



## **Around the Schools - Tacoma 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.***

***Thanks to teacher Jackson Farquhar for the article below.***

Tacoma Public School is a dynamic well-resourced school located above the banks of the Wyong River. Our aim is to teach students about the life cycle of plants, vegetables and herbs. Students have an active role in planting seeds, watering seedlings and harvesting fresh produce. This produce is then used in the school canteen for student lunches or can be purchased on Friday afternoons after the whole school assembly. We believe teaching students about sustainable healthy eating will allow students to understand how it helps our emotional, social and physical wellbeing.

The Green Team helps to care for the garden and was created to establish welcoming and inclusive partnerships with students, parents and the wider community. The Green Team is for all students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. We meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes for half an hour. Each session students learn life skills and concepts first-hand, through real-life experiences. To see photos of Tacoma's Green World or to get involved please take a look at our website [www.tacomapublicschool.weebly.com](http://www.tacomapublicschool.weebly.com)



## INVITATION - Central Coast Environmental Education Network

**MID JUNE 2017**

Venue to be announced.

Please join us for some networking and a fun movie night. This is a chance for some informal sharing but we would also like to spend some time planning how our local environmental educators can work together on a regional project. Your ideas and inspiration would be fantastic

**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!**

**Please let us know if you are coming - Registrations open from Monday, 29 May, 2017.**

**Register at [www.cen.org.au/events](http://www.cen.org.au/events)**

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)*

## Central Coast School Garden Interest Group

### Workshop invitation

**Wed, 21 June**

3:30-5:30pm

Gosford Public School (make your way to the quad - follow the signs)

The Central Coast School Garden Interest Group aim to share ideas and connect Central Coast schools with an interest in school gardens. Any school can have some sort of garden regardless of their: site, size - foam boxes to established garden beds, resources, gardening experience, classroom space - from knife and a fry pan right through to a fully stocked kitchen.



Come and visit Gosford Public School - See their crooks, compost, orchard, vegetable gardens and cooking set-up. [Download the flyer here.](#)

For more information phone Justine or Jane on Ph: 4320 9705

RSVP by Friday 9 June, 2017 - Ph: 4320 9700 Email: [Lisa.Grant@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Grant@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Waste and Recycling Grants 2017



Central Coast Council and Remondis are providing grants of up to \$1000 each for community groups and educational institutions to implement waste reduction projects.

The grants program is open to community groups, early learning centres, preschools, TAFE, Universities, primary and high schools or any other educational institution located within the Central Coast Council Local Government area.

**Closing date for applications is 23 June, 2017, 5pm.**

For more information contact: Michelle Murrell, Education Officer (Mo, Tu & Wed), REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd T +61 02 4336 3121 [michelle.murrell@remondis.com.au](mailto:michelle.murrell@remondis.com.au)  
<http://www.1coast.com.au/grants>

## Multi-touch book launch

Join us for the launch of Central Coast Council's new wetland school resources designed specifically for iPads. Enjoy live music, short film screenings, technical demonstrations and fun activities!

**When:** World Environment Day, **Monday, 5 June** from 3:30pm-6:00pm

**Where:** Central Coast Wetlands, 1897 South Tacoma Rd Tuggerah

**RSVP:** is essential so please register by 31 May at [www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au](http://www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au)

**Cost:** FREE! Afternoon tea provided.

Children of teachers are welcome.



*Photo credit: Christina Port*





## FUTURE COUNCIL

In 2017, Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre will be working with Central Coast Council on the **Future Council initiative**. Previously this event has been held in Term 3 but due to changes in the Council the event will be held in Term 4. Details and an expression of interest will be released soon.

Future Council is an opportunity for **Stage 5 students** to really experience the process of environmental decision making by occupying the Council Chambers and participating in a “mock Council meeting” where they consider current environmental issues and decision making processes. Schools generally submit teams of 4 students from Years 9/10.

Students:

- Develop an understanding of civics and citizenship.
- Investigate the role of local government in the democratic process.
  - Resolve environmental issues.

[Click here to watch a 5 min movie of previous Future Council events](#)

For more details contact Danielle Hargreaves 43047591

## STEM EDUCATION PROJECT WITH COPACABANA P.S

Are you looking for ideas for a STEM project for your school?



Rumbalara EEC have been working with Copacabana Public School on a STEM focussed enrichment program for a class of Stage 3 students. The project is based on discovering more about their local rock platform environment and will run for six weeks (1 hour a week). Rumbalara staff attended the initial day to establish a driving question that students wanted to answer about Rock Platforms. Students were then assisted to design a science investigation that will help them to collect data and monitor change on the rock platform. Over the next six weeks they will investigate many other issues and features of this local environment and then communicate their findings in a documentary. Rumbalara staff will be providing assistance and tripod equipment for the filming of the documentary at the end of this term. **If your school is interested in being involved in a similar project please contact Rumbalara teaching staff.**

## NSW Environmental Education Conference

**27- 29 September 2017**

Saint Ignatius College, Riverview  
Lane Cove, Hunters Hill

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.

**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.nsweeconference.org.au](http://www.nsweeconference.org.au).

## THE GREAT WASTE CHALLENGE

**Central Coast Support**

Waste is an ongoing problem in our world. Current media campaigns such as 'Ban The Bag' and 'The War on Waste' have opened a great opportunity for you to explore waste issues at your school.

The following organisations are working together to help schools to reduce waste on the Central Coast.



See the link to the Rumbalara website to see what support is available and waste education opportunities.

[www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/waste](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/waste)

**WATCH THE ABC's WAR ON WASTE** <http://www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/waronwaste>

**BAN THE BAG** <https://www.change.org/p/ban-plastic-bags-across-nsw-victoria-and-wa>

## ECO SCHOOLS GRANT

The Eco Schools grants program is now open to applications. **Applications close 3pm, Monday 19 June 2017.**

The Eco Schools Program funds schools to assist with environmental learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community. Eco Schools' projects provide hands-on curriculum-based environmental education focussing on strong student participation.

- Grants of \$3500 will be available for up to 80 schools in 2017-18.
- While all schools are eligible to apply, we also encourage projects working primarily with students with special needs

For further information [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm)

## TREE LEVY - NSW Teachers Federation

The NSW Teachers Federation funds an annual grants scheme called the Tree Levy. The scheme aims to offset the environmental impact of the union's activities via a notional levy on the paper used by the



Federation. This provides funding for the purchase of native trees and native shrubs for planting in public school grounds. The Tree Levy helps the environment, improves our public schools and positively promotes the union in the local community. Schools are invited each year to submit an application for a grant of up to \$500 to purchase native trees and shrubs.



**New South Wales  
Teachers Federation**  
Representing over 70,000 public education teachers in NSW

For more information <https://www.nswtf.org.au/tree-levy>

## HERBARIUM AT RUMBALARA



**Did you know that there is a herbarium at Rumbalara EEC?**

This amazing resource is a pressed collection of local native plants that are all correctly labelled and classified into a number of folders- hundreds are available to see. Members of the Australian Plant Society put this display together over twenty years ago. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

Students who participate in an on site excursion to Rumbalara EEC can have the opportunity to view these plants. This would complement the Stage 2 **Investigating**

**Our World** excursion perfectly.

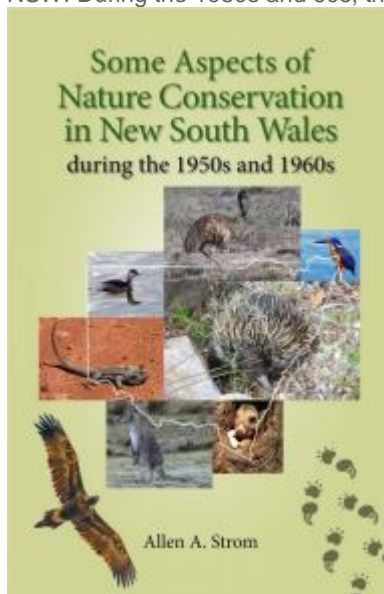
## Film Screening: A Plastic Ocean

Avoca Beach Theatre, Thursday 15th June 6.30 All Welcome



## GREAT NEW RESOURCE FROM THE PAST

A newly published e-book gives an excellent insight into the formative years of nature conservation in NSW. During the 1950s and 60s, the NSW system of national parks, nature reserves and wildlife refuges



was largely developed by the Fauna Protection Panel established under the Fauna Protection Act, 1948. The Panel also developed innovative ways to manage wildlife on private lands including kangaroos, koalas, waterfowl and possums. The story is told by Allen A. Strom, Chief Guardian of Fauna for 10 years and a member of the Panel throughout its existence, prior to the founding of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967. Allen Strom was a leading conservationist in Australia and this book describes his experiences and difficulties in improving nature conservation, particularly when dealing with some politicians and the machinations of bureaucracy. But it also demonstrates what can be done to make change on a shoe-string budget, with few staff, and plenty of will and passion. Allen Strom wrote this book in 1980 and he passed away in 1997. The book was never published and was 'lost' until a team of environmental educators recently located the manuscript and had it digitally transferred into this e-book. It is a must-read for anyone who wishes to make environmental change for the better, particularly

through government. The proceeds from the book go to the Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW).

The book can be accessed at [https://www.amazon.com.au/Aspects-NatureConservation-South-duringebook/dp/B071RNRK8H/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1493589595&sr=8-1&keywords=Some+Aspects+of+Nature+Conservation+in+New+South+Wales+during+the+1950s+and+1960s](https://www.amazon.com.au/Aspects-NatureConservation-South-duringebook/dp/B071RNRK8H/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1493589595&sr=8-1&keywords=Some+Aspects+of+Nature+Conservation+in+New+South+Wales+during+the+1950s+and+1960s)

## Green Dates 2017

- 22 May [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 1-7 June [Youth Leading the World](#)
- 5 June [World Environment Day](#) \*\*
- 8 June [World Oceans Day](#)
- 2-9 July [NAIDOC Week](#)

## [Green Dates Calendar](#)

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