Environmental Education News
for Central Coast Teachers

Term 2 Week 8 2015

For distribution by the Environmental Education Contact

Our 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.

Events & Actions

Future Council 2015
Stage 5 students from local schools are invited to take over the Gosford and Wyong Council Chambers to develop their understanding of our democratic decision making process. Teams of students will assume the roles of Councillors, Mayor and citizens in a mock council meeting that will vote on a range of local environmental issues.

Expressions of Interest are open now! Rumbalara EEC, together with Gosford and Wyong Councils, is again calling on local high schools to be involved in Future Council.

Key dates:
- Gosford Briefing – Wed, 17 June – 3:30pm
- Gosford Future Council event – Tues, 4 August from 9:00-3:00pm
- Wyong Briefing – Wed, 24 June 2015 from 3:30pm
- Wyong Future Council event - Friday 7th August from 9.30am – 2:30pm

If your school is interested in submitting a team of 4 students from Stage 5 – then please contact Anni or Danielle to find out how you can participate.

Gosford Council – Anni Griffiths – ph: 4325 8175 Email: anni.griffiths@gosford.nsw.gov.au
Wyong Council – Danielle Hargreaves – ph: 4350 5555 Email: Danielle.hargreaves@wyong.nsw.gov.au
Walk and Talk on Aboriginal Art
Chris ‘Jirra’ Moore is a proud Wadi Wadi and Jerringa man (two of the clans) of the Yuin Nation, NSW South Coast (Shoalhaven Area). Join Chris for a guided bushwalk and talk on Aboriginal Art followed by morning tea in the Pearl Beach Picnic area.

**Sunday, 14 June, 2015  9:30-11:30am**
Where: Mt Ettalong—lookout track
Cost: Free to Friends of COSS / CEN members. $5 for non-members. (Pay on the day - Cash only)

**Bookings essential Register at:** [www.cen.org.au/events](http://www.cen.org.au/events)
Please wear suitable clothing - boots, hat, shirt, long pants, Bring insect repellent, sunscreen and water. For more information phone 4349 4756 or email: habitatforwildlife@cen.org.au

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**National Tree Day**  Sunday 27 July
Have you registered for Schools Tree Day? Friday 25 July
Take part in the country’s largest community tree planting and nature care event
Join our Teachers Webinar, Growing Minds: The Nature of Learning - June 17th 2014

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**Professional Learning**

**Introduction to Earth Building Workshop**
4-5th July, 2015 9am-4pm at Holgate PS. Cost: $140
Includes hands on earth building techniques including mud brick, light earth straw, straw bale, poured earth, and earthen renders.

**Earth Oven Workshop**
1-2nd August, 2015 9am-4pm at Holgate Public School. Costs: $170
To construct cob oven: Build floor, bottles and bricks, sand mould, thermal layer (clay + sand mix), Second insulation layer (heavy straw + clay, 3rd render layer, remove sand mould.

Both workshops are run by Integrated Bio-tecture Design. Bring warm work clothes, water, hat, lunch. (Tea/coffee & morning tea provided). Contact: Holgate PS for bookings on 4367 7444 until 26th June. After 26th June contact Mike Murphy – 43652074 michael.c.murphy@det.nsw.edu.au

**What Lies Beneath – the Fascinating Life of Water Bugs!**
Water bug expert John Gooderham presents fascinating tales and underwater footage of creatures living in our freshwater streams, followed by a morning of dip netting, catching and identifying local water bugs in Ourimbah Creek.

**Friday, 19 June** – 6 - 7:30pm – presentation at the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, 11 Terrigal Drive, Terrigal
**Saturday, 20 June** – 9:30-12:30 – Field work at Ourimbah

Cost: $5 per person – includes drinks, nibbles, Friday night presentation, Saturday workshop (incl lunch) Bookings essential. Online at [www.cen.org.au/events](http://www.cen.org.au/events). For more information ph: 4349 4757 or email: waterwatch@cen.org.au

Supported by: Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Central Coast Waterwatch, Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre and the Community Environment Network
Central Coast Environmental Educators Network

Networking event for environmental and sustainability educators

Date: Mon, 22 June, 2015
Time: 4:30- 6pm
Venue: Kariong Eco Garden, Dandaloo, St, Kariong
Cost: Gold coin donation

Please join the Central Coast Environmental Educators Network on Monday, 22 June at 4:30pm for a presentation on the Bush Kids program at Centennial Park. Whether you work for a Council or government department, in a school or are a community educator - come along to hear about some of the things that are happening in the area of environmental and sustainability education on the Central Coast - and also share what you are doing in your area.

Format: Tour of Kariong EcoGarden (Lisa Wriley), News and 2 minute forum (a chance for announcements or news from those attending), Presentation on Bush Kids Program (Rhiannon Anderson, Centennial Park)

Bookings required –Register at www.cen.org.au/events
Supported by the Community Environment Network and Kariong Eco Garden

Save the date!
Australian Association for Environmental Education – NSW Chapter presents

32nd NSW Environmental Education Conference
Connecting for the Future
Hunter Valley, NSW, 29 & 30 October, 2015

Schools News

Celebrating World Environment Day
Holgate PS students literally got into the earth to construct an outdoor seating, eating and earth oven area with a herb spiral. Happy as pigs in mud these kinder kids slapped it on and soon had a cob wall they could be proud of.

Mike Murphy the principal of Holgate PS organised professionals from ‘Integrated Biotecture Design’ to guide the students through the process. They will also be delivering workshops for anyone interested in learning more about these most sustainable and flexible building methods at upcoming weekend workshops. See under Professional Learning above.
Grants

- **Leading by Example:** Inspire others by showcasing your schools shining environmental sustainability initiatives. Rumbalara EEC provides small grants (up to $500) for environmental education projects or to provide relief time to document your schools innovative environmental initiatives and encourage others to following your lead. Anything that provides students with a greater understanding and appreciation of environmental sustainability and can be shared on the Green schools section of the Rumbalara website [www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-schools/best-practice-in-schools/schools](http://www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/green-schools/best-practice-in-schools/schools) is acceptable. Funding requests are competitive. Your EOI needs to be approved by your School Principal and emailed to mark.attwooll@det.nsw.edu.au

- **NSW Teachers Federation Tree Levy provides grants of up to $400 per school** for purchasing native trees and shrubs to plant in school grounds. Applications due before Friday 26 June 2015. More info at [https://www.nswtf.org.au/members/school-teachers/tree-levy.html](https://www.nswtf.org.au/members/school-teachers/tree-levy.html) or direct enquiries to David Ferguson, on mail@nswtf.org.au or to your local Federation Organiser.


- **Canon Australia Environmental Grant** provides up to $5,000 worth of Canon equipment. Successful applicants will have demonstrated how the equipment will be used to facilitate an environmental project or environmental research that will benefit the Australian natural environment. Applications close 12 September 2015. More information at: [http://www.canon.com.au/About-Canon/Sustainability-Environment/Environment/Environmental-Grants](http://www.canon.com.au/About-Canon/Sustainability-Environment/Environment/Environmental-Grants)

- **2015 Yates Junior Landcare Creative Gardening Grant** Closes Friday 3rd July


Resources

**Rumbalara Excursions and Support:** Our website describes a broad range of locally relevant excursion programs for all stages across KLA’s. If you missed out on getting a booking there are days available in term 4. At this time of syllabus change we also welcome opportunities to work
with you on new programs for students to make tangible and meaningful links with their local environment.
Our Bright Sparks Energy trailer is ready to come to you full of interesting hands – on activities to engage students in the process of scientific discovery and the challenges of climate change.

Information brochures and Expression of Interest forms are available for download at www.rumbalara-e.schools.nsw.edu.au/programs.

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**NatureWatch diary**

Lyrebird lays single egg  
Bream head up the creeks to lay eggs  
Sweet wattle flowering (acacia suaveolens)  
Humpback whales migrating north  
22nd June shortest day (winter solstice)  
Magpies will soon be collecting nesting materials  
Boobook owls will be persistently calling  
Brush Turkeys about to reconstruct nest mounds  
Heathlands will soon be alive with the colour of wildflowers such as *Boronia ledifolia*, *Kunzia capitata*, *Epacris longiflora*, and *Dillwynnia spp*

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**Green Dates**

**TERM 2**

15 June [Global Wind Day](#)  
5-12 July [NAIDOC Week](#)

**TERM 3**

9 August [International Day of the World’s Indigenous People](#)  
1 September [Biodiversity Month](#)  
1 September [Green Day](#)  
7 September [Threatened Species Day](#)  
7 -11 September [Kids Teaching Kids Week](#)

**TERM 4**

5 October [World Habitat Day](#)  
14 October [Ride to Work Day](#)  
16 October [World Food Day](#)

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