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**RCE-GWS Forum Meeting**
**Minutes** of meeting 10th March 2014, 9.30am – 11.30am at UWS Hawkesbury campus

**ATTENDENCE:** Margaret Somerville UWS, Brittany Hardiman UWS, Helen Angelakis UWS, Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSi, Mike Bartlett SOPA, Eric Broken HDRA/ATA, Kelly Williamson Campbelltown City Council, Michele Mullineaux Campbelltown City Council, Bran Lazendic Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Om Dhungel SEVA International, Sophie Barrett Hawkesbury City Council, Robin Woods Hawkesbury Environment Network, Ian Knowd Hawkesbury Harvest, Andrew Hewson Penrith City Council, Kartik Madhira Parramatta City Council, Irene Melaisis HEEN

**APOLOGIES:** Damien Feneley DEC, Debra Keenahan UWS, Mark Edwards Brewongle Environmental Education Centre, Steve Body Brewongle Environmental Education Centre, Vicky Whitehead Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre, Helen Byfield-Fleming Macauther Centre for Sustainable Living, Mark Samaha TAFE WSi, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSi, Rachel Bentley TVS, Jen Dollin UWS, Geoff Scott UWS, John Schryver UWS Connect, Debra Blakely Blacktown Learning Community, Michael Rhydderch Campbelltown Council, Danielle Krix RAS, Kumara Ward UWS, Frank Calabria Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre

1. **WELCOME AND WG MEETING SUMMARY**
	1. Working group (WG) leaders met the hour prior to the forum meeting to discuss new membership, directions for 2015 and Terms of Reference for the governing group. The WG’s are key in the structure of the RCE governance as the leadership is distributed across the community rather than the university
	2. New members were unanimously approved by the WG:
		1. Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre
		2. Campbelltown City Council
2. **WG Pitch for 2015**

Each WG leader, or a representative, was asked to give the forum a 3 minute pitch of their directions for 2015 to recruit new members to join and build on their activities

* 1. **Cultural Sustainability –** This WG already has a number of student projects underway and can provide further opportunities for students to get involved with communities, refugees, international exchanges, intercultural promotion and social research. *WG Leader: Debra Keenahan, UWS*
	2. **International Youth Engagement –** This WG is a channel for international RCE connections and collaboration with students and communities. A key project is the Youth Eco Summit (21-22 October at Sydney Olympic Park) with engagement from a number of providers including this year’s EEC student leadership programs. The group is also looking at developing school/youth awards as part of YES – celebrating their success, while creating a network of RCE champions to act as RCE delegates in the future. *WG Leader: Mike Bartlett, SOPA*
	3. **Business Sustainability –** This WG is very active and interested in SMEs. They have delivered the Penrith City Councils ‘green bottom line’ seminar. This year’s WSI TAFE ‘get smart for small business’ seminars, as well as building an engaged network of SME representatives to join the group and hoping to achieve effective communications, information dissemination, short course development and a range of sustainability initiatives. *WG Leader: Liz Hellenpach, TAFE WSI*
	4. **Schools for Sustainability –** This WG has linkages with International Youth Engagement and school networks. A major project is Click, Connect, Collaborate which enables a global class with 7 participating schools showcasing sustainable initiatives. The group is also looking at Professional Development for Teachers in digital communication skills and ICT. *WG Leader: Damien Feneley, DEC*
	5. **Post-compulsory Sustainability Education –** This WG had the e-waste community recycling days and the production of a number of short YouTube clips on the site. For 2014 the WG is hoping to connect and link with other RCE partners outside the Nirimba Education Precinct and can provide expertise in teaching and provide speakers to support a range of projects. *WG Leader: Greg Cheetham, TAFE WSI*
	6. **Food Security and Agriculture –** This WG has a newly appointed leader and is looking at how to re-establish. The WG will be focussing on food providoring with local schools, migrants and communities, engagement in agriculture (PICSE), development of urban farming areas and distribution models to build a local food network. *WG Leader: Eric Broken, HDRA/ATA*
1. **New WG Pitch for 2015**
	1. **Biodiversity and Conservation –** This WG is seeking interest from RCE partners to look at biodiversity education, embedding school programs using a Landcare model and transference between children and adults or neighbour and neighbour around environmental education. A key project is the UWS Riverfarm. Currently focussed in Hawkesbury, this WG needs to extend its reach over GWS. *WG Leader: Helen Angelakis, UWS*
2. **Other Business**
	1. Penrith Lakes EEC is seeking backing from the RCE to support their move to a permanent space at the Penrith Lakes scheme by writing an official statement as to how you could benefit from the centre. Please contact Bran, Principle of Penrith Lakes EEC (branimir.lazendic@det.nsw.edu.au) for further details. Bran is also seeking advice from the network on potential high school sustainability orientated excursion visits.
	2. Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network, a key outcome of the ALIVE! Project in 2012 has a closed Facebook group for any educators to join and share ideas, promote events or discuss stories of success. To join the group please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367351370101225/?ref=br_tf>
	3. University of Western Sydney will be hosting a National Students for Sustainability conference in September 2015, themed ‘HOPE for the Future’. All RCE members are invited to attend. For more information please visit [www.uws.edu.au/s4s](http://www.uws.edu.au/s4s)
	4. Office of Sustainability has been working on a ‘RCE Snapshot 2014’ which will form the basis of our networks annual report. This will be ready for dissemination shortly to all our partners and international RCE’s
	5. Communication overview was provided. The RCE-GWS website will undergo a remodel over the next few months. Newsletters will now be released biannually in June and December. An Edmodo has been created as a communication platform to share ideas, projects, events, funding or achievements between RCE-GWS members, but has not been actively used by our network. To create a profile please visit <https://edmo.do/j/ii2esz>

**NEXT MEETING 9th JUNE 2015 – GENERAL FORUM**

**Minutes approved by:**