

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 2 Week 6 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.***

Events & Actions

Celebrate World Environment Day - 6 June!

With environmental sustainability under unprecedented pressure of late, it's encouraging to see our public school communities giving hope to students through their World Environment Day celebrations.

This week both **Ettalong PS** and **Empire Bay PS** are running whole school environment days supported by a swarm of enthusiastic community volunteers. Many of these volunteers fronted up again to assist student leaders from the many schools attending Gosford Council's Greenhouse program leadership day.

Many schools are celebrating the environment every day through their fantastic programs and initiatives. **Woy Woy PS** students recently served up a delicious 3 course meal to guests attending the opening of their Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden. To supply the gourmet kitchen with healthy produce the school grounds have been transformed with an orchard, vegetable gardens, chooks and composting.

The 2014 World Environment theme is support of the UN International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the broader context of climate change. **"Planet Earth is our shared island, let us join forces to protect it." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the launch of the 2014 International Year of Small Islands and Developing States**

World Environment Day is a time to realize our responsibility to care for the Earth and to become agents of change. <http://www.unep.org/wed/about/>

Future Council

With the support of local councils, Rumbalara EEC and local schools, Stage 5 students from many local schools will be taking over the Gosford and Wyong Council Chambers to develop their understanding of our democratic decision making process. They will assume the roles of Councillors and Directors, Mayor and Citizens in a mock council meeting that will vote on a range of local environmental issues. Hopefully, raising awareness of the political process might go towards lifting political standards in the future.

June 8th is World Oceans Day

Together we have the power to protect the ocean

On World Oceans Day people around our blue planet celebrate and honor the ocean, which links us all. To be a part of this growing global celebration check out the list of events and ideas at: [The Ocean Project](http://theoceanproject.org/) <http://theoceanproject.org/>, [World Ocean Network](http://www.worldoceannetwork.org/) www.worldoceannetwork.org/ and <http://worldoceansday.org/about/>

National Tree Day Sunday 27 July

Have you registered for Schools Tree Day? Friday 25 July

Take part in the country's largest community tree planting and nature care event

Join our Teachers Webinar, Growing Minds: The Nature of Learning - June 17th 2014

<http://treeday.planetark.org/news/>

Youth Leading the World Congress

When: 19th & 20th June 2014

Where: Kincumber Youth Centre

From: 8:30am – 5pm each day.

Each high school within the Gosford area is being invited to send between 4 and 8 student representatives on an intense leadership and environmental learning journey. Students will come away from this congress with a sound knowledge of the major environmental issues our planet faces, how each of us impacts on these issues and how they as young people, can make a difference. Strong leaders in your school who are engaged, interested in environmental issues and who would like to make a difference to the world they live in should apply. More info at www.ozgreen.org.au Contact Rachel Foote at Gosford Council to register.

Local History Information Session

Expression of Interest

Rumbalara EEC is looking to organise an **after school information session (4-6pm) on local history** –with guest speakers to talk about resources available through Councils and other organisations in our region.

If you, or somebody else in your school, is interested in attending an information session on local history – then please send an email to: jane.smith27@det.nsw.edu.au

Wetlands Workshop – Wamberal Lagoon

The Community Environment Network (CEN) will be hosting a workshop on wetlands at Wamberal Lagoon on Saturday, 28 June – 10am-12noon. Learn techniques on evaluation wetland health. The workshop is FREE.

RSVP required – phone CEN on 4349 4756 or email: tam.hanson@cen.org.au

4 Seasons for Art & Film

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
kariongecogarden@gmail.com 0417 68 66 94 leave message

Professional Learning

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: **David W. Orr** 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 and as a keynote speaker on the theme of "Sustainability: Smart Strategies for the 21C."

Early Bird Registration Closes 10 August 2014. For further information, please visit the Conference website www.aaee2014.com.au

World Parks' Congress

12-19 November, 2014

Sydney will host the World Parks' Congress, a huge international gathering that takes place every decade to discuss the future of protected areas across the world. For more information see the World Parks' Congress website <http://worldparkscongress.org/>

Green Living Workshops for Parents.

- Gosford Council can hold a free Compost and Worm-farm workshop at your school (Gosford area)
- Workshops are around 2.5 hours long and participants receive a free compost bin or worm farm – 1 per household and comprehensive notes
- Council will also give the school a free compost bin and worm farm for hosting the workshop
- School/P&C organises and provides a venue free of charge, advertises workshop to parent body (and local community if they wish), and organises booking of parents for workshop. (at least 25 people)

For more information contact: **Anni Griffiths**, 43258175 anni.griffiths@gosford.nsw.gov.au

Grants

Small grants available from Rumbalara EEC for Case Studies

Rumbalara is extending its small grants (up to \$500 to assist our local schools with environmental initiatives) to encourage teachers to share **the wonderful environmental education in your school**. The funding can now be used to document your successes and provide information and support for other teachers to follow your lead.

The case study needs to be in a form that we are able to load on to our website and share with other schools / teachers - for example, movie, report and photos etc. The Case Study would need to be completed within a school Term.

Funding requests should be – emailed as Expression of Interest to Mark Attwooll, Principal - mark.attwooll@det.nsw.edu.au. Your EOI needs to be approved by your School Principal.

Zayed Future Energy Prize 2015

Submissions and nominations for the 2015 Zayed Future Energy Prize opened on 2 February 2014. The prize recognises individuals, organisations and schools who have made significant strides to advance the fields of renewable energy and sustainability. The prize is open to secondary schools and students and **closes on 14 July 2014**.

Rural Education Australia Program – REAPing Rewards

Funding up to \$10,000 supporting locally-driven projects and programs that directly benefit children and youth (0-18 years) and their educators in rural and remote communities. **Closes 25 August 2014. Website:** www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G06207/info

Clean Beaches – The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

The Keep NSW Beautiful Clean Beaches – Connecting Our Coast Awards Program encourages and recognises communities, local councils, volunteers, schools, businesses and surf lifesaving clubs who protect NSW's unique coastal habitats. **Closes 15 August 2014. Website:** <http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G06331/info>

Planting the Future Junior Landcare Grants

25 grants of up to \$1000 will be awarded to successful recipients who can implement Junior Landcare projects that demonstrate Landcare's commitment to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing Australia's natural environment and its productivity. **Closes 13 June 2014. Website:** www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G06661/info

Turf Australia Junior Landcare Perfect Patch of Green

Turf Australia and Junior Landcare continue their commitment to making a positive difference to children's play environments and will be providing 10 schools and youth groups the opportunity to have a professional turf grower provide natural turf as grass coverage for kids and students to experience and enjoy. **Closes 1 July 2014. Website:** www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05904/info

Resources

Field Guide to NSW Fauna – free mobile App

Explore and identify the unique and diverse fauna of New South Wales with this free app from the [Australian Museum](#).

NatureWatch diary

Lyrebirds call and lay their single egg.
Echidnas mate
Winter solstice 22 June (longest night)
Bream head up the creeks to lay eggs
Styphelia (5 corners) flowering

Green Dates

5 June	World Environment Day
8 June	World Oceans Day
15 June	Global Wind Day
17 June	World Day To Combat Desertification & Drought
6-13 July	NAIDOC Week
25 July	Schools Tree Day
28 July	National Tree Day
9 Aug	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
19-25 Aug	Keep Australia Beautiful Week
All Sept	Biodiversity Month
All Sept	Save the Koala Month Australian Koala Foundation
1 Sept	Wattle Day
2-8 Sept	National Landcare week
7 Sept	BUPA Walk to Work Day Pedestrian Council of Australia
7 Sept	National Threatened Species Day
8 Sept	Sustainable House Day

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