

FREE webinars for IOL Members



Spring Programme 2025

£30 non IOL Members

SEE THE FULL PROGRAMME + BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar>

IOL Members FREE webinars

£30 non
Members



Keep track of your bookings - Spring 2025

Webinar date	Time	Webinar title	Booked
19 March	4.30pm	National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)	
25 March	4.00pm	Alternative Provision Group - Members survey & how we respond	
27 March	5.00pm	Writing an Outdoor Education Curriculum - how to focus your outdoor Programmes	
2 April	9.30am	High Quality Outdoor Learning in practice: getting good outcomes	
8 April	5.30pm	Teambuilding - From a teambuilding activity to a team development process	
15 April	3.30pm	Balancing Burnout and Brilliance - an introduction to resilience and compassion fatigue	
23 April	6.00pm	Spring Foraging - 3 Easily identifiable plants you can forage this spring	
1 April	5.30pm	Mountain Training England Updates	
1 May	4.00pm	The next steps in the Nature Premium campaign	
6 May	6.00pm	When Accidents Happen. A conversation about Search and Rescue in Yosemite National Park	
12 May	4.00pm	Business Continuity Planning - What, Why & How	
13 May	5.00pm	Neurodivergence in the hills, on expedition and up the wall - as instructors and for participants	
14 May	4.30pm	Skogsmulle: Swedish Early years version of forest school	
20 May	6.00pm	Available resources for Alternative Provision	
22 May	5.00pm	Using your school grounds for outdoor learning	

**IOL FREE
webinar**

**Free for all
participants**

National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)

Wednesday 19th March at 4.30pm

About the webinar

The **National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)** recognises, captures and celebrates the personal development outcomes of participants during an outdoor learning experience.

This webinar, delivered by Dr Roger Hopper, the developer of the award will outline the theoretical and practical development of NOLA, its benefits and how to implement it in diverse outdoor learning contexts.



Who is it for?

Instructors, Teachers, Educators, Managers, Leaders

Learning outcomes

Awareness of how NOLA was developed. Awareness of benefits of NOLA for participants, practitioners and organisations. Awareness on how to implement NOLA in diverse outdoor learning contexts.

Host

Dr Roger Hopper is the developer of the National Outdoor Learning Award and a Lead Practitioner of the Institute for Outdoor Learning. Roger is a multi-disciplined practitioner with over 25 years experience of delivering, managing and leading outdoor learning in multiple outdoor contexts across all age groups and diverse needs.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/national-outdoor-learning-award-nola-mar2025.html>

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Alternative Provision Group - Members survey & how we respond

Tuesday 25th March at 4.00pm

About the webinar

Alternative Provision Group - Members survey & how we respond. The webinar will be an opportunity to share the results of the survey that went out earlier this year and for participants to contribute to what we would like to achieve. There is a wealth of knowledge within the IOL membership and this is an opportunity to draw it together and create opportunities to support quality outdoor activities engaging children through Alternative Provision.



Who is it for?

Anyone who has an interest in alternative provision.

Host

Mike King started working in the outdoors when he was a 16yrs old apprentice and now 30 years later, he feels privileged to still be enabling people to engage with the outdoor environment. Through his own journey in the outdoors he has overseen the development of Releasing Potential which is an education charity that comprises of an Independent Special School, Academic Institute and Forest School. Mike became an IOL Trustee as he believes that interaction (in any form) with the outdoors is a positive vehicle for change in people's lives, enabling them to understand who they are and what they can become.

Mike also values developing relationships that support a positive interaction with the outdoors for the whole of society.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/ap-group-members-survey-how-we-respond.html>

Writing an Outdoor Education Curriculum: How to focus your outdoor programmes

IOL Members
FREE webinar

Non Members
£30

Thursday 27th March 2025 at 5.00pm

About the webinar

Writing an Outdoor Education Curriculum: How to focus your outdoor programmes.

In this interactive workshop, Rob shares his learning from the process that saw him start with nothing and progress to a philosophy of Outdoor Education which, in turn, underpins a comprehensive curriculum from Kinder to Year 12. After attending, participants should have an understanding of how to build their own curriculums and what to use them for, from advocating for Outdoor Education to focussing individual experiences.

As the First Head of Outdoor Education at Melbourne Girls Grammar, Rob arrived at a school that had no tradition of Outdoor Education. Presented with a blank sheet, his first job was to define what Outdoor Education was, what it could achieve, and what would be its primary goals for the students. Having done that, he set about writing a curriculum that would inform all of the outdoor experiences that each and every student would enjoy in their career at the school.

Who is it for?

Aimed at those who run Outdoor Education programmes within schools or other organisations where students or participants have regular and extended contact with the outdoors whether that is just once a year or more regularly.

NOTE: A day or two prior to the webinar we will send supporting documents for participants to have ready.

Host

Robert Houghton is a career outdoor educator with experience going back more than 25 years. Since beginning his career as a lowly outdoor instructor, living in a tent on a Welsh mountainside, he has worked all over the world in a variety of roles. He has been an expedition leader, taking students on multi-week expeditions to countries on five continents. He's also been a ski guide. After completing his teaching degree in Outdoor Education and English at Bangor University, he took on a job at Gordonstoun school.

He's worked for UWCSEA in Singapore and, latterly, he ran his own outdoor education consultancy and first aid training company before moving to Australia in 2016 where he now works as the first Head of Outdoor Education at Melbourne Girls Grammar School. Outside of work, he still enjoys doing many of the activities that he's spent the best part of his life teaching, but, in addition, he relishes writing, he's fond of fondue, and partial to a pinot.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/writing-oe-curriculum-focus-your-outdoor-programmes.html>

High Quality Outdoor Learning in practice: Getting good outcomes

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 9.30am (45 mins)

IOL FREE webinar

About the webinar

This **High Quality Outdoor Learning in practice: Getting good outcomes** webinar explores the conditions that encourage the achievement of high quality outcomes in outdoor learning programmes. After a look at the components of practice and underpinning structures that lead to good outcomes, we will explore how the IOL's guide to High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025 can be used to develop practice and assess progress.

Who is it for?

Anyone wanting to increase their leadership impact.

Host

Dr Dave Harvey is an outdoor learning specialist with over 30 years' experience, encompassing schools, outdoor education centres and community projects. He works with schools and providers to maximise learning outcomes involving outdoor learning and runs his own outdoor learning consultancy, research and training business, Dave Harvey Outdoor Learning. He is involved with a wide range of projects that seek to develop the sector and improve access to its benefits. He is a frequent contributor to Horizons and led the High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025 project.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/high-quality-ol-in-practice-getting-good-outcomes.html>



Teambuilding – from a teambuilding activity to a team development process

IOL Members
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Non Members
£30

Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 5.30pm (60-75 mins)

About the webinar

Teambuilding – from a teambuilding activity to a team development process. This will take the form of a masterclass – based on team building activities to team building processes.

Leadership isn't about being a solitary hero, it is about getting stuff done with a team; not with a team around you and not with a team behind you, but with a team beside you.

Leadership and dialogue go hand-in-hand; it is easy when being attacked or criticised to attack and criticise back. Influence is at the heart of leadership; not just through rational arguments, emotional pleas, physical looks or spiritual alignment. This masterclass will help you to align your team building processes.

Who is it for?

Anyone wanting to increase their leadership impact.

Host

Bob Larcher is a British leadership development practitioner living and working out of Toulouse in France. His clients include multinationals, start-ups, charities and the public sector. Since his first leadership development events in the mid-eighties, Bob estimates that he has run more than 4000 days of leadership training, coaching & facilitating. He is an APIOL and has been a member of the IOL (and its previous incarnations) for almost 40 years.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/teambuilding-activity-to-a-team-development-process.html>

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Balancing Burnout and Brilliance – an introduction to resilience and compassion fatigue

Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 3.30pm (90 mins)

About the webinar

Balancing Burnout and Brilliance – an introduction to resilience and compassion fatigue. An online workshop exploring the impact that working with people who have experienced trauma or disability can have on our own mental health and wellbeing, and how we can increase our resilience and reduce compassion fatigue and burnout in ourselves and our workforce.

Who is it for?

Practitioners and managers who want to learn more about compassion fatigue and explore how the work they do affects them and their staff.

Host

Sara Murray is Training, Research and Consultancy Manager at the Bendrigg Trust, an accessible outdoor centre catering for all ages and all abilities. Sara trained in compassion fatigue and resilience and is an experienced trainer and coach who has worked in the NHS and charity sectors with people with long term conditions and disabilities for over 20 years.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/balancing-burnout-and-brilliance-intro-to-resilience-compassion-fatigue.html>

Spring Foraging - 3 Easily identifiable plants you can forage this spring

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at 6pm

IOL Members
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Members

About the webinar

Spring Foraging - 3 Easily identifiable plants you can forage this spring.

Join Lizzy Maskey online as she explores some of the best plants to forage this spring. In this engaging talk, Lizzy will guide you through identifying these plants safely, ensuring you follow UK foraging laws, and sharing her favourite recipes to make the most of your finds. Whether it's nettle soup, elderflower fritters, or wild garlic butter stuffed dough balls, Lizzy's passion for combining quality food with the wonders of the natural world will leave you excited to be heading outside and seeing what delectable delights are available to you. Lizzy combines her deep knowledge of foraging and the natural world with her passion for delicious food, and sharing her knowledge to others. Her fun and informative webinar is designed to reconnect you with the natural world, offering practical skills and insights to transform your outdoor adventures. We promise a walk through the woods will never be the same again.



Who is it for?

Anyone looking to increase their knowledge of common UK edible plants & get inspired by how they can make tasty use of them.

Host

Lizzy Maskey is the founder and lead instructor at Pippin & Gile, a respected bushcraft and foraging school in the South East of England. Established in 2018, Lizzy launched Pippin & Gile after returning from cycling 9000km to Kazakhstan unsupported and mostly under canvas. A regular contributor to Horizons Magazine, she combines her extensive skills with a passion for sharing knowledge, deeply rooted in the belief that 'knowledge brings awareness and understanding which fosters value and care'. Lizzy is ever a student of the natural world, and when not sharing her passion for the outdoors, she will be out extending her knowledge, whether that be in the UK or overseas. Even if you have a good understanding of your local plants, this webinar should look at ways for you to be able to describe to others why a nettle is a nettle too.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/spring-foraging-3-easily-identifiable-plants.html>

Mountain Training England Updates

IOL Members
FREE webinar

Non Members
£30

Monday 28th April 2025 at 5.30pm

About the webinar

This **Mountain Training England Updates** webinar will describe the latest developments across the Mountain Training network and give attendees the opportunity to ask any questions and give feedback.

Topics that to be covered will include:

- The new Bouldering Wall Instructor qualification (launches 31st March)
- The Mountain Training leadership model and its introduction to the climbing schemes
- Remote supervision and our new online course
- Digital developments and how these are supporting our schemes
- Skills course providership (walking and climbing)
- The coaching scheme review 2025 – and your feedback.



Who is it for?

The webinar is aimed at anyone who has an interest in leading, coaching or teaching others in climbing, hillwalking and mountaineering.

Host

Guy Jarvis is the Executive Officer for Mountain Training England. He began his career as a teacher taking his pupils out on adventures as much as he could, culminating in leading trips to the Himalaya. He then went on to run a climbing wall in Bristol whilst providing courses for Mountain Training, leading expeditions worldwide and delivering development training. He founded the NICAS scheme and delivered MTUKI's coaching courses. At MTE he is responsible for the overall operation of the organisation as well as its strategic partnerships. His teenage son has now got him into the reckless pastime of downhill mountain biking!



**Mountain
Training**
England

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/mountain-training-england-updates.html>

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The next steps in the Nature Premium campaign

Thursday 1st May 2025 at 4pm

About the webinar

The **Next Steps in the Nature Premium Campaign** is asking the government to guarantee regular and ongoing nature experiences for all children and young people with additional funding for those who need it most. We have seen growing momentum since September 2024 and are looking forward to sharing our progress.

The Nature Premium is a big idea with wide-ranging benefits and consequences. If you've got questions about how it will work - great!



From the [Nature Premium web area](#):



Why do Schools need a Nature Premium?

The Nature Premium would help children recover from lockdown and set them up to learn.



Benefits of a Nature Premium

Improvement of children's mental wellbeing outcomes and encouraging higher levels of physical activity.



Evidence Supporting The Nature Premium

There is a huge body of evidence to support the benefits of children accessing nature and learning outside.

Host

Sara Collins is the Co-Founder and lead of the Nature Premium Campaign. She is an APIOL outdoor educator and Forest School practitioner who took to campaigning during Lockdown 1 in 2020.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/the-next-steps-in-the-nature-premium-campaign.html>

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When Accidents Happen. A conversation about Search and Rescue in Yosemite National Park

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 6pm

About the webinar

When Accidents Happen. A conversation about Search and Rescue in Yosemite National Park. After a childhood of wandering the North Welsh Beaches and Lake District in inadequate footwear and cotton Moose Mutlow ended up in Yosemite National Park staying alot longer than he anticipated. If you are curious about what it is like to be part of a Search and Rescue team at one of the busiest National Parks in the world and where myth gets in the way of response sign up for some slides and a conversation.

Host

Moose Mutlow has been fortunate to work in traditional and alternative education in the USA, Australia, Southern Africa and Europe. He has taught high school science in the Kalahari Desert; led 5th Graders on rainforest expeditions in Australia; managed a beach concession on the Mediterranean; spent a snowy winter in Truckee directing an elite ski academy; busked on the streets, run a T-shirt printing business out of suitcase and accidental got on NPR talking about roadkill.

Moose has been heavily involved in outdoor education for 30 years and has been a Field Instructor, Education Director and Trainer. He spent 25 years working for NatureBridge, an Environmental Education Program in National Parks; managing programs, developing and organizing political demonstration projects in Washington DC and fundraising. Moose has worked in Yosemite National Park as a Special Project Director responsible for the design & construction of the National Environmental Science Center. He continues to coordinate Yosemite Search and Rescue's Swiftwater Response/Recovery Team and is the Yosemite's Lead Family Liaison Officer. Moose has been an active member of YOSAR since 2003. He is a National Trainer for Family Liaison Officers and Psychological First Aid. He is a Rescue 3 Agency Instructor. As W-EMT he occasionally got to drive unreasonable fast in emergency vehicles and on snowmobiles. He remains totally confused about rigging for vertical rescue as he struggles with the math and is normally told to simply manage the safety prusiks.

After more than a decade of backpacking with Outward Bound he now has zero interest in thrashing around with a heavy load in rhododendron. Now he prefers to go fast downhill on bicycles and float down rivers on boats. Back in Black by ACDC.

www.moosemutlow.com

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/when-accidents-happen-search-rescue-yosemite.html>



**IOL Members
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**£30 non
Members**

Business Continuity Planning – What, Why & How

Monday 12th May 2025 at 4pm

About the webinar

Business Continuity Planning – What, Why & How. Business continuity planning is a critical component for any organization, especially for outdoor activity providers who face unique challenges. Imagine the impact of a sudden weather change, natural disaster or fire or theft at your stores or Centre. These unpredictable events can disrupt operations, endanger clients, and result in significant financial losses. Ralph's discussion will delve into real-world examples and case studies from the outdoor industry to illustrate the importance of having a robust business continuity plan. He will examine how companies have successfully navigated crises. Additionally, Ralph will address the role of communication and leadership in crisis management, highlighting the importance of clear and decisive action when faced with unexpected challenges. By the end of this talk, you will be equipped with practical insights and actionable steps to enhance your business's resilience, ensuring that you can weather any storm and continue to thrive in the ever-changing landscape of the outdoor activity sector.



Who is it for?

Owners and Centre Managers

Host

Ralph Doe joined AIM in 2017 from a background insuring and supporting some of the UK's largest charities providing adventurous activities to young people. With over 20 years' experience in the insurance sector Ralph is an accredited Insurance and Risk Management professional who supports AIM Members with site visits, technical advice, and all aspects of coverage requirements.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/business-continuity-planning-what-why-how.html>



**IOL Members
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Neurodivergence in the hills, on expedition and up the wall - as instructors and for participants

Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 5pm (90 mins)

About the webinar

Neurodivergence in the hills, on expedition and up the wall - as instructors and for participants. This webinar explores neurodivergence in the outdoor arena, focusing on how instructors and participants can create inclusive and supportive spaces for all. The session covers key concepts such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, examining identity-first vs person-first language and the medical vs social model of disability.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussions including teaching in a neurodivergent-friendly manner, considering communication strategies like PECS and social stories. The session will also address inclusive design principles, such as accessible communication formats, sensory-friendly environments, and structured approaches to instruction.

A key takeaway is the "Plus 1" approach, encouraging small, actionable steps toward greater inclusivity. The webinar emphasises practical strategies for supporting neurodivergent individuals in outdoor settings, ensuring better engagement, safety, and a sense of belonging. Resources for continued learning and good practices in neurodiverse-friendly sports education will also be provided.

Who is it for?

Instructors, coaches and participants

Host

Dr. Suzie Dick is an international mountain leader and wilderness emergency medical technician who works as a lecturer in education at Queen Margaret University. Suzie has been leading international expeditions for the past 20 years and began Women with Altitude back in 2005 with the aim of demystifying adventurous expeditions and making them more accessible

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/neurodivergence-hills-expedition-wall.html>



Skogsmulle - Swedish Early years version of forest school

Wednesday 14th May 2025 4.30pm

IOL Members
FREE webinar

£30 non
Members

About the webinar

Skogsmulle - Swedish Early years version of forest school

Skogsmulle is a nature-based pedagogy originating in the Swedish Outdoor School movement known as I ur Och Skur. The concept was created in Sweden by Gösta Frohm in the 1950s and today one in every four children living in Sweden experience the magic of learning with Skogsmulle. In this free webinar you will learn how Skogsmulle provides children with inspirational, holistic, child-centered learning experiences.

Further reading links:

- The benefits of Nature based schools - Grahn, P., Martensson, F., Lindblad, B., Nilsson, P., & Ekman, A. (1997).
- Ute på Dagis Stad and Land 145. Håssleholm, Sweden: Nora Skåne Offset. - Fjørtoft, I. & Sageie, J.(2001)
- 'The Natural Environment as a Playground for Children: The Impact of Outdoor Play Activities in Pre-Primary School Children', Early Childhood Education Journal 29(2): 111-117
- [What is Skogsmulle](#)
- [Skogsmulle in Wales](#)

Participating in the webinar can be followed up by a free course and/or a paid accredited version for CPD.

Who is it for?

Teachers, Forest School Leaders, Early Years Educators, Outdoor Learning specialists and those wishing to have a greater understanding of taking children outdoors.

Host

Darren Lewis of Ignite Unlocking Potential. A passionate advocate for unlocking the potential of people through person centred experiences in learning rich environments.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/skogsmulle-swedish-early-years-version-of-forest-school.html>

IOL Members FREE webinar

£30 non
Members

Available resources for Alternative Provision

Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 6pm

About the webinar

Available resources for Alternative Provision. The definition of Alternative Provision is education commissioned by either a maintained school or a Local Authority which forms part a child's education programme. The aim of this group is to support, resource and provide a voice for those providing alternative education in the outdoors. This group consists of practitioners who have passion for the outdoors and understand the impact that engaging with nature can have on children. We recognise the need for our members to provide planned activities which track a child's social, emotional and mental health development that supports their educational development in their formal education placement.



Who is it for?

Details later....

Host

Mike King started working in the outdoors when he was a 16yrs old apprentice and now 30 years later, he feels privileged to still be enabling people to engage with the outdoor environment. Through his own journey in the outdoors he has overseen the development of Releasing Potential which is an education charity that comprises of an Independent Special School, Academic Institute and Forest School.

Mike became an IOL Trustee as he believes that interaction (in any form) with the outdoors is a positive vehicle for change in people's lives, enabling them to understand who they are and what they can become.

Mike also values developing relationships that support a positive interaction with the outdoors for the whole of society.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/available-resources-for-alternative-provision.html>

FREE webinar
for IOL Members
all teachers
& school staff

Non Members £30

Using your school grounds for outdoor learning

Thursday 22nd May 2025 5pm (90 mins)

About the webinar

Using your school grounds for outdoor learning. Do you want to take your teaching outdoors, but think your school grounds are not suitable? Learn how even just a patch of tarmac can become a site for outdoor learning. In this webinar Dawn and Anna will discuss practical examples of how all areas of your school grounds, from playground to boundary fence, can be used for outdoor learning. Expect to come away with lots of ideas for outdoor learning activities you can use with your groups plus useful advice on how to make simple, low cost improvements to your site.



Who is it for?

Aimed at teachers who want support in using more outdoor learning in their teaching

FREE for IOL Members, all teachers & school staff

Hosts

Dawn Thomas founder of Nature Days a field studies provider and curriculum based outdoor learning specialist. Working in curriculum based outdoor learning for nearly 20 years in Wales. Developer and provider of teacher training on outdoor learning in the Curriculum for Wales. Dawn provides Field studies for schools in Gower South Wales and teacher training all over Wales.

Anna Thompson is the Education and Learning Manager for Nene Park Trust in Cambridgeshire. She is a qualified teacher and has over 20 years experience working in Field Studies and Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning. Anna is passionate in her belief that (almost) all of the curriculum can be taught outdoors, and has developed teaching programmes delivering subjects such as maths, art and literacy in an outdoor environment. Today Anna leads a team who deliver outdoor learning experiences for EYFS to A level, as well as delivering training courses for teachers who are keen to take their teaching outdoors.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/using-your-school-grounds-for-outdoor-learning.html>

IOL Knowledge Hub - Bridging the gap between Research and Practice

IOL FREE webinar

Tuesday 25th March 2025

7.00pm-8.30pm

IOL KNOWLEDGE HUB

Are you interested in developing knowledge and practice in the outdoor learning space?

This webinar will introduce the new IOL Knowledge Hub that will enable members to

- access research in a way that is comprehensible and relevant
- develop their research and evaluation skills and knowledge
- broaden their theory/ practice knowledge base

We are looking to establish a group of people interested in developing and contributing to the Hub. If that's you, come and join us online for this free webinar and discussion.

The IOL exists for the advancement of the education of the public in and through outdoor learning. Either directly or indirectly, research, evaluation and knowledge transfer play a significant part in the development of practice as well as enabling practitioners and organisations to assess and promote the impact of outdoor learning approaches. Research and knowledge development has a role to play in supporting members' practice and contributing to improved outcomes for participants.

This group is perfect for anyone who is interested in developing their knowledge and practice within the sector.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/iol-knowledge-hub-bridging-the-gap-between-research-and-practice.html>

