

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day 1

Date 28 April 2023- Abbey Beach Resort

12.30 pm to 1.30pm

Registration & Reception

Keynotes and Dinner

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

Welcome to Country

Welcome to the Gathering - Nature's Atelier

The staff of Nature's Atelier will give the participants a brief overview of Nature's Atelier our Philosophy and Passions

2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Keynote - Daniel Burton and Trudi Bennet- Educated by Nature

There is much to celebrate and for which to be grateful about childhood surrounded by nature!

Educators are invited to embrace this joy and learn ways to engage outdoors playfully with children to help build community and relationships. Daniel and Trudi will use the Natural Cycle from the 8 Shields Institute to link daily rhythms of nature with the energy and spaces we hold as educators. They will discuss how educator energy and intention can help sculpt play experiences and stories of children through listening, acknowledging ideas and being playful alongside children. The session will be playful in its own essence, with bursts of joy and ideas for how educators can step into being exuberant and engaging play partners.

3.45 pm to 4.30 pm

Break/Networking

4.30 pm to 6pm

Keynote - Robin Christie- Childspace NZ

Love Learning and the environment

Robin and Toni will challenge and inspire delegates with ideas for environments suited to love and learning with young children, from overarching design principles in early childhood outdoor environments to upcycling, homeliness, sustainability and biophilic design. Toni and Robin believe strongly that the environment is the third teacher, and will offer a wealth of inspiration for environmental improvements based on their thirty years of experience creating and maintaining learning environments for the children, educators and families at Childspace.

6pm to 6.45pm

Break/Networking

6.45pm to 9pm

Dinner and Keynote Maggie Dent

Dare to be Exceptional as an Early Years Educator

This seminar explores the importance for educators in today's busy and rapidly changing work to be better than average -indeed to step up to be exceptional. From a strong background in the classroom and drawing on research, Maggie will challenge your thinking and expectations in an entertaining and practical way.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day 2- Session 1

Date 29 April 2023- Nature's Atelier

8.30am to 9.30am

Registration & Reception- Nature's Atelier environments are open for participants to explore- coffee and tea stations open,

Breakout Sessions

9.30 am to 10.45

The Dome

Maggie Dent

The landscape of childhood and childhood stress is changing, and anxiety is now much more prevalent for our children.

In this session , Maggie Dent explores what anxiety is and what we as parents and educators can do to help reduce anxiety and fear in today's kids.

Homestead

Am I really sustainable?

Managing a large property and service, the day to day life , waste and flow does not come without some planning. Mentors will show you around our initiatives, material management, waste management and our dreams. We request that participants come with some tips to help us.

Tinkering Shed

Daniel Burton Educated by Nature- Robin Christie-Childspace

The ability to build and create provides opportunities to develop confidence and independence, especially with young children. This workshop empowers educators to confidently use hand tools and other technical equipment in structured and open-ended learning experiences to enhance creativity and engagement. An opportunity to use tools and create while discussing the challenges and joys of using real tools with children.

Break Networking

10.45am -11am

Tea and Coffee Stations- delicious snacks from our Food Forest and fruit Platters.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

Day 2- Session 2

Date 29 April 2023

Breakout Sessions

11 am to 12.30pm

The Dome

Toni Christie

When we work and play with very young children we are constantly giving of ourselves. We offer children constant support, reassurance, nurture, care and education. Parents and whānau are also requiring our time and attention as they navigate their special role in the life of their child. Not to mention that many of us are also parents and/or caregivers for other family members. Caring for ourselves is not an option or a luxury – if we want to have longevity in our career with young children and families then we need to develop strategies to balance professional demands with our personal wellbeing. In this workshop Toni will explore the research and practical strategies that will help us on our journey to self-care and personal wellbeing.

Waabiny Tree

Experience a typical adventure to the 'Waabiny Tree' a special childrens space which is evolving under the guidance of the children and Mentors Angie and Yuna. Angie and Yuna will introduce you to the rituals which they use as they are sent out for a morning or day playing at the Waabiny tree. They will share stories and invite participants to share their stories of special places in Nature. (Please bring covered shoes and wet weather gear if applicable)

The Piggery

What have I let myself in for?

Moving from a traditional space to a Nature Immersion space is sort of like bungee jumping. You vacillate back and forth until you settle and can't wait for the next challenge, or not. At Nature's we acknowledge that working in large uncontrolled spaces is a new experience which requires us to learn new skills, understandings and ways of working. Nature's Educators discuss the challenges they have experienced since starting work at Nature's Atelier. How they have come to rest and their ongoing journey.

Lunch Networking

12.30am -1.30pm

Tea and Coffee Stations- Lunch boxes with goodies for our garden and local producers.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

Day 2- Session 3

Date 29 April 2023

Breakout Sessions

2.30pm to 4pm

The Dome

Kimberley Beasley- Perth

Botanical Literacies in Early Childhood Education

Although young children in Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Australia are often involved in learning in outdoor natural environments, research on their knowledge and attitudes towards plants is limited. Botanical literacies in young children involves developing knowledge and curiosity about plants, formulating questions about plants, and critically and ethically thinking about plants and their environments. This workshop will share important findings from a PhD research study which explored educators and young children's knowledge and attitudes of the flora in the native bushlands on their school grounds. The research involved bush walks, informal and formal conversations about plants, children creating drawings, maps and taking photos, as well as visits from local Indigenous people to share Indigenous knowledge of the plants.

Bush Camp or Enchanted Forest-

Trudi Bennet and Daniel Burton Educated by Nature

Igniting Primitive Instincts: Using fire to spark fascination, bravery and body awareness

The flicker of the flame and crackle of hot coals is mesmerizing to both children and adults alike. Kindling the energy captivated through fascination with fire, we share techniques for teaching: body awareness and safety; the importance of fire; understanding the threat to our Australian environment; plus, the physics of heat and its power for transformation

The Piggery

Sharyn Eagan- Indigenous Artist -

Sharon has worked in the community for many years as an artist using many different mediums. She recently worked with the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery to offer a workshop experience weaving animals with natural materials. Sharon will work with participants to weave magical creatures the style of the desert weavers.

Campfire /Networking/

4pm-5pm

Tea and Coffee Stations- Participants will be invited to gather around a campfire and cook damper, enjoy local wines and reflect on their day.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

Day 3- Session 1

Date 30 April 2023- Nature's Atelier

Breakout Sessions

9.00 am to 10.15

The Dome

Naidee Changmoh- Artist and Art Educator Thailand

In this workshop Naidee will discuss two techniques that he uses with children to support children making art with happiness. How to work with many children at a time and what the ceramic and paintings on canvas should be in the long term.

Children learning in the nature

In his school they respect nature as a big teacher. They try to bring the kids close to nature in the school and in the forest. Children from 6 years old, before graduation, the third year of kindergarten. The children spend five days in the big national park of Thailand without parents. This gives the children experience in the forest, lots of things happen in 5 days. We are so proud of them to see them try to get through many difficult encounters during the camp.

Bush Camp

Gill Howgarth- Born Wise -Perth

Storytelling in Nature

How storytelling and imagination nurture our journey with Nature.....a presentation that will include some theory, research and examples of my own creative practice in the telling of a short nature tale.

Soft Space

Engaging Infants with Nature

Denise and the team from Nature's Atelier will discuss the challenges and joys of working with Infants and Toddlers in Nature. How engaging with nature supports infants develop in every way.

Break Networking

10.15am -10.45am

Tea and Coffee Stations- delicious snacks from our Food Forest and fruit Platters.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

Day 3- Session 2

Date 30 April 2023

Breakout Sessions

10.45 am to 12.15pm

The Dome

Narelle Dawson- Bribie Kindy- Queensland

Narelle will share the journey of the Action Research Project that began in 2016 and resulted in the creation of 'The Joondoburri Walk'. The 'Joondoburri Walk' is a nature space directly behind the Kindergarden. The Joondoburri people were the first inhabitants of this space on Bribie Island. This workshop will unpack the knowledge we gained, the lessons we learned, the relationships we established with local Aboriginal & Torres Strait people including the Elders, Emerging Elders and Jarjums. Narelle will share 'The Joondoburri Walk' book also published by the Kindergarden.

Food Forest Gazebo

Emma Haste - Horticulture Mentor Nature's Atelier

Over the past 18 months Nature's atelier has been working with the land, previously a blue gum plantation, with poor soil to enrich the soil and create a food forest for Nature's Atelier.

Emma will share the history of the Food forest, its everyday flow and our dreams for the future.

Bush Camp

Tania Moloney - Nurture in Nature

CLAY & STORYLINES In this fun, hands-on and very interactive session, participants will switch on their imaginations to create clay creatures, and gather ideas and inspiration from the natural world to become 'Story Makers'. During this session we'll discuss the benefits of clay play for little fingers and minds, and messaging is included about conscious and sustainable gathering of natural materials or utilizing natural resources that educators already have in their settings.

Participants will be introduced to a number of story-making ideas and strategies that they can use and further develop with children in their settings. They will then work in small groups as story-makers, taking their Clay Creatures on a nature story journey.

Participants/Groups will document their stories through writing, oral storytelling and in a digital format, and share their stories and experiences with the whole group.

Lunch Networking

12.15am-1.15pm

Tea and Coffee Stations- Lunch boxes with goodies for our garden and local producers.

Celebrating Engaging with Nature

Day 3- Session 3

Date 30 April 2023

Breakout Sessions

1.30pm to 2.45pm

The Dome

Femia Ong Saynes- Ismile - Indonesia

I will share how I integrate elements of nature in the academic discipline, how visible the learning of the children are and how they enjoy learning with nature. Indonesia still practices traditional teaching methods but what I do is to expose the children into a different perspective of learning.

Bush Camp - Nature's Atelier

Yuna and Angie will discuss the challenges and joys of working in nature immersion programs with pre-kindy, kindy and school aged children. They will invite participants to share their stories.

Walk on Country (Meet at the Dome)

Our Indigenous Mentor will lead a Walk on Country to discover the bush medicines and foods and the traces of in our environment. She will explain how frequent walks with the children includes language and knowledge of the seasons using the "Eight ways of Learning".

Delegates will be invited to help us with our goal of re-vegetating the property with Native flora by planting a plants native ito our area.

Campfire /Networking/Farewell

2.45 pm-3.45pm

Tea and Coffee Stations- Participants will be invited to gather around a campfire and reflect on their day.
Local wines.

Nature's Atelier gates close at 4pm

All at Nature's Atelier would like to Thank You for coming to visit. We hope you are inspired and energized by your time with us. Travel safe and please keep in touch.