

Blue Mountains Sustainability Festival

Presenter: Adjunct Professor Roy Tasker

Date: 26/9/2026

Location: Tibbi Whalen Hall, Civic Centre, Katoomba St, Katoomba

Time: 11:15 - 12:00

Topic: Not just a climate crisis – a *polycrisis*.

Presenter Bio

Professor Roy Tasker was Chief Scientific Advisor at Planet Ark, a Climate Reality Leader, Climate Fresk facilitator and Adjunct Professor of Chemistry Education at Western Sydney University. After more than three decades as a chemistry education academic in Australia and the United States, he brings deep expertise in science communication, molecular-level visualisation and evidence-based learning to public understanding of sustainability and climate issues. A former Professor of Chemistry Education and Provost at Western Sydney University, Roy received the Prime Minister's Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year in 2011 and held senior teaching and research roles at Purdue University. His work now focuses on helping communities understand the scientific dimensions of the climate crisis, circular economy, novel chemicals and sustainability, translating complex evidence into clear insight and practical action.

Presentation Precipis

We are living with interacting pressures: dangerous heat and bushfire risk, biodiversity loss, rising living costs and fuel shocks, and rapid AI-driven change. Understandably, this can leave people feeling anxious, exhausted or powerless.

This practical, participatory workshop explores how we can remain physically safe and mentally steady without ignoring the seriousness of these challenges. We will look at household preparation, managing an overwhelming news cycle, strengthening neighbourhood connections, and turning concern into realistic individual and collective action. Participants will leave with a simple personal coping plan and trustworthy Blue Mountains resources.