

Annual Report 2024



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
(WA CHAPTER)

WA Chapter Environmental Educator 2024

We would like to acknowledge Sarah Stevenson as the EE of the Year 2024 for the Chapter in recognition of her role at Whiteman Park. Sarah is the Marketing and Community Engagement Officer which has a range of facilitated environmental education programs for students to explore beyond the classroom.

Sarah is the creative designer of event flyers, social media, lesson plan documentation and resources for teachers. Sarah actively participates in this EE work with particular reference to Global Goal 4 Quality education (e.g. education programs), 6 Clean water and sanitation (e.g. annual Groundwater Festivals), 13 Climate action (e.g. tree planting & care of natural environment), 14 Life below water (e.g. Mussel Pool activities) & 15 Life on land (e.g. Children's forest, bushwalking trails, Nocturnal Woylie walk).



Photo: Sarah sharing her passion for birdlife at the Whiteman Park Enviro Fest.

Sarah has a range of skills that are offered to AAEEWA Chapter members for our scheduled projects and programs. She coordinates and delivers the EBulletin to share information about upcoming EfS activities.

Sarah also oversees the website and updates this when required. She provides collaborative support for AAEEWA sub-committees to ensure messages and media communications are appropriate and professional. Sarah is able to upskill members about changes in media platforms and this builds the capacity of our

members which flows to their own work. Sarah is a highly regarded and valuable member of the AAEEWA Chapter.

Key Programs

Little Green Steps WA – Jennifer Pearson Program Manager

We wish Megan Mentz well in her new role at DWER as WasteSorted Schools officer. The changes to staff means that Jennifer Pearson is now the Program Manager and Niamh Williams is the Education Officer delivering the WasteSorted Schools contract for Reducing Waste in Early Years in Metro and regional areas, including Geraldton and Bunbury.

Niamh also delivers the City of Cockburn contract which has just been granted a further three years funding. This partnership has enabled early educators in that council to be supported in the ongoing transition to imbed sustainable practices into their centres. We continue to promote the ecological footprint and social handprint key concepts. There were 12 workshops delivered attended by 107 participants.



The LGSWA presented at the 12th World Environmental Education Congress in Abu Dhabi. We are now part of the Australian Early Childhood Sustainability Alliance (The Alliance) a national group to promote sustainability practices.

LGSWA has 94 Members and 1800 people subscribed to our mailing list, 982 Facebook followers.

WasteSorted Schools Program South Metro - Niamh Williams, Education Officer

Niamh has continued to deliver hands on audit sessions for up to 15 schools each term. Students set goals to reduce waste and develop projects to deal with key issues in the school. This is part of the state government strategy to reduce waste to landfill. Thanks Amy Krupa at SERCUL for providing HR and mentoring. Niamh also creates case studies to showcase schools innovative systems and programs to reduce waste.

Key Projects

Biological Earth Environmental Science (BEES) Yr. 9 - 11 Forum - Friday 6th September 2023.

Delivered in Partnership with Curtin University to offer a day for secondary students to come and meet with 14 scientists and hear about possible careers. There were 275 students accompanied by 22 teachers. All major universities participated in the lunch session to showcase science study pathways, including Curtin, UWA, Notre Dame and Murdoch. Co-ordinated by Jennifer Pearson & Rebecca Baryla from Curtin STEM Outreach.

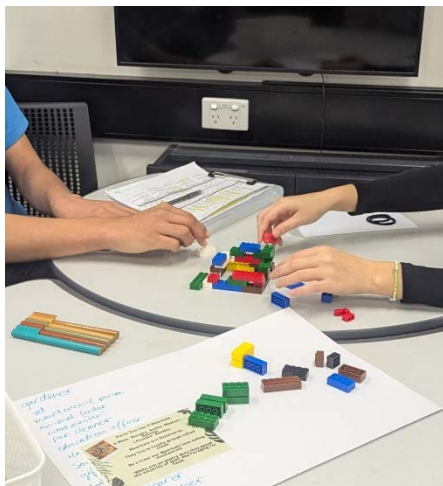


Photo: Perth Zoo Challenge to design and build an animal enclosure.

Western Australian Sustainable Education Forum (WASEF) - 1st December 2023

This annual event offers educators an opportunity to deliver information about their programs or projects. The following were the topics for the morning presentations.

- Where have all the pollinators gone? Dr Elaine Lewis
- SeaWeek – National Week to promote Ocean Literacies. Dr Jennifer Pearson
- FEAST for High Schools! Eva Clarey, OzHarvest
- Miraculous Trees – Teaching the amazing stories of Perth’s Native Trees to Primary Students. Sinead Byrne, Whiteman Park
- 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.
- Saving Our Snake-necked Turtle Program – Turtle Trackers. Dr Catherine Baudains, Save Our Snake-necked Turtle Program and Vicky Hartill, City of Cockburn
- Fauna at School - Stephanie Wong (Outreach Officer), Tenaya Duncan (PhD candidate) Murdoch University

The focus of the afternoon session was delivered by Jake Bamford from Dapper Cranium Studios - Educational Games focusing on the fun to maximise the engagement and education. Jake says that the gamification in education has proven to be a powerful tool for engagement and learning. Jake’s mission with his games design is to ensure that education is present within the game, but it doesn’t take over, and detract from the fun! He was captivating and had the delegates fully engaged.

Coordinated by Jennifer Pearson, Elaine Lewis and Gun Dolva.

Catchments, Corridors and Coasts – 20th August 2024

The Catchments, Corridors & Coasts (CCC) returned in the successful one day format; this year held at Kings Park. The program encourages participants and practitioners to engage in system thinking, recognising that every aspect of life occurs within a catchment. Sometimes in the upper catchment, sometimes in the corridor, sometimes at the coast and sometimes in all three. Committee included Catherine Baudains, Amy Krupa, Elaine Lewis, Claire Gaskin, Sarah Stevenson, Vicky Hartill, Katherine Gaschk, and Jessamy Bennett.



Photo: Rita Lusted from Two Way Science was a key presenter.

Earth Day Expo – Friday 22nd March 2024

Earth Day Expo, co-hosted by the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) delivered earlier this year due to a short first term.

The Expo is a whole day excursion of interactive activities provided by environmental organisations that are passionate about the future of our planet. Students from Year 2 – 5 attending and are rotated through five activities over the day.

There were 14 classes (354 children) and the evaluation positive. *“Love the many hands on activities, especially when the chn get to take the end product home.”*



Photo: Students listening to Captain Cleanup at the start of the day.

Turtle Watch – September to November Peak Period

This program is now working in collaboration with a ‘Turtle Trackers’ Citizen Science Program. They encourage the community to participate in turtle watching and report sightings in support of scientific research. Turtle Trackers is part of the Saving our Snake-necked Turtle (SOSNT) program which is run in partnership between Murdoch University, Harry Butler Institute, WA Wildlife (formerly Native ARC), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), and over 20 local government and catchment groups. Turtle Tracker volunteers track nesting female turtles during peak nesting season (September to November), log information about turtle sightings and behaviour, and help protect nests.

Sustainable School WA – South Metro Network Meetings

The WA Chapter coordinates the quarterly meeting with the Canning River Eco Education Centre. This provides an opportunity for teachers in the Perth south metropolitan suburbs to hear from key EfS program providers about new programs. It also provides a valuable opportunity for the teachers to discuss issues that are important to them with likeminded teachers. Sharing experiences, strategies, information and resources gives them support to keep persisting with their initiatives.

Coordinated by Jennifer Pearson & Noeleen Edwards with Howard Flinders (DET)

Sustainable School WA – North Metro Network Meeting

In 2024, the WA Chapter launched a North Metro Network of Sustainable Schools WA. The first meeting was hosted on 13 August 2024 by Sustainability Co-ordinator Pam Algar at Glengarry Primary School. This meeting provided an opportunity for the school to showcase the HOPE (Help Our Precious Environment) Program with staff, students, families and school leaders; for other schools to learn and share experiences; and for policy makers to understand the importance of this work. Other meetings are to follow in Term 4 2024.

Coordinated by Hannah von Ahlefeld with Howard Flinders (DET)

Grants

WasteSorted Community Grants

In March there was the launch of the 'Bin Sprites' book that explores sorting waste with the help of waste sprites. The Hon Darren West joined His Worship Mayor Logan Howlett to acknowledge this innovative book with the Author Kate Vyvyan and Illustrator Ian Tregonning. Co-ordinated by Jennifer Pearson



National Science Week WA Inspiring Grants

The WA Chapter was successful in securing a National Science Week WA Inspiring grant to create vignettes of practice for early years educators (0-8) that illustrate Indigenous knowledge incorporating the science of materials and the technology of building shelters, the tools and knowledge for gathering food using trapping and identification of environmental clues of tracking. The vignettes were completed, along with Teacher Notes, and offered to increase the Statewide Service collection outlined on page 8 [Ngapartji Ngapartji Two-way](#). This resource has been offered to AAEE national network, our partner One World Centre and the Early Childhood Sustainability Alliance of Australia.

This new resource package was launched at a member's afternoon celebration during Volunteer Week in May. We were able to hear from Rickeeta Walley about the work she does in reconciliation through education.



Rickeeta also contributed information for the Noongar Educators Directory that is now on the WA Chapter website for teachers and community to access.

Reconciliation Action Plan

There was a range of planned and connected activities to promote reconciliation over the year. Two-Way Science (TWS) workshops continued to be conducted throughout the year. A follow-up action to the Referendum result involved including the WASEF 2023 Acknowledgment of Country on AAEEWA website, in written & audio formats, along with an Aboriginal Contacts list. NAIDOC Week actions included website promotion plus member attendance at NAIDOC events, such as, *Mammung* viewing and Q&A with Dr Noel Nannup.

The WA Chapter is also collaborating with the One World Centre for the planning of an event to be conducted on 21st September at Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary. It will involve a guided walk and yarning over morning tea with Rickeeta Wally.

The WA Chapter continues to involve Noongar people in the conduct of our programs. For instance, CCC 2024 involved working with two Noongar educators. Rita Lusted gave a spotlight presentation on Two-Way Science, while Alton Wally conducted a guided walk through a part of Kings Park.

Reclaim the Void project, weaving rag rugs, were held fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at CREEC on 15th February, 1st March, 15th March, 29th March, 10th May, 24th May, 7th June, 21st June, Workshop delivered in Esperance April 14th and offered for NAIDOC Week in July. More workshops planned for August and September.

Acknowledgement of Country is now included on AAEEWA letterhead page, the same as website and used to open our meetings.

National Science Week Inspiring Grant was successfully achieved to create vignettes of TWS practices. The Voice campaign was discussed and the recommendation was for the WA Chapter to share the survey with members so they can inform themselves.

The committee includes Elaine Lewis, Jennifer Pearson, Catherine Baudains and Katherine Gaschk, Barbara Sing.

Elaine Lewis & Jennifer Pearson

Building & Maintaining Networks

We have a range of organisations that we collaborate with for our programs, projects and activities. They have been named thought this report and we thank them sincerely. We continue our collaboration with the Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) for Chapter meetings, joint Earth Day Expo, National Science Week events, SSWA network meetings and co-hosting the WASEF forum.

Thank you to the WA Chapter Executive for their time and enthusiasm.

Convenor: Dr Jennifer Pearson

Secretary: Mr Jason Pitman

Treasurer: Ms Amy Krupa

Membership: Dr Elaine Lewis

National Liaison Rep: Ms Vicky Hartill

Media Communications: Sarah Stevenson