

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 1 Week 4 2012

For distribution by the Environmental Education Contact

*Our email newsletters support environmental education in Central Coast schools by providing succinct information about environmental happenings, resources, events, grants etc. Your contributions are welcome. If you are receiving this newsletter as a paper copy **please consider providing us with your email so that we can send it directly (usually 2 per term).***

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING


Central Coast schools Sustainability Leaders forum, 8th March at Rumbalara EEC.

This annual meeting of school environmental education coordinators provides the latest information on local initiatives, resources and support so that you can more effectively implement EE at your school. Share achievements, network with likeminded people, meet Agency and community EE providers and get practical ideas on teaching outside the classroom. Guest speaker Dr Amy Cutter –McKenzie will present evidence on the importance of Nature to a child's development. The course is free and lunch will be provided. Register on MyPL@DEC **code 151HCR002** before Monday 5th march.

EVENTS and ACTIONS

Bookings for Rumbalara EEC excursion programs are filling fast. We still have some dates in term 4. Those schools that have booked excursions should have received confirmations of the booked dates.

March 2nd Schools Clean Up Day Last year, over 2,200 Schools Clean Up Sites were registered, but this year with your help we can do better! Register at www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-schools and receive your School's Clean up kit containing information and ideas on how to prepare and promote your event.

March 4 – 10 Seaweed. The theme for 2012 is Marine Debris - Clean it up! And it coincides with Clean Up Australia Day. Marine Debris is litter that has deliberately or accidentally become afloat in a lake, sea, ocean or waterway. It tends to be built up by circular ocean currents and is often washed ashore. It is one of the major sources of pollution in our oceans. For information and teaching activities go to; www.mesa.edu.au Other useful resources are available at www.oceanwatch.org.au/kids-stuff/ www.mesa.edu.au 

GRANTS

1. **Schools are invited to apply for up to \$1500** sponsorship from the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority for educational projects, events or activities that have a focus on improving catchment health eg local biodiversity, reducing litter or improving water quality. If you have a proposal you'd like to discuss contact the CMA on (02) 4930 1030 or download an application form from the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA website

Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 There are two round of grants in 2012, Round 2: Closes 4th May, Round 3: Closes 27th July, www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/coles-grant

RESOURCES

The Australian Greenhouse Calculator calculates greenhouse gas emissions based on data that has been inserted. Teacher ideas and student activities are provided to develop a deeper understanding of climate change and the impacts that are a result of lifestyle choices. Also some slick animations. <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/AGC/home.html>

Coal seam gas has emerged as a major industry in Australia in little more than a decade. This ABC News report provides information on this new resource and the environmental impacts associated with its extraction. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/specials/coal-seam-gas-by-the-numbers/>

Schools clean up day (see under events above) www.cleanup.org.au/au/schools-climate-kit.html
www.cleanup.org.au/au/Whatelsewesupport/SayNOtoPlasticBag.html

The Australian State of the Environment 2011 presents a comprehensive review of the state and trends of the environment. A summary report is available that includes the following chapters: Drivers of Australia's environment, Atmosphere, Inland water, Land, Marine environment, Antarctic environment, Biodiversity, Heritage, Built environment, Coasts
<http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/summary/index.html>

NATUREWATCH

Little penguins coming ashore to moult on Lion Island
Channel Billed Cuckoos and Koels and Dollarbirds depart for North Australia and New Guinea
Mullet starting to 'run' up the coast
Spotted gums in bud and Blackbutts in flower attracting lorikeets and flying foxes
Camphor laurel (spreading weed tree) fruiting attracts Topknot and White-headed pigeons.

COMPETITIONS

Enviro Inspiro! 2012 is open. The NSW SRC invites **secondary** students in NSW public schools to create a 5 minute media presentation and a 2 page written report to showcase their successful student-led environmental projects. Schools and student teams can win one of three major 'prizes' valued up to \$3,000. Examples of previous winning entries and details of this years competition are available at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/events/statecompetitions/enviro_inspiro/index.php

The 2012 Green Kids Award is Clean Up Australia's video competition for **primary** school students. Record environmental project as a short video and enter the Green Kids Award . Registrations are NOW Open! Go to <http://competitions.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/>
Your School must be participating in the 2012 Schools Clean Up Day to be eligible Closing date for all entries is March 9, 2012

'Rivers to the Sea, Healthy and Clean Thanks to Me' This is the theme of Gosford City Council's Primary Schools 'Greenhouse' Program for 2012 Go to www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment for more information.

Wyong Council will also be running their primary schools program in 2012. Theme is not yet confirmed. Enquiries to Julia Lee on 43505130

GREEN DATES

2012 is the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Energy for all
www.sustainableenergyforall.org/

March 22nd **World Water Day** www.unwater.org  www.worldwaterday.org 

March 23rd **World Meteorological Day** www.wmo.int/wmd/ 

March 31st **Earth Hour 2012** switch off 8.30pm www.earthhour.org 

April 22nd **Earth Day** "Green Schools Leadership Center" www.earthday.net/ 

May 7th - 12th **International Composting Awareness Week** Ph 02 9922 1591
www.compostweek.com.au