

Wellington Branch AGM 2020 - 2021

Chairs Report



Thursday 29 April 2021

by Elspeth McMillan and Gill Stewart

Intro

Welcome to the NZAEE Wellington Branch 2020 -21 AGM. The Wellington Branch works at a local level to promote the vision, values mission of the National body. NZAEE National Executive representatives advocate for EE/EfS/EEfS at a high level with key partners, such as the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment, while supporting our members to stay connected.

As a branch our “why” is to contribute to the building of sustainable and resilient communities across many sectors and disciplines within our region. To this end we work with the Wellington Region Environmental Educators Forum as one collaborative group.

Thank you

We’d like to thank Kim Tabrum in her role as Treasurer, Gill Stewart in her role as Co-Chair and Benji Moorhouse for not only his contribution on the branch exec but also contributing to the WREEF hui facilitation along with myself and Gill, Sarah Satterthwaite, Victoria Bernard, Julie Whitburn, and Rebecca McCormack.

Plans and Activities

- WREEF

WREEF - which was formed in 2015, was brought under the Wellington Branch of NZAEE as a working group in November 2020. It specifically provides a platform and opportunities for Environmental Education providers to network, work together and develop their understanding of Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS) to be able to deliver quality programmes for students. With WREEF as a working group of NZAEE we are able to support it with funding. WREEF is a participative group with 130 enrolled in our google group and 103 linked into our facebook page. At our biannual hui we have approx 30 attend - usually including a lot of new faces each time. Our most recent hui was led by a team immersing us in Connecting with nature kaupapa.

- Puanga / Matariki Event

In July 2020 we held our social event based on the time of Puanga. Sadly we were unable to have anyone join us to share the significance of this time. We did celebrate the wonderful contributions of Thom Adams, Pam Crisp and Sandy Beath-croft as they were stepping down from our branch exec. We were inspired

by Holly Neill and her photography and had time to network with each other sharing our hopes for the future in our mahi.

- Te Tiriti Workshop 101

In March we facilitated the delivery of Te Tiriti 101 workshop run by the Treaty Action Collective Pōneke. We had a full workshop with 30 attending from a range of providers. This workshop was held as a result of a desire from our WREEF participants to deepen their understanding of Te Ao Māori. We'd like to thank the Collective for running this workshop very generously for us at a reduced rate. Special thanks to Chloe Bisley-Wright for being our connector.

- Coordinator

Gill Stewart was employed as a Coordinator for our WREEF network and Wellington branch mahi for two hours a week. Gill has applied for funding for the position to be able to be continued and hopefully expanded as more hours are needed to do both of these roles.

- Future

We have been aware of and are working towards supporting our casual labour force in EEfS. We have established a sheet on our WREEF database for casuals to sign up to. This needs to be actioned.

We are using the WREEF facebook page to share about each other's mahi and to update on any research that is relevant.

We are also very interested to see how we can support our local teachers and academics.

We are looking to grow our membership to be able to keep running workshops and supporting WREEF.

Closing

We are looking forward to the revitalisation of NZAEE and seeing how we can continue to strengthen our networks, growing a community of learners and action takers in our local rohe along with being and facilitating strong voices for Papatūānuku and our whaunui with government and other decision makers.