



**Psychology for a Safe Climate Conference**  
**Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> 9am to 5pm, Northcote Town Hall Rooftop**

- 9 Registration and coffee  
9.30 Welcome: Carol Ride
- 9.45 **Keynote: Susan Murphy**  
***Vulnerability and Resilience: 'not-knowing is most intimate'***
- 10.45 Morning tea
- 11.10 **Papers and discussion**  
Andrea Bunting:  
***Using Moral Framing of Climate Change Communication to Enhance Engagement***  
Don McArthur:  
***Communicating about climate change when "the facts are not enough"***
- 12 – **5 minute presentations**  
George Marshall (video):  
***What helps and hinders engagement with climate change***  
Katerina Gaita:  
***Climate for Change project***  
Beth Hill:  
***Can people experience climate change?***  
Darren Sharp:  
***Livewell Yarra: using asset-based development to build capacity for community carbon reduction.***  
Hans Baer:  
***Thoughts on George Marshall and Naomi Klein: a critical anthropological perspective.***  
Julie James:  
***Escaping from an ideological prison by peeling back the layers of psychic wallpaper***  
Jane Morton:  
***Are we up against psychopaths?***  
Antony Williams:  
***The only person who likes change is a wet baby***
- 1pm **Lunch** Room 2 ground floor.  
Food from the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.
- 2 pm **Papers and discussion**  
Sally Gillespie:  
***Sun Ripening: What can happen when we engage with climate change***  
Charles LeFeuvre:  
***Brains for a Safe Climate?***
- 2.50 Break
- 3.05 Great Climate Change Debate  
***Does the truth about climate change motivate us to act?***  
**No:** Rod Quantock, Lyn Bender, Jonathan Marshall.  
**Yes:** Susan Murphy, David Spratt, Andrea Bunting
- 4.30 Afternoon tea and drinks  
Launch of ***Facing the Heat: Stories of Climate Change Conversations***
- Bookings :** <http://www.trybooking.com/GPPW>

# Post Conference WORKSHOPS: to support, nourish and foster reflection.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, Between 9.00 and 5.30pm**

Northcote Town Hall, ground floor, 189 High St

**There are 4 different workshops, in 6 time slots.**

**Bookings must be made for each workshop separately –see below.**

**Cost: \$20 or \$15 each workshop. (Full time student concession).**

**Workshop 1.** 9.00am – 11.00am. Maximum 40 participants.

Ground floor room 2

**Zen and the Art of Planetary Crisis:** This workshop will proceed in a thoroughly interactive way, and touch the unexpurgated nature of reality, in a liberating and creative way.

Leader: Dr Susan Murphy is a writer, radio producer and film director, and Zen Roshi. She is author of *Minding the Earth, Mending the World*.

**Workshop 2.** 11.30am – 1 pm. Maximum 36 participants

Ground floor room 2

**Creative Connections: Encountering climate change with imagination**

Leader: Dr Sally Gillespie is a practised Jungian psychotherapist and has recently completed a PhD on Climate Change and Psyche.

**1 – 2.00 lunch at local cafes or BYO**

**Workshop 3.** 2pm – 3.30pm. Maximum 24 participants. (Repeated in workshop 5).

Ground floor room1

**Beating Burnout: A workshop for discovering your own resources to prevent burn out.**

Leaders: Ben Nisenbaum and Carol Ride are experienced psychologists and psychotherapists, both actively involved in the work of Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**Workshop 4.** 2pm – 3.30pm. Maximum 40 participants. (Repeated in workshop 6).

Ground floor room 2

**Let's talk! The art of conversation around climate change.**

Leaders: Sue Pratt and Dr Bronwyn Wauchope are experienced psychologists and psychotherapists, both actively involved in the work of Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**Workshop 5.** 4pm – 5.30pm. Maximum 24 participants. (Repeat of workshop 3).

Ground floor room1

**Beating Burnout: A workshop for discovering your own resources to prevent burn out.**

Leaders: Ben Nisenbaum and Carol Ride are experienced psychologists and psychotherapists, both actively involved in the work of Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**3.30– 4.00 afternoon tea**

**Workshop 6.** 4pm – 5.30pm. Maximum 40 participants. (Repeat of workshop 4)

Ground floor room 2

**Let's talk! The art of conversation around climate change.**

Leaders: Sue Pratt and Dr Bronwyn Wauchope are experienced psychologists and psychotherapists, both actively involved in the work of Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**Choose your workshops. Bookings must be made for each workshop separately..**

**Book here: <http://www.trybooking.com/GPPW>**

**Numbers limited in each workshop.**

**Abstracts and bio notes follow**

## Conference and workshops 2015: Abstracts and Bio notes

### KEYNOTE

**Susan Murphy:**

***Vulnerability and Resilience: 'not-knowing is most intimate'***

Our present generations are caught in the strange, submerged drama of living 'life as usual' while staring down a steadily advancing, slow-burning planetary emergency of our own making. How are we managing to navigate such a complexly layered great dream as this, while apparently not going crazy?

This address will touch on the place in the mind - actually the ground of mind itself - that always retains the propensity to turn things around by its very nature, and suggest some ways of approaching, accessing and realising that propensity.

**Dr Susan Murphy** was authorised as a Zen Roshi in 2001. She is a writer, radio producer and film director, as well as a teacher and mentor. She has a special interest in the way Zen and indigenous Australian sense of 'care for country' come together. Her latest book is *Minding the Earth, Mending the World* (2012, 2014), which offers a broadly considered, Zen-inflected response to the question of how to move out of paralysis and begin to respond to our slow-burning planetary emergency.

### 25 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS

**Andrea Bunting:**

**Using Moral Framing of Climate Change Communication to Enhance Moral Engagement**

There has been much focus on whether communicating the dire consequences of climate change will lead people to act. Also important is whether people believe they have a moral imperative to act. We are currently undertaking psychological research on how moral framing influences moral engagement. One finding of concern is that cynicism about others — believing that other people don't care about climate change — may have a detrimental impact on engagement. Messages that reinforce this belief may be counterproductive.

**Dr Andrea Bunting** was formerly an engineer and a sociologist of technology. She taught and researched sustainable energy at RMIT University. Recently, she took up psychology so that she could investigate what motivates people to take action on climate change. She is currently conducting research at La Trobe University on moral engagement with climate change. She is an active member of Climate Action Moreland and Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**Don MacArthur:**

**Communicating about climate change when "the facts are not enough"**

This presentation will review a range of approaches to climate communication given the challenges of addressing climate denial.

It will focus particularly on the use of symbolic communication by the climate movement, exploring how imagery and metaphors are used to condense the meaning of climate change into a form that is intelligible and motivates people to act. Further, the presentation will discuss what we can learn from previous social movements where large-scale attitudinal and social changes have occurred.

**Don MacArthur** is a research student in Politics at Monash University. His background is in the NGO sector, working as Human Rights Education Coordinator with Amnesty International, and in peace education and development education roles. The main focus of his current research is the use of symbolic politics by the climate movement, examining climate communication approaches ranging from social media graphics through to the use of symbolic actions designed to dramatise the meaning of climate change in the public mind.

**Sally Gillespie:**

**Sun Ripening: What can happen when we engage with climate change**

Engaging with climate change concerns affects consciousness. An expansion of ecological awareness potentially triggers psychological and socio-political maturational processes which support a greater understanding of self, society and world. In order to discuss and analyse these developmental processes, and the way they can connect and strengthen each other, I compare Carl Jung's psychological model of individuation with Paulo Freire's socio-political model of conscientisation. I draw on stories from recent doctoral research to illustrate how

open and reflective discussions about responses to global warming and its associated issues facilitated changes in consciousness, increasing people's feelings of maturity, motivation and resilience.

**Dr Sally Gillespie** has recently completed her doctorate at the University of Western Sydney entitled "Climate Change and Psyche: Mapping Myths, Dreams and Conversations in the Era of Global Warming". She is the author of *Living the Dream* and *The Book of Dreaming* as well as a contributor to *Depth Psychology, Disorder and Climate Change* edited by Jonathan Marshall. Sally was in private practice as a Jungian psychotherapist in Sydney for over twenty years, and served as the President of the CG Jung Society of Sydney from 2006 to 2010. She is a founding member of the Climate Wellbeing Network in Sydney, a sister group to Psychology for a Safe Climate.

**Charles Le Feuvre:  
Brains for a Safe Climate?**

The human brain is an extraordinary work of nature. The brain can be seen as divided into rational (the outer layer of the brain-the cortex) and emotional parts. This concept will be discussed in relation to our responses to climate change and how climate change needs to be communicated. The ways that the emotional brain can be modulated will be discussed- both from within the brain and from relationship with the human and non-human world.

The two sides of the brain also have different functions which will be discussed. In our contemporary culture the left brain can be seen to have too much control. It will be argued that our society needs to urgently pursue right brain values if it is to survive- to look empathically at the whole of our world rather than the more narrow ego oriented view of our left brains.

**Dr Charles Le Feuvre** is a Melbourne psychiatrist and psychotherapist working in private practice and at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He is a member of Psychology for a Safe Climate. He is interested in the psychological importance of the natural environment, our need to accept our dependence on it and in trying to understand climate change denial.

## **5 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS**

**George Marshall:  
What helps and hinders engagement with climate change?**

Climate change by-passes the cognitive mechanisms we have for demanding our immediate attention, and for assessing risk. We therefore are dependent on ensuring that messages about climate change speak to the affective part of the brain. To trigger an affective response, the message about climate change must speak to people's values and identity, and be transmitted by people they know and trust. If we find the right narrative through stories that are coherent and appropriate, there is no audience- left, right, centre - that cannot be mobilised.

**George Marshall:** Over the past 25 years he has worked at all levels of the environmental movement, including many years in the US as a senior campaigner for Greenpeace US and the Rainforest Foundation. Working through the Oxford based Climate Outreach and Information Network, the charity he founded in 2004, he has become one of the leading European experts in climate change communications. He is author of *Don't even think about it: Why our brains are wired to ignore climate change*, and recently toured Australia, hosted by PSC and SLF.

**Julie James:  
Escaping from an ideological prison by peeling back the layers of psychic wallpaper**  
Anthropogenic climate change is a result of the delusional belief that the planet exists to be exploited by humanity. Accepting and acting on climate change involves escape from an ideological prison. There is a way out but we have metaphorically "papered over the cracks" with layers of "psychic wallpaper". We need to recognize these layers and learn how to remove them so that we can escape into an environmentally sustainable society based on sound scientific, economic and ethical principles.

**Julie James** is a retired Associate Professor (information Systems) whose 50 year profession career culminated in research and graduate teaching into modes of inquiry and their ideological basis. She has been concerned about anthropogenic climate change since 1989.

In her retirement she applies her research principles to contrasting anthropocentric and life-centred ideologies, and their implications for dealing with climate change. She is a member of A Grand Stand for the Environment Inc. Steering Group and the PSC Writing Group.

**Hans A Baer:**

**Thoughts on George Marshall and Naomi Klein: a critical anthropological perspective.**

I explore three possible scenarios for the future of humanity: (1) a dystopian future characterised more or less by as 'business as usual,' with on-going economic growth, and increasing social inequality; (2) a future of 'reflexive modernisation' which emphasises 'ecological modernisation' (renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, improved public transport, etc.); and (3) a democratic eco-socialist revolution which would entail public or social ownership of the means of production, highly democratic processes, increasing social equality, a steady-state economy, environmental sustainability and a safe climate.

**Hans Baer** is Associate Professor/Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He has published 4 climate change-related books: *Global Warming and the Political Ecology of Health* (2009); *Global Capitalism and Climate Change* (2012); *Climate Politics and the Climate Movement in Australia* (2012); and *The Anthropology of Climate Change* (2014). Baer is presently conducting research on Australian coal and democratic eco-socialism as a real utopia.

**Jane Morton:**

**Are we up against psychopaths?**

The vast majority of the population want a safe climate future and support renewable energy, so why is our job so hard? Is it because we are up against a small number of extremely wealthy and powerful psychopaths? This is a first draft.

**Jane Morton** is a clinical psychologist with over 30 years' experience, mainly in the public sector. In recent years she has moved into semi-retirement in order to spend more time on climate campaigning. She founded Vote Climate and initiated the formation of the Victorian Climate Action Network

**Antony Williams:**

**The only person who likes change is a wet baby**

Sometimes, when our hands are sore from beating the motivation drum, it helps to take up a different instrument, and explore the restraints: why we do not do what it makes sense to do. In climate change terms, no matter what the illogic, the restraints are stronger than the motivation – otherwise we'd be far ahead by now. This presentation will offer a modest list of questions and a few categories to which you may add or subtract.

**Dr Antony Williams** works with planning and people-related issues in organisations. On a good day, he intervenes in dysfunctional dynamics, and helps members work through cloudy thinking, poor formulation, obstinate silo-defence and other diversions from the task. He is used to demanding, intelligent, competitive, street-wise groups of participants, and to keeping them on track. He works very actively with groups, keeping the process sharp, and participants on their toes.

**Katerina Gaita:**

**Climate for Change project:**

Climate for Change aims to create the social climate needed for effective action on climate change by bringing new audiences to the existing climate movement – people who are sympathetic to climate change, but not active. Its model for doing so is the Tupperware Party model. Katerina will outline the theories and knowledge that have informed the development of Climate for Change, in so doing, discussing what she has learnt about who we need to talk to and how.

**Katerina Gaita** has been passionate about helping others understand climate change and what they can do about it since she was eleven years old. After starting out in law, this passion led her to a career in behaviour change, which has included working at Environment Victoria and running her own sustainability business. In recent years she has been interested in how we can apply behaviour change science to goals of organising and activism. This interest feeds in to the work of Climate for Change of which she is co-founder and CEO.

**Darren Sharp:**

**Livewell Yarra: using asset-based development to build capacity for community carbon reduction.**

Livewell Yarra is an action research project funded by the CRC for Low Carbon Living which aims to help participants to reduce carbon emissions and enhance their wellbeing. The project will use asset-based community development (ABCD) to mobilise the strengths of participants and participatory co-design to encourage the creation of local projects like a community garden, walking school bus or tool library. These group-based activities will attempt to 'reframe' participants as 'active citizens' capable of reducing their carbon footprints.

**Darren Sharp** is a sharing economy strategist with a background in research, community engagement and consulting. He is the Australian editor of Shareable.net, the online magazine that tells the story of sharing. Darren works with public sector organisations to develop community activation initiatives to help grow local sharing economy services. He is currently undertaking his PhD on Livewell Yarra through Curtin University of Technology.

**Beth Hill:**

**Can people experience climate change?**

What does a conversation about climate change sound like as people recover from climate correlated disaster? Exploring people's experiences of bushfire and environmental change in the Lower Blue Mountains of NSW, Beth's research is interrogating whether climate change can be experienced by urban people at a local level. Her current (mid-fieldwork) findings show the rich and varied relationships that people have with their environment and how these relationships in turn affect their experiences of climate change.

**Beth Hill** is an author, activist and PhD candidate at Sydney University. Her research is focused on the emotional and cultural dimensions of climate change. Joanna Macy's work has been a key influence in Beth's life and she is currently working with others in Sydney to create a new organisation, *The Climate Wellbeing Network* that aims to provide insight, support and connection for those working on climate change and environmental crisis issues. Beth's first novel will be published in 2015.

**WORKSHOPS**

**Susan Murphy:**

**Zen and the Art of Planetary Crisis**

This workshop will proceed in a thoroughly interactive way to explore how we might upturn our dangerously limited mental constructions about our relationship with the Earth, and touch the unexpurgated nature of reality, in a liberating and creative way. Participants will experience settling and quieting body and mind, and then explore together the ripples, responses and waking revelations that come to light.

**Dr Susan Murphy** was authorised as a Zen Roshi in 2001 She is a writer, radio producer and film director, as well as a teacher and mentor. She has a special interest in the way Zen and indigenous Australian sense of 'care for country' come together. Her latest book is *Minding the Earth, Mending the World* (2012, 2014), which offers a broadly considered, Zen-inflected response to the question of how to move out of paralysis and begin to respond to our slow-burning planetary emergency.

Limited to 40 participants

**Sally Gillespie:**

**Creative Connections: Encountering climate change with imagination**

In this workshop participants engage in a playful process through the use of art materials, figurines and found objects to stimulate spontaneous insights and reflective dialogues about our responses to global warming and other ecological crises. Working in small groups, participants have the opportunity to imaginatively explore their engagement with ecological concerns, and to expand awareness beyond their own and others' habitual responses. All materials are provided and absolutely no artistic expertise is required!

Limit of 36 participants

**Sally Gillespie** has recently completed her doctorate at the University of Western Sydney entitled "Climate Change and Psyche: Mapping Myths, Dreams and Conversations in the Era of Global Warming". She is the author of *Living the Dream* and *The Book of Dreaming* as well

as a contributor to *Depth Psychology, Disorder and Climate Change* edited by Jonathan Marshall. Sally was in private practice as a Jungian psychotherapist in Sydney for over twenty years, and served as the President of the CG Jung Society of Sydney from 2006 to 2010.

**Ben Nisenbaum and Carol Ride**

***Beating Burnout: A workshop for discovering your own resources to prevent burn out.***

The participants will work in small groups with activities and prompts to foster awareness and discussion of the signals of impending burnout, and how to take action personally to prevent it.

Groups of 6. Max 24 people

**Ben Nisenbaum** is psychologist with experience in psychotherapy, group psychotherapy and psychological assessment. He has formal qualifications in psychoanalytic studies and works in private practice.

**Carol Ride** is a psychologist who has had a long career in the field of couple counselling as a therapist, trainer, and supervisor. She has been active in the climate movement for the last 9 years and is founder and convener of Psychology for a Safe Climate. She is interested in the contribution psychoanalytic ideas offer to understanding our difficulties in engaging with climate change, and has written and given presentations on this subject.

**Bronwyn Wauchope and Sue Pratt:**

**Let's talk! The art of conversation around climate change.**

PSC invites you to explore the diverse nature and role of conversation with some fun experiential exercises to deal with this challenge. Participants will work in pairs and small groups on exercises that illuminate the obstacles we unwittingly contribute, and how to make changes that invite openness and connection.

Max 40 people

**Sue Pratt** has been a practicing psychologist for last twenty years and is trained in creative arts methods.

**Dr Bronwyn Wauchope** is a clinical psychologist working in the community mental health sector with an interest in mindfulness based therapies.

**DEBATERS**

**Rod Quantock** is a multi-award winning comedian and one of the reasons that Melbourne is the live comedy capital of Australia. Rod began writing and performing comedy in the late Sixties and graduated to Melbourne's fledgling alternative nightspots in the early Seventies where he gained a reputation as a unique and pioneering comic talent, one he still retains more than 45 years later. When he is not working as a freelance writer, performer and speaker he is a prominent environmental, social and political activist.

**Lyn Bender.** Mother, grandmother, Psychologist - practising for over thirty years, writer, opinionista, commentator, political agitator, pro asylum seeker whistle blower, child of refugees, Franklyn River blockader, mostly vegetarian, progressive, novel writing, tweeting, reading, radio listening, talker.

**David Spratt** is a Melbourne-based climate activist, writer and author. He runs the blog "Climate Code Red", is the author with Philip Sutton of a book of the same name, and his writings appear regularly in ReNew Economy and elsewhere. His recent work has included carbon budget myths, movement politics in the Abbott era, and why climate change is already dangerous.

**Jonathan Marshall** is a research academic at the University of Technology Sydney, whose main foci include social usages of technology, disorder, climate change and psychology. He has edited 'Depth Psychology Disorder and Climate Change'

Website: <https://uts.academia.edu/jonmarshall>

**Susan Murphy** – see above

**Andrea Bunting** – see above

