

Good evening and thank you for attending the National Camps Conference here at Kindilan Outdoor Education and Conference Centre.

I arrived in Brisbane this morning to beautiful blue skies and a warming sun, I decided to go for a walk and explore the CBD and river area. I came across the Brisbane Botanical Gardens and lied on the soft grass, surrounded by native tropical trees and plants for a couple of hours enjoying the sun, the smells and sounds of the natural environment and would like to share a thought I had while reflecting...

Make me a bird so I can fly away; take me to my sanctuary, my place of peace, my harmony.

Let me lose myself to the simple thoughts running through my head, it seems so right here.

I wish 1000 wishes that everyday could be the same. Today is my day to dream of blue skies.

I think we could all afford a little time to reconnect with our environment.

For years now society has tried to get people in positions of power to care that has not worked; now we are going to get people who care into positions of influence.

We need strong, venturous leadership, we need people who will lead, develop and influence our communities and business toward sustainable future prosperity.

The Australian Camps Sector, I believe, are just the passionate and caring people that we need to deliver real action and systemic change.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead made that statement which rings true to the challenges we currently face.

Sustainability Leadership is about creating a collaborative learning environment to motivate, empower and educate the future leaders who, with these new skills and understanding will lead us to a sustainable future.

Socially, economically, environmentally and culturally we determine what our environment and planet looks like, what the world sees, how we want to live and what future we leave for generations to come.

I recently attended dinner with Hon Al Gore, as part of the Climate Project Asia Pacific Summit, Mr Gore delivered a motivational speech, in which he called on us as a society and as a sustainability leaders to "find the moral courage to rise to the challenge" we don't want future generations to say "what were you thinking?, didn't you care"

We need innovative and immediate change to unlock sustainability as a pathway for future generations.

Camps can be at the leading edge of innovation in youth leadership, regional and community development, camps have the ability to quickly respond to community and market demands and through partnerships we understand we can cause a greater change to society and the environment.

Can we be the future shapers of Australia...Yes we can.

Thank you. Please enjoy the rest of the evening and the remainder of the National Camps Conference.

FURTHER INFORMATION, ASSISTANCE & CONSULTATION IS AVAILABLE FROM...

Geoff Gourley

Founder

0434 185 933

geoffgourley@bigpond.com

www.turnmegreen.com.au

www.geoffgourley.com.au