

# FRANK FENNER FOUNDATION

## REPORT ON SURVEY OF MEMBERS 2014

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### Introduction

The Membership Working Group of Frank Fenner Foundation (FFF) was formed in December 2013 comprising Virginia Young, Shirley Pipitone, Jane Olsen, Gilles Rohan and the Executive Officer, Lyn Goldsworthy.

The Working Party discussed options for a strategy to increase membership numbers and member engagement and agreed to conduct a survey of members as the first step.

### Purpose of survey

The survey aimed to find out:

- what is important for members about belonging to FFF;
- members' attitudes towards current FFF activities;
- members' attitudes towards current FFF membership fees and related financial matters;
- how members might be able to help FFF by volunteering, or by opening up new opportunities for FFF to find potential partners for future projects, potential sponsors or contacts for fundraising; and
- a little basic personal information about members such as age group, qualifications and employment status.

Most questions in the survey gave members the opportunity to express their views freely.

### Conducting the survey

The survey was set up using Survey Monkey. An email sent to all members provided a direct link to the survey online. A hardcopy of the online survey was mailed to members

without email. In addition two follow-up emails were sent to members to encourage further responses.

## Survey results

38% of members responded to the survey.

Results of the survey can be divided into four categories:

1. lists of members and their responses, showing for example, their contact details, their current employer or their willingness to make a bequest to FFF;
2. charts or tables showing results of a statistical nature;
3. text analysis of open-ended questions; and
4. lists of groups concerned with the environment, conservation, sustainability, health and/or social justice that members are involved with.

Results in category 1 are not included in this report for privacy reasons. Only the Membership Working Group, the Executive Officer and a small number of office volunteers may have access to these lists.

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## Statistics about members

Tables 1 – 4 show that:

- about 50% of FFF members have been a member for more than 10 years;
- over 70% are retired or a student;
- about 75% live in the ACT; and
- more than 80% are aged 60 or more.

**Table 1: Length of membership of the FFF or NSF**

Less than 5 years	29.3%
5-10 years	22.0%
More than 10 years	48.8%

**Table 2: Employment status**

Working full-time (include research)	11.1%
Working part-time (include research)	16.7%
Retired or student	72.2%

**Table 3: Place of residence**

ACT	54.3%
NSW	17.1%
Other:	28.6%
Victoria	
Tasmania	
WA	
Queensland	
New Zealand	
UK	

**Table 4: Age distribution**

Up to 29	0.0%
30 - 39	0.0%
40 - 49	8.3%
50 - 59	8.3%
60 - 69	30.6%
70 or over	52.8%

<b>Table 5: Qualifications of FFF members</b>							
<b>Bachelor's degrees</b>		<b>Diploma/Cert</b>		<b>Master's degrees</b>		<b>Doctorates</b>	
Science	41.7%	Education	13.9%	Science	19.4%	Architecture	2.8%
Medical	22.2%	e	2.8%	Arts	8.3%	Cell Biology	2.8%
Arts	19.4%			Engineering	2.8%	Medical science	2.8%
Engineering	13.9%			Education	2.8%	Physics	2.8%
Architecture/ LandArch	5.6%			Architecture / LandArch	2.8%	Resource & Environ- mental Mgt	2.8%
Agriculture	5.6%			Medical	2.8%	Soil Science	2.8%
Unspecified	5.6%			Unspecified	2.8%	Unspecified	13.9%
<b>AVERAGE NO.QUALS PER MEMBER</b>				<b>2.0</b>			

FFF members are highly qualified (Table 5) in a very wide variety of subject areas (Table 6). Many members have interesting combinations of study fields such as Philosophy and Biology, Astronomy and Politics, or Chemistry and Climate Change.

<b>Table 6: Fields of study</b>		
Adult education	Environmental engineering	Mycology
Agricultural science	Environmental health	Neurology
Agronomy	Environmental management	Nuclear physics
Anthropology	Environmental science	Osteopathy
Applied mathematics	Epidemiology	Physical education
Architecture	Futures studies	Philosophy
Astronomy	Geography	Physiology
Biological oceanography	Geology	Physiotherapy
Biology	Groundwater	Planetary temperature
Botany	History	Politics
Cell biology	Health, holistic approaches	Psychology
Chemistry	Human sciences	Public health
Civil engineering	Information systems	Resource & environmental management
Climate change	Infrastructure and transport	Soil salinity
Communications	Internal medicine	Sociology
Community development	Journalism	Soils Science
Community health	Landscape architecture	Surveying
Conservation	Librarianship	Theoretical physics
Consumption	Marine biology	Urban design
Developmental biology	Mathematics	Vascular surgery
Ecological agriculture	Medical herbalism	Virology
Economics	Medicine	Zoology
Education	Microbiology	
Effect of heat on humans	Mining	

## Members' views of FFF

**Table 7: What is important to members about FFF**

	Percent
Long-term goal of biosensitivity	55%
Journal	43%
Like-minded people	38%
Meetings	26%
Discussion of issues	24%
Expertise of members	12%

Attachment 1 provides more detail of members' comments on what is important about belonging to FFF.

**Table 8: What does membership of FFF provide**

	Percent
Long-term goal of biosensitivity	38%
Expertise of members	30%
Breadth of issues *	24%
Like-minded people	19%
Depth of discussion	14%
Meetings	8%

\* Examples mentioned include overpopulation, climate change, environmental degradation, economic growth, bee transport, health effects of phosphate fertiliser, biological effects of low frequency sound.

Attachment 2 provides more detail of members' responses about what membership of FFF provides.

**Table 9: Members' rating of Journal, Website and Speaking Events**

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average
Rating of Journal	0%	0%	24%	38%	38%	4.1
Rating of Website	7%	19%	44%	22%	7%	3.0
Rating of Speaking Events	7%	11%	30%	37%	15%	3.4

Table 9 confirms the comments in Attachments 1 and 2 that members rate the Journal highly. Monthly meetings are rated a little above average and the website is rated average, not surprisingly given that it was being redeveloped at the time of the survey.

Members suggestions for improving the Journal, the website and speaking events are summarised in Tables 10, 11 and 12, respectively. The Board and Working Groups may find it useful to discuss these suggestions.

Members' suggestions of other activities FFF could be engaged in are summarised in Table 13 (pages 9-10).

## **Table 10: Suggestions to improve the Journal**

### **More useful**

Want hard-copy, would pay more  
Use abstracts to highlight major articles  
Skim, don't read or too long  
Make it more interactive eg a forum of ideas, letters to the editor  
make it available to a wider audience  
Improve distribution and publicity

### **More interesting**

More variety in contributors, including members  
invite articles from non-members  
More stories about on the ground action  
More short and pithy articles  
More images and charts  
More on positive achievements  
Enhance quotes in electronic version  
Follow up articles on major issues  
More about the built environment  
More news from non-mainstream media  
More quick facts (with references for follow up)  
Report on progress with new ideas/proposals  
More summaries of relevant research

### **Other comments**

FFF should focus more on strategies to create change  
FFF should increase diversity of membership

## Table 11: Suggestions to improve the website

### Short comments

Haven't used website much

Needs professional input from a web designer

Does FFF have the resources to improve the website?

Change the Domain name from Natsoc

Close down the website

Cover more issues eg built environment, political analysis

Recent upgrade good

### Capturing attention

Capture people's attention with interesting events and ways to participate

Use questions in headings to help engage people \*

More access to discussions and interaction

Less dense, less like a text-book of facts and shoulds

Include links to like-minded sites

Use rotating multiple-choice questions about biosensitivity to inform people and get them searching the website to learn more.

Include stories, questions, images and videos

### Purpose of website

Needs to be valuable for members of FFF as well as visitors

Needs to present what FFF represents very simply and clearly initially, then progress to more detail

Use much shorter articles that cover interesting facts and recommend social action, esp through social media

### Adding value

Include a section that discusses the work of other like-minded groups, both Australian and international

Use the Journal to let people know of new items on the website

Give tips for how to progress in building a Biosensitive future

Use short videos to inform visually oriented people.

### Question

Link to "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, by Elizabeth Kolbert". What does this have to do with FFF?

\* eg for <http://www.natsoc.org.au/our-projects/resources-1/background-document-how-externalities-drive-climate-change-and-will-you-be-left-holding-the-tab/view> ask 'what is an "externality"?' as a teaser.

## **Table 12: Suggestions to improve speaking events**

### **Membership and access issues**

Not able to attend

Appreciate reading journal reports on speaking events

Encourage more young people to join

Hold meetings occasionally on a weekend so interstate members can attend

Need talks relevant to younger people and what they can do to build a Biosensitive future

Hold talks earlier in evening eg 5.30pm to attract people after work

Put brief videos of discussion highlights online

Offer refreshments including wine, members to contribute

### **Publicity**

Need to get more people to come

Publicise the talks more widely

Need publicity that captures people's interest & curiosity

Involve the media: print, TV and radio

### **Quality and variety of events**

Quality has improved

Events are nearly always interesting

Select speakers with interesting material to present and good communication skills

Allow more time for questions and discussion

Have a panel of speakers occasionally, again to stimulate discussion

Join events with other organisations

Hold occasional debates of issues

More discussions in smaller groups (6-8 people)

### **Promoting FFF projects**

Match the talks with FFF current projects \*

\* eg as Catherine progresses her project, we should try to identify some relevant speakers and make sure the right mix of people attend their talks to stimulate discussion useful to the project.

## **Table 13. What else should FFF be doing?**

### **THE ORGANISATION**

Need more younger members

Need to raise our public profile

### **ISSUES**

Engage with undergrads to ensure our future, harness their understanding of the way young people think and communicate and are influenced, and listen to their thoughts and observations.

Engage with many issues, political, economic, environmental and social, related to climate, energy, pollution, water, food, biological diversity, population, quality of life values, human rights, sustainability and so on.

Commission our own research in neglected scientific, sustainability, technical and health-related topics, as funding speculative, artistic, publication, local, social projects is likely to have no lasting impact.

Encourage members to discuss smaller issues at home meetings and report back

Discussion groups on particular topics would be good - eg social issues such as fairness and social justice, equity, changing people's attitudes, wellbeing as well as environmental issues.

Longer workshops involving members and invitees to work through practical actions for FFF

Adopting positions on key issues

Make the journal a more scholarly publication with academic contributions, or create a new scholarly publication

### **ENGAGE WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESS**

FFF should undertake protest action, after appropriate strategies and training have been implemented.

Educate members of Parliament

Lobby politicians for the benefit of the general Australian community.

### **ENGAGE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY**

Provoke, promote and support a groundswell of the Australian population to insist on appropriate action that is both humane and ecosensitive, now, to conserve the planet for human wellbeing and to ensure that this benefit ultimately extends to all living humans and the generations who will follow us.

Be proactive in mobilizing civil society

Promote FFF ideas into the marketplace

Need to engage those who are unaware

Need to engage people to appreciate the beauty of the natural environment

### **TERMINOLOGY**

The term 'ecosensitivity' would have more cogency than 'biosensitivity'

### **THE POWER OF OUR MESSAGE**

FFF message must have power

Promote FFF ideas vigorously and urgently into the corridors of power

Consider using the authority of individual members of the Order of Australia to help support our objectives

Need to continue to strengthen our resolve and our own actions in Australia

(continued on next page)

### **Table 13. What else should FFF be doing? (cont)**

#### **MEMBERS**

Members in other locations to form discussion groups

Need some small achievements to motivate members and attract new members

Use social activities such as dinner or bushwalking for members to get to know each other's areas of interest

Email videos of monthly talks to members.

#### **COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS**

FFF is too small to link with large organisations

FFF can help larger organisations achieve worthwhile outcomes.

Need to build cooperative collaboration with the many organizations in Australia that are stirred by concerns similar to ours such as BZE, Blue Australasia, be Sustainable, ZERI, The Natural Step

Must reach out to other national and international agencies committed to the same global aims.

Coordinate the many Australian humane and/or ecosensitive/biosensitive organisations when their views align, to overcome current fragmentation of the message.

Engage with people who are doing things on the ground

Connect more with other disciplines within our local universities eg ANU, UC, CSU, Catholic Uni

Need to engage internationally with universities, research organisations and associations of thinkers with similar views.

Form a list of people such as postgrad students willing to be available for advice or involvement on innovative ideas.

#### **COMMUNICATING THE MESSAGE**

Make greater use of social media, eg a series of 2-5 minute YouTube videos (say one a fortnight), an active Twitter presence focused on biosensitivity

Get opinion pieces into Canberra Times, other newspapers and online such as The Conversation, to get the biosensitivity message out as often as possible

the movement towards living sensitively on the planet, such as those who follow natural practices in their biological farming, gardening, horticulture, landcaring, stewardship, urban agriculture and Indigenous working on Country

Issue press releases

Regular or occasional email postings with brief news (such as the Australia Institute sends out) but not as comprehensive as Keith's, unless a similarly dedicated person can be found.

Include smaller "Awareness snippets" in the newsletter to cover a wider range of issues, with links for interested members to read more.

## Members' contributing to FFF

Members' responses to questions about their skills and how they could help FFF are summarised in Tables 14 and 15. Members' suggestions about how FFF could facilitate their continuing contribution are presented in Table 16.

**Table 14. How could you help FFF?**

Nothing (too old *, too busy etc)	35.7%
Letters to editor	21.4%
Media, including talk back radio	17.9%
Don't live in ACT	10.7%
Advocacy	7.1%
Help arrange events, seminars	7.1%
Pass on info	7.1%
Twitter	3.6%
Articles for Journal	3.6%
One-off tasks	3.6%
Edit papers	3.6%
Write summaries of relevant work	3.6%
Write up lectures and symposiums	3.6%
Generate ideas	3.6%
Write papers	3.6%
Do presentations	3.6%

\* Your words, not mine!

**Table 15. Members' skills**

Writing	30.8%
Presentation	23.1%
Research	7.7%
Development of	3.8%
Education	3.8%
Persuasion, motivation	3.8%
Analytical ability	3.8%
Internet research	3.8%
Modelling	3.8%
Networks	3.8%
Fundraising	3.8%

**Table 16. How can FFF help you to contribute your skills?**

Be part of a working group, including internet- or email-based	21.7%
Be part of a working group in Melbourne	4.3%
Working group for transport policy	4.3%
Be part of a discussion group	4.3%
Secretarial and admin support	4.3%

## Other general comments

12 members also made general comments at the end of the survey and these are set out in Table 17, with some abbreviating.

## Members' views about membership fees

Members' views about membership fees are shown in Table 18.

Only 11 members made other comments on membership fees.

## Table 17. Other comments

### General comments

Nature and Society Journal has written very little on the mindsets and the sustainability of the Australian Aboriginal population over the millennia, prior to European colonisation.

The Society has been relatively weak in opposing the capitalistic growth mentality, which continues to "quarry" the continent of its fossil resources, and encourages population growth; we should be advocating reduction of population!

We mainly talk to the converted. We need to get our message out much more broadly.

I don't feel I am kept informed of what NSF (FFF) and its various offshoots are doing.

I would like to see FFF keep the international focus of NSF, and not retreat into being a local group. We need to support national or international projects of great intrinsic merit.

To this end, FFF should establish and cultivate international links with like-minded or complementary organisations.

I wonder whether this body can survive without a big injection of young energy

On a negative note, one recent meeting went too far down the sociological path rather than straight science.

The Foundation needs to get beyond research and be actively involved in change

I am keen to see the new depth of FFF.

FFF/ NSF is sometimes more academic than practical. We need both approaches. The links between the thinkers and those who put logic into practice are the future, for example Walter Jehne and soil health, Maarten Stapper and bio-logical farming methods/soil health, Bob Douglas and SEE-change and Australia 21, Derek Wrigley and housing.

### Comments on the survey itself

A very comprehensive survey - congratulations!

Too long (author of survey)

## Table 18. Members' views about current membership fees

	Too high	About right	Too low
Standard	2.8%	86.1%	11.1%
Concession	5.6%	83.3%	11.1%
Corporate	3.6%	57.1%	39.3%
Life	9.1%	72.7%	18.2%

## Other comments on membership fees

Seven comments were straightforward:

1. Fees are comparable to other organisations.
2. Raise Standard, Concession and Life membership fees by 30%.

3. Raise Standard fee to \$65 to \$75.
4. Raise corporate membership fees by a substantial amount.
5. Raise corporate membership fees if it provides special benefits.
6. Raise Life membership to \$1000
7. FFF needs some achievements to justify any significant increase

Two members' comments on the Concession fee complemented each other:

8. Concession fee needs to be affordable; and
9. Consider waiving fees for concession card holders who are contributing in other ways.

One member commented that the Australia Institute and ACF have moved away from membership fees and hard-copy newsletters. Instead people donate regularly and receive emailed newsletters. The drawback to the latter is that busy people may never get round to reading the newsletters.

Another member questioned the reasons for any possible fee increase. An increase to cover access to the journal Nature and Society was not regarded as justifiable. However FFF could readily justify an increase to cover new activities such as those covered in Table 13.

### **Membership of groups concerned with environment, conservation, sustainability, health or social justice**

Members' responses about relevant groups they belong to are set out in Table 19 (Internet or email-based groups), Table 20 (local groups), Table 21 (National and international groups). The author has not edited these lists.

**Table 19. Internet or email-based groups concerned with environment, conservation, sustainability, health or social justice**

1 Million women	GetUp!
350.org	Greening Australia
ACOSS	Green-It-Yourself
AVAAZ	Human Ecology Forum, ANU
Beyond Zero Emissions	SumOfUs
Breast Cancer screening support	The Institute of Science in Society
Care2	The Nature Institute
Change.org	Walk Free.org
CommunityRun.org	World Wildlife Fund
Freecycle	WorldWatch Institute
Future Earth	

**Table 20. Local groups concerned with environment, conservation, sustainability, health or social justice**

ACT Cancer Council	Landcare Groups
ACT Conservation Council	Local community association
ANU Convocation	Lock The Gate
ACT Land Care	Manning Clark House
ACT Peak Oil	Marymead
Adult Migrant English Program	Mental Health Foundation ACT
ANU Emeritus Faculty Active	National Parks Association NSW
Aust Native Plants Society Canb	National Trust ACT
Australian Plants Society NSW	NCC NSW
Braidwood Urban Landcare Group	NPA ACT
Bushwalking	ParkCare
Canberra City Farm	Pedal power
Canb Indian Myna Action Group	Permablitz
Canberra Ornithological Group	Permaculture Exchange
Cancer Council Tasmania	Riverland Conservation Society
Carers ACT	Robertson Environment Protection Society
Chorus of Women	Robertson Heritage Railway Station
Climate Action Now (W'bee)	Royal Society Victoria
Coastcare, NW Tas	Sea Shepherd
Coastwatchers in Eurobodalla	SEE-Change
Dirty Beanstalkers	Solarshare
Environment East Gippsland	Sustainable Jamboree
Environmental Defenders Office Tas	Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Field Naturalists Association	Transition Banyule
Floriade Bush Friendly Garden	Umbagog Landcare Group
Friends, Batemans Bay Marine Park	University of Canberra Alumni
Friends of Black Mountain	Upper-Shoalhaven Landcare Council
Friends of Grasslands	Upper-Shoalhaven Natural Sequence Farming Ass.
Friends of National Arboretum	WA & Margaret River environmental groups
Friends of Palestine WA	Weed Swap
Friends of SE Queensland	Wildcare, Tas
Friends, Canberra School of Music	Wingecarribe Reconciliation Group
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Woodford Folk Festival
Ginninderra Folk Association	

**Table 21. National and international groups concerned with environment, conservation, sustainability, health or social justice**

ACF  
AidWatch  
Amnesty International  
Animals Asia  
ANPSA Correa Study Group  
ANPSA Garden Design Study Group  
ANPSA Grevillea Study Group  
Australasian Association of Engineering Education  
Australasian Network for Plant Conservation  
Australia Institute  
Australia21  
Australian Flora Foundation  
Australian Garden History Society  
Australian Green Development Forum  
Australian Greens  
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects  
Australian Native Plants Society Australia  
Australian Network for Plant Conservation  
Australian Republican Movement  
Australian Urban Agriculture  
AYCC  
Barnado's  
Birdlife Australia  
BODHI  
Bush Heritage Fund  
Center for Conservation Biology  
Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy  
Centre for Policy Development  
CSIRO Alumni  
Doctors for the Environment  
Ecological Agriculture Australia Association  
Ecological Society of Australia  
Engineers Australia Sustainable Engineering Society  
Engineers Without Borders  
Environmental Defender's Office NSW  
Exit International  
Flying Doctor Service  
Food Tank  
Fred Hollows Foundation  
Friends of NGA  
Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Friends of the National Library of Australia  
Friends of the National Museum of Australia  
Global Greens  
Good Environmental Choice Australia  
Greenleap Strategic Institute (cont)

**Table 21. National and international groups concerned with environment, conservation, sustainability, health or social justice (cont)**

Greenpeace  
Independent Scholars Association of Australia  
Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia  
Lord Baden Powell Society  
Medecins sans Frontiers  
Medical Association for Prevention of War  
Minerals Policy Institute  
Natural Health Society  
Network re adverse health effects of wind turbines  
Open Gardens Australia  
Oxfam - CAA  
Peak Oil  
Population Matters  
Population Media Center  
Red Cross  
Red R Australia  
Refugee Council of Aust  
Safe Food Foundation  
Smith Family Learning for Life  
Society for Human Ecology  
Sustainable Population Australia  
The Climate Reality Project  
The Orangutan Project  
UNHCR  
Wilderness Society  
Womens' International League for Peace and Freedom  
World Society for the Protection of Animals  
World Vision  
Worldwide Fund for Nature  
Zero Waste International Trust

**Notes**

CASSE is Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy  
RedR Australia is a leading humanitarian agency for international emergency relief  
BODHI is Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight  
Greenleap Strategic Institute. A think tank developing strategy for rapid achievement of safe climate and sustainability.

Author: Shirley Pipitone, 25 October 2014

## Attachment 1. Members' comments on what is important about FFF

### 1. The Journal

- excellent source of information
- the reason I joined FFF
- coverage of conservation issues
- sustainability of humans
- Australian and world-wide context
- superb editorials
- editorials should be published in newspapers
- notification of events and meetings of interest
- incisive articles and quotes
- reporting on research
- I would prefer to pay double the fee and receive a hard copy

### 2. Being with like-minded people

- link with Frank Fenner
- link with Jenny Wanless
- an informed group
- fellowship of dedicated and enthusiastic fellow-members
- bring some hope to my despair for future
- intellectual approach
- generosity, commitment and dedication of the core people of FFF
- willingness of FFF to speak truth
- promotion of integrated approaches
- inspirational
- turn research into action

### 3. Meetings

- unable to attend
- informative and challenging
- forum for new ideas
- excellent speakers

### 4. Discussion of issues

- over-population: logical and well thought out, often neglected
- free from the restraints influencing publication in peer-reviewed journals
- FFF can provide refreshing insight into anthropogenic effects on the biosphere
- recognition that we are only one species in the biosphere

### 5. Expertise

- better placed than government science to offer science based advice, including social science
- science, experience, wisdom
- publications, conferences and networks

### 6. Suggestions

- FFF should have a "Parliamentary Liaison Officer" to educate political leaders
- maintain close links with other community organisations
- help fill the leadership vacuum in Australia
- FFF must (1) set achievable targets, (2) become politically active and (3) define its area of activity so that it complements rather than competes with other like minded groups esp ACF, Wilderness Soc, Greenpeace etc
- annual Conference to enable people out of ACT to attend.

## **Attachment 2. Members' comments on what FFF provides**

### **1. Long-term goal of biosensitivity**

- Biosensitivity is the core of FFF.
- Members are highly committed to achieving change from the world's current path.
- Input into persuading enough people to be politically effective, that growth of human consumption of planetary resources is of limited duration, and that reduction of human consumption without also restraining growth of human numbers is futile.
- Share action and ideas on ways to promote "Healthy People on a Healthy Planet".
- NSF has tried to provide the overall context for humans and other forms of life on planet Earth.
- That Australia can be an example to the world of a society where development is optimally balanced with the ecological landscape
- That Australia can be an example of maintaining a comfortable civilisation while best preserving the special characteristics of this land for the future
- That Australia can provide guidance and support to people in other lands seeking to achieve biosensitivity
- Integration of research, policy and advocacy for a biosensitive society.
- With Stephen Boyden's ground-breaking perspectives and those of Walter Jehne, Tony McMichael, John Schooneveldt, Frank Fenner, Adrian Gibbs, Jenny Wanless, Bryan Furnass, Jenny Goldie, Colin Samundsett, Michael Alpers, NSF has been unique in its focus on integration.
- Ability to progress the sustainability agenda.
- Chance to advance and continue the work of Frank Fenner and the NSF
- Chance to add a global dimension to biosensitivity
- The big picture paradigm change approach
- FFF is the only organization in the world that discusses the world's human and biophysical problems as if evolution mattered.

### **2. Expertise of members**

- Involvement with senior, experienced and knowledgeable academics who focus on environmental issues.
- Keeping in touch with the latest developments in thinking and research on the future of our planet and of humankind is particularly important to me.
- FFF provides an environment that helps me to increase my own knowledge, and review my own behaviour.
- Opportunity to learn new perspectives from knowledgeable people
- Keeping up to date on academic thinking

### **3. Breadth of issues**

- The broad scope of FFF
- It is heartening to belong to an organisation that questions economic growth.

- Frequently it cheers me up to know that positive things are happening which are seldom reported elsewhere.
- Opportunity to discuss issues that embrace the social as well as the physical aspects of issues such a climate change or energy and resource scarcity.
- Opened the door to unfamiliar fields
- Interesting articles and information from a variety of unfamiliar sources.
- The discussion has to be as broad as possible to encompass all points of view, especially findings from the environmental sciences.
- FFF support for the Australian National Sustainability Initiative (ANSI).

#### **4. Like-minded people**

- FFF is an educated community presenting an informed view of the place of humans in the biosphere.
- A fellowship of dedicated and intelligent and committed people
- Opportunity to network with like-minded people
- Like minded people struggling for the same ends.
- Notification of events of interest to like-minded people.
- Community with broad-thinking, knowledgeable and brave people.
- Connections with others I have known over time
- The opportunity to look into the minds of similarly motivated people

#### **5. Depth of discussion**

- Provides intelligent arguments for the world's most pressing problems and tries to find workable solutions.
- Up to date information about issues dear to my heart
- Brings together people with non-academic backgrounds and those who are expert practitioners in their fields.

#### **6. Meetings**

- Means of keeping informed and involved
- Opportunity to hear interesting speakers
- Meeting and talking to like-minded people
- Contact with a small group
- Summaries of recent talks when I can't attend meetings.