

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 3 Week 3 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

An evening with Richard Louv - A leading authority on the vital connections between family, community and nature, Louv's extensive body of work – which includes bestseller *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* – investigates the growing disconnect between children and nature, and the critical role of nature in our psychological, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from this inspiring international speaker, whose writings and research are influencing programs and policies around the world.

When: Wednesday, 8 August 2012

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Where: Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW

This is a free event; places are limited and bookings are essential. To book and find out more, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Richardlouv

Marine and Environmental Science Forum for Students & Teachers The University of Newcastle and Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre (CCMDC) invites students and teachers from across the Central Coast to an afternoon that's all about the marine and environmental science. Hear about:

- What it means to be a Marine or Environmental Scientist
- Some of the research that students and academics are doing in our Central Coast backyard!
- What to do if you want to pursue a career in the area of marine or environmental studies.

Meet lecturers and research students from the University of Newcastle, Central Coast campus. The Forum is ideally suited to Science teachers and students (from Years 9 to 12) – including subject areas biology, chemistry, marine and general Science.

Mon, 13 August, 2012 3:30pm-5:30pm Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Terrigal

The forum is FREE. Numbers limited –bookings essential. Email: admin@ccmdc.org.au to book.

The 2012 Year 11 ENVIROTHON is on Wed. 31st Oct. For students interested in a career in the field of environmental management this is the main event! It provides an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills to solve real environmental problems. Register your team of 4

students before 19th October to compete in this year's challenge. Contact Rumbalara if you haven't yet received an application form.

To celebrate the **National Year of Reading**, Sustainable Schools NSW are looking for great books you recommend to other teachers to engage kids. If you reply with: Title, Author, target age group, 1-2 sentences on why it's a great book for kids. This list will be included as a recommended reading list for students. More at <http://cllc.det.nsw.edu.au/nyr/index.htm>

Go Green for Bilbies day – Friday 7 September. Save the Bilby fund is encouraging schools to have a 'green day' by wearing, planting or decorating.! More [at www.savethebilbyfund.com/](http://www.savethebilbyfund.com/)

Celebrate our local biodiversity! A BioBlitz during September will encourage monitoring activities to take place right across the region. Activities will include Water quality monitoring and surveys of Water Bugs, Rock-platforms, Birds, Frogs, Fish and Fungi. Once completed the CEN will compile the data to provide a snapshot of biodiversity on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie. Register to get involved at: admin@cen.org.au

GRANTS

Climate Clever Energy Savers Program This program enables students from Stages 2 – 5 to develop and implement energy and greenhouse gas reduction proposals for their schools. Funding of up to \$3000 includes 3 days casual relief / teacher and professional learning and teaching resources. The final round of funding will open in September.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program provides up to \$11000 in funding for the establishment of kitchen and garden infrastructure. Applications will open on 4th Sept and close in Feb 2014. www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/our-schools-program

Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority funding for educational projects, events or activities that have a focus on improving catchment health. Local Government, schools, and non-government community groups and networks are invited to apply for up to \$1500 sponsorship for activities such as educational field days and workshops, training courses, forums and conferences, tree planting days, or production and distribution of educational publications. If you have a proposal you'd like to discuss contact the CMA on (02) 4930 1030

Canon environmental grants program categories include a **School Award** for an environmental project being run by a primary or secondary school community; and a **Youth Award** for a project led by an individual under 25 years of age. On awarding of the five grants, each recipient will be given their choice of \$5,000 (retail value) of Canon equipment – including digital compact and DSLR cameras, video cameras, binoculars, projectors, printers, and more. Selection is based on the environmental merits of each group's nominated project, as well as the importance of the products to realising its success. More at: www.canon.com.au/About-Canon/Sustainability-Environment/Environment/Environmental-Grants

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

Congratulations to the Environment leaders from **Mannering Park PS** who along with **Singleton HS** have been chosen to represent our region at the 2012 Youth Eco Summit to be held at Sydney Olympic Park on 17 & 18 October. The students will showcase their achievements to a large audience and network with other schools, academia, government and non-government agencies and industry providers at this major sustainability event.

RESOURCES

Reduce waste to landfill by recycling organic waste at your school.

Student Organic Recycling Training provides hands on, interactive training for students who have responsibility for school organics recycling. Trained students will understand and be equipped to solve problems with compost systems and worm farms. PROGRAM includes: composting principles, types of systems, problem solving and earthworm appreciation.

Each school can register up to four students to attend. (max of 5 schools on any day). To book please phone 0417 686694 or email wormss@bigpond.com Cost: \$10 per student, payable to Kariong Eco Garden. Available dates this term are Mondays 12-2pm in Week 4,6 & 8 ie 6 Aug, 20 Aug and 3 Sept.

Have you seen Eco TV? <http://ecotv.com.au/> it provides contemporary TV style presentations, investigative reporting and interviews on a diversity of sustainability issues and topics. It may be useful for your school environment groups.

NATUREWATCH

Gymea lilies are in full bloom and the pygmy possums will be waking from their winter torpor to feed on the nectar. Out at sea Humpback whales have mostly completed their northerly migration but look out for Southern Right whales with their calves. Gannets are spear fishing from a great height. Pelican chicks are almost fully fledged and mature adults with their crimson blue-lined bills are courting. Brush turkey males are actively constructing mounds of leaf litter.

GREEN DATES

National Science Week 11th-19th August. The schools theme for 2012 is “energy evolution”, based on the UN’s International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. www.sustainableenergyforall.org/

National threatened species day 7th September

Position Vacant

Readers of this newsletter may be interested in applying for the Rumbalara EEC teacher position which will be advertised next Wednesday in Jobs@DEC.