

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	First Name	Nicola	Family Name	Masters
Position/Role	Program Specialist				
Organisation you will represent	Greening Australia				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	Nicola has a Forestry degree from ANU and worked in native and pine forests in NSW and Qld before travelling to Europe. Whilst living in the UK Nicola worked in community sustainability programs and for a decade worked for a local authority undertaking countryside management, access and interpretation programs, and community and education events. On moving back to Australia, Nicola and family settled in the Blue Mountains and she worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens as an educator at Mount Tomah, Mount Annan and in the city. Nicola has been running Cooling the Schools for Greening Australia for 3 years.				
Title of Presentation	Stories from Cooling the Schools				
Format of Presentation (please select)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation (20 minutes) <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 type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				
Introduction	Presenting 'Cooling the Schools' - a program that provides tree canopy cover and native habitat on school grounds to reduce urban heat, support native pollinators and create healthier places for children to learn and explore.				
Presentation Abstract: max. 300 words	The environmental challenges for cities are great, including loss of biodiversity, poor water quality and rising urban heat. Greening Australia supply nature-based solutions to these challenges. 'Cooling the Schools' provides incursions where students are empowered to plant native trees, shrubs and grounds covers at their school, to create healthier places for the children to learn and explore. Funded by the NSW state				

	<p>government, we partner with the Department of Education, teachers and First Nations educators to establish these microforests and native gardens in schools.</p> <p>Research shows children’s high screen-time and low green-time negatively impacts cognitive functioning and physical and mental health and yet, urban schools are getting hotter and more devoid of nature. Astroturf and buildings increasingly take up natural space in schools. In Sydney, Urban Heat Island Effects cause significant temperature differentials inland compared to the coast. Additionally, low-income communities are more vulnerable to heat so in Western Sydney the combined effect leads to poor health outcomes and poor learning environments.</p> <p>WSU has undertaken heat mapping and in doing, determined the ‘Hottest 100’ schools in Sydney. Cooling the Schools has a weighting criterion to favour schools subject to urban heat. Once selected, elements of the school planting design include: ‘Right Tree - Right Place’, asset protection, First Nations perspectives and the schools’ usage of space. NPWS and Greening Australia have designed curriculum linked lesson plans to support the classes undertaking planting.</p> <p>On planting day, Greening Australia bring all plants and equipment and we make it easy for teachers, and fun for students. Learning through doing and taking lessons outdoors is key and the response has been a sense of pride and accomplishment by the students. We are now undertaking evaluation to understand the impacts on children’s attitudes and feelings of connection to nature resulting from this program.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>How students cool their local school and community by increasing canopy cover, but most importantly they are learning by doing and having fun.</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.