

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY WITH THE ARTS

Environmental and art practitioners will gather in Wollongong on 14–16 February 2016 to share ideas, gain insights, be inspired and network at the **EcoArts Australis 2nd National Conference**.

Hosted by non-profit organisation EcoArts Australis at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus, participants will explore the visual and performing arts in creative ways to foster environmental sustainability.

"The arts are uniquely placed to explain the problem of climate change and other environmental challenges to the general public. Our mission is to promote environmental appreciation through the arts," President of EcoArts Australis Dr David Curtis said.

"Art can be a powerful catalyst for changing the way we think about the world. Visually compelling displays of either the beauty or destruction of nature helps motivate people to work towards solutions and adopt more sustainable lifestyles," he said.

The conference will kick off with a field trip in the beautiful seaside city, followed by a series of performances, keynote presentations and workshops.

The conference will have a live hook-up with international guests, addressed by Dr Nalini Nadkarni, Professor of Biology at the University of Utah, and Jodi Lomask, Artistic Director of the contemporary dance company Captitor. They will speak on their collaboration on bringing the story of rainforest ecology to life on the stage.

"We are also delighted to have Guy Abrahams, Rachel Kent, Lisa Woynarski and Suzanne Crocker as exceptional keynote speakers," said Dr Curtis.

"We have over 70 presentations covering a range of topics, including how the arts can be used in environmental education, how the arts can communicate scientific information, and how the arts can connect us with nature."

Registrations are open until 12 February. To register, visit www.ecoartsaustralis.org.au.

The conference is sponsored by NRM Jobs.

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