

Abstract Submission Form and Speaker Profile

Complete your details by typing in the **green** sections of the digital form below. If there are multiple presenters, please include their details where applicable (name, organisation, personal bio)
 Save your completed form in PDF format and submit via the [submission form on the website](#).

Title	Ms	First Name	Deidre	Family Name	Knight
Position/Role	Community Environment Facilitator				
Organisation you will represent	Australian Association for Environmental Education SA Chapter				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	Deidre engages with communities, schools and residents to be the change they want to see. This involves honing practical skills to enrich environments and grow local networks and resilience. Deidre draws on her Sociology, Geography and Environmental Management training to grasp Education for Sustainability opportunities and make them real. She is a proud AAEE SA committee member and recent winner of the SA Climate Leaders Award for Communities.				
Title of Presentation	Seeds for Change - Community Leadership				
Format of Presentation (please select)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation (20 minutes) <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 60 minutes (eg interactive indoor session) <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 120 minutes (eg outdoor activity) Indicate your preferred presentation types (you may select more than one) NB: We may not be able to offer your preferred option				
Which theme would you prefer to present under? (please select)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 1: Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				
Introduction	The aim of this presentation is to share the story of how a low income, multicultural and inter-generational community seized the opportunity to be change agents and transform their heat island suburb into a cooler, more biodiverse haven replete with endemic species. Their generosity, warmth and optimism is infectious and draws more supporters to engage in hands on horticultural, citizen science and social media learning whilst fostering community confidence, friendships and leadership. Their ever expanding network strengthens community resilience that opens up other Education for Sustainability (EfS) opportunities and partnerships with AAEE SA and local and state governments.				
Presentation Abstract:	This presentation is about how the people of Ottoway are banding together to affordably reduce the 'heat island' effect on their streets and homes while increasing				

<p>max. 300 words</p>	<p>local biodiversity and growing community connections. The Seeds for Change program, devised and delivered by Deidre Knight, was supported by the Junction Community Centre, AAEE SA, Green Adelaide and funded by the Myer Foundation and Green Adelaide. This initiative reached out to residents, schools, faith communities, business and the Port Adelaide Enfield Council (PAEC) to participate in a series of free public events including a Biodiversity Fair, informal Citizen Science training, and the propagation and planting of over 2,000 endemic drought tolerant species for front gardens, verges and parklands. All plantings were accompanied with signage containing a QR code leading to their facebook page containing 100 endemic plant fact sheets. This hands-on initiative lent itself to intergenerational and intercultural involvement that honours past and present indigenous culture. This community centred socio-environmental action also highlights how we can affordably cool our suburbs and create habitat whilst enriching our community and personal lives. Whilst Seeds for Change funding ended in September 2022 this community continues to grow in numbers, strength and ambition.</p> <p>Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Relational Values Research theory and methods were employed to guide the Seeds for Change program and assess its impact on local biodiversity, community connection and wellbeing as well as its capacity to be duplicated elsewhere. PAR was the preferred research approach because it is inclusive and driven by community knowledge and sentiment. This in turn embeds community ownership of this placemaking initiative. As communities consist of individuals, groups, affiliations and networks, Relational Values Research was helpful in exploring why people participate in environmental activities.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>Deidre will use visuals through power point to show how:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAR and Relational Values Research were employed to listen to and respond to this community's issues and needs. - Time invested in listening reaps rewards - The value of persistence - Individual and community skill richness - This community's unique recruitment strategies - Education for Sustainability through a community lens - The importance of visibility - eg propagation events, signage, social media - How warmth and generosity breed community confidence to be change agents - Emerging leaders

AAEE Biennial Conference 2023

Listen, Learn, Transform

25-27 September 2023, University of Wollongong



	- Where to from here?
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All abstracts must be received by 5pm **Friday** 26 May 2023 (AEST).

We expect to notify speakers by mid June

Note: confirmed presenters will be required to register for the conference and pay the relevant registration fees.