For distribution by the Environmental Education Contact

Our email 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 us with your email so that we can send it directly (usually 2 per term).

**EVENTS and ACTIONS**

**Bio Blitz**
Rumbalara staff recently ran an inaugural Bioblitz at Bouddi National Park. Surveys of the water quality, vegetation and wildlife were taken over 2 days. Schools’ Bioblitz day saw the involvement of students from years 4 – 10. Community members continued the blitz on Saturday. Well done to all the pupils involved! The link below will take you to a short movie showing the involvement of some of the high school students. Look out next year for year two of our Bioblitz!


**GATS Camp**
Rumbalara staff ran activities at the Central Coast Primary GATS camp this year in the area of Science and Environmental Education. Activities included water testing, bug collecting, biodiversity discovery and food webs on Day 1. Day 2 saw the students participate in energy programs: the discovery of electricity/batteries and how is energy created, as well as fossil fuels and energy. Students conducted an energy audit and looked towards the future in predicting what energy might look like. Lots of hands on activities were included each day, as students explored the world around them. Well done to Jane Pankhurst and her team for organising a wonderful opportunity for our gifted and talented students.
COMPETITIONS

School groups: Wildlife Photographer of the Year
The world’s most prestigious wildlife photography exhibition opens 8 June and closes 7 October
Cost per school student - $9 ($3 exhibition plus $6 general Museum entry)
Education Resource Kits have been produced with teacher notes, syllabus links and student activities for these programs. Visit www.australianmuseum.net.au/School-groups-Wildlife-Photographer-of-the-Year

Student Organic Recycling Training
Provides hands-on training for students to lead the school’s organics recycling. Includes the principles of composting, appropriate systems for different situations and basic worm farm requirements. The advanced training includes compost and worm farm problem solving, the soil food web, making compost tea and worm towers.
Up to five schools can register for up to four students to attend.
Transport must be organized by the participating school eg by a parent volunteer. Accompanying adults are welcome to stay at the Eco Garden during the workshop or may leave students while they enjoy a visit to a local coffee shop or other place of interest.
Mondays 12noon – 2pm
Term 4: 28 Oct, 11 Nov, Advanced: 25 Nov
Cost: $10/student, Bookings: Community Environment Network 43494756.

Palette Garden Competition
We thought you might be interested in involving the schools members of your organization to participate in our Palette Garden Competition with Costa from ABC Garden Australia.
The competition is designed for Primary Schools and High Schools.
We have amazing sponsors who agreed to donate awesome prizes, like a gardening session with Costa, worm farms, tools, seeds, DVDs...
Check it out:
Get your kids to be creative with our Palette Garden Competition http://goo.gl/4nMla
I look forward to hearing back from you.
Kind Regards,
Natacha Bernstein
Sponsorship Manager
+61 416 726 687
www.ecoxpo.com.au

WETLANDCARE – 7TH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE
WetlandCare Australia, the leading Australian not-for-profit wetland conservation organisation, is launching our 7th annual photography prize inviting pictures exploring wetland themes. The prize has four categories open for photographic entries that give everyone the opportunity to share their favourite wetlands and what they mean to them. The categories on offer this year are Wetland Flora, Wetland Fauna, Our Wetlands and Changing Landscapes. All categories are open to Australian residents of all ages.

There are some fantastic prizes on offer this year from cash to gift vouchers, and a waterproof digital camera for the lucky winner of the people’s choice prize. The winning photographs will be displayed on the WetlandCare Australia website and Facebook page, and at an exhibition in Townsville, Queensland, on World Wetlands Day (February 2, 2014).
Are you familiar with your local and regional wetlands and waterways? Now is a great time to be inspired by the wetland treasures nearby, with the opportunity to win great prizes and raise awareness about the importance of wetlands along the way.

Information about the prize and how to enter can be found on the WetlandCare Australia website www.wetlandcare.com.au or by calling 1800 816 147 during business hours.

We thank the major sponsors of the Prize: the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee.

Key dates
Entries close: **Friday December 7 2013**
Award presentation and exhibition: **Sunday 2 February 2014** (This date may be subject to change)
The exhibition and awards presentation will be taking place in Townsville, Queensland. The location is to be confirmed, and we will update this webpage as soon as the venue has been finalised.

**Further information and photo opportunities contact:**
Liz Hajenko, Communications Officer, WetlandCare Australia - Telephone: 02 66816169 - Email: lzhajenko@wetlandcare.com.au

**GRANTS**

**CMA Sponsorship funding for 2013-14**
Amount: Up to $1500
To local governments, schools and non-government community groups for community education events and activities aimed at improving catchment health.
Projects or activities include educational field days and workshops, training courses, forums and conferences, tree planting days/workshops, or production and distribution of educational resources.
Projects need to be completed by May 2014.
Full details and the application form can be found by visiting http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=584&section_id=0

**RESOURCES**

**The Extinction of Experience**
Wetlands are fun places for kids to explore but today they are not getting out and exploring like we did. The concern is that kids are disengaged from and don’t have a relationship with nature. The term Nature Deficit Disorder has been used to describe the implications for the development of children. This video clip from the US describes the problem.
www.epa.gov/multimedia/playercontents/video/wetlands/Wetlands.swf

**Sustainability Education through Good Food**. Stephanie Alexander her kitchen Gardens for schools program http://ecotv.com.au/?p=856

**Linking Drama with Sustainability**
NATUREWATCH

A green tree snake appeared at Rumbalara recently, happily gliding along the fence and sunning itself. Of course, this is the time of year when snakes will start to appear. It’s important not to panic if you see a wild snake. The safest way to prevent a snake bite is to stand still and wait for the snake to move away from you. Snakes are beautiful creatures.


GREEN DATES

2013 Calendar of environment days to assist in your planning. (more dates at www.environment.gov.au/about/media/events/index.html)

- **2013 International Year of Water Cooperatives**

October

- [World Habitat Day](#) - first Monday in October
- [National Water Week](#) - third week in October

November

- [National Recycling Week](#) - 11th to 17th
- [World Fisheries Day](#) - 21st

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