Lady Gowrie Qld presents

2019 CONFERENCE
ROCKHAMPTON

‘Exceptional, Engaging, Enriching’
Exploring the complex and diverse roles of Early Childhood Professionals

SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST

VENUE: Leichhardt Hotel,
Corner of Denham and Bolsover Street,
Rockhampton.

TO REGISTER
please go to https://ladygowrie.arlo.co
Registrations close Wednesday 14th August 2019
This session is for current leaders, soon to be leaders, and even the accidental leader. Leadership can be a complex and sometimes unknown dance. We are called to the floor before becoming familiar with the tune, rhythms and the beat. Taking a balcony moment when we step away and observe from afar and reflect can give us just the opportunity we need to see what’s required. Not just what’s required of others, but what we require to make it all happen as well. Get clear on what you want, creating the vision and setting and achieving goals for continuous improvement. Unlocking the power of Emotional intelligence, supporting positive interpersonal relationships, and setting a culture of feedback based on open, honest communication.

**Biography**  
Philip is an Associate at Semann & Slattery. He is an expert at applying practical leadership and educational theories into a diverse range of educational and human service settings and practices. Over the past two decades Philip has held a vast array of positions in the educational settings ranging from educational leader, academic lecturer, director, Authorised Supervisor and teacher.

Philip’s practical skills and regulatory understandings have also been sought out by sector leaders and members in assisting with the design, construction, licensing and staffing of educational settings. Philip enjoys applying his skills as a mentor, as well as holding an ongoing role with Macquarie University’s Institute of Early Childhood as a student advisor. In his role at Semann & Slattery, Philip is focused on transforming Australian educational settings by delivering effective programs and services which combine pedagogical theories, educational leadership and effective change and team management principles to clients who seek long term value.

### SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST 2019

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### Keynote Saturday 24th August 9.15am

**Philip Butler**

*The Dance of Leading: Inspiring and driving positive team cultures through Transformational Leadership*

This session is for current leaders, soon to be leaders, and even the accidental leader.
**CONCURRENT ONE**

**Presenter:** Philip Butler  
**Workshop Abstract:** Documenting children’s learning and the Planning cycle: Getting into the ‘flow’ with the planning cycle.

Good documentation writes itself. There’s no amount required, no timetable to follow, and no specific way it’s meant to look. So why have we created so many rules and hoops to jump through? This session will allow you, the educator, to take back control of the documentation process, and ensure it’s helping you to do your role, and not hindering you. We will have the opportunity to look at the four key requirement of the planning cycle (observations, plans, reflections, displays), as well as clearing up a few myths and misunderstandings around the use of the documentation.

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**WORKSHOP ABSTRACT: Emotionally regulating the young child.**

**Presenter:** Child Space  
**Workshop Abstract:** Emotional development and self regulation: The role of the adult.

This presentation will explore the role of the adult in the emotional development and self-regulation of infants and toddlers in early childhood settings. There are three ages of infancy (birth – 3 years). The first is “young” when a child requires security, warmth and caring. The second is “mobile” where a child seeks to explore, discover and move. The third is “older” when a child is looking for independence and control.

When we understand the specific needs of the child at each age, we are better able to partner with that child in their learning journey toward self-regulation.

**Biography**  
Childspace is an Early Childhood organisation from New Zealand. Childspace was founded by wife and husband team Toni and Robin Christie. Robin’s work designing and building children’s playgrounds, furnishings and equipment is internationally renowned. He is a passionate advocate for natural and aesthetic environments for our youngest Children. Robin is also a bit of a clown and likes to dress up as his alter ego, Doctor Bob, and put on science shows and workshops. He is a puppeteer, musician and storyteller as well as a father, teacher and husband.

Toni is the real brains of the outfit, and she is recognised internationally for her contributions to the field of infant and toddler research and writing. Toni delivers keynote addresses and workshops on many and varied subjects relevant to early childhood education including leadership, communication, emotional development, respectful care, behaviour guidance and self-review. Toni enjoys her many roles as author, editor, marriage celebrant, mother and wife.

Together Toni and Robin provide visionary leadership for their team of more than 50 teachers, designers and administrators at Childspace. They edit a quarterly magazine for early childhood in New Zealand and run around their country teaching early childhood teachers to play the ukulele among other things. These two always travel together and they make the perfect addition to early childhood education conference programmes as keynote speakers and workshop facilitators. They are passionate advocates, highly inspirational, knowledgeable, entertaining and fun!
CONCURRENT ONE continued

Presenter: Catharine Hydon

Workshop Abstract: Making meaning: the practice of ethical curriculum decision making

On any given day educators make hundreds of curriculum decisions. From where children put their belongings to the equipment and resources on offer, educators decide to take actions that support the program with the broad aim of fostering children’s learning. But how do we know if these decisions are meaningful? Can some of these decisions erode what is important to children and result in programs that do not support children to live well now and into the future? Curriculum decisions are more than just deciding what to do - they are about choosing what is meaningful to do. Educators are faced with the possibilities many choices when they design programs – the challenge is to make decision that connect to the children we work with equip them to be the very best they can be. What is meaningful for one service may not be meaningful for another.

This session will explore the ‘messy complexity’ of principled curriculum decision making and how educators can collaborate to offer children a meaningful and ethical curriculum that helps us all to live well.

Biography Catharine Hydon is the Director at Hydon Consulting. Over the last 10 years she has worked as an independent education consultant to a range of organisations and government to support the articulation of quality and inspire change. Catharine has extensive experience in the early childhood sector beginning as a teacher in a sessional kindergarten program in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Since then Catharine has lead a range of services and projects for children and their families. Catharine has a Masters in Early Childhood Education specialising in early childhood practice, policy and governance, the delivery of integrated services and the exploration of innovative programs to engage vulnerable children and their families. Catharine draws on this study and her ongoing practice research to consider how theory connects and informs practice.

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 Early Childhood Australia (ECA), currently serves as the Co-chair of the Reconciliation Advisory Group and is a regular contributor in ECA publications. Catharine has been a member of the ECA Code of Ethics working group for the last two reviews and is a co-author on the recently published Ethics in Action Implementation guide. Catharine is also a member of the Respectful Relationship Expert Advisory Group for the Victorian Department of Education and the EY-10 Curriculum and Assessment Committee for the VCAA.

Catharine is a dynamic speaker and collaborative facilitator and is skilled at engaging professionals in reflective dialogue and creative conversations.

CONCURRENT TWO

Presenter: Sue Lewin and Andrew King

Workshop Abstract: Dream, draw, design, make: From STEM to STEAM in early years’ education.

From Leonardo de Vinci to Steve Jobs, problem solving scientists have also been artists. This hands-on interactive workshop explores the integration of engineering and the arts in the Early Years’ curriculum. Engineer and writer Andrew King and musician and early years’ educator Sue Lewin combine their knowledge and experiences in their chosen fields to lead participants through practical activities, philosophies, songs and creative thinking for young children.

Biography Sue Lewin is an early childhood teacher, musician and songwriter. She is a co-director at Mt Gravatt Kindergarten and also teaches at Griffith University in early childhood. She has produced seven CDs for young children. Her latest CD, with Indigenous educator Sharron Lindh will be released this year. Sue’s musical, ‘Dancing the Boomchacha Boogie’ (based on the picture book by award winning author/illustrator Narelle Oliver), was staged as a children’s musical in London last year. Andrew is a Brisbane based consulting engineer with qualifications in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. He is passionate about the integral role of engineering in environmental management and sustainability and is a Climate Reality Leader. Andrew is the author of Engibear’s Dream, Engibear’s Bridge and Engilina’s Trains - children’s picture books about engineering. He is also a teacher and is currently teaching secondary maths and science.
Presenters: Dr Amanda McFadden and Dr Lisa Sonter

Workshop Abstract: Leading and learning: equipping yourself as a leader in early childhood

Biography Dr Amanda McFadden is the Director at Lady Gowrie Red Hill Community Kindergarten. She has previously been a senior lecturer in the School of Early Childhood at QUT and Course Coordinator for the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood). Amanda has extensive early childhood experience working in a range of early childhood contexts including long day care, family day care, and kindergarten programs. Amanda continues to research and publish in the field of early childhood and is particularly interested in leadership and teacher experiences. Amanda has a role at Lady Gowrie Qld as the Research and Evaluation Lead. This role supports educators to research their own practice within their own contexts on projects important to them.

Dr Lisa Sonter, PhD, is a very experienced early childhood teacher, co-partner of Consultants at Play, and a sessional lecturer at the University of New England and Griffith University. Lisa is particularly interested in executive functioning, children’s play in varied contexts and early childhood professionalisation. Lisa is President of the Queensland Early Childhood Sustainability Network.

Presenter: Shaun Ziegenfusz

Workshop Abstract: Identifying and supporting children with language difficulties

One in 14 (7%) Australian children have a lifelong hidden disability known as Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), which will affect their ability to communicate, play and build relationships, but less than half will be identified by school. Without identification and support, longitudinal studies show poor outcomes in communication, academic achievement, and employment outcomes in adulthood. Early childhood educators play a critical role in the identification and support of children with language difficulties. They are also best placed to work closely with families and speech language pathologists to support early intervention.

Biography Shaun Ziegenfusz is a certified practising speech pathologist currently employed with Speech & Language Development Australia (SALDA) as Manager, Research and Advocacy. He holds a Master of Special Education and has extensive clinical experience working with children and their families. In his current role, Shaun is responsible for research into the delivery of education programs and therapeutic services for children with Developmental Language Disorder, and developing services to ensure optimal outcomes. Shaun is currently researching the educational needs of students with Language Disorder from the perspective of key stakeholders as a Master of Philosophy candidate at Griffith University.
CONCURRENT THREE

Presenter: Desley Jones
Workshop Abstract: The Language of Relationships: Thinking beyond slogans

“Knowing why you are talking in a particular way to a child and the likely impact that this will have on the child’s learning…is central to being an intentional educator or teacher.” (Anne Kennedy, Reflections, Autumn 2015).

We know relationships are complex and crucial for young children’s learning and development (M. Nagel, 2012), but how do we talk to young children about these relationships? In our busy days are we tempted to resort to easy slogans to address situations that arise eg “Sharing is caring.”?

This workshop will consider whether such slogans are as useful as we might think, and if we are going to use a slogan or saying or rule of thumb, whether there might be more appropriate and effective ones to employ.

Biography Desley teaches fulltime at Ballymore Kindy and has an Education degree and Honours degree in Psychology. She received an Inspirational Teaching Award in recognition of her emphasis on children’s social/emotional wellbeing. Desley is committed to a focus on relationships and make-believe play as appropriate and highly effective pedagogical practice.

Presenter: Sue Lewin
Workshop Abstract: Rhymers will be readers: using songs, rhymes, puppets, stories and books to introduce children to the magical world of reading and writing.

This hands-on, interactive workshop explores how by introducing children to interesting and stimulating language experiences they will develop a life-long love of reading and stories.

‘The more language a child experiences - through books and conversations – the more advantaged socially and educationally that child will be for the rest of his or her life’ Mem Fox.

Participants will explore ways to bring literacy experiences into the every-day life of early childhood settings, using the child’s interests and direction.

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Presenter: Child Space
Workshop Abstract: Rituals: a pathway to self-regulation

Rituals provide a feast for the soul. This course will excite your senses by showing you practical ways you can turn your everyday routines into magical experiences for children. Meaningful centre rituals inspire children to willingly participate in the self-regulation process celebrating both a sense of social responsibility and a positive sense of self.

Biography Childspace is an Early Childhood organisation from New Zealand. Childspace was founded by wife and husband team Toni and Robin Christie. Robin’s work designing and building children’s playgrounds, furnishings and equipment is internationally renowned. He is a passionate advocate for natural and aesthetic environments for our youngest children. Robin is also a bit of a clown and likes to dress up as his alter ego, Doctor Bob, and put on science shows and workshops. He is a puppeteer, musician and storyteller as well as a father, teacher and husband. Toni is the real brains of the outfit, and she is recognised internationally for her contributions to the field of infant and toddler research and writing. Toni delivers keynote addresses and workshops on many and varied subjects relevant to early childhood education including leadership, communication, emotional development, respectful care, behaviour guidance and self-review. Toni enjoys her many roles as author, editor, marriage celebrant, mother and wife.

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CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

CONCURRENT FOUR

Presenter: Sue Southey
Workshop Abstract: **Literacy is more than ABC**

Literacy is a highly valued form of knowledge in our education system. Many teachers and educators teach literacy by breaking down literacy skills into small units of knowledge that can be taught through repetition and drill. An alternative is to view literacy as in a meaning making process that connects children with knowledge, skills and dispositions that inspires them to communicate through text and print.

This workshop presents practical strategies for teaching children to read and write using their children own interests, cultures, backgrounds and relationships with others.

**Biography** Sue Southey is Co-director at Springwood Community Kindergarten where she has worked with families and young children since 1980. She works part time teaching and uses her non teaching days to provide training, in-house support and professional development for early childhood educators throughout Australia.

Sue has a Masters in Education, Bachelor of Education Studies and a Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood). She has worked as a sessional academic at both QUT and Griffith University. She has consulted with QCAA (formerly QSA), worked for the Department of Education as a distance education teacher in the eKindy programme and as administrative officer in OECEC. She has been awarded a NEiTA Inspirational Teaching Award and a Inspirational Teaching Award from the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland.

Presenters: Dr Lisa Sonter
Workshop Abstract: **Becoming eco-citizens: Broadening connections with sustainability**

“Enough, For all, Forever” … “Think global, act local” … We hear these calls often, yet it is easy to become overwhelmed by the urgency for taking on sustainable actions, now. How much is enough? A worm farm could be part of the sustainability picture; however, how are children engaged? Children may visit local bush or beach areas, does this embed sustainable actions?

Join me to explore possibilities and challenges, and investigate how sustainability can be embedded across all aspects of practice by looking through a ‘green’ lens. Take some time to celebrate your achievements; build your knowledge about sustainability; review tools to support your work such as benefit/risk assessments, QIPs and audits; share practical ideas and develop action plans to continue your sustainable journey meaningfully in your own context.

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Presenter: Be You Representative
Workshop Abstract: **Building Resilience**

Be You aims to grow a mentally healthy generation of Australians. The most effective approach to mental health prevention and promotion is one that involves the whole early learning service community – including leaders, educators, children, families and the wider local community.