AASW TAS Continuing Professional Development event

Green Social Work: Promoting sustainable ways of living and practising as social workers

Keynote Speaker

Dr Jennifer Boddy School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University

World Café Panellists

Jodi Haines Associate lecturer, *murina* program Riawunna UTAS, Singer/songwriter
Fiona Jennings RMIT PhD candidate, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre
Mary Rummery Social worker, Ravenswood Community House
Megan Smith Social worker, Royal Hobart Hospital

The topics will cover:

- Social work response to climate change
- Recognising Aboriginal knowledge and how the arts can drive change in green social work
- Promoting sustainable community, environmental and food security development via community garden projects
- Designing economic sustainable and socially inclusive communities
- Grounded theory and rural communities’ response to bushfire disasters
- Panel overview and where to from here?

Friday 22 September 2017
9am registration; 9.30am – 3.30pm program
Includes morning tea and lunch

The Grange Meeting & Function Centre
4A Commonwealth Ln, Campbell Town
Tasmania

$100 (member)       $60 (student member)
$135 (non-member)  $75 (student non-member)
$60 (retired member)  $75 (student non-member)

6 hours

Contact the Branch Office aaswtas@aasw.asn.au or 03 6224 5833 (Tues/Thurs/Fri 9.30am-5.30pm) for all registration enquiries.

The Tasmanian Branch aims to support Tasmanian social workers and social work students by offering continuing professional development and learning opportunities in a supportive inclusive group environment.
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Registrations open (tea and coffee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.25am</td>
<td>Move into main room</td>
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<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>• Acknowledgement of country</td>
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<td>• Housekeeping – toilets, safety, survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td>Dr Jenny Boddy – Keynote speaker</td>
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<td>10.20am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>Dr Jenny Boddy – Keynote speaker</td>
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<td>• Includes questions</td>
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<td>11.20am</td>
<td>Morning tea break</td>
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<td>World café</td>
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<td>12.40pm</td>
<td>Lunch (35 mins)</td>
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<td>1.15pm</td>
<td>World café</td>
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<td>1.45pm</td>
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<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Feedback World Café – key themes</td>
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<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>Panel Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Wrap up and depart by 3.30pm</td>
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Jennifer BODDY

Dr Jennifer Boddy is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia and Program Director for the Master of Social Work (Qualifying). She is also on the executive committee for the Australian and New Zealand Social Work, Welfare, Education and Research (ANZSWWER) Association.

Jennifer is passionate about creating healthy, sustainable environments for all people and particularly those who are marginalised and disadvantaged. Much of Jennifer’s scholarship is focused around community development, environmental social work, and feminism. Coupled with her practice experience as a counsellor with NSW Health and as a therapeutic caseworker with Centacare Children’s Services, she has in depth understanding of the complexities of people’s environments on their health and wellbeing. Jennifer is particularly interested in in understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change and disasters on disadvantaged populations.

Jodi HAINES

Jodi is a Gomeroi woman (North West NSW) and a valued member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. She is passionate about using stories for healing and strengthening of self, family, community and the world through the arts. Jodi has been working in the Aboriginal community for many years as a youth, health, aged care worker and music mentor. She has a Bachelor of Education in PE, a Masters of Indigenous Studies (Wellbeing) and is currently over half way completing her Masters of Social Work at UTAS.

Jodi has been working in a variety of community and education roles for many years and more recently in the mental health field in a variety of roles. These include working in a drug rehabilitation residence at Arcadia House in Canberra, the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program in Brisbane, the Partners in Recovery program in Brisbane and more recently at Relationships Australia Tas.

She recently reluctantly trusted the universe and switched back into the Education field and is currently working at UTAS’s Riawunna Centre as an Associate Lecturer in the enabling murina program. She is slowly beginning to understand why this has happened as all of her passions are being gathered together in her new role as she develops and deliver a meaningful pathway program for the Aboriginal community at the University of Tasmania.

Jodi is a singer songwriter and has collaborated with the Aboriginal community to write a song that is being used in the “save the takayna campaign”. This campaign is driven by the Bob Brown Foundation in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and is a showcase of how the arts can be a driver in Green social work practice.
Fiona JENNINGS

Fiona Jennings has a professional background in social work and has predominately worked in country Victoria and Tasmania for local, state, federal government and non-government organisations. She began her career in human services in the early 1990s before completing her social work degrees and is currently a PhD Candidate at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

While she was living in Tasmania, Fiona joined the AASW Tasmanian Branch committee responsible for portfolios in ethics and a rural practice group. Fiona has remained an active Surf Life Saving volunteer since 1998. Fiona and her husband now live in East Gippsland, Victoria.

Fiona’s research is linked to the Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC.

Mary RUMMERY

Mary Rummery is a social worker and teacher working in community development in Ravenswood Tasmania. Her current role is in adult literacy coordinating the Link Up Literacy project.

Prior to this role Mary worked for several years on the Growing Together project in Ravenswood under which a number of community and backyard gardens were established to address food security.

Mary has also worked in schools establishing wellbeing programs for children and parent communities, as well as past roles in adventure therapy and youth justice. Mary is passionate about urban farming and has been developing an urban food forest in her own backyard in Launceston to feed her family, friends and neighbours.

Megan SMITH

Megan Smith holds a Bachelor of Social Work (University of South Australia), Graduate Diploma of Human Services (Narrative Therapy and Mediation from Curtin University) and is nearing the completion of her Masters in Economics and Regional Development (University of New England).

She has worked in Australia, the UK and Ireland as a Social Worker and draws practice experience from broad areas including health, aged care, corrections, child protection and tertiary rehabilitation. Her practice has incorporated case management, advocacy, assessment, counselling and group work roles. She has worked in Community Development and is an associate of Murawin Pty. Ltd a facilitation business that collaborates with communities to develop culturally appropriate responses and localized solutions. As co-designer of The Unusual Suspects she continues to pursue her interest in inclusive regional economic development and collaborative ingenuity.
Keynote Presentation

Keeping cool when the heat is on: Examining climate change effects and social work responses

Dr Jennifer Boddy

The extent of global environmental degradation and extreme climate changes have brought about new challenges to practice in the health, social and human services. As the interrelated nature of human health and wellbeing and that of the natural environment becomes increasingly apparent, practitioners are often confronted with the adverse effects of climate change, but may have little idea about how they can adequately respond.

Based on a series of studies around the effects of climate change on marginalised people and the examination of environmental social work practices, this presentation looks at:

- what is happening to the climate
- why we should care
- strategies for mitigating and adapting to it.

World Café Program

Aboriginal knowledge and the Arts - drivers for change in Green social work practice

Jodi Haines

Jodi will explore how the Arts for Aboriginal people can be a vehicle for change by getting their voices heard. She will showcase the “save the takayna” campaign as an example of how this interacts with Green Social Work.

Participants will

- explore how Aboriginal people through dispossession have been subjected to social work cultural bias
- reframe the social work lens by recognising Aboriginal knowledges
- learn how ongoing and powerful connection to nature takes away bias and facilitates empowerment and better outcomes for our planet!
- How can the arts be a driver in Green social work practice?

Please watch liyini milaythina rrala (Singing Country Strong) to prepare for this table discussion.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cBvpm2F8ZA
Navigating a Bushfire Disaster: A Community’s Experience

Fiona Jennings

Participants will learn about grounded theory, rural communities and bushfire disaster by examining a Tasmanian bushfire disaster case study.

Fiona’s research communicates rich insights into a community’s experience of a bushfire disaster. The study setting is the 2013 Forcett Tasmania bushfire disaster. The presentation will illustrate the research design and findings. Grounded theory offered a practical method to gain fresh insights into people’s lived experience. A feature of grounded theory is that it studies process, the ‘what’ and ‘how’ questions that often give reason or answer to the ‘why’ questions. Participants’ views and voices are fundamental and represented throughout the analysis. This research demonstrates people actively involved in their own, and their community’s journey through a bushfire event. Interpreting and managing their context in a manner that was helpful and familiar to them. This research concludes that it is necessary to consider the possibilities of people functioning under stress in hazards and disaster, and develop approaches that value and support their participation in a way that is meaningful and respectful of their experience.

Further readings:


To fence or not to fence? How might a physical barrier (fence) impact upon efforts to promote sustainable community, environmental and food security development for the people of a community involved in community garden projects?

Mary Rummery

Participants will consider key issues of engagement, power, control, accessibility, and how community leaders and community development workers need to think strategically around changing systems, culture, and hearts and minds on the ground in community garden projects.

Also covered will be

- Social and economic sustainability, dignity and worth of peoples, community and environmental sustainability and the importance of human relationships as being the main tenets of working alongside the community in a community and backyard garden project.
- The Ravenswood experience of backyard and community gardening as a means to increase the accessibility of fresh affordable produce. This will include our experience of not fencing the community garden space so that community has 24/7 access and what this has meant over time.
- Community culture and language, especially the use of the word ‘healthy’ when we talk about areas designated as food deserts – what does this mean, what impact does it have on the success of projects? Are we mindful of the language we use in order to minimise barriers for people? Is what we do sometimes underpinned by well-intentioned, middle class attitudes and values that may not be relevant to the community?
- The use of pesticides and ways to bring about change in community culture that builds environmental sustainability.

Designing Economically Sustainable and Socially Inclusive Communities

Megan Smith

As a Social Worker, I have recently jumped into Economics and Regional Development realms. Looking to bring an ecological systems theory and social justice principles to broad discussions of economic development and social inclusion. My Masters research is focused on one possible method communities might use to pursue endogenous solutions that empower their local economy. From what communities view as assets, to the democratization of power production, there are many ways local communities can seek to impact on developing their own economies in ways which not only promote economic diversification, but also are environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. National discussions focus on economic challenges as if neoclassical solutions are the only option, but many other types of community are apparent.

Humanity is facing complex challenges, and Social Work has a part to play in ensuring that solutions are socially just, not just for current generations, but also for future generations who will be saddled with the outcomes of our lifestyle decisions in the millennia to follow.