

**RCE-GWS Forum Meeting**
**Minutes** of meeting 8th December, 3.30pm – 4.30pm at Hawkesbury Campus, Western Sydney University

**ATTENDENCE:** Eric Brocken EarthCare Centre HDRA/ATA, Damien Feneley DEC, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Brittany Hardiman Western Sydney University, Margaret Western Sydney University, Jen Dollin Western Sydney University, Helen Angelakis Western Sydney University, Steven Body Brewongle Environmental Education Centre, Nicole Thornton Parramatta City Council, Sauzanne Stuart Hawkesbury City Council, Om Dhungel SEVA International, Danielle Krix Royal Agricultural Society, Michele Mullineaux Campbelltown City Council, Chris Vella Western Sydney University, April Browne Western Sydney University, Simon James North West Disability Services

**APOLOGIES:** Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Kelly Williamson Campbelltown City Council, Michael Rhydderch Campbelltown City Council, Sophie Barrett Hawkesbury City Council, Robin Wood Hawkesbury Environment Network, Vicky Whitehead Longneck Environmental Education Centre, Helen Byfield-Fleming Macauther Centre for Sustainable Living, Debrah Gersbach North West Disability Services, Kartik Madhira Parramatta City Council, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSI, Geoff Scott Western Sydney University, Nic Pasternatsky WSROC, Judith Bruinsma WSROC, Frank Calabria Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, Vanessa Keyzer Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Joanne Buckskin Badanami Centre

1. **WELCOME**
	1. Nil new members
	2. Dates for 2016 were agreed upon during the working group committee meeting. Four face to face meetings to be held, spread across Western Sydney University campuses in February, June, September, December
		1. All working group leaders will invite externals to attend planning day forum
		2. All members to share contacts for relevant members to attend planning day forum
		3. Planning day will include an overview of the RCE and the role and expectation of members

**RCE-GWS Forum Dates**

Tuesday, 23rd February, 9.30am to 11.30am – Hawkesbury campus **Planning Day**

Tuesday, 7th June, 9.30am to 11.30am – Parramatta campus **General Meeting**

Tuesday, 6th September, 9.30am to 11.30am –Campbelltown campus **General Meeting**

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

1. **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**
	1. **Schools for Sustainability**
		1. Mike: see attached report for Youth Eco Summit, YES 21st Century Learning Awards and Murama
		2. Damien: Click, connect, collaborate is fully engaged with 3 schools (Glossodia, Bilpin and Grose View PS) linking local schools with student overseas for a global classroom experience and will continue to grow in 2016.
	2. **Post-compulsory EfS:** Greenskills Hub looking to be used to ran programs with Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre and the Catholic education system – first workshop had 40 – 50 students learning about the space. The hub also participated in Sustainable House Day and is looking at upgrading some features.
	3. **Biodiversity and River Health:** With remaining Bee Aware of your Native Bee funds, the WG ran the first ever Australian Pollinator Week with a range of schools, farm networks, community groups and local council hosting their own native bee events using provided resources (23 events/750 participants). A large number of third year projects have been completed with RCE partners; new group will commence in 2016 for interested partners. CALD project with multicultural community groups and environmental sustainability with OEH.
	4. **Food Security and Agriculture:** Continued development of student farm with wide range of techniques from fungal farming, oyster mushroom workshops, biochar from waste and composting. Recent 1 Mile Kitchen event with Secret Garden (North West Disability Services) saw 100 people gather to raise funds for a social enterprise.
2. **INTERNATIONAL VISITS**
	1. Helen presented at AASHE conference on ‘Fashion Forward’ project and visited RCE Saskatchewan
	2. Jen visited RCE Tongyeong to develop a sustainable tourisms program with WSU students and Ian Knowd.