



KiwEE News No.21 (November 2016)

Comment from the Chair

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our latest and last issue of KiwEE News for 2017.

We hope you enjoyed our Annual Report 2016 – KiwEE Report that was sent through last month. The report highlighted some significant activities throughout the year and opportunities to build upon in 2017, including the refresh of the National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to review the draft strategy and provide some feedback. The six-week feedback period ended on 10 October and received nearly 200 respondents, and the project team is now analysing feedback to support finalising the strategy and to develop content for a strategy implementation plan. Two of our NZAEE National Executive members have fed into the strategy refresh – Davina Hunt and Chris Eames, so a big thank you goes to them.

Your National Executive will be gathering in February 2017 in Wellington. This will include a national AGM, and the date is likely to be Thursday 16 February. We welcome your views of anything you want us to consider and we hope to see a number of you at the AGM, more info to follow in the New Year.

If you are organising your branch AGM's currently remember this should include consideration of who at a branch level will be put forward to the National Executive in the coming year.

A very big welcome to the following new members – Alice Davidson, Tim Higham, Tania Bramley and Kyle Parker. It's great to see our membership base continue to grow.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to wish our members and families a great festive break, a very big thank you for all your efforts throughout 2016 and we look forward to our continued partnership working in 2017.

Best wishes,
Michelle & Rhys
Co-chairs

EEfS Feedback Received

Draft National Strategy for EEfS Update

The Advancing EEfS project is a cross-agency collaboration by the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Education.

A key outcome from this project has been the refresh of the existing 1998 Learning to Care for Our Environment national strategy for environmental education.

On 30 August, Hon Nicky Wagner as Associate Minister for Conservation, publicly announced the release of the draft Strategy to seek feedback from stakeholders. The six-week feedback period ended on 10 October. We have received feedback from nearly 200 respondents, covering all regions and representing a wide range of stakeholders, including; central and local government, iwi/hapu/whānau, early childhood education, primary and secondary schools, kura, tertiary providers, research institutes, vocational training, business, NGOs, community groups and individuals.

The project is now analysing respondents' feedback to support finalising the strategy and to develop content for a strategy implementation plan.

NZAEE Seaweed - New Zealand's national week about the sea



Seaweed 2017 Sponsors Confirmed

The New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) thanks Foundation North for its ongoing support for its flagship event Seaweed seaweed.org.nz



Foundation North is also funding NZAEE to run the NZ Marine Studies Centre's citizen science project Marine Metre Squared mm2.net.nz in the Hauraki Gulf during 2017.

The national citizen science project empowers tangata whenua, schools, families and communities to monitor their local seashore and record changes over time. Data collected through the surveys and entered into the MM2 website at www.mm2.net.nz is used to help scientists improve coastal management.

Please contact Seaweed's National Coordinator Dr Mels Barton at mels@subliminal.co.nz if you, your school or community group would like to participate in the Hauraki Gulf MM2 project this year.

We are excited and delighted to announce that Young Ocean Explorers have come on board as a national supporter for Seaweek 2017 and have provided us with a treasure trove of fantastic prizes for this year's competitions. Thanks so much guys!



Young Ocean Explorers will also feature in a number of Seaweek events this year, so keep your eye on the event listings in your area to see what's happening. www.youngoceanexplorers.co.nz

Seaweek Ocean Champion Nominations Open

NZAAE Seaweek is delighted to announce that nominations are now open to find the Seaweek "Ocean Champion" for 2017.

Nominations are open now until Friday 27 January 2017 and voting will take place during February 2017. Nominees will all be featured on the Seaweek website.

The winner will be announced during Seaweek 2017 and will receive a prize package equivalent to at least \$500 to support their work donated by the New Zealand Coastal Society.

NZAAE Board Member and Seaweek Programme Manager, Pam Crisp says:

"Our supporters can see benefit in the educational outcomes we're achieving from having an annual focus on the issues affecting the oceans and ways that communities and schools can get involved.

We are delighted that councils and agencies around the country are supporting Seaweek by providing Regional Coordinators who are essential in enabling a rich event programme to be developed for their region.

It's wonderful that we are now able to plan early to grow the event and engage more people in this fun and informative week about the sea. Many thanks to our supporters for their continued commitment to Seaweek."

If you or your organisation would like to sponsor or support Seaweek please get in touch with the National Coordinator by emailing Mels Barton on mels@subliminal.co.nz



Image: Richard Robinson

AAEE Conference

Thea DePetris

In October, I attended the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) conference - *TomorrowMaking – Our Present to the Future*. The conference was set in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia and location of campuses affiliated with all four of the state's universities. The physical layout of the city is comprised of a grid system with the city centre at its core and surrounded by a ring of parks known as the Adelaide Parklands. On my first early morning jog through these parks, I was completely overwhelmed by the great number of cricket pitches and soccer fields about and could only think of the vast potential for bush regeneration amongst all this open space!

The conference venue was located at Adelaide High School. Recently refurbished, the school's classrooms and hall was perfectly adequate, with evening drinks on the building's rooftop overlooking the city a bonus. As typical, there was a plethora of informative presentations, workshops and roundtables. Interestingly, the keynote sessions included multiple presenters and enabled them to make comment on one another's initiatives.

My favourite keynote was Dr Paul Clarke, founder and CEO of the Pop-Up Foundation and also professor of education at St. Mary's University (London). Dr Clarke provided an inspirational overview of how this foundation is developing projects that look to nature for creating sustainable ways of living. Additionally, through his amazing presence and articulateness, he was powerfully provocative in the nicest of ways, even in relation to the topics presented by keynote speakers sitting next to him on stage. If we are to ever clone anyone, I'd pick him!

By the end of the conference, to no surprise to me, I was of course heartened by the enthusiasm and great work being done by others but also saddened by the immensity and complexity of the issues humankind faces going forward.

I left the conference still bamboozled by the fact that we can spend many millions of dollars on a state-of-art facility like the Science Creativity Education Studio being headed by another keynote speaker (Dr Kristen Arnold), but in comparison, so little coordinated funding is made available to grass-roots leaders of take-action sustainability initiatives for continuously engaging and educating our local communities.

I would like to express my appreciation to both NZAEE and AAEE for their collaborative efforts to organising the scholarship I received that helped towards paying my costs to attend this conference.

EE news from the Waikato

Greetings from the (relatively) calm, green pastures of the Waikato region. Unusually for our area, many of us experienced quite a shake early Monday morning, but nothing like the centre of our country and our thoughts go out to our members and their whanau in those regions. Spring has delivered a flush of rain that has our farms and forests looking really green and lush (except for where possums and kauri dieback is impacting).

Our environmental educators have been working hard as always and have plans for the coming year. I was fortunate to attend an Enviroschools hui a couple of months ago where local schools came together to showcase and share their learning. It was an excellent day with passion and knowledge demonstrated by the students for their environmental work. The day was a credit to the Enviroschools organisers and the teachers who are doing such varied and interesting work with their students.

We have been focussing on our rivers up here, and the Waikato awa in particular. There is a great new context on the Science Learning Hub about the river – check out <http://sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Toku-Awa-Koiora>. In addition, a Healthy Rivers Plan has been proposed that aims to restore of the Waikato and Waipa catchments. The Plan is currently open for submissions and is a great issue to engage with for environmental education.

Our branch Chair, Andrea Soanes, is currently sailing around the Subantarctic islands as a guest of the Sir Peter Blake Trust. Andrea has made a big contribution over the years to the SPBT Youth Environmental Forums and when a chance came for the Trust to send a delegate on an expedition to the islands, they invited Andrea to take it up. She was over the moon about the opportunity, and with sealegs tablets in hand, she is currently gathering stories that can be shared upon her return.

Local environmental education organisation, Te Kauri Waikuku Trust, will be running a Connecting with Nature workshop for teachers on January 20-21, 2017 at Te Kauri Lodge, Oparau, Kawhia. The programme includes hands-on sessions with experienced environmental educators, covering stream studies, forest ecology and forest restoration. Contact Debbie Courtney at debcourts@gmail.com for more information.

Our members have been highly engaged in the submission process for the refresh of the EEfS national strategy. The branch held a vibrant meeting at the Waikato Environment Centre which supported a number of individuals and organisations to make submissions. Some of our members have also been involved in the analysis and reporting of the feedback.

Looking ahead, our branch AGM is coming up on 15 December. We will hear Andrea's stories and plan for next year. We hope to run a climate change education event in conjunction with Seaweek in early March, so that will be our focus for the next few months. Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season from the Waikato.
Chris Eames

EE News from the Bay of Plenty

Bay of Plenty Branch AGM

The Bay of Plenty Branch AGM was held on 10 November. The official side of the meeting saw Kate Akers and Michelle Elborn stand down as Co-chairs of the branch and Radleigh Cairns be appointed as the new Branch Coordinator. Radleigh is a pollution prevention officer for Tauranga City Council and will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the role.

Monica Quirke from Rotorua Lakes Council retained the Treasurer position and Michelle Elborn will put herself forward to continue representing the Bay of Plenty on the National Executive.

The meeting also highlighted some of the great EE activities underway including an upcoming

Enviroschools Expo, plans for Sustainable Backyards Month to deliver over 100 environmental events throughout the Bay next March, Climate Change presentations, funds to support environmental projects and some great programmes available to kindergartens and schools.

A highlight of the meeting was a fantastic presentation by Peter Ellery and site visit to learn about the By de Ley wetland project. Did you know that cheese is one of the best baits to use for trapping eels?! The By de Ley Wetland project has constructed habitat for native fish, with a focus on inanga, (which is the fish that produces 90% of our whitebait catch). Excavated ponds have provided rearing and spawning habitat for inanga in the tidal lowlands of the river and have also created habitat for many other species of freshwater and marine fish and wetland birds. Enhancing whitebait production is benefiting the mauri from the bottom up, with widespread benefits for both ikawai and the tamariki of tangaroa. Thanks Peter!

Getting Real - Environmental Lessons from the Wilderness – 1 December

As urban dwellers it is easy to lose touch with the reality of how dependent we really are on the natural environment. Immersion in the wilderness reminds us of that reliance and provides lessons about how to connect with our natural roots. Max Mason spent six months immersed in the United States mountain wilderness thru-hiking the 3,500km Appalachian Trail, learning how little our consumerist culture really matters. If you are in Tauranga join the workshop with Max on the lessons learned from the realities of living and learning deep in the natural environment. For more info visit www.envirohub.org.nz

Join the Aoteroa Bike Challenge! - February 2017

A fun, free challenge to encourage you and your colleagues to experience first- hand joys and benefits of riding a bike. There will be lots of fantastic prizes on offer to tempt your team. For more information visit: <http://www.lovetoride.net/nz>

Hello Café Rotorua: Creative Problem Solving Workshops for Girls – Term 4

Hello Café has created a series of free afterschool workshops which support girls to open their minds, think creatively and gain confidence to give back to their communities. We have searched the country to find inspiring female ambassadors who will share their experiences and lead our workshops. Held once a week from 3:30pm to 5pm throughout Term 4, each workshop will focus on an issue that affects local and global communities. From recycling plastics and disaster proofing, through to access to clean water and toilets, we want to open minds and spark ideas through interactive conversation.



EE News from Canterbury

The Canterbury branch has found it difficult to maintain any momentum this past year with only two meetings having been held to bring members together; members have been busy within their various organisations coping with mergers, restructuring and office moves. A small group has been discussing how best to deliver teacher workshops on facilitating and resourcing EFS programmes; it is hoped that these workshops will roll out throughout 2017. The main focus for the branch currently is planning for Seaweeek activities. A final meeting for the year, which will double as the AGM, is scheduled for Dec 13th at the new Environment Canterbury building.

Beyond the branch, network activities are afoot within the Greater Christchurch area to bring groups with environmental and sustainability kaupapa together to determine shared needs and how they may more effectively collaborate or share resources. There is talk of recreating an Environment Centre or some sort of shared space – there's certainly lots of shiny new office space available but not the funds to manage the rental costs!! NZAEE representatives have attended the initial meetings and will report back to the branch on progress.

Next year, Jocelyn Pappriill who is currently regional rep. on Executive and branch secretary, will be out of the country for 7 months so the branch is looking for others to step into either the coordinating role and the regional rep. role.

Please get in touch if you would like to take on either or both of those roles for 2017 into the 2018 conference period – you don't have to be Christchurch based but do need to be in Canterbury & Marlborough regions.

Jocelyn
Jocelyn.papprill@ecan.govt.nz

Sir Peter Blake Trust

Exciting leadership development opportunity.

The Sir Peter Blake Trust believes in empowering kiwis to take action in caring for the environment and building sound leadership, no matter what age you are. We encourage developing young environmentalists and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in their own communities.

The YELF programme is a fully funded, week long leadership development adventure which is open to all year 11-13 students in New Zealand. Students should be passionate for the environment and want to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. YELF 2017 will be in Auckland, and the theme is *OCEANS*. Delegates will participate in outdoor and environmental activities to challenge and develop themselves as future environmental leaders.

For more information visit sirpeterblaketrust.org or contact Bhakti Patel on bhakti@sirpeterblaketrust.org



Courses – change to Waikato offering!

The University of Waikato has offered a summer school paper in environmental and sustainability education for the past 10 years. From 2017, this paper will begin in late February instead. It will involve a three day on campus camp in Hamilton, Feb 24-26, followed by online supported learning at your place. You can study for this one paper alone, or work towards several papers and research for the full Master's degree. This is a great introduction into academic study in this area. For more information visit <https://education.waikato.ac.nz/tems/> or email Chris Eames at c.eames@waikato.ac.nz.

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DOC's 'In the environment' education resources

These are a series of investigation tools for primary and intermediate schools throughout New Zealand. The resources encourage students to go outdoors, explore local green spaces, and collect robust scientific data to inform taking local conservation action.

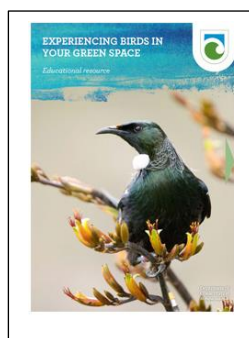
The resource series is underpinned by DOC's action-orientated inquiry learning process, encourage participating in citizen science projects, and include Science, English, Maths and Social Sciences learning objectives.

The first three resources in the series are available online:

[Exploring your local environment](#)

[Experiencing birds in your green space](#)

[Experiencing invertebrates in your green space](#)



Your 2016 NZAEE National Executive

Please feel free to contact your national executive members at any time.

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