

**RCE FORUM MEETING**

**UWS HAWKESBURY, 11TH DECEMBER 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bran Lazendic Penrith Lakes EEC, Vicky Whitehead Longneck Lagoon EEC, Mark Edwards Brewongle EEC, Steve Body Brewongle EEC, Sophie Barrett Hawkesbury City Council, Om Dhungel SEVA International, Ian Knowd Hawkesbury Harvest, Andrew Hewson Penrith City Council, Damien Feneley DEC, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Jen Dollin Office of Sustainability, Margaret Somerville (RCE-GWS Chair) Centre for Educational Research, Helen Angelakis Office of Sustainability, Brittany Hardiman Office of Sustainability, Debra Keenahan UWS School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Geoff Scott UWS, Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Chris Vella UWS PICSE

**APOLOGIES:**

Bert Lo Campo Blacktown Learning Community, Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Eric Brocken HDRA/ATA, John Schryver UWS Connect, Lisa Kollaras Parramatta City Council, David Towns Blacktown City Council, Rachel Bentley TVS, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSI, Debra Blakely Blacktown Learning Community, Zhan Patterson HEEN

**INVITED ATTENDEES:**

Ian Graget TAFE WSI, Kumara Ward Centre for Educational Research

1. **NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION – MR BRAN LAZENDIC PENRITH LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**
Bran is the new principle of Penrith Lakes EEC. The centre offers field work K-12, linked to curriculum. Currently they are looking at how to integrate sustainability into the regular school curriculum and using sustainability to address other non-traditional subjects like maths and geography. The EEC is currently located at the Regatta Centre (5 years) and caters for up to 9,000 students annually. For more information please see <http://www.penritlake-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/Welcome.html>
2. **WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY**

At the working group meeting (26th November) Eric Brocken was awarded leader of the Food Security and Agriculture WG. Proposed times were also set for RCE-GWS meetings. During 2015 the group aims to set up terms of reference and an associate members agreement (corporations). The WG has decided that the RCE will not accept any applications with a commercial interest as a full member, nor will they participate in group structure or use the UNU logo.

* Cultural and Social Sustainability WG – this group has developed a number of students research projects including climate migrants, social impact of political art, students overseas working on the Colombo plan (manage of religious diversity) and a project between SEVA and UWS looking at capacity building and social cohesion (seed funded project).
* Nirimba Education Precinct WG – this group held an e-waste recycling program collecting 20 tonnes of waste, installed solar panels which saved $30,000 on their food outlet, schools on site have been participating in a number of initiatives include food waste and printing program.
* Education WG – this group’s major project was Click, Connect, Collaborate (seed funded project) whereby 7 schools in the Hawkesbury area are participating in the program, with support from the principals
* International Youth Engagement WG – YES was held in October, attracting over 6,000 students both on site and virtually. The summit has become the meeting place for more projects, linking with international RCEs. Engagement with Agriculture Toolkit (seed funded project) was held in October with 30 school teachers as part of TPD showcasing the potential for virtual collaborations and excursions - <http://youtu.be/SxYATbjeYPk>
1. **RCE PROJECTS AND REPORTING**

An annual report is being prepared by the Office of Sustainability for both university and RCE-GWS projects. Projects include RCE seed funded projects, the Riverfarm, YES, UniSteers, Pulse of the River, Bugs Bush and Bandicoots, Love you Lagoons, E-Waste event, to name a few. The report will be published in February and sent out nationally and internationally.

1. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**International Update:** Geoff, on behalf of the RCE, is creating aninternational evaluation of RCE for the UNU. Currently there are a few RCEs looking at water – this is a potential area to link up with other RCEs including RCE Pacific, RCE Waikato, RCE Murray-Darling. Youth and Health is another topic of issue in the UK, with a study around time spent outside lessening. It was concluded that we are more likely to have more health problems. Alchi-Nagoya agreement is about taking more action around communities and linking to schools, TAFE and university for credit. Similarly we can use our students to do the same and work on RCE projects. Overall our RCE is well positioned to help others. Please see attachments.

 **Edmodo:** A communication platform for a simple, online, informal communication to share ideas, projects, events, funding or achievements between RCE-GWS members.

**Action**

RCE members to create an Edmodo profile and join the RCE Greater Western Sydney group - <https://edmo.do/j/ii2esz>

**Dates for 2015:** At the WG meeting and the RCE forum is was agreed on four face to face meetings, spread across western Sydney. Working group leaders will meet an hour prior to RCE forum.

**RCE-GWS Forum Dates**

Tuesday, 10th March, 9.30am to 11.30am – UWS Hawkesbury **Planning Day**

Tuesday, 9th June, 9.30am to 11.30am – UWS Parramatta **General Meeting**

Tuesday, 8th September, 9.30am to 11.30am – UWS Campbelltown **General Meeting**

Tuesday, 8th December, 3.30pm to 5.30pm – UWS Hawkesbury **End of Year Celebration**

**Working Group Meeting Dates (leaders only)**

Tuesday, 10th March, 8.30am to 9.30am – UWS Hawkesbury **General Meeting**

Tuesday, 9th June, 8.30am to 9.30am – UWS Parramatta **General Meeting**

Tuesday 8th September, 8.30am to 9.30am – UWS Campbelltown **General Meeting**

Tuesday, 8th December, 2.30pm to 3.30pm – UWS Hawkesbury **General Meeting**

**NEXT MEETING 10th MARCH 2015 – PLANNING DAY**

**Minutes approved by:**