“Coupling People into Climate Change Actions: Models of Social Decision Making”

Thirty two postgraduate students from 10 Australian Universities attended this one-day workshop on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions involving social decisions and community actions.

In the morning there were lectures by
Professor Kevin Noone, Stockholm University – Climate Change and Beyond: Facing the Facts of a Changing Global Environment
Professor Ann Henderson-Sellers, Macquarie University -- Coupling People into Climate Change; and
Dr Wylie Bradford, Macquarie University -- Change Economics for People

Over lunch in the Vice Chancellor (Professor Stephen Schwartz) awarded a prize to a Newcastle University student for the best answers to the ‘what climate change means for you’ quiz.

In the afternoon we considered 3 Case Study Groups led by graduate students
Decision making on climate change risk reduction in India (Supriya Mathew)
Involving insurance companies in climate risk reduction (Liam Phelan)
Consulting marginalized communities in Australia (Siri Veland).
These discussion tackled issues including likely social tipping points for the community as global warming takes hold? Attendees identified important impacts that will occur with climate change and will cause social disruption or at least disturbance e.g. lack of snow causing failure of winter tourism in ski resorts; more bush fires reducing forestry industry; no river water forcing farm closures.

Ann Henderson-Sellers
Macquarie University