

# Mid North Coast Sustainability Education Network Sustainability Plan 2017-2020



An Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) project supported by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust

*working for sustainability*



# **MNCSEN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2017- 2020**

## **VISION**

*As a regional sustainability network our vision is to protect and enhance the natural environment through education which encourages behavioural change for positive environmental outcomes.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Mid-North Coast Sustainability Education Network (MNCSEN) works together and communicates regularly about sustainability education projects relevant to our region. We exist to support each other and encourage best practice sustainability education and engagement in our communities.*

## **ETHOS**

*Network members:*

- 1. Are willing to take an active role in making our network supportive, fun and successful;*
- 2. Acknowledge that our network has no formal leadership roles and that we all share the responsibility to lead collaboratively;*
- 3. Share project information with members to assist in creating and enhancing educational resources for the MNCSEN network.*
- 4. Try: Value the diverse input from members and seek opportunities to collaborate with each other and those who work in other sectors who can benefit from sustainability education*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- 1. Best practice sustainability education and engagement projects:*
  - a. Share the values of sustainability- defined as ‘balancing the community’s economic and social needs within the planet’s ecological limits’;*
  - b. Encourage the community to be active citizens in caring for our environment;*
  - c. Respect and reflect local Aboriginal culture and heritage and include cultural and place-based learning;*
  - d. Reflect and address the needs of target audience and engage these participants through critical thinking, problem solving and action;*
  - e. Have reflection, monitoring and evaluation built into their design, to allow for continuous improvement;*
  - f. Can be achieved through the collaborative efforts of multiple partners from different organisations.*
- 2. MNCSEN endorses ‘Make the Change: A Framework for education and engagement for environmental sustainability 2014- 2021’ and is committed to using the framework to help achieve our vision;*
- 3. MNCSEN] acknowledges the support provided by the Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) and will work with them to enhance sustainability education and engagement across our region.*

## **GOALS/ OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Increase communication and collaboration between network members;*

2. *Increase our membership numbers and increase the number of sectors or sub-sectors that are represented by our members;*
3. *Hold quarterly meetings and at least one social gathering each year.*

## **EVALUATION**

1. *Annually invite all members to provide input to assist in improving the network goals and member needs*
2. *Contribute (where possible) to the AAEE NSW annual state-wide RSEN evaluation, by providing data on the following outcomes:*
  - a. *Meeting frequency and attendance numbers;*
  - b. *Number of members and number of sectors represented;*
  - c. *Projects worked on and other indicators of collaboration within the network.*

## **MEMBERSHIP\***

1. *MNCSEN is for sustainability educators or those affiliated with sustainability education from the mid-north coast region, which This region is roughly defined as anywhere along the coast and hinterland between Forster and Coffs Harbour, including Taree, Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Wauchope, Bellingen and Dorrigo..*
2. *Sustainability educators/facilitators from all sectors are welcome to become members of MNCSEN.*
3. *Those who have an interest in this region (even if they don't reside within it) may also become members of MNCSEN].*
4. *Membership is free and is automatic upon joining our network email list.*

*MNCSEN aims for diversity of membership and aims to engage those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island backgrounds as well as culturally and linguistic diverse communities.*

## **ADMINISTRATION\***

1. *Meetings will be between 1-2 hrs long and held quarterly, with at least one meeting per year being a social gathering;*
2. *Meetings can be rotating, with a different location, chair and minute-taker for each meeting;*
3. *Meetings may be held using 'online meeting room' technology provided by AAEE NSW, to avoid travel time and encompass members who are not centrally located;*
4. *The role of the Convenor is to:*
  - a. *Organise the date, location, chair and minute-taker for each meeting;*
  - b. *Email meeting invitations and minutes to network members;*
  - c. *Maintain the network contact list/database.*
5. *Once a year the Convenor will be asked if they wish to remain in that role or if they would like to 'hand the baton' onto another network member;*
6. *Any funding applied for by this network will refer to 'Make the Change: A Framework for education and engagement for environmental sustainability 2014- 2021' and acknowledge the support provided by AAEE NSW.*