

RCE-GWS Meeting

Tuesday, 6 March, 9.30am – 11am

Minutes

Attendees: Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest, David Reid, Georges River Keeper, Steve Body, Brewongle EEC, Damien Feneley, Public Schools NSW (Grose View PS), Brittany Hardiman, Western Sydney University, Helen Angelakis, Western Sydney University, Jen Dollin, Western Sydney University, Margaret Somerville, Western Sydney University, Caroline Allen, Western Sydney University, Christine Sercombe, TAFE WSI, Richard Maguire, GWSEA/ ParraCAN Maria Maguire, GWSEA/ParraCAN, Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, [Judith Bruinsma](#), [WSROC](#), Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network [Sharyn Simmich](#), [Hawkesbury Environment Network](#), Robert Mann, TAFE WSI, Suzie Wright, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Michael Vyse, Greening Australia, Vanessa Keyzer, Local Land Services GWS, Eric Brocken, [Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre](#)

Apologies: Anne-Maree O'Neil, [Macarthur](#) Centre for Sustainable Living, Justin Murphy, Hawkesbury City Council, Kartik Madhira City of Parramatta Council, Andrew Hewson Penrith City Council, Carmel Hamilton, Penrith City Council, Geoff Scott, Western Sydney University, Shane Judd, TAFE WSI

Minutes from meeting 6 March, 9.30am to 11.00am at Hawkesbury campus, Western Sydney University

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Opening

- a. Welcome to all attendees. No new members to report on, however Wingecarribee Shire Council has submitted an application to join (under review).
- b. The RCE is in need of a new governance structure as per the [Terms of Reference](#). 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 2 volunteers to join the steering group to teleconference 3 times a year to discuss ~~governance matters~~ [governance matters](#) related to the network, including approving new members and joint applications as applicable.

2. RCE GWS Speed Dating

- a. [Partners undertook an engaging networking session whereby the discussed the potential for future collaborations. Feedback from the floor said it was a good format to talk to different stakeholders and the allocated 5 minutes was enough time. ? Include?](#)

2-3. Presentations

- a. **Okayama Conference Update:** In December 2017, Mr Damien Feneley (funded by UNU-IAS) and Mr Steve Body (funded by internal WSU/RCE grant) attended the first thematic RCE conference in Okayama, Japan The conference focused on [SDGs 4: Education](#), [SDG 12](#) Production and Consumption, [SDG 13](#) Climate Change and [SDG 14/15](#) Biodiversity and Conservation. Damien presented ~~to the global conference~~ on [Educations for Sustainability strategies including climate change education stressing](#), the importance of a strategic plan from K to University and the needs for students to [develop critical thinking skills to understand complexity in addressing complex-wicked problems](#). Steve connected with many RCE attendees [including ongoing connections with South African](#)

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Environmental Education Centres and gaining ideas for a strategic approach to his school to incorporate the SDGs into BEEC. He also ~~and also~~ filmed ~~ing~~ short interviews which can be found on our RCE-GWS Facebook page. Both Damien and Steve had a day with Both attending 2 local Okayama schools whereby they have strengthened their connections and collaborations for future work via the schools network.

- b. UNU RCE Service Centre Update:** Dr Philip Vaughter connected via a live Zoom session to provide an update on the UNU-RCE plans for 2018. A call has gone out to all RCEs to apply to host both the regional conference and global conference. RCE-GWS is putting a bid in to host the 2018 Asia-Pacific conference at the University this year. After the 10th Asia-Pacific Meeting in New Delhi 2017, the Asia-Pacific Coordinating Committee proposed to develop a repository or publication series containing Asia-Pacific RCE case studies starting with those presented at the Asia-Pacific RCE Symposium on “SDGs: From Goals to Action”. There is opportunity for partners to submit case studies. The RCE Service Centre is working on updating their website to make navigation and searching easier for better inter-RCE collaboration. See ~~their website~~:

<https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/>

3.4. Other Business

- a. Hawkesbury Wetlands:** Hawkesbury Environment Network have been advocating for change in local wetlands after the combined impact of the drought and illegal drainage caused widescale carp, eel and bird deaths. High levels of contamination and nutrient loads were recently discovered. Join their Facebook group to follow the updates - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611883465646695/about/>
- ~~a~~ Further reading - ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-14/hundreds-of-dead-rotting-fish-washed-up-in-sydney-lagoon/9444912> and 7 News Video: <https://www.facebook.com/7newssydney/videos/2004421752915281/>
- b. Asia Pacific RCE Bid:** Western Sydney University/RCE Greater Western Sydney are submitting a formal bid to host the 11th Asia-Pacific RCE Conference. If successful, the conference will be held 25 – 27 September 2018 at our Parramatta City campus with spots available for our stakeholders to attend and participate. An official announcement will be made if we are successful later in the year.
- c. Youth SDG Challenge – “Youth for the Goals”:** Led by Ms Brittany Hardiman (A-P Youth Leader) and Ms Emmy Rusadi (RCE Yogyakarta, A-P Deputy Youth Leader), we have commenced our first Asia-Pacific Youth SDG Challenge in February. Youth across the globe will focus on SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 14: Life Below Water to mobilise on-ground activities in their local region. The SDG Challenge has had 31 creative and engaging youth project from 12 RCE’s and 3 other projects from UNSECO. Projects range from youth camps, school expos and forums, forest nurseries, rubbish clean ups, filming of documentaries and more. Projects will run until mid-August, with a global virtual youth conference scheduled online for the week of 24 September where participating youth will have the opportunity to share their projects. RCE partners are invited to get involved in the conference.
- d. Western Sydney Clips:** The Sustainable Futures team have put together some updated clips which our network partners are free to use.
- i. Western Sydney Matters: https://youtu.be/Th4S2yp_9iw
 - ii. RCE-GWS: <https://youtu.be/Cbu-SpP1wM0>
- e. Upcoming Events:**

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- i. Green Drinks MCSL: Thursday 8th March, 6-8pm. For tickets book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=347060>
- ii. Koalas in our Midst: Tuesday 13th March, 6.30-8pm. For tickets book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/koalas-in-our-midst-tickets-43336240863>
- iii. Drawn by Nature Exhibition Opening: Thursday 15th March 3-5pm, Building AD, Werrington North Campus, Western Sydney University. RSVP to j.dollin@westernsydney.edu.au
- iv. Penrith Council Energy Forum: Thursday 22nd March from 6.15pm. Register with andrew.hewson@penrith.city
- f. A continual operational issue is platforms for communication. As such a closed Facebook group has been set up for our members to join and interact.

ACTION: Please join our "UN RCE GWS: Working Together" on Facebook group here by searching the name or follow the URL below -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/198527393847619/>

MEEETING CLOSED 11.00am

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 10 July at Penrith, Western Sydney University (venue TBC)

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