Community Economies Institute

2025/2026

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VALUES

We are committed to:

- Elaborating a language of economy that foregrounds **economic diversity** and promotes pathways for more just and more sustainable forms of development.
- Identifying and initiating practices and policies that advance **ethical economic experiments** to:
  - ✓ Increase wellbeing directly
  - ✓ Encourage just exchanges
  - ✓ Distribute enterprise surplus to benefit collective human and ecological wellbeing
  - ✓ Generate a diversity of modes of property ownership or stewardship
  - ✓ Build community economies that repair social and ecological damage, and plan ahead for future generations.

WHO WE ARE

We are a not-for-profit, member-based organization involving scholars, artists, activists and practitioners from different regions of the world. Our 51 members are listed in Appendix 1. We have been working together since 2001 as the Community Economies Collective. In 2018, we formalised as the Community Economies Institute (CEI), and in November 2024 we were registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Our members are working with over 142 community-building organisations and industry actors in 20 countries. We host the Community Economies Research Network (CERN) which has over 400 members worldwide.

OUR LOGO

We make community economies by identifying and strengthening diverse economic activities that contribute directly to the wellbeing of people and the planet. Our logo represents the diversity of economic activities. Above the waterline are activities usually associated with the economy—paid work, goods and services transacted through the market and capitalist enterprises. Below are a host of other economic activities found in households, neighbourhoods and communities, farms and forests, towns and cities, and nations. Activities above and below the waterline are the focus of ethical economic action in a community economy.

For more on the economy as an iceberg, click here.

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We acknowledge that the places in which many of us live and work are Indigenous lands, cared for by generations of traditional custodians, who give ongoing care today. We express our gratitude to them and to Country.

Cover Image: Over half of the CEI Membership attended the CEI Symposium in Kioloa (Australia) in December 2025 to map out future activities for the CEI.
For more, see pages 10 to 11.

1 Introduction

Welcome to the seventh annual report of the Community Economies Institute Limited (CEI).

This report reflects on the work of the CEI from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Our earlier Annual Reports are available here.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenny Cameron – Co-Chair
Katherine Gibson – Co-Chair
Stephen Healy – Treasurer
Ana Inés Heras
Katharine McKinnon
Joanne McNeill
Pryor Placino
Kate Rich
Hermann Ruiz (until May 2026)

See Appendix 2 for the calendar of Board Meetings.

OUR WORKING GROUPS

Coordination and Communication Working Group
Communities of Practice Working Group
Teaching and Learning Working Group
Research Working Group

OUR LEGAL STRUCTURE

We are a registered Australian Public Company, ACN 629 885 918.
Class: Limited By Guarantee. Sub Class: Unlisted Public Company NonProfit.

We are registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

2 Chair's Report

This past year will go down in CEI history as somewhat unique—in that just over half of the membership were able to gather face-to-face in Australia for a hitherto unprecedented Symposium. For a glorious 5 days we were able to hang out together on the beautiful south coast of New South Wales, south of Sydney. We had space and time to turn our minds to challenging issues like our institutional future, succession planning, financial sustainability, emerging intellectual themes and pressing political interests. I (Katherine) don't think I am exaggerating in saying that the mood was joyous and that the overarching takeaway was a realization of how important CE fellowship is to our wellbeing as activists / practitioners / scholars. Meeting those we had only known as Zoom faces was totally delightful! There is something so enjoyable and energizing about being together, listening to each other, brainstorming challenges and igniting our collective imagination. We can only hope that what has been shared from the Symposium has captured the mood and essence of the event so that those who were unable to attend have been able to get a sense of the experience.

It is worth noting that the Symposium was primarily supported by what remained in the Julie Graham Community Economies Research Fund. This Fund was a generous donation from Julie's estate by her brother Alfie. Western Sydney University has managed this fund since 2013 and over the past 13 years it has supported a number of important writing and research retreats. These get togethers have been where exciting developments were hatched—the Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds Book Series; various edited books, including the Handbook of Diverse Economies; the CEC governance guidelines; and the CEI itself. If we were to calculate a Community Economies Return on Investment (CEROI from *Take Back the Economy*, Chapter 6), we would be amazed at what the initial bequest has given rise to.

That Fund has largely run down now and the CEI is facing a different, less financially cushioned future. Thankfully, forward looking plans and activities have multiplied as a result of the Symposium discussions. Indeed the CEI membership has been activated in a whole new register. As we mature as an organization, and founding members of the original Community Economies Collective age, thoughts about ongoing sustainability are uppermost. It is heartening to see the energy and ideas that members are bringing to the task of ensuring an ongoing future, and we provide just a snapshot of what's to come in our Symposium feature on pages 10 to 11.

Living as we do in the midst of what is increasingly being called the 'poly-crisis', it is easy to slip into despondency about what can be done. We like to think that the staunch perversity that is at the core of JKGG's legacy stands us in good stead. In the face of any dominant narrative there is a refusal to succumb, and a determination to find the cracks where the light gets in. This is not a refusal to acknowledge the power of domination, but a refusal to deny that there are other pathways, other knowledges, and other ways of being that can be allied with, fought for and shared more broadly.

Here's hoping that our NUERO (Non-University Education and Research Organization), our Community Economies Institute, continues to be a place (often times virtual, but sometimes joyously actual) where we can be perverse, invent other perspectives, and create and practice together and with others.

Katherine Gibson and Jenny Cameron
Co-Chairs, CEI Board of Directors
info@communityeconomies.org

3 Highlights from our Working Groups

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Managed the **day-to-day operations** of the CEI (e.g., meetings, financials, reporting).

Managed the **formal reporting** required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC).

Organised the **CEI Symposium** convened in Australia in December 2025 (see pages 10 to 11).

Maintained and updated the **Community Economies website** (click here), including News items which highlight the activities of CEI and CERN members.

Maintained the **CEI LinkedIn site** (click here) as a way of widely broadcasting our activities.

Welcomed new **CEI** and **CERN** members.

Maintained **CEI** and **CERN** listservs and membership.

Map of the 411 CERN Members, as at 30 June 2026

Coordination and Communication Working Group

What do we want to achieve?

Have a well-run organisation that makes CEI and CERN members feel welcomed and valued, that has regular communications to strengthen connections between members, and that promotes wider interest in community economies research and practice.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE WORKING GROUP

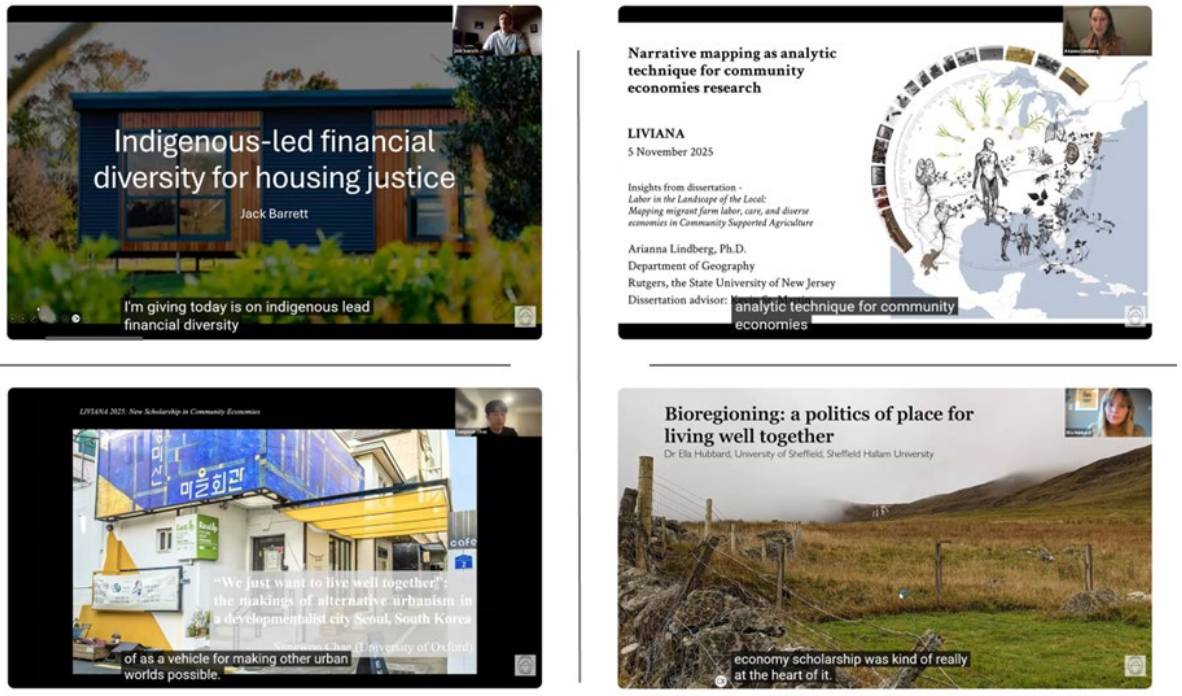
Supported the activities of **CERN Groups**:

- CERN ABC/DE (Arts-based Community and Diverse Economies)
- CERN América Latina
- CERN Aotearoa New Zealand
- CERN Asia
- CERN Europe
- CERN North America
- CERN Sydney.

These are self-organising informal groups that determine their own focus and organise their own activities. Some discuss shared readings, some run seminars, some work on shared pieces of writing, some read drafts of each other's work. Most meet monthly (generally by Zoom). For more on the activities of each group, click here.

Organised the **sixth international LIVIANA online conference**, 3 to 14 November, 2025. For the two weeks of LIVIANA there were 31 sessions (across multiple time zones) and 475 attendees. English was the main language with three sessions in Spanish. LIVIANA is a free event.

A new LIVIANA initiative this year was three 'New Scholarship in Community Economies' sessions in which Alumni from the CEI Summer/Winter School Alumni gave presentations based on their completed PhD theses. Nine theses were presented and they were followed by responses from the editors of the Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds Book Series (CEI Members, Katherine Gibson, Stephen Healy, Maliha Safri and Kevin St. Martin).



Extracts from four of the nine presentations on New Scholarship in Community Economies

This initiative continues the strong connection between the CEI Summer/Winter School and LIVIANA. Sessions organised or co-organised by School Alumni for LIVIANA 2025 included:

Diverse and community economies meet (digital) technologies	Matt Dowse, Class of 2024 Laura Eccher, Class of 2022
How do we engage decolonial theory to confront racialized capitalism and white supremacy in the Americas?	Emily Melvin, Class of 2022 Sami Stroud, Class of 2025
Inventorying Policies for Community Economies	Hanna Eggestrand Vaughan, Class of 2025
Making (Blue) Communities Matter	Dhruv Gangadharan, Class of 2023
Sensable Agri-Food Economies: Sensing Post-Capitalist Futures	Nikolai Siimes, Class of 2024
"What's next?" Early Career Researchers and Ways Forward	Denise Gibran Nogueira, Class of 2025

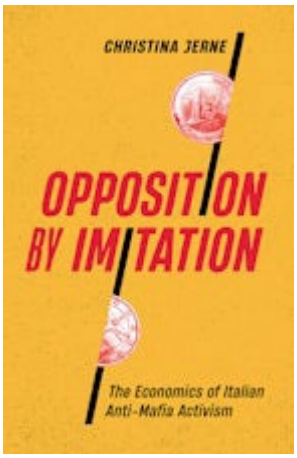
Thanks to the following CEI members for their dedication to LIVIANA: Ana Inés Heras (Argentina), Pryor Placino (Philippines) and Thomas Smith (Spain). It is because of their efforts that LIVIANA remains a valued opportunity for connection. This was noted by participants in their feedback on the strengths of LIVIANA, for example: "The way it connects people around the globe"; "The creation of a community that thinks together about issues, maintaining a very empathetic atmosphere/culture"; and "Seeing old friends, and getting my mind blown by new ideas and stories of projects people are doing right now."

Communities of Practice Working Group

What do we want to achieve?

Build and sustain communities of practice for members of the CEI and the associated Community Economies Research Network (CERN).

RESEARCH WORKING GROUP



Managed the **Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds book series**, published through University of Minnesota Press, click here. Four CEI members serve as the series editors, J.K. Gibson-Graham, Stephen Healy, Maliha Safri and Kevin St. Martin. In the period covered by this annual report, one more book, *Opposition by Imitation: The Economics of Italian Anti-Mafia Activism* by Christina Jerne was added to the ten already published.

Shared information about publications by CEI and CERN members, through the **bi-annual CERN Publications Bulletin** (click here). Thanks to CEI member Joanne McNeill for initiating and curating the bulletin from 2017 to 2024; and thanks to CEI member Kelly Dombroski and CERN member Swarnima Kriti for taking on this work and presenting the bulletin in three formats: EndNote; PDF and Zotero. The bulletin now comprises 847 publications by CEI and CERN members.

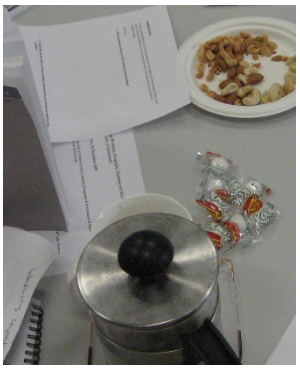
Contributed to organising the **CEI Symposium** (see pages 10 to 11).

Research Working Group

What do we want to achieve?

Support members to do their research, with a focus on research that partners with diverse groups to understand and foster community economies in a variety of ways.

TEACHING AND LEARNING WORKING GROUP



Ran the first **CEI Online Writing Workshop** in June 2026, with 11 participants from Asia-Pacific and Europe (see pages 14 to 15).

The Writing Workshop was run in place of a 2026 CEI Summer/ Winter School. The next Summer/Winter School is planned for June 2027.

Teaching and Learning Working Group

What do we want to achieve?

Support members to provide teaching and learning opportunities that engage with community economies concepts and practices for a range of purposes and in different languages and cultural contexts. This includes academic and community-based teaching and learning, community initiatives, artistic and creative endeavours etc.

4 Feature: CEI Symposium, December 2025

WHAT?

From 8 to 13 December 2025, twenty-seven members of the CEI gathered at the Australian National University's Kioloa Coastal Campus to reflect on the CEI's achievements and set a course for the CEI for the next decade.

WHY?

Since formalising in 2018 as the CEI, two important 'demographic' changes have occurred. Founding 'elders' have retired from their academic jobs and will gradually reduce their CEI input over the next five to ten years. At the same time, membership has expanded and diversified. More and more CEI members are based outside universities (and given current institutional and political pressures, those within universities are looking for places of connection and support—even portals to other futures!). At this inflection point, the Symposium was an opportunity for the CEI to consider future pathways.

WHO?

The twenty-seven members who gathered at Kioloa were from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Chile, Italy, Philippines, Norway, UK and US. They were a mix of tenured and casual academics, and community-based activists, artists and independent researchers. This was the first time that this many CEI members gathered for a face-to-face and in-depth discussion of future directions for the CEI. Those who could not attend were invited to provide input beforehand.

HOW?

There was a structured program for the first three days and sessions included a genealogy, visioning and discussion of each other's work. The program for the last three days was based on the ideas and concerns that emerged from the earlier sessions, with a shared commitment to finishing on Saturday with a series of concrete actions.

Funding support for travel and accommodation was provided by the Julie Graham Community Economies Research Fund (managed by Western Sydney University). Additional funding support was provided by Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University; Katherine Gibson; and some overseas participants who self-funded airfares and related travel costs to Australia.

WHAT'S NEXT?

After five intense days, the group came up with pathways forward by 'plugging' ideas and possibilities into the existing CEI structure, where the work is done at the level of the Working Groups (for more on our Working Groups, see pages 6 to 9). **Highlights** going forward include:

Communication and Coordination Working Group

- A Membership, Governance and Resourcing Task Team to strengthen the CEI's people and financial **foundation** by refining membership protocols and diversifying income streams.

Communities of Practice Working Group

- A Samaj / Encuentro / Nütram Task Team working towards a series of **community-based exchanges** between India and Latin America in 2028.

Research Working Group

- A 'Next Big Output' Task Team doing **agenda setting** for Community Economies thinking and practice by considering what follows in the lineage of the highly influential Community Economies 'opus' comprised of *The End of Capitalism (as we knew it)*, *A Postcapitalist Politics*, *Take Back the Economy* and *The Handbook of Diverse Economies*.

Teaching and Learning Working Group

- Expanding the CEI's teaching and learning offerings beyond the S/W School by supporting members to run **short courses** for a range of audiences including community members, activists and artists, and policy-makers.

Change Insights Working Group

- A new working group to promote the CEI's **change making practices** and to more widely share strategies and tools for building economies that work for people and planet.

5 Feature: GROW – Through Fungi

WHAT?

CEI Member Elizabeth Barron convened a two-day workshop "Gender, Rights and Opportunities for Women (GROW) – through Fungi" in Cotonou, Benin, as part of the Fourth International Congress on Fungal Conservation. The focus was on fungal conservation and women's wellbeing and livelihoods.

WHY?

Fungi are essential for ecosystem health but seldom considered in conservation strategies. In some parts of the world, fungi play an essential, but largely unrecognised, role in women's lives as a source of sustenance and income generation. Participants shared their insights into these two usually unrelated topics, fungal conservation and healthy lives for women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Image: Mai Løvaas, Zambia

WHO?

The GROW workshop brought together practitioners and researchers from across Africa (Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and from several European countries (Norway and Portugal) and the UK. Partcipants came from diverse fields including conservation, ethnomycology, fungal cultivation and resource use, gender equality, international development, public health and women's reproductive health care.

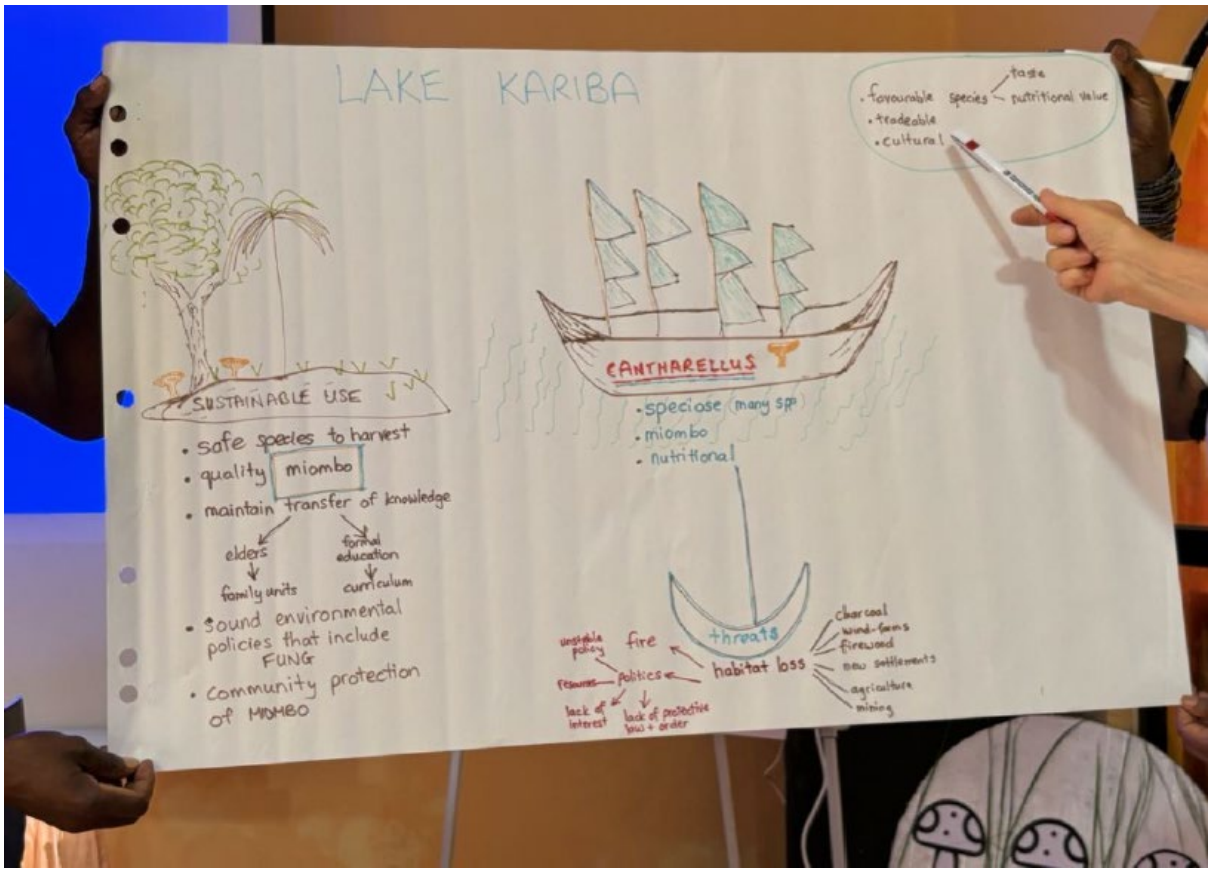
By learning from each other, participants expanded their understanding of how they could incorporate new practices into their area of work, for example:

> *Being specialized in mushroom production, I will now be able to better involve women by training them in the different cultivation techniques, providing them with access to the necessary resources, and supporting them in creating micro-enterprises around mushroom production and sales. This will not only allow them to generate income but also strengthen their economic autonomy and active participation in local development.*
>
> Workshop Participant

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next step is to develop a set of best practice guidelines on fungal conservation that starts with each communities' social, economic and ecological context and responds to place-based gender dynamics.

This step will adapt one of the exercises from the workshop. In the sailboat exercise, participants focused on one fungi species or genus, which was written on the sailboat. On a nearby island they noted the conditions that are needed for the species or genus to be sustainably used. Above the boat, participants identified reasons for why the species or genus needs to be used in a sustainable way; and below the sails, attached to the anchor, participants identified the things that are slowing or preventing sustainable use.



HOW?

The workshop was funded by a grant from Jamma Conservation and Communities, and administered by the International Institute for Environment and Development and the Community Economies Institute.

It extended connections that had already been made between some participants who had contributed to a special issue of Current Conservation, which was published in September 2025 and was the magazine's first ever issue dedicated to fungal conservation. This special issue was edited by CEI member Elizabeth Barron.

6 Feature: CEI Online Writing Workshop

WHAT?

The first CEI Online Writing Workshop, 'The Politics and Practice of Writing for Community Economies,' was run over three weeks in June, with three 3-hour sessions each week.

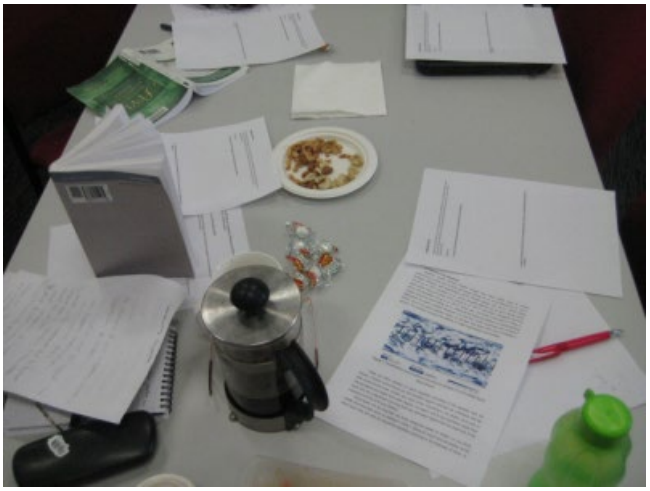
The first two sessions focused on the politics of writing for Community Economies and explored motivations for writing and the role that writing can play in contributing to change in the world. The rest of the workshop focused on strategies for achieving clarity in writing, and especially techniques that writers can use to pinpoint what they are trying to say and how best to communicate this to their readers. Participants practiced these techniques through a series of exercises and by applying them to their own draft pieces of writing.

The workshop drew on a range of resources including Joseph Williams's lessons on clarity and grace in writing, Wendy Belcher on crafting an argument, Helen Sword on 'zombie nouns' and Rachael Cayley on committing to extensive revisions.

This first offering ran at times suited to Asia-Pacific and Europe. A second offering will be held in November-December 2026, at times suited to the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

WHO?

There were eleven participants from Australia, Brazil, Europe and the UK, India, the Philippines and South Korea. Most participants were working on publications based on recently-completed PhDs, though several brought practitioner-oriented materials to work on.



The workshop was facilitated by CEI Members Jenny Cameron and Katherine Gibson.

> *A special treat was that after the first two sessions Emeritus Professor Katherine Gibson joined the workshop as a participant, and this meant that the other participants got to see how their struggles were shared by an experienced writer who was also figuring out 'what I am trying to say?' in a piece of writing. This also demonstrated to participants that writing involves lifelong learning, and even the most experienced writers continue to hone this skill.*
>
> Jenny Cameron, Workshop Facilitator

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants reported a new-found enthusiasm for writing.

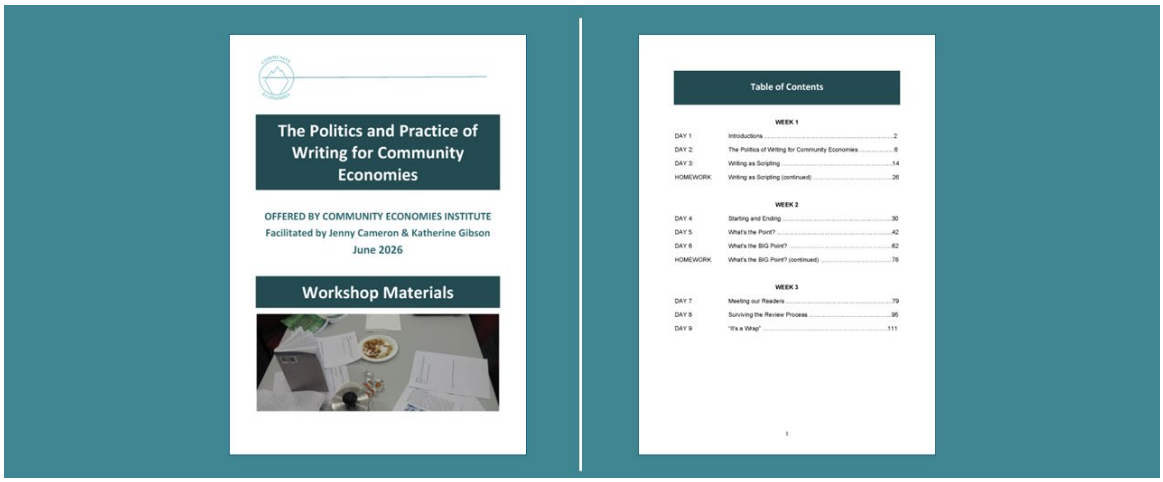
> *I have learned how to identify what good writing looks like. Before, I had a 'feeling' when the writing was clear or not. Now I can use the techniques taught in the workshop to spot what is working or not. This is now reflected in my confidence to write.*
>
> *The workshop has helped me realize that I can be a better writer especially if I practice the various exercises introduced in each lesson.*
>
> *I feel like a fish to whom the poetics and politics of water have been explained, but also a fish who now knows what swimming techniques can be mobilised in different kinds of water and weather conditions. Less improvisation, more fun and feeling in control of the process.*

Participants also commented on how they felt less isolated in their struggle to write.

> *Writing is daunting even for the most experienced writers! But there are techniques to learn how to write well and strategies to structure the process of writing. I also learned a lot about the power of being vulnerable with other writers (let them read your early work) and how this openness can foster better writing*
>
> *It was great to know that I am not the only one who is struggling to write. It may have something to do with the stage of my career, language issues, etc., but, regardless of all that, writing itself is a challenging task for anyone who takes writing seriously. I was expecting the workshop to be about practical skills and tips, but it has turned out to be much more.*

Others reported that they could immediately transfer what they learned to other contexts.

> *I presented at a symposium today and my script was so much clearer this time. I was able to put into practice what I learned in the writing workshop. The presentation was a hit but also I enjoyed writing and editing it. Writing anything has been a challenge since the PhD but something has certainly shifted after the workshop.*



7 Activities and Achievements of Our Members

The following is a snapshot of just some of the **activities and achievements** of our members.

PRESENTATIONS and WORKSHOPS

Caring for Life: Co-creating Social Innovation for Reduce, Reuse and Repair

Kelly Dombroski. Keynote presentation, WSU (Western Sydney Uni) Festival of Action.

Colegiales Respira Verde | Colegiales breathes green

Ana Inés Heras. Community Composting Workshops in the Colegiales district of Buenos Aires, Argentina. With support from Colegiales Composting Club, Colectivo Solidario, New York University Summer Education Abroad Program, Next System - Teach Ins, and Universidad Nacional de San Martin.

Farming Finance: Markets and Financial Service Consumption in Laos and Cambodia

Isaac Lyne. Collective Seminar Presentation at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. With colleagues from Royal University of Phnom Penh and National University of Laos.

Jälkiä talouden tulevaisuuksista | Traces of Economic Futures

Pieta Savinotko and Tuomo Alhojärvi (and colleagues from the 'Post-ownership as an interpretation and experience of economic change' project). Collaborative keynote at the Finnish Sociology Conference, Rovaniemi, Finland.

Sociomaterial Commons: Enclosures and Openings

Abby Mellick Lopes. Keynote presentation at the Design and Commons International Symposium, Queensland College of Art and Design, Griffith University, Australia.

Transforming Regional Food Governance in New England

Anisah Madden. Paper on postcapitalist approaches to food systems governance at the Agriculture Food and Human Values Society Conference, University of Vermont.

NEW GRANTS

After the dystopia

A four-year grant (€449,700) was awarded to **Tuomo Alhojärvi** by the Kone Foundation (Finland) for a project on preparedness for climate migration in Finland. It includes identifying potential patterns of climate migration in Finland and the kinds of solidarity practices that might be fostered in Finnish cities to support 'climate refugees.' The project team includes renowned illustrator and children's book author, Ilja Karsikas.

Image: Detail from *Sateenkaarikiitäjä* (Rainbow Moth), children's book by Ilja Karsikas.

Climate shelters as refuge from heat and smoke

Abby Mellick Lopes (and colleagues) received funding from the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council to investigate climate shelters, such as libraries, community centres, and churches, that are increasingly offering residents in low-income urban areas shelter from summer heat and bushfires. The research will consider issues related to accessibility, safety and comfort, as well as the operational challenges for public facilities that offer these places of refuge.

Cultural and creative work in Aotearoa

Molly Mullen (and colleagues) received funding from the Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland to address the issue of how to make cultural and creative work financially equitable and sustainable. The project draws on diverse and community economies thinking to analyse social security provisions (in Aotearoa and internationally) for workers in this precarious sector.

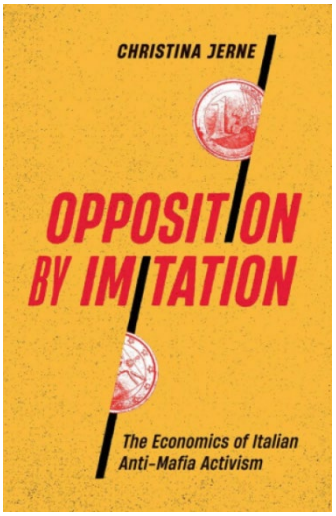
Sago+

Ann Hill is project lead on a five-year project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research to develop an inclusive co-design process for strengthening food security in Western Province, Papua New Guinea. The research is based on the premise that Western Province is rich in local assets that are too-often overlooked in food security efforts. Sago is one such under-valued asset, yet it its importance ranges from being a crucial practical source of food through to embodying generations of agricultural and culture knowledge. The research team includes CEI members **Katharine McKinnon** and **Pryor Placino** (and **Katherine Gibson** is on the Advisory Board).

Image: Dokona Papua Group

BOOKS PUBLISHED

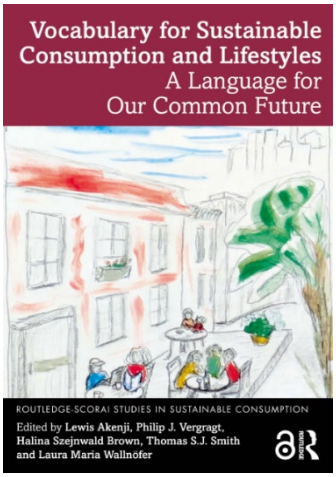
Opposition by Imitation



Christina Jerne's *Opposition by Imitation: The Economics of Italian Anti-Mafia Activism* was published in July 2025 by University of Minnesota Press. This was the 11th book in the Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds book series. The book explores the struggle against mafia economies and shows how anti-mafia activism opens up space for non-mafia relationships and economies to flourish.

Accompanying the book are a University of Minnesota Press Podcast (Episode 127) and a New Books in Italian Studies Podcast.

Vocabulary for Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyles



Thomas S.J. Smith was one of the editors of *Vocabulary for Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyles: A Language for Our Common Future* published by Routledge in September 2025, and available in open access format.

Chapters include those by **Lucie Sovová** on Quiet Sustainability; **Lindsay Taylor** on Fair Trade; and **Thomas S.J. Smith** on Fair Consumption Space, and Prosumerism.

An interactive online 'Wiki' version is also available through the Hot or Cool Institute and SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative).

Terceros Espacios de Aprendizaje para el Poscapitalismo | Third Learning Spaces for Postcapitalism

Ana Inés Heras was one of the authors of *Terceros Espacios de Aprendizaje para el Poscapitalismo: Lecciones de Artistas, Educadores y Activistas | Third Learning Spaces for Postcapitalism: Lessons from Artists, Educators and Activists* published by UNSAM Edita in October 2025.

The book explores formal and information educational initiatives that not only question the established order, but also create concrete alternatives that demonstrate the social creativity of schools, social organisations and collectives of artists from the global North and South. The book is published in Spanish and available in open access format.

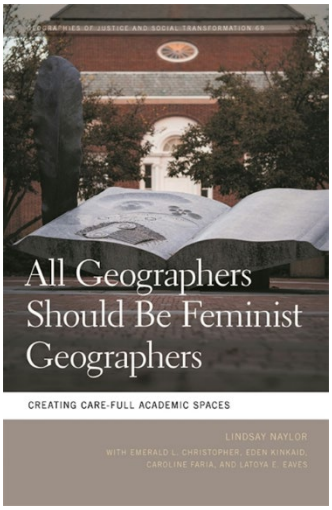
New European Bauhaus Meets Community Economies

Bianca Elzenbaumer's *New European Bauhaus Meets Community Economies: Explorations into the Economic Modes of Organising of the New European Bauhaus Community* was published in November 2025 by La Foresta Community Academy and Trajna.

This open access publication is a 'behind the scenes' look into how innovative projects (finalists in the New European Bauhaus Prize) draw on community economies principles to navigate their organisational economics as they endeavour to support other organisations, informal groups and active citizens in a shared effort to make more resilient and regenerative presents and futures.

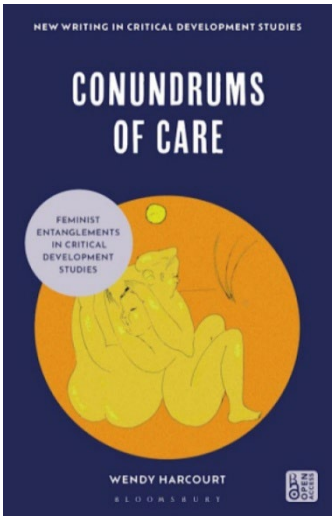
All Geographers Should Be Feminist Geographers

Lindsay Naylor's new book *All Geographers Should Be Feminist Geographers: Creating Care-Full Academic Spaces*, was published in November 2025 by University of Georgia Press as part of their Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation series. The book is a call for an ethic of care as the basis for change in the academy both as an antidote for the care-less spaces that have been created through the neoliberalism of education and as a hopeful practice of centring earth writing with equity.



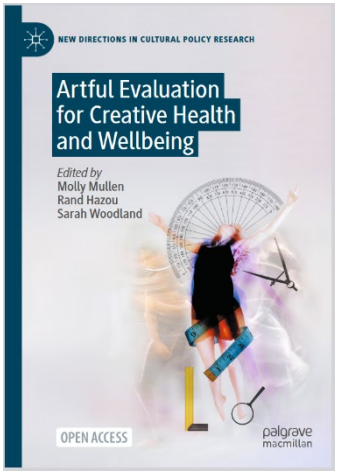
Conundrums of Care

Wendy Harcourt's latest book *Conundrums of Care: Feminist Entanglements in Critical Development Studies*, was published in December 2025, and is available in open access format. The book explores the conundrums of care that arise as people navigate the 'life-making and life-sustaining activities that maintain humans and more-than-humans that share our life-worlds.'



In October 2025, Wendy was awarded the FAME Athena Award at Erasmus University Rotterdam, recognising her contribution to promoting gender equality within the academic environment. In March 2026 she presented the Valedictory Lecture on care in teaching.

Artful Evaluation for Creative Health and Wellbeing

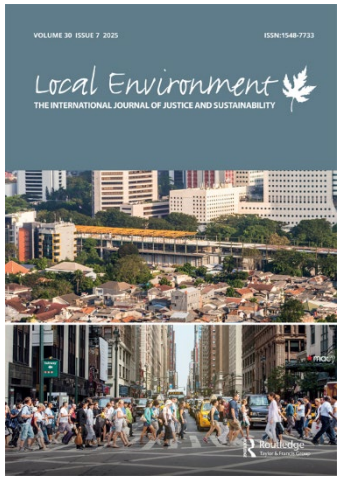


Molly Mullen was one of the editors of *Artful Evaluation for Creative Health and Wellbeing*, published in May 2026 and available in open access format. The book explores the challenges of evaluating the contribution that participation in the arts makes to wellbeing and health. As the writers of the Foreword, Nisha Sajnani and Mauricio Salgado, put it "How do we measure a 'spring in the step' or a 'gleam in the eye'? How do we trace the subtle shifts that occur when someone finds their voice, reclaims a story, or feels, perhaps for the first time, truly seen?"

Chapters include those by **Kelly Dombroski** on the community wellbeing initiative, Life in Vacant Spaces and **Molly Mullen** on Evaluative Practices in Theatre and Performance.

SPECIAL ISSUES

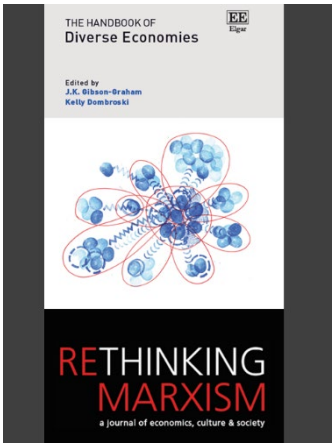
Grassroots learning in diverse settings



A special issue of the journal *Local Environment* was edited by **Ann Hill** (with CERN member Justin See), and it showcases the plural ways of thinking and living that emerge when place-based and culturally specific ways of knowing, being and doing are valued and worked with.

It includes pieces by **Alison Guzman** and **Ignacio Krell**, on Indigenous self-determination practiced by Mapuche-Lafkenche people; **Bianca Elzenbaumer**, on 'eco-social infrastructuring' for grassroots learning projects centred on food practices; and **Ann Hill**, on deep, embodied learning prompted by non-human compost companions.

Symposium on The Handbook of Diverse Economies



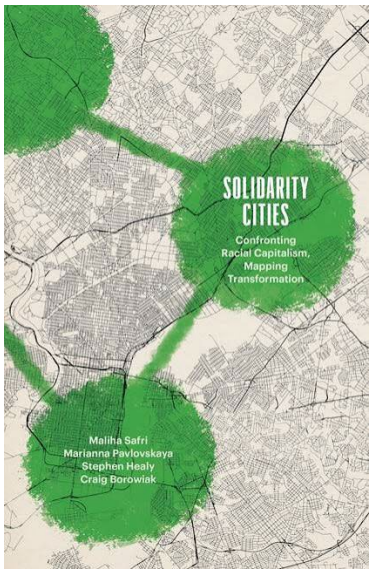
The journal *Rethinking Marxism* featured a symposium on *The Handbook of Diverse Economies* (edited by **J.K. Gibson-Graham** and **Kelly Dombroski**, Elgar, 2020).

In their introduction, the editors of the Symposium, CERN member Chizu Sato and CEI member **Esra Erdem**, note that "the common thread that emerges across all contributions is the deeply felt need for hope and joy and a sense of the potential that the theory of diverse and community economies embodies in these times of global despair and crisis."

The Symposium includes a response to the four essays in the Symposium by Kelly Dombroski and J.K. Gibson-Graham, and a pictorial work by **Kathrin Böhm** and Kuba Szreder.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Award for Solidarity Cities



Solidarity Cities: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Mapping Transformation received Honorable Mention in the 2026 Joyce Rothschild Book Prize. The award, presented by the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing at Rutgers University, recognizes significant contributions to the advancement of economic democracy. The book documents the solidarity economies of US cities and highlights how these economies are characterised by diverse practices of cooperation and mutual support. It was published in 2025 and is the tenth book in the Diverse Economies and Livable Worlds book series (University of Minnesota Press). The authors are CEI members **Maliha Safri**, **Marianna Pavlovskaya** and **Stephen Healy**, and CERN member Craig Borowiak. It is available in open access format.

Caring Economies and Circular Economies

Kelly Dombroski organised two days of discussions and workshops on caring economies and circular economies at Te Rau Karamū marae (Massey Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand). The day devoted to caring economies started with a presentation by Joan Tronto, Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, and responses by Joni Angeli-Gordon (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua, Te Roroa) and Ellie Tapsell (Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Raukawa). The day devoted to circular economies featured a session on Food Industry Insights with speakers Pounamu Skelton (Maara Kai practitioner), Emily Levenson (Horticulture New Zealand), Hanna Blumhardt (Reuse Aotearoa) and Jacob Lewis (AgriChain). **Stephen Healy** and **Abby Mellick-Lopes** spoke on circular economies; and **Katharine Mckinnon**, on care economies.

Coolth Commons

Bhavya Chitranshi, Katherine Gibson, Stephen Healy and **Abby Mellick-Lopes** continue to work on their Cooling the Commons Research Program, with their latest project focusing on climate-readiness in social housing (funded by the Australian Research Council). This research includes social housing residents sharing their stories of climate adaptation, including stories of what to eat and wear, where and when to participate in social life, and what being at 'home' in the world looks like in a warming environment. In a recent piece in e-Flux Architecture, the team reflect on their use of the word Coolth, a late-nineteenth-century term opposed to warmth. Image: Illustration by Lucy Klippan of a community-led climate-ready action led by the Residents at Riverwood (ROAR).

Food, Sustainability and Resilience in Postsocialist Economies

The Polička Collective which includes CEI members **Ottavia Cima**, **Nadia Johanisova**, **Thomas S.J. Smith** and **Lucie Sovová** continued to work on community economies in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Activities included a two-day workshop in Budapest, "Synergies in CEE for Food System Transformation," bringing together researchers who are working on issues related to food, sustainability and social change. At the Geographical Societies EUGEO Conference "Geographies of a Changing Europe" held in Vienna and hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences they ran a panel on postsocialist inspirations for resilience and the good life. They also launched the Policka Collective website.

Food Systems Organising and Solidarity Building Networks

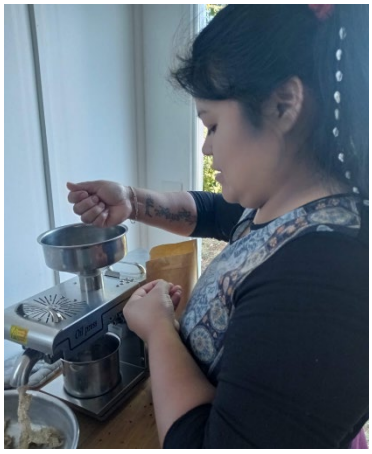
At the Institute for Agroecology's Regional Food Gathering at Knoll Farm, Vermont (US), **Anisah Madden** ran workshops to trace the genealogies of food systems organising and solidarity building in Wabanaki, the region colonially known as New England. Participants reflected on lessons learned from past organising strategies to respond to current political upheavals, and they explored the solidarity principles and practices that food practitioners, activists and academics are currently applying.

Foxing: Design Thinking for Community Economies

Aviv Kruglanski with his long-time collaborator Anna Coromina are developing arts-based tools for social enterprises and grassroots initiatives. *Foxing* is their adaptation of design thinking in the service of community economies. Strategies include accompanying local initiatives and applying the tools in a collective rather than individualised setting, including with a community kitchen, social enterprises affiliated with a housing charity and a bakery cooperative that is reorganising its work flow. This forms part of their work as 3 Stages of Succession based in Hull (UK).

Planes de Vida | Life Pathways

Alison Guzman and **Ignacio Krell** continue their life-long commitment to accompany the Mapuche-Lafkenche communities or Lof of Lake Budi (Chile) who are building intergenerational Indigenous economies. This work, now in its twelfth year, includes practical initiatives such as a Chilean hazelnut oil lab guided by women's ecological knowledge to balance well-being with ecological sustainability. Other initiatives include community-led conversations to interweave community economies and biocultural resilience at nested time and territorial scales, or as the communities express it *Planes de Vida* | Life Pathways.



8 Financial Report

BENDIGO BANK: The opening balance of the Australian-based Bendigo Bank accounts at the start of the Australian Financial Year (FY) (1 July 2025) was AU$44,444 (Australian Dollar) and the closing balance at the end of the FY was AU$27,502 (30 June 2026). A breakdown of income and expenditure is on page 24.

WISE: Our CEI WISE account enables us to receive and send money in multiple currencies. As at 30 June 2026, we held balances in ten currencies: AUD (Australian Dollar), CLP (Chilean Peso), DKK (Danish Krone), EURO, GBP (Great British Pound), KES (Kenyan Shilling), NOK (Norwegian Krone), NZD (New Zealand Dollar), PHP (Philippines Peso) and USD (US Dollar). For these currencies, our opening and closing balances for the FY were as follows.

	AUD	CLP	DKK	EURO	GBP	KES	NOK	NZD	PHP	USD
OPENING BALANCES 1 July '25	6	1,663	411	2,609	137	921	1,123	19	349	19,988
CLOSING BALANCES 30 June '26	3,907	1,663	411	1,715	1,178	921	230	2,622	385	92

These opening and closing balances match our WISE statements of income and expenditure for each currency.

For reporting purposes, our WISE income and expenditure from the ten currencies has been converted into AUD (Australian Dollars) based on the following:

- For EURO, NZD, PHP and USD, the Australia Taxation Office (ATO) information on average exchange rates for the FY (and these were used to determine the inverse rate)
- For CLP, DKK, GBP, KES and NOK, the exchange rate as at 1 July 2025, the start of the FY (based on WISE's historical exchange rates).

In previous years' reports, we have used the exchange rate as at the start of the FY for all currencies (based on WISE's historical exchange rates).

The table below shows the total in AUD of all the currencies in our WISE Account. A breakdown of income and expenditure is on page 25.

	Total of above Currencies in AUD
OPENING BALANCE 1 July '25	$34,542
CLOSING BALANCE 30 June '26	$12,282

As of 2 November 2024, the CEI was registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). The financial reporting required by the ACNC uses different categories than those previously used by CEI. This report uses the ACNC categories.

As we had to report to the ACNC using these categories for the period 2 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, this current report includes two years of financial information based on the ACNC categories.

The following table shows opening and closing bank balances for the 24/25 FY and 25/26 FY.

The following pages provide a breakdown of income and expenditure for the 24/25 FY and 25/26 FY, including explanatory notes about the main features of CEI finances.

	TOTAL (1)	Bendigo Bank	WISE	TOTAL (2)
Opening Balance, 1 July 2024	49,972	46,583	3,390	49,972
Plus Income	71,604	30,454	68,450	98,904
Minus Expenses	42,597	32,593	37,304	69,897
Closing Balance, 30 June 2025	78,979	44,444	34,536	78,979
Opening Balance, 1 July 2025	78,986	44,444	34,542	78,986
Plus Income	21,224	5,651	28,972	34,624
Minus Expenses	60,425	22,593	51,233	73,825
Closing Balance, 30 June 2026	39,785	27,503	12,282	39,785

Notes

- Total (1) excludes internal transfer payments from Bendigo Bank (BB) to WISE (AU$27,300 in 24/25; AU$13,400 in 25/26). Total (2) includes internal transfer payments from BB to WISE. These transfer payments are included in the breakdown of income and expenditure on the following page.
- The WISE account for 24/25 is based on Exchange Rates as at 1 July 2024. The WISE account for 25/26 is based on Exchange Rates according to the ATO FY average for main currencies, others as at 1 July 2025 (as noted above). This is why there is a small discrepancy between the closing WISE balance as at 30 June 2025 and the opening WISE balance as at 1 July 2025.

	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (24/25 FY)			1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (25/26 FY)		
	Bendigo Bank	WISE	TOTAL	Bendigo Bank	WISE	TOTAL
Income	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**
Revenue from government (including grants)			0			0
Donations and bequests						
Member Donations	5,968		5,968	1,605		1,605
Revenue from providing goods or services						
Membership Fees	4,261	2,307	6,568	4,046	1,770	5,816
S/W School Fees	20,223	8,863	29,086			
CEI Online Writing Workshop					7,939	7,939
IIED Research Grant, Benin		29,980	29,980			
Massey University Writing Grant, NZ					5,864	5,864
Sub-Total	24,484	41,150	65,634	4,046	15,572	19,618
Revenue from investments						
Interest	3		3			0
Other revenue/receipts						
Transfer Payments from BB Account to WISE Account		27,300	27,300		13,400	13,400
Total Income	**30,454**	**68,450**	**98,904**	**5,651**	**28,972**	**34,624**

Expenses	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**	**AUD**
Employee expenses			0			0
Grants and donations made for use in Australia						
Donation to PANZMA	1,000		1,000			0
Grants and donations made for use outside Australia						
FF Support, Eco-Social Enterprise Project		2,474	2,474			
FF Support, Polička Collective		7,916	7,916			
FF Support, Marie Curie Network Training Application		2,286	2,286	450	822	1,272
Support to Establish CEI Europe		162	162			
Sub-Total		12,838	12,838	450	822	1,272
Other payments/expenses						
Australian Securities & Investment Commission (ASIC)	282	10	292			
CEI Zoom, Electric Embers domain and listserv hosting	2,275		2,275	2,274		2,274
Electronic Payment Processing Fees	68	165	233	68	116	184
CEI Admin Support		9,947	9,947		9,598	9,598
CE Website Support	250		250		1,750	1,750
CEI Summer/Winter School – administration and curriculum development; catering and travel support		9,754	9,754		4,337	4,337
CEI Online Writing Workshop					3,610	3,610
LIVIANA – event development and administration		4,590	4,590	2,900	1,355	4,255
Change Insights Project	1,418		1,418	3,500		3,500
IIED Research Grant, Benin					29,537	29,537
Massey University Writing Grant, NZ					108	108
Transfer Payments from BB Account to WISE Account	27,300		27,300	13,400		13,400
Sub-Total	31,593	24,466	56,059	22,143	50,411	72,554
Total Expenses	**32,593**	**37,304**	**69,897**	**22,593**	**51,233**	**73,825**

NOTES

For more information on each of the ACNC categories below click here.

INCOME

Revenue from government

- The CEI received no funding or financial assistance from the Commonwealth. state, territory or local governments in the two financial periods.

Donations and bequests

- The CEI receives a small amount of donations from members (principally by members donating royalties and speaker fees to the CEI).

Revenue from providing goods or services

- In 24/25, a main source of income was the **CEI Summer/Winter School** (held June 10 to 19, 2025). Since the School started in 2022, the School has been an important source of income for the CEI. Prior to this, the CEI's two sources of income were membership fees and donations from members. The S/W School is only possible because of the volunteer contribution of CEI members. As noted in the 24/25 Annual Report (page 10), CEI members volunteered 771 hours to the 2025 School.
- The S/W School did not run in 25/26 because of difficulties securing the number of facilitators needed to run multiple nodes. In its place, the CEI ran an **Online Writing Workshop** over three weeks from 3 to 18 June 2026 (a second offering will be run in November/December 2026) (see pages 14 to 15). The CEI awarded scholarships to six of the eleven participants. The scholarships ranged from AU$400 to AU$800 ,with a total value of AU$3,385.
- In 24/25, the CEI received an **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Research Grant** of US$20,000 (minus fees of US$20). This was for the GROW – Through Fungi project led by CEI Member Elizabeth Barron (see pages 12 to 13). These funds were fully expended in 25/26 (see below).
- In 25/26, the CEI received a **Massey University Writing Grant** of NZ$6,800. This is for a collective writing project led by CEI Member Kelly Dombroski to prepare publicly accessible materials on circular economy initiatives. Funds will be expended in 26/27.
- **Transfer Payments** are made from the CEI Bendigo Bank account to the CEI WISE account so there are sufficient funds for payments made via WISE. The transfers were for a total of AU$27,300 for the 24/25 FY; and AU$13,400 for the 25/26 FY.

EXPENSES

Employee expenses

- The CEI has no employees. When paid work is required this is done by independent contractors (and is included in 'Other payments/expenses' below).

Grants and donations made for use in Australia

- In 24/25, a donation was made to PANZMA, the Palestinian Australian and New Zealand Medical Association (https://www.panzma.org/). It is a registered charity in

Australia, and the payment was made on behalf of two speakers from the Palestinian community in Sydney who contributed to the LIVIANA session 'Extending the Olive Tree: Listening and Learning' (12 November 2024).

Grants and donations made for use outside Australia

- In October 2024 (prior to the CEI being registered as a charity) three Flourish Funds were awarded (**FF Support**). Details of the projects funded are in the 24/25 Annual Report (pages 13 to 14). Most funds were expended in 24/25, with two final payments in 25/26.
- In 24/25 there was a payment to reimburse CEI Europe Board Member Christina Jerne for the cost of establishing a **CEI Europe WISE bank account**.

Other payments/expenses

- Alongside the **Electronic Payment Processing Fees** recorded here, the CEI also pays fees on TidyHQ and Stripe payments, and these fees are taken before the money is deposited into the CEI Bendigo Bank account. In 24/25, the CEI paid TidyHQ and Stripe fees of AU$1,749.89 (in addition to the fees of AU$68 included above); in 25/26, the CEI paid TidyHQ and Stripe fees of AU$284 (in addition to the fees of AU$68 included above). There were fewer fees in 25/26 because we did not run the Summer/Winter School and so there were fewer payments via TidyHQ and Stripe.
- Since the 23/24 FY, the CEI has made an **Admin Support** payment to CEI Board Member Jenny Cameron in recognition of how much time she commits to the CEI's operational and strategic activity, above and beyond the ordinary duties of a Director. In 23/24, Jenny contributed 327.75 hours; in 24/25, 571 hours; and in 25/26, 709.25 hours.
- **Website Support** was needed to maintain and update the CE website (2.5 hours for a Drupal specialist in 24/25; and 35 hours for general support in 25/26).
- Although the facilitation of the **CEI S/W School** is done by volunteers, there are costs in running the school. The main cost is administration and curriculum development (which includes preparation of all materials for participants and facilitators). In 24/25 these costs were AU$9,306; and in 25/26, AU$2,880. For the face-to-face node there is a small amount of catering for participants and travel support for facilitators: in 24/25, AU$448; and in 25/26, AU$1,253. In 25/26, there was also a refund (AU$204) to a participant who could not attend the 2025 School. Because the CEI S/W School is held in mid-June, expenditure carries over to the following financial year.
- The **2025 CEI Online Writing Workshop** was the first short course trialled by the CEI. As decided at the CEI Symposium in December 2025, the aim is to both raise funds for the CEI and, if needed, provide financial support for CEI members who design and run the short courses. For this short course, Katherine Gibson volunteered her work as a facilitator and Jenny Cameron received AU$3,610 for course design and facilitation (which involved 140.25 hours of work).
- **LIVIANA** is a free online conference held each year in the first two weeks of November. Each year it costs the CEI approximately AU$4,500 in event development (including

website development, and uploaded of all recordings onto the CEI YouTube Channel) and administration (e.g., for promotion, and organising and scheduling sessions).

- In May 2024, the Board of Directors allocated AU$5,000 to the **Change Insights Project** to continue the work started by visiting PhD student Inka Santala of documenting the CEI's relationships and impacts beyond the academic arena. Most of the work was done in 24/25 and was reported in the 24/25 Annual Report (pages 11 to 12). Some of the funds for this project were expended in 24/25; and the remaining funds, in 25/26.
- The funds from the **IIED Research Grant** were principally used for travel and accommodation costs to support community-based participants from across Africa attend the workshop. A financial report was provided to IIED on 27 January 2026. That report used exchange rates at the date and time of expenditure and showed that the CEI received US$19,987.78 (in 24/25), and expended $US20,000 (in 25/26). All funds were spent on direct project costs. The CEI provided in-kind support for this project to the value of AU$1,200 (24 hours of work), chiefly for administering the finances and reporting on the project to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (a requirement for receiving funding).
- For the **Massey University Writing Grant**, a deposit was paid to secure a writing venue. The remaining funds will be expended in 26/27.

Appendix 1: CEI Members (as at 30 June 2026)

We are 51 CEI members from the Americas, the Antipodes (Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia), Asia and Europe (including the UK).Our members' profiles can be accessed on the CE Website, on the People page.

Tuomo Alhojärvi
Kathrin Böhm
Ottavia Cima
Luke Drake
Nate Gabriel
Wendy Harcourt
Leo Hwang
Naděžda Johanisová
Isaac Lyne
Heather McLean
Ethan Miller
Molly Mullen
Ceren Özselçuk
Kate Rich
Eric Sarmiento
Boone Shear
Kevin St. Martin
Christian Anderson
Jenny Cameron
Amy Cohen
Bianca Elzenbaumer
Katherine Gibson
Stephen Healy
Ana Inés Heras
Ignacio Krell
Anisha Madden
Joanne McNeill
Bronwen Morgan
Lindsay Naylor
Marianna Pavlovskaya
Hermann Ruiz
Pieta Savinotko
Thomas Smith
Miriam Williams
Elizabeth Barron
Bhavya Chitranshi
Kelly Dombroski
Esra Erdem
Alison Guzman
Ann Hill
Christina Jerne
Aviv Kruglanski
Katharine McKinnon
Abby Mellick Lopes
Oona Morrow
Peter North
Pryor Placino
Maliha Safri
Emma Sharp
Lucie Sovová
Bradley Wilson

Appendix 2: Board Meetings

This is for the period between the 2025 Annual General Meeting (held on 9/10 October 2025) and the 2026 Annual General Meeting (to be held on 8/9 October 2026).

Title of Meeting	**Date and Time of Meeting***
2025	
December Board Meeting	16 December (8 to 10am)
2026	
February Board Meeting	4 February (6 to 8pm) 6 February (9 to 11am)
March Board Meeting	5 March (6 to 8pm) 6 March (9 to 11am)
April Board Meeting	8 April (5 to 7pm) 10 April (9 to 11am)
CEI Mid-Year Assembly (Board + CEI Members)	8 May (5:30 to 7:30am)
June Board Meeting	5 June (9 to 11am)
July Board Meeting	1 July (5 to 7pm) 3 July (9 to 11am)
August Board Meeting	5 August (5 to 7pm) 7 August (9 to 11am)
September Board Meeting	2 September (5 to 7pm) 4 September (9 to 11am)

* The date and time used here is Eastern Australia Time (i.e. Sydney time). When needed two meetings are held to cover the different time zones of Board Members (with the first meeting at a time that suits Asia-Pacific and Europe, and the second meeting at a time that suits the Americas and Asia-Pacific). The co-chairs attend both meetings to ensure continuity.