



# ACTS<sub>INC</sub>

AUSTRALASIAN CAMPUSES  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



2011 Annual Report

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## 1.0 Message from the President

I have had the opportunity to visit a number of countries throughout 2011, which has allowed me to gain a greater understanding of where the global tertiary education sector is with regards to sustainability. Interestingly, it seems we are all asking similar questions. How do we gain full senior management support? How do we better engage our students so they will take action or at least push for change? How do we engage academics in the quest to reorient our education systems to embed sustainability across the curriculum? And following on from this, what does it look like to successfully reorient our education systems? With these questions and challenges in mind, it is no surprise that the global education system is on the precipice of great change. A change that will see our students better prepared to deal with the environmental and societal challenges facing the global community. Key to this change are networks formed through associations such as ACTS.

2011 has indeed been a time of change for ACTS. We have forged relationships with our international sister associations such as EAUC, AASHE and KACGI, and co-led an international movement to respond to Rio+20.

We have undergone a major rebranding exercise to ensure our vision, mission, actions and services better align with the needs and requirements of sector colleagues. We have gained great momentum in recognising the magnificent achievements of the sector through the Green Gown Awards Australasia.

We have taken our annual conference up another notch with our presence in the National Wine Centre, Adelaide and changed our format to focus more on interactivity. But we are not content to rest there. We are committed to improving our member benefits and services, and to strengthening the networks and positive impacts we have collectively seen as a sector. 2011 has been a fantastic year of change for ACTS, but this is only the beginning.

Please take the time to review our annual report to better understand all that we have been involved in throughout the year. It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved with ACTS and to see all the great things unfolding for us as an association, and for the tertiary education sector in general. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in 2012.



**Leanne Denby**  
President of ACTS

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### Highlights for 2011

2011 has been a tremendously successful year for ACTS and we have seen quite a few changes. As a member led organisation the message ACTS delivers is simple *'to inspire and support tertiary education institutions on their sustainability journey'*.



ACTS President Leanne Denby presenting at the Green Gown Awards Dinner at the 2011 ACTS Conference with EAUC consultant Jimmy Brannigan

ACTS has seen unprecedented growth since incorporating in 2006, and 2011 has been record breaking. Our membership now represents 33% of the tertiary education sector across Australia and New Zealand, including 45 universities & TAFEs, with representation in all states of Australia and New Zealand. We hope that 2012 will see many more TAFEs and universities join our growing network of support. As our membership grows so does our ability to provide even more member benefits and 2011 has seen the addition of many new initiatives and communications tools. We will always endeavour to give our members the support and services they require in order to become more sustainable.

ACTS has also had a face lift! We have developed a more appropriate and vibrant logo and web portal, which is the platform for communicating with all our members: [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au). This has also given us the ability to revamp our online communications with our fortnightly e bulletin enACT and quarterly newsletter ACTivate.

2011 has also seen significant international development with our sister organisations - Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) in the UK, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in the USA. Thanks to the efforts of our president Leanne Denby we now have an official agreement to work collectively and share member only resources, taking steps for a more cohesive international sector collaboration. This work has seen the creation of the LiFE – Learning in Future Environments – Index, a performance management and improvement tool specifically created for the tertiary education sector in collaboration with the EAUC. Our partnerships have also raised the profile of tertiary education internationally, with a combined response to Rio +20 from across the globe in the UN's revamp of Agenda 21, which also included one of our closer sister organisations, the Korean Association for Green Campus Initiative (KAGCI).

Lastly, 2011 saw the Green Gown Awards Australasia, now in their 2nd year, move towards becoming the most prestigious recognition of sustainability in tertiary education in Australasia. This year the awards took place at the 11th international ACTS conference in Adelaide, 28-30 September 2011. There were a record number of attendees at the event and the feedback we received was fantastic.

All of the above activities, and more, form the basis of this annual report and will give you an indication of just how ACTS is embracing and supporting tertiary education institutions to ensure sustainability is core business.

## 3.0 Who we are

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) is a member led organisation for the tertiary education sector in Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1990, we were incorporated in 2006 and have seen unprecedented growth since. Our aims are simple: to inspire, promote and support change towards best practice sustainability within the operations, curriculum and research of the Australasian tertiary education sector. We do this by providing resources, knowledge, developmental and networking opportunities for members and by critically challenging and supporting collaboration with stakeholders to lead sustainability innovation in the sector.

This aim is supported through a number of projects and initiatives:

- Coordinating the Annual ACTS Conference
- Workshops, training and professional development opportunities
- ACTS Scholarships
- The Green Gown Awards Australasia (GGAA)
- Exclusive members only access to web based resources
- Regional based events
- Provision of learning and development tools
- Communication materials

Delegates at the 2011 ACTS Conference dinner

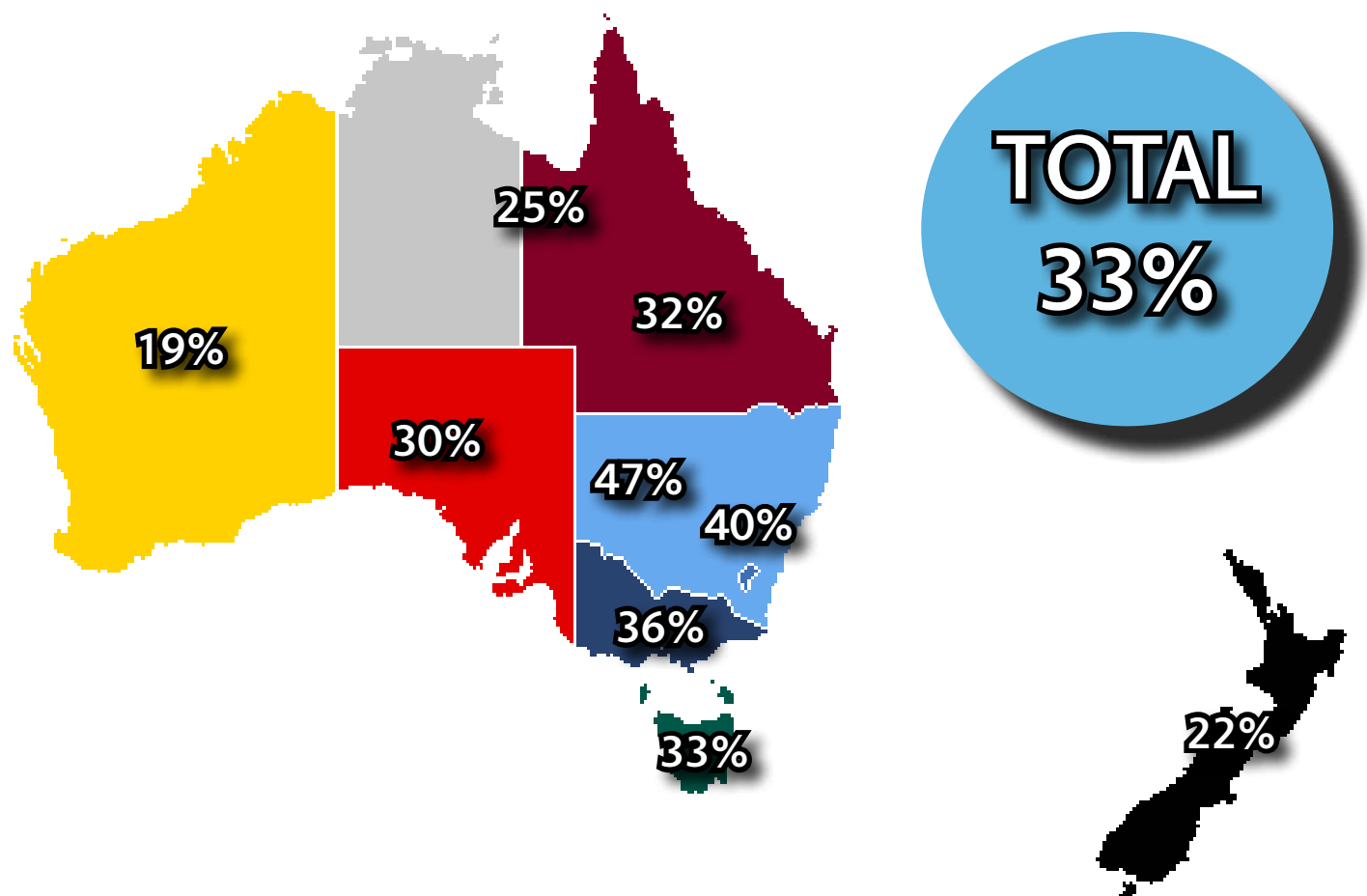




## 2011: A Year of Unprecedented Growth

ACTS is fast becoming the sector champion for improving and promoting sustainability in the further and higher education sector. Representing 45 universities, TAFEs and polytechnics within Australasia, equating to 33% of the sector, 2011 was a very good year for growth, as we surpassed our usual number of memberships. Whilst the majority of our current sign-ups are from Universities, ACTS would very much like to see an increase in the number of TAFEs represented in our network.

The map below shows our member representation statistics in each of the regions (NZ; NT & North QLD; South QLD; Regional NSW & ACT; Sydney Basin; VIC; SA; WA; TAS)



We have welcomed 10 new institutional members in 2011, 5 universities and 5 TAFE institutions. We hope 2012 will bring an even greater increase in membership especially from further education institutions.

## Current Institutional Members

- Australian Catholic University
- AUT University of Technology
- Bond University
- Central Queensland University
- Challenger Institute of Technology
- Charles Sturt University
- Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Eastern Institute of Technology
- Edith Cowan University
- Gordon Institute of TAFE
- Griffith University
- Hunter Institute - TAFE NSW
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Massey University
- Monash University
- North Coast Institute - TAFE NSW
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- TAFE SA - Regional
- The Australian National University
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Auckland
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Ballarat
- University of Canberra
- University of Canterbury
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Tasmania
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Western Sydney
- Victoria University
- West Coast Institute of Training
- Wodonga Institute of TAFE

## Current Affiliate Members

- Australian Learning and Teaching Council
- National Tertiary Education Union
- Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council
- Trinity College
- University Co-operative Bookshop

## Current Corporate Members

- BusinessAide ecoconsulting
- ELMO Learning



# 5.0 Organisational Changes

ACTS has seen a significant number of changes and improvements in 2011.

## Website Development

After discussions at the 2010 AGM, ACTS was rebranded with a new logo and website. Launched in May 2011 the rebranding has given ACTS a fresh new look and the ability to provide many more functionalities via its website. A significant change has been that all member organisations now have control of their online profiles and can include as many new members as they wish. Control to update this information has been taken away from ACTS and we hope that this will empower as many individuals as possible to spread the word within their own institutions.

The website redevelopment has also enabled us to send 'designed' e bulletins – enACT - straight to members inbox's, with a copy of the latest news and information right from the sector. We are also creating a member's discussion forum, to enable direct communications and the sharing of best practice and ideas. The forum will become available for all members early in 2012.

Feedback about the rebranding of ACTS has been very positive, particularly the increased web functionality enabling us to provide considerably more member benefits and tools to users in a much more user friendly and efficient way.

## Member Charter

At the ACTS board meeting in Adelaide, September 2011 it was agreed to draft a members charter so all current members and any new members could progress their achievements to date. The charter is currently under development and should be available in autumn 2012.

## Changes to the Board

We have seen some changes to our Advisory board and Executive board during 2011.

We'd like to congratulate and welcome 5 new members to the ACTS board who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the group.

ACTS Board Members (left to right): Pascaline Owers (Vice-President TAFEs); Lania Lynch (Vice-President Campus Learning); Leanne Denby (President); Jonathan Pheasant (Vice-President Universities); and Delwyn Langdon (Secretary/Treasurer)



## Advisory Board



Fraser Lovie, Policy Advisory at the University of Aberdeen and board member and Scotland Convenor for EAUC, UK.

## Executive Board



### *Vice President of Universities*

Jonathan Pheasant , Director at the University of Adelaide's office of the Vice-President



### *Regional Director of New Zealand*

Lesley Stone, Sustainability and Environmental coordinator at the University of Auckland



### *Regional Director for Tasmania*

Corey Peterson, Sustainability Manager at the University of Tasmania.



### *Regional Director for South Australia*

Penny Johnston, Sustainability Project Officer at TAFE SA Regional.

As we welcome new members to the board, we also say goodbye to others. A huge and heartfelt thank you to Carol Adams, Pro Vice Chancellor (Sustainability) – La Trobe University, who has stepped down as Vice President Universities, for all your time, expertise and commitment to ACTS.



## 6.0 11th Annual ACTS Conference

Hosted by the University of Adelaide, the 11th ACTS annual conference took place at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, 28-30 September 2011. The event was a huge success with record numbers of attendees and sponsors from across Australia, New Zealand and internationally. The theme for the conference:

### *“Sustainability as Core Business: Building the Case for Change”*

aptly addressed this challenge faced by the tertiary education sector by exploring how sustainability fits into core business and providing tools and techniques to enable the required change.

With a panel of distinguished keynote speakers, the conference was attended by over 120 delegates, engaging with presentations on a wide variety of topics addressing campus sustainability and education for sustainability. The conference brought together leaders, academics, sustainability-focused decision makers, environmental managers, engineering and technical staff, and students from the tertiary education sector, business and government throughout Australia and New Zealand.



From left to right: Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Environment & Conservation, Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Water; Ellen Sandell, National Director of Australian Youth Climate Coalition; and Rob Bookman AM, Chairman, Confederation of the Australian International Arts Festivals.

As part of the new international collaboration efforts, Leanne Denby (ACTS President) facilitated an open session to draw input into the national and international tertiary education response for Rio + 20. Jimmy Brannigan, a representative from ACTS international sister organisation Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) hosted a productive session on how to create Net Positive Leadership in your organisation. From tips on using social media to create change for sustainability right through to practical ideas on how to build sustainability into the core business of Learning and Teaching, the 11th International ACTS conference was as diverse as it was inspiring.

A highlight of the conference was the Conference Dinner, where delegates enjoyed a hard-earned night of celebration. The food and wines were a delicious accompaniment to celebrating the achievements of the Green Gown Awards Australasia Award winners. The Retro Photo Booth was a hit and delegates danced the night away at the beautiful National Wine Centre.

The 2011 ACTS Conference would not have been possible without our generous sponsors: Ecosave, InterfaceFLOR, Sustainability Victoria, Gmagazine, Aquabubbler, Flexicar, Climate Friendly and the Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE.



## Conference feedback statistics:

- Overall conference experience, Excellent (46.5%) or Good (51.2%).
- Overall quality of presentations was Good (67.6%), with 16.2% rating presentations as Excellent.
- Venue and facilities rating was Excellent (69.4%) or Good (27.8%).
- Registration processes was rated Excellent (66.7%) or Good (30.6%).
- Level of communication about the conference was Excellent (52.8%) or Good (38.9%).
- Not surprisingly, 94.4% of participants strongly agree that sustainable event practices should be adopted for the conference. 47.2% agreed and 36.1% strongly agreed that the conference was a good example of sustainable practice.

The conference wrapped up with a sector update and a LiFE Performance Management Tool overview. Some delegates chose to kick off the long weekend by attending one of two conference field trips – a sustainability tour of Adelaide or a biodynamic winery tour in Norton Summit.

All in all it was a successful, fun-filled and inspiring conference through which delegates created and strengthened networks, and gained insights, motivation, and ideas to further embed sustainability into the core business of their respective institutions. We'd like to thank all the delegates, sponsors and presenters for their support and expertise. Also for the valuable feedback that many of you gave to enable us to improve our events for 2012 and beyond. Nearly all participants rated the overall conference experience as either Excellent (46.5%) or Good (51.2%). ACTS has responded to all feedback and suggestions provided as part of the conference evaluation, the results of which can be found on our website.

We look forward to the next ACTS Conference which will be in Brisbane, Queensland 26-28 September 2012.

***“The ACTS Conference is an opportunity to find out about new initiatives in the sector. There is invaluable networking opportunities, and we have already had one interstate visit from another University. I am looking forward to contributing to the 2012 ACTS Conference.”***

**Danielle Rostan-Herbert**

Sustainability Manager, Engagement, The University of Melbourne

***“The ACTS conference was invigorating and inspiring to learn from other institute’s innovations, successes and failures. I would definitely recommend attending the ACTS conference to anyone pursuing sustainability.”***

**Jennifer Klippel**

Centre for Sustainable Skills, Wodonga TAFE

***“I would recommend the ACTS conference to anyone, at any level, who is interested in sustainability and sustainable practices in Tertiary Institutions”***

**Carlene Kirvan**

Executive Assistant to the Dean of Arts, Macquarie University.



## 7.0 Green Gown Awards Australasia

The 2011 Green Gown Awards Australasia was a fantastic recognition of all the excellent work institutions are making with regards to Sustainability. Now in their second year, the Australasian Awards took place at the ACTS annual conference dinner at the national wine centre of Australia in Adelaide, South Australia, 29 September 2011.

Since the Awards launched in 2010, they have grown in size with a doubling of the number of categories to 6 as well a substantial increase in the number of applications. We received 35 applications from 27 institutions which was a response from 20% of Australasian tertiary education institutions.

The Awards were founded in the UK in 2004 and have now become the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice in the UK. Building on these excellent foundations and wishing to create the same level of prestige within the Australasian sector ACTS has embraced the awards and we will nurture them to grow year on year.

2011 award categories:

- **ACTS Award of Excellence**
- **Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change**
- **Continuous Improvement – Specific Area**
- **Learning & Teaching**
- **Student Initiatives & Campaigns**
- **TAFE & Smaller Institutions**

We plan on increasing the number of categories to 9 for 2012.

We also had a fantastic response from the tertiary education support sector. Many organisations were happy to promote the Awards through their networks and websites as well as provide expert representation for the judging panel. There were 21 judges from education institutions, sector support organisations, government and commercial businesses.

- ACPET – Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- Aquabubbler
- ASSHE - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, USA
- Climate Friendly
- DEEWR - Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
- Ecosave
- Edith Cowan University
- EAUC - Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges, UK
- Griffith University
- InterfaceFLOR
- James Cook University
- Macquarie University
- NUS - National Union of Students
- RMIT University
- Siemens
- SV - Sustainability Victoria
- TDA - TAFE Directors Australia
- TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute
- TEFMA – Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association
- UA - Universities Australia
- University of Western Sydney

The judges were impressed with the quality and standard of entries, and congratulated the efforts of all involved with the Award scheme. We'd like to express a huge thank you to all the judges for their time and expertise.

*The highlight of the event was the Green Gown Awards and the amazing list of achievements from Australasia Universities and TAFE's, there are many impressive success stories for sustainability within the education sector, in which I am proud to be involved.*

**Jennifer Klippel**

Centre for Sustainable Skills, Wodonga TAFE

There were 12 winning entries which showcased the innovative and diverse initiatives being developed and implemented within our tertiary education institutions.

## 2011 Winners

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- Winner: **La Trobe University** “Best Practice Sustainability Governance and Management”
- Highly Commended: **TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute** “Sustainable education”

### STUDENT INITIATIVES & CAMPAIGNS

- Winners: **The University of Adelaide** “O’Week Sustainable Transport Pledge”
- Highly Commended: **Curtin University** “Community Vegie Garden”

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – SPECIFIC AREA

- Winner: **University of Canterbury** “Okeover Stream Restoration and Community Engagement”
- Highly Commended: **Victoria University** “Limit of one song per shower please! Water saving programs at Victoria University”

### TAFE & SMALLER INSTITUTIONS

- Winner: **TAFE NSW New England Institute** “NISBN- Helping greening up regional NSW businesses in Sustainability”
- Highly Commended: **TAFE SA Regional Institute** “Implementing the TAFE SA Regional Green Print for Environmental Sustainability”

### LEARNING & TEACHING

- Winner: **RMIT University** “Curriculum change, embedding sustainability in a degree program”
- Highly Commended: **Australian National University** “Campus and community as classrooms for learning and teaching sustainability”
- Highly Commended: **Swinburne University of Technology** “Vocational Graduate Certificate in Education and Training for Sustainability”

### ACTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

- Winner: **Charles Sturt University** “Responsible Stewardship of Resources”

Winners celebrate with their recycled glass trophies at the 2011 ACTS Conference Awards Dinner





We'd like to congratulate all of the winners and highly commended institutions for their successful projects and we encourage as many people as possible to get involved next year. For further information on all of the winning entries please view the winner's brochure online at [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au). Also look out for some best practice videos from the winning institutions which will be available in autumn 2012.

The 2012 Green Gown Awards Australasia will take place at the 12th ACTS Annual Conference in Brisbane, Queensland 26-28 September 2012. The Awards will open for applications on 4 June 2012.



**2012 ACTS CONFERENCE - Brisbane, Queensland**  
Save the date: Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th September, 2011



Including 2012 Green Gown Awards Australasia  
Applications open 4 June 2012 - [www.acts.asn.au](http://www.acts.asn.au)

## 2011 Green Gown Awards Australasia Event Feedback

We asked delegates to give their feedback on the Awards and the overall results were very positive!

- 69.4% people rated the quality of the event excellent and 22.2% as good.
- 94% of people thought that recognising achievements through the Green Gown Awards is important.
- 72.3% thought the quality of the nominations were high.
- 83% said they would encourage their institution to submit an award for next year.

We'd like to thank all of the applicants, judges, sponsors, delegates and sector support organisations, for getting involved and attending the 2011 Conference and Awards. This event is very much to show case all the excellent initiatives in the sector and support individuals on their sustainability journey helping equip them with information, tools and techniques for the future.



Green Gown Awards  
*Australasia*

## 8.0 Scholarships

Our annual scholarship programme has proved as popular as ever with ACTS awarding 4 recipients in this year's scholarship round. Awarded in July 2011, this scheme provides individuals from an institutional member of ACTS, undertaking sustainability related employment, research or learning, the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills via one of three scholarship avenues.

The ACTS Conference Scholarships – student and employee - are designed to provide professional development opportunities for our members as they attend a sustainability focused conference.

The Development Scholarship provides a unique opportunity to undertake a project or study tour to develop knowledge, experience and skills, whilst providing a benefit to the recipient's institution and ACTS more broadly.

ACTs would like to congratulate the 2011 ACTS Scholarship winners:

### **Conference scholarship – Employees**

*Dr Anne Sibbel* RMIT University

### **Conference scholarship – Employees**

*Brett Sharman* Griffith University

### **Conference scholarship – Students**

*Melissa-May Rougier* Griffith University

### **Development Scholarship**

*Kay Ollett* Griffith University

Each of our scholarship winners has written an article on their experiences and learning for the ACTivate magazine so please view [www.acts.asn.au/index.php/activate](http://www.acts.asn.au/index.php/activate) for their feedback.

Entries for the 2012 ACTS Scholarships will open in autumn 2012.

Scholarship winners Brett, Kay and Melissa-May at the 2011 ACTS Conference





## 9.0 International Collaboration & Development

ACTS President, Leanne Denby, who also holds the position of Director of Sustainability at Macquarie University, has been working extremely hard this year to raise the profile of ACTS in an international arena. Leanne has been very successful in this aim and has secured an official three way alliance for international collaboration with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), UK and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in higher Education (AASHE), USA.

As a result of this alliance all organisations have agreed to collaborate for the benefit of the tertiary education sector. A number of initiatives have arisen as a result of this collaboration.

### Access to resources

In order to strengthen the ties already in place, there has been an agreement to share all “member only resources” currently available. This means that members of ACTS will soon be able to access all resources that EAUC and AASHE currently hold, and vice-versa. The teams are currently working out how to make this decision a reality, and further information should be available in autumn 2012.

### Rio + 20

On 1 November 2011, submissions were made on behalf of the tertiary education sector to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, otherwise known as Rio+20, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012.

Rio + 20 is the follow on from the Earth Summit in 1992, which saw the adoption of a number of crucial sustainability agreements, including the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the landmark ‘Rio Conventions’. Rio +20 will be a pinnacle in developing new directions and objectives, and an opportunity to heighten the value of the tertiary education sector. To this end, ACTS, EAUC and AASHE agreed to work together to formulate a position paper to add to discussions at the conference.

Leading up to the Rio conference both ACTS and AASHE utilised their annual conferences, as well as other opportunities to gain sector input into the position paper. ACTS would like to thank all the ACTS members who actively participated in developing the international submission document.

The ACTS statement was sent to UNCSO on 1 November 2011, and has been used as part of the international tertiary education submission in conjunction with AASHE, EAUC, KAGCI, GUNI and Hokkaido University. With a united front, we are hoping to impact on the direction the UNCSO document takes with regards to tertiary education.

This will hopefully start the discussions about the contributions and role that tertiary education could make to expand an understanding of sustainable development through the research, educational activities and operational modelling of sustainable practices.

Sarah Lee (EAUC), Paul Rowland (Executive Director AASHE) Leith Sharp (Chair, Sustainable Futures Academy), Fraser Lovie (EAUC Board Member), Mitch Thomashow (former President Unity College, Maine, USA), Leanne Denby (ACTS President), Andrew Chamberlain (Executive Director, Association of Research Managers and Administrators, UK)



# LiFE Index

The new sustainability in tertiary education performance management and improvement tool LiFE (Learning in Future Environments) Index is set to launch in Australia in January 2012. The tool has been developed with input and collaboration from colleagues across Australia, New Zealand and the UK. The UK has led with the developments and their version was released in November 2011, with institutions having already signed up: [www.thelifeindex.org.uk](http://www.thelifeindex.org.uk). The tool will provide guidance on how to navigate an institution through its sustainability journey.

The LiFE Index is a comprehensive online tool consisting of frameworks for progressing sustainability and social responsibility in an institution through four main categories:

- 1. Leadership and Governance;**
- 2. Learning, Teaching and Research;**
- 3. Partnerships and Engagement;**
- 4. Operations**



LiFE Performance Accreditation will also be offered as an independent review, assessment and accreditation process that will help an organisation gain the most value from the LiFE Index. Accreditation is not compulsory.

Participants will have their performance independently reviewed and verified by experts and will receive a bespoke report detailing how they can improve their performance. LiFE Performance Accreditation will have several key innovations and features:

## **Promote Your Efforts**

Institutions are working hard to improve social responsibility and sustainability performance. The annual accreditation will be a positive promotional tool for every institution and will be promoted throughout the national and international media.

## **Independent Verification**

Independent verification is central to achieving credibility. By having an institution's performance reviewed by independent experts, this shows how serious universities and TAFEs are about improving social responsibility and sustainability.

## **Benchmark Your Progress**

The entire tertiary education sector is looking to lead on social responsibly and sustainability performance. Performance Accreditation will provide benchmarking opportunities for organisations against similar institutions at a local, national and international level.

The LiFE Index is being developed to help tertiary education institutions continually improve their performance in sustainability. The Index will imbed a comprehensive array of tools and resources into an Improvement Centre, which will be available to all participating institutions. The Australasian website is now available through which you can find out more information about the tool in preparation for its launch [www.thelifeindex.com.au](http://www.thelifeindex.com.au)

ACTS plans to launch the LiFE tool in January 2012. Detailed information on how to sign up, costs and benefits to your institution will be available shortly.



# 10.0 Communications

Since the launch of the revamped website in May 2011 we have worked very hard to increase the frequency of our communications to members as well as the method of delivery. We have two main tools for communicating with our members and the wider tertiary education sector to ensure people are kept as up to date and as well informed as possible.

## enACT

Our fortnightly e bulletin is distributed to all ACTS members who have registered through the ACTS website. enACT delivers the latest tertiary sector sustainability news, resources, appointments, opportunities and events within Australia and New Zealand every fortnight to ACTS members. All ACTS members can contribute to content for the e bulletin in order to better promote and share good practice. We actively encourage members to send through any news, articles, events, appointments or opportunities so that we can further promote the work of institutions. We hope that readers are receiving a valuable and informative bulletin.



## ACTivate

This more comprehensive newsletter has been distributed since 2007, but was revamped in 2011, in line with the web development and branding. Currently ACTivate is produced on a quarterly basis and contains sustainability news, resources, appointments, opportunities and events, like enact, but the articles are more in depth. ACTivate is currently available to anyone that can download it from the ACTS website, which we actively promote to the sector. In the interest of sustainability no hardcopies are distributed.



# 11.0 Financial Position

ACTS is a member led organisation and our income is primarily generated from membership fees and registration to our annual conference. Our fees are tiered depending on the size of the institution or organisation. We have a range of institutional memberships as well as affiliate and corporate membership for sector support organisations and private business. All our membership fees, plus our annual conference registration can be found online at: [www.acts.asn.au/index.php/membership](http://www.acts.asn.au/index.php/membership). The fees will remain unchanged for 2012.

As we have grown as an organisation we have looked for opportunities to develop income streams for the benefit of our members. The launch of the LiFE Index in January 2012 has the potential to generate income for ACTS. In addition to this growth ACTS is also in the process of registering as an environmental organisation for DGR status, as agreed at the AGM in Adelaide 28 September 2011, as requested by the Queensland state treasury department. Further information will be forthcoming in future communications.

## 12.0 Plans for 2012

The ACTS team would like to thank all of its members, advisory board members, event sponsors and sector support contacts for their continued support and expertise to ACTS. We are very much a member led organisation and continue to work hard to provide more member benefits through access to expertise, resources and development tools.

2011 has been a tremendous year for ACTS with many positive changes in the way we look, communicate and position ourselves within the sector. We believe that the presence of ACTS is going from strength to strength as we continue to provide support and resources for members in the tertiary education sector.

In 2012 we have many exciting things to look forward to. Firstly, there is the launch of the LiFE tool which will allow institutions to track their sustainability performance and offer suggestions for improvement on their own sustainability journey. This also offers the opportunity for official accreditation through the scheme to allow you to get the most out of your LiFE journey. Secondly, we will also gain access to our international partner's resource banks which will open up a whole host of new, valuable information to institutions helping them with their sustainability issues. This will include various resources including guidance documents, best practice case studies, videos, news, events and much more.

26-28 September 2012 we look forward to our annual international conference and Green Gown Awards Australasia which will take place in Brisbane, Queensland. This is always a well-attended, much looked forward to event bringing you all the latest developments in the sector as well as the opportunity to learn from and network with like-minded colleagues and organisations. It's also an opportunity to be inspired, motivated and have fun and gain insights to take back to your institutions to help us spread the sustainability message.

Finally, the ACTS team would like to say thank you for all your help in 2011 and we look forward to another fun, fruitful and prosperous year for 2012.

### *The ACTS Team January 2012*

Most of the ACTS team, taken at the 2011 ACTS Conference





# ACTS<sub>INC</sub>

AUSTRALASIAN CAMPUSES  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

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