

KU Annual Conference Program

*Dreams...of a better world
Desires...to make a difference
Courage...to make it happen*



Saturday 18 October 2014

Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Rosehill



Children's Services

Since 1895

Proudly a not for profit organisation

Order of Events

Closed Session for KU Staff only

8.00 am	Registration
8.45 am	Welcome to Country
9.00 am	CEO and Chair of the Board Address
9.20 am	KU Awards
9.50 am	KUSA Awards
10.30 am	External participants registration Morning Tea & Exhibitors Display
11.00 am	Opening Address
11.30 am	Featured Speakers' Panel
1.00 pm	Lunch and Exhibitors Display
2.00 pm	Stream 1: Featured Speakers' Workshops OR Stream 2: Interactive Workshops
3.00 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30 pm	Stream 1: Stories From the Field OR Stream 2: Interactive Workshops (repeated)
4.30 pm	Close
4.45 pm	Post-Conference networking event



CEO's Welcome Message

"In an everchanging landscape, we must hold tight to the integrity of our work with children and families. We must be bold and strong as we advocate for the rights of children to access and enjoy quality early childhood education. We must dream big, and remain committed to making a difference in the lives of the children and families with whom we work. We must demonstrate courage as we meet the challenges of the future reflecting critically upon our collective wisdom to inform and shape new theory and pedagogies.

The KU Annual Conference 2014 again invites early childhood educators to reflect upon, share and contribute to innovative thinking, dialogue and practice. We are delighted to showcase the unique and important work of Dr Tim Moore, Dr Robyn Dolby and Catharine Hydon supported by curriculum specialists and courageous practitioners who remind us that our stories may be singular, but our destination is shared – a better world for our children."

KU CEO, Christine Legg

Rosehill Gardens Racecourse

This year the KU Annual Conference will be held in the award winning Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, home of the Golden Slipper and located minutes from Sydney Olympic park. The conference is located in the Grand Pavilion, overlooking the northern end of the racecourse.

By Car

From the city, drive west along the M4 and turn off on to James Ruse Drive. Parking is available in area P1, accessible from Grand Avenue.

By Train

The Rosehill Gardens Racecourse is accessible by train, the nearest public train station is Rosehill Station. It is a five minute walk from Rosehill station to the Grand Pavilion.

Lunch and Refreshments

Your registration fee includes morning tea, lunch, and tea and coffee refreshments. If you have any special dietary requirements please fill in the appropriate section during the registration process.

Marketplace

There will be a range of market stalls from leading early childhood companies, displaying and selling educational resources throughout the day.



The Conference Program

The 2014 program moves away from the traditional Keynote Presentation and instead will open with a Featured Speakers' Panel, after which Conference Delegates have a choice of attending one of two Conference streams:

Stream One: Featured Speaker Workshops and Stories from the Field

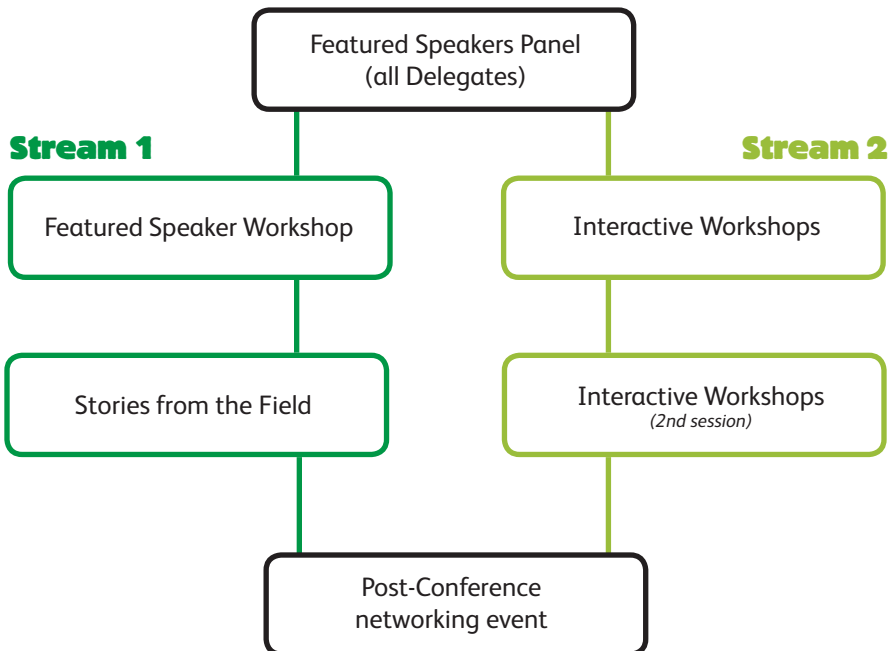
This stream allows for further engagement with the Featured Speakers, and includes a one hour Workshop with one of the Featured Speakers, followed by a KU 'Stories from the Field' Workshop, exploring the chosen theme as it is applied in practice.

Within Stream One, Delegates can choose one of the following themes:

- a) Early Intervention with Dr Tim Moore
- b) Relationships and Attachment with Dr Robyn Dolby
- c) Innovative Pedagogies with Catharine Hydon

Stream Two: Interactive Workshops

This stream of Interactive Workshops will take place downstairs in the Exhibition Hall and includes a range of hands-on, fun workshops. Delegates can choose any two Interactive Workshops to attend.



About the Featured Speakers



Dr Tim Moore is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. He trained as a teacher and psychologist at the University of Melbourne, subsequently completing his Doctoral studies in self-esteem and self-concept at the University of Surrey. He has worked as an educational and developmental psychologist for over 30 years, both in Australia and England, in a variety of mainstream and specialist settings.

Dr Moore has also played a leading role in the development of early childhood intervention policies and practices in Australia. In his current position at the Centre for Community Child Health (CCH), Dr Moore works with colleagues from different disciplines in synthesising research evidence, providing advice to state and federal government and non-government agencies on best practices in early childhood, and conducting research and project work in generalist and specialist early childhood services and in service development. He has been the principal writer on numerous CCH reviews, reports and policy briefs, and is a frequent keynote and workshop presenter.

Panel Presentation: Early Intervention and Inclusion

Society has changed dramatically over the past few decades, with significant impacts upon children, families, communities and services. At the same time as these changes have been occurring, our knowledge of child development and the significance of the early years has been growing, and our views about disability and difference have been changing.

This confluence of social change and new knowledge has led governments and service systems to seek new ways of configuring and delivering services. At the societal level, this has taken the form of efforts to integrate service systems, place-based initiatives, and multilevel interventions. At the mainstream ECEC service level, we have seen the introduction of the national Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Framework. At the early childhood intervention level, there have been changes in our understanding of how best to promote the development of children with developmental disabilities, and in the nature of the relationship between parents and professionals.

This paper explores the implications of these changes for mainstream and specialist early childhood services, and considers how we can create fully inclusive environments for all children.



Dr Robyn Dolby is a psychologist who has worked in the field of Infant Mental Health for thirty-five years. Between 2000 – 2011 she co-ordinated the project called “Attachment Matters – from relationships to learning”, an attachment-based intervention at KU James Cahill Preschool. From this project Robyn has written the booklets, “The Circle of Security: Roadmap to Building Supportive Relationships”; “About Bullying” and “Promoting Positive Behaviour”; and with colleagues Eilish

Hughes and Belinda Friezer “Secure transitions: supporting children to feel secure, confident and included” (2013) published by Early Childhood Australia. Annually since 1999 Robyn has run a six-monthly child observation course within an early childhood setting, as part of the required training for child psychiatrists in NSW.

Panel Presentation: Relationships and Attachment

‘How we react to children’s emotions teaches them whether feelings can be shared or need to be hidden, and whether they can face their feelings or need to escape from them’ (Circle of Security Program COS-P, p. 38-39). All children are waiting for caregivers (their parents, their educators) to ‘be with’ them. My dream is to add ‘with’ to the EYLF motif of ‘being’ so that “being with children in their feelings” becomes a core part in how educators engage with children and reflect on their own practice.

The Circle of Security program outlines a Pathway to Security that supports caregivers to “be with” children’s feelings. My desire is for the Circle of Security training package to be rolled out to all educators and parents within the KU community. Imagine how parents and educators can work together to give children the experience of ‘being with’. “Imagine how good it will feel when these children are teenagers and you hear them say: “What I have learned from you is that feelings are safe, I am never alone in my feelings. Even on my own, feelings won’t overwhelm me. My feelings can be shared” (COS-P, p. 44).

The choice to be with children’s feelings takes courage: because you must first organise your own feelings in order to support children to organise theirs. So, I’ll end with a second dream; that as educators practice “being with” they have someone to be with them. This may be in the form of reflective supervision, an interest community or back-up online.



Featured Speakers Panel



Catharine Hydon has extensive experience in the early childhood sector in Australia and overseas. Beginning as a teacher in a sessional kindergarten program, Catharine has gone on to manage a range of services for children and their families.

Catharine's involvement in the early childhood field is an important part of her commitment to the sector. She is a long time member of the Victorian Branch of Early Childhood Australia (ECA) and is currently serving as a Director on the National Board of ECA. Catharine also contributed to the review of the ECA Code of Ethics.

Catharine has a Masters in Early Childhood Education specialising in early childhood policy and governance, the delivery of integrated services and the exploration of innovative programs to engage vulnerable children and their families.

Catharine has been working with early childhood educators across the country as part of the ECA Professional Learning Project exploring the EYLF, and has been hosting a number of forums in Victoria on the National Quality Standards.

Catharine hopes to inspire those wishing to explore innovative pedagogies to strengthen practices and to be able to provide quality early childhood environments, that reflect the rights of the child embedded through strong connections with families and community.

Panel Presentation: Innovative Pedagogy – Learners, meaning making and the good life.

Our pedagogical understandings lie at the heart of who we are as educators; they support our relationships with families and nurture learning outcomes for the children we work with. Yet for many of us these practices have been absorbed in the background, barely visible as we go about the well-trodden path of daily practice. Contemporary early childhood education and care urges educators to reconnect with pedagogy in powerful and imaginative ways.



This presentation will leave the safety of the taken for granted, and invite educators everywhere to become pedagogical innovators – those who manifest pedagogy in ways that honour the learner, make meaning in life's daily encounters and seek to map out a good life for all.

Stream One: Featured Speaker Workshops

Delegates choose one of the following themes or Stream Two: Interactive Workshops.

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Dr Tim Moore – Early Intervention and Inclusion

This interactive session will explore the main challenges that we face in moving towards (and beyond) full inclusion. Ways that participants already use to meet these challenges will be canvassed, before considering some proven and promising practices for creating inclusive early childhood environments for all children, including universal design for learning and tiered models.

There will also be a discussion of what resources are available to help early childhood intervention practitioners support children with additional needs in mainstream early childhood settings. Finally, ways in which early childhood, early childhood intervention practitioners and families can work together will be explored.

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Stories from the Field: Early Intervention and Inclusion

- KU ISA: Quality Inclusive Environments – Sharing through vignettes
- KU Merewether and KU Windale: Communication exchange – The real lives of children

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Dr Robyn Dolby – Relationships and Attachment

This workshop will engage participants to reflect upon how they support children's emotional development. Participants will reflect on:

- 1) How to "be with" children's feelings and what this brings to the children.
- 2) How to observe their own feelings closely and register their own reactions as a pathway to understanding how children are feeling.
- 3) How to find their "own words" or language to talk with children about feelings and the process of managing emotions.
- 4) How to provide structure in the conflict moment and outside it to develop children's own skills in conflict resolution and managing emotions.

This material will relate directly to *NQS Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children* (p.123), "Every child is supported to manage their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts".

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Stories from the Field: Relationships and Attachment

- KU Corrimal East Preschool: Influences of Circle of Security and Marte Meo
- KU James Cahill Preschool: Influences of Circle of Security and Marte Meo

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Catharine Hydon – Innovative Pedagogy: Practice approaches to the learner, meaning making and the good life

This presentation will engage participants in a reflective practice discussion that explores innovative pedagogy in more detail. Equipped with theories, philosophies and our practice wisdom we will explore the practice implication of becoming innovators. Questions will be posed and answers sought; What does leaving the safety of the taken for granted look like? How do we invite educators everywhere to become pedagogical innovators? What does honouring the learner feel like on a Wednesday afternoon? What decisions cultivate meaning? And how do we map out a good life for all?

Educators are encouraged to use their own practice experience to identify the glimmers of pedagogical innovation and plan for practice improvement into the future.

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Stories from the Field: Innovative Pedagogies

- KU Wombarra Preschool: “Marrang Gamarada” – The Beach Friends project
- KU Ultimo Children’s Centre: “Go Getters” – Resourceful learning environments
- KU Kira Children’s Centre: “Out The Gate” – Connection with community



Stream Two: Interactive Workshops

Delegates choose **two** of the following Interactive Workshops **or** Stream One: Featured Speakers Workshops.

Art

Presented by Jacqui Bolt

Art is a language and a language that should be recognised, revered and respected. Visual arts is a medium that has endless possibilities and has been used to communicate desire for change in a peaceful and effective way, throughout history.

This presentation will share a current children's project, where children are thinking about animals, their habitats and the fact that many of their favourite animals are endangered. The children's aim is to communicate to people what is happening, through the use and exploration of the visual arts.

Music

Presented by Jingle Jam

Using music and movement, participants will be guided through different ways in which children can express themselves and the environment around them. This fun and practical workshop will use visual aids, percussion instruments, musical games, songs, movement and dance. Music is a powerful way for children to express themselves, their feelings and emotions. This is a positive workshop encouraging children to be aware of their environment, themselves and others making the world a better place to be!

Literacy

Presented by Libby Gleeson

What is quality literature and why should it be used when working with very young children?

In this session we address this question by looking at examples of picture books that I term 'quality literature' and discussing what working with these books can do to help the young child grow. Which books should every centre have and how can you encourage parents and care givers to read with their child on a regular basis? The session will include an opportunity to workshop ideas of ways to use some of the titles presented.

Science

Presented by Christine Schneyer

Do you know how to amaze young children with science activities that use existing, everyday materials?

Have the courage to find out and to make it happen! Join our hands-on 'Little Scientists' workshops for teachers and educators, covering topics such as 'Water', 'Air', 'Acoustics', 'Light, Colours, Vision' and 'Building & Constructing'. You will find yourself totally engaged in what happens as you explore the materials – just like the children in your care, when you introduce them to the 'Little Scientists' activities.

Drama

Presented by The Drama Toolbox

We dream of a better world. A world with a meaningful alternative to screens. Where children learn using their imagination and creativity. Where children explore the diversity in the environment and relationships, and enrich their interactions with confident expressions. We can make it happen by equipping children with skills in their formative years. By being role models willing to show courage in movement, exploring, creating and making.

This interactive workshop will give delegates the confidence in using drama to organise and express ideas and feelings. All work will be done in groups, with costumes and props supplied by The Drama Toolbox.

Technology

Presented by Daniel Burton

Daniel's hands-on workshop looks at a variety of simple technology tools that allow children to engage and explore their surroundings. Using tools such as Zoom Microphones, Wireless - handheld microscopes, digital cameras and iPads participants will take on the role of the child, capturing the essence of their outdoor environment through sound bites, photos, video and a variety of easy to use Apps. The focus being on looking at the world through a specific, targeted lens and finding extraordinary detail that is often missed. From an educator's point of view, the workshop explores the theory behind children's use of technology, its ability to be 'more than its initial purpose', using the tools to see past the screen and as a tool for exploration, inquiry and to inspire curiosity. Participants will come back in from the outdoors to then review, explore and use the content they have captured to create interactive and visual artwork.

Sustainability

Presented by Julie Gaul and Deb Watson (KU Children's Services)

The interactive workshop 'Nature Play' will inspire participants to strengthen their vision of a better world, where children have greater opportunities to learn about, care for, and advocate for our Earth.

The workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to be involved in everyday activities offered to children using natural materials, giving them the confidence to 'make it happen' back in their services. Opportunities for engagement will involve fun with hands-on play.

Chefs and Cooks Café (Cooking demonstration)

Presented by Tony Sharpe

I began to realise that there was a need for someone to teach some childcare centres how to cook real food, using wholesome additive free ingredients, that's how 'Educating Palates' came to fruition (Tony Sharpe from website 2014).

Tony will provide a practical cooking demonstration to showcase simple, delicious and nutritious food for children from birth to five years. Tony will draw upon his experiences working with young children, creating meals that inspire lifelong healthy eating practices.

“Stories ... delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds”.
(Litherland, 2010).

In 2009 KU began to promote the sharing of stories from educative teams to include as an integral component of the KU Annual Conference, in the form of a poster presentation.

This form of professional sharing is considered to be an opportunity for educators to showcase their work and particular aspects of their current pedagogy which supports the streams of the conference each year.

The poster presentations broaden opportunities for representation from KU staff in the conference program and deepen the sense of connection and celebration amongst the KU family which is clearly evident at this annual event.

Story telling is considered a powerful reflective learning tool and forms the basis of the poster presentations.

The poster presentations provide an avenue for “Communications about personal experience told in everyday discourse.” (Browning, 1992) Stories provide insight into thinking, ignite the senses of educators and inspire future pedagogies. They symbolise the diversity of our educators, children, families, and the variety of work which is enacted throughout the organisation to support the lives of children and families.

The poster presentations support a sense of professional collegiality and early childhood advocacy; a sense of pride to educators for the rich endeavours they undertake and as commendation on their professional identity.

Poster Presentations



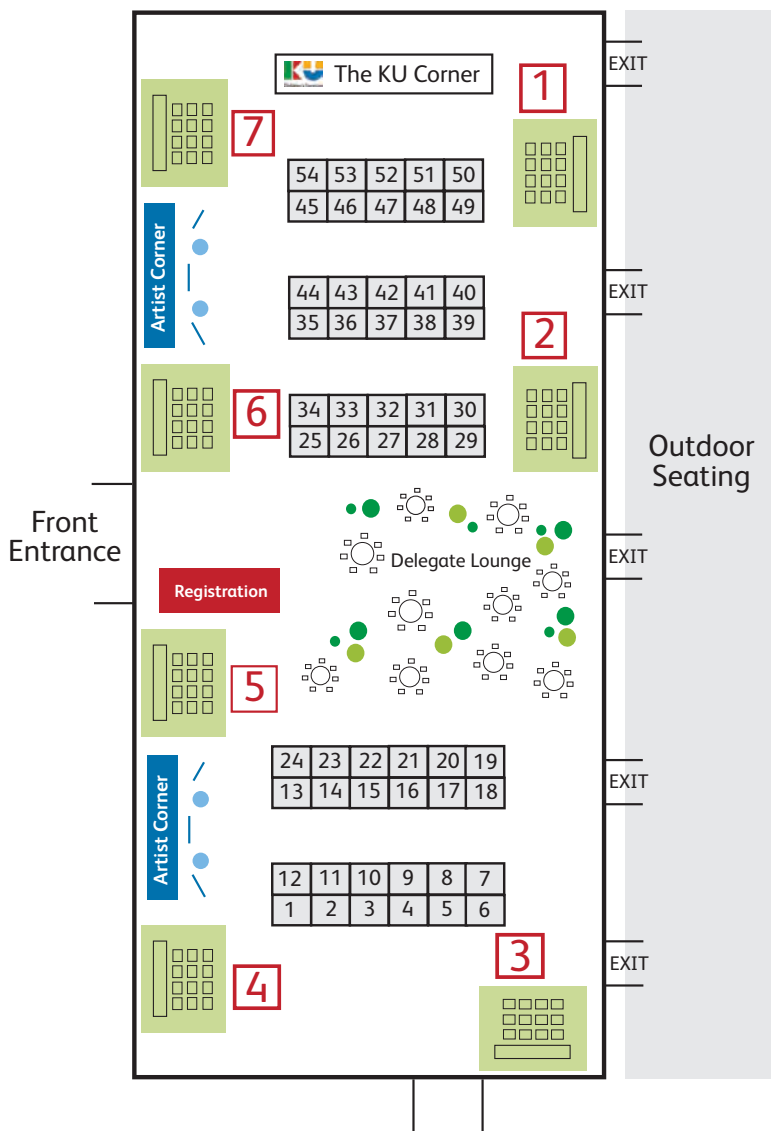
Key to Interactive Workshops

1 Drama/Music
5 Literature

2 Nature
6 Maths/Science

3 Art
7 Chef's Kitchen

4 Technology



Sponsors and Exhibitors include:



Pademelon Press Pty Ltd



Registrations

To register, external participants should complete the online registration process accessible via the KU website www.ku.com.au

KU staff can book online via the KU Staff Intranet.

Registration Pricing

KU employee	\$80.00
External (non-KU employee)	\$220.00
Student (fulltime)	\$120.00
<i>(Student ID required upon registration)</i>	
DEC Employee	\$160.00

Important Information

In order to complete the registration process, you must accept the Terms and Conditions. A confirmation email will be sent upon registration, if you do not receive this email confirmation then your registration is incomplete.

Registrations close 3 October 2014.

KU Conference App



The KU Conference app provides delegates with complete information on the KU Annual Conference including biographies on each of the guest speakers, a copy of the program, venue maps, and information about KU's Professional Services and Learning Program.

Simply scan the QR Codes below to download the free App to your phone.

Apple devices:



Android devices:



With thanks...

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Acknowledgement of Artwork

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