



**MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference
Tamworth, New South Wales
17 – 18 November 2008**

Final Report

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www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com

The program was developed from the award winning River Health Conference format, which was the 2007 winner for the Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award (Banksia Awards); 2004 and 2006 winner of outstanding achievement for the environment the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day

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The 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was the culmination of a process involving students working with expert mentors prior to the event, and resulted in curriculum materials that will be in Schools across New South Wales. The process was about promoting kids teaching kids as the highest form of learning; aiming for a cultural change in the way we view, use and perceive our natural environment. The 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was less about a Conference and more about a lasting commitment to our youth and the sustainable use of our environment – this is the future of learning and the future of our coasts, oceans and catchments wherever they may be.

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"In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest responsibility anyone could have."

Lee Iacocca

CEO Chrysler Corporation

ASCD Keynote, San Francisco, 1990.

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1. Executive Summary

250 primary and secondary students from across New South Wales converged on Tamworth on the 17-18 November for the New South Wales Youth Environment Conference.

The Conference began with a Welcome to Country offered by Neville Sampson on behalf of the Kamilaroi people, the lands traditional owners. This was followed by performances from local group the Gormori dancers – whose dancing certainly sparked the audiences attention! Loren Ryan a year 9 student from Tamworth High School sang in both English and the Gamilaroi language as part of the official welcoming. The Oxley High School band combined with the Tamworth High School band performed the National Anthem before Murray Darling Basin Commission's Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik officially launched the 2008 MDBC New South Wales Youth Environment Conference.

Following the official launch delegates had an opportunity to quiz an expert panel on the topic "What effect do human actions have on the Murray Darling System", with experts: Dr Wendy Craik, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Dr Francesca Andreoni, Namoi CMA, Warwick Marwhinney, NSW Department of Water and Energy, Guy Roth, National Program for Sustainable Irrigation and Nigel Brito, New South Wales Department of Education. The Expert Panel was chaired by Conference MC Arron Wood.

The students came together to showcase the presentations they had spent up to 6 months preparing on issues that concern them about their local environment ranging from land and river health, school sustainability projects, to issues about biodiversity - incorporating local, national and global environmental issues affecting New South Wales students today. Students worked with mentors in the months leading up to the event to develop their 40 minute presentations in a range of formats such as singing, acting, quizzes, art and PowerPoint! All presenting schools received online guidance and school visits to assist with their preparations.

Students also took part in a day of on the ground activities to put into practice their knowledge of natural resource management. The weather brought the day indoors but did not prevent the students from connecting with the hands on component of the Conference. The Environmental Projects Day was moved from Tamworth's Bicentennial Park to the new Australian Equine Centre. Steering Committee members and sponsors assisted as group leaders for the environmental project day, and many people including Conference delegates volunteered across the two day event.

The 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was proudly supported by The Murray Darling Basin Commission. Additional financial support came from: Bunning's Warehouse, NSW Farmers Association, Northern Inland Regional Waste, Namoi CMA, Tamworth Regional Council and the NSW Department of Water and Energy. Support also came from the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee, Tamworth Wets and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

Additional Support for the Environmental Projects Day came from New South Wales Parks and Wildlife, Namoi CMA, NSW Waterwatch, Tamworth Regional Council, Northern Inland Regional Waste and Bunning's Warehouse.

60% of delegates have evaluated the program with an overwhelmingly high response to the Conference program! 98% enjoyed the kids teaching kids approach at the event, teachers response was that it really engaged their students and themselves in an alternative way of educating their school on environmental issues. It also gave so much to the students in terms of confidence and increased ability as public speakers. Delegate suggestions for improvement were to reduce the expert panel session to allow more time for Kids Teaching Kids presentations.

2. Introduction

The 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was the culmination of a process. This process involved students working with expert mentors many months prior to the event, preparing student led workshop presentation and resulted in children who were motivated, had high self esteem and respect for others. Using the Kids Teaching Kids model, the 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference provided students with skills in natural resource management, and more importantly it assisted in building students who are optimistic, have a sense of future, are capable public speakers, are resilient and can communicate ideas in many different forms. Most importantly, the process was about promoting Kids Teaching Kids as the highest form of learning and aiming for a cultural change in the way we view, use and perceive our natural environment.

The 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was about a lasting commitment to our youth and the sustainable use of the environment and the industries it supports. Adults took a back seat at the event as the Year 5 to 11 kids taught each other about an area of interest or issue relevant to New South Wales's environment, learning from each other about the most effective ways of dealing with these problems. This Conference empowered many of the students through their learning journey.

The Conference expanded on the award winning International River Health Conferences and International Youth Coastal Conference (see www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com). Ultimately, this conference and the professional development for New South Wales teachers and students was about protecting and enhancing our precious natural resources, communities and industries through education and involvement. Firestarter has worked collaboratively with the steering committee on all aspects of the program, and in consultation with other key stakeholders and schools throughout New South Wales.

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3. Program Objectives

What better way for schools to provide environmental leadership than to allow kids to teach kids within their schools, to teach their parents and to teach others within their community, using the Conference model. We hope the message about the health of the natural resources has spread as a result of the program.

- o To expand on the success of the 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 International River Health Conference's and the 2006 and 2008 International Youth Coastal Conference in building a culture of environmental awareness, achievement and action in relation to the world's natural resources and industries
- o To reinforce the importance of terrestrial, rivers, marine and coastal health and raise awareness among middle and secondary students of the biodiversity issues associated with the natural environments they live near and the livelihoods that depend on it being clean and sustainable
- o To provide an opportunity for students to interact with their peers; to provide students with a conference experience and to improve their communication skills
- o To create an awareness and understanding of traditional cultures
- o To provide relevant organisations and industries with an opportunity to promote their activities and commitment to the community.
- o To use the agenda to promote the importance of ecosystem management to the wider community
- o To provide young people with the opportunity to decide how they will be heard for now and the future
- o To help shape the future of environmental education relating to rivers, marine and coastal issues

3.1 Themes and messages

- o A 'Healthy' environment, river, coastal, land and biodiversity are vital for the future health of communities and ecosystems
- o Kids Teaching Kids works and is the highest form of learning
- o Young people are agents for environmental change
- o Environmental management organisations must be community based, pro-active and supportive of environmental education as part of an overall strategic approach.
- o This Program is unique. It provides an exciting learning environment for students, teachers and their broader communities.
- o Schools are very often the only entry point for the wider community to become involved in decisions regarding the management of our natural resources
- o We can change our environment for the better – be positive in the messages we convey
- o Optimism is important so that kids feel good about what they can achieve
- o Kids will be leaders of the future.
- o Each school / student researches environmental issues that are important to them and their region.

4. Methods

Project Management

The New South Wales Youth Environment Conference was managed by Firestarter Pty Ltd in conjunction with a local Steering Committee. The Steering Committee included representatives from The Murray Darling Basin Commission, NSW Farmers Association, Bunning's Warehouse, Northern Inland Regional Waste, Namoi CMA, Tamworth Regional Council, NSW Department of Water and Energy, The Australian Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee, the NSW Department of Education and Tamworth Wests. The Committee had three face to face meetings and two teleconference meetings over a planning period of 7 months.

Project Launch and Registration

Registration of interest for the Conference began in early 2008, with official registrations opening in February 2008. The Conference was promoted predominantly through email and flyers sent to schools across New South Wales. Flyers were distributed (physically and on-line) through Conference partners, AuSSI - New South Wales, the New South Wales Catholic Education Office and the New South Wales Education Department. A media release was sent to relevant education departments and media – in conjunction with the New South Wales state - wide 30 second TV commercial on the PRIME network.

Free information sessions for teachers were hosted in May 2008, both in Tamworth and Armidale, to assist teachers in preparations for utilising the Kids Teaching Kids concept. Considerable assistance was given to presenting teachers and students by our education manager Richard Wood from registration of a school to present a workshop early in the year to the event in November. This educational support was in addition to school visits in May.

Kids Teaching Kids Methodology

We used the Kids Teaching Kids concept in presentation preparation for this event - as detailed in the Kids Teaching Kids Manual produced as part of the project, which schools received. All schools that registered to attend the Conference received the Kids Teaching Kids book, *'Inspiring the Next Young Environmental Leader'*, written by Arron and Richard Wood. Further information about the Kids Teaching Kids methodology is found in Attachment 3. The full manual is available in electronic form from the Conference website <http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/>.

All schools that attended the Conference received the opportunity of attending a free information session from Firestarter's Education Consultant as well as visits to schools during May. Assistance was provided to all presenting schools in the lead up to the event and was conducted online or over the phone.

We sought the opinions of young people for the management of the conference; evaluation from our 16 previous Kids Teaching Kids events was also used to assist with programming decisions. We incorporated students in almost all presenting aspects of the conference, and if not directly presenting

then we ensured that the adult presentations were as best as possible directed to students, for students.

To extend the attendance opportunity to as many schools and students across New South Wales as possible we accepted groups of between 2 -15 (maximum) students with 1 - 3 teachers from each school, schools registered from both regional and metro areas, we aimed to have a 50 / 50 split of high school and primary school students at the event and there was representation from both private and Government schools.

Media outreach:

The Media outreach for this Conference was divided into the following phases:

Phase 1: 'Tamworth Announced for Youth Conference' – media release
'Television Advertisements through PRIME Television encouraging schools to register

Phase 2: 'Youth Conference November 17th & 18th' – media alert

Phase 3: Pre Conference media promotions
See attachment 1 for full list of media coverage for the event

Media Outreach was to print and broadcast media.

Specifically:

State-wide print and electronic media

Radio and television

Media outreach for all phases of the project used the following methodology:

- Phone call to brief journalist
- Media release or alert emailed or faxed
- Follow-up thank you email

Sustainable event management

In working towards running sustainable events Firestarter undertook the following to ensure the two day Conference, and preparations in the lead up to the Conference had minimal impact on the environment:

- Brochure printed on 50% FSC & 50% post consumer waste fibre
- The Conference was made carbon neutral through offsetting emissions produced with partner Climate Positive
- The local Steering Committee undertook tasks as part of Conference planning to reduce travel required by Conference organizers
- Three of the five Steering Committee meetings were conducted via teleconference rather than face to face
- Delegate and volunteer t-shirts were sweat shop free and Australian made
- Conference catering was served with minimal packaging, delegates received water bottles from sponsors to encourage re-use and a recycling system was in place in both venues

Conference Program

Day 1:

The format of the 2008 program was designed to incorporate as much of Kids Teaching Kids as possible, even when 'adults' were invited to speak at the Conference, students were also invited to ask the speakers questions to ensure they were involved and engaged at all times. Keynote speakers were invited to motivate the students, to encourage resilience and to provide an optimistic message. Speakers included:

- Dr Wendy Craik, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Guy Roth, National Program for Sustainable Irrigation, Warwick Mawhinney, NSW Department of Water and Energy, Nigel Brito, New South Wales Department of Education and Dr Francesca Andreoni, Namoi CMA. Expert Panel discussing "What effect do human actions have on the Murray Darling system?"
- Neville Sampson, Welcome to Country
- Louise Burge, guest dinner speaker
- Deputy Mayor Cr Colin Murray officially launched the Environmental Project Day

The Conference also had 9 Kids Teaching Kids School presentations which allowed students to see the different issues facing students, schools, and communities from across the State.

Day 2

The day was planned to be held at Bicentennial Park, however weather conditions resulted in a move to the Australian Equine Centre to participate in the Environmental Project Day. While this was not ideal, students demonstrated their high levels of resilience at the sudden change. Activities were well adapted to the indoor day and remained hands on, interactive and diverse. For a full list of activities, please see Conference Brochure – Attachment 4.

Post Conference Evaluation:

All students and Teachers that attended the Conference were asked to submit an evaluation form for the Conference – responses have shaped this report and are listed below.

5. Results

Below we list identifiable results achieved by the project as per objectives.

- **To expand on the success of the 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 International River Health Conference's and the 2006 International Youth Coastal Conference in building a culture of environmental awareness, achievement and action in relation to the world's natural resources and industries**

The response from participants has been very positive, with a genuine interest in continuing the Kids Teaching Kids education process within schools. Tamworth provided a fantastic location for the MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference. Feedback from schools and partners was overwhelming praise for the Conference model and an enthusiasm to attend again in the future. Teachers felt their students had been empowered to continue change back at school, further evidenced by student evaluations post Conference. The level of student engagement was made apparent in the conference reflection session where many student responses reflected on their enjoyment, the importance of carrying on what they'd learnt at the conference and their recognition of being our future leaders.

- **To reinforce the importance of terrestrial, rivers, marine and coastal health and raise awareness among middle and secondary students of the biodiversity issues associated with the natural environments they live near and the livelihoods that depend on it being clean and sustainable**

This was certainly achieved through the student workshop presentations; topics ranging from waste management, beekeeping, Indigenous history, alternatives to fossil fuels and more. Students level of understanding on environmental issues was demonstrated through their in-depth questions to the panel of experts on the topic of 'What effect do human actions have on the Murray Darling System' Although the environmental project day was brought indoors due to inclement weather students still made the connection between factual learning about the environment and hands on action in the environment with activities ranging from building bat boxes, plant propagation, Gamilaroi language and dance performance and learning about wildlife in one's own backyard – see attached conference brochure for more details attachment 4.

- **To provide an opportunity for students to interact with their peers; to provide students with a conference experience and to improve their communication skills**

All students are split out of their school groups, and age groups. This is to encourage interaction between students of different year levels and schools. This is a tested process that Firestarter use at each Conference, and always works well to create discussion with students from different schools. It is also a great opportunity to allow students to see presentations on environmental issues that they may not be familiar with. Students commented on their concerns for keeping their audience engaged for forty minutes as a daunting prospect faced in presenting a workshop, but that they felt this had been achieved - this demonstrates that the program builds resilience and instils confidence in students presenting.

- o **To create an awareness and understanding of Traditional Cultures**

Throughout the Conference Firestarter aim to incorporate learning of indigenous cultures; as part of the Conference Launch a Welcome to Country was offered by Neville Sampson this was followed by Loren Ryan, a year Nine Tamworth High School student singing in both English and in the Gamilaroi language. A local performance group – the Gormori Dancers then completed the Indigenous component of the opening with three traditional dances. Two workshop presentations in the afternoon carried an Indigenous theme and the Gormori Dancers taught delegates a number of traditional dances as part of activities on the Environmental Project Day. The response from Conference delegates to the Gormori dancers was overwhelming praise.

- o **To provide relevant organisations and industries with an opportunity to promote their activities and commitment to the community.**

One of the strengths of the MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference was the involvement of key local stakeholders in the coordination (through steering committee), participation (through activity planning and delivery for environmental project day) and as Workshop Chairs (for the presentation day) and as mentors / sponsors for schools (in the lead up to the Conference). It is also one of few conferences that invite all stakeholders to take part in coordinating and participating at the conference. This allows not only financial support to run the conference and for schools to attend the conference, but it also allows more organisations to understand the importance of the Kids Teaching Kids methodology utilised at the conference – allowing them to use it in their environmental education events for the community.

- o **To provide young people with the opportunity to decide how they will be heard for now and the future**

'For my students to see the Namoi CMA staff helping construct bat roost boxes 12months after their presentation (about Bats) was just awesome' Rosemary Clifton Tamworth Public School

Students certainly appreciate the fact that they are in charge of their learning and teaching – in the delivery of such amazing presentations, which are the feature program item for day one of the event. Schools are encouraged to present 5 times outside of the Conference; presenting schools also had the opportunity to present in a Bunning's Store, or to Bunning's staff at their school (Kids Teaching Adults)! A number of schools made arrangements at the Conference to visit their schools to present to other students that didn't attend the Conference. This significantly increases the audience that see a Kids Teaching Kids presentation, and further spreads the student's messages. The inclusion of 'kids' leading more than one activity at the Environmental Project Day was a new but exciting component of the Conference.

- o **To help shape the future of environmental education relating to rivers, marine and coastal issues**

The Youth Environment Conferences are becoming an iconic education event that schools who are working on environmental projects aim to attend as part of their education programs. Feedback from schools demonstrates an urge from teacher and student delegates who attended the Conference to incorporate the environment into all levels of education. Responses have included intention to run a mini Conference within schools, start an environment club, and build on workshop presentations for next year! The Conference provides an opportunity for schools both already involved in environmental education and to those just embarking on sustainability to showcase their school projects and initiatives and to learn what other schools in their region are doing. The Conference provides a forum for celebration of these achievements.

- o **To build support of all schools for the kids teaching kids concept**

'It was such an empowering experience for (the students) sic. to present their workshop... being such an integral part of that aspect of the Conference made them relate more personally to the rest.' Mary Richard St Mary's College, Gunnedah'

Schools received support from our Education Consultant, Richard Wood and are provided with resources for the Kids Teaching Kids learning methodology. School Visits were also conducted by Firestarter Project Coordinator and Education Consultant in May. The general feeling amongst teachers was that the Conference had had a strong impact on the students they took to the Conference and students were abuzz with ideas on how to implement the approach within their schools.

6. Project Evaluation by Delegates

All delegates (students and teachers) were asked to evaluate the conference.

What did you think about the concept of KTK	What do you think about the KTK workshop sessions (Monday)	Did your students present a workshop	If no - would you like to present next year?	What did you think of the Panel of Experts Discussion (Monday)	What did you think about the EPDay part of the Conference (Tuesday)?	What did you think of the refelection session (Tuesday)?	What did you think about the entertainme nt for the Conference ?
9.84	9			7.1	9.78	8.78	9.78
<u>Teacher Only</u> What did you think about Conference MC?	<u>Teacher Only</u> Was the Conference good value for money?	<u>Teacher Only</u> What did you think of the Conference and the way it was run?		<u>Teacher Only</u> Would you like to remain on contact list for planning a 2009 Conference?			
9.11	9.4	9.5					

Additional Comments

'The best part of presenting was the interest and curiosity from the students and teachers who were the audience in our workshops.' Zoe Linz Tamworth Public School

'I really enjoyed kids actually trying to answer our questions and showing they'd listened' Liam Higham St Mary's College Gunnedah

'The Conference has really fired my students up.' Tony Gleeson Alstonville High School

'The students are extremely motivated, sharing information with the class members and family.' Janette McFarland Fairfax Public School

7. Outputs

The outputs from this project are:

- 240 New South Wales students and teachers have been directly involved in the Kids Teaching Kids approach to learning about the environment
- 21 schools attended the Conference from the below list of regions:

School Name	Region	Presentation
Alstonville High School	Alstonville	It's our future – Let's get active!
Armidale High School	Armidale	
Barraba Central School	Barraba	
Bourke Walgett School of Distance Education	Walgett	
Burren Junction Public School	Burren Junction	
Fairfax Primary School	Boggabri	
Gunnedah High School	Gunnedah	Gunn-e-daar Gali Yana-y
Kootingal Public School	Kootingal	
McCarthy Catholic College	Tamworth	Rubbish and the Murray-Darling Basin
Narrabri Public School	Narrabri	
Oxley High School	Tamworth	The Decline of Native Animals Due to Agricultural Practices
Peel High School	Tamworth	Water just comes out of the tap doesn't it?
Rowena Primary School	Rowena	
St Johns Park High	St Johns Park	Gali workshop – A sensory adventure
St John's Junior School	Armidale	
St Mary's College Gunnedah	Gunnedah	Bluwet Bawa Sal... Gunnedah's Water Issues
Tamworth High School	Tamworth	Fossil Folly
Tamworth High School	Tamworth	Kamilaroi language and dance
Tamworth Public School	Tamworth	Where have all the frogs gone?
Tamworth Scouts	Westdale	

- 9 schools prepared 40 minute presentations over 2-8 months, and all had the opportunity to interact with expert industry mentors on the topics they chose. The presentations have not only been presented at the Conference, but schools are encouraged to present 5 times outside of the conference.
- Many schools have reported that they have started to present their workshops after the conference that they are requested to do so as part of the project.
- Three phases of media releases / alerts about the program, promoting the health of New South Wales environment and the importance of supporting schools and students in making our communities more sustainable
- A series of 7 hands-on activities at the Australian Equine Centre
- A conference website containing wide range of information for students and teachers
- Networks formed within school communities – as schools are presenting their workshops post the conference they are forging new links as well as promoting natural resource management education, and encouraging their students to increase their communication skills and capabilities as public speakers
- All schools now have the opportunity to implement similar kids teaching kids programs in their own school using material produced as a result of the Conference and activities learned from others. The book they have been provided in their registration kits shows how to run one of their own conferences.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- Students came away having enjoyed their time, feeling empowered, understanding the importance of environmental issues and realising that they are future leaders - The event was a great success
- Student led activities at the environmental project day; built on workshop presentations from the 2007 NSW Youth River Health Conference demonstrated the strength of the Conference as an on going program.
- This Conference built on the 2007 Youth River Health Conference, the support of and participation in this event shows that an annual event in New South Wales is certainly viable
- Tamworth was a supportive community to enable exposure of environmental issues to North West New South Wales
- The kids teaching kids workshops proved a great success – the workshops covered a broad range of topics and generated an enjoyable and participatory environment for all delegates.

Recommendations:

- Expert Panel session time to be reduced, possibility of student questions being submitted to Firestarter prior to Conference to reduce question time
- Ensure all presentations, speakers, performances involve students to avoid any classroom style learning
- Ensure sustainable event management practices are clearly communicated to Conference venues
- Incorporate more student led practical environmental project day activities as continuations of previous year conference workshop presentations

Attachment 1:

New South Wales Youth Environment Conference 2008 Report on Media Coverage

Conference – Pre Publicity – PRIME Television (Regional)

Airtime Schedule 1 April – 18 May

5 x 30	Seven Morning News	11.30am-17.00pm
8 x 30	Children's Viewing	4.00pm-5.30pm
6 x 30	Saturday Disney	8.00am-10.00am
15 x 30	Sunrise	7.00am-9.00am
17 x 30	Prime Time	6.00pm-11.00pm
30x 30	Run of Station	ie: All of the above

Total: 76 announcements in NEW SOUTH WALES on Southern Cross

11 November

Northern Daily Leader – brief about event

17 November

Northern Daily Leader – article on event and photo/story on Tamworth Primary
ABC Tamworth – mention of event during rural report
ABC Tamworth Morning – Arron Wood interview
MGGG Tamworth – news item
ABC Regional Statewide Drive – interview with Arron Wood
2AD – news item
2TM and 92.9 – News Item
Prime TV – news item from Day 1

18 November

Northern Daily Leader – Photo/story from Day

<http://tamworth.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/next-generation-prepare-for-their-biggest-problem/1362991.aspx>

NBN TV – news item from Day 2

Prime TV – news item from Day 2

ABC NSW Country Hour – <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/nsw/content/2006/s2423040.htm>

ABC Tamworth News report

19 November

Northern Daily Leader – Photo/story from Day 2

Tamworth City News – Photo story from Day 2

ABC Rural Report New England <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/2007/s2423575.htm>

Attachment 2 Financial Summary

Income Component	Conference Income
Naming Rights Sponsor – Murray Darling Basin Commission	\$50,000
Gold Sponsor – NSW Farmers Association	\$6,000
Gold Sponsor – Bunning's Warehouse	\$5,000
Silver Sponsor – Namoi CMA	\$5,000
Silver Sponsor – Tamworth Regional Council	\$5,000
Silver Sponsor – Northern Inland Regional Waste	\$5,000
Bronze Sponsor – NSW Department of Water and Energy	\$2,500
School Support - Cotton Research and Development Corporation	\$2,400
School Support – Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee	Paid directly to schools
Delegate Registrations	\$7,456
Total	\$88,356
Expense Item	Spent
Audio Visual	1545.45
Design	1405.46
Print	3223.5
Venue	0
display boards	0
Catering Day 1	13982.64
Catering Day 2	2410
Equine Centre	250
Buses	160
First Aid	200
Climate Positive	250
Dinner Band	1500
Merchandise	4220.5
Postage of registration packs	137.14
Books (included in school registration packs)	418
Committee meetings	499.16
School Sponsorship – Fairfax, Rowena, Burren Junction and Narrabri Public School	2,400.00
Name Tags	200
Panel Gifts	100
Indigenous Performance	500
Staff	6000
Workshop Manager	4000
Advertising	6123.76
Project Management	20000
Website	
Administration	10000
Project Coordinator	5000
Conference Reception	350
Media	1690.91
Contingency	1,789.48
Total Spent	88,356

In Kind Items Not Included in the Budget:

Staff time and coordination for Environmental Projects Day – Namoi CMA, Tamworth Regional Council, Northern Inland Regional Waste, NSW Parks and Wildlife, Bunning's Warehouse, Waterwatch, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Equipment and preparation for Environmental Projects Day – All Activity Leaders and associated Sponsors

Venue Hire for Environmental Projects Day – Tamworth Regional Council (outdoor site, plus associated costs)

Mentors and Volunteer Time

Presenting School Vouchers and in store assistance for presentations – Bunning's Warehouse

Attachment 3 Kids Teaching Kids Background

Why kids teaching kids?

The 'Kids Teaching Kids' concept has been in schools, in one form or another, for many years; students run assemblies, litter and peer support behaviour programs and now three-way reporting where the student takes charge of the traditional parent/teacher interview are all about transferring learning responsibility back to the student.

'Kids Teaching Kids' improves the education experience and outcomes for students by allowing them to feel in control of the learning process. When learning proceeds at their pace and through presentation of their learning to others, a self belief and new found confidence develops for the students.

It provides a more holistic, democratic and inclusive approach to education.

If we provide responsibility for learning back to the learner and teach them the skills to manage that approach, we start to have the emergence of different students. They are in control, they begin to relate to one another within the education process and they are able to be involved and make responsible decisions about their own learning.

The Kids Teaching Kids concept needs a shift in power within the classroom, or ideally, in the school in general in order to be effective. If students are to experience more control over their learning, then responsibility for that learning must also follow.

The question of 'who's in control here' is a daunting one for the educator. Clearly, the teacher remains in power, but power in the classroom is a different matter and the outcomes and depth of learning far outweigh the disquiet teachers may initially feel from the required power sharing with their students.

Providing the skills and confidence to a student to allow him or her to take control and responsibility for learning should produce a child who possesses the necessary strength to face the complexities and pitfalls of modern life.

The MDBC New South Wales Youth Environment Conference was based on the highly successful International River Health Conference model (www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com). Held biannually since 1999, these conferences have highlighted how important it is to provide the next generation with a sense of place and a realisation that proper management of their place will ultimately have an impact on their planet.

Using the Kids Teaching Kids learning model, these river health and youth environment conferences have developed thousands of resilient children, children who are motivated, have high self esteem and respect for others. Using the same peer learning method, the 2008 MDBC NSW Youth Environment Conference provided students with skills in natural resource management, but more importantly it built students who are optimistic, have a sense of future, are capable public speakers and can communicate ideas in many different forms.

Why?

Children comprise twenty per cent of the population, but are one hundred percent of our future. In our thrust to be analytical, impartial and scientifically rigorous we may have lost the passion for educating future generations to ensure the protection of the natural environment. The New South Wales Youth Environment Conference provides hands on, student-centred learning **to bring about a cultural change in the way we perceive our rivers, catchments and the industries they support.**

The Conference seeks to promote the virtues of well-rounded and balanced individuals, working as a team to face a common goal - the raising of awareness about the health of our environments. Students that have access to this type of learning will be more able to promote a sense of community as they become leaders and decision-makers themselves.

Any issue, problem or situation ultimately has a human focus. Natural resource management is less about the science of managing the environment and more about managing people that have the potential to bring

about change in their environment. Education is an essential tool to achieve responsible management of natural resources. If education is carried out effectively all decision-makers through every level and field of employment will have the information needed to make environmentally conscious decisions.

What?

The key educational strategy used is a pedagogy of 'Kids Teaching Kids'. The New South Wales Youth Environment Conference used the Environment as a theme around which students design presentations and workshops which they present to other young people at the Conference. Linkage is made between student workshops and environmental action through the second day of the Conference – where students participate in hands on practical activities. The involvement of celebrities and public figures is also a key feature of the Conference. The celebrities reinforce the key Conference theme, that young people can make a positive contribution to environmental change.

Research has found that Kids Teaching Kids pedagogy works well in terms of engaging students in environmental and sustainability issues. At the International River Health Conferences, for a significant number of students, the experience of participating in Kids Teaching Kids activities appeared to generate a sense of connection with local place and involvement with real local issues. Many students also seemed to express a sense of environmental responsibility and a developing sense of environmental and democratic agency. In other words, some students gained a sense of possibility for change, or a growing confidence in their capacity to actively participate in social and democratic processes involving environmental issues. In addition, through the actual experience of being Conference participants, students learn to be active, effective citizens and advocates for a sustainable future.

Arron and Richard Wood - Firestarter Pty Ltd

Attachment 4 Selection of Photos

