

# Rumbalara

## Environmental Education Centre

Donnison Street, Gosford NSW 2250 Phone: (02)43247200 Fax: (02)43237451  
Email: [rumbalara-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rumbalara-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au) Web: [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 1 Week 4 2014

### 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).***

### LATEST NEWS

#### Central Coast School Sustainability Leaders forum

**Wed, 12 March, 2014**

8:45am- 3:00pm

Rumbalara EEC, Donnison St, Gosford

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 Environmental Education at your school.

Share achievements, network with likeminded people, meet Agency and community EE providers and get practical ideas on teaching outside the classroom.

The course is free and lunch will be provided. **Register by Friday, 7 March** - on MyPL@DEC Event ID 71766.

#### School Environmental Contact List

We are currently updating our School Environment Contact list. To ensure our distribution list is up to date it would be appreciated if your School Environmental Contact names could be emailed to [rumbalara-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rumbalara-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or faxed to 4323 7451 **by Friday, 28 February, 2014**

#### Richard Louv visit to Australia

Hear Richard Louv speak **Sunday 23 Feb** Sydney Town Hall 5-7pm.

Richard Louv, international speaker and author of *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle*, will discuss the social, mental, physical and ultimately conservation benefits of human connection with nature.

Book - <http://www.acfonline.org.au/richard-louv>. Revisit the Nature Education Symposium Richard presented and the interviews by students. (Tale search 'Nature education')  
<http://lrrpublic.cli.det.nsw.edu.au/lrrSecure/Sites/Web/nature-education/index.htm>

## Future Leaders Environment Award 2014

The Future Leaders Environment Award recognises Year 12 students who have shown strong environmental leadership and initiative. Australian secondary schools are invited to nominate Year 12 students for the Award.

**Prize:** In 2014, the award winners will receive a Fellowship to participate in an Earthwatch Expedition in Australia. [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)

**Nominations:** nominations should include detailed information about the student's environmental leadership activities. This should be in the form of a letter on school letterhead and include two references.

Please send all nominations **by 1 July 2014** – electronically: [helen@futureleaders.com.au](mailto:helen@futureleaders.com.au)

Future Leaders is a philanthropic initiative about leadership and our future. It seeks to involve, inform and inspire. [www.futureleaders.com.au](http://www.futureleaders.com.au)

## GRANTS

### Climate Clever Energy Savers program

This program provides students (stages 2-5) with an opportunity to find and deliver energy saving solutions for their school. Schools and teachers that have already benefited from this program in previous years **are eligible** to apply.

The program provides

- casual relief/employment funding for one day ca \$300/teacher
- an opportunity for students to participate in a student led investigative learning program on Energy
- an increased energy consumption 'awareness' throughout the school
- energy savings and structural improvements to the school
- tangible outcomes where students actually see benefits from their investigations and an opportunity to leave a legacy at the school
- new scheme teachers delivering the program may receive hours towards their PL requirements
- up to \$900 per participating teacher to undertake improvements at the school as directed by student developed proposals for energy saving
- assistance from Rumbalara staff via delivery of a 'Bright Sparks' presentation to participating students at your school (no cost) and through loans of equipment and help with proposal preparation and teaching learning programming where appropriate/required.

**Closing Date: 21 Feb 2014.** Details and EoI can be found in the final schoolbiz for 2013 or go to:

[www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env\\_ed/programs/savers/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/programs/savers/index.htm)

For more information contact Ross Wellington on 0407 489 489 - CCES Central Coast Coordinator or Mark Attwooll, Principal Rumbalara EEC – 4324 7200 (through which the Program is delivered locally).

## Eco-grants for teachers open at Teachers Mutual Bank

The Teachers Environment Fund is now open for Term 1. We are offering grants of up to \$2,000 each to help schools, TAFEs and CITs make their environment projects a reality. Making learning fun and engaging will encourage students to learn about their environment and will help contribute to a sustainable future for all of us.

Round 1 opens Monday, 3 February 2014 and closes Friday, 11 April 2014.

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

## Regional Educating for Sustainability (EfS) Discussion Forums

The NSW Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEENSW) has partnered with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to develop an Education for Sustainability vision, agenda and advisory process for NSW called the *Inspiring Sustainability Action and Engagement in NSW Framework* (hereafter called the 'Framework').

This Framework establishes a new way forward for EfS in NSW and provides a framework that recognises regional, rural and urban issues and works within principles and practices important for 2014 and beyond.

Across NSW there are thousands of people like you who care about our environment and are educating and engaging other community members. Come to a workshop or join a webinar and have your actions and ideas contribute to a NSW Framework. Help us plan for the future.

Workshops closest to the Central Coast will be held at:

- **Sydney:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 9:30 – 12:30 - Coal Loader Sustainability Centre, Waverton.  
Hosted by North Sydney Council.
- **Western Sydney:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 9:30 – 12:30 - Parramatta Lakes training room.  
Hosted by Parramatta City Council.
- **Hunter:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 9:30-12:30 – Wetlands Education Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland.  
Hosted by the Hunter Wetlands Centre.

Register <https://aaeensw.wufoo.com/forms/future-direction-framework-workshops/>

Further details about each venue and the agenda will be forwarded on registration. There is no cost, but numbers are limited so please book now to secure your place.

Those who are not close to a workshop venue, or who cannot attend on the scheduled date, will be able to join in on a webinar to be advertised shortly. Visit the AAEE NSW website for more information [www.aaeensw.org.au/content/draftframework](http://www.aaeensw.org.au/content/draftframework). If you would like more information on this project, contact the project team through [project@aaeensw.org.au](mailto:project@aaeensw.org.au).

*This project is coordinated by AAEE NSW and has been assisted by the NSW Office for Environment & Heritage.*

### EVENTS and ACTIONS

## Schools Clean Up Day - Friday 28 February, 2014

Schools Clean Up Day will be held on Friday 28 February, 2014. As part of this event thousands of Australian students clean up their school grounds or local parks. By registering with Schools Clean Up Day, ([www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register/](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register/)) all schools receive a Clean Up Starter Kit with event

organisation advice and information and student learning materials.

Students also have the opportunity to enter the Green Kids Award. In 2014 Schools Clean Up Day is partnering with dirtgirlworld ([www.dirtgirlworld.com](http://www.dirtgirlworld.com)) to bring a whole new dimension to the awards.

For more information and Green Kids Award <http://cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-schools>

Additional student learning materials, including waste audits and school waste product road maps are available at [www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env\\_ed/teaching/focus/purchase.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/focus/purchase.htm).

For more information contact the Schools Clean Up Day Officer on 02 8197 2322 or [schools@cleanup.com.au](mailto:schools@cleanup.com.au).

## Earth Hour 2014 – Saturday, 29 March, 2014

Earth Hour 2014 has three main opportunities for your school to be involved:

- **New resources** - a revised toolkit for schools to include a new range of activities and curriculum aligned materials available for teachers.
- **Collect and share climate stories from your school and community**
- **Host a screening of the Earth Hour documentary special at your school** - the centrepiece of Earth hour 2014 will be hundreds of decentralised screenings at Earth Hour of a documentary that tells the story of climate change through the story of what's happening to one of Australia's most loved places - the Great Barrier Reef. For more details on resources and support available go to <http://earthhour.org.au/>

## AAEE 2014 National Conference: 2-4 November

**Registration for the 2014 Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference to be held in Hobart, Tasmania is now open!**

**Guest Speakers:** The AAEE Conference will feature **David W. Orr** the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College and a James Marsh Professor at the University of Vermont. He is a well known environmentalist and author and is active in many areas of environmental studies, including environmental education and environmental design.

**Paul Gilding** author of The Great Disruption as a keynote speaker and has a theme of "Sustainability: Smart Strategies for the 21C." This underpins the AAEE Vision of connecting through education to advance understandings and actions in relation to environmental and sustainability issues across all communities and education sectors.

Early Bird Registration Closes 10 August 2014. For further information, please visit the Conference website [www.aaee2014.com.au](http://www.aaee2014.com.au)

## RESOURCES

### Public schools NSW Kitchen Garden pilot program - evaluation report

Kitchen garden programs are increasingly popular with schools and students. A number of different implementation models are



evident in NSW schools.

The Department has published an Evaluation Report based on evidence from nine NSW government primary schools involved in a pilot kitchen garden program supporting cross-curricular learning. The report provides best practice advice on establishing and managing kitchen garden programs including strategies to involve the wider community. The report is available at:

[www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env\\_ed/teaching/resources/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/env_ed/teaching/resources/index.htm)

The Kitchen Gardens website ([www.kitchengardens.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.kitchengardens.det.nsw.edu.au)) also provides teacher planning advice, teaching and learning resources and an action learning scaffold for students.

## Register as a Central Coast Waterwatch School in 2014

Waterwatch is a national water quality monitoring and catchment education program involving schools, community groups and landholders. In 2014, Central Coast Waterwatch will be offering a special package for schools to register to be a part of our Central Coast Waterwatch family.

**Sign up as a Waterwatch School for 2014 and receive the following package:**

- 1 training session with teacher + students
- Assistance with 2 bug surveys during the year
- Support during Quality Assurance testing
- P-day participation (for primary schools) & support
- Attendance at 1 school event (eg. environment day or local area study) – subject to availability
- Assistance in obtaining a Waterwatch Kit (in Wyong LGA, there are a number of kits available for loan)
- Access to the online database
- CD with Teacher manuals & resources
- 1 support visit each term

**Schools pay only \$300 (+GST) to receive this support package for teachers and students.** (\*limited support will also be available to schools that do not sign up for this package). **Register by visiting** [www.cen.org.au](http://www.cen.org.au)

## Central Coast Environmental Education Network – Facebook page

A new Facebook page has been set up for environmental educators on the Central Coast – both formal education and informal education (eg. community initiatives). The Facebook page is in its early stages – but please Like the Facebook page to become part of this network. The CCEEN Facebook page is a space where anybody interested in environmental education on the Central Coast can share ideas, resources, events and information. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Coast-Environmental-Education-Network/1377558109150345?ref=hl>

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Friends of the ABC - CENTRAL COAST BRANCH

Guest Speaker: **Margaret Pomeranz**, the "At the Movies" presenter (with David Stratton)

**Friday 14th March, 2014**

From 6.00 pm

Venue is: Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford.

A light meal of finger food will be served afterwards.

**Tickets are \$12 p.p., to be pre-paid. Room open at 5.30 PM.**

Intending attendees are requested to pre-pay via the Greater Building Society: BSB 637-000, FABC account number 781348279, either by direct deposit at a Greater Branch or via Internet. If this is difficult please send a cheque to Treasurer John Lund: [127 Taylor Street, Woy Woy Bay, 2256, Ph. 4341 0918, Email: jlund@tpg.com.au](mailto:jlund@tpg.com.au)

## 4 Seasons for Art & Film

**Sat 22 February** 6-9pm

**Sat 24 May** 5-8pm

**Sat 26 July** 5-8pm

A family friendly event for all ages. Buy affordable yummy food or bring a picnic.

**REGULARS INCLUDE:** \* The Central Coast Conservatorium Strings Ensemble playing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'; \* Family friendly episodes of "dirtgirlworld" as seen on ABC TV; \* Environmental Documentaries; Storytelling, Community Art and more. \* Youth space in the Arts Barn. \* Celebrating and enhancing the community of Kariong.

Dandaloo St Kariong (cnr Woy Woy Rd) **Kariong Eco Garden** [www.kariongecogarden.org.au](http://www.kariongecogarden.org.au)  
[kariongecogarden@gmail.com](mailto:kariongecogarden@gmail.com) 0417 68 66 94 leave message

## Community Forum – Is your trash a treasure?

....*Recycling and Sustainability.*

There is no such thing as waste. Only resources in the wrong place. You are invited to be part of this Community Forum at Gosford Uniting Church

**Monday, 17th March, 2014** at 7:30pm

129 Donnison Street, Gosford (opposite Kibble Park)

Enquiries: Jan 4328 3707 (*Registration is not required*)

### GUEST SPEAKERS:

- **Ms. Matshepo Molala** - Born and educated in South Africa, Matshepo ran Environmental Education programs in her home country. She is now the Waste and Sustainability Officer for Randwick Council.
- **Ms. Lisa Wriley** - has a background in education. Since 2010 she has been a waste campaigner for the Total Environment Centre and Vice President of the Kariong Eco Garden.
- **Ms Anni Griffiths** - is the Environment Education Officer for Gosford City Council. She will discuss Council's programs, waste management and tours of Council sites.

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED Parking available at rear of premises.  
An initiative of the Gosford Uniting Church

## **NATUREWATCH**

### **Cane Toad Alert**

The detection of a specimen of the 'dreaded' cane toad in a detention basin in Gosford last Friday 14th (Valentine's Day) has raised the question of whether cane toads might establish on the Central Coast or rather this may be only another 'one off' sighting of a stray individual that has 'hitched a ride' amongst materials or produce from Queensland?

The community is asked to keep their 'eye out' and report any cane toad they see to the NSW Environment and Heritage (of which NPWS is a part). People shouldn't just go and kill a frog they suspect is a Cane Toad - they may accidentally kill a native frog that, at first glance, might appear to them to be one.

A website link <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/CaneToads.htm> can help to identify a Cane Toad and provide other useful information about where they occur and the problems they can cause to our wildlife. The Cane Toad has been listed as a Key Threatening Process in NSW which means it is likely causing problems for some of our already threatened or declining wildlife species.

If you think you have seen a Cane Toad outside its normal range in NSW, like the Central Coast, you should notify the NSW Environment & Heritage Local NPWS Office in Gosford 4320 4200 or ring 9995 5000 and ask for the Pest Management Section to provide details, a smart phone photo is always helpful to be certain of what you have found.

## **GREEN DATES**

28 Feb - **Schools Clean Up Day** - 1800 CUA DAY [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

2 Mar - **Clean Up Australia Day** - 1800 CUA DAY - [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

4-10 Mar - **National Seaweed Week** - [www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek.asp](http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek.asp)

22 Mar - **World Water Day** - 'Water and Food Security' [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)

19 Mar - **Ride2School Day** - [www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/ride2school/](http://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/ride2school/)

29 Mar - **Earth Hour 2012** - switch off 8.30pm - [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**\*TO UNSUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE CLICK REPLY,  
TYPE 'UNSUBSCRIBE' IN THE SUBJECT LINE AND SEND BACK TO  
RUMBALARA EEC- THANK YOU**