

# 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 6 2015

### For distribution by the Environmental Education Contact

*Our 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.***

---

### Rumbalara Excursions and Support 2015

Bookings for Rumbalara EEC services have filled our calendar for terms 1 and 2 however there are still days available in terms 3 and 4. Information brochures and Expression of Interest forms are available for download at [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs). There is a broad range of locally relevant excursion programs for all stages across KLA's. At this time of syllabus change we also welcome opportunities to work with you on new programs for students to make tangible and meaningful links with their local environment.

### Professional Learning

---

#### Central Coast School Sustainability Leaders Forum

**Friday, 13 March, 2015**

8:45am- 3:00pm

Rumbalara EEC, Donnison St, Gosford

The schools sustainability leaders are those wonderful teachers that take responsibility for coordinating and encouraging environmental education and best practice environmental management within the school. A draft program is available on our website [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au)

There will be a focus on the new Primary Science Syllabus - so we thought that this would be an opportunity to have a concurrent session for high school teachers on Future Council and Student Environmental Leadership.

**Future Council** is a partnership initiative with Gosford and Wyong Councils. Future Council is an opportunity for students to experience a real life Council debate while exploring both sides of current and local environmental concerns. It targets Year 9/10 students and fits well with the Geography syllabus, Civics & Citizenship and the cross-curriculum priority of Sustainability. We will be running Future Council again in 2015. During the Future Council session at our Forum - we will visit Gosford Council chambers and run

through what's involved in Future Council - however, we can only do this if we have enough high school teachers attending the Forum.

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

The course is free and lunch will be provided. Register on MyPL@DEC **Event ID 100762**

---

## **Save the date !**

Australian Association for Environmental Education – NSW Chapter *presents*

## **32nd NSW Environmental Education Conference**

### **Connecting for the Future**

Hunter Valley, NSW

29 & 30 October, 2015

<http://www.nswconference.org.au/>

---

## **Schools News**

### **Waste removal pricing for schools**

Students are doing a great job of recycling at home using the yellow top bins but often this facility isn't provided at school. Rumbalara EEC asked SITA what it would cost schools to provide the yellow top bins service. (SITA is one of the preferred suppliers to DEC in accordance with Integrated Waste Management contract 9698). **Correspondence from SITA regarding pricing options is available for download from our website: [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au)**

SITA provided an example of possible cost savings with the co-mingle recycling:

*If a school is getting a 3cbm general waste bin serviced twice a week - total cost \$140 per week.  
If they have 2 x 1100L co-mingle yellow top bins for recycling, serviced weekly at \$14 each,  
potentially the school would be able to drop a general waste service - Saving \$42 per week or \$2000 per annum.*

*This is a basic example, but schools will soon see the benefit of setting up co-mingled recycling if they put in a bit of effort in removing it from the general waste stream.*

For more information about services from SITA – contact Stuart Luff, SITA Australia, Gosford Office - M: 0408 267 752 Email: [stuart.luff@sitacom.au](mailto:stuart.luff@sitacom.au) Web: [www.sita.com.au](http://www.sita.com.au)

For more information about Waste Removal and Contracts with Schools (including preferred suppliers) <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/procurement/products/waste/index.htm>

For information on the State Contract 9698 - <https://www.procurepoint.nsw.gov.au/contracts/c9698>

---

---

## Grants

---

### Small grants available from Rumbalara EEC for Case Studies

**Inspire others by showcasing your schools amazing environmental sustainability initiatives.** Our small grants (up to \$500) provide relief time to document your initiative and guide others interested in following your lead. Any initiative that you would recommend because it provides students with a greater understanding and appreciation of environmental sustainability and can be loaded onto the Green schools section of the Rumbalara website <http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-schools/best-practice-in-schools/schools> is acceptable.

**Funding requests** are competitive and should be emailed as Expression of Interest to Mark Attwooll, Principal - [mark.attwooll@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mark.attwooll@det.nsw.edu.au). Your EOI needs to be approved by your School Principal.

---

### Eco Schools and Environmental Education grants

#### Eco Schools

The Eco Schools Program will award up to 100 schools grants of \$3,500 to deliver environmental management projects. 18 of these grants are available specifically for projects working with students with special needs. Applications are due by **Friday 15 May 2015**.

#### Environmental Education Program

Grants of \$5,000 to \$100,000 are for community organisations, non-profit organisations and government authorities to support educational projects that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment. Applications are due by **5pm Friday 10 April 2015**.

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the Trust's website: [www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au).

**Questions?** Contact the (02) 8837 6093 or email [info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

To find out about other grants programs delivered by the Environmental Trust, please visit the Trust website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/grantsintro.htm>

---

### 2015 Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grant **Closes 27-Mar-2015**

#### Purpose

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. All primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens, day care centres, and youth groups are eligible to apply.

the Coles Junior Landcare Garden grant supports:

- Bush Tucker gardens
- Vegetable gardens
- Native and sensory gardens
- Composting and green waste recycling activities
- Awareness raising of food miles through growing your own produce

- Waterwise and Carbon gardening activities
- Purchase of kids gardening equipment (gloves, shovels, watering cans etc) up to the value of \$500.

**Website:** <http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/news/archive/2015-coles-junior-landcare-garden-grants>

---

## Greater Sydney Local Land Services – Mini-Grants program

Greater Sydney LLS has launched a Mini-Grants program developed to assist local community groups or not for profits (including schools, P&C groups and preschools) to apply for up to **\$1500** to support education, capacity building or communication activities such as field days, workshops and courses, educational signage, production and distribution of educational resources such as fact sheets or small-scale demonstration style on-ground works that have an education focus in the areas of

1. coast and land management,
2. protection of waterways (includes marine debris),
3. animal health and pest animal control,
4. sustainable agriculture or
- 5 preparing and responding to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

More details and an online application form are available on the web –

<http://greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/financial-assistance/mini-grants-program>

Groups can apply from now until mid May and have till end of May to spend the funds.

---

## Resources

---

### New history excursion from NPWS – Old Great North Road

NPWS is offering a new excursion with regard the World Heritage listed Old Great North Road. The excursions will be **available 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015**.

Here is what they say: *We would like to introduce you to a new exciting and engaging educational experience for your students at Wisemans Ferry. This excursion will help to address areas of the Primary School curriculum for Australian history and heritage.*

*Convict Footprints on the Old Great North Road is an immersive play staged on the World Heritage Listed Old Great North Road at Wisemans Ferry. Performed by professional actors wholly within Dharug National Park, this production allows students to step back in time to 1830 and hear the stories of the men who laboured to build this incredible road. It is a unique educational opportunity for students to receive face to face learning of the historical events on the only World Heritage Listed cultural site in the Greater Sydney/Central Coast area.*

For more information email [sarah.brookes@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sarah.brookes@environment.nsw.gov.au) or check website [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

---

### Wise about Waste School Incursions for 2015

In 2015, Gosford Council will sponsor Kariong Eco Garden's Wise about Waste School Incursions. A limited number of these incursions will be free to primary schools in the Gosford LGA and will run on Wednesdays from late Term 1 though to end of Term 2.

The Wise about Waste School Incursion will be a full day of activities, some aimed at whole stage levels and others for smaller leadership or "green" teams. Activities include looking at waste and resources from a global perspective to helping with the set-up of good waste management systems within the school.

Schools participating in these incursions will be required to undertake a waste audit before the incursion

(see [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-schools](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-schools)) and to book a visit from the Remondis education team for Stage 1 students to coincide with the incursion.

**Expressions of interest are being sought from schools now** – Contact Gosford Council Environmental Education Officer Anni Griffiths at [anni.griffiths@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anni.griffiths@gosford.nsw.gov.au)

---

## High School Visits by Take 3

Gosford Council are also sponsoring visits to high schools in the Gosford LGA by the Take 3 team.

Marine Debris, while recognized as an important global environmental issue very much has local origins and local solutions. Take 3 visits take students on a journey giving them a graphic illustration of the problem; an understanding of the causes and a want to be part of the solution.

Marine debris is an issue of litter, our disposable lifestyle and our over use of plastics. Solutions start in the home, in the school grounds and in our everyday interaction with resources and waste. School visits from Take 3 involve a whole of school presentation and then workshopping with a smaller core group on actions ranging from developing better school litter management to beach clean-ups to community advocacy on the issue.

See what one school from Bega is doing <http://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/2710327/lumen-students-take-on-plastic-reduction-initiatives/?cs=12>

**For more information about the Take 3 program contact** Tim Silverwood [tim\\_silverwood@outlook.com](mailto:tim_silverwood@outlook.com) or Mandy at [mandy@take3.org](mailto:mandy@take3.org)

---

## Waterwatch - 2015

Waterwatch is a national water quality monitoring and catchment education program involving schools, community groups and landholders. School students are trained to test water quality in a local waterway with this data contributing to a State wide database. Students also participate in special events such as Bug Surveys, P-Day, QA Day (Quality Assurance) and Catchment Crawls.

Waterwatch coordinators support schools by training teachers / students, helping to source equipment, inviting schools to participate in special events and visiting schools to provide support as required. In Wyong, Council provides a number of Waterwatch kits that are loaned to schools each year. In Gosford LGA, Waterwatch assists schools in obtaining kits for testing.

Generally, Waterwatch schools test about once / term. Even if your school does not have a waterway within walking distance, teachers often collect a water sample to bring to school for testing. **Waterwatch is an active citizen science program – that involves students in real science, monitoring local waterways.**

**To find out more – or to register your interest** – contact Samantha – Email: [waterwatch@cen.org.au](mailto:waterwatch@cen.org.au) or phone: 4349 4757

## Events & Actions

---

### Earth Hour 2015 – Sat, 28 March, 8.30 -9.30pm

In 2007, the inaugural Earth Hour was held in Sydney, with 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses participating. In 2014 millions of people in 7000 cities and 162 countries switched lights off for one hour. They also supported projects and causes that create positive impact on the planet.

**Join the community, or see the impact we created.** Visit: <http://earthhour.org.au>

---

## Strickland Working Bee Sunday 8 March 2015

We had a great turn up for the first working bee of 2015! **Working bee No2 will be this Sunday 8 March.** Meet at the lower Stoney Creek Car Park area at 9:00am for the toolbox talk. We will continue working in the arboretum area and along the Bellbird Track. Soon Lee Lim will be your supervisor for the day. If you are unsure about the weather on the day, call Soon Lee on 0423 372 708.

**Safety message for the day:** The Bunya cones are currently dropping in the arboretum. The key safety message is to be aware of the Bunya Pine (tree) location to your work area. Keep well clear of any Bunya's.

---

## 2015 Narara Ecoburbia Festival

The 2015 Narara Ecoburbia Festival will be held on **Saturday 11 April 2015** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m at Narara Valley High School.

Ecoburbia is presented by Narara Eco Living Network Inc.

**“The future is already with us, it’s just not evenly distributed yet”.**

There will be exhibitors, speakers, workshops, musicians, entertainers and performers, food stalls, creative activities for children, and much more. This is a festival to **“Celebrate, Connect and Learn”**.

The main themes for 2015 are:

- sustainable buildings and housing (including renewable energy and living with fire),
- music and community building,
- gardening and permaculture,
- suburban design and planning, sustainable transport,
- natural health and food,
- creativity- art, craft and eco-living generally,
- and, of course, the inter-connections between all of these themes.

ECOBURBIA celebrates the positive- the people, the communities and the organisations that are pioneering a more sustainable future!

**For more info, please contact:** Joan and Richard Cassels, Narara Ecoburbia Festival Coordinators, Mob. 0478 636 033, Ph. 02 4329 3116 email: [ecoburbia@neln.org.au](mailto:ecoburbia@neln.org.au)

---

## NatureWatch diary

- Wading birds are building up their fuel reserves in preparation for their annual migration to the northern summer. Eastern Curlews can weigh double their normal weight on takeoff. The record for the longest non-stop flight is held by the Bar-tail Godwit – 9 days and 11000km to the yellow sea in China.
- Berries are ripening on privet and camphor laurel trees. You don't need permission to remove these invasive weeds!
- Spotted gums are about to flower
- Large numbers of orb-weaving spiders are reaping a bountiful harvest of invertebrates at the end of summer
- Young Channel Bill Cuckoo's meet their real parents who lead them North to New-Guinea. The tired and harried surrogate parents (usually currawongs) are at last relieved of their noisy burden.

---

# Green Dates

## TERM 1

8-14 March [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)

19 March [Ride2School Day](#)

21 March [Int. Day of Forests](#)

21 March [Harmony Day](#)

22 March [World Water Day](#)

28 March [Earth Hour](#)

22 April [Earth Day](#)

## TERM 2

4 May [Play Outside Day](#)

4-10 [Int. Composting Awareness Week](#)

22 May [Int. Day for Biological Diversity](#)

22 May [Walk Safely to School Day](#)

5 June [World Environment Day](#)

8 June [World Oceans Day](#)

15 June [Global Wind Day](#)

7-14 July [NAIDOC Week](#)

## TERM 3

9 August [Int. Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)

1 September [Biodiversity Month](#)

1 September [Green Day](#)

7 September [Threatened Species Day](#)

7 -11 September [Kids Teaching Kids Week](#)

## TERM 4

5 October [World Habitat Day](#)

14 October [Ride to Work Day](#)

16 October [World Food Day](#)

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