

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 1 Week 10 2012

**Please distribute to the Environmental Education Contact
and others interested in environmental sustainability.**

*Our email newsletters are designed to 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).***

EVENTS and ACTIONS

Learning for Sustainability Awards 2012 celebrates sustainability initiatives - big or small – in your school.



This is your opportunity to be recognised and share achievements in sustainability! Nominations close on **Friday, 29 June 2011** and are open to all staff, students and teams and can be for achievements from 2011 and/or 2012

The Learning for Sustainability Awards celebrate efforts in sustainability that improve, enhance and protect our environment. Assessed on the basis of their tangible outcomes, such projects or initiatives might reduce our use of energy, reduce our use of water, minimise waste and encourage recycling, enhance ecosystems, increase community awareness, deliver leadership in education. To participate, **produce a digital story, PowerPoint or video presentation** that showcases your sustainability achievements and complete your nomination form on the DEC intranet at <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/envirosustain/index.htm>

We Create Awards (formally known as Connected Learning Awards) have been expanded in 2012 to include a Sustainability and Climate Clever categories. Any student environmental or sustainability project is eligible. Students create any kind of electronic presentation or report on their project. Information can be found at:

http://wcreate.nsw.edu.au/wcc_apps/eReport/challenge.shtm

Student Organic Recycling Training at the Kariang Eco Garden from 12 – 2pm on Monday 7 May or Monday 14 May

Aim: To provide hands on, interactive training for students who have responsibility for school organics recycling. To increase local schools successful organics recycling.

Outcomes: Students will understand the principles of composting, how worm farms work and be well equipped to solve problems with compost systems and worm farms. More information at

Each school can register up to four students to attend. (max of 5 schools on any day)
To book please phone 0417 686694. Cost: \$10 per student, payable to Kariang Eco Garden.

PROGRAM includes: composting principles, different systems, problem solving and earthworm appreciation.

Saturday 28 April: Climate Change Forum

1-4pm, Kariong EcoGarden, Dandaloo Rd, Kariong.

Hear the latest Al Gore climate change presentation by Sue Martin and an update on local climate change impacts by Richard Weller.

Bookings are essential; phone CEN on 4349 4756

GRANTS

Eco Schools provide grants of up to \$2,500 to give schools the opportunity to involve students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects. Schools who did not receive an Environmental Trust grant in 2011 are eligible to apply. More information at

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm

Due to increasing interest there is now a separate **gardens grant** for schools.

VC workshops will be hosted by the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre (EEC) in Sydney commencing at 3:30pm and ending at 5:00pm on the 26th April, 2nd May and 8th May. Registration is via the NSW DEC MyPL system.

Junior Landcare Grants information at www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2

Coles School Garden Grant: closes Friday 5th May,

Corporate Express Go Green Grants Program: closes Tuesday May 1st, 2012.

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](http://www.huntercentralriverscma.com.au) website

Rumbalara EEC Green Grants (small grants for environment projects in Central Coast DEC schools). Don't let the thought of a laborious funding application process prevent you from implementing your fantastic environmental initiative. If a small amount of funding is required to get a project going call Rumbalara EEC to discuss it. Worm farms, tools for veggie gardens, water monitoring equipment, teacher relief to develop environment programs, student environmental leadership etc are all considered.

Schools that received this funding in 2011 are not eligible to apply in 2012.

RESOURCES

Up to date environmental information, events, videos and resources for teachers and students at www.coolaustralia.org/

Teaching about Energy? Check out these links to grants, games, resources and information.

http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/focus/energy.htm

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

Ten lower Lake Macquarie Public Schools are helping to protect the threatened squirrel gliders that inhabit their area. A visit from Taronga's Zoomobile gave students a close-up look at these beautiful little gliders. They then investigated the local habitat with Rumbalara and National Parks rangers and are now working on ways to inform their communities about the threats (cats, land clearing) and are putting up nest boxes to ensure sufficient dens are available. The squirrel glider is the school emblem for Wadalba Community school which is one of the schools involved.



NATUREWATCH

With the cool touch of autumn in the air now is a good time for a bushwalk in the beautiful national parks of the Central Coast. The magenta Lilli Pilli is fruiting and flowering. **Banksias** (spinulosa, ericifolia, oblongifolia) and **Swamp Mahoganies** are attracting lots of honeyeaters. **Yellow faced honeyeaters** and **Tasmanian Silvereyes** are migrating north and look for the endangered **Regent Honeyeaters** and **Swift Parrots**. The terrestrial **Greenhood Orchids** are starting to flower and Schools of **Sea Mullet** are moving along the beaches.

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. Closes **Friday 22 June 2012**.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/events/statecompetitions/enviro_inspiro/index.php

'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. for more information.

go to www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment/education/the-greenhouse-for-primary-schools/school.html

GREEN DATES

22nd April Earth Day "Mobilize the Earth" www.earthday.net/

7-12th May International Composting Awareness Week "Better Soil, Better Life, Better Future" www.compostweek.com.au/

12th - 13th May World Migratory Bird Day www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

18th May National Walk Safely to School Day www.walk.com.au/wstd01/page.asp?PageID=260

22nd May International Day For Biological Diversity "Marine Biodiversity" www.cbd.int/ibd

5th June World Environment Day United Nations Environment Program www.unep.org/wed/