Partnership Agreement

Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) and
The Marine Education Society of Australasia Inc (MESA)

3 October 2006

Introduction
The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) and the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) have identified significant opportunities to work cooperatively to strengthen each association and the relationship between the associations through a Partnership Agreement.

Through this Partnership Agreement, the Associations recognise each other as independent and incorporated professional organisations, both working at national level to improve the quality and reach of environmental/sustainability education – including marine education. The agreed timeframe for this agreement is the three year period 1 October 2006- to 30 September 30 2009. An annual review will also be conducted.

Aims
The Partnership Agreement aims to assist both Associations to raise their profile and strengthen their independent and collaborative efforts. It will also enable AAEE and MESA to expand and improve services to their respective members.

Both MESA and AAEE believe that this Partnership Agreement and the collaborative actions that flow from it will strengthen our shared position as active Associations committed to sustainability education; it will profile a team, strategically marshalling resources, skills and influence in order to support members and advocate for sustainability.

Elements of the Partnership Agreement
Through this Agreement, both Associations will:

• Maintain a high level of services and benefits to members, including distribution of information and resources, holding cooperative meetings and convening a biennial conference involving both Associations where possible and appropriate.
• Promote and support greater coordination of sustainability education, environmental and marine education and improve the sharing of resources across Australia.
• Improve mutual communication channels and avoid duplication of efforts.
• Create networking and professional development opportunities.
• Advocate cooperatively, using the strength of combined membership numbers where appropriate.
• Conduct, badge, brand and promote joint events where appropriate.
• Collaborate in making joint bids for funding.
• Communicate key messages and principles of good practice education.
• Offer the opportunity for a representative to sit on each other’s Councils.
• Link websites.
• Consider the development of joint Awards for excellence in respective areas.
Publicity / Promotional Opportunities
As partners, the Associations will be recognised in promotional materials (where appropriate) and agree to share educational/curriculum materials associated with our work. Other publicity/promotional opportunities include:

- Use of our endorsement in consumer advertising and related promotional activity.
- Launch of our partnership at AAEE Bunbury Conference.
- Local media (photo and editorial) opportunities to profile our partnership.
- Inclusion of appropriate representatives at various media opportunities throughout the year.
- Media opportunities to feature in the announcement of major prize winners in each Association’s award programs.

Action
The signed Agreement signals the commencement of this collaborative work. A small team comprising two representatives from each Association (including at least one executive member) will meet to draft a 3 year action plan which will give effect to the elements in this Partnership Agreement. The action plan will need endorsement by both AAEE and MESA Councils.

About the Associations
1. The Australian Association for Environmental Education
The Australian Association for Environmental Education Inc. (AAEE) is the peak professional association for environmental educators in Australia. It has built strong relationships in Australia with government agencies, all levels of governments and a wide cross-section of non-government organisations. AAEE has a national executive (usually drawn on a rotational basis from one State or Territory) and a Chapter in each State and Territory. Chapter convenors (or their nominees) and the national executive comprise the AAEE Council, the governing body of the Association¹. AAEE has three Special Interest Groups (early Childhood, Teacher and Teacher Educators, DESD) that provide targeted support for members.

The objectives of the AAEE are to:

- Promote environmental education as defined by UNESCO/UNEP.
- Promote co-ordination among bodies engaged in environmental education and training;
- Co-operate and/or affiliate with any other bodies with similar aims for the more effective furtherance of these aims;
- Promote the co-operation of relevant voluntary organisations and statutory bodies, incorporated bodies and individuals
- Publish, distribute, and disseminate matters arising out of and in connection with association and its objects;
- Hold conferences, meetings, seminars and gatherings to promote the objects of the Association;
- Publish regularly a journal to promote the objects of the Association.
- Lobby and advocate for environmental education.

¹ Note that the 2006 AGM will consider a reorganization of the governance of the Association.
2. The Marine Education Society of Australasia Inc (MESA)
The Marine Education Society of Australasia Inc is a national organisation of marine educators that aims to bring together people interested in the study and enjoyment of coastal and marine environments. MESA provides a forum for the sharing of ideas to facilitate the development of leading environmental education programs with a coastal and marine focus. MESA also promotes the sustainable use of marine and coastal environments through education.

Key objectives of the MESA are to:

- Establish and manage a national network of marine environmental education professionals and stakeholders to ensure that better outcomes are achieved, resources are shared and ideas are exchanged.
- Support marine environmental educators in delivering best practice marine education.
- Successfully operate a marine education web portal, useful for marine and coastal education practitioners, community members and school students.
- Promote excellence in marine education in the Australasian region.
- Develop through its activities understanding, appreciation and action for the ecologically sustainable use and improvement of marine and coastal environments from the catchments to the deep sea.
- Provide a national forum and advocacy relating to marine education.
- Maintain and enhance networking among exponents and recipients of marine education in Australia.
- Encourage and contribute to international initiatives in support of marine education.
- Provide coordination and promotion for the National Seaweek marine education initiative that is conducted annually.
- Coordinate or support regional events in order to provide networking and professional development opportunities for marine educators and stakeholders.

Grahame Collier
President
AAEE
Date: 3/10/06

Angela Colliver
President
MESA
Date: 3/10/06