

Sara Rickards

www.sararickards.co

Founder, Reunion - June 2019 - Present

Reunion is a digital campsite of workshops, storytelling, sense making and collective wisdom to help us dreamweave and co-design a regenerative future. www.reunion.earth

Achievements:

- Vote for the Planet Campaign: In just the 7 days leading up to the federal election, our website had over 500,000 page views (with zero budget) . We obtained media coverage nationally and internationally including on the BBC news. Encouraged parties to change their public climate policies. The top 25 viewed electorate guides had swings to the parties we suggested, except for Kooyong.
- Rise Up: is part self-transformation course, part think tank/action tank and part community builder. It's a journey of deep enquiry over a 4 week right of passage - with 130 alumni produced in 4 months.

Director, Futuregiving – Sep 2016 – Present

Futuregiving is a social business specialising in sustainability consulting - impact analysis and measurement, business model development, education programs and creating interdisciplinary teams to solve complex systemic problems for the world www.futuregiving.co

Achievements:

- Various viral campaigns such as #attnscottmorrison (reach 5MIL in 3 weeks with no budget)
- Impact on 10,000 people globally, from 30 countries in 24 hours through one initiative.
- Secured seed funding for RePurpose for Good (a recycled plastic prosthetic education centre) and winner of the People's Choice award at Pitch@Palace

Skills & Responsibilities: Operations; human resourcing; finance; facilitation; strategy; coaching; advising; social impact measurement; evaluation; website management; events; marketing; project management.

Program Manager & Coach – Centre for Sustainability Leadership – Feb 2017 – Nov 2018 (contract)

The Centre for Sustainability's Future Makers Fellowship, is based on rigorous academic research and business best practice. The program features industry leading curriculum while employing innovative and experiential pedagogy – delivering both personal and professional development www.csl.org.au

Achievements:

- Leading the 2018 program and business model redesign.
- Management and mentoring of 20 industry leaders.
- Management of a 45-person transformational communication and media retreat.

Skills & Responsibilities: Operations; program & curriculum development; event management; volunteer recruitment & management; speaker recruitment; staff on boarding; strategy; budgeting; business development; marketing; facilitation; coaching.

Education for Sustainability Manager, Macquarie University – Apr 2015 – Sep 2016

Mapping and embedding sustainability into every degree at the University, with the objective of creating a sustainability skill set and mindset for 40,000 graduates.

Achievements:

- Implementing the Education for Sustainability Initiative into 12 degrees, working with over 200 academics across departments and disciplines in 1.5 years.

- Presentation of approach nationally and internationally and on the TEDx platform.

Skills & responsibilities: Strategy development and implementation; stakeholder engagement; guest lectures; conference presentations; curriculum development; reporting; budgeting.

Sustainability Project Manager, Macquarie University - Jun 2014 – Apr 2015

Management of various sustainability projects, across university structures and departments

Achievements:

- Campus waste tender management (\$1.5million contract, servicing 40,000 people).
- 20% annual saving on waste management contract.
- Waste to energy research project and organic diversion pilot.
- 5 successful grant applications valued at \$122,500.

Skills & responsibilities: Grant writing; contracts; sustainability reporting; advising learning and teaching strategy and sustainability strategy; budgeting; team development; compliance.

Eco-Footprint Analyst, Macquarie University - Jan 2013 – Jun 2014

Ecological footprinting of Macquarie University campus, buildings and refurbishments.

Achievements:

- Campus ecological footprint methodology development and detailed ecological footprint assessment of 33 existing buildings.
- 2030 One Planet master plan (\$2.9Billion program of capital works) and One Planet refurbishment pilot (\$84K (7% project budget) capital savings achieved and 204 global hectares of embodied energy saved).
- One Planet findings used for sustainability design guidelines, for refurbishments and new builds.

Skills & responsibilities: Benchmarking of other universities; sustainability master plan; sustainability annual review; sustainable design; data analysis; project management; team management.

Chief Analyst, The Footprint Company - July - December 2013 (contract)

Ecological Footprinting analysis projects for Harvard University, James Cook University, Australand, MGM Resorts and the GPT group.

Achievements:

- Campus ecological footprint deployed across 40 universities globally.
- Presentation of design methodology, impact and strategy, nationally and internationally.

Skills & responsibilities: Quantity surveying of new and existing buildings; sustainability design recommendations and environmental impact assessments; account management; software training.

Education

Climate Reality Leader - Climate Reality 2020

Regenerative Practitioner – Regenesis 2017

Adaptive Leadership – Harvard University 2016

Disruptive Design Fellowship – Un-school of Disruptive Design 2016

Permaculture Design Certificate – Milkwood 2016

Sustainability Leadership Fellowship – Centre for Sustainability Leadership 2015

MBA – Macquarie Graduate School of Management 2015 – Present

Master of Environmental Engineering - University of New South Wales, 2010-2012.

WAM: 87 (High Distinction)

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Dist) - University of Newcastle, 2005-2010

WAM: 85 (High Distinction)

Invited Honorary Roles

Keynote Speaker – MGSM Leadership Club 2017, Purpose 2018, MGSM International Womens Day, 2019, Newkind Festival 2018 & 2019

Ambassador – Plastic Free Manly - Swap for Good 2017 - Present

Co-host – Disruptive Design Emerging Leaders Fellowship 2016

Guest Speaker – Centre for Sustainability Leadership Fellowship 2016

Coordinator – [Women's Wellness Retreat Laos](#) 2016

TEDx Speaker – '[How to ninja-ner a sustainable future](#)' 2015

Associate Editor - *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education* 2015

Scientific Committee Member – Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme 2015

Chair – World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities 2014

Peer Review – *Journal of Environment, Development and Sustainability* 2014

Contributor – United Nations Green Campus Toolkit 2014

Grants & Funding

- 2017 Repurpose For Good Crowdfunding - \$10,000
- 2015 Office of Learning and Teaching Grant - Aligning business education with industry expectations on employability and sustainability - \$40,000
- 2015 Macquarie University Extension Grant - Interdisciplinary Approaches to Embedding Sustainability into Curriculum - \$ 10,000
- 2015 Strategic Priority Grant – Integrated literacies project - \$29,500
- 2014 Strategic Priority Grant - Integrating Sustainability as an Interdisciplinary Concept - \$40,000
- 2014 Macquarie University Professional Development Grant - \$3,000

Publications & Conference Proceedings

Breyer Y, Tan L, Denby L, **Rickards** S, Zaheer H. (2017) *Aligning business education with industry expectations on employability and sustainability*. Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Denby L, & **Rickards** S. (2015) An Approach to Embedding Sustainability into Undergraduate Curriculum. *Teaching Education for Sustainable Development at University Level*, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Rickards S, Hocking C, Westrup J. (2015) Practical Ways to Shape, Assess and Track Sustainability Education in Universities. *Proceedings of the 15th International Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference, Geelong, Australia*

Denby L, & **Rickards** S. (2015) The 'anyone can use this' framework for embedding EfS into curriculum. *Proceedings of the 15th International Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference, Geelong, Australia*

Rickards S, Howitt R, Suchet-Pearson S. (2014) Ecological Footprinting as a Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approach to Complete Campus Engagement and Transformation Towards the One Planet Goal. *World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities*, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Rickards S, Bekmann H, Howitt R. (2013) Embedding Ecological Footprinting into Curriculum as a Tool to Engage Students, in *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*, Nashville Tennessee

Howitt R, & **Rickards** S. (2013) Complete Campus Engagement via Embedding Ecological Footprinting Curriculum. *Proceedings of the 13th International Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference, Sydney, Australia*.

Bekmann H, **Rickards** S, & Noller C. (2013) Ecological Footprint benchmarking of 40 Tertiary Education Campuses. *Proceedings of the 13th International Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference, Sydney, Australia*.