

# WEN e-news

Newsletter of the Water Education Network

WEN



water education network

Issue 24, January 2006

## This issue

- Congratulations to the WEN Survey Winner and Water Wise Garden Competition Winners!
- News from the Network
  - Development of New National Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development
- Ollie's Island Professional Development Sessions - Ozwater
- Notice Board
- 2007 MDBC International River Health Conference
- 'Water Education and the Social Dimension' Session - Ozwater



AUSTRALIAN  
WATER  
ASSOCIATION

The Water Education Network is an AWA initiative.

Welcome to the first issue of WEN e-news for 2007!

Congratulations to Shelley Tramacchi of Brisbane City Council on winning the water accommodation voucher for participating in the 2006 WEN Survey! Thanks again to all that took part in the survey. The results are currently being collated and will be available soon.

Congratulations also goes to winners and special mentions for the 2006 National Water Week (NWW) Water Wise Garden Competition. State Winners: Tim Powe (QLD), Brian Hitchins (NSW) and Elizabeth Borger (WA) will be receiving 60cm Wollemi Pines. The quality of entries was so high that the judges also decided to award special mentions to: Jan Sage (NSW), Penny Karandonis (NSW) and Leonie Shanahan (QLD) who will each receive a 40cm Wollemi Pine. The competition was run by AWA, Wollemi Pine International, URS and Nursery and Garden Industry Australia. Details of a similar 2007 NWW competition are currently being explored.

From March to July I will be needing to take some leave as I am having a baby. I then plan to return to work on a part-time basis for the remainder of 2007. At this stage I plan to be at Ozwater 2007 but is it likely I will finish up work later that week (~8 March).

Laura Evanson, AWA's National Specialist Network Coordinator, will be looking after the WEN whilst I am on leave. Laura will publish WEN E-news, hold WEN Network Meetings and look

after all inquiries and activities related to the WEN. My email and direct phone number will remain the active during my leave. However, you can email Laura directly at [levanson@awa.asn.au](mailto:levanson@awa.asn.au) or phone her directly on (02) 9495 9917.

Jennifer Sage, AWA's Communication's Manager, will be the contact for National WaterWeek and the Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize during my absence. Jen's email is [jsage@awa.asn.au](mailto:jsage@awa.asn.au) and her direct line is (02) 9495 9916.

For those involved in Water Industry Capacity Development (WICD), a new project officer will be starting shortly to take over that part of my role in a more permanent way. Details will be circulated through the WICD newsletter and WEN e-news next month.

Finally, Linda Phillips, AWA's Event Manager, will be looking after the 2008 conferences (WEN, WICD and Water Efficiency) on the Gold Coast during my leave. Linda can be contacted at [lphillips@awa.asn.au](mailto:lphillips@awa.asn.au) or phone (02) 9495 9914.

If in doubt on who to contact you can always call AWA's switch on (02) 9413 1288.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of WEN e-news for the year. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

**Corinne Cheeseman**  
*Education Manager*

# DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Australian Government has begun the process of developing a National Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development (NAP ESD). The objective of the Plan is to contribute to the achievement of a more sustainable Australia through community education and learning.

The NAP ESD will supersede the existing National Action Plan for Environmental Education, released in July 2000 (<http://www.deh.gov.au/education/nap/index.html>). The existing Plan has led to the implementation of a broad range of initiatives including establishment of the National Environmental Education Council (NEEC), National Environmental Education Network (NEEN) and Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES). Development of programmes such as the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative can also be attributed to the Plan.

The over arching framework for the NAP is Caring for our Future - The Australian Government Strategy for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014 (<http://www.deh.gov.au/education/decade/index.html#strategy>). Within this framework, the NAP ESD will build on current activities and broaden the focus to explicitly acknowledge the interconnected nature of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The NAP ESD will identify a range of strategies and actions to enable the community to contribute to sustainable development. Specifically, the Plan will outline tasks for which the Australian Government will take responsibility, as well as provide national leadership in encouraging actions by others.

The process for developing the NAP will include an analysis of the current status and needs of the sectors involved in education for sustainable development (or education for sustainability and environmental education), as well as the

identification of stakeholders that have not previously been engaged. It will focus on areas of greatest national need and impact.

UrbisJHD has been appointed as the consultant to assist the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) with the development of the NAP. The Project Director is Roberta Ryan. The DEH contact is Joan Cornish.

Details of the development process will be highlighted on the project website: [www.urbisjhd.com/nap](http://www.urbisjhd.com/nap).

In summary the process will run over three phases:

## **Phase One: Scoping (Dec 2006 - Jan 2007)**

Inception process in consultation with Project Steering Committee, NEEC and NEEN. Key Informant interviews. Draft Literature Review. Establish project website. Conduct survey on current situation.

## **Phase Two: Consultation (Mar - May 2007)**

Disseminate discussion paper. Conduct State and Territory workshops. Present feedback from discussion paper and workshops to Steering Committee.

## **Phase Three: Drafting of National Action Plan (May - Jun 2007)**

Submit draft action plan. Review by Steering Committee, NEEC and NEEN. Draft final plan.

## **HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:**

- Keep yourself and your organisation up to date on the project website: [www.urbisjhd.com/nap](http://www.urbisjhd.com/nap).
- Complete the survey - the link at [www.urbisjhd.com/nap](http://www.urbisjhd.com/nap).
- Read and respond to the discussion paper.
- Input to a workshop in your State.
- For specific queries contact Roberta Ryan on [NAP@urbisjhd.com](mailto:NAP@urbisjhd.com).

*'News from the Network'* is open to participants of the Water Education Network across Australia, providing an opportunity to showcase water education programs/activities etc. If you have a story you feel is of interest to the WEN network to feature in this segment please email [ccheeseman@awa.asn.au](mailto:ccheeseman@awa.asn.au). *'News from the Network'* stories up to 400 words in length. Please include a photo or picture.



## Ollie's Island Professional Development Sessions

As mentioned in December's WEN E-news the creator of Ollie's Island, Jane Stewart, will be running Professional Development (PD) sessions at AWA's Ozwater Conference in Sydney in March.

These sessions will be open and free to anyone wanting to get a demonstration from Jane personally. You don't even need to be a delegate at the Ozwater Conference as entry to the exhibition is free and open to the public.

Ollie's Island PD sessions will be held at the AWA Booth at the Sydney Convention Centre at Ozwater 2007.

Currently the following sessions are scheduled:

11:00 - 12:30	Mon 5 March
12:45 - 14:15	Tues 6 March
11:00 - 12:30	Wed 7 March

There is no cost and no need to book to attend however sessions will have limited numbers, so arrive early to get your seat! Extra sessions may be scheduled if there is demand.

Jane Stewart will also be available at the AWA Booth during Ozwater from 5-7 March and is happy to run through the program on an individual basis also.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase/order copies of the Ollie's Island CD at a discounted price.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to learn how to use this new sustainability resource from its creator. If you are not based in Sydney, or won't be here for the Ozwater Conference, don't fret - Jane will be visiting other capitals during 2007.



## Notice Board

- The Australian Government's NAP SURVEY (see page 2 of this issue for details) is available until Friday 16 February. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the survey link.

- The existing Department of the Environment and Heritage will become the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES under changes announced by PM John Howard prior to the above announcements this past week. MALCOLM TURNBULL, MP has been appointed Minister for The Environment & Water Resources, replacing Senator Ian Campbell. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website.

- The Australian Government's AUSTRALIAN INNOVATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS (ASISTM) Grant Round 4 is calling for expressions of interest for grants for innovative school projects to be conducted in the 2008 school year. Opens 5 February, closes 23 March 2007. Projects should be undertaken by a cluster of schools together with non-school cluster partners. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website.

- Round 3 of the Australian Government's COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS will open soon. The web site has recently been updated to include information on planning your project. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the website.

Premier PETER BEATTIE has called off the planned March PLEBISCITE on RECYCLED WATER for South East Queensland and stated that, because of the current drought, recycled water will be introduced into the public drinking water supply. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website.

- The Banksia Environmental Foundation's BANKSIA AWARDS PROGRAM is now open. Details of the 2007 Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award are also available on the web site. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website.

## Organisers and Sponsors:

Murray Darling Basin Commission, National Water Commission, Questacon, University of Canberra, Dilmah, ACT Government, eWater CRC, Water for Rivers, Hotel Heritage, Hotel Realm, Landcare Australia Limited, Canberra Convention Bureau, the National Capital Educational Tourism Project.

# 2007 MDBC International River Health Conference

## Sun 14 Oct - Tues 16 Oct 2007

Teacher and student places can now be reserved by registering at [www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com](http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com)

Over 650 students and teachers representing every Australian State and Territory will converge in Canberra to discuss global warming, river health, catchment management, coastal and marine issues, waste management, cultural heritage and a myriad of other natural resource management topics. There will be celebrity guests, high profile politicians, exciting workshops and a chance to meet like-minded students from Australia and the world.

With drought, river health and management of our natural resources reaching crisis point, the Conference will take on special significance. It is common knowledge that the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia's biggest food bowl, may run out of water as early as next year if autumn rains don't arrive. It is an opportunity to witness how tomorrow's leaders are feeling about the situation and what they believe can be done to secure a bright future for all Australians.

The International River Health Conference provides hands-on, student-centred learning to bring about a cultural change in the way we perceive our natural environment, and to raise awareness of the importance of environment education, and the value of the "Kids Teaching Kids" model of education. Students come away from the event with skills in acting on their concerns for the environment, more knowledge about environmental issues and how other communities are dealing with those concerns. More importantly, students build resilience and optimism, develop a sense of future, and realise their capability as public speakers.

### Water Education and the Social Dimension

Ozwater 2007

1:30pm - 4:30pm Sunday 4 March  
Sydney Convention Centre

This session contains a series of papers that cover education and the social dimension in the broadest sense. The first three papers will cover areas such as challenges and frameworks for change in the community, creating agents for change and developing leadership within organisations and community views on water shortages and conservation. Following a short break, two case studies will be presented illustrating how the community is currently being engaged by water organisations to reduce demand through water conservation and on acceptance of new water infrastructure projects. To bring the session to a close and facilitate audience participation, a 20 minute panel session involving the five presenters, will further explore the challenges and opportunities faced in engaging the community in the sustainable management of water.

To register to attend go the Ozwater website:  
<http://www.awaozwater.net/o7/>



## Contact Details



For all information regarding education, WEN and WEN e-news, contact:

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*To subscribe to the WEN send an email with your complete contact details including your name, position, organisation, address, phone and email to [ccheeseman@awa.asn.au](mailto:ccheeseman@awa.asn.au).*



Promoting the sustainable management of water