

# 2008 Queensland Landcare Conference 21 – 24 September 2008, Monto



## Registration package

### Keynote speakers

#### Fay Jackson

Fay is a multi award winning national motivational speaker, educator, advocate and voice for mental health. She is regularly engaged to advise the NSW and federal governments, and Non Government Organizations, on the state and conditions of mental illness and mental health in the community, services, and workplace. Fay also is proud to be a person with mental illness. She has bipolar disorder and refers to herself, with tongue in cheek, as a Psychologically Diverse Citizen. Fay is also an accomplished artist and writer. She has had several successful exhibitions and has had both short stories and poetry published. She has worked as a stand up comic and clown and has a background in secondary education and the building industry.

#### Dr Christine Jones

Dr Christine Jones is an internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist. She has a wealth of experience working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management techniques that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, restore water balance, improve productivity and create new topsoil. In March 2007, Christine launched the Australian Soil Carbon Accreditation Scheme, the first in the Southern Hemisphere - placing Australia among world leaders in the recognition of soils as a verifiable carbon sink. The ASCAS project rewards landholders for adopting innovative techniques designed to sequester soil carbon and improve soil water-holding capacity, thus reducing the atmospheric concentration of both carbon dioxide and water vapour, the major greenhouse gases contributing to global warming and climate change.

#### Jerry Coleby-Williams

Jerry Coleby-Williams is a Gardening Australia presenter and a passionate organic gardener, curator - and Guerilla Gardener. Jerry was trained by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; studied the flora of Western Australia through a Kew scholarship; managed both public and private sector horticultural enterprises; run a busy garden centre and helped to establish Sydney's Mt Annan Botanic Garden. And for 11 years Jerry managed the horticultural estate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Jerry now lives in Bayside Brisbane where he and Jeff Poole have created a sustainable home and garden. His house generates solar power, recycles sewage and grey water, harvests rainwater, produces most of the organic fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices needed for his family of three - and even has a sustainable lawn maintained by solar powered equipment. As a Guerilla Gardener Jerry also grows and plants native and productive trees in barren nature strips and parks.

#### Stephen Davis

Stephen Davis is a life long environmentalist and a 30 year long entertainer. He has been performing as a comedian at events around the world and was chosen to be part of the Al Gore Climate messenger team because of his ability to communicate serious topics with an element of humour. When Al Gore made his Climate Change documentary An Inconvenient Truth he also set about training climate messengers around the world. Stephen Davis was one of the original 170 Australians trained by Mr Gore and has made over 20 presentations around Australia.

#### Donald Coventry

Donald Coventry is CEO of Southern Gulf Catchments and a volunteer convener of the Conservation and Environment Working Group for the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas, Australia. He has been studying peak oil for 10 years and is undertaking Masters study into its implications for regional, rural and remote communities. The peaking of world oil supplies will cut across many contemporary issues such as carbon auditing, alternative energy and rural sustainability. Peak oil will represent a change to our social and economic systems on a global scale and is germane to our planning for the future. Donald will argue that peak oil is a more immediate issue than climate change.

## About Monto

Covering 4,295 square kilometres and with a population of 2,500, Monto district in the North Burnett is geographically situated in the Central Queensland hinterland approximately 200 kilometres west of the coastal cities of Bundaberg and Gladstone. The most prominent geological feature is the spectacular Cania Gorge located in the north of the Shire.

Monto enjoys a sub-humid moderate climate, with an average 728mm of rain annually. The district has a diversity of industry including beef cattle, lucerne growing, pig production, dairying, timber and grain growing, with farms ranging in size from 10 to over 10,000 hectares. The beef cattle population in Monto shire is approximately 80,000 head. Emerging industries include vegetable and fruit production, farm forestry, grape growing, venison, squab, olives, goats and craft industries.

With a wealth of natural beauty and biodiversity, Monto has developed a thriving tourism industry. Cania George National Park occupies more than 3000 hectares, and offers dramatic sandstone rock formations which overlook lush forest gullies. Visitors enjoy an amazing variety of scenery, wildlife and history along the many walking tracks available. The park is less than 30 kilometres away from the township of Monto. Kroombit Tops National Park, on the border of Monto, Calliope and Banana Shires boasts overwhelming open rainforest, imposing grass-trees, 6 metre high fern trees, Piccabeen palms and gigantic blue gums. Views extend from the Great Dividing Range, rising from the rugged country below to the Pacific Ocean.



## About our venues

Holding a conference in a town like Monto brings with it some unique challenges. One of which is finding venues for 400 conference delegates. The conference will take place at the Monto Showgrounds, a short 1500 metre walk from downtown Monto. The plenary sessions will be in the stud cattle arena and our breakout sessions will take place in the woodchoppers bar and marquees purpose-built for workshops. Meals will be served at the Showgrounds, with the trade exhibition and registration zone in the Show Pavillion adjacent.

The delegate tent city will be conveniently located right next door to the conference venues in the Showgrounds. And the formal conference dinner will take place in the Monto Shire Hall. All venues are within easy walking distance from each other, however a shuttle bus will also be available.

## Community display zone

### Community display zone

A community display zone is being planned for one of the meal areas, located directly adjacent to the trade exhibition hall. Grassroots landcare and community conservation groups are welcome to book space in the community display zone at no cost. Space will be made available for posters, brochures and digital stories about landcare projects happening around the state. Some groups will be selling plants, others displaying case studies. Contact us to be part of the community display zone.

Space is limited, so please book early. For more information, please contact Conference Manager, Samantha Morris at Wombat Creative on 0421 709 519 or email [sam@wombatcreative.com.au](mailto:sam@wombatcreative.com.au).

### Trade exhibition zone

Some twenty exhibitors will join us at Monto. As you'd appreciate, a conference such as this would not be possible without the support of sponsors and exhibitors. Please support us by supporting our sponsors. The trade exhibition zone will be opened during the welcome reception on Sunday 21 September and remain opened during the conference.

### Registration and information desk

The conference registration desk opens at midday on Sunday 21 September and closes at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 24 September. The desk will open each morning at 7.00 am and be staffed at all times. A cloak room is available for storing valuables (priority is given to campers); and assistance with accommodation, shuttle buses or anything else Monto-related will be available at all times.

For emergency contact during the conference, use the mobile of the Event Manager | Samantha Morris. Mobile 0421 709 519.

## Accommodation in Monto

### Conference tent city

Conference accommodation is available, on-site at the conference venue, in our comfortable, spacious, and purpose-built tent city. With roomy tents, well lit areas, and plenty of social interaction (or a quiet space if you prefer), tent city will be convenient, spacious (did we mention that the tents are spacious) and fun. Tents come equipped with two beds and are within close proximity to the bar, the conference venues, the trade and registration zone, and amenities such as toilets, showers and a secure cloak room for your valuables.



The cost of each tent is \$220 for the duration of the conference (from Saturday 21 September to Wednesday 24 September inclusive). You are welcome to share your tent with another person and we can assist in managing these logistics; or if you value your privacy, you can book a tent for yourself. You need to bring your own linen (including pillow) or sleeping bag for the tents.

### BYO tent, swag, campervan or ute

The Monto Caravan Park caters to a limited number of campers. Bookings for campers may be made directly with Monto Caravan Park on 07 4166 1492.

### Motels, hotels and cabins

All available rooms at motels and hotels in the district have been booked by the conference organisers, for those delegates with special needs. There are a very limited number of motel and hotel rooms available in Monto and in two neighbouring towns. Motel rooms range in price from \$50 to \$100 per night. If you would like to discuss the reservation of a motel room, please contact the conference organiser directly: Wombat Creative | Phone 07 3012 7617

### Billeting with local residents

If you are interested in being billeted with a local household, please express your interest to [sam@wombatcreative.com.au](mailto:sam@wombatcreative.com.au) or by phoning 07 3012 7617. Delegates will be asked to contribute around \$30 a night to household expenses.

## Getting to Monto

### Brisbane conference charter

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare have sponsored a shuttle bus which will depart Brisbane on Sunday 21 September at approximately 8.00 am, and arrive in Monto approximately 5.00 pm. The bus will collect passengers from Brisbane city and other major locations heading north to Gympie. The bus returns from Monto on Thursday 25 September at 8.00 am. The cost is only \$40 per person for the return trip.



### Air travel

QantasLink operates daily flights to Thangool (near Biloela), which is approximately 90 kilometres from Monto. As this is a busy mining centre, we recommend you book flights as soon as possible to secure the cheapest fares and guarantee a seat. Or even better, why not consider the low cost charter bus from Brisbane.

#### Brisbane to Monto

Sunday 21 September - QF2396, departing Brisbane 2.25 pm and arriving Thangool 3.40 pm. A conference shuttle will meet this flight to transport delegates to Monto, however please contact us to confirm your arrival details.

Monday 22 September - QF2390, departing Brisbane 5.50 am, arriving Thangool 7.05 am. A conference shuttle will meet this flight to transport delegates to Monto, however please contact us to confirm your arrival details.

#### Monto to Brisbane

Thursday 25 September - QF2393 departs Thangool 9.20 am, arrives Brisbane 10.35 am. A conference shuttle will transport delegates from Monto to the Thangool airport. Please notify us of your travel plans to confirm your place.

## Getting around Monto

All conference facilities are within very comfortable walking distance of each other and downtown Monto. The Monto Shire Hall, where the conference dinner takes place, is approximately 1500 metres from tent city and the conference registration and exhibition zone.

A shuttle bus will be available to transport delegates to accommodation houses in the neighbouring towns of Mulgildie and Mungungo and to collect and deposit people at the airport at Thangool, which is approximately one hour away from Monto.

## Field Trips

Some field trips are still being developed. This field trip program is a preliminary one only and is subject to change.

1. **Sustaining soil systems | all progress depends on people who think outside the square.** Join renowned international speaker and soil scientist Dr Christine Jones as we explore the role of carbon in soil. We'll visit a property that will have been featured on Landline and is working closely with Christine on managing soil carbon.
2. **A bird in the Bush** Hurdle Gully is a remnant vine scrub thicket covering more than 900 hectares, close to the township of Monto. It is the largest stand of this type of regional ecosystem anywhere, with more biodiversity than the Daintree. This trip will explore the unique birdlife, plant species and ecosystems in Hurdle Gully, with plenty of time for delegates to walk and explore at their own pace after lunch. Some of the sites in this trip require an ability to negotiate some challenging terrain on foot.
3. **The Cania experience | a comparison of organic and conventional production and a visit to Cania Gorge** We'll visit a property using no till cropping methods and crop rotation, and another farmer growing lucerne and hay. No trip to Monto is complete without a visit to Cania Gorge and we'll have nearly three hours in Cania before hearing from some local elders and heading back to town.
4. **Evolution and Revolution | from vine scrub to hardwoods** Pecans, parthenium and plantations – this trip offers something for everyone (well, almost). We'll visit a pecan orchard and packaging facility that has also been the site of a joint parthenium control project between Burnett Catchment Care Association, UQ and Council. We'll then move on to some untouched vine scrub and a DPI hardwood plantation before stopping for a late lunch at the Mulgildie pub.
5. **Wind, wine and Patagonian wool** This trip will visit a sustainable house using solar and wind energy; an organic fertilizer production enterprise utilizing the byproduct of a local mine and a boutique winery offering you the chance to sample some of the North Burnett's finest grapes. And as if that's not enough, we'll also find time to visit local bushfoods producer Alan Knight to explore his finger limes and other Australian delicacies, admire his alpacas and browse the curiosities in his very special museum and heritage centre.
6. **Beef, Bunyips and Bonnie Doon** We're going to Bonnie Doon. We're going to Bonnie Doon. This trip will look at a leuceana plantation, the Better Beef program in action, some private native forestry and the legendary bunyip hole.
7. **Sap and Sip Tour** It's all about bug sapping beetles and wine sipping delegates. We'll be looking at a biocontrol project for cat's claw creeper. Staff from Burnett Catchment Care Association will discuss research results for the bug sapping beetle that's doing the damage we're all praying for. Then we'll hear from forestry experts looking at biodiversity and timber production through thinning programs; and officers who've been working on creeping lantana projects. To cap things off, we'll spend a couple of hours sampling some of North Burnett's finest grapes – the only way we know how.