



KiwEE News No.20 (Spring 2016)

Comment from the Chair



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our latest issue of KiwEE News.

Firstly, on 30 August the Government announced a further six years' funding for the Toimata Foundation. It's fantastic that the Government has recognised Toimata Foundation as a leading enabler of environmental education. The continued funding will ensure that Toimata, through their two main programmes, Te Aho Tū Roa and Enviroschools, will be able to continue to support children and young people in over 1000 schools, kura, and early childhood centres to realise their vision for the future.

Secondly, Associate Minister of Conservation Hon. Nicky Wagner announced a refreshed National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS). In 1998, the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Education released Learning to Care for Our Environment: Me Ako ki te Tiaki Taiao – A national strategy for environmental education. The current Government felt the time is right for a significant refresh of this national strategy. A steering group advising on this refresh includes representatives from the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Education, Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, local government and researchers in EEfS working with schools, kura, iwi and communities. We would also like to let you know that our KiwEE Annual Review will be circulated to our members very soon. We look forward to updating you on what has been happening nationally and at a local level in the EEfS space over the last year. A very big welcome to the following new members – Irene Wallis, Keith Pyle, Greer Mawdsley and Helen McCaughan. It's great to see our membership base continue to grow.

Keep up the great work everyone.
Best wishes,
Michelle
Co-chair

Feedback Sought

Draft National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability 2016-2026
We would like to hear your views on the draft *National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability 2016-2026* at doc.govt.nz/eefs

The Strategy is being developed through collaboration, including the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Education.

This Strategy will:

- Refresh the 1998 national strategy for environmental education.
- Strengthen collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders.
- Prioritise coordination and whole community approaches, grow understanding and action for the environment and support young people leading sustainable practice.

Please share this with your networks

Have your say

Feedback required by 5pm Monday 10 October 2016

Start Planning for Seaweed 2017



The New Zealand Association for Environment Education (NZAEE) is delighted to announce the dates and theme for its flagship event Seaweed for 2017.

NZAEE Seaweed 2017 will take place from **Saturday 25 February to Sunday 5 March 2017**. So put that in your diary and start planning some amazing events for us to advertise and enjoy!

The theme will be “**Toiora te Moana - Toiora te Tangata - Healthy Seas, Healthy People**”.

The theme highlights our many connections with the sea and calls on Kiwis from all walks of life to celebrate Tangaroa's realm, recognise the enormous contribution our beaches, seas and coasts make to our health and wellbeing, and do our bit to keep our coastline and seas healthy for all. We all contribute to taking care of our oceans.

The Seaweed Strategic Planning team decided to revisit the popular and successful Seaweed 2013 theme and use it for Seaweed 2016-2018 following analysis of evaluation data from participants and coordinators. They found that this theme was the most easily understood, that people could clearly relate to it and apply it to their daily lives.

In 2017 we will continue to target the early childhood sector, building on a trial with 55

Auckland pre-schools that took place during Seaweeek 2016.

If you'd like to get involved in Seaweeek by organising an event, no matter how small, we can help - just let the National Coordinator know your plans by emailing Mels Barton on mels@subliminal.co.nz

Sustainability in Schools Website

We are pleased to announce that AAEE is the new Secretariat of the ***Getting Started with Sustainability in Schools*** website and teachers' online resource portal.
sustainabilityinschools.edu.au

It's time to get started with sustainability

Sustainability is a cross-curriculum priority within the Australian Curriculum. The website and portal provides all school teachers in Australia with a searchable database of learning resources linked to Australian Curriculum, case studies and support.

There are already more than 455 classroom-ready resources in the database. Use the [Getting Started with Sustainability in Schools](http://sustainabilityinschools.edu.au) website to help you on your way.

A Visit to the Eden Project

The Eden Project in Cornwall, England was the highlight of a recent trip to the UK- an amazing enterprise of gardens, exhibitions, art and experiences that explore how people can work together with nature towards a better future. It is a living laboratory exploring new ways of doing things for social and environmental change, carbon reduction, food security and conservation.

Built in a crater that was once a china clay pit, it aims to demonstrate our relationship with and dependence on plants.

Two vast biomes- bubble shaped greenhouses which house wild landscapes, crops and stories from the Rainforest and Mediterranean regions were one of the many interesting sites to explore.



I particularly liked the 'Zigzag through time' where the oldest plants on earth (including

a rimu tree) were growing.

After 5 hours of exploring there was still much more to experience- a fabulously inspiring place to visit.



Eden Project Garden Shed

Science Open Day

20 November 2016
Ecological Restoration Australasia
Conference,
Claudelands, Hamilton
Nov 19-23, 2016

A standout feature of this year's Ecological Restoration Australasia Conference (Claudelands,

Hamilton, Nov 19-23) is a 'Science Open Day' on Sunday Nov 20th.

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 soapbox session or as a regular 12min conference talk.

Workshops 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 \$25NZD (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

Comvita Bee Aware Month- September

Experience Comvita Education are launching their new Bee Aware and Beekeeping educational experience in September. The first class to book the new educational experience will visit for free! Experience Comvita in Paengaroa are also running their “enter the world of the honey bee” guided tour in support of Bee Aware Month. During September entry is just \$5 per person and all proceeds will be donated to Bee Aware Month. For more information about Comvita’s Bee Aware Month activities contact Kathy.broadhead@comvita.com. To book a tour call: 0800 BEES BEES.

Teacher educator goes back to the classroom

I have been lucky to have been granted some study leave from my position as teacher educator in environmental and sustainability education at the University of Waikato for the second half of 2016. I have been even luckier to have the opportunity to work with experienced environmental teacher, Michelle White, at Hukanui School in Hamilton for six weeks of Term 3.

As a teacher educator, it seemed critical to me to see how the theory that I was discussing with my pre-service teachers at the university was connecting, or not, with what was actually being practised in schools. Michelle at Hukanui has graciously allowed me to do that, and I have joined her to observe and participate in all the environmental teaching that she offers at the school. Michelle is a specialist EE teacher and many of you will know of her great work in this Green-gold enviroschool, including the work she did in involving children of the school in co-designing and overseeing the building of an eco-classroom, the Living Room, at Hukanui. Now she runs classes and extra-curricular groups from that wonderful space. I thought I would share some of my experiences so far.

Our environmental week begins early on Tuesday when the Living room specialists, a group of Year 5 and 6 students, meet with Michelle and I to learn about the history of the Living Room project and how to maintain it. These students carry the kaupapa of the Living Room with them and act as guides for visitors to the school. Their knowledge and enthusiasm for the project is inspiring, and their sense of pride in what they, and their predecessors, have achieved in the school is clear.

Last week we were discussing the building’s rain water capture and plumbing system, which included concepts such as ballcocks and swales, and the students we’re loving it. How great to be thinking about such sustainability ideas at that age!

At the other end of the week the Enviro Council meets early Friday morning. This large group of students includes elected representatives from each of the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes and their role is to consider the big picture of environmental and sustainability actions at the school in line with the school’s vision map. Recently they have been focusing on reducing the wrappers that come in students’ lunchboxes, using a mix of education and incentives in their classrooms. They have been conducting weekly audits and awarding house points for those who are wrapper free. This action has been backed by regular education reinforcement through the school newsletter, and in the coming week the Enviro Councillors will visit all classrooms to help support a school-wide letter-writing campaign to thank and encourage parents who get on board with the wrapper free lunch action.

The children are showing excellent commitment and responding well to Michelle's facilitation of their own ideas to bring about change. As a teacher educator, gaining first-hand experience of the next generation's evident commitment to a more sustainable future is extremely heartening and I am grateful to Michelle White and Hukanui School for the opportunity to have this experience!

Chris Eames

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Space Between Initiative

I set up an initiative: Space Between which is a social enterprise/research platform at the College of Creative Arts in Massey University, which enables students' recent graduates and fashion researchers to work together with a shared philosophy to bring about 'positive change' in industry. We work according two distinct but complementary strategies to design with the textile waste from the current system and to ultimately eliminate waste from industry by design in closed loop' solutions.

Space Between aims to design out textile waste by using redundant corporate clothing (and other waste material) and design in closed-loop solutions to eliminate the creation of waste from the outset through services, education and research.

Our details are the following:

<http://www.spacebetween.ac.nz>

twitter: @teambetween

https://www.instagram.com/space_between/

Jennifer Whitty

Senior Lecturer - Fashion Design

Your 2016 NZAEE National Executive

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

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