

KiwEE News

No.19 (Winter 2016)

NZ Association for Environmental Education www.nzaee.org.nz

Facebook News also available - Visit & Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NZAssociationforEnvironmentalEducation

If you have items that you would like posted on the page, please contact Chris Eames c.eames@waikato.ac.nz.

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The **people** aspect of our networks.

NZAEE was well served by our Auckland members through the conference they organised earlier in 2016 – always a major task, but much appreciated by participants. As a freelance I pay my own bills for such events and found it both good value and informative, plus a chance to catch up with colleagues across the country.

I look forward to learning more from the organisers' experience, to help inform the Wellington team who take on the baton for 2018.

Branch meetings and events are intended to provide similar opportunities to re-meet colleagues and share experiences, keeping us connected in a personal human way, one that social media and websites cannot achieve.

Are the branch events achieving this for you? What one aspect works best and what one would you like to change (preferably with a suggestion for improvement to try).

Drop me an email to rhys@sustainableliving.org.nz or call me on 03 6938726 (messages left will be answered) and I'll share your thoughts in the next newsletter and with the Exec.

Here's some encouraging news with you on community education for sustainability, showing the creativity and determination of EE advocates to get access to education resources in tough financial times, especially in and from Councils.

Our local government-managed charity *Sustainable Living Education Trust* has just welcomed some new members for 2016-2017: from Masterton District who combined forces with Carterton and South Wairarapa to subscribe affordably as a group, and membership from Tasman District who are now in discussion with Nelson on the idea of making that a joint membership.

This week, organisers of a community garden in Marton told me that they are seeking a grant from Rangitikei District to join the programme – and it's their determined second attempt, after seeing the Community Garden in Oamaru succeed in a similar bid in 2015-2016 (securing a Mayoral grant from Waitaki District).

In Wellington three Transition Town Groups joined forces to successfully seek City funding to use SLET programme. Being asked to respond to community demand like this is encouraging. It helps keep our Trustees optimistic that EfS is a valued area of adult education, poised ready to respond as waste minimisation, climate change and fresh water shortages are rising in public consciousness.

Facebook users can stay in touch with the Trust at 'Futurelivingskills'.

Keep communicating!

Rhys Taylor

Co-Chair NZAEE (and National Coordinator, Sustainable Living Education Trust.)

News

EONZ Announces National Chair Change



After an outstanding period of service, Liz Thevenard has moved away from the role of EONZ National Chair. This is a position she held for nine years. Through that period Liz's measured, constant leadership provided a stability that allowed the organisation to consolidate and grow. EONZ thanks Liz for her commitment and extraordinary work.

Liz's passion and expertise as an educator, her belief in life-long learning in the outdoors, her love of nature, care for the environment and vision for a sustainable future in access to and engagement in the outdoors will not be lost, as she continues to hold a position on the Executive.

The 2016 EONZ co-chairs are Libby Paterson and Fiona McDonald.

Opinion: Tackling the EfS conundrum in secondary schools

As many of you will understand, there have been numerous difficulties in getting schools to either integrate EfS principles into their current programmes or to use EfS Achievement Standards for assessment tasks at Level 2 & 3 NCEA.

Secondary schools where EfS is being integrated are often already Enviroschools or schools in which a passionate teacher or two drive the process, often supported by NZAEE members working in a variety of local organisations like councils or NGOs.

Yet the imperatives or the need for learning for sustainability continue to mount, and they were recognised during the development of the current NZ Curriculum, which came into use in 2007, despite EfS not being a mandated learning area. I say this because the front end of the NZ Curriculum – the Vision, Principles, Values and Key Competencies – reflect so much of what the UN Decade for ESD was about with respect to learning pedagogy and outcomes.

The challenge for those of us within the NZAEE community is how we may support schools, teachers and students wishing to take an EfS approach to their teaching and learning. How could we cluster our knowledge, skills and contacts so that support for secondary teachers and students can be made available? The TKI secondary portal is a starting point but I have found the ability to sit down with teachers to tease out ideas is essential, and something the advisors, available prior to 2008, did so well.

Is there any opportunity to access some funding that could enable clusters of EfS educators to be able to offer regular workshops for teachers or indeed courses for students wishing to undertake learning for assessment by EfS achievement standards?

There must be ways that educators not in schools could deliver programmes of learning AND assess that work, as ITOs are able to do. Perhaps as an organisation, NZAEE could explore how our network of professionals could become like an ITO or work in partnership with relevant ITOs to deliver education for sustainability programmes that could produce young people either ready for work or further study in varied fields of sustainability?

I would be most interested in your thoughts and ideas or suggestions of funding sources. Email Jocelyn at chchnzaee@gmail.com

Reports from NZAEE Branches

Bay of Plenty

Celebrating Sustainability in the Bay of Plenty - Sustainable Backyards Month 2016

Sustainable Backyards month hit its 11th year and celebrated 96 events throughout the Bay of Plenty region.

The calendar of events included workshops, talks, festivals, film screenings, open homes and walks. Having originated in Tauranga, events expanded out to Opotiki, Kawerau, Rotorua and Whakatane making it a truly Bay of Plenty wide initiative.

The events were fun and varied and provided people with an opportunity to connect with their communities, share knowledge, learn more, and be inspired towards achieving a more sustainable future. Some of the key events included:

FoodFest which was a one day family friendly event; with children's activities, talks, great food, live music, and workshops covering topics such as making your own garden sustainable, avoiding food waste and composting your waste correctly. There was also a cooking demonstration from NZ MasterChef finalist Hayley Marie. Many families enjoyed this great day.

Envirofest showcased a range of inspirational speakers on sustainable business and practices, information stalls and the chance to meet like-minded people and learn something new.

The Climate Change Speakers Forum and Movie included a special screening of Chasing Ice and featured renowned experts on climate change and climate adaptation. The event was a sell-out and has stimulated further community interest in our local response to climate change.

2016 Sustainable Backyards was bigger and busier than ever before providing an opportunity for community members to connect, learn and be inspired towards a more sustainable lifestyle. The month is facilitated by Envirohub, the Bay of Plenty's Environment Centre and they would be very happy to discuss the programme should other regions in New Zealand wish to do something similar. For more information visit www.envirohub.org.nz

Canterbury

Driving change using nature's bounties

In early June the Christchurch branch hosted a Green Drinks evening at local watering hole, Smash Palace, to profile the great work Cashmere High School's Sustainability Council is doing.

Cashmere High School won the prestigious Zayed Future Energy Prize, Global High Schools Category, against a record 1,437 entries from 97 countries.

The school was ably represented by two students, Nola Smart and Lily Williams, and supported by teacher Leith Cooper impressed the judges with their passion for making a difference in their school with respect to energy usage.

The award of US\$100,000 will enable the school to further develop and implement their sustainable energy project called "ecoDriver".

The ecoDriver project started back in 2012, as a cluster of three enviroschools – Cashmere High, Cashmere Primary and Linwood North School - with the aim of reducing energy use and developing energy efficient practices.

Within the high school, the project design was led by students and aimed to inspire

behaviour change in other students. It involved installing 'smart meters' providing real-time data on the school's energy use, a "Switch Off" campaign that reduced energy use by 10%, and the replacement of 50% of fluorescent bulbs with LED lights which created a further 20% reduction in energy use. An active student-led programme to inform and encourage students to take action was developed alongside the monitoring and infrastructure changes.

At Green Drinks, students Anzac and Lily shared how the Zayed prize money is to be used to extend the ecoDriver project. They have already entered negotiations with relevant companies and will install solar panels, a wind-turbine and piezoelectric floor tiles over the next 12 months. They also aim to work with the school authorities as the school enters into a rebuild of many of their buildings.

The Sustainability Council within Cashmere High is having a significant impact of the school culture and is reaching out to other schools to share their knowledge and experiences.

The Sustainability Council is also involved in a long-term community project aimed at improving the clarity and biodiversity of the Cashmere Stream, a tributary of the Heathcote River. They engage in regular SHMAK water testing and are planting up the stream edge that runs along the school boundary.

The Sustainability Council students recommend the Zayed process and are hopeful of other New Zealand schools submitting projects over the next few years.

The You Tube links provide further insight into Cashmere's project while more information on the Global High School prize can be found here

http://www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/en/prize-categories/global_high_school_prize/

You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laiSo6KNjE8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgcOml3YSyA>



Cashmere High students present their Zayed Project to Green Drinks, Canterbury Branch

Global EE – a learning challenge

Jocelyn Papprell writes: “Earlier this year I joined the 'Global EE : **Trans-disciplinary Approaches to Addressing Wicked Problems**' learning community, experiencing a profound and exciting global learning environment. [<http://www.globalee.net/home-1.html>] I was able to interact not only with course presenters from a variety of disciplines and universities, but also with learners from European, African, American (both North & South) and Asian nations. I was often jolted out of my comfort zone by the readings and discussion forums; there is so much we can learn from, and share with, people tackling similar environmental problems in Ghana or Taiwan or Chile.

The promo for the course outlined the goal as being 'to create an environmental education “trading zone”—an online space where scholars and students gather to learn about multiple disciplines that shed light on how to improve environmental quality and change environmental behaviours. Learn about how environmental education, environmental governance, environmental psychology, environmental sociology and other disciplines can work together to address ‘wicked problems,’ not readily addressed by working in disciplinary silos’.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I can honestly say I have learnt a number of new things or renewed my understanding of environmental issues, which I have shared with colleagues. I forced myself to complete the course to the 'Expert' level despite the garden calling me, and put together a case study on *Waterwise:Te Waihora* using the Storify platform.

I'd be interested to know whether other NZAEE members also enrolled in the course and what their experiences were. Email Jocelyn chchnzaee@gmail.com

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Down To Earth Sustainability and Lifestyle Expo

Dayna is currently taking bookings for the second annual *Down To Earth Sustainability and Lifestyle Expo* which will be held in the Bay of Plenty in September and thought you may like to be involved.

HOME RENOVATION & BUILDING § HOUSHOLD PRODUCTS § PETCARE NATURAL HEALTH § FOOD AND BEVERAGE § WASTE REDUCTION § BEE KEEPING

WORM FARMING § RENEWABLE ENERGY § TRANSPORT § RAINWATER COLLECTION § SOLAR HEATING § SKINCARE § EARTH BUILDING § EDUCATION

The theme of the Down To Earth Expo is one close to consumers' hearts and continually becomes a larger influence in their everyday decision making process.

This is your opportunity to capture a market that is invested in living greener and want to learn about what choices they have when it comes to purchasing.

122,000* people within the Bay of Plenty buy sustainable products and services.

This expo reaches a wide audience and attracts the attendee numbers required to make it successful for exhibitors.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/bay-of-
plenty/promotions/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503512&objectid=11410354](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/bay-of-
plenty/promotions/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503512&objectid=11410354)

DAYNA COMESKEY
EVENT MANAGER, BAY OF PLENTY WAIKATO
D: 07 577 7756 M: 027 886 3195
E: dayna.comeskey@nzme.co.nz

ECO's Conference on the Water and Climate Crises

Kia Ora Friends

We want to remind you about ECO's Conference on the Water and Climate Crises being held on 13th and 14th August at the Wesley Centre in Mt Roskill, Auckland.

You can now register and find out more [at this link](#)

Saturday: Come along to a day of discussion ideas on power, politics and freshwater. Speakers include freshwater ecologist Dr. Mike Joy, agri-ecologist Alison Dewes, freshwater campaigner Marnie Prickett and regional experts from around the country. Join in a facilitated discussion on how we can achieve swimmable rivers. Take part in workshops on working with the media, direct action and making your online presence more effective.

Sunday: Come and help find a way through the climate crisis. Key speakers include Bill McKibben from 350.org. Sean Sweeney from Trade Unions for Energy Democracy, Jeanette Fitzsimons from Coal Action Network and Sam Huggard from the Council of Trade Unions.

Conference fees are very reasonable and include tea breaks and lunch on both days. Details of the full programme are on our website. [More here.](#)

ECO:

Level 2

126 Vivian Street

Te Aro

Wellington, 6140

ERA Conference

Science Open Day

Reduced rate for community members.

Ecological Restoration Australasia Conference, Claudelands, Hamilton, Conference runs 19-23 November; 'Science Open Day' on Sunday 20th November.

A standout feature of this year's Ecological Restoration Australasia Conference (at Claudelands, Hamilton, Nov 19-23) is a 'Science Open Day' on Sunday Nov 20. Community environmental groups, students, educators, not-for-profits, as well as members of the wider community either already engaged in, or wishing to learn more about cutting-edge restoration science are encouraged to participate.

Along with a wide range of presentations by professional ecologists, there will be opportunities to present your own project(s) via an informal soap box session or as a 12min conference talk. Workshops, a Bat Symposium hosted by Project Echo, as well as a panel session to maximise knowledge sharing and networking opportunities are also scheduled, and further ideas for workshops are welcomed.

The cost for the day is \$25 (criteria apply). For further information and to submit an abstract for a 12-min presentation, see www.era2016.com, or contact monica.a.peters@gmail.com

Student Day

The ERA 2016 conference encourages students to participate in their meeting this year. This special student day will provide an opportunity for up-and-coming young ecologists to showcase their research through oral presentations and learn from panels of experts what it means to navigate the field of ecology.

Please see the [conference website](#) for more details: (view "Programme" and select "Student Day" option). The deadline for abstracts is about to be extended.

Australian AEE Conference 5-7 October 2016 is open for bookings.

Australian Association for Environmental Education (AEE) 19th Biennial Conference 2016

[View online](#)



<http://www.aee2016.com/registration.php>

Resources

Soil Ecology Tool

<http://www.biosbrasil.ufla.br/doc/CurumimCunhataENG.pdf>

This could be a hook into discussion about farming diversity or restoration of wetlands/ riparian margins, forest ecology and pest management. Everything is connected.

NZ Natural History

This summary of natural history in NZ could be a precursor to further learning about ecology. Maybe useful for your students?

http://newzealandecology.org/sites/default/files/New%20Zealand%20ecology%20LJ%20Kee%20gan%20%281%29_0.pdf

Notice

NZAAE membership fees from 1 July 2016

Membership type	
Individual	\$50
School/NGO	\$50
Student	\$25
Corporate	\$500 for 10 members
Stakeholder	\$1000 for unlimited members

Your 2016 NZAAE National Executive

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

Rhys Taylor Co-Chair anneandrhys@farmside.co.nz

Michelle Elborn Co-Chair michelle.elborn@tauranga.govt.nz

Davina Hunt Past Chair davinarhunt@gmail.com

Chris Eames Waikato c.eames@waikato.ac.nz

Pam Crisp Wellington pamdcrisp@gmail.com

Sally Birdsall Auckland s.birdsall@auckland.ac.nz

Jocelyn Papprill Canterbury jocelyn.papprill@ecan.govt.nz

Mark Oster Southern mark.oster@es.govt.nz

Michelle Elborn BOP/HB michelle.elborn@tauranga.govt.nz

National Co-ordinator

Debbie Courtney nzaaecontact@gmail.com