

Abstract Submission Form and Speaker Profile

Complete your details by typing in the **green** sections of the digital form below. If there are multiple presenters, please include their details where applicable (name, organisation, personal bio)
 Save your completed form in PDF format and submit via the [submission form on the website](#).

Title	Mrs Mr Mr	First Name	Vanessa Damien Phillip	Family Name	Freebairn Bickley Von Duve
Position/Role	Landscape Education Coordinator Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer				
Organisation you will represent	Limestone Coast Landscape Board				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	<p>Vanessa grew up on a farm on the Fleurieu Peninsula exploring the bush under the guidance of her Grandmother which fostered her love for nature. Working in the Environmental Education field for over 20 years, Vanessa enjoys providing experiences that light a spark within others, igniting their curiosity in the natural world. She believes that people must be given the opportunity to fall in love with nature before they are asked to protect it.</p> <p>Growing up in Western Australia Damien spent his childhood in the outdoors, exploring local waterways, native bushland and admiring the native flora and fauna. It wasn't until later in life and a move to the SE of South Australia that he had the opportunity to share his love for the environment. The Walking the Seasons program has been a recent highlight, being able to walk and talk with First Nations people about culture and their connection to country only further drives his passion to share his knowledge and appreciation for the environment.</p> <p>My name is Phillip Von Duve and I am a proud, driven Boandik, Meintangk man from Mount Gambier, in the South East of South Australia. I have always had a passion for progressing the education and rights of Australia's First Nations peoples. I believe caring for country, ultimately leads to caring for oneself and knowing that the Walking the Seasons pilot was a success, and that it will be rolled out to more schools and the community is a huge step forward for not only caring for our country, but caring for ourselves and our communities.</p>				
Title of Presentation	Walking the Seasons - a program connecting youth with Culture & Country				
Format of Presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation (20 minutes)				

(please select)	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 60 minutes (eg interactive indoor session) <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 120 minutes (eg outdoor activity) Indicate your preferred presentation types (you may select more than one) NB: We may not be able to offer your preferred option
Which theme would you prefer to present under? (please select)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theme 1: Listen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform
Introduction	<p>In 2014 the South East Aboriginal Focus Group developed a Seasonal Calendar for the Boandik Country in the Limestone Coast region of South Australia. The Seasonal Calendar helped the community in the region connect with Country and culture across the landscape.</p> <p>In 2022 the Seasonal Calendar was adapted, with support of the South East Aboriginal Focus Group, to create a program that gives students and educators the opportunity to hear from First Nation Elders about the significance of the seasons to First Nations people and how the knowledge of the food, fibre and shelter that the landscape provides at different times of the year was crucial for their survival.</p> <p>The programs strong emphasis on ecology and citizen science gives students the opportunity to identify species and record seasonal changes throughout the year while collecting data that can be used to monitor long term seasonal variations.</p> <p>This presentation will highlight the benefits of students learning on Country and how cultural awareness and seasonal observations can increase knowledge of our landscapes. The presenters will explain how the on Country excursions are run and will share the learning resources that have been created.</p>
Presentation Abstract: max. 300 words	<p>The South East Aboriginal Focus Group’s Seasonal Calendar was developed with contributions from community Elders creating a collection of local First Nations knowledge. The Calendar was being used to impart First Nations knowledge into schools. In recognition that the plants, animals and habitats vary across the region, an opportunity arose to create site specific calendars. Schools and community members are now being encouraged to ‘Walk the Seasons’ out on Country to make their own observations of their local surroundings and record them in each season, creating their own unique calendar.</p> <p>“The seasons control everything that we do in our landscape. We know where to move across the landscape to look for food in each season, it is important to our survival. It is an advantage for schools to embrace Aboriginal cultural understanding of our six</p>

	<p>seasons while developing Aboriginal perspectives within their curriculum.” Local Elder – Uncle Doug</p> <p>“The program has been an excellent way to walk on country with the students involved and connect them back to culture. To be able to connect with local Elders regularly and hear their stories enables all students to gain respect for First Nations people. Seeing the Elders and Landscape Education staff working together to share their respective knowledge shows reconciliation for ‘caring for country’ in action.” Local Elder – Aunty Michelle</p> <p>Along with increasing cultural awareness, the programs emphasis on citizen science gives students the opportunity to identify species and record seasonal changes while collecting data to monitor long term seasonal variations. Observing phenological phases e.g. the first flowering of plants or nesting of birds which has been recognized as one of the simplest ways to monitor ecological responses to climate change.</p> <p>After trialling the program in 2022 with a local High School, schools from across the region are now implementing ‘Walking the Seasons’ into their teaching and linking it to the Science and English curriculum. The Board is partnering with Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and The Department for Education to coordinate support for schools that want to be involved.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>By participating in the program students and teachers gain a deeper understanding of seasonal changes in their local landscape, a stronger connection to nature and an increased understanding of First Nations culture.</p> <p>The versatility of the program means it could be implemented anywhere across Australia creating linkages between schools and local First Nation communities learning about their natural landscapes together through seasonal observations.</p>

All abstracts must be received by 5pm **Friday 28 April 2023 (AEST)**.
 We expect to notify speakers by mid June

Note: confirmed presenters will be required to register for the conference and pay the relevant registration fees.