

# Eco-Connect Environment Forum

## Sunday 8 September 2024

### UniSC Gympie Campus: 71 Cartwright Rd, Gympie, 8.30 am - 4 pm

The Gympie Region Environmental Advocacy Team (GREAT) is hosting the Eco-Connect Environment Forum on Sunday 8 September. This jam-packed forum is a must-attend event for anyone interested in environmental initiatives and opportunities for participation.

Starting with an optional early-morning bird walk on the beautiful UniSC Gympie Campus, Eco-Connect includes inspiring presentations, practical workshops, informative displays, and invaluable networking opportunities with like-minded people and environmental leaders.

## Keynote speaker: Tony Wellington

Tony Wellington, former Noosa Mayor, wildlife photographer, and conservationist will speak about the special biodiversity of our region. His emphasis will be on making conservation gains in the face of seemingly obstructionist governments. Tony will use regional examples to demonstrate the many significant conservation wins that have occurred under conservative political regimes.

Supported by his own photography, two examples of which are shown here, this promises to be an inspiring session.

Eco-Connect also features presentations, workshops and displays on creating frog habitat, using tech in the field to record flora and fauna observations, wildlife rescue, the Detection Dogs for Conservation, update on koala conservation in action, weaving with Cat's Claw creeper vine, land stewardship and much more.

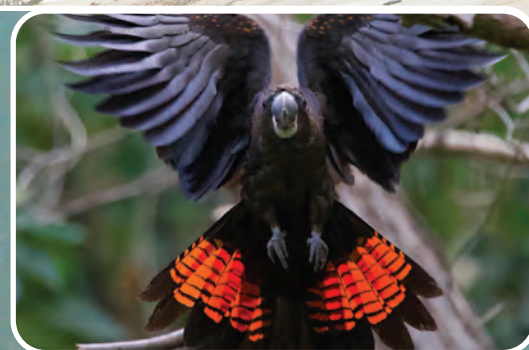
For a full copy of the program, visit the GREAT website at [www.great.org.au/environment-forum](http://www.great.org.au/environment-forum).

Tickets are available through Humanitix at <https://events.humanitix.com/great-eco-connect-environmentforum>



The cost is \$30 for adults or \$20 for students/concession which includes morning tea and lunch so please remember to advise of any dietary requirements. For those wishing to attend the presentations online, the cost is \$10.

**GREAT** is a consortium of representatives from community environment and sustainability groups in the Gympie region, formed to collectively promote a cohesive approach to the protection of the environment, and maximise the advocacy of its members with local, state and federal agencies. For more information, visit the website.



Mary River turtle  
Image courtesy Chris van Wyk

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## Program

### Presentations

- 8.45 am Introduction, Welcome, housekeeping
- 9 am Acknowledgement of Country
- 9.15 am **Keynote address:** Tony Wellington-Tactics to conserve biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- 10 am Wild indigenous macadamias, Macadamia Conservation Trust
- 10.30 am Water for the future, Brad Wedlock (MRCCC)

### 11 am Morning tea

- 11.20 am Koala conservation in action, Koala Action Gympie Region
- 11.50 am Purposeful Patch Planning, Steve Burgess (Mary Valley Country Harvest Cooperative)
- 12.20 pm Habitat for frogs, Ashley Keune (Qld Frog Society)

### 12.50 pm Lunch

- 1.30 pm Saving endangered freshwater turtles in the Mary River catchment, Shona Sengstock and Nathaniel Larsen (MRCCC)
- 2 pm Citizen Science: the Bioblitz and Turtle Care, Lindy Orwin (Cooloola Coastcare)
- 2.30 pm Wildlife rescue in the Gympie region, ANARRA
- 3 pm Mary River cod habitat enhancement Nathaniel Larsen (MRCCC)
- 3.30 pm Special guest Spencer Hitchen (Save Sunrise Glossies) and his Journey to Stand UP 4 Nature

### 4 pm Close



### Breakout workshops

- 7 am USC campus bird walk with Graham Parr, Gympie & District Field Naturalists
- 10 to 11 am: Detection Dogs for Conservation workshop, University of the Sunshine Coast Researchers and four legged friends
- 10 am to 3.30 pm: ALL DAY ACTIVITY "drop-in-drop-out" **Cat's Claw Weaving workshop** with Riverbend Nature Connections supported by special guest weavers
- 11.20 am Using tech in the field workshop (1.5 hrs), iNaturalist Geo-referencing etc Randy Orwin (Cooloola Coastcare)

**PLUS: information village and displays throughout the day**



**Gympie Region Environmental Advocacy Team** [www.great.org.au](http://www.great.org.au)

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee  
Gympie & District Landcare  
Cooloola Coastcare  
Koala Action Gympie Region  
Australian Native Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation  
Gympie & District Field Naturalists  
Gympie & District Sustainability Alliance  
Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council



**Tickets on Humanitix**

**Scan the QR code**

\$30 adults, \$20 concessions (includes catering), or \$10 online

