

**RCE FORUM MEETING**

**UWS PARRAMATTA NORTH, 13TH JUNE 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brittany Hardiman UWS, Mike Bartlett SOPA, Danielle Sammut SOPA, Helen Angelakis UWS, Dave Towns Blacktown Council, Eric Brocken HDRA/ATA (Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre), John Schryver UWSConnect, Zoe Sofoulis UWS, Greg Cheetham TAFE WSI, Mark Samaha TAFE WSI, Om Dhungel SEVA, Sue Advani SEVA, Aimee Freimanis Parramatta Council, Annie Nelson ParraCAN, Andrew Hewson Penrith Council, Sophie Barrett Hawkesbury Council, Wendy Herd TAFE SWSI, Margaret Somerville UWS

**APOLOGIES:**

Chris Vella UWS, Kumara Ward UWS, Peter Dermilio Blacktown Learning Community, Deborah Bleakley Blacktown Learning Community, Bernadette Riads Penrith City Council, Bert LoCampo Blacktown City Council, Damien Fenely DEC, Liz Hellenpach TAFE WSI, Geoff Scott UWS, Ian Knowd Hawkesbury Harvest, Jen Dollin UWS, Jim Robinson Hawkesbury Community College, John Street HEN, Peter Flottman Greening Australia, Rachel Bentley TVS, Sharon Kerr TAFE WSI, Steven Body Brewongle ECC, Suzanne Stuart Hawkesbury Council, Debra Keenahan UWS,

**INVITED ATTENDEES:**

Mr Warren Day UWS School of Business, Irene Melasis HEEN

1. **SUMMARY FROM LAST MEETING**

The RCE Working Groups met at the end of May to discuss new members, altering membership form and gave a working group update. Please see minutes attached from meeting for more information. Margaret advised the network of the change to the governance structure and working groups. The network was also notified that the UNU Decade of Education has ended and RCE will now be adopted by the Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability. Please see note from the RCE Service Centre:

*“The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) is coming to an end in 2014. However, this does not mean that the RCE movement is over at the end of DESD. Instead, ESD actions should be further advanced to address sustainability challenges and build a more sustainable future even beyond 2014. In this regard, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is pleased to confirm that we will continue our efforts to promote ESD through the RCE initiative after 2014.”*

1. **NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION – MR OM DHUNGEL, SEVA INTERNATIONAL**

Mr Om Dhungel, CEO of SEVA International and Ms Sue Advani, Chief Operating Officer gave the network a brief presentation. SEVA is a social enterprise dealing mostly, but not exclusively, with South Asian communities. They work closely with service providers and grass root community groups to deliver targeted activities for specific groups in their community. They are working with the cultural sustainability working group.

1. **STUDENT PLACEMENTS WITH THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Mr Warren Day, School Manager, School of Business at UWS introduced the network to the possibilities of student placements and internships. If you have any interest, please contact Warren on w.day@uws.edu.au or (02) 9685 9103.

* UNDERGRAUDATE STUDENTS – These students have an engaged learning unit as part of their final year, where by 1 organisation/business is host to the class, providing them with a meaningful and substantial project. This service is free of charge, but required your own time and commitment in helping with enquires (on set up meeting days) as well as attending their final presentations. Areas of interest include: accounting, finance, economics, hospitality, HR, marketing, management, property, sports management. Runs for a 13 week period during spring semester (July – October).
* POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS – These students undertake their own project or internship where by an organisation/business is host to a student, providing them with a meaningful and substantial project. They have 80-120 hours of work placement available free of charge to work on 1 project. Students go through an interview and application process. Runs for 10 weeks, 4 times a year.

**Action**

Warren Day to provide details of course programs for both undergraduate units and postgraduate units.

1. **WORKING GROUP NETWORKING**

Due to turn out numbers working groups did not meet for networking. Suggestions were made by the network to combine international youth engagement, EfS and nirimba education precinct into 1 working group for the governance structure. The group also discussed working and acting on possibly one project we all support such as the development of the Riverfarm as a ‘living laboratory’. Margaret reminded the group that there is still $3,000 available for working groups to apply for capacity building of RCE project. If you require any assistance with your funding application please contact Dr Zoe Sofoulis on z.sofoulis@uws.edu.au or 9685 9600.

1. **YOUTH ECO SUMMIT**

Mr Mike Bartlett from SOPA spoke to network about getting involved in the Youth Eco Summit 2014. YES has both a domestic and international reach. The summit provides a platform for the EfS agenda, giving partners a voice and reach to teachers and students. Please see the attached flyer for more information. We are looking for you to get involved in a number of ways:

* Presenting a workshop or hosting an engaging display on the day (23rd to 24th October)
* Presenting a workshop during the ‘Getting to YES’ week (13th to 17th October)
* Spreading the word to your local schools to get them involved in presenting/showcasing their sustainability projects at school
* Spreading the world and encouraging your local schools to attend or get involved in VC (‘Getting to YES’)
1. **CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROJECT DATABASE**

Not discussed – need for updated contact information and RCE projects for 2014 for reporting purposes.

**Action**

All partners to fill out attached contact details form by the end of June. Please return to Miss Brittany Hardiman at b.hardiman@uws.edu.au

1. **YOUTH LEADING THE WORLD**

Not discussed – Helen Angelakis, UWS, would like to invite our RCE partners to the youth leading the world conference day on the 25th July at Kingswood UWS. Student groups will be presenting their sustainability project ideas. A calendar invite will be sent around shortly.

**Action**

Helen to email RCE partners more details on the community day for Youth Leading the World.

**NEXT MEETING 24TH September 2014**

**Minutes approved by:**