



The Big Idea Oration

When

**Friday 5th
September 2025**

5.30pm

Where

Currumbin RSL

165 Durlagan Street
Currumbin QLD 4223

Cost

\$95 for buffet dinner
& 1 complimentary drink.
Cash Bar also available.

Other Viewing Option

Attend via online Livestream or
view the recording post-event.

Free

Are Outdoor and Environmental Educators Ready for Environmentally Savvy Young Children?

Presenter: Dr Sue Elliott

**Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education
at the University of New England**

Since 2024, sustainability has been a new principle in the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF) and educators are now actively building knowledge and skills with young children about sustainability. In addition, nature play programs have proliferated, many young children Australia-wide are connecting with their community parks, waterways and bushlands. This Big Idea presentation is a 'heads up' to Outdoor and Environmental Educators to be ready for these savvy young children who are knowledgeable and agentic with rights to have a say about their sustainable futures.



Dr Sue Elliott is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at the University of New England (UNE), New South Wales, Australia and a visiting scholar at the University of

Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. With a background in science and early childhood education, Sue originally worked with extension education services in Victoria such as the Royal Botanic Gardens and Melbourne Aquarium. She currently co-convenes the TransNational Dialogues in Early Childhood Education for Sustainability research group (TND) and in 2023, was awarded a Fellowship of the Australian Association for Environmental Education. Her most recent international publications include *Young Children and the Environment* (Davis & Elliott, 2024) and *Early Childhood Education for Sustainability: A Short History* (Davis, Elliott & Ärlemalm-Hagsér, 2024).

“Does Outdoor Environmental Education have a unique contribution to prepare people for life in a digital age?”

Presenter: Dr Glyn Thomas

BMHS (Ed) UQ, MAOE Griff, EdD Latrobe, Grad Cert Ornithology CSU, Grad Cert BusAdmin. UNE

Senior Lecturer in Outdoor and Environmental Studies at the University of Sunshine Coast.



Glyn is currently a Senior Lecturer in Outdoor and Environmental Studies at the University of Sunshine Coast and has facilitated learning in outdoor environmental education for more than 30 across the private, school and higher education

sectors. Over this time, in addition to making a lot of mistakes, he has also learned a few things along the way and contributed to the development of more than a thousand emerging outdoor environmental educators. Glyn's research has focused on experiential pedagogies, especially the tensions and opportunities that arise when facilitating place-based education and adventure education. In terms of research, he has written or cowritten more than 45 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He is also a keen birder, golfer, climber, and trail runner – but his enthusiasm outweighs his talent in all these pursuits.

**Please book
via Eventbrite @**



Or use the link below:

[Registration Link](#)

*Ticketing to attend the dinner event closes on **Friday 15th August** in order to confirm catering requirements.*

Note: If you have any special dietary needs please advise via email to sjohn555@eq.edu.au

The event will also be available via live stream and recording. Please select the relevant ticket type when booking.

Bookings for this format will be open until **Thursday 4th September.**

