



Education Program

Queensland **Life**
Landscape
The Queensland Landscaping Industry Magazine
EXPO ISSUE



Greenscapes + Green Expo

Where Landscapes and Greenlife Grow Together

Education Program

**Workshops, panels, education sessions
& networking across the
landscape industry**

5 & 6 AUGUST 2026

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

REGISTER NOW

**Bookings essential for all sessions,
places are limited**



**Landscape
Queensland**
Industries Association

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Landscape Queensland Industries Association is proud to be part of the Greenscapes + Green Expo alongside the expo team and our fellow associations and industry stakeholders.

The sessions in this program have been shaped in consultation with our fellow industry associations and broader industry feedback, and a genuine belief that when our associations and industry work together, we create something greater than any one of us could alone and make a real difference to the communities and places we live, work and play.

Thank you to every association, presenter and panellist who contributed their time and expertise. By attending the Greenscapes + Green Expo and everything it has to offer, you are playing an active part in building a stronger, more connected industry community.

We look forward to seeing the industry come together in August.

CPD POINTS AVAILABLE

CPD points may be available for sessions within the Greenscapes + Green Expo Education Program. Check with your industry association for details on eligibility and how to claim points for sessions you attend.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

GREENLIFE INDUSTRY QLD

IRRIGATION AUSTRALIA

LANDSCAPE DESIGN INSTITUTE

LANDSCAPE QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

NURSERY & GARDEN INDUSTRY VICTORIA

QUEENSLAND ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC

TURF AUSTRALIA

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

PLACES ARE LIMITED.

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Education Program



Education Program

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BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

PLACES ARE LIMITED.

BOOK EARLY.

SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT.

EARN CPD POINTS.

AVAILABLE FOR SOME SESSIONS THROUGH YOUR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION.

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Program

Education



PANELISTS:

Glen Power

Urbis & AILA QLD President

Juliet Alabaster

City Parklands Services

Andy Davison

City of Moreton Bay

Sam Collins

*Green Infrastructure Audit &
Advisory*

MODERATOR:

Professor Karen Vella

QUT & Committee for Brisbane

Education Session:

Welcome and Opening Talk: Greener Spaces, Better Places: Placemaking Beyond Brisbane 2032

Join some of Queensland's leading voices in design, government, placemaking and city-building for a conversation on how green infrastructure, landscape architecture and urban greening can shape the future identity of Brisbane and South East Queensland.

The panel will explore what Brisbane 2032 means for the future of public space and urban design, and how green infrastructure can improve liveability, biodiversity and community wellbeing. From legacy parks, streetscapes and civic spaces through to the opportunities emerging across the landscape, nursery and greenlife supply chain, the discussion will look at how the push for greener, more liveable cities may shape project pipelines, procurement and design priorities in the decade ahead. It will also consider how industry can better engage with government, planners and delivery partners in the lead-up to the Games.

For landscape professionals, growers and suppliers, this is an opportunity to hear directly from the people helping shape the vision for our cities, and to walk away with a clearer picture of where the opportunities, expectations and challenges may emerge.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

9:00AM – 10:30AM

Common Ground Cafe

FREE

REGISTER NOW

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PRESENTED BY:

Annette Irish

Australian Institute of Horticulture

Annette Irish is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Horticulture, Registered Horticulturist (Ret) and Professional Development specialist and Educator with a career spanning horticulture, plant and soil health, landscape systems and the natural sciences.

Through her consultancy and industry leadership roles, Annette has worked extensively with communities, educators and industry professionals across Australia and SE Asia, promoting practical horticultural knowledge supported by sound science.

Her work focuses on natural health based horticultural practices, biodiversity, soil and plant health, and the evolving paradigm of Caring as Country within contemporary horticulture.



Education Session:

Practical plant & soil health for better gardens, better landscapes & better outcomes

Healthy landscapes begin beneath our feet. This practical and engaging session explores the essential relationship between soil health, plant performance and long-term landscape success.

Designed for landscape and horticultural practitioners, the session examines soil structure, biology, nutrition, root health, plant selection, environmental stress and the warning signs often overlooked in everyday maintenance.

Drawing on decades of field-based experience across horticulture, soil systems and landscape management, attendees will gain practical insights into creating healthy, resilient and visually successful landscapes while reducing preventable plant decline and improving the long-term health of gardens and green spaces.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Room 1

FREE

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PRESENTED BY:

Michael Casey

Evergreen Infrastructure

Michael Casey is the Director of Evergreen Infrastructure and an award-winning Registered Horticulturist with more than 30 years' experience in horticulture, urban greening and green infrastructure. Passionate about nature-based solutions for human health and wellbeing, he has contributed to an impressive portfolio of projects across the education, health, commercial and residential sectors.

Michael is committed to sharing knowledge through training, industry advocacy, conference presentations and regular urban greening articles. He is a former National President of the Australian Institute of Horticulture, founding member of Therapeutic Horticulture Australia and Australasian Green Infrastructure Network, Co founder of the National Urban Green Infrastructure Round Table, technical panellist for the World Green City Awards and was the recent World Green Roof Day Australian Ambassador.



Education Session:

Green walls, roofs & city greening: living systems in practice

Cities are being asked to do more than ever before. As Brisbane moves toward the 2032 Olympic legacy pipeline, the demand for greener, cooler and more resilient urban environments is growing rapidly. Green roofs, living walls and integrated city greening are no longer just visual enhancements; they are living systems that can help reduce urban heat, support biodiversity, improve stormwater outcomes, enhance building performance and create healthier places for people to live, work and gather.

This education session explores the practical role green roofs and vertical greening can play in shaping better cities. It will look at what is working in the field, from system selection and structural considerations through to planting design, species selection, irrigation, maintenance and long-term performance.

Drawing on extensive experience at the forefront of green infrastructure and city greening in Australia, this session will give you a clearer understanding of what it takes to successfully specify, install and manage living systems at scale.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Room 2

TICKETS \$20

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PRESENTED BY:

National Fire Ant Eradication Program

National Fire Ant Eradication Program is Australia's largest biosecurity initiative, leading the fight to eradicate fire ants.

Backed by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments, and guided by leading scientific experts, the program delivers a coordinated national response to this destructive super pest.

Invasive Species Council

The Invasive Species Council is a national advocacy organisation working to protect and restore Australia's unique wildlife and ecosystems from the threat of invasive species.

Through research, collaboration and fearless advocacy, the Council works to build a stronger biosecurity system that prevents new invasive species from establishing, supports eradication efforts, and ensures Australia's extraordinary natural environment is protected for future generations.

Education Session:

Biosecurity and the Landscape Industry: Fire Ants, Invasive Species and What We Can Do About It

From the relentless march of fire ants to the garden weeds choking our creeks, invasive species are a shared challenge for our whole community. As pests and pathogens outcompete our native flora and fauna, they reshape the very geography of our nation.

Featuring representatives from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and the Invasive Species Council, this session covers the latest on eradication efforts, movement controls, compliance requirements and the broader cultural shift needed to tackle invasive species across our communities and green spaces. Beyond regulatory obligations, this is as much a cultural problem as a legal one, and the biosecurity frontline often runs right through the landscapes we design, build and maintain.

It starts with knowledge. Stay informed, stay ahead.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

11:30AM – 12:00PM

Common Ground Cafe

FREE

Registrations not required.

Come visit the Common Ground Cafe.

PRESENTED BY:

Gregory van Rooyen
BG&E

Gregory van Rooyen is National Vice-President and Non-Executive Director of the Concrete Institute of Australia and Senior Associate - Materials at BG&E Engineering.

With over 30 years' experience in concrete technology, including being the Technical Manager for a major concrete supplier, Greg specializes in concrete durability, materials performance, and infrastructure assessment. He holds a Master of Science in Advanced Concrete Technology from Queen's University Belfast and is completing a PhD on pond ash utilization at the University of Southern Queensland.

Greg's expertise spans major infrastructure projects valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, including durability design for bridges, tunnels, and rail infrastructure but also includes practical concrete issues such as cracking and performance problem. He contributes to Standards Australia AS 5100.5 Commentary, serves on SmartCrete CRC steering committees, and has authored multiple industry papers on concrete performance and sustainability.

A Chartered Professional Engineer (Australia and UK), Greg regularly presents on concrete properties, durability assessment, and sustainable construction practices, bringing both industry and research perspectives to advance concrete technology.



Education Session:

Concrete in the landscape: from mix design to finished surface

Concrete is one of the most used materials in the built landscape - and one of the most misunderstood. This practical session covers mix design, on-site decision-making, joints, finishes, cracking, and cost control, through to off-form and architectural concrete.

Whether you're puzzling over why a slab cracked six months after handover, or you want to confidently specify finishes that hold up in Queensland conditions, this session gives you the technical grounding to get it right.

Delivered by a concrete technical expert with extensive experience working across the landscape and green infrastructure industry.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Room 1

TICKETS \$20

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PRESENTED BY:

Ching Meng Tan
BEng (Civil), CPEng, RPEQ

Ching Meng Tan is a civil and structural engineer and Director of CMT Engineers Pty Ltd, with over four decades of project experience across Queensland.

His expertise spans drainage, slope stability, land development and structural design, and he serves as a committee member for AS4678 (Earth-retaining structures) and AS5100.3, the Australian Standards that underpin retaining wall design and compliance.

Across his career, Ching Meng has overseen complex projects from inception to completion and investigated numerous retaining wall failures across the state, giving him a first-hand understanding of where walls go wrong and what it takes to build them right.



Education Session:

When walls fail: engineering principles for safer retaining wall construction

Retaining walls are one of the most commonly built structures in the Queensland landscape industry, and one of the most commonly built incorrectly.

Drawing on 42 years of Queensland project experience, this session unpacks why walls fail, what contractors need to know about compliance and engineering requirements, and how to avoid the drainage, footing and surcharge loading errors that end up costing clients and contractors significantly. Practical, direct, and grounded in real Queensland failure cases.

Presented by a civil and structural engineer with over four decades of Queensland project experience.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

1:30PM – 2:30PM

Room 1

TICKETS \$20

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PRESENTED BY:

Stuart Alexander

Irrigation Australia

Stuart Alexander is an experienced professional in the irrigation industry with over 20 years of hands-on expertise. He has a proven track record of providing high-quality training and development of programs for individuals and organisations across AHC industry sectors.

Stuart's in-depth knowledge of irrigation technologies, water management principles, and industry best practices enables him to deliver comprehensive training sessions that effectively address the needs of participants.

His passion for a safe work environment, including the Mental Health space of industry make him a sought-after trainer. He has exceptional communication and facilitation skills, providing opportunities for those who choose to make progress and succeed in their chosen career pathway.



Education Workshop:

Irrigation workshop: Understanding what happens when water leaves the pipe

Good irrigation is about more than sprinklers, valves and controllers. What happens after the water leaves the pipe and meets the ground can directly impact soil health, plant performance, water efficiency and the long-term sustainability of landscapes and turf areas.

Developed by Irrigation Australia, this practical and engaging workshop explores how water interacts with soil, plants and the surrounding environment in real landscape settings. Designed for landscape and horticulture professionals, the session focuses on practical irrigation fundamentals, soil-water relationships, irrigation efficiency and smarter decision-making across parks, gardens, sports turf and commercial landscapes.

This high-impact session is designed to deliver practical, field-relevant knowledge that participants can apply immediately in modern landscape and irrigation workplaces.

Full Course Outline: This practical workshop introduces the basics of irrigation performance in landscape settings, with a focus on what happens once water reaches the ground.

Participants will explore how irrigation affects soil health, plant performance, water efficiency and maintenance outcomes. The session will cover common irrigation components, typical field issues such as dry spots, runoff and overspray, and the role of soil type, compaction, slope and application rate in how water moves through the landscape.

The workshop will also look at simple ways to improve irrigation efficiency, including better scheduling, leak reduction, pressure regulation, seasonal adjustments and smarter use of technology such as sensors and controllers.

Key topics include:

- basic irrigation system components
- common landscape irrigation issues
- soil type, infiltration and water movement
- rootzone health and plant response
- improving irrigation efficiency
- environmental impacts of poor irrigation practice
- smarter field observations and decision-making
- emerging irrigation technology

Learning outcome: Participants will gain a practical understanding of how irrigation decisions affect soil, plants, water use and landscape performance.

Key takeaway: Better irrigation decisions start below the surface. Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

12:30PM – 2:30PM

Room 2

TICKETS \$95

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PANELISTS:



Education Panel:

Workforce: Our Next Generation

Who is going to build Queensland's green future?

The landscaping industry is facing one of its biggest opportunities and one of its biggest challenges. The pipeline of work has never been stronger, yet finding and developing the skilled, work-ready people to deliver it remains one of the industry's most pressing concerns.

This session brings together industry trainers, apprenticeship experts and workforce development leaders to talk honestly about the full picture of workforce strategy in the sector. From apprenticeships and traineeships to migration and visa pathways, team culture and retention, this is a conversation about every avenue available to businesses trying to build and hold onto good people.

The timing could not be better. A national landscaping skills review is currently underway and new government initiatives are creating real incentives for employers ready to invest in apprentices.

Whether you are taking on your first apprentice, exploring skilled migration options, building a stronger team culture or simply wanting to understand where the workforce conversation is headed, this is a session worth being in the room for.

The future of the industry is being shaped right now. Be part of that conversation.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

2:30PM – 3:30PM

Common Ground Cafe

FREE

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PRESENTED BY:

Arno King

*Landscape Architect &
Horticultural Consultant*

Brisbane-based landscape architect and horticultural consultant Arno King is a trusted voice across Australian media, regular radio commentator, and frequent contributor to leading gardening magazines.

His distinguished career is built on decades of hands-on consulting and designing subtropical landscapes. Driven by a passion for plants and sustainable design, Arno excels at translating complex concepts into practical advice.

He is thrilled to share his extensive design expertise, practical knowledge, and infectious enthusiasm with the audience at this year's event.



Education Session:

The importance of increasing biodiversity to our landscapes, gardens, nurseries & garden centres

Biodiversity is our life support system, yet plant species are vanishing faster than ever. Despite the potential for "conservation through cultivation," our industry's planting palette is narrowing.

This session examines the multifaceted benefits—from financial stability to cultural value—of diversifying our Green Life sectors. We will identify why our botanical diversity is dropping and discuss the negative impacts of this decline.

Join us to discover practical strategies for increasing biodiversity and plant sales in our nurseries and projects, moving the industry toward a more sustainable and vibrant future.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

3:00PM – 4:00PM

Room 1

FREE

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Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

3:30PM – 4:30PM

Common Ground Cafe

FREE

Wrap up your day on the expo floor with a free Happy Hour, hosted by Expertise Events.

Bring your team, connect with colleagues, meet new industry faces and make the most of everything the Greenscapes + Green Expo has to offer.

Make the most of **YOUR** expo experience!

- **Workshops**
- **Panels**
- **LQ Education Sessions**
- **Displays**
- **Demonstrations**
- **Networking**
- **Happy Hour**
- **& More**

Plan your Wednesday at the Greenscapes + Green Expo!
Take in the education sessions, panels and demonstrations on the floor, wind down with a free Happy Hour drink, then head into an early evening talk with Jamie Durie, before dinner at South Bank!

PRESENTED BY:

Jamie Durie, OAM

Jamie Durie OAM is an internationally acclaimed landscape designer whose work has shaped outdoor living for more than 30 years.

Renowned for creating innovative, sustainable landscapes that connect people with nature, he has designed award-winning residential, commercial and public spaces around the world.

Jamie has shared his passion for landscape design through more than 50 television series broadcast in over 90 countries, including The Outdoor Room and Growing Home, and as the author of 12 best-selling books on landscape and garden design.

His most recent television project, Jamie Durie's Future House on Nine, sees him apply his passion for sustainable design and the built environment to one of Australia's most pressing challenges – reimagining how we design, build and live in the homes of the future.

A passionate advocate for sustainability, Jamie champions environmentally responsible design through his projects, media work and partnerships with leading environmental organisations. His contributions to design and the environment have been recognised with both the Centenary Medal and the Medal of the Order of Australia.

LIVE ON STAGE

Greener by Design

A Conversation With
JAMIE DURIE OAM

Landscape Queensland is proud to present Greener by Design: A Conversation with Jamie Durie OAM, featuring one of Australia's most recognised voices in landscape design, sustainability and outdoor living.

Jamie has spent his career at the intersection of design, sustainability and public engagement, working across the garden, television and the urban environment. His thinking on how we design with nature in mind has helped reshape how Australians relate to outdoor spaces, and it speaks directly to what this profession has always known: that the work we create and care for shapes the places people live, work and call home.

Join us as Jamie shares his perspective on the role that the landscape, in all its forms, plays in how our communities connect with the natural world.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST

5:00PM – 7:00PM

TICKETS

Industry pricing \$45
Open to all



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PANELISTS:

Omar Barragin
Urbano Design

Damian Thompson
LatStudios

Andrew Bottomley
*The Landscape Construction
Company & LQIA President*

Michael Casey
Evergreen Infrastructure

Brett Lentz
Pradella Developments

Education Session:

Future landscapes: Brisbane's living infrastructure legacy and the next six years

As Brisbane prepares for the opportunities and challenges of the next decade, living infrastructure is becoming a critical part of how our cities and communities are planned, designed and delivered. This panel brings together leaders from government, landscape architecture and industry to explore the Brisbane Green Factor, the Green Grid and the broader legacy opportunities of Brisbane 2032. Through a practical and forward-looking discussion, attendees will gain insights into emerging policy directions, the delivery of green infrastructure at scale, and what the landscape sector needs to understand and prepare for over the next six years.

Full overview: Brisbane has ambitious living infrastructure objectives. The Brisbane Green Factor, the Green Grid and the broader legacy opportunities associated with Brisbane 2032 are shaping conversations about how our city and region will grow, adapt and perform in the years ahead.

But translating policy, strategy and design intent into successful on-ground outcomes requires collaboration across government, design, development and industry.

This session brings together key voices from across that landscape. We will hear from the person who was behind the implementation of the Brisbane Green Factor, a senior representative from the Office of the Government Architect, a leading landscape architecture practice and industry representatives involved in delivering projects on the ground.

Together, the panel will explore:

- Living infrastructure and its role in shaping Queensland's future cities and communities
- The Brisbane Green Factor, how it works and what it means for industry
- How living infrastructure frameworks are influencing planning, design and development decisions
- Opportunities and challenges associated with delivering green infrastructure at scale
- What the landscape sector needs to understand and prepare for over the next six years

This will be a practical and forward-looking discussion about the future of living infrastructure in Queensland and the role our industry plays in delivering lasting environmental, social and economic outcomes.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

9:30AM – 10:30AM

Common Ground Cafe

FREE

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PRESENTED BY:

John Corban

*Landscapers Coach
Founder & Director*

John's business coaching is built on real-world experience. Having overcome the same challenges many business owners face—including managing staff, improving cash flow, increasing profits, and building high-performing teams—he understands what it takes to succeed.

Since 2008, John has worked exclusively with landscape contractors, partnering closely with industry associations, suppliers, and leaders. His deep industry knowledge, combined with proven business systems, helps landscape businesses increase profitability, solve operational challenges, and achieve sustainable growth.



Education Session:

How to Run a Landscape Construction or Maintenance Business in More Challenging Times and Prosper

John Corban – Landscapers Coach, will talk about how to run a landscape business (Construction and Maintenance and or Pool Building), successfully during these more challenging times. He will discuss what's working with the many clients he coaches to grow Sales and Profits, while allowing them to retain good team members, build culture and find new team members.

Get ready for some inspiration, some tips and strategies that will give you answers to questions you may have but also confirm some of the things you are doing well and should keep doing.

His talk will cover – Leadership, Money, Quoting, Project Management, Sales, Marketing and Team.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Room 1

FREE

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PRESENTED BY:

Edgar (Ted) Stubbersfield

*International External Timber
Design Consultant*

With decades of unmatched experience, Ted is a nationally recognised expert in the design and detailing of weather-exposed timber structures, including bridges, boardwalks, decks and public landscapes.

Sought after by local and state governments, professional designers and industry bodies, Ted brings deep technical knowledge, refined detailing skills, and practical construction insight to every project. As a timber grader and author of technical guides, CPD training materials and articles, Ted ensures timber is both correctly specified and appropriately graded.

A respected speaker and contributor at industry conferences, he is committed to mentoring the next generation and delivering timber structures that endure beautifully.



Education Session:

Wood that endures: everything you have learnt so far is wrong

Over the last few years, a significant body of work has gone into what is shaping up to be the bible of external timber design, Wood That Endures: Designing Natural Area Infrastructure for 30 Years.

The presentation will focus on some of the common misconceptions about external timber, including the most contentious: that weather-exposed timber structures are only suitable for temporary use. It will stress that relying on Australian Standards designed for housing will give a false sense of security that something meaningful has been specified.

You will learn the value of careful specification, detailed drawings and how working to a checklist will avoid all the common problems.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

10:30AM – 11:30AM

Room 2

TICKETS \$20

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PRESENTED BY:

Peter Farquharson

Director, Plant of Health

Peter's connection to soil health goes back to childhood, watching his father conduct agricultural research experiments on the family farm, an early education that never really left him. After an expansive career in defence and aerospace, he made a deliberate decision to return to the land, channelling that experience into the world of soil health and landscape performance.

Plants of Health is a family-owned business with over 25 years of experience supporting growers, councils, nurseries, landscapers and curators to understand soil and plant health and achieve better results. Their approach goes beyond the what and into the why, helping clients understand how the biology, chemistry and physical structure of soil interact to influence plant health and performance. Alongside education and consulting, the business provides quality soil and plant testing services and fertilisers and soil conditioners to clients locally and internationally.



Education Session:

Building thriving landscapes from the ground up: the role of soil health

Whether you're a small landscaping business striving to deliver outstanding results, a landscape architect designing spaces that must perform as intended for years to come, or a contractor managing large-scale landscape installations where long-term success and reduced maintenance costs are critical, soil health is the foundation upon which every successful landscape is built.

In this presentation, we will explore the often-overlooked relationship between soil biology, chemistry, and physical structure, and how these factors influence plant establishment, growth, resilience, and longevity.

Attendees will gain practical insights into assessing and improving soil health, reducing plant failures, enhancing landscape performance, and creating healthier, more sustainable landscapes that continue to thrive long after installation.

Through a deeper understanding of the soil beneath our feet, participants will learn how better soil management can lead to stronger plants, happier clients, and more successful landscape outcomes.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

12:00PM – 1:00PM

Room 1

TICKETS \$20

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PRESENTED BY:

Brad Keane

C.R. Kennedy

Brad has over 20 years of experience in service locating and geophysical surveying. Beginning with the founding of Ecophyte Technologies in 2002, he pioneered the use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and electromagnetic technologies for utility detection and mapping before expanding his expertise into mineral exploration, engineering geophysics, and advanced survey technologies.

Since 2018, Brad has been the National Specialist in Detection and GIS at CR Kennedy, where he helps advance the service locating industry through practical, fit-for-purpose solutions. A recognised expert in Ground Penetrating Radar, he specialises in integrating GPR with other locating technologies to improve accuracy, data quality, and operational efficiency.



Education Session:

Seeing below the surface: smarter, safer technology for everyday landscape practice

For landscaping professionals, understanding what lies beneath the surface is becoming just as critical as what is visible above it. Drawing on capabilities in technologies such as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), utility locating, GNSS and geospatial mapping, and modern reality capture workflows, underground detection and digital site modelling allow teams to identify buried services, reduce excavation risk, and make better-informed decisions before construction begins.

By combining accurate subsurface investigation with aerial survey and 3D site capture, these tools provide a clearer, data-driven picture of site conditions – helping the landscaping industry improve safety, minimise costly surprises, and integrate smarter planning and design practices into everyday projects

Hear from industry experts on the latest technology and safety services available, and learn how to mitigate your risk on every job.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

1:00PM – 2:00PM

Room 2

FREE

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PRESENTED BY:



Zero damage - Zero harm - Zero disruption

Education Session:

Digital tools, safe excavation and damage prevention

Before machinery or shovels hit the ground, knowing what lies beneath it is not just good practice, it is everyone's responsibility.

Before You Dig Australia provides education and awareness sessions covering how the referral service works, safe excavation practices, compliance with asset owner instructions and the real consequences of damaging underground infrastructure.

This session will also explore BYDA's digital tools including the Digital Utility Platform, giving landscape professionals practical insight into how these resources can be integrated into everyday project planning and site management.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

2:00PM – 3:00PM

Room 2

FREE

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THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST

2:30PM – 3:30PM

Room 1

FREE

REGISTER NOW

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Education Session:

The future voices of horticulture

Horticulture is one of the most diverse and rewarding industries you may never have considered. This session brings together a panel of voices sharing their personal journeys into horticulture, the career directions available across the industry, and the experiences that have shaped them professionally.

The discussion will also highlight opportunities available to emerging horticulturists, including AIH scholarships and international programs such as the Global Footprints Scholarship, and how to make the most of them. Whether you are just starting out or looking to broaden your path within the green industry, this session is designed to inspire connection, learning and long-term involvement in horticulture and the wider industry community.

PRESENTED BY:

Ash Walker

AIH



Ash Walker is Head Gardener of a private estate in the Southern Highlands, NSW, and a National Councillor with the Australian Institute of Horticulture, and NSW representative with the Horticultural Media Association Australia.

Passionate about heritage gardens, planetary health and supporting the youth in horticulture, Ash has worked at some of the world's most renowned gardens, including Claude Monet's Garden in France, the Eden Project, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, RHS Chelsea Flower Show and NT Hidcote Manor. Through public speaking, writing and industry leadership, he enjoys sharing practical knowledge and inspiring others to pursue careers in horticulture.

James Feez

AIH



James Feez is an accredited horticulturist and the owner of The Smart Gardener Pty Ltd, based in Toowoomba, Queensland. His career began as a Junior Nursery Hand and has since spanned retail horticulture, garden maintenance, landscape installation, and garden design.

After working as a gardener and landscaper in Brisbane, James completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture) at the University of Queensland before becoming a Horticulturist and Nursery Manager at one of Brisbane's leading independent garden centres.

Today, he helps clients create beautiful, practical gardens through expert design, installation, and horticultural advice.

Kira Platt-Behrens

AIH



Kira is a horticulturist, environmental scientist, and landscape designer who uses her multi-disciplinary background to champion sustainability and wellbeing. As a Global Footprints Alumna and member of the AIH Future Voices sub-committee, she cultivates opportunities for better planetary health.

Backed by a First-Class Honours degree in Environmental Science, a Diploma of Landscape Design, and a Certificate III in Horticulture (Parks and Gardens), Kira is currently focused on learning from industry experts, building networks, and growing her understanding of how landscape design can contribute to biodiversity and reconciliation.

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