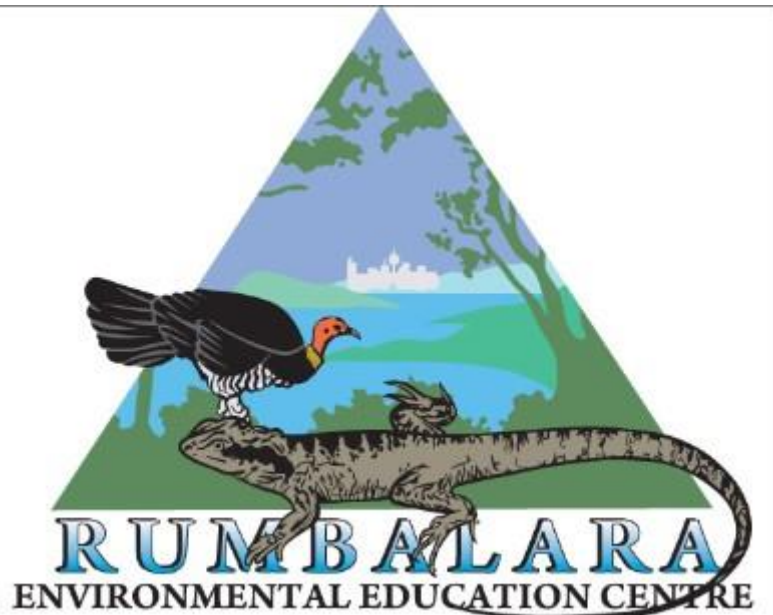


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Rumbalara EEC News - Term 4, Week 8, 2017

Around the Schools - Spotlight on Woongarra P.S

Each newsletter we would like to help promote the sustainability activities happening around our local schools. If you have a story for next term please contact Christine Freeman at Rumbalara EEC.

Our New Buddy Bench has arrived

The collection and recycling of soft plastic has been a remarkable success this year and we were excited to receive our new Buddy Bench last week, made from 100% recycled plastic. This all started after our Clean Up Australia Day activities in term 1 when students realised how much soft plastic we put in the bin and decided that we could do so much more to help the environment.

We formed the Plastic Police, a group of dedicated students, who began collecting plastic from containers that were placed in each classroom. We soon realised that we needed bigger bins, so we purchased 10 wheelie bins with orange lids to signify soft plastic recycling and placed these in front of classrooms, in the staffroom and under the COLA. Mr Barraclough and the students are on hand each recess and lunch to make sure that rubbish is placed in the correct bin.

The next step is that Mr Barraclough takes the soft plastic recycling to a collection bin at Coles at Lake Haven,

who send it to a company called Replas in Victoria (<http://www.replas.com.au/>). Replas is Australia's leading recycled plastic manufacturer. The soft plastic material is recycled by Replas and turned into products designed for outdoor use within the community – including our very own Buddy Bench!

This is a great example of students actively contributing to the school, the community and to the society in which we live – caring for our school and saving the world, one piece of plastic at a time!



INVITATION

Green Drinks for Environmental Educators

Wed, 29 November, 2017

4:30 - 6 pm

The Coast Bar, 12 Dane Drive, Gosford

Allow \$10 each towards finger food (payable on the day)

Buy Your Own Drinks

Please join us for some end of year networking.

Whether you are an environmental educator, a teacher, community member or somebody that works in an area to do with natural resources / environment - then this is for you!

This is an informal gathering to mingle and share stories about the year that was.... and the exciting things planned for 2018.

Please let us know if you are coming - <http://www.cen.org.au/events/cen-event-list/155-invitation-green-drinks-for-environmental-educators-28-nov-2017>

Hope to see you there!

Coordinated by Anni Griffiths (Central Coast Council), Chris Freeman (Rumbalara EEC) and Jane Smith

(Community Environment Network (CEN) / Rumbalara EEC)

BIOLBLITZ 2017

Rumbalara EEC, in partnership with Central Coast Council and CEN, held our inaugural Bioblitz program at Sutton Reserve, Bateau Bay and Wyrabalong National Park on 16 and 17 November. The days involved 101 students from 5 different schools "blitzing" the environment to gather as much environmental data as possible. Some of this data will be used by Central Coast Council as part of their pre and post Hazard Reduction Programs. The students also enjoyed meeting two invited experts, Barry Collier and Pam O'Sullivan, planting some trees with landcare volunteers and interacting with some native animals from the Taronga's Zoomobile.

The Bioblitz culminated with CEN's community tree planting morning and sausage sizzle on Saturday 18 November.

We will be holding another Bioblitz in 2018, so keep an eye out for more information next year.



Professional Learning- Stage 6 Science - Depth Studies and Field Work

Thursday, 30th November, 2017

We have had a amazing response to the Stage 6 Science Depth Studies Professional Learning day. Due to high numbers we only have a few vacancies left so please enrol on MyPL ASAP if you would like to attend.
Course Code: **NR17205** Cost \$30

Presented by Rumbalara EEC, Take 3 and The Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre

For more information see our website <http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/stage-6-science-professional-learning-depth-studies-and-field-work>

Rumbalara EEC Environmental Sustainability Forum 2018

Save the Date: Monday, 19 March 2018

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 experienced 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 support 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. **The course will be \$30 per teacher** and lunch will be provided



Bookings And New Programs

Now is the time to book in for your 2018 school excursions with Rumbalara.

New for 2018, is our redesigned Stage 6 Rock Platform Program. Our new Program now incorporates Depth Studies with an inquiry learning approach. In addition, we have a Stage 6 Microplastics Depth Study which is currently being trialled by TAKE 3 and scientist Scott Wilson from Macquarie University.

We also have all your favourite K-6 excursions with updated pre and post visit resources.

Don't forget about our **'Bright Sparks' Program**, which is an opportunity for your Stage 3 students to learn about alternative energy. The trailer has over six science investigations to complete and supports the working scientifically strand of the new science syllabus. It's very engaging and comes to your school!

Information about all our programs is located on our website: <http://www.rumbalara->

e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs

Our on-line booking system is located here - <http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/bookings>



Wise About Waste - School Incursions available to all Central Coast Schools in 2018

Rumbalara EEC invites your school to participate in a **Wise About Waste** School Incursion aimed at **Stage 2 students**. The program is funded by Central Coast Council and brought to your school by educators from Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre **for free**.

The *Wise about Waste* Incursion has a suggested structure of a whole-Stage-2 20 minute introduction followed by up to five 45 minute sessions throughout the day. Classes rotate through up to five different lessons, presented by visiting educators and your school's teachers. The lesson notes for each topic are supplied upon booking confirmation and the Wise about Waste Educator/s bring the resources for six different lessons/topics:



1. History of Waste
2. So much stuff – looking at materials
3. Beyond the Bin - The 7 R's/ Zero Waste
4. Shopper Power – responsible consumption
5. Land Litter and Marine Pollution
6. Nature's Recyclers

Discussion with Rumbalara Educators before the day will help schools adapt the program to meet the needs and learning goals of their individual school. A pre-requisite to have the incursion is the completion of a Waste Audit within the last 12 months. Please phone Rumbalara if you need assistance with this. It is possible, for small schools, that this audit could be completed on the Wise about Waste day.

We have limited positions available for all Central Coast Schools this year. First in first served.

[Click here to download and complete a Waste Wise Expression of interest form](#) with your three preferences of **Wednesdays starting from Term 1 2018.**

The Central Coast Green Canteen Challenge

This challenge is all about reducing the single use plastic footprint of our schools and championing plastic free canteens! **The Canteen Manager that makes the most positive change receives a free pamper package- value up to \$50.**

Fill in the Plastic in School Canteens online survey at:

<http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-canteens>

The first 50 Central Coast schools to complete the survey will receive a choice of sustainable spoons, forks or straws for their canteen.

More information on Healthy School Canteens can be found at:

<https://healthyschoolcanteens.nsw.gov.au/school-leaders/links-to-wellbeing-and-curriculum>



Waste Free Lunches

Want help with your school's Waste Free Lunches?

Council is running two free workshops on how to make beeswax cloth wraps. These are a great alternative to plastic wrap. Use them for your children's lunch boxes, to cover leftovers in the fridge or give them away as sustainable Christmas presents.

Tuesday December 5

Kincumber Library

Monday December 11

10am - 12 noon

Erina Library

To book go to the What's on page on the old Gosford Council website.

Central Coast Council School Environment Awards

Well done to all schools who participated in the council environment awards.

The winners of the 2017 Council Environment Program were announced at a student leadership day at Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park in October

Six schools from around the coast were recognised for their participation and creativity around this year's theme *Our Green Classroom*, which aimed to encourage outdoor learning.

Niagara Public School received the *Innovation Prize* for their Future Earth competition where students made boomerang bags for local supermarkets, built bird habitat boxes and conducted a school wide energy audit.

Wyoming Public School displayed the most involvement in the *Biggest Green Classroom*, with the entire school conducting all lessons outside during international *Outdoor Classroom Day*.

Brisbania Public School won the *Most Improved School*, for enthusiastically involving themselves in all activities offered.

The overall *Environmental School of the Year* awards went to Chertsey Primary School (*Small School of the Year*) and Wyoming Public School (*Large School of the Year*).

Pretty Beach Public School won *Best Performance* after taking on the ABC War on Waste Challenge, with a very informative and impassioned speech on our need to avoid plastic bags and single use plastics in order to reduce the amount of plastic rubbish ending up in our oceans.



Central Coast Council - Compost and Worm farm Workshop for Parents

Compost and Worm farm workshops can be run in your school for members of the school community - teachers, parents and locals. A minimum of 15 families need to be involved.

What Council provides

- . Council will hold a free workshop at the school,
- . Workshops are about 2 hours long
- . Participants that attends will receive a free compost bin or worm farm - 1 per household
- . Council will also give the school a free compost bin and worm farm for hosting and organising the workshop

What the school provides

- . School/P&C organises and provides a venue free of charge
- . School/P&C organise advertising and taking of booking for the workshops. We will need to have at least 15 families participating in order for the workshop to run.
- . Children are welcome but the workshop is structured for adults, young children will probably get a little bored.

The workshop is based on the issue of food waste, and basically will cover three main sessions

1. Avoidable Food Waste
2. Composting
3. Worm farming

Mini Grants Programs 2017-18

Are you part of a community group or not for profit organisation (including schools) that is planning an educational event or developing an educational resource for the local community?

Grants of between \$500 and \$1500 are available to improve skills and or promote the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources that meet National Landcare Programme objectives.

Activities that aim to build community awareness, participation, skills and knowledge in caring for their environment, including Aboriginal knowledge and participation can include:

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

Complete the [online form](#). Please note this form doesn't allow you to save and resume part way through and so please be prepared to complete the entire form in one sitting.

For further information or to discuss a proposal contact Maree Whelan in the Wyong office on 02 4355 8201.

This project is supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

WIN your share of over \$5,000 in prizes. Entering is super easy.

Over 50 sustainable prizes, one of them could be yours!



Over 50 prizes up for grabs!

- WIN an epic visit from Costa Georgiadis to your home, school, or community to build your very own veggie patch (\$2,500 value)
- WIN one 2-day Intro to Permaculture course by [Milkwood](#) and David Holmgren (VIC) (\$490 value)
- WIN one 2-day spot to Milkwood's [Serious Backyard Veggies Course](#) (NSW) (\$490 value)
- WIN one \$300 voucher for home-delivered fresh fruit and veg from [Box Fresh](#) (NSW) (\$300 value)
- WIN one of 3 x \$100 vouchers for home-delivered organic fruit and veg from [Organic Angels](#) (VIC) (\$300 value)
- WIN one spot in the Pickling for the Season workshop at [Cornersmith](#) (\$190 value)
- WIN one of 32 stainless steel, spill-proof, insulated coffee cups and water bottles from [Cheeki](#) (\$26.95 value)
- WIN one of 10 [Real Food Projects](#) cookbooks with 30 skills and 46 recipes (\$37 value)
- And lots more!

See the website for more details <http://compostrevolution.com.au/>

Green Dates 2017 Term 4

- 3 December [International Day of People with Disability](#)📅**
- 10 December [International Human Rights Day](#)📅
- 11 December [International Mountain Day](#)📅**

[Green Dates Calendar](#)

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Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre
Donnison St
Gosford, NSW 2250
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