

Rumbalara

Environmental Education Centre

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

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

Environmental Education News for Central Coast Teachers

Term 3 Week 5 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 your email so that we can send it directly.***

Events & Actions

CALLING ALL YOUNG STORYTELLERS! – due 6 September 2015

Macquarie University's (re)Generation Project is calling on 15-25 year olds for bold stories about a human experience with nature, to inspire a new generation back to the bush?

The ten best story ideas will be given editorial and production training including digital storytelling workshops and a mentor to help you craft it into a powerful and impacting digital story. You will then have the opportunity to participate in a premier event and online campaign, to share it with NSW youth. Build valuable skills, networks, share your work, win prizes and have a lot of fun in an opportunity to create a positive change for our planet.

More information at <http://research.science.mq.edu.au/theregenerationproject/>

Gosford Council - Greenhouse Program

For schools involved the Greenhouse Program, judging will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from August 19 to September 16. If you have not yet replied to Council with preferred date, please do so soon. The Awards Ceremony at Laycock Street Theatre is Friday November 20.

Envirothon 2015 –

This long running opportunity for year 11 students to apply their environmental skills in the field will be held on Tuesday 20 October 2015. Start recruiting your 4 person team for this year's competition. More information coming soon!

2015 Youth Eco Summit (YES) - 21-22 October at Sydney Olympic Park

The **Youth Eco Summit (YES)** is a curriculum-based sustainability festival for students and their teachers. **YES promotes student leadership and features student sustainability initiatives.** With interactive

displays and experiences, student and school showcases, and free teaching resources YES brings sustainable action to life for students in Stages 2-6.

This year's YES **theme: Like- Share - Act**, encourages student's hands-on learning experiences on topics that interest and engage them. Over 6000 students will share their views and discoveries through discussion and global interaction.

YES is about **empowering young people to teach their peers**. If your students want to attend, share learning and achievements, present displays and/or lead workshops, YES can help make this happen! participating schools can choose to attend on one of two action packed days: **Wednesday 21**

October or Thursday 22 October

Cost: Only \$5 per participating student

Bookings close: 7 August 2015 Showcasing schools are FREE

www.uws.edu.au/bringing_sustainability_to_life/sustainability/resources/forms/youth_eco_summit_registration_form

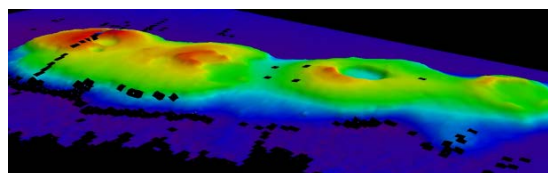


Resources

These volcanoes off the Central Coast

were discovered by chance when marine biologists were searching for lobster nurseries. The 20km chain of 4 volcanoes about 250 km off the coast

was active about 50 million years ago when New Zealand was separating from Australia. More info at www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-13/volcano-cluster-discovered-off-the-coast-of-sydney/6614828



Schools participating in Rumbalara's 'Ancient Lands' geology excursion visit a forest fossilized in volcanic ash and at other sites they find fossils of shellfish, sponges and corals and investigate the coal seams that for so long have powered our economy and warmed the planet. This excursion is relevant to the science syllabus 'Earth and space' stages 3-5 and Earth and Environmental Science St 6 more at www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs

Climate change – Renewables bring hope

The latest report from the American Meteorological Society shows that 2014 was warmest year on record and that CO₂ emissions grew by 1.9ppm to 397ppm. That's a 15% increase in the 25 years that governments have been talking about doing something.

The good news is that 2014 is the first year in which the global economy has outpaced global emissions - because of growth in renewables!

More than a quarter (27.8%) of the world generating capacity now comes from renewables with investments in developing nations on par with those in the developed world.
(www.climatecouncil.org.au) .

Last year Australia bucked this trend with an 88% decline in investment in large scale renewables. We are the highest per capita emitters of CO₂ in the developed world and 13th largest emitter overall. As we approach the international climate meeting in Paris to agree on post 2020 emissions targets, even our business leaders are speaking up in support of renewables:- *"The former head of the powerful National Australia Bank, Cameron Clyne, has weighed into the increasingly toxic debate over Australia's climate change policy with a salvo directed at what he calls the "wilful ignorance and blindness" of political leaders and some sections of the business community. The speed of the renewables revolution is "staggering", he says, and it would be "economically reckless" for Australia to remain largely coal-reliant". (SMH 2 Aug 2015)*

Engage your students in this energy revolution! Rumbalara's 'Bright Sparks' trailer brings a variety of interesting hands-on investigations related to the science and technology syllabus (St 3). It's Free!

More info at www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs

To book the 'Bright Sparks' trailer for your school email: rumbalara-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au or phone: 4324 7200.



Free webinar on regional climate change projections and resources for environmental educators

17 August, 4-5pm via Skype Webinar, or in person 59 Goulburn St, Sydney RSVP [here](#)

Learn how to access and share regional climate change projections, as well as hear about teaching resources from the AdaptNSW website. This presentation will explain the recent climate projections from the [NSW and ACT Regional Climate Model \(NARClIM\)](#), as well as discuss how you can use these resources within your environmental education. This webinar is held during National Science Week, and will be of interest to any secondary and tertiary educators in science, geography or environment.

Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Education

Wyong Shire Council has developed a **resource pack that will be sent to all schools in Term 4**. Go to www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au to see videos on Tuggerah Lakes. For information contact Nick Carson, on 4350 5555 (ext 1624).

Waterwatch is a **citizen science program** in which school and community groups **monitor and collect data on the health of their local waterway**. Waterwatch develops students investigation skills as well as their knowledge of living things and the physical world. Most importantly, students will be involved in a meaningful experience that contributes to their local environment.

Book in a **free water testing training session** for your class or **join in with a Spring Water bug Survey** at your local waterway.

Contact Sam or Kate at waterwatchschools@cen.org.au or 4349 4757

Professional Learning

Connecting for the Future

Australian Association for Environmental Education – NSW Chapter presents 32nd NSW Environmental Education Conference Hunter Valley, NSW, 29 & 30 October, 2015
<http://www.nsweeconference.org.au/>

Hear outstanding speakers such as [Nikki Harre](#), author of psychology for a better world, [Prof Lesley Hughes](#), Macquarie University and [John Cook](#) from the Global Change Institute. A great opportunity to share stories and resources with environmental and sustainability educators from the formal education sector, councils, government agencies, private industry and the community. [Registrations are now open!](#)



Central Coast Environmental Educators Network

Date: Thu, 17 Sept, 2015 Time: 4:30- 6pm

Venue: Kariong Eco Garden, Dandaloo, St, Kariong Cost: Gold coin donation

Join the Central Coast Environmental Educators Network for a presentation on the latest climate change information with a focus on the Central Coast. **Richard Weller** from the [Community Environment Network](#) will give an update on the latest science and likely impacts in our region. Whether you work for a Council, government agency, school or are a community educator - come along to hear about and share things that are happening in environmental and sustainability education on the Central Coast.

Bookings required – Register at www.cen.org.au/events

Grants

Up to \$1500 for environmental education projects

Schools and community groups can apply for **up to \$1500** from Greater Sydney local land services to **support education or communication projects about:** * Native plants and animals * Protection of

waterways * Animal health * Pest animal control * Sustainable agriculture * Preparing and responding to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

Activities may include community events, workshops and courses, educational signage, production and distribution of educational resources such as fact sheets and small-scale demonstration style on-ground works that have an education focus.

Projects must be completed by the 31st of May 2016; Only one application per school. More details at www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/. Or contact Maree Whelan on 4352 5104 or maree.whelan@lls.nsw.gov.au for an application form or to discuss a proposal.

Grants for schools to share environmental initiatives Rumbalara EEC offers a

limited number of small grants (up to \$500) to schools who would like to provide a case study of a project or environmental activity from your school. 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 semester.

To access this funding send an email Expression of Interest to - mark.attwooll@det.nsw.edu.au. Case studies would need to be completed by end of Term 4. Please note that your EOI needs to be approved by your School Principal.



Around the Schools

Future Council 2015

Students sat in the Gosford councillors chairs last week in a mock council meeting to decide on issues such as mountain bikes in reserves, plastic bags, endangered species and high density living. Well-prepared, they contributed freely to the cut and



thrust of the chambers under the watchful eye of the student mayor who kept order through council's meeting protocols. The stage 5 students from 9 schools gained a real understanding of how this decision making process is crucial to achieving sustainability.

Thanks to all Gosford Council staff and Councillors who explained their roles and gave students an understanding of council's operations. All students received a certificate commemorating the outstanding contribution that the late Beryl Strom made to the environment and environmental education in Gosford. The event will be on again next year mid term 3. Wyong FutureCouncil 2015 will be held on 11th September.

Community Events

Wyong Alive - TV is a community based YouTube channel that has 2 theme areas:

1. **'What I love about Wyong Shire'** is all about promoting a positive image of the Shire, celebrating and showcasing unique local stories and achievements and building a strong and connected community.
2. **'Get local with learning'** is about encouraging all different types of learning from all different types of people. Learning videos can be uploaded so that people's skills, talents and interests can be shared with others in our community.

Categories include Art & Culture, Community, Environment, Events, General, Learning, Sport; and What I love about Wyong Shire. You will be able to upload your own video/s for everyone to view.

This is a great resource for schools to share and learn from each other and the community about topics that interest them in Wyong Shire. Video your local excursion to the lake or make a video about teaching others how to play your favourite song on the piano. To find out more go to www.wyongalive.com.au or email us at WyongAlive@wyong.nsw.gov.au

Kariong Eco Garden - 4 Seasons for Art & Film

The next 4 Seasons Art & Film event will be held on **Saturday 7 Nov - 5:30-9pm**. Relaxed community evening with music, film & art. Buy delicious seasonal food, fresh juice, sweet treats or BYO Picnic. **FREE. REGULARS INCLUDE:** The Central Coast Conservatorium Students playing Classical & contemporary; Family friendly episodes of "dirtgirlworld"; Environmental Documentaries; Storytelling, Community Art, Frog Hunts and more.

For more information visit www.kariongecogarden.org.au - or email kariongecogarden@gmail.com or phone 0417 686 694 to leave a message



What's on at the Marine Discovery Centre

The [Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre](http://www.ccmcdc.org.au) at Terrigal has lots of things happening during the upcoming school holidays. **Rockpool Discovery Walks** - most days **between Thursday, 24 Sept and Wed, 30 Sept**. [More details on our website.](http://www.ccmcdc.org.au)

Would you like to be a Citizen Scientist?..... a training event for anybody interested in monitoring our local coastal and marine environments. **Register your interest** in becoming a citizen scientist by emailing: admin@ccmdc.org.au



Sat, 19 Sept is International Talk Like A Pirate Day!.... visit the Centre for treasure hunts, pirate craft activities and lots more!

Take 3 for the Green Sea Turtle Project

A student leadership program for 2016 has just been confirmed - "Take 3 for the Green Sea Turtle Project". Funded by Local Land Services and supported by Rumbalara EEC, AECG (Kuriwa) TLLC, Gosford and Wyong Councils, the program aims to provide students with the necessary tools to **tackle litter reduction** within their schools and broader community and a look into the interconnection between land and sea from an Aboriginal perspective. **Starts late Term 1/start Term 2 and culminate by early June 2016.** Limited to 20 schools, funding of up to \$1000 per school will be available to action the campaign. Register your EOI by emailing: mandy@take3.org. Information will be sent out by October 2015



Mini-Woytopia - Sun, 13 Sept

The [Peninsula Environment Group](http://www.peninsulaenvironmentgroup.org.au) are organising a "mini-Woytopia" day at the Peninsula Waterfront Markets on **Sunday 13 September, 9am-2pm**. We will be supplementing the regular monthly arts, crafts and produce market (<https://www.facebook.com/pwmarkets>) with some extra "green" stalls, some green workshops, food, coffee, chai and a program of music and entertainment to give the markets a "festival" vibe.



OCCI events

OCCI-CC will be running free, Council sponsored rock pool walks during the September school holidays at Terrigal Haven, Toowoona Bay and Nora Head. Contact the booking office on 0450 990 995 for dates and times. **A talk about rock pools will be held at The Entrance library**



NatureWatch diary

Wattles are flowering. Coastal wattle *Acacia longifolia* along the dunes and Gosford wattle *Acacia prominens* (see photo) along the creeks and gullies. The Purple Twining-pea *Hardenbergia violacea* and the pink wax flower *Eriostemon australasius* are flowering profusely..



Magpie larks (peewees) are building mud nests. Spur winged plover chicks are hatching. Magpie chicks will start hatching in late August and that's when the males will start swooping. Bandicoots are mating and Wedge-tailed shearwaters (muttonbirds) will soon be arriving from tropical seas around the Phillipines.

Green Dates

TERM 3

9 August [International 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](#)