

(ACEDD April-May 2018\_Hervey Bay Minutes)

## **MINUTES, MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEANS AND DIRECTORS**

### **University of Sunshine Coast – Fraser Coast Campus**

#### **In attendance:**

Grant Wardell-Johnson (President, Curtin), John Bartlett (Sunshine Coast), Jane Chambers (Murdoch), Jo-Anne Chuck (WSU), Russell Crawford (RMIT), Ian Clark (Executive Officer), Grant Daggard (USQ), Jenny Davis (CDU), Patrick Hesp (Flinders), George Mellick (QUT), Dianne Gleeson (Canberra), Andrew Millington (Flinders, Immediate Past President), Peter Teasdale (UniSA), Jerry Vanclay (SCU), Glenda Wardle (Sydney),

#### **Apologies**

Jennifer Firn (QUT), Pierre Horwitz (ECU), David Kennedy (Melbourne), Matt King (U Tas), Janette Lindsay (ANU), Tony O'Donnell (UWA), Enzo Palombo (Swinburne), Neil Saintilan (Macquarie), Jonathan Rhodes (UQ), Stuart Parsons (QUT), Robyn Schofield (Melbourne), Karl Vernes (UNE, Treasurer),

#### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

#### **Field Trip to K'gari<sup>1</sup> (Fraser Island)**

Group was collected from Hervey Bay Airport and travelled to Kingfisher Lodge Resort via ferry. John Bartlett, our host, welcomed us and described USC's activities on Fraser island and the Fraser Coast. We were joined by Kim Walker who is developing a Research Action Plan for Fraser Island and an app that will help visitors gain insights to areas of interest on the island. She stressed the importance and value of working closely with the local indigenous people. The daylong island tour took in the major tourist venues and sites and included an opportunity for a short scenic flight over the island.

Council Dinner at the Coast Restaurant Hervey Bay

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<sup>1</sup> In the Butchulla people's language, Fraser Island was known as "K'gari" (pronounced "gurri") meaning "paradise". Butchulla translates as "the sea people". Archaeological evidence suggests Aboriginal settlements existed on Fraser Island at least 5000 years ago. ([www.emeraldene.com.au/blog/fraser-island-aboriginal-history-legends-part-2/](http://www.emeraldene.com.au/blog/fraser-island-aboriginal-history-legends-part-2/))

Chair: Associate Professor Grant Wardell-Johnson

<p><b>8.30-9.00: Welcome</b></p> <p>Delegates were welcomed to country by Auntie Joyce Bonner</p> <p>President, Associate Professor Grant Wardell-Johnson welcomed ACEDD delegates noting several members who were attending for the first time.</p> <p><b>9.00-10.15</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held November 6-7 at the ANU were confirmed with correction to Patrick Hesp's name.</p> <p><b>Business Arising</b></p> <p><b>ACEDD Scholars Scheme</b></p> <p>Nominations need to be confirmed in time for local Awards presentations.</p> <p><b>Science Meets Parliament</b></p> <p>ACEDD delegates were Dr Daniel Harris (UQ) and Dr Libby Rumpf (USyd). Short reports from each were tabled and are attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Russell Crawford noted the value of participation for the individuals and for ACEDD.</p> <p>Glenda Wardell attended Science meets Business in October 2017 and will prepare a short report for distribution.</p> <p><b>Cross institutional Field based courses</b></p> <p>Professor Jenny Davis reported on progress. It was suggested that posters or short powerpoint presentations be produced for each course to provide information and encourage students to enroll and also that a contact person be included for each course.</p> <p><b>President's Report</b></p> <p>Reported activities since the last Council meeting.</p> <p><b>ATN Grant</b></p> <p>Curtin University with UniSA and QUT application to investigate how the skills developed and implemented during extended field studies related to traditional WIL was funded as a seed grant by the ATN Universities Teaching and Learning Grant Program. ACEDD is a partner and will contribute \$10 000 for the research assistant and post information on the ACEDD website as agreed at the November 2017 meeting.</p> <p><b>EIANZ</b></p> <p>Dialogue in relation to accreditation continued from the last Council meeting. Professor Chris Frid (Griffith University) has been</p>	<p>Action: EO</p> <p>Action: Glenda Wardell</p>
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<p>nominated to represent ACEDD on the EIANZ Quality Assurance Committee. EIANZ has requested Council members to nominate members to Chair accreditation panels. Agreed to continue dialogue with EIANZ.</p> <p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabled expenditure report shows that spending is within budget.</li> <li>• Most member institutions have paid the annual subscription. Reminders to be sent end of May.</li> <li>• It was recommended that approaches be made to Institutions that are not currently members through the VC or Department Head.</li> </ul> <p><b>Council Executive</b></p> <p>President Elect Janette Lindesay has indicated that she will be retiring and cannot therefore assume the Presidency. As a result <i>Expressions of Interest</i> from the Council are requested.</p>	<p><b>Action: EO</b></p> <p><b>Action: President</b></p> <p><b>Action: Members</b></p>
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**10.30-10.45**

**Morning Tea**

**11.00-11.45**

**Guest Speaker**

**Dr Dominique Potvin USC Ecology lecturer**

Talked about her teaching in the Bachelor of Animal Ecology program and her research. Her course in the program is strongly field-based and introduces application of simple statistical tests before students undertake formal statistics courses later in the program. Noted that the field-based courses are attractive to international students.

One part of her research is behaviour change in animals resulting from changing environmental conditions, in particular the way bird calls and bird songs change in the noisier urban environments compared to rural environments.

**11.45- 12.45**

**Guest Speaker**

Sue Shepherd

Sue is a marine scientist and has been “deeply involved in the World Heritage issues associated with K’gari, the Butchulla people and all things involving the environment on Fraser Island”. She described her work with the Butchulla Aboriginal Council and the disparate views on the value of research on the island.

**Lunch**

**12.45 – 1.30**

During the lunch break Grant Wardell-Johnson and John Barrett gave interviews to both local television stations which made up the first segment of the nightly news broadcast.

**1.30-2.45**

**Action Items from Spring meeting**

<p><b>Strategic Plan – Progress on action items</b></p> <p><b>Teaching and Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Strategies Discussion centred on learning and teaching objectives (LTO) and the LTAS.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current relevance, relation/overlap to Science TLOs, link to EIANZ accreditation, to ATN NEWIL project and the Future work report</li> <li>○ Need for a review and process – are they too sustainability focussed, too general, too social science focussed</li> <li>○ How do they relate to what TEQSA expects? Invite representative to next meeting to discuss and use outcome to plan a process for early 2019</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Research and Scholarship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Strategies             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to decide on focus (ug, pg or staff)</li> <li>• Prepare a press release to come out with the next ERA results to describe the high calibre and address to worldwide problems</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Advocacy and Engagement</b></p> <p><b>Ways to achieve progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a series of short video interviews of recent graduates as environmental scientists/managers (where they work, how they found employment etc.). To be used at student information sessions, on website, during Environment Week events</li> <li>• Develop an exemplar template for circulation</li> <li>• Agreed that other members could each prepare one, funded by ACEDD</li> </ul> <p><b>Participation in Environment week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some suggestions for investigation and individual member action included:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dress as an environmental scientist competition for primary schools</li> <li>• Get a segment on Landline of Gardening Australia TV programs</li> <li>• Investigate relationship with AAEE, Inspiring Australia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Briefing sheet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft to be prepared for next meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Intensive School Promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACEDD develop a series of unit specific videos</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action: EO</b></p> <p><b>Action: EO with Russell Crawford</b></p> <p><b>Action: Glenda Wardell &amp; Jane Chambers</b></p> <p><b>Action: Jenny Davis to investigate Inspiring Australia</b></p> <p><b>Action: Peter Teasdale to coordinate</b></p> <p><b>Action: Jane Chambers to prepare template.</b></p>
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**Institution reports**

Each member briefly described the current activities related to environmental programs in their institution.

- Several reported institution-wide restructuring towards larger administrative units

- Commencing student numbers holding or small increase reported by most
- Some Masters programs expanding
- New and replacement academic positions to be advertised in some member's departments
- Curriculum review is being undertaken in several institutions
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is being considered by several institutions.
  - Curtin University is leading a project to look at using extended fieldwork courses as an alternative in Environmental programs
  - UC has places for students from other institutions

### **15.30 Any other Business**

#### **Future Work Project**

David Bruce reported that his report was not ready as he was having difficulty making arrangements for interviews with employers.

Council expressed concern and set a hard deadline for the report to be ready for the November meeting. **Action: EO to communicate concern**

#### **Links with Other Councils**

Possible links with Council of Deans of Science and similar groups in New Zealand and PNG should be investigated. **Action: President**

### **16.00 Future meetings**

The next meeting will be hosted by University of Canberra. Proposed date 8-9 November 2018

The next regional meeting could be in Victoria, possibly RMIT.

#### **Meeting closed.**

Professor Andrew Millington who will be retiring in July was thanked for his long service to ACEDD as a foundation member of Council, as President and a member of the Executive, and host of a regional meeting.

Professor John Bartlett was thanked for his excellent work in hosting the meeting and organising the field visit to K'gari. Shelley McGuigan, Professor Bartlett's PA was also thanked for managing all of the arrangements.