



Professional Development 2016

Basics and Beyond: 7 to 10 GTAV Geography Conference

Join the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for a day of practical workshops at the Melbourne Gardens which includes:

- Keynote from David Howes and Monica Bini (VCAA) with update on the new Victorian Curriculum F-10
- Workshops 7 to 10 from top teachers - with reference to developing teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of learners across the full range of abilities
- Fieldwork sessions in the Gardens by the RBGV Education Officers
- GPS spatial tech sessions in the Gardens

ALSO includes a dedicated "*Help! How do I teach Geography?*" stream for inexperienced teachers. A full day of workshops for Years 7-10 teachers who have little or no Geography method background. The goal of the day is to build their confidence, knowledge and skills and to show that teaching Geography is relevant and great fun.

Date Wednesday 17 February

Where Melbourne Gardens
Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne VIC 3004

For further details visit <http://www.gtav.asn.au/events/event/basics-and-beyond-7-to-10-geography-conference> or phone GTAV 03 9824 8355

Rewilding Public Spaces - Facilitating Nature Play Seminar

Victoria is leading the way in Nature Play for Early Childhood with Bush Kinders and Outdoor Playgroups growing at a rapid rate. The first Bush Kinder started at Westgarth in 2010 and by the end of 2015 there are significantly more than 100 regular early childhood outdoor learning groups meeting in bush, beach and garden settings throughout the state.

Join our early childhood outdoor learning forum to understand what a Bush Kinder is, why there is an increasing demand for outdoor play opportunities in natural spaces and what this means for you as a supporter, council or land management team.

When Wednesday 6 April

Time 9.30am to 3.30pm

Place Auditorium, Cranbourne Gardens

Cost \$85 per person

Bookings 03 5990 2200

Gardens for Food, Learning and Play

Make the most of the treasure that is a garden to stimulate children's imagination, creativity, learning and enjoyment of the natural world. Examine the value of both structured and unstructured experiences, and learning experiences that are social, sensory, physical and emotional, to support you in your role as a facilitator of nature play and outdoor learning. Grow food plants to enhance your school grounds, develop ideas on how to share fresh produce and try some simple recipes that kids will love tasting and sharing.

Date Tuesday 10 May
Time 9.30am to 3.30pm
Cost \$85 per person

Nature for Health and Well-being

Put aside busy schedules and the demands of everyday life and be led on a sensory exploration of the Gardens. Awaken the inner child through playful activities interwoven with times of contemplation and reflection. Join in discussion about how we can integrate these qualities into our work with children.

Share hands on practical experiences that help us tune in to the natural world around us. Be immersed in the rich landscape of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria through mindfulness in the Fern Gully, peering through leaf windows, creating a mandala using natural materials and connecting with Indigenous culture and ceremony.

Health and wellbeing is interconnected with time spent in natural environments. Being in nature reduces anger, fear, anxiety and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.

Participants will look at how to help children brainstorm and discuss the role of healthy foods, physical exercise and spending time outside to cultivate health and wellbeing. Through practice of mindfulness exercises, participants will learn to nurture their own self-awareness and greater awareness of others and the natural world.

Date Wednesday 16 November
Time 9.30am to 1pm
Cost \$50 per person

For further information and bookings, please contact:

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Website rbg.vic.gov.au