

Eco Camp Retreat (ECR), Northern NSW update

Stephen Armytage informs:

Since World Congress we have been working hard to complete the establishment phase of the ECR which now provides us with the capacity to run camp retreats for groups of up to 40 people on the ECR site. We consider that we have now achieved that objective and, in support of the achievement of that goal the ECR team of Marlena Bassar, Roland Fraval and myself, Stephen Armytage, successfully ran our pilot programme called "BEGIN" for 18 participants July 18 - 21st, 2019.

The objective of this initial BEGIN retreat was twofold the first was to test the facilities and infrastructure of the ECR to make sure that they were practical and appropriate, and the second, and materially more important, was to road-test our materials and approaches, to see if it's clear how the ECR can provide answers, structures and a framework to answer the question of "How can we create and contribute to a peaceful, harmonious and sustainable world". Please see the pdf invitation herewith to see more of what we were looking to position and achieve.

Thankfully we received some excellent feedback from all participants about the success of BEGIN 1, and some of this feedback was captured by some testimonials that we received from this 3 night event. You can watch these testimonials here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCf30ksXfE_Ies17iR6ZyHg?reload=9

As you will recall our proposal was for SES to help support the establishment of the programme curriculum and physical infrastructure for the first phase of the eco camp retreat, by helping us to fund volunteers and experts to provide assistance and, in return, we proposed to pay the SES funds back with interest. We are very pleased to confirm that we are now in a position to return these fund with interest to SESI. We are also pleased to share that, based on the strength of the feedback and experience we have gained from BEGIN 1, we are now planning to run other BEGIN programmes at the ECR, as well as developing future programmes that we are gleefully and cheerfully calling "CONTINUE", "SO ON" and "SO FORTH". We may need to look at our naming convention, but for the time being we are just pleased to continue in this important project.

Finally, I would love to say a HUGE thanks for the support and investment made by Hadrian, you Osanna, Harris, and the SESI and team, in what we believe will become an important project.

Much love,

Stephen

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