

# Australian Association for Environmental Education

## Annual Report 2011/2012



## Preface

The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) is the premier, national, professional association for those who identify themselves as working in the fields of environment or sustainability education.

The Association and its members are committed to working with others towards a sustainable future. AAEE represents the broad environmental education community in national discussions and debates.

Through its representative roles on state and national committees, memberships and partnerships and its state-based Chapters, AAEE represents and advocates for the interests of environmental education and educators across Australia.

AAEE provides an important network, supporting its members with up-to-date research and policy information, access to resources, and regular workshops and conferences.

AAEE exists to provide a forum for professionals interested in Environmental Education (EE) to come together, network and share their knowledge and expertise. It also serves to represent the environmental education fraternity in national discussions and debates.

AAEE also includes Special Interest Groups for members: Teacher & Teacher Education; Early Childhood; and Early Career Researcher & Research Student.

The role of education is a critical tool in the path towards sustainability. Increasingly environmental education is playing a major role in, and across sectors including government, business, industry, the broader community, and in schools. AAEE exists to provide a network for this growing force of environmental educators. It aims to support this network through:

- ❖ growing professionally, providing a forum for sharing lessons and experiences
- ❖ providing a common voice to champion our cause in policy arena and to generate funding
- ❖ forging partnerships with organisations that have common aims to further build the profile and recognition of EE.

AAEE has professional links with similar associations in North America, New Zealand and Europe. The biennial, national conferences have an international perspective and our members represent AAEE at conferences both at home and overseas.

Membership is available in a range of categories with benefits including:

- ❖ professional development nationally and regionally via conferences, workshops and seminars
- ❖ member benefits with those organisations with which AAEE partners and/or holds memberships
- ❖ access to the latest Australian research in the Australian Journal of Environmental Education, sent free (full hard copy)
- ❖ networking opportunities
- ❖ up-to-date news about environmental education programs and events around the country through monthly e-bulletins and *ozEEnews* - our quarterly e-newsletter
- ❖ discounted registration at our biennial conference and substantial discounts on all AAEE publications;
- ❖ participation in Special Interest Group forums
- ❖ participation in State Chapters activities and events
- ❖ a vehicle for your voice to be heard by State and Federal governments about relevant issues.
- ❖ International: AAEE has professional links with similar associations in North America, New Zealand and Europe. The biennial national conferences have an international perspective and our members represent AAEE at conferences both at home and overseas.
- ❖ Feature link with WEEC especially this year!

Together, AAEE members provide a strong voice for EE across Australia and internationally.

## Table of Contents

	<b>Preface .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Structure of the Report .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AAEE Highlights of 2012 .....</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>The Executive Committee .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2011 AAEE Educators of the Year.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>AAEE Membership .....</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Executive Activity .....</b>	<b>5-9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Chapter Activity .....</b>	<b>9-23</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Special Interest Groups Activity .....</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Financial Report .....</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>Appendix A: World Environmental Educators Congress</b>	
	<b>Appendix B: Draft AAEE Strategic Plan 2012-14</b>	

### Acknowledgements

Each section of the report has been contributed by the volunteers who are working within the network and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Special thanks to all who contributed to the development of this year's Annual Report.

This report is available at [www.aaee.org.au](http://www.aaee.org.au) or by emailing [admin@aaee.org.au](mailto:admin@aaee.org.au)

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### 1. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

Executive, Chapter and SIG activities are reported against Strategic Focus Areas meeting our Goals. The report attempts to combine our national efforts across States and Territories, reflecting our connections and experiences as a volunteer organisation.

The report from the Editor of the Australian Journal of Environmental Education is also included.

The final report for the World Environmental Educators Congress is also included as Appendix A.

### 2. AAEE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011/2012

A few key achievements this year...

- ❖ Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, CVO Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia has become the patron of AAEE.
- ❖ The official launch of the Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (ASEA) in Canberra in March was followed by the successful lobbying to secure a significant grant from DEEWR to carry out a project to investigate how to embed EfS in teacher practice and link to community.

- ❖ Regular critical reviews of curriculum documents by the Teacher & Teacher Educator SIG, led by David Butler to continue advocacy for EfS in emerging Australian Curriculum from ACARA.
- ❖ AJEE to be produced by Cambridge University Press with an online edition available on the website for members.
- ❖ National Administration Co-ordinator Kate Elder has consolidated admin practices over the last 12 months with membership information refined, E-Bulletin now receiving more membership notices and support for ozEEnews to encourage stories from chapters regularly.
- ❖ New practice initiated to have the Admin Coordinator attend the biennial conferences.
- ❖ MOU partnership with New Zealand Environment Educations Association updated and renewed.
- ❖ MOU partnership with Japanese Environmental Education Association created and endorsed at the biennial conference in Melbourne.
- ❖ Chapters continue to network about activities sharing in regular 2 monthly Liaison meetings.
- ❖ Chapters have now been bought up to date with membership reimbursements.
- ❖ Gift Tax Status set up for association and donation page created on the website.
- ❖ The website continues to be revised to provide more membership resources.
- ❖ Successful completion of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) project created 5 videos and 3 static Illustrations of Practice highlighting EfS in teacher practices.
- ❖ Representation at the +35 Tbilisi Conference through Cam Mackenzie.
- ❖ Successful grant from Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO), \$3,000 for office equipment.
- ❖ Creation of new SIG's for Marine Education, Nature Educators and Local Government.
- ❖ Successful application for funding from Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education for the proposal of Skills for Carbon Challenge as part of the Skilling Educators for Sustainability Australia group that AAEE, MESA, AWA and WMAA collaborate on.
- ❖ WEEC delivered a great congress and also improved our financial position for future projects.

### 3. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) of the 2011/2012 were largely unchanged with one retiring and one new member from the ACT. The executive committee was well represented across the chapters and included the following.

President	Jennifer Pearson	Western Australia
Vice President	Richard Smith	South Australia
Vice President	Maris Tebecis	Australian Capital Territory
Vice President	Cam Mackenzie	Queensland
Treasurer	Ken Allen	Western Australia
Secretary	Bren Weatherstone	Australian Capital Territory
Committee Member	Sarah Houseman	Victoria
Committee Member	Sue Martin	New South Wales
Committee Member	Jenny Dudgeon	Tasmania
Committee Member	Regan East	Australian Capital Territory
Committee Member	Vanessa Whelan	Australian Capital Territory

The EC did not meet face to face in this 12 months as the commitment was to reimburse chapters for membership fees. The advisory board did meet to discuss and support a model for a strategic plan for the executive based on the three priorities identified by members at the Canberra conference, Youth, Curriculum & Advocacy. This was reviewed and the EC added items according to the working group's priorities. See Appendix B for the draft 2012-2014 strategic plan to be ratified by the 2012-2012 EC.

The EC has accomplished a range of work over the last 12 months. Please find information on these items in the Executive Activity section.

#### 4. 2012 AAEE EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Each year the Association recognises contributions made by our members in each chapter to the field of environmental education in Australia.

In the past the AAEE Australian Environmental Educator of the Year Award has been given to:

- 2007 Recipient - Frank Fisher, Victoria;
- 2008 Recipient - Richard Smith, South Australia;
- 2009 Recipient – Annie Beecroft, Tasmania; and
- 2009 Recipient - Jennifer Pearson, Western Australia.
- 2010 Recipient – Grahame Collier, New South Wales.
- 2011 Recipient – Cam Mackenzie, Queensland.

2012 nominations are:

- ACT – Vanessa Whelan
- NSW – Nell Graham
- Queensland – Noeleen Rowntree
- South Australia – Sarah Lindsay
- Tasmania – Jenny Burdon
- Victoria – Paul Dullard
- Western Australia – Elaine Lewis

AAEE thanks the National Recognition Team, Sue Martin and Greg Hunt, along with all of the State and Chapter selection committee representatives.

The 2012 Award will be presented at the AGM held at the Biennial Conference in Melbourne. We look forward to congratulating the recipient of this award and acknowledging all the worthy nominees.

#### 5. AAEE MEMBERSHIP

AAEE Members fell into the following membership categories at 30 June each year:

Category	Number of Members			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Individual	338	286	270	274
Concession	26	29	40	54
Family	5	5	2	4
School/Small NGO	79	66	73	66
Corporate	56	55	40	47
Life	26	27	31	32
International	18	9	11	7
Journal Subscription only	60	60	50	N/A
Honorary & MOU				16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>500</b>

The membership breakdown by Chapter for all membership categories, excluding subscriptions in the 2012 year as the journals are now managed by the Cambridge University Press, is:

State	2009	2010	2011	2012
ACT	28	24	37	21
NSW	141	143	144	163
NT	51	15	13	8
Queensland	76	62	74	88
SA	44	37	32	27
Tasmania	12	7	10	12
Victoria	122	138	95	112
WA	38	42	51	57
International (including Life & MOU)	18	10	11	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>500</b>
Journal	60	60	50	N/A
<b>TOTAL including AJEE subscriptions (2009 – 2011)</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>500</b>

## 6. EXECUTIVE ACTIVITY

The following details are provided under the key focus areas as identified in the AAEE Strategic Plan and linked to the organisational objectives identified in our constitution. Each chapter is asked to report in the same way so that a collective story can be presented.

### National Executive Committee

Focus Area	Report
<b>Communications</b>	<p><b>Australian Journal of EE</b></p> <p>Thanks to Dr Amy Cutter-Mackenzie for facilitating the next move of the AJEE being published by Cambridge University Press. This will take the journal to an international readership and enhance the work of AAEE. Members will still receive the journal as part of their membership, and at <b>\$132</b> per edition this represents great value to be a member. There will also be an electronic copy made available in the members section of the website.</p> <p><b>ozEEnews:</b> Chapters have been asked to put forward a member to be on the editorial committee and we still need someone to take on the task of editor. Kate has worked hard to encourage members to contribute to the newsletter and coordinates these for us currently. Richard and Jennifer have provided editorial support.</p> <p><b>E-Bulletin:</b> This effective and useful tool is well received and now will be placed on the website in the Latest News section. Kate reports that most articles are now from members about their events and stories, less being sourced from external networks.</p> <p><b>AAEE Communication Tools:</b> The AAEE brochure has been updated for the biennial conference and an electronic copy is available on the website. Chapters can also request a copy from the Admin Co-ordinator. A printed generic business card is available for members.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> The website is continuing to undergo changes as members identify needs.</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Partnerships</b></p>	<p><b>Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA)</li> <li>❖ Victorian Association for Environmental Education (VAEE)</li> <li>❖ New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE)</li> <li>❖ Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD)</li> <li>❖ Japanese Environmental Education Association (JEEA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Alliance Membership for Projects</b></p> <p><b>Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (AESA)</b> which includes Environment Institute Australia and New Zealand, Australian Conservation Foundation, National Tertiary Education Union, Australian Education Union, Independent Education Union.</p> <p><b>Skilling Educators for Sustainability Australia (SESA)</b> which includes Australian Water Association, Marine Education Society of Australasian &amp; Waste Management Association Australia for professional development of EfS providers.</p> <p><b>Membership of Education groups</b></p> <p>National Educators Federation (NEF) and Australian Federation of Society for Studies of Science and Environment (AFSSSE)</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Advocacy &amp; Lobbying</b></p>	<p><b>AESA Alliance:</b> The Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (AESA) has met regularly over 12 months, with planned meetings with Minister to reinforce that AuSSI has demonstrated that it's worth supporting by SEWPaC into the future. Lobbying has resulted in the awarding of a \$200,000 grant from DEEWR for 'Advancing the implementation of Education for Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum - Views from the Classroom and Community ("EfS project")'. Mark Caddey has agreed to be in the project team and with the president's efforts will help to drive this project. Members have responded well to be part of the steering committee to offer a critical group to 'ground' the decision making.</p> <p><b>ACARA:</b> The Teacher &amp; Teacher Educator SIG, with new leader David Butler worked with the EC to put a submission for the Geography Curriculum and Civics and Citizenship Draft Shape Paper. Chapters and Members were also encouraged to submit via the online system</p> <p><b>SEWPAC:</b> The restructuring has continued with AuSSI being abandoned by the department. Formal and informal discussions continue with Minister Bourke to explore ways in which this can be reversed. The position of the National Action Plan has not been clarified.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Member Services</b></p>	<p><b>New Administration Coordinator:</b> Kate Elder has provided outstanding support to the EC working hard to refine the admin systems including membership renewals, E Bulletin, ozEEnews when Pearl Tassel retired, worked to streamline the AJEE processes with new publishers and endless support for members. The EC would like to acknowledge her contributions and look forward to working with her in the next few years.</p> <p><b>Brian Foreman Scholarship:</b> The recipient for the biennial Conference in Melbourne was Anne Pettit from Western Australia. Her voluntary work with the WA Chapter and her many EfS programs she supports will be great value to delegates she meets at the conference. Make sure you catch up with her and share ideas.</p> <p><b>Chapter Membership Reimbursement:</b> All Chapters have been encouraged to finalise the reimbursements as the funds from the WEEC provided adequate resources for this. The EC have also decided that from here on the reimbursements will be at 15% of the membership category rate. It's important that Chapters have some direct financial capacity to grow their groups.</p> 

**Grants to Voluntary Environmental, Sustainability and Heritage Organizations:** An application was submitted by Jennifer & Bren for funds to cover Admin Coordination for 5 days a week, funds for teleconferences and travel for EC to meet once a year. This only secured \$3,000 in total and so the funds were used to buy a new computer, large screen and time to update the website.

**Arab Gateway:** Free resources from the AFSSSE alliance. Some chapters facilitated workshops for members and their community to receive this resource and also to secure a nominal payment to AAEE for this service.

**NZAAE Reciprocal Conference Delegate:** These again will be offered to members so keep your eye out for the Expression of Interest in the E Bulletin very soon. Chris Eames will be attending the Biennial Conference in Melbourne to present at the AGM.

**Biennial Conference:** Big thank you to Sarah Houseman and Jane Ryan in Victoria for hosting the event. More will be added once the report comes together but early indications show that the careful planning has resulted in over 350 people attending the 3 day event.

**Future Biennial AAEE Conference:** The Tasmania Chapter will hold the 2014 Biennial Conference in Hobart in October and will give a presentation at the end of the Conference in Melbourne.

**Conference Table:** Chapters are encouraged to showcase their activities by supplying posters or other information. This occurred at WEEC which was seen as worthwhile and will now be entered into the Association Handbook for future events.



**National Professional Standards for Teachers (AISTL) Project:** "Development of supporting documentation for the National Professional Standards for Teachers". Syd Smith & Jennifer Pearson completed the project with 8 video's exemplars and 3 static exemplars developed to illustrate teachers inclusion of EfS in their practices. This included Coolbinia Primary School in Perth WA, Narrabeen Primary school and Field of Mars in Sydney NSW and we thank the teachers for their participation.

**Governance**

**Governance Bren Weatherstone**

**AAEE AGM:** The 2010-11 AGM was held on 27th September 2011. The Annual Return was submitted by Public Officer Vivienne Pearce.

**Executive Committee Meetings:** These have occurred regularly as required and minutes have been circulated to State and Territory Chapter Liaison Officers to ensure that Chapters are aware of AAEE decisions.

**Chapter Liaison Meetings:** These have occurred every 2 months since October 2010 and have been very well attended.

**Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR):** AAEE website has a dedicated page to attract donations to AAEE to use for a range of projects.

**Legal Changes affecting charities and Not-for-profits**

The Australian Government is in the process of implementing changes affecting charities and not-for-profits (NFP). The current Budget contains significant changes to the operation of the not-for-profit sector in Australia. There are 4 broad areas of change varying relevance to AAEE:

- establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- treatment of income tax concessions;
- a statutory definition of "charity"; and,
- changes to the 'in Australia' rules.

**The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission** Date of effect: 1 July 2012.

The Government has established a new independent statutory agency, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012, the Australian Parliament passed a bill establishing the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission which is the new national regulator for the NFP Sector. This legislation is intended to deliver reforms to strengthen and support the sector. This includes simplifying regulatory obligations and establishing a national framework and a register. This Bill establishes the ACNC as a one-stop-shop for national not-for-profit regulation, with the specific objective of reducing the regulatory burden on the not-for-profit sector, while improving transparency & accountability.

The Commissioner of the ACNC will be appointed by the Government and report to Parliament through the Assistant Treasurer. The ACNC will initially be responsible for determining the legal status of groups seeking charitable, public benevolent institution (PBI) and other NFP benefits for all Government agencies. The Government will also implement a "report-once use-often" reporting framework for charities, provide education and support to the sector on technical matters, and establish a public information portal in this current financial year period.

The Tax Office will provide corporate service support to the ACNC in the form of information technology services, human services, financial services and other related functions. The Government will also undertake negotiations with the States and Territories on national regulation with the aim of minimising reporting and other regulatory requirements through coordinated national arrangements.

For more information, go to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission website <http://www.notforprofit.gov.au/news/legislation-establish-australian-charities-and-not-profits-commission>

**ACNC Taskforce**

An implementation taskforce has been set up in readiness for the operation of the ACNC in this current financial year 2012-13.

The expected benefits of this reform are listed on the treasury taskforce website. <http://acnctaskforce.treasury.gov.au/content/Content.aspx?doc=reform/benefits.htm>

**AAEE tax deductible gift status**

AAEE has deductible gift recipient status and has fulfilled requirements to report to the ATO in October 2011 on the operations of its Deductible Gift Recipient Status Fund Account. In this next financial year 2012-13, the legislation which commenced operations on July 1 2012 transfers responsibility for determining eligibility for charitable status from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) previously responsible for the tax deductible gift status activities of AAEE to the Australian Charities & Not-for-profit Commission. The ATO has structurally separated its role of determining charitable status from its role of administering tax concessions. The Commissioner of Taxation will retain responsibility for administering tax concessions for the not-for-profit sector.

The Federal Government has announced that any unrelated commercial activities of not-for-profits carried out will be subject to income tax. The tax applied to activities carried out after July 2011. AAEE does not carry out unrelated commercial activities. NFP income tax will only apply to profits generated by unrelated commercial activities that are not directed back to a NFP entity to carry out its altruistic work. Commercial activities that further a NFP entity's altruistic purposes, and small-scale and low-risk unrelated commercial activities, are unlikely to be affected by the reforms.

<p><b>New definition of 'charity'</b> Date of effect: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 From July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, the Federal Government intends to introduce a statutory definition Commercial activities that further a NFP entity's altruistic purposes, and small-scale and low-risk unrelated commercial activities, are unlikely to be affected by the reforms.</p> <p><b>New definition of 'charity'</b> Date of effect: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 From July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, the Federal Government intends to introduce a statutory definition of 'charity'. It will be concerned with the concept of altruism, and the separation of commercial activities related to supporting an organisation's core business from other activities.</p> <p>The Government will consult on and introduce a statutory definition of "charity" for all Commonwealth laws. It will be based on the 2001 Report of the Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organizations, taking account of the findings of recent judicial decisions, such as Aid/Watch Incorporated v FCT. All charitable bodies currently recognised by the Commissioner of Taxation as charitable institutions will be recognized and registered with the ACNC after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.</p> <p><b>Reporting activity carried out overseas – the 'in Australia' rules</b> The proposed new 'in Australia' rules for income tax exempt entities, require that an entity must operate and pursue its purposes in Australia, be a NFP and use its income and assets solely to pursue its objectives.</p> <p>As a Registered Environment Organisation, AAEE has been required for the first time, to declare any activities carried on overseas to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population &amp; Communities. The Tax Office is interested in tracking donations to Australian charities which are sent offshore. The Government is concerned that NFP organizations not be acting as a front for illegal or terrorist activities.</p>
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## 7. CHAPTER ACTIVITY

State/Territory Chapters report activity against the focus areas and organisational objectives as presented in the AAEE Constitution. They are presented in alphabetical order.

### Australian Capital Territory – Vanessa Whelan

Focus Area	Report/Comments/Dot Points (link to goals where possible)
<b>Communications</b>	<p>AAEE ACT distributes information to members electronically. Flyers, invitations and news bulletins are emailed to all members leading up to events.</p> <p>At each event, AAEE is promoted and membership brochures are distributed to attendants.</p>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>AAEE ACT continues to have a healthy partnership with AuSSI ACT. AuSSI ACT promotes AAEE at each AuSSI ACT professional development workshop and encourages teachers to get their school to join AAEE as a corporate member.</p> <p>AuSSI ACT assists with promoting AAEE events and also advertises AAEE on the partnership page of their website.</p> <p>AAEE ACT has also established a strong partnership with Switched Schools. Switched on Schools is a sub organisation of AYCC and is coordinated by Eliza Hopkins and Josh Creaser.</p> <p>Switched on Schools works with high school and college students on a range of sustainability projects. Eliza and Joshua have trained a group of ANU University students to act as mentors to the students to ensure the students have access to support throughout environmental projects conducted in their school community.</p> <p>Switched on Schools ran a Kids Teaching Kids Conference in 2012 and are running a second conference on 27 August 2012.</p> <p>AAEE ACT is a sub member of the ACT Conservation Council. The committee</p>

	<p>is able to use the meeting room for committee meetings and has access to discounted conference and events.</p> <p>AAEE ACT works collaboratively with the ACT Parents and Citizens (P and C) Council. The Council passed a "Sustainability Policy" in 2010, which was then distributed to all P and C Councils in each ACT government school. The Council advertises AAEE events in its newsletter and this newsletter goes to every ACT government school. The President of the P and C Council who is also a member of the AAEE ACT Chapter committee, has attended numerous meetings with local and federal politicians to lobby for EfS and AuSSI funding on behalf of the P and C Council.</p>
<p><b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b></p>	<p>Bren Weatherstone and Viv Pearce lobbied federal politicians for support for EfS as part of the AESA team in 2012 and attended the AESA Launch. The launch and the campaign to support AuSSI and EfS received effective media attention in Australian newspapers.</p> <p>AAEE ACT members assisted in editing letters to NSW parliamentarians to express the need to recognise and support EfS in NSW.</p> <p>ACT Chapter Members attended the education caucus meeting in March 2012 to lobby for support for EfS in Australia as well as continued funding for AuSSI.</p>
<p><b>Members Services</b></p>	<p>AAEE ACT works hard to remain in regular consultation with many of the young people who attended the 2010 National Conference. AAEE ACT is committed to providing a platform for young people in the ACT to share their ideas for environmental projects. As a result of this commitment, AAEE ACT has recruited a healthy number of young people on to the committee and has supported a number of projects that encourages youth participation. (e.g.; Switched on School projects, Kids Teaching Kids Conference and St Francis Xavier College's first Student Sustainability Conference)</p> <p>AAEE ACT has sponsored two young people from the committee to go to the 2012 AAEE National Conference. These members have committed to presenting back to the AAEE ACT Chapter on their return.</p> <p>The ACT Chapter is a Member Organisation of the Conservation Council ACT Region. Members are invited to participate in the activities of the Council. Forums are held on issues of local interest. The ACT Chapter attended the dinner to mark World Environment Day.</p>
<p><b>Professional Development</b></p>	<p>AAEE facilitates one professional development event each year and supports and/or sponsors others.</p> <p>In 2011, AAEE held a Spotlight Night. This is an event where over 15 different organisations who offer sustainability programs to schools are given 5 minutes each to tell a group of teachers about their program. Over 40 teachers attended the spotlight night. The teachers who attended were then sent a list of the organisations who presented containing a summary of their organisation and contact details.</p> <p>In October 2011, AAEE ACT sponsored St Francis Xavier College and Switched on Schools to assist with the running of the ACT's first Student Sustainability Conference at the college. Over 100 students from Primary Schools to College and their teachers attended the one day conference to participate in a range of sustainability workshops run by the students themselves. The outcome of the conference was agreement to establish a Sustainability Youth Network, which would be funded and coordinated by Switched on Schools.</p>



Above: Eliza Hopkins and Joshua Creaser – AAEE ACT members and Switched on Schools Coordinators.



Above: Michelle Saunders teaching the Kids Teaching Kids methodology at the Leaders in Sustainability Teacher Workshop facilitated by AuSSI ACT in June 2012.

In 2012, AAEE intends to facilitate an event called 'Showcasing Sustainability Programs in our National Institutions'.

AAEE members will be invited to attend a session where education officers from a range of national institutions (e.g., Questacon, National Museum and Parliament House) will share any programs they have to offer schools on the topic of sustainability. AAEE ACT plans to collate the programs presented into a publication to then make available to all schools across Australia.

Schools who visit Canberra usually visit three national institutions so this resource will give teachers who plan to visit Canberra with their student's opportunities to request specific sustainability programs during their visit.

<b>Governance</b>	<p>The ACT Chapter holds regular committee meetings. An Annual Report and Financial Report were submitted to the Office of Regulatory Services as required after being presented to the AGM at which the Committee is elected.</p> <p>AAEE ACT meets once a month for an hour and a half and has a healthy committee of fifteen members. The committee members are:</p> <p><b>President</b> – Vanessa Whelan</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> – Bren Weatherstone</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> – Eliza Hopkins</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> – Bruce Fitzgerald</p> <p><b>National Liaison Officer</b> – Lara Lloyd</p> <p><b>Committee Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer MacDonald</li> <li>• Vivian Pearce</li> <li>• Josh Creaser</li> <li>• Sue Jones</li> <li>• Jenny Dibley</li> <li>• Helen McHugh</li> <li>• Maris Tebecis</li> <li>• Owen Cameron</li> <li>• Melanie Pill</li> <li>• Amanda Coleman</li> </ul>
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**New South Wales Chapter: Convenor Mark Caddey**

Focus Area	Report/Comments/Dot Points (link to goals where possible)
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Website has been maintained <a href="http://www.aaeensw.org.au">www.aaeensw.org.au</a></li> <li>▪ The project officer communicates information regularly to state members via email newsletter</li> <li>▪ The Facebook page has been another way of communicating</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AAEE NSW maintained membership of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW</li> <li>▪ AAEE NSW has set up a trust account to administer a Gould League of NSW scholarship.</li> <li>▪ Kirsty Fickers Coffs Harbour Council is the first recipient.</li> <li>▪ Involvement in the Water for Life NSW program continues</li> </ul>
<b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SAVE Sustainability Education was a campaign led by our project officer and key advocates in the organisation. When the NSW government indicated that the sustainability education role was being removed from the DEC at the state level a campaign begun, which is on-going. The organisation started a petition, letter writing campaign, stage 2 of the campaign is in the planning phase.</li> <li>▪ Sustainability Education in NSW Future Directions – Partnership has continued with John Fien research paper will be presented at the national conference. Paul Brown UNSW was engaged to bring all the research together. Next step is for Office of Environment and Heritage to put together a directions paper from the information gathered so far. Mark Caddey Grahame Collier and Sue Martin are continuing to follow this up with the State Govt.</li> </ul>
<b>Members Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Environmental Educator of the Year Awards were presented at the 2012 annual dinner</li> </ul> <p>The 2012 NSW Environmental Educator of the Year Awards were announced and celebrated on Friday 10 August. The talent and</p>

	<p>commitment of our community of educators was clearly highlighted in the quality of nominations received, and we congratulate and thank all nominees and winners.</p> <p>The 2012 winners are: NSW Environmental Educator of the Year: Phil Smith – KnowHands Education Consultancy Community Educator of the Year: Julie Gaul/Deb Watson - ECEEN Community Educator - Highly commended: Ale Torres - KAB Formal Educator of the Year: Mark Caddey - DEC Government Educator of the Year: Barbara Jensen – Rous Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Project Officer Jem Hansen has continued in the role. The role provides administrative management for the state chapter. Funding for this position was provided by the NSW Environmental Trust and continues until late 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OEH MOU to manage the EfS Learning hub <a href="http://www.efslearninghub.net.au">www.efslearninghub.net.au</a></li> <li>• NSW AAEE has appointed Kate Kilgour to be the Hub project Officer.</li> <li>• Plans are underway for the 2013 NSW EE conference, Sue Saxby Dubbo has offered to convene, a very successful 2011 conference at North Sydney Boys HS</li> <li>• AAEE NSW participated in the SESA professional development module on evaluation</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSW Executive Committee meets quarterly to implement the current NSW AAEE strategic plan.</li> <li>• NSW AAEE produces an annual treasurer's report.</li> <li>• The NSW AAEE Executive has just held it's AGM</li> </ul> <p>The AAEE NSW AGM was also held on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012, and we thank all the outgoing and continuing Executive Committee members, and welcome the new ones. The 2012-2014 NSW AAEE Executive Committee includes: Chair: Mark Caddey Deputy Chair: Angela Colliver Secretary: Bhakti Devi Treasurer: Sue Martin General Committee Members: Thor Bloomfield, Niki Carey, Grahame Collier, Tricia Donnelly, Carolyn Gillard, Glen Halliday, Amanda Lloyd, Sue Saxby, Melissa Sellen, Jane Smith.</p> <p><b>Regional Networks</b> –the NSW Executive committee has worked to make links with the regional EE networks. There are also sector networks active in NSW. ECEEN in the early childhood sector, local government educators have various networks, the teacher networks are very strong many lead by local government. EcoEdge in the Hunter has become active again with a Facebook page and regular meetings, Amanda Gregory leads them. .</p>
<b>DESD Activities</b>	The current AAEE NSW strategic plan was developed to guide the NSW membership in the second half of the Decade for Environmental Sustainable Development.
<b>Other Comments</b>	Goal for the future is to strengthen the regional networks

### Northern Territory Chapter Report - Jimmy Cocking Liaison Officer

Focus Area	Report
<b>Communications</b>	The Chapter communicates with its members via the national communication instruments – the e-newsletter, ozEEnews, AJEE and the AAEE website.

<p><b>Partnerships</b></p>	<p><b>EFSCAN</b> Central Australia Network put together Education for Sustainability curriculum resources on solar energy for publication July 2012.</p> <p><b>FrogWatch</b> A biodiversity in the curriculum resource is being developed with the local Frogwatch group and will be written up. The nexus between ecology and science is being strengthened.</p> <p>The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC). Jimmy Cocking runs ALEC which is a community-based environment organisation located in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. <a href="http://alec.org.au/">http://alec.org.au/</a></p>
<p><b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b></p>	<p>An EcoFair was planned using National Science Week funding to bring 450 students last August.</p> <p>NTAAEE is concentrating on publicising the concept of environmental education resilience and engaging people in developing awareness of various environmental issues.</p>
<p><b>Member services</b></p>	<p>Nick Taylor from Perth AYCC visited the northern Territory to train young people in EfS. This was very successful.</p>
<p><b>Professional development</b></p>	<p>The NT Chapter is working on a professional development system designed to help teachers deal with the new national curriculum and the differences in ecology and biodiversity in the wet dry tropics and to specifically address the risk that a cross curriculum areas like the sustainability/ biodiversity element of the new national Curriculum is too easily ignored, especially when teachers are busily focused on the core subject areas.</p> <p>We are working to provide access to information that maps activity to organising ideas and shows how activities can be developed to integrate these core understandings and activities into other curriculum areas. The project will include online resources and professional development days for teachers.</p> <p>A curriculum resource <i>Talking About Uranium</i> has been developed as a resource for schools. <a href="http://www.italklibrary.com/stories/talking-about-uranium/">http://www.italklibrary.com/stories/talking-about-uranium/</a> available in Arrernte and other languages.</p> <p>NTAAEE is concentrating on the concept of environmental education resilience and engaging people in developing awareness of various environmental issues.</p>
<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>The NT Chapter has reconvened in 2012. The following office bearers were elected.</p> <p>President: Graeme Sawyer Secretary: Birut Zemits Treasurer: Kate Minahan Committee member: Jennifer Cunningham Liaison Delegate: Jimmy Cocking</p>
<p><b>Publications</b></p>	<p>See curriculum resources under Professional Development and Partnerships above</p>

### Queensland Chapter: Convenor Jo Kelly and Miranda Mason

Focus Area	Report/Comments/Dot Points (link to goals where possible)
<b>Communications</b>	<p>Regular E newsletter distributed to members.</p> <p>Trialled a new look newsletter sent by PDF. Whilst member response was very positive, unfortunately the time taken to produce the document was unsustainable at this time and in September 2012 we will incorporate our enewsletter national edition. The new look newsletter will be reserved for special editions such as the March conference.</p> <p>Aaeeqld.blogspot maintained and has had 3100 page views and 103 posts since established with 390 page views last month. Keen to get members to use the blog to do more than just view news, but also share their news. Will need to attract members to take the time to learn how to become authors on the blog in 2013.</p>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>AAEE is participating in a research project funded by the the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) that aims to strengthen Education for Sustainability partnerships across the teacher education system in Queensland and build transformative leadership capacity within the system through research. "A state systems approach to embedding the learning and teaching of sustainability in teacher education" involves six Qld teacher education institutions and three systemic partners including AAEE and the Qld College of Teachers in finding innovative new ways to offer and support EfS opportunities for pre-service students (capitalizing for example on workplace learning requirements, generic graduate attributes and core courses).</p> <p>AAEE Representative: Lisa Ryan; "<a href="mailto:lisa.ryan2@griffithuni.edu.au">lisa.ryan2@griffithuni.edu.au</a></p> <p>Project ongoing: Mapping systems and power point presentation exercises completed.</p>
<b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b>	<p>Promoted support for AESA through membership, blog and newsletter.</p> <p>Contributed to AESA's photographic petition to be presented to the Prime Minister in Rio.</p> <p>Supported Save Sustainability in NSW through promoting to membership and blog.</p> <p>Sent letter on behalf of AAEEQld to NSW Ministers to support sustainability in NSW.</p> <p>Supporting AESA organised meeting with Qld Minister (Environment) in September in support of environmental education within the Queensland curriculum.</p> <p><b>Contributed to Logan Climate Convergence Roundtable. Logan Climate Convergence Roundtable.</b> A part of a research project conducted by the University of Queensland "Incorporating climate change adaptation and resilience-building needs within management of a social-ecological system".</p> <p>The project is funded by the University of Queensland's Global Change Institute. In-kind support is provided by The University of Queensland, Griffith University, Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments and examines linkages across a wide range of potential effects of climate variability and change on South East Queensland's catchments, Moreton Bay and islands towards developing an integrated approach to assist organizations and communities to understand potential effects, and inform any planning they choose to undertake. AAEE Representative: Jo Kelly, Qld Co-convenor; <a href="mailto:jokelly48@gmail.com">jokelly48@gmail.com</a></p>

<p><b>Members Services</b></p>	<p>Regular E Newsletter distributed.</p> <p>Blog updated regularly.</p> <p>Green Membership: Phase one of the trial has begun, with an invitation for an EOI sent out through our links in tertiary education etc. Applicants will now complete a short selection process, with Cam Mackenzie, Miranda Mason and Jo Kelly to review applications in late June. EOI process will then be reviewed and Green Membership offered to a broader Queensland Audience.</p> <p>Nominated member for AAEE environmental educator of the year award.</p> <p>Supported the Gold Coast Sustainability Network.</p> <p><i>Meetings:</i></p> <p>February meeting; State Library of Qld – see notes at <a href="http://aaeeqld.blogspot.com.au/">aaeeqld.blogspot.com.au/</a></p> <p>Early March informal meeting at Kenmore Library</p> <p>Regular fortnightly space booked at Kenmore Library to facilitate members meeting informally (Fridays 10 – 12).</p> <p>Qld AAEE members attended QUEDREX Saturday 8th September.</p> <p><b>Expo:</b> Queensland Chapter had a “display” at the Expo and Miranda and I caught up with a number of the participants, some of whom we hope to engage within our membership into the future.</p>
<p><b>Professional Development</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental Education Expo</b></p> <p>Numbers of participants had significantly dropped this year with informal advice giving numbers of around 77, whereas last year there were over 100 participants. Implementation of the national curriculum within Qld, (particularly C2C within State Schools) was considered to be the most significant cause for the drop in participants. The committee is currently surveying participants around the expo, and considering the future of the expo including timing, content, venue to ensure 2013 is successful. Whilst numbers were lower, there were still many very positive aspects to the expo, and participants were treated to excellent key note speakers and a wide choice of workshops to participate within, as well as trade displays to review during lunch and afternoon tea. A summary is provided below. For full details see: <a href="http://learningplace.com.au/events/event.asp?pid=25508&amp;calid=11576">http://learningplace.com.au/events/event.asp?pid=25508&amp;calid=11576</a></p> <p><b>Keynote Unplugged - Queensland Arts Council and Ergon Energy</b> Queensland Arts Council's Youth Program is an arts education initiative passionate about connecting young people and the arts. All our performances are linked to the Australian Curriculum, the Essential Learning and QSA Senior Syllabi.</p> <p><b>Keynote John Cook, Climate Change Communication Fellow</b> for the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland. He created and runs <a href="http://skepticalscience.com">skepticalscience.com</a>, a website that rebuts climate misinformation with peer-reviewed science. Science teachers face the prospect of responding to climate myths in the classroom. However, rather than be a threat or disruption, this presents an opportunity for teachers to place misinformation into a broader context as a teachable moment. This talk will review the psychological literature on misinformation and propose practical guidelines for effective refuting myths. It's shown that the most effective rebuttal structure lends itself to compelling communication and educational purposes. Several examples with popular climate myths are.</p> <p><b>Workshops</b></p>

	<p><i>The science behind waterway health – Healthy Waterways Report Card and what it means for your local catchment</i></p> <p><i>Creating Wildlife Friendly School Gardens.</i></p> <p><i>Backyard Explorers 1– Designing and implementing an insect based biodiversity project</i></p> <p><i>Keeping Cool in Changing Times</i></p> <p><i>Rethink your rubbish – waste minimisation in schools</i></p> <p><i>Backyard Explorers 2– Identifying insects and collating data in an insect based biodiversity project</i></p> <p><i>Connect with Nature – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service</i></p> <p><i>Philosophy in the Classroom: Using Community of Inquiry in sustainability education.</i></p> <p><i>Mapping Our Waterway.</i></p> <p><i>Mixtures and solutions in our waterways for Years 6 and 7</i></p> <p><i>Water: Learn it for life!</i></p> <p><i>program Department of Environment and Resource Management</i></p> <p><i>Unpacking Unit 2 in C2C</i></p> <p>Supported member's application BF scholarship.</p> <p>Promotion of professional development opportunities through blog; Queensland Education Resources Expo (8/9 Sept), Creek Ranger Forum: Communities, Catchments and Co-operatives; Teaching for Sustainability Master class; Environmental Decisions Group newsletter; Social Justice and Human Rights in the Australian Curriculum.</p> <p>Continued promotion of biennial conference through signature block, newsletter and blog and distribution of postcards at appropriate venues.</p>
<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>Jo Kelly and Miranda Mason continuing to co-convene and provide regular updates to the national group through the liaison meetings.</p> <p>Cam Mackenzie very kindly continues to support the Queensland Chapter, representing Qld at National and Liaison teleconferences.</p> <p>Jo Kelly supports the recognition committee on the review panel for the Environmental Educator of the year award.</p>
<p><b>Other Comments</b></p>	<p>Funding: Began researching the process for applying for funding for resources to help grow membership. Our services to our Queensland members would greatly improve if we could attain funding to support a state based administration role for a number of hours per week.</p> <p>Research: Jessica Blomfield, Griffith University invited our members through the blog to participate within a research study: Strengthening Hope and Resilience in Environmental Educators via: <a href="mailto:Jessica.blomfield@griffithuni.edu.au">Jessica.blomfield@griffithuni.edu.au</a>.</p> <p>Contribution of feedback to SEQ Water's water grid simulation game: Angela Petrow, previous AAEE WA member now residing in Queensland.</p>

## South Australia Chapter: Convenor Richard Smith

Focus Area	Report
<b>Communications</b>	The Chapter communicates with its members via the national communication instruments – the e-newsletter, ozEEnews and AJEE – and its website.
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>The Chapter has an ongoing relationship with:</p> <p>2.1 the Outdoor Education Association of SA (OEASA) which has involved showing the film 'Play Again' and discussions about possible cooperation in the co-convening of a national conference in Adelaide in 2014. The AAEE biennial conference will be convened by the Tasmanian Chapter. AAEE(SA) and OEASA will continue to pursue cooperative ventures. David Doherty, principal of Arbury Park Outdoor school, provides the main contact between our two organisations.</p> <p>2.2 Waite Campus Children's Centre of the University of Adelaide.</p> <p>2.3 The Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (AMLR NRM) Board's education personnel, especially in professional development and lobbying activities noted below.</p> <p>2.4 The Council of Education Associations of SA (CEASA) of which it is a member and with to whose celebrations of World teacher day AAEE(SA) will contribute in the nomination of our own SA environmental educator of 2012.</p> <p>2.5 Lee Grigg has been involved in several teacher workshops meeting about and providing feedback to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and reporting Authority (ACARA).</p> <p>2.6 Sarah Lindsay has maintained a strong working connection with local schools in school grounds development and management, especially in regards to school food gardens.</p>
<b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b>	<p>AAEE(SA) has:</p> <p>3.1 worked with AMLR NRM staff in professional development as set out below, and in discussions towards lobbying state and federal government ministers with responsibilities in education and in environment.</p> <p>3.2 supported the AAEE state liaison officer, Kelly McKenzie, in her work with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC).</p>
<b>Member services</b>	<p>The chapter has contributed to member services by:</p> <p>4.1 Andy Coleman's management of the Chapter website.</p> <p>4.2 the editorial work carried out for the national newsletter 'ozEEnews' by Pearl Tassel and Richard Smith.</p>
<b>Professional development</b>	<p>5.2 Jo Bishop, a South Australian EfS educator with long experience of working in schools and in government departments of environment reported at a joint AMLR NRM/AAEE(SA) workshop on impressions of her visit to Schumacher College in England. This included reference to Goethean science that was sufficiently mouth-watering for there to be held a second workshop with wider attendance in the ideal setting of Morialta Conservation Park. This time the learning process was deeply experiential. There is considerable interest in SA being able to invite to SA Richard Louv, in NSW in August for the Nature Education Symposium. AAEE members will be aware of Richard's important work promoting children's interaction with in nature, as the Goethean science participants also experienced. AAEE(SA) intends to continue working in this area, one of the several areas already supplied with support by the AMLR NRM education staff.</p>
<b>Governance</b>	The SA Chapter has continued to promote EE and EfS in SA to the best ability of its committee's busy and widely involved members. Pursuit of opportunities to combine with other professional associations in 2013 will assist it in maintaining and developing its contact with Chapter members and other EE/EfS educators in SA.

<b>DESD activities</b>	The Chapters PD activities outlined above clearly contribute to the DESD.
<b>Publications</b>	AAEE(SA) intends that the materials used in its 'food & sustainability' workshops will be collated and developed into a resource of use to other AAEE Chapters and associations. Optimistically, the Goethean science workshops will also result in outlines of use to others.

### Tasmania Chapter: Convenor Jenny Dudgeon

Focus Area	Report
<b>Communications</b>	<p>AAEE Tas communicates regularly with its members via email. The Department of Education has created a sustainability enetwork which assist AAEE communications.</p> <p>AAEE has partnered with the Hobart City Council and Lansdowne Crescent Primary School to conduct the 2012 Kids 4Kids Conference in November 2012.</p> <p>AAEE members have actively participated in the development of Tasmanian food security food plans and advocacy for national food security planning.</p> <p>At the 2012 National AAEE Conference AAEE-Tas member Allan Hill will present a seminar based on his New Zealand research into the values of outdoor education.</p>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>Slow Food Hobart , Early Childhood Educators of Tasmania in partnership with AAEE worked together to deliver the 2012 <i>Seed to Plate</i> and Taste Education programs – a series of interactive workshops led by professional chefs aimed at both students and teachers.</p> <p>AAEE and AAEE-Tas awarded Edward Hall Environmental Grant to fund the 2012 Hobart City Council Kids4Kids Conference at UTAS Hobart.</p> <p>AAEE partnered with Greening Australia, Department of Education, CSIRO, Independent Schools Tasmania, Catholic Education to develop curriculum for the innovative 6 star Green Star rated Sustainability Learning Centre opening 8 November 2012.</p> <p>AAEE in partnership with Greening Australia, University of Tasmania's (UTAS) Geography department and Princes St Primary School are developing an interactive UTAS sustainability etrail.</p> <p>AAEE in partnership with the Environmental Protection Authority and Southern Waste Strategy Authority to present a Sustainability Day at Natone Primary School. This partnership is active in a number of schools state-wide.</p> <p>AAEE -Tas teachers in the Taroona Coalition schools partnered with the Asia Education Foundation to create 4 bi lingual environmental interpretive trails based around local reserves. The project focuses on the 3 cross curriculum priorities of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures</li> <li>• Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia</li> <li>• Sustainability.</li> </ul> <p>which highlights the diversity of our environments from the Land to the Sea: Unity in Diversity.</p>
<b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b>	<p>AAEE-Tas through its alliance with AESA met with Education Minister, Nick McKim who agreed to write letters to the Federal Ministers of Education and Environment supporting the AuSSI initiative and improved resourcing. A further meeting with the Minister McKim is scheduled for November, 2012.</p> <p>AAEE –Tas supported a grant application to the Tasmanian Community Fund</p>

	<p>for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Community Gardens master plan. This application was successful.</p> <p>AAEE members involved in writing a Tasmanian submission to the National Food Plan for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.</p> <p>AAEE represented in newly formed Food Alliance Tasmania network.</p> <p>AAEE Tas members actively involved in the development and evaluation of the Australian Curriculum.</p>
<b>Member Services</b>	<p>AAEE Tas 2012 Environmentalist of the Year awarded to Jenni Burdon, CSIRO Education.</p> <p>2 AAEE -Tas members will attend the 2012 AAEE Conference</p> <p>Membership continued to grow by 25%</p>
<b>Professional development</b>	<p>The 2012 <i>Seed to Plate</i> professional learning program – kitchen garden focus with professional chefs mentoring teachers</p> <p>Taste Education program conducted across 4 schools – an interactive program for students and teachers.</p> <p>EPA and Southern Waste Strategy support and partner with AAEE to present waste minimisation programs to schools state-wide</p> <p>AAEE-Tas supported National Science Week programs</p> <p>Sustainability Showcase Snapshot</p>
<b>Governance</b>	<p>Meet every 8 - 10 weeks.</p> <p>Electronic banking facility organised.</p>
<b>Other comments</b>	<p>AAEE-Tas very pleased to receive back dated member reimbursements.</p> <p>AAEE -Tas agreed to host the 2014 AAEE National Conference in Hobart, October.</p> <p>Planning a review of PL program with the Sustainability Learning Centre coming on line in November 2012</p>

**Victoria Chapter: Convenor Sarah Houseman – to be supplied**

**Western Australia Chapter: Convenor Jennifer Pearson**

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Report/Comments/Dot Points (link to goals where possible)</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<p>WA Chapter Email network - Regularly forward information through network about a range of PD offered from the chapter and other organisations relevant to members.</p> <p><b>Environmental Educators Network</b>, email once a month which is managed by DEC on behalf of AAEE WA Chapter, to advertise upcoming events for a range of EE providers across the state.</p> <p><b>Research Group</b>, meet once a month to review developments in EfS research projects, led by Catherine Baudains and Elaine Lewis. Members of this group to present at AAEE Conference in Melbourne and the WASE Forum in Perth.</p> <p><b>Infinity Waste Award</b> community education category – WA Chapter, led by Elaine Lewis, put in an application and attended the award evening to raise our profile across EE sectors in WA. Waste minimization is an integral part of all chapter events.</p> <p><b>Conservation Council of WA</b> as a member of this group we have opportunities to hear about advocacy work they are involved in and to let them know about professional development, workshops and advocacy carried out by the chapter. Presently no joint projects have been developed.</p>

## Partnerships

**Perth Zoo**, continued involvement with them for meetings and joint events.

**City of Canning**, The utilisation of the Canning River Eco Education Centre as a home base for AAEE (WA); allowing periodic membership meetings, storage of chapter material and use of the Centre as a postal address at no cost. The collaboration in developing and supporting three major projects, see below.

**Catchments Corridors and Coasts (CCC) 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January** included, Red Hill Waste Management Facility; Wooraloo Brook LCDC; Shire of Mundaring; Perth Hills Forest Centre, Kanyana Rehabilitation, Perth Zoo Greening Australia WA; Millennium Kids; South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL); Swan River Trust; Phosphorus Action Group; Canning River Eco Education Centre, Ribbons of Blue; Water Corporation Waterwise Schools Program; Aboriginal Heritage Unit; Environmental Technology Centre; The Department of Fisheries' Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories; Padbury SHS Marine Studies; Nearer to Nature, Coast Care; Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

The City of Cockburn provided two scholarships for Cockburn school teachers to attend.

This was coordinated by Catherine Baudains, Elaine Lewis, Amy Krupa, Michael Burke, Dot Hepburn, Vicky Hartill, Claire Gaskin, Jennifer Pearson,

**Geography Earth Environmental Science (GEES) Yr 10 Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012** included Perth Zoo, Science Teachers Association of Western Australia, Earth Science Western Australia, Curtin University, CSIRO Labs SciTech, UWA, Western Australian Museum, DEC, Air watch, Greening Australia WA, Geography Association of WA. Over 250 students from 8 schools attended. This was coordinated by Kate McMurtrie, Perth Zoo and Jennifer Pearson.

**Earth Day Expo – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012.** This event at the Canning River Eco Education Centre with over 520 children attending from 12 schools. There were 17 different presentations provided that engage the children in activities like clay modelling, reptiles, water quality, birds of prey, bird identification, macro invertebrates, water security, waste initiatives, marine education and much more. The initial feedback from the schools was very positive. This was coordinated by Hayley Bullimore, CREEC & AAEEWA and Jennifer Pearson.

**Little Green Steps** – In July the Lotterywest funded trial of this program in three local councils commenced. The Governor His Excellency and Mrs McCusker officially launched the program on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 at CREEC. Sally Sneddon is the Project Manager for the trial and has conducted surveys, met



personnel in the 3 centres and significant people in the three local governments of City of Canning, City of Armadale, City of Gosnells. Support from SERCUL to manage the project is appreciated. Coordinating committee is Jennifer Pearson, Anne Pettit, Elaine Lewis, Kelsie Prabawa-Sear, Arlene Moncrieff and Fran Jones.

**National Science Week 'Colours of Science' Community Expo on 19<sup>th</sup> August** included National Science Week Committee, City of Canning, Canning Eco Education Centre, SERCUL, DEC Indigenous Heritage Section, Canning River Volunteers, Edith Cowan University Student Volunteers, Murdoch University Volunteers, SciTech, Keep Australia Beautiful, Perth Zoo. Coordinated by Elaine Lewis, Amy Krupa, Hayley Bullimore, Katherine

	<p>Gaschk and Jennifer Pearson.</p> <p><b>Turtle Watch – April 2011-Feb 2013.</b> This project provides camera surveillance of three oblong turtle nesting sites in the Perth metropolitan area (Herdsman Lake, Canning River &amp; Bibra Lake) to determine predator/s impacting on the survival of turtle nests. Monthly <i>Turtle Watch</i> e-bulletins are distributed to all stakeholders informing progress and dates of education events. Project involves Cockburn Wetlands Centre, Canning River Eco Education Centre, Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, Murdoch University, University of WA and Lotterywest. Turtle Watch Education Kit on <a href="http://www.aaeewa.org.au/turtlewatchedkit.html">http://www.aaeewa.org.au/turtlewatchedkit.html</a> Coordinated by Elaine Lewis with links to many WA Chapter members, check out details on <a href="http://www.aaeewa.org.au">www.aaeewa.org.au</a></p> <p><b>Waste Initiatives</b> – wide ranging developments in WA Chapter programs, for example, numerous strategies implemented at the science expo. Beverage Container Recycling Grant supports further initiatives.</p> <p><b>AuSSI WA committee</b> –WAAEE is represented on the AuSSI-WA steering committee - members now tend to be consulted individually (on a needs basis) as opposed to the committee meeting regularly. AAEE is well represented on the AuSSI-WA Alliance through member organisations such as SERCUL and Perth Zoo.</p>
<p><b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b></p>	<p><b>WA DET Meeting</b> – Meeting with Honourable Peter Collier BA DipEd MLC WA Minister for Education, Liberal on Wednesday the 5th of September for AESA and AuSSI support was Gun Dolva (AAEE) with AYCC &amp; AETU reps.</p> <p><b>Greens Meeting</b> – On 27<sup>th</sup> April Jennifer Pearson met with Alison Xamon about the AESA policy platform and to seek support for AuSSI at state and federal level.</p> <p><b>WA DEC Meeting</b> – On 23<sup>rd</sup> April Jennifer Pearson and Cassandra Rowles met with Minister Marmion about the Australian Education for Sustainable Alliance (AESA) policy platform to increase support for AuSSI in line with the National Curriculum core priority development. This resulted in the minister writing a letter to the Federal Government to ask for ongoing support for AuSSI.</p> <p><b>Labor Meeting</b> – On 16<sup>th</sup> November Jennifer Pearson met with Eric Ripper, Labor Leader, Ministers Linda Savage, Sue Ellery and Chris Tallentire to discuss Little Green Steps, AuSSI and the WA Chapter work.</p> <p><b>Air Quality Forum</b> – On 15<sup>th</sup> March Jennifer Pearson presented about the WA Chapter to the delegates drawn from DEC, Universities and consultants about the work of the chapter.</p> <p><b>Skids Day – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>, Jennifer Pearson presentation at Science Day for primary age children about WA Chapter, focus on Turtle Watch program through hands on workshop.</p>
<p><b>Members Services</b></p>	<p>17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference ‘Our Next Courageous Steps’ Scholarships CCC organizing group were part funded to attend to present about CCC, Amy Krupa, Catherine Baudains, Elaine Lewis and Vicky Hartill, to the value of \$500 each.</p> <p>Two scholarships valued at \$750 each for two members to attend the biennial conference were given to Gun Dolva from Perth Central Institute of Technology and Denise Crosbie from Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre</p> <p>Professional Teaching Council of WA – Nominate a member for their annual awards, Elaine Lewis from Coolbinia Primary School &amp; Murdoch University.</p> <p>AAEE Environmental Educator of the Year – Nominated a member for the annual award, Elaine Lewis from Coolbinia Primary School &amp; Murdoch University.</p>

<p><b>Professional Development</b></p>	<p>Catchments Corridors Coasts, 18th – 20st January 2012, three day PD for teachers, pre-service teachers, industry, local and state Gov. personnel.</p> <p>Arab Gateway Workshops, 3<sup>rd</sup> November &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> May, Jennifer Pearson presented workshops at CREEC for teachers and student teachers for work developed by AESSSF to promote understanding of Arabic culture, sciences and history.</p>
<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>Meetings - Conducted regular monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Perth Zoo Education Centre. Guest speakers on occasions.</p> <p>Financial – Audit not required but full report presented to the AGM in September 2012.</p> <p>The Office bearers are</p> <p>Convenor – Jennifer Pearson</p> <p>Treasurer – Hayley Bullimore</p> <p>Secretary – Gun Dolva &amp; Catherine Baudains</p> <p>Membership – Amy Krupa</p> <p>State Liaison Officer - TBA</p>
<p><b>Publications</b></p> <p><b>We are bringing our records up to date – available on WA website.</b></p>	<p>Lewis, E., Baudains, C.M. &amp; Mansfield, C. (2009) The Impact of AuSSI-WA at a Primary School. <i>Australian Journal of Environmental Education</i>, V25.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Baudains, C. M., &amp; Mansfield, C. (2008a). Nestwatch project: The oblong turtle. <i>Western Wildlife</i>, 12(3), 8-9.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Baudains, C. M., &amp; Mansfield, C. (2008b, May). <i>Turtle Watch: Community contribution to environmental impact assessment</i>. Poster presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment: The Art and Science of Impact Assessment, Perth, Australia.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Baudains, C. M., &amp; Mansfield, C. (2009). Engaging students in science: Turtle nestwatch. <i>Teaching Science: The Journal of the Australian Science Teachers Association</i>, 55(1), 50-53.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Mansfield, C. &amp; Baudains, C. M. (2008). Getting down and dirty: Values in education for sustainability. <i>Issues in Educational Research</i>, 18(2), 138-155.</p> <p>Lewis, E., &amp; Baudains, C. M. (2007). Raining Frogs: An Education for Sustainability Project, <i>Teaching Science: The Journal of the Australian Science Teachers Association</i>, 43(3), 25-29.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Baudains, C. M., &amp; Mansfield, C. (2008). Making Waves: Engaging Science Projects. <i>Teaching Science: The Journal of the Australian Science Teachers Association</i>, 44(2), 18 &amp;19.</p> <p>Lewis, E., Mansfield, C. &amp; Baudains, C. M. (2010). Going on a turtle egg hunt and other adventures: Education for sustainability in early childhood. <i>Australian Journal of Early Childhood</i>, 35(4), online annex.</p> <p>Lewis, E. &amp; Hartill, V. (2012). TurtleWatch, <i>Bushland News</i> (81), 5.</p> <p>Lewis, E. Gaschk, K. &amp; Pearson, J. (2011). Sounds of Science. <i>SCIOS: The Journal of the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia</i>, 47(3), 24-27.</p> <p>Lewis, E. &amp; Pearson, J. (2011). Dancing with Science. <i>SCIOS: The Journal of the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia</i>, 47(2), 5-7.</p> <p>Pearson, J. &amp; Lewis, E. (2010). Little Green Steps: Sustainability practice for early years comes to Western Australia. A taste of science. <i>SCIOS: The Journal of the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia</i>, 46(3), 13-14.</p> <p>Pearson, J. &amp; Lewis, E. (2009). A taste of science. <i>SCIOS: The Journal of the Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia</i>, 45(4), 4-6.</p> <p>Elaine Lewis, Catherine Baudains &amp; Caroline Mansfield</p>

## 8. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ACTIVITY

SIGs have been established to help members develop particular interests and share information and resources specific to that topic. SIGs currently in operation are:

- Early Childhood;
- Teachers and Teacher Education;

These groups are a vital support to the EC in reflecting on discrete areas that require considered responses to policy, curriculum development and political lobbying for members.

### Early Childhood SIG: Sue Elliott

Focus Area	Report/Comments/Dot Points (link to goals where possible)
<b>Communications</b>	<p>The association including the EC SIG has been promoted through professional development and informal contacts.</p> <p>Contributions to the Ozee newsletters in 2011-12 have lapsed, but items are planned for the next edition.</p>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>ECA continues to be a partner in promoting EfS. Sustainability is a key theme in the next conference in Perth, 3-6 October, 2012 and Sue Elliott is an invited speaker on sustainability.</p> <p><b>The Seedlings project</b>, a funded 3y partnership between five local governments in Victoria, is progressing to resource sustainability across early childhood services and several SIG members are participating.</p> <p>Julie Gaul and Deb Watson, NSW ECEEN, are continuing to build partnerships with local government e.g. a series of 5 workshops called <b>Leading for Sustainability in ECE</b> launched at Lismore SCU on 17th Aug. funded by Office of Environment and Heritage and will extend to North Sydney, Wollongong and Albury. Also, a number of evening sessions for various local governments including Holroyd, Sutherland and Liverpool. This work was recognised by the Community Educators Award from AAEE NSW.</p> <p>Similarly in Perth, WA, the funding of the Little Green steps Program offers potential for further local government partnerships.</p> <p>The three state based groups EEEEC, NSW ECEEN and QECSN are still planning to strengthen their partnership through a national name, but finding a name has been problematic. This will be a topic for discussion at the ECA conference.</p> <p><b>The North American Association for Environmental Education</b> has recently invited three SIG members to be consulting editors for a new journal, the International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education. This will support the partnership between AAEE and NAAEE</p> <p>Julie Davis is travelling to Korea to meet up with QUT visiting scholars (2010-11) from Korea and Japan and will be giving a keynote and workshops on ECEFS in Queensland and Australia, with a focus on the role of networks. This work links to the EC EfS Transnational Dialogue group.</p>
<b>Advocacy and Lobbying</b>	<p>Group members had an opportunity to lobby for early childhood EfS when responding to a draft ECA leadership in early childhood document.</p>
<b>Members Services</b>	<p>Members have received one newsletter emailed in December 2011 and a number of ongoing updates as information comes to hand.</p>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<p>The EC SIG does not have direct responsibility for professional development, but a number of members are significantly involved in this area both at in-service and pre-service levels with local government, individual early childhood services/organisations and tertiary institutions. Some examples are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KU Conference Sydney, November 2011, workshop by Julie Gaul and Deb Watson and keynote by Sue Elliott</li> <li>• Uniting Care Gippsland Conference, Warragul, July 2012 workshop</li> </ul>

	<p>by Sue Elliott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Council Early Childhood Conference, Cairns, June 2012, workshop by Sue Elliott</li> <li>• KPV Conference Melbourne workshop by Tracy Young, Julie Gaul and Deb Watson</li> <li>• Toolbox for Environmental Change Conference March 2012, Tracy Young and Stephanie Ralton</li> <li>• Julie Davis led a series of ECEfS workshops in Tasmania in May over 3 days, in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.</li> <li>• QECSN Spring Into Action Workshops day, 1<sup>st</sup> September, Arana Hills Community Kindergarten, Brisbane. Workshop by Deb Watson and Julie Gaul.</li> <li>• Also members will be involved in the EEEEC conference day on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the October AAEE and ECA conferences.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<p>The member list is now needs updating again and the group membership is about 50. Reports have been provided at AAEE liaison meetings when possible.</p>
<b>DESD Activities</b>	<p>Nothing specific to report</p>
<b>Publications</b>	<p>Julie Gaul and Deb Watson at NSW ECEEN have continued development of the Ecosmart Guide to the new National Quality Standards, it is to be published in September. Davis edited text book 'Young children and the environment' (2010) to be published in Korean Tracy Young and the ECA Vic SIG have developed an energy poster and fact sheet.</p>
<b>Other Comments</b>	<p>The activity in EC EfS continues to be strong and now with systemic support from the NQS and Ecosmart Guide there are increasing opportunities for SIG members to facilitate change. It is worthy of recognition that EEEEC Vic Inc celebrates twenty years of advocacy for EC EfS this year. Thanks to all members involved.</p> <p>This last year has been both personally and professionally challenging for me, I thank the group for their support and aim to return to full speed with newsletters in the coming year. Many thanks to all the EC SIG members for their contributions and to the AAEE Council and administrative staff for their support.</p>

**Teacher and Teacher Education Special Interest Group – David Butler – to be supplied.**

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The audited statements have not been prepared in time for presentation to the AAEE AGM scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

The audited financial statement will be circulated to AAEE Membership as soon as possible and we anticipate making the report available to members well before the constitutional requirement that they be submitted for approval and sent to the Office of Regulatory Services by the 30 November or within six months after the end of the financial year 2011 - 2012.

## Appendix A



## Congress Final Report



**Report prepared by:**

Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira, Mr Cam Mackenzie, Mr Peter Tarrant and Ms Jessica Blomfield

**Acknowledgements**

The dedication and hard work of a great number of people contributed to making the 6th World Environmental Education Congress the success it was. A very special thank you to:

- Members of the Local Organising Committee
- International Advisory Committee
- Socio-Scientific Committee
- Major partners, supporting partners and sponsors of the event
- Event planning group MCI
- Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
- Australian Association for Environmental Education
- The World Environmental Education Congresses Secretariat
- Presenters
- The Volunteers

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>1. Congress overview</b>	<b>1</b>
Objectives	
Program and themes	
Venue	
Languages	
Outcomes	
<hr/>	
<b>2. Program</b>	<b>2</b>
Keynote speakers	
Abstracts and review	
Field trips	
Social activities	
Exhibition hall	
Parallel activities	
<hr/>	
<b>3. Features of the Congress</b>	<b>6</b>
Eco-responsibility	
Social media	
<hr/>	
<b>4. Registrations, Sponsorship and Marketing</b>	<b>7</b>
Registrations	
Sponsorship	
Marketing	
Delegates	
<hr/>	
<b>5. Venue, Administration and Accommodation</b>	<b>8</b>
Venue	
Congress administration	
Accommodation	
<hr/>	
<b>6. Evaluation</b>	<b>9</b>
Planning and organisation	
Achievement of objectives	
Challenges	
Delegate survey results	
<hr/>	
<b>7. Recommendations</b>	<b>11</b>

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### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Organising Committee Membership
- Appendix 2: Delegates by Country
- Appendix 3: Financial Summary

## 1. CONGRESS OVERVIEW

The 6th World Environmental Education Congress was held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia, from 19–23 July 2011. WEEC 2011 was the sixth in a series of World Congresses coordinated by the Secretariat of the World Environmental Education Congresses.

The Congress was co-Chaired by Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira and Mr Cam Mackenzie. The event was coordinated by the 6th WEEC Organising Committee, which included international and Australian environmental educators in partnership with the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), Australia's peak national professional association for environmental and sustainability educators. The Organising Committee consisted of a Local Organising Committee; an international Advisory Committee and an international Socio-Scientific Committee. The Organising Committee was well supported during the Congress by a team of volunteers (for a full list of members, see Appendix 1).

There were three Congress Partners, (1) the WEEC Secretariat; (2) the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE); and (3) Wildlife Queensland.

### 1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the 6<sup>th</sup> WEEC were to improve the human condition and wellbeing on all levels, and generate respect and support for sustainable practices by:

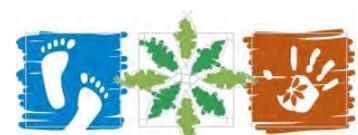
1. Broadening environmental education networks through facilitating a sharing between the international and Asia-Pacific environmental education community
2. Providing a diverse and high quality program
3. Broadening and strengthening environmental education in the Asia-Pacific region
4. Supporting and mentoring new practitioners in the field
5. Encouraging the sharing of knowledge, strategies, skills and practices that help to bridge the commitment-action gap
6. Exploring opportunities to influence public policy, especially education and environmental policy
7. Exploring and experiencing sustainable living and being

The 6<sup>th</sup> WEEC also aimed to be:

- 'eco-responsible' through measures implemented over the life of the Congress planning and during the actual event to minimise the environmental footprint of the Congress; and
- financially responsible and seek to produce at least a breakeven return, including reimbursement of seed funding provided by Congress partners AAEE and Wildlife Queensland and payment to the WEEC Secretariat.

### 1.2 Program and themes

The overall Congress theme was 'Explore, Experience, Educate'. This was reflected in the Congress logo which included the flower that has been carried through all previous WEEC logos as well as incorporating the feet (symbolising 'explore'), the flower (symbolising the WEEC where people 'experience') and the hand (symbolising 'educate').



6th World Environmental Education Congress  
**EXPLORE EXPERIENCE EDUCATE**  
19 – 23 July 2011 | Brisbane, Australia

The program ran over four full days, with three days of plenary presentations, paper presentations, roundtable presentations, workshops, symposiums and poster presentation sessions; and a full day of field trips to environmental education facilities in Southeast Queensland. The Congress also featured a social program, consisting of a Welcome Reception and a Congress Dinner. In addition, there were parallel events, including the Education Queensland Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres program. There were nine Congress program themes:

- Pedagogies for the planet
- Weaving environmental wisdom
- Environmental education research and policy in action
- Small footprints
- Living 'cool' for a sustainable world
- Collaborating for change
- The future is in our hands
- Learning together out there
- Showcasing environmental education in Australia and the Asia-Pacific

### **1.3 Venue**

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) was selected to host the Congress, due to its functionality and recognition as one of the most eco-friendly venues in the region. The range of facilities at the venue allowed for all Congress sessions and events to be held at the one location, including plenary, roundtable and other sessions as well as providing an Exhibition Hall for poster displays and lunches and a Dining Hall for the Congress Dinner. The Local Organising Committee worked closely with BCEC to achieve the 6<sup>th</sup> WEEC's eco-responsibility objectives.

### **1.4 Languages**

Despite Australia being a multi-cultural country, English is the only official language. Given the great cost of interpreting and translating, English was the only language used by the 6<sup>th</sup> WEEC.

### **1.5 Outcomes**

#### Delegate evaluation

There were a total of 677 registered delegates from 47 countries (see Appendix 2). All Congress sessions were well attended and overwhelmingly positively received. The Congress Dinner attracted around 500 attendees with the entertainment enjoyed by all. Six field trips offered a variety of wildlife, education and adventure experiences for participants. Feedback was collected through a survey of delegates during and immediately following the Congress. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and highlighted the success of the Congress. In particular, the program, social activities, vegetarian food, venue and Congress organization rated highly.

#### Financial outcome

The Congress covered its costs and secured a surplus that was distributed between Congress partners, the Australian Association for Environmental Education and Wildlife Queensland; and the WEEC Secretariat. An overview Financial Statement is provided in Appendix 3.

## **2. PROGRAM**

The Congress program was prepared by the Socio-Scientific Committee with assistance from thematic niche leaders. Three full days of plenary and concurrent sessions were offered, including keynote and other oral presentations, roundtable presentations and discussions, workshops, symposia and poster presentations. The program featured 270 speakers, with 12 roundtable sessions, 8 symposia, 4 workshops, 6 field trips and 52 poster presentations. An electronic copy of the full program is available on request.

### **2.1 Keynote speakers**

There were keynote speakers on each day along with respondents to the keynotes.

Day 1: Professor Jean Palutikof of the National Climate Change Adaptation Facility commenced the plenary proceedings with her presentation on climate change, its supporting science and the perils of scepticism around the issue. This was followed by a response from Professor Bob Jickling of Lakehead University, Canada.

Day 2 : Emeretta Cross and Hum Gurung presented perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region from their respective Tuvaluan and Nepalese heritage with a response from Professor Justin Dillon of Kings College London, England.

Day 3: A youth panel discussion was provided by James Mulligan, Elizabeth Clarke, Shena Jarvis and Ahri Tallon with a response from Dr Julie Davis of Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

## 2.2 Abstract submission and review

Presenters submitted 250 word abstracts for oral, poster, roundtable, symposium and/or workshop presentations, which were reviewed by the Socio-Scientific Committee and invited peer reviewers. Each reviewer assessed abstracts using the following criteria:

- Does the abstract deal with a current and/or relevant environmental issue?
- Does the abstract deal with a current and/or relevant educational issue?
- Is the proposed paper rigorous?
- Have links to research or policy been clearly identified?
- Is the proposed presentation innovative and/or interactive?

All reviews were conducted online. In total 735 abstracts submissions were received, with 313 accepted for paper presentations, 155 accepted for roundtable presentations and 70 for poster presentations. 197 abstracts were rejected. Presenters were not provided with any entitlements and paid full registration for the Congress. Presentations were scheduled into the Congress program according to program themes. Poster presenters mounted a colourful display in the trade area, which also hosted Congress morning and afternoon teas and lunches with 70 posters displayed over the full 3 days of the Congress. Accepted submitted abstracts were published on a congress abstracts USB stick.

## 2.3 Field trips

Six field trips were held on Saturday 23 July:

### 1. Binna Burra Mountain Lodge

Situated in the World Heritage listed Lamington National Park, Binna Burra Mountain Lodge is an authentic heritage listed lodge that has welcomed guests since the early 1930s. Participants were led on a guided interpretive rainforest walk and sustainability and eco-tourism walk and talk. Binna Burra Lodge holds the enviable status of being the first Australian property to attain the internationally recognised Green Globe Certification for its best practice environmental performance, and was listed in the top 10 Eco-Lodges and Green Hotels in the World.

Attendees: 29

### 2. Boondall Wetlands

The Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre was opened in 1996 and is managed by Brisbane City Council. Boondall Wetlands lies at the edge of Moreton Bay and includes more than 1,100 hectares of tidal flats, mangroves, salt marshes, melaleuca wetlands, casuarina forests, grasslands, open forests, woodlands and estuarine environments. The wetlands play host to a diversity of wildlife including being internationally important to migratory shorebirds. Guests enjoyed guided walks and gained a cultural understanding of the indigenous use of the area and the importance of this site environmentally. Guests sampled bush foods for lunch and then choose between either a three-hour canoe ride or a three-hour interactive presentation on the education programs Boondall offers.

Attendees: 16

### 3. Cruise Maroochy Eco Tours

Cruise Maroochy Eco Tours is a highly awarded specialist eco-tourism operator that has plied the waters of the Maroochy River in the Sunshine Coast region for over two decades. The journey took participants cruising through the river islands, rainforest regions, Coolum Creek ecosystem and wetland sanctuary regions. Guests discovered the mysteries and secrets of the river and saw animals like wallabies, kangaroos, and huge variety of bird life along the river and during the guided walk. Guests enjoyed lunch on the boat and learnt about the indigenous people and their connection to the Maroochy River.

Attendees: 18

### 4. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

This field trip took participants to one of the leading wildlife sanctuaries in Australia with one of the largest collections of Australian native wildlife in the world. Established nearly 60 years ago, participants were led by volunteers on a guided walk around the park, including the wildlife hospital. Participants were also given a presentation on the education programs offered to school groups and general visitors to the centre. The day concluded with local indigenous people sharing some of their knowledge, stories and dancing with participants.

Attendees: 16

### 5. Griffith University EcoCentre

The Griffith University EcoCentre is a true Australian education experience. On this field trip participants were shown the environmental initiatives at the centre and the education programs it runs. The centre is built using sustainable design principles and participants had an up close and personal experience with some wildlife that call the Toohey Forest home, including snakes, turtles, fish and lizards. A scrumptious lunch was enjoyed surrounded by the beautiful Toohey Forest, one of Brisbane's urban forests.

Attendees: 25

### 6. Redlands Eco Adventure

The Redlands IndigiScapes Centre showcases indigenous plants and promotes nature-related activities. The 14.5-hectare site is managed by the Redland City Council and offers plants for sale, demonstration gardens and environmental education programs for schools and the general community. At IndigiScapes guests enjoyed a short presentation, guided walk and a bite to eat before catching the barge over to North Stradbroke Island. Once on the island, guests were welcomed by the local Indigenous people and listened to stories of the past and hopes for the future. Participants also visit the local art gallery and then headed to the beach. Along the way, guests learnt about the education programs on the island relating to caring for the island's unique environment.

Attendees: 19

## **2.4 Social activities**

The Congress social activities included a Welcome Reception, Opening Ceremony, daily lunches, Congress Dinner and Closing Ceremony.

### Welcome reception

The Congress included a Welcome reception on Sunday evening, prior to the first day of sessions, to encourage delegates to network and form relationships before the Congress commenced. Beer, wine, champagne and soft drinks were served along with a selection of hot and cold canapés. Tibet2Timbuktu, a mix of instruments and vocals from Asia and Africa, provided entertainment for the function. The function was very successful with 480 delegates attending.

### Opening ceremony

The Congress was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Cameron Dick MP, with a welcome to country given by a local custodian of the land, Uncle Des Sandy.

### Daily lunches, morning and afternoon tea

Lunches as well as morning and afternoon teas were included in the registration fee and provided on 3 days in the Exhibition Hall. Large double-sided catering stations were set up throughout the area to ensure fast and efficient food service as possible. All waste was recycled where possible and the Convention Centre runs a program to provide leftover food to local charities for the homeless. All food at the Congress was vegetarian and locally sourced, with vegan and other dietary options also provided.

Daily lunchtime entertainment included Oceanlife (Wednesday), Peace 'n Choir (Thursday) and Geckos Wildlife (Friday). Delegates were also able to view poster displays and contribute comments, drawings and messages onto a giant graffiti blackboard using the coloured chalk provided.

### Congress dinner

The Congress Dinner was sponsored by the Queensland Government and was extremely well attended with 494 participants. The dinner theme was chosen to fit in with the sustainability theme—encouraging attendees to dress in vintage or recycled clothing. Centrepieces for the tables were provided by Reverse Garbage, a local community run organisation that recycles industrial items.

An auction was held on the night with donated items raising funds for AAEE. Early entertainment was provided by St Pauls School's *Big Band*. This band proved to be so popular that attendees were dancing prior to dinner. A highlight of the dinner was the speech made by Professor Ian Lowe AO, who had the audience captivated with his humour and insightful reflections on life and society. Following dinner, a dance band, *Boogie Knights*, kept the dance floor full until the conclusion of the evening.

### Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony commenced with a moving performance from a the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim Performance Choir of school students who had been involved in an outdoor education program as part of the parallel activities with WEEC. Highlights, achievements and lessons from the Congress were discussed by the Congress co-Chairs Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira and Cam Mackenzie who also thanked all the sponsors, contributors, volunteers and delegates who had helped make the Congress such a success. A summary of the Congress, and formal handover to the organisers of the next WEEC to be held in 2013 in Morocco, was provided by Prof. Mario Salmone from the WEEC Secretariat.

## **2.5 Exhibition hall**

The exhibition showcased the work of 26 exhibitors including sponsors, businesses, NGOs and other organisations involved with environmental education. In addition 70 posters and a large blackboard/Graffiti Wall (with chalk was provided for delegates to share comments, drawings and messages) were located in the Exhibition Hall. Daily morning and afternoon teas and lunches as well as the welcome reception were held in the Exhibition Hall to maximise opportunities for delegates to view the exhibitors booths. As a result, the Exhibition Hall formed a social hub for the duration of the Congress providing opportunities to network, discuss posters and exhibits and share meals.

The Exhibitors were:

- Australian Association for Environmental Education
- Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC)
- Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA)
- Auzion
- Biological Farmers of Australia
- Early Childhood EE Networks
- Earth Charter
- Green Cross Australia
- Griffith University
- Healthy Waterways
- James Cook University
- Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres
- OzGREEN
- Phil Little Sustainable Design Foundation / Solar Decathlon Australia
- Queensland Government
- Redland City Council
- Routledge
- Sunshine Coast Council
- Suseonjae Seon Culture Experience Centre
- WEEC Permanent Secretariat
- Wild Mob
- world.edu

## **2.6 Parallel activities**

A number of parallel activities were run in conjunction with the Congress, including the “Learning beyond the classroom” activities run by Education Queensland’s Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres (O&EEC); and Sustainable Drinks. These activities, organised separately but in parallel with the Congress, offered delegates an opportunity to examine the strategies being used in schools to educate students. One group of students, coordinated by the Principal of the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre, Keith Enchelmaier, set up a media studio and interviewed a number of speakers speakers during the WEEC. Another highlight of the O&EEC program was the culminating event—“The Earth Smart Science Symposium”—held at the Congress venue, which featured five local schools’ successful strategies to achieve their to develop School Environmental Management Plans.

The Australian Green Development Forum and Transition Brisbane welcomed 6th WEEC delegates to their monthly sustainable drinks event. This was an informal get-together where Brisbane-ites interested in the environment and sustainability shared experiences, plans for change, and networked with 150 congress delegates over organic beer and wine.

### **3. FEATURES OF THE CONGRESS**

#### **3.1 Eco-responsibility**

The 6th WEEC was planned as an event that would “walk the talk” by demonstrating eco-responsibility in actions as well as words. To this end, a committee was created to ensure that eco-responsibility was considered at every stage of the WEEC 2011 journey, from the choice of venue to the choice of menu. The Eco-responsibility Committee was guided by three key principles in all planning, decision-making and implementation:

- Minimising the ecological footprint of the Congress and its participants;
- Achieving environmental education objectives including awareness-raising, building knowledge and skills, encouraging collaboration, and influencing actions; and
- Conserving and enhancing the local environment of South-East Queensland.

The Local Organising Committee was very conscious that the environmental impact of an international event of this scale is not restricted to the choices of the organising committee but also the choices of all conference participants including delegates, exhibitors, suppliers, venue and support personnel. We therefore invited and challenged all participants to take an active role in applying the eco-responsibility mission and guiding principles of the Congress. To this end, comprehensive eco-responsibility information was provided on the website and in the Congress Program Guide on the following issues:

- Responsible and sustainable travel, including information about offsetting carbon emissions
- Limited resource and energy consumption
- Water conservation
- Protecting our biodiversity: what can't I bring to Australia
- Waste: Zero Waste goals and ecological waste management

Congress catering was provided through a wholly vegetarian menu, with ingredients also locally sourced where possible. The Congress venue provided extra recycling bins and ensured that waste management was best practice. Energy use was measured for venue utilities and catering and the 45 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> calculated as the emissions from the Congress were offset of through a payment of \$738.28 to Climate Friendly, a green energy project.

#### **3.2 Social media**

The Congress aimed to capitalise on the collaborative power of social media in developing online communities of practice for participants to engage with one another before, during and after the event. The strategy for creating this extended conference experience involved linked Twitter ([www.twitter.com/weec2011](http://www.twitter.com/weec2011)) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/WEEC2011-World-Environmental-Education-Congress/122270651132308>) accounts, along with promotion of the sites and hashtag (#weec2011) before and throughout the event. A more tailored social media space was created using the Ning platform ([www.weec2011.ning.com](http://www.weec2011.ning.com)) though this proved to be the least successful platform. While all three social media tools were intended to facilitate marketing and promotion on a basic level, it was also the purpose to engage delegates and the wider environmental education community on a deeper level through discussion and sharing of wisdom online. There was significant activity in the lead up to the event with over 400 “likes” on Facebook and 81 followers on Twitter before commencement of the Congress. There was also a healthy flow of tweets and Facebook posts during the actual event, including during the closing session when a stream of photos taken throughout the event was displayed on-screen. This was a multimedia display generated through an application called Twitterfountain, which combined event photos from Flickr with live tweets visible on screen. The conversation continues, with #weec13 on Twitter currently active and increasing likes (now 536) on the Facebook page and continual posts on the wall about other relevant environmental education events and links.

## 4. REGISTRATIONS, SPONSORSHIP AND MARKETING

### 4.1 Registrations

The Congress was attended by 541 fulltime delegates, 124 day delegates and 12 other registrants, meaning a total of 677 delegates. In addition to these participants were those not registered for the Congress but who attended the parallel activities and/or managed exhibition booths.

Fulltime and day registration was offered as follows:

	Earlybird (on or before 21 March 2011)	Standard (on or before 16 June 2011)	Late/onsite (on or after 17 June 2011)
Fulltime registration: delegate	AUD990	AUD1,190	AUD1,290
Fulltime registration: student*	AUD690	AUD890	AUD990
Day registration (Wed, Thurs or Fri)	AUD350	AUD450	AUD550
Day registration: student*	AUD250	AUD300	AUD350

### 4.2 Sponsorship

A comprehensive sponsorship prospectus was designed and distributed in April 2010 (available on request). The Congress was seeking sponsorship funding in the period after the Global Financial Collapse and was unable to secure anticipated significant sponsorships from the Commonwealth Government or the Brisbane City Council. Nonetheless, sponsorship was secured from the following organizations:

#### Congress partners

Wildlife Queensland partnered with the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) by providing seed funding for the start up of the Congress organization. World Education Network (WEN) provided in kind support to the Congress through promotion, producing media releases, and publishing daily reports on the Congress.

#### Platinum sponsor

Queensland Government - \$55,000 AUD (GST Included)

#### Gold sponsor

Griffith University - \$27,500 AUD (GST Included)

#### Silver sponsors

1. Auzion - \$11,000 AUD (GST Included)
2. Redland City Council - \$11,000 AUD (GST Included)

#### Bronze sponsors

1. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) - \$5,500 AUD (GST Included)
2. Seqwater - \$5,500 AUD (GST Included)
3. Sustainability Victoria - \$5,500 AUD (GST Included)

#### Brisbane Marketing Grant

AUD5,000 (GST Included)marketing

AUD20,000 (GST Included)– speakers, delegate boosting

Brisbane Marketing assisted the congress by providing it with two funding grants. Advertising and international promotion at events were partially supported by the marketing grant. The more substantial grant of \$20,000 was used to fund speaker flights, accommodation, and registration plus fund a number of international delegates from developing nations.

### 4.3 Marketing

The congress was promoted in the following ways:

- A promotional postcard and toy koalas were distributed at the 5th WEEC in Montreal, May 2009
- A website was created for prospective presenters and delegates ([www.weec2011.org](http://www.weec2011.org)).
- A dedicated Congress email and phone number were created for enquiries
- A registration brochure was produced and distributed

- E-zines (email updates) were distributed through an email contact list to promote the Congress, and provide Congress program, abstract submission, sponsorship, registration and field trip updates
- Advertising in local teacher journals
- A PDF poster was created and emailed for people to forward and/or print and distribute
- Media releases were distributed
- Social media (Facebook and Twitter)

Further marketing assistance was obtained via the following:

- Metis Global Awareness Network
- H.O.P.E. (Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.)
- Ormiston College
- He@dstart page of Courier Mail
- Reflected Image Productions
- Australian Geographic Magazine
- Gmagazine
- Ed views

#### **4.4 Delegates**

The congress originally anticipated 1,000 delegates but revised this target down to 500 as the effects of the GFC and high Australian dollar affected registration numbers. The Congress finally attracted 677 delegates, 533 of these were full-time delegates over all three days, with the remainder day registrations, sponsors, and exhibitors.

There were 192 international delegates from 47 countries outside of Australia. Good numbers of international delegates came from Brazil (19), Canada (15), USA (15), South Africa (14), Italy (13), Sweden (12), New Zealand (11), Japan (10), Taiwan (7), Peoples Republic of China (6), Mexico (6), UAE (6) and Spain (5). The number of delegates from Asia-Pacific countries was around 50. A full list of the delegates by country is included in Attachment 2.

### **5. VENUE, ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION**

#### **5.1 Venue**

The Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) was chosen as the venue due to its green practices and recognition as one of the most eco-friendly venues in the region, as well as its size and capacity for delegate numbers and the exhibition hall. BCEC staff provided excellent service, with audio-visual support running smoothly and efficiently. Each session room was equipped with standard computer projection and screens. A speaker support centre was open for the duration of the congress and was staffed fulltime.

#### **5.2 Congress administration**

To assist with the event management aspect of the Congress, event planning organisation MCI was engaged to manage a number of organisational and administrative aspects of the Congress. In addition to managing the speakers, marketing and promotion, sponsorship raising, accounting, venue and other key aspects of the congress, MCI was also responsible for delegate registration. As registrations were processed, individual confirmation letters were automatically generated. Delegate details were continuously updated in the event database, enabling registration and social function attendance numbers to be determined at any time. MCI also provided on-site event management, conducting delegate registration and overseeing all venue, exhibition hall, program, social and audiovisual aspects.

#### **5.3 Accommodation**

A block booking of accommodation rooms of varying sizes and prices was arranged with five large Brisbane hotels (Mantra South Bank, Chifley at Lennons, Ibis Brisbane, Hotel George Williams and Royal on the Park). All hotels proved to be very popular with the room blocks selling out in advance of the congress.

## 6. EVALUATION

### 6.1 Planning and organisation

The organisational structure behind the Congress was multifaceted and included a Local Organising Committee, an International Advisory Committee, the Socio-Scientific Committee, engaging with the Australian Association of Environmental Education, Wildlife Queensland and the WEEC Secretariat, and coordination with event planners MCI. Extensive work and commitment from the Local Organising Committee was required to maintain this structure and ensure efficient decision-making and progress. A vigilant approach was maintained by the Local Organising Committee throughout the planning process by maintaining a presence on the various committees, revising schedules, and assigning and re-assigning roles and responsibilities within teams to ensure continued functionality of the various structures of the Congress. Meetings were held regularly between parties in person and via Skype. For the 6th WEEC, the period of time between deciding to submit a proposal to host the event and the event itself was three and a half years. Over this time there were fluctuations in personnel, budget and political and socio-economic contexts. Despite the difficulties associated with such issues, the planning and organisation of the congress progressed smoothly and in accordance with the original intentions for the event. These issues also presented budgetary challenges, where a budget deficit for the project looked likely on numerous occasions. The financial objective of the event was to produce a breakeven budget. With concerted effort from the Local Organising Committee to recruit additional financial partners and rigorously oversee all financial transactions, the finances of the Congress have been resolved with a surplus.

### 6.2 Achievement of objectives

The Congress organising committee set seven objectives to guide the outcomes of the Congress. Each is discussed below.

*1. Broadening environmental education networks by facilitating a sharing between the international and Asia-Pacific environmental education community*

One of the key aims for the 6th WEEC was to raise the profile of environmental education in the region, and to raise the profile of WEEC and the WEEC Secretariat. By hosting a WEEC in this region, a space was created for sharing knowledge and experiences between the international and Asia-Pacific environmental education communities.

*2. Broadening and strengthening environmental education in the Asia-Pacific region.*

New networks and partnerships in the region were established and strengthened through the Congress.

*3. Providing a diverse and high quality program.*

This objective was met through the three-day program consisting of plenary sessions with keynote speakers, conference paper sessions, roundtable presentations, poster presentations and workshops on the congress themes. 313 submissions were accepted for paper presentation, 155 accepted for roundtable presentation and 70 for poster presentation.

*4. Supporting and mentoring new practitioners in the field.*

The Congress provided an excellent opportunity for networking and training. There were many young and early career delegates, with one of the plenary sessions being focussed on a youth panel discussion. In addition, many of the volunteers were students in the field who were introduced to key thinkers and ideas in the field through the Congress.

*5. Encouraging the sharing of knowledge, strategies, skills and practices to help to bridge the commitment-action gap.*

A number of strategies were employed to ensure shared learning amongst participants including the roundtable sessions, workshops and networking opportunities in the exhibition hall over meals and around posters. These spaces provided opportunity for collaborative learning and discussion, the roundtable sessions in particular explored many cultural settings and contexts. In addition, the many eco-responsibility initiatives and supports provided helped delegates to bridge the commitment-action gap.

*6. Exploring unique opportunities to influence public policy, especially education and environmental policy.*

The Congress brought together delegates who participate in social policy creation and critique, through presentations, discussion and the sharing of opinions at Congress forums and social activities. A number

of opportunities have been opened to influence public policy on education and the environment through the Congress.

#### *7. Exploring and experiencing sustainable living and being.*

The Congress delegates were encouraged to immerse themselves in sustainable living techniques, with the provision of a wholly vegetarian menu and continual promotion of the eco-responsibility code of the event. Many participants expressed consciousness and appreciation of the eco-responsibility measures with numerous accounts of offsetting emissions associated with their attendance.

### **6.3 Challenges**

A number of factors affected delegate attendance at the 6th WEEC and presented obstacles for the Local Organising Committee:

Extreme weather events in the region: In January 2011, six months before the Congress, extreme flooding affected Brisbane and its surrounds, with lives lost and significant damage to the city. The venue for the Congress, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre lies barely 100 metres from the Brisbane River and was extensively damaged. This flood event received global media attention and likely deterred potential delegates from attending. We also had to investigate potential alternative sites given uncertainty over how long it would take to repair the damage to BCEC.

Global Financial Crisis: The global economic situation undoubtedly impacted both the financing of the Congress through lower than anticipated sponsorship and attendance numbers. The difficulty engaging sponsorship support and a number of cancelled registrations can be directly attributed to the financial pressures in this context.

Strong Australian dollar: The comparative value of the Australian dollar was extremely high through 2011 at around parity (dollar for dollar) with the US dollar (rather than at around 70c to the US dollar as it had been for most of the decade prior). This high value was detrimental to the Congress as international delegates had to pay more than expected for travel, accommodation and food.

High cost of living in Australia: Brisbane has recently been listed as the 13<sup>th</sup> most expensive city in the world, more expensive than New York, London, Rome and Hong Kong. This compounded with the strong Australian dollar made Brisbane an expensive destination and no doubt contributed to lower than expected attendance from international delegates.

### **6.4 Delegate survey results**

All congress delegates were emailed a link to a survey created by the Local Organising Committee. Included in this survey were 23 questions about the Congress experience, as well as questions that would assist with measuring the environmental impact of the delegates' attendance at the congress. 253 respondents completed the survey. Results were resoundingly positive, with many accounts of good outcomes and experiences shared throughout the survey. An overwhelming majority of respondents (97%) rated the Congress as 'good' or 'excellent', with 85% saying the length was 'about right' and 65% saying the cost was 'good value'. Networking opportunities and the Congress dinner received endorsement with 65% of respondents rating both as 'excellent'. Congress organization, the program and presentations were all overwhelmingly 'good' to 'excellent'. The roundtable sessions were the most popular, with significant positive feedback on this format. 44% of respondents stated that they intended to attend WEEC 2013 in Morocco. A breakdown of responses is presented below:

Overall the Congress was:  
excellent (45%), good (42%), average (10%), fair (3%), poor (1%)

The length of the Congress was:  
too long (4%), about right (85%), too short (8%)

The cost of the Congress was:  
a poor investment (25%), good value (65%), an excellent investment (10%)

The catering was:  
poor (4%), fair (7%), average (11%), good (29%), excellent (50%)

The Congress organisation was:  
poor (0.4%), fair (3%), average (7%), good (39%), excellent (51%)

The content of the programme was:  
poor (2%), fair (2%), average (14%), good (54%), excellent (28%)

The standard of presentations was:  
poor (2%), fair (2%), average (14%), good (62%), excellent (21%)

The networking opportunities in the exhibition area were:  
poor (4%), average (31%), excellent (65%)

The congress dinner was:  
did not attend (21%), poor (1%), average (13%), excellent (65%)

Do you intend to attend the next WEEC in Morocco in 2013:  
yes (44%), no (57%)

Note: Main reason for “no” related to cost and distance to attend as most delegates at this Congress were Australians

Please rate the sustainable practices of the Congress relative to other conferences you have attended:  
Significantly lagging (2%), somewhat lagging (2%), on par (17%), somewhat leading (40%), significantly leading (39%)

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are a number of points that the WEEC Organising Committee would like emphasise for consideration when planning future WEECs.

### Event Specific:

- Networking lunches in the exhibition area surrounded by posters and displays were an excellent space for people to interact and connect.
- Congress dinner was a highlight for many delegates – make it a relaxed and fun event.
- Wholly vegetarian menu was very well received.
- Roundtable presentation format made presenters accessible and was popular and well received.

### Eco-responsibility:

- It is important to “walk the talk” and go beyond the rhetoric of environmental and social responsibility through actions such as catering, waste reduction, and carbon offsetting.
- Commitment to the sustainability vision and desired outcomes for the event is required from both organisers and event planners.
- Partnerships with stakeholders are useful mechanisms for achieving outcomes.
- Communicate policies, goals and how these will be achieved with all – organisers, partners, delegates and exhibitors.

### Congress Participants:

- Address diversity explicitly by acknowledging the cultural landscape of participants and ensure this is reflected in the diversity of origin and languages of volunteers.
- Target potential delegates from a variety of regions to ensure a diverse delegate cohort.

### Organisational

- Participatory structure for organisation allows for productive communication between committees and promotes informed decision-making.
- The organisation and delivery of the WEECs should be carried out in a way that reflects the values and culture of the field and community they represent: participation, sharing, sustainability, social equity, cost efficiency, respect, and environmental concern and care.
- All activities and outcomes should be summarised and reported on in a transparent and publicly accessible manner.

### Theme

- Suggested theme on Climate Change.

## **Appendix 1: Organising Committee**

### Congress Co-Chairs

Jo-Anne Ferreira and Cam Mackenzie

### Local Organising Committee

Jo-Anne Ferreira	Socio-Scientific Committee Chair
Cam Mackenzie	Partners Committee Chair; Finance Committee Co-Chair
Andre van Zyl	Finance Committee Co-Chair
Ali van der Graaf	Volunteers Committee Chair
Erin Lloyd	Eco-Responsibility Committee Chair
Hilary Macleod	Social Events Committee Chair
Lisa Ryan	Parallel Activities Committee Chair
Miranda Mason	Youth sub-Committee Chair; Marketing sub-Committee Chair
Ruth Vickery	Field Trips sub-Committee Chair
Sharon Marks	Sponsorship and Exhibition sub-Committee Chair
Flynn Ferguson	
Hilary Whitehouse	
Jennifer Pearson	
Joelle Bridger	
Julie Davis	
Karla Quintana	
Lisa Siegel	
Lyndal O’Gorman	
Noelene Rowntree	
Paul Hemphill	
Sarah Brikke	
Vicki Keliher	

### Advisory Committee

An International Advisory Committee consisting of past Congress chairs, and leading environmental educators.

Annette Gough, Australia  
Bob Jickling, Canada  
Bob Stevenson, USA  
Chuck Hopkins, UNESCO  
Daniella Tilbury, UK  
Fatima Lahlali, Morocco  
Fatima Zohra Benyaich, Morocco  
Heila Lotz, Australia  
Ian Robottom, Australia  
John Fien, Australia  
Lucie Sauve, Canada  
Mario Salmone, Italy  
Noel Gough, Australia  
Nouza Alaoui, Morocco  
Osamu Abe, Japan  
Phil Smith, Australia  
Phillip Payne, Australia  
Rod Welford, Australia  
Roy Ballantyne, Australia  
Seema Deo, Fiji  
Silvia Zaccaria, Italy  
Syd Smith, Australia  
Zinaida Fadeeva, UNESCO RCE

### Socio-Scientific Committee

Jo-Anne Ferreira, Socio-Scientific Committee Chair

Abel Barasa Atiti, Kenya  
Akpezi Ogbuigwe, UNEP  
Alan Reid, UK

Ali van der Graaf, Australia  
Amy Cutter-Mackenzie, Australia  
Andre van Zyl, Australia  
Antonio Elizalde, Chile  
Arjen Wals, Netherlands  
Chi-kin John Lee, Hong Kong  
Chris Reddy, South Africa  
Connie Russell, Canada  
Danielle Grynszpan, Brazil  
David Kopelke, Australia  
Edgar Gonzalez-Gaudiano, Mexico  
Elisabetta Faichetti, Italy  
Farida Khammar, Algeria  
Gilberto Cabrera Trimino, Cuba  
Guiliano Perez Reyes, Australia  
Hilary Macleod, Australia  
Hilary Whitehouse, Australia  
Hugo van Rooyen, South Africa  
Joaquim Ramos Pinto, Portugal  
Joe Heimlich, USA  
José Gutiérrez-Perez, Spain  
Ju Chou, Taiwan  
Julie Davis, Australia  
Justin Dillon, UK  
Kartikeya Sarabai, India  
Leesa Fawcett, Canada  
Lisa Ryan, Australia  
Mahesh Pradhan, Thailand  
Mandla Mhlipa, Swaziland  
Marc Alderweireldt, Belgium  
Marcia McKenzie, Canada  
Marcos Reigota, Brazil  
Marilia Andrade Torrales, Brazil  
Merce Junyent Pubil, Spain  
Michael Atchia, Mauritius  
Michele Bertholot, UNESCO UNU  
Muneenam (Mai) Umaporn, Thailand  
Noeleen Rowntree, Australia  
Paul Hart, Canada  
Paul Hempill, Australia  
Peter Blaze Corcoran, USA  
Prithi Nambiar, Australia  
Qing Tian, China  
Ravi Ravindranath, India  
Rita Bisoonauth, Mauritius  
Rob O'Donoghue, South Africa  
Silvia Patricia Acosta Castillo, Bolivia  
Stephen Sterling, UK  
Sun-Kyung Lee, Korea  
Ulisses Azeiteiro, Portugal  
Vicki Keliher, Australia  
Vinai Veeravatnanond, Thailand  
Wendy Goldstein, Australia  
Xiangrong Wang, China  
Yolanda Ziaka, Greece  
Yoshiyuki Nagata, Japan  
Yukio Kamino, Japan  
Yunhua Liu, China  
Yves Girault, France

## Appendix 2: Delegates by Country

Delegate breakdown by country	
Argentina	1
Australia	485
Belgium	1
Botswana	1
Brazil	19
Canada	15
Colombia	1
Cuba	1
Cyprus	2
Denmark	2
Finland	3
France	1
Georgia	1
Germany	3
India	3
Indonesia	4
Iran	1
Israel	1
Italy	13
Jamaica	1
Japan	10
Kenya	1
Laos	1
Latvia	2
Malaysia	2
Mexico	6
Morocco	1
Namibia	1
Nepal	1
NZ	11
Norway	1
PNG	2
Philippines	1
PR China	6
Puerto Rico	2
Republic of Korea	2
Singapore	2
Slovenia	1
South Africa	14
Spain	5
Sweden	12
Taiwan	7
Thailand	1
Trinidad & Tobago	1
UAE	6
UK	3
USA	15
Venezuela	1

### **Appendix 3: Financial Statement**

<b>Meeting Income - GST Inc.</b>	
Registration	585,720
Non registrants	3,360
Function ticket sales	5,040
Tours	16,096
Sponsorship	126,200
Sundry income	10,778
<b>Sub-total Meeting Income - GST Inc.</b>	<b>747,194</b>
<b>Meeting Expenses - GST Inc.</b>	
Secretarial	22,137
Mailing	1,424
Printing and production	41,685
Website	16,239
Program	14,061
Staging	73,700
Internet kiosk	2,330
Sponsors	23,578
Venue	82,775
Promotion/advertising	10,773
Finance fees	23,417
Organisers fees	137,489
Sundry expenses	20,038
Social functions	177,844
Tours	17,716
Calculated allowances	14,450
<b>Sub-total Meeting Expenses – GST Inc.</b>	<b>679,656</b>
<b>Sub-total Meeting Surplus - GST Inc</b>	<b>67,538</b>
<b>Exhibition Income – GST Inc.</b>	
Exhibition sales	29,000
Other	462
<b>Sub-total Exhibition Income - GST Inc.</b>	<b>29,462</b>
<b>Exhibition Expenses - GST Inc.</b>	
Print items	572
Venue costs	5,469
Panel/on site hire	8,145
Organisers fees	8,149
Sundry	195
<b>Sub-total Exhibition Expenses - GST Inc.</b>	<b>22,530</b>
<b>Sub-total Exhibition Surplus - GST Inc.</b>	<b>6,932</b>
<b>Total Congress Surplus – GST Inc.</b>	<b>74,470</b>

## **Appendix B**

# The Australian Association of Environmental Educators (AAEE) : strategic plan 2012-2014

AAEE is the peak national member based organisation delivering sustainability through education based community programs and national and international partnerships

## OUR STRUCTURE

State and  
Territory  
Chapters

## National Executive

Individual and  
Corporate members

Working  
Groups

## Special Interest Groups

Teacher & Teacher  
Education  
Early Childhood  
Nature Educators  
Marine Educators  
Local Government

## National Partnerships

AESA  
MESA  
AFSSSE  
NEF  
SESA

## Community programs on

Waste minimisation  
Permaculture  
Energy smart initiatives  
Resource Recovery  
Community Gardens  
Community Science & Sustainability events  
Sustainability courses and curricula

## International Partnerships

Abu Dhabi EA  
NZAEE  
CEE, India  
NAAEE  
ENSI

Our Mission: to advance environmental education and sustainable living through advocacy and action supporting our members and the wider community

## Our Approach

AAEE leads the national delivery of programs, information and training services through:

- Member Services.
- Communications.
- Partnerships.
- Advocacy and Lobbying.
- Professional Development.
- Governance.

## Opportunities for 2012-2014

National and International focus on Sustainable Development: Rio 20+ Conference  
Final stage of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014  
Need for sustainability skills from business and industry  
Further development of the Australian Curriculum and associated training and PDs

## Our Activities

- Support for community programs.
- Input to national and state policy.
- National and State Chapter meetings.
- Publication of the Australian Association of Environmental Education Journal – discounted to members
- Monthly E-bulletin
- Website support for chapters
- Quarterly ozEEnews newsletter
- Annual environmental educator of the year award.
- Special Interest Groups
- Biennial Brian Foreman Travel Scholarship for Biennial Conference
- Annual AAEE Fellowship
- Biennial national conference: 2012 'Our Next Courageous Steps' - 2014 Tasmania

# The Australian Association of Environmental Educators (AAEE) : strategic plan 2012-2014

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2012-2014

## PRIORITIES THROUGH 2012-2014

## OUTCOMES BY 2014

Advancing Sustainability in Curricula

Sustainability integrated into Curricula and teaching in Early Childhood, School, Tertiary and Business. Sustainability teaching recognises link to place, experiential learning, critical & creative integration. AAEE advocate policy position from members.

Sustainability well represented and integrated into all courses. PD and training in place for teachers and educators. AAEE key body for consultation.

Advocacy on education for sustainability

Continue shaping new Australian Curriculum. Seek commitment for sustainability to be included in pre service teacher training (provided by AAEE). Seek Government or Ministerial Council endorsement for sustainability education initiatives.

Government funds community education initiatives. Sustainability education a mandatory component of all pre-service teacher training.

Youth priorities

Youth membership section created in AAEE. Number of youth members increased. AAEE website linked to social media. Partnerships with youth organisations

AAEE membership reflects social demographics. AAEE membership relevant to youth organisations. AAEE services support youth education.

Operational Security

AAEE membership supports strategic priorities. Membership expanded so that AAEE has secure financial base for ongoing operations. AAEE SIGs ad WGs deliver on agreed work programs. AAEE has clear focus and is seen to deliver on it.

AAEE is well resourced. Members value services, can outline what AAEE does. Future priorities agreed.