

Have you felt a sense of place, a spirit of place, a tactile relationship with place? Have you been held in the soft palm of place, known the breath of a place, been tangled in and rooted to a place, immersed in an eternal moment of place, flowing with the time-river of place?

The **Victorian Child and Nature Connection** is thrilled to announce their first workshop for 2013...

Connecting to Country – Sharing the Stories

Join three acclaimed Australian artists on a journey to celebrate our connection to land, nature, our past, our roots, our history, and the synergies of cross-cultural meetings.

**Wednesday, 13th March 2013
9.15am - 1.00pm**

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Mueller Hall (side door),
National Herbarium, Gate F.
\$35 (student concession \$20)

Bookings : 9252 2358



This unique workshop, set in Melbourne's beautiful botanic gardens, explores how we can help our kids develop a deep affinity with country and the natural world. Experience first-hand the stories of three acclaimed Australian artists and how they utilize sounds, smells, sights, memories, and emotions to express strong ties to country.

William Barton, didgeridoo master, Delmae Barton, dreamtime opera diva, and Glenn Romanis, sculptor and visual artist, will work with you outdoors, to explore the processes of connection, creation and collaboration to share the bond we all feel to country.

A traditional Welcome to Country will be presented by Aunty Carolyn Briggs and a smoking ceremony by Trevor Gallagher. There will be plenty of opportunity for networking.

William and Delmae Barton

William Barton, is one of Australia's leading didgeridoo players and a powerful advocate for his cultural traditions and the virtuosic, universal potential of the instrument. Born in Mount Isa, he was taught the didgeridoo by his uncle, an elder of the Waanyi, Lardil and Kalkadunga tribes of Western Queensland. He performed his first classical concert with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra at the Age of 17 and since has

appeared at concerts with leading orchestras around Australia and the world, including the Berlin and the London Philharmonic Orchestras, blending the world's oldest culture with Europe's rich cultural legacy. In 2012, William won an Aria award for best classical album, *Kalkadungu*, featuring his own work performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and works by Peter Sculthorpe celebrating Australia's unique landscapes and culture. *Kalkadungu* is a work about his home country.



Delmae Barton, William's mother, is widely recognized as Australia's Dreamtime Opera Diva, performing as a solo artist and collaborating with her son, taking the listener on a spiritual journey to ancient songlines of the universe. She is also a visual artist and a writer.

Join mother and son as they celebrate the unique Australian landscapes through soundscapes and stories inspired by the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and hear about their inspirational life journeys. For a full bio, visit www.williambarton.com.au

Glenn Romanis

Having been involved in public and community art as a designer and sculpture-maker in both individual projects and collaborations for the past fifteen years, Glenn has worked with council organizations, landscape designers, art practitioners, artisans and arts workers across Australia. His visual stories seek to inform about the natural and cultural histories that attribute to the experience of country (place), in order that the audience gains respect, understanding and a sense of belonging to the place. With over 100 large-scale permanent, temporary, ephemeral, public and community art projects, his career as a working practitioner has involved using various kinds of media and context; revealing a deep concern for the relationship between storytelling and the environment.



Join Glenn in a workshop to explore what it means to belong to country and to create an art piece that can be used as a mechanism to engage children and connect them and ourselves to nature.

For a full bio, visit: <http://www.glenromanis.com>

Carolyn Briggs

Aunty Carolyn Briggs is a Boonwurrung elder from Victoria who is recognised as a keeper of the history and genealogies of her people. She says, "It's about the strength of families, our heritage and the sense of belonging to place." Aunty Carolyn is currently studying language and linguistics in the hope of recording her Boonwurrung language in oral and written form. She has been active in community development, Native Title, cultural preservation and cultural promotion. For many years she ran the Tjanabi restaurant in Melbourne, which specialised in contemporary Aboriginal cooking, promoted the Boonwurrung culture and became "the place to meet" for Indigenous people. Aunty Carolyn established Australia's first Aboriginal child care centre and is CEO of the Boonwurrung Foundation, which she set up to help connect Aboriginal youth to their heritage. Aunty Carolyn is also a member of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.



Aunty Carolyn Briggs will present the Welcome to Country.

Trevor Gallagher

Trevor Gallagher is a Gunditjmara man, who has been the Aboriginal Programs Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens since 2006, where his smoking ceremony has engaged the hearts and minds of thousands of children. Trevor combines elements that engage children directly with culture, nature and their own stories which *"enables me to communicate to people in a way that I have never done before. It lets me talk to strangers at the start of the program and at the end we are no longer strangers. It lets me show the Gardens in a way that they would not have seen before and it makes me feel good that I have made other people feel good."*



Trevor will perform the Tanderrum Ceremony.

We'll provide coffee, tea, water and some nibbles. Please bring your own cup or water bottle.

For more information on this workshop: contact the Education Office at the Royal Botanic Gardens on 9252 2358

Directions: Click [here](#) for directions, we recommend public transport or bike. The Royal Botanic Gardens is a big place, please click [here](#) for a map of the Gardens and plan your visit in advance.

Victorian Child and Nature Connection

The Victorian Child and Nature Connection (VCNC) is a cross-sectoral network of thought leaders from the health, education, environment, community and arts sectors. We exist to link up key initiatives that promote nature play in order to enhance child health, promote creative play and facilitate connection to the natural world.



We work by providing unique opportunities for collaboration and capacity building and through the open sharing of experiences, ideas and knowledge amongst our members and allies.

We are dedicated to the idea that all children deserve to have every opportunity to experience, love and look after nature, and we serve that idea by acting as a catalyst for rebuilding the connection between our children and their natural world.

For more information on VCNC, please visit www.victorianchildandnatureconnection.org or find us on facebook.

**Why don't you join us?
Please forward to your networks, all welcome!**

This event is supported by:



Department of Planning
and Community Development

What people said about previous workshops:

"Inspiring, refreshing, heart-warming"

"Engaging, clever, inspiring and educational - good speakers, good venue, important topic"

"Excellent speakers, excellent content and information. A lot to think about and bring to my program"

"Appropriate length, short, concise, inspiring, thought provoking"

"Good organisation and interaction"

"Went home thinking of lots of ideas to integrate into work and personal life"

"A big 10, all of it, fantastic morning, very inspiring"