Brisbane Youth Leadership for Sustainability Forum

Workshop Program

9.30  Registration/tea and coffee
10.00  Plenary and getting to know you session
10.30  Morning tea
10.45  Workshop session 1
11:45  Workshop session 2
12.45  Group report back
1.15  Lunch and networking
1.45  Workshop session 3
2.45  Sustainability marketplace
3.15  Group report back
3.45  Closing remarks

Workshop highlights

Creating wildlife habitat in your school or backyard
Michelle Nash – Habitat Brisbane
This workshop will give you a basic understanding of why biodiversity and urban habitat is so important and provide you with the knowledge and skills to implement a project of your own. It will also enable you to share your new skills and knowledge with your peers through a hands-on project at your school.

Using theatre and community art to create change
Yazmin Ferkins – Applied Theatre Student at Griffith University
The creative arts are a great way to capture attention and can be useful to illustrate difficult concepts, lampoon old fashioned social values and inspire people to change. Theatre is a particularly useful medium because of its immediacy and there are many wonderful examples of drama being used effectively in social activism. Come along and find out how you can use theatre and community arts to create change in your community!

Awareness to action: building or re-energising an environment club in your school
Monique Filet – BYEN and Erin Lloyd – Brisbane City Council Green Heart Schools Program
Do you and your friends care about the environment? Why not set up an environment club and contribute to change for the better? This workshop will give you a framework for developing or re-energising an environment club in your school or community, increase your skills for group mobilisation and leadership, provide some tools for peer-mentoring and democratic-process and allow you to directly affect your community through environmental service projects.

Writing a successful grant application
Daniel Flood – Visible Ink Youth Space
Having an idea is awesome, but the idea is very likely going to need money to become reality. A grant means it's not your money; it's someone else's! Come and find out:

• What is a grant?
• Where are there grants?
• How to apply for a grant for your idea.

Initiate!
Sarah Moran – Young Social Entrepreneur
This workshop is about bringing together like-minded people – not just to help them pursue their goals but to show them how to achieve meaningful and sustainable outcomes. This is an opportunity for fun and learning drawing from a range of different disciplines including marketing, community development and volunteer management. You’ll leave at the end of the workshop not only with a toolkit of skills and resources but also renewed energy and commitment to implementing your project ideas.
Towards zero waste
Lyn Comiskey – City Waste Services
Waste is an important issue for sustainable living. This workshop will generate a list of achievable actions and a better understanding of the waste stream, recycling systems and the product life-cycle. You’ll also learn how to identify opportunities for working with others in your community and how to take a leadership role by engaging others in actions for reducing waste.

Working with the media
Fiona Maxwell – Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
Ever wanted to get your voice heard in the media? This workshop looks at how to write an effective media release or letter to the editor and will give you lots of great tips on how to get your self published! Using the media is an important skill in getting your message out there to the wider community.

Art, action, union: creative activism!
Kathleen Cameron – Art Action Union
Through deconstructing and critiquing advertising this workshop will look at the psychology of marketing, how it’s used against us and how we can use it to our own advantage. We’ll also look at how activist marketing is different from a typical marketing campaign, particularly in that you’re educating as well as selling a message, while working within tight cost restraints. The workshop then looks at using art to communicate, as well as using the momentum of other organisations’ marketing to get your own message out. You will leave with a better understanding of how to use design for a campaign, and how to use the arts, graphics and the internet to connect with people.

Indigenous perspectives on the environment
Nayuka Gorrie – Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre
This workshop will look at the traditional relationships Indigenous Australians had with the land, before exploring the way in which contemporary perspectives have diverged, creating a range of differing and sometimes oppositional views on the environment, from eco-tourism and advocating for ‘caring for country’ to support of large mining operations. Through role-play and other hands-on activities you will explore how these many different perspectives can be respected and how consensus might be achieved, not just in Indigenous communities but in other communities as well.

Conversations about consumerism and ethical shopping
Angela Ballard – Learning 4A Change
Today’s youth have more expendable income than ever before and with fashions and technology changing so quickly there’s a lot of pressure on young people to spend, spend, spend! But what does this mean for the environment and for those who grow and manufacture the products we buy? Are there alternatives to this kind of consumerism? Is it possible to live a happy life without stuff? Come along for a stimulating conversation on some of the big questions facing our world and discover how we can make a positive difference by the way we spend.

Find your green heart avatar
Ana Leigh Tucker – Green Heart Communities
Seen the movie? Here is an opportunity to travel on a journey in your mind to meet your very own Green Heart Avatar. Learn about his/her strengths and find out what the next steps are to nurture and build your real life Green Heart Avatar. Put your thoughts on paper through collage and take away your creation for inspiration into the future.

Energy efficiency and communicating about climate change
Luke Reade – Energetic Communities
Climate change is the big challenge of our generation. We’ll need to develop more energy efficient technologies, as well as new forms of energy that don’t emit carbon dioxide or use fossil fuels. Already there are a many ways we can all reduce our energy use. This workshop looks at how we use energy, the activities that emit the most carbon into the atmosphere and how we can talk about climate change with our friends.

Plus more to be confirmed, including inspirational sessions featuring members of the Australian Student Environment Network and the Queensland Youth Environment Council!