

New Economy Network Australia

Annual Report

2018-2019



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A note from our Chair

On behalf of my fellow members of the first New Economy Network Australia (NENA) Board, it is with considerable pleasure that I write a brief commentary on our progress, in the nascent stages of NENA's development.

We all share a common hope and expectation that NENA will continue to grow and develop to be a vibrant, influential and inclusive organisation. Into the future, we fully expect NENA to play a significant role in energising and connecting its current and prospective members. Our aims are lofty but eminently achievable. We want to catalyse and facilitate a movement at local, regional, State and Territory levels and be part of a global movement which is well-connected with and learning from and being inspired by many hundreds of thousands of people and organisations internationally.

We aspire that NENA will play a useful and effective role, along with other country and continental networks, in advocacy for and practice of a new, more equal and environmentally friendly economy – for the common present and future good of all. In doing so, we hope to ensure a brighter and better future for our children's children's children and for all living beings on our planet.

At this nascent stage of the development of NENA, we have created a foundation on which future Boards and members can build and strengthen NENA, to substantially grow our membership, to become financially and otherwise secure and to do the best possible job of consulting with and representing the common interests and aspirations of our members. We also trust and expect that we have provided a solid base on which to transition to the next stage – one which enables NENA

to engage paid staff to complement and co-ordinate the efforts of voluntary Board members and others. That won't be without its challenges, but we are confident it can and will be achieved.

On behalf of the other founding Board members, I want to give special thanks to our colleague, Michelle Maloney, whose boundless energy, vision and seemingly tireless commitment and ability to soldier on have been exemplary. In addition to also conveying thanks to all other founding Board members, special thanks and our gratitude must also be paid to Alan Greig for his enormous knowledge and attention to minutiae and important legal governance issues as we moved to formal incorporation and operation as a legal entity.

Together we go forward, not for our own personal benefit, but rather for a better and brighter future where the common good transcends all else.

One can't help but be really excited about that prospect. We can't wait, we must get on with it right now.

David Thompson AM
Chair, New Economy Network Australia

A note from our Coordinating Hub Manager

It has been a privilege to lead the coordination of NENA's activities in 2018-2019. NENA is a network run entirely by part-time volunteers, and it's been humbling to meet and work with people who are committed to building and contributing to a vision for an economic system focussed on achieving ecological health and social justice.

This year saw the development of our first Geographic and Sectoral Hubs, led by people who are experts in their fields, and who have been generous enough to donate their time to help bring people together around a shared vision for their local town and region, and/or the sector they work in professionally. The legal incorporation of NENA was also a huge achievement, and we're proud that NENA is now a cooperative, committed to the principles of mutuality and peer to peer support.

NENA has also grown its connections with international networks. We joined RIPESS – the Intercontinental Network of Social Solidarity Economies – in 2017 and are now also a founding member of the International Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

It's been fantastic to see the development and growth of the New Economy Journal, led by our wonderful volunteer Managing Editors, Duncan Wallace and Jacob Debets, based in Melbourne. A huge thank you must be extended to our website, NENA Directory and IT support team – James Lee and Liz Day. Without them, we wouldn't have such a fantastic base for sharing information and updates. And an equally huge thank you to Mark Bremner, our volunteer Membership and Outreach officer.

In the coming 12 months we look forward to growing our network's membership and regional activities and developing our Directory so that

people can find each other, learn from each other and continue to grow their own activities, and those of the network.

Dr Michelle Maloney

Founding Director and Manager, NENA Coordinating Hub



NENA Mission

The New Economy Network Australia (NENA) is a network of individuals and organisations working to transform Australia's economic system so that achieving ecological health and social justice are the foundational principles and primary objectives of the economic system.

NENA works to facilitate connections, showcase and promote innovative projects, build peer-to-peer learning and use collective strategies to create and advocate for change, so that we can build a strong movement of people demanding, creating and benefiting from a 'new' economy.

Foundational Principles

- **Ecological Sustainability:** That economic activity respects and operates within ecological limits, bioregional health and planetary boundaries, and also supports the regeneration of natural systems and recognises and upholds the inherent rights of nature to exist, thrive and evolve.
- **Social Justice:** That everyone can participate and benefit from economic activity in inclusive and equitable ways and that this requires working in solidarity to address the historical and ongoing marginalisation of certain groups by racism, imperialism, classism, patriarchy and other systems of oppression.
- **Democracy:** That economic decision-making is participatory, inclusive and transparent and emphasises collective stewardship and management of economic resources, activities and outcomes.
- **Place-based/ Emphasising Locality:** That building strong, local/place-based economies is important for Australia's communities; rooting wealth and power in place through localised economic activity.

- **First Nations People in Australia:** That working in solidarity with First Nations Peoples' is vital to creating a new economy in Australia. NENA acknowledges that the sovereignty of the First Nations People of the continent now known as Australia was never ceded by treaty nor in any other way. NENA acknowledges and respects First Nations Peoples' laws and ecologically sustainable custodianship of Australia over tens of thousands of years through land and sea management practices that continue today. NENA also acknowledges and respects the ancient, Earth-centred, steady state economic system that was created and managed by First Nations People across the continent for millennia. Australian society is in debt to First Nations People for many aspects of the modern economy.

Our History

NENA was launched as an informal network in October 2017 and was legally incorporated as a cooperative in January 2019.

The events leading up to the creation of NENA began in late 2015. In November 2015, Professor Bronwen Morgan (UNSW) and Dr Michelle Maloney (Australian Earth Laws Alliance) began planning a new economy conference for Sydney, in August 2016. The Conference was titled 'Building the New Economy: Activism, Enterprise and Social Change'. In the lead up to the event, and in sessions on the second day of the conference, work was done to begin a conversation about creating a new economy coalition or network in Australia. At the conclusion of the 2016 Conference, the participants (around 130 people) unanimously agreed that they would continue the work started at the 2016 conference; create working groups around themes and issues relevant to the broader new economy movement and meet again in 2017, to launch a network or group that would strengthen and support the new economy.

At the October 2017 Conference in Brisbane, the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) - was officially launched. During the following 12 months, the Volunteer Coordinating Hub helped facilitate more than 12 working groups, including a Governance Development Working Group, which spent more than 8 months researching and developing options for NENA's structure. The Governance Development Working Group consulted with all interested people on the NENA email list and developed a draft Constitution in late 2018, which was revised and finalised by the end of 2018. The Founding Steering Group became the first Directors when NENA was incorporated as a legal entity (a non-distributing/not-for-profit cooperative).

NENA Objectives 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 financial year was very important for NENA, as the foundations for the governance structure were finalised and a number of programs and platforms were created. The following primary goals were achieved:

- To co-host an Annual Conference in October 2018 for members of the network,
- To co-host several self-funding local and regional events around Australia,
- To legally incorporate NENA as a non-distributing (not for profit) cooperative,
- To invite and build NENA's paid membership base,
- To begin building NENA's Sectoral and Geographic Hubs, and
- To create the process for NENA's first elections, to be held in 2019-2020 financial year.

NENA Volunteer Team 2018-2019

Directors

Michelle Maloney
Bronwen Morgan
Jose Ramos
Darren Sharp
David Thompson

New Economy Journal

Managing Editors

Duncan Wallace
Jacob Debets

Geographic Hub

Coordinators

Kamaljit Singha
Adam Connell
Kevin Cox
Scotty Foster
Mark Bremner
Imogen Wells
Meaghan Burkett
Jeremy Schroder
Sharon Ede
Robert Crocker
JP Parker

Coordinating Hub

Michelle Maloney
Alan Greig
James Lee
Mark Bremner
Liz Day

Sectoral Hub

Coordinators

Elizabeth Makin
Antony McMullen
Elena Pereya
Angela Ballard
Nat Lowrey
Nick Rose
Haydn Washington
Michelle Maloney
Patricia Morgan
Steven Liaros
Emily Sims
Jonathan Cornford
Joel Orchard
Kevin Cox

NENA Activities in 2018-2019

1. Events and Network Building

2018 NENA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NENA and Sustain co-hosted the 2018 Annual NENA Conference in Melbourne, from 19 to 21 October 2018. More than 200 people attended, and speakers included Mary Graham; Alanna Irving, Sam Alexander, Eric Holt-Gimenez, David Holmgren, Morag Gamble, Michelle Maloney, Darren Sharp, Jose Ramos and more than 70 other speakers. The NENA website features a range of news articles and blogs reflecting on the success of the 2018 conference.

Photo Below: Melbourne Conference Organising Group



Above: Eric Holt-Gimenez and Eva Perroni, food systems experts and guest speakers. Below: Sam Alexander, guest speaker about degrowth and voluntariness





Photo above: East Gippsland Regional Symposium

REGIONAL SYMPOSIA

In the 2018-2019 financial year, NENA co-hosted two Regional Symposia. The goals of NENA's Regional Events are to invite members of local communities to come together to share updates about new economy activities with each other; to find out about and connect with NENA and where possible, find ways to collaborate on new projects and build NENA Geographic Hubs.

East Gippsland Symposium, April 2019

The two-day East Gippsland NENA Symposium saw more than 90 people attend the gathering and a wide range of local economic, social justice and conservation initiatives were shared and discussed, and guest speakers included Nick Rose from Sustain and Michelle Maloney from NENA.

Newcastle Workshop and MapJam, July 2019

The Newcastle Regional Event was a fantastic one day workshop, which brought 70 people together from around the region, representing dozens of organisations, to discuss social enterprises, environmental conservation projects and other projects in Newcastle.

Both Regional Symposia launched new Geographic Hubs in their respective regions of Australia.



Above: Newcastle NENA Symposium. Below: NENA's Volunteer Membership Officer, Mark Bremner assisting at the Newcastle MapJam



2. Peer to Peer Sharing

NENA WEBINARS

The NENA Coordinating Hub runs between 6-8 webinars each year, to help members of the NENA network come together ‘virtually’ for peer-to-peer sharing and to stay up to date with NENA activities and events.

In the 2018-2019 financial year, NENA Webinars were held on the following topics: ecological economics, the personal dimensions of working to create a new economy, education, food systems and post-extractivism. Webinars were also held to provide updates about the NENA Governance Development Process in late 2018 and early 2019.

NEW ECONOMY JOURNAL

In April 2019, Duncan Wallace and Jacob Debets, law graduates and NENA members based in Melbourne, volunteered to create and manage a new, online “New Economy Journal”. As the official journal of the New Economy Network Australia, each edition features material that supports the Network’s mission to transform Australia’s economy so that achieving ecological health and social justice are its foundational principles and primary objectives. Monthly editions have been published online, on the NENA website, since April 2019. Each edition includes around a dozen pieces, including feature articles, book reviews, blogs and more.

NENA DIRECTORY

The NENA Directory was created in late 2018 and enables people and organisations in the NENA network to list their organisation, business, project or initiative so that others can find out about their services and work. It’s free to add listings to the Directory, and NENA will be building the Directory over the months and years to come, to ensure it will be a

useful space for NENA members and supporters to find out about the amazing array of positive initiatives that exist around Australia.



3. Building Sectoral and Geographic Hubs

During the 2018-2019 financial year, the NENA Coordinating Hub created the NENA Hub Guide and shared it with the network email list for comments and input. Comments were received and the final version of the NENA Hub Guide was made available on the NENA website.

After NENA was incorporated, and membership was opened, new NENA Members formalised existing working groups into NENA Hubs and created new Hubs. The following Geographic Hubs have now been created: Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, North Queensland, East

Gippsland and Darwin. The following Sectoral Hubs have now been created: Ecological Economics, Housing, Indigenous Economics, Post-extractivism, Cities, Just Transitions, Law Reform and Legal Services, Arts and Culture and the Alternative Futures Research Hub and more are underway.

4. Partnerships

In addition to building a network and community of members and supporters of the new economy, NENA aims to develop strategic partnerships with academic and other institutions, to catalyse and support collaborative projects that help build the new economy.

MOU BETWEEN NENA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

The Alternative Futures Research Network (AFRN) in the Faculty of Education and Arts at the University of Newcastle (UON) signed a memorandum of understanding with NENA to establish a research hub based at the University of Newcastle (UON). The AFRN studies and promotes alternative modes of development beyond Carbon, Capital, Consumerism and (unsustainable) Growth with a focus on the prospects of inclusive development in Australian regional areas, particularly the Hunter Region.



5. International Networks

NENA is a founding member of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WE-ALL) and a member of RIPESS. NENA representatives participate in several WE-ALL working groups, including Member meetings, the Narratives working group and other initiatives. NENA aims to build its capacity to work with, share with and learn from international networks during the coming years.

6. Governance

INCORPORATION

After a comprehensive governance development process, coordinated from November 2017 to November 2018, a legal structure, constitution and organisational plan were developed for NENA. NENA was incorporated as a non-distributing cooperative, in Victoria under the National Cooperatives Law, in January 2019. NENA's first members were accepted in March 2019.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Steering Group of the emerging network, which had formed in November 2016, became the first Board of Directors for the legal entity incorporated in January 2019. Recognition and thanks go to Michelle Maloney, Bronwen Morgan, Jose Ramos, Darren Sharp, Alan Greig and David Thompson for volunteering on the Steering Group for several years, to guide the network to incorporation. Appreciation is also expressed to Sabrina Chakori, who volunteered on the Steering Group for several months in 2018. A special thank you is extended to Alan Greig, an original member of the NENA Steering Group, who did not become a Director of the newly incorporated entity this year, but who has continued to volunteer his time to support NENA's organisational development.

Financial Report

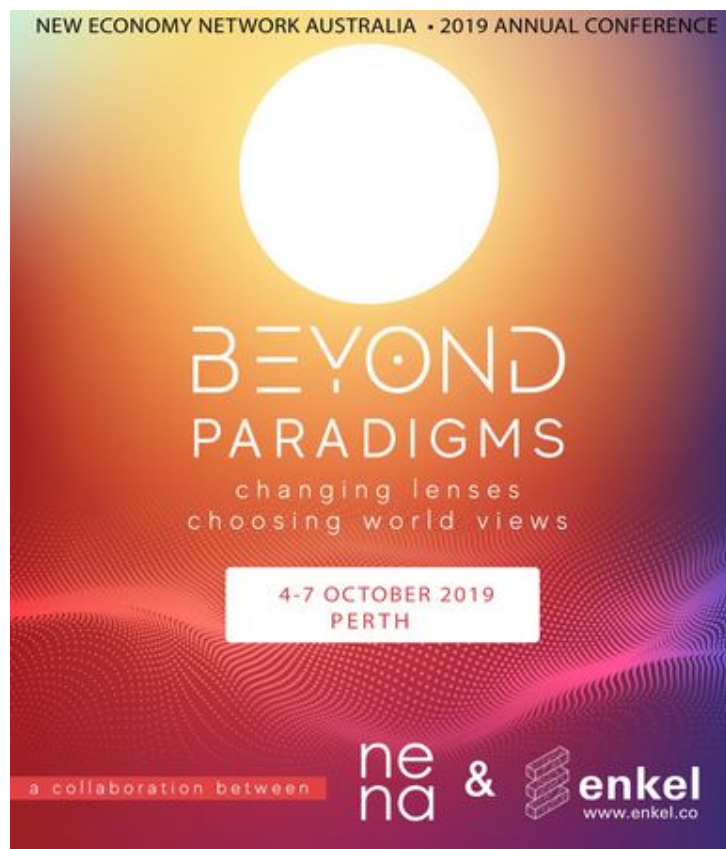
NENA was incorporated in February 2019, and a bank account was opened for NENA in March 2019. From March to June this financial year, NENA received membership fees and had no major outlays or expenses. All events organised by regional hubs were self-funding. A small reimbursement was made to the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA), for just part of the costs incurred by AELA in auspicings the creation of NENA.

NENA's first financial reports are at the end of this Report.

The coming year: 2019-2020

In the financial year July 2019 to June 2020, NENA is looking forward to:

- co-hosting the 2019 NENA Annual Conference with Enkel in Perth, from 4-7 October 2019
- commencing plans for the 2020 NENA Annual Conference, which will be held in Newcastle in October 2020 and will be organised by the NENA Coordinating Hub and NENA Newcastle Hub
- working with the International Wellbeing Economy Alliance to co-host a book tour and speaking tour for Katherine Trebeck
- co-hosting a major ideas festival called "Going Local: Hope in a Time of Crisis", with Local Futures/the Economics of Happiness, in Byron Bay from 20-22 March 2020
- hosting an exciting webinar series between February and November 2020
- continuing to build NENA's Sectoral and Geographic Hubs
- continuing to grow the NENA Directory and NENA Membership
- developing a range of research and education projects in partnership with the University of Newcastle, in accordance with the MOU created by NENA and UON in 2019



How you can connect with NENA

Become a member

Visit the membership page on our website:
<https://www.neweconomy.org.au/membership/>

Volunteer your time

Everyone's welcome to volunteer their skills and time to NENA. You can volunteer at any time. Just visit our Professional and Student Volunteer webpage on our website for the information.

Make a donation

As an unfunded organisation, NENA relies on memberships, donations and income from events, to run our programs. You can make a one-off donation or become a monthly donor. Visit our website for all the details.

Leave a bequest

If you would like to add NENA as a beneficiary to your will, please contact us anytime and we can assist with suitable wording for your documents.

CONTACT US

- Email: nenaneweconomy.org.au
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/neweconomyaustralia/>
- Visit our website: www.neweconomy.org.au



NENA's Financial Reports 2018-2019

NENA

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash - Everyday Account	2,836
Accounts Receivable (from AELA)	1,637
Total Current Assets	4,473
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Creditors (to AELA)	1,637
Total Current Liabilities	1,637
NET ASSETS	2,836
EQUITY	
Profit for the Year	2,835
Total Equity	2,835

NENA

Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$
INCOME	
Conferences and Workshops	-
Interest	1
Membership	2,835
Total Income	2,836
EXPENDITURE	
Catering	-
Printing	-
Stationary	-
Travel	-
Venue Hire	-
Total Expenditure	-
Total Income for the Year	2,836

NENA's Financial Reports 2018-2019

Bank Reconciliation

For the month ended 30 June 2019

Account Number: 166068148

Balance from Bank Statement	1,626.28
Add: Deposits	
Stripe	1,208.89
Direct Deposit	-
Interest	0.51
Total deposits	1,209.40
Total Additions	2,835.68
Less: Debits (Expenses)	-
Total Debits (Expenses)	-
Balance per books	2,835.68
DOUBLE CHECK	
Previous month's balance	1,626.28
Add: Cash receipts	1,209.40
Deduct: Cash disbursements	-
Reconciled bank balance	2,835.68
Difference between (4) and (8)	-

NENA

Profit and Loss Spreadsheet

	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	TOTAL
INCOME				
Membership	301.85	1,324.39	1,208.89	2,835.13
Workshop - Newcastle				-
Interest		0.04	0.51	0.55
TOTAL	301.85	1,324.43	1,209.40	2,835.68
EXPENSES				
Catering				-
Printing				-
Stationary				-
Travel - Flights				-
Venue Hire				-
MM Conference Costs				-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	301.85	1,324.43	1,209.40	2,835.68