

# **Australian Association for Environmental Education**

## **Annual Report 2012/2013**



## 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 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; Local Government; Nature Educators; Research and Marine Educators.

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;
- ✚ 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 (SIGs) forums;
- ✚ participation in State Chapters;
- ✚ a voice to State and Federal governments about relevant issues.

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

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## Structure of the Report

Executive, Special Interest Groups and Chapter 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.

### 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.aee.org.au](http://www.aee.org.au) or by emailing [admin@aee.org.au](mailto:admin@aee.org.au).

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## 2012/13 AAEE Highlights

A few key achievements this year ...

- ✚ The AAEE National Executive Committee Planning Meeting on Saturday 23rd – Monday 25th February at the Conservation Council ACT & Region in Canberra. Dr Owen Cameron facilitated the strategic planning sessions.
- ✚ The 17th Biennial National Conference of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) was held on 30th September – 3rd October 2012 in Melbourne, Victoria. Report available on website.
- ✚ The Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (ASEA) held meetings with the Prime Minister's Policy Advisor in February 2013.  
The research project to better understand how to support teachers to include EfS in their curriculum will be completed by December. In June of 2013 additional funds were secured from DEEWR to carry out the fourth phase of this work.
- ✚ The Skilling Educators for Sustainability Australia (SESA) project secured Lorraine Larri as the Project Manager in November of 2012 who met with the Executive in Canberra in February 2013 to update us about the project.
- ✚ Mr Syd Smith was named a Fellow of AAEE at the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference.
- ✚ The Teacher & Teacher Educator SIG continues to advocacy for EfS in emerging Australian Curriculum. Both David and Jennifer attended an ACARA forum National Trade Cadetship Years 11-12 National Forum.
- ✚ The AAEE website has undergone a review and upgrade to provide a more interactive front page presence. There are also changes to the members section so that continues to be revised to provide more membership resources.
- ✚ Prospectus for AAEE EC and Chapters to use in the work of promoting the association and in support of funding grants and lobbying.

## The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) of the 2012/2013 were well represented across the Chapters and included the following:

President	Jennifer Pearson	WA
Vice President	Bren Weatherstone	ACT
Vice President	Sue Elliot	VIC
Vice President	Graeme Sawyer	NT
Treasurer	Robert Li	NSW
Secretary	Hilary Whitehouse	QLD

Committee Members:

1. David Butler	SA
2. Mary Catus-Wood	VIC
3. Jenny Dudgeon	TAS
4. Sue Martin	NSW
5. Shaun Cousins	TAS
6. Vanessa Whelan	ACT

## 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. Past AAEE Australian Environmental Educator of the Year Award recipients have been:

2007	Frank Fisher	VIC
2008	Richard Smith	SA
2009	Annie Beecroft	TAS
	Jennifer Pearson	WA
2010	Grahame Collier	NSW
2011	Cam Mackenzie	QLD
2012	Elaine Lewis	WA

**2013 nominations are:**

ACT	– Vanessa Whelan
NSW	– Phil Smith
QLD	– Noeleen Rowntree
SA	– Simon Bowden
TAS	– Jenny Burdon
VIC	– Jason Kimberley
WA	– Vicky Hartill

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

The 2013 Award will be presented at the AGM and we look forward to congratulating the recipient of this award and acknowledging all the worthy nominees.

## AAEE Membership

Membership stands at 521 with a noticeable pickup in individual memberships. AAEE is aware of the challenges facing associations in retaining members and attracting new members and we are continually looking at ways to gain a higher profile. The launch of the new website toward the end of 2013 will allow individual member login access to the Members Only section.

The following table provides the breakup of membership categories at 30 June, 2013 as well as the membership numbers from 2010-2013:



(1) Includes Family, Life Honorary and MoU members

(2) Excludes Journal Subscription

## National 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.

### Communications

Communication with members is almost exclusively via email. One exception to this rule in 2013 has been a trial mail out of renewal notices.

### Australian Journal of EE

Dr Amy Cutter-Mackenzie facilitates the move of the AJEE to Cambridge University Press which will take the journal to an international readership and enhance the work of AAEE. Members will receive two issues of the journal as part of their membership, and at \$132 per edition this represents great value. There will also be an electronic copy made available in the members section of the website and members are encouraged to nominate for an online edition to save resources. Please contact Kate Elder if you wish to do this.

### ozEEnews

Jo Kelly from Queensland and Kate Elder, Admin Coordinator, have collaborated on the ozEEnews this year. These have arrived in a timely way and have showcased each of the themes with valuable input from members. The Special Interest Group in February generated a lot of interest and more members aligning with the SIG that supports their occupation and interests.

### E-Bulletin

The electronic monthly newsletter continues to be popular and represents an effective way to communicate with members. This effective and useful tool is well received and expanding as members and MOU partners benefit from having stories, promotion of events, competitions and conferences promoted to an expanding audience.

### AAEE Communication Tools

The AAEE Prospectus has been restructured to provide a concise story of our Association, thanks to the Treasurer Robert Li for leading this development and to Executive & Liaison Committee members for your input. This tool will now be used to seek sponsorship for a range of projects and initiatives, especially the Tasmanian 18th AAEE Biennial Conference.

## Website

The website has been refreshed with an interactive front page design and members section that will enable you all to keep track of your registrations and profile to let others know of your expertise. The members section will continue to be improved as members submit items to be shared.

## Partnerships

### Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

- ✚ New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE)
- ✚ Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- ✚ Japanese Environmental Education Association (JEEA)
- ✚ North American Environmental Education Association (NAEEA)
- ✚ Center for Environment Education (India)

## Alliance Membership for Projects

1. **Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance (AESA)** which includes Environment Institute Australia and New Zealand, Australian Conservation Foundation, National Tertiary Education Union, Australian Education Union, Independent Education Union, Catholic Earth Care, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability.

AESA held meetings with the Prime Minister's Policy Advisor in February 2013 to determine what was required to secure ongoing funding for the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI). Subsequent work almost arrived at a commitment by Minister Burke of SEWPaC but the challenges in the Government prevented this being finalised.

The Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) steering committee is a unique group that has never worked together before on a combined project. They are Jane Aitken, Esther Robinson (DEEWR), Deborah Palmer (ACARA), Daniel Hughes (ESA), Kate Lynch (SEWPAC), Graham Tupper (ACF), Jennifer Pearson (AAEE) and Meredith Peace (AEU).

The Melbourne AAEE biennial conference provided a forum for the project to be promoted to members. The project title is "*Advancing the implementation of Education for Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum - Views from the Classroom and Community ("EFS project")*". The activities included a video address by the Minister, the Hon Peter Garrett, MP and a plenary presentation by Deborah Palmer, ACARA. Graham Tupper conducted a workshop and distributed materials about the project to conference participants to raise awareness of the project and gathering specific curriculum case study materials.

Having a strong network we were able to engage with every Chapter in our organisation to significantly support the research project focus meetings, teleconference surveys and online surveys. The preliminary report was delivered to the Steering Committee in July 2013 with an emerging model of how to engage with the school systems to implement the cross curriculum priorities of sustainably. The final report will be presented in November and distributed to the member. In June of 2013 additional funds were secured from DEEWR to carry out the second phase of this work.

2. **Skilling Educators for Sustainability Australia (SESA)** which includes Australian Water Association & Waste Management Association Australia working for professional development of EFS providers.

The Skilling Educators for Sustainability Australia (SESA) project secured Lorraine Larri as the Project Manager in November of 2012 who met with the Executive in Canberra in February 2013 to update us about the project. Lorraine conducted a forum with an Industry Reference Group to determine what is required. Early indications are that providers need up-skilling about how to identify and maximise opportunities to include sustainability system issues into their courses/presentation.

The project will focus on Waste and Water issues and now enters the research phase carrying out the following - *Work with Industry Reference Group (IRG) to review existing skills and knowledge and develop set of core skills and knowledge describing best practice in EFS.*

This important project would not be possible without the considerable efforts of both Graeme Collier and Pat Armstrong who have contributed so much to this work over the past years. The ongoing involvement of Phil Smith and Colin Hocking, Angela Colliver and Jennifer Pearson ensure continuity of AAEE presence. The Local Government SIG have provided timely support when requests for contacts within the waste and water industry are required for surveys. We continue to collaborate with AWA and WMAA and thank the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) for their support of this important work.

### **Membership of Education groups**

National Educators Federation (NEF) and the Australian Federation of Society for Studies of Science and Environment (AFSSSE).

### **Advocacy & Lobbying**

#### **ACARA**

The Teacher & Teacher Educator SIG, led by David Butler, continues to advocacy for EfS in the Australian Curriculum with critical reviews of Geography Curriculum and Civics and Citizen Curriculum. Both David and Jennifer attended an ACARA forum National Trade Cadetship Years 11-12 National Forum on Friday 9 August 2013 hosted by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and provided feedback on implementing EfS into this new curriculum area.

#### **SEWPAC**

The position of AuSSI as a program best placed to meet the cross curriculum priority of Sustainability continued to be raised with this department as part of the AESA project. With a change of Federal Government this will need to be reinvigorated over the next 12 months with the position of the National Action Plan has not been clarified.

### **Member Services**

**The 17th Biennial National Conference of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE)** was held on 30th September – 3rd October 2012 in Melbourne, Victoria. The theme of the conference was *Creating Our Next Courageous Steps (Next Steps 2012)* and the team lead by Jane Ryan and Sarah Houseman provided a diverse and innovative conference which attracted 350 conference attendees. There was representation from all Australian states and territories and 23 international delegates; 52% came from metropolitan and regional Victoria. This total includes representatives from our sponsors, partner organisations and Industry Fair displayers. The Executive provided a thank you letter to all committee members on behalf of all members.

#### **Administration Coordinator**

Kate Elder attended the 17th Biennial Conference in Melbourne where members were able to meet her in person. Kate has established a great rapport with the EC, SIG leaders, Liaison and Convenors in Chapters and our partners.

#### **Chapter Membership Reimbursement**

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 is important that Chapters have some direct financial capacity to grow their groups.

#### **NZAAE Reciprocal Conference Delegate**

Chris Eames attend the Biennial Conference in Melbourne to present at the AGM about the 2014 conference with an invitation for 2 members to be provided with free tickets.

#### **NAEEA Reciprocal Conference Delegate**

The invitation from the NAEEA for a member to attend the conference was taken up by Shelby Gull Laird, Charles Sturt University.

## **The 18th Biennial National Conference of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE): Sustainability – Smart Strategies for the 21st Century (2-4 November 2014)**

The Tasmania Chapter is well advanced with planning for the 2014 Biennial Conference in Hobart. Updates will be placed on the website regularly. There is also planning for a Research Symposium, 2014, to be held in Hobart on 1<sup>st</sup> November, in conjunction with the AAEE National conference so book the dates.

### **Governance**

The AAEE National Executive Committee Planning Meeting on Saturday 23rd – Monday 25th February at the Conservation Council ACT & Region in Canberra. We started with a meeting of the SIG Leaders who discussed what their groups were trying to achieve for members, how to communicate effectively and a commitment to share resources with each other.

Dr Owen Cameron facilitated the strategic planning session on the Sunday with the EC becoming clear about the capacity of the national group to deliver benefits for members and how to support Chapters to grow their capacity to deliver activities, events and information about EfS across all sectors we operate throughout.

### **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)**

The website has a dedicated page for members to donate funds for AAEE to use for a range of projects. There has been a change in the legal obligations of operating funds, see below.

### **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 the decision making occurring.

### **Chapter Liaison Meetings**

These have occurred every 2 months since October 2010 and have been very well attended.

### **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.

New definition of ‘charity’ Date of effect: July 1st 2013. From July 1st 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.

### **Special Interest Groups**

SIGs have been established to help members develop particular interests and share information and resources specific to that topic. 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. The Association currently has SIGs in Early Childhood Education, Teachers & Teacher Education, Local Government, Nature Educators and Marine Education. Reports from two of our SIGs follows:

#### **Local Government SIG**

The LG SIG has 70 members. Tricia Donnelly (from Cessnock Council) was the inaugural convenor of the group in November 2012. A survey was conducted in the early 2013 (with an invitation to participate sent to every Council in Australia) which resulted in 60 responses from every state (a summary of these results has been posted on the SIG page of the AAEE website). E-mail updates are being circulated to members quarterly including information of particular interest to the Local Government sector. An opportunity for AAEE to take over the NSW Sustainable Councils Network, and widen it to the whole country, has been proposed and being considered.



*Photo of Warneet Boat Hire high tide 21/4/11 - courtesy of David Westlake, City of Casey*

## Early Childhood SIG

The EC SIG run by Sue Elliot has approximately 50 members.

### Communications

The association including the EC SIG has been promoted through professional development and informal contacts. Two contributions to the ozEEnews have been published.

### Partnerships

Nationally ECA continues to be a partner in promoting EfS. Sustainability is a key theme for a number of ECA recent and forthcoming publications to support practitioners. SIG members Julie Davis, Tracy Young, Amy Cutter Mackenzie and Sue Elliott have been the authors.

The Seedlings project, a funded 3y partnership between five local governments in Victoria, is now being trialled to resource sustainability across early childhood services and several SIG members are participating in the reference group.

In Perth, WA, further funding for the Little Green steps Program is being sought to further local government partnerships.

Sustainability Victoria has recently launched a new project to explore the possibility of the AuSSI program in early childhood settings. Tracy Young will be conducting a workshop for the statewide facilitators to begin this project.

Julie Davis is facilitating a partnership between QUT and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary Qld to build a sustainable early childhood centre on site. This innovative project involves tertiary students at QUT from design, architecture and early childhood.

International partnerships are consolidating through the work of a number of SIG members, the OMEP conference in Shanghai, July 2013 placed a focus on sustainability as integral to quality in early childhood education.

### Member Services

Members have received one newsletter emailed in December 2012 and a few ongoing updates as information comes to hand.

### Professional Development

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. A few examples are listed below:

- ✚ The Japanese Ecosystem Conservation Society conducted their third early childhood study tour to Melbourne and Sydney in August 2013. Also, Little Village Child Development Centre educators from Singapore visited Melbourne in August 2013.
- ✚ Best Start workshop February 2013, Gordon TAFE workshop, June 2013 by Sue Elliott
- ✚ KU Conference Sydney, November 2012, workshop by Julie Gaul and Deb Watson re EcoSmart.
- ✚ The three state based groups EEEEC, NSW ECEEN and QECSN have just held or are about to hold 2013 state based conferences. These have been highly successful days with up to 160 attendees at each event.

### Professional Development

- ✚ Julie Gaul and Deb Watson at NSW ECEEN have launched the Ecosmart Guide to the new National Quality Standards (NQS). Nationally this supports services implementing the NQS and developing Quality Improvement Plans across the NQS. Uptake has been significant and the guide is available from [www.eceen.org.au](http://www.eceen.org.au).
- ✚ Julie Davis's edited text book 'Young children and the environment' (2010) to be published in Korean soon and a second edition to be published in 2014. This publication is an ECA best seller.
- ✚ Elliott, S. (in press). Sustainability and the Early Years Learning Framework. Sydney: Pademelon Press.
- ✚ Elliott, S., Edwards, S., Davis, J. and Cutter-McKenzie, A. (2013), ECA Best of Sustainability: Research, theory and practice, Watson, ACT: Early Childhood Australia.
- ✚ Smith, K., Wheeler, L. Guevara, J. R., Gough, A. & Fein, J. (2012). Conversations on school-community learning partnerships for sustainability: A guidebook. Bundoora, Victoria: RMIT University. (includes an EC case study).
- ✚ Two new Professional Learning Program articles online via ECA:

[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/NQS\\_PLP\\_E-Newsletter\\_No59.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/NQS_PLP_E-Newsletter_No59.pdf)

[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/NQS\\_PLP\\_E-Newsletter\\_No60.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/NQS_PLP_E-Newsletter_No60.pdf)

### Other Comments

EC EfS is strongly visible and now with systemic support from the NQS and NSWEEEN Ecosmart Guide there are increasing opportunities for SIG members to facilitate change. It is noted that sustainability (QA3 in the NQS) has been identified through initial ACECQA reports as an area not well addressed by services. This is an opportune time to resource the sector and long term advocates and networks are in a key position to do this.

Many thanks to all the EC SIG members for their contributions and to the AAEE Council and administrative staff for their support.

### Chapter Reports

Each Chapter is asked to report in the same way so that a collective story can be presented. State/Territory Chapters report activity against the focus areas and organisational objectives as presented in the AAEE Constitution. They are presented in alphabetical order where available. Reports not presented at time of annual reporting will be available at a later date on the website.

### Australian Capital Territory – Convenor Vanessa Whelan

The AAEE ACT Chapter has enjoyed another busy and rewarding year. As we are a small but enthusiastic committee, the Chapter dedicates it's time and energy into one major project each year. This year our project has focused on those tourist destinations which provide educational programs for the general public and for visiting schools

The aim of this year's project has been to help education managers of each national institution identify how the organising ideas of the sustainability cross curriculum perspective links particularly to the programs they offer to visiting schools from around Australia.

In February 2013 the AAEE ACT Chapter Committee facilitated a session on Education for Sustainability at the regular meeting of education managers of Canberra's national institutions. AAEE ACT invited Syd Smith to attend the meeting to provide an overview of EfS. Following Syd's presentation, the committee worked individually with the education managers to list the programs they currently offer to schools and to help them identify any links to sustainability in each program. AAEEACT is very keen to promote Syd's excellent *Teaching for Sustainability* Cupitt & Smith, 2012 [ Masterclass, Macmillan].

The response from the education managers was extremely positive with one manager saying "I have never thought of looking at my program through the lens of sustainability before". The committee is now collating this information into a document that we hope to be able to promote on both the AAEE website and the websites of each national tourist destination.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the AAEE ACT Chapter Committee for their endless dedication and commitment. I enjoy working with them and with different sectors of the ACT community to further promote and support education for sustainability.

#### AAEE ACT committee members are:

<b>President</b>	Vanessa Whelan
<b>Vice President</b>	Bren Weatherstone
<b>Secretary</b>	Eliza Hopkins
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jill Buscombe
<b>National Liaison Officers</b>	Lara Lloyd and Eliza Hopkins

#### Committee Members:

Jennifer MacDonald, Clair Bannerman, Vivienne Pearce, Josh Creaser, Sue Jones, Melanie Pill

The remainder of this report will include a summary of activities from organisations/programs for which AAEE reports on at our committee meetings and tries to support and promote as much as possible. These organisations include the Conservation Council ACT Region, Kids Teaching Kids, AuSSI ACT and the ACT P&C Council.

### Conservation Council ACT Region (CCACTR)

In 2012-13 CCACTR produced some excellent education for environmental sustainability resource booklets on the cultural and natural heritage for the Belconnen and Gungahlin areas. This is an ongoing project intending to produce booklets to cover all the urban areas in the ACT. The Project Officer has consulted with members of the ACT Chapter in the content and design of these publications.

Our Chapter is a Member Organisation of the Council and we benefit from having regular bulletins going out to our members informing them about what's going on in our local environment. This includes regular discussion on a number of important issues such as our relationship with the rest of the Murray-Darling Basin particularly with regard to water quality and use and a lively discussion of kangaroo culling – a very controversial topic for the *bush capital* region.

### AUSSI ACT Report

All ACT schools have registered with the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI). This year AuSSI ACT has continued to support these schools to introduce sustainable management practices into every day school operations, including:

- + resources to reduce energy and water consumption and waste going to landfill (includes best practice guides for energy, waste and water and accompanying curriculum units)
- + comprehensive waste audit conducted in a selection of schools to calculate typical percentage of waste types in schools (over 85% of schools waste can be recycled or reused – the bulk of this is organics)
- + organics pick up trial commenced in four schools
- + assistance to schools to establish and maintain a waste and recycling system
- + comprehensive water audits and reports with recommendations on how to reduce water consumption
- + school garden consultations by a qualified horticulturist (including advice on food gardens, landscape design to reduce water and energy use, composting and keeping chickens)
- + promotional poster reinforcing that each school is part of AuSSI ACT – ‘working together to create a sustainable future’, distributed to all schools with a brochure outlining the services and resources provided by AuSSI ACT
- + teacher workshops on:
  - improving energy efficiency and using school photovoltaic systems as a tool for teaching and learning
  - water efficiency and water resources available to ACT schools
  - food gardens, composting, chickens and hot houses (a ‘how-to’ workshop)
  - implementing sustainable waste and recycling systems (this comprised a visit to two ‘best practice’ schools and an afternoon planning workshop)
- + Increased numbers of schools accredited in the sustainable management of energy and water.

### P&C Council Report

ACT P&C Council has been busy this year supporting and promoting sustainable activities in ACT Government Schools. Our quarterly newsletter “*Parent ACTION*” has a regular sustainable schools page, in which the Council showcases activities in government schools such as green fetes, waste watch, veggie gardens and sustainable activities. We have also heavily promoted at our various meetings and through the newsletter the ACT SEE Change Centenary 2020 Vision Project. The project brings together both government and independent schools to help students think practically and imaginatively how Canberra will change in the next seven years as Canberra works towards our Government target of reducing carbon emissions to 40% less than they were in 1990. The project is made up of an exhibition /competition of student work leading up to a Parliament of Youth in early November 2013, during which sustainability issues will be debated and discussed.

In the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election, P&C Council met with various federal parliamentary representatives to discuss issues of concern to parents in the ACT. One of the issues raised was the loss of AuSSI funding federally. Council will also be raising this issue at the ACSSO (Australian Council of State Schools) national conference to be held in October in Canberra this year.

### Kids Teaching Kids Conference

AAEE ACT continues to support the ACT Kids Teaching Kids Conferences by providing sponsorship for each conference. Refer to Appendix A for a report on the 2012 Kids Teaching Kids Conference.

## New South Wales Chapter: Convenor Mark Caddey

### Communications

- + Costa Georgiadis, ABC Gardening Host, has agreed to be the Patron of the NSW Chapter. Here is a link to a promo that he provided for us <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a4Ka1fphG4>.
- + Facebook page as part of the communication strategy – 175 friends.
- + ‘Conversations’ AAEE NSW Journal sent to 3000 schools with positive comments and responses.
- + The [www.aaeensw.org.au](http://www.aaeensw.org.au) website continues to be an effective communication portal for the Association.
- + The NSW Executive communicates information regularly to state members via email.
- + AAEE NSW manned a stall at the Ryde TAFE conference.

### Partnerships

AAEE NSW is now a member group of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

AESA project has completed two research components with significant input from NSW AAEE including:

- + Members consultation
- + Mark Caddey on the project management group

### Advocacy & Lobbying

#### Sustainability Education in NSW Future Directions

A number of significant research papers have been completed in partnership with the Association. AAEE NSW has been successful in seeking funding from the NSW Government to develop an education for Sustainability framework for NSW. A project management group made up of some committee members is coordinating the project with Grahame Collier facilitating the consultation and framework development.

### Member Services

- + NSW Environmental Educator of the Year Awards were presented at the 2012 NSW AAEE Annual General Meeting and dinner. The 2012 award recipients were:
  - Mark Caddey - Formal Education
  - Barbara Jensen - Government Agency
  - Julie Gaul and Deb Watson - Community Education Award
  - Phil Smith - NSW Environmental Educator of the Year
- + Jem Hansen remains in the NSW Project Officer position. The role provides administrative management for the state Chapter. Funding for this position was provided by the NSW Environmental Trust and continues until mid-2013.
- + Strategies to better engage with TAFE
- + Started trial of Associate Membership through Conversations – free one year trial membership.

### Professional Development

- + AAEE NSW completed its contract to manage the EfS Learning hub; project officer Kate Kilgour managed this project.
- + NSW Conference 26 & 27 September 2013, Dubbo with Sue Saxby coordinating. The annual conference is being presented by AAEE NSW, [www.nsweeconference.org.au](http://www.nsweeconference.org.au)
- + Support for the 2015 Environmental Education Conference in the Hunter.
- + AAEE NSW executives attended WEEC 2013 in Marrakech.
- + NSW AAEE Gould League travelling scholarship was first awarded to Kirsty Flickers from Coffs Harbour Council and in 2013 awarded to Dr Justine Jacob Lismore High School.

### Governance

- + The NSW Executive Committee meets quarterly to implement the current NSW AAEE strategic plan.
- + Development of AAEE NSW Action Plan’ and review of Strategic Plan and development of ‘AAEE NSW Profile and Strategic Priorities’ document.
- + NSW AAEE produces an annual treasurer’s report.
- + The NSW AAEE Executive has 12 months remaining in the committee positions

### Other Comments

- + LECG – grant \$5000

- ✚ AAEE NSW, Office of Environment and Heritage and the National Committee are negotiating the management of the Professional learning EfS 'Hub' [www.efslarninghub.net.au/](http://www.efslarninghub.net.au/)
- ✚ Meeting with Chinese Environmental Education Delegation September 2013. Chinese government delegation from Environmental Protection Department of Jiangsu Province. It is a part of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (PRC) charged with protecting the environment in Jiangsu Province, including the governance of environmental pollution and nature conservation, future communication through an MOU with the national body is being negotiated.

## South Australia: Convenor Sophie Rogers

### Communications

The Chapter communicates with its members via the national communication instruments – the e-news, ozEEnews and AJEE – and its website. An e-list for AAEE (SA) members has also been created to share ideas, events, and inquiries.

### Partnerships

The Chapter has an ongoing relationship with:

- ✚ The Outdoor Education Association of SA (OEASA) are continuing discussions about possible cooperation in the co-convening of a national conference in Adelaide in 2016. David Doherty, principal of Arbury Park Outdoor School, provides the main contact between our two organisations.
- ✚ Waite Campus Children's Centre of the University of Adelaide.
- ✚ The Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (AMLR NRM) Board's education personnel, especially in professional development and lobbying activities noted below.
- ✚ The Council of Education Associations of SA (CEASA) of which it is a member
- ✚ South Australian Studies of Society and Environment held their annual conference of which Sophie Rogers and Lee Griggs gave presentations and held an AAEE stall

### Advocacy & Lobbying

AAEE (SA) has:

- ✚ 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.
- ✚ On behalf of AAEE(National), David Butler wrote a submission for the Civics and Citizenship Australian Curriculum

### Member Services

The Chapter has contributed to member services by:

- ✚ Andy Coleman's management of the Chapter website.
- ✚ Promotion of the professional development opportunities listed below

### Professional Development

- ✚ AMLR NRM Education invited the AAEE(SA) Chapter to co-organise Education for Sustainability (EfS) Network meetings. The EfS Network is made up of members from various sectors including waste education, local council, tertiary education, teachers, and NGOs with a schools focus. The meetings are hosted at different venues, each with a particular theme. Each meeting has about 40 members attending. The meetings all have a Professional Development input from a guest speaker, discussion/reflection session on the theme (facilitated by AAEE (SA) members), explanation on a network member's organisation, and updates (including new resources developed).
- ✚ On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March the Adelaide Botanic Gardens hosted the EfS network meeting with the theme 'engaging in green spaces'. David Butler and David Doherty ran the sharing session on Food and Sustainability that was so successful last year. There was a tour of the Botanic Garden's new wetlands (not yet completed) and presentations on aspects of their programs: IT applications, community food gardens and green spaces. Since the meeting was held during the Adelaide Fringe Festival and WOMAdelaide we invited Michael Mills from Heaps Good Productions to give an 'audience participation' workshop on communicating sustainability through music and performance.
- ✚ On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July St Catherine's School, Stirling hosted the EfS network meeting with the theme of 'Challenges of transformation for school and communities'. We had a very thought provoking session

with UK co-founder of the Pop Up Foundation Paul Clarke discuss their various initiatives including Thoughtful Coffee and Bioneers Project. He also facilitated a discussion on the global implications of food production. St Catherine's student environment group gave a tour of the school (including their vegie patch and wetlands) and a presentation on their nest box project. Catholic Education (SA) gave an outline of their sustainability education programs. David Larritt and David Doherty facilitated a discussion on the day's events.

- ✚ Our next EfS network meeting is planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> of December with guest speakers from the Department of Education and Child Development and consultant Joy De Leo to explore Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum. We will also have a sustainable Kris Kringle and AAEE (SA) Christmas drinks at a local pub afterwards.

### Governance

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 2014 will assist it in maintaining and developing its contact with Chapter members and other EE/EfS educators in SA.

### Publications

AAEE (SA) intends that the materials EfS Network meetings will be collated and developed into a resource of use to other AAEE Chapters and associations. Amy Blaylock has already shared many of these resources at the National Liaison meetings.

### Thank You and Congratulations

As Convenor, I would like to thank all the Committee members for their thoughtful ideas and dedication this year towards some very successful activities. We are also looking forward to continuing developing plans for the National Conference in Adelaide in 2016.

## Western Australia Chapter: Convenor Jennifer Pearson

### Communications

- ✚ **WA Chapter Email network** - regularly forward information through network about a range of PD offered from the Chapter and other organisations relevant to 58 members.
- ✚ **WA Chapter Facebook**, this site was set up to encourage members and non-members to contribute stories, information about resources and jobs available. There are now 120 people who have 'liked' the site and we have up to 172 contacts read some stories. This connects members in Derby to Albany in our large state.
- ✚ **WA Chapter Website** is regularly updated with project reports, upcoming events and there have been a range of people use the contact email system to request support for EfS ideas and projects. The website now hosts resources created through Turtle Watch and Little Green Steps.
- ✚ **Little Green Steps Newsletter** a quarterly newsletter has been developed to support the delivery of the LGS program, and includes links to events, programs and resources provided by the AAEEWA and its partners (mailing list has grown to 300+ members).
- ✚ **Environmental Educators Network**, email once a month which is managed by DPaW on behalf of AAEE WA Chapter, to advertise upcoming events for a range of EE providers across the state.
- ✚ **Conservation Council of WA** 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.

### Partnerships

- ✚ **Perth Zoo**, continued involvement with them for joint events but in August we were informed that the Education Team had been radically reduced due to budget cuts. Future joint activities like Catchments, Corridors & Coasts and Biological Earth Environmental Science Career day will need to be reviewed.
- ✚ **City of Canning**, The utilisation of the Canning River Eco Education Centre as a home base for AAEE (WA); allows 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) 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January** included, Red Hill Waste Management Facility; Department of Environment and Conservation; Shire of Mundaring; Eastern Hills Catchment Management; Perth Hills Forest Centre, Kanyana Rehabilitation, Perth Zoo, South East Regional Centre

for Urban Landcare (SERCUL); Swan River Trust; Phosphorus Awareness Project; Canning River Eco Education Centre, Ribbons of Blue; Water Corporation Waterwise Schools Program; Aboriginal Heritage; Environmental Technology Centre; The Department of Fisheries' Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre and the Western Australian Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories; Ocean Reef SHS Marine Studies; Coast Care; Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative and Millennium Kids. 24 participants attended from schools, Local Government and State Government Departments.

- ✚ 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 and Jennifer Pearson.
- ✚ **Biological Earth Environmental Science (BEES) Yr 10 Forum 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013** (formerly GEES Day) included Perth Zoo, Science Teachers Association of Western Australia, Earth Science Western Australia, Curtin University, CSIRO Labs, SciTech, UWA, Western Australian Museum, DPaW, Air watch, Greening Australia WA,. With 440 students plus 20 teachers from 10 schools it was a success. This was coordinated by Kate McMurtrie, Perth Zoo and Jennifer Pearson.
- ✚ **Earth Day Expo – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013.** This event at the Canning River Eco Education Centre with over 526 children attending from 12 schools and a Homeschool group. There were 25 different presentations provided which 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 feedback from the schools was very positive. This was coordinated by Hayley Bullimore, CREEC & AAEEWA and Jennifer Pearson.

### Advocacy & Lobbying

- ✚ **WA DEC Meeting** – On 2<sup>nd</sup> August Jennifer Pearson met with Minister Jacob's policy team about the Australian Education for Sustainable Alliance (AESA) policy platform and the new Early Childhood program Little Green Steps trial.
- ✚ **Greens Meeting** – On 16<sup>th</sup> July Jennifer Pearson met with Senator Scott Ludlum about the AESA policy platform and to seek support for AuSSI at state and federal level. He suggested writing to each political party in the lead up to the Federal Elections. He was very keen on the Little Green Steps initiative in WA.
- ✚ **Liberal Federal Meeting** – on the 17<sup>th</sup> July Jennifer Pearson met with Ken Wyatt, Federal member for Hasluck and heard about the Green Army concept. He showed interest in the AESA work and the SESA project.
- ✚ **Labor Meeting** – On 18<sup>th</sup> July Jennifer Pearson met with Sue Ellery about Little Green Steps and received the suggestion to approach the National Party for ideas of the Royalties for Region program for funding. Her portfolio is focused on the wellbeing of children but she suggested setting up a meeting with Chris Tallentire who is opposition Environment.
- ✚ **National Party of WA** – On 29<sup>th</sup> August Jennifer Pearson & Sally Sneddon met with Royalties for Region project managers to discuss the possibilities for Little Green Steps to be funded through that system. They will provide us with a list of key people within their system to discuss the project regarding resource and partnership opportunities.

### Member Services

- ✚ **Professional Teaching Council of WA** – Nominate a member for their annual awards, Vicky Hartill from City of Cockburn.
- ✚ **AAEE Environmental Educator of the Year** – Nominated a member for the annual award, Vicky Hartill from City of Cockburn. Vicky received a certificate and a gift of books from the Chapter.

### Professional Development

- ✚ **Catchments, Corridors Coasts**, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013, three day PD for teachers, pre-service teachers, industry, local and state Gov. personnel.
- ✚ **Arab Gateway Workshops**, On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, Jennifer Pearson was one of three groups presented workshops at CREEC for the *World of Water*. Teachers were provided with the work developed by AESSSF to promote understanding of Arabic culture, sciences and history.

### Governance

- ✚ **Meetings** - Conducted regular monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Perth Zoo Education Centre/ Canning River Eco Education Centre. Guest speakers on occasions.
- ✚ **Financial** – Financial report was compiled in August 2013, we are not required to produce audited accounts.

### **Northern Territory Chapter: Convenor Graeme Sawyer**

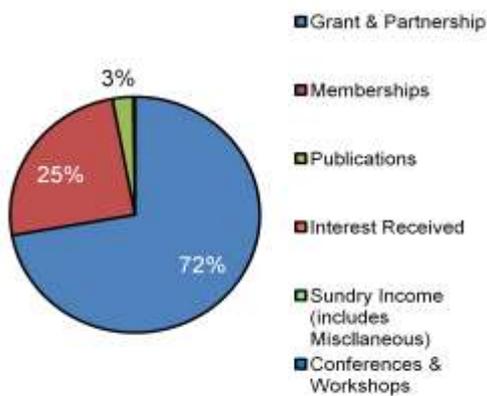
This Chapter is in the process of reinvigorating themselves and we look forward to hearing about their many ventures in the future.

## Financial Overview

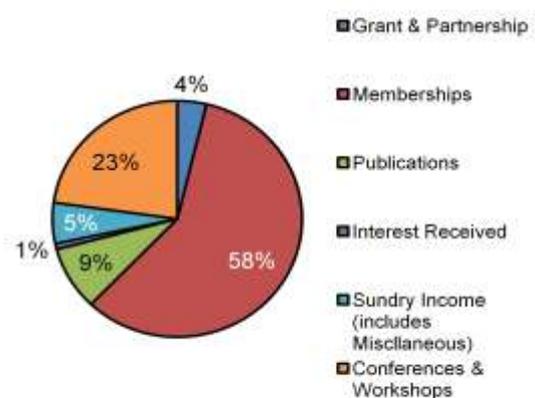
In 2012-2013, we have continued to make progress in expanding our networks and diversifying our funding base. While our total income has reduced compared to previous year (mainly due to previous year's WEEC Conference which contributed ~\$86,000), we have been able to increase income in all of the other categories this year.

See below for financial summary for FY2013. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

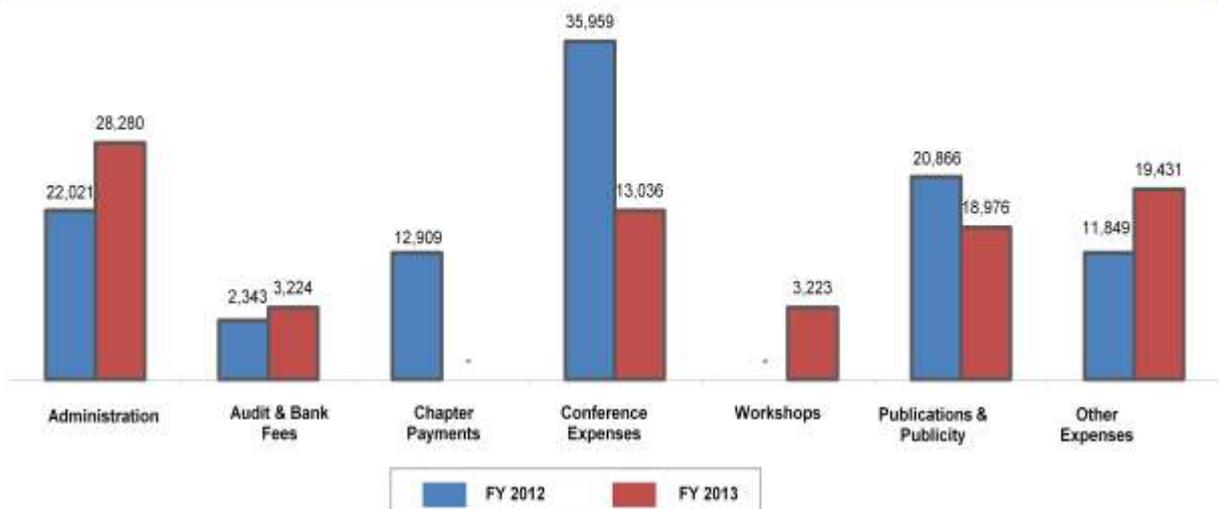
**2011-2012 Income Breakdown**



**2012-2013 Income Breakdown**



**Expenditure Comparison 2011-2012 vs. 2012-2013**



**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**  
ABN 80 047 534 235

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	FYE June, 30	
		2013	2012
<b>Income</b>			
Grant & Partnership		2,651	107,079
GVESHO Grant	3	-	3,000
Memberships		40,990	37,951
Publications		6,111	4,100
Conference		16,006	-
Other Income	4	4,482	335
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>70,240</b>	<b>152,465</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>			
Administration Services		(28,280)	(22,021)
Audit & Bank Fees		(3,224)	(2,343)
Chapter Payments		-	(12,909)
Conference Expenses	5	(13,036)	(35,959)
Workshops		(3,223)	-
Publications and Publicity		(18,976)	(20,866)
Other Expenses	6	(19,431)	(11,849)
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>		<b>(86,170)</b>	<b>(105,947)</b>
<b>Income Tax Expense</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit) after tax</b>	2	<b>(15,930)</b>	<b>46,518</b>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>111,973</b>	<b>65,455</b>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>96,043</b>	<b>111,973</b>

**ASSETS & LIABILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	FYE June, 30	
		2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Equivalents	7	116,036	139,620
Account Receivable		420	3,504
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>116,456</b>	<b>143,124</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Account Payables		20,220	35,959
Other Liabilities	9	193	(4,808)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>20,413</b>	<b>31,151</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>96,043</b>	<b>111,973</b>
<b>Member's Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings		<b>96,043</b>	<b>111,973</b>

## Appendix A: ACT Kids Teaching Kids Week



### **Sixteen Canberra school converged on the National Botanic Gardens yesterday as part of Kids Teaching Kids Week.**

The schools sponsored by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Australian Association for Environmental Education ACT and Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative ACT reversed roles with their teachers and shared their own environmental research and projects with other school students.

Kids Teaching Kids Week (until Friday) is a national program where more than 10,000 students will look at locally relevant environmental issues such as climate change, water, waste, conservation, energy, drought, population and pollution.



The ACT event students participated in 10 environment and sustainability workshops, presenting to 160 students. Activities included drama skits, recycling relays, gardening demonstrations, audience Q&A, making solar cookers and walks through the rainforest. A team of young-adult mentors from Switched On Schools ACT had worked with the students to help them prepare interactive and engaging workshops.

Kids Teaching Kids founder and managing director, Arron Wood, said that by leading their own research and discussion on the environment, kids become more engaged in the classroom, are more confident and develop a greater respect for the environment and for each other. “The world our kids are

growing up in is changing rapidly. With the boom in alternative energy and the increasing impacts of global climate change it is absolutely vital that they are engaged today to understand the world they’ll be living in tomorrow,” he said.

“We have also found that the Kids Teaching Kids model helps students to develop a sense of connection with their local community and involvement with real local issues.”

