

PRACITIONER PRESENTATION

Responding to IOC-UNESCO Draft Strategy: Ocean Literacy for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 to 2030)

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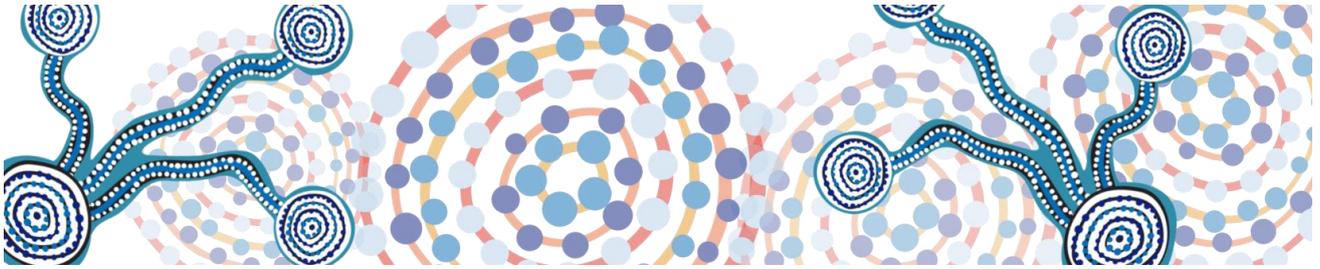
Abstract

Marine education in Australia has had a long history, one that parallels the development of environmental education in this nation. One example of this parallel development has been the close association between the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) and AAEE. MESA has been through the first three phases of the Adaptive Cycle – forming in 1984, developing and achieving a high level of success in the 1990s then losing momentum until it finally merged with AAEE in 2014. Although it has taken a while, this new AAEE/MESA entity is aiming to launch into the reorganisation phase and do so by facilitating a national educational component of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 to 2030). This response will be based on the IOC-UNESCO concept of ocean literacy.

The focus of this presentation will be to briefly outline the development of the concept of ocean literacy, firstly in the USA and then the international take-up of ocean literacy that resulted in IOC-UNESCO redefining ocean literacy and building it into their response to the challenge of creating the educational components of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Because the UN Decade began in 2021 we are at the start of this internationally significant initiative that, thanks to the involvement of IOC-UNESCO, has a strong education for sustainability component. The main part of the presentation will focus on the reorganisation phase of the Adaptive Cycle by outlining plans to develop a systematic, consensus derived and inclusive national approach to ocean literacy in Australia and do so as part of a strategic response to IOC-UNESCO Draft Strategy: Ocean Literacy for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pay respects to their Elders past and present.



Speaker Profile

Harry Breidahl was a founding member of AAEE and a presenter at the first AAEE conference at Arbury Park in 1980. Since then he has worked as a teacher, university lecturer and freelance consultant. Harry has contributed to many voluntary marine and environmental groups and authored many books and other publications. In particular, Harry has become a leader in marine education, both nationally and internationally. Although retired, he is still actively promoting ocean literacy, most recently as part of an IOC-UNESCO group aiming to focus global attention on catalysing ocean sustainability as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Website links

