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

World Environment day 5th June.
The theme for this year’s World Environment Day is **Think.Eat.Save**

While the planet is struggling to provide us with enough resources to sustain its 7 billion people (9 billion by 2050), FAO estimates that a third of global food production is either wasted or lost. If food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of all the food are also lost. For example, it takes about 1,000 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk and about 16,000 litres goes into a cow’s food to make a hamburger. The resulting greenhouse gas emissions from the cows themselves, and throughout the food supply chain, all end up in vain when we waste food.

Global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change.

At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the devastating effects on the environment, this year’s campaign rallies you to take action.

Making informed decision means, for example, that you reduce consumption of meat which has a lower ecological footprint, select foods that do not use chemicals in their production, buy local foods that are not flown halfway across the world and therefore limit emissions.

This is a special event in the school year so why not help your school celebrate with a low waste lunch day, or a waste audit to see how much food is wasted at your school. Go to [http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/waste](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/resources/waste) ‘Wise about waste’ The theme of Gosford City Council’s Primary Schools Program for 2013 Go to [www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment](http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment) for more information.
National Walk Safely to School Day  Friday 24 May
Not only encourages safe pedestrian behaviour but also promotes the health and environmental benefits of walking. Register at www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01/WSTSD_Publicity.asp

School groups: Wildlife Photographer of the Year
The world’s most prestigious wildlife photography exhibition opens 8 June and closes 7 October
**Free entry for teachers in July school holidays!** (requires teacher ID at admission)
**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

Schools Tree Day  – Friday 26 July

Student Organic Recycling Training
Provides 2 hours of hands-on training for students to lead the school’s organics recycling. Includes the principles of composting, systems for different situations and basic worm farm requirements. The advanced training includes problem solving, soil food web, 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 a parent volunteer. Cost: $10/student, Bookings: CEN 43494756. To be held on Mondays from 12noon – 2pm
  - Term 2: 20 May, 3 June, Advanced:17 June
  - Term 3: 5 August, 19 August, Advanced: 5 Sept
  - Term 4: 28 Oct, 11 Nov, Advanced: 25 Nov

All about Frogs: A free video conference with local frog expert Ross Wellington next **Wednesday 22 May** Phone Rumbalara on 43247200 to secure your place and time. Ross will be talking about your frogs, endangered frogs, keeping frogs in schools, creating frog habitats and answering your froggy questions. The aim is to facilitate discussion between students and to encourage their environmental citizenship. Note that this is a repeat of the VC held in April.

**GRANTS**

**Eco Schools and Food Gardens grants**

NSW Environmental Trust grants provide funds for schools to improve their environment, engage with their communities, and offer hands-on environmental learning opportunities for students. Funding is available for a variety of projects, such as water and energy conservation, recycling, composting, outdoor learning areas, bush regeneration and habitat improvement, bush tucker and food gardens.
Applications close 17 May 2013. Guidelines and application forms available at:

You can contact the Trust by calling (02) 8837 6073 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au.

Think Quick!! Another grant opportunity...

We all know money doesn’t grow on trees so The Teachers Mutual Bank through their Teachers Environment Fund are offering grants of up to $2500 bi-annually to assist public schools and TAFE to assist with environmental and sustainability projects. Applications close on Monday, 3 June, 2013. For more information - www.tmbank.com.au/sustainability/environment/teachers-environment-fund/tef-overview.aspx

Schools are invited to apply for up to $1500 sponsorship from the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority for educational projects, events or activities that have a focus on improving catchment health eg local biodiversity, reducing litter or improving water quality. If you have a proposal you’d like to discuss contact Liane Corocher on 02 4938 4932 or liane.corocher@cma.nsw.gov.au or go to Hunter-Central Rivers CMA website

Coles Junior Landcare School Garden Grants of up to $1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community, such as bush tucker gardens, water wise gardens or veggie gardens. These programs encourage students to learn about the environment through “outdoor learning” and interaction in developing their own school gardens. Round 3 closes: Friday 2nd August, 5 pm. More information at http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/grants-2/coles-grant

Cadbury Fundraiser Community Grants of up to $3,000 can be applied for under the following three grant categories: 1 Community Engagement; 2 Healthy Living; 3 Learning and Development. Applications close 28 June 2013. More information at www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G06127/info

Schools First Awards – In 2013 NAB Schools First is introducing key themes which encapsulate the ways in which school-community partnerships are providing students with resources, knowledge and expertise to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. The themes include: Living sustainably/Being active and well/Caring for your community/Embracing diversity/Asia ready/Work ready/Entrepreneurial spirit/Open. Applications close 28 June 2013. More information at www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05210/info

Beverage Container Recycling Community Grant of up to $10,000 will resource practical steps to encourage and facilitate “Out & About” recycling programs in Australia at a local community level, provide education on the correct disposal of waste, provide education on cause and effects of recycling and enforce best practice principals in our communities. Applications close 14 June 2013. More information at www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G05379/info
RESOURCES

Cash for containers campaign
Of the 15 billion drink containers consumed by Australians each year, about 60% is littered or ends up in landfill. A container deposit scheme might just help. Learn the facts and start a debate with your students!  www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash-for-containers.html

Extinction
Next week is the UN International Day for Biological Diversity (22nd May) A recent article by Euan Ritchie, Lecturer in Ecology at Deakin University explains that we are driving a new extinction event ‘the Anthropocene’ to rival previous extinction events like those that wiped out the dinosaurs. Search The Conversation.com “extinction-just-how-bad-is-it-and-why-should-we-care”

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

- Humpback Whales migrating north.
- Grass Trees, Hairpin Banksia, Spotted Gums, Forest Red Gums and Swamp Mahogany flowers attract lorikeets, honeyeaters, swift parrots, flying foxes, possums and gliders
- Superb Lyrebird males calling from courtship mounds. Females will lay a single egg in June

GREEN DATES

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

May

- World Migratory Bird Day - 11th to 12th
- UN International Day for Biological Diversity - 22nd
- Walk Safely to School Day - 24th

June

- World Environment Day - 5th
- World Oceans Day - 8th
July

- World Population Day - 11th
- Schools Tree Day - 26th

August

- International Youth Day - 12th
- Keep Australia Beautiful Week - 19th to 25th

September

- National Biodiversity Month - all month
- National Wattle Day - 1st
- Sustainable House Day - 8th

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