

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 2 Week 2 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

2012 The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, with support from UN-Energy and the United Nations Foundation, is leading a new global initiative – *Sustainable Energy for All*. This initiative will engage governments, the private sector, and civil society partners globally with the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all, and to reach three major objectives by 2030:

- ensuring universal access to modern energy services
- doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

For more information about international events surrounding the Year go to

<https://staffowa.det.nsw.edu.au/owa/redir.aspx?C=5ddac7d46f8642bab0e131cc47bd8cae&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.sustainableenergyforall.org%2fevents>

Alternative Futures Conference

21-24 May, 2012, Newcastle, NSW

The Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS) team and the councils of the region invite you to the Alternative Futures Conference.

Convened over three days in Newcastle City Precinct NSW, the conference will deliver an exciting multidisciplinary event addressing sustainability, climate and risk, land use planning, biodiversity conservation, liveable communities and urban design.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/alternative-futures/event-summary-69f818790cf8466c>

NPA is holding a marine fundraising event!

When: Wednesday 9 May, 2012, Film starts at 6pm. **Where:** IMAX Theatre, Darling Harbour, Sydney **Price:** \$20 per adult ticket, or \$80 for 5 tickets. \$10 per concession ticket.

The National Parks Association will be holding an exclusive screening of [“The Last Reef: Cities Beneath the Sea 3D”](#) for NPA members and supporters. The Last Reef employs new underwater 3D technology to take us on a spectacular journey from the heart of the city to the heart of the reef. For more information about the event and purchasing tickets, ring the NPA Office on (02) 9299 0000, or visit the [NPA website](#).

Student Organic Recycling Training at the Kariong Eco Garden from 12 – 2pm on Monday 7 May or Monday 14 May aims to provide hands on, interactive training for students who have responsibility for school 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. Each school can register up to four students to attend. (max of 5 schools on any day) To book please email Lisa at wormss@bigpond.com. Cost: \$10 per student, payable to Kariong Eco Garden.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, healthy You - International Permaculture Day

This Sunday 6th, May at Kariong Eco Garden, 10 - 2pm and at Gosford Show Sat and Sun 5th and 6th May. Information talks and childrens activities.

GRANTS

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.

2012 Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grant Round 2 is now open.

Schools looking to start their own garden program can apply for a Coles Junior Landcare garden grant by registering with Junior Landcare. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au **Round 2: Closes Friday 4th May, 5pm (EST).**

NAB Schools First Award

Applications are now open online and close 5.00pm (AEST) on **Friday 29 June 2012**. This year there is \$3 million available to 130 outstanding school-community partnerships. **Student Award** - In 2012, the 10 best student-initiated ideas from across Australia will receive an awards pack for themselves and their school, including \$5,000 to help turn their idea into a reality. For further information <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/>

Eco Schools Grants Program

Closes: 18 May 2012. 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. There is a separate application process for Food Gardens in Schools. More information at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm

Keep Australia Beautiful - [Beverage Container Recycling Grants](#)

Funding to implement improved drink container recycling in school to compliment the new co-mingled recycling option offered as part of the DEC waste contract.

DEC Learning for Sustainability Awards – 2102.

These awards are now in their third year and participation is growing. Any school or school-community environmental and sustainability project can be entered. More information <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/envirosustain/lrnsustain/index.htm>

RESOURCES

CSIRO Climate Change Report 2012 has some sobering fast facts and great information for all. It notes that the long term warming trend has not changed.

www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding/State-of-the-Climate-2012.aspx

Wilderquest

This new website has been produced by National Parks: www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au Children can explore a range of virtual environments, collect and collate information, access information about the environment, plants and animals all using a games based approach.

Online Interactive Game

Planet Ark's - The Story of Carbon told by Carbie the Carbon Atom

Carbie is looking for a better place to be. Aimed at primary students, they can choose between the ocean, coal, trees and wood products and learn how carbon is stored in each of these environments. <http://makeitwood.org/carbon-cycle/>

Wetlands Education Kit

The Dept. of Sustainability, Environment, Water Population and Communities (DSEWPC), has produced a Wetlands Schools Kit – *Discovering Wetlands in Australia* (on-line at www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/classroom-kit.html).

For World Wetlands Day, a YouTube video on wetlands was produced, www.youtube.com/watch?v=eotxebGLQw&list=UU3rz6-O0WRfvRcvtl8Q0R-Q&feature=plcp

NATUREWATCH

Koalas have finally been recognised as vulnerable. There is a small remnant population in Brisbane Water national park that is in decline. Check out the sightings of any species on the Atlas of Australian wildlife.

COMPETITIONS

Green Cross Australia

Help the Planet – Become a Bright Spark

Closing 16 July '12, 5pm

For Australian school students aged 8 to 13 years, an opportunity to win fantastic prizes by making a 2-3 minute video or writing an A4 page persuasive argument about their big ideas for a clean energy future.

- Overall video winner - \$1000 and prize pack
- State/Territory video winners - \$1000
- People's choice video winner - \$500
- Persuasive writing winners - \$200

Every state/territory video finalist will be flown to Brisbane for the special awards ceremony during Science Week 11-19 August 2012. For competition rules and entry forms, visit

<https://staffowa.det.nsw.edu.au/owa/redir.aspx?C=5ddac7d46f8642bab0e131cc47bd8cae&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.futuresparks.org.au%2fthe-competition.aspx>

World Environment Day Awards United Nations Association of Australian

Closing 4 May '12 Nominations are invited from individuals, organisations and businesses that have taken positive steps towards sustainability and demonstrated environmental excellence in their homes, schools, communities and workplaces. In 2012, the Awards are held in support of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and United Nations World Environment Day 2012 'Green Economy: Does it include you?' For more information about the Awards, including categories, entry criteria and nomination forms, please visit [UNAAVictoria 2012 Awards Program](#)

We Create Awards

These have been expanded in 2012 to include a Sustainability and Climate Clever categories. Students develop a digital submission on a sustainability or climate clever project for judging. More <http://clie.det.nsw.edu.au/content/wecreate.htm>

Enviro Inspiro! 2012. 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

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Education for Sustainability Hub

The EfS Hub is a professional learning website filled with links to resources for those working in Education for Sustainability or Environmental Education. These resources include courses and seminars, documents, organisations, and available funding opportunities
The EfS Hub is entirely free. To join or for more information, visit www.efsllearninghub.net.au.

Want to learn more about Learning for Sustainability? www.aries.mq.edu.au/videos

'The ARIES Collection' The Australian Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability team at Macquarie University have put together a selection of online videos from around the world to educate, engage, inspire, perplex, enlighten, delight and stimulate debate about all things to do with sustainability education and development. This has been added to the teaching for sustainability page www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/index.htm

GREEN DATES

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/wstsd01/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/

8th June – World Oceans Day - <http://worldoceansday.org/>

1st - 8th July - NAIDOC Week - www.naidoc.org.au

27th July – School's National Tree Day - <http://www.treeday.planetark.org/about>

29th July – National Tree Day - <http://www.treeday.planetark.org/about>

11th - 19th Aug - National Science Week - "Energy Evolution" - www.scienceweek.gov.au

7th Sept - National Threatened Species Day - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities - www.environment.gov.au

9th Sept - Sustainable House Day - <http://www.sustainablehouseday.com>

5th Oct - National Organic Week - International Composting Awareness Week Australia - www.compostweek.com.au

21st - 27th Oct - National Water Week - Australian Water Association - www.nationalwaterweek.org.au

7th - 13th Nov - National Recycling Week - Planet Ark- <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org>