

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
Australian Association of Environmental Education (AAEE)
AND
The Australian Water Association Ltd (AWA)

December 2005

I. PARTIES

This document constitutes an agreement between the Australian Association of Environmental Education (AAEE) and the Australian Water Association (through the Water Education Network) both associations are not-for-profit with an interest in environmental education.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to strengthen the relationship and develop a constructive connection between the two associations. Through this MOU, the signatories recognise each other as important organisations in the national effort to improve environmental and water education and move towards more sustainable practices.

III. BACKGROUND

1. The Australian Association of Environmental Education

The Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc. (AAEE) is the peak professional association for environmental educators in Australia. It has built strong relationships in Australia with government agencies, all levels of governments and a wide cross-section of non-government organisations. AAEE has a national executive and a chapter in each state and territory.

The objectives of the AAEE are to:

- Promote environmental education as defined by UNESCO/UNEP.
- Promote co-ordination among bodies engaged in environmental education and training;
- Co-operate and/or affiliate with any other bodies with similar aims for the more effective furtherance of these aims;
- Promote the co-operation of relevant voluntary organisations and statutory bodies, incorporated bodies and individuals
- Publish, distribute, and disseminate matters arising out of and in connection with association and its objects;
- Hold conferences, meetings, seminars and gatherings to promote the objects of the Association;
- Publish regularly a journal to promote the objects of the association.

- To lobby and advocate for environmental education.

2. The Australian Water Association's Water Education Network

The Water Education Network (WEN) is an Australian Water Association (AWA) initiative, created in September 2004 with the appointment of a full-time Education Program Manager. AWA's Education Program Manager supports the WEN through a monthly electronic newsletter (WEN e-news), WEN Network Meetings, education pages on the AWA website and coordinating professional development opportunities for the network as required.

Key objectives of the WEN are to:

- Establish and manage a national network of water education professionals and stakeholders to ensure that better outcomes are achieved, resources are shared and ideas are exchanged.
- Establish a senior level Water Education Key Informant Working Group to drive the process and raise the profile.
- Build and operate a water education web portal, useful for water education practitioners, community members and school pupils.
- Develop and maintain a database of water education resources, accessible on the web portal, to minimise the risk of duplication of effort.
- Provide ongoing national coordination and promotion for National Water Week.
- Coordinate an awards program to raise the profile of water, industry careers (including Australian Junior Water Prize and Undergraduate Water Prize).
- Coordinate conferences and events including a major biennial water education conference and several regional events to provide networking and professional development opportunities for water educators and stakeholders.
- Take a proactive position on water training at vocational and tertiary levels to ensure that appropriate courses are offered, cognizant of the imperatives of the National Water Initiative agenda.
- Develop consistent, positive terminology to ensure uniformity, improved understanding and a positive approach to water quality.

IV. MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE PARTIES

The AAEE and AWA's WEN have a number of mutual interests, specifically to:

- Maintain a high level of services and benefits to members, including distribution of information and resources, holding regular meetings and convening biennial education conferences.
- Publish regular newsletters.
- Provide greater coordination of environmental and water education and improve the sharing of resources across Australia.
- Promote greater coordination of environmental and water education and training.

- Cooperate and/or affiliate with any other organisations to improve communication channels and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Create networking and professional development opportunities and support for those involved and/or interested in environmental and water education.

V. AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES

A. AAEE and AWA

The AAEE and AWA's WEN will support the other association/network through the following actions:

1. Communication and Promotion

- Exchange annual calendar of events, including meetings, conferences, timing for distribution of journals and newsletters and deadlines for information input.
- Share information and provide opportunities to distribute information to each others networks through cross-promotions in newsletters and other communication channels.
- Establish a reciprocal arrangement where relevant activities of each association/network are give space in newsletters or journals
 - AWA publishes 8 journals per annum
 - AWA's WEN distributes a monthly WEN e-newsletter
 - AAEE publishes an annual journal and quarterly newsletter
 - Establish links to each others networks on each association/network web page. Include a statement about the "commitment to work together" and a copy of the MOU.
- Co-promote each association/network at relevant conferences, i.e. brochure in conference satchel.

2. Conference Support

- Provide planning advice and professional input for conferences.
- Establish effective communication to avoid duplication of conference themes, speakers etc. i.e. ensure key note speakers, themes and general content are different.
- Ensure conferences do not occur within 2 months of each other or within the same financial year OR consider running future conferences "back-to-back"
 - Would allow the offer of a discount for one larger conference
 - Could share the administrative costs by having one registration form
- Each association to present at least one paper at the others conference.

- Undertake promotion to respective membership lists for marketing of conferences, seminars and workshops.

3. Joint Activities

- Seek opportunities to hold joint conferences, meetings, events and networking opportunities.
- Investigate opportunities for cooperative Federal Government Grant applications for joint projects.
- Where appropriate convene joint meetings or small workshops that meet the needs of both organisations.
- Investigate opportunities for professional development and training.

B. AAEE

The AAEE will further support AWA's WEN through the following:

- Provide a representative to join the WEN conference organising committee to provide professional input into conference design.
- On-sell issues of AAEE Annual Journal to WEN members.
- Cross promote National Water Week and encourage AAEE members and state chapters to support the initiative where possible.
- Will NOT actively seek to develop a Water Education SIG, but rather encourage that AAEE members with an interest in Water Education join the WEN (essentially WEN is similar to a Water Education SIG).

C. AWA

AWA's WEN will further support AAEE through the following:

- Liaise with AAEE regarding proposed standardized water terminology and then advise AAEE of correct terminology to ensure consistency (the use of different terminologies is currently a barrier to water education).
- Invite an AAEE representative to join the senior level Water Education Key Informant Working Group to help drive the process and raise the profile of water education.
- List the AAEE in the 2006 AWA Water Directory under 'Association Contact Details'.
- On-sell AWA education books and resources to AAEE members.

VI. MEMBER BENEFITS OF THE PARTIES

This MOU will benefit AAEE and AWA members through the following:

- Improved links to a water education network, specialist knowledge and education resources;
- Opportunity for members to take part in a water special interest group; and
- Provision of new communication opportunities to share information and lessons learnt through implementing water education initiatives.

VII. EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

The costs of this activity are equitably apportioned, and each party shall bear the costs of its own activities under this Agreement.

VIII. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT AND MODIFICATION/TERMINATION

This Agreement will become effective when signed by both parties. The Agreement will be formally reviewed and updated on an annual basis, but may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this Agreement by providing one hundred twenty (120) days written notice to the other party.

IX. PRIMARY CONTACTS

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AAEE

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Education Manager
AWA