

**RCE-GWS Working Group Meeting**  
**Minutes** of meeting 8th September, 8.30am – 9.30am at Campbelltown Campus, Western Sydney University

**ATTENDENCE:** Eric Brocken HDRA, Eric Brocken EarthCare Centre HDRA/ATA, Mike Bartlett Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Margaret Western Sydney University, Jen Dollin Western Sydney University, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Brittany Hardiman Western Sydney University

**APOLOGIES:** Damien Feneley DEC, Elizabeth Hellenpach TAFE WSI

1. **NEW MEMBERS**
   1. Greater Sydney Local Land Services (LLS) unanimously approved. LLS are a state government agency that undertakes natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and biosecurity works in Greater Sydney & Central Coast. LLS are engaged with the university and a few other RCE partners already. Benefits are funding, research and partnerships.
   2. RCE needs to develop one page cover letter for new members
      1. Document needs to address: purpose of RCE, benefits of joining, expectations as members including attendance to forum meetings and active collaborations, duration of membership
      2. New and existing members with nil participation after 12 months to be withdrawn from the RCE-GWS network
      3. Each new partner will be given 12 month membership with option to renew after this time

**Action: Jen/Brittany to work on RCE cover letter for review by WG.**

1. **WORKING GROUP UPDATE**
   * 1. **Click, Connect, Collaborate (CCC), Damien Feneley:** My school has produced its first short video to share with Sankun Elementary in Japan. The video is a snapshot of our school and life in the Hawkesbury, with a particular focus on our Japanese languages program. Our next step is to contact the 3 other schools in the Hawkesbury who are attending YES, and send a student film crew to video and interview them about the sustainability initiatives that they are doing. We will then make those into short videos to share with Sankun. This process will give the students of Sankun Elementary a picture of life in the Hawkesbury, our school system and the sustainability initiative we are focusing on.
     2. **YES 21st Century Awards, Mike Bartlett:** Pilot event to be held 21 October after Day 1 of YES, focused on place and planet recognising student initiatives. RCE projects such as CCC and GoMAD were awarded. RCE GWS as a major partner in YES is also a major part of the awards, adding inspiration, prestige and international connections in addition to facilitating some of the projects being recognised, however as participation was outside GWS branding has taken a smaller part.
     3. **Murama, Mike Bartlett:** This aboriginal cultural event will share and create a group of passionate students, educators and mentors are gathering to create a curriculum enriching event with young leaders
   1. **Post-compulsory Higher Education, Greg Cheetham:** Recent RCE collaboration of the precinct videos is complete. Green Skills Hub at Nirimba opens for Sustainable House Day on 13 September. Precinct is turning over to community lands meaning regeneration of the site, habitat and environmental restoration and protection, new buildings and landscaping on site for environmental benefits, cycle way around area with increase in public transport.
   2. **Biodiversity and River Health, Jen Dollin:** Group is expanding out from Hawkesbury based with a number of projects
      1. Windsor to Weir website now live **-** <http://windsortoweir.org/>
      2. Bushell’s Lagoon project supported by Local Land Services and Hawkesbury Environment Network
      3. Bee Aware project ongoing with support from Transition Towns Parramatta in Harris Park
      4. Work experience for 10 university students worked with Local Land Services on a wombat release program in Mulgoa
      5. Bass Fishing Club has recently received funding for bush care ar 4 sites including the Rivefarm along the Hawkesbury Nepean River
      6. Dr Ian Wright and university students have joined RCE working group to develop a coal mining and water pollution project for local community.
   3. **Food Security and Agriculture, Eric Brocken:** University student farm on Hawkesbury campus is progressing with the Secret Garden, North West Disability Services. As part the GWS Youth Food Movement are recruiting all students, not just agricultural students. Pilot project for food mapping also proposed targeting schools, childcare and retirement villages to work within the local community as a network with demand of increasing for local food.
2. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. Dormant members previously discussed - nil participation after 12 months to be withdrawn

**Next Meeting: 8th December 2.30pm – 3.30pm, Hawkesbury campus**