

West Australian Sustainable Education Forum
Sustainability Education with Gamification
Program - Friday 1st December 2023

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: CREEC, crn Kent Street & Queens Park Rd, Wilson WA 6107 [Map here](#)

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

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

8.40 Registrations & cuppa

9.10 Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome.

9.20 First Round Tables – Participant choose on the day

- **Where have all the pollinators gone? Dr Elaine Lewis**
Think back to your earliest days of country car travel ... how often did you have to wash your windscreen? How often do you wash it now after that same three hour trip? The answers to these questions lead us to make inquiries about pollinators. This will be a hands-on interactive workshop that investigates where all the pollinators have gone! Pollinators include not only bees, beetles, butterflies and flies, but also ants, birds and honey possums. Bees, for example, pollinate at least one third of everything we eat and play a vital role in sustaining our agriculture. Issues that impact the sustainability of pollinators will be explored in this session, along with strategies to enhance pollinators' survival. These strategies will be considered from various perspectives, from backyards to school settings, from remnant urban bushlands to wider afield. Finally, we will be examining solutions to concerns raised, such as, how to create healthy connected ecosystems, how aspects of pollinator survival and climate change intersect, as well as, how young people may be empowered to take action to welcome back our native pollinators!
- **SeaWeek – National Week to promote Ocean Literacies. Dr Jennifer Pearson**
SeaWeek is Australia's major national public awareness campaign to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea. This happens in the second week of March each year. SeaWeek gives us a fantastic opportunity to promote educational issues of relevance to the marine environment. SeaWeek events are organised and run by environmental and marine educators across the country. Australia is a marine nation. We have one of the largest ocean territories in the world, and it drives our climate and weather, generates employment, provides food and resources, and offers lifestyle and recreational opportunities (source CSIRO). This presentation explores the Ocean Literacies, the connection to international initiatives and how the latest resource will support teachers. This event is also about encouraging the broader community to get involved in WA. How could your organisation, group or program contribute to SeaWeek 2024?
- **FEAST for High Schools! Eva Clarey, OzHarvest**
OzHarvest identified an opportunity in the Australian Curriculum to bring together sustainability, food waste and nutrition education, creating a program called FEAST (Food Education & Sustainability Training). After a successful national roll out in primary schools, a new and exciting program has been developed for year 7 and 8 high school students! FEAST teaches students about food waste and its environmental impact, healthy eating and inspires individual action to create a better world. Students have fun learning how to plan, prepare and cook nutritious recipes and design their own 'Use It Up' recipes. The program culminates in a creative 'Fight Food Waste' Promo showcasing their research and knowledge to inspire others. It aligns with:
 - The Western Australian Curriculum including the cross-curriculum priority of sustainability.
 - The Australian Dietary Guidelines
 - Seven UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10.05 – 10.15 Break for movement and set up for presenters.

10.15 Second Round Tables - Participant choose on the day

- **Miraculous Trees – Teaching the amazing stories of Perth’s Native Trees to Primary Students. Sinead Byrne, Whiteman Park**

Perth’s amazing, unique trees abound in our urban bushland and parks, but experience at Whiteman Park showed that few children and adults can recognise, name or tell about them. Therefore, the Whiteman Park Education Program for Year 2s takes the curriculum descriptor ‘ Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves’, to build knowledge, understanding and love for our native trees in young people. At Whiteman Park, all education programs are based in learning by doing, and the students get to know 4 tree species through games, crafts, storytelling and supporting technology. They explore how the trees grow and have off-spring, as well as some of the challenges they face. Students who attend this education program, leave confident in their ability to recognise, name and know an amazing fact about all four native trees they have met at Whiteman Park, and which they will encounter in other urban settings. By knowing about our trees, students and their families will be more invested in saving them and the biosystems they support. This workshop will explore how to excite students and adults about native trees and give examples of how play and exploration can be used to connect to their awesomeness. It will show how conservation and sustainability can be incorporated into the curriculum.

- **Sustainable Education and Hope: Engaging High School Students in saving the planet one backyard, one family, one school, one community, one country, one world at a time. Lynne Butler, One World Centre.**

For over thirty years OWC has been involved Global Citizenship Education in WA. For fifteen of those years, up-to 2015, OWC was the State resource and learning Centre for the Federal Government funded, Nation wide, Global Education in schools program. Since 2015, OWC has aligned its work to the UN SDGs and has actively promoted and provided learning around the goals for educators and community members. Over the last few years, at expos and events, we have been talking to high school and upper primary students about their concerns for sustainability and for the future of the planet. Through a variety of games, quizzes, visual links and discussions we have introduced, or re-introduced, them to the UN SDGs and the plan it delivers for the planet. Finally we asked them to vote on what they considered was the most urgent goal. While Climate Action was generally the highest, Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities were also high on the list. It showed us that young people are very concerned about these issues and that providing hope and a pathway forward is extremely important. The session today is about how we as an organisation are trying to make the UN SDGs more accessible to already over-stretched teachers and other community-based officers and volunteers so they have at their finger-tips the tools, resources, and links to engage and inspire students to connect, commit and act for the future of the planet.

11.00 Morning tea

11.25 Third Round Tables - Participant choose on the day

- **Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle Program – Turtle Trackers. Dr Catherine Baudains, Save Our Snake-necked Turtle Program and Vicky Hartill, City of Cockburn**

There are only two species of freshwater turtle endemic to wetlands in the south west of WA. One is the critically endangered western swamp turtle, and the other is our *Snake-necked Turtle* which until recently was thought to be ‘common’. Recent research reports the population is in decline and vulnerable to pressures such as vehicle strike, ongoing habitat loss, climate change and predation. In spring and summer (peaking September-November) female turtles journey away from wetlands to search for a nesting site, facing many threats. If they survive and lay eggs the nests rarely remain intact, and if eggs survive the tiny hatchlings have a low chance of survival, meaning very few juveniles are making it back to our wetlands. The Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle project is a large-scale integrated citizen science and community engagement program to help conserve the south western snake-necked turtle. Discover the program’s successes as we tell our story through a focus on local partnerships, relevance and volunteer involvement. The program has grown from its humble beginnings, now with more than 550 volunteers from 19 local governments/catchment groups. Register today, join the team for 2024 and make a real difference to prevent this species becoming endangered.

- **Fauna at School - Stephanie Wong (Outreach Officer), Tenaya Duncan (PhD candidate) Murdoch University**

Fauna At School is a new 8-week project lead by the Murdoch University Outreach Team to launch in 2024. The aim of this project is to raise awareness in conservation and sustainability and to increase students' understanding of their local wildlife. Through this project, students will be exposed to real world conservation problems on their school grounds. Based on techniques from conservation experts, students will be taught how to build a wildlife refuge using local materials and to use industry level tracking equipment to investigate the biodiversity at their schools. The free, four-lesson program is run by ambassadors and professional staff from Murdoch University and allows students to design, develop and deploy a fauna surveying program at their school. They are then coached through data management, analysis and finally science communication. The lessons are curriculum linked which can with be embedded into the school's curriculum.

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

1.00 Educational Games – focusing on the fun to maximise the engagement and education. Jake Bamford, Dapper Cranium Studios

Gamification in education has proven to be a powerful tool for engagement and learning, but too often these educational games fall into the 'too much learning, not enough fun' category. My mission with my games design is to ensure that education is present within the game, but it doesn't take over, and detract from the fun! A fun game is engaging and memorable, so if it's associated with valuable learning, then the players will get so much more from their game sessions. My main example is: Bin Off – Competitive Trash Trawling

Produced using recycled materials, designed and developed locally, informed by real-world recycling practices, and with plans for an expansion to the rules that tackles waste before it even becomes waste!

The mission of Bin Off is to educate and motivate better recycling practices by focusing on the fun of board games – mechanics to get everyone laughing around the table, memorable characters/art and accessible design features (small box, simple rules and advanced rules).

Future game plans include;

- Redesign of my Frogge game (successful kickstarter in 2021, expansion launched mid-2023) to highlight the development of frog-friendly suburbs.
- 'Competitive face-pulling game' with the potential to explore facial-expression recognition and comprehension in young kids and neurodivergent individuals.
- Various collaborations.

1.45 Break

1.50 Game Sharing Rotation

Delegates bring games and participate in a rotation of 15 minute intervals activity to explain the key features of their various games. At the conclusion there will be a short session to reinforce the key messages about what makes an engaging game in hands-on and online formats will be shared. The games offered will be collated and shared on the AAEWA Website.

2.35 Evaluation and wrap-up

If you have any questions please contact Dr Jennifer Pearson on jopearson189@gmail.com