**RCE-GWS Meeting**

*Minutes for: 28 February 2017, 9.30am – 11.30am*   
**Attendees:** Rafiqul Huq Greening Australia, Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest, Justin Murphy Hawkesbury City Council, David Reid Georges River Combined Councils Committee, Eric Brocken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre/HDRA, Anne-Maree O'Neil Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council, Damien Feneley Public Schools NSW (Grose View PS), Tamara Hopkins Public Schools NSW (Grose View PS), Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Robert Mann TAFE Blue Mountains, Brittany Hardiman Western Sydney University, Chris Vella, Western Sydney University, Helen Angelakis Western Sydney University, Jen Dollin Western Sydney University, Margaret Somerville Western Sydney University

**Apologies:** David Town, Blacktown Council, Steve Body Brewongle EEC, Michael Rhydderch, Campbelltown City Council, Debbie McCall, Campbelltown City Council, Kartik Madhira City of Parramatta Council, Suzie Wright, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Vicky Whitehead, Longneck EEC, Helen Byfield-Fleming Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Richard and Maria Maguire ParraCAN, Om Dhungel, SEVA International, Mark Samaha TAFE WSI, Caroline Allen Western Sydney University, Geoff Scott Western Sydney University, Judith Bruinsma WSROC

**Invited Attendees:** Penrith Bushcare Volunteer

1. OPENING ADDRESS: Welcome to all members. No new members to report on.
2. RCE-GWS GOVERNANCE AND DIRECTION:
   1. The RCE is need of a new governance structure as per the [Terms of Reference](https://westernsydney.edu.au/rcegws/rcegws/governance). It is required for the central leadership of the RCE-GWS network and to represent the interests and direction of the members outside the host (Western Sydney University).

*ACTION: We are seeking 3 – 5 volunteers to teleconference 3 times a year to discuss matters related to the network.*

* 1. As an outcome of the strategic planning day meeting (November 2016), the RCE developed 6 new themes. So far we have not had any comment from members, so are moving ahead with these for 2017 – 2020. See image below.
  2. RCE Tasmania has developed an endorsement program for their member projects that are around EfS. See RCE-Tas projects here - <http://efs.tas.edu.au/>. There has been on-going conversation since RCE-GWS conception for a similar endorsement to brand RCE related projects with an icon. Provides the benefits of peer benchmarking, wider acknowledgement, connectivity to other programs, and could potentially bring in new members/funds. Some concerns regarding resources to track and approve projects.

*ACTION: Further investigation on RCE Tasmania is required by Office of Sustainability.*

1. PROJECT UPDATES
   1. PowerFUL is a youth ambassador program that targets high school students (Year 7 – 10) and their families through inquiry based learning to make smart choices around energy and resource efficiency. The Office of Sustainability has received funding under the Blacktown Energy Initiative to run the program in partnership with local councils (Blacktown, Campbelltown and Parramatta) under the RCE banner. The one-day forums will be held in the first week of May, with up to 40 students from 6 different schools. Participating schools are eligible to apply for up to $500 of seed funding. So far we have 7 schools from Campbelltown LGA, and 2 schools from Blacktown and Parramatta LGA, and seeking more to join.
   2. Developed out of the 10th RCE Global Conference, the Global Youth Network has an active WhatsApp group used for sharing and collaborating with youth from around the global. The first project is a pilot using the RCE Global Community as panellists to join an online discussion with Western Sydney University’s first year Bachelor of Health Science students in mid-April. The aim is for the students to gain a global perspective on health and the SDGs. So far we are connecting with: RCE Espo Finland, RCE Leicestershire, RCE Minna and RCE Mexico Borderlands. Members are welcome to see how they can engage with this network.
   3. Schools for Sustainability will be running again this year in Campbelltown LGA at end of June. The two-day forum covers a wide range of sustainability topic areas, and council will be provided schools with seed funding to implement their own projects.
   4. Brewongle EEC has developed a partnership with RCE Okayama - in particular

Shonai Elementary School participated in an Aboriginal culture with 100 year 6 students. Masaaki was the interpreter and it went really well. Brewongle teacher told a dreaming story, discussed some artefacts and answered questions.

* 1. The Eastern Creek Riparian Forum was held Thursday 23 February with a diverse range of stakeholders, including M7 Motorway, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Western Sydney University, Greening Australia and NSW Planning. Each group talked about their connection to Eastern Creek and the way forward.
  2. Youth Eco Summit will be held again this year, with a slightly different format. It will be a split event.
     1. Secondary (14 September): An interactive forum for Stages 4&5 held in the Sydney Showground Amphitheatre, with opportunities for students to share their sustainability projects, as well as ted-style talks, drama and debate. This event will be led by SOPA.
     2. Primary (16 & 17 November): A sustainability festival for Stages 2&3 held in Cathy Freeman Park / Sydney Showground. This will be a generally similar event to 2016 with curriculum-based workshops, interactive displays, student media crews and a school project showcase. This event will be coordinated by RAS in partnership with SOPA and NSW Urban Growth.

1. OTHER BUSINESS
   1. Upcoming Events:
      1. Turn Down the Heat forum supported by WSROC and Western Sydney Councils will be held on 2 March. More than 100 attendees have registered.
      2. Penrith Talks Innovation by Penrith City Council will be held 14 March to support the developing STEM movement across Western Sydney. Please see invite attached.
      3. FREE screening of the Western Sydney University Solar car documentary, 6.30-7.30pm, Thursday 23 March, Penrith Library.   
         “Join us at Penrith Library for a free screening of ‘Solar Car Unlimited’ – the documentary following students from Western Sydney University as they compete in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge. Built right here in Kingswood, the car competed against the world’s best universities in the race of 3,000km from Darwin to Adelaide using only the sun for power. How did they do? Come along to the screening and find out! After the screening we’ll have members of the solar car team on hand to do a question and answer session so you can hear about it directly from the people involved. Book your place by emailing [sustainabilityteam@penrith.city](mailto:sustainabilityteam@penrith.city)”
   2. Earthcare are looking at working with Hawkesbury City Council to share their recent video – please see here <https://vimeo.com/201793607/f575f3e545> - to assist with their residential household waste program. Hawkesbury Council subsidies household worm farms, with almost 600 households involved.
   3. A continual operational issue is platforms for communication. As per last meeting a closed Facebook group has been set up for members to join and interact. In addition if you have any newsletter articles please submit them to Brittany ([b.hardiman@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:b.hardiman@westernsydney.edu.au)) . We are seeking to send out e-news every quarter.

*ACTION: Please join our “UN RCE GWS: Working Together” on Facebook group here or search the name -* [*https://www.facebook.com/groups/198527393847619/*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/198527393847619/)

* 1. There was great support for RCE to engage with Mr Roderick Simpson, Environment Commissioner Greater Sydney Commission, with the recommendation for a formal letter of introduction come from the secretariat and a future meeting to be held. This was endorsed by SOPA, Hawkesbury Harvest and HEN.
  2. Next meeting will be held as a late afternoon meeting as agreed on by attendees on **27 June 2017.** Full details provided closer to the date.

*Meeting closed at 11.10am*

