

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Sustainability in early childhood forums aim to build Tasmanian network

Leading academics in the field of sustainability in early childhood education will join Tasmanian educators, parents and professionals to spread the word about teaching young children about environmental sustainability.

“Sustainability is everybody’s business” will be held in three centres across Tasmania:

- HOBART – Thursday, May 3, 4pm-6.30pm, Bridgewater LINC/Child and Family Centre Green Pt Rd, Bridgewater. Cost \$25 (\$15 students and pensioners).
- BURNIE – Friday, May 4, 4pm-6.30pm, Room 201 UTAS Burnie Campus 165-20 Mooreville Rd, Burnie. Cost \$25 (\$15 pensioners and students)
- LAUNCESTON – Statewide Forum, Saturday, May 5, 10am-3.30pm, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Newnham Campus, Newnham Drive, Launceston. Cost \$45 (\$30 students and pensioners).

Forum speaker Associate Professor Nadine McRea from the University of New England said sustainability education for young children had traditionally been nature-based.

“But now it’s broadly about caring about people and the world around us,” she said.

“It is not only about teaching children but about making adults working in early childhood education aware of sustainability issues in their work environment – such as water use and conservation, energy issues around heating, light bulbs and window coverings, active and passive solar heat, and food and edible gardens.

“It’s about looking after ourselves and our world – and viewing everything through greener lenses.”

The forums aim to share teaching ideas and help build an active early childhood sustainability network nationally, linking Tasmanians with interest groups in mainland Australia.

Key presenters at the forums will be:

- **Julie Davis** from the University of New England (author of *Young children and the environment: early education for sustainability*, and co-author of *Mainstreaming sustainability into pre-service teacher education in Australia*).
- **Nadine McCrea** from Queensland University of Technology (author of *Eating My Colourful Vegies And Fruit*, *Educators Resource Book* and creator of the 2012 New England Children's Services Eco-mentoring Network in northern NSW).

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Thursday, May 3, 9.30am, UTAS Newnham Campus

Children (pre-approved) at the Lady Gowrie University Child Care Centre, centre manager Heather Mains and tutor and PhD candidate with the UTAS Faculty of Education Di Nailon will be available at the child care centre at 1 Newnham Drive, Newnham, on Thursday, 9.30am.

A supplied photograph is also available on request.
Contact Lana Best, University of Tasmania for more information.

Information Released by:

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