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## *Embrace the Future - Organic Connections*

We are pleased to announce Australian **Graham Strong** as a keynote speaker for the *Fourth Biennial Organic Connections Conference and Trade Show* at TCU Place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, November 21 - 23, 2010.

Strong is an organic producer, an advocate for biodiversity and a cultural activist from New South Wales, Australia. In keeping with our conference goals of “helping producers survive the current hard times” and “fostering a healthy environment and culture”, he will share his experiences from ‘Arcadia’ a 4520 acre sheep and cropping operation that incorporates biological farming practices, tourism and art.

‘Arcadia’ has been in the Strong family for close to 100 years. In the late 1980’s the rise of the rise in Salinity killed a wide area of trees beside the family farm. To deal with escalating salinity and other ecological problems in the area, he and other local farmers formed the Strontian Road Landcare Group. During these meetings, Graham learned much about natural systems and began to think differently about his farming practices. He and his family replanted wide areas to native vegetation and found ways to integrate production into the local patterns of nature. Just 5 years after starting his re-vegetation work, predatory insects living amid the growing expanses of native vegetation, were significantly reducing pest insect problems.

The Strong’s also host WWOOFers (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) as well as regular farm tours and a Farm Stay/Bed and Breakfast program using a 110 year old church that they moved to their property.

Graham will also share his work incorporating Land Art on rural landscapes through *The Meridian Project*, a grand scheme that establishes images in the land that are viewable from space. Their *Meridian Festival* encourages community engagement that is a powerful force for change.

Strong promises to send participants home from the conference feeling energized and optimistic. He will help us consider how we can counter the devastating effects of climate change, social fragmentation, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, emphasizing the opportunities we have to imagine and create a better world.

Organic Connections is the largest **Organic Conference and Trade Show** in Western Canada. Through dynamic workshops, presentations and plenary sessions, the program will focus on surviving difficult times, improving food quality and accessibility and healthy environment and culture.

“Our program is shaping up with more speakers and presenters being confirmed daily,” says President Debbie Miller. “We encourage everyone to stay tuned as we put together an outstanding Prairie event. Watch for ticket sale offerings for special events like the *Taste of Organic* and conference passes to be offered on line this summer.”

**For More Information visit [www.organicconnections.ca](http://www.organicconnections.ca) or contact:**

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