



## POSTER PRESENTATION

### **Walking the Talk: The evolution of waste education and management practices in AAEEWA programs.**

Katherine Gaschk, WA Chapter, Australian Association for Environmental Education

#### **Abstract**

The sustainable management of municipal solid waste is a challenging issue, where waste generation is the result of decisions made by individuals in their everyday life (home, shopping, workplace, recreation etc). Education is critical to influencing these decisions in achieving reductions in waste generation and effective waste management. The delivery of waste education within Western Australia varies widely across local and State government and are generally information based, with some programs actively engaging with participants.

The WA Chapter of AAEE challenged current perceptions around the delivery of waste education, asking “How can we model the delivery of EfS holistically, where waste reduction education is embedded within the processes, actions and outcomes of all AAEEWA EfS programs?”. We aimed to reduce the impact of our work, while including program participants in our own learning journey. In doing so, we demonstrated clear links between being innovative in addressing environmental issues and through the methods of engagement; modelling innovations and target behaviours; and the delivery of EfS within our programs. This poster presentation showcases the Chapter’s successes in embedding effective waste management practices throughout all of its work in delivering education, innovation, and modelling effective strategies and behaviours in our shared journey towards a waste free future.

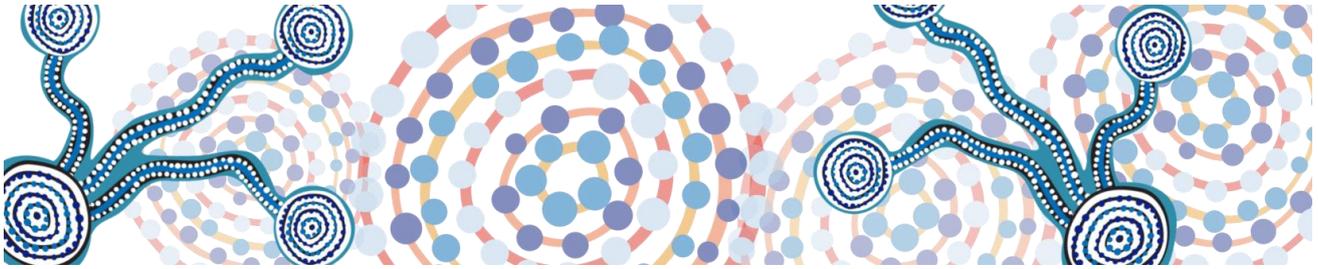
#### **Acknowledgement**

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

#### **Speaker Profile**

##### **Ms Katherine Gaschk**

Katherine has a passion for environmental and waste education. She has worked as a waste education officer for a local authority, as well as developing waste behaviour initiatives within a number of AAEEWA programs that aim to reduce participants' waste generation and improve recycling. With an undergraduate science degree in Australian Environmental Studies and a



Graduate Diploma in Environmental Quality, Katherine is currently completing the thesis component of a Doctor of Education at Murdoch University, exploring the barriers and motivators to waste separation behaviour in the home.

### **Dr Catherine Baudains**

Catherine is an experienced and passionate EfS practitioner. As an adjunct lecturer with Murdoch University she is involved in a wide number of EfS projects, continues to supervise postgraduate research students and maintains an active involvement with the WA Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education. Her interests focus on fostering voluntary changes in human behaviour through education in order to achieve a sustainable environmental outcome. Her research includes work in the fields of transport choices, urban biodiversity (aquatic and terrestrial), waste management behaviour, environmental and lifestyle education programs, evaluation of environmental education, and Sustainable Schools WA.

### **Website links**

