

# AAEE Biennial Conference 2023

## Listen, Learn, Transform

25-27 September 2023, University of Wollongong



### 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](#).

<b>Title</b>	Mr	<b>First Name</b>	Neil	<b>Family Name</b>	Dufty
<b>Position/Role</b>	Principal				
<b>Organisation you will represent</b>	Water Technology Pty Ltd				
<b>Personal Bio</b> Max. 100 words	Neil Dufty is a Principal at Water Technology Pty Ltd, a coast, environment and natural hazards consultancy with offices across Australia. Neil has a long history in community and school environmental education. He worked in three NSW Environmental Education Centres and was actively involved in the Association for Environmental Education (NSW). Neil was the recipient of the NSW Environmental Educator of the Year Award in 1988.				
<b>Title of Presentation</b>	The Shoalhaven Foreshore Education Project: promoting good practices in dune management by foreshore residents				
<b>Format of Presentation</b> (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				
<b>Which theme would you prefer to present under?</b> (please select)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theme 1: Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				
<b>Introduction</b>	The presentation will explain issues relating to foreshore residents' use of dune systems along the Australian coastline. It will identify the need for environmental education to help change behaviours for improved coastal management. It will then describe an environmental education program for foreshore residents in the Shoalhaven LGA and the learnings from its implementation.				
<b>Presentation Abstract:</b> max. 300 words	Global research has found that environmental education provides a catalyst for genuine collaborative efforts between different organisations and local communities. Environmental adult education strategies can empower community members to critically evaluate environmental issues, which can result in a commitment to enhancing environmental outcomes.				

	<p>The Shoalhaven local government area (LGA) has 165 kilometres of coastline, one of the largest coastal extents in NSW. Residents in foreshore areas regularly interact with the beach landscape, including dunes and estuary environments. In many cases, these interactions are in concert with good coastal management and include active volunteer groups e.g. Dunecare. However, there are other behaviours and actions that degrade these environmentally sensitive areas. These include constructing informal beach access tracks, cutting down or removing dune vegetation to improve visual amenity, weed incursions from garden escapes and predation on locally endemic wildlife by free-ranging companion animals.</p> <p>Acknowledging the importance of engaging with local communities to promote positive and collaborative coastal management, the Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan 2018 set out actions to engage with foreshore residents on the value of dune ecosystems. From this, Shoalhaven City Council obtained funding from the NSW Government to engage Water Technology Pty Ltd to assist in developing, implementing and evaluating the Foreshore Education Project.</p> <p>The project involved an interactive and experiential workshop format and the development of eleven educational factsheets. The workshops were targeted to residents from three high-risk beaches in the LGA where there is a high incidence of informal access tracks, dune vegetation vandalism and property ownership on the coastal margin. The workshops were received with varying degrees of success. This paper will discuss key lessons learnt when delivering education programs to foreshore residents. It will highlight challenges in promoting best practice coastal management where there are strong private interests and opinions, in order to achieve balanced outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Key Message:</b> A short summary of presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental education can help promote and implement positive and collaborative coastal management.</li> <li>- An environmental education program for foreshore residents was designed and implemented in Shoalhaven LGA.</li> <li>- Lessons learned from the program can help inform similar environmental education activities across Australia.</li> </ul>

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.