

RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Funding and Delivering and Designing Creative Environmental Education

Angela Rossen, Biodiversity Educator

Abstract

The pandemic like climate change has shown us that major perturbations affect entire systems like health, economy and natural environments. We have learned that the solutions lie in working together cooperatively. However, our economic structures are weighted to competition with the limited focus of profit. To address challenges like the pandemic, climate change and over exploitation of nature we need to find ways to grow action cooperatively from the individual to the global level. Environmental and conservation education and engagement has an important role to play.

To attract ongoing financial support as educators we need to identify the opportunities these challenges present. It may be that to we need to frame our work differently. In Australia the pandemic has had a marked negative effect on mental health. As educators we are often working with people already struggling with economic hardship who can in addition also be disheartened and disempowered by recurring negative environmental news. Creative community connection is an antidote to this. A population that is well informed, self-motivated, engaged and working together leads to enhanced resilience and wellbeing.

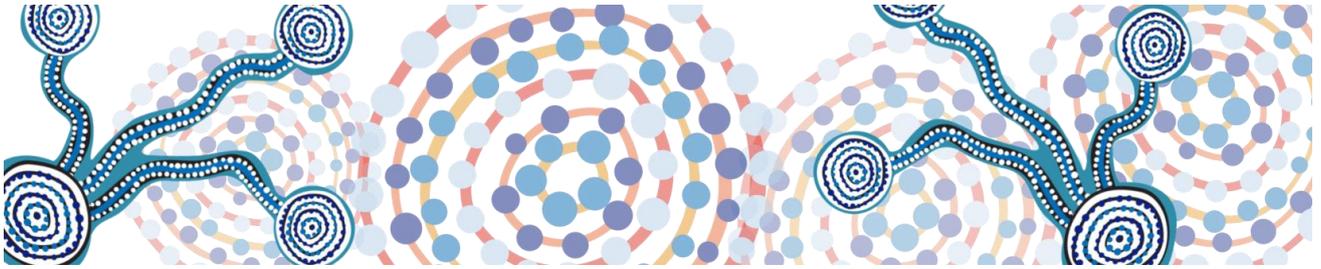
To gain financial support from both government and corporate funders we need to fill their social deficits and the mental health problem is one example. As environmental educators and creative thinkers we need to craft our message to secure buy in from commercial, corporate and governmental entities.

This presentation will examine ways to reframe the environmental message in order to attain funding to present community environmental education events that engage and galvanise.

An exemplar environmental engagement project that brought community together through support from commercial entities and multiple layers of different government instrumentalities will be showcased.

Acknowledgement

Angela Rossen acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.



Speaker Profile

Angela Rossen is an Artist, Biodiversity Educator and Science Communicator. She has run a busy studio practice for forty years and worked with research scientists since 2009. Known for her paintings of WA environment she collaborates with research biologists to create an interface for scientists to share their current research.

Angela designs and presents site specific biodiversity workshops, field events and festivals throughout metropolitan, regional and remote Australia with school and community groups to observe and document whole system ecologies and associated plants and animal communities.

These events bring together research and educational institutions, local government and NRMs to engage, educate and grow community around protection and conservation of nature.

Website links

→ <mailto:info@angelarossen.com>

