

# KiwEE Review

The Annual Review of the New Zealand  
Association for Environmental Education

2017





# Welcome and introduction



**Welcome to the fifth edition of KiwEE Review, providing the annual report of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE).**

This review reports on the status and activities of our organisation and provides a commentary on environmental education (EE) and education for sustainability (EFS) in New Zealand over the year July 2016 to June 2017.

The NZAEE National Executive representatives advocate for EE/EFS at a high level with key partners, such as the Department of Conservation, while supporting our members to stay connected. To foster connections, we have our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), a biennial conference, teacher workshops and youth initiatives. Also, there is our annual flagship event – *Seaweek*.

During this year, we farewelled three members of the National Executive. Jocelyn Papprell, our former Canterbury branch representative who is taking a well-earned sabbatical touring around Europe by bicycle. Rhys Taylor, who was our co-chair and also Canterbury based, departed after a number of years of valuable input and Mark Oster from the Southland branch also stood down. We would like to thank them all for their effort and contributions to our organisation.

We also welcomed four new people onto our National Executive. Three of these people come from Wellington: Anita Anderson; Anneke Mace and Marty Taylor and they bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience in EE/EFS. Dr Allen Hill has recently returned to Christchurch from Hobart in Tasmania. He has joined our Executive and given his involvement in the Australian Association for Environmental Education over the past few years and him being awarded the 2016 Australian Environmental Educator of the Year, we are sure that he will have lots of expertise to share.

Davina Hunt stays with us but has moved back to Dunedin and is representing the Southern Branch.

The Wellington branch is busy planning for our next exciting conference that will be held in Wellington from 18-20 April. Please mark these dates in your diaries and come along to what will be an invigorating and thought-provoking event.

The priorities for NZAEE can be found in our [manifesto](#). We did discuss updating this document in preparation for the upcoming election. However, we decided to take a different approach and instead write lobby statements supporting the new Environmental Education for Sustainability Strategy and share these post-election – watch out for these later this year.

Our members in their local branches are the mainstay of our organisation. They contribute to the building of sustainable and resilient communities across many sectors and disciplines. [Branch guidelines](#) are available that contain information about operating a branch and forming new ones.

We appreciate your interest in our organisation and welcome any suggestions and viewpoints on environmental and sustainability education matters at any time. We hope to see you at the conference in Wellington in 2018.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michelle Elborn and Sally Birdsall**  
Co-Chairs NZAEE

# The year in review for NZAEE

## Mātauranga Whakauka Taiao - A strategy and action plan to better equip New Zealanders, especially children and young people, with the knowledge, skills and motivation to tackle environmental issues.

Over this past year, our hopes have been pinned on the development of a new strategy for EE/EfS and its accompanying action plan. The cross-government steering group that was led by the Department of Conservation and included the Ministries for the Environment and Education who called for feedback to a draft statement in late 2016. The NZAEE contributed at three levels to the feedback. The National Executive provided feedback from a national perspective, various branches contributed on a branch level, and individual members of our organisation also gave their perspectives on this document. We would like to thank branch members for their participation and National Executive members Davina Hunt and Chris Eames for the work that they have put into the development of this new strategy.

It is exciting to have this [Environmental Education for Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2021](#) now available. It sets out priority areas for government agencies to focus on, towards the goal that all New Zealanders value a connection to our environment by actively working together for a sustainable future.

The strategy updates a previous national strategy for environmental education. In the strategy and action plan it sets out how government agencies will build on previous collaboration and work together to support the delivery of high quality Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS) across New Zealand. Three priority areas have been identified which we share more on in the ‘state of EE/EfS in New Zealand’ section of this review.

NZAEE looks forward to identifying ways in which it can support these priority areas.

### Climate, water and other hot topics...

Summer ended abruptly in New Zealand this year with one of the wettest months yet recorded. Some places received 300% more rainfall than usual in the month of April and we saw flooding that resulted in the temporary abandonment of a whole town (Edgecumbe). So much progress is still to be made in defining New Zealand’s response to Climate Change however, this year has seen some valuable steps occur. Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has been working on a [Climate Change Position Statement](#) to guide local government responsibilities and response. Generation Zero is advocating for a [Zero Carbon Act](#).

For many New Zealanders, the issue of clean rivers, lakes and streams seems to be of high importance. It appears





that for the first time in our history, we are realising that there is insufficient water for everyone and that controls/limits need to be imposed. The importance of this issue was reflected in early election campaigning and it will be interesting to see the outcome of this election and how the new government will deal with it.

Another hot topic for New Zealand is [Predator Free 2050](#) - an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation's natural taonga, our economy and primary sector.

Issues of climate change, predator control are only three of the problems we face as a society. With every year that goes past, the scale and range of these environmental and social issues seems to grow. There is an imperative need for EE/EfS programmes to encourage the shift to sustainable choices and behaviours in both formal and informal education settings. As a consequence, we as environmental educators need to keep working collectively to provide programmes and influence policies to help this change take place in Aotearoa New Zealand.

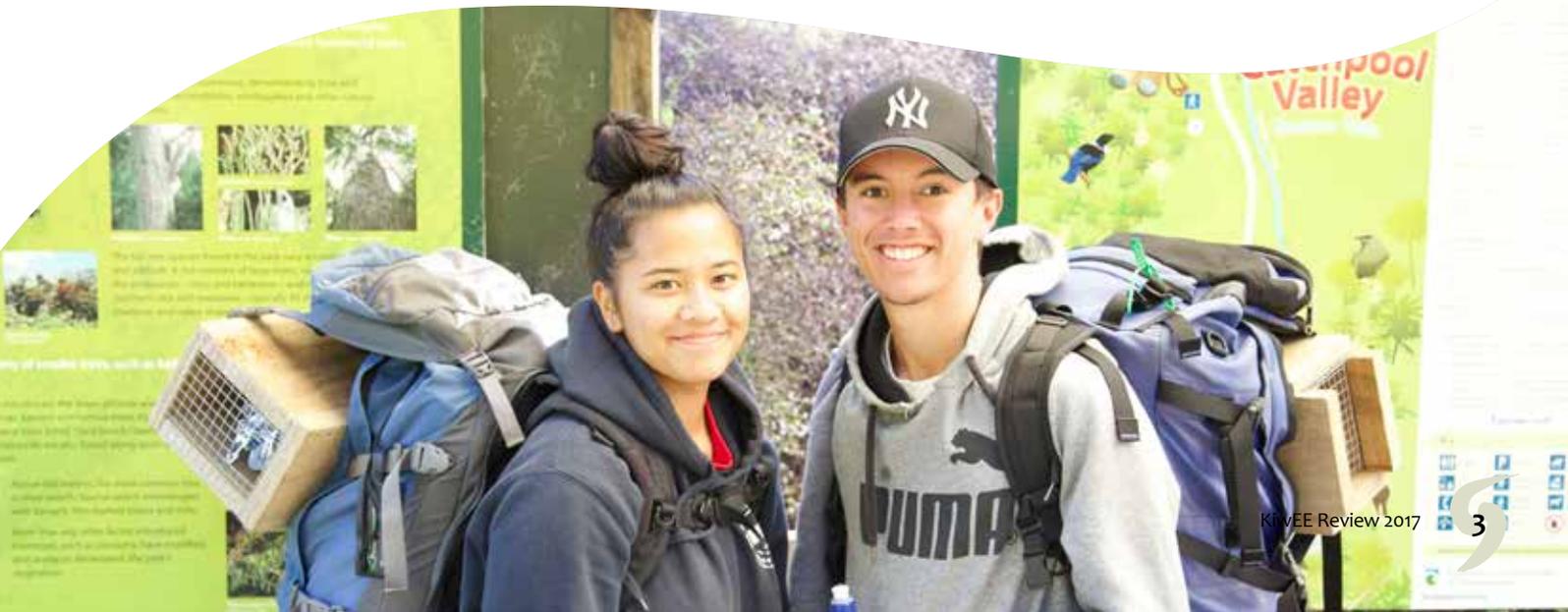
### Membership

Reports from our branches show that our membership numbers have dropped over this year. While disappointing, we do usually find that in the year when we have no conference, we see a drop in membership. However, we look forward to attracting more school and community-based educators to our network in 2018.

### Conference time - pin the dates – 18 – 20 April

Members of the National Executive were delighted when the Wellington branch accepted the challenge of running our next conference. They have formed a committee and are busy organising an exciting event for our members. Our thanks to the people who have taken on this challenge, we are hugely grateful for their efforts and we are sure that this conference will provide an inspirational collection of speakers, workshops and activities to help drive the passion of our members on our mission delivering high quality EE/EfS programmes. We can't wait to see you there!

**Michelle Elborn and Sally Birdsall**  
Co-Chairs NZAEE



# Seaweek 2017

*Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy Seas, Healthy People*

**Seaweek 2017 was a huge success, reaching an estimated 100,000 people including 42,000 Kiwis who registered for 211 events and 14 competitions.**

National Coordinator Mels Barton did an excellent job once again, working with Seaweek's partners, stakeholders and volunteer regional coordinators to deliver an exciting, action-filled programme with increased learning and engagement outcomes.

Some interesting snippets from our event evaluation this year included:

- 94% of respondents rated the event/s they attended as being of 'high' or 'very high' value (compared with 76% in 2013).
- Events were typically attended by adult but also primary-school-age children - a move away from previous surveys showing attendance (or completion of survey forms at events) mainly by adult NZ European women.
- The ethnic makeup of those attending Seaweek events has increased, including greater participation by Māori (from 3% in 2013 to 7% in 2017).

The findings also show an increase in hands-on, action-oriented events, and increased knowledge and ability by participants to take action after taking part in these events:

- Participants are increasingly having direct experiences of the marine environment, while learning new skills (e.g. observing and identifying birds through spotting scopes) - increasing their ability to take action.
- The proportion of respondents rating their ability to protect or improve the sea environment as 'medium' to 'extremely high' rose from 75% in 2013 to 95% in 2017.
- 70% of respondents indicated their knowledge about issues affecting species and habitats had increased.
- 78% of respondents indicated that the actions they would take had increased, with 93% of participants who responded to this question identifying actions they would take based on skills they learned from events they had attended.



◀ **Far left:** Experiencing Marine Reserves participants take the plunge on a Seaweek trip to Rotoroa Island in the Hauraki Gulf (Photo: Lorna Doogan, Experiencing Marine Reserves)

◀ **Left:** Algal biochemist Dr Jonathan Puddick, coordinator of Cawthron Institute's Rabbit Island clean up, part of Nelson-Tasman's Seaweek 2017 Big Beach Clean Up. (Photo: Cawthron Institute)

# What people said...

“I will be working with neighbours, encouraging them with stream planting”

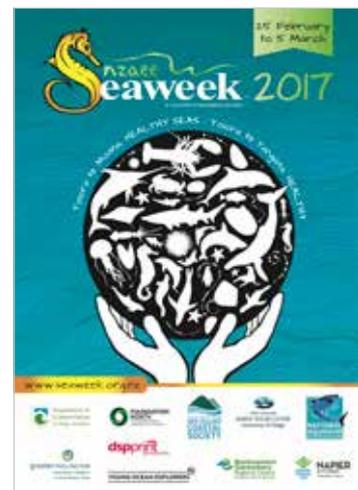
**Event attendee**

“Seaweek is the only national event dedicated to learning from the sea and developing a better understanding of what sustainability might mean in the marine world.”

“We saw a dead bird and saw it was killed by eating fishing line so maybe I will be a bit more cautious.”

**Event attendee, aged under 10**

**Big thanks to our supporters:** Foundation North, Department of Conservation, NZ Marine Studies Centre - University of Otago, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Environment Canterbury Regional Council, The National Aquarium - Napier City Council, DSP Print Group Ltd, New Zealand Coastal Society, Young Ocean Explorers, Lou and Iris Fisher Trust plus many local sponsors.



Seaweek 2017 poster >

To find out more, visit: [www.seaweek.org.nz](http://www.seaweek.org.nz) or check out our new Seaweek merchandise store at <http://seaweek.ezymerch.co.nz/> or some great educational resources launched in Seaweek 2017: <http://seaweek.org.nz/resources-downloads/>

# The National Executive

## **Sally Birdsall**

*Co-chair and Auckland Branch rep*

 [s.birdsall@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.birdsall@auckland.ac.nz)

Sally is a senior lecturer in science and environmental education at the University of Auckland.

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## **Michelle Elborn**

*Co-chair and Bay of Plenty Branch Rep*

 [michelle@bayconservation.nz](mailto:michelle@bayconservation.nz)

Michelle is the manager of Bay Conservation Alliance.

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## **Chris Eames**

*Waikato branch rep*

 [c.eames@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:c.eames@waikato.ac.nz)

Chris is a senior lecturer in environmental education at the University of Waikato.

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## **Pam Crisp**

*Wellington Branch Rep*

 [pamdcrisp@gmail.com](mailto:pamdcrisp@gmail.com)

Pam is a conservation education consultant and former environmental educator with DOC.

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## **Anneke Mace**

*Located in Wellington*

 [Anneke.Mace@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Anneke.Mace@wcc.govt.nz)

Anneke is a botanic gardens educator for Wellington City Council.

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## **Anita Anderson**

*Located in Wellington*

 [aanderson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aanderson@doc.govt.nz)

Anita works for DOC leading marketing and communications.

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## **Marty Taylor**

*Located in Wellington*

 [mardtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:mardtaylor@gmail.com)

Marty runs the Te Papa Taiao Earthcare programmes in schools.

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## **Dr. Allen Hill**

*Canterbury branch rep*

 [allen.hill@ara.ac.nz](mailto:allen.hill@ara.ac.nz)

Allen is Principal lecturer in Sustainability and Outdoor Education at Ara Institute of Canterbury.

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## **Davina Hunt**

*Southern Branch rep*

 [davinarhunt@gmail.com](mailto:davinarhunt@gmail.com)

Davina is a teacher at Musselburgh School.

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## **Debbie Courtney**

*National Co-ordinator*

 [nzaeecontact@gmail.com](mailto:nzaeecontact@gmail.com)

Debbie is our National Coordinator undertaking much of our administration.

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# The State of EEfS in New Zealand

We have deliberately chosen to address this piece under the banner of EEfS – Environmental Education for Sustainability. Those who have been engaged in this field for some time will know that there has been a plethora of terms to describe what we do, as educators we strive to make our work known, understood and included.

Internationally, at one level the field is still described as Education for Sustainable development (ESD) by bodies such as UNESCO, building on the foundation of ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable development of societies, particularly in the developing world.

At another level, amongst the academic community, the field is increasingly known as Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE), in recognition that it is important to foreground the environment, that sustainability is the goal, but that educating for something seems too deterministic.

More recently, the cross-government steering group that has been progressing a new strategy for an all-of-government response in this field has been using the term Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS) in recognising the foregrounding of the environment and building upon the previous positioning of the field as Education for Sustainability (EfS), as used by the Ministry for the Environment, and the Ministry of Education in Te Kete Ipurangi (see <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/Education-for-sustainability> and <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/Social-sciences/Education-for-sustainability>) and NZQA for NCEA (see <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/assessment/search.do?query=environmental+sustainability&view=achievements&level=03>)

Work by the cross-government steering group led by the Department of Conservation, and including the Ministries for the Environment and Education as well as other stakeholders, has led to the development of

a new Strategy for EEfS over the next ten years, and an Action Plan to progress this Strategy over the next four. These documents are the product of extensive planning by the steering group which has included a research update report conducted by NZCER in 2015, and a public consultation on a draft Strategy in late 2016 which drew 200 responses from throughout New Zealand, with widespread support for the Strategy and the priority areas for action that have been identified. These priority areas include:

- Enabling coordination of EEfS - provide co-ordination and strengthen networks. Promote engagement and celebrate exemplary practice and partnerships. Encourage collaborations and research. Support effective evaluation and monitoring.
- Growing capability and capacity in EEfS delivery - support the development of guidelines and tools, and initiatives that enable ongoing growth of the EEfS sector. Facilitate professional learning and development.
- Strengthening pathways in sustainable practice - promote opportunities for EEfS in tertiary, vocational and non-formal education. Enhance employers' awareness of the benefits of EEfS. Support initiatives that empower young leaders and entrepreneurs. Ensure equity of access to EEfS.

The first four year Action Plan will endeavour to address these priority areas through four objectives:

- Celebrate success to raise awareness and demonstrate value with an outcome of New Zealanders know what best practice EEfS is, understand its value and want to engage in it
- Strengthen networks to foster collaborative action with an outcome of New Zealand has strong networks that foster collaborative action and support high-quality EEfS

- Build capability and capacity to engage people with an outcome that government agencies and our partners have people with the right knowledge and skills to effectively engage people in EEfS in New Zealand
- Ensure progress of the Action Plan and measure its impact with an outcome that there is a sustained focus on our strategy and actions to ensure that we achieve the significant change we are looking for in the quality and reach of EEfS

The Strategy and Action Plan were recently launched by the Associate Minister for Conservation, the Hon Nicky Wagner, and NZAEE looks forward to helping Government to progress these in the years to come.

Meanwhile, EEfS continues to progress well at other levels. The EnviroSchools Programme remains a highly significant factor in engaging early childhood, primary and secondary schools in EEfS. Whilst support within local government is not always stable, the value of the Programme is clear and policy makers are finding that hard to ignore. The continued growth of grass-roots environmental and social groups is addressing issues in our natural and social spaces, and the role of citizen science as a legitimate way of contributing data to raise awareness and influence decision-making is increasingly being recognised.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) National Science Challenges have provided further avenues for the public to engage in EEfS through collaborating researchers from many fields sharing their approaches to tackling some of the biggest science-based issues and opportunities facing New Zealand. Outreach and communication of issues and outcomes are an integral part of each of the 11 Challenges and opportunities for educators to participate in connecting the challenges to the public are increasing as these research projects progress.

The National Science Challenges were identified through engagement with public, science sector, and science users in 2012, prioritised in 2013 by an

independent panel chaired by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman and launched in 2015.

The ten years of government funding for the Challenges is already resulting in support for specific public science, technology, art and environmental education initiatives from within the Sustainable Seas, NZ's Biological Heritage, Deep South (climate change) and the Resilience (natural hazards) Challenges. No doubt further opportunities will arise in the future. Each challenge also has a Vision Mātauranga expert advising on the development of Māori-specific tools and strategies to support Māori aspirations.

Another component of the Nation of Curious Minds programme facilitated by the Office of the Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister (Curious Minds, 2016) that can support EEfS is the Participatory Science Platform. This Platform is supporting small scale projects that aim to engage local people and organisations to work together on collaborative research projects. There is great potential to address socio-scientific issues that contribute to sustainability within this programme.

In addition, the Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund, which saw 44 projects receive a total of \$2 million in funding in 2016, enabled several projects focussing on environmental and sustainability issues.

Within New Zealand, we continue to face key local issues such as water quality, biodiversity loss, children in poverty and sustainable housing, as well as increasingly experiencing the local impacts of global issues such as climate change. In many cases our responses to these issues are encouraging but still inadequate, making the need for education about them that leads to action for change imperative. So for those of you already doing this, thank you! For those of you considering joining an association that connects interested people working towards a sustainable future, welcome on board!

**Chris Eames and Davina Hunt**  
NZAEE Executive

# Branch Reports

The following are reports from our six branches around New Zealand.



# Auckland Branch Report – 2017

## Committee Members and Roles

The Auckland Branch has 13 members on its committee. At the Annual General Meeting in December 2016, the following officers and committee members were elected:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Amber Pierce
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Trish Kirkland-Smith
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sally Birdsall
<b>Committee:</b>	Bridget Glasgow, Sue Wake, Adrienne de Melo, Cara Blomfield, Sandy Bell-Jameson, Becks Goffin, Richard Carter, Morag Vasikali, Hazel Meadows and Hilary Chidlow.

## Membership

As at June 2017, the Auckland Branch had 16 individual members, 6 schools, Auckland Council's corporate membership and one life member of NZAEE – Hilary Chidlow.

## Key Activities

After our organising of the conference that was held in February 2016, our branch has been regrouping. At the moment we are in the middle of organising a professional learning event for teachers. We are currently negotiating with Kelly Tarltons SEA LIFE Aquarium to hold an expo for teachers on their premises. The purpose is to showcase to teachers the range of environmental education providers and resources that are available in the hope that this will encourage them to teach more environmental education.

The plan is to invite environmental education providers to showcase their services and resources. The teachers will have afternoon tea and then circulate around the providers, talking with them and familiarising themselves with what resources and services are available. It could also be an opportunity to promote the Environmental Education for Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

Our other key activity is running Green Drinks. Trish Kirkland-Smith has continued to run Green Drinks during the year. The new partnership with The Sustainability Society has led to regular monthly 'low-fi' Green Drinks being held at Brothers Brewery, a boutique beer brewing establishment in Mount Eden. These meetings are successful and attract a number of people each month. This month, The Sustainability Society is partnering with the Sustainable Future Collective (a University-run society who exist to promote sustainability culture from a new, forward thinking perspective). Young people are going to showcase the great things that they are doing via an open panel discussion. The usual networking opportunities will also be available.



At present Trish is coordinating with the Auckland Department of Conservation staff with the aim of co-hosting a Green Drinks event during Conservation Week in October. A possible theme under consideration is Pest Free Auckland 2050. Hopefully you will be able to read about this in the next Annual Review.

**Sally Birdsall**  
NZAEE Auckland Branch Secretary

# Waikato Branch Report – 2017

## Committee Members and Roles

The Waikato Branch has been led by Andrea Soanes in 2017, with Chris Eames serving as representative to the National Executive.

## Membership

As at July 2017, the Waikato branch represented 13 members, being 9 individuals, 1 NGO, and 3 students.

## Key Activities

The 2016/2017 year has seen a little more action from the Waikato branch than previous years with 3 events so far. It has been a year of exploring the power of collaboration with other like-minded groups focusing on Climate Change.

The first event of 2017 was the NZAEE Climate Change Education Forum with a focus on ocean impacts connecting with Seaweed – March 2nd. There were three expert speakers: Peter Urich from CLIMsystems, Danielle Hart from DOC and Andrea Soanes from the Science Learning Hub who gave short presentations to provoke thought - the discussions then continued through rotating small group discussions. There was a good turnout at the new Rototuna Senior High school in Hamilton. The event was a carbon zero event with kai provided by Kaivololution – a community service initiative that stops edible food from being needlessly thrown away and delivers it to those in need, or in our case a community forum event.

This year we supported the local Waikato Show - Environmental Education section, April 7-9th. Alongside the Climate Action group and Generation Zero, we supported a stand at the show, talking with people about the effects of climate change. NZAEE committee members shared time on the site and used hands-on activities to highlight the impacts of climate change.

Our latest event was a collaboration between the Waikato Environment Centre, Waikato Climate Action, Globe NZ, Generation Zero and the Waikato branch NZAEE. The event was a cross party debate with three

guest speakers: Kennedy Graham, Green Party of Aotearoa, Chair of Globe NZ, Spokesperson for Global Affairs, Veterans Affairs, and National Intelligence and Security; [Damien O'Connor MP](#) – New Zealand Labour Party, MP for West Coast Tasman, Spokesperson for Primary Industry, Biosecurity and Food Safety; and [Andrew Bayly - NZ National Party, MP](#) for Hunua, Chair of the Local Government and Environment Select Committee, member of the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee.

The event explored the transformation in climate politics in NZ, getting a closer look at the document commissioned by GLOBE-NZ – a cross-party group of 35 members of the New Zealand Parliament. In this document, Vivid Economics completed one of the first attempts to help illuminate long-term low-emission pathways. The result is 'Net Zero in New Zealand'. The goal - net neutrality by as soon as 2050. This event was a forum to highlight the implications for New Zealand as a country and for us personally and acknowledging the critical importance of this issue for Pacific peoples. The discussion was facilitated by Dr Chris Eames and was focused on the best ways to meet the goal of net carbon neutrality. This event had a great turnout with a diverse crowd from young to older attending and engaging in the debate.

Ngā mihi nui

**Andrea**

# Bay of Plenty Branch Report – 2017

## Committee Members and Roles

The following Bay of Plenty branch officers are in place:

**Branch rep:** Radleigh Cairns

**Treasurer:** Monica Quirke

**National**

**Executive rep:** Michelle Elborn

## Membership

As at June 2017, the Bay of Plenty Branch represented 8 members including individuals and corporate.

## Key Activities

Our branch met twice this year. Our first meeting in August 2016 enjoyed 18 participants and included a brain storming session on what people wanted from their branch. Key ideas included:

- Make them twice a year including AGM
- Noted how worthwhile the schools EE programme promotional event was last year. This could be an annual event
- Allow community groups or EE programmes to introduce and profile themselves at meetings
- Promote upcoming events
- Celebrate great work and learn from teach other
- Profiling EE programs in EnviroHub newsletter
- NZ curriculum: discussions, share best practice, fine tuning and enhance EE classroom programs
- Sharing knowledge of new technology and programs – e.g. citizen science, MMZ, Aqua Republica

Our second meeting included our AGM but also featured a presentation and trip to a local wetland site. It was great to get out and see first-hand some of the improvements being made to our natural environment through volunteer efforts.

Sustainable Backyards month in March continues to be a flagship event for our region, providing a wide range of community education opportunities.

What has been apparent over the last year is an increase in citizen engagement – we are seeing lots of active driven groups popping up and advocating or actioning improvements around issues such as transport, food resilience, predator control and climate change.

Ngā mihi nui

**Michelle Elborn**

# Wellington Branch Report – 2017

## Committee Members and Roles

<b>Chair:</b>	Thom Adams
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandy Beath-Croft
<b>National Executive rep:</b>	Pam Crisp
<b>WREEF Representative:</b>	Gill Stewart

## Membership

As at March 2017, the Wellington Branch had 21 members including Department of Conservation, Wellington City Council and 18 individuals. However, as our AGM had 14 attendees and 33 apologies, we are working through this to ensure our information is up to date, and driving for more members.

## Other members of the National Executive Committee associated with the Wellington Branch:

Anita Anderson (DOC) Anneke Mace (WCC) and Marty Taylor (Te Papa Taiao)

## Branch Activities

1. Participated in several hui run by the Wellington Region Environmental Education Forum (WREEF) - a network connecting EE/EfS providers & schools across the Wellington region.
2. Nominated new committee members, with Thom Adams taking over from previous Chair Rebecca Wilson. A further appointment was made of Gill Stewart from Enviroschools as the WREEF representative.
3. Promoted and supported NZAEE Seaweek 2017
4. Commenced preliminary work to host NZAEE's 2018 biennial Conference in Wellington. Appointed Nina Atkinson to scope potential venues, conference companies, themes and dates, bring together a conference committee, set up a meeting schedule and begin planning.

## Conference Committee

8 members representing DOC, WCC, NZAEE, Wellington Sustainability Trust, Victoria University, Enviroschools and WREEF. The existing committee plans to expand to bring in more diverse voices.

## Conference Company

Quotes received from 5 conference companies, all recommended by past clients known to people on the committee. The chosen company will work closely with the committee to ensure success of the conference.

## Date and Venue

Conference will take place from 18 - 20 April 2018 at Wellington Girls College in Thorndon, a great location with large capacity, at a good price, and with relatively cheap nearby accommodation options available.

## Theme, Content & Structure

Conference design reflects the vision, priority areas and values of the Government's National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability (Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Education). A draft theme and 2 conference streams have been agreed by the committee:

Theme: An Ecosystem for Environmental Education (conference name tbc)

- Stream 1: Growing Environmental Education (name tbc)
- Stream 1: Celebrating and Strengthening Collaboration (name tbc)



## Partners and Sponsors

Committee members are all contributing to a sponsors'/ stakeholders' database. Scoping meetings are underway, and an EOI has been submitted to DOC's Community Fund.

### Next Steps include:

- Develop sponsorship strategy and brief
- Confirm conference structure and 'pitch'
- Launch call for abstracts
- Push for partners and funders
- Launch conference website and registrations

We have an excellent and committed team with a clear vision for the conference that is giving energy and momentum to the project.

**For more information:** Thom Adams, Wellington Branch  
Chair: [thom.adams@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:thom.adams@vuw.ac.nz)



# Canterbury Branch Report – 2017

## Committee Members and Roles

The Canterbury branch continues to work with a fluid/informal committee structure. After many years of outstanding service, Jocelynn Pappriill has taken a well-earned break in 2017 to travel. Anna Ormandy has picked up local event organisation such as Green Drinks and Dr Allen Hill is filling in as national executive representative. Rhys Taylor and others continue to support the branch.

## Membership

11 Individual members

1 school member

2 corporate members

## Key Activities

Seaweed continues to be the major form of activity in the Canterbury region with a number of interesting events held in conjunction with Seaweed. Many thanks again to Jocelyn for her work on this.

The Canterbury Branch of NZAEE is involved in events such as Green Drinks which is held 2-4 times a year. These events continue to be successful networking opportunities.

A teacher professional learning and development workshop series in EE/EfS was planned by Ara Institute of Canterbury but had to be put on hold due to lack of engagement/participation from school leaders. Providing support for teachers interested in EE/EfS continues to be an issue in a school system where teachers have such limited time and resources and which continues to marginalise areas such as EE/EfS.

NZAEE Canterbury is grateful for the support of ECAN (Environment Canterbury).

# Southland Branch Report - 2017

## Membership

As at March 2017, the Southern Branch had 7 members.

## Update

After a period of inactivity over 2016-2017, the Southern Branch is entering a re-establishment phase initiated by three of its founding members: Davina Hunt, Tania McLean and Sally Carson.

Our objectives are:

1. To reconnect the plethora of effective EEfS initiatives and educators currently active in Otago and Southland.
2. Encourage new members into our network.
3. To have over 15 paid up members by Dec 2017, the minimum required to maintain an operational branch.

The deep south has long been a vantage point for EEfS with well-established organisations such as the University of Otago, NZ Marine Studies Centre, Enviroschools, Department of Conservation, Orokonui Ecosanctuary, Dunedin City Council, Otago Regional Council and Environment Southland working collaboratively in many ways with schools, NGOs and community groups.

Local pilot initiatives, such as those through the Participatory Science Platform and National Science Challenges offer new opportunities to engage with each other to advance EEfS and being a small community we are accessible, adaptable and collaborate effectively when well connected.

## Contact

If you would like to join the NZAEE Southern Branch or find out more, contact:

**Davina Hunt**  
davinarhunt@gmail.com  
021 1555755

## About the cover images

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- 1 Papa Taiao Whenua Restoration rodent control course in the the Rimutakas 2 Papa Taiao Moana Restoration group leading sustainable aquaculture enterprise in the Parengarenga Harbour 3 Papa Taiao Wai Restoration group in the Waipoua Forest measuring the impact of weirs on fish populations on the Waipoua Awa 4 EPapa Taiao Whenua enterprise group building traps to sell to local trapping initiatives (Kaitiaki Kiwi and the KiwiCoast Trust) 5 Design innovation from the Papa Taiao predator free group in Lowerr Hutt 6 The Tasti Tio Moana Restoration group building their sustainable aquaculture enterprise 7 The leaders of the Papa Taiao Tasti Tio and the paua re-seeding group being interviewed. Tasti Tio won the Young Enterprise National Māori Innovation award for their sustainable enterprise. 8 Papa Taiao Possum Killerz environmental entrepreneurs trapping for Iwi and Kiwi Coast Trust 9 Papa Taiao Wai Restoration students from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kaikohe identifying freshwater fish in the Waipoua Awa 10 Papa Taiao Whenua Restoration students trapping in the Rimutakas.

(Photos: Papa Taiao)