

RCE-GWS Meeting

**Minutes** of meeting via video-conference 10th December 2013 2.30pm – 4pm

**Present**: Aimee Freimanis, Parramatta City Council   
Andrew Hewson, Penrith City Council  
Annie Nielson, ParraCAN  
Bernadette Raid, Penrith City Council

Brittany Hardiman, Office of Sustainability UWS  
Damien Feneley, Department of Education and Communities  
Darren O’Connell, TAFE SWSi

Elizabeth Hellenpach, TAFE WSi

Eric Brocken, Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre (HDRA)

Geoff Scott, RCE Chairperson UWS  
Greg Cheatham, TAFE WSi  
Helen Angelakis, Office of Sustainability UWS  
Ian Knowd, Hawkesbury Harvest  
Jen Dollin, Office of Sustainability UWS

Margaret Somerville, Centre for Educational Research UWS

Mark Edwards, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre  
Mark Samaha, TAFE WSi

Mike Bartlett, Sydney Olympic Park Authorities

Steve Body, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre

**Apologies:** Anne Waller, UWS Connect  
Antony Lewis, ParraCAN   
Ben Artup, Penrith Business Alliance

Berice Anning, Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education University of Western Sydney  
Bert Lo Campo, Blacktown Learning Community  
Donna Rattenbury, Blacktown City Council

Debra Gersbach, North West Disability Service

Eric Sidoti, Whitlam Institute

Greg Whately, UWS College (Blacktown)  
Jim Robinson, Hawkesbury Community College

Judith Bruinsma, WSROC  
 Keith Brandwood, Cumberland Bird Observers Club

Marty Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council  
Melissa Williams, Officer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement UWS  
Peter Flottman, Greening Australia

Rachel Bentley, TVS

Robin Woods, Hawkesbury Environment Network   
Sharon Kerr, WSI TAFE

Zhan Patterson, EcoEducator

1. **OPENING**
   1. **Purpose**  
      Meeting was called between the RCE Greater Western Sydney partners to discuss project progression with the RCE working groups.

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**
   1. **Outcomes from Meetings**Actions from RCE-GWS VC minutes held 9th of October 2013 were addressed. Each of the members of the RCE are asked to review the 2013 RCE-GWS report as discussed with a view to
      * 1. Adding in any areas that are missing, including participant numbers and any funded projects not included
        2. Giving, whenever possible, evidence of impact of each of our activities on those intended to benefit
        3. Adding any points to the opening section which describes how we are managing the RCE

**ACTION:** All partners to email Brittany ([b.hardiman@uws.edu.au](mailto:b.hardiman@uws.edu.au)) with information by the 20th December. Geoff to compile final report document and distribute to partners.

* 1. **Working Group Updates**
     1. **Education for Sustainability**
        1. Youth Eco Summit has received Green Globe Award for Public Sector Sustainability and RCE Recognition Award. YES this year had a strong international focus. Next year action theme will be ‘Family. Food. Farming’. Prior to YES 13th to 17th October a weeklong event using VC will be held “Getting to YES” – partners and their local schools are encourages to participate. Looking for corporate sponsorship.

**ACTION:** Damien/Mike to send Geoff details of YES 2014 for circulation to international RCEs to involve more international students.

* + - 1. Love your lagoons project planning day will be held in February with 10 schools (300 students) in south-western Sydney with SWSi TAFE, local councils, community groups and UWS.
      2. Teachers@sustainability research project report is complete (building the capacities of teachers for sustainability in the curriculum). Looking for funding to continue similar project at the Riverfarm.
      3. Brewongle working with HIE to develop school based programs for stage 4/5 using their climate change facilities.
    1. **Nirimba Education Precinct**
       1. Site is preparing a virtual tour to engage community and updated their greenskills hub.
       2. Still working on the biomass concept.
       3. Working on developing units/degrees around the built environment, with new 5 start building (UWSC) and 8 star buildings (CSR) as example sites.
    2. **Engaging businesses, including SMEs**
       1. Working group meeting was cancelled for November and will be reschedule in the New Year. Jen Dollin has joined the working group. Need to develop ways to fold small SME into sustainability projects.
    3. **Riverfarm/Riverfest**
       1. *River Festival* to be held 4th and 5th of April. Still in planning stages. Schools day will include educational workshops. Community day will include information stalls and family friendly activities. Possible links to YES ‘Family. Food. Farming’ theme.
       2. Tri-sector water agreement still being developed and expanding to include Hawkesbury and Penrith councils**.**
  1. **International**
     1. **Conferences**
        1. Helen attended the ASSHE conference in October where she presented on the Love Food Hate Waste program (partnership between UWS and Earthcare).
        2. International RCE Conference was held in November (no RCE-GWS representative was present). Youth Eco Summit received an award and a short PowerPoint was shown.

**ACTION:** Geoff to circulate outcomes from RCE conference.

* + 1. **Links with RCES**
       1. Geoff attended Copernicus network in January, working with Asia-Pacific network and will be attending RCE Saskatchewan and other Canadian RCES shortly.
  1. **Other Business**
     1. UWS is looking into a RCE-GWS twitter account with a meeting our UWS internal media team schedule before the end of the year to discuss how to progress further.
     2. The meeting also discussed plans for 2014, including the establishment of a strategic planning day in late February, 2014. As discuss in our October meeting the day will follow as:
        + 1. *Building future collaborative projects*
          2. *Developing a new governance structure*
          3. *Developing or updating working groups*
          4. *Collaborating more effectively across GWS on larger scaled projects*
          5. *Leverage off our new Federal Government*
          6. *Funding applications*
          7. *Promotion and engagement*

1. **STANDING ITEMS**
   1. **RCE Website**The RCE-GWS website is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information with our members and to share with the wider community. Our website has just undergone a full remodel. To keep this resource up to date it is important that each partner submits regular updated information, including your contact details and any images you may have.

For a simple and effective way to share your important event is through the [RCE website](http://www.uws.edu.au/rce) homepage. Please note content must first be approved by a moderator and when filling out the events form ensure to add as much detail as possible.

* 1. **RCE-GWS E-Newsletter**

The RCE-GWS e-newsletter is a resource of all our members to provide, present and share information with our members and to share the wider community. Our bimonthly newsletter will next be released in the New Year.

**ACTION:** Members to send article, photos, information and web links to Brittany for inclusion on the website or in the newsletter.

1. **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be held in late February 2014 which will be a planning day for RCE-GWS. More details will be advised closer to the date.

Minutes confirmed by:

RCE-GWS CHAIR

DATE