

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

Donnison Street, Gosford NSW 2250 Phone: (02)43247200 Fax: (02)43237451

Email: rumbalara-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au

Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 2 Week 9 2013

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).***

EVENTS and ACTIONS

Schools Tree Day Friday 26 July

Time to start organising your plants, site and kids now. Think about teaching and learning activities that can be undertaken prior to the event day. There are some great resources on the planet ark website for schools to use in the preparing for tree day activities <http://treeday.planetark.com/schools/>. Includes the e-book for IWB's, Earth Alive - a multi-week unit of work lesson plans and learning activities for primary and secondary

Marine & Environmental Science Forum for Students and Teachers

Tuesday, 23 July – 1:30-3pm **OR** 4-5:30pm

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 marine and environmental science. **Come along to 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. There are 2 sessions – you only need to attend one of these. **The forum is FREE. Numbers are limited – so bookings are essential. Email: admin@ccmdc.org.au to book.**

Climate Clever Energy Savers

The climate Clever Energy Savers (CCES) Program for 2013 is reaching a critical point where participating Schools should by now be formulating their proposals and finalising student e-book 'accounts' of their program and student activities within their individual schools. Early next term proposals will need to be submitted to Rumbalara EEC and the CCES Coordinator for assessment and funding. Deadline for submissions to Rumbalara is **Wednesday, 31 July 2013 (Week 3, Term 3).**

Climate Commission Findings: The length, extent and severity of the current Australian heatwave is unprecedented in the measurement record.

The Commission recently released its latest findings that indicate that Australia is likely to continue to experience longer and more frequent climatic extremes, including “Off the Charts” temperatures.

Key Messages from this report include the risk of more frequent and longer heatwaves and more extreme hot days as well as exacerbating bushfire conditions.

Good community understanding of climate change risks is critical to ensure we take appropriate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to put measures in place to prepare for, and respond to, extreme weather.

A more detailed information brochure can be obtained at -

http://climatecommission.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/CC_Jan_2013_Heatwave21.pdf

Critical Decade of Action

2011 – 2020 has been declared the ‘Critical Decade’ of action, if we hope to stave off a global average temperature increase and to keep current trends below the 2° C average global rise that is considered likely to, if reached, trigger an irreversible trend in global warming with possibly devastating effects. It is further stated that for these current trends of increase in temperature to be halted we must cease burning fossil fuels and leave coal, oil and gas reserves where they are, in the ground.

Consequently, by 2050 we, as a global community, must have ceased using carbon based energy sources if global climates are to be stabilised.

Further information about this report and its implications can be found at -

<http://climatecommission.gov.au/report/the-critical-decade-2013/>

Youth Eco Summit 23-24 October, 2013

Registrations are now open for the 2013 Youth Eco Summit (YES 2013) a unique, curriculum-based sustainability event for students and their teachers. The program promotes student leadership and showcases sustainability achievements and practices in both primary and secondary schools. Choose from 1 of 2 action packed days.

BOOK NOW! www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/YES

Dates: **23 or 24 October, 2013** (choose either day)

Venue: Newington Armory, Sydney Olympic Park

Cost: \$5 per student

Information: YouthEcoSummit@sydneyolympicpark.com.au

OZ Green Youth Lead, 3 - 5 September 2013

For students that want to strengthen their capacity for leadership and social innovation?

This event will see youth come together to explore, understand and take action for environmental issues.

www.ozgreen.org/

Container Deposit Legislation

In case you don't already know about the big national push for a 10c refundable deposit on bottles and cans, find out more and take action at www.boomerangalliance.org.au - you can order a 'Cash for Containers' supporters banner for your school. Visit

www.saveourmarinelife.org.au/plastic/ to show your support for ‘Cash for Containers’.

School groups: Wildlife Photographer of the Year

The world's most prestigious wildlife photography exhibition opens 8 June and closes 7 October at the Australian Museum. Free entry for teachers in July school holidays! (requires teacher ID at admission) **Cost** per school student - \$9 (\$3 exhibition plus \$6 general Museum entry)

Education Resource Kits have been produced with teacher notes, syllabus links and student activities for these programs. Visit www.australianmuseum.net.au/School-groups-Wildlife-Photographer-of-the-Year

Student Organic Recycling Training

Provides hands-on training for students to lead the school's organics recycling and includes the principles of composting, appropriate systems for different situations and basic worm farm requirements. The advanced training includes compost and worm farm problem solving, the soil food web, making compost tea and worm towers. Up to five schools can register for up to four students to attend. Transport must be organized by the participating school eg by a parent volunteer. Accompanying adults are welcome to stay at the Eco Garden during the workshop or may leave students while they enjoy a visit to a local coffee shop or other place of interest.

Mondays: 12 noon – 2pm

Term 3: 5 August, 19 August, Advanced: 5 Sept

Term 4: 28 Oct, 11 Nov, Advanced: 25 Nov

Cost: \$10/student, Bookings: Community Environment Network 4349 4756 or email:

keg@cen.org.au

Sustainability Survey – Australian Curriculum

Take part in a National online survey regarding the delivery of sustainability as a cross-curriculum priority within the new Australian Curriculum. The results of the survey will be used to better understand the barriers and enablers that teachers face to integrate knowledge, skills and worldviews about sustainability into student learning across a broad range of year levels and subject areas.

This will inform AEU/ NSW Teachers Federation recommendations to a study that has been commissioned by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, including better ways to support teachers to incorporate national cross curriculum priorities.

The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete. To take part in the survey, go to <http://tinyurl.com/AEUTeacherSurvey> before 30th June.

GRANTS

Schools First Awards – closes 28 June, 2013

Amounts: \$5,000- \$200,000

In 2013, NAB Schools First is introducing key themes which encapsulate the ways in which school-community partnerships are providing students with resources, knowledge and expertise to face the challenges of the 21st century. <http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/apply>

Banksia Environment Foundation – Awards

Closes 26 July, 2013. To recognise and reward environmental excellence and the contribution to a sustainable Australia. <http://www.banksiafdn.com/>

NSW Landcare Awards

Closes 30 June, 2013 Includes category for Junior Landcare Team Award

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2013-state-territory-landcare-awards/nsw>

Tree Levy applications due 1 August 2013

Schools are encouraged to submit an application for a NSW Teachers Federation grant of up to \$400 for the purpose of purchasing native trees and shrubs to plant on school grounds.

Application form at <https://www.nswtf.org.au/members/school-teachers/2011-tree-levy.html> or to the Federation homepage www.nswtf.org.au and type Tree Levy into the search field.

The Tree Levy was initiated to offset in part the environmental impact of the union's activities, particularly the use of paper. It provides members with an opportunity to promote the positive contribution made by the union to the local school community.

Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens. These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through "outdoor learning" and interaction in developing their own school gardens. Round 3 closes: Friday 2nd August, 5 pm. More information at <http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/coles-grant>

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

31st NSW Environmental Education conference

Join the environmental education community in Dubbo, NSW on the 26–27 September, 2013. A central theme will be understanding and creating connections between rural and urban landscapes.

Join the Australian Association for Environmental Education now and get 15 months membership for 12 months.

RESOURCES

Richard Louv visited Australia last year to give a number of talks. He talks about the need to engage children with nature. Children have withdrawn from nature for lots of reasons. Parental fear of children playing outside contributes to a fear of nature. It's no longer the norm for children to go and play independently in nature. Research shows that engaging with nature has positive behavioural, health and developmental benefits for children. By tapping into the restorative powers of nature, we can boost mental acuity and creativity; promote health and wellness; and ultimately strengthen human bonds.

The videos have been loaded to the DEC's new YouTube channel

Nature Education Symposium:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4OaBCdO34bA9yd0TNbIpRGC-IVUojO3P>

Engaging Children in Nature:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4OaBCdO34bCqGmYtAskZqtvioUmuYnef>

Kellie Bollard has several books on the Premiers reading challenge list and has just released 'Permaculture Gardens: Sow, Grow, Care, Share'. Great for kitchen gardens schools!

Placing global change on the Australian election agenda 16 essays on the global effects of climate change designed to bring National and global issues together. Includes some questions for politicians to raise in the lead up to September. Individually some of these essays would be great Stage 5 reading.

Do the Math a movie on global warming. Not for young students. This movie has just been released in Australia. It showcases the *Do the Math* tour in the US that aimed to communicate to the public the atmospheric science of global warming. It does have a lot of content that is critical of big business and oil companies so use discretion if you are using this in class.

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

Threatened Species at Brisbane Water Secondary College, Umina Campus

The open day was attended by a number of eminent guests including local member Chris Holstein and Gosford Councillor Jeff Strickson, as well as ecology experts to highlight the somewhat unique situation at Umina.

Umina Campus is blessed by possessing a stand of unique vegetation called Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland, an endangered ecological community (EEC – not to be confused with Rumbalara EEC!) that is confined to the local area. Further to that, the school is also frequented by one of the very few (total 4), breeding pairs of the endangered Bush Stone Curlew on the Central Coast and which regularly breed in or adjacent to some of the school's unique vegetation.

Enthusiastic P & C members, including Mark Snell and Bruce Graf, were recently rewarded for their efforts by receiving funding from the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for signage that promote and protect the unique bird and its endangered habitat at the school.

New campus Principal, Brent Walker, received correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) - Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sally Barnes, congratulating the school community on its combined conservation efforts with respect to the threatened entities within the school.

Presentations at the open day were made by noted local botanist Robert Payne and bird expert Dr Catherine Price, Mark Attwooll, Principal at Rumbalara EEC also spoke about the wonderful educational opportunities for students and the wider community that these threatened entities provide. Other attendees/contributors included Liz Phelps - National Parks and Wildlife Service, Narelle Leite - Community Environment Network, John Wiggins - Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Central Coast Branch, representatives of the 'Friends of the Bushstone Curlew' group and Jim Morrison from the volunteer Burrawang Bushcare group.

NATUREWATCH

Powerful Owl NestCAM

There are very few of us who are fortunate enough to see a Powerful Owl in the flesh – so now you have the opportunity to spy on a pair whenever you like with our Powerful Owl NestCAM (<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Powerful-Owl-NestCAM>)

Powerful Owl Project Officer David Bain will also be holding a weekly Q and A session on the BIBY forum. (www.birdsinbackyards.net/forum) . If you have any questions about Powerful Owls, pop into the 'general' section at anytime, post a question and Dave will come in once a week to answer.

GREEN DATES

2013 Calendar of environment days to assist in your planning.

(more dates at: www.environment.gov.au/about/media/events/index.html)

- [2013 International Year of Water Cooperatives](#)

July

- [World Population Day](#) - 11th
- [Schools Tree Day](#) - 26th

August

- [International Youth Day](#) - 12th
- [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#) - 19th to 25th

September

- [National Biodiversity Month](#) - all month
- [National Wattle Day](#) - 1st
- [National Threatened Species Day](#) - 7th
- [Sustainable House Day](#) - 8th

October

- [World Habitat Day](#) - first Monday in October
- [National Water Week](#) - third week in October

November

- [National Recycling Week](#) - 11th to 17th
- [World Fisheries Day](#) - 21st