

## **RCE-GWS Meeting**

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30am – 11:00am

### ***Minutes***

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**Attendees:** Maria Maguire - GWSEA/ParraCAN, Richard Maguire - GWSEA/ParraCAN, Vanessa Keyzer - Local Land Services GWS, Geoff Scott - WSU, Margaret Somerville - WSU, Suzie Wright - Conservation volunteers Australia, Andrew Hewson - Penrith City Council, Jen Dollin – WSU, Helen Angelakis – WSU

Thank you to all the members that gave apologies,

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. New members: Nil

#### **2. Updates from members**

##### **Report from GWSEA**

- Discussions are on the way regarding models that could work using roof space for solar
- GWSEA continue to work with local council, community organisations, universities, residents and Business Chambers to grow efficiency and renewables and reduce energy costs.
- Penrith City Council hosted 2 energy efficiency nights for the community, they were attended by renters as well as owners. 90 people attended over 2 nights
- Blacktown City Council supported Alternative Technology Association in hosting a community forum called *Speed date a Sustainability Expert* in June where consumers book a 20 minute appointment time slots with experts to ask specific questions on sustainable issues including energy efficiency.
- Energy Expo at IPSQ coordinated by Parramatta Business Chamber – further details TBC

##### **Report from Conservation Volunteers Australia – Kingswood Campus African Safari**

- David Jones, wildlife expert will lead you across Kingswood campus where you can explore critically endangered plants and animals and help preserve biodiversity by removing invasive weeds.

When: 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> July

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Book via: <https://african-safari-at-kingswood.eventbrite.com.au>

##### **Youth SDG challenge Vanuatu students, Reading Ambassadors Program**

Purchase of \$500 worth of environmental age appropriate books to be used by Reading Ambassadors at participating primary schools

##### **Koala Fest @Kurrajong – 15<sup>th</sup> September, 10am Kurrajong Village Memorial Park**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/248308772612766/>

see facebook page for further information

##### **SOPA YES for Primary schools - 21-22 November**

YES for secondary schools - 4 September

Murama Youth Summit 14-17 November

Celebrating Aboriginal Australia in Early Learning – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 click on [link](#) for more

### **3. Update on RCE – Asia Pacific Meeting – 24-27 September 2018– 1PSQ**

Registrations are now open for the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Regional conference, please go to the website for all details and draft program

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/rcegws/rcegws/11th\\_asia-pacific\\_rce\\_regional\\_conference](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/rcegws/rcegws/11th_asia-pacific_rce_regional_conference)

The Keynote speaker is Professor Rod Glover from Monash Sustainable Development Institute.

#### **Professor Geoff Scott**

Geoff's report is attached

#### **Professor Margaret Somerville**

Margaret is working with the Bass Fishing club along the Nepean River to revegetate the riparian zone at Emu Green. Rob Spilling has been identifying Kangaroo Grass and the saplings the were planted are now starting to grow.

Margaret thanked Penrith City Council and Conservation Volunteers Australia for all their work in changing practices to support this site.

### **4. Will Steffen Public forum – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

“Where on Earth are we going”

Professor Will Steffen will be holding a public forum on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at Parramatta south campus from 6pm, please go to the website to register

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/driving\\_sustainability/sustainable\\_futures/rsvp\\_public\\_lecture](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/driving_sustainability/sustainable_futures/rsvp_public_lecture)

### **5. Other Business**

#### **a. RCE Global Conference – Cebu Dec 7-9**

Helen Angelakis will be attending the RCE global conference with 5-7 students using funds from the New Colombo plan mobility program. The students will visit RCE Cebu and meet with students from University of Cebu

#### **b. New Colombo Mobility funding**

Helen Angelakis will be accompanying 20 students and staff from The Academy to Lucknow, India in November on a cultural immersion tour and to research the issues with contaminants in the ground water

Brittany Hardiman is in Bohol, The Philippines with a group of students from Science and Dr Jason Reynolds. Students will do volunteering and internships with local government.

The Sustainable Futures office has just been advised that they were successful in obtaining NCP funding for China – 3 years and PNG Kokoda – 1 year

#### **c. Sustainability report – Western Sydney Matters**

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/driving\\_sustainability/sustainable\\_futures](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/driving_sustainability/sustainable_futures)

d. The Launch of the sustainability bootcamp will be in September. Events will be planned on all campuses, further details will be advised.

**Meeting closed**

*Next meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1PSQ*

*Report to RCE - GWS July 2018*  
*Geoff Scott*

**Sydney School of Entrepreneurship**

- \$25M NSW Government and 12 Universities
- Focus on capacity building for entrepreneurship
- Concentration not only on entrepreneurial businesses innovations for profit but social entrepreneurship for public benefit and sustainable social, cultural and environmental development.
- Both require not only invention and creativity but also a capacity to take a 'good idea' and actually make it work
- Great interest in Blue Economy projects

**Sustainability in Oslo**

Initiatives

1. Cultural Heritage – Oslo city's cultural heritage office and the old city as an arts and sustainability precinct
2. New model sustainability city at the airport
  - Electric cars and automatic public transport
  - Totally run on renewable energy and will make more energy than it consumes
  - Airport energy use to be reduced by 50%
  - Short haul flights to be electric by 2040
3. Greenest capital in Europe award for 2019
  - Lowest carbon footprint in Europe
  - Lowest noise
  - High quality waste management and air quality
  - High levels of urban biodiversity
  - Car free by 2050 – focus on automated electro mobility
  - Half of all the new cars are currently electric or hybrid
  - Buses to run on bio-fuels.
4. 100m euro climate and energy fund – 50% bonus if convert heaters to bio fuel
5. City traffic down 5% as a result of a congestion ta
6. Planes refuelled with bio fuel

**Polar Bears and S.D.**

1. Are big – up to 1000 kg and 10feet tall. Can swim up to 700km
2. Require sea-ice to hunt ringed and bearded seals at their breathing holes or by stalking seals asleep on ice floes.
3. They eat the blubber and leave the flesh for the arctic foxes and glaucus gulls.
4. Two thirds of polar bears may disappear by 2050 with moderate increases in shrinkage of sea ice.
5. Loss of sea ice and land snow influences hunting, where sows can make their dens, how quickly the mother can get to food after 6 months in the den with no food. Loss of sea ice also leads to their increased willingness to approach human settlements to scavenge food.
6. Early loss of sea ice means bears don't get a chance to build up the fat reserves they need to survive in the leaner summer season. The thawing of the permafrost means dens can collapse.
7. Climate change is leading to habitat loss and consequent starvation.
8. Have been known to swim up to 300km. Having to swim to find food depletes reserves.
9. Hunting was banned except for agreed quotas for first peoples in 1973.
10. Are dangerous if hungry or are threatened. Satiated polar bears rarely attack unless provoked.
11. Increased pollution concentrates in polar bears as the peak predator.
12. Warming water means Atlantic cod are eating the smaller arctic cod the main food for seals.
13. Oil spills will kill their insulation.