

New Economy Network Australia

Annual Report

2019-2020



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Acknowledging First Nations Peoples

The New Economy Network Australia acknowledges that the sovereignty of the First Nations Peoples 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.

A Tribute to our Chairperson David Thompson AM



The New Economy Network Australia (NENA) wishes to express condolences to the family of David Thompson, former CEO of [Jobs Australia Ltd](#), Chair of [New Economy Network Australia](#) and Australian representative on [RIPESS - Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of](#)

[Social Solidarity Economy](#), who passed away during the night of Friday September 18. David is survived by wife, Rosemary and sons, Francis and Louis.

David had a long career and service to the employment sector as the CEO of Jobs Australia for 30 years. He had joined RIPESS in September 2004 and represented Oceania (Australia) on the RIPESS Board of directors since November 2005. He was also awarded Member of Order of Australia (AM) for services to employment and training in 2005.

David was instrumental in introducing NENA to RIPESS and linking the new economy movement in Australia to developments around the world. David was one of our original members of the NENA Steering Group, that was created after our first ever gathering in Sydney in August 2016, and was an incredibly generous and caring person, who supported the 'birth' of NENA and assisted with its ongoing organisational development.

We invite you to join with all of us on the NENA Board of Directors, to acknowledge David's hard work for the network, and to recognise David's commitment to benefitting Australian society and to building strong, positive relationships. David will be sorely missed by all of us, and his role in shaping the direction and culture of NENA as an organisation will always be appreciated and remembered.

Dr Michelle Maloney and Monique Potts, on behalf of the NENA Board of Directors, 2019-2020

Acting Chairperson's Report

It is challenging to write a report that would have been written by our wonderful Chair David Thompson, however on behalf of the Board of Directors I will do my best.

As a big fan, member and now Director of NENA for the past year it has been a great joy to see NENA grow from strength to strength, both in the size of the network as well as the depth of connections and engagement.

In this year of great challenge and devastating fires the importance of developing our local communities as thriving local economies with a focus on restoring our natural ecosystems and trusting in our neighbours and the common good has never seemed more important.

This year the seeds of a national Civil Society Strategy were planted and have now begun to sprout with a first draft to be made available at our annual conference this year. This strategy will be an important document to create a shared vision and direction of what we can achieve as a network to influence the social, political, cultural and economic direction of Australia. The urgent need to shift to an ecologically and socially just future is more critical now than ever.

In the past year NENA's membership has continued to grow to 280 individual members and 25 organisational members. Members have been leading and catalysing our geographic and sectoral hubs which are the foundation of our network. These networks are also extending to other like-minded organisations locally and internationally to develop strength in our growing solidarity for the challenges ahead.

The governance of the organisation has settled into its patterns and rhythms with the Board of Directors meeting monthly and the Strategic Development Group and Participatory Budget Group also finding their feet. We will continue to nurture these groups in the aim of providing a

transparent and de-centralised approach to governance to represent the interests of our members.

We hope in the next year to be able to develop some part-time paid positions to help coordinate and grow our network in order to influence change for a more equal and environmentally friendly economy. We also hope to grow our influence and impact on social and economic policy at a local, state and federal level.

On behalf of the other Board members, I want to give special thanks to our colleague, Michelle Maloney, whose big heart and commitment to continuing to build NENA into a thriving network continues to amaze us. Thanks also to Alan Greig for his ongoing support and advice to the board. Also to Meaghan Burkett and Andrew Ward for their hard work building the Participatory Budget Group this year, and Duncan Wallace for continuing to lead in the bi-monthly production of our NENA Journal. And a huge thanks to all of our board members for their commitment and hard work which has allowed NENA to continue to flourish despite challenging conditions.

In closing, these are the words from David Thompson from his report last year which we hope to continue to do justice to.

'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.'

Monique Potts

Acting Chair, NENA

A note from our Coordinating Hub Manager

This financial year has been a challenging but exciting year for the operations of the New Economy Network Australia.

The NENA Coordinating Hub works to keep people in our network connected, and supports Hub Members to host webinars and share ideas and information in a range of ways.

NENA hosted around 20 online webinars and meetings during the financial year, both to encourage the sharing of updates about specific themes and projects in the new economy, and also to stimulate discussions about the Civil Society Strategy for a New Economy.

One of the most exciting aspects of working to connect people within NENA, and to co-host webinars and events, is the opportunity to share the amazing work being carried out around the continent: from solar gardens to community gardens, from designing effective stories and narratives to communicate about the economy, to learning from First Nations knowledge, NENA offers a platform for listening to and learning from a diverse arrange of people, across a diverse array of fields of work. And seeing people's comments and input to the Civil Society Strategy has shown that everyone in the NENA network understands the importance of working in solidarity, to articulate, demonstrate, plan and work to create the new economy. We're all looking forward to 2020-2021 being a year of deepening our connections and extending our work from the foundations of our first Civil Society Strategy, to take NENA into its next stage of activity and achievements.

Dr Michelle Maloney
Co-Founder, 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. Our membership system was created in April 2019, and we now have an active website, that shares our history, mission and current events and activities.

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 2nd Annual NENA conference was held in Melbourne in 2018 in conjunction with Sustain Australia under the theme 'Creating the New Economy for the Common Good'. The Founding Steering Group became the first Directors when NENA was incorporated as a legal entity (a non-distributing/not-for-profit cooperative).

A successful 3rd Annual NENA Conference "Beyond Paradigms" was held in 2019 in Perth and coordinated by local group and NENA member, Enkel Collective. Following the conference NENA's first AGM was held with the appointment of a board of Directors and the creation of a Participatory Budget Group (PBCG) and Strategic Development Group (SDG). The Participatory Budget Group has been exploring methods and tools for decentralised budget management across the hubs and organisation, while the Strategic Development Group has been facilitating online discussions about the NENA Civil Society Strategy, in collaboration with the geographic and sectoral. There has been a strong focus on engagement and education with a number of strategic partnerships being formed between NENA and other organisations with aligned goals nationally and internationally including the Museum of the Future (Sydney), University of Newcastle, Griffith University and a variety of events around Australia.

NENA Objectives 2019-2020

In the 2019-2020 financial year NENA was able to consolidate its foundational governance structure and continue to build a strong decentralised structure for network and engagement at a local, (bio)regional and national level.

The following primary goals were achieved:

- To co-host a successful Annual Conference in October 2019 in Perth, in partnership with Enkel,
- To hold our first AGM and elections as a non-distributing (not for profit) cooperative,
- To host webinars and online discussions across the network, to begin to shape a National Civil Society Strategy,
- To grow NENA's paid membership base to over 300 members,
- To continue to build and develop NENA's Sectoral and Geographic Hubs,
- To launch NENA's first new economy education course (online), in partnership with the Yunus Centre, Griffith University,
- To build strategic partnerships nationally and internationally, and
- To host monthly online webinars by our network (our Hubs) for our network. These online events were particularly important as COVID19 made it impossible to host 'in person' events for most of 2020.

NENA Volunteer Team 2019-2020

NENA has been fortunate to have an amazing and growing team of volunteers to support its work again this year. A huge thanks to all of the following people:

Nena Board of Directors

Michelle Maloney, Bronwen Morgan, Darren Sharp, David Thompson, Meaghan Burkett, Duncan Wallace, Andrew Ward

NENA Co-ordinating Hub

Michelle Maloney, James Lee, Mark Bremner, Liz Day, Rhiannon Hardwick

Participatory Budget Group (PBG)

Meaghan Burkett, Bronwen Morgan, Andrew Ward

Strategic Development Group (SDG)

Michelle Maloney, Steve Liaros, Andrew Ward, Mark Bremner

NENA Regional Hub Coordinators

- Canberra Hub - Kevin Cox, Scotty Foster, Jane Goodall
- Melbourne Hub - Mark Bremner, Imogen Wells
- Newcastle, Hunter and Central NSW Hub (New South Wales) - Meaghan Burkett, Ann Apps, Sidsel Grimstad
- Northern Territory Hub - Kamaljit K Sangha, Louise Harrison
- North Queensland Regional Hub (Queensland) - Tim Lynam, Sarah Funkhouser
- Perth Hub - Al Connolly, Adam Jorlen, Kate Biondo
- Sydney Hub - Monique Potts, Bronwen Morgan

Nena Sectoral Hub Coordinators

- Arts & Culture - Catherine van Wilgenburg
- Cities & Urban Communities - Steve Liaros and Emily Sims
- Commons – Jose Ramos
- Cooperatives - Antony McMullen
- Democracy and Governance - Meaghan Burkett
- Ecological Economics - Haydn Washington and Michelle Maloney
- Education - Phil Jones, Michelle Maloney and Sidsel Grimstad
- Energy - April Crawford-Smith
- Faith Groups - Jonathan Crawford
- First Nations Economics - Ross Williams and Anne Poelina
- Food - Joel Orchard and Nick Rose
- Health - Clare Mullen and Rashmi Patel
- Housing - Elena Pereya
- Inner Dimensions & Healthy Cultures - Michael Berney
- Just Transitions - Kimberley Croft and Meaghan Burkett
- Law Reform and Legal Services - Lyb Makin and Michelle Maloney
- Localisation - Tracey Cooper and Michelle Maloney
- Money & Local Currencies - Kevin Cox and Simon Cole
- Post-extractivism - Natalie Lowrey and Michelle Maloney
- Research Hub - Hamed Hosseini and Bronwen Morgan
- Rural & Regional Economies - Kamal Sangha and Adam Connell
- Women in the New Economy – Sara Motta

NENA Activities in 2019-2020

1. Events and Network Building

2019 NENA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New Economy Network Australia (NENA) and the Enkel Collective hosted the 4th Annual NENA conference in October in Perth, Western Australia.

The overarching focus of the conference was “Beyond Paradigms,” which explored how meeting the unique and urgent challenges facing humanity in the 21st century calls for new approaches, an openness to exploring worldviews other than our own, clarity in our communications, collaboration, and practical ways to navigate the ever-increasing complexity of our times. The conference had a strong theme of appreciating the vision and value of Indigenous culture and economies as a ‘first’ economy with contributions from Maar Koodjal (Two-Hands) and other elders and community.



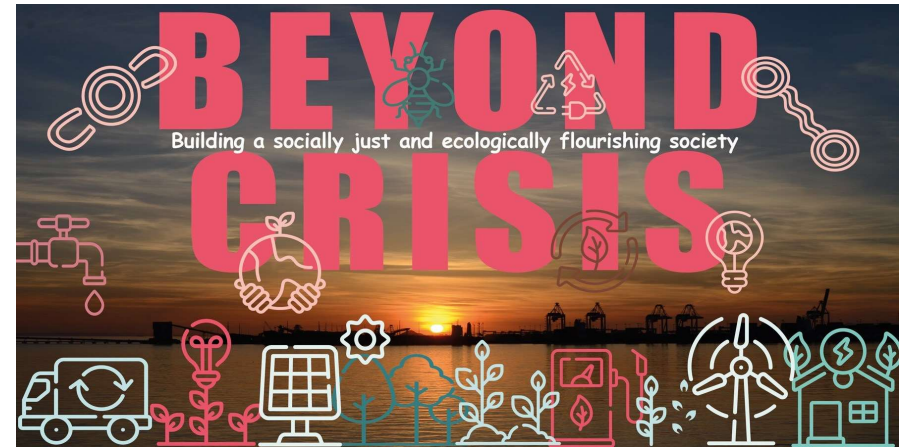
Fair night at Enkel Collective's newly opened space in Fremantle



EVENTS AND SYMPOSIA

Going Local - Hope in a time of Crisis Webinar, March 2020

This conference - co-presented by NENA with The Economics of Happiness/Local Futures - was planned for Byron Bay in March 2020 but later transformed into an online event due to COVID. It brought together pioneering thinkers and activists from the worldwide localization and 'new economy' movements, including Charles Eisenstein, Damon Gameau, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Dr. Michelle Maloney, Mandy Nolan, Ella Rose Goninan, and Ella Noah Bancroft. It also included a focus on First Nations knowledge systems and economic approaches, featuring Mary Graham, Kombumerri elder, and many other speakers.



Beyond Crisis - Building a socially just and ecologically thriving society

In response to the challenges of the bushfires and COVID-19, NENA partnered with Pingala, The Valley Centre, Future Dreaming and the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AEL) to host a week of webinars in August 2020 reflecting on where we've been and where we are headed.

The focus of this webinar series was to share positive stories to inspire Australians to see the power of local communities and economies. Led by the wisdom of First Nations peoples, our online talks and discussions showcased ground breaking initiatives from all sectors of Australia, bring the philanthropic sector together with participants, and foster listening, sharing, collaboration and strategies "Beyond Crisis".

2. Peer to Peer Sharing

NENA WEBINARS

The NENA Coordinating Hub ran regular webinars this 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. These webinars have helped to build engagement and strengthen networks particularly in the sectoral hubs this year.

In the 2019-2020 webinars were held on the following topics:

- 'Green new deal' and its relevance in Australia
- What is community supported agriculture (CSA) and how can we get involved (Food Hub)
- An update from the International Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WeALL)
- Futures thinking for a sustainable economic future
- Australia's first large scale solar garden (Energy Hub)
- Citizens assemblies in the new economy (Democracy and Governance Hub)
- Protecting and nurturing our affected communities (Commons Hub)
- A commons response to the pandemic (Commons Hub)
- Arts and culture in the new economy (NENA Arts & Culture Hub)
- Communicating about the new economy (NENA Narrative Hub)
- Localisation - how Australia can build strong local economies: lessons from around the world
- Human health in the wellbeing economy (NENA Health Hub)

A series of webinars were also held to engage members to participate in the development of the National Civil Society Strategy for a New Economy

NEW ECONOMY JOURNAL

Since its launch in April 2019, NENA members Duncan Wallace and Jacob Debets have been busy establishing and growing the 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.

The Journal highlights, documents and disseminates information about what is happening in the New Economy movement in Australia and around the world. It encourages discourse and debate, facilitates connections, and produces a historical record in the process.

In its first Volume (2019) the journal published 8 issues and its second Volume (2020) is now up to Issue 5. The Journal has established its presence as a hub and inspiration for both academics and practitioners working in the new economy space. 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. More than a dozen sectoral hubs have now been created, and information about each Hub can be found on the NENA website.

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. NENA continued to work with colleagues at the University of Newcastle, with whom NENA has a partnership MOU. NENA also began collaborating with Griffith University, on its education course.

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

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 and a Board of Directors was appointed at the first AGM in November 2019.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors for 2019-20 were involved in shaping and building the foundational structures and processes for the network as it continues to grow its membership and impact. Recognition and thanks go to Michelle Maloney, Bronwen Morgan, Darren Sharp, David Thompson, Meaghan Burkett, Andrew Ward and Duncan Wallace for forming the first NENA board. A special thank you is extended to Alan Greig who

continues to volunteer his time to support NENA's board and organisational development.

7. NENA Civil Society Strategy

In 2019-2020 NENA's Strategic Direction Group worked to host online discussions to start framing how our members can co-create a vision and action plan for contributing to the transformation of Australia's economic system. Six online discussions were held in 2020, and many hubs used the templates provided by the SDG to share their ideas and contribute to the draft document that will be shared at the NENA Conference in late November 2020.

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

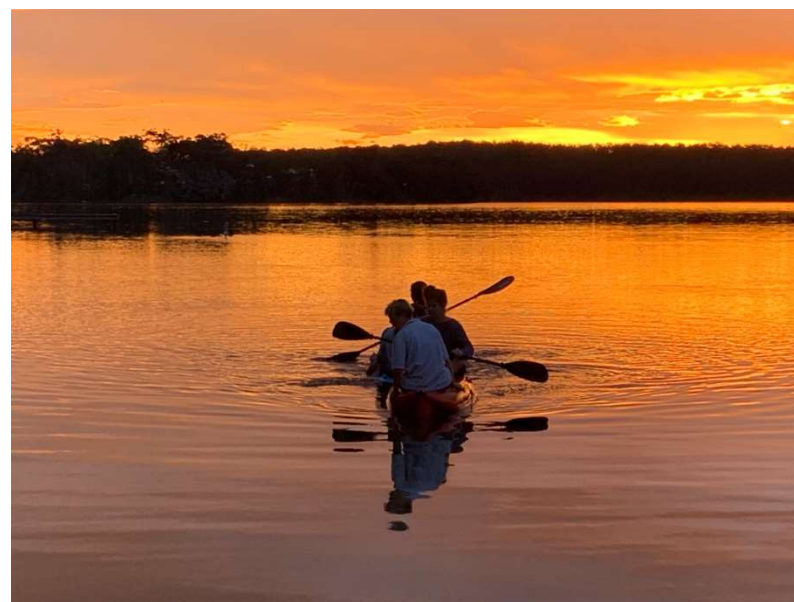
As an unfunded organisation, NENA relies on memberships, donations and income from events, to run our programs. You can make a one-off donation or become a monthly donor. Visit our website for all the details.

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



NENA's Financial Reports 2019-2020

Financial Year 2020

INCOME

Membership fees	\$ 6,427.74
Paypal	\$ 0.10
Interest Income	\$ 4.26
Conferences and events	\$ 10,199.61
	<u>\$ 16,631.71</u>

EXPENSES

Insurance	\$ 2,463.13
Conferences and events	\$ 9,690.65
IT Fee	\$ 45.00
	<u>\$ 12,198.78</u>

Net Profit	<u><u>\$ 4,432.93</u></u>
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Balance Sheet as at 30/6/2020

Cash at Bank	\$7,268.61
Undistributed surplus	-\$7,268.61
Net	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$0.00</div>