

# AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL of ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Talking environmentally at home

**Making** deep connections with environments

**Balances and spins** — business and environment

Environment, engineers, energy and employment

**Learning** not to consume the Earth

# Australian Journal of Environmental Education

The journal of the Australian Association for Environmental Education is produced in order to present information and argument which will stimulate amongst its readers debate about educational strategies towards enhancing the kinds of awareness, understanding and actions which will promote environmental and social justice.

The journal is addressed to educators working in any educational setting where these matters are centrally or peripherally considered.

The journal welcomes contributions about all aspects of education for sustainability and seeks balanced and integrative accounts of practice, theory and research presented in written or graphic forms appropriate to the matters considered, the wide range of the journal's readership and the journal's intentions outlined above.

Intending contributors are asked to adhere to 'Guidelines to authors' set out elsewhere in the journal. Contributions and inquiries should be forwarded to:

The Editors, AJEE
C/- Faculty of Education
Deakin University
221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, Victoria 3125
Telephone: +61 3 9244 3855 Fax: +61 3 9244 6834
E-mail: aggough@deakin.edu.au

### Reviewers

Contributions are reviewed by two members of the editorial board or by other invited reviewers.

Our thanks are given to the following reviewers for this issue: Sue Coad, Ken Dyer and David Snewin.

### Acknowledgments

In addition to the several people mentioned elsewhere in the journal thanks are due to Margaret Cannell, John Smith and Gemma Thelning for their ready assistance.

Printed on recycled paper and cover board by Four Hour Printing, Kent Town SA.

Copyright and publisher: Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc.

ISSN 0814-0626

### Cover

The front cover graphic used for volumes 12 and 13 has been retired to the back cover; there has been some disagreement amongst our readers about the extent to which the image was suitable to the task of raising questions about environmental education - and a new team of editors takes over for the 1999 issue.

In the image a picture of home takes centre stage; Earth is cradled in a nest suggesting the nurturing role we may take as well as the nurturing we receive. The nest also presents a paradox; it is derived from a wren's nest discovered in the branches of a gorse bush. Gorse, one of Europe's more unwelcome and thorny introductions to Australia, thus provides protection for a native animal perhaps against other immigrants to this country. The intention of the image was as a reminder of the significance for environmental educators of natural and human-engineered habitats and of life forms with which humans share the Earth; several of the papers contained in this issue, not surprisingly, are about the importance of human perception of the Earth - and our relationship with it.

### Cover design

Phil Heaton

**Typesetting** 

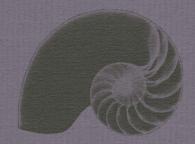
Neil Arscott

Interior design

Ian Willson

Scanning and typography

Vivid Media



### The nautilus

The Association logo is the nautilus. In section the shell reveals a spiral similar to the one seen in many natural forms. The spiral can be described by the 'golden ratio', discovered by philosophers in early Greek civilisation. Architects and mathematicians have used the ratio, assuming it was a human construct.

The spiral and its expression in the form of a nautilus is used as the Association logo to symbolise the 'wisdom of the planet', from which environmental educators draw inspiration and direction.

## **CONTENTS**

Edi	torial	i
The	ematic Section—Children's Views in Environmental Education	
	Roy Ballantyne, Sharon Connell, John Fien	
	Factors Contributing to Intergenerational Communication Regarding Environmental Programs: Preliminary Research Findings	1
	Primary school students talk to their caregivers about experiences in pro-environmental activities	s.
	Tammy Kwan, John Miles	
	In The Words of Children and Young People: The Opinions and Concerns about their	11
	Environments of some Brisbane School Students	
	Questionnaires, answers and discussions indicate students' environmental ideas and feelings.	
	Philip Payne	
	Children's Conceptions of Nature	19
	Philosophising with children about their perceptions of nature.	
Gen	neral Section	
	Mary Faeth Chenery, Almut Beringer	
	Reconsidering What Feels Like Failure: Lessons from Environmental Life History	27
	Some expected—and unexpected—results of inquiring about the origins of people's environmentalism.	
	Sharon Connell, John Fien, Helen Sykes, David Yencken	
	Young People and the Environment in Australia: Beliefs, Knowledge, Commitment and Educational Implications	39
	Several thousand teenagers' survey results lead to suggestions for environmental educators.	
	Michael Cuthill	
	Exploring the Concept of 'Education for a Sustainable World': Report of Work in Progress	49
	Tertiary students' environmental ideas, opinions and actions.	
	John Hillcoat, Eureta Janse van Rensburg	
	Consuming Passions: Educating the Empty Self	57
	Suggestions about responding to over consumption through environmental education.	
	Jonathon Howard	
	Environmental Education and Interpretation: Developing an Affective Difference	65
	The importance of eduction for affect in interpretation.	
	Nicole Mazur	
	Between the Turnstiles: Zoos as Agents of Environmental Education	71
	Visitor responses provide suggestions for zoo and environmental educators.	
	Ilga Salite	
	An Ecocentric Paradigm: An Important Tool for Teachers of Environmental Education	81
	Environmental education, spirituality and ecocentric worldviews.	
	Carrie Sonneborn	
	Educating Engineers about Sustainable Energy: An Overview of the Issues	87
	The sustainability of energy education for engineers.	

Opportunities for Environmental Education Provided by Environmental Management Systems A discussion and preliminary survey on the place of environmental education in EMS training.	93
Hugo van Rooyen	
The Emerging Face of Environmental Education in South Africa's Formal Education: Curriculum 2005 and the Environmental Education Curriculum Initiative	101
An account of attempts to define and manage environmental education in South African schooling.	
Stories from Practice	
Peter Clark	
Having Our Say: The Youth Environment Council Arrives	113
Darlene Clover	
Environmental Adult Education in Canada: Growing Jobs for Living	114
David Larritt	
From Local to Global: Kids' Congress for Catchment Care	121
Book Review	
Roman Orzanski, Delyse Springett	
on Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism by Sharon Beder	127
Reading Notes	
Peter Dunn	
on Resources: Working for the Right Balance by John Mignone, John Walsh, Angela Colliver and Deborah Crossing	135
Kerrie Hudson	
on Environmental Education and Self-interest, the educative role of community, government and private environmental agencies and groups by Geoff Peel, Ian Robottom and Rob Walker,	137
and For a Common Cause: Case Studies in Community and Environmental Change by Meg Butler and Graham Bishop	
Guidelines for Authors	139
Subscription and Membership Information	140

Ian Thomas, Mary Olsson