

## **Richard Louv to Speak at Public Forum**

Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2010

The Australian Camps Association, with funding support from Sport and Recreation Victoria, is delighted to announce that Richard Louv will deliver a free public lecture during the Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) International Congress in April 2010.

The free public lecture is in the BMW Edge Theatre at Federation Square, Melbourne, on Tuesday, 13 April 2010 from 6.00 - 7.30 p.m.

Richard will be joined by Steve Coleman with funding support from People & Parks Foundation in conjunction with The Ian Potter Foundation.

It is planned to launch the Great Aussie Camp Out at this event in support of Richard and Steve's message and to leverage off media interest.

The outdoor community is invited to attend and participate in this free public event. More details will be provided in coming weeks.

For more details on the HPHP Congress and details on the speakers, please visit: [www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/what/key-speakers](http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org/what/key-speakers)

### **Background**

Richard Louv is a journalist and author of seven books about the connections between family, nature and community. His most recent book, "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder" (Algonquin), translated into 9 languages and published in 13 countries, has stimulated an international conversation about the relationship between children and nature. Louv is also the chairman and co-founder of the Children & Nature Network ([www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)), an organization helping build the movement to connect today's children and future generations to the natural world. Louv coined the term Nature-Deficit Disorder® which has become the defining phrase of this important issue.

Steve Coleman is Executive Director, Washington Parks & People who has forged community park partnerships across the District of Columbia and is a leader in the growing national urban parks movement, assisting urban park partnerships across the country and beyond. He has mobilized over 200 partners, 100,000 volunteer hours, and \$50 million in new public and private park funding. In 1994, the President and Vice President of the United States honored Coleman and the late Josephine Butler for creating one of America's top parks/ community partnerships – the dramatic transformation of Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park from Washington's single most violent national park into one of its safest. His programs have helped to cut crime in Washington DC's most dangerous national parks through broad environmental programming and stewardship.