

## EXCITING CONFERENCE ON ART AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The first national EcoArts Australis conference is to be held on 12 and 13 May, 2013 in Wollongong, with a feed to Armidale NSW.

David Curtis, President of EcoArts Australis, said “The arts are uniquely placed to explain the problem of climate change and other environmental challenges to the general public, and to motivate people to work towards solutions and adopting more sustainable lifestyles.”

“The EcoArts Australis conference is an opportunity for people to network and communicate with others who are using the arts in creative ways to foster environmental sustainability”, David said.

David Curtis said that the conference has attracted a huge range of presentations covering how the arts can be used in natural resources management and environmental education to communicate scientific information, how the arts can create an empathy for the environment, how the arts can catalyse environmental sustainability and how the arts can help build community capacity to deal with environmental challenges.

“We have over 60 presentations and have been overwhelmed by the positive response we are getting from people working in environmental sustainability as well as in the arts”, David Curtis said.

The Conference has a live hook-up with Colorado, USA, and will be addressed by Marda Kirn, the director of the USA based organisation “EcoArts Connections”. She will be accompanied by prestigious climate change scientist Robert Guralnick, and performer Michelle Ellsworth with whom she collaborates.

“Other keynote speakers include Angharad Wynne-Jones of TippingPoint Australia who will be speaking on how artists are engaging with climate change, Andrew Hull from Western Catchment Management Authority who will be speaking on how natural resources organisations are using the arts, and Linda Williams of RMIT University who will be speaking on the major critical challenges facing environmental art”, David Curtis said.

The conference has sponsorship from Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the University of Wollongong.

To register go to the conference website:

<http://www.ecoartsaustralis.org.au/conference/registration/>

For more information phone David Curtis on 045 8484 951 OR Juliet Scrine on 0417 433 660.

