



Rumbalara EEC News - Term 1, Week 6, 2016

Welcome Back 2016

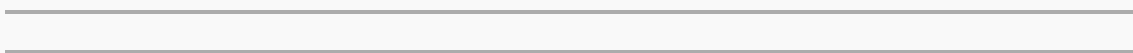
Rumbalara EEC staff are looking forward to supporting you in field work for 2016. At present we are sending out confirmations for field work bookings but there are still some vacancies left if you would like to reserve a day. During the year we will be modifying programs to suit the new syllabuses and we will be developing some new programs that will include a science lab / microscope room at Rumbalara. **We would love to come to a staff meeting** to tell you more about our programs so please phone or email the Centre to make a booking.



Many of you may have heard that Mark Attwooll is taking some well earned long service leave. I will be replacing mark for 6 months and you may remember me as teacher at Rumbalara for over 10 years. For the past 3 1/2 years I've enjoyed my experience as principal at Dorroughby EEC on the north coast. I'm looking forward to being back at Rumbalara and I'm particularly interested in integrating technology into learning and Rumbalara will soon be adding the use of iPads to some of its new programs.

We also welcome to the staff Charlotte Hulme who will be filling in for Jane Smith every Thursday. Charlotte brings vast experience from her work as teacher Field of Mars EEC in Ryde and as education officer for Taronga Zoo western plains and Sydney. Charlotte is also a trained drama teacher and hopes to add drama and role play into our programs. Jane Smith will still be with us four days a week with her continued enthusiasm and expertise.

Christine Freeman, Relieving Principal



Professional Learning Rumbalara Environmental Educators Forum

Friday, 11 March, 2016

9:00am - 3:00pm



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. Whether you are an old hand or just getting started our annual meeting of environmental education coordinators is designed to support you. It provides the latest information on local initiatives, resources and support so that you can more effectively coordinate, encourage and implement Environmental Education at your school.

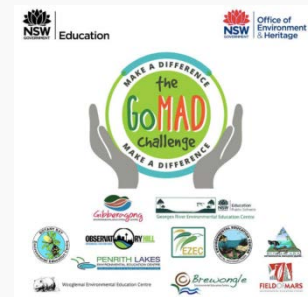
Share achievements, network with like minded people, meet Rumbalara, agency and community EE providers and get practical ideas on teaching outside the classroom.

Workshops will include information on local biodiversity an update on the K-6 Geography Syllabus, using iPads in nature, drama and role play to understand environmental issues and citizen science.

The course is free and lunch will be provided. Register on MyPL@DEC Event ID 119576

Download a program from our [website](#)

GoMAD (Make a Difference) Challenge is an environmental leadership program to help students **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in their schools and communities. The challenge encourages High School students in terms 1 to 3 to work on a MAD project and create a video to showcase and share with their local community.



Students are invited to attend a GoMad Youth Forum with their teachers (including teacher PL) - 8.30am-3pm, 21st March @ Taronga Zoo (\$15 per student). This day will be filled with inspiring workshops lead by zoo and environmental education teachers from across NSW. Students will get the chance to listen to and address inspirational keynote speakers, and have the opportunity to collaboratively discuss and learn how they can make a difference in their local community.

Students from the Central Coast will be supported further by Rumbalara EEC with a workshop (possibly an overnight camp) where they will be assisted to develop an environmental project in their own school. Chosen students will be asked to present their projects and videos at the 2016 Youth Eco Summit - 19th & 20th October 2016, sharing their passion and success with other like minded eco enthusiasts.

RUMBALARA EEC ENERGY TRAILER

Our Bright Sparks Program is an opportunity for your students to learn about alternative energy. The trailer has over ten science investigations to complete and supports the working scientifically strand of the new science syllabus. Its very engaging and comes to your school. Even if you have booked your field work for the year we can provide this as an additional activity. Phone or email the Centre to organise a date.



GRANTS

Teachers Mutual Bank is helping the next generation to live in a brighter world. Primary and secondary school students can share their smart ideas and bring environmental eco projects to life for the chance to win a grant of up to \$2,000 for their school.



Applications are open Monday, 22 February 2016 and close Friday, 27 May 2016. To apply teachers need to be a member of Teacher Mutual Bank and teach in a primary or secondary school across Australia. Visit tmbank.com.au/TEF to view a list of past projects and to see some great past ideas.

Eco Schools Grant (Office of Environment & Heritage)

The next round of funding will open in April 2016. Start thinking of your ideas now and phone us for some friendly advice.

- Grants of \$3500 each are available for up to 80 schools in 2015/2016.
- Up to 25 of these grants of \$3500 will be available for projects working primarily with students with special needs.

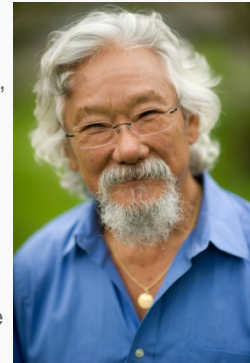
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm>

IN CLASS WITH DAVID SUZUKI

LIVESTREAMED Friday 11 March

Does your class have any questions for David Suzuki? Canadian environmentalist, scientist, author and broadcaster David Suzuki stops in during his appearances at the WOMADelaide festival to field questions from students around Australia. This unique event will livestream David into classrooms around Australia as he answers students' questions about science and the environment. Times: 11am-12noon (ACDT), 11.30am-12.30pm (AEDT), 8.30am-9.30am (AWST)

This event requires registration as the livestream will be password protected on the day. Register Now [Here](#)



Clean Up Australia Day

It's that time of the year again. Register your school to be involved in the big clean up on the 4th March. Great resources and support for teachers.

<http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-australia-day>

Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools is a proven schools-based sustainability education framework operating in 60+ countries globally and developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) based in Denmark. Eco-Schools is a curriculum linked, democratic and participatory program that provides an excellent opportunity for students to experience active citizenship in their schools. Both schools and the wider community benefit from this program.



Eco-Schools follow the 7 Steps above to investigate and take action on one or more of the Eco-Schools themes:

Litter & Waste: The Lifecycle of Stuff

Biodiversity: Habitats and Homes

Energy & Climate: Super Smart Power

Water: Drink, Think, Save the Sink

Fair Go: Global Citizens for Social Justice

Lifestyles: Healthy & Active

Schools which complete their action plan addressing all 7 Steps can achieve a Bronze, Silver or Green Flag Award! <http://www.eco-schools.org.au/>

Rumbalara EEC can assist your school to implement some of the stages for your Eco Schools Green Flag. Please contact Christine Freeman at Rumbalara EEC for more info.

Central Coast Green Sea Turtle Project

Over 20 schools from the Central Coast will be participating in our student leadership project to support Green Sea Turtles and reduce marine debris on the Central Coast. Well done to those schools who have accepted the challenge! We look forward to working with you this term and can't wait to hear your ideas to help turtles.



GreenDates 2016

Friday 4 March - Schools Clean Up Day

Sunday 6 March - Clean Up Australia Day

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



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