

NEWS RELEASE



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First round of speakers announced for futures event

Leading Australian commentator Bernard Salt has been announced as one of several high-profile experts who will travel to Bunbury in May to offer their predictions about what living in the South West in 2050 could be like.

The sought-after trend forecaster is among the first round of presenters named by the South West Development Commission to appear at its upcoming Critical Horizons conference.

Others confirmed to speak at the event on May 15 include sustainability professor Peter Newman, and Melbourne housing and urban studies professor Gavin Wood.

Designed to get people thinking about the challenges and opportunities the future may bring, Critical Horizons is billed as the region's premier think tank series.

SWDC chief executive officer Don Punch said the conference would offer a thought-provoking look at the forces shaping communities in the South West.

"While there's no way of telling exactly what the future might hold, we can examine emerging trends and what impacts they might have on our communities," he said.

"By taking a closer look at these influences, we can become better equipped for what may come our way in the coming years and decades."

Mr Punch encouraged people to book early for the conference to ensure they don't miss out on hearing what the presenters have to say about living in the South West in the years ahead.

"It's not every day that local people get to hear first-hand from the likes of Bernard Salt, Peter Newman and Gavin Wood – so if you're interested in learning about communities of the 21st Century, I encourage you to consider taking up this opportunity," he said.

The Critical Horizons conference will be held in the new Cube Theatre at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre on Thursday May 15.

A second round of speakers secured to present at the conference will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information about the event, visit www.criticalhorizons.com.au . Tickets can be purchased directly from the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre.

The Critical Horizons series is an initiative of the South West Development Commission and is sponsored by Alcoa, Bunbury Mail, LandCorp and Regional Development Australia – South West.

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