

## Once upon a time: Stories for evaluating learning and change in Education for Sustainable Development programs

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We all have stories about successful community education programs. We often use these stories as anecdotal evidence of positive change in our reports and publications. But how often do we hear that these stories are not enough as evidence of change?

This workshop will explore the challenges that we as community educators face in having to report that our programs are effective and that we actually facilitate positive change. The workshop will draw from my experiences in using stories in developing a learning-based evaluation approach that has been guided by the principles and methods of Participatory Action Research and the Most Significant Change (MSC) Technique. This approach has specifically been developed to evaluate the outcomes of non-formal Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programs in Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region.

I will argue that there are parallel principles within PAR, MSC and ESD that support the rationale for the use of stories in evaluating learning and change. I would be interested to engage the participants to share and reflect on their own approaches in evaluating outcome of similar education programs that responds to the expectations of government and funding agencies.

I will not promise a 'happy ever after' end to the challenges we face, but I hope that we can begin to learn from each other new ways of documenting and evaluating change that value stories.