

**Special Interest Group and Chapter Liaison Report to Executive**

**Meeting 14th June 2016 4 – 5pm (EST)**

**Chapter/Special Interest Group: Queensland**

**Person Reporting: Hilary Macleod**

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| **Focus Area** | **Report** |
| Communications | * We are continuing to track data on the Queensland Chapter Facebook page and this is showing positive results:   + Total page likes have increased from 150 on 1 March to 182 on 30 May 2017   + “Reach” and “post engagement” numbers are consistently trending upwards. * The #aaee2018 COG are also developing a social media strategy for the #aaee2018 conference focusing on the Facebook page that can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/aaeeconference/> Please ask all AAEE members to like this page and to spread the word to your networks? * We are also staring work on developing a new website for the Queensland Chapter, so stay tuned for updates and a launch! |
| OzEE News - article |  |
| Partnerships | * United Nations Association of Australia – Queensland Committee and Griffith University EcoCentre – informal partnership established April 2017 * AAEE Sunshine Coast Branch partnered with Sunshine Coast Council and EnviroCom to plan the Earth Day Expo. * AAEE Gold Coast Branch is partnering with Natura pacific to plan the combined Earth Day and WED Professional Development event on June 9. |
| Advocacy and Lobbying | The Chapter is continuing to work on an advocacy strategy for lobbying the state departments of education and environment. |
| Membership | Membership numbers are steadily increasing. At 06/06/17 there were 83 financial members**.** Our new membership officer, Tracey Coward, (assisted by outgoing membership officer Kate Elder) is working on a strategy to contact and convert non-renewals to memberships. |
| Professional Development | The Queensland Chapter held three very successful Regional Earth Day Professional Development events:   * Sunshine Coast Branch: 45 people attended this on 21 April at the Mary Cairncross Rainforest Discovery Centre, Maleny. Participants enjoyed a sustainability leadership workshop facilitated by Pat Armstrong, co-founder of *Tomorrow’s Leaders for Sustainability* and a chance to network with a range of local environmental exhibitors. * Darling Downs Branch: 25 people attended this on 20 April at the Cobb and Co Museum. Participants enjoyed presentations by Noeleen Rowntree (Bunyaville EEC) and Christine Lambkin (Queensland Museum) and a chance to network with a range of local environmental exhibitors. * Brisbane Branch: 42 people attended this on 22 April at the Eco Centre at Griffith University. Participants enjoyed a sustainability leadership workshop facilitated by Pat Armstrong, co-founder of *Tomorrow’s Leaders for Sustainability* and a chance to network with a range of local environmental exhibitors. * Tropical Queensland Branch: hosted a screening of the documentary ‘Bag It’ at James Cook University in Cairns on June 6.  The issue of waste, and especially single use plastics, is particularly topical at the moment, with the momentum of the ABC’s War On Waste (#WarOnWasteAU) as well as the imminent introduction of a state wide ban on single use plastic bags. Attendees viewed the informative and humorous documentary ‘Bag It’ which provided a good overview of the dependence on and issues arising from plastic bags in our society which was given local context by the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre Marine Team.  Attendees had the chance to strengthen networks and consider how they will raise awareness and take action to reduce the use of single use plastics in their lives, classrooms, workplaces and community.  The need for a comprehensive litter reduction policy for the Cairns Region was also raised, with participants taking the opportunity to send emails to council representatives asking for action. * Gold Coast Branch: is planning their Professional Development event in a combined celebration of Earth Day and WED on 9 June. Stay tuned for a report on this in the Liaison report! |
| Governance | There have been some changes in the Management Committee of the Queensland Chapter. To keep you up to speed here is the current committee:   * **President:**Kylie Moses * **Secretary:**Hilary Macleod * **Treasurer:**Cam Mackenzie * **General Member (Membership):**Tracey Coward * **Queensland National Liaison Officer:**Hilary Macleod * **Brisbane Regional Representative:**Louise Erbacher * **Darling Downs Regional Representative:**Cam Mackenzie * **Gold Coast Regional Representative:**Kalindi Brennan * **Sunshine Coast Regional Representative:**Renee Fletcher * **Tropical Queensland Regional Representative:**Sioux Campbell * **Ex Officio (AAEE National Executive Representative):**Hilary Whitehouse |
| Other Comments | The Conference Organising Group (COG) has met three times and is working well together to bring an exciting conference line up! Dates are now confirmed as 21 – 25 October 2018 and the venue confirmed as Southern Cross University, GC campus. Stay tuned for updates via the conference Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aaeeconference/> |

**New request:** Please submit at least one article to OzEE News each quarter from your Chapter or SIG. Select a good news story from your group and submit it to Kate and Alison – this is part of our Communications strategy. These stories may then be tweeted or put on facebook. The OzEE News themes have been sent to you – this shows the dates the articles are required.