

Childhood Nature

Public Dialogue on Childhood~Nature

Is nature fading in Australian childhood?

**Friday 6th February, 2015 at SCU Gold Coast (Beachside)
Southern Cross Drive, Bilinga Queensland
(Access via Terminal Drive, Gold Coast Airport)**

10.00 am to 3.00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) Level 3, B Block (Reception Area)

Some 20 years ago Payne (1992) argued that "children's lives are hardly natural anymore (p.20)". Richard Louv (2005), Louise Chawla (1999; 2002), David Sobel (1996), Peter Kahn (1999) and Stephen Kellert (2002) have echoed similar concerns. In more recent times, Kahn and Hasbach (2013) contend:

Many people who currently advocate for the importance of nature in human lives focus on what's close at hand: domestic, nearby, everyday nature. It might be a local park, one's own garden, one's dog, a nearby walking trail, or birds finding sustenance in urban feeders. But domestic is only part of what we need. The other part is wild nature. For as a species we came of age in a natural world far wilder than today, and much of the need for wildness still exists within us, body and mind (p. iv).

There is little Australian and international research focussed on children's modern day nature experiences. There is also an absence of dialogue between researchers and the public on this important subject. As such, we invite people from all walks of life to join us for a whole day dialogue with leading researchers from Australia, the UK and Canada, including Associate Professor Amy Cutter-Mackenzie (SCU), Professor Karen Malone (University of Western Sydney), Dr Sue Elliott (UNE), Professor Elisabeth Barratt Hacking (University of Bath) among many others.

Register for the Dialogue at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/scudialogue>

At the end of the day, please join us at 3:30 pm for an optional dialogue walk on Kirra Beach meeting at the beach entrance close to the 'round about' at the intersection of Pacific Parade and Musgrave Street (Coolangatta).

Cost:
FREE BYO Lunch
or purchase lunch
from the nearby
café.

Hosted by Southern Cross University Sustainability,
Environment & Education (SEE) Research Cluster of the
School of Education.

**Southern Cross**
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