



## Talking up Biodiversity Workshop 1 Evaluation Report

### Introduction

The first of two workshops was held on October 14, 2010 at the Maiden Theatre in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. The workshop was a combination of presentations and interactive group work, see the agenda attached at Appendix 1. It was facilitated by Grahame Collier.

Thirty two people attended the workshop and twenty six people provided a completed evaluation form

### Overall rating of the workshop.

Participants were asked to describe the workshop using a choice of sixteen words. Half were positive word and half negative word. Participants were able to select as many as they wished.

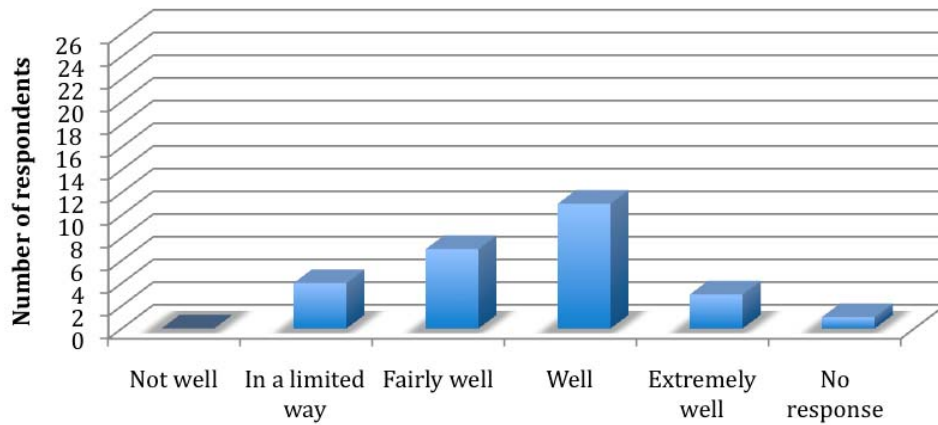
*No participants chose any of the negative words/phrases, which included such words as: 'useless', 'unnecessary' and a 'waste of time'. The most frequently chosen words were 'interesting' (21 respondents); 'enjoyable' (19); 'thought-provoking' (19) and 'satisfying' (10). Several participants also chose the words/phrases 'quality time', 'good' and 'down to earth' This is a very positive response.*

Participants were asked to score the workshop out of five (where one = poor and five = great). The average score given in this question was '4', meaning that most participants rated the workshop highly. No participant rated the workshop less than a three on this scale

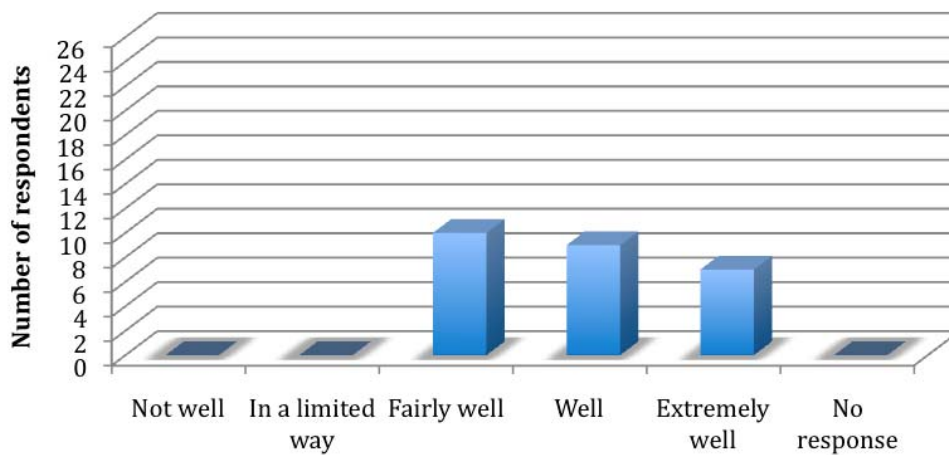
### Specific workshop objectives

The graphs below indicate how well people felt the objectives of the workshop were met. All objectives were well met, although 14% of participants felt that the first objective, relating to the 'science of biodiversity, was met only in a limited way. All other responses to all objectives were more positive than this.

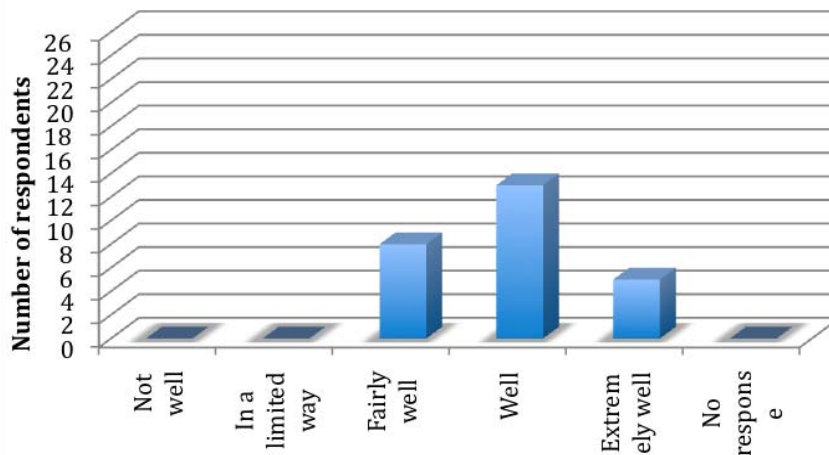
**Better understand the science of biodiversity in Sydney and what it means for programs that engage the community**

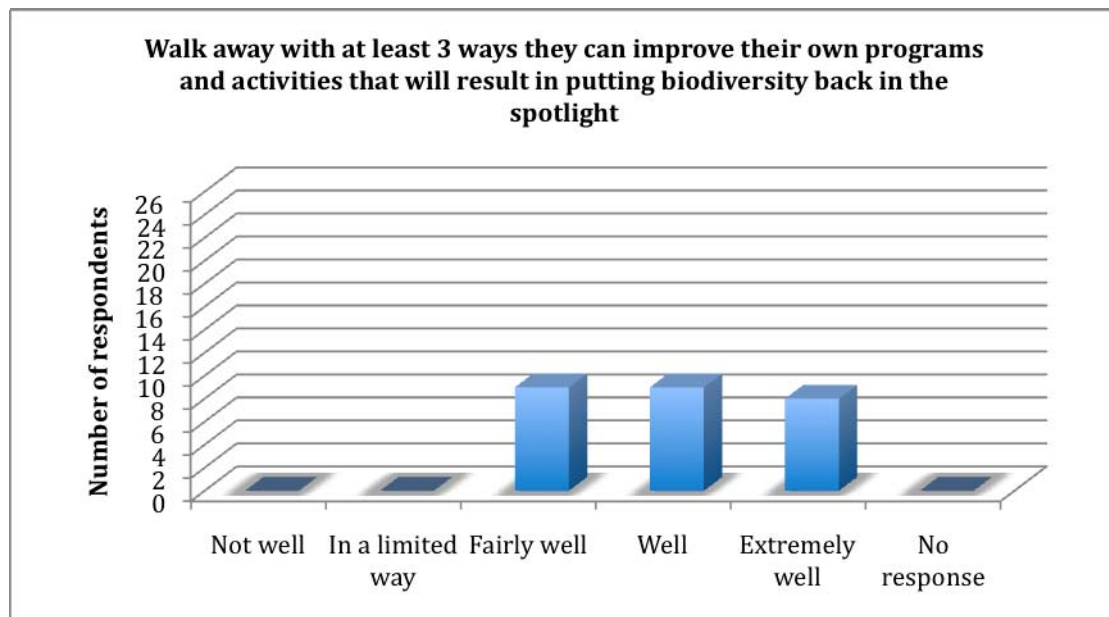


**Consider the programs of others and review these in light of their own efforts**



**Further improve their capacity to engage and communicate with the community about biodiversity**





### Suggestions for change

Participants were asked to indicate what they would change about the workshop. Responses are as follows:

- A speaker in the afternoon to break it up, a bit hard to concentrate for long period after lunch
- Vary Andrew Beattie's talk as I have heard it before
- Time to develop a specific program
- More group discussion on local examples,/programs/ methods
- Probably not focus on Mandela's leadership points so much
- Being able to get down to the "nitty gritty" detail about how to roll out your project or identify your priorities for the one you're representing
- Water!!
- Add opportunity to exchange contact details with others. .
- I would like to take away a printed summary of the day, similar to handy hints but more comprehensive (almost impossible I realise but you asked!)
- Closer to Wollongong
- No plastic plates Reusable plates and cups- no plastic!
- Sustainable catering, don't use disposable cups and compost food waste.

### The best ideas

Participants were asked to describe the best ideas they got from the workshop. Their responses, collated under headings, are as follows:

#### *Professor Beattie*

- Andrew Beattie's ideas and facts, especially on creatures.

- More science of biodiversity from Prof Beattie
- Great to hear Andy
- Lots of stuff from Andrew Beattie.

#### *Leadership - Stepping up*

- I am looking at home at how I can apply Mandela's strategies and how I already have without realising it.
- Linking my methods of educating about biodiversity to Mandela's mantra
- Mandela's leadership principles
- Enjoyed Nelson Mandela's leadership mantras
- Different approach education/engagement –coming at it from a different angle-empowering people leading from behind – encouraging champions
- Leadership points
- The idea of stepping stones rather than corridors.

#### *The case studies*

- Specific ideas from case studies. E.g. garden signs, calendars, home visits with plants etc. community engagement ideas
- General ideas from presentation
- Ideas from case studies which actually work –I don't have to reinvent the wheel.

#### *Engaging with the Community ideas/strategies*

- Engaging others both within the workplace and the community
- Other strategies for engaging the community and communicating successes
- Signs for front yards
- Successful grant writing techniques
- Catchment signage
- Environment/bushcare calendar
- Engaging young (primary schools)
- How to engage with the community and that I need to set priorities for the future
- About engaging/connecting.

#### *Specific activities*

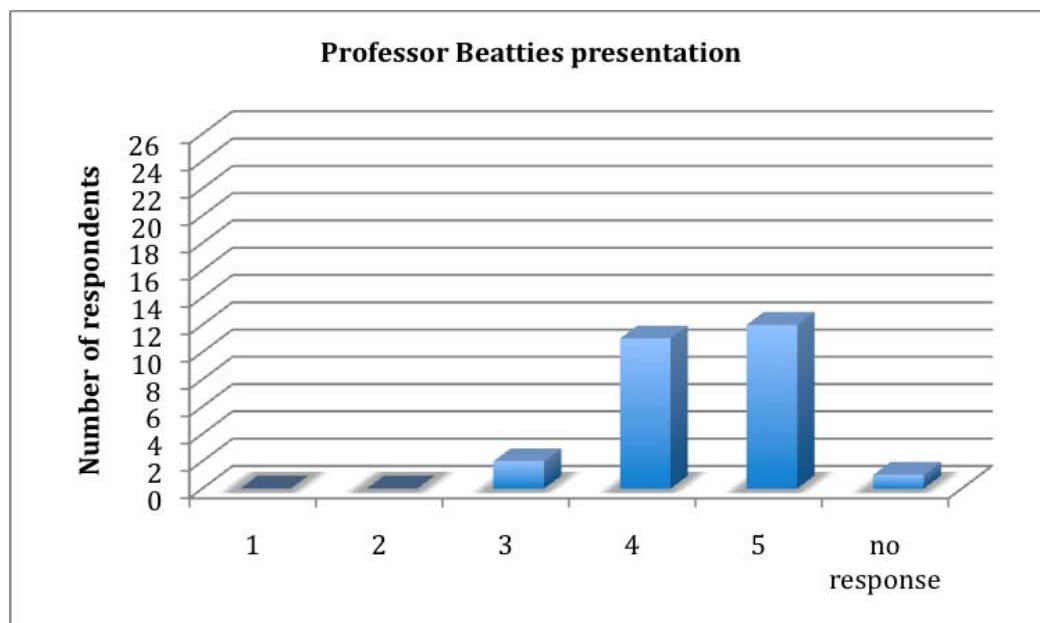
- The six people exercise was great
- Graduated responses
- Six-person line up technique.

### General responses

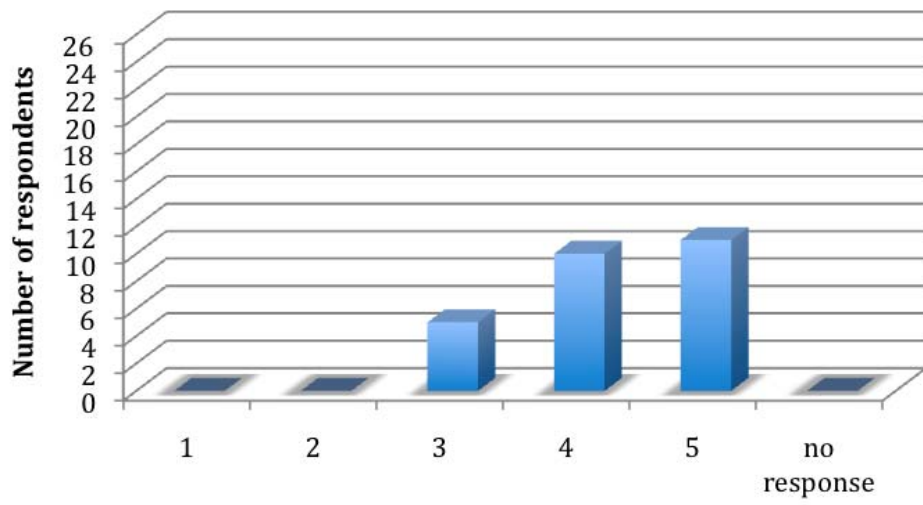
- Idea sharing in general was very beneficial
- Promotion of activities ideas
- How to teach/educate biodiversity science
- Liked the World Café activity –though I had to leave early
- Expanding my horizons toward biodiversity
- Monitoring projects
- Strategies to improve programs
- Meeting people from councils etc. that I will be able to use in projects next year.

### Specific Sessions in the workshop

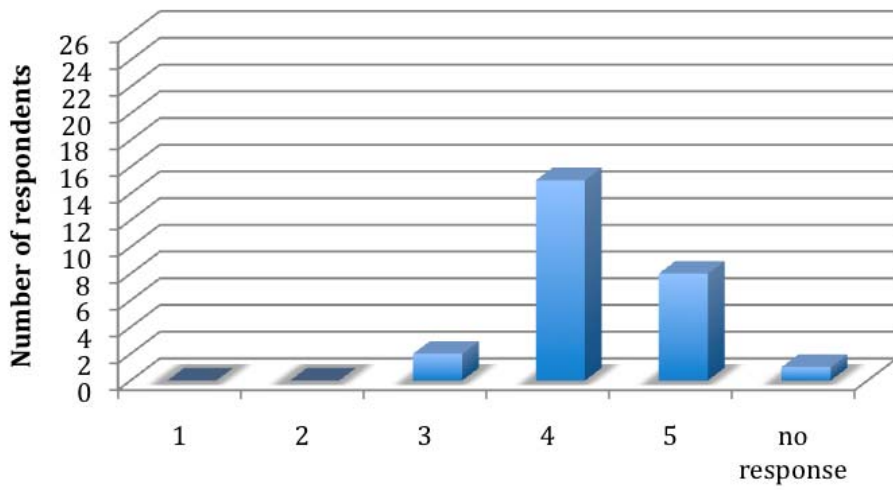
Participants were asked to rate specific parts of the workshop on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 equals very poor and 5 equals excellent. The graphs below indicate the results. In summary, Professor Beattie's presentation and the four case study presentations rated particularly highly. All sessions were well rated by most participants with no score less than three on a five point scale and over 80% of scores as a four or a five.



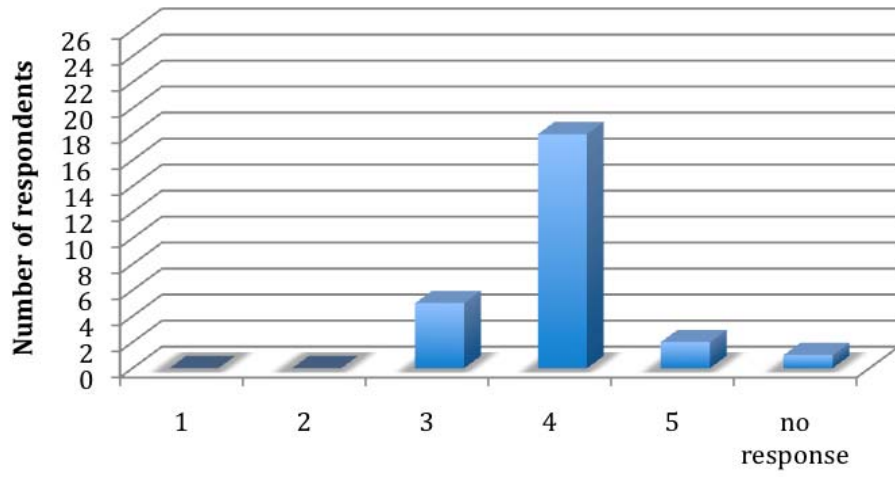
**Case studies**



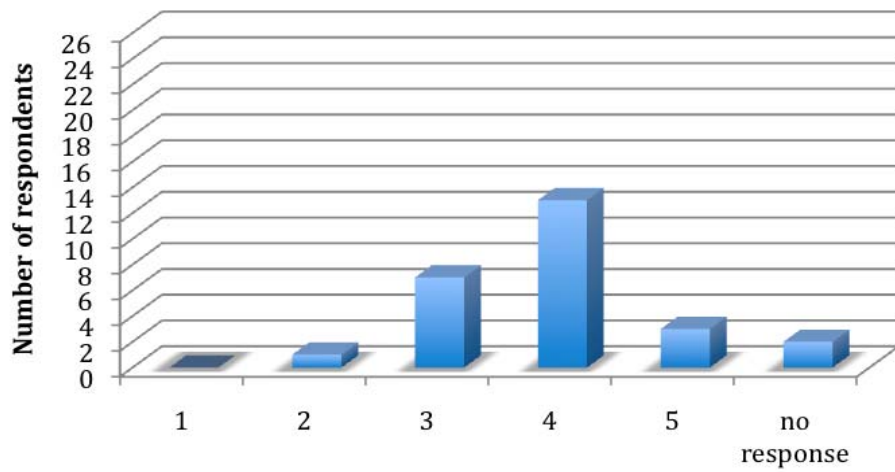
**Group work sessions (morning)**

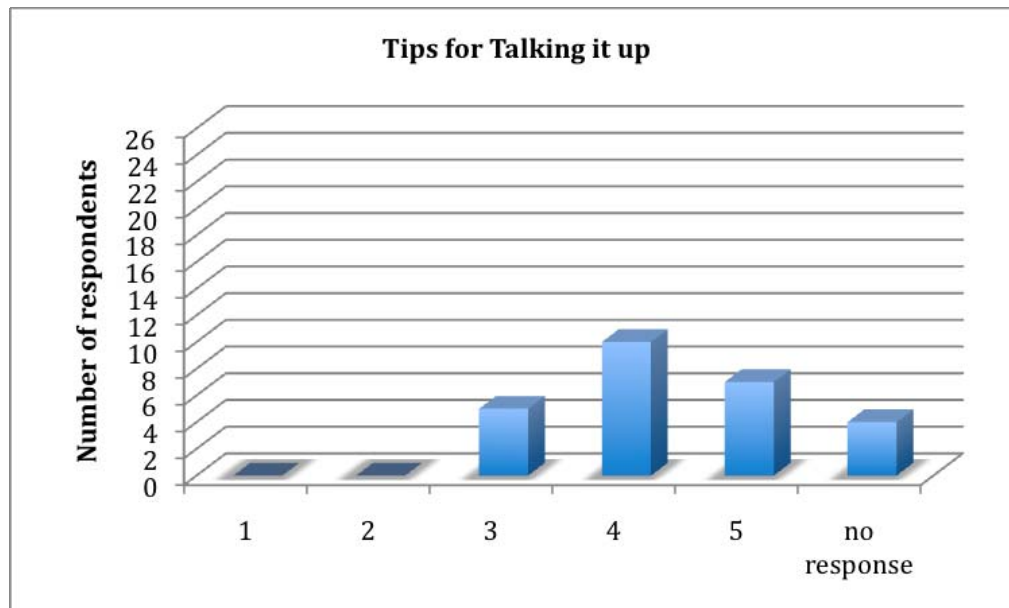


**World Cafe**



**Group work sessions (afternoon)**





### **Other comments**

All other comments relating to the workshop are listed below and in the main they are very positive

#### *Overall Quality of the workshop*

- It is nice that others are out there every day facing the same issues. That in itself is encouraging.
- Thanks
- Thanks Grahame, great to see you again
- Grahame was fantastic
- Fantastic workshop-thanks so much, I have come away with lots of ideas and enthusiasm
- I really enjoyed today, especially meeting other people passionate about the same things I am. I will definitely contact and work with some of them.
- Thank you so much for a very informative day. So much to do in so little time...
- Thank you for providing the workshop and especially at such a reasonable price
- Great to network with like-minded people outside of usual work environment.
- Well organised day.

#### *It would have helped if:*

- Caffeine drinks were available in the morning
- Recycled cutlery/plates
- I work at a council with little resources for biodiversity so more would help



- Bush tucker should be mentioned as key to encouraging biodiversity/Aboriginal landscapes.

## Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

- 9:00**            **Getting Started, Welcome, Introductions**
- 9:20**            **Presentation Professor Andrew Beattie : ‘Biodiversity in Sydney in 2010 and beyond – the issues, opportunities and challenges’.**
- 10:00**            **Applying the science to my program – Small/whole group discussion**
- 10:30**            **Morning tea**
- 11:00**            **Case study presentations:**  
Native Haven Program in North Sydney Council. Is it working?  
Ramin Khosravi. Bushland Project Officer  
  
Sustainable Illawarra Biodiversity Workshops and Events  
Alison Mellor. Previous Sustainable Illawarra Project Manager  
  
Yerambles - Bushcare and stormwater education  
Jenna Hore. Project Manager - Mid Georges River Sustainability Initiative  
  
Birds as Indicators  
Aimee Freimanis. Education Coordinator Birds Australia
- 11:50**            **Facilitated whole group activity – What’s in these case studies for my program? What do they mean for me?**
- 12:30**            **A taste of what’s in store this afternoon**
- 12:45**            **Lunch**
- 1;10**            **What do we mean by ‘talking up biodiversity’? – Communication, engagement and education; an overview and perspective**
- 1:30**            **Putting Biodiversity in the spotlight – identifying and finding solutions for the challenges.** A world cafe style activity where people identify challenges and work at and share solutions
- 3:00**            **A Working Afternoon Tea – Handy Hints for Communication/Education – Maximising the benefits, getting people to talk with others**
- 3:45**            **Workshop close, what did I learn, evaluation etc**