

KiwEE Review

The Annual Review of the New Zealand
Association for Environmental Education

2019





A real team effort between the school and the community

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of KiwEE Review, the annual report of the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE).

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. To foster connections, we have our annual flagship event – Seaweed – which you can read about further on in this review. We also have our website, Facebook page, branch-run initiatives including Green Drinks, teacher workshops and youth initiatives to help our members stay in touch.

During this year, we farewelled Davina Hunt from our Southern Branch. Davina was a National Executive Co-chair from 2015-2016 and a member of the National Executive from 2014-2019. During this time she worked in Wellington on the development of the National Strategy document The Environmental Education for Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan: Mātauranga Whakauki Taiao: He Mahere Rautaki. Afterwards, she returned to Dunedin to take up a position teaching in a primary school as a beginning teacher. We would like to thank Davina for all of her work on the National Executive and in her region and wish her all the best in her teaching career. Her students will be very fortunate to have her expertise in environmental education. Robyn Zink has replaced Davina and even though there is no official Southern Branch at present, there is a group of people interested in environmental education meeting on occasions.

We also farewelled Allen Hill from the Canterbury Branch. Allen was a member of the National Executive from 2018-2019. With Allen's connections to Education Outdoors New Zealand, we have been able to begin negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with this subject association as we have many common interests. We would like to thank Allen for his work while he was on the National Executive

Our members in their local branches are the mainstay of our organisation. They contribute to the building of sustainable and resilient communities across many sectors and disciplines. Branch guidelines are available that contain information about operating a branch and forming new ones. The priorities for NZAEE can be found in our manifesto.

We appreciate your interest in our organisation and welcome any suggestions and viewpoints on environmental and sustainability education matters at any time.

Ngā mihi nui

Sally Birdsall
Co-Chair NZAEE

The year in review for NZAEE

This year was a momentous one for everyone living in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The tragic events in Christchurch left New Zealanders alike struggling to understand and find the words to explain what had happened. Many of us wondered how could this take place in our country. But the positive side was that these events resulted in us thinking deeply a how we relate to others and what we want in and for our society. For many of us, we realised that by standing together on our ground, we can endure through difficult times. By doing this we can ensure that every person in our society has a place to stand and belong. To do this, we all need to recommit to ending racism, homophobia and transphobia, sexism and any ideological positions that cause harm to others.

Climate change is becoming far more visible. Another noteworthy event – the introduction of a Zero Carbon Bill – was evidence of growing concerns about its impact. The drafting and introduction of this Bill are recognition of the role policy and legislation needs to play in reducing carbon emissions and mitigate the onslaught of global warming and changes to our climate. It was also something that many people were wanting to see happen in order to reduce our carbon emissions and honour our obligations to the Paris Agreement that was signed in 2015.

Furthermore, this year also saw Aotearoa New Zealand youth mobilising to voice their feelings about the effects of climate change on the future of our planet and all who live on it. Unfortunately, their first strike was totally overshadowed by the events in Christchurch, but they were committed to action and a further strike went ahead on 24 May. Thousands attended and in Wellington, students marched to Parliament. Further events are planned as youth want to keep this issue at the forefront of people's minds.

This year was also memorable for the honour bestowed on Heidi Mardon. Heidi was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to environmental education in the 2019 New Year's Honours List. This is a much deserved honour for Heidi's work in our field. Heidi has been a driving force in the field of Environmental Education for Sustainability for more than 20 years. She has been a founding director of the Enviroschools Foundation, renamed the Toimata Foundation in 2015, which is New Zealand's largest and longest running education and sustainability programme involving over a third of New Zealand's schools.



Heidi Mardon was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to environmental education in the 2019 New Year's Honours List.

It was also a time to honour a founding member of NZAEE, Janet Holm. Janet was a member of the first committee, when the Association was formed in Christchurch in 1984. She was an advocate for and strong supporter of the Association. After the national committee later moved to Auckland, it went into abeyance for a while. Janet regretted this and when environmental education got another kick start in Christchurch, Janet played a major role. The NZAEE was revived there in 1994 and Janet was again an active part of it throughout the 1990s. The Christchurch-based national NZAEE committee, of which Janet was a member, was a determined driver behind the inaugural national environmental education strategy *Learning to Care for Our Environment: Me Ako ki te Tiaki Taiao: A National Strategy for Environmental Education* published in 1998 by the Ministry for the Environment.

Janet attended the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, 1972, as one of 10 non-government representatives. This conference was the first of three seminal conferences held in the 1970s that shaped environmental education and still influences policy and educators' pedagogy today. She expressed the view following the conference that, "... time and again ... we reminded ourselves that we must return to our own countries more than ever dedicated to the cause of the total environment. We must stimulate an essential, growing interest in the problems of our planet, and emphasise at every point the real importance of each one of us in this vital work. What was needed was to spread the information out to the community so that the ripple effect started". Her work over the years shows her commitment to this viewpoint.

Janet was awarded the MBE for services to the environmental movement in 1988 and the Environment Canterbury Outstanding Achievement Award in 2004. Janet will be remembered for her outstanding service to environmental education. We honoured her memory by donating a modest sum to help with her memorial service.

This year has also seen our Association establish connections with other like-minded organisations. During the 2018 conference, the National Executive met with members of EONZ – Education Outdoors New Zealand – a subject association similar to ours who are interested in promoting education outside the classroom. As a result of our meeting, discussions with people at EONZ continue as we work to formalise a relationship between our two organisations with our similar aims and interests.

Our Association has also become part of an international group called the Global Environmental Education Partnership or GEEP (see <http://thegeep.org/>). Anita Anderson, who is part of the National Executive, facilitated this connection. The GEEP's mission is to use the power of education to create a sustainable and just future. To do this, they aim to connect practitioners, researchers, policymakers, institutions, provides and international networks to elevate effective practice, scale impact, share resources and catalyse collaboration. We have a profile on the GEEP website and you can read about environmental education programmes in other countries. Quarterly newsletters are sent out to members and we were featured in one of these international communications.



Our Australian counterparts, the Australian Association for Environmental Education, held their biennial conference at the Coolangatta on the Gold Coast in October, 2018. As part of our Memorandum of Understanding with AAEE, two of our members can attend their conference and have free registration. Elisapesi Havea and Sally Birdsall applied for and won this free registration. They presented papers at the conference and found the opportunities to meet with other environmental educators from around Australia and hear about their work to be very interesting. In total, six of our members attended.

Chris Eames and Sally Birdsall attended the Post Primary Subject Association Forum in April 2019. The major focus of this event was the reviewing of the NCEA Achievement Standards. Chris and Sally were then invited to attend the Review of Achievement Standards Reference Group meetings. This was important because there are Achievement Standards for Education for Sustainability and promoting and retaining these standards are one of our Association's goals. Chris and Sally were able to contribute to the re-design of these standards and they met with the Ministry of Education official who will be leading these changes. It will be interesting to see what these new standards will consist of and how Education for Sustainability will feature.

Ngā mihi nui

Sally Birdsall

Seaweeek₂₀₁₉

Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy Seas, Healthy People



Seaweeek - Kaupapa Moana - is New Zealand's flagship marine education and engagement event. Coordinated annually by NZAEE, Seaweeek celebrates the beauty, diversity and significance of the sea and inspires people of all ages to connect with, learn about and take action for their coasts and seas.

With 250 events and 7 competitions all over the country Seaweeek 2019 was another huge success. Here is a snapshot of a few of the many activities that took place:


Lorella Doherty from Rethinking Plastic Revolution, Taranaki challenged herself to pick up 10,000 cigarette butts during the 10 days of Seaweeek. Voted the winner of the 2019 Senior Ocean Champion Award, she received \$500 from the New Zealand Coastal Society in support of her work.

“Most people who drop butts have no idea they are dropping something that is plastic and that it does not decompose. But is instead made from 12,000 plastic fibres (cellulose acetate) and it takes 10+ to break down (into tiny toxic particles) that is toxic for aquatic life. I want it to be common knowledge and conversation that butts are plastic and not paper. When people are not aware, they simply do not know any better. If this fact is known by many, behaviours can change.”

Far left: Pataua drift snorkel, Northland
(Experiencing Marine Reserves www.emr.org.nz)

Left: Senior 2019 Ocean Champion Lorella Doherty:
I believe we are all kaitiaki of this land; that we are all here to protect and conserve the earth in the way we are most passionate about.





Over 30 community-guided snorkel trips were run by the Experiencing Marine Reserves team in Northland, Auckland, Wellington, Nelson and other parts of the country.

Beach clean ups organised by Sustainable Coastlines and others were a huge drawcard again, reinforcing the Government's recently announced nationwide ban on single use plastics.

"We saw where marine animals had adapted to the junk in the harbour, making it their home, and also how foreign marine animals liked to live and grow on junk in the harbour. We will be more careful when we go to the beach and out on the boat, and considerate about where we put our rubbish."

(Event attendee – adult)

"The Seaweeek video developed last year on effects of plastic on the food chain and what is happening in the oceans from plastic pollution prompted a lot of discussion and emotion. The video is a taonga as it also brings home some of the reasons why we should respect the oceans and care for them."

(Raewyn Bennett, Te Arawa ki Tai Trust)

A week of activities sponsored by Fisheries New Zealand/Ministry for Primary Industries was run by Te Arawa ki Tai Trust in Maketu, Bay of Plenty. Their wananga had 'Arohatia the Moana' as the theme and posed three questions: "What's wrong with the moana? What should we do? What's stopping us?"

Across the country our regional coordinators and event organisers did an amazing job showcasing their special places and issues and were very pleased with participation levels.

"Great engagement (before, during and after) and relationship building with different communities and organisations that lead to future collaborations which this event achieved."

(Event coordinator)

"The community was interested. More than 70 people - about 23 family groups - signed up which is more than double past conservation events. Everyone enjoyed the event and went away with some positive learning."

(Event coordinator)

How effective was Seaweeek?

Our annual evaluations focus on the environmental, social and community benefits of Seaweeek.

Here is a snapshot of some findings from our 2019 evaluation report:

Evidence of relationships built with key stakeholders and community organisations

Analysis of survey responses by Seaweeek regional and events coordinators in 2019 showed improving trends in participation, and in the diversity of sponsors and partners involved.

69% of event coordinators surveyed reported new partnerships forming as a result of their Seaweeek events. For example, Auckland's Seaweeek programme in 2019 involved businesses, NGOs and community organisations, central and local government agencies, universities, businesses, marine education and recreation providers, artists, scientists and many others.

"Great engagement (before, during and after) and relationship building with different communities and organisations that lead to future collaborations which this event achieved."

- Event coordinator

Evidence of children and their teachers /families benefiting from being involved

Seaweeek involves all sectors of the community. Target audiences reached at Seaweeek events in 2019 included families (44% of attendees) and schools - teachers and students (32% of attendees).

Growing participation by young people, schools and early childhood centres is supported by learning opportunities provided by marine educators, community organisations and education professionals. In 2019 these included: guided snorkelling and kayak trips with Experiencing Marine Reserves; organised beach clean ups; Marine Metre Squared (Mm2) surveys; a LEARNZ Sustainable Seas virtual field trip, in association with NIWA and the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge; teacher professional development opportunities and resources provided.



Seaweeek at Happy Steps Early Childhood Centre, Flat Bush, Auckland

Comments from young people, teachers and parents included:

"I learned about the importance of mangroves in our marine environment."

- Event attendee, primary student

"Makes me feel like people can do more to help instead of just not caring...Maybe become a marine biologist or help marine life by joining things."

- Event attendee, youth

"At Whangaparaoa Primary School for Seaweeek our class turned into an underwater wonderland and we learnt about underwater explorers like Jacques Cousteau, Sylvia Earle, and of course our NZ Young Ocean Explorers Steve and Riley Hathaway."

- Primary teacher

"We will keep supporting the children to be kaitiaki of the seas."

- Event attendee, teacher

"The resources that you have indicated will help me in empowering my children to appreciate what the sea has to offer us and how we can care for it for our future generations."

- Early childhood educator

"My children grew confident. They learned to deep dive with a snorkel. I am made more aware of habitats and the need to take the children more for a snorkel"

- Event attendee, parent

Benefits for the marine environment

Responses to our 2019 Seaweeek evaluation surveys showed that:

- 80% of those surveyed identified specific actions they would take after taking part in a Seaweeek event;
- More people are taking part in 'action-oriented' versus 'passive' events;
- Participants have increased confidence in their ability to protect or improve the sea environment;
- People are learning new skills by taking part in activities like whale rescue training or species monitoring, increasing their ability to undertake ongoing action for the marine environment;
- More people feel confident of their ability to protect or improve the marine environment (89% of those surveyed in 2019, versus 75% in 2013);

Issues most commonly identified related to marine debris, followed by climate change, biodiversity loss, fishing pressure, human interference, pollution, introduced pest species and sedimentation.

Asked what a successful Seaweeek event looked like to them, one event coordinator responded:

"most importantly of all, people should be inspired to learn about, and protect, the ocean. This is achieved by high attendance rates across our events".

Another commented: **"a successful Seaweeek programme should offer opportunities to learn more and make an instant difference in caring for our seas".**

Hauraki Gulf Monitoring Project

Since 2017 NZAEE has also been funded by Foundation North to run the Hauraki Gulf Monitoring Project, which uses the University of Otago NZ Marine Studies Centre's 'Marine Metre Squared' (Mm2) project to provide a science and action learning extension to Seaweed. Participants collect and analyse data about the marine life present in their local shoreline and are encouraged to interpret their data and put their learning to action in their local context. For example:

Building on what they learnt through their surveys, Long Bay Primary students went on to find out what they could do about the invasive Mediterranean fan worm and to campaign for Waiake to be part of Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve.

The Waitotara Sustainable Living Group, a group of locals working to restore the Waiwera Valley catchment, plan to use the sandy shore Marine Metre Squared surveys alongside the WaiCare freshwater investigations as an indication of the condition of the catchment.

The 2019 also project included a Marine Metre Squared teacher workshop led by NZ Marine Studies Centre Director, Dr Sally Carson and hosted by the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC).

"The incredible mahi done by NZAEE over a number of years now is vital in ensuring that succeeding generations are empowered with the knowledge necessary to play their full role as kaitiaki of our shared taonga Tikapa Moana/ Hauraki Gulf. The work with schools and communities in monitoring the health of their local coastline provides that broader understanding of and commitment to solving the environmental challenges facing our Marine Park."

(Alex Rogers, CEO Hauraki Gulf Forum)

Wentworth School -
Okoromai Bay

Acknowledgements

Our thanks and appreciation to former Auckland and National Seaweed coordinator, Dr Mels Barton for her outstanding work to lead and grow Seaweed across Aotearoa since 2011 and, since 2017, the Hauraki Gulf Monitoring Project.

Following Mels' resignation in May 2019 NZAEE contracted Shanthie Walker, EFS Solutions, to complete delivery of the 2019 Hauraki Gulf Monitoring Project, the Sir Peter Blake Marine Recreation and Education Centre (MERC) to coordinate Seaweed 2020, and the University of Otago's NZ Marine Studies Centre to coordinate the 2020 Hauraki Gulf Monitoring Project. Our thanks to these people and organisations, our volunteer regional coordinators and event organisers across the country, and our national sponsors and all our regional sponsors for their invaluable support:

Foundation North, Fisheries New Zealand/Ministry for Primary Industries, NZ Marine Studies Centre - University of Otago, Department of Conservation, New Zealand Coastal Society, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Environment Canterbury, The National Aquarium - Napier City Council, Wild for Taranaki, Kiwi North, Young Ocean Explorers, Experiencing Marine Reserves; our 2019 prize sponsors: Fish4all, Auckland Whale and Dolphin Safari, Outboard Boating Club Auckland, Harper Collins Publishers, Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust; and our many local and regional supporters.


Pam Crisp,
Programme Manager, NZAEE Seaweed



The National Executive

Sally Birdsall

Chair and Auckland Branch Rep

 s.birdsall@auckland.ac.nz

Sally is a senior lecturer in science and environmental education at the University of Auckland.

Chris Eames


Waikato Branch Rep

 c.eames@waikato.ac.nz

Chris is a senior lecturer in environmental education at the University of Waikato.

Thom Adams

Wellington Branch Rep

 thom.adams@vuw.ac.nz

Thom is a science communicator and outreach specialist for the Faculty of Science at Victoria University of Wellington.

Pam Crisp

Seaweed Rep

 pamdcrisp@gmail.com

Pam is Co-Director of the Nature Through Arts Collective Trust and National Programme Manager for NZAEE Seaweed.

Anneke Mace

Located in Wellington

 Anneke.Mace@wcc.govt.nz

Anneke is a botanic gardens educator at the Wellington Botanic Garden.

Anita Anderson

Located in Wellington

 aanderson@doc.govt.nz

Anita works for DOC leading marketing and communications.

Marty Taylor

Located in Wellington

 mardtaylor@gmail.com

Marty runs the Te Papa Taiao Earthcare programmes in schools.

Debbie Courtney

National Co-ordinator

 nzaeecontact@gmail.com

Debbie is our National Coordinator undertaking much of our administration.

Branch Reports

The following are reports from our six
branches around New Zealand.



Auckland Branch Report – 2018-19

Committee Members and Roles

The Auckland Branch has 9 members on its committee. At our Annual General Meeting in December 2018, the following officers and committee members were elected:

Chairperson:	Hazel Meadows
Treasurer:	Trish Kirkland-Smith
Secretary:	Sally Birdsall
Committee:	Bridget Glasgow, Sue Wake, Rebecca Goffin, Andrea Kendall, Amber Pierce and Richard Carter.

At the AGM we farewelled Hilary Chidlow after many years on the Auckland Branch Committee. She has made an enormous contribution to our work in the Auckland region and she will be sadly missed. Hilary intends to continue her activism, but also enjoy her interests in painting and playing the ukulele.

Cara Blomfield also resigned as she is expecting a new baby. Thank you to Cara for her leadership and work on the committee. Our best wishes for the arrival of her little girl.

Membership

As at December 2018, the Auckland Branch had 23 individual members, 2 schools, 1 student member, 1 Life Member and Auckland Council's stakeholder membership.

Key Activities

Green Drinks

We continued to host Green Drinks and held one event during this period. This event was held at Kelly Tarltons with the theme of Protecting Our Oceans. Nearly 60 people attended and they all enjoyed the opportunity to have a look at the venue, including the penguins and their chicks. Three speakers engaged the audience. Firstly, Emma Ferguson from Kelly Tarltons spoke about what her organisation has to offer in terms of environmental education. Then Ede Bird showcased the highlights of her experiences with Sea Cleaners in Hawai'i, followed by Sam Woolford from LegaSea.

The Sustainability Society continues to hold 'low fi' Green Drinks on the first Wednesday of every month at Brothers Brewery. People interested in sustainability matters, mostly from business and industry, come together to catch up and discuss issues, and also enjoy the craft beer on tap that is made on the premises.

NCEA Education for Sustainability Assessment Standards Cluster Meeting

On 15 November the Auckland Branch held an event for secondary teachers and providers interested in the NCEA Education for Sustainability Assessment Standards. During this meeting we discussed their current use of the NCEA Level 2 and 3 Assessment Standards. How teachers and providers could be supported to offer these standards in their schools was also discussed and several next steps were proposed. We are considering these proposals for possible events next year.

Auckland Branch Facebook Page

Rebecca Goffin has taken responsibility for keeping our Branch's Facebook page updated with support from other committee members. Events run by our branch, as well as others in the EfS sector have been promoted on the page. Connections have been made with the Auckland Science Teachers Association and Auckland Social Studies Associations. Both of these subject associations promote our branch events to their members as we work on building our networks in Auckland.

Ngā mihi nui

Sally Birdsall

Waikato Branch Report – 2018-19

Committee Members and Roles

The Waikato Branch has been led by Chris Eames who also served as representative to the National Executive.

Membership

As at December 2018, the Waikato Branch had 8 individual members, 1 school, 1 student member and 2 Corporate memberships.

Key Activities

The 2018/2019 year was a quiet one for branch activities but many things were going on within members' organisations and individually. Many of us supported the climate strikes and events that sprung up around those. I contributed with many others to a Climate Summit in which Waikato people explored options around actions for climate change. Many of us were also drawn into consultation for the Waikato Wellness Project – a cool region-wide initiative which has set targets for improving wellbeing in our region, see - <https://www.waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz/>. These initiatives and many others show that the Waikato is striving to think and act in sustainable ways to create a better future.

One active initiative has the establishment of the Taupō Environmental Education Collaborative (EEC). Active participants in the Taupō EEC include the following groups and organisations;

- Department of Conservation
- Enviroschools
- Kids Greening Taupō
- Taupō District Council
- Taupō for Tomorrow

The EEC's purpose is to identify and implement opportunities to collaborate and support EEfS in the Taupō area.

The Waikato branch was pleased to provide financial support to the EEC to do two things. Firstly, to publish an EEfS poster for local Taupō schools which promotes relevant calendar dates for the Taupō community as well as highlighting the local EEfS providers. Secondly, to establish a basic website to provide local EEfS information for local teachers including dates of activities and events and links to provider websites. These strategies were successful in communicating the EEC's events and goals throughout their community.

NZAAE Waikato welcomes such initiatives which we will support wherever we can.

Ngā mihi nui

Chris

Bay of Plenty Branch Report – 2018-19

Committee Members and Roles

Branch chairs: Kathy Broadhead
(supported by Michelle Elborn)
Treasurer: Monica Quirke
National Exec Rep: Vacant for the Bay of Plenty

Membership Numbers

As at December 2018, the Bay of Plenty Branch had 11 individual members and 2 Corporate memberships.

Key Activities

Special thanks to Bay of Plenty Regional Council who produce REEF (Regional Environmental Education Forum) monthly newsletters, which is circulated to teachers, educators and the network.

Mt Maunganui Event

Our branch hosted an event on 4 July 2018 at Mount Maunganui College, which featured an afternoon of inspiring activities, local educational stories from young leaders and networking with like-minded change-makers.

We had a range of young school leaders presenting on projects they were leading, including:

- Developing a Living Building at Mount Maunganui College;
- Estuary monitoring in the Tauranga Harbour;
- Waste advocacy programme where one of our local schools has influenced Anchor in reducing the inclusion of straws with school milk cartons through a re-design of packaging;
- Travel Safe initiative; and
- How students are taking leadership with emergency management.

All the students were wonderfully inspiring as they shared their knowledge and aspirations.

Our branch contributes to the NZAEE Annual Report each year but currently has no representation on the national executive.

Outside of branch activity, there is a growing range of EE activities available at a school and community level: ranging from Enviroschools; resource wise schools; travel safe; learning through discovery; environmental challenge; community gardens; Nature Library; Bay Conservation programmes; Nature through Discovery estuary monitoring; Sustainable Backyards events; and Youth Jam events.

Ngā mihi nui

Kathy

Wellington Branch Report – 2018-19

Committee Members and Roles

Chair:	Thom Adams
Treasurer:	Sandy Beath-Croft
WREEF Representative:	Gill Stewart

There are four representatives on the National Executive – Pam Crisp, Anneke Mace, Marty Taylor, Anita Anderson.

Membership Numbers

As at December 2018, the Wellington Branch had 17 individual and 14 corporate members.

Key Activities

Conference follow up and evaluation

Special thanks to:

- NZAEE National and Department of Conservation for kick-start funding. NZAEE was repaid in full.
- Paardekooper for event management skills and flexibility to meet needs of organisation.
- WREEF members who helped with planning of conference.
- Enviroschools for support before and during the conference, particularly Gill Stewart who devoted a large amount of time to planning.
- Pam Crisp for sponsorship efforts.
- Special mention was made of a strong Mātauranga Māori strand, as well as youth engagement. Ben Moorhouse was thanked for his efforts in organising and chaperoning the youth delegation.
- Feedback by new teachers attending for first time was very positive.

Areas for possible improvement were identified:

- A less crowded agenda, with more back to back workshops on similar topics so less time needed to be devoted to moving around.
- Greater education on local tikanga to manage expectations around waiata and farewells.

Supporting Seaweed

Sarah Cole, Seaweed Wellington Regional Coordinator for 2019 reported that:

- Over 40 events took place.
- High volume and diversity of events.
- Waterbourne and Victoria University programmes were sponsored by East West Ferry and Centreport.
- Hutt City Library had 560 participants over 41 activities.
- Main concerns from Sarah were around communication process, missed sponsorship opportunities, and a lack of engagement from the business community.
- Vote of thanks to Sarah Cole, Micheline Evans, and Greater Wellington Regional Council's Biodiversity Team.

Discussions with WREEF

Discussions were initiated with WREEF (Wellington Region Environmental Educators Forum) about formalizing our relationship to make best use of our collective strengths and contributions to EE/EEFS.

EEFS discussions:

Anita Anderson and Chris Montgomerie from DOC provided an update on the progress of implementing the document.

- On behalf of Project Crimson Chris has been contracted as an independent voice to build capacity for government to be more coordinated across organisations.
- Working with MfE and MSD youth voice.
- Chris's project is focused on:
 - Celebrating success.
 - Identifying and collecting stories and exemplars.
 - A stocktake of what currently exists – tools and resources.
 - Identifying networks and channels.
- Main focus of strategy is on tree planting and ecological restoration, tying in with the Billion Trees Project and Trees that Count.
- There are no clear or specific ideas on actions to implement the plan.

Canterbury Branch Report – 2018-19

Membership

As at December 2018, the Canterbury Branch had 7 individual members, 2 schools, 1 student, 1 Life Member and 3 Corporate memberships.

Key Activities

Jocelyn has kept the branch ticking along but we no longer have a regional representative on the National Executive. after Allen resigned from the role. Our branch is kept in the Executive loop via the newsletter, Facebook feed and occasional direct email.

There were two main events for 2019. One was Seaweek and a full calendar of events was pulled together with reasonable turnout at all the events. Jocelyn then worked with SOC members and their paid coordinator to bring the inaugural Speaking 4 the Planet (S4P) Christchurch to fruition. That event took place on 7 June at Tūranga with 14 schools and 43 students participating in the art and speech elements of the competition.

S4P originated in Sydney, Australia seven years ago led by Phil Smith who was keen to see it spread to Aotearoa NZ. The prizes were awesome – thanks to Earth, Sea, Sky clothing, Orana Wildlife Park, Ara Institute, The Drawing Room, The Rubbish Whisperer, Remix Plastics and Flourish – as were the art works and speeches given by the participants. The winning speeches by Portia Boyd of Our Lady of Victories School (Y7-9 section) and Ciara Foley of Ao Tawhiti School (Y10-13 section) were a powerful call to action on the World Environment Day themes of plastic and air pollution. The art works were equally compelling with Evie MacDonald and Addison Drake taking out first prizes in their sections. For full details of the competition visit SOC's website <https://sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/speaking-4-the-planet-results/>

Our branch also collaborated with Peter Taylor and Sophia White to schedule Green Drinks events throughout 2019. Attendance at these events was mixed depending of the level of interest in the scheduled speaker.

Jocelyn Papprell currently sits on the Board of the Christchurch EnviroHub, which has recently found a space out of which they now operate. It is wonderful to have an Environment Centre back in Christchurch after all these years. The original centre closed its doors in 2009 due to a lack of funding. The new EnviroHub can be found in The Kiosk at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens but will also take up residence in another central city venue once that build is complete later in 2020. Check out the EnviroHub Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchenvirohub/>

Southern Branch Report – 2018-19

Membership

As at December 2018, the Southern Branch had 8 individual members.

Environmental education and Education for Sustainability are alive and well across Otago. Students are asking for information about the environment, climate change and the potential impact on themselves, their whānau and their wider communities. Teachers are grappling with how to address student questions and the rising levels of concern and anxiety experienced by young people. We are seeing a range of innovative and exciting approaches but also seeing teachers reaching out for support from the community networks located in the environmental education space in Otago.

One of the clearest examples of students wanting to take action and demanding to have their voice heard was through the Students4Climate strikes in 2019. In most towns in Otago, students were the driving force organising these events and they were very well attended by students and the wider community. Many students also chose to take a range of actions such as clean-ups in their neighbourhoods, creating school-wide petitions, and doing transport surveys asking staff and students to pledge to walk, bike / scooter, take the bus or ride share, to and from school one day a week.

Schools across Otago are involved in a wide range of environmental activities including reducing their waste, enhancing biodiversity, learning about water quality and actions they can take to look after water, learning about energy and growing and cooking food. Skinks have been an area of focus in several schools with students undertaking tracking to find out what lives in their school grounds, designing and building skink gardens and monitoring the difference improved habitat makes to skink populations at the school.

Many schools are also looking for opportunities to get involved with environmental action in their communities. We are very fortunate in Otago as we have a wide range of organisations operating in the environmental education space. Some examples of this are: Enviroschools, the University of Otago Marine

Studies Centre and Town Belt Kaitiaki (a collaboration between DOC, the Dunedin City Council and the Dunedin Amenities Society) providing leadership opportunities for students to be Kaitiaki of the Dunedin City Townbelt.

Otago is also one of the pilot areas for the Participatory Science Platform (PSP) which supports schools and students to get involved in citizen science projects. PSP has been running in Otago since 2015. Over that time schools and communities have gained a lot of knowledge and experience in creating collaborative projects that enable students to explore scientific questions in depth, gather, analyse and share meaningful data that is useful to the wider community.

Funding, such as PSP, provides pivot points to bring together schools and community groups. We have numerous examples where the data gathered through these projects have provided springboards for wider community engagement in environmental education and action. A key to success is supporting the collaborative work of organisations and resourcing this to bring people together. Organisations such as NZAEE are a key partner in this collaboration as we bring an educational lens to environmental engagement and enhancement.

One of the things that is particularly heartening is that the demand for opportunities to learn about the environment and to take action in our local communities is being driven by young people. We are looking forward to an exciting year in the environmental education space in Otago.

Robyn Zink
NZAEE Southern Representative

About the cover images

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- 1 Estuary Edge, Canterbury 2 Tracking card ready to go with ink and peanut butter 3 Bucket of galaxiids
4 Oamaru Intermediate students with their audited waste 5 Fenwick students building trapboxes 6 Climate change strike
7 Checking clarity 8 Turning the first sod for the new garden 9 Tamariki showing off Paper bricks
10 Bracken Point planting day

(Photos provided by Robyn Zink, Southern Region National Executive Rep)