techniques.

## Education and Training

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- **Master of Science (with Distinction)**, University of Melbourne, 2014–2016  
Majors: Communication, Botany, Modelling  
Overall result: High Distinction (82% Weighted Average Mark)
- **Bachelor of Law (Honours) / Environmental Science**, Griffith University, 2006–2010  
Majors: Environmental law, climate change law, Indigenous natural resource management  
Overall result: Distinction (GPA of 6.24, where 7 is the highest)

## Additional training and awards:

- 2024: Guest lecturer aboard the inaugural 10-day [Australian Geographic voyage](#) around WA's SW coastline
- 2023: One of 14 people in Australia selected for the Peter Cullen Trust Leadership Program
- 2022: Received the 'Effective Communication of Science Award' (team) at CSIRO's Land and Water Awards
- 2021: Received the 'Excellence in Support Award' (individual) at CSIRO's Land and Water Awards
- 2018: Awarded one of five national fellowships, International Specialised Skills Institute/ GAF Foundation
- 2017: Awarded one of six national OEH/ ESA Prizes for Outstanding Outreach in Science
- 2017: Volunteer science teacher with CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools program, Melbourne
- 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010: 'Griffith University Award of Academic Excellence' (for a GPA above 6)

## Employment

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### **CAREER BREAK | Jan 2025–Aug 2025**

A long-planned, eight-month adventure spent hiking in Chilean Patagonia, exploring Scotland by bike and boots, and cycling-touring 2500 km, through Austria, Slovenia, Italy, France and Switzerland, over three months.

### **THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM'S RESILIENT LANDSCAPES HUB | Sept 2023–Dec 2024**

#### **Communications Manager, Perth**

I led a team that showcased the work of 50 diverse research projects across Australia — like [this story](#). I substantially increased the hub's media, editorial and social media output and impact during my year in the role.

### **FREELANCE COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT | 2022–2023**

I led the communications strategy, content and coaching for various public and private organisations, including leading communications and media for remote expeditions (e.g. [a deep-sea voyage](#) to Cocos (Keeling) Island).

### **CSIRO | 2019–2022**

#### **Communications Advisor** for Energy, and Land and Water divisions, Corporate Affairs, *Melbourne, Brisbane*

I delivered communication campaigns for 800+ scientists across two highly diverse CSIRO divisions: Energy, and Land and Water. I wrote and edited articles, managed issues, pitched stories to the media, ran social media campaigns, and coordinated content creation, including films. I also ran social media and storytelling training.

### **INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED SKILLS INSTITUTE | 2018–2018**

#### **International Fellow** through the George Alexander Foundation

Awarded one of five International Specialised Skills Institute fellowships. For 10 months I learned about best-practice science communications/ media from leading science agencies in Africa, Europe, Canada, and the USA.

### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY | 2016–2018**

#### **Science Communicator (Melanesia Program)**, *Brisbane, PNG and Solomon Islands*

I created educational materials, reports, website stories and films for Indigenous ranger groups in PNG and Solomon Islands. I coordinated the week-long Nature's Leading Women workshop for 30 Indigenous women.

### **BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA | 2015–2016**

#### **Science Communicator / Science and Conservation Systems Officer**, *Melbourne*

I communicated BHA's science using engaging storytelling, film, and social media content. I was the 'reporter in the field', writing stories and making films on expeditions to remote sites in the Simpson Desert and Tasmania.

### **RMIT UNIVERSITY | 2015–2017**

#### **Research Assistant, Centre for Urban Research**, *Melbourne*

I worked as an entomologist. Later, I pitched, illustrated and co-wrote [a popular kid's book](#) about the research.

### **TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY | 2011–2013**

#### **Project Officer, Land and Sea Management Unit**, *Waiben (Thursday Island), Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait)*

I managed the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) projects. I worked alongside Torres Strait Islander rangers to finalise new IPAs and expand the TEK database. I coordinated rangers' trips to remote islands, organised community meetings, and managed contracts, budgets and reporting.

### **QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES | 2007–2012**

#### **Policy Officer**, Water Allocation and Planning Division, *Brisbane*

I wrote strategic policy and supporting documents for amendments to water legislation in Queensland.

## Referees available on request

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