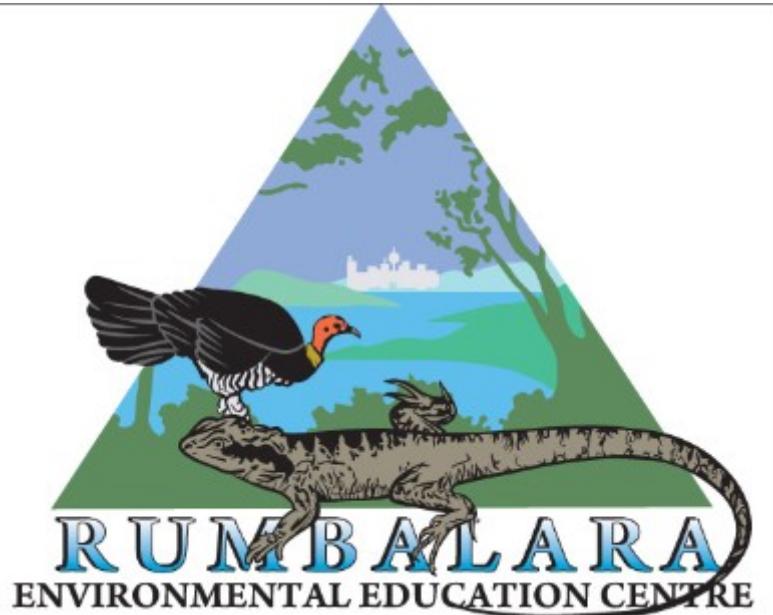


[View this email in your browser](#)



Around the Schools - Spotlight on Mannering Park 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.

Mannering Park PS were the winning small school last year in Central Coast Council's (Northern Region) environment awards. They were also part of the 'Take 3, Green Sea Turtle Project' and made a significant reduction in waste due to enthusiasm encouraged by the project. Students learnt about the impact of micro plastics on the marine environment and even in 2017 students are pro-active in collecting micro plastic from the playground. Buckets are available for students and occasionally rewards are given to those who participate but teacher Robyn Balcomb says the kids remove the rubbish because they truly want to make a difference. The money from the Take 3 grant was used to purchase three extra co-mingled recycling bins.

The school also has significant vegetable gardens. Teacher Andrew Rath runs the gardening group with two representatives from each year. An hour each week is spent growing seedlings, maintaining the garden and harvesting produce. There are also some fruit trees for students to enjoy (citrus, mulberry, passion fruit and figs). Each classroom has a fruit bin and the waste is composted at the vegetable garden in large compost bays. Even the canteen is involved in recycling fruit scraps.

Another highlight is the school's Bush Tucker garden that was established from a Community Building grant seven years ago. The garden is full of interpretive signage, wooden sculptures, aboriginal art and over twenty different Aboriginal bush food plants.

For more details contact Robyn Balcomb, Mannering Park PS

Rumbalara EEC Environmental Sustainability Forum 2017

Monday, 20 March 2017

School sustainability leaders are those wonderful teachers who take responsibility for coordinating and encouraging environmental education and best practice environmental management within the school.



Join us in a collaborative workshop with local environmental educators from the community and schools to develop a plan for engaging schools with the community. This workshop will be facilitated by Grahame Collier (T Issues / Australian Association of Environmental Education NSW)

You will also find out information on local initiatives and receive resources and support so that you can more effectively coordinate, encourage and support Environmental Education at your school.

Cost: \$20 per teacher and lunch will be provided.

This course will be held at Youth Connections-Green Central, Gate 1 Kangoo Rd Kariong.

Download a [program](#).

Register on MYPL Course Code **151HCR002**

INVITATION

Green Drinks for Environmental Educators

Tues, 28th March, 2017

4.30-6 pm

Venue at Gosford (To be announced)

Buy Your Own Drinks

Please join us for some networking on Tuesday, 28th March

Whether you are an environmental educator, a teacher, community member or somebody who 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 exciting things planned for 2017.

Please let us know if you are coming - RSVP will be via [CEN website](#) and available from tomorrow

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)

Professional Learning-Geography

Rumbalara EEC is working with the Central Coast CAG to deliver a geography professional learning afternoon at Rumbalara EEC on 24th March 2017. Please see the flyer on our website <http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/geography-professional-learning>

This course has been designed for school leaders to increase their knowledge, skills and understandings of the new geography syllabus. Participants will engage and learn through an inquiry based approach with interactive sessions and geographical case studies as a focus.

Bookings And New Programs

Now is the time to book in for your 2017 school excursion with Rumbalara.

It's not too late to book some programs with Rumbalara EEC. We still have some vacancies for Terms 3 and 4. Our **STEM** program for Stage 2 is now ready for students. We have upgraded our science lab at Rumbalara with extra technology and new furniture. We also had some help from Natasha Monored from Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College to set up some of the display cabinets and organise a new layout for the room. **Thanks so much Natasha, it looks great!** Our room also includes enlargements of photos taken by local students at our environmental arts day.



This term we also launched a new Stage 5 geography program - Sustainable Biomes- with Gosford High

School. Students visited a working cattle property at Glenola, Yarramalong. Central Coast Councils' Catchment Officer, Ken Brookes was a guest speaker on the day and told us about the history of the farm and how the riparian zone been re-vegetated to reduced significant erosion problems.

Look for all these programs on our website <http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs/primary-k-6>

We have a new on-line booking system - [so if you would like to make a booking for 2017 then please click here.](#)

NSW Environmental Education Conference, Lane Cove Hunters Hill

Green Schools Network Invites environmental educators to submit an expression of interest to participate in the Environmental Education Conference 27TH - 29TH September 2017 Saint Ignatius College, Riverview.

A time for NSW environmental educators from all sectors; government, community and formal to come together in our place the beautiful Lane Cove River to reflect on our practice as environmental educators so that we can go back to our place and "make change" happen.

Expressions of Interest for those wanting to participate visit: www.nswconference.org.au/expressions-of-interest/

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE;

- Costa Georgiadis - AAEE NSW Patron and host of Gardening Australia/
- Joshua Gilbert - a Worimi Man,
- Australian Geographic's 2016 Young Conservationist of the Year and Green Globes Award winner/
- Prof. Dennis Foley - a Gadigal Man and Board Member & Consultant with the New South Wales Indigenous Chamber of Commerce

For further information www.nswconference.org.au or call Sue on 0432 716 577.

The website includes costs of the conference, accommodation, maps and a detailed program after EOI's have been accepted and streamed, we hope by June

EARTH HOUR 25th March 2017

Around the globe, millions of people, businesses, and landmarks set aside an hour to host events, switch off their lights, and make noise for climate change action. **This year Earth Hour is at 8:30pm on 25 March 2017. See the [website](#) to register.**



National Science Week School Grants 2017

How will your school get involved in National Science Week and explore the theme of *Future Earth*.

Applications are now open for grants to assist schools to hold an event in National Science Week.

Individual schools can apply for up to \$500 and the total grant pool is \$90,000. The grant should enable your school to conduct science, engineering and/or mathematics activities/events beyond its usual science program. Applications close on 24 April.

Consider booking Rumbalara's [Bright Sparks Energy Trailer](#) for your Stage 3 students. Its full of interactive science investigations on alternative energy. We also have a new one hour Stage 1 science investigation workshop on a water sustainability theme that we can bring to your school.



Wise About Waste - School Incursions available to all Central Coast Schools in 2017

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.

We have 20 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 between Term 1 2017.**

Mangrove Creek Catchment Crawl

Sat, 18 March, 2017

8:30am - 3pm

Join Central Coast Waterwatch for a fun and hands on tour of the Mangrove Creek Catchment. Participants will travel by bus and explore the creek for native flora and fauna, conduct water testing and learn about hanging swamps.

Bookings Essential

Cost: \$10 Adult \$5 child (includes bus travel from Mangrove Mountain, morning tea, lunch and report of information collected on the day).

Meet at the Mangrove Mountain Community Hall for an 8:30am departure.

What to bring: please wear appropriate enclosed shoes, hat, water bottle (we will be providing food and drinks)

Please advise in the comments section of **any special dietary requirements**

CEN Amateur Photographic Competition



Help showcase the Environment of the Central Coast. Entries can include flora and fauna native to the region and the beaches, waterways and landforms from the Hawkesbury River in the south to the Hunter River in the north. The western boundary is defined by the McPherson, Olney and Wattagan State Forests.

Entries are to be received by 4:30 pm on **Wednesday 17th May 2017**

Exhibition Dates: Friday 26th May to Wednesday 31st May 2017 at The Entrance Gallery

See the CEN website for more info. www.cen.org.au/resources/latest-news/474-cen-20th-anniversary-amateur-photographic-competition

We are on social media

Check out our Facebook page for all the latest information and updates on programs, events and school news!

Don't forget you can 'Like' and 'Share' our page <https://www.facebook.com/rumbalaraeec/> And also upload your own school's images from your special school excursion day with Rumbalara.



Mini Grants Programs 2016-17

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.

Save The Date WEEC 2017

The 9th WEEC (World Environmental Education Congress) will be held in Vancouver, Canada, 9-15 September 2017. The title will be *CultureEnvironment: Weaving new connections*

Vancouver wants to be the greenest city in the world by 2020. Vancouver is already Canada's greenest city, has the smallest per capita carbon footprint of any city in North America and is an industry-recognized front runner in green building, planning and technology.

In consideration of themes and programming for the proposed 2017 congress the local organizing committee envisions a broad and inclusive view of topics on environmental and sustainability education that will highlight the impact of urban ecosystems and local, place based initiatives that can be translated into practices on a global scale. Of particular interest is the interplay among cultural and environmental factors.

[AAEE 2016 National Conference website >>](#)

Green Dates 2016 Term 4

- 10 December [International Human Rights Day](#) 

- 11 December [International Mountain Day](#) 🌍**

[Green Dates Calendar](#)

Copyright © 2017 Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp