

# REFLECT, RESPECT & REACT 2003 SYMPOSIUM SERIES:

## Social Solutions for Environmental Futures

**27 September – 3 October, 2003**

Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Emerald

Activists, agencies, non-government organisations and researchers share an interest in the potential for community-based strategies to promote healthy communities. Contemporary and emerging change strategies include: partnerships; education; advocacy; participation and consultation; social marketing; monitoring and community-based enterprises.

Rather than theorising in an abstract way about different strategies to facilitate change, the **Reflect, Respect and React 2003 (RRR03) symposium series** seeks to foster and support an analysis of the various efforts to facilitate change for healthy environments in Australia. It will also encourage exchange and discussion between the various 'tribes' engaged in change processes. Each forum will provide opportunities to hear and learn from practitioners, researchers and activists as they share their experience and understandings of different approaches to social and environmental change. Topics, which include volunteerism, citizen science and research collaboration, will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on your work and ask: **How effective are our approaches? How do we know? How can we more effectively bring about desired changes?**

### WHEN AND WHERE ?

#### Brisbane

EcoCentre, Griffith University  
Saturday 27 September 2003  
9.30am - 5pm

#### Canberra

University House, Australian National University  
Monday 29 September 2003  
9:00am - 2pm

#### Melbourne

Graduate Centre, The University of Melbourne  
Tuesday 30 September 2003  
9:00am - 2pm

#### Emerald, Qld

Emerald Agricultural College  
Friday 3 October 2003  
9:00am - 1:30pm

### WHO IS IT FOR ?

The RRR03 symposium series will be relevant to a diversity of practitioners from government and non-government sectors who plan, manage, lead and advocate for changes that contribute to healthier environments and communities. Forum presenters and participants will be drawn from a wide range of fields including education, advocacy, community and cultural development, communications, regional and industry development. Case studies will include projects addressing catchment management, urban and rural environments, volunteerism, citizen science and research collaboration.

#### Outcomes for symposium participants

- Learn new and innovative change strategies
- Reflect on your practice
- Share insights and experiences
- Network with leading change agents



[www.coastal.crc.org.au](http://www.coastal.crc.org.au)



[www.catchment.crc.org.au](http://www.catchment.crc.org.au)

## SYMPOSIUM MANAGEMENT

---

For further information or to register your interest in the event, contact:

**Cameron Neil**

**Phone:** (07) 3875 7457

**Fax:** (07) 3875 7459

**Email:** [RRR03@environmentaladvocacy.org](mailto:RRR03@environmentaladvocacy.org)

**Postal Address:**

c/- James Whelan

Faculty of Environmental Science

Environment 1, Griffith University NATHAN Qld 4111

This symposium is an initiative of the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology and is also supported by the CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management. Presenters and facilitators will include members of the 'Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management' research group. For details of these programs, contact [James.Whelan@griffith.edu.au](mailto:James.Whelan@griffith.edu.au)

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

---

### Dana Thomsen

**Brief Bio:** Dana Thomsen is currently completing a PhD at Griffith University looking at community-based catchment research and is supported by the CRC for Catchment Hydrology. Dana has an agricultural background and continues to work with community-based natural resource management groups as a researcher and volunteer.

**RRR03 Topic:** Dana's presentation will draw upon her PhD study to discuss the role of citizens and experts in catchment management and approaches to research that can utilise the complimentary skills of a diversity of societal sectors.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne

### James Whelan

**Brief Bio:** James Whelan supports the education and training programs of both Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) associated with this event. As an environmental advocate and researcher, James is interested in action research, community engagement and activist-academic collaboration.

**RRR03 Topic:** James will chair panel sessions during the symposium. During the Brisbane event, he will team up with Peter Oliver in a role play that humourously critiques community engagement processes and the tension between participatory and representative democracy.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Emerald

### Margaret Gooch

**Brief Bio:** Margaret Gooch is completing a PhD examining the experiences of catchment volunteers and their contributions to natural resource management and local communities. Margaret has been a high school teacher, and also worked in national parks and marine parks throughout Queensland. She has a BSc and Dip Teach from Griffith Uni, and an MSc (Tropical Ecology) from James Cook Uni. Margaret has been a casual lecturer at University of Queensland for many years, and is teaching Marine and Coastal Environmental Protection and Contemporary Protected Area Management this semester.

**RRR03 Topic:** Margaret will speak about the conceptions of people who volunteer their time for a variety of natural resource management organisations and programs along the east coast of Queensland.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Emerald

## Peter Oliver

**Brief Bio:** Peter Oliver is currently completing a PhD on the development of effective partnerships in natural resource management. He is employed by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines and his research has been supported both by the Department and the Coastal CRC. Peter has worked for many years as an extension officer with catchment management and landcare groups.

**RRR03 Topic:** Working from community-based NRM group, participant and extension officer perspectives and drawing on results of his PhD research, Peter's presentation will focus on: the characteristics of effective NRM partnerships; identification of factors that can help to improve partnership effectiveness; and limitations and appropriate use of partnership-based approaches to natural resource management.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Emerald

## Stewart Lockie & Susan Jennings

**Brief Bio:** Dr Stewart Lockie is Director of the Centre for Social Science Research and Senior Lecturer in Environmental and Rural Sociology at Central Queensland University. He has conducted research on the social aspects of natural resource management for the CRC for Catchment Hydrology, National Land and Water Resources Audit, Coastal CRC, Australian Research Council, Brisbane River Management Group, Department of The Premier and Cabinet, and others. His publications include several co-edited books such as *Rurality Bites: The Social and Environmental Transformation of Rural Australia* (Sydney: Pluto Press) and *Environment, Society and Natural Resource Management* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar).

**Brief Bio:** Susan Jennings is a researcher with the Centre for Social Science Research at Central Queensland University involved in social science research for the Coastal CRC. Apart from coastal zone resource management, Susan's research interests are environmental decision-making, social sustainability, regional resource planning and management, public participation, environmental policy and law, and impact assessment. She has published papers in the areas of regional natural resource management, stakeholder involvement for sustainable development, and stakeholder analysis and the democratisation of decision-making. Susan has just completed her doctorate on 'Organising for Sustainable Natural Resource Management'.

**RRR03 Topic:** Stewart Lockie and Susan Jennings will present the results of a stakeholder analysis of the upper and lower Fitzroy Catchment. This research exercise sought to identify all stakeholder groups either involved in, or affected by, catchment management activities and to map the values, aspirations and attitudes of those stakeholders to catchment management. This research has been used already to inform the development of social research and capacity building programs that more clearly address stakeholder needs. Through presentation of these results it is hoped that the research will enhance understanding both of the social issues that surround catchment management and of practical steps that can be taken to encourage participation among a wider network of stakeholders.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Emerald

## Tim Smith

**Brief Bio:** Dr Tim Smith is the Coastal CRC Theme Leader for Citizen Science and Education and the CRC for Catchment Hydrology Program Leader for Education and Training. Tim also lectures at Griffith University, where he convenes the Masters course - Environmental Decision-Making. Apart from several academic appointments, Tim has worked in both local government (waterways management), and State government (managing the stressed rivers assessment project as part of the NSW water reforms). He has also worked in private industry as an environmental scientist for Patterson Britton and Partners and as a founding partner of Total Stormwater Solutions. Tim released the book 'Australian Estuaries: A Framework for Management' in 2001.

**RRR03 Topic:** Tim will discuss the Citizen Science Toolbox being created through the research programs of the CRC's for Catchment Hydrology and Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management as well as contributing to panel sessions in the areas of education, training and decision-making in natural resource management.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Emerald

## LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS

---

### Andrew Duguid

**Brief Bio:** Andrew's bio changes every time he writes it, suggesting a complex, fluid interpretation of notions of identity. It currently pleases him to refer to himself as a dissident engineer. He believes that the industrial revolution was both resonant with but subverted by capitalism. He is interested in the reformist and transformational action required to promote social forms that would support a small machine economy, rather than a mass-production machine economy. He currently works on trade politics at Friends of the Earth and is an almost full-time dad.

**RRR03 Topic:** Andrew will draw on his broad ranging social and environmental change experience as a respondent to many of those presenting at the Brisbane symposium.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

### Carolyn Young

**Brief Bio:** Carolyn is Focus Catchment Coordinator for the CRC for Catchment Hydrology in the Murrumbidgee catchment where she works with the Department of Land and water Conservation, NSW.

**RRR03 Topic:** Respondent

**Contributing in:** Canberra

### Chris Carroll

**Brief Bio:** Chris Carroll is Focus Catchment Coordinator for the CRC for Catchment Hydrology in the Fitzroy catchment where he works with the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

**RRR03 Topic:** Respondent

**Contributing in:** Emerald

### Graham Rooney

**Brief Bio:** Graham Rooney is Focus Catchment Coordinator for the CRC for Catchment Hydrology in the Yarra catchment where he works with Melbourne Water.

**RRR03 Topic:** Respondent

**Contributing in:** Melbourne

### Dr John Doughton

**Brief Bio:** John is a farming systems agronomist based at Emerald with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He is also co-ordinator of the project Sustainable Farming Systems for Central Queensland. This project uses participatory action learning with groups of farmers across central Queensland to develop farming systems that are more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. The project has been operating since 1997 and has been responsible for significant change to the region's farming systems.

**RRR03 Topic:** John will draw on his experience in engaging citizens in the sustainable management and use of natural resources in providing insights and comments in response to presentations made in Emerald.

**Contributing in:** Emerald

### Lyndsay Black

**Brief Bio:** Lyndsay is a Kairi Elder born in Springsure in 1930. He is a traditional owner of the area south of Emerald to the Salvatore Rosa Section of Carnarvon National Park. At the time of writing, Lyndsay is president of the Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee, a community group of senior Aboriginal people with a strong interest in the Management of Natural Resources of the Fitzroy Basin. Lyndsay has been spending his retirement actively working for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage on his traditional country.

**RRR03 Topic:** Lyndsay will welcome the RRR03 participants in Emerald to the lands of the Fitzroy Elders.

**Contributing in:** Emerald

## Maroochy Barambah

**Brief Bio:** Maroochy is a Turrbal woman and representative of the Turrbal people and Turrbal Association, the traditional owners of the land upon which the EcoCentre has been built and the RRR03 Brisbane symposium will be held.

**RRR03 Topic:** Maroochy will welcome the RRR03 participants in Brisbane to the lands of the Turrbal people on behalf of the Turrbal Association.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

## Maya Ward

**Brief Bio:** Maya is a bioregional artist and cultural planner with a passion for creating sustainable, responsive, and beautiful places. Her current work focuses on 'placemaking', which achieves enhanced community spirit, civic and social renewal, and cultural understanding, and deepens people's relationship to their place via participatory processes and creative outcomes. Her current interest is writing about the potential of waterway walking to connect people to land and to issues around reconciliation. She has won awards for her work as events coordinator at CERES Community Environmental Park, including the VicHealth Volunteer Involvement Award for the well known Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival.

**RRR03 Topic:** In April 2003, Maya and three friends walked all the way along the Yarra river from the sea to the source, a journey of 250 km. Thanks to the assistance of many local councils, land owners and Parks Victoria, they had the rare privilege of continuously travelling and camping along the Yarra for three weeks, meeting up with communities who shared their knowledge of place, and they sharing stories from downstream. The Long Yarra Walk was a poetic adventure, and a profound learning experience. Undertaken during a severe drought, it connected the watershed community in a creative, non threatening way to themes that are pertinent to the future of all Australia; sustainable land and water management, and innovative ways of exploring our relationship to place. Maya will be presenting some highlights of the walk, and leading a discussion of creative ways to engage with our rivers.

**Contributing in:** Melbourne

## Meg Keen

**Brief Bio:** Meg is a senior lecturer in the Environmental Management and Development Graduate Studies program at the National Centre for Development Studies at the Australian National University. Over the last decade Meg has been involved in community based environmental management programs at the international, federal, state and local government level, including studies in the South Pacific on community based environment and development projects; evaluations and training for national research and development corporations and CSIRO on the communication of environmental science; and assessments of the implementation of local conservation strategies at the local government level. Meg recently co-facilitated a project to examine processes and practices relevant to social learning for sustainability with participants from academia, government and the private sector which is now being written up in a book - Beyond Boundaries: Social learning for sustainability. She has also been working with the International Waters Program (United Nations) as a community development specialist, to produce training materials for community based environment and development projects, and working with a local council in Sydney to evaluate their environmental management plan.

**RRR03 Topic:** Social learning for sustainability requires the initiation of collaborative learning processes between key stakeholder groups. While there are many diverse examples of such processes, such as the Cool Communities Program of the Australian Greenhouse Office, Landcare, Joint Management of National Parks, and so on, the learning processes are fairly consistently perceived as cyclic ones which involve a processes of problem definition, negotiation, implementation, and reflection. But within these learning cycles what is fundamentally important to social learning processes? Over a six month period practitioners and academics examined this question and arrived at 5 core strands of social learning which are interwoven throughout social learning initiatives. These are reflection, systems orientation, negotiation, integration and participation. A co-learning cycle and the five strands of learning will be introduced and participants will consider the value of the models to their own work.

**Contributing in:** Canberra

## Robert Preston

**Brief Bio:** Robert is working with a broad partnership of local governments, state government, industry and community in south-east Queensland to implement a community-based approach to landscape evaluation. Through his consulting work, Robert has undertaken 'scenic amenity' studies in the Lockyer Valley and Caboolture. Robert has a background in resource inventory, land use planning and sustainable management. He has worked for government forest and conservation agencies in NSW and Queensland. His interest is in equitable opportunities for community involvement in planning.

**RRR03 Topic:** Robert will demonstrate a recent case study in 'scenic amenity' mapping to introduce an interactive philosophical discussion about the role of structured community surveys in the development of land use plans. The presentation will discuss some of the strengths and weaknesses of participative democracy in environmental planning

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

## Toni Darbas

**Brief Bio:** Toni Darbas has recently submitted a PhD at the University of New South Wales examining the tension between participative and representative democracy in environmental planning using the intrusion of Western Sydney into the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment as a case study. She is currently completing a research project on metropolitan planning within the Urban Policy Program being established at Griffith University.

**RRR03 Topic:** What can be learnt from the disbanding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust on the grounds that it did not represent value for money? This institution was established in response to 20 years of grass roots pressure, was steered by regional environmentalist trustees and possessed a 6000 strong volunteer base. This model of catchment management appears to have conflicted with the top down catchment management processes established by the NSW Department of Conservation and Land Management.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

## Tony Weber

**Brief Bio:** Tony Weber is Focus Catchment Coordinator for the CRC for Catchment Hydrology in the Brisbane catchment where he works with WBM Oceanics.

**RRR03 Topic:** Respondent

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

## Wendy Sarkissian

**Brief Bio:** Wendy is Principal of Sarkissian Associates Planners in Brisbane and is a social planner specialising in community participation. She is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and co-author of the multi-award winning series, Community Participation in Practice (1994-2003), practical advisory material for conducting community participation processes. Her work has been acknowledged by 29 major awards for excellence in planning and housing in recent years. Her academic career has included teaching in schools of architecture, landscape architecture and planning in Australia and overseas. Her Ph.D. dissertation explored ways of nurturing an ethic of caring for Nature in the education of Australian planners, focusing on approaches in environmental ethics and deep ecology.

**RRR03 Topic:** Wendy will respond to some of the presentations made in the Brisbane symposium, drawing on her experience in community involvement in social and environmental change to highlight important issues, challenge assumptions and energise dialogue and debate between symposium participants.

**Contributing in:** Brisbane

# REGISTRATION FORM - TAX INVOICE

Griffith University ABN 78 106 094 461

**RRR03 Symposium 27 September – 3 October, 2003**

**COMPLETE AND RETURN BY 5PM FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5**

Name: _____			
Postal Address: _____ _____			
Suburb/Town: _____			
State: _____		Postcode: _____	
Tel: _____		Fax: _____	e-mail: _____
<b>Select which location you will be attending:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brisbane	<input type="checkbox"/> Canberra	<input type="checkbox"/> Melbourne	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerald

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

### Option 1

Please find enclosed my cheque or money order for **\$25** (inc. GST)  
payable to **GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

### Option 2

Debit:  BANKCARD  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX

Account No.

Card held in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(A GST complying Tax Invoice/receipt will be forwarded to you on receipt of payment.)

**Phone:** (07) 3875 7457

**Fax:** (07) 3875 7459

**Email:** RRR03@environmentaladvocacy.org

**Postal Address:**

c/- James Whelan

Faculty of Environmental Science

Environment 1, Griffith University NATHAN Qld 4111



[www.coastal.crc.org.au](http://www.coastal.crc.org.au)



[www.catchment.crc.org.au](http://www.catchment.crc.org.au)