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NZAEE Biennial Conference

“Taking the Next Steps – Te Ahu Whakamua” Hawke’s Bay, 19-22 January 2010

Our annual conference is being held in Hawke's Bay on 19th-22nd January 2010, and with a good number of registrations received already it is set to be a well attended conference. We have over 150 delegates registered to date and the conference organisers report that more continue to come in daily.

The conference programme offers something for every sector, from Local Government to Business, from Early Childhood right through to Primary and Secondary Teachers to Tertiary Educators. The complete programme is available online, and will soon include abstracts of the various talks and events planned.

If you have not yet registered for this exciting and important conference, registration can be completed online at www.nzaeeconference2010.co.nz.

Registrations will close on Thursday 24th December 2009 so don't leave it until the last minute to register!

Stocktake of school EfS

A group of concerned environmental educators met in Wellington in late November to take stock of New Zealand's current position in school-based Education for

Sustainability. The meeting was called in response to the major changes in central government funding of professional development in EfS announced this year. These include the cessation of contracts and removal of funding for school support service advisors, the relatively new Maturanga Taiao initiative, and the Enviroschools national office, effective at the end of 2009. We were greatly concerned about not only the risk posed to the momentum building in EfS in our schools, but also about the general trend in education that these and other recent developments signalled.

The meeting brought together executive members of NZAEE, local government representatives, members of Enviroschools, Maturanga Taiao and the school support services, NGO staff and university educators.

Our stocktake highlighted the following position for school-based EE at present:

- General government policy favouring economic growth over environmental or social sustainability
- An educational focus on literacy and numeracy and standards testing
- A new Curriculum that encourages delivery of EfS
- NCEA standards in EfS at Level 2 and 3
- A TKI-based website that will act as professional development for EfS teachers
- A set of new Senior Secondary Guidelines for EfS
 (see <http://www.seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/>)

- Approximately 700 schools registered with Enviroschools and 250 more on a waiting list
- Approximately 350 other schools receiving EfS professional development through school support services
- EfS resources for schools produced by Enviroschools, DoC, NGOs and some corporate entities
- Significant funding support from local government and some central government agencies
- Limited pre-service teacher training in EfS
- Post 2009 main professional development opportunities through Enviroschools and a small number of other providers

We then formulated a range of actions that we could take to support school based EfS in the near future, including:

- Support Enviroschools in their role as the main professional development provider in school based EfS
- Enviroschools to provide additional training for their facilitators to help teachers deliver the new Curriculum and address the literacy and numeracy standards through EfS
- Track changes in school involvement in EfS post 2009
- Lobby for greater training in EfS in pre-service education
- Advocate for EfS to key government and corporate players

We intend to continue this discussion and planning at the NZAEE conference in January and further into next year and would welcome your comments at any time.

- Chris Eames (c.eames@waikato.ac.nz)

Amendments to the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) legislation

What was agreed with the Māori Party?

The National party has agreed to meet the Maori party on several concerns surrounding the ETS legislation. One of the concerns addressed is that the Ministry for the Environment and Te Puni Kokiri are to fund the Enviroschools foundation for a six month period from 01 January 2010 enabling a review.

Other concerns addressed are:

- An extra 8000 houses owned by low-income households to be insulated between now and 2013 (an investment of \$24million)
- Further exploration of Crown-iwi partnerships to encourage afforestation
- A National Policy Statement on Biodiversity
- New clauses in the ETS Amendment legislation to recognise the Treaty of Waitangi and require consultation with Māori on issues of importance to them
- A review of the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative
- Increased free allocation of emission units to fishing quota owners during the transition phase
- A special advisory group on agriculture
- Working together on two research initiatives on agriculture, the Primary Growth Partnership and a Domestic Agricultural Research Centre
- Five iwi able to farm trees on 35,000 hectares of low conservation value land managed by the Department of Conservation

- Māori representation in international negotiations
- *Climate Change information New Zealand*

For more information on New Zealand's ETS go to www.climatechange.govt.nz/index.html or phone 0800 CLIMATE / 0800 254 628.

Climate Change Conference Copenhagen – Send a message

The aim of the Climate Change talks being currently held in Copenhagen is to set new (and hopefully ambitious) binding greenhouse gas emission targets post 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol expires.

You can participate in the conference as the Danish government is inviting everyone to send through their greetings to the conference. Greetings are submitted through www.greetings.cop15.dk and are composed of 150 characters of text.

The Climate Greetings will be shown on large screens throughout COP15 as well as other various venues in Denmark and around the world. [Click here to send a climate greeting to the Copenhagen conference.](#)

Education for Sustainability in the Primary Curriculum

Education for Sustainability in the Primary Curriculum published in November 2009 and written by Michael Littledyke, Neil Taylor and NZAEE member Chris Eames addresses how Education for Sustainability can be developed within and across all areas of the primary curriculum in Australian and New Zealand contexts. The book provides suitable approaches and

examples of activities to support teachers so that they can address the State and National requirements for teaching all primary curriculum learning areas, while also addressing Education for Sustainability. The approaches to education for sustainability in this book also support relevant national policies, such as the New Zealand Government's *Education for Sustainability* (<http://efs.tki.org.nz/>).

Education for Sustainability in the Primary Curriculum can be ordered from the University Book Shops (UBS) for \$69.99 by emailing: enquiries@ubsbos.co.nz or nzenquiries@ubsbooks.co.nz.

- University Book Shops

Branch news

Auckland branch

Another Auckland Green Drinks Success Story

"Borderless Productions, an Auckland based film production company, was proud to co-host the NZAEE Green Drinks in July 2009 at our Britomart Studio.

Thanks to the impeccable organisation skills of NZAEE, we ended up with a packed venue - accommodating more than 200 guests. Like many other Green Drinks events we were delighted to host fabulous wine, beer and food (including decadent ice cream!) sponsors.

A big highlight of the night was presenting the door prize of \$5,000 worth of Borderless film production to, Dr. Maggie Lawton from Manukau City Council.

This prize has resulted in a gorgeous short film (6-min long) entitled "Mua", written and

fronted by Kaumatua Haare Williams. Haare stars with young actress Shawnee Clarke from Hoani Waititi School. Set in Kawakawa Bay, Auckland, this grandfather / granddaughter conversation tells the story of our environment - how it has been degraded and what we must do to ensure it can be protected for our future generations. The film will be shown by Manukau City Council to its community groups as they engage in dialogue around how we wish our society to look in 2060."

Borderless Green Drinks photos can be seen here

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/album.php?aid=280854&id=213672500386&ref>

Auckland NZAEE AGM - 25 November 2009

*"World Environment Day
- is everyday at the zoo!"*

Under a cloudless, bright blue sky and devoid of the public, about twenty people attended a walkabout at the Auckland zoo. This took place under the guidance of Helene and Helen, two of the zoo's knowledgeable educators. The animals were out and about and more alert than they usually seem to be during the daytime which was awesome to see.

After the tour, the group heard from Peter Fraser, the zoo's Conservation Officer who talked about the links that Auckland Zoo has with countries around the world such as Vietnam and Sumatra. He also talked about the impressive progress that the zoo has made since 2001 in the area of sustainability; reduction in water and power usage and in the development of programmes such as the endangered species breeding programme which sends a percentage of profits abroad. The possible links with this programme and

potential, meaningful carbon offsetting projects is very exciting.

The AGM passed relatively swiftly and without incident. Sarah Sheeran gave a summary of achievements over the year and talked about the funding difficulties we have faced over the course of this year and may face in the future. Trish Kirkland-Smith summarised the financial report and Susie Bettany discussed the National Report, of what's been happening around the country. Officer positions were ratified and the Auckland committee was delighted to receive a new member in the form of Chris McLean of EcoMatters Trust.

Once the formalities were complete, we retired to the sunshine to consume a much welcome drink and some delicious nibbles in the company of a fantastic group of people. A very enjoyable and informative evening all round.

- Susie Bettany

Canterbury branch

The Canterbury branch held a *Resilience* seminar, focused on sharing ways that communities can build resilience for a more sustainable future. Attendees were engaged in brainstorming ways so that people can be encouraged to see themselves as an integral part of their community and thereby contribute to building said community's resilience. The seminar included a presentation by Carl Pickens. Carl is the founder and director of One Earth Matters. He has a Degree in Landscape Architecture from Lincoln University (1991-1994) and a Certificate in Organic Horticulture from Christchurch Polytechnic (2004), where he studied under the mentorship of Holger Kahl. Carl shared some of his experience in working to incorporate sustainability principles into overall design. Christolf Hench, as the

Manager of one of our local community centres, also spoke, recounting some of the experiences he has in working in the community. The presentation was chaired by Bill Simpson from Environment Canterbury, where he is the Community Resilience Unit Manager. About 30 people attended and shared in the discussion and presentations.

The branch also hosted a talk by Barbara Yoffee of the Rachel Carson Trust. She presented information about Rachel Carson's life and her ideals.

Ngā mihi mō te Kirihimete from the Canterbury branch

- Faye Wilson-Hill

Northland branch

The branch is continuing to meet semi-regularly on an informal, networking basis. This works well for those who opt to attend and it means we can still do important business as required without the pressure of organising a formal meeting. Three of our most keen participants, (EFS advisors and our EnviroSchools co-ordinator) are directly affected by the Government crack-down and while there is nothing good about this, their involvement with the branch means we can at least offer some support and pass on job opportunities.

Although activity is at a low level, we have also been able to support and promote the work various people are doing through branch membership and related networks.

- Sioux Campbell

Southern Branch

This year, we have had three meetings. At the first one, members discussed ideas for the year ahead. We discussed the best use of people's time and the purpose of the Southern Branch. Those of us present felt

that there was a lot of energy between us going in to EfS/EE work and that our area was in good heart. Te Rawhitiroa Bosch and Billy Matheson from The EnviroSchools Foundation spoke at our May meeting, outlining the Regeneration Tour and the shape of the Dunedin workshop.

Following the AGM in July, members agreed to have two meetings in 2010. We also heard from Nick Holmes about 350.org plans, and about Conservation Week from Liz Sherwood.

Next year's first meeting, planned for February, will include feedback from the members who are looking forward to the conference in Hawkes Bay in January.
- Jenny Neilson

Waikato Branch

Waikato Eco-Quiz Night November 2009

What was New Zealand's first national park? Too easy? Name the author of the book, *The Weather Makers*.

On Monday the 2nd of November a mixed group of 20 quiz night enthusiasts gathered at the Singer Bar in Hamilton for an evening of snacks, laughs and fierce competition. Sponsored by NZAEE Waikato, and hosted by quiz neophytes Nelson Lebo (NZAEE Waikato board member) and Dani Lejniaks, the evening was a chance for regional environmental educators to get together in an informal, fun atmosphere.

Categories included: Ecology, Climate Change, Clean Green New Zealand, Eco-Tech/Green Design, Endangered Species and Environmental Authors. In between rounds teams tested their recognition of famous (green) faces and 'Name-that-Eco-Tune.' Although the judges were impressed by the good humour of Team Clueless (the

only team not made up of environmental educators), the narrow victory went to Team Mr. MTK over the Eco-STERers. (A review board is being convened on whether the victory is legitimate given Mr. MTK's extra team member.) Monty's Girls and the Zoo Crew finished in the middle of the pack.

Thanks to all who attended and to Aaron, Chris and Katherine for helping with the organization.
- Dean King

NZAEE News

Congratulations to Sioux Campbell, the newly announced 2010 Seaweek national coordinator. Sioux (director of Chameleon Public Relations) established the NZAEE Seaweek Strategy 2010-2015. Sioux also has extensive experience and knowledge about the marine environment and NZAEE is thrilled to have Sioux as the 2010 Seaweek coordinator.

Applications closed on Friday 4th December for the NZAEE National coordinator position. The new coordinator will be announced in the February newsletter.

WWF - New Zealand

WWF-New Zealand has a number of resources to support Education for Sustainability.

The Environmental Education Action Fund distributes over \$50,000 per year and aims to support schools and communities who, as part of their learning, are taking hands-on action to address an environmental issue.

[http://www.wwf.org.nz/what we do/education/funding for schools/](http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/education/funding_for_schools/)

WWF has produced two digital stories featuring outstanding examples of schools who have embraced student-led learning, engaged with their local communities, and implemented the New Zealand Curriculum through taking action to improve their local environment. These stories will interest teachers at any stage of their Education for Sustainability journey.

http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/education/inspiring_schools/

WWF also provides information, resources, professional and financial support for schools and communities to learn about New Zealand's endangered Hector's and Maui's dolphin

http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/education/resources_for_teachers/hector_s_and_maui_s/ and marine conservation in general

http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/education/resources_for_teachers/marine_education/

For more information contact WWF's Education Programme Leader, Wendy Barry wbarry@wwf.org.nz.

Thank you

NZAEE would like to thank everyone for their continued support over 2009. NZAEE continues to keep our head down with work revolving around environmental education. All of this could not have been possible without the wonderful support from our members' and the leadership from the national executive.

A very safe and happy festive season to you and your families, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2010 NZAEE Conference, *Taking the Next Steps*.

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About NZAEE

The New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) was established in 1982 to promote and support environmental education.

Regional branches include; Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Christchurch and Southern.

NZAEE seeks to promote environmental education by:

- Providing an environmental education network;
- Supporting the inclusion of environmental education in policy and curricula;
- Supporting environmental education initiatives;
- Coordinating workshops and seminars on environmental education.

NZAEE newsletter

The newsletter of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education is published six times a year.

- Material may be copied with due acknowledgement.
- The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Association.
- Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Intending contributors should forward material as word documents by e-mail or post to NZAEE.

The next issue of the newsletter will be in February 2010. Intending contributors should forward a copy no later than 15th February 2010.