

## Speaker Profiles



**Philip Follent**

**Keynote Address**

As the event's keynote speaker, Philip Follent will draw on his extensive experience in the architectural field to discuss the concept of "sustainable places". Exploring the concepts of universal design and social sustainability from community, household and individual perspectives, Philip will address the event's core question: "what does sustainability mean for the Tweed?".

Philip was Gold Coast City Council's first City Architect and was appointed Queensland Government Architect in 2008. These roles contributed to both organisations receiving Australian Institute of Architects President's Awards for innovation in the advocacy of architecture. He was the inaugural chair of the Queensland Board for Urban Places and is a member of the Queensland Design Council. In 2010, he commenced his appointment as the Founding Head of the Soheil Abedian School of Architecture at Bond University.



**Amy Degenhart**

**Panel 1: Sustainable Communities**

Amy Degenhart is one of two directors of degenhartSHEDD architecture + urban design on the Gold Coast and has won numerous architectural and industry awards, including being the recipient of the 2010 UDIA Women in Development Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in Professional and Development Services.

In addition to her practice responsibilities, Amy is Regional Chair of the Australian Institute of Architects Gold Coast and Northern Rivers Region and has positions on Gold Coast City Council's Public Art Reference Group, the Academic Advisory Panel for the Institute of Sustainable Development and Architecture, and the Gold Coast Mayor's Technical Advisory Group.



**Dan Plummer**

**Panel 2: Sustainable Homes**

Dan Plummer is a registered landscape architect and co-founder of landscape architecture, art and design studio, Plummer and Smith.

With post-graduate qualifications in landscape architecture from the Queensland University of Technology, Dan has worked on a range of projects across northern NSW and south-east Queensland.

Dan is also a regular contributor to design studios at Bond University and the University of Queensland.



**Greg James**

**Panel 3: Sustainable Living**

Together with his partner Ness, Greg James owns and operates Farmers' Choice Organics, a certified organic urban seedling nursery, based in Murwillumbah's town centre. Their focus is on hand growing high quality seedlings organically, locally and sustainably and developing an affordable, organic food chain.

Through sharing knowledge that benefits the community and by teaching the organic principals of food production, Greg aims to encourage the growth of clean local food.



**Harley Graham**

**Panel 1: Sustainable Communities**

Harley Graham is an architect based in Byron Bay, with a strong focus on sustainability and creativity within coastal environments.

A former winner of the Board of Architects Prize at the University of New South Wales, Harley's international experience spans Australia, the United States, Germany, Switzerland, China and the United Kingdom.



**Michael Qualmann**

**Panel 3: Sustainable Living**

Trained in Germany as Electrical Engineer, Michael Qualmann's many years in engineering and asset maintenance have afforded him a wealth of experience in the field of energy efficient buildings and other assets.

He has worked extensively as assessor under the NSW Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program and is a trained NABERS assessor.

Michael's expertise extends to PV solar systems and bioenergy – the latter catching his particular interest during a 2012 visit to Germany.



**Ned Wales**

**Panel 1: Sustainable Communities**

Ned Wales is an Assistant Professor in Urban Planning at Bond University's Institute of Sustainable Development and has over 25 years experience in the fields of urban design, planning and public administration.

A member of the Joint Regional Planning Panel for Northern Rivers of New South Wales, Ned is actively involved in farming, urban agriculture and climate change resilience strategies for human communities.



**Richard Swinton**

**Panel 2: Sustainable Homes**

For 25 years, Richard Swinton worked with the NSW Department of Agriculture and regional communities towards more sustainable river management.

After completing a Masters degree exploring the sustainability of irrigated agriculture, Richard came to the conclusion that even if irrigation could be made technically "sustainable", it was an inseparable part of an inherently unsustainable economic system.



**Scott Carpenter**

**Panel 2: Sustainable Homes**

Scott Carpenter is a specialist in innovative and environmentally sensitive residential design appropriate to the unique Tweed Coast climate.

His commitment to creating great spaces, his passion for architecture and aptitude for designing appropriate coastal dwellings has seen many of his works published nationally and internationally and recognised by several Institute of Architects and building industry awards.