Catchments Corridors & Coasts

Community interaction with sustainability initiatives

Overview

- What is Catchments Corridors & Coasts (CCC)?
- A team effort
- Program objectives
- Partnership model
- Co-ordination considerations
- Evaluation
- Co-ordinating team reflections
- Conclusion
What is CCC?

- A three day introduction to environmental education for sustainability around the Perth Region.
- Co-ordinated by a team of volunteers from AAEE (WA), supported by sponsors.
- Targeted at a broad audience including teachers, local & State government officers, students, and community members.

A Team Effort = Communal Ownership

CCC is co-ordinated by:
Dr Jennifer Pearson (Edith Cowan University),
Amy Krupa (SERCUL),
Dr Catherine Baudains (Murdoch University),
Michael Burke (Department of Fisheries), &
Wayne Walters (Perth Zoo).
**CCC program objectives**

- provide a 'snapshot' of EE in WA from catchments, through corridors to the coast
- provide a rich experience
- facilitate development of networks/links with and between practitioners
- develop skills & knowledge and facilitate participation in EE
- develop awareness/knowledge/understanding of the resources and support available to help address core environmental and sustainability issues in the State

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**Snapshot of EE in WA**

- Very full schedule
- Traveled together from the upper catchment right through to the coast
- Run over 3 days only (longer is too great a time commitment for professionals)
- Consecutive days, to allow team building, ease of scheduling, and connectivity of experience through the issues and environments
Skills, Knowledge & Participation

- Skill development was embedded into all sessions:
  - Presenters were asked to link to curriculum. Assistance was offered if needed;
  - Sessions were practical or incorporated a practical component;
  - Presenters were asked to provide take away resources such as proforma, instructions or work-shopped notes.

Skills, Knowledge & Participation

- A range of issues are covered through the program including:
  - waste management
  - salinity, farming, landcare, NRM & catchment management
  - local government bushcare
  - biodiversity & wildlife conservation
  - river & waterways issues
  - water conservation & management
  - indigenous heritage
  - Permaculture, greywater re-use
  - fisheries & coastal management
  - Sustainable Schools Initiative
Partnership model

- Encourages participation of EE providers through entire network, supporting & promoting all efforts.
- Emphasises the importance of flexibility & compromise (i.e., presenters must be willing to come to another venue, or host other presenters at their venue to maximise coverage and minimise travel).
- Allows the opportunity to reflect synergies between the various practitioners (we do not work in a silo).

35 Presenters From 25 Organisations

Contributing Organisations

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support of Catchments, Corridors and Crevices 2008:

- [Department of Environment and Conservation]
- [ecoeducation]
- [western Shield]
- [EMRC]
- [Millennium Kids]
- [SWAN RIVER TRUST]
- [RIBBONS OF BLUE]
- [WATERWATCH WA]
- [Aboriginal Heritage Unit]
- [Waterwise Schools Program]
- [Coastcare]
- [Padbury]
- [ Pearce]
- [MARINE STUDIES]
- [Aquarium of Western Australia]
Co-ordination Considerations

- Schedule developed in collaboration with presenting organisations
- Participants gathered at a central location and were transported together by bus to the day's activities
- Bus travel time was used to 'de-brief' and discuss the sessions throughout the day, encouraging critical thinking and reflection
- 'Real' and healthy food was organised by co-ordinating team rather than external catering

- Participants were given a file to add material to throughout the course
- Participants were asked to fill in the evaluation form after each session
- An introductory lecture, outlining the course objectives and some key EE principles was delivered on the bus on the first leg of the day 1 journey.
Evaluation

An evaluation form was utilised throughout the 3 days. The qualitative & quantitative data was collated and presented in an evaluation report. Only a small portion is presented here.

- Participants & participant satisfaction
- Uptake of messages
- Program issues
- Did we achieving the objectives?

The 2008 Participants

Participant Occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape or NRM employee</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary teacher</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University/TAFE lecturer</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community volunteer</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government employee</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government employee</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How did you hear about CCC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did you hear about CCC?</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post participant</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advert</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small network</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participant Satisfaction

“l learnt a lot, it is going to be a busy year!”
“l liked how each workshop was linked to the other in the different days.”
“Can’t believe how so much packed in without feeling rushed.”
“Activities on all three days were great - heat on Thursday spoilt it a bit!!!”
“Clever how we worked from the Hills ‘Catchments’ down to the coasts.”

Uptake of CCC Messages or Material

Participants’ responses to the question ‘What ideas, resources or activities do you plan to use from the course?’ could be summarised into 6 categories

“I have been reminded of the many resources available to use and will endeavour to use as many as possible in some way over the year.”
“Grant application for pessiometer; Greening Aust activity; extending the range of activities with Ribbons of Blue that we do. Installing a sensory trial at the forest discussed doing this 5 years ago…”
“Coast care, indigenous bush tucker, AQWA, MK, onsite revitalization - worms, frogs at school”
Suggestions for Improvement

- Shorter day difficult to take in information after 4.30.
- Some of the talks/introductions I felt were too long, especially on hot days.
- Easier meeting site on day one.
- Visual aids that help provide context. Quieter slightly larger bus with more storage space.
- Perhaps a little long in the heat - though it would be hard to leave something out.
- More community education orientated as well - rather than just focusing on school education
- More on water treatment, solar energy/wind. Go to some renewable technology development centres?
- Larger variety - there were some aspects of water, however maybe add some hands on wetland activities.

2008 Coordinating team reflections

- Improved from the 2007 program
- It would be easier if the intro lecture was not on the bus – but there are limitations to time…
- Bus de-brief sessions worked well, although bus was noisy…
- At least 3 team members are needed on the ground for each day.
- Fresh food was greatly appreciated – many +ve comments were received
2008 Coordinating team reflections

- Better strategy for marketing to schools is still needed
- It was very busy/full program but it would not be appropriate to cut any more out, nor add any more in! This is a difficult balance to find… however, 3 days worked well – stick to it.
- Challenge: fitting all the great EE around the Perth region into a 3 day program!!

Did we achieve the objectives?

- Provide a ‘snapshot of EE?
- Provide a rich experience?
- Facilitate networking with & between practitioners?
- Develop skills & knowledge?
- Facilitate participation in EE?
- Develop understanding of resources to help address core environmental and sustainability issues in the State?
Conclusion

An environmental education program such as Catchments, Corridors & Coasts provides mutual benefit for the community of EE/EiS practitioners, as well as having a positive impact on a broad target audience. The model used could be adopted in any area by any group.

Any Questions?

Check out the web site at www.aaeewa.org.au