



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 April 2018

media@woodfordia.com

### THE PLANTING PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

On the May long-weekend 300 artists and presenters will gather to enthrall, inspire and entice at Woodfordia's [The Planting](#). With music, comedy, talks, demonstrations, workshops (visual arts, building and environmental projects), singing, dancing and fire-light ceremonies, there are more opportunities to learn, create and explore than ever before.

According to Woodfordia's General Manager, Amanda Jackes, "It's the most inspirational and diverse programme we've had so far. We're all looking forward to a lovely festival."

Speakers at this year's festival include **Bruce Pascoe**, a Bunurong, Yuin and Tasmanian Aboriginal man, Bruce is an award-winning writer, editor and anthologist. His books include *Shark*, *Ruby-Eyed Coucal*, *Ocean*, *Earth and Nightjar*, *Dark Emu*, *Convincing Ground*, a Wathaurong language dictionary and *The Little Red, Yellow, Black Book*;

**Dr Brian Von Herzen** (USA) obtained his BA in Physics, Magna Cum Laude, from Princeton University and his PhD in Computer and Planetary Science from Caltech. As Executive Director of the Climate Foundation, Dr von Herzen has developed technologies like Marine Permaculture to restore ecosystems in soils and seas, including the Great Barrier Reef. Much of Brian's career has been in Silicon Valley, where he developed innovative technical solutions for companies like Pixar, Dolby, Microsoft, and others, but he leads projects on land and sea in all parts of the world, including India, Africa, and the USA;

**Kathy McLeish**, an award-winning ABC journalist who has reported for programs across the network including the Nauru Detention Centre riots and the last Mentoring Taskforce handover in Afghanistan. She was named Queensland Journalist of the Year for her investigative series which triggered a \$60 million dollar restructuring of youth mental health services. She's also the convenor of Women in Media Queensland;

Environmental scientist, **Arief Rabik** (INDO); ABC Queensland's Regional Editor, **Cathie Schnitzerling**; press secretary to former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Senator Penny Wong, **Laura Chalmers**; wildlife ecologist, **Kate Hofmeister** and chef, **Matt Golinski**.

With music performed by **Mama Kin Spender**, a collaboration of two long-time friends, ARIA-nominated Mama Kin and producer Tommy Spender, it's a stripped-back duo of brooding guitars, primal drums and howling harmonies, illuminated by the I Heart Songwriting Choir arranged by Virginia Bott (Brighter Later, First Chorus Band of Singers);

**My Friend the Chocolate Cake**, a six-piece whose sound is a seamless fusion of baroque pop, world music melodies and ambient textures, with David Bridie's voice a counterpoint to the strings of cellist Helen Mountfort and violinist Hope Csutoros;

**Shellie Morris**, the multi-award-winning singer/songwriter who creates music and sings in around 17 Australian Aboriginal languages, preserving and promoting culture;

As well as, **Greg Sheehan** and **Ben Walsh**, **The Northern Folk**, **Greta Stanley**, **The Long Johns**, **BluGuru**, **Good Tunes**, **Neighbour**, **Lizzie Flynn** and **The Reckoning**.

With over 75 different subjects across a wide-variety of educational, arts, crafts and cooking mediums, The Planting offers 150 diverse, fun, quirky and creative workshops. Available for both children and adults they include fermentation, syntropic farming, hobbit house building, pinhole camera, astrology, puppet making, yin yoga, native bee homes, oil painting, cycads, juicing, soil restoration, herbal first aid, Dungeons and Dragons, rag rugs, basket weaving, silversmithing, printing, clay hand building, firewalking, hammock making, electronics, science, cooking, essential oils and so many more.

To view the full list and book your workshop click [here](#).

As the recipient of the Advance Queensland Engaging Science Grant by the Queensland Government, Woodfordia has created its own BioQuest—a citizen-science initiative to record and identify Woodfordia's wildlife. **Woodfordia's BioQuest**, in collaboration with [QuestaGame](#), is an interactive citizen-science mobile app. Be the first to join the Woodfordia Clan and photograph Woodfordia's creatures and submit your pics into the free mobile app-game. Have your submissions identified by a biologist, score points, gold and equipment for your efforts. To start your BioQuest simply download QuestaGame from App Store or Google Play, select the Woodfordia Clan and request an invite.

The Planting is an annual three-day cultural event, a festival celebrating innovation in the arts, humanities and earth sciences. It began as community tree planting weekend 23 years ago, where volunteers took part in regenerating the festival's five-hundred-acre home, Woodfordia. Since then, The Planting Festival has evolved into a multi-layer experience featuring talks, forums, workshops, entertainment and environmental projects; a weekend of community spirit, cultural and intellectual exchange that remains true to its humble beginnings and offers a beautiful chance to connect, reflect and be inspired.

To extend The Planting Festival experience, book in for a masterclass the week before as part of Woodfordia's Artisan Camp series. For more information go to [www.artisancamp.com](http://www.artisancamp.com)

Tickets to The Planting are on sale now from: <https://theplantingfestival.com/tickets/>

<https://theplantingfestival.com/2018-festival-programme/>

For more information, visit: [www.theplantingfestival.com](http://www.theplantingfestival.com)

[Click here for digital and high resolution photos](#)

*Woodfordia Inc is a not-for-profit, community driven organisation with our 500-acre headquarters at Woodfordia, approximately five minutes drive from Woodford in SE Queensland, Australia. Our passionate pursuits include producing the [Woodford Folk Festival](#), [The Planting](#), [Festival of Small Halls](#) and [Woodfordia's Artisan Camp](#).*