



West Australian Sustainable Education Forum
Transformative Times: At Peace with Nature.
Friday 4th December 2020

Great opportunity for community, schools, industry, tertiary and government groups to share the work they are engaged with to educate about and support **sustainability practices**.

Venue: Treasure Road, Queens Park WA 6107 <https://goo.gl/maps/7XhUDAx2ZjXMJztc6>

Registration: \$66 Non Member; \$44 AAEE member and students (includes refreshments)
<https://www.trybooking.com/BMIWF>

Program: Full Description available at
<https://aaeewa.org.au/west-australian-sustainability-education-forum/>

9.00 Registrations & cuppa

9.20 Acknowledgement of Country and welcome

9.30 Round Tables – Participant choose on the day

❖ **Turtle Trackers**

Turtle Trackers is a partnership between a number of organisations including Murdoch University, The Wetlands Centre Cockburn, Native ARC, Regional Parks - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the City of Cockburn. It stemmed from the AAEE WA Turtle Watch Program. The City has engaged Murdoch University to conduct turtle research for a number of years. It was through this research that we came to find out how dire the situation was and make the decision to take more active conservation efforts to protect our local populations. This project aims to harness the power of the community to locate and monitor nesting females during the treacherous journey from wetland to nest, and protect located nests with small mesh cages to reduce nest predation, and based on the results we're on our way to making this happen. 2019 was our first year for the project and showed that community involvement could be a key part of saving species that may not be adapting to urban environments. Last year approximately 30 turtle trackers volunteered to collect data and monitor for turtles, we recruited many more but quite a few volunteers never ended up participating. Between those 30 turtle trackers, patrols were conducted on 44 different days during the peak nesting season (September through November). Nesting was observed on 12 of those 44 days, and a total of 25 nests were protected with individual nest cages, specially installed by trained members from Native ARC. Of those nests we were able to identify an average of 10 eggs in each nest, a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 17! 2020 tracking began in September this year with modified changes from lessons learnt. At WASEF we want to explore the strategies to expand the Turtle trackers Program into other local government areas, increasing the capacity to protect this incredible species and engage volunteers across the south-west. To do this we need your help!

Vicky Hartill, City of Cockburn

❖ **Learning with Nature through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives**

The Australian Primary Curriculum supports students to engage in reconciliation, respect and recognition of the world's oldest continuous living cultures. The Science Curriculum, for instance, provides elaborations that demonstrate deep engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander understandings of Nature and profound links with Country. In this workshop Elaine Lewis will provide classroom examples of how to implement the Science Curriculum in the Primary

Years through the perspective of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Science Elaborations. Illustrations will be drawn from the four strands of science: Biological, Chemical, Physical and Earth and Space Science, as well as different year levels from Foundation to Year 6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, technologies, processes and contributions will be considered, with opportunities provided for hands-on activities. In addition, the content of this workshop relates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education) & 16 (Justice). To conclude, future directions for school leadership, ethical science education and school relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be discussed.
Dr Elaine Lewis, Coolbinia Primary School

10.15 Morning tea

10.45 Round Tables - Participant choose on the day

❖ Wetlands and People for Ramsar 482

Wetlands and waterways are key features of Peel-Harvey's environment. Many provide important habitat for wildlife and waterbirds, and are used for recreation, tourism, commercial fishing and education. Lead natural resource management agency for the region the Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) promotes an inclusive, catchment-scale approach in protecting and restoring the region's natural assets. In particular, this approach is being employed for the protection of the Peel-Yalgorup System (PYS), recognised as wetlands of international importance under the international Ramsar convention as Ramsar Site 482. PHCC has developed a 10 year Wetlands and People Plan for the Ramsar 482 site, which outlines a plan to engage people and groups to encourage wise use of the wetlands, advocacy for their protection and to increase community stewardship and support for the PYS. An overview will be presented of selected activities and outcomes for community engagement and education as part of the project "Wetlands and people - a community restoring the ecological character of the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar 482 Wetlands" (supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program). These range from incursions and excursions with school groups, participation in citizen science initiatives including Dolphin Watch and BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program, and varied educational events involving community members of all ages.

Charlie Jones, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

❖ Green Lab – a Movement in the Making

Our kids want you to fall in love with a tree and 2020 did everything possible to keep the kids down. But children are nothing if not resilient, even COVID couldn't deter them. On line and active they hugged trees, planted trees, ran an online conference presentation on their work and launched a new website, Green Lab, where you can join the movement to protect, monitor and increase canopy to cool our city. Education, Behaviour Change, Advocacy, Innovation and Design and Rules and Regulations are embedded in the skills for life process used to inspire young people to find their green space and create a long term vision for the future in collaboration with government, schools and community. With support from Millennium Kids and their citizen science crew schools can upskill through Green Lab Hub days and get online support through a partnership with Curtin University. Green Lab is a new a Millennium Kids Citizen Science program funded by the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management Program with support from local governments because kids are not happy with the loss of canopy across our city.

Catrina Aniere, Millennium Kids Inc

❖ Ecophilosophies, change and me

The human-nature relationship as a nature-centred philosophy emerged in the early 20th Century as a response to the loss of integrities of ecosystems. Aldo Leopold (Callicott et al., 2011) and Arne Naess (Naess, 2012) were two philosophers that offered moral and ethical visions on how to view and value all of nature by recognising that all living beings have an inherent value regardless of their practical or perceived values to humans. Today, studies within the spheres of ecophilosophies are multidisciplinary and involve insights on the connectedness of humans to nature (Zylstra, Knight, Esler, & Le Grange, 2014), how resilience (Folke, 2016), complex systems (Sjöstedt, 2019) and associations between ecological, social and evolutionary theories (Walker &

Cooper, 2011; Waring et al., 2015) function. Some of these works have resulted in changes to how organisations manage waste (Yildiz Çankaya & Sezen, 2019), workplace collaboration (Paillé, Amara, & Halilem, 2018) or human resource processes (Kramar, 2014) as a way to minimise human impacts on natural ecosystems. Yet the challenge with the industrial worldwide view ensures that costs, time, ability to act, leadership, legislation and policies remain entrenched in most organisations. It becomes clear that understanding ecophilosophies from human industrial worldviews as a first step towards transformation towards a more ecocentric society is helpful for us. This presentation and workshop will focus on five perspectives within ecophilosophy (Molina-Motos, 2019) that include Deep Ecology, Eco-Ethics, Eco-Feminism, Systemic Thinking and Social Ecology. After summarising each of these I invite each of you to discuss the attributes of these; identify which you engage best with and discuss how we can embed these in our daily lives. How can we move from one to the other? How can we grow? What do we need?
Gun Dolva, NorthMetro TAFE

11.30 Lunch and Poster Session bring a poster of your work to share.

The focus for the afternoon session is ***Building Resilience in self and community.***

12.30 Adult & Child Mental Health and Resilience - Fiona Donaldson, Incident Management Team. Logistics Team Lead, Department of Education

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. Wellbeing of staff and students at schools has been at the forefront of all decisions made during the last few months. WA has been extraordinary to be in the position we are in. Our idyllic situation is going to be challenged as the hard borders become less so and more people come into WA. We will talk about resilience and wellbeing for ourselves and how we can also support the students. Self-care will be a focus of this session with discussion around how we can continue to build our resilience muscles.

1.30 Sustainability through biophilia: connecting to nature/self/society

During the COVID-19 lockdown earlier this year, whilst we were stuck in our homes separated from the world outside, many of us may have begun to notice a yearning for nature within ourselves. This yearning stems from a strong desire to, be in, and part of, the natural environment. This deep biological desire, known as biophilia, is built into our DNA: programming us to thrive when that connection to nature is made. Perhaps, you have noticed your mood lift when you have taken a walk along the beach, or in the bush through the dewy undergrowth and towering gumtrees on a winter's day? This is not your imagination- in fact, there is a great deal of evidence that supports the real effects on our mental health and wellbeing. It is known this exposure assists with reducing feelings of depression, improving concentration, and lifting our mood. It appears that being in the natural environment can not only alleviate existing depression and other mental health concerns, but has a possible protective effect. In children, the effects of nature are known to reduce stress and to develop resilience: so much so, that doctors are now issuing 'prescriptions' for park visits. There is a growing realisation that there is link between wellbeing and broader societal sustainability as articulated in Goal 3 of the UN SDG's: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages'. In times of adversity, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of connection to nature, particularly in our young, cannot be underestimated. This presentation explores ways that educators can support these aims.

Jacqueline Reid, Chartered Developmental and Educational Psychologist and
Dr Sonja Kuzich, Education Curtin University.

2.30 Open discussion - Evaluation and wrap-up

If you have any questions please contact Dr Jennifer Pearson on pearsonjo@iinet.net.au