Exploring Ecospirituality

1 Day Workshop — Brisbane, Friday 25 July 2014, 9am to 5pm
Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue, N35, 170 Kessels Road, Griffith University Nathan

Exploring the meaning, diversity and future directions of ecospirituality in Australia

Ecospirituality means different things to different people. At its essence it encapsulates a belief about the deep and sacred interconnectedness of all life and life supporting systems on earth. The aim of this seminar is to bring together people from diverse faith backgrounds, academics, students, environmentalists and interested citizens, to explore the meaning of ecospirituality in Australian society and its role in our daily lives.

This event is part of a seminar and lecture series being hosted by AELA and our partners in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth from July to September 2014.

For more information, contact: *convenor@earthlaws.org.au* or visit: http://www.earthlaws.org.au/events/Exploring-Ecospirituality-2014

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
People from different faith communities, academics, environmentalists, students, researchers and anyone interested in ecospirituality and the role it plays in modern life.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
This workshop is FREE but places are limited. Please book your place by visiting our online booking system: http://trybooking.com/FAQB

Morning and afternoon tea will be available, but to ensure this workshop is free and open to all, lunch is not provided. Participants are invited to purchase their own lunch at a nearby café on campus.

Workshop Program

8.30-9.00am   Registration, tea and coffee

9.00-9.15am   Traditional welcome

9.15-9.30am   Opening remarks and welcome - Brian Adams, Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue, Griffith University and Michelle Maloney, National Convenor, Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA)

9.30 -10.15am   **Deep Ecology, Ecospirituality and Earth Jurisprudence**

- "*Our common story - a spirituality and ethic for 21st Century humanity*", Dr Noel Preston AM
- "*Earth jurisprudence, the Earth Charter and Earth-centredness in secular life*" - Michelle Maloney, National Convenor, AELA
- Questions and discussions

10.15 - 11.00   **Stewardship of the Earth**

- "*Indigenous people's spirituality and connection to country*", Sam and Cathy Watson
- "*The Buddhist approach to our interconnected Earth*" - Dr Michael Gardner, Chenrezig Buddhist Institute, Sunshine Coast
- Questions and discussions

11.00-11.30   Morning Tea

11.30-1.00   **Interfaith and cross-cultural perspectives**

- "*Islam and the environment*" - Imam Afroz Ali, SeekersHub Global, Sydney
- "*The meadow across the creek: Thomas Berry's Catholic approach to ecospirituality*" - Mary Tinney, Earthlink
- "*Spirituality in the Pagan community*" - Brooke Hynch
- Questions and discussions

1.00-2.00   Lunch

2.00-2.30   **Re-connecting with the Earth and ourselves (30 minute practical sessions)**

- "*Ecospirituality in practice: deep ecology and an experience to connect with Toohey Forest*" - Emma Brindal, WiseEarth Education
  - OR -
- *Mindfulness session* - Dr Michael Gardner, Chenrezig Buddhist Institute, Sunshine Coast

2.30 - 3.00   **Small discussion groups - what ecospirituality means for our work, life and practice**

3.00 - 3.30   Afternoon tea

3.30 - 4.15   **Ecospirituality and the sustenance of our life's work**

- "*Earth centredness as a decision making framework*", Dr Brian Adams, Director, Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue
- "*Reflecting on spirituality, practice and planet* ", Dr Sylvie Shaw, Lecturer, Religion & Spirituality Studies, University of Qld
- Questions and discussions

4.15 - 4.45   *Where to from here?* Facilitated by Michelle Maloney

4.45 - 5.00   **Conclusions and next steps**
     Michelle Maloney and Brian Adams

Please join us for a book launch from 5pm - 5.20pm
Dr Noel Preston - "Ethics with or without God", Mosaic Press (2014)
With opening remarks by Dr Hugh Breakey, Griffith's Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and President of the Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics