

## INTRODUCTION

I'm very pleased to bring to you a thought-provoking collection of 11 refereed papers from the 7<sup>th</sup> *International Small Island Cultures Conference* in Airlie Beach on June 12-15. The papers featured here reflect diverse interdisciplinary small islands research, bringing together archaeological, anthropological, ethnomusicological, linguistic and cultural studies. The authors explore the relationships between local peoples, tourism, the environment, rituals and island cultures.

The collection begins and ends on Australian shores: exploring ritual knowledge exchange between Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and examining the significance of a ritual for mainland based Islanders respectively. The nine other papers take us on a journey across the seas to discover a number of culturally rich small islands, including several UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Collectively, the papers in this volume provide us with an insight into diverse small island cultures across the world.

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Editor