



An Exploration Of
Bush Adventure Therapy
Techniques Within An Emerging
Environmental Social
Work Curriculum.



Amanda Smith

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Is working to embed Bush Adventure Therapy processes and possibilities into social work courses . Providing tangible ways of including BAT into achieving social work goals.



Sylvia Ramsay

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Is researching ways to enhance environmentally sensitive and sustainable practices.



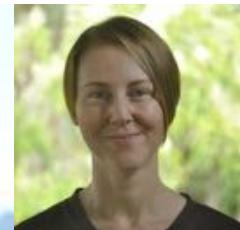
SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL WORK



Donna McAuliffe

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The increasing magnitude of natural disasters are a challenge for ethical professional practice.



Jenny Boddy

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Is working to embed environmental issues into core social work courses. Her work centres around feminism, community development and social activism.



Hilary Gallagher

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Is exploring sustainable and inclusive ways of increasing the resilience of young people by supporting them within the natural environment

What is Environmental Social Work?

Social Justice

“inevitably it is marginalized and disadvantaged people who suffer and will continue to suffer the greatest impacts of changing environmental conditions”

Hetherington & Boddy, 2013, p.50

Ecological Justice

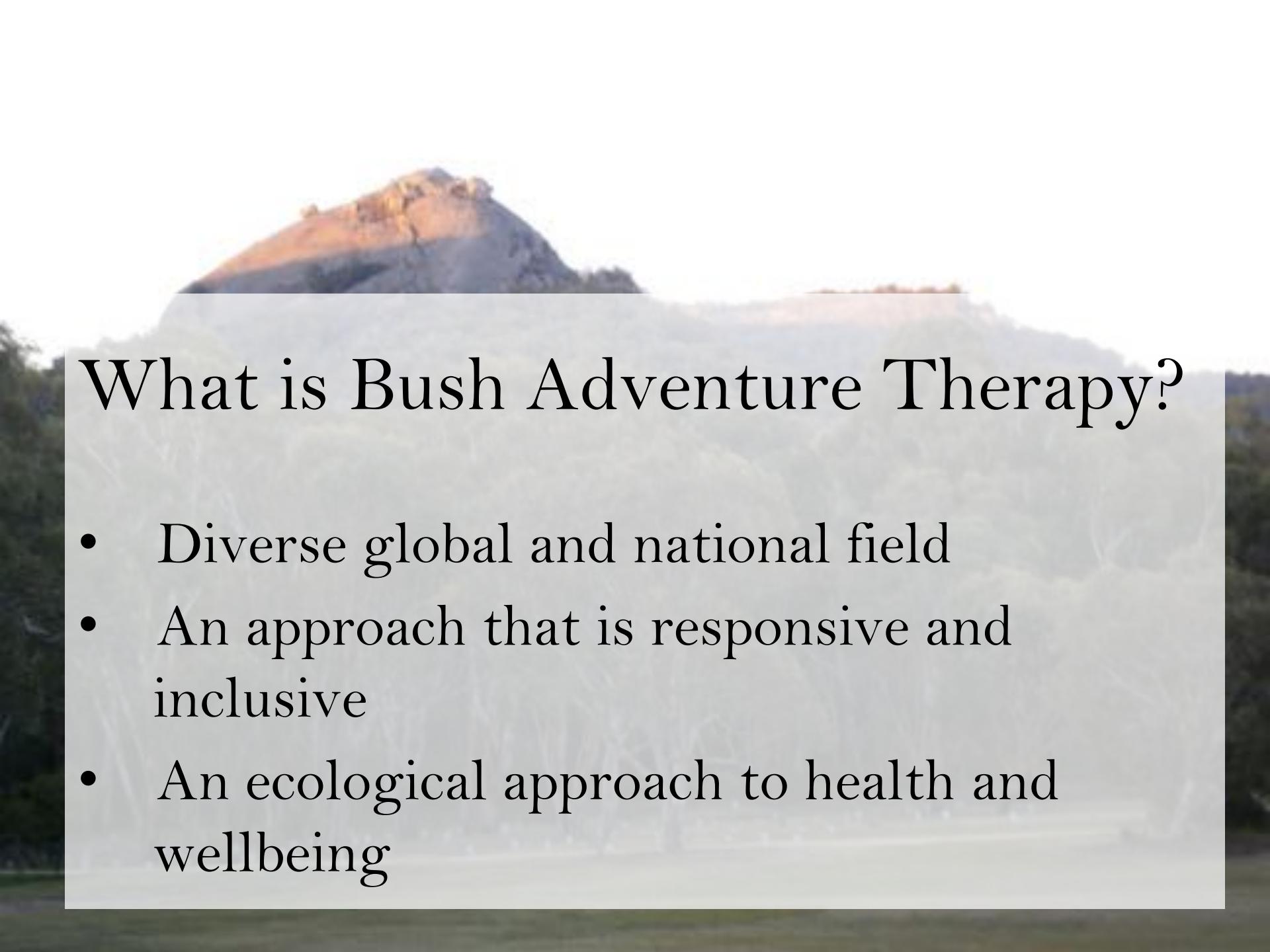
“humans are systemically embedded and biologically embodied beings whose ethical responsibilities *emerge from* and *extend to* all non human beings and entities.”

Besthorn, 2013, p.39



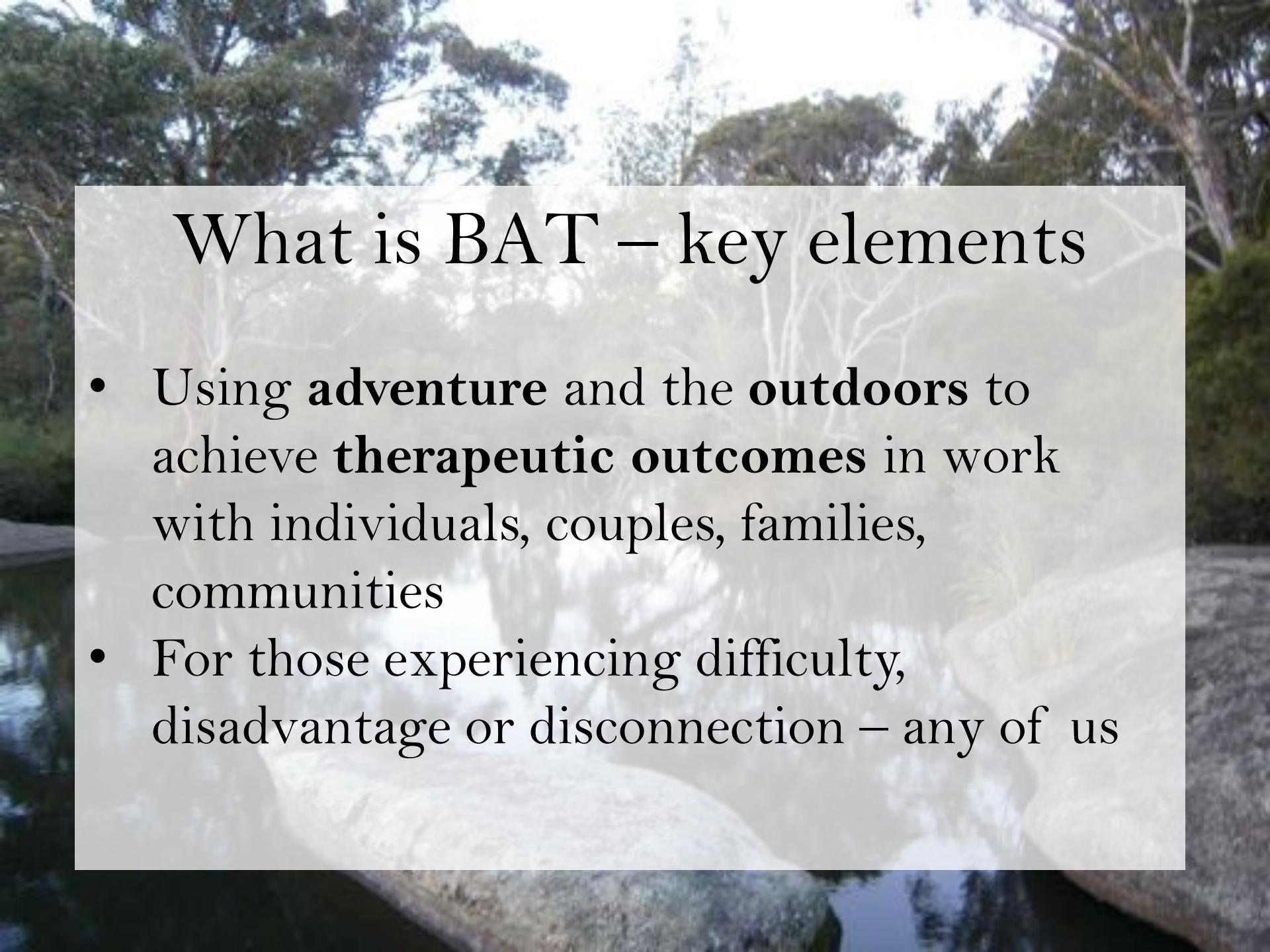
Environmental social work
assists humanity to restore & sustain a
biodiverse planetary ecosystem and does
this by adapting existing social work
methods to promote societal change.

Ramsay & Boddy, 2016



What is Bush Adventure Therapy?

- Diverse global and national field
- An approach that is responsive and inclusive
- An ecological approach to health and wellbeing



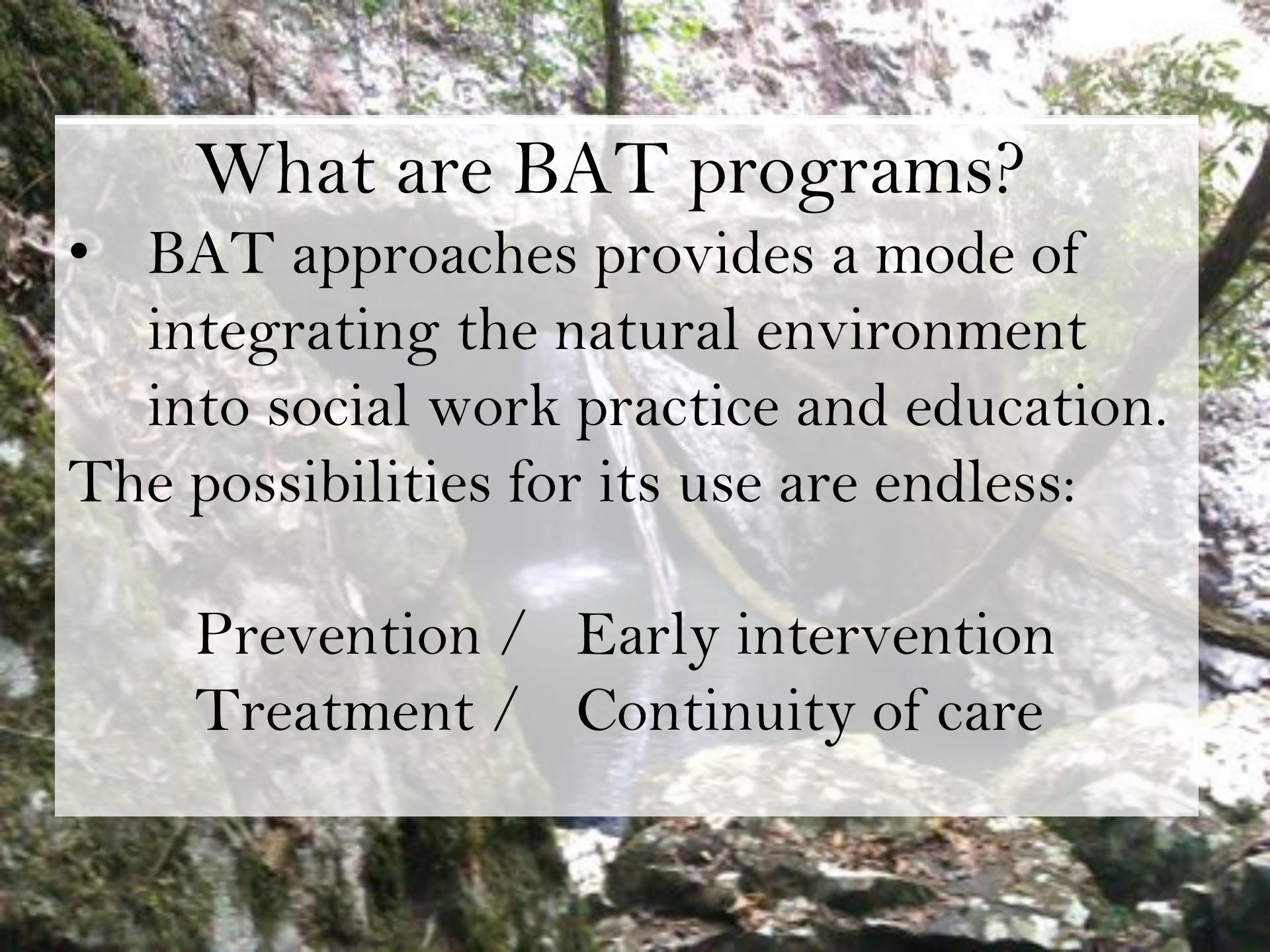
What is BAT – key elements

- Using **adventure** and the **outdoors** to achieve **therapeutic outcomes** in work with individuals, couples, families, communities
- For those experiencing difficulty, disadvantage or disconnection – any of us

Elements across most programs

Broad spectrum located according to program context & aims, participant aims & needs

Therapeutic principles – personal growth, tailored, developmental, responsible	Engagement with wider systems – informed by cultural and social theories, involvement and integration of family, community
Settings – indoor, local parks, remote and wild places	Staffing – multidisciplinary team with adventure, leadership, clinical, knowledge of target group and cultural roots to target group
Social context – micro communities, sharing power and decision making, intentional group processes	Aims and intentions – practiced across a spectrum of social work context and points of intervention
Adventure activities – experiential processes and learning, whole person engaged	Target groups the intervention continuum



What are BAT programs?

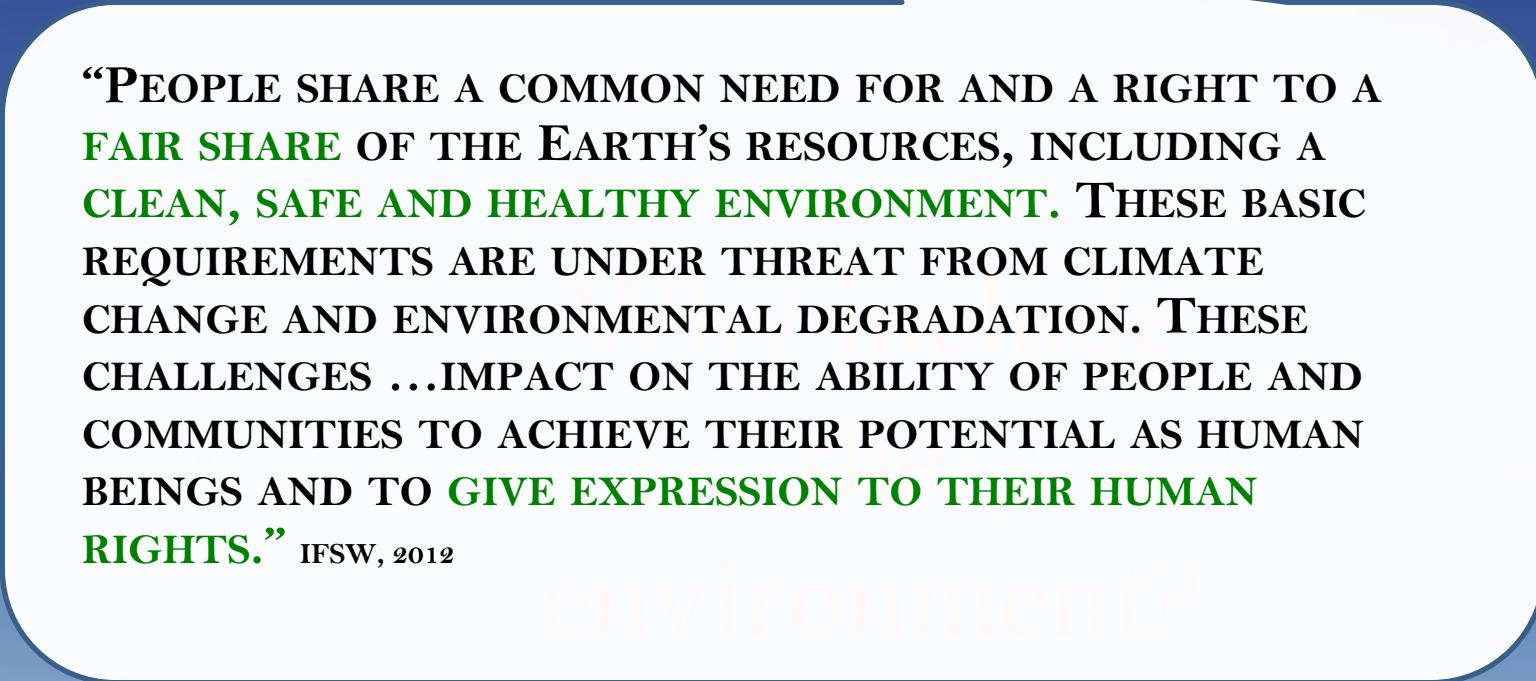
- BAT approaches provides a mode of integrating the natural environment into social work practice and education.

The possibilities for its use are endless:

Prevention / Early intervention
Treatment / Continuity of care

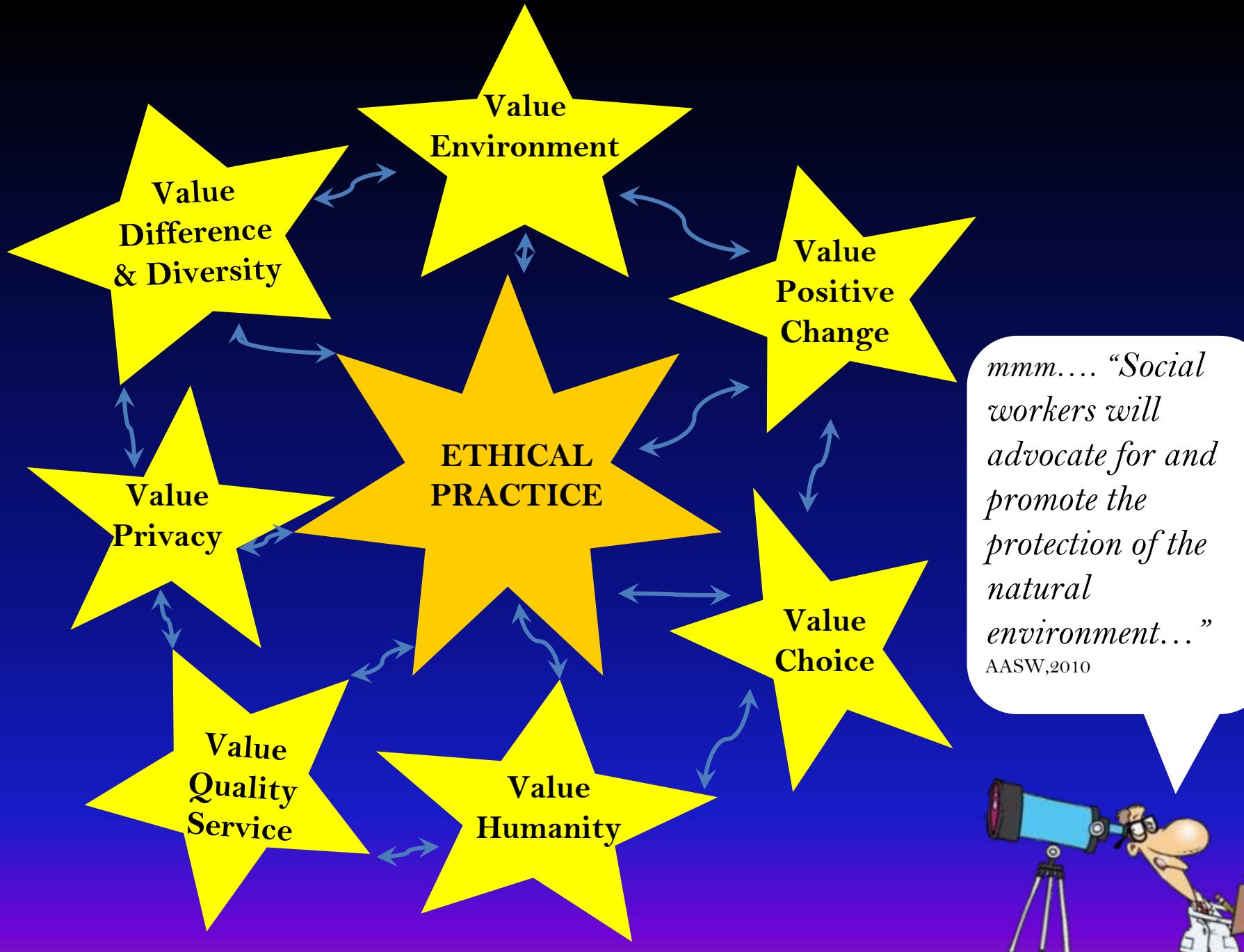
BAT is congruent with Environmental Social Work

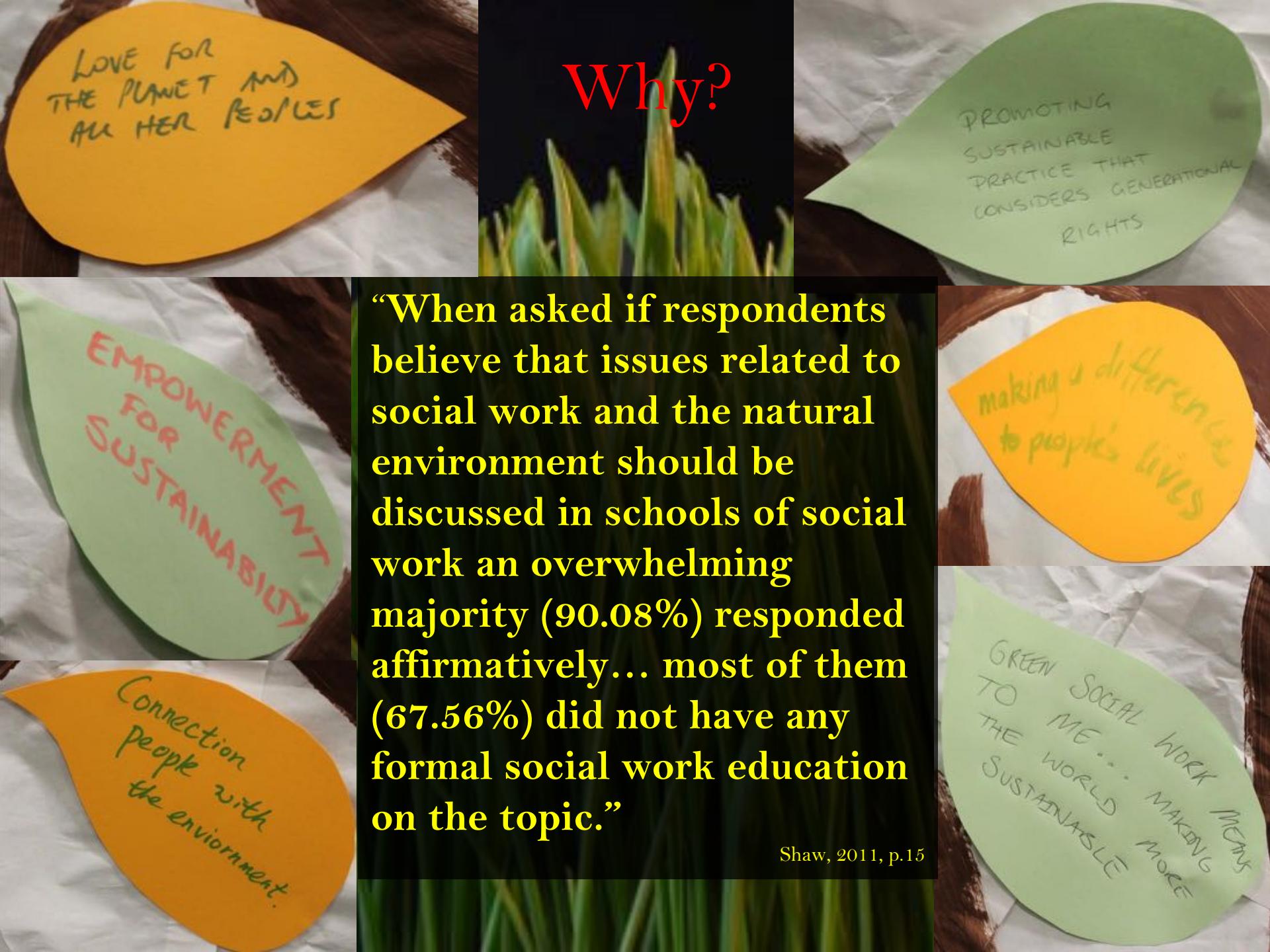
- As circles of practice expand – the opportunities appear
- See the inherent value of the natural environment
- Use the natural environment in ways respectful to other life and future lives
- Provides a practice approach to meet the issues facing the environment and people



“PEOPLE SHARE A COMMON NEED FOR AND A RIGHT TO A FAIR SHARE OF THE EARTH’S RESOURCES, INCLUDING A CLEAN, SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS ARE UNDER THREAT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. THESE CHALLENGES ...IMPACT ON THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL AS HUMAN BEINGS AND TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.” IFSW, 2012







LOVE FOR
THE PLANET AND
ALL HER PEOPLES

Why?

PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICE THAT
CONSIDERS GENERATIONAL
RIGHTS

EMPOWERMENT
FOR
SUSTAINABILITY

Connection
people with
the environment.

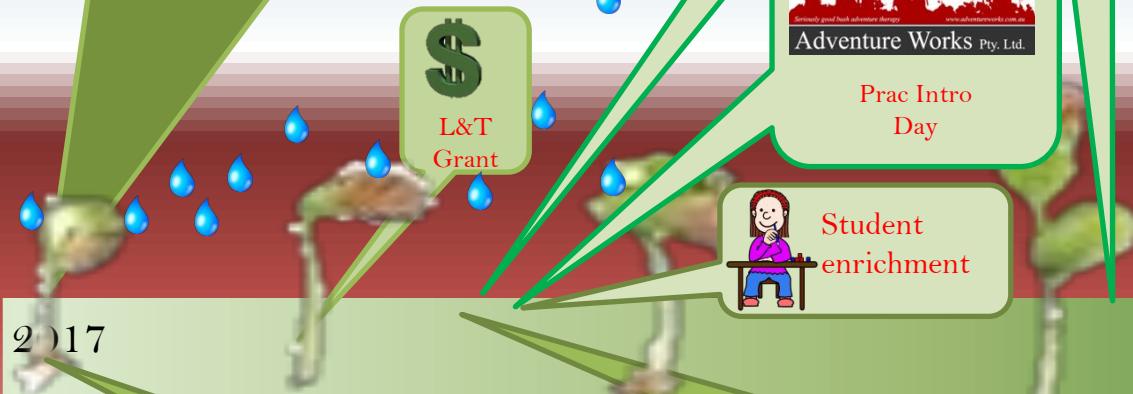
“When asked if respondents believe that issues related to social work and the natural environment should be discussed in schools of social work an overwhelming majority (90.08%) responded affirmatively... most of them (67.56%) did not have any formal social work education on the topic.”

Shaw, 2011, p.15

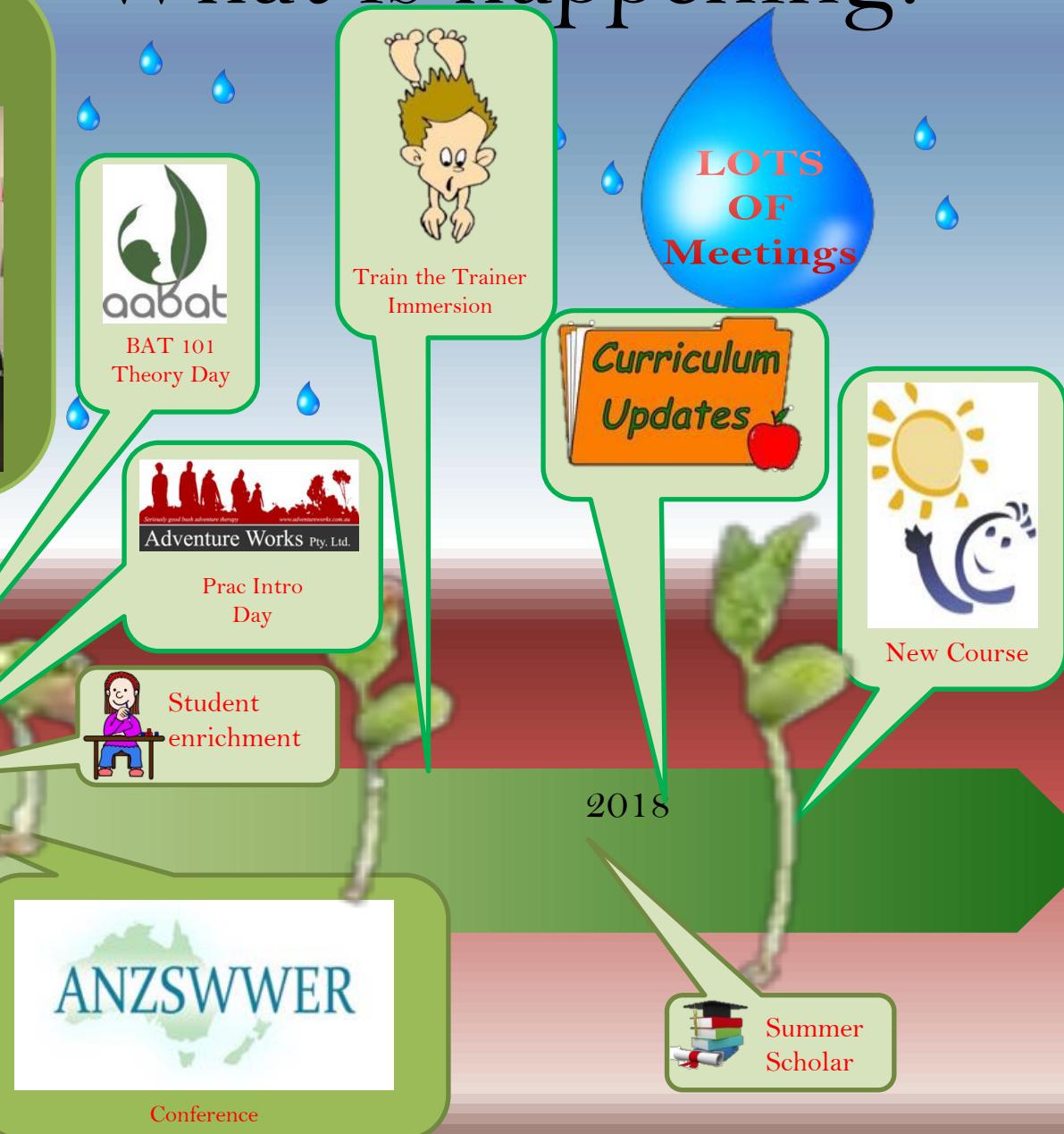
making a difference
to people's lives

GREEN SOCIAL WORK MEANS
TO ME... MAKING
THE WORLD MORE
SUSTAINABLE

21 March 2017
World Social Work Day



What is happening?



Outcomes/Recommendations

- Provide strategic professional development
- Develop guidelines and methods for incorporating the natural environment into curriculum
- Meet needs of on campus and remote learners for environmental content and experiential learning
- Expand understanding of BAT amongst academics and collaborate with Adventure Works in the construction of a postgraduate elective course
- Integrate the respectful use of nature as a tool for wellness
- Develop an understanding of the impact of anthropocentrism through use of an eco-centric lens

Deliverables/Resources

- Presentations to whole staff team of course development recommendations
- Creation of internal School position statement on the natural environment
- Provision of multimedia course materials.
- New elective to be offered in T3, 2018
- Presentation to the International Bush Adventure Therapy conference in Sydney, 2018.
- Internal project evaluation report for School and University
- Academic publication

References

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- Shaw, T. V. (2011). Is social work a green profession? An examination of environmental beliefs. *Journal of Social Work*, 13(1), 3-29. doi:10.1177/1468017311407555

*Are you a social worker in Australia?
Do you consider your practice is
Environmental? Green? Ecological?*

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL WORK: EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD

NEEDS YOU!

If you can spend an hour of your time for a non-intrusive interview in person or via the telephone or skype

Please contact

Jenny Boddy j.boddy@griffith.edu.au



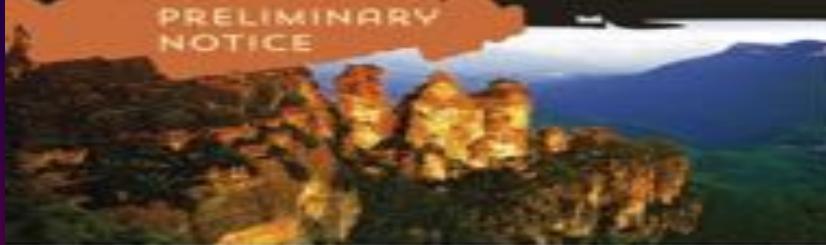
8TH INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE THERAPY CONFERENCE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

29 August – 2 September 2018

Stanwell Tops Conference Centre

PRELIMINARY
NOTICE



The 8th International Adventure Therapy Conference will be held from Wednesday 29th August to Sunday 2nd September 2018, at the Stanwell Tops Conference Centre just south of Sydney on the New South Wales coast, Australia.

Join us at the IAATC to celebrate past achievements and inspire future innovations by connecting or re-connecting to this inclusive, vibrant international community.

In the 21 years since the inaugural conference held in Australia in 1997, the field of adventure therapy has matured significantly. Upon its return to Australian shores in 2018, delegates from within the existing community and adjacent fields are invited to join us at The Tops to reflect on our cultural and professional origins and re-imagine contemporary adventure therapy knowledge and expertise in the light and landscape of ancient place-based practices.

Previous International Adventure Therapy Conferences have focussed on establishing coherence and quality in the international field of adventure therapy. At the IAATC we are reaching outwards with a theme of 'expanding the circles' to build links with allied fields such as social work, youth justice, programs for and by first peoples, occupational therapy, psychotherapy and of course many more.

The first day of the conference will provide newcomers to the field with an overview of the diverse field of international adventure therapy, including practices/programs, client groups, models and theories, research and training/development programs. Subsequent days will provide opportunities for delegates to share ideas and explore in more detail elements that interest them. There will be an extensive range of pre-conference events including multi-day immersive experiences to introduce those interested in the field whilst at the same time building on therapeutic, group facilitation and reflexive skills for participants. We look forward to welcoming your participation in what we believe will be a truly memorable conference.

IAATC Organising Committee



PUT THE DATE IN YOUR
DIARY NOW AND KEEP UP TO
DATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS
BY REGISTERING ONLINE

Additional enquiries should be directed to the Conference Secretariat, EECW Pty Ltd on +61 3 9883 7607 or leode.duncan@eeew.com.au

► Register your Interest: www.internationaladventuretherapy.org

