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**THE SHAKESPEARE SESSIONS**

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| **Purpose** | To HIGHLIGHT HOW AND WHY SHAKESPEARE IS STILL RELEVANT.  |
| **Date** | **Saturday 28TH APRIL. 2018**  |
| **Location** | The Cathedral School Townsville. Lecture Theatre.  |
| **Travel** | Parking is free. Park in The Cathedral school grounds. |
| **Timings** | 9.00AM-12 NOON.  |
| Image result for shakespeare photo | Emcee, father and teacher, **Charlie Thomson**, AKA The Educator, has spent the past twenty years teaching at a number of high schools and youth training facilities around Australia. His hip-hop crew, The Winnie Coopers, have won national music awards and toured extensively with the likes of the Beastie Boys, De La Soul and Jurassic 5. The Educator, who was a key presenter at the World Shakespeare Congress in Brisbane and International Hip-Hop Think-tank at New York University, is passionate about engaging young people in the works of Shakespeare in a contemporary and relevant way through his project The Shakespeare Sessions. Come join him down the Bard Road.About the workshop:Let’s be honest, your students would probably rather listen to Eminem than study a Shakespearean play. As a result, secondary teacher and hip-hop artist, Charlie Thomson AKA The Educator, has developed a presentation that engages young people in learning about Shakespeare and his plays and answers the question- "Why should we study Shakespeare today?" Through hip-hop, humour and research, The Educator will help you not only write your essay but an Elizabethan battle rap to use on your teacher.**Teaching *Macbeth* – a place-based approach**What role does place have in the classroom? How does *Macbeth* relate to our twenty-first century environment, or more specifically, our own north Queensland environment? And what is the role of space and place within *Macbeth*?In this two-hour session, Dr Claire Hansen and Dr Victoria Kuttainen will explore *Macbeth* and place-based approaches to pedagogy. The session will be structured into three parts:1. A short introductory lecture on *Macbeth* and place-based learning(1/2 hour)
2. A discussion based on pre-reading set for this session, with critical readings circulated in advance, and a practical activity on developing lexical chains (1 hour)
3. A short roundtable discussion on establishing a community of practice for English educators in secondary and tertiary environments (1/2 hour)

This session will focus on an exploration of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, and introduce concepts around place-based learning and ecocriticism which could be applied usefully in the classroom – whether in relation to Shakespeare’s plays or other literary texts.The session will include an activity on lexical chains, and in section 2 we will be asking teachers to reflect on how they can adapt this for their own work.Participants will be asked to think about the relationship between the texts we teach and the spaces in which we teach them, and how examining – and maybe even reconceptualising – this relationship may invigorate our approaches to Shakespeare (and our students’ enjoyment of his works!).**Critical readings:**Bartholomaeus, Pam. ‘Place-based education and the Australian curriculum’. *Literacy Learning: The Middle Years*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Oct 2013: 17-23. Mentz, Steve. 'Shakespeare's Beach House, or The Green and the Blue in *Macbeth*'. *Shakespeare Studies* 39 (2011): 84-93.**About the workshop facilitators:****Dr Claire Hansen** is a Lecturer in English/Writing at James Cook University. She is also a member of the Shakespeare Reloaded project. Her book, *Shakespeare and Complexity Theory*, was published by Routledge in June 2017. Claire has previously taught at the University of Sydney, University of Wollongong and University of New England. Her research interests include early modern drama and literature, pedagogy, complexity theory, ecocriticism, and the public value of the humanities.**Dr Victoria Kuttainen** is Head of English and Senior Lecturer in English and Writing at James Cook University. She holds a BA Hons and MA from the University of British Columbia and a PhD from UQ.  Her research areas--postcolonial and world literatures, and the flapper era in Australia and Canada--keep geography and history at the centre of the teaching and reading of literature.  Her interests in teaching emerged from her first forays into teaching English as a Second Language and as a tutor for Laubach Literacy, in Taiwan and Vancouver, after her honours degree.  Last year she completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) at James Cook University and looks forward to continuing to develop links with local high schools and the community.  She runs the JCU Book Club on the first Thursday of every month (all welcome), and is also a creative writer.  |
| **Catering** | Good Morning Coffee Trader will be available from 8.30am.  |
| **Cost** | Free |
| **Duration** | Certificates will be issued for **3 hours** of CPD. |
| **Registration** | Register with Heather @chandlergroup.com.au and the ETAQ website at <http://www.etaq.org.au/> |