

KNOWING NATURE

**SATURDAY
22 OCTOBER 2016**

**WALKABOUT CREEK
60 MT NEBO ROAD
THE GAP**

**9.00 AM - 4.30 PM
REGISTRATIONS START
AT 8.30 AM**

**REGISTRATIONS
CLOSE**

**FRIDAY 14
OCTOBER
2016**

'KNOWING NATURE' SETS THE STAGE FOR DYNAMIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS AND ASSISTS BOTH OURSELVES AND THOSE WE WORK WITH TO DEVELOP AN ECOLOGICAL IDENTITY – NATURE IS NOT JUST OUTSIDE, IT IS US.



PHONE 1800 112 585
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KNOWING NATURE



'Knowing Nature' is about exactly that. A day where we invite you to come to a natural space in Brisbane to learn about, connect with the natural world and reflect on the potential of your own environment. To be curious, to listen with intent, and to immerse yourself through being in nature.

We are delighted to welcome Chris from the Forest School Learning Initiative in the United Kingdom to open 'Knowing Nature'. Chris will share her insights and energy inspiring you to connect with the natural world and become one with nature.

You will have the opportunity to engage in a number of workshop sessions, including connecting with the land through a Walk on Country and practicing the ancient wisdom of Dadirri. We will work together to create an interactive art installation using natural materials. Our sense of belonging will be deepened through nature stories gaining inspiration to embrace the natural world as a third teacher.

If you are curious about teaching outside, have a passion for building your own and children's knowledge natural world or want to learn more about cultural connections to this country then this event is for you.

'Knowing Nature' is proudly delivered in partnership with Nature Play Queensland and to have a true 'Bush Week' experience in October we encourage you to also register for 'Forest School Leader Training' commencing 24th October.

THE WORLD IS OUR CLASSROOM

Wonder, curiosity, empathy and joy are just some of the qualities of the experience that arise when children enter into relationships with the wider natural world they are a part of. As educators we struggle to design an environment that is as rich, as stimulating as complex as the natural world around us. Come on a journey to explore and discover the practicalities and possibilities that can occur when we embrace the world as our classroom.

Presented by Stephen Gallen

SHARING THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

This session is about working with families to develop environmental awareness and embrace the qualities of the natural world. While as educators we understand the value of children's connecting to nature, and immersing themselves in challenging and adventurous play, it can be sensitive discussing this with families. How can you support families to engage in nature? How can you work together in partnership with them? In this session we will explore how to break down the barriers and support families to understand the benefit of risk taking and free play.

Presented by Stephen Gallen

WALKING ON COUNTRY

How do you view the place on which you live and work? Walk on country is an opportunity to hear the stories that lie beneath the topsoil and will enrich your knowledge of the history in the area. The Walk on Country will deepen your understanding of historical, social and cultural perspectives from the local landscape as well as building your knowledge of local plants and bush tucker.

Presented by Danny Doyle and Rona Scherer

THE GOODNESS OF DADIRRI

Dadirri is a traditional practice of our Indigenous culture meaning 'deep listening'. Dadirri means inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. It is a 'tuning in' experience with the specific aim to come to a deep understanding of the beauty of nature.

Join this session to practice Dadirri, connect with our world and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land.

Presented by Danny Doyle and Rona Scherer



KEYNOTE

THE URBAN FOREST SCHOOL

The keynote speech will look at an Introduction to the Forest school ethos and approach, including the history of Forest School and links to childcare theory. It will look at Health and safety considerations, and most importantly the risk benefits and how we empower children to manage risk. Chris will look at the potential development of Forest school in Queensland and use of Urban areas to develop Forest school as well as usable outdoor areas to facilitate childrens learning. The speech will look at statistical evidence related to children engaging in the outdoor and how as Practitioners we can address the barriers.

Presented by Chris Dee

REGISTER NOW AT

<http://knowing-nature.eventbrite.com.au>



ECOLOGICAL STORYTELLING

Ecological Storytelling is a pedagogical approach to nature play in early childhood settings used by the presenter in her own work at Numala Kinder. Ecological Storytelling involves a multi-model, reflective and collaborative approach to storytelling, where young children are involved in every step of the process. We will discuss story themes from nature and our Traditional Custodians exploring how we can use storytelling to build strong relationships with nature, be part of reconciliation and advocates for social justice.

Presented by Geira Jen

WRITING NATURE STORIES

Begin writing simple stories for children to connect them to their local natural environment. We explore how to structure and develop a story, finding themes and connecting to local natural flora, fauna and seasons. This practical session will be held outside in the natural environment.

Presented by Geira Jen

NATURE PLAY SPACES

In this session we will discuss the principles and ideas behind creating great natural areas and elements for play. We will explore how we can create or recreate natural play spaces and elements where ever you are and we will reflect specifically on the potential for your own space. This is a practical session, sharing many examples to get you started on your planning and bringing your environment to life with nature.

Presented by Angela Wright

BECOMING ENCHANTMENT DETECTIVES

Our children's lives have so much structure wrapped around them, and pressure for all moments of our kid's lives to have learning outcomes achieved. Activity that is freely chosen, self-directed, independent, autonomously implemented, uncontrolled by adults and with no reward except the activity itself is the definition of intrinsic motivation and an unstructured childhood. In this session we will explore how outdoor play provides the perfect backdrop to develop intrinsic motivation, how self-directed nature play creates moments for learning, and how as educators we can be 'enchantment detectives', looking for those moments to inspire intrinsic motivation in the children we serve.

Presented by Hyahno Moser

PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
9.00 AM	Introduction	Tara Franks
	Welcome to Country	
9.15 AM	Keynote Presentation - The Urban Forest School	Chris Dee
10.15 AM	Morning Tea	
10.30 AM	Workshops Round 1:	
	The World is our Classroom	Stephen Gallen
	Walking on Country	Danny Doyle and Rona Scherer
	Writing Nature Stories	Geira Jen
12.00 PM	Lunch - Create Art Installation	
1.00 PM	Workshops Round 2:	
	Nature Play Spaces	Angela Wright
	The Goodness of Dadirri	Danny Doyle and Rona Scherer
	Ecological Storytelling	Geira Jen
2.30 PM	Afternoon Tea	
2.45 PM	Workshops Round 3:	
	Walking on Country	Danny Doyle and Rona Scherer
	Becoming Enchantment Detectives	Hyahno Moser
	Sharing the Beauty of Nature	Stephen Gallen
4.15 PM	Conference Close	

PRESENTERS

CHRIS DEE

Chris is a forest school leader at the Forrest Learning Initiative in the United Kingdom. Chris trained as a forest school Leader in 2000 during her time with a local further education college. Chris' experience is wide-ranging, having run forest school sessions with children aged 2 years to 18 years and with children who have learning difficulties. Chris has extensive experience working in and developing urban forest schools - especially in London where she has worked to develop forest schools in some of the city's most deprived boroughs. Chris is absolutely passionate about Forest school because of the amazing impact she sees it have on children and young people, as well as adults with learning disabilities.

STEPHEN GALLEN

Stephen has 20 years' experience of teaching in the early childhood field, with a focus in long day care. He has also been delivering professional development in the field for over a decade. He was a founding member of the QUT Student Guild Kelvin Grove Centre (School St), and has been working with emergent curriculum and related perspectives for many years. He is interested in how childcare professionals and children find meaning in their work together using documentation.

DANNY DOYLE

Danny lives in Brisbane, and his traditional affiliation lies with the Yugara/Yugarapul, Yarowair and Iman peoples through his paternal heritage, and the Wakka Wakka/Wulli Wulli peoples through his maternal lineage. Danny is a cultural facilitator and educator and he has worked with schools, community groups and organisations around Queensland since 2003 promoting and educating communities about Aboriginal cultures.

RONA SCHERER

Rona comes from the Yalanji and Mamu people of Far North Queensland, having a strong and active role in her homelands. She comes with diverse experiences from administration to curating art exhibitions and conducting workshops and conference presentations focused on inclusion. Rona also sits on the Board of Mullen Bun Goon for the Mamu Tropical Skywalk in Far North Queensland. Rona sees her role as a Workforce Consultant with the Workforce Council as supporting the shift towards a truly reconciled and progressive nation.

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GEIRA JEN

Geira Jen is the Director of Numala Kinder Nature Play – a Gold Coast business supporting children and families in unstructured play outside. Current programs include Numala River Kinder (FDC), Numala Nature Playgroups and Nature Day Camps for school holiday play. Jennifer is a registered Teacher, accomplished Storyteller, Artist, Women's Circle Facilitator and Marriage Celebrant. The name Geira Jen is Jennifer's educator title for her work in nature play – the Yugembeh name for one of her personal totems, the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo. Geira Jen believes that to develop truly sustainable habits in our daily lives we must also develop strong relationships with nature, e a part of education for Reconciliation and become advocates for social justice.

ANGELA WRIGHT

Angela Wright is the Principal Advisor, Strategy and Policy for the Redland City Council City Spaces Group. She is also on the management committees of Parks and Leisure Australia (Qld) and the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation. In her spare time Angela advocates through work with Nature Play Qld for children to have better and more meaningful access to natural areas for a whole range of benefits including play.

HYANHO MOSER

Like most children of his generation, Hyahno spent most of his leisure time outside, therefore it came as no surprise to his family when he choose a career in Outdoor Education. For 10 years, Hyahno was involved in devising, facilitating, teaching and leading young people through worldclass, outdoor education programs, using adventure and nature to teach children vital life-skills. Hyahno is passionate about nature play and believes the Nature Play program is a positive and practical way to ensure children participate in unstructured play in nature, delivering the myriad of benefits this type of play offers their physical and emotional health.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE

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