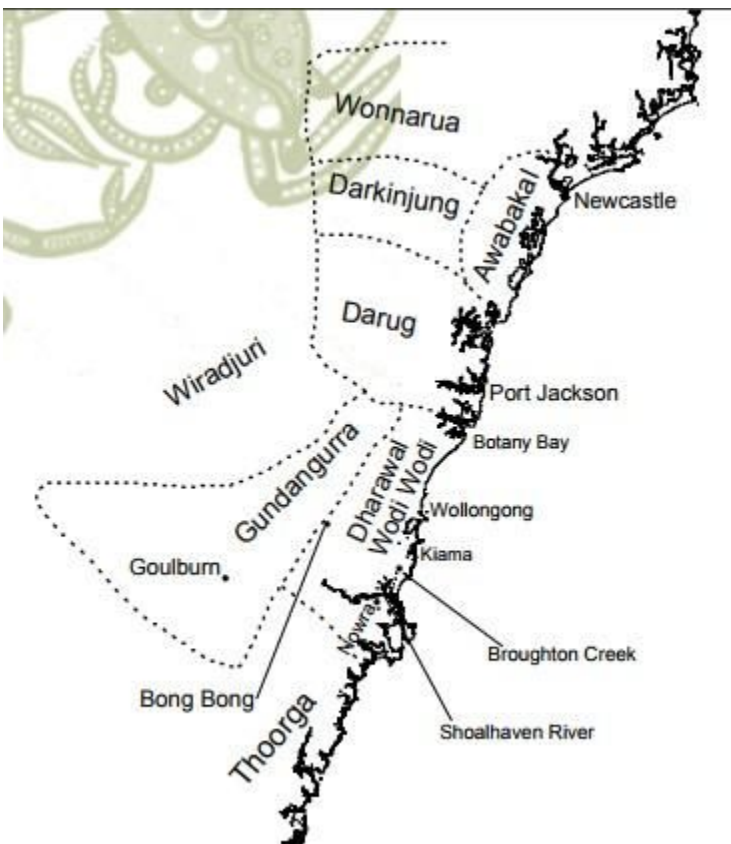




WHOSE LAND R U WALKING ON?

This year's Training Camp is being held on the traditional country of the **Dharawal people**. **Dharawal country** extends from **Kamay** (Botany Bay) and the **Tuceroah River** (Georges River) in the north to **Nowra** and **Booderee** (Jervis Bay) in the south, and west to **Campbelltown**, **Camden** and **Bowral**. If you live or spend time in the Illawarra, Kangaroo Valley or in south or south-west Sydney, you are on **Dharawal land**. We would like to pay respects to the traditional owners of this place, and thank them for welcoming us to their beautiful country. We would also like to extend this respect to all the Aboriginal people who have taken time to contribute to this year's Training Camp.

Aboriginal nations around Sydney



Some local history

Dharawal people managed their country for tens of thousands of years before the British invasion in 1788. They made a living from the rich resources of the area, including a wide variety of native fruits, vegetables and herbs, animals like kangaroos and emus as well as fish and seafood from the rivers and beaches. **Dharawal** people made canoes for transport and manufactured a wide range of tools and ceremonial objects, as well as building houses and villages from wood and bark. They used fire to assist in hunting, and to prevent the build up of fuel that causes dangerous bushfires today. Their kinship and totem systems blended people's relationships with each other with their relationship to the environment, creating a sustainable and fair society where everybody had a role to play in caring for the country and everyone had their needs met.

Dharawal people first encountered the British in 1770, when Captain Cook's men shot and injured a **Gweagal** man named **Cooman** at **Kamay** (Botany Bay). Cook stole some artefacts from the **Gweagal people** and sent them back to England, along with his thoughts about the best location for a full-scale invasion. These artefacts, including **Cooman's** shield with a bullet hole still in it, remain in possession of the British Museum who have refused to return them. After 1788, **Dharawal** people suffered the loss of their lands as the colony rapidly expanded. Pastoralists, whalers, loggers and other intruders set about destroying the environment and attempting to drive the **Dharawal** people off their country. Near Appin in 1816, soldiers and pastoralists killed at least 14 people by shooting them and driving them off a cliff. As a result of violence, introduced diseases (including smallpox which was deliberately spread as a biological weapon) and the loss of food resources, the **Dharawal** population was reduced from 3000 people in 1830 to under 100 people a decade later.

Despite this attempted genocide, the **Dharawal** community has survived and many **Dharawal** people continue to live on their ancestral country. Aboriginal people in south-west Sydney continue to practise their culture and connect with the land through dance programs, language revival, fishing and gardening. Every year on the 17th of April, the community commemorates the victims of the **Appin Massacre** at Cataract Dam. The community has thrived in recent years, establishing services such as the **Tharawal Land Council** and **Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation** who run a healthcare service, childcare and family support services, a fresh fruit and vegetable delivery program for local Aboriginal families and other services.

Wherever we go in this continent, we are on Aboriginal land. The struggle for environmental justice must start with justice for Aboriginal people. What do you know about the Aboriginal history and the Aboriginal community where you're from?

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Welcome to ASEN Training Camp !

Training Camp has become an enduring tradition, whereby ASEN activists from across the



country gather each January, to share and acquire skills, as well as plan future political actions and environmental campaigns together.

Training Camp provides a space for new people to gain organisational, political, theoretical and practical knowledge and build our collective capacity in creating social change. ASEN Training Camp has helped many people, over many years, become equipped with skills and ideas that have informed their own and others' political practices within and beyond ASEN.

We hope that through participating in the various workshops planned, this Training Camp will give you the tools you need to get a bunch of people together, choose a project, and attempt to make some grassroots social change. We hope that the tools you gain at Training Camp and the people you meet while you are here, can help build the political power you need to make that social change happen

Through collective action, involving ourselves and other groups, we can pose significant community resistance to social and environmental injustices and profit-seeking enterprise. We can help build a movement that engages in the struggle for a better world.

Importantly, we can use the skills learned at ASEN Training Camp to help others take their first steps by making sure we regularly pass on our skills, knowledge and resources.

That is what ASEN Training Camp is all about, and we hope you enjoy it!

Useful acronyms + hand signals

Apologies and a word of warning, as you have just walked into a world that has its own weird lingo and hand communication language. If someone is doing/saying something you don't understand, that's a gaffe on their part - we encourage you to say 'Hey, no idea what's going on here' and get them to explain. But to give you a head start, here are some acronyms you might hear, and some hand signals that were used in the Occupy movement (of which we use a fair few).

Acronyms

ASEN/WASEN/OEAN/VicSEN – [insert state] student environment network
AFAB/AMAB – 'assigned female at birth/assigned male at birth'
AGM/EGM – Annual / Extraordinary General Meeting
ANFA – Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
AYCC – Australian Youth Climate Coalition
CANA – Climate Action Network Australia
CSG – Coal Seam Gas
DA – Direct Action
DGR – either Deep Green Resistance, or Deductible Gift Recipient [status]
[E]NGO – [Environmental] Non-Government Organisation
FIRE – Fighting In Resistance Equally
FLAC – Front Line Action on Coal
FoE – Friends of the Earth
GP[AP] – Greenpeace [Australia Pacific]
LFRN – Leard Forest Research Node
NUS – National Union of Students
NVDA – Non-Violent Direct Action
SEAN – Student Environment Activist Network aka ASEN NSW&ACT
SEED – Indigenous Youth Climate Coalition (yeah it's not an acronym w/e)
SMART goal – Specific, Measurable, Achievable/Action-oriented (contested), Realistic, Time-specific goal criteria
SoS – Students of Sustainability (mid-year conference, in Newcastle this year!)
SSAF – Student Services Amenities Fees
SSAC – Students Support Aboriginal Communities
TC – Training Camp
TWS – The Wilderness Society (sometimes pronounced 'twiz')
VSU – Voluntary Student Unionism
WAR – Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance



what is



So...
anyway?

The Australian Student Environment Network is, at its most basic, a network connecting enviro collectives at university campuses (and historically TAFEs and high schools as well!) across Australia. As the longest running youth environment network in Australia, ASEN is known for cultivating intersectional social justice analyses and critiques among young environmentalists.

ASEN is most visible at two times every year; when it hosts the Students of Sustainability conference in July, and when it organises a week-long Training Camp of activist education in January. At other times of the year, the network is humming as state groups engage in various projects and campaigns, including First Nations solidarity, fossil fuels divestment, direct action against coal and CSG, anti-nuclear and anti-logging activism, pathways for just transitions, radical education and food cooperatives. We also organise workshops, skill-shares, readings groups, film screenings and parties!

ASEN recognises that environmental issues are inextricably tied up with other social and political issues, so we are committed to creating spaces that challenge not only environmental damage but all forms of injustice. We are committed to inclusive, empowering and democratic grassroots organising - which also means that all are welcome in ASEN spaces, not just students.



ASEN Charter

- a) We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and recognise that sovereignty has never been ceded.
- b) We endeavour to assist in protecting and celebrating our natural environment.
- c) We recognise that not only is it in our interests to campaign for environmental and social justice but that our privileged position as Australian students gives us an accompanying responsibility to do so.
- d) We aim to engage with a broad cross section of society to foster the recognition of the universal impact of environmental issues. Further, we recognise that social and economic issues are not separate from environmental issues.
- e) We work to challenge and create alternatives to unsustainable and unjust capitalist economies and oppressive social power structures.
- f) We strive to promote an ethic of absolute responsibility as a condition of freedom.
- g) We will provide a platform for sharing information and skills which all members are encouraged to utilise and contribute to equally, in order that information and power hierarchies are reduced. As ASEN members we are aware of the importance of responsibility, reliability and accountability in addressing these hierarchies.
- h) We will aim towards the active inclusion of geographically, economically and socially isolated individuals and groups, and strive to overcome sexism, racism, homophobia and classism.
- i) We respect the autonomy of grassroots campus environment collectives and the diversity and creativity of their initiatives. All members and their affiliated groups respect each other's campaign strategies with a view to unity and cohesion of purpose.
- j) We will engage in modelling sustainable organising.

Report from the National Convenor for 2017

"ASEN managed to last 2017! A great achievement considering what our governments, capitalism, and corporations have been throwing at us, also the devastating news that the humble yet boisterous ibis didn't win bird of the year. Looking back on the year I'm seeing a whirlwind of confusing mess, but one where we were continually finding our energy, supporting each other, understanding our causes, and channelling all that stuff into standing up for what we're fighting for. Sometimes we struggled to keep up the momentum needed to do stuff, other times we succeeded with amazing results; at the very least we formed and nurtured the friendships that make our communities and movement stronger.

So, what things did we do? We kicked off the year through supporting First Nations people all around the country on Invasion Day, and fought alongside them in lots of blockades against environmental destruction. Support of campaigns such as saving Beeliar Wetlands in WA, surveying and the old growth forests in Goongerah and defending them from illegal logging, researching coal pollution in the Leard Forest through citizen science, defending rural NSW from fracking with the Pilliga Push Campaign, a really big one; joining in on the frontline blockades against construction of the Adani Coal mine, and the overall push for an end to coal with just transitions. We affiliated with Friends of the Earth, another awesome organisation that wants to channel the fight against deeply rooted problems that occur in our society. We brought the message 'Capitalism is cooked' into the world, and sported the message with our very own home job facebook filter.

The annual Students of Sustainability (SoS) conference was a success - being held this year in Awakabal country (Newcastle, NSW), with near 500 people scattered across the grassy fields of the TAFE, so much learning and wonderful conversations on going about fixing these deeply rooted problems. Lee Rhiannon joined us at it while The Greens were in the news for internal conflicts, and the conference finished with the closure of Commonwealth Bank branches all over the Hunter Valley region.

And what should ASEN be doing in future? That's a good question and we're hoping to have lots of conversations about this over the coming days at Training Camp, particularly

in the 'ASEN reflections and visioning' workshop and the 'ASEN EGM'. ASEN is a great organisation where everyone is really dedicated with working on these things. Although it can be confusing and frustrating at times, it is an amazing space to work with and definitely worthwhile being involved with.



We invite you to join in and help shape ASEN's aims and future direction, for it to continue functioning well, what campaigns ASEN should support, additional things we should do together. If you are keen, there are numerous national and state office bearer roles that anyone, particularly amateurs with lots of time capacity, regardless of skill and experience level, should run for. We'd love to have you run for them, so please ask any experienced ASEN peeps about this and we'll enthusiastically tell you all about it. Our organising is done collectively, so outside of these roles there's plenty of ways you can help.

We have lots of things already planned for 2018; after we've joined local indigenous communities around so-called Australia in the march on Jan 26th, we're planning to do more trips to Goongerah, #Stop Adani, and Leard Forest, more things where we say 'capitalism is cooked'... SoS this year will be in Naarm (Melbourne), and probably support Stolenwealth Games protests on the Gold Coast. Either way, there will be so much we can do in this current political climate. Ultimately continue the fight against those deeply rooted problems, and empowering people to do what it takes to fight for the social justice that we all can benefit from."

Safer Spaces

Over the 6 days at ASEN Training Camp we will be learning, teaching, planning, eating, sleeping and laughing together, here on Tharawal Country at Minto Bush Camp.

We want this space to be inviting, engaging and comfortable for everyone. We acknowledge the struggles that so many face simply to feel safe in a space, given the structures of oppression that prevail in our culture.

In ASEN, we are working towards creating safer spaces that are liberating and nurturing for everyone in them. In a safer space, we act mindfully to ensure the space is free of violence, sexual assault, touching without consent, intolerance of religious beliefs or lack thereof, creepy/sleaziness, racism, ageism, sexism, heterosexism, homophobia, transphobia, whorephobia, ableism, classism, elitism, sizeism, sex-negativity or any other behaviour or language that actively perpetuates oppression.

In a safer space, we are serious about dismantling these systems of oppression in our own relationships and communities, in the same way we are serious about dismantling them in the 'outside' world.

In a safer space everyone is responsible for making sure all voices are heard. Look around. Who feels empowered to contribute, and who doesn't? Can you think of some reasons why some people might feel more comfortable talking than others? What could you do to make the space more accessible for someone else? It could be as simple as listening.

Given the systems of oppression in which we have all been raised and taught, it would be a miracle if we had not taken on (or internalised) ways of behaving that oppress others and ourselves. In a safer space, we will all make mistakes, but when we are called out, we try not to get defensive (because we are all imperfect), but rather learn from the experience to be better next time. Everyone should feel confident to speak up when something is not quite right, and anyone being made to feel unsafe deserves the support of their

community.

Grievance Collective

Similar to previous years there will be a Grievance Collective. The purpose of the grievance collective is to make activist spaces as safe as possible for all participants, especially those who suffer particular oppressions under a racist, sexist, colonist state. If you have a serious concern or worry to do with welfare issues, difficult interpersonal conflicts or problems with unfair oppression, you should talk to Grievance about it if you need advice/assistance - or take action on it yourself. Members of the collective will be marked by an armband of some colour (will be specified at Welcome).

In addition to specific grievance people roaming around in armbands, there will be TWO boxes for anonymously submitting grievances on paper. One box will be a 'PUBLIC BOX', for any grievance relating to a non-specific group of people or issue. Grievances placed in this box will be read out anonymously (probably over dinner) to the entire group. They might be something like:

- 1 "It's frustrating me that people are leaving their dishes around/that women are doing most of the cleaning."
- 2 "People were being too loud near the tents last night."

The other box will be a 'PRIVATE BOX'. Any grievance which ends up in this box will be discussed by the Grievance Collective which will endeavour to find some sort of solution to the problem. These issues might be more like:

- 1 "I feel really uncomfortable around person X because they kept touching me even after I told them not to."
- 2 "Person Y keeps talking over everybody else in workshops."

If you're interested in being involved in the Grievance Collective there will be a call-out for volunteers at the beginning of TC. We will usually have meetings at each day, probably over dinner. Of course, you are welcome to join the Grievance Collective at any other time (unless, of course, they are discussing a grievance related to you).

Caucuses

Caucuses are autonomous meeting spaces where people facing particular oppressions, or who identify a particular way, can talk about their experiences of the camp, raise issues, provide each other with support, chill out in a non-threatening space etc. The caucuses can also put proposals, comments and criticisms to Training Camp at any time, and can provide a report back at the EGM.

Anyone can call a caucus. There will be a space set aside and a booking sheet, as well as an announcement board to let everyone know what time and where. Listen up during the welcome for more details.

Volunteering

In order to keep costs low the entire conference is being organised by ASEN - which means that almost everybody who has helped to put this conference on has done so on an entirely volunteer basis.

The money which you have paid to attend has been spent on food, hiring the wonderful Minto Bush Camp facilities, and all the other miscellaneous expenses associated with putting on a conference.

What has not been paid for is turning the food into delicious food - we need your help to do that. Similarly, nobody is being paid to do the washing up, or any other jobs around the camp.

We ask that everybody put up their hand to do TWO volunteer shifts - you can sign up on the Announcements Board. If you can see that a job needs to get done, please take some direct action and fix it if you can!

Remember that historically, women are socialised to take on a lot of these jobs (like cleaning and cooking) automatically, while male-socialised people often forget they even exist! This doesn't mean that we particularly like doing them, it just means we know they need to get done. Many people have contributed to make Training Camp an amazing place including lots and lots of wonderful women. In light of this, we should ALL be contributing to up-keep tasks around camp. We're all trying to fight against insidious layers of oppression, and here is a very real way you can. @peoplewhoaren'twomen: Please put in equal effort to make sure camp runs smoothly too!



Photography and Videography

People might be taking photos and videos over the course of Training Camp. People who are documenting stuff *should* ask if you mind your photo or video being taken. However, this doesn't always happen. If you don't want to be photographed or recorded, or for that to end up on the ASEN website or in other ASEN-related materials, then let the photographer/videographer know !!

Explaining the Program

The point of Training Camp is to provide (you guessed it!) **training** to activists and people who want to campaign on environmental and social justice issues. A whole bunch of work went into creating this program and many amazing workshops aren't being run this year because of the limited space we have for workshops at Training Camp. Come along to the Students of Sustainability conference in Narram (so called Melbourne), July 2018, for a much bigger spread of workshops.

You shouldn't feel obligated to go to every workshop. In fact, you should try and skip at least one or two and take some time for yourself - especially if you're feeling overwhelmed, which can easily happen when you're working hard thinking about challenging questions. Not to mention the fact that lots of learning also happens just from having conversations with other people at Training Camp (although all the social interactions can have their toll on some people).

This year we're having a few focus days to hopefully streamline things a bit. On the first day (Tuesday) workshops will be centred around Indigenous struggle. I really recommend you try and learn as much as possible from these workshops as they'll be some of the most valuable things you learn at Training Camp. We should also note that, because we all live on stolen land and benefit from the dispossession of First Nations people, we have an obligation to support them in their struggles - whatever they might be - and always be thinking about how our activism either promotes and reinforces colonisation, or how we dismantle those systems of colonial domination through decolonisation.

The next three days will be focusing primarily on some theory and history of activism, as well as intro to and discussions around various campaigns going on around the country at the moment. These should help you learn about issues that maybe you haven't thought about before, or give you new insights into old problems. Idea/knowledge sharing is what these discussions are all about so don't be afraid to ask questions and contribute your ideas. Hopefully you'll also get a better feel for things you can get involved with what's happening (or could be happening) in your area. There will be 2 or 3 workshops running at

once most times, so feel free to pick and choose what sounds right for you!

The final day of workshops will be an Open Skills Day. This was a new idea to provide training for people who can't dedicate a whole week to camping out in the (somewhat) bush. Hopefully, you'll notice an influx of people you haven't seen before. The skill day is designed to give us all practical knowledge for running and participating in diverse and powerful campaigns.

Reading/Discussion Groups

First up, don't be intimidated by the reading aspect! You should still come and participate even if you haven't read it. Readings will have been circulated via email but also we have created a TC 2018 Reader with summaries of all the texts which you should be able to find around camp.

Why are there so few environmental workshops? Isn't this an environmental network?

This is a question often asked by a few people, when they first encounter ASEN.

Yes, we are a network of environmental activists, but we also recognise that environmental issues are not separate from other issues of social and economic justice. Most (arguably all) environmental destruction emerges from the arrangement of our economic and political systems and the way society relates to each other and the environment. So-called 'Australia' is built upon an ongoing legacy of colonialism which has seen countless people dispossessed of their land, culture and family. Understanding and organising against colonialism, capitalism, racism, sexism and all the rest of the systems that oppress us are therefore supercritical in our fight for environmental justice. If we just focus on 'environmental issues' and treat them as though they are unrelated to other oppressions then we not only limit how effective we can be, but we can also perpetuate those other systems of oppression which we should be wanting to dismantle anyway.

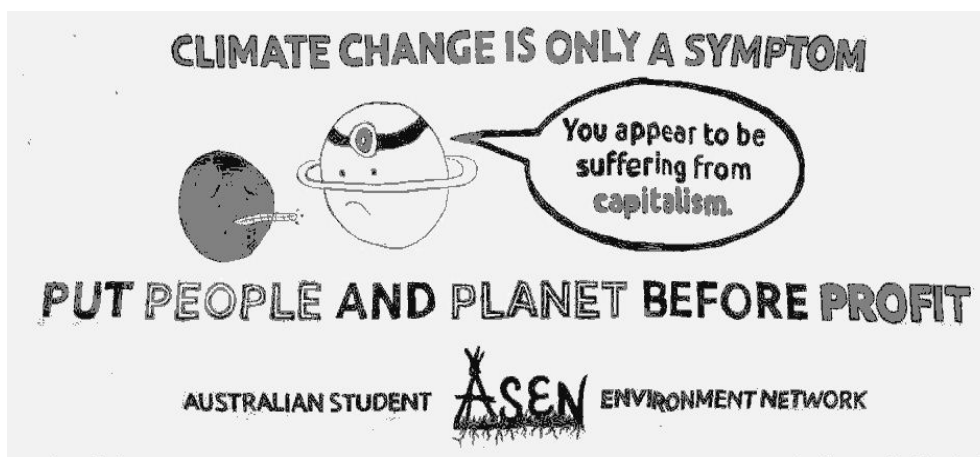
Hopefully this becomes a bit clearer over the course of Training Camp and in the rest of your involvement with ASEN. If you're still curious about the principles that motivate ASEN you should check out the ASEN Charter on page 8 of this handbook.

There are plenty of other spaces that people can learn about specifically 'environmental' stuff. ASEN's largest event, for example, Students of Sustainability, generally has many specifically environmentally-themed workshops. In general, we think that knowledge about the environment isn't what's lacking, so this is a camp based on activist skills.

There are a number of workshops relating to campaigning which could be related to any campaign - not specifically one related to the environment. That's because a number of organising skills are transferable across campaigns, and we want to empower people to take action on whatever issues are important to them in their local groups.

Other Activities

Although not timetabled you should take some time out. Go do something else instead of a workshop. There should be art supplies around and reading materials. You could go for a swim in the river. There might also be some people sharing climbing and rope skills.



Program: Monday – Thursday

Program: Friday – Sunday

How to Become a Member of ASEN

Interested in becoming a member of ASEN? In some sense, you probably already are one. We're pretty loose with membership. Your campus environment collective is likely affiliated to ASEN, and if it's not it probably was in the past, so in that sense we're all loosely connected ASEN members.

That said, it would be fantastic if you officially signed up to become a member - which you can do on our website: <http://asen.org.au/who-is-asen/become-member>

As an official member, you get to vote in our Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting.* You also get super infrequent emails (they'll get more regular soon I hope!)

But really, you don't need to sign a form to be a member. ASEN is a grassroots network of students, which means that the most important work which happens is in the local environment collectives you're a part of, and in your state environment networks. It's much better that you actively participate in those spaces than fill out a form.

If you've ever been in direct actions or mass street demonstrations, you've probably come into contact with people who are either former or current 'members' of ASEN.

*if you're present for our EGM and you're not an official

buying
vegan
cupcakes

*signing an
online
petition*

**volunteering
for local
bushcare**

**JOINING THE
ENVIRO
COLLECTIVE**

*participating in
the climate
movement*



member, we will still let you vote so come along!

ASEN EGM Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country
- A word on why we won't do report backs
- FoE Affiliation

- Election of National Office Bearers
- ASEN Budget
- Other items?

ASEN Roles & Elections



We will be electing new National Office Bearer (OB) positions this week. I would really encourage people to think about running for any of these roles. I have found the last year of being ASEN's National Convenor a really rewarding experience which has helped me grow (Shout out to Lizzie T who was co-convenor for the first half of the year). **You really shouldn't be dissuaded from running for these positions because of fears like 'not being experienced enough'.**

— Marco Avena, National Convenor 2016

Here are the National Office Bearer roles & the people who took them on this year. On Day 4, we will be electing the new OBs for 2018, so have a think about what you might enjoy doing next year! Feel free to ask this years OBs about it, or see role descriptions outlined in item 10 of the ASEN constitution found at <http://tinyurl.com/asen-constitution> and there is probably a copy of it floating around the camp.







OB position	2017 OBs
-------------	----------




National convenor	<div>Cam</div>  <div>Callista</div> 
Membership Officer	<div>Spandana</div> 
Finance officers	<div>Marco</div> 
Secretary/public officer	<div>Rhys</div> 
Communications officers	<div>Jo</div>  <div>Tim</div> 
Germinate editors	<div>Elle</div> 

ASEN State Networks

Additionally, Individual states and territories elect their own convenors for their state networks. People ought to consider whether they want to take on this role next year!

Perhaps within your state networks you would like to talk about who you think might be good for the role. We will have optional state breakout sessions for people to hold this election if they wish on Saturday (Day 4) at 11.30am. You can talk to the current state convenor(s) from your state for more info on this.

State Network	Convenor(s) in 2017		
QEAN	Elle		
SEAN (NSW & ACT)	Andy M	Keira	Ellie
			
VicSEN	Anisa	Lizzie	Naish
			
TaSEN	Alice		
			

SASEN	Andy C 
WASEN	Aleesha  Hunter 

Election Process of National OB's

Step 1. You must nominate yourself for a position by 2.30pm of Day 3 (Thursday 18th). You are encouraged but not required to submit a short statement which will go up on the announcements board next to your nomination and later emailed out to all ASEN members after the election.

Step 2. Nominations will be announced to the group and placed on the Announcements Board for people to see.

Step 3. People can talk to the Returning Officer (i.e. the person running the election) if they have specific problems with the candidates running. They can also anonymously submit dissent into a box which will be read by the RO and (depending on the content) likely disseminated in the EGM.

Step 4. Come along to the ASEN Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at 2.30pm Day

4 (Friday 19th). You will have an opportunity to talk about your nomination when we do the election item of the agenda. Candidates that aren't present will either have a statement read out or be able to Skype in.

Voting

We want to aim for consensus in our elections, but in rare cases this is not possible. After candidates speak to their nominations we all have the opportunity to ask them questions and state concerns.

Then the candidates leave the room and people can discuss the candidates. If a group consensus can be achieved then the RO can declare candidate(s) elected. If we get less than 100% consensus then more discussion can follow, then when we test for consensus again we fall back to an 80% majority.

If the candidate gets less than 80% twinkles they get a vote of no confidence.

However, at any point anyone can request the vote go to a secret ballot. If dissent is submitted or raised in (or before) the EGM then the RO can suggest we move to a secret ballot.



Minto Bush Camp Rules and History

Rules

- ~ Care for the environment, keep the camp clean and tidy.
- ~ All plant and animal life is protected. If you walk in the bush, please stay on the walking tracks.
- ~ Avoid bringing glass! Broken glass is a scary thing - cans and plastic bottles are preferred.
- ~ Young children should be supervised at the river.
- ~ Footwear is advisable at all times.
- ~ Do not remove mattresses, pillows, or mattress covers from bunks or cabins.
- ~ Check with the caretaker about availability of firewood. Do not randomly collect from the bush.
- ~ Please lift tables when moving them to limit damage to tables and the floor.
- ~ Limit noise after 10.30pm
- ~ Pls only park in reasonable parking places

Brief History

Minto Bush Camp is 60-year-old camp that was set up in the late 1950's by the Communist Party of Australia and is now owned by the Tranby Aboriginal Cooperative College. Originally it was a base for commies young and old to be educated on the principles of Communism, (as well as a beautiful retreat for activists to camp, swim among the gum trees). But it soon morphed into a space for the new Left in general, holding seminars on gay rights, feminism, radical lesbian separatism, the anti-war movement and the

campaign for Aboriginal autonomy. Now this illustrious list will include us!

Housekeeping while at Minto Bush Camp

Showers: The showers use solar-powered water heating system. Please be aware of others wanting to shower at the same time as you (especially in the mornings and evenings) and of course we want to water usage, so don't shower toooo long!

Toilets: There is a separate amenities block which houses all the toilets. Most bathrooms are non-gendered however there will be a separate women's bathroom. Please respect others in these spaces and keep in mind that gender is personal/diverse and in that, people's choices re: this are not up for your scrutiny

Laundry & washing machines: You can use these facilities but please respect them and report any faults or troubles to the Organising Collective.

Kitchen: Please clean plates, bowls, cutlery, utensils, etc, after using them. Be aware of hazards in the kitchen and keep clear from people if they are cooking. Normally there will be a separate area with buckets for cleaning things you've used. Don't forget to sign up for volunteer kitchen shifts if you can!

Rubbish: Please put rubbish vegetable matter for composting in the bins provided, and recycling material in the correct bin. (Please put used nappies in general rubbish bins, not in compost or recycling.)

Beds: It is highly encouraged to camp outside, together under the bright stars!! Part of the fun of Camp is the camping after all! However, there are 24 indoor beds available that will be reserved for folks who might especially need them (eg people with disabilities, older

people, people with kids etc). Please let an organiser know if you would like indoor accommodation!

Upcoming Events in NSW for 2018

Invasion Day Rally: Invasion Day marks the 230th year since the landing of Captain Cook, and the beginning of the ongoing genocide by white settlers against Aboriginal people. *Location: Do something where you live! If that is In Sydney, come to the Block in Redfern at 10am, January 26th.*

Turning the tide: basic training for changing our universities: For all the uni-based students organising than on campus. This training organised by Resist Retrain Rebuild, to teach the key tools and strategy behind running campaigns and organising change. *Location: UNSW February 4th, 10am (RSVP required)*

#Time2Choose Statewide Rally: Chances are, by the end of this week you will have heard about the planned expansion of the coal and gas industries in NSW. Join people from around the state to make the call to protect land, water and people from the impacts of these ridiculous industries. *Location: Sydney CBD 24th March*

Students of Sustainability '18: The largest and longest running youth environmental conference in Australia, hosted by ASEN. Like Training Camp , only much, much bigger! This year will be excellent. Bring your friends. *Location: Narram (so called 'Melbourne'), July 2018.*



Miscellaneous

Lake Cowal Bird Dance

This week you will get a chance to learn the Lake Cowal bird dance with Winiata. These are the lyrics of the song it is performed to – Thou Shalt not Steal by Kev Carmody. They offer a great perspective on the invasion of Australia in an easy song to sing along to!

In 1788 down Sydney Cove
The first boat-people land
Said sorry boys our gain's your loss
We gonna steal your land
And if you break our new British laws
For sure you're gonna hang
Or work your life like convicts
With chains on your neck and hands

CHORUS

They taught us
Oh Oh Black woman thou shalt not steal
Oh Oh Black man thou shalt not steal
We're gonna civilize
Your Black barbaric lives
And teach you how to kneel
But your history couldn't hide
The genocide
The hypocrisy to us was real
'cause your Jesus said
you're supposed to give the oppressed
a better deal
We say to you yes whiteman thou shalt not steal
Oh ya our land you'd better heal

Your science and technology Hey you can make a nuclear bomb
Development has increased the size to 3,000,000 megatons
But if you think that's progress
I suggest your reasoning is unsound
You shoulda found out long ago
You best keep it in the ground

Job and me and Jesus sittin'
Underneath the Indooroopilly bridge
Watchin' that blazin' sun go down
Behind the tall tree'd mountain ridge
The land's our heritage and spirit

Here the rightful culture's Black
and we sittin' here just wonderin'
When we get the land back

You talk of conservation
Keep the forest pristine green
Yet in 200 years your materialism
Has stripped the forests clean
A racist's a contradiction
That's understood by none
Mostly their left hand hold a bible
Their right hand holds a gun

Utopian Futures – Kimya Dawson

Someone might decide to start singing this. Now you can sing along!

Somewhere the bombing all has stopped
And people begin to sit and talk
And somewhere insomniac stockbrokers can rest their bloodshot eyes
'cause there's nothing left to buy or sell
Or kill or die for anymore
We're living inside eternal moments that we've searched for all our lives
There's nobody living by the clock
And every door is left unlocked
'cause property died all alone and capitalism lost its home
There's plenty of fresh air here in town
And plants are growing on the cars
And all of the streets are used for dancing
And at night you see all the stars

Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Ya da da da, da da da da
Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Ya da da da, da da da da

We're searching for something that was lost
And centuries all have covered up
We're flailing to find the smallest fragments of our liberated lives
And every tiny piece we find
We pick up and glue together
Collectively working for our utopian futures to collide
In snuggly beds and midnight talks
In wandering bike rides and wayward walks
Making up all of our own music, art, myth, food and news
It's happening everywhere we go
Collective bookstores and basement shows

Sharing a song that we all know or making up new ones as we go

Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Ya da da da, da da da da
Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Da da da da, da da da da

I'm a dream, this is real
I'm a dream, you are here
I'm a dream, you are me
I'm a dream, we are free
I'm a dream, this is real
I'm a dream, you are here
I'm a dream, you are me
I'm a dream, we are free

Now can't you feel the ice caps grow?
Now can't you hear the forests laugh
At piles of nicely packaged toothpicks all in
processed warehouse rows
'cause the only processing we do now
Is with one another in our homes
With people we'll fight, fuck, laugh and cry with
Until the day we die
Here where we share all that we've won
Here where we grieve for what is lost
Here where the children grow with names they chose and genders all their own
Here where we celebrate each other
Here where you've never had a boss
Here where we sing like restless kids with half-chewed food inside our mouths

Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Da da da da, da da da da
Ya da da da di ya, ya da da da da
Ya da da da, da da da da

Here in the place outside the box
There are no more borders left to cross
From each according to ability and to each based on need
Here in the place where dreams aren't dead
Here in the space between our heads.

Glossary

Some of the following terms are controversial and can take various definitions depending on the context, background and disciplines of those using them. But here's some general definitions:

Agenda - is a list of items to be discussed at a formal meeting.

Agender - relating to a person who has no gender.

Anarchism - is a political theory and movement which aims to create a society within which individuals freely co-operate together as equals. As such, anarchism opposes all forms of hierarchical control in society - be that control by the state or capitalist - as harmful to the individual and collective, as well as unnecessary.

Barrel - a type of lock on device. The barrel is filled with concrete but your arm is safely locked inside a pipe within the barrel.

Capitalism - an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of the means of production, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market.

Cis - Short for **cis**-gendered, meaning someone who identifies their gender as being consistent with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Consensus -when a group seeks to make decisions that the whole group can consent to. Different to majority rule decision making, and also different to unanimity, which seeks for a whole group to positively support an action rather than just consent.

Emotional labour - The emotional work put in by one to assist, advise or counsel another. E.g. listening to one's problems, asking about and responding to people's feelings, fostering someone's self esteem, assisting a person with their grievances by speaking on behalf of them to the person for which they have a complaint. Emotional labour has traditionally and unfairly been imposed on women, and disguised as being their 'natural job' as a woman.

Gendered labour - Work that has historically been divided down gendered lines and is valued or devalued according to the gender of those performing it. E.g. much low paid and unpaid care work are examples of 'feminised labour' whereby a disproportional number of care workers such as child carers, nurses, social workers, early childhood teachers etc are women.

Feminism - the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of genders.

First Nations - The traditional owners/ custodians of the land E.g. Aboriginal peoples.

Insurrectionary- based on revolutionary theory and practice that emphasizes an act or instance of rising in revolt, rebellion, or resistance against civil authority or an established government.

Intersectionality - is the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Just transitions - is a framework that has been developed by the trade union movement to encompass a range of social interventions needed to secure workers' jobs and livelihoods when economies are shifting to sustainable production, including avoiding climate change, protecting biodiversity etc. (where 'just' = 'justice').

Lock on - a term used to describe either a device or the process of attaching oneself (via chain, bike lock etc) to something (building, truck, machinery) in order to prevent access to that place or use of the thing. E.g. "I 'locked on' to coal machinery at the coal mine in order to stop the extraction of coal and delay work until I got cut off by police search and rescue". "Who has the lock on [device]?"

Microaggressions - are the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

Monopole - a single pole structure used in direct action to stop work (e.g. the pole can be attached to machines, trees etc.)

Neoliberalism - refers primarily to the 20th century resurgence of 19th century ideas associated with economic liberalism. These include extensive economic liberalization policies such as privatization, fiscal austerity, deregulation, free trade, and reductions in government spending in order to increase the role of the private sector in the economy.

Non-binary - is a catch-all category for gender identities that are not exclusively male or female—identities which are thus outside of the gender **binary**.

NVDA - means non-violent direct action (also known as nonviolent resistance or civil

resistance). NVDA can include sit-ins, strikes, workplace occupations, blockades, or hacktivism.

Patriarchy - a system of society and government in which *cis*-men hold the power and non *cis*-males are largely excluded from it.

Privilege - The invisible, special rights, advantages, or immunities granted or available only to particular persons or groups, based on identity, ability, gender, race, class, appearance etc.

Pronouns/pronoun round - Words like: she/her, he/his, it, they/them/theirs, I/me/my, you and ze/zir are **examples of pronouns**. In a pronoun round we introduce which pronouns others should use when describing us. e.g. In a pronoun round: "Hi my name is Marco and my pronouns are they/them/theirs. When speaking about me please say 'they said this' instead of 'he said this'."

Socialism - a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

Structural violence - It refers to a form of violence wherein some social, political or economic structure or institution that systematically causes physical, emotional or psychological harm to people.

They/them/theirs - A set of gender non-specific pronouns.

Tripod - a three-legged structure used in direct actions to block things (e.g.) roads

Zine - a short, homemade/self-published magazine.

Please give us some feedback on your experiences of ASEN Training Camp 2018. Tear of this form and pop it in the feedback box. If you need more paper just grab some from somewhere.

Good things:

Bad things (please tell us how to improve):

Could do better at...