

What I am passionate about

I am passionate about the work that I do. My life is joyfully dedicated to doing what I can to understand, acknowledge, support, create and co-create abundant, beautiful, just, healthy, human and ecological communities.



For many years I have been involved in gardening, farming, landscape design and creation, conservation, horticulture, permaculture, Landcare, bush regeneration. Regenerating forests and rivers, planting orchards, forests, caring for places. Simultaneously I have worked with community groups, schools, private landholders, organisations, refugees, businesses, volunteers, individual people, disadvantaged people and social groups, Aboriginal communities, universities and people of all ages

and kinds.

My care, attention and expertise is carried out at the intersections of practice and theory and community and environment. Practical disciplined work learnt through tradesmanship and project organizing is combined with cutting edge innovative approaches including being educated through the United World College movement, Permaculture and Social Ecology. In 2011 I was awarded a PhD for research into putting sustainability ideas, ideals, designs and targets into practice.

My roles involve combinations of hands-on work, consultation, project design, grant writing, project management, education and community engagement, research & evaluation. Projects include all kinds of gardens, community food gardens, river and forest regeneration, teaching permaculture, ethics & conservation to children, youth & adults, design of food garden spaces for refugees, coordinating conservation and sustainability alliances, a 2-year sense of place & ecopsychology project and supporting the celebration of Gumbayngirr/Aboriginal culture. Recently, I was involved in developing qualitative research methodologies to deliver and evaluate horticultural therapy, sense of place and community based healthcare projects.

Now, in response to the times we are in, current projects are bold, experimental and adaptable. As part of a team, I actively learn from successful global projects then weave together disciplines and approaches, designing and managing large-scale regeneration projects & delivering innovative workshops in Australia & overseas.

Dr Charlie Brennan - curriculum vitae

April 2020

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The themes of these workshops and projects are –

Landscape design, architecture

Ecological landscaping

Permaculture, design

Food forests, foraging

Regenerative agriculture, whole farm & property design

Ecopsychology, sense of place

Horticultural therapy, ecotherapy

Rewilding, connectivity conservation

Sacred & Indigenous land

Evaluation, monitoring, reporting

Organisation & social system design

Teaching, workshop facilitation, community education, training

And Gardening !!

Go to www.charliebrennan.info & www.gardenjujucollective.com for details.



Qualifications & Education

Dynamic Group Facilitation 2018. How to support learning to be active, embodied and self-responsible. Robyn Clayfield & Earthcare Education, Crystal Waters Community, Queensland, Australia. <https://dynamicgroups.com.au>

Social Permaculture Course 2017. Permaculture design leading to sustainable social systems. Robyn Clayfield & Robina McCurdy. Aranya Agricultural Alternatives, Telangana State, India.

<https://apc14.permacultureaustralia.org.au/courses/social-permaculture-robin-clayfield-robina-mccurdy/>

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 2011. 'Situating Place-Practice: Critical reflections on Sustainability, Conservation, Education and Craft'. Sense of place, practice theory, innovative research methodology, putting sustainability into practice. School of Education, Western Sydney University, NSW, Australia.

Graduate Certificate in Higher Education 2010. How to excel at university level teaching community engagement and research. Teaching and Learning Centre, Southern Cross University, NSW. <https://www.scu.edu.au/study-at-scu/courses/graduate-certificate-in-academic-practice-1007095/>

Certificate IV Workplace Training & Assessment 1999. How to deliver and assess workplace training. Enterprise and Training Company, Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Master of Applied Science (MAsc) 1998. Cutting edge transformative, experiential education. Ecologies of self, community and environment and the differing ways of understanding these. School of Social Ecology, Western Sydney University, NSW.

Advanced Permaculture Teaching Certificate 1993. How to teach Permaculture through innovative co-teaching approaches. Earthcare Education. Crystal Waters Community.

Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) 1992. A PDC with Permaculture co-ordinator Bill Mollison. Design, systems, understanding organic processes & Seed Savers. Byron Bay, NSW.

<https://permaculture.org/what-is-a-permaculture-design-course/>

Structural Builders Landscape Licence 1985, Sydney.

Horticulture Certificate 1984, Ryde School of Horticulture, Sydney.

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Geography & Economics 1982 Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW.

A Levels in Geography, Economics, Politics 1980. Bedford College, UK & United World College, Singapore. International school movement for more sustainable world future.

<https://www.uwcsea.edu.sg> & <https://www.uwc.org/about>

Project design, teaching, consulting & evaluation

Design & implementation of large-scale landscape regeneration projects 2015-now. Drawing together teams of experts & contractors together to implement ambitious, innovative projects. All aspects of consultation, research, assessment, design and delivery incorporating conservation, permaculture, ethical, social & cultural and spiritual aspects of land regeneration. Australia, UK & Europe.

Design & deliver innovative workshops 2016-now. Sustainability, regeneration & Healing. Sense of place, Ecopsychology, Healing Self & Land, Design Approaches, Permaculture Design Certificate, Food Forests, Bush Regeneration, Walkabout Permaculture and more. Learning from global community projects and offering workshops combining ideas, experimentation, guest speakers, group reflective learning, practical skills & plans. UK, Eire, US, India, Portugal, Australia.

Long Bay Forensic Hospital/Jail Horticultural Therapy Recommendations Report 2017. How to support patients with serious mental health challenges through garden appreciation, gardening and Caring for Country. Sydney, Australia.

Centre for Ecological Learning teaching, mentorship & projects 2011-16.

Working with this ambitious hub of environmental educators. Teaching, conservation, permaculture, youth mentorship, high school garden and cooking, local organizations & businesses & community. <http://www.cel.org.au>

Creating the Sustainability Centre, a co-working hub for supporting, showcasing & bringing together diverse local environmental organisations & NGO's.

<https://www.facebook.com/bellingensustainabilitycentre/>

Southern Cross University community project evaluations 2012-14. Regional Initiative for Social Innovation & Research.

Evaluation of Coffs Coast Innovation Farm. Focussing upon horticultural therapy & sense of place to foster social inclusion. Design methodology, interviews, research, writing & presentations.

Evaluation of Clarence Valley Healthy Communities Initiative. Delivery of community-based preventative health care including local food, social inclusion, exercise. Design methodology, interviews, research, writing & presentations.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative projects 2014-15. Manager of community support. Cross-sectoral Australia-wide connectivity conservation initiative.

Cultural Connections project working with Gumbaynggirr (Aboriginal) Community as part of 'Gliderways' project with Foundation for National Parks, Great Eastern Ranges & Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance. <https://www.ger.org.au/home>

Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Coordinator 2012-15. Bringing 20 conservation organisations towards a shared approach to whole of landscape land management &

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connectivity conservation. Establish media & communications, Aboriginal engagement, arrange events, grant and report writing.

Jaliigirr Acknowledging Sense of Place Project. Interviews, cognitive mapping, workshop presentations, reporting & artwork. Project design and application of Sense of Place approach. Report written with Dr Judy Lambert.

Project Manage Bellingen Jaliigirr Biodiversity Fund Project. Working with conservation groups to identify connectivity conservation needs and allocate funds. Bellingen Landcare.

<https://www.jaliigirr.com.au>

Bellingen High School Community Garden 2011-16. Design, install, liaise with school, students & community and site. Permaculture, producing local organic food, food forests, healing place for community. Bellingen Community Garden Association.

Design & carry out a range of Edible Streetscape & Permablitz projects in NSW mid-North Coast. Perennial & annual food grown in local public spaces. Community inclusive, educational, working with schools & businesses, health & healing.

Bellingen Urban Landcare Regeneration project manager 1994-2015. Cemetery Creek & Bellingen Island Endangered Ecological Community. Work with volunteers, teams, contractors & public authorities to re-establish forests & waterways across multiple sites. Design, carry out & coordinate works, grant and report writing, media and community engagement. A \$1 million project involving 500 people & 50,000 hours. Healing people, community and places. <https://www.bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au>

Western Sydney University Doctoral thesis 2005-11. A critical autobiographic appraisal of moving from sustainability ideas & ideals to putting these into everyday place-practice.

Southern Cross University 2003-14 Lecturer, Unit Coordinator & curriculum development - 'Applied Ethics & Sustainability', 'Written Communication', 'Ethics in Society'. Southern Cross University 2005-2014

Social Welfare Field Education Unit Coordinator & curriculum development. Also Deakin University 2009-10. Southern Cross University 2003 'Regional Poverty' Conference Coordination. With North Coast Institute TAFE & local interagency. Social exclusion research.

North Coast TAFE Tutor 2003-13. Design, deliver, support learning and assess competence. Units included Graduate Certificate in Rural Extension & Community Development, Conservation & Land Management, Horticulture & Landscape studies. North Coast Institute TAFE.

Enterprise and Training Company, Coffs Harbour 1994-2003. Design, coordinate & deliver training in conservation, permaculture, eco-tourism, job skills, Green Corps & OH&S. Adult education and to trainees, at risk youth, long-term unemployed people.

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Landscape/horticultural contracting 1983-92. Consultation with clients, creating designs, project managing garden creation and construction projects, supervision of workers and contractors. All small business aspects and reporting. Mostly ornamental coastal gardens in Sydney, and Permaculture and rainforest gardens in NSW mid North Coast, Australia & in the UK also.

Market Gardening/farming 1980-83. Farm hand in England, hay & potato harvesting, working on mixed farm & food gardens. A small group of us live sustainably on small-holder farms in Sydney, Australia, growing vegetables and herbs for the markets.

Publications, Reports, Articles & Presentations

Brennan, C., O'Brien, B & Brennan, B. Detailed project reports. Available for viewing. 2016-now.

Brennan, C. & O'Brien, B. 'Towards Ethics that Break Your Heart' Permaculture Design Magazine 2018.

Brennan, C. & O'Brien, B. 'Radical Redesign' Permaculture Design Magazine 2017.

Brennan, C. 'In Defence of Permaculture'. Michigan State University. Sept 2017.

Brennan, C. 'Therapeutic Horticulture Possibilities' Report prepared for Forensic Hospital, Malabar, NSW 2017. (Not available).

Brennan, C. Gumbaynggirr Living Land, Language & Culture project report and recommendations. Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, Centre for Ecological Learning, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. Feb 2016

Brennan, C, Brennan, B & Reed, A. 'Acknowledging Sense of Place through Art Innovation'. Eco-arts Conference, Wollongong Feb 2016

Brennan C., 'Australian Landcare Movement: Lets celebrate then radically redesign for the next 25 years. 'Celebrating our history, growing our future' Landcare 25th anniversary conference September 2014

'Growing Therapy with Trees' Landcare in Focus magazine 2014

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Landcare-in-Focus-May-2014-Edition.pdf>

Learning From Sense of Place'. Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Community Engagement Forum. Coffs Harbour 2014

Therapeutic Benefits Derived from Practices of Caring for Place'. AABAT Forum Canberra 2014

Brennan, C & Cairncross G.,(2014) Public sector innovation as practice: Social enterprise, community gardening and sense of place in the context of embedded social exclusion in rural Australia.

Brennan C., Lee Y L., Tucker J. van der Zwan R., (2014). An Evaluation of the Healthy Clarence Communities Project Regional Initiative for Social Innovation and Research (RISIR), Southern Cross University.

Jaligirr Biodiversity Alliance case study. Stewardship Network Ann Arbor Michigan. 2014

Brennan C., Lee Y L., Tucker J. van der Zwan R., 'Local entrepreneurs as agents of change and regional development: their role in delivering a place-based Healthy Communities Initiative in regional NSW, Australia' IRSPM conference Ottawa 2014

Brennan C & Tucker J, 'In the shadows of regional development: Early findings of the Healthy Communities Initiative in regional NSW'. SEGRA Conference Coffs Harbour 2013.

Cairncross, G. & Brennan C (2013) Innovation in the Not for Profit Sector; An Evaluation of a Social Enterprise Garden in Regional Australia. JESP Journal

Reflecting Place- Practice'. Inaugural Ecoarts Conference University of Wollongong 2013

'The Nature of Practice and Thesis Conclusions' Social Ecology Symposium, University of Western Sydney, Richmond. 2013.

Cairncross, G. & Brennan C., 'Case Study of Innovative Community Gardens as Social Inclusion' IRSPM conference Prague 2013.

'Caring for Public Places' NSW Planning Forum. Bellingen 2011.

'Situating Place Practice': Critical Reflections on Conservation, Sustainability, Education and Craft'. Thesis 2011 Western Sydney University 2011.

(Earlier available on request)

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Many thanks for viewing my CV. It is a summation of my life work, skills and qualifications. I have been lucky to work with great people and organisations, on exciting projects and in many special places. This document also indicates future intentions – openings to interesting and important opportunities. If you require further information please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Best Wishes,
Dr Charlie Brennan