

**RCE FORUM MEETING**

**UWS CAMPBELLTOWN, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brittany Hardiman UWS, Eric Brocken HDRA/ATA (Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre), Helen Angelakis UWS, Jen Dollin UWS, Judith Bruinsma WSROC, Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Margaret Somerville UWS, Vicky Whitehead Longneck Lagoon EEC

**APOLOGIES:**

Andrew Hewson Penrith City Council, Antony Lewis ParraCAN, Chris Vella UWS, Damien Feneley DEC, Dave Town Blacktown City Council, Debra Keenahan UWS, Geoff Scott UWS, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Helen Byfield-fleming Macauther Centre for Sustainable Living, John Schryver UWS Connect, Mark Edwards Brewongle EEC, Mark Samaha TAFE WSI, Mary Dwyer UWS Connect, Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Om Dhungel SEVA, Rachel Bently TVS, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSI, Steve Body Brewongle EEC, Sophie Barrett Hawkesbury City Council, Suzanne Stuart Hawkesbury City Council

**INVITED ATTENDEES:**

Anne Beerden TAFE WSI, Bozena Sawa Be the Change, Courtney Steve UWS, Michael Rhydderch Campbelltown City Council, Nicole Parson TAFE WSI

1. **NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION – MS VICKY WHITEHEAD, LONGNECK LAGOON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

Longneck Lagoon EEC is a Department Education School. The centre runs a number of programs for primary, secondary and tertiary students, including ecology based program (science and technology for primary, biology and earth environment for secondary) and enrichment programs (engaging with students who are interested, not always gifted and talented e.g. bandicoots, bugs and the bush in partnership with UWS). Longneck coordinated World Environment Day (involving a number of RCE partners) held at the EarthCare Centre in June and participate in the Youth Eco Summit. Longneck can provide RCE partners access to schools across western Sydney, mainly within Hawkesbury. They are looking to build partnerships and are keen to participate in events and/or have support from RCE to participate in events.

1. **SUMMARY FROM RCE WORKING GROUP MEETING**

RCE WG meeting was held on the 26th September, 1pm to 2pm. The WG is a democratic way for the RCE to make decisions. Working groups are ways to achieve a grass root function, getting people together and collaborating on funded projects. Geographic location of meetings has seen a range of different people coming, thus new potential working groups. Currently RCE is trying to redefine working groups to make sure all members feel included.

WG approved new member applications: *Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre, Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Macauther Centre for Sustainable Living*

* REPORT FROM BUSINESS GROUP (Lead by Liz Hellenpach, TAFE WSI) - Penrith City Council (Andrew Hewson and team) run a seminar with SME’s in the main street of Penrith (range of business types). The seminar ‘green bottom line’ was free and had a range of speakers including Office Environment and Heritage, Penrith City Council and TAFE WSI representatives. Thirteen businesses attended. Liz’s feedback of the event ‘everyone was interested in the info presented – asking how they could implement sustainability ideas’.
1. **UPDATE ON FUNDED PROJECTS**
* CLICK, CONNECT, COLLOBRATE (Led by Damien Feneley, DEC) - Funded by the RCE Seed Funding Pilot. Primary schools in Hawkesbury district, linked to YES, formed a group to use ITC enable technology. Teachers learnt how to use it (teacher professional development) and will now participate in the global getting to YES, as well as on site visit to YES. They are hoping to connect with South Koren, RCE Tongyeong.
* THE EAT PROGRAM (Led by Mike Barlett, SOPA) - Funded by the RCE Seed Funding Pilot. Attachment 1
* CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY (Led by Debra Keenahan, UWS) - Funded by the RCE Seed Funding Pilot. Attachment 2
* MAPPING THE ABORIGINAL CIRRCULCUM: Funded by the RCE Seed Funding Pilot. Still in development with Longneck Lagoon and UWS
* BEE AWARE OF YOUR NATIVE BEES (Led by Office of Sustainability, UWS): Funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. Partnership with UWS and Bees Business. Five sites across western Sydney and Lithgow. Purpose is to collect missing data about native bees, using citizen science. Project is up to Stage 4 - ID from native bees. Bee Symposium to be held at Hawkesbury in February
1. **WORKING GROUP DICUSSION AND STRATEGY**

RCE is currently looking at redeveloping working groups, with a need for active, grass root groups motivated to work on collaborative funded projects. Suggestions from attendees for redevelopment:

* Redefine vision and goals of each working group
* Need to set out a framework or targets to achieve with RCE Chair
* Working groups meet (face to face or virtually) outside of the forum, as required
* Initial dates for working groups to meet to be allocated at the beginning of the year
* Minutes and reports to be fed back quarterly to RCE secretariat from working group leaders and then distributed to members
* Alerting members of upcoming meetings to increase inclusion

**Action**

Jen Dollin to reissue action statements for WG leaders to review and revise

1. **RCE ANNUAL REPORT**

Global RCE Report submitted in September

**Action**

Jen Dollin to disseminate RCE Global Report

1. **RCE ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE**

Helen Angelakis, UWS, attended the [7th RCE Asia-Pacific Meeting](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/37166/174gc/2019300/efc6fgbbs.html) will be hosted by RCE Penang in Malaysia. RCE Conference: Day 1 Global action plan – discuss issues, feedback – goes to global conference. Day 2 RCE members present, of which RCE-GWS presented on youth leading the world with Penrith city council and UWS. While there met with VC of UWS – developed concept of UNSESCO Chair in Sustainable Health and Wellbeing and gained contacts for YES 2015 and The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), India working with youth programs. Helen also visited Uni Malaya, Dr Serina Rahman – they focus on food, waste and water as well as community engagement and outreach. The university have an urban farm for Café, which then compost the food waste that then goes back to the farm. They also have biogas system as demonstration (working on how to use it around the campus).

1. **OTHER BUSINESS**
* EARTHCARE FAIR: Earthcare Fair will be held on Saturday, 11th October. RCE members are welcome to attend, or hold a display on the day. Earthcare is located on the UWS Hawkesbury Campus. Contact Eric Broken for more information.
* FASHION FORWARD: Office of Sustainability latest exhibition, “Fashion forward – it’s what you wear” will be looking at the environmental and social issues surrounding textile and fashion industry. The launch will be held on the Friday 24th October, open to RCE members to attend.
* VISITING PROFESSOR CAROLINA LOPEZ, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, LIVING LAB/CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE AND TRANSFORMATION: Prof. Lopez will be visiting RCE-GWS on the 1st to 5th December. As part of her visit she is looking to link with our partners around engaged learning. If any members want to meet with her, please contact Helen. She will be out in the Hawkesbury/Penrith area on Wednesday and Thursday.
* GRANTS: Courtney Steve, UWS Peace and Development Student, is currently updating the grants database to replace current one of RCE website. She will be working with RCE to develop a number of small grant applications, with assistance from Jen Dollin. If any partners are interested in working on Jen and Courtney on grant, please email Jen ASAP. Courtney reported on a few small grant opportunities:
* [Commonwealth Bank Community Grants](https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/in-the-community/community-grants.html) opening early 2015. To be eligible to receive a Community Grant your organisation must run, manage, conduct or implement a program that supports children and youth up to the age of 21 years old in Australia. To apply you must be endorsed with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the ATO or Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
* [NIB Foundation Community Grant](http://www.nibfoundation.com.au/Funding/) opening mid 2015 for amounts up to $50,000. The program aims to support locally-based initiatives which will make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of Australian communities, with a focus on the health of young people, and carers. To apply you must be endorsed with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the ATO or Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
* [Normal Wettenhall Foundation Small Environmental Grant Scheme](http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/) opening February 2015, for amounts up to $10,000 for non-academics organisations and $5,000 for academics organisations. The program aims to support biodiversity conservation projects in Australia that are concerned with one or more of the following: monitoring and recording data, community education, community capacity building (training), research and science or sustainable land management.
* COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS: Summary from the [Survey Monkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KGG8WVL) sent out last week (from 13 responses) are as follows:
1. Preferred meeting location: **Hawkesbury**
2. Preferred meeting times: **Monday afternoon (2-4pm), Wednesday morning (9-11am), Wednesday afternoon (2-4pm) and Thursday afternoon (2-4pm)**
3. Preferred method of meeting: **Face to face meetings held three times a year**
4. Preferred method of communications: **Direct emails and bi-monthly newsletters**
5. Suggestions for other communication platforms include **Yammer, Facebook groups, Google Docs, Edmodo and/or regular email updates from RCE Chair**

**Action**

Brittany Hardiman to investigate suggested methods of commutation platforms

**NEXT MEETING 11th DECEMBER 2014 – END OF YEAR CELEBRATION**

**Minutes approved by:**