



As a dramatist I am interested in people's motivation for storytelling. I am fascinated by how people find meaning in the constant changes in the weather. Through out history, across diverse geographies and cultures, people have always sought to make sense of their environment through story telling.

If Zeus, Thor or Indra are angry then there would be a storm.

If Persephone failed to return from the underworld there would be drought and famine.

There is Noah's flood

And many more....

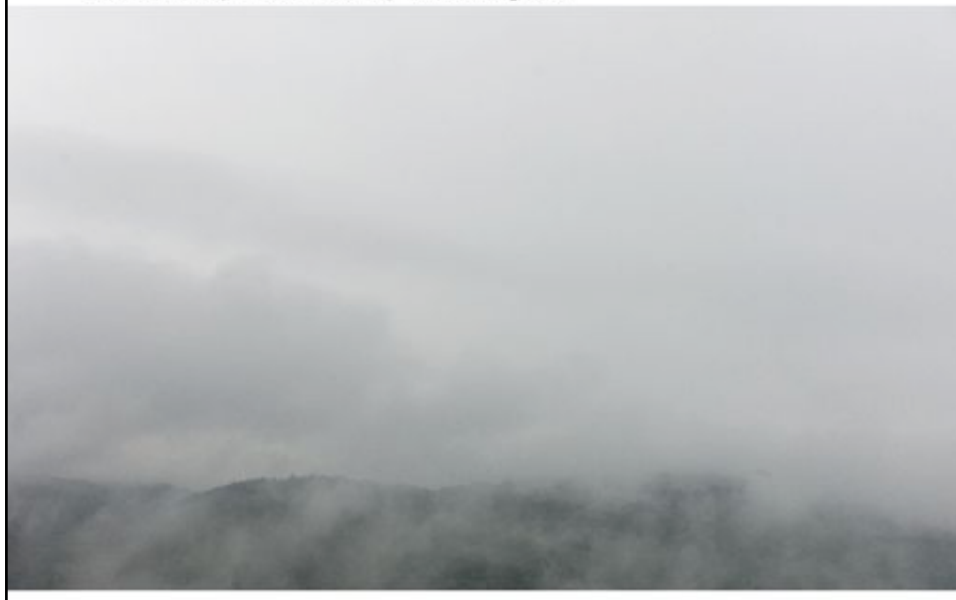
Mythology is traditional story telling with 'super natural' explanations, then there is folklore that relies on superstitions and then there is weather lore.

Weatherlore is based on observation of the environment and the effects that changes in the weather have on insects, animals, birds and people. Rather than relying on a very modern day disconnected/ indoor relationship with the weather forecaster who follows the daily news...Weather lore is born of real experience over years.

I am attracted to this very common sense, experienced knowledge and the creativity in the poetic forms used to express these truths.

Weatherlore can be passed on through oral and written rhymes, anecdotes, and proverbs meant to guide the uncertain in determining whether the next day will bring fair or foul weather.

Clouds floating low enough to cast shadows on the ground are usually followed by rain (Japan)



Farmers watched cloud movement and the sky colour to know when to sow and reap.

The prudent embark when the sea is calm
– the rash when it's stormy (NZ)



Mariners noted wind shifts and watched wave motions for signs of change.

Bees will not swarm before a storm



Hunters studied the behaviour of insects and animals and, through repeated observation, learned to foretell the weather.

The sun is different now



The focus of my project is on the evolution of weather lore proverbs and adages in a times of rapid climate change.

There are records of obsolete weather lore proverbs, so either key observations in the weather have changed over time or science and experience has proved them wrong. I am interested in those proverbs that have been adapted recently and those that a newly circulating. I also see this project as an opportunity to imagine and dream up sayings appropriate for our times. A common saying I've picked up from older generations is: *the sun is different now*.

The average rain fall and average temperatures across the state are not changing much. But its like having one hand in freezing cold water and the other in boiling water - it is not comfortable and the extreme and random weather conditions make everything difficult for farmers.

Quote Nick Kentish organic farmer

To assist my inquiry I plan to initiate a series of dialogues with South Australian farmers and fishermen, which may feed into the development of the creative content for this residency.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/>



I would also like to speak to indigenous people about what they have observed in respect to change to the environment. There is a study by the Bureau of Meteorology that has recorded the weatherlore of geographical mobs across Australia. Indigenous <http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/>

By speaking to those whose livelihoods are defined by the weather I hope to locate regional platforms to develop and share this work.

There is also the topic of weather lore proverbs that have been displaced through migration ... There is a history of European farmers failing to understand the Australian climate....And again indigenous peoples across Australia recognizing at least six seasons in a year in comparison to the European 4 seasons.

Red sky at night is a shepherds delight,
red sky in the morning is a shepherds warning.



Red sky at night is a shepherds delight, red sky in the morning is a shepherds warning.

Red glow at dusk is an indication that the next day will be fine and sunny. While red at dawn indicates stormy weather.

Travelling by word of mouth, a variant of *Red sky at night* was first recorded in *Matthew XVI* from the Wycliffe Bible in 1395; *When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and louring.*

Another version is found in Shakespeare's poem, *Venus and Adonis*; *Like a red morn that ever yet betokened, wreck to the seaman - sorrow to the shepherds.*

Red sky at night, prepare to take flight.
Red sky in the morning, catastrophic fire warning.



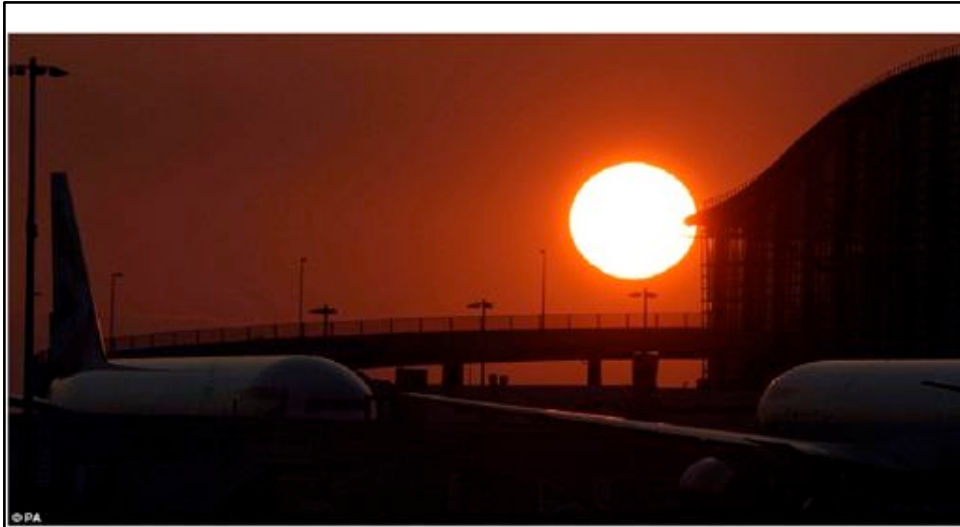
*The most recent report on Global Warming released by the United Nations this year, predicted Australia was heading for an increase in Bushfires.
Red sky at night, get ready to take flight. Red sky in the morning, catastrophic fire warning.*

*Red sky at night, everyone take fright.
Red sky in the morning too late for warnings.*



Red sky at night, global citizens take fright. Red sky in the morning too late for warnings.

So that's me having a very light / cheesy crack at it. And what is worth mentioning is that the original proverb is very human centred. Basically its wishing for a red sky at night so that it is a clear day the next day. If a Sheppard was more concerned about the land or the amount of grass for the sheep – they would wish for rain. Likewise it is not necessarily better fishing on a clear day – it depends what you are fishing and where. But before we continue in this direction we have the literature of science fiction to fall back on and better yet Climate Fiction or Cli Fi.



Red sky after a volcano

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic...” Asimov



Asimov: “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic...”

Following, I am very interested in the stories we tell our selves and how they relate to invocation/ divination and prediction. (a little about Rebecca Dettman)



Future forecasting/ foresight scenario building

Prehearsals/ enactments/ improvising the future

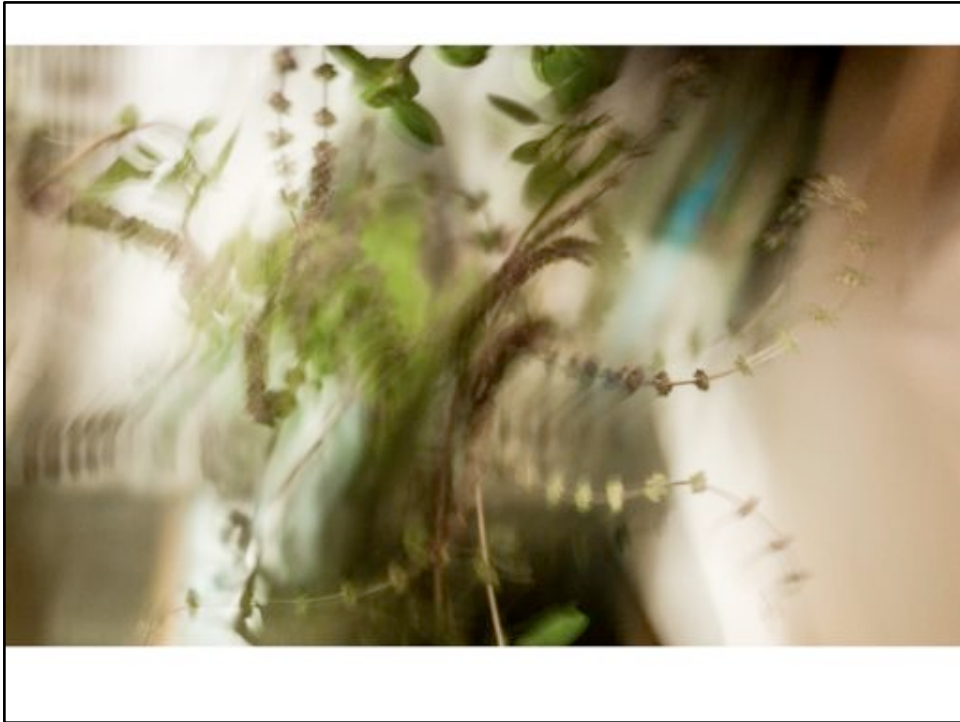
'Super Natural' in Nik Gaffney's photography

The method I am using to connect these emergent stories with our current future is a Future Forecasting methodology adapted by foamwhich uses techniques from [physical narration](#), context aware narrative and [future pre-enactment](#) to translate future scenarios into storyworlds. These are built as immersive situations designed to be playfully explored and enacted.

Prehearsals, enactments of future scenarios – Culture as Cult
Digital story books/ Transmedia Story worlds, Nik's photography



We are framing this research as a family in residence and are looking through the lense of a future forecasting scenario, Culture as Cult which includes the artistic exploration of past Weather lore proverbs as well as the challenge of designing new phrases and stories. You are welcome to chat to us, look around and revisit us anytime of day. Join us for lunch or other family activities... We are here until 6pm. Tomorrow we'll talk more about Future Forecasting and Nik and Maja from foam will skype in for a chat.



So whilst we live in scientific times and meteorological weather forecasts I think it is still important to open up our senses to our environment and observe first hand the subtle shifts in atmosphere. How is the world changing around us? I am working in partnership with Nik Gaffney and his photographic images which focus on the 'super natural' in nature.



Whilst we are in residence we will be exploring creating transmedia story worlds and Digi story books. This is a pic from the story we worked on in Istria. You are welcome to visit this one and others which can be accessed on the front page of my website as well as documented on the foam wiki – follow us here.

www.sarahneville.com

http://lib.fo.am/adhocracy_residency_notes

http://lib.fo.am/parenzana_residency_notes



We'll be working towards researching ideas for a Transmedia Almanac for Climate Chaos.